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*Editor*

**S. SUNDARAM**

# PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

By M.P. Singhal

(International Vice-President)

To the 138th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society, Adyar, 26 December 2013

Dear Brothers, Sisters, friends and fellow members,

Let us move on and pay homage to Mrs Radha Burnier, who passed away on 31 October 2013. She addressed International Conventions for 33 consecutive years, 1980-2012. She has left a rich tradition of working with dignity, quiet dedication and simplicity. Every Convention is an occasion for standing back as witness of the path so far treaded and the direction we are heading. There is an opportunity for course correction, and also to think what the Society must do now. The Society exists to transform humanity that would live to benefit mankind.

We have also the opportunity to allow the blessings from the Great Ones to fill us, and the whole of Nature to bring teachings of the source of life and love.

**May those who are the embodiment of Love Immortal bless with their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for their work. May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it with their Power, and energize it with their Activity.**

I am happy to open this 138th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society. HPB gave the philosophical and conceptual frame work which would guide the Theosophical Society to promote universal brotherhood. The leaders who came later, took upon themselves the responsibility of amplifying and clarifying what HPB stood for. She stressed that practical brotherhood must continue to influence the mental climate of the world, so all members will not only know themselves as brothers, but act as such.

We are members of the TS. It is a great privilege for us. Its Objects are beautiful; its purpose is noble; and its literature is inspiring. Do we feel gratitude in our hearts for these things that we are enjoying? The human psychology is to ignore the obvious. Every TS journal has notes

on Theosophy, the Theosophical Society, Freedom of Thought and the Objects. Do we carefully review and remind ourselves when we see them?

The Theosophical Society is an institution. The institution and its work is far more important than any individual working in it. This is seldom realized, for people work for individuals not the institution. We use a mirror to see our physical appearance. Similarly we should reflect our thoughts daily in the mirror of our conscience to see who we really are.

## Our Society's Uniqueness:

The Theosophical Society has many unique features. It emphasizes the comparative study of religion, philosophy and science. Religion tells us our duty.

Philosophy moulds our minds and science tells us about the outer world that we perceive with our senses.

The Theosophical Society has no specified religious text, but has innumerable books on religious thought. It has no priest as such, but many wise people to teach. It has no defined tenets like other religions, but has three beautiful Objects which take us from particular to universal. It has no specified place of worship, but builds shrines of all faiths in its International Headquarters. The only religion that the Society proclaims is the quest for Truth, with its motto: 'There is no Religion Higher than Truth'. It respects all religious faiths, different cultures, values, view points and other diversities, without discrimination.

The Society has rich and inspiring literature whether in small booklets or large volumes. Some texts like *The Secret Doctrine* are so profound and complex that the beginner may be bewildered and finisher may feel frustrated. However small other books are, they are simple and instructive.

Some simple concepts from the book *Practical Occultism* of HPB are:

- Reflect upon the defects of your character.
- Spirit of Love and Truth, Justice and Wisdom, Goodness and Power should be our only true and permanent Love.

- To act and act wisely when the time for action comes; to wait and wait patiently when it is time for repose.
- Have patience, Candidate, as one who fears no failure, covets no success.

Another unique feature of the Society is its three great truths, defining the basis of life's evolution. Its universal invocation is a pointer to the forces of hidden life, hidden light and hidden love uniting all in oneness. In spite of so many unique features built in the frame of TS, why are we unable to impact people. Why people shy away from us I fail to understand. But there must be a reason, perhaps several, which we need to find out.

### **Declining Membership**

The membership peaked at 45,000 in 1928. It dropped to 31,000 in 1933. It rose slightly to 32,500 in 1980 and since then there has been a continuous drop in membership. It is about 25,000 in 2013. Should we allow this downward trend to continue? Some members feel that numbers are not important. It is the quality that we should worry about. While quality is certainly important, dropping trend cannot be ignored in a scenario where world population is rapidly growing. From 2 billion in 1930 it grew to 7.5 billion in 2012.

We also need a critical mass of minimum members for the Society's stability like seafaring vessels need a minimum ballast weight. Without a critical mass, there can be no critical momentum. The declining trend in membership may not be taken lightly. Perhaps, we must nurture and enthuse our members with energy and example of our life.

### **The Paradoxical World**

This is beautifully captured in the words of American humorist, George Carlin:

We have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways but narrower viewpoints. We spend more but have less; we buy more but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense; more knowledge but less judgement; more experts, yet more problems; more medicine, but less wellness. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our

values. We talk too much, drive too fast, stay up too late, get up too tired, watch TV too much, love and pray too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned to make a living, but not a life. We've added years of life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a neighbour. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudices. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. These are the times of fast foods, and slow digestion; big men and small character; steep profits and shallow relationships; two incomes, but more divorce; fancier houses, but broken homes; more entertainments, but less happiness.

How are we going to harmonize these paradoxes? Perhaps we have to blend, synthesize or integrate Religion, Philosophy and Science.

### **The World of Over Population, Poverty, Pollution and Lopsided Development**

The population is expected to rise to 8.1 billion in mid-2025 and 9.75 billion in mid-2050. There is poverty which is a terrible social scourge. 46% of world income is owned by 20% of the wealthiest. Poverty is not natural. It is man made by the rich usurping wealth without sharing with poor people, sometimes paying less than they deserve. It is unethical. The two defining challenges of this century are overcoming poverty and managing climate change. It appears feasible to transform the poorest countries with proper management of natural resources. The world is suffering from intolerance, doubt, conflict and insecurity. Intolerance breeds violence. Can we have more mutual understanding, appreciation and adjustment?

Most members of the Theosophical Society, irrespective of their country, language or beliefs, reflect a rich Theosophical culture, of friendliness, mutual consideration, courtesy, patience, tolerance, acceptance and helpfulness. Therefore, nothing disappoints and disillusion outsiders more when some members behave arrogantly, unhelpfully or unkindly. We may remember that beautiful thoughts carry blessings, kind words lend strength and loving action reflects compassion.

We live in times where our scientifically trained graduates have no

difficulty in recalling Newton's three laws of motion, but have no clue about the four Noble Truths of the Buddha. This has resulted in a lopsided development of humanity. Humanity is not merely the name of a species. It defines human values and sensitivity, his dignity and feelings, choosing ultimate good over sensual pleasures. It is necessary to ponder as to what human values we should seek to preserve in this technological world and how that could be achieved?

### **What are We Expected to Do?**

In *The Key to Theosophy*, HPB listed five points to help the Society's work; that are to study and comprehend the Theosophical doctrines, so they may teach others, especially the young people; to take every opportunity to talk to others and explain to them what Theosophy is and what it is not; to remove misconceptions and spread an interest in the subject; to assist in circulating our literature, by buying books when they have the means, by lending and giving them and by inducing their friends to do so; to defend this Society from the unjust aspersions cast upon it, by every legitimate device in their power. Finally and most important of all, by the example of our lives.

