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**IN HARMONY:** Nuclear scientist Dr Raja Ramanna plays on the piano with violinist Ananth Kamath to provide a musical interlude during the Science and Spiritual Quest session in Bangalore on Friday — Express Photo by Keshav Vitla ►Road to convergence, P 5



## STARS OF THE DAY

### SIR ROGER PENROSE

*Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics,  
Oxford University*

**S**IR Penrose is a brilliant mathematician and one of the foremost experts in theoretical physics in the world. He did his Ph.D at St. John's College, Cambridge, and shared the Wolf Prize with Stephen Hawking in 1988 for their understanding of the universe. He has also won the Royal Society Royal Medal and the Albert Einstein prize. Knighted in 1994 for services to science, Sir Penrose has interests in geometry, having made contributions to the theory of non-periodic tilings, to relativity theory and foundation of quantum theory.



### DR JANE GOODALL

*Primatologist, Animal Rights activist and  
UN goodwill ambassador*

**J**ANE Goodall's landmark work with wild chimpanzees on Tanzania's Lake Tanganyika's eastern shore has redefined the relationship between humans and animals and laid the foundation for future primatological research. Her study, which began in the summer of 1960, marked the longest continuous field study of animals in their natural habitat. Dr Goodall distinguished between individual chimpanzee personalities and chronicled even the precursors of religious behaviour.



### PHILIP CLAYTON

*Prof of Philosophy, Harvard University,  
USA and principal investigator  
Science and the Spiritual Quest*

**P**HILIP Clayton holds a Ph.D in religious studies and philosophy from Yale University. He has been a guest professor at Divinity School, Harvard University, Humboldt Professor at the University of Munich and senior Fulbright professor, also at the University of Munich. His interest lies in developing a theology of emergence.



### SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

*Founder and Leader of the Art of Living Foundation*

**T**HE founder of the Art of Living Foundation is the inspiration behind numerous charitable organisations focused on service and the promotion of human values. "Service is the expression of joy and love. Ask yourself how can I be useful to those around me and to the whole world? Then your heart starts to blossom and completely new level begins..." Sri Sri has said. He speaks in 30 to 40 countries a year reminding people that the great spiritual traditions have common goals and values.



### DR RAJA RAMANNA

*MP, Director emeritus of the National Institute  
of Advanced Studies, member Atomic  
Energy Commission and nuclear scientist*

**D**R Ramanna is one of the foremost nuclear scientists in the country and is considered the father of India's nuclear programme. His interests are in the fields of nuclear physics, reactor physics and design apart from European and Indian music and Philosophy. He has been awarded the *Padma Vibhushan* and other important honours.



# Road to CONVERGENCE

Today's final public event is being held under the aegis of the Kengal Hanumanthaiya Foundation with support from the Bangalore University. The event will serve as a public platform to increase awareness about the science-religion dialogue

**A**FTER days of intense soul-searching, involving some of the best-known scientific, philosophical and spiritual thinkers, the Science and Spiritual Quest (SSQ-II) Bangalore symposium will culminate on Saturday with a public event. The event will throw open to the public insights and conclusions as well as questions generated from the open and authentic dialogue between the two major forces shaping history — the scientific quest and the spiritual quest.

Scientists — with or without spiritual leanings — like Nobel Laureate Charles Townes, Sir Roger Penrose, Roddam Narasimha, Abd-al-Haqq Bruno Guiderdoni, Ramanath Cowsik, George Ellis and N. Balakrishna have so far rubbed shoulders with religious leaders and philosophy scholars like Swami Bodhananda Sarasvati, Rajiv Malhotra, P.K. Mukhopadhyay, Purushottama Bilimoria among others at the Bangalore symposium.

