



# 19th BIEN CONGRESS 2019

22-25 August 2019  
Hyderabad, India

# 19th World Congress of Basic Income Earth Network

**Basic Income as Freedom and Development**

Hosted by  
India Network for Basic Income

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## WELCOME TO THE 19TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK (BIEN)

Dear Friends,

We are excited to host the 19th World Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network here at Hyderabad, India.

This Congress is unique in many ways. Firstly, the Congress is taking place in India at a time when the discussion on basic income at the national level is at its peak, and as 2019, the year of parliamentary elections, ushered in the newspapers and media are abuzz with speculations about introduction of a version of basic income at least to certain vulnerable sections of the population. *The location of the Congress, that is, the state of Telangana, has been in news lately because of its successful policy initiatives that resemble the spirit of Basic Income.*

Secondly, in BIEN's history, this is the first time a World Congress is being held in a non-OECD country; and second time in an Asian country. This Congress symbolizes the fact that basic income movement is becoming truly a global movement with representatives coming from different continents.

Thirdly, by mid 2019, several of the on-going pilot studies would have their findings ready for discussion. It would be a great moment for basic income debate. Lastly, this Congress hopes to celebrate diversity by bringing together people from within basic income community with diverse backgrounds such as artists, academics, community organizers, politicians and technologists.

Dr. Sarath Davala  
Vice-Chair, Basic Income Earth Network  
Coordinator, India Network for Basic Income

# WORLD BASIC INCOME CONGRESS

19<sup>th</sup> Congress of Basic Income Earth Network in India in 2019

Hyderabad, August 22-25, 2019

**Basic income** is a periodic cash payment unconditionally given to all, on an individual basis, without means-test or work requirement. The idea occupied center stage in the global development debate in the last decade since it is seen as having potential answers to some of the pressing and troubling questions of the twenty first century concerning the welfare and well-being of people across the world. Pilot studies across continents, including one conducted in Madhya Pradesh, India, demonstrate that this is indeed true.

The theme of the 19<sup>th</sup> BIEN Congress is '**Basic Income as Freedom and Development**'. Basic Income is an idea that is evoking curiosity and attention of people from a wide variety of national and cultural contexts, and from leaders of different socio-political domains. Irrespective of the generic meaning that we attempt to give it, the groundswell that we witness today is producing its own local meanings. Each of these meanings seems to emerge from its own unique contextual starting point. The year 2019 is virtually being declared as the 'Year of the Basic Income' because the idea is reverberating across the world.

In this chaotic multiple renderings and interpretations, we observe that Basic Income is being seen both as Freedom and Development. These two notions are not mutually exclusive nor are they distinctively apart as often they are made out to be. Development ideally ought to lead to Freedom, and equally so the other way round. In certain contexts, the immediate appeal of the idea of Basic Income seems to be 'Development' in terms of addressing hunger and other forms of deprivation, access to education and healthcare. In other contexts, the immediacy may be felt as Freedom from alienating jobs that most of us are forced to do for a living. In either case, what emerges is that an unconditional Basic Income is seen as having tremendous potential to liberate us from the new forms of slavery that the current phase of capitalist economy subjects us to. This BIEN Congress seeks to explore this diversity.



**Basic Income Earth Network** (BIEN) is a global network with 35 national and regional affiliates. Its primary objective is to foster informed discussion about basic income throughout the world. Each year, BIEN organizes an international Congress, hosted by one of its affiliates. The 18<sup>th</sup> BIEN Congress in 2018 was hosted by its affiliate in Finland. Its Indian affiliate INBI will host the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress in Hyderabad from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

**India Network for Basic Income** (INBI) is a national network of individuals and organizations working to promote the idea of basic income in India. It is incorporated as a non-profit company, **INBI Foundation**, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The network is an off-shoot of a major pilot study on basic income conducted by SEWA<sup>1</sup> between 2011 and 2013 in Madhya Pradesh with the funding support of UNICEF. This was supplemented by a special pilot in a tribal area. Subsequently, a book was published that summarized the main findings of the pilots.<sup>2</sup>



