

# Centre for Contemporary Studies

Presents a talk on:

# Sanskrit as a Language of Science

Speaker:

**Justice Markandey Katju**

*Judge, Supreme Court of India*

**Prof. P. Balaram, The Director of IISc will preside**

**Tuesday, 13th Oct'09, Time: 4:00 pm**

**Venue: Faculty Hall, IISc, Bangalore 12**

**(Please note the change in venue)**

**Tea/Coffee will be served at 3.30 p.m.**

□ *The foundation of Indian culture is based on Sanskrit. It is a great misconception that Sanskrit is only a language to be recited as mantras. The mantras form only 5% of all Sanskrit texts. Sanskrit was the language of free thinkers expressing the widest spectrum of thoughts in ancient India, in particular, our scientists. The works of Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Bhaskara, Charaka, Sushruta, etc. were ahead of all scientific thinking of their times. The decimal system, cataract surgery and plastic surgery, were inventions of Indian scientists and were written in the Sanskrit language. Mathematics, physics, medicine and astronomy were highly developed in our country. This was possible because a correspondingly highly developed and powerful vehicle of expression was created by Panini and Patanjali who were perhaps two of the best grammarians the world has ever seen. The Nyaya and Vaisheshika philosophies, which are two of the six classical systems of Indian philosophies (Shat Darshana) represent the scientific approach. The Nyaya philosophy insisted that nothing is acceptable unless it is in accordance with reason and experience, which is precisely the scientific approach. Vaisheshika was the atomic theory of ancient India. Today no doubt we are largely behind the Western countries in science, but that is not because of any inherent defect in us but due to certain historical reasons. Knowledge of our powerful scientific heritage will give us the moral courage and strength to once again come to the forefront of science in the modern world.*

**URL: <http://ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/ragh/ccs/Welcome.html>**