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Editor

PRADEEP H. GOHIL

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
To the 142nd Annual Convention of
The Theosophical Society
Adyar, 31 December 2017

I am very happy to warmly welcome all of you to this 142nd International Convention at our Adyar international headquarters, and I wish you a very pleasant and inspiring time while you are here. Let us rise to invoke the blessing of our elder Brethren, who are ever ready to guide and help those who are unselfishly dedicated to the good of other living beings:

May those who are the embodiments 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.

The year 2017 marks the 142nd anniversary of the Theosophical Society's founding. Longevity is universally regarded as a good thing because it indicates a connection to some vitalizing principle that extends the lifespan beyond the normal range. Whether it is the person who reaches 100 years of age, or the organization that outlasts its contemporaries, what is the "secret" for long life is always a question.

There are countless examples of great people and movements who appeared on the scene for a moment, did their work, and departed, whose only lasting mark is on the hearts and minds of the people they touched. There are also examples of long life where people, institutions, or organizations have limped their way into the future, mimicking vitality, but forgetful of their reason for being — cut off from the life force that gives meaning to the years. There is an expression that a parrot can live to 100 years of age but, in the end, he is still a parrot.

While longevity is potentially a great blessing, its value is determined solely by how that time has been used. From the perspective of the Theosophical Society (TS) and the movement that came into being with its founding, it is not enough to merely endure. The purpose of this

movement is transformation, at a deep level, described by the poet D. H. Lawrence as "freeing oneself from the endless repetition of the mistake which mankind at large has chosen to sanctify" — the mistake of separation, imagined independence, and isolation that has been the hallmark of human behaviour and the wellspring of the array of problems we have come to regard as normal to the human condition.

Every year we come together as an international body to remember our roots, our invisible / hidden connection to a shared vitalizing source, and to draw strength from that remembrance. If approached as a mere reminiscence, or a fond looking backwards to the "good old days", our time together is wasted. Not only is our time squandered, but the enormous sacrifices of those who preceded us and who have made this moment possible are diminished by our failure to properly understand.

The TS has its Three Objects which have given direction from the outset. However, the reason for its existence is stated in a manner different from its Objects. In *The Key to Theosophy* H. P. Blavatsky, the Society's principal founder, makes the statement that the TS was founded for two main reasons: 1) "to assist in showing to people that such a thing as Theosophy exists", and 2) "to help them to ascend towards it by studying and assimilating its eternal verities". During the lifetime of the TS these goals have been approached along different lines. Initially there was a focused resistance to the limitations of the science and religion of the day. The outline of an alternative, a Divine Wisdom, a Theosophy, capable of spiritualizing and humanizing both individuals and their institutions, had to be presented in a manner that could be grasped by those rare high and open minds. Wisdom needed to be reduced to knowledge in order to gain access to popular thought.

Having succeeded in the initial goal of showing that such a thing as Theosophy exists and having established a globally shared language for the consideration of the Ageless Wisdom, the focus of our work has fully entered into the realm of "studying and assimilating its eternal verities". The progression from teachings to insight and from student to exemplar justifies the existence of the TS. No new fact or increment of knowledge is required to address the mounting issues of our time. The outline of the wisdom teachings that we have been given exceeds our

capacity to comprehend. In the words of Albert Schweitzer: “Example is not the main thing in influencing others; it is the *only* thing.”

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The Annual Convention of the Indian Section, with 11,394 members in 408 Lodges under 16 Federations, was inaugurated by me and chaired by international Vice-President Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy at Adyar in January. The largest Section of the TS had a change of General Secretary with Mr Pradeep H. Gohil assuming the post, succeeding Mr S. Sundaram. Mr Pradip Mahapatra was nominated as Joint General Secretary. Short talks by Mr O. P. Aneja, Mrs Nandita Kuldip, and Dr P. S. P. Sarangi on “Self-preparation: An Important Aspect of Theosophical Work” were well received by the delegates. “Theosophy— Defining the Indefinable” was the theme for the three-day 94th South India Conference at Adyar in April, inaugurated by Marja Artamaa, International Secretary, welcomed by Mr Gohil, and attended by around 100 delegates. There were talks by four speakers, followed by workshops. The Section headquarters at Varanasi hosted the North India study camp held over three days in October 2016 on N. Sri Ram’s *An Approach to Reality*, directed by Prof. R. C. Tampi. A series of over five study camps were conducted from April to June at the Himalayan Centre for Theosophical Studies in Bhowali, on topics such as *Self Realization through Love* by I. K. Taimni, teachings of J. Krishnamurti, the Upanishads from a Theosophical perspective, and so on.

Visits and talks were conducted at various locations during the year by the National Lecturers. The Central Property Committee set up last year at Varanasi to manage the properties of the Society started work on reconstruction of facilities, obtaining legal title for properties, and so on. The TOS South Zone conference was held over two days in July at Kakinada with Nancy Secrest, International Secretary, as the chief guest, and the North Zone conference was held in Varanasi in August with the General Secretary officiating as chief guest. *The Indian Theosophist*, mouthpiece of the Indian Section, had a special issue commemorating the 100th anniversary of Annie Besant’s elevation to the presidentship of the Indian National Congress, the organization that eventually secured independence for India.

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At Adyar, the **Archives and Museum** has completed the huge work of digitizing H. P. Blavatsky’s scrapbooks, primarily due to the great service rendered by volunteers. But their availability has shrunk a lot lately, and the Society looks forward to more people volunteering to help soon. Over 20 researchers from around 12 countries used our archives.

The **Adyar Library and Research Centre** completed digitizing manuscripts initiated two years ago. Two pamphlets were published and twelve books have been selected for new publication and the work is in progress. The affiliation with the American Institute of Indian Studies for research continued this year.

The administrative office of the **Theosophical Order of Service** (TOS) shifted to Adyar in India along with the move of its International Secretary, Ms Nancy Secrest, to take up the position of International Treasurer of the TS. This year the TOS continued its relief efforts to communities in India, Nepal, Italy, US, and Puerto Rico that were affected by cyclones, hurricanes, and earthquakes. Facilitating funds for the education of underprivileged youth, especially girls, in Asia and Africa, continued to be a major focus of the TOS. Medical camps were also organized. More than 1,000 patron members of 120 groups organized into 22 regions work in India. There was a change of guard at the top, with the retirement of Dr T. K. Nair after 6 years as National Secretary, who was replaced by Mr K. Sivaprasad.

The **Theosophical Publishing House** has undertaken new initiatives like online catalogues instead of printed ones, Amazon and Facebook stores for selling books, Twitter and WhatsApp channels for customer communication, multicurrency invoicing for foreign buyers, web-based operations in areas such as invoicing, inventory tracking, CRM, delivery management, and so on. New payment methods based on online gateways and mobile apps were adopted to discourage the use of cash, postal money orders, and old-fashioned cheques.