The Indian pilots, in which nearly 6,000 men, women and children received a basic income in nine villages, showed that in comparison with otherwise similar people in other communities the basic incomes resulted in improvements in health, nutrition, schooling, and the

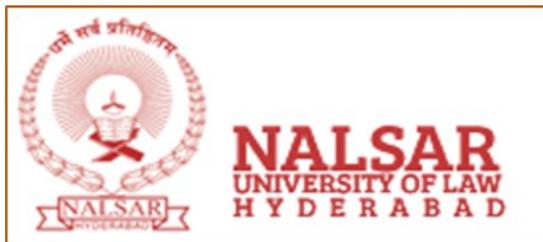
social and economic status of women, the disabled and lower-caste and tribal households, while increasing work, assets and production in the communities. Following the pilots, INBI organized a National Conference in 2014 where the results were presented and discussed. In 2017, the Government of India presented a Perspective Document on Universal Basic Income in the Indian Parliament. INBI contributed to this document and also made available to the Committee drafting the report the findings of the pilot studies. The same year, INBI also organized an international conference in Delhi to advance the

<sup>1</sup> Self Employed Women's Association

conversation.

At a time when almost all the nations of the world are undergoing a major welfare crisis and actively discussing the idea of basic income as an alternative social policy, we consider it our honour and privilege to be hosting the next BIEN Congress in India.

INBI is governed by a statutory Board of Directors, a National Advisory Committee and an International Advisory Committee comprising of eminent scholars and public personalities.



INBI is partnering with the [NALSAR University of Law](#) in organizing the BIEN Congress in 2019. NALSAR has been invested in the idea of Universal Basic Income and sees it as an important tool of social justice and the foundation of a

caring society. Prof. Amita Dhanda teaches a course on basic income and also directs a research project entitled: *“Incubating a Discourse for Cooperation, Contentment, and Care: to enable Justice for All”*. The core philosophical concerns of INBI, BIEN and NALSAR converge on the subject of Universal Basic Income, and thus the tremendous synergies possible. The venue of the Congress will be NALSAR campus, a sprawling expanse of 55 acres with state-of-the-art facilities, situated on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

### Why is this Congress Unique?

This Congress is unique in many ways. Firstly, the Congress is taking place in India at a time when the discussion on basic income at the national level is at its peak, and as 2019, the year of parliamentary elections, ushered in the newspapers and media are abuzz with speculations about introduction of a version of basic income at least to certain vulnerable sections of the population. *The location of the Congress, that is, the state of Telangana, has been in news lately because of its successful policy initiatives that resemble the spirit of Basic Income.*

Secondly, in BIEN’s history, this is the first time a World Congress is being held in a non-OECD country; and second time in an Asian country. This Congress symbolizes the fact that basic income movement is becoming truly a global movement with representatives coming from different continents.

<sup>2</sup> S. Davala, R. Jhabvala, S. K. Mehta and G. Standing (2015), *Basic Income: A Transformative Policy for India*. London and New Delhi: Bloomsbury

Thirdly, by mid 2019, several of the on-going pilot studies would have their findings ready for discussion. It would be a great moment for basic income debate. Lastly, this Congress hopes to celebrate diversity by bringing together people from within basic income community with diverse backgrounds such as artists, academics, community organizers, politicians and technologists.

### **Funding of the Congress**

As in all previous Congresses, the responsibility for raising funds for the Congress rests on the BIEN affiliate hosting it. INBI is contacting various agencies, both corporate and international development organisations that have expressed interest in the potential of Basic Income.

