

Scientists pour out their hearts

# Where science meets spirituality

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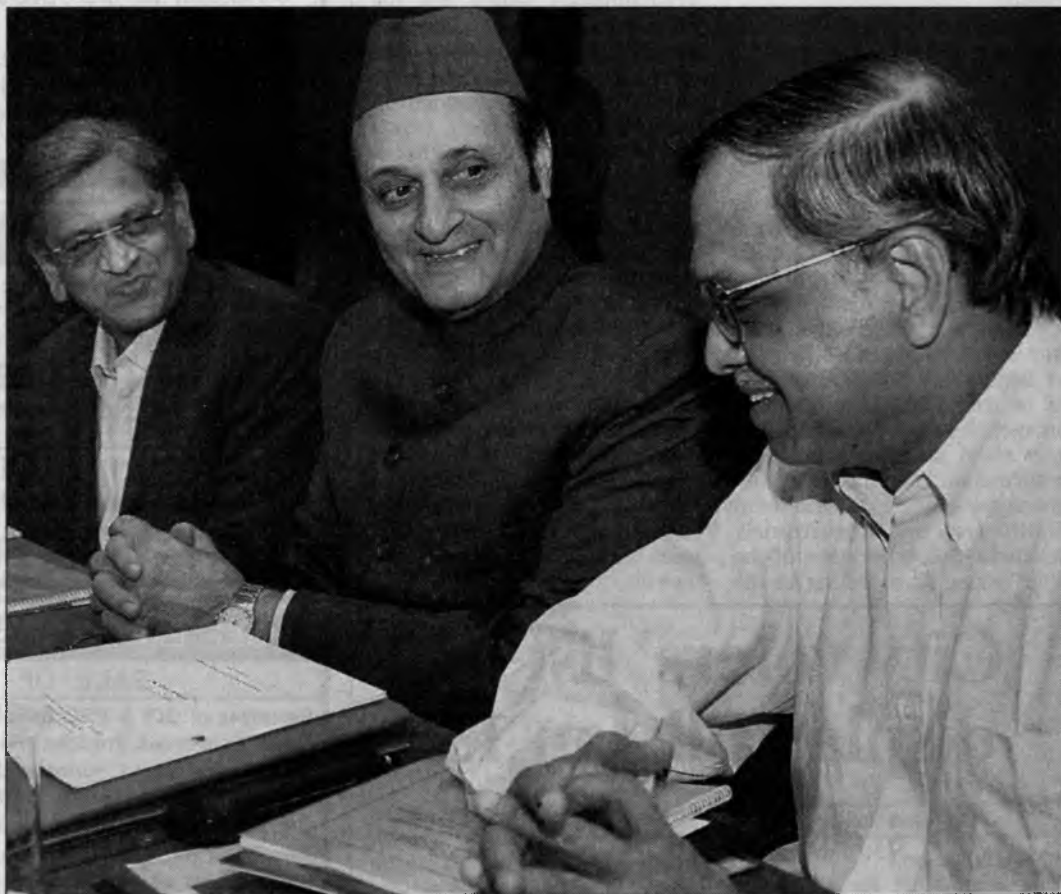
It was an amazing coming together of two fields which had refused to acknowledge each other in their common pursuit - that of truth. 'Science and Beyond: Cosmology, Consciousness and Technology in the Indic traditions', a four-day symposium which started today at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, saw perhaps for the first time scientists come out and speak out personal perceptions in their pursuit of science.

Scores of scientists, philosophers and thinkers from across the world will be putting forward their perception of science, cosmology, religion and philosophy at the symposium, which is part of the Science and Spiritual Quest programme of the Centre of Theology and Natural Sciences in Berkeley, California, USA.

The inaugural session itself provided food for thought to the participants as well as the motley audience. Dr Karan Singh, a member of Parliament and a well-known orator, started off with the famous creation-hymn from Rig Veda beautifully bringing in the relationship between science and theology. He emphasised on why there was a need to bridge science and spirituality.

Mr N R Narayana Murthy, Chief Mentor of Infosys, pointed to how values become important in science, technology and management. He cited the example of corporate frauds which resulted due to greed of its leaders.

While Chief Minister S M Krishna said that he would like to see Bangalore, which is already known as the Science capital of the country, become the art and spiritual capital too. Centenarian Justice Nittoor Srinivas Rau beautifully correlated science and theology say-



Mr Karan Singh, MP, in conversation with Chief Mentor of Infosys N R Narayana Murthy at the International Symposium on 'Science and Beyond: Cosmology, Consciousness and Technology in the Indic Traditions' in Bangalore on Wednesday. Chief Minister S M Krishna is at left.

ing both of them have a common goal - of finding truth.

Delivering the keynote address, Philip Clayton made a case for why there was need to look beyond science, pointing how such a quest was inward looking and rigorously outward at the same time. While predicting that metaphysics would take over the dialogue, being more than equal to science, he advised philosophers to adopt the scientific approach in their enquiry.

Coaxed by Philip Clayton, the principal investigator of the SSQ

project, eminent scientists like R Narasimha, NIAS, N Kumar, RRI, C S Unnikrishana, IIA spoke on topics ranging from free-willed consciousness in interaction with Will-free Cosmos, to the role of unobservables in Science to the fundamental problem of human action.

A problem in science is that it does not dictate one's action. The right action one needs to take calls upon to plumb into the depths of one's self, said Prof R Narasimha. Winding up the discussion of the first session

Swami Bodhananda Sarasvati, stressed on the importance of initiating a dialogue between science and spirituality which he saw as two sides of the same coin. He felt that for this there was a need to redefine standards so that it was taken beyond each side merely admiring the other and being 'politically correct'.

(A public event in this connection is being held this Saturday at Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association stadium. This is organised by KH Foundation. Contact 3613324/3606684).