The **School of the Wisdom** conducted courses in Adyar from November 2016 to January 2017. The four two-week sessions consisted of “The Neuro-science of Meditation” by Drs Bhaskar and Rajni Vyas, “Self-Transformation and the Spiritual Life” by Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy’s “Theosophy and the Upanishads”, and Dr Amit Goswami’s “Live Quantum, Be Happy”.

The **Olcott Education Society** continued its stellar performance in providing free schooling, vocational training, and social welfare to socially and economically underprivileged children and youth. This year, the Olcott School catered to 378 children of primary and high school classes, the Social Welfare Centre took care of 58 young children, and the Vocational Training Centre imparted free training to 26 young women in tailoring and clothes design, and 87 unemployed youngsters in soft skills.

Concerning the **international officers' travels**, in February I led the Board meetings at "Olcott", the **TSA** headquarters. On 2 March I gave a Thursday Night Lecture also at "Olcott" on "Theosophy: A Spiritual Legacy for Humanity", and another one on 27 April about "The History of Our Future". In the **Netherlands**, I codirected, with Mr Hao Chin, Jr, planning meetings held at the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in Naarden from 4 to 8 March. Back in the **USA**, in April I gave a talk at the Detroit Lodge and at the Summer National Convention at "Olcott" in July titled "Adyar News". I also gave talks in Chicago and a couple of other places in Illinois. From the European Congress held in **Spain**, mentioned at the start of this address, I arrived at the TS in **Portugal** on 27 August to give talks in Lisbon and Porto. Then on to the **Netherlands**, where on 3 September, I held a lecture in the morning for members, and another in the afternoon for the general public, again at the ITC Naarden.

The International **Vice-President**, Dr Deepa Padhi, was requested in June to speak to Indian ladies in Houston, **Texas**, on "Women Empowerment Projects in TOS Odisha". They were inspired and are planning to support one of the projects in the coming year. Two of them wished to become members of the TOS India, and she gave them the forms for joining. Another lady donated \$300 for the Women Empowerment Project of the Mahabharat Group, Odisha Region, India. In July Dr Padhi discussed with the Sr Manager, Human Resources, of Google in Sunnyvale, **California**, about pledging a matching grant with TOS India for educational projects. Google pledged to give 50% through their Sr Manager. She then contacted "Asha Princeton", an NGO which gives grants for educational projects in India, and she obtained the grant application forms. While still in California in July, she also gave an introductory short talk to a group of Junior Girl Scouts at their parents' request

on "Meditation through Visualization". She not only talked about it, but *taught* them how to do it.

The International **Secretary**, Ms Marja Artamaa, was Chief Guest at the 107th annual conference of the **Karnataka** Theosophical Federation, held at Huliyaar in mid- October, along with the golden jubilee of the Sanmarga Theosophical Lodge. She gave a talk on 'Inner and Outer Aspects of Universal Brotherhood', and gave a message at the valedictory programme. In February she gave a lecture for the Madras Theosophical Federation at **Adyar** on 'Dialogue — More than Discussion'. She attended the GC Planning meeting at ITC **Naarden** in early March and inaugurated the South India Conference in **Adyar** in mid-April. Ms Artamaa attended the 38th European Congress in Barcelona, **Spain**, in late August, giving a talk on 'From Definitions to Insight'.

Ms Nancy Secret, TOS International Secretary, moved to Adyar in June to take up her new additional role as International **Treasurer**. In the earlier months, she fulfilled lecture and workshop commitments to TS and TOS groups in the USA, visiting Oregon, California, Washington State, and New York. After her arrival in India, she travelled to Kakinada to participate as chief guest in TOS India's South Zonal Conference. She spoke about compassion, was honoured to launch the Indian TOS website and enjoyed meeting many Indian members. At the end of July she gave a presentation at the Adyar Lodge, on the work of the TOS around the world. In August she made presentations at the summer school of the TS in England and the European Congress held in Barcelona, Spain, where she gave a talk with the title "Grow as the Flower Grows".

TIM BOYD

LOOKING WITHIN TO REACH OUT

It is a paradox that what we know as real outside of us is not real. It is like the Socrates' paradox, 'All I know is that I know nothing'.

Most of the people are contented with their life 'as it is' having total faith in their five sense organs through which they look at the world outside and identify themselves with their 'artificial personalities'-name, form, position, status etc. But when they are faced with some challenges or something adverse happens in their lives; when they find that science, religion and rituals, cannot solve their problems, they feel an yearning to look within. This is the first step for spiritual journey.

'Looking within to reach out' is a process as well as the goal. It is a quest for knowing 'who am I', 'the Self' beyond the boundaries of physicality. It is not intellectual knowing. It is absolutely experiential.

Like any other field of study, there is a methodology consisting of various stages of 'looking within' for transformational practices which results in a magnificent transformation of the seeker. There are also levels of transformations as indicated by HPB.

Only a prepared mind, free of all pre-conceived ideas, false notions and superstitions, can concentrate and use the technique of meditation. It starts, as HPB says, to expand the individual consciousness to conceive of Unity, and ends up in merging with the Universal Consciousness, the all-embracing Oneness when one identifies oneself with every being and thing.

It is essential for each one of us as a Theosophist to look within for self-transformation. The best way of definite progress, as Annie Besant says, is to meditate on a quality and live it. Theosophy is very much practical. With the experiential awakening of the 'Self' as nothing but the encompassing Oneness, when hands are extended to reach out to render service to others, it becomes purely selfless, altruistic. In fact, 'looking within to reach out', is a journey from exclusiveness to inclusiveness, from selfishness to unselfishness.

NEWS AND NOTES

Sri Surendra Narayan (Diploma No. 32708) passed to peace on 22 November 2017. He became a member of the TS on 6 Dec. 1944. A member known for his simplicity and polite manners had delivered lectures on theosophical themes at various places in India as well as in other countries. He was the International Vice-President of the TS for 15 years (1980-1995). When the Indian Section brought out a Special No. of 'The Indian Theosophist' on Dr. Annie Besant (in October 2005) and on Damodar Mavalankar (in November 2007), Surendra Narayan ji personally congratulated the then General Secretary of the Indian Section. When he was requested to send his message for the Special No. which the Section brought out on the occasion of its 125th year, he gladly accepted it and sent a very affectionate message for the magazine and warm greetings to all members. And this he sent at the age of 96 which shows his kind feelings and goodwill for the Section. His life and way of working will be a source of inspiration for all.