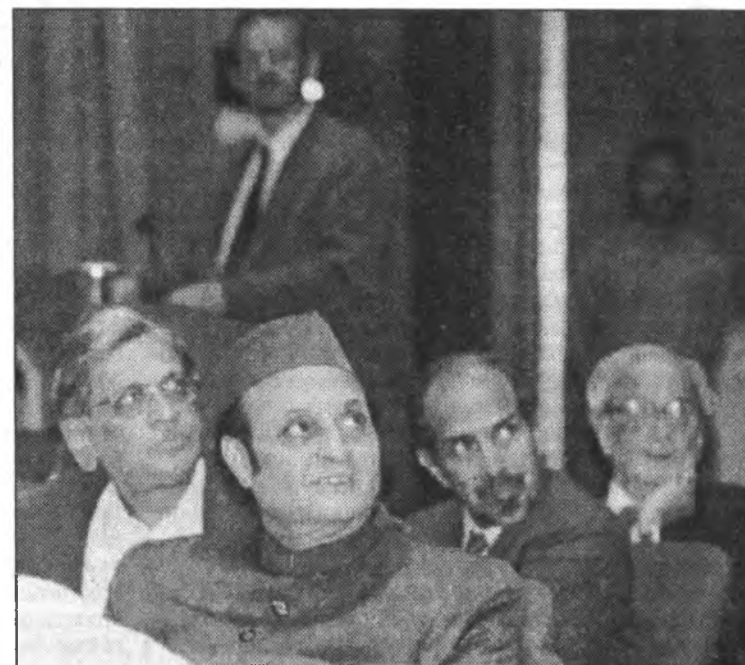
They have reflected on the theoretical insights of modern science and the teachings of the world's religious traditions and compared parallels and insights that could be shared.

SSQ-II, incidentally, is a four-year international programme conducted by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Berkeley, California. It aims to promote dialogue among leading scientists on

the connection between their scientific pursuits and their religious or spiritual practice. It does not advocate a particular religious position or a specific outcome from the discussions and is organised in various cities across the world in alliance with other partners.

The programme has been sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation in association with the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, the University of Interdisciplinaire de Paris, the Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO and the Centre for Studies and Civilization and Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi.

The Bangalore conference hosted



Chief Minister S.M. Krishna and Member of Parliament Karan Singh (2nd from left) watch Science and Spiritual Quest kick off at the NIAS in Bangalore with a keynote address by Philip Clayton (in the background) — Express photo

by the National Institute of Advanced Studies titled 'Science and beyond: Consciousness, Cosmology and Technology in the Indian Tradition' is one of the largest events to be organised as part of the SSQ and marks the end of the second phase of the programme.

The choice of India as a location for the SSQ has come about since science and religion have not been subject to antagonisms like those

seen in the West.

Saturday's final public event is being held under the aegis of the Kengal Hanumanthaiya Foundation with support from the Bangalore University. The event will serve as a public platform to increase awareness about the science-religion dialogue, as well as provide insights into thinking of leading lights from the scientific and religious worlds.

## 'Two should be related'

**O**NE scientist who believes that the twain between science and the spiritual should meet is 1964 Nobel Physics laureate and inventor of the maser and laser Dr Charles Townes. Currently a Professor of Physics at the University of California, Dr Townes has been one of the key participants in the Bangalore leg of the Science and the Spiritual Quest symposium.

"I am religiously orient-

ed. I feel religion is important. I have written some papers on the relations between science and religion. I think in the west, Europe and US, there has been an antipathy between science and religion. I think that's quite wrong. My argument is that the two should be closely related," says Townes.



Dr Charles Townes

Townes agrees that

there are conflicts between his religious and his scientific self. "There are some conflicts between science and religion. There are some conflicts within science itself. We have to expect that because we don't understand everything," he points out.

Conflicts he says are good and needed for better

understanding. "We must try to think what is most likely to be right -- the right way to live, the correct way to view nature..." he says.

One of the things scientists who are critical of religion fail to recognise is that there are inconsistencies within science itself. "I think it is important that we recognise that in all of life we don't understand everything. We just take the best choices and live. One of the good choices is a religious viewpoint," he says.



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