

VIII World Atheist Conference

January 7-9, 2011, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

Theme: Atheism – An Alternative Culture

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

Dravidar Kazhagam, Atheist Centre and The Rationalists' Forum, Tamil Nadu are jointly organizing the VIII World Atheist Conference on the theme: Atheism – An Alternative Culture, on January 7, 8 and 9, 2011 in Tiruchirapalli, (Trichy), a city centrally located in Tamil Nadu. The conference is being conducted by the movements founded by great atheists, social reformers and humanists - **Periyar E.V.Ramasami** (1879-1973) and **Gora** (1902-1975).

The VIII World Atheist Conference provides a place for ideas, discussions, presentations, papers, that creates a unique space and opportunity for atheists, humanists, rationalists, freethinkers, skeptics from across the world to come together and share notes and work towards a post religious society.

The Conference offers a blend of keynote talks, invited focal papers, panel discussions, peer-reviewed oral and interactive display presentations, secular cultural shows etc. The conference is a great place to network with atheist and humanist colleagues from across the world and take in a rich array of new approaches to strengthen the atheist and humanist movement globally.

We are happy to share that we will be having representatives from the IHEU, Norwegian Humanist Association, American Atheists International, Finland Humanist Association, Federation of Indian Atheist and Rationalist Associations (FIRA), Centre for Inquiry, India, Indian Medical Association, Periyar Maniammai University, South Gujarat University, and many others from across India and the world. We welcome you all to come and participate in this important event.

--- Dr. K. Veeramani and Dr. G. Vijayam, Conference Coordinators

Commemorative Postage Stamps



Periyar E.V. Ramasami (1879-1973)
Founder of Dravidar Kazhagam,
Tamil Nadu, India



Gora (1902-1975)
Founder of Atheist Centre,
Andhra Pradesh, India

THE VENUE:

Tiruchirappalli (Trichy), situated on the banks of the river Cauvery is the fourth largest city in Tamil Nadu, South INDIA.

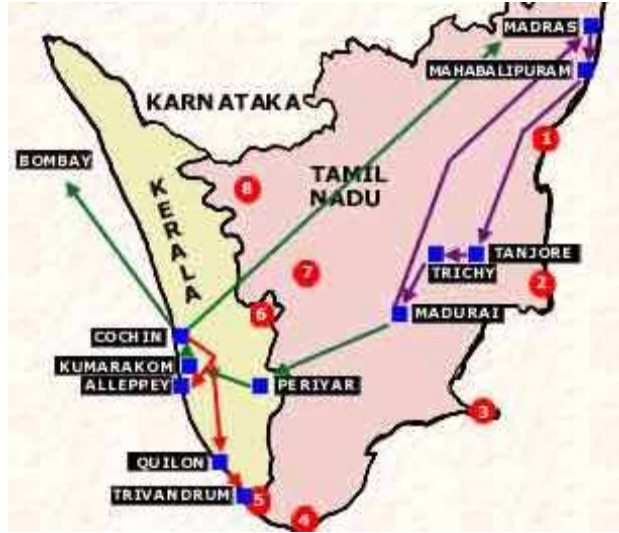
The town and its fort, now in Trichy were built by the Nayaks of Madurai. This city has given great Tamil scholars whose contributions to the Tamil literature have been very significant.

Trichy was one of the main centers around which the wars of the Carnatic were fought in the 18th century during the British-French struggle for supremacy in India. The city is a thriving commercial centre in Tamil Nadu and is famous for artificial diamonds, cigars, handloom cloth, glass bangles and wooden and clay toys.

The venue of the conference is: **Periyar Centenary Educational Complex**. It is located less than 4 kilometer by auto rickshaw/taxi from Trichy Airport and about 5 kilometers from the Trichy Railway Station. It is located in the South of Trichy (marked in Red in Map 2).

Address:

Periyar Centenary Educational Complex,
K. Sathanoor Main Road,
K K Nagar , Metre Factory Road,
Trichy, Tamil Nadu – 620021,
INDIA



Map not to Scale
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For more information on Trichy, please visit: www.trichy.com

Note: Please inform us your travel plans, so that we can arrange for conference volunteers to receive you either at the railway station or the airport and guide you to the conference venue. The local language is Tamil and some people know English too.

REACHING TRICHY

Trichy by Air: Trichy has an airport (5 kms from the city) of its own. main open and exclusive domestic airlines arrange customary flights to Trichy from different parts of the country. Trivandrum and Chennai are coupled just to the city by air. Indian Airlines connects Trichy with Chennai, Sharjah, Kuwait and Colombo. Air Lanka Service connects Tiruchirapalli with Colombo.