Bengal

Anniversary programme: Bally Theosophical Lodge, celebrated its 104th Anniversary on 12 November 2017, at Bally Sishu Samity Hall with Bro. B.L. Bhattacharya, National Director, TOS in India as Chief Guest and Dr. K.P. Sarkar, Secretary BTF as special guest. Prof. Prahlad Sarkar, (Retd) Head of the Dept. of Philosophy. Calcutta University presided.

The meeting started with prayers of all faiths followed by one minute silence for world peace. It was followed by garlanding the photo of HPB and lighting candle. Bro. A.N. Chakraborty, Joint Secretary of Bally Lodge, welcomed the guest speakers and the participants. Then the opening song was rendered by Bro. Nityananda Patra and Bro. Jayabed Goswami- Secretary, Bally Lodge, presented the activity report of the Lodge. Bro. Amal Mandal from Bharadwaja Lodge and Sister Arati Nandi from BTF conveyed message wishing the programme all success.

The Chief Guest in his short talk highlighted the glorious history 68/ THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST, Feb./ 2018

of Bally Lodge and explained the difference between body and soul of man. Two distinguished senior citizens, namely Mr. Akhil Bandu Bondopadhyaya and Mr. Biman Mukherjee were felicitated with sacred cloth and flower. Sister Chanda Nandi and Mr. Biman Mukherjee gave short talks which were appreciated by audience. Sri Manash Patra, Sri Asit Chatterjee and Sri Nityananda Patra, applied for TS Membership.

After tea break, second session started with a talk of Dr. K.P. Sarkar on "Life after death". He also read his article written in *Theosophy Barta* in April-June 2017 issue. It was followed by Presidential speech by Prof. Prahlad Sarkar on unique features of Theosophy. Both the talks were highly appreciated.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks proposed by Bro. Ananda Mahapatra.

Bro. M.S. Paul organized a programme at his house AJ- 175, Salt Lake, Kolkata- 700091 on 23 October, 2017. Sis. Jaba Guha Thakurata, Vice-President, Bro. Amal Mandal- Secretary of Bharadwaja Lodge and other members attended the function, basic aim of which was to strengthen brotherhood in society.

Bombay

The 86th Annual Session of the Bombay Theosophical Federation was held on 13-15 October 2017. It was graced by Shri Pradeep H. Gohil, General Secretary of the Indian Section, TS, as the chief guest. The theme of the session was 'Spiritual Life & Education'.

Opening Day Session-Friday 13 October 2017 at Besant Hall of Blavatsky Lodge TS: The Annual Session began in the evening with lighting of the lamp by the chief guest Shri Pradeep Gohil and recitation of the Prayers of all Religions & the Universal Prayer. BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya welcomed the chief guest and said, Sri Pradeep Gohil is a Chemical Engineer with Master of Management Studies, Ms. in Plastics and LLB. After studies and 10 year career in USA he shifted to his native place Bhavnagar. He has started a management school and is a Trustee of Educational and other institutions. He was associated with the rehabilitation of the victims of earthquake in Kutch. Son of Bhavnagar Lodge's President, he has led Bhavnagar Lodge in its most difficult time. He has served Gujarat Theosophical Federation, is a member of the Indian Section Council and now has been unanimously elected

as General Secretary of the Indian Section, TS.

Sri Pradeep Gohil in his opening address on 'The Spiritual Life' said we are all seekers. Each seeker represents the ideal and the real. The ideal is self-transcendence and the real is God's all-pervading Consciousness. One can become the torch-bearer of infinite Truth and the harbinger of God-Vision within us and without. Three keys for Spiritual Living are – (1) Acceptance of imperfections on a physical level and to know that spiritual being exists and will continue to progress (2) 'Be present' and learn to become aware of each breathing moment and how it affects (3) Learn to love Inner Being and to live within giving up material attachments & conditioned beliefs. Compared to Religion, Spirituality has one's own experiences, it makes one free & brave, lets one discover Truth, it unites Religions, does not make one dependent on any belief, it applies karma & does not accept it as punishment. Spirituality lets one create one's own path. A spiritual life is not inconsistent with a practical life, i.e. with material & worldly success. A man can earn money in an honest way and leading spiritual life use it for well-being of others. Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, President of Blavatsky Lodge in a short talk shared her thought and a lecture by Dr. Annie Besant on 'The Spiritual Life' from The Lotus Journal.

Membership appreciation mementos & certificates were presented by the hands of the chief guest to members with membership over 40 years.

Second Day's Session- Saturday 14 October 2017 at Besant Hall of Blavatsky Lodge TS: The second day session was opened with the Universal Prayer. BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya welcomed and introduced the Chief Guest Shri Pradeep Gohil. He also welcomed Junior Red Cross Maharashtra Chairman Rtn. Godrej Dotivala and volunteers and students of Dani Elocution Competition. Dani Elocution competition was organized jointly with junior Red Cross Maharashtra.

Sri Pradeep Gohil in his talk 'The Spiritual Outlook on Education' said that a practical step has to be taken to utilize the synthesis of Science and Spirituality for a programme of Integrated Education. There is no one definition of the spiritual outlook. The methods of approach could be that the unfolding of the spiritual outlook must be from the very beginning of schooling. The original thinking of students has to be

encouraged with spiritual instructions with emphasis laid on purposeful living. Knowledge of Theosophical principles should be spread among parents & teachers as that will remove the generation gap. Quoting J. Krishnamurti he said, "Education in the true sense is helping the individual to be mature and free, to flower gently in love and goodness... it is a way of discovering our true relationship to things, to other human beings and to nature". Shri Gohil gave seven principles of the spiritual outlook for students of the future to face the world with greater spiritual strength.

Bro. Navin Kumar, Vice-President of Blavatsky Lodge, in his short talk said that the Theosophical Three Absolute Truths, Three Objects, Four Nobel Truths, the Eightfold Path and Law of Duty & Law of Sacrifice all guide one for spiritual life. Right attitude for Spiritual Life has to be developed from family life at all stages of life.

Sis. Aban Patel, BTF organizer of Jamubhai & Suryaben Dani Elocution Competition 2017, speaking to students said whatever is divine is spiritual. Theosophical teachings guide to inculcate spirituality in children. Col. H.S. Olcott had established the first school for panchams in 1894. Dr. Annie Besant handed over a college established by her to the authorities of Banaras Hindu University. George S. Arundale (President of TS from 1934-1945) was an educationist. The Founders of TS had realized great power of Spirituality in India. Spiritual education of today's students will strengthen Spirituality of India.

Dani Elocution Competition First Prize Winners' speeches received applause from all. Junior Group Winner Marisa Kapadia of Queen Mary School spoke on 'My Ambition in Life' and Senior Group Winner Kaira D' Souza spoke on "Universal Brotherhood". Dani Elocution Competition prizes and merit & participation certificates were given to students by Shri Pradeep Gohil.