What is said is succinctly simple. It emphasizes comprehensive study of Theosophical truths, teaching those truths to the youth specially, living Theosophically and spreading Theosophical doctrines by our lives. The Theosophical Society is the vehicle of Theosophy. If the Society is strong, it will take Theosophy far and wide and spread it quickly.

### **From Good to Greatness**

In today's world mediocrity is unacceptable. Even good is not considered good enough. We have to embrace greatness which requires self-motivated and self-disciplined workers, capable of continuous innovations. Besides a comprehensive knowledge of Theosophy, they have to be sensitive and effective communicators.

Those leaders who aim for greatness are dreamers first. Pursuing their dreams, they develop vision of the future. Vision becomes a concrete plan of action. Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr, and Nelson Mandela can perhaps be put in the category of dreamers, who ultimately became achievers. Martin Luther King Jr, had many dreams. His vision of freeing African-Americans inspired Rosa Parks who refused to va-

cate her seat meant for white people and that was the beginning of a crusade against discrimination. The momentum built slowly but finally brought victory.

Imagine that the Theosophical Society is a massive fly wheel. Our job is to induce motion by slowly pushing this fly wheel till it reaches a critical momentum after which it kicks in our favour, requiring very little effort. Members need to work with definiteness of purpose and deliberateness of action to reach such a momentum. Our long cherished vision of the TS as a corner stone, the foundation of future religions of humanity can perhaps be fulfilled if we remain focused. Where there is a will there is a way. We want heroes who are self-motivated and can undertake any job for the benefit of mankind. They are the ones, who make people around them feel good by their cheerful and helpful temperament.

### **Proposal: What We Should Be Doing in the Next Three Years:**

(i) Infrastructure is not in good shape. We should prepare a Hand Book of works that will include systems of inspection, maintenance, quality control and system of reporting at different levels. All works requiring attention will be tackled under a three-year 'Works Programme' committing yearly financial resources through the instrument of the budget.

(ii) Induction of youth in the TS is important in a world, where median age is twenty-eight years, i.e., about four billion people are young and below twenty-eight years. They have energy and innovative ideas. Experienced members should help in channelling their energies in productive ways. Youth complain that senior members do not practice what they teach; they do not have gratitude to those who gave us beautiful literature. Why other organizations are able to attract youth for their work, it is something for us to investigate and apply.

(iii) Propagation of Theosophy is presently the biggest challenge of the Theosophical Society because only a few have comprehension of Theosophy and they do not possess communication skills. The Theosophical Order of Service in the present situation is a wonderful tool that can overcome the existing deficiency and make brotherhood real.

## LIBERATING BEAUTY

ACCORDING to the Platonic philosophy, the soul of man has dwelt before it was drawn into this world of shadows, in the pure world of being, where there is no becoming, a world of perfect beauty, harmony and light. Therefore, here in this world of senses, which is a world of ephemeral shadows and mere images, when the soul has certain experiences, for instance, when it finds an object beautiful, it is a reminiscence of what it has known in the invisible world of perfection, and forgotten for a while.

According to Hindu thought also, the Spirit of man, his true self, is the ground of all ultimate values. Man is in essence divine, limited though he might be by the vestures with which he is clad; and the very nature of the divine is to take the form of Truth, Goodness and Beauty. These are the attributes of perfect being, as also are Bliss and pure Consciousness.

These divine attributes are always coexistent. In the absolute state none of these attributes exists without the others. In fact, they are merely aspects or faces of the divinity, reflections of the very same light. It is therefore not possible to reach to a knowledge of absolute beauty, or truth or goodness, unless the consciousness which knows these attributes is in the purest condition, not subject to extraneous pulls and modifications. And in that very state of knowledge or of being is also found Bliss, which is a delight of the Spirit, far removed from pleasure which is but its dim shadow.

The true nature of man, being thus divine, while in this world of sense perceptions, he is ever impelled to seek among the shadows for that which recalls a reality which some deep part of himself has known. So it was said in India that the perception of beauty, in whatever measure that might be, is a convergence of the past experience of the soul.

As Beauty which is absolute is ever coexistent with Bliss, it is natural that in people's minds pleasure is linked with the relative beauty

(iv) Research and Technology: As one Master of Wisdom said, 'Modern Science is our best ally'. Let us nurture this idea to explore and improve our work. C. W. Leadbeater and Annie Besant employed clairvoyance as the method of examination, but suggested testing by other physical methods to reconfirm clairvoyant findings. We should maintain a register of technically qualified members and use their knowledge and skills. We may provide a computer in Maintenance, Garden, Sanitation and Security departments.

(v) To harness solar energy and reduce the carbon footprint to control adverse effects of climate change and thereby help intergenerational equity for future generations.

(vi) Manpower review as regards numbers, competence, fair wages followed by development and reform.

### Conclusion

If we stand united, acting impartially, keeping the interest of the TS uppermost in view, living and spreading the Theosophical doctrines, specially to the youth we can fulfil our great mission of transforming the humanity and thereby the whole world. In an inspiring message which Madame Blavatsky once gave, she said, 'There is no trial that spotless purity cannot pass through. There is no difficulty that strong intellect cannot surmount. For those who win onwards, there is reward past all telling, the power to bless and serve humanity. For those who fall, there are other lives in which success may come.'

We should pay greater attention to developing the TS as an institution for disseminating Theosophy. By developing core values of Will, Wisdom and Love, the cause of Theosophy can be advanced rapidly. Love inspires the will; the will directs the wisdom which enables us to help. As we see here, Love is the inspirational trigger and so more important of the three.

which they perceive in forms, for as said before, pleasure is the gross counterpart in the world of the senses of a delight of the Spirit, which is Bliss.

So when pleasure is realized from a particular object, or when the mind recognizes the possibility of pleasure in an object, it may appear to be beautiful. A lover who is enamoured of a woman in whom he recognizes a source of pleasure to himself and whom he wishes to possess finds every kind of beauty in her, which is not apparent to others. The same woman does not appear to be replete with all the beauty that his mind endowed her with previously, when she ceases to be, through surfeit, an object of gratification.

Every form and object which is seemingly beautiful, because the feeling of beauty is founded on the pleasure of the senses and of the mind, sooner or later is found to lose its charm. Even the beauty derived from the subtler pleasures of the senses, free of the desire for possession, such as the beauty felt in looking at a landscape or listening to a piece of music, disappears after a time. Those who live constantly in a very beautiful place or close to a thing of beauty, do not thrill to it any more, as they did when the object first fell upon their view and gave a stimulus to their senses. Not infrequently, of course, it happens that an individual thinks that he ought to appreciate beauty, and therefore will periodically give verbal expression to a beauty which does not truly touch him inwardly, because he has ceased to be stimulated by it. We are not referring to such verbal expressions, but to the response within.

The very nature of pleasure and therefore of the beauty that is associated with pleasure is that it either wearies and palls, or it is ever seeking further stimulation. So a well known critic, Eric Newton, declares that the test of the presence and intensity of beauty is pleasure caused by gratification of the desire to repeat the experience. In contradiction to this, another well-known writer, Jacques Maritain, says that the perception of beauty produces delight, 'but the high delight of the spirit, the absolutely contrary of pleasure, or the agreeable tickling of the sensibility'.

