
Neuroscience: Linking up genetics, consciousness

Bangalore, June 23: The Genome project has brought excitement and apprehensions to the public, particularly the scientific community. So also a never-ending moral debate.

Bangalore, synonymous with IT and BT will now have another facet -- a city with an interface between a culture steeped in religion and the explosion

of the modern global techno-culture. Reason enough to hold the International Seminar on Science and Metaphysics. To relate consciousness with genetics through neuroscience.

The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), in association with the US-based John Templeton Foundation, will

host the seminar from June 24 to June 27, said NIAS Director Roddam Narasimha, addressing a press conference here on Saturday.

This is the first of two conferences to be held in Bangalore. The second will be in 2003. "Recent developments in genetics have raised many issues that need to be examined from a fresh perspective." Consciousness was a part of philosophy, but now it was getting closer to hard science.

The seminar will focus on developments in the field of genetics, related ethical and moral issues and metaphysical implications of the Genome project, approach to consciousness in various schools of philosophy, etc. In February 1999, NIAS had organised a seminar on consciousness, he said.