

Myth has its own logic, says expert

By Our Staff Reporter

BANGALORE, JUNE 24. Metaphysics had its own rigour even 200 years ago, but also come some way from the subtle imagery employed by 17th Century English poets such as Donne, Herbert, Crawshaw and Cowley, and, if speakers at the inauguration of a conference on the subject are to be believed.

The conference was inaugurated by the Governor Ms. V.S.Rama Devi, at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, here on Sunday.

In his inaugural address, Dr. D.P.Chattopadhyaya of the Centre for Studies in Civilisation, argued that "myth" was the truth of those who were "before us" and that "logos" were not confined to the 18th Century and after. He said that myth — the symbolic representation of truth — "had its own logic" and spoke of a linguistic route to comparative ontology,



The Governor, Ms. V.S.Rama Devi, having a word with Dr. Charles L.Harper at the international seminar on science and metaphysics in Bangalore on Sunday. Dr. D.P.Chattopadhyaya of the Centre for Studies in Civilisation (second from right) and Mr. R. Narasimha, Director of IAS are seen.

—Photo: Sampath Kumar G.P.

at the same time maintaining a dialogue with science. This "evolving dialogue between sci-

ence and religion" had an "under-appreciated intellectual rigour, vitality and significance,"

argued Dr. Charles L. Harper Jr., of the Templeton Foundation, in his keynote address titled "a

Global Opportunity: Appreciating the strategic vitality of constructive global dialogue between science and religion and its importance for the human future."

Dr. Harper argued that such a dialogue could "illuminate potent opportunities for multi-disciplinary academic research," that could "constructively engage a major scientific and metaphysical issue — the human consciousness."

Such contributions had increasingly showed up the limitations of a "reductionist approach" to understanding the nature of being as against the new "emergentist approach," he said. Citing the discovery through the human genome project that humans had only about 30,000 genes, much less than what was anticipated, he quoted hardcore physicists as saying that there had to be more to humans than mere DNA.