

Atheist Centre 75 Years International Conference

January 5-6, 2014, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh,
INDIA

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

Atheist Centre's journey has reached a unique milestone in history: 75 years. The 75 years of Atheist Centre witnessed two of the world renowned atheist social reformers and well-known Gandhians, Gora (1902-1975) & Saraswathi Gora (1912-2006), starting the Atheist Centre in 1940 and paving the way to build atheism as a life stance/way of life and positive atheism as a philosophy. Saraswathi Gora and Gora, founded the world's first known Atheist Centre in 1940 in Mudunur and later in 1948, it was shifted to Vijayawada.

The 75 Years International Conference will be held at Siddhartha Auditorium, Vijayawada, A.P., India on January 5th & 6th, 2014.

ABOUT ATHEIST CENTRE:

Over the years, Atheist Centre started many unique social experiments aimed at nation building, scientific temper, secularism and socio-economic reconstruction; Vasavya Vidyalayam, an alternative school was run for 16 years, to promote education on scientific temper, spirit of inquiry, socio-economic reform and humanism; inter-religious & inter-caste and casteless marriages for breaking the barriers of caste & religion and to eradicate untouchability; Atheist Study camps to build discourses on atheism; Magic camps for children to explain the myth of miracles; Science to villages through campaigns in hundreds of villages to build a rational society; Unity and Peace marches to build communal harmony, miracle exposure campaigns and investigation in villages to expose the tricks of godmen/godwomen,

Gora & Saraswathi



Gora (1902-1972) & Saraswathi Gora (1912-2006)



Commemorative Postage Stamp of Gora (1902-1975)



First World Atheist Meet 1972

investigating the claims of the paranormal and witchcraft & sorcery; social reform activities such as widow remarriages; counselling to women, home for victims of torture & distressed women with social problems and so on.

In order to build a social movement for reform to address the root causes of evil in the society, the founders and members of Atheist Centre initiated **Arthik Samata Mandal** in 1977, started by J.C.Kumarappa & Gora, well-known Gandhians, to work for the disaster relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction & preparedness, integrated development, health, sanitation, education & livelihood, rural reconstruction, humanitarian assistance, women & child-centred development, to reach out to hundreds of villages across the state. **Vasavya Mahila Mandali** was started as a movement in 1969 and as an organization which reaches out to women victims of torture, people & children living with HIV & AIDs, street children, women empowerment and integrated development. **Samskar** was started for criminal reformation, conflict resolution, jogini reformation and integrated development.

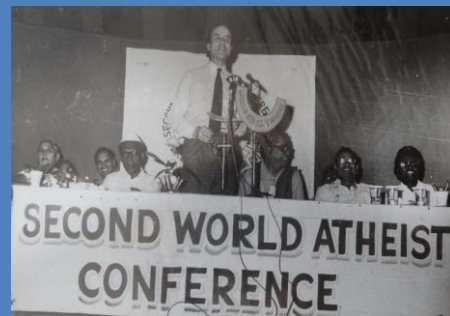
Gora Science Centre which celebrated its 50 years in 2012, has been promoting science and environmental exhibitions and fairs for thousands of children and youth to display their innovation and to build scientific outlook, scientific temper and environmental awareness. Large scale permanent **Vasavya Medical Exhibition** is the medical awareness hub and first of its kind in India. Through **secular social work**, Atheist Centre through its organizations reaches out to scores of children, youth, women, differently-abled, elderly, dalits, tribals, fisherfolk, small & marginal farmers, poorest of the poor & marginalized rural & urban population of India.

Atheist Centre is actively involved in advocacy with government for secularizing the society such as Mrs. Vidya's Resolution in the Indian Parliament (Lok Sabha) on the necessity to strengthen secularism and a Bill in the Parliament for a Casteless & Religionless Society, Hemalata and Lavanam's efforts for Jogini Abolition Act, to name a few.

Atheist Centre actively promote Article 51 A (h) of the Indian Constitution, which states in the Fundamental Duties that, 'It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to develop the scientific temper, humanism and spirit of inquiry and reform.'



Conversations with Gandhi on Atheism
1945-46



Harrie-Stopes Roe Speaking, Saraswathi Gora, Prof. H. Narasimhaiah, Laxmanan, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha and others, 1980.



Sir. Hermann Bondi delivering Presidential Address. Lady Christine Bondi and other delegates on dais, 1996.

Atheist Centre so far organized eight world atheist conferences, and seminars, workshops and discussions on atheism, humanism, rationalism, scientific temper, reform, secularism, free thought, social development, education, tolerance, human rights, miracle exposure, witchcraft and sorcery, community peace and conflict resolution, communal harmony, women empowerment etc., where people from all walks of life participate.

In 2013, Atheist Centre initiated the **Gora and Saraswathi Gora Atheist International Research Centre (GSGAIRC)** at Vijayawada as a focal point for research on atheism, humanism, freethought, rationalism, secularism, skepticism, paranormal investigation, separation of religion and state etc. The centre would cater to strengthen the global movement, by researching the actions in various countries. It would also document how atheism, humanism, rationalism, secularism and freethought have evolved and progressed in various parts of the world. We seek your cooperation and support to further strengthen GSGAIRC.

Atheist Centre's co-founder Saraswathi Gora was honoured with a number of Awards including, Jannalal Bajaj National Award, Janakidevi Bajaj National Award, G.D. Birla International Award for promotion of humanism and Karnataka Government's the very first Basava National Award for promotion of castelessness to name a few. **In 2002, the Government of India released a commemorative postage stamp on Gora, who promoted atheism as a positive way of life.**

DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014:

Ms. Sonja Eggerickx (Belgium), IHEU president, Levi Fragell and Roy Brown, former presidents of the IHEU hailing from Norway and Switzerland; Norwegian Humanist Secretary General Kristin Mile, IHEU Vice President Roar Johnsen (Norway), German Humanist Dr. Volker Mueller; Finnish Freethinker Pekke Elo and his team from Finland and others from abroad will participate and share their thoughts on the occasion.

From India, a number of important people will participate. They include Dr. Veeramani, President D.K, and Chancellor Periyar Maniammai University, Tamilnad, Dr. Balamohandas, former Vice Chancellor of Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh and Prof. B.A. Parikh, former Vice-Chancellor of South Gujarat University, and a veteran educationist, Surat; Mythri, Chairperson, Atheist Centre, Lavanam,



Indian Vice President, Krishna Kant presents 'GD Birla International Award for promotion of Humanism' in the presence of Sarala Birla and U.P. Governor Vishnu Kant Sastry, July 21, 2001, New Delhi.



The very first 'Basava National Award' of the Karnataka Government, for the promotion of castelessness, awarded to Saraswathi Gora by Karnataka Ministers Veerabhadrapa and Rani Satish, Bangalore, April 26 2001.



Dr. P.M. Bhargava, eminent scientist addressing the Sixth World Atheist Conference, 2007.

Ch. Vidya Ex-M.P., & Dr. Narendra Nayak, well known biochemist and the National President of the Federation of the Rationalist and Atheist Associations of India and many others from different states of India will participate.

A HISTORIC OCCASION

It would be a beautiful symphony of sharing of ideas and experiences of atheists, humanists, rationalists, freethinkers, skeptics, secularists, social reformers, activists, peace builders, Gandhians, and representatives from civil society. The Conference is a great opportunity to share notes on atheism & humanism as a life stance, scientific temper, paranormal investigation, social justice, gender equality, human rights, women

empowerment, fundamentalism as a bane to society, upliftment of the marginalized communities, building a post-religious society, secularism etc.

We welcome you all to come and participate in this historical milestone celebration of Atheist Centre's 75 years. As Atheist Centre is completely dependent on public cooperation and help, we also appeal to you to extend valuable support and solidarity by liberally donating to the cause that Atheist Centre champions and help in making the Conference a great success.

--- **Conveners of the Conference**

THE VENUE:

Vijayawada is situated on the southern banks of River Krishna with Eastern Ghats (hills) on its northern bank, in the Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh. The city has a population of 1,048,240 (2011 census).

Vijayawada is the commercial capital of Andhra Pradesh. The city is politically active, sociologically dominant, agriculturally rich and industrial transportation hub. It is well connected by road, air and rail and has the second biggest railway junction in India. The venue of the conference is: **Siddhartha Auditorium**. It is located less than 5 kilometers by auto rickshaw/taxi from Vijayawada Railway Station and 20 kilometers from the Vijayawada Airport. It is one kilometer from Atheist Centre. The venue is marked in blue and Atheist Centre in green, on the map below.

REACHING VIJAYAWADA:

By Air: Vijayawada has an airport (19 kms from the city). It is connected by flights from Delhi, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Bangalore. For more details, log on to: www.makemytrip.com

By Train: Vijayawada is an important junction on the Southern Railway. It connects to various parts of India. For more details, please log on to: <http://travel.sulekha.com/vijayawada-trains.htm> (or) www.indianrail.gov.in. You can book online through www.irctc.gov.in

By Road: Vijayawada is located at the junction of National Highway 5 and 9. It is very well connected by road. For inter-city bus booking log on to: http://www.travelyaari.com/travels/andhrapadesh_apsrtc.html

City bus service connects all the places in Vijayawada. The Central Bus Station is 0.3 kms from the Railway Station. Auto transportation would cost Rs. 50 from railway station or bus stand to the venue.

Hotels in Vijayawada: There are many hotels in Vijayawada for those interested to stay at their own cost. Atheist Centre can help in the booking or you can book directly. For hotels information, please visit:

<http://aptdc.in/vijayawada/accommodation.php>

Venue Address:

Siddhartha Auditorium

Siddhartha College of Science Arts

Siddhartha Nagar, Vijayawada 520010, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA, For more information on Vijayawada, please visit: www.vijayawada.com

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

The Conference registration fee is Rs. 400 for Indians and USD 150 for foreigners. The fee may be remitted through a Crossed Demand Draft on any bank favouring, 'Atheist Centre' payable at Vijayawada. You can also send donations. Cash payment on arrival, at the registration desk is also possible. The fee would cover food and humble accommodation. However due to rush and limited accommodation, kindly send your request at the earliest. Registration form is enclosed.

MESSAGES FOR THE CONFERENCE:

If you are unable to attend the conference, please send us your message for the success of the conference.

CONFERENCE CONVENERS:

Dr. G. Vijayam, Dr. Samaram, Dr. Maru and Mr. Vikas Gora

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

Ms. Rashmi Samaram, Ms. Nau Gora, Mr. Ch. Vazeer, Ms. Sakala, Mr. Niyanta, Mr. Hari Subramanyam, Mr. Sadiq, Dr. Hippu Salk Nathan, Dr. Kranti & Mr. G.V.V.S. Prasad.

FOR DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:

