



## Press Release

### Men's Rights Activists converge in Varanasi to demand Equality for Men!

# Announce themselves to be the Neelkanths' of the society.

# Serve memorandum on The Prime Minister to formulate Men's Commission.

#### Highlights of the three day National Conference on Men's Rights in India

- More than 150 participants from all over the country gathered in Varanasi for the three days National Conference on Men's Issues.
- Neelkanths to Save MENkind is the theme of the event.
- Participants discuss variety of issues related to men such as – Family space, social space, matrimony, law, justice, health, reproduction, adoption, property rights etc.
- Sufferings and pain of men highlighted with a focus to make the world a better place for men.
- Veteran activists stress the need for a support system for men, which is presently non-existent in India.
- Lack of research and data on men's issues needs to be overcome by promoting research fellowships.
- Backdoor attempts to criminalize matrimonial relationship in the name of marital rape law discussed and condemned.
- First ever postal stamp on a Men's Rights Organisation released.
- Pisachini Mukti Pooja organized to save men, government and the judiciary from the fake cases filed by *pishachinis* i.e. the wicked women.
- Pind Daan of Matrimony was done at the Manikarnika Ghat by the participants who survived the fake cases filed by unscrupulous women.
- Talent Hunt Competition was organized to groom the future Men's Rights Activists.
- Medical examination of participants revealed alarming health issues.
- Memento and prize distribution for the winners & participants.
- Need to popularize – +91-8882 498 498, the SIF helpline for Men.
- Next National Meet to be held at Nagpur on a grander scale.

**National Helpline Number +91-8882-498-498**

The 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Men's Rights and their Issues was held at Hotel Hindustan International in the holy city of Varanasi, the Parliamentary Constituency of the Indian Prime Minister, during 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018. 'Neelkanths to Save MENkind' was the theme of the event organized by the Save Indian Family (SIF), the umbrella organization of the Men's Rights Activists (MRA) and associated organizations in the country and abroad. The conference was organized to deliberate upon issues affecting men. These issues relate to variety of spheres such as matrimony, law, justice, health, reproduction, adoption, property rights, family, and social space accorded to men. Ironically, such issues do not find a place on any forum.

Anupam Dubey the Organising Secretary elaborated upon the theme by drawing a parallel between Lord Shiva and the Men's Rights Activists (MRA). He explained that in Indian mythology, Lord Shiva is believed to have once consumed poison to save the world. Due to this the throat of the Lord became blue was thus he was named The Neelkanth. Similarly, the MRAs are the 'Neelkanths' who are out to 'Save' the world by consuming the poison of dogma and preconceived notions against men in the society. This is eventually aimed to make this planet a better place for the 'MENkind'.

Neeladri Das a veteran activist and founder of the SIF stressed the need for help & support system for males. Indian society lives under an unexplained dogma that men don't need support and are tough enough to face the adversaries in life. As the society witnesses' massive rise in false cases being filed against men by women of malicious intent, a large number of men and their families feel helpless. They get trapped in the labyrinth of legal corridors. Fake cases of rape, dowry, molestation & stalking etc are used by unscrupulous women to settle personal scores. Although the government officials have enough information and proof of the ground realities of these fake cases, they are unwilling to do anything to help the men. Due to long-standing litigation, men lose money, time and health. There is no official support system to listen to their pain and address their sufferings. Shielding behind matrimony & other benevolent civil & criminal laws, evil-minded women even attempt to usurp the property of men. Das suggested that men should draft a Will that would come handy and useful after them and defuse the attempts to usurp their property.

Amit Deshpande of Vaastav Foundation, Mumbai discussed the need for formal research on men's issues. It is the matter of concern that the government has no official data on the health, education, economic status and other issues related to men. Even the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) only collected data on the health of women and children. This is beyond logical understanding that why men are deliberately & notoriously kept out of the official statistics of the country? Deshpande proposed starting research fellowship in areas of relevance to men. Narrating his experiences in doing so previously, he suggested that Universities and research institutions should be encouraged to promote research on issues concerning the males.

Amit Lakhani, the Founder Trustee of Men Welfare Trust, Delhi talked about the challenges he faced in contesting a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition seeking to make

marital rape a criminal offense in India. He explained the contents of the PIL, the relief sought and the faulty averments advanced by the petitioners before the Delhi High Court. Lakhani said that the relief sought in the petition is already available under various provisions of the Indian Law. The petitioners have presented all cooked up facts to seek a relief which would further criminalize matrimony to the detriment of men. If such attempts are allowed to prevail it can cause havoc in the family and matrimonial space of Indians.

