

# Science, philosophy are quests for truth: Nittoor Srinivasa Rao

By Our Staff Reporter

**BANGALORE, JAN. 8.** After several speeches by academics, two politicians, and a corporate leader, the refreshing wisdom of the former Chief Justice of the High Court of Mysore, Nittoor Srinivasa Rao, set matters to rest at the inauguration of a symposium on science and spirituality.

The MP, Karan Singh inaugurated the four-day symposium at the National Institute of Advanced Studies here on Wednesday. The Chief Minister, S.M.Krishna, presided over the function.

A series of speeches, by Dr. Karan Singh, N.R.Narayana Murthy, Chairman, Board of Infosys Technologies, Philip Clayton, Professor of Philosophy, Sonoma University, U.S., sought to interpret everything from Saraswati and Lakshmi, to value systems for all leaders, to why metaphysics should be prevented from taking over the symposium.

Mr. Srinivasa Rao, who was the guest of honour, said he had only a few words to say. After pointing out that he was "only a lay man, who from time to time has thought about things," he

said Science, and Philosophy owed allegiance to the same thing, truth. Ultimately, both were quests for truth, and he thought that was the direction the symposium should take, in its deliberations.

He had one other point to add: Science per se, was neutral. It was up to us to avoid using its fruits for evil, and to try to use them for good.

The symposium has for its theme, Science and Beyond: Cosmology, Consciousness, and Technology in the Indic Traditions.

Scientists and philosophers of various religious persuasions will participate in the meet. They include, the Nobel Laureate Physicist, Charles Townes, the renowned mathematician, Rojer Penrose, the Primatologist, Jane Goodal, and Swami Bodhananda Saraswati of the Sambodh Foundation, Jean Stuaene, Secretaire General, Universite Interdisciplinaire de Paris, and M.S.Swaminathan, Chairman, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation.

The symposium is part of a programme by the Centre for Theology and Natural Sciences, Berkeley, U.S.



The former Chief Justice of the High Court of Mysore, Nittoor Srinivasa Rao (left), the NIAS Director, R.Narasimha, the Chief Minister, S.M.Krishna, the MP, Karan Singh, and the Infosys Chairman, N.R.Narayana Murthy, at the symposium on 'Science and Beyond' in Bangalore on Wednesday. — Photo: K.Gopinathan.