INBI is a young network with no funds of its own. It depends entirely on contributions. Organising an international conference of this scale means a huge expenditure which of course cannot be met by the small registration fee that the Congress charges delegates. We are planning eight High-level Panel Discussions with distinguished national and international experts on various topics listed below. We have estimated that each session on an average to cost us about US \$ 20,000<sup>3</sup> which will cover the travel and accommodation of the lead speakers, and other overheads of organizing the session, and other general costs of the Congress. We are seeking Indian and global sponsors to support one or more sessions so that the costs are covered. To encourage local participation, we are subsidizing the registration fee for participants from low-income countries. This is yet another reason why we need financial support.

We appeal to all to consider supporting this prestigious event.

### **Structure of the Congress**

BIEN Congresses normally attract about three to four hundred delegates from all over the world, and this Congress is no exception. The deliberations will be conducted around specific thematic areas that are critical and topical in on-going basic income theory and policy debates in the world. The decision about the lead speakers will be discussed with the BIEN Executive Committee before

<sup>3</sup> Equivalent to 17500 Euro, 16,000 Pounds and 1.5 million Indian Rupees.

finalizing. The last day afternoon will contain a closing session and the BIEN General Assembly. Affiliate sessions and a civic forum will also be added to the program.

One of the Congress sessions on the “Caring Economy” will be jointly anchored by Prof. Amita Dhanda of NALSAR and Mr. Bela Hatvany of Mustardseed Trust. Concerning this session, we now have preliminary funding commitment.

The Table below lists the thematic areas that will be focal points around which discussions will take place in the Congress. We are planning two types of sessions.

- **Dynamic Plenary Sessions:** Experts and people invested in select thematic areas related to basic income theory and policy debate will be invited to discuss and debate, facilitated / anchored by someone equally invested in the subject.
- **Small Group Presentations:** Alongside there will be parallel sessions where activists, artists and academics will discuss submitted papers and presentations.

### **BIEN Civic Forum - India Day**

The first day, which is 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, will be **India Day** as part of BIEN’s new initiative called **BIEN Civic Forum** that intends to bring together different stakeholders in a given national or regional context to share views and debate basic income.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Congress plans to have two major plenary discussions on the India Day. The first one focuses on the state of **Telangana and its policy initiatives** related to basic income, and the second one focussing on **national level India debate**.

### **Basic Income Short Films Exhibition**

The Congress will have a Basic Income Short Films Exhibition showcasing short films made around the theme of basic income and related issues. We are

looking for sponsors to support this event.

### **Basic Income Ideas Bazaar**

In addition, we will also have a Basic Income Idea Bazaar where organisations, artists and groups working on Basic Income and related themes, and wish to showcase their work will be provided space at a nominal cost.

The tables on the next page list the thematic areas proposed for the four days of the Hyderabad Congress. We are in the process of contacting speakers for the plenary sessions. The final list will be provided by end of February 2019.

# INDIA DAY

22 August 2019

1	<p><b>Inaugural Session</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Plenary One – Panel Discussion - Basic Income Debate: Telangana Focus</b></p> <p><i>In early 2018, the southern province of Telangana introduced a cash transfer scheme for its entire 7 million farmers. This scheme is unconditional and universal (within farming community). This kicked off a major debate in the country about unconditional basic income, followed by a landslide victory for the ruling party in the local elections held in December 2018. All the political parties in the country are now examining the innovative elements of this scheme. In this panel we would like to bring all the key people who have designed it, supported it and evaluating it for an animated discussion.</i></p>
3.	<p><b>Plenary Two – Panel Discussion - Basic Income Debate: India Focus</b></p> <p><i>In India, the first wave of interest in basic income occurred in early 2017. The second wave occurred in early 2019 following the Telangana’s Rythu Bandhu initiative in the light of rural distress and farmers’ agitation. Though none of the current proposals resemble in any way the classical Universal Basic Income, the term is being used widely, and the feasibility and desirability discussed in newspapers regularly. What is the context in which the India debate is positioned? Who is supporting and who is opposing? What are the various arguments? Why does it appeal to political parties? And equally why does it appeal to the governments?</i></p> <p><i>We plan to bring some of the best minds from within India and from overseas who are participating in the debate.</i></p>