Third Day Session on Sunday 15 October 2017 at Juhu Theosophical Colony: Bretheren from South & North Bombay and of Juhu Theosophical colony gathered in the midst of refreshing beauty of Theosophical Garden Society. After breakfast the session started with the uplifting Bharat Samaj Pooja performed by Bro. Navin Kumar and Bro. Vinayak Pandya.

BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya welcomed and introduced the chief guest Sri Pradeep Gohil. He expressed BTF's thanks to the Vasanta Theosophical Co-operative Housing Society for their warm hospitality and generous sponsorship for the 86th Annual Session. He invited Dr. Ajay Hora to share his TS journey over 66 years. His mother had wanted a Theosophist to be born and Ajaybhai has lived up to his late Mother's wish. He was blessed to come in contact with International Presidents since the third International President George Arundale. His parents' guidance has helped him to live Theosophy.

Sri Pradeep H. Gohil speaking on 'The Source of Spiritual Energy' said Modern Spirituality includes a belief beyond the known and observable realm, personal growth, a quest for a sacred meaning, religious experiences or an encounter with one's own 'Inner Dimension'. Explaining 'Spiritual' and 'Energy' he said that inspiration has to come from within. As JK says energy should not be wasted in conflicts & fragmentation. Physical as well as psychological energy with a mind that is immensely clear, logical, healthy, undistorted and heart that has no sentiment whatsoever and no emotion but has the quality of abundance of love & compassion. Primary energy crisis on earth today is the spiritual energy crisis. If this is solved, no other energy crisis would exist.

Membership Appreciation Mementos & Certificates to others were presented by the hands of the chief guest to members with membership over 40 years and 60 years.

The 86th BTF AGM with 44 members was chaired by President Bro. Vinayak Pandya. He conducted the business of adopting the Minutes, Secretary's Annual Report 2016-17 and Audited Accounts year ending 30 June 2017. Resolutions for the leaders and devoted workers were passed. President conveyed Marathi Theosophical Federation's invitation to their Annual Session of September 2018 with International President Tim Boyd as the Chief Guest at Kalyan, Mumbai. It was decided that some members of BTF will attend one day to meet Mr. Tim Boyd.

Blavatsky Lodge Book Depot with Sis. Freny Paghdwala and her team had a sale of TS Books of Rs. 2,500/-.

Post-lunch symposium on 'Spiritual Life & Education': It was mainly with young speakers. Bro. Dhruv Narayan of Ananda Lodge said that watching life of his grandfather and listening to his father reading Theosophy, he was inspired to study Theosophy. Theosophy teaches Truth of life. Man has latent power and with conscious efforts he can spiritually progress. Essence is one. There should be non-sectarian education. He explained the significance of TS emblem.

Bro. Nimit Mehta of Anand Lodge opined to expand intellectual, practical and spiritual knowledge. One for All and All for One has to be realized.

Bro. Raghavendra Jha of Unity Youth Lodge narrating a true story stated in Sis. Manju Sundaram's article conveyed that a small boy, who was contemplating to understand God, had spiritual awakening listening to Kabir's *doha*. His message was that even an inspirational song can be a source of spiritual education.

Bro. Farhad Dalal of Unity Youth Lodge interacting with young & seniors conveyed that today with even nursery children using Mobile, interconnectivity has increased, which can be used to spread spirituality in an interesting way. Sports & Technology trigger the driving force within. Instead of young being drawn to terrorism, as Dalai Lama has said, meditation taught to them from the age of 8 year will take them to path of spirituality. Education gives confidence and reading and analytical approach make one think beyond.

Bro. Bhavesh Pandya of Kadoli Lodge, Gujarat, speaking in Hindi said one's life is one's Teacher. Circumstances and incidents of Lord Buddha's life has led him to his spiritual quest. Latent spirituality flowers with life experiences and one goes ahead on one's own on the Spiritual Path.

Sis. Mahazaver Dalal of Blavatsky Lodge sharing three observations of her travel conveyed that spiritual education is not confined to teaching sessions. Interaction with Nature and His creations touches the sensitivity of human mind and heart has its own lessons of spirituality. Encourage children to experience oneness with nature and to learn to love and care humans and all His creations.

Shri Pradeep Gohil was happy to present Diplomas to young mem-

bers and to listen to their ideas. Summing up symposium he said, a pure life with pure heart will take one ahead. Today science has realized and teaches spirituality. As International President Tim Boyd has said Three Objects of TS are source of spiritual education. The finale was a Bharat Natyam programme by five students of Sis. Namita Bodaji of Juhu Theosophical Colony. All were spell bound watching beautiful dances starting with Ganesha Vandana and ending with Vande Matram. They were thanked with presentation of Theosophical books.

General Secretary Sri Pradeep H. Gohil's visits of North & South Mumbai Lodges: On Monday 16 October 2017 meeting of Ananda, Centenary, Ganesh, Jyoti and Vasanta Lodge of North Mumbai was held at Ananda Lodge, Juhu Theosophical Colony. It was an interactive meeting with Shri Pradeep H. Gohil & BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya. The interactions encouraged members to come up with suggestions for increasing & retaining membership quickly, Economic dispatch of 'The Indian Theosophist', need of hard copy with e-copy which will facilitate wider and quicker cost free circulation, formation of E-Lodge for members from Jammu-Kashmir to Kerala, need to spread Theosophy with Street Plays, to organize a TV Channel to spread Theosophy, to spread understanding of Second & Third Objects of TS, to appreciate Science confirming clairvoyance findings and to realize that as one teaches one learns the most. Bro. Navin Kumar presented to Shri Pradeep Gohil a copy of Sis. Aban Patel's manual with her notes of a study of 'Man, When, Whence & Whither' she had conducted at Blavatsky Lodge. Late Sis. Bana Mehta's compilation of inspiring songs, Bhajans, Dohas and songs with TS themes, composed by her in Gujarati titled 'Sarasvati Vandana' was released by Shri Pradeep Gohil and as per Late Sis. Bana Mehta's wish the book was presented to Blavatsky Lodge. Youngest Member Master Prince Patel encouraged by his teacher Sis. Soonoo Vesuna read out a passage from 'At the Feet of the Master'.

Obituary: Sis. Khorshed Darukhanewala, a member of Shanti Lodge for 13 years passed away on 14-10-2017. To lead Theosophical Life, she used to get inspiration from her daily study of 'At the Feet of the Master'.

Bro. Ram Mukherji, member of Ananda Lodge for 14 years, passed away on 22-10-2017. He was an eminent Director & Script writer of Bollywood. He used to participate in BTF sessions and meetings of the

Vasanta Theosophical Coop Housing Society at Juhu Theosophical Colony. At the 86th AGM held on 15 October at Juhu, Brethren had passed a resolution wishing him good health. Brethren were sorry to receive the sad news. May the souls of our departed Brethren be blessed with peace.

