

# Understanding NIAS sculpture

*Dhananjay A Sant*  
*Adjunct Professor, NIAS*



*The NIAS sculpture consists of three vertically oriented metal arcs that cross-cut each other, originate from a common point with equal base width that thickens upward, surrounding a central vertically aligned helical metallic disc*

The metallic sculpture presents a carefully articulated system of form, balance, and transformation, rendered through disciplined geometry rather than literal representation. Composed of three vertically rising metal arcs, the structure immediately establishes unity through a shared origin at the base, where all arcs begin with equal width. This common starting point suggests an initial state of equality or shared potential, before differentiation unfolds through vertical ascent.

As the arcs rise, they gradually thicken, visually accumulating weight and presence. This thickening implies that growth is not a process of lightness or escape, but one of increasing responsibility, consequence, and structural load. Progress, in this sense, is demanding rather than effortless. The arcs do not run independently; they cross-cut one another, interrupting smooth continuity. These intersections signify mutual constraint, indicating that stability arises not from a single dominant force but from multiple forces shaping and limiting one another. The system gains strength precisely through this interdependence.

At the center of the sculpture stands a vertically oriented helical metallic disc, spiraling upward along a fixed axis. The helix introduces motion, change, and irreversibility into the otherwise steady framework. Unlike a simple circular repetition, the spiral suggests evolution with memory—each turn builds upon the previous one without returning to the same point. Importantly, the helix is guided by the surrounding arcs without being absorbed by them, symbolizing transformation that is structured yet free.

Taken as a whole, the sculpture embodies the idea of sustained evolution: a dynamic core rising through intersecting structures that grow heavier with maturity, asserting that meaningful change emerges only when freedom and constraint coexist in balance.