When pure Beauty is touched upon even for a moment, the consciousness is in a state of release for that moment from the impediments and limitations which normally distort and cramp it. And in that moment of release there is also the delight of the spirit, for both beauty and true delight are coexistent with the consciousness in its pure state, as men-

tioned before.

This experience of momentary release and delight which accompanies the perception of beauty, acts as a stimulant on the one who has had the experience, and he seeks to repeat it. It is not only the grosser forms of pleasure, such as the desire to possess physically attractive objects, which man wants to have over and over again. But he has a thirst for experience which begins at the grosser level and then, as he grows in evolution, it is asked with finer enjoyments.

So, there are people who occupy themselves with what they think is the beautiful. They want continual fulfilment through it; they seek the enjoyment of stimulation; they are as completely absorbed in the desire for repetition of this type of experience and the excitement it gives, as others are absorbed in the stimulation which intellectual knowledge gives.

The desire for repetition of experience creates, of course, a habit and an addiction, however beautiful or elevated may be the experience which is sought to be repeated. The thirst for experience of whatever nature is the very obstacle which prevents realization of divine Beauty and Bliss, for it draws the mind into endless pursuit, ever modifying the consciousness.

Even when there is not the longing to repeat the same experience, there is the expectation of a similar experience, based on the memory of what was previously known. The mind is thus in a condition of restlessness. The consciousness becomes insensitive and ceases to reflect the divine, being engulfed by the darkness of finite things.

'He who rushes to lower beauties, as if grasping realities, when they are only like beautiful images appearing in water, will doubtless, like him in the fable, by stretching after the shadow, sink into the lake and disappear', says Plotinus.

Pure Beauty, the Beauty of the Divine, cannot be captured by wanting it. One cannot see beauty because there is the intention to see it. It is not the revelation of something new, but the revealing of something which ever exists, which takes place when the perceiver in some way partakes of its nature, that is, when he liberates himself from all the impurities which arise in his being from the desire-born activities of the mind. In Wordsworthian language:

Think you 'mid all this mighty sum  
Of things forever speaking,  
That nothing of itself will come,  
But we must still be seeking?

So, to learn to see Beauty in all its splendour is not a matter of merely appreciating beautiful objects or cultivating a taste for certain things. Some ancient Indians have described it as the delight which is born with the cessation of thirst. 'There is a beauty which offers no stimulation. . . One comes upon that beauty, not by desiring, wanting, longing for the experience, but only when all desire for experience has come to an end,' says Krishanji.

This does not mean turning away from the world and refusing to look at the wonders of creation — the trees, the rivers, the sky, the faces of people, and so on, all of which do image the One Beauty — but looking at them with a different eye, 'purged from the mists of sense'.

'We must stir up and assume a purer eye within, which all men possess, but which is used by a few alone.'

This inward eye opens, only when there is a state of mind tending towards the highest of human goals, which is freedom. It is a state of mind in which the transformations caused by attachments are coming to an end, when there is a non-dependence on anything outside, and the limitations caused by the sense of time, space, name and form are broken asunder. These limitations exist because there is attachment to particular objects and forms, the memory of them and the desire for further pleasure. When the soul or spirit is liberated from these limitations, then it assumes its own true form, which is the form of the purest consciousness, itself shining with beauty and reflecting the divine. Therefore, one of the greatest of Indian writers on the subject of Beauty has said that he who would see it must have a heart, which being free of impurities, is bright with clarity. Unless the heart is clear as crystal and delicate and sensitive like a budding flower, it is not capable of vibrating in harmony with life, transcending the limitation of separate existence.

Michelangelo said: 'Beauty is the purgation of superfluities.' He probably referred to the work of a sculptor who releases beauty from a stone by removing superfluities. But the remark most aptly applies to what has to take place within each individual. Beauty is neither objective

nor subjective, for it is everywhere, waiting to be realized. The realization comes when any individual looks at himself as a sculptor does upon the stone from which he is going to liberate an invisible beauty, and then proceeds to remove what is superfluous, cutting and polishing till it assumes a Beauty hitherto unseen.

When there is no beauty within, there is no beauty without, only the image of beauty. But if through right perception and knowledge one begins to liberate the soul or Self from the sordid prison-house constructed by an engrossment in the desires of the body and the senses, then there is a greater and greater insight into immortal Beauty. And with each insight, there is increased clarity, for even a momentary vision of the Real is like purifying ablution. So in liberating Beauty, Beauty becomes the Liberator.

'The miserable man is not he who neglects to pursue fair colours and beautiful corporeal forms; who is deprived of power and falls from domination and empire; but he alone who is destitute of this divine possession, for which the ample dominion of the earth and sea and the still more extended empire of the heavens must be relinquished and forgot, if, despising and leaving these far behind, we ever intend to arrive at substantial felicity by beholding the Beautiful itself.'

*(Plotinus)*

*(Courtesy: The Theosophist, December, 2013)*

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Bengal

Bro. Debabrata Dutta, a Life Member of TS and TOS, organized a seminar on 'Women Empowerment through Service'. It was with illustrations from the life of Mother Teresa, Sis Nivedita and Dr. Annie Besant. Bro. Dutta worked hard to revitalize the Sripath TOS Group at Khardah, Enrolled about 20 comparatively young and devoted new members who helped to make this aforesaid programme a grand success. It made the Theosophy known to many new comers. Bro. B.L. Bhattacharya was the chief guest.

The meeting started with Universal Prayer by Chief Guest followed by Meditation. Prayers of All Faiths were chanted by Lodge members. Sis Pratima Bhattacharya inaugurated this programme by lighting candle in front of the photograph of HPB. Sis Vinodini Goenka, President of Mayfair Lodge, welcomed the Guest Speakers and members. Representatives of Lotus, Behala and Bharadwaja Lodges conveyed good wishes and greetings. Sis Sunita Prakash, Secretary, Mayfair Lodge presented the Annual Report and Sis Amita Shah, Secretary, Mayfair TOS-Group, submitted activity report. All TS members of Mayfair Lodge are members of TOS and they "Practice Meditation" and render service to needy persons on regular basis. Prof. C.A. Sindhe spoke on the subject- "Corner stone" and Bro. Pradeep Mahapatra, spoke on "Who are you?". Both the talks were highly appreciated by the members. Bro. B.L. Bhattacharya shared his experience with the members regarding his recent visit to America and Bangladesh. Sis Dr. Rupa Barwani thanked Guest Speakers and members. Bro. P.C. Goenka attended the full programme even with his sick health and inspired and blessed BTF President with the words- "Carry on, if anybody hurt you, his bad karma will not spare him". The presence of Dr. Atul Narain former Vice-President of TOS-West Bengal, with his wife Sis Sudha Narain, a service minded Reikhi expert encouraged the members. The meeting ended with a Bhajan composed by Tagore.