Gujarat

The 90th Annual Conference of Gujarat Theosophical Federation was held at Virpur in Sri Balasinor Maitreya Bramhvidya Mandal Hostel from 3-5 November 2017. The Lodge at Balasinor completed its 100 years. Hence, the conference was organized there. In all, 103 delegates from different Lodges of the Federation attended it. The conference started with Bharat Samaj Pooja in the morning on 3 November and it was performed by Bro. Mansukhbhai Rajguru. Then the main function started. The President of the Federation Sri Nareshbhai Trivedi, the chief guest Bro. Pradeep H. Gohil, Federation Secretary Bro. Darshan Modi, the Editor of *Theosophic Jyoti* Bro. Harshvadan Sheth, President of Balasinor Maitreya Bramhvidya Mandal, Dr. Ashok Udapadhyay along with the Vice-President of the Lodge Bro. Mukeshbhai Kaka, Secretary Bro. Dev Duttbhai Trivadi and the Federation Treasurer Bro. Prafullbhai Shah took their seats on the dias. After the prayer of the religions and the Universal Prayer, lamps were lit by the chief guest and others. Dr. Ashok Upadhyay welcomed the chief guest and delegates. The Secretary Sri Devduttbhai gave the detailed account of the Lodge and its activities. It was a proud moment for senior most Secretary Devduttbhai who delineated the Lodge's journey of 100 years. He was given standing ovation.

Federation Secretary Darshan Modi read out the message received from Adyar, Varanasi and Gujarat.

The GTF President Bro. Nareshbhai Trivedi presided over this session and while introducing the chief guest Bro. Pradeep H. Gohil, General Secretary of the Indian Section, mentioned in brief the qualities of Bro. Gohil and work done by him. It was followed by Bro. Gohil's inaugural address on the theme of the conference 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram'. He spoke in Gujarati very precisely and explained the whole subject with examples.

In the post-lunch session short talks were held in which Dr. Varsha Patel, National Lecturer, Indian Section, presided. The speakers were

Sri Harshadbhai Panchal, Secretary of Balasinor Lodge and subject of his talk was 'Human Life is Rare'. Sri Ashvinbhai Vasava from Kantidara Lodge spoke on 'Our Theosophy' and Sri Atulbhai Darji of Reva Lodge Varodara expressed his view on '*Sansar is not Asar*' (World is not meaningless).

Dr. Varsha Patel spoke on 'Shiv Tattva' in the evening session and Sri Harshvardan Sheth's subject of talk in the same session was 'Patanjali Yoga Sutra'. Sri Mansukhbhai presided over this session.

Sri Nareshbhai Tahkaria spoke on 'Vedmantra and Secret' in the morning session on November 4. This talk was followed by Sri Jeevanbhai Kaklotar's talk on 'Meditation according to J.K'. Both the speakers were from Sanatan Lodge of Surat. The former President of the Federation Bro. Chandubhai Pandya presided over this session. Short talks were delivered at 10.30 a.m. in which Nayanbhai Purohit of Rajpipla Lodge presided. Mrs. Damini Modi from Rohit Lodge, Ahmedabad, expressed her views on 'The Way to Godliness is for the brave only'; Dr. Ashokbhai from Balasinor spoke on 'Art of Living'; and the subject of Sri Narendrabhai Patel was 'The Planning of the Universal Growth'.

In the post-lunch session three talks were held. Sri Harshvadan Seth presided over this session. Sri Mukesh Kumar Kaka spoke on 'Our Attitude toward Theosophy'. Dr. Varsha Patel's subject was 'The Future of Theosophy'; and Sri Dhaval Seth from Rohit Lodge, Ahmedabad, expressed his views on 'The Introduction to the Literature of Theosophy.'

A public lecture was held in the evening session in which Sri Nareshbhai Trivedi presided and the senior most member, former Vice-President of the Federation and former National Lecturer Bro. Mansukhbhai Rajguru delivered a talk on 'Theosophy and World of Art'.

In the morning of the last day of the conference the Editor of *Theosophic Jyoti* and former Vice-President of the Federation, Sri Harshvadan Seth delivered a public lecture on 'Bramhvidya and Modern Science'. Sri Mansukhbhai presided over this session.

The concluding session was presided over by Sri Narsimbhai Thakaria and GTF President Sri Nareshbhai Trivedi delivered a talk on 'Shiv Sutra'

On the first two days of the conference cultural programme of devotional songs (*Bhajan*) for the delegates was organized. The young, energetic and a studious member of Rohit Lodge Sri Dhaval Seth compered the programme on all the three days. The Secretary of the local Lodge and Federation Secretary proposed the vote of thanks and the conference came to a close with Shanti Mantras.

Karnataka

On October 1, 2017, the Theosophical Lodges at Mangalore, Kottur, Srinivasapura, Nittur, Hiriyur, Chitradurga and Bellary celebrated the 170th Birthday of Dr. Annie Besant.

On October 8 Theosophical Lodges at Bangarpet, Gowribidanur, Nakkalahalli, Hudgur, Kyadigunte, Chikkaballapur, Namagondlu celebrated the 170th Birthday of Dr. Annie Besant along with TOS programme. They distributed fruits & sweets to the patients in the Hospitals. Besides, prizes & scholarships were given to school children.

Sis. K. Parvathamma, Secretary KTF, directed Founders' Day celebration at Lakshmikanth Theosophical Lodge, Tumkur, on 17.11.2017. Bro. B. C. Narasingappa and Bro. Veeranna spoke on the contribution of H. S Olcott & Madam H. P. Blavatsky respectively and Sis. K. Parvathamma spoke about the significance of the day. Later on the meeting of the General Body was held and new office bearers were elected.

Bro. M. S. Sreedhar visited Mangalore T.S. lodge on 17 Nov and spoke about the significance of Founders' Day.

Bro. R. V. Vastrad, National Lecturer, directed a study camp at Chitradurga T. S. Lodge on 19 Nov. 2017 on the theme 'Is Theosophy a concept?' Bro. T. Rajendrappa and Bro. N. Hampanna spoke on the theme.

Sis. G. S Lalitha directed a day-long study camp at Bangarpet T. S. Lodge on 17 Nov 2017. The theme was "Towards aim". Bro. G. K. Nataraj chaired the T.O.S. programme.

Bro. B. V. Thippeswamy, President K. T. F., directed the study camp at Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge, Davangere, from 4 to 8 Nov 2017. The book taken up for study was J. K's *First and Last Freedom*.

