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Hundreds join 'March for Science' in Thiruvananthapuram

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Hundreds of scientists, students and science enthusiasts joined the 'March for Science' in the Kerala capital city from Public Library Palayam to Kerala University campus here on Wednesday. Holding placards and pamphlets, they voiced the need to uphold evidence based science and to dispel unscientific superstitious beliefs.

The participants of the March spelt out four demands raised in the manifesto. It include demand for allocation of at least 3% of GDP to scientific and technological research and 10% towards education, secondly to stop propagation of unscientific, obscurantist ideas and religious intolerance, and develop scientific temper, human values and spirit of inquiry in conformance with Article 51A of the Constitution. Thirdly, to ensure that the education system imparts only ideas that are supported by scientific evidence and fourth to enact policies based on evidence-based science.

Led by noted space scientist and former deputy director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion System's P Radhakrishnan, the March had the participation of other stalwarts behind science popularisation including Prof C P Aravindakshan, Aastro Kerala president and former deputy director of C-DAC D Krishna Warriar, Breakthrough Science Society (BSS) president GS Padmakumar among others. University College Physics department former dean Prof Gireesh, Kottayam RIT Engineering College retired associate professor PM Thankachan, Film critic MF Thomas and other academicians took part in the march.

"This is the beginning of the science movement in Kerala and forms part of the March for Science in all capital cities across the

country on Aug 9," BSS secretariat member Rajeevan.P.P said. This March will be on the lines of the previous March for Science organised in 160 cities across the world on April 22 this year.

Ahead of the March, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) physics faculty Umesh R Kadhane made a presentation on the topic `Turning Good Students to Good Scientists: From Text Book to Life" which received wide appreciation. Further, awareness campaigns, processions, science magic and other programs to communicate the need for science will be organised as part of the science movement.