The Centenary programme of Bally Lodge, Howrah, was held on 10 November. Bro. B.L. Bhattacharya, National Director, TOS, was the chief guest; Sri Maloy Sengupta (Retd. Chief Justice), Sri Prahalad Sarkar

(Retd. Head, Dept. of philosophy, Calcutta University) and Dr. Briman Mukherjee (Senior Director of Education, Govt. West Bengal) were the special guests. Besides, members of different Theosophical Lodges and 100 distinguished citizens also attended the programme. A souvenir was released on this occasion.

Study classes are regularly held at different study centers of Bharadwaja Lodge.

Members of Mayfair Theosophical Lodge, Calcutta prayed for peace of Dr. Radha Burnier in a meeting held on 12 November. In their message they mentioned that Radhaji was great strength for the TS and to each member.

### Bihar

A meeting of the members of the Executive Committee of Bihar Theosophical Federation was held at the HQ. Building at Patna on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2013 under the Presidentship of Bro. C. Sinha "Kanak" to condole the sudden demise of Smt. Radha Burnier, International President of Theosophical Society, who passed away on 31 Oct. 2013 at Adyar, Chennai,

The members observed that Smt. Radha Burnier was a great exponent of Theosophical Philosophy, Eminent Author and Impressive Orator. The members felt that in her passing away the Theosophical fraternity has lost a true Theosophist and sincere follower of universal brotherhood. It is very difficult to fill the void created by her death. The members observed two minutes silence and prayed for the peace of the departed Soul.

### Bombay

A meeting for remembrance of Radha ji was held at Blavatsky Lodge on 1 November. Members offered flowers on the picture of Radha ji and paid homage to the departed soul. Bro. Navin Kumar gave a short narration of the tremendous service rendered by Radha ji for Theosophy and the TS. Fond memories of personal association were expressed by Sisters Bana Mehta, Kashmira Khambatta, Navaz Dhalla, Bros H.K. Sharan and Navin Kumar. The Ritual of the Mystic Star held on 10 November was dedicated to Revered Radha ji. At a point in the Ritual when the congregation is addressed, Sis Bana Mehta mentioned how



Radhaji conducted the Ritual in Adyar as 'Power' during the International Conventions. Bro. A.M. Vatcha, Sis Aban Amrohiwalla, Mahazver Dalal and Bro. Navin Kumar also spoke on this occasion how Radha ji inspired them with her courage, determination, discipline and caring heart.

On the occasion of Radha ji's 90<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary a meeting was organized (on 15 November) to pay tributes to the departed soul. Dr. Ajay Hora, President of Bombay Theosophical Federation and several other members spoke on this occasion.

In the meeting organized on the occasion of the Foundation Day of the TS a few members spoke about the contribution of the Founders and a few friends of Friends Bridge shared their views regarding the Blavatsky Lodge and the way it has been generating positive vibration.

Dr. Darius H. Umrigar's Series on 'Mind Over Immunity' - Part 100, was a special session on 8 November 2013 in the Besant Hall. It was attended by TS members, people interested in Naturopathy, Alternate Medicine & Holistic Living and persons, who benefited with his treatment and started helping him in his crusade for healthy living. Quite a few of his patients and people, who had benefited from his knowledge, shared their experiences at this meeting.

For the last more than one year some members are going to the Blavatsky Lodge for Office/Library work every Tuesday and every Friday at about 3.30 p.m. and stay on till 6.30 to 7.00 p.m. On Fridays we already have our Members' meeting.

Since about six months ago we decided to have in addition, on every Tuesday, a short meeting for prayer at 5.15 pm. Followed by 15 minutes of discussion on any topic which emerged and which has relevance to our lives. We called it a Short and Sweet Meeting.

Over the last few months this Short & Sweet meeting has grown to almost a regular meeting of one hour and sometimes the participants are up to ten in number. Currently we are taking up the study of a book "Life's Deeper Problems" Every First Timer in this meeting is also requested to tell his/her life story, lessons learnt & unique experiences in brief. In this way we come to know each other and the bonds of brotherhood are strengthened.

Two members of Blavatsky Lodge passed away within a week Dr. Phiroz Anita, an Eminent Pathologist and a keen reader of theosophical books passed away on 27 November 2013. He encouraged his wife Amy Antia to be an active TS member, as a worker and an advanced student of Theosophy and also as Co-Freemason with a High Degree.

Life Member Bro. Vispi Bharucha passed away on 29 November 2013. Quiet in his ways, but interested in Theosophy and his health permitting attended Blavatsky Lodge programmes. His wife Bachu with her study of Theosophy has often given talks on Red Letter Days.

May the souls of both the departed members be blessed with peace. Our thoughts of love and strength are with dear Sis. Amy Antia, Sis. Bachu Bharucha and their family members.

### **M.P. & Rajasthan**

The following programmes were held at Vikram Lodge, Ujjain, in November: Bro. R.S. Gupta performed Bharat Samaj Pooja. A short talk was delivered by Smt. Madhavi Sharma on 'On the Watch-Tower' published in the April 2012 issue of 'The Theosophist'. Dr. Ashok Kaul spoke on the significance of the day on the occasion of the Foundation Day of the T.S. Besides, there was a general discussion on 'Are external challenges the image of man's inner being?'

Dr. Kamal Mohnot, President of M.P. & Rajasthan Federation, has reported that a meeting to pay homage to Revered Radhaji was organized on behalf of Besant Lodge and Annie Besant Group, TOS, Jodhpur. Dr. Mohnot, Bros. Babulal Vyas and Ram Swaroop Dhoot mentioned in detail the various works done by Radhaji and her important role in strengthening the vision and philosophy of Theosophy. She will always be remembered for her contribution to Theosophy, human welfare & service and for her integrity, dedication and the quality of leadership.

The following programmes were held at Vikram Lodge, Ujjain in December, 2013: on 1 December, 2013 Brother Dr. R.S. Gupta and Brother Shri Jagannath Narvare spoke On the Watch Tower published in "The Theosophist". On 8 December Dr. K.N. Joshi delivered a talk on Shri Guru Nanak Dev. He described the essence of Guru Nanak's philosophy and simplicity of his life. Members of the Lodge and some respectable citizens attended the talk. On 15 December Dr. S.C. Kori

gave a lecture on “Man-Ek Shaktishali Yantra” on the basis of theosophical literature. On 22 December a talk was delivered by Brother Anna Bhau Kotwale on “Jesus Ek Kranti”. By giving the references of Bible and other books the speaker described the essence of Jesus. On 29 December a general discussion amongst the members and others was held on the subject “Cause of Sorrow”. Many members of the Lodge had participated in it.

### **Rayalaseema**

The Punyatithi of Dr. Annie Besant was observed on 20 September, 2013, at Sanmarga Theosophical Society, Bellary. Bro. S. Rangaiah Settee, Secretary of the Lodge, spoke in great detail about Dr. Besant’s entire life and her contribution in reviving spiritual values and the work done by her for the betterment of humanity, specially in India.