Bro. R. V. Vastrad, Dr. L. Nagesh, Bro. M. S. Sreedhar, Prof. H. Mahalingappa. Bro. Y. A. Vasudeva, Bro. M. R. Gopal, Prof. G. B. Nagan Gowdar and Bro. H. Narayanappa spoke on the aforesaid subject. About 100 members availed the benefit of the camp.

Bro. R. V. Vastrad and Bro. Basavaraj Reddy spoke on Madam H. P. Blavatsky and H. S. Olcott on 2 August 2017 in Bellary Theosophical Society. Fifty members participated in the camp.

Sis. B. Sandhya Rani directed a day-long study camp on 20 August 2017 at Chintamani. She delivered talk on *The Secret Doctrine & Septinary*.

Sis. K. Parvathamma, Secretary K.T.F., directed a study camp at Sathyakama Theosophical Lodge of Srinivasapura on 3 Dec 2017. Bro. M. P. Venkataramanappa delivered a talk on 'Karmayoga'. Sis. K. Parvathamma spoke on 'Jnana Yoga' and Sis. R. Madhavi, delivered a talk on *Jnana Vignana Yoga*. Later on the General Body meeting was conducted and new office bearers were elected. About 100 members participated in the camp.

Bro. G. Dakshina Murthy, Vice-President, KTF, conducted study classes on *Thought Power & Its Control* on every Monday in the month of November & December in B'lore City Lodge.

Bro. H. Mahalingappa is conducting study class on *Text book of Theosophy* on every Tuesday in the Bangalore City Lodge.

Bro. M. S. Sreedhar is conducting study class on Masters' Letters in the B'lore City Lodge on every Wednesday & Saturday.

Sis. K. Parvathamma conducts study classes on *First Principles of Theosophy* on every Friday in the Bangalore City Lodge.

Kerala

The 88th Annual Conference of Kerala Theosophical Federation was held on 18 and 19 November, 2017, at Triprayar, Trichur Dist. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. R. Revati of Adyar at Laxmi Prabha Auditorium, Triprayar, on 18 November 2017. Dr. M.A. Raveendran, K.T.F President, presided. The theme of the conference was '**Universal Brotherhood without distinction of any kind- A revolution in**

consciousness'. The programme commenced with Universal Prayer and Bro. K. Dinakaran Secy. K.T.F welcomed the delegates. He also read out the greetings received from the International President Bro. Tim Boyd, Bro. Pradeep Gohil, GS Indian Section, Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra Jt. Gen. Secy., Indian Section, and other eminent Theosophists from various Federations in India and abroad. Dr. M.A. Raveendran in his Presidential address said that it is the scientists who now discuss more about the 'consciousness'. As far as the psychological equivalent of consciousness is concerned, the one consciousness appears like many which is called arithmetic paradox by Schrodinger, the particle physicist. Man in his evolutionary peak stage has a potential for a continuity of consciousnesses which evades death. It is the *sumum bonum* of occult training. Dr. Revati in her inaugural speech said- "it is her duty to be present in a conference like this when she is invited. The revolution which will take place in the coming millennium will be in the consciousness, which can be said as a shift from the personality oriented selfish person to a higher mental and intuitionally centred individuality, which represents advanced humanity".

On 19th morning, the programme commenced with *Bharat Samaj Pooja* conducted by Dr. M.A. Raveendran who briefly explained the significance of the *pooja*. The morning session commenced with Dr. Viswakumar's talk on '**Our relationship with Invisible beings**'. Bro. B.N. Nair, Vice -President K.T.F., spoke on '**Evolution in Consciousness**'. Bro. M.G.K. Nair spoke on '**An Introduction to Man and his consciousness**'. Bro. P. Krishnan Nambiar of Kalikadavu presided over this session.

In the second session Bro. T.S. Usman spoke on '**The Way of Self Knowledge**'. Bro. S. Sivadas' subject of talk was '**Unity of Consciousness**'. Bro. P.N. Suresh Babu's talk was on '**The Laws of Higher Life**' and Bro. K. Dinakaran, Secy. K.T.F, spoke on '**Self Consciousness**'. Bro. Prabhakaran of Trichur Lodge chaired this session.

Members from various lodges in Kerala attended the conference. There was an exhibition- cum- sale of books from Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar and a good number of books were sold out.

ARADHANA LODGE, THALAYAZHAM, VAIKOM, FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The first anniversary of the Aradhana Lodge, Vaikom was

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celebrated on 12 August 2017. This is the youngest lodge in Kerala Federation formed in June 2016. The members meet twice a week and have discussion on Theosophical subjects. The anniversary coincided with the 100th TS meeting of the Lodge. The programme commenced with lighting of the lamp by Bro. V. Sriram, one of the senior members of K.T.F. and patron of the Lodge. Members observed a few minutes of silence in Meditation.

Dr. M.A. Raveendran, President, K.T.F., sent his message and greetings for the meeting.

Meeting commenced with Universal Prayer and Dr. N.N.Sudhakaran, Lodge's President presided. Bro. Mohanan welcomed the members and guests. Sis. Soumya, Lodge Secretary, presented the report of the Lodge for the year and the same was approved. Bro. K. Dinakaran, Secy. K.T.F, inaugurated the meeting. He explained the world situation when Theosophical Society was formed in 1875. He also emphasised on the relevance of the Three Declared Objects in the modern world and detailed the uniqueness of the Theosophical teachings.

After the inaugural session there was a discussion on the Objects of the Theosophical Society. Br. S. Sivadas led the discussion in which members actively participated. In the post-lunch session Bro. V. Sriram spoke on **The Three Great Truths**. Sis. Sitalakshmi also expressed her views on the subject. Bro. Dharmaraj spoke on the **Message and Leela of Lord Krishna** and its hidden meaning. Bro. Rajappan, Vice-President of the lodge, gave vote of thanks and then the meeting concluded with Shanti Mantra.

M.P. & Rajasthan

A brief report of the 93rd Convention of the M.P. & Rajasthan Theosophical Federation:

The Vikram Lodge of the Theosophical Society, Ujjain, hosted the 93rd Convention of the M.P. & Rajasthan Federation on 11 and 12 November, 2017. The theme of the convention was 'The Theosophical Life'

It was attended by 50 delegates of different Lodges of M.P. & Rajasthan Federation and some non-members. Board and lodging arrangements were made in the Vikram Lodge's campus. Bro. V. Narayanan,

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Treasurer of the Indian Section of the Theosophical Society, was the chief guest. Sis. Avantika Mehta and Bro. A.P. Lokhande, National Lecturers of the Indian Section, were the guest speakers.