## Thematic areas for Plenary Sessions

1	<p><b>Ideological Perspectives and Diverse Worldviews on Basic Income</b></p> <p><i>Exploring different ideological perspectives and worldviews that see an unconditional Basic Income as a desirable component of a more equitable and inclusive society</i></p>
2	<p><b>Women's Care and Unpaid Work: Is Basic Income an essential component of a new paradigm of Equity?</b></p> <p><i>What implications and impact would basic income have on the lives women who constitute more than half of the global population? Can we talk of a sustainable society as long as we steal labour from women? Can an unconditional basic income remedy this structural inequity?</i></p>
3	<p><b>Is Basic Income the Foundation of a Caring Economy and Society?</b></p> <p><i>Is it possible to build an economy and a society that is based on values of caring, sharing and partnering rather than power, domination and control? Is an unconditional basic income an essential ingredient of such a society?</i></p>
4	<p><b>The Emancipatory Potential: What forms of Freedom and what kind of Community Life does Basic Income promote?</b></p> <p><i>Basic Income experiments across the world have demonstrated repeatedly that an unconditional basic income has a strong emancipatory effect of its recipients. It loosens the constraints of existence and liberates the mind to seek a life and a community better than what we have now. What implications does this freedom and emancipation have on us and the communities that we dwell in?</i></p>
5	<p><b>Basic Income, the Commons and Sovereign Wealth Funds</b></p> <p><i>Our society privileges and celebrates private inheritance, but it equally invisibilises what can be called our public inheritance, and the fact that it is people who own natural resources and the state is just a custodian. This perspective if implemented can radically transform the way we view, manage and account for our natural wealth and endowments.</i></p>

Continued...

6	<p><b>BI Pilots: Opportunities and Limits of Evidence</b></p> <p><i>In both the low income countries and in high income countries, there have been basic income pilot studies. While we already have the results of some of the studies, by mid-2019, we are likely to have more results. The Congress will deliberate both the results and also what they can achieve in terms of policy change?</i></p>
7	<p><b>Basic Income and Political Action: What does it take to transform and idea into policy?</b></p> <p><i>It is one thing to have strong evidence from pilot studies and something else to get the acceptance of the policy makers and persuade them to act on it. There have been some pioneers among politicians and policy-makers across continents who have taken the plunge and implemented different versions unconditional income transfers, inspired by the spirit of the idea of basic income. Do we see them as first steps towards a full UBI? Or as distortions of the idea?</i></p>
8	<p><b>Development Aid and Corporate Philanthropy: Is Basic Income a Better Paradigm and Way Forward?</b></p> <p><i>In recent years, there has been a great deal of rethinking about the effectiveness of the current paradigms of giving aid either to countries or to communities. Unconditional Basic Income is increasingly emerging as a radical alternative to conventional notions of giving aid. We witness this shift as much within the <a href="#">UN think-tanks</a> <a href="#">as that of corporate philanthropy</a>.</i></p>

## Call for Papers

Scholars, community organizer and artists are invited to make presentations pertaining to any of the following thematic areas. The abstracts (maximum 500 words) must reach us **by February 25<sup>th</sup> 2019**. Please mail your abstracts (in MS Word document between 300 and 500 words) to:

[19biencongress.india@gmail.com](mailto:19biencongress.india@gmail.com)

If you need any clarifications, please write to Akhilesh Arya at the same address.

### Thematic Areas for 19<sup>th</sup> BIEN Congress

1. Ideological Perspectives on Basic Income
2. Basic Income, Unpaid Work and Women in the Informal Economy
3. Basic Income in Development Aid Debate: Is there a Paradigm-shift?
4. Religious Perspectives on Basic Income
5. Basic Income as a Foundation of a Caring Economy and Society?
6. What forms of Freedom and What kind of Community Life does Basic Income promote?
7. Basic Income and Blockchain Technology: Are there Synergies?
8. Basic Income, Poverty and Rural Livelihoods
9. Basic Income, the Commons, and Sovereign Wealth Funds: Is Public Inheritance an emerging issue?
10. Basic Income Pilots: Opportunities and Limits
11. Basic Income and Political Action: What does it take to transform

an Idea into Policy?