The birthday celebration of Dr. Besant was attended by 35 members of Sanmarga Theosophical Society on 1 October. Bro. Ramakanth spoke on this occasion and highlighted her contribution in reviving the Indian tradition and the significant work done by her in the field of education, especially for the education of girls and the children belonging to the weaker section of society.

The Foundation Day of the TS was observed at Vasishta Theosophical Lodge, Hyderabad, on 17 November. Dr. D.V.G. Krishna, President of the Lodge, presided and spoke about the significance of the philosophy of Theosophy and the utmost need for preserving the religious amity and understanding.

Dr. P. Krishna Murthy, Lodge’s Secretary, narrated the circumstances leading to the formation of Theosophy. The two founders-HPB and Col. Olcott, after coming to India went to several places and established some Theosophical Lodges here. The unique feature of the TS is that it is a unifying and integrating force and does not encourage dogmatic and superstitious beliefs. It encourages tolerance towards all, even towards the intolerant. Besides, it encourages freedom of thought and continuous effort for the search of Truth.

### **Marathi**

Maitreya Lodge Theosophical Society Organized Meeting to celebrate Foundation Day of the society on 17 Nov. 2013. The meeting started with Universal Prayer. The President of the Lodge Brother M.

Bhalchandraji presided over the meeting. The members condoled the sad demise of Sister Smt. Radha Burnier, the International President of the Society and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

On this occasion sister Usha Kathade spoke on Significance of the Foundation Day & Propagating the Ancient Wisdom in western world.

The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks given by Bro. Sunil Selokar, Secretary of Lodge. The meeting was attended by eighteen members of the Lodge.

Maitreya Lodge also celebrated the Birthday of Dr. Annie Besant on 1 Oct. 2013. The President of the Lodge Brother Bhalchandraji spoke on contribution of Dr. Annie Besant in Social, Education & Cultural field. The meeting concluded by Pasayadan of Saint Dyaneshwar.

### **Telugu**

The members of Gupta Vidya Lodge, Eluru, met at SPDBT Jr. College on 9 November to pay homage to revered Dr. Radha Burnier, who passed to peace on 31 October. Several members spoke on this occasion and said that we all should put her ideals into practice.

Varadaraja Lodge, Pithapuram, organizes *Satsangam* on every Friday in which Bharat Samaj Pooja is performed. Brahmasree Regalla Nageswara Sarma of Kakinada directs the study of Yogavasista on every Sunday. The content in Sanskrit is explained to the members in Telugu. The birthday of Dr. Annie Besant and the Foundation Day of the TS were celebrated by the members on 1 October and 17 November respectively.

### **Utkal**

Meetings to celebrate the Foundation Day of the TS were organized at the Federation headquarters, Bhubaneswar, and at the two Lodges in Cuttack. The members expressed their views on the significance of the day.

The birthday of Dr. Radha Burnier was celebrated at the Federation HQ on 15 November. Bros Pradip Mahapatra, Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, Ashok Patnaik, Sis. Pournamasi Pattanaik and Mitalini Mahapatra spoke on this occasion about the life & work of Radhaji and her contribution to the Theosophical Society.

Bro. P.K. Jayaswal, National Lecturer, directed the study of the book *The Science of Yoga* by I.K. Taimni at Cuttack Lodge from 17 to 21 November, 2013. It was held under the auspices of Sailabala Mahapatra & Narayan Mahapatra Memorial Lecture & Study Class.

Ramesh Prasad Mohanty Memorial Study Class & Public Lecture was held at the Federation HQ, Bhubaneswar, from 22 to 25 November. Bro. P.K. Jayaswal directed the study of J. Krishnamurti's book *Freedom from the Known*.

The Golden Jubille of Laxminarayan Lodge, Bhubaneswar, was celebrated on 23 November. Bro. B.B. Palai presided over the meeting and gave a brief history of the Lodge. Bro. P.K. Jayaswal delivered a public lecture on this occasion on 'God's Plan for Humanity'.

Theosophical classics are studied once in every week at twelve Lodges of the Federation.

Sis Nandini Tripathy, a member of Barabati Lodge, passed to peace on 3 November.

## **Uttar Pradesh**

Bro. B.B. Lal's talk on 'Theosophical works by Annie Besant' was held at Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, on 6 November. The other two talks held in November were 'Masters and the Path' and 'Bondage of Karma' delivered by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri and Bro. B.B. Lal respectively. In a meeting held on 27 November, the members of Dharma Lodge prayed for Radhaji's soul to pass to higher planes peacefully. Her article 'The Challenge of Life' published in the November (2013) issue of 'The Theosophist' was read and discussed on this occasion. Bros. U.S. Pandey and R.C. Shukha gave their impressions regarding the Indo-Pacific conference held at Bali in the first week of November.

Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered a talk on 'Spirituality in Modern Age' in a meeting of Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur. Besides, he gave his impression regarding the Indo-Pacific Conference held at Bali.

A meeting was organized by Gyanoday Lodge, Barabanki, on 15 November- i.e. on the occasion of revered Radha ji's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. The members mentioned about the life and work done by Radhaji under various capacities. They prayed for the peaceful onward journey of the departed soul.

Sri Omkar Nath Trivedi (Diploma No. 45606), of Gyanodaya Lodge, Barabanki, passed to peace on 25 November, 2011. He was a Life member of TS and very active in Lodge's activities.

Four talks were organized by Nirvana Lodge, Agara, in November. Smt. Anjula Mahor spoke on 'Eternal values of Indian culture' on 7 November. In this context the speaker explained the significance of Truth, Ahimsa, Compassion and Ascetic practice. She concluded by saying that it is our responsibility to keep strengthening these qualities. Bro. Brajesh Rajapat's theme of the talk on 14 November was 'Dharma'. He pointed out the difference between 'Dharma' and 'Religion' and explained that conduct in accordance with truth is Dharma. It is search for truth. Bro. Kumar Iqbal, in his talk on 'Search of Happiness' emphasized that when one genuinely surrenders himself in the welfare of others he starts realizing the state of Ananda. The spirit of service for the welfare of others alone is the real happiness.

Bro. Harish Sharma explained on 28 November that the source of inspiration for his talk on 'From Atom to God' is the first line of the Universal Prayer.

The Ritual of the Mystic Star was performed at the Indian Section HQ on 8 November. During the ritual, Dr. Abha Srivastava, President of Kashi Tattva Sabha, paid tribute to Revered Radha Burnier. The Lodge organized the following talks in November & December. Bro. Hariram Singh's two talks were on 'The significance of Dharma in Yoga'. Prof. Sushila Singh's theme was 'Woman Thought & Theosophy'. Dr. Anshu Shukla spoke on 'The significance of self in personality development'.

Bro. Shikhar Agaihotri spoke on 'Light on the Path' at Dharma Lodge Lucknow, on 4 December. Other talks organized at the same venue in December were 'The challenge of life' by bro. B.B. Lal and 'Contemplation on some Quotes form *The Secret Doctrine*' by Bro. U.S. Pandey

Bro. U.S. Pandey, Federation Secretary delivered a talk on 'Essentials of Theosophical Practice' during a meeting of Anand Lodge on 15 December at Ghaziabad.