On the first day, the inaugural session started with the prayers of all religions and universal prayer. The convention was inaugurated by Bro. V. Narayanan who gave a thought provoking talk on the theme 'The Theosophic Life' and expressed its need in the present time. Sis. Kamal Mahnot, President of M.P. & Rajasthan Federation, welcomed the chief guest, the speakers and the delegates and gave a brief history of the Lodge which has completed 100 years of its existence this year. The representatives of different Lodges offered their greetings.

Dr. A.C. Gulhati, convener of the convention, said: On this occasion I welcome all of you and wish for a successful and meaningful gathering. As HPB said: "We should aim at creating free men and women, free intellectually, free morally, unprejudiced in all respects and above all things, unselfish".

In the afternoon session short talks were delivered on 'Theosophy and the Theosophical Society and analysis'. Four delegates expressed their views. The participants were: Sri Babulal from Jodhpur, Dr. A.C. Gulhati of Ujjain, Shri Sanat Kumar from Ratlam and Dr. Ashok Kaul of Ujjain. Sis. Avantika Mehta delivered a public lecture on "A journey: Parbrahm to Man" which was well attended.

On the second day Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed, followed by a demonstration on Yoga. Bro. Lokhande delivered a talk on "*Theosophy main manav jeevan ka laksh*". Sis. Avantika Mehta presided over this session. The General Council meeting of the members of the M.P. & Rajasthan Federation was held in which matters related to the working of the federation were discussed. The representatives of different Lodges shared their views about the convention. Bro. O.P. Garg, Secretary, Vikram Lodge and Bro. A.C. Gulhati convener of the convention gave vote of thanks. The convention came to a close with a short speech by the president of M.P. & Rajasthan Federation.

Royalaseema

Vasistha Theosophical Lodge celebrated the 170th birth anniversary of Dr. Annie Besant on 1st October 2017 with much devotion and

enthusiasm. Dr. D.V. G. Krishna, President of the Lodge, presided over the meeting. He stressed the need to motivate the students and teachers of the high schools about the objects of the Theosophical Society and the services rendered by Dr. Annie Besant and other great leaders. Dr. P. Krishnamurthy, Lodge Secretary, explained in brief the various services rendered by Dr. Besant in the field of education, social service, and freedom struggle, apart from Theosophy. He mentioned about the number of books and pamphlets written by Dr. Besant. Bro. Srinivas Prasad gave vote of thanks.

The following activities were held at Secunderabad Lodge between October and December, 2017.

Bro. Pradeep H. Gohil, General Secretary of the Indian Section, visited the Lodge on 23 October. He appreciated the members' devotion and dedication toward TS' work. The President of the Lodge Bro. Durga Prasad and Secretary Bro. P. Parasuram presented memento to the General Secretary.

Bro. A. Krishan Mohan Rao gave a talk at the Lodge on the occasion of the Foundation Day of TS (17 November).

The Lodge celebrated its 136th Charter Day on December 25. On this occasion, Bro. K.V.L. Kantha Rao of Hyderabad Lodge gave a detailed report regarding the history of Secunderabad Lodge. Besides, he emphasized on the need of young people for the propagation of Theosophy and the work of the TS.

Apart from the aforesaid activities, the members of the Lodge meet on four days in every week for theosophical study. Bharat Samaj Pooja is performed on every Sunday.

Telugu

Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, which was started by Madam H.P. Blavatsky and Col. H.S. Olcott in May 1882 hosted the National Seminar from 3 to 5 November 2017. The theme of the seminar was 'Progress of Humanity lies in the growth of the Soul'.

On the 1st day of the seminar the welcome speeches were given by Prof K.V. Raju, President of Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge and Dr. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy, President of Royalaseema Theosophical Federa-

tion. As Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra, Joint General Secretary, Indian Section, TS, who had worked out the whole programme couldn't come due to serious eye trouble, the theme was presented by Bro .G.V.L.N. Sanjeeva Rao, former president of Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge. Then Prof. C.A. Shinde, National Lecturer, delivered a talk on 'The three worlds of human evolution'.

In session I, 'Divine Plan and Ancient Wisdom' was the sub-theme. Bro. R.V. Vastrad, of Bellary, spoke on 'Ancient wisdom and evolution of Consciousness' Then Dr. L. Nagesh, National Lecturer, gave a talk on 'Expansion of consciousness-key for inner growth'. In session II, Bro. B.D. Tendulkar, National Lecturer, elaborated on the topic 'Ancient wisdom-key to human progression towards perfection'. After a break, Bro N.C. Krishna, Secretary, Rayalaseema Theosophical Federation expressed his views on 'The real growth of Humanity'.

On the second day, in session- I, Professor CA Shinde spoke about 'Retreating within and advancing boldly without'. Then Dr. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy addressed the gathering on 'Spirituality of Humanity'. After a break, Bro. B.D. Tendulkar spoke on 'Journey of the Soul for Spiritual unfoldment' Then Dr. L. Nagesh expressed his views on 'Humanity at cross roads-How can I be a part of solution'

In the post-lunch session 'Soul Wisdom-True measure of growth' was the topic of Bro. N.C. Krishna. After tea-break, time for short talks were given on 'Who is growing' and the speakers were: Bro. M. Kodanda Rama Rao, Secretary, Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge, Dr. Ch.V. Prasada Rao, Vice President, Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge and Bro. G. Sathish Suryanarayana, member, Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge, Guntur.

On Nov. 5, after Bharat Samaja Pooja, young students from Vignan Pharmacy College, a local college, presented their views on the topic 'Why education is the key to development' Then Mr. Ch. Devadasu, Asst. Prof., Vignan Pharmacy College delivered talk on 'Education and its values'. After that Bro. K.V.L. Kantha Rao, former Secretary, Rayalaseema Theosophical Federation, spoke on 'The spirit of education and spiritual education'

In the concluding session, short talks on 'How Service is helping the Humanity' were delivered by Bro. K. Siva Prasad, National Secretary, T.O.S.in India, Dr. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy and Prof. K.V. Raju. Then the seminar closed formally.

Delegates from Kerala, Tamilnadu, Rayalaseema, Telugu and other federations participated in the seminar and expressed their satisfaction regarding its proceedings. One salient feature appreciated by all was the hospitality given to all delegates by the members of Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge, Guntur.

Sri K. Narasimha Rao, former International Treasurer of Theosophical Society, Adyar, graced the seminar and gave valuable guidance.

Utkal

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri, Secretary of Pragya Lodge, Lucknow, and National Lecturer, conducted a study camp on the book "A Study in Consciousness" by Annie Besant at Cuttack on 11-13 November 2017. Mrs Vasumati Agnihotri, Federation Lecturer of U.P., took two sessions in the aforesaid study camp on 'Emotions and holistic health by harmonising with nature'. Besides, she delivered a lecture on Emotions at Utkal theosophical headquarters at Bhubaneswar on 16 November 2017.