12. Basic Income and Corporate Philanthropy: Is Basic Income a better paradigm and way forward?

13. Basic Income and Children

14. Basic Income and Mental Health

15. Basic Income and Intentional Communities: What does this Experience Teach us?



## INBI-BIEN SHORT FILMS EXHIBITION

Indian Network Basic Income (INBI) announces Short Films Exhibition @ 19th Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) Congress 22-25 August 2019 in Hyderabad. Short Films on a theme related to Basic Income. Call for Entries.

Your film will be screened at the Basic Income World Congress and distributed publicly as part of the Congress for a worldwide audience.

Basic Income is an idea - an idea that has the potential to liberate people – the ordinary folks. It eliminates the perennial insecurity that has become an inevitable feature of our modern existence. When that happens, the quality of mind transforms. To the poor man, it frees the mind to think and plan a future for himself and for his family. To the not-so-poor, it liberates the mind and demonstrates that a better life is possible. That's why Basic Income is both Freedom and Development which is the theme of the 19th BIEN Congress to be held in India. Insecurity is just one of the problems that basic income squarely addresses. There are several others.

While on the one hand basic Income promises to address problems, it also invokes positive values. One such value is that of unconditionality. Nature / God has bestowed upon mankind all the gifts unconditionally. Rain falls as much on your land as on mine. Sun shines on your courtyard as much as it does on mine. But in the man-made world, life is full of conditionalities. The idea of basic income reclaims this virtue / value and promises a better world, a better community life that is based on sharing and caring.

### Guidelines:

1. The length of the Film should be below 15 minutes.
2. Your film should be made in 2018 or 2019 and be shown for the first time to a wider audience at the Congress.
3. The film should be in English or with English subtitles.
4. Entries should reach latest by 1st June 2019
5. A committee appointed by INBI will select the entries for exhibition at the Congress.
6. Two of these selected films will be jointly rewarded INBI Short Film Prize of 500 US Dollars each.

For further information and to submit films, please contact Enno Schmidt, Chair of the Committee. [ennoschmidt@me.com](mailto:ennoschmidt@me.com)

## Registration, Accommodation, Logistics and other Costs

Dear Friends,

We request you to register for the congress at the earliest so that we can work towards making your travel experience a pleasant one. We are providing you with a detailed note on the registration, accommodation, logistics and the costs involved in the following section.

### Registration:

Registrations are now open. You may go to the following link and register.

<https://goo.gl/forms/BdndTwhQ8Xk6KcMv1>

Once you fill up this form and submit, we will advise you on how to make the payment of Delegate fee via email. Those paying from within India in India Rupees can directly transfer the fees via State Bank Collect link that will be provided to you via email. For those making the payment from outside India, you have two options. You either make a bank to bank transfer for which the details will be sent to you. Alternatively you pay when you arrive at the Congress. We apologise that due to security reasons we are unable to accept payments through Credit Cards or Debit Cards.

If you have any queries with regard to registrations, please contact Akhilesh Arya via email:

[19biencongress.india@gmail.com](mailto:19biencongress.india@gmail.com)

### The Fee Structure of the Congress:

There are three types of Fee. Those who can afford, we request you to pay Solidarity Fee which would be a big support to the Congress.

Type of Fee	In Euro	In US Dollars
Solidarity fee	200 and above	229
Regular Fee	125	143
Delegates from low-income countries	50	57
Delegates from India	50	57 (₹ 4042)

The Regular Fee is 125 Euros. To encourage participants coming from low-income countries, we have a discounted price of 50 Euros. Those of you who

can get your institutions to pay your Fee, please opt for the Solidarity fee or Regular Fee even if you are from low-income countries. That would be a great support for the Congress.