## **The Indian Section Convention-I**

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Indian Section Convention was held at Adyar on 27 December 2013. The Convention was inaugurated by the International

Vice-President, Bro. M.P. Singhal, who in his address said that in spite of many unique features of the TS, we are losing members year after year. We need to go into this matter. HPB in her preface to *The Key to Theosophy* said, 'Theosophy is not meant for the lazy or the obtuse.' In the same book she has mentioned about the duties of members and what they are supposed to do. There is a need to grasp and have the communication skills necessary to share the Theosophical teachings. He further emphasized that we should bring about a fundamental change in ourselves by reflecting on our behaviour.

The Federation Secretaries conveyed greetings on behalf of their respective Federations.

The General Secretary presented the Annual Report for the year 2012-2013 giving the general survey of the work done during the year under review. It was followed by the Treasurer's Report presented by Bro. P.S. Panchakshari. Bro. Chittaranjan Satapathy, International Secretary, chaired the Convention and in the Presidential remarks emphasized on Dr. Radha Burnier's observations which she has mentioned during the Section's Convention in 2012:

"We must go for the Value which are most lasting. We have to proceed towards a glorious future and that is what the TS is working for. Help oneself to help others".

The Indian Section Convention-II was held on 29 December 2013 in which Bro. Dakshinamurthy of Bangalore, Dr. Ajay Rai of Gorkhpur(U.P.) and Bro. K. Dinakaran of Trissur (Kerala) spoke on the theme "**No Effort is lost towards Noble Intent**"

### **The Indian Section Headquarters**

Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society was celebrated at the Indian Section HQ, Varanasi, on 17 Nov. 2013 in which members of the society and a few others including students participated with great enthusiasm. The function began with prayers from different faiths and the Universal Prayer. Welcoming the gathering the General Secretary highlighted the significant role the Theosophical Society is performing in spreading 'Theosophy' not only in India but all over the world. He urged the members to strive hard for attainment of the goals which the founders of the Theosophical Society have chosen for this organization. Smt. Uma Bhattacharyya and Dr. T.K. Nair were two speakers on this occa-

sion. Smt. Bhattacharyya spoke eloquently on the relevance of Theosophical Society in the context of today's world. She underlined the fact that the pervasiveness of the organization and its widespread influence all over the world, reflect how deep and strong are the roots on which this magnificent structure of the society has been established. She further elaborated that besides providing a strong and deep spiritual foundation to the mankind for their evolution the Theosophical Society attempts to establish peace and harmony in the world. She, however, reminded the gathering that each member of the society has to undertake the responsibility to serve the mankind by following the motto and objectives of the organization in right earnestness. Dr. T. Krishnankutty Nair spoke extensively on various events and incidents in chronological order which ultimately led to the establishment of the Theosophical Society. Highlighting the unique features of the Theosophical Society he drew attention of the gathering to the blessings of the Masters which resulted in formation of the Theosophical Society. The function concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Abha Srivastava, the President of Kashi Tattva Sabha (K.T.S.) Theosophical Lodge at Varanasi.

The Support Convention was observed at the Section Headquarters, Varanasi, on 26 December 2013 and 31 December 2013 which was attended by the members of Theosophical Society. On 26 December, expressing her views on the theme of the International Convention "New mind for the new world", Dr. Abha Srivastava, opined that new mind signifies such a mind which is liberated from pre-conditions and thus is pure and awakened. She further elaborated that world is nothing but our own projection, hence with pure and de-conditioned mind, the entire world changes according to our new vision. As a guest speaker Pandit Jwala Prasad, Manager Vasant Kanya Inter-College, threw light on the above subject from Vedantic view-point. He stated that if intellect is inspired by empathy, love and positively, it gives birth to a new mind which creates a new world. Discussion on the above theme continued further on 31 December 2013 in which the speaker was Smt. Uma Bhattacharyya, member of Executive Committee, K.T.S. Terming the new mind as pure and awakened mind, she pointed out that when lust, anger and passion disappear, mind gets purified. She further indicated that the mind being finer body within our gross physical body deeply impacts the outer world in a very subtle manner. Therefore she maintained that pure and awakened mind which is free from aversion, at-

tachment or delusion brings a paradigm shift in one's vision of this world which is basically extremely beautiful. Suggesting remedial measure towards removing impurities of mind, she underlined the need to provide wholesome food to the mind and bringing about a change in the constitution of mind orienting it towards '*Sattava guna*'. She highlighted the fact that for attaining an awakened and pure mind we need a favourable inner climate i.e. keeping our human relations in order, giving the mind a healthy and creative occupation, making right use of imagination and guarding against dispondency. She further revealed that entire secret of attaining an awakened mind is given by Lord Krishna in two worlds i.e. practice (वृ; क्ल) and dispassion (अज्ञ; ). The meeting concluded with a thought that having pure and awakened mind is valuable as it leads to the highest blessing-the illumined state of being which would lead us to an entirely new world.

### **Study Camp at Chapra (Bihar)**

A Study Camp from 29 to 31 March, 2014, is being jointly arranged by U.P. and Bihar Federations at Chapra (Bihar). The theme of study will be 'The Wisdom Religion' and the book for study will be *The Key to Theosophy*.

Members from these two Federations and also from others are welcome to participate. The number of seats for outside participants is limited to about 20. Those who wish to participate may send their names to the following latest by 28 Feb., 2014:

- (i) Bro. Suresh Prasad Srivastava, Vice-President, Bihar Federation.  
Mob. 09430624806; Landline : 06152-233614
- (ii) Bro. U.S. Pandey, Secretary, U.P. Federation,  
Mob. 09451993170

The Board and Lodging will be arranged from 28 March evening to 31 March noon. Each participant may pay a token sum of Rs. 100/- only on arrival at Chapra.

This has concurrence of Vice-President, Bihar Federation.

### **Study Camp at Barabanki**

A Study Camp on 5-6 April, 2014 on 'Theosophy' (czāfo|k) is being arranged by U.P. Federation at Barabanki (U.P.). The books for study will be *The Key to Theosophy* and *The Voice of the Silence*. Members from U.P. Federation and also from outside are welcome to participate. The number of seats for outside participants is limited to 20. The persons willing to participate may send their name latest by 28 Feb., 2014 to:

- (i) Bro. K. K. Srivastava, Secretary, Barabanki Lodge and  
Jt. Secretary, U.P. Federation, Mob. 08765298839
- (ii) Bro. U.S. Pandey, Secretary, U.P. Federation,  
Mob. 09451993170

The Board and Lodging will be arranged from 4 April, evening to 6 April (afternoon) to cover which each participant may pay Rs. 400 on arrival, at Barabanki.

