

Speech about 20th Annual National Virtual Science Fiction Conference

- Dr. Srinarahari

- Respected President of the function, The Patrons, President, Secretary and the team of MSP Mandal, Organizing President, Convener, Coordinators, Members of the technical team, Fiscal officers, Deans, Heads of the Departments, Vice-Principals, Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors of various departments, Teaching staff members, Non-teaching staff, members of the supporting staff, administrative section members, coordinator of IQAC section, Library staff, Professors of the affiliated University, Teaching staff from other Colleges, Guest of Honor Dr. GP Phondke, Dr. Arvind Mishra, Mr. AP Deshpande, Mr. Dinker Charak, Dr. Sowmya Murukesh, Mr. Dip Ghosh, Mr. Harish Yadav, Respected authors, Panelists, paper presenters, chairpersons of each paper reading session, anchor persons, Media Persons, Delegates and participants, science Fiction fans, research scholars, PG, UG students and friends,

I am extremely happy to brief about the present event just like placing the menu card before you.

Science Fiction in the Real World (1990) by Norman Spinrad distinguishes Science Fiction from other genre as “Historical fiction is about the past, contemporary fiction is about the present, science fiction is about the future”.

The history of science fiction goes back to two hundred years when Mary Shelley published her work *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* in the year 1818. The impact of this work is so powerful that the genre has grown enormously in majority of the countries in the world producing innumerable Science Fiction works.

In India, the second wave of the movement began with the torch bearer Dr. JV Narlikar in the 70’s of the twentieth century. Soon the scientific community took it as a missionary zeal in implementing the idea under the theme “popularization of Science.” In addition to the translating SF works of the other countries, the ingrained mythical ideas have been equally, and artistically blended with ideology and technology in Indian Science Fiction works.

With the constant efforts of MVP, Mumbai under the able guidance of Mr. Ananth Panduranga Deshpande, Indian Science Fiction Writers Association, Ayodhya under the

leadership of Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Upadhaya, with the team work of Harish Goyal, Dr. Arvind Mishra, and Dewendra Mewari, Dr. Arvind Dubey, Kalpna Kulshresta, Zeashan Zaidi in Hindi, Kalpabishwas Kolkata under the leadership of Dip Gosh, Santu bhag, Supriyo Das and their team in Bengali, Sci-fi Katta in Maharashtra by Prasana Karandikar, Ashish Mahabal, Meghashri Dalavi, Sharad Puranik, Sunil Sule and others in Marathi, Mithila journal by Salik Shaw, Indian Science Fiction online magazine Indian scifi.com by Arya Madan Mohan, Indian Science Fiction what's app group by Mishraji and his 100 + members, the contribution of SF works in vernacular languages and others. In addition, the genre has been enriched by the contribution of research works in the form of Ph. D dissertations, published scholarly papers, criticism, book reviews, anthologies, and independent works. Also, we are proud to have the productions of visual media products. They reflect in general the combination of myth, ideology, technology, alien encounter, artificial intelligence and others. Thus, over years we have built Indian Science Fiction castle.

Indian Association for Science Fiction Studies was founded by Dr. KS Purushothaman. It has completed 23 years. It has organized 14 National and 5 International Conferences.

The present 20th Annual National Virtual Science Fiction Conference is organized in collaboration with ISFWA, MVP, K & K, and mainly hosted by Deogiri College, Aurangabad which is known for its highest academic achievements.

During the Inaugural session, we have the guest of honor Dr. Bal Phondke with whose pioneer attempt of bringing together the best ISF works in *It Happened Tomorrow* is a mile stone in the history of Indian Science Fiction.

Mr. Dinker Charak is an Entrepreneur & Product Manager, Bangalore. During the turn of the century, as a webmaster he launched <https://www.adbhut.in/>; This online magazine is still going strong. He is here to deliver the keynote address. The peer reviewed ISSN numbered Science Fiction Special issue of the journal *Insight* is ready for release. Dr. Sowmya Murukesh the Chief Editor from University Research Publication, Kerala will be speaking about the publication.

Gems of India that is, 16 authors will be speaking on “My Recently Published work.”

In addition to several paper presentation sessions in English, Hindi and Indian vernacular languages on various aspects of Indian Science Fiction, we have with us the National and International Awardee for documentary making Mr. GS Unnikrishnan who will be speaking about Malayalam Science Fiction and his projects.

A magic show will be held by mentalist and magician Mr. Harish Yadav from Jaipur.

The National Education Policy 2020 is being implemented uniformly in higher education institutions in India. It provides us to refresh the courses and subjects focusing on “flexibility and “employability”. In this respect, I appeal the panelists to discuss about introducing Indian Science Fiction courses and subjects.

Now, with this menu card you can place orders online!

Thank you.

Dr. Srinarahari