### Accommodation and Food:

The Congress will take place on the campus of [National Academy of Legal Sciences and Research](#) (NALSAR) one of the top law schools in India. The campus is on the outskirts of Hyderabad, and at least [25 kilometers](#) from the city hub. So, staying in the city and attending the Congress is not feasible logistically. Six kilometers from NALSAR is a major Resort called [Lionia Resorts](#). Through our Logistics partner [localhi.in](#) we got a special Congress package for accommodation. The rates for stay are as follows. Please note that the rates include stay, breakfast, dinner and inclusive of all taxes.

Costs of accommodation (in Euro)		
Rate includes accommodation, Breakfast, Dinner and all taxes		
No of days	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy (per person)
Rate per night	69	52
4 nights	276	208

The Congress is 4 days. On 22<sup>nd</sup> afternoon is the **India Day** and we encourage all the delegates to attend this day. The Congress ends on 25<sup>th</sup> afternoon and at 3pm the BIEN General Assembly meeting will start.

So, you should plan to arrive on 21<sup>st</sup> August night and leave 25<sup>th</sup> night. From any of the destinations in Europe, the air fare is normally an average of 600 Euros. Check several travel websites before you decide. Please also check if it is cheaper if you purchase your ticket from India - in which case you can contact [localhi.in](#) for support.

If you share your room with a friend, you will pay 208 Euros for four nights. If you want to stay by yourself, it costs 276 Euros. It is always fun staying with a friend.

We are also providing you one more service through localhi.in. Either before or after the Congress, you want to travel within India, please look up the packages they offer on their website. Or if you have any special requests, please discuss with them your travel plans.

In any case, please make your bookings well in advance. **The Lionia Resorts bookings should be done by 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.**

### Important Links:

Here are all the important links that you may require:

<b>Important Links for participants</b>	
<b>Facebook Page</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/biencongress2019">https://www.facebook.com/biencongress2019</a>
<b>Contact Email</b>	<a href="mailto:19biencongress.india@gmail.com">19biencongress.india@gmail.com</a>
<b>Contact for Travel and Logistics</b>	<a href="http://www.localhi.in/19th-basic-income-congress-india">http://www.localhi.in/19th-basic-income-congress-india</a>
<b>INBI Website</b>	<a href="http://www.indiabasicincome.in">http://www.indiabasicincome.in</a>
<b>Registration Form</b>	<a href="https://goo.gl/forms/BdndTwhQ8Xk6KcMv1">https://goo.gl/forms/BdndTwhQ8Xk6KcMv1</a>
<b>Abstract Submission Form</b>	<a href="https://goo.gl/forms/Bx5vuKOIL5sQEoMW2">https://goo.gl/forms/Bx5vuKOIL5sQEoMW2</a>
<b>BIEN Website</b>	<a href="http://www.basicincome.org">http://www.basicincome.org</a>

## BIEN Congress 2019 Partnerships

INBI is partnering with SEWA Madhya Pradesh, which played a key operational role in conducting the Madhya Pradesh Pilot Study. In collaboration with SEWA MP, INBI is producing short films and planning several campaign events in MP and other parts of the country in the run up for the Congress. SEWA is one of the largest membership based women's organisations in the world, with over two million members in the informal economy.



INBI is partnering with an international voluntary group called WiseCoLab which plans to organize a major Hackathon in Hyderabad three weeks prior to the BIEN Congress and present the output at one of the sessions. The Hackathon itself will focus on the themes to be discussed at the BIEN Congress.



**Mustardseed Trust** is UK-registered charity founded by Béla Hatvany, Ellen Hatvany and Lauren Hatvany in 2001. Mustardseed enables organizations and individuals with a clear and compelling vision to create systems based on partnership that care for the well-being of the biosphere and the community of life. Our three

focus areas are: 1. **Culture** shift from domination to partnership 2. **The CAREconomy**, new economic models based on the principals of partnership 3. **Ecosystem** preservation and restoration.