**The two principal aims of the Society are to establish a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity without any distinctions whatsoever and to encourage the search for truth, as indicated in the motto of the Society: 'There is no Religion higher than Truth'. One responds to humanity's desperate need to liberate itself from the appallingly endless misery produced by conflict, mistrust and self-centredness. The other is essential for humanity's growth into moral and spiritual maturity, for realizing a great amplitude and clarity of perception, and penetration into Nature's mysterious depths. The two are interrelated because they are both intrinsic to human evolution.**

**RADHA BURNIER**

## List of Members of the Indian Section Council for the Year 2014, 2015 and 2016

### Assam

1. Sri Raghunath Chowdhuri  
43, I-G Lane,  
Santipur, Hill Side,  
Guwahati- 781 009  
Assam;  
Mob. No. 09864506483
2. Ramesh Chandra Sharma  
Krishna Nagar, H.N.17,  
Chandmari, Guwahati-781 003
3. Anil Kumar Baruah  
Sneha Nivas, Flat No. C.3  
S.R.S.Road, Guwahati, 781 001

### Bengal

1. Bro. Gautam Nandi  
76-Golaghata Road,  
Kolkata-700048  
Telephone No-033-25214159; (0)9836946811
2. Sri Mirnal Kanti Mukherjee  
94, Green Park, Block –A,  
Kolkata-700 055

### Bihar -----

### Bombay

1. Sri Navin Kumar  
51, Praneet J. Palkar Road  
Worli, Mumbai-400 0252
2. Sri Vinayak Pandya  
24/D, Jeevan Parag  
127, Prabhat Colony Road No.2  
Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400 055  
Mob. No. 098213422252

### Delhi -----

### Gujarat

1. Sri Y.P. Desai  
C/o Dr. A.Y. Desai  
“Dev Park”, F/3, First Floor  
Vidyutnagar Road, Veraval-362 266  
Gujarat  
Mob. No. 09426982156
2. Sri Praddep Singh H. Govil  
Mohabat Niwas, Plot-1163  
Opp. Wockhardt Hospital  
Sirpattani Road, Krishna Nagar  
Bhavanagar- 364 001
3. Sri Kantilal P. Patel  
A-202, Sridhar Complex  
Near Sanskar Bharti School,  
Anand Mahal Road  
Surat, Gujarat-395 009

### Karnataka

1. Sri B.V. Thippeswamy  
68, Chaitra, III Main, I Stage  
Karnataka Layout,  
Bengaluru- 560 086
2. Sis K. Parvathamma  
204, III Main, 7<sup>th</sup> Cross,  
Marathi Nagar, Yelahanki,  
Bangalore- 560 064  
Mob.No. 09481802492
3. Sri S.G. Sanath Kumar  
112/4, Dialgnal RD, DIAGNAL RD,  
Behind Syndicate Bank  
V.V. Puram  
Bangalore-560 004

4. Sri G. Dakhshinamurty  
FLAT G.3, DEVAGIRI MEADOWS,  
1781, 14 MAIN, 34 CROSS,  
BSK-II STAGE, BANGALORE  
KARANATAKA- 560 070  
Mob. No. 09986023299

5. Sri M.R. Gopal  
'Sowarabha', Shankarapuram  
Huliyar – 572 218  
Dist Tumkur  
Karnataka

### **Kerala**

1. Dr. M.A. Raveendran  
Indraneelam, Forty Nagar,  
Cheroor, Trichur-680 008  
Mob. No. 09895691165

2. Sri. S. Sivadas  
Aryavihar, Pazhaveedu,  
Alleppey  
Pin-688 009

### **M.P. & Rajasthan**

1. Dr. H.S. Dwivedi  
The Theosophical Lodge  
Phool Bagh, Gwalior- 474 007  
Mob. No. 09425119409

2. Bro. O.P. Garg  
Gita Colony, Budhvaya,  
Ujjain- 456 001  
Phone No. 0734-2574096

### **Madras**

1. Sri S. Ramu  
Manager, The Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar  
Chennai-600 020  
Tamilnadu

Mob. No. 09445369528  
Email: peacebliss@gmail.com

2. Sri S.K. Srinivasan  
The Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar  
Chennai-600 020  
Tamilnadu  
Mob. No. 09841006510  
Email: sk.srinivasan@yahoo.com

3. Sri. Priya  
The Theosophical Society  
Adyar, Chennai- 600 020  
Telephone No. 044-24911569

### **Marathi**

1. Sri A.P. Lokhande  
68, Madhav Nagar,  
Nagpur- 440 010  
Mob. No. 09822734680  
Email: mrun\_23@yahoo.com

2. Prof. C.A. Shinde  
Upasika, Theosophical Society  
Adyar, Chennai- 600 020  
Mob No. 09940140228  
Email: editorialoffice@gmail.com

### **Rayalaseema**

1. Mr. K.V.L. Kantha Rao,  
9 / 101, Malhar Apartments (Old),  
Sahara States,  
Mansoorabad, Hyderabad – 500068  
(A.P)  
Mob. No. 09885161473

2. Mr. Ketharaju Narasimha Rao,  
2 / 12, Brodiepet, Guntur - 522 002  
(A. P.) (Ph: 0863-2230504 - Res;  
Mob. No. 09704136393

3. Dr. A.I. Baswaraja Reddy,  
Federation Vice-President  
'Devi Nilaya', Gandhi Nagar, III  
Cross, Bellary - 583 103  
(Karnataka)  
(Ph: 09241059098)

### **Tamil**

1. Sri M.V. Rengarajan  
Ramakrishna Rao Shanmuga Colony,  
Salem-636 007  
Tamilnadu  
Mob. No. 09443873200
2. Prof. M. Natrajan  
'Morning Star', 10,  
South Mada Street, Ambasamudram- 627 401  
Tamilnadu  
Mob.No. 09486620164
3. Sri V.K. Murugesan  
562, Phase III, Oasis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Satwachary,  
Vellore- 632 009  
Tamilnadu

### **Telugu**

1. Sri G. Subrahmanyam  
25-3-549, 10<sup>th</sup> Lane,  
Lake View Colony,  
Podealkur Road, Nellore- 524 004  
Andhra Pradesh  
Mob No. 09441645233
2. Smt. Lakshmi  
W/o Raju Babu  
Madugula Street  
Ponduru- 532 168  
Andhra Pradesh
3. Sri. K.S. Ramachandra Rao  
C/0Marconi Electronics

K.N. Road,  
Tadepalligudem- 534 101  
Andhra Pradesh  
Mob. No. 09849305384

### **Utkal**

1. Ms. Purnamasi Pattanaik  
Senior Deputy Manager, Personnel  
Dept, Cement Nagar, Hira Cement  
Babardol, Bargarh  
Utkal- 768038

### **Uttar Pradesh**

1. Sri L.S. Sengar  
1, Kabir Kunj  
Dayalbagh, Agra-5  
U. P.
2. Sri S.K. Pandey  
4/136, Kalpana Kutir,  
Shukla Ganj, P.O.  
Gangaghat- 209 861  
Unnao  
Mob. No. 09839817036
3. Sri U.S. Pandey  
A-893, Indira Nagar  
Lucknow-228 016  
Mob.No. 09451993170  
Email: usplko@gmail.com

