

'Who am I': Answers in science or metaphysics?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE.

Bangalore, June 24: Is DNA the core substance of humanity. Or isn't the belief that there's a higher power that must also play a role in who we are and what we become?

This is the summary of the conclusion of the Genome project that will be part of the dialogue at the International seminar on Science and Metaphysics that was inaugurated here on Sunday by Governor V S Rama Devi. She said the discussion was bound to generate fresh perspectives on the topic. Though only 50 researchers

were expected to participate, nearly 130 young researchers responded to the topic, said convenor of the Seminar B V Sreekantan.

Jointly organised by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) and the US-based John Templeton Foundation, the three-day seminar will cover topics such as neuroscience, consciousness and emergence: A supervenience theory of mind; consciousness and rebirth in classical yoga; Neuro-endocrine correlates of conscious states; Can consciousness be fully described by neuronal activities? etc.

Talking of myths, Prof D P Chattopadhyaya, Director of the Centre for Studies in Civilization, New Delhi spoke of two approaches to myth -- the critical and negative, or the positive and constructive. Charles L Harper, Executive Director of the Templeton Foundation quoted E N Barbour (physicist who triggered off the dialogue between science and religion) and his four-fold typology on science and religion -- conflict, integration, separation and dialogue. Templeton Foundation was ploughing 20 million dollars a year into various forms of this dialogue.