Trichy by Train: Trichy is an important junction on the Southern Railway. It connects Chennai, Thanjavur, Chidambaram, Madurai, Tirupathi, Tuticorin, Tenkasi, Quilon and Rameswaram, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Mysore, Kochi, Kanyakumari and Mangalore. There are direct weekly trains from Jammu, New Delhi, Varanasi, Howrah, Mumbai and other parts of India.

Trichy by Road: Trichy is well attached to assorted parts of Tamilnadu through open bus amenities operated by Tamilnadu vehicle Corporation. Trichy is also well attached to the other cities of Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Kerala through exclusive charter buses. There are also buses connecting Trichy to Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram and Tirupathi.

Trichy is located at convenient void from significant cities in south India. An colossal boulevard group connects the civic using Bangalore (345kms), and Chennai (320kms).

Local Transport:

City Bus service to all places of tourist interest from Central Bus Stand and from Chinthamani - Mani Guard Gate Bus Stand. Tourist Taxis, Auto Rickshaws and Cycle Rickshaws are also available.

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

The Conference registration fee is Rs. 400 for Indians and USD 100 for foreigners. The fee may be remitted through a Crossed Demand Draft on any bank favouring "Dravidar Kazhagam" payable at Chennai. Address of contact is provided at the end of this invite. Cash payment on arrival, at the registration desk is also possible.

The fee would cover food and local hospitality. However due to rush and limited accommodation, kindly send your request at the earliest. Due to paucity of accommodation, the organizers urge participants to stay in the City hotels at participants expense. If they need hotel information, they may write to organizers. there area good number of hotels near Railway Station and Central bus stand.

SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE:

Please send your interest to speak at the conference. Due to the increased interest, we will do our best to accommodate your request. However, if time does not permit, there will be opportunities for informal interaction and participation in the panel discussions.

Papers may be submitted for either oral presentation or interactive discussions. Attendees from many countries representing atheist and humanist organizations and movements will present their opinions and thoughts on promoting a culture of atheism and humanism.

Authors may propose to present the gist of their presentation for five minutes as they can distribute the full presentation to audience. The authors are encouraged to bring their own photocopies.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

TIME	CONTENT	CHAIRS/KEY SPEAKERS
DAY 1: Jan 7		
11:00-13:00	Inaugural Function	Dr. Veeramani Conference Theme: Dr. Vijayam Inaugural Address: Mr. Levi Fragell Guest of Honour Mr Satyaraj
13:00-14:00	LUNCH	
14:00-15:30	SESSION 1	Mr. Levi Fragell/Ms. Kristine Mile
15:30-17:00	SESSION 2	
17:00-17:30	BREAK	
17:30-20:00	Cultural Programme and Miracle Exposure	DK Representative Prof. Narendra Naik
20:00-21:30	DINNER	
DAY 2: Jan 8		
07:30-08:30	BREAKFAST	
08:45-09:45	Travel by Road from Periyar Educational Institutions to Periyar Maniammai University	
10:00-11:30	SESSION 3	Prof. Ramachandran, Vice Chancellor, Periyar Maniammai University
11:30-12:30	PARALLEL SESSION 4a	Dr. Samaram
11:30-12:30	PARALLEL SESSION 4b	Mr. Babu Gogineni
12:30-13:30	LUNCH	
13:30-14:30	Tour of Periyar Maniammai University	
14:30-15:30		
15:30-16:00	BREAK	
16:00-18:00	Mass Procession to promote spirit of inquiry from Conference Venue to Trichy Town	
18:00-20:00	Public Meeting	Dr. Veeramani and others
20:00-21:00	Travel by Road from Periyar Maniammai University to Periyar Educational Institutions (Conference Venue)	
21:00-22:00	DINNER	
DAY 3: Jan 9		
07:30-08:30	BREAKFAST	
09:00-10:30	SESSION 5	DK Woman Representative
10:30-12:00	SESSION 6	Mr. Lavanam
12:00-12:15	Conference Declaration	Mr. Vikas Gora
12:15-13:30	Valedictory Session/Concluding Ceremony	Dr. Veeramani & Dr. Vijayam
13:30-14:30	LUNCH & DEPARTURES	

Note: This is only a tentative schedule and upon final confirmations of speakers and attendees, the schedule may change.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Coordinators:

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