



विज्ञान निर्भरता नीती

Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti

Organization Working For Eradication of Superstitions and Blind Faith through Inculcating Scientific Temperament



MANS, on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary (1989-2019),

Organises

One Day International Conference on

Rationalism for Development of Humanity



Friday, 9th August 2019, 10 am to 6 pm

Venue:

Mahakavi Kalidas Natyamandir

Priyadarshini Indira Gandhi Sport Complex, Mulund (West), Mumbai.

Cordial Invitation

Invitation as the Participant for the International Conference on 'Rationalism for Development of Humanity' on 9 August 2019 at Mumbai, INDIA.

Respected Sir/Madam,

Warm Greetings from Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS).

We are happy to invite you to participate in our three days programme on occasion of completing 30 years of our organisation. That would give us a chance to understand each other and to form a future thread of work.

Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS) is a voluntary organization struggling against all forms of superstitions for three decades, in the state of Maharashtra, India. Since inception, MANS has been actively pursuing its goal of spreading scientific temper through educational, cultural activities and even through public protests. Despite stiff challenges, we have exposed many miracle men and opposed, with corrective measures, exploitative, inhuman, rites and rituals. We have had few spectacular successes, the law against black magic and a law against social boycott 'Caste Panchayats Judicial Council' and its inhuman practices being one of them.

Despite the martyrdom of our versatile leader Dr. Narendra Dabholkar, we strived and continued, undeterred. To mark the completion of thirty years of activism, we have planned a three day meet in Mumbai from Friday, 9th August to Sunday, 11th August, 2019. We have organized an 'International Conference on Rationalism for Development of Humanity' on 9th August, 2019 followed by a State Level Convention of MANS on 10th and 11th August, 2019.

MANS, as an Organisation, contributes in the society to inculcate Scientific Temper, expected in Indian Constitution, Rationality, and Humanity among the masses. We strongly believe that the works of Saints and Reformists have formed an essential base for it in Maharashtra particularly in last two centuries. Our experience emphasizes that the more work to inculcate rationality and humanity will result in more eradication of the exploitation, superstition, unscientific and inhuman practices in the name of tradition, religion, and culture. Today's world is called globalized world and it was expected that the world will come together, traditional, religious, racial identities will disappear and people will go hand in hand as dreamed by the people like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and other humanists of the world. However, the caste, regional, religious, and racial identities are getting more dangerous shape to a devastative state of human life. Mob lynching, Caste Courts, Intolerance for each other's culture, rituals, and living and food habits, offensive activities against women and their freedom, human migration and its oppose, trafficking, regional identities, and racial killings show that human life deeply lacks the rationality and humanity on one hand and natural calamities like famine, drought, global warming are on the other hand to destroy not only the human existence but the existence of life on earth.

With this background at the back of mind, MANS organizes this international conference on the 'Rationality for Development of Humanity' as urgent need to develop the comprehensive and rational humanity as we presume that no one has thought on this systematically. This conference, with the National and International Delegates, will help to bring this discussion on the international forum of humanists and will lead to some concrete programmes in near future. We are happy to invite you on this occasion.

Yours respectfully,

Prof. Dr. N. D. Patil
President

Dr. Sudesh Ghoderao

Conference Coordinator, Secretary - International Coordination, MANS

Avinash Patil
Executive President

Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti (MANS)

SPEAKERS



Dr. N. D. Patil is former minister of Cooperation, leader of 'Peasant and Workers Party' and an eminent social activist who is considered to be the rational face of Maharashtra. He is the founder President of Maharashtra Andhshraddha Nirmulan Samiti (MANS). He is also a leader of Maharashtra State Border Dispute committee. He was chairman of Rayat Shikshan Santha, the biggest educational institute in India, for number of years.



Bob Churchill is Director of Communications & Campaigns for Humanists International, having previously worked at Humanists UK and volunteered with the Uganda Humanist Association. He studied philosophy at the University of Warwick and Queen's University, Canada, and has long-standing interests in secularism, humanism, ethics and epistemology. He has appeared as a spokesperson (e.g. on BBC News, Channel 4 News, Al Jazeera) and as a speaker at Skepticon, Geekfest London, the Institute of Fundraising Technology, Conway Hall Ethical Society, and the European Humanist Youth Days.



Dr. K. Veeramani began working with Periyar in 1956, and assisted Periyar in editing Viduthalai, the rationalist daily of Dravidar Kazhagam. The Managing Committee of the Dravidar Kazhagam elected K. Veeramani as General Secretary of the Dravidar Kazhagam on 17 March 1978. He was active in the social campaigns and agitations launched by Periyar for the support of "Socially discriminated people" and was incarcerated forty times for his activities. He was jailed under MISA for a year in 1976 for opposing the Emergency. He was again jailed in 1978 for showing Black flags against Indira Gandhi for imposing Emergency while in power.