### **Co-opted Members**

1. Sri. B.L. Bhattacharya  
13/4-3, Iswar Chandra Nibas,  
68/1, Bagmari Road, Kolkata- 700 054  
Phone: 033-2337-9103  
Email- blbtos\_2205@yahoo.com



2. Ms. Keshwar Dastur  
The Theosophical Society,  
Adyar, Chennai- 600 020  
Tamilnadu
3. Dr. T.K. Nair  
The Theosophical Society,  
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010  
Phone: 0542-2397340  
Email: theosophy\_vns@yahoo.com
4. Prof. R.C. Tampi  
'Ragam', Eranhipalam  
Kozhikode  
Kerala- 673006  
Mob. No. 09447156821
5. Sri. Pradip Mahaptra  
625, Shahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007  
Phone No. 09437697429, 0674-2541929  
Email-peekem0277@gmail.com
6. Sri S.M. Umakantha Rao  
Editorial Office,  
The Theosophical Society,  
Adyar, Chennai -600 020  
Mobile: 09444544508  
Email: editorialoffice@gmail.com
7. Sri Ashok Kaul  
71, Ram Krishna Colony,  
Chaitanya Niwas, Devas Road  
Ujjain- 456 010; Mob. No. 09770956374
8. Sri Krishna Phani  
1-8-702/83/A, Padma Colony,  
Nallakunta,  
Hyderabad- 500044  
Andhra Pradesh

9. Sri V. Narayanan  
The Theosophical Society,  
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010  
Phone: 0542-2397340  
Email: theosophy\_vns@yahoo.com
10. Sri. K. Dinakaran  
'Saroja', Trikkur,  
Kerala- 680 306  
Mobile- 09495739773  
Email:dinakaran60@gmail.com

#### **Ex-officio**

1. Sri S. Sundaram  
The Theosophical Society,  
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010  
Phone: 0542-2397340  
Email: theosophy\_vns@yahoo.com
2. Sri P.S. Panchakshari  
The Theosophical Society,  
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010  
Phone: 0542-2400773  
Email: theosophy\_vns@yahoo.com

**ELECTION OF GENERAL SECRETARY, TREASURER  
AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Indian Section Council in its meeting held on 29 December, 2013, at Adyar, elected Bro. S. Sundaram as General Secretary of the Indian Section for term of three years from 2014-2016. Bro. P.S. Panchakshari was elected as Treasurer for a term of two years from 2014-2015.

The Council also elected the members of the Executive Committee, The Indian Section, The Theosophical Society, for the year 2014. The list of members of the Executive Committee for the year 2014 is as follows:

1. Sri S. Sundaram  
The Theosophical Society,  
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010  
Phone: 0542-2397340  
Email: theosophy\_vns@yahoo.com
2. Sri P.S. Panchakshari  
The Theosophical Society,  
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010  
Phone: 0542-2400773  
Email: theosophy\_vns@yahoo.com
3. Dr. T.K. Nair  
The Theosophical Society,  
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010  
Phone: 0542-2397340  
Email: theosophy\_vns@yahoo.com
4. Sri V. Narayanan  
The Theosophical Society,  
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010  
Phone: 0542-2397340  
Email: theosophy\_vns@yahoo.com
5. Sri Pradip Kumar Mahapatra  
625, Shahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007  
Phone No. 09437697429, 0674-2541929  
Email-peekem0277@gmail.com
6. Sri B.L. Bhattacharya  
13/4-3, Iswar Chandra Nibas,  
68/1, Bagmari road, Kolkata- 700 054  
Phone: 033-2337-9103  
Email- blbtos\_2205@yahoo.com
7. Sri Ashok Kaul  
71, Ram Krishna Colony,  
Chaitanya Niwas, Devas Road  
Ujjain- 456 010; Mob. No. 09770956374
8. Sri S.M. Umakanth Rao  
The Theosophical Publishing House,  
The Theosophical Society,  
Adyar, Chennai -600 020  
Mobile : 09444544508
9. Sri Yogendra P. Desai  
C/o Dr. A.Y. Desai "Dev Park", F/3, First Floor  
Vidyutnagar Road, Veraval- 362 266  
Gujarat
10. Mr. Ketharaju Narasimha Rao  
2/12, Brodiepet, Guntur- 522 0002  
(A.P.) (Ph: 0863-2230504- Res:  
Mob: 09704136393
11. Sri B.D. Tendulkar  
Bldg. G1, Plot No. 14,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hig Scheme,  
MHB Colony Janwadi, Pune- 411 016  
Phone: 020-25652393, Mob: 9881519108  
Email: nitinabhyankar@yahoo.com

**The Indian Section, The Theosophical Society  
Study Camps Programme for Summer 2014 at  
Bhowali Study Centre.**

| No. of Days   |    |                          |  |
|---|----|--------------------------|--|
| 1. 13 April to<br>17 April 14<br>+1+1 prior and after | 5  | Rs. 1800/-<br>per person | 30 participants of<br>Gorakhpur Group<br>Contact Prof.Ajai Rai                                   |
| 2. 20 April to<br>23 April 14<br>+1+1 prior & after   | 4  | Rs. 1500/-<br>per person | 30 persons ES<br>Retreat of U.P. &<br>Bihar, Contact Bro.<br>Shiv Kr. Srivastava<br>at Allahabad |
| 3. 26 April to<br>30 April 14<br>+1+1 prior & after   | 5  | Rs. 1800/-<br>per person | 30 persons TOS<br>Contact<br>Dr. T.K. Nair   |
| 4. 3 May to<br>8 May 2014<br>+1+1 prior & after       | 6  | Rs. 2100/-<br>per person | 30 persons<br>Contact Secretary<br>of Karnataka<br>Federation                                    |
| 5. 11 May to<br>28 May 2014<br>+1+1 prior +after      | 17 | Rs. 4550/-<br>per person | 30 persons by<br>Indian Section<br>Varanasi  |

**Note:-**

1. Bring warm clothes and Essential Medicines. Send names of the participants from No. 1 to 4. and forward it to the Indian Section not later than 15 March 2014.
2. Please inform the details of participants Name, Address, Age, and Mob.No. The exact date of arrival & departure time to be intimated to camp officer In-charge Bhowali camp at Indian Section, Varanasi, by 31 March 2014.
3. S.R. No.2: E.S. Retreat will be directed by Prof. C.A. Shinde: on 7- Portals from 'The Voice of Silence':
4. The Amount for Study Camp at S. No. 5 to be sent to Indian Section before 15 April and Cancellation by 30 April 2014.
5. Study Camp at S.No. 5 will be based on **The Voice of Silence** and **The Key to Theosophy**. It will be conducted by Bro. P.K. Jayaswal, and Bro. N.C. Krishna and Bro. B.D. Tendulakar.

23 January 2014.

S. Sundaram  
General Secretary