Uttar Pradesh

Nirvan Lodge, Agra, organized a colloquium on Theosophy on 5 October 2017. The participants who expressed their views on the topic were Dr. Harish Sharma, Bro. Shyam Kumar Sharma, Dr. A.B. Pandey and Dr. H.K. Upadhyay. The other programmes held in October were a talk by Dr. Rathore on 'Reasons of Depression: Its Cure & Impact on Society'. Dr. Pratibha explained the significance of music in human life in her talk on "Music & Spirituality".

A function was organized on 29 October 2017 by the members of two lodges at Ghaziabad to celebrate completion of twenty five years of successfully running programmes of Theosophical Society since its charter received (Charter no. 1406 at 15-10-1992, group charter No.168). Two members, who are founder members of the aforesaid two Lodges have been its presidents and continue to participate actively in the programmes, were honoured on this occasion by presenting shawl and garland.

In a meeting organized on the occasion of Dr. Annie Besant's birthday, several members expressed their views regarding her contribution in various walks of life and also about the services rendered by her as president of the TS for 26 years.

Programmes are regularly held on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the residence of the members of Besant Lodge.

The following talks/activities were organized at Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, in November: 'Who are we - Body or Soul?' by Bro. B. P. Shukla; 'Foundation Day observed- Portions of Maha Chohan's Letter and Foundation day Presidential address of Col. Olcott were read by Bro. U.S. Pandey and discussed; a talk given on "I Promise"- by C. Jinarajadasa by Bro. Ashok Gupta.

Study of the book "The Masters and the Path" was continued by a group of members of Dharma Lodge during the additional weekly meetings and study of part I and II (comprising chapters I to VI) of this book was completed.

Bro. U.S. Pandey, Federation Secretary, delivered a talk on "Science of the Soul" in the meeting of Sarvhitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur on 01 November. He also discussed administrative matters with officials of the lodge.

A workshop on "Self-Transformation by Awareness" was organized from 2 to 5 November in Praxis Vidyapeeth at Basti. About 60 students from class 8 to 11 participated. The workshop was directed by Br. U. S. Pandey. During the workshop subjects like need for self-transformation, nature of self- transformation, field of consciousness-its various components, conditioning-push buttons, abdominal breathing accompanied by awareness , removing stress/ strain in body and in emotions by this technique, simple method of meditation, three kinds of values, effective relationship, dealing with conflicts, Love- genuine love, kinds of expectations, levels in religions-their relative importance, minimizing worry, intuition-its nurturing awareness-its nurturing, nature and effects of awareness, and importance of health were covered. Besides, the elementary principles of the theosophy were also explained to the students.

On the last day of the workshop students were also told about concentration, how to enhance memory, thought power and its uses.

A question and answer session was held to clarify various points raised by the participants. The workshop was liked by the students and their teachers.

A public talk on "Art and Science of Living" was delivered by Bro. U.S. Pandey on 3 November before a group of about 150 students and their teachers in S.K.P. Inter College, Basti.

A meeting was held by Bro. U.S. Pandey with some members of Basti Lodge on 5 November when he talked about "Technique of awareness - its importance and use".

During his visit to Allahabad in November 2017, Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered talks on "Evil" and "Psychic effects on food" in the meeting of Mahila Dharm Lodge and on "Symbolism in Religious Narrations" in the meeting of Anand lodge. He also discussed administrative matters with officials of both the lodges.

Bro. Pandey explained the technique of "Awareness and Stomach breathing" for removing physical and emotional stress to a small group of senior citizens in Allahabad.

Bro. U.S. Pandey visited Sitapur on 19 November. There he delivered a public talk on "Symbolism in Religions". This was followed by a talk on "Mysteries of Life" in the meeting of Sitapur Lodge. About 25 members and a few other persons from Sitapur and Lucknow attended it. Before the talk Bro. Ravi Ratna, Secretary of Sitapur Lodge, welcomed the participants and introduced the speaker and also recited the Universal Prayer.

Bro. U.S. Pandey along with Bro. Pramil Dwivedi and three other members from Lucknow visited Kabir Shanti Satsang Ashram set up by Bro. Dwivedi in village Kamalapur (near Sitapur). In the ashram at Kamalapur a short programme for children from poor families of local village was held on Nov. 19. About 70 children of the age group 7 to 13 years attended it. After lighting the lamp, chanting of holy word "Om", recitation of Gayatri Mantra and prayer were led by Bro. Dwivedi. Then he told children about five point sutras regarding prayer, study, service, cleanliness and love. Thereafter Br. Pandey addressed the students regarding importance of prayer, how to discriminate between good and evil, and oneness in all existence, in simple language and in the light of the Theosophical teachings. He also narrated a few inspiring stories from life of Guru Nanak, Gautam Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi and Mulla Nasruddin. The children were encouraged to participate actively and

some of them also narrated inspiring stories. The programme ended with distribution of fruits to children.

A special meeting was held in Lucknow on 19 November to discuss the significance of founding the theosophical society. Members from three lodges in Lucknow participated. About 35 persons including Bro. P.K. Jaiswal, former director of studies, and Bro. K.K. Srivastava from Barabanki participated in the meeting.

The programme started with Bharat Samaj Pooja, prayers of all religions, and universal prayer. Short talks were delivered on Theosophy and Theosophical Society by Dr. Vipul Narayan, on Col. H.S.Olcott by Dr. Kusum and on H.P. Blavatsky by Mrs. Vasumati Agnihotri. Diploma to new members Ms. Jyoti Sinha and Mrs. Vidya Singh were given by Bro. P.K. Jaiswal. The programme concluded with poetry by Mrs. Urmila Srivastava.

Study of the first three chapters i.e., Physical plane, Astral plane and Kama loka of the book *The Ancient Wisdom* was undertaken by the lodge at Barabanki during its weekly meetings held in September, 2017. Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society was observed on 17 November. The life and work of H.P. Blavatsky and Col.Olcott dedicated to welfare of humanity were discussed.

The following talks were organized at Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, in December 2017- 'Wisdom of the Upanishads' by Bro. B.K. Pandey; 'Cycle of death and birth: 'Search of Path' by Bro. B.P.Shukla; 'Introduction of Theosophy' by Bro. U.S. Pandey. A group of members of Dharma Lodge continued the study of the book "The Masters and the Path" during extra weekly meetings. Study of Part III (chapters VII, VIII) & part IV (Ch.XII) was completed during the month of November.

Bro. U.S. Pandey visited Ghaziabad on 02-03 December. He delivered a talk on "Symbolism and Allegory in Religions" during a meeting of Besant Lodge on 02 December and a talk on "Nature of