Dr. Anil Kakodkar is an Indian nuclear physicist and mechanical engineer. He was the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India and the Secretary to the Government of India. He was the Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay. He is Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honour. Apart from playing a major role in India's nuclear tests asserting sovereignty, Kakodkar champions India's self-reliance on thorium as a fuel for nuclear energy.

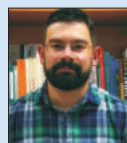


Uttam Niraula is the Central Committee Member of Humanist International, UK. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. on Conflict, Peace, and Development Studies from Nepal. He is the founder of the AsWG, and National level Humanist Organization in Nepal, Society for Humanism (SOCH) Nepal. He has worked as a consultant for UNDP on Harmful Practices. He has contributed to identifying more than 60 Harmful Traditional Practices (Superstitious practices) in Nepal. Further, he also contributed to the drafting of the federal bill against various Harmful Traditional Practices in Nepal along with Commissions of Nepal.



Dr. Narendra Nayak is a rationalist, skeptic, and godman debunker from Mangalore of Karnataka, India. He is the current President of the Federation of Indian Rationalist Associations (FIRA). He

founded the Dakshina Kannada Rationalist Association and an NGO called Aid Without Religion. He tours the country to promote scientific temper and showing people how to debunk godmen and frauds. He is also a polyglot who speaks 9 languages fluently, which helps him when he is giving talks in various parts of the country. He has conducted many demonstrations in India, including some in Australia, Greece, England, Norway, Denmark, Sri Lanka and Nepal. He is a board member of Atheist Alliance International (AAI) US.



Stefano Bigliardi is serving as assistant professor of philosophy at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (Morocco), where he teaches Philosophical Thought as well as History of Ideas including courses on contemporary Islam and science. Between 2016 and 2019 he has been a member of the editorial team of L'Ateo, the official magazine of UAAR, the Italian Union of Atheists, Agnostics, and Rationalists. He has contributed with multiple articles to Query, the official magazine of CICAP, the Italian Committee for the Investigation of Claims of the Pseudosciences. His research focuses on the relationship of religion and science/pseudoscience, with a particular focus on contemporary Islam as well as on New Religious Movements.



Dr. Jabbar Patel was at first a paediatrician. He is a Marathi and Hindi - language theatre and film director of India. His production - Vijay Tendulkar's play Ghashiram Kotwal, in 1973 is considered a classic in Modern Indian Theatre. He is the maker of classics films in Marathi cinema, like, Samna, Jait Re Jait, Umbartha, Simhasan. Some of his other films are, Mukta, Ek Hota Vidushak and Musafir (Hindi). His most acclaimed film is Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar released in 1999. He won the 1995 Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration for his Marathi film, Mukta. He is prominent supporter of Anti-superstition Movement and free thoughts in India.



Prof. S. Chatterjee is President of All India Peoples Science Network (AIPSN) since 2015 and also a member of the Karnataka Forum for Scientific Temper. He is a retired scientist from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore. He is deeply interested in science teaching, science popularization and public outreach, being concerned with the social function of science. He has written several articles on these subjects mainly in Bengali and English and few of his articles were translated from English to Hindi, Kannada and Telugu. His English articles have appeared in Frontline and Economic and Political Weekly.



Kumar Ketkar is a member of Rajyasabha and Indian Journalist, Writer and Politician. He has also been the editor in chief of prominent Marathi newspapers. He is also a Member of Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs. He received the prestigious award for Journalistic Excellence as "Indian Affairs Transformational Journalist of the Decade" at 9th Annual India Leadership Conclave & Awards 2018 in Mumbai, founded by journalist Satya Brahma. He is honored with 'Padma Shri'.

Advisory Committee

Dr. Gary Foxcraft

Executive Director, WHRIN, UK

Prof. Atish Dabholkar

Head, High Energy, Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics section, ICTP, Italy

Dr. Vijayam Gora

Director, Atheist Centre, Vijaywada, India

V. Kumaresan

DK, Tamil Nadu

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Schedule: 9th August, 2019

Time	Details of the Session
09:00 to 09:30	Registration and Breakfast
09:30 to 10:00	Songs of Movement 1. We Shall Overcome 2. Lets sow the seeds of light 3. Salute to Shahid Dr. Narendra Dabholkar
10:00 to 12:30	Inauguration Chairperson: Dr. N. D. Patil Chief Guests: Bob Churchill Dr. K. Veeramani Dr. Anil Kakodkar Dr. Stefano Bigliardi Uttam Niraula Avinash Patil
12:30 to 13:30	Keynote Address: Dr. K. Veeramani
14:15 to 14:30	Songs of Movement
14:30 to 16:00	Panel Discussion Chairperson: Dr. Narendra Nayak Panelists: Dr. Stefano Bigliardi Prof. S. Chatterjee Dr. Savita Shete
16:30 to 18:00	Valedictory Chairperson: Dr. Jabbar Patel Chief Guests: Uttam Niraula Kumar Ketkar
18:30 to 19:30	Presentation of the Plays - Tathagat, Socrates to Dabholkar Pansare via Tukaram Chairperson: Sonali Kulkarni



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