INBI is partnering with Mustardseed Trust *and has been a recipient of an initial grant for the preparatory work of the Congress.* In the forthcoming Congress, NALSAR, Mustardseed Trust and INBI are working together on conceptualising the session, 'Basic Income and a Caring Economy.'

**Everyday.earth** is a collective working on solutions to the pressing challenges that man-made world has posed to the Earth and its inhabitants. It is on a quest to identify what we need to transform our current growth driven local economies into one earth-wide caring economy. Based in Nice, France the group is as much engaged with the local issues as it is with global ones. INBI is partnering with Everyday to enrich the Congress with its resources.



**openDemocracy**  
free thinking for the world



[openDemocracy.net](http://openDemocracy.net) is an independent media platform attracting over 8 million visits per year. It publishes

critical scholarship in accessible formats appropriate for students, activists, policymakers, and the general public. It covers topics ranging from migration to basic income, focussing on the structural political, economic, and social root causes of global exploitation. Combining academic rigour with journalistic clarity, its mission is to get the best of contemporary scholarship out of the ivory tower and to support evidence-based advocacy. **openDemocracy** is the media partner for the Congress.

[The Centre for Ethics, Politics and Society](#) (CEPS) is a research unit of the Institute of Arts and Humanities at the University of Minho, in Portugal, and specializing in the areas of Political Theory and Applied Ethics. The theoretical paradigms used are those of Ethics and Political Philosophy.



INBI is partnering with [Grundeinkommen Television](#) in organising its Short Film Exhibition @ the Congress. G TV is part of the Initiative Grundeinkommen a pioneering civil society initiative established in 2008.



**#LocalHi**

LocalHi is our travel and logistics partner. For all travel and accommodation requirements delegates can contact them. This is necessary because the venue is 25 kilometers away from the city center, and the accommodation has to be found around the venue. The agency will provide travel and other related services beyond the Congress. Participants may contact them for assistance directly via their website [localhi.in](http://localhi.in)

## Appeal for Funding

Basic Income has the potential to liberate us from the alienating work that we are forced to do in order to earn our living. It can also provide to the poor, a ground to stand on, and remove economic insecurity. Pilot studies across continents have provided rich data to demonstrate that basic income has a very transformative and emancipatory effect on people's lives.

The 19th BIEN Congress will explore all these and more themes. These discussions today have an immediate bearing on policy and practice. That is the significance of this Congress which plans to bring together academics, community organisers, policy makers, and students to deliberate on these pressing questions.

Organising a global Congress is an expensive affair. India Network of Basic Income which is hosting this Congress is a young network with no funds of its own. It depends on contributions from individuals and organisations that wish to support and promote a wider discussion of the idea of universal basic income. In this Note, we appeal to the organisations and individuals to financially contribute to this event and make it a big success.

As explained in the brochure, each plenary session costs us about 20,000 US Dollars, i.e., about 15 lakh rupees. These are costs pertaining to paying the international and national speakers and their accommodation and other costs. We are planning about 8 plenary sessions each with about 5 to 6 speakers. There are two other components of the Congress. One, a Basic Income Short Film Exhibition for which a Call for Entries has been circulated. It costs us 5000 USD to organise this event. The second event is Basic Income Ideas Bazaar which is a space provided to artists, activists and academics to showcase their ideas. Each applicant for this event would be provided a tent to his/ her ideas. This event costs us 7500 USD.

We appeal to you to contribute financially to this Congress and strengthen the basic income movement in India and beyond. If you wish to support the Congress, please get in touch with me or write to Akhilesh Arya at

19biencongress.india@gmail.com

Thanks and best wishes for the New Year.

Dr. Sarath Davala

Vice-Chair, Basic Income Earth Network

Coordinator, India Network for Basic Income

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On behalf of the Local Organising Committee

19th BIEN Congress, Hyderabad, India.

January 20, 2019