On the second day of the conference, a Talent Hunt Competition was held to identify, groom and prepare the future Men's Rights Activists. Most of the thirteen contestants, who participated in the contest, were of the opinion that there is a need to increase the access and reach of the Men's Rights Movement (MRM). The activists suggested various activities to make the MRM a mass movement. Nithin P. Kadam of SIF – Karnataka was the winner of the contest for his presentation on the topic '*Connecting with masses and making men's rights a cause for all, not restricted to few*'. Anand Ramkumar of Vaastav Foundation, Mumbai stood the first runner-up for his presentation on the topic '*Activism for special events - Strategy and best practices*'. Jaynath Sisodiya of SIF – Gujarat, stood second runner-up for his presentation on the topic, '*Why false cases are not MRM but a small part of it?*' The Talent Hunt Competition was indeed an exercise to make the future activists more oriented in the ways of the Save Indian Family Movement.

'*Pishachini Mukti Pooja*, a prayer to save the men from wicked women who file fake cases on men was organised. It was prayed that the government and judiciary comes also moves comes out of the influence of these *pishachinis* - the wicked women. In Indian mythology, a *Pishach* is an evil soul of a person who is yet to attain salvation. Chetan from Vaastav Foundation, Mumbai explained that it could affect your sons, fathers, brothers or any male relative too.

It was indeed a moment of pride for the nation when the event saw the release of the first ever postal stamp on any Men's Rights Organization in India. Veteran MRA Amartya Talukdar of Hridaya-NEST Foundation, Bengal took this initiative to get the stamp developed for the movement. Wasif Ali of Save Indian Family, Delhi, TR Partha of SIF- Hyderabad, and Anupam Dubey of Daaman Welfare Society, Kanpur released the stamp. The stamp in the denomination of Rs. Five has the logo of the Save Indian Family printed on it.

On the third day of the event, the participants who had survived fake cases by unscrupulous and law abusing women in matrimony, offices or society organized a '*Pind Daan*' of their matrimonial life and toxic feminism. In the Indian culture, '*Pind Daan*' is the last rite of the dead. On the banks of The Holy Ganges, at the mythological Manikarnika Ghat of Varanasi, these men woved to cremate and get relieved of the memories of a bad phase matrimony in their lives and lead a happier & independent life ahead. This unique form of protest assumes significance, given the penchant for marriage in Indian society. A medical health checkup was conducted by Dr. Sandeep Gohe. Alarmingly more than fifty percent of



the participants were found to be hypertensive. A memorandum urging the Prime Minister to establish Purush Ayog (Men's Commission), was signed by all the participants.

Summing up the occasion Anupam Dubey stated that the annual event is only in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. Despite having no government support the MRM in India has been taking small steps forward, largely due to the enthusiasm of its activists. He stressed the need to popularise +91-8882 498 498, the All India Helpline for men. Any man in distress can call and seek help for his problems. More than two lakh calls of men in distress have been received and documented on the helpline. Volunteers of the SIF are working round the clock to help those approaching them.

The event started with participants from all over the country registering for this mega event. Suresh Ram from Chennai, Jaynat Phulare from Aurangabad, Abhay from Kolkatta, Rohit Dogra from Punjab, Dileep Sarkar from Tripura, Dr. Vaibhav Gupta from Bareilly, Dr. Sumant Mishra from Bhopal, Gaurav Bhattacharya from Kanpur, KK Ranjan from Varanasi, Yaksh from Lucknow, Pradeep Vidyarthi from Godda and hundreds of volunteers reported for the event. Interestingly, there are a good number of women participants like Dr. Indu Subhash & Sarita Singh from Lucknow, Kalavati Patel from Ahmedabad. The event ended with prize and memento distribution to the participants. The MRAs departed with a resolve to hold the next National Conference in Nagpur on a much larger scale.

Regards,

Date: August 27, 2018  
Place: Varanasi, India

**Anupam Dubey**  
Organizing Secretary

**NB:**

1. We are attaching a few photographs highlighting the entire event.
2. The event was covered by a cross-section of the local and national media, in English & in vernacular. The clippings of the known coverage so far are archived on our webpage [www.daaman.org/natcon18coverage](http://www.daaman.org/natcon18coverage)
3. This Press Release, photographs, videos and other material pertaining to this event are also available on our website [www.daaman.org](http://www.daaman.org)
4. Please feel free to contact us at [media@daaman.org](mailto:media@daaman.org) or call +91-98891 88810 for any further input.
5. To know more about the Save Indian Family Movement please visit [www.SaveIndianFamily.in](http://www.SaveIndianFamily.in)