DR. G. VIJAYAM

Honorary Executive Director

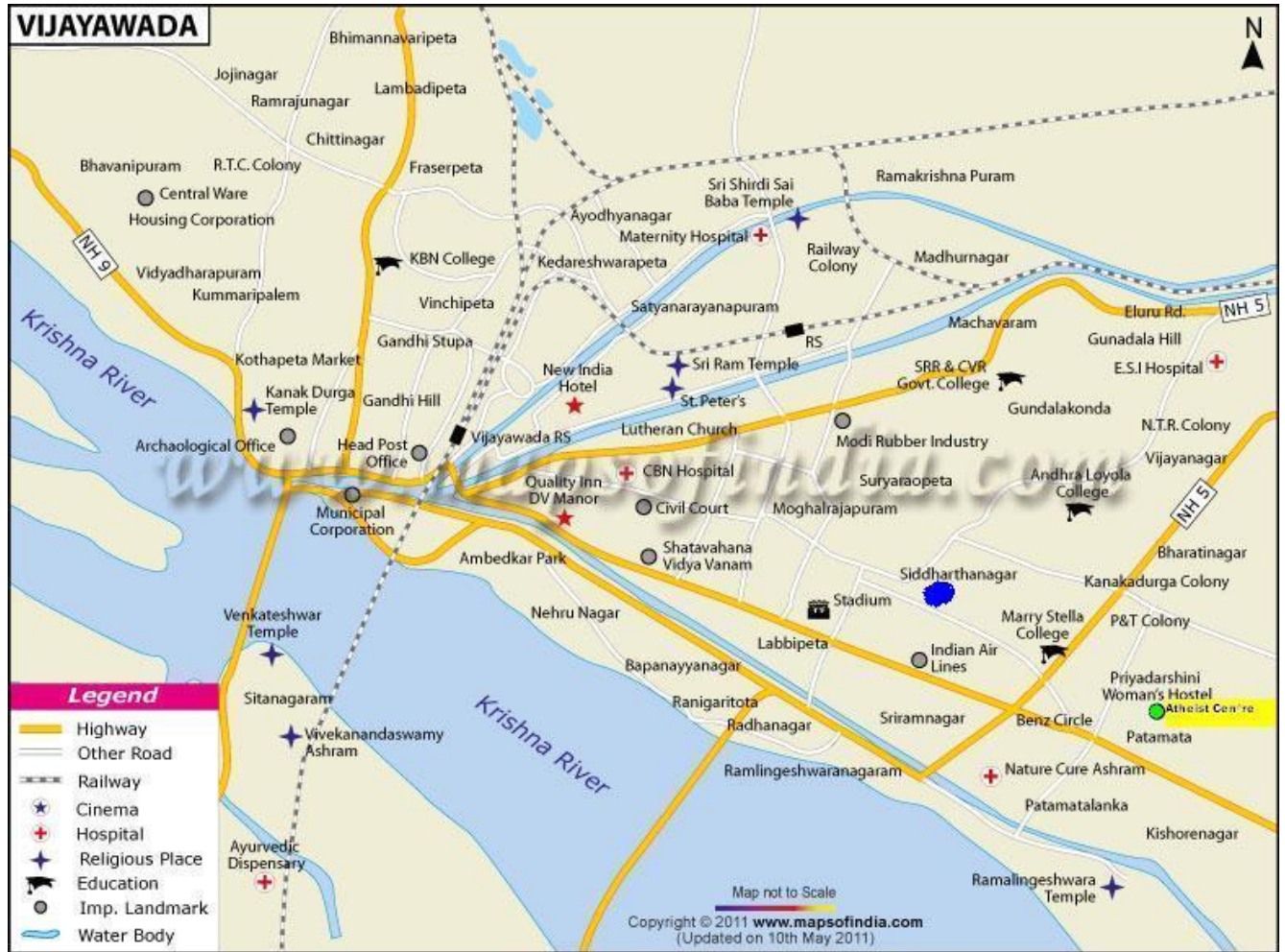
Atheist Centre, Benz Circle, Vijayawada 520010, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA

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MAP OF VIJAYAWADA:



REGISTRATION FORM

ATHEIST CENTRE 75 YEARS: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Please confirm your participation via email to positiveatheist@gmail.com

Contact: Dr. G. Vijayam, Executive Director, Atheist Centre, Benz Circle, Vijayawada 520010,
Andhra Pradesh, INDIA, Ph: +91 866 2472330, Web: www.atheistcentre.in

Name :

Title :

Organization :

Address :

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Tel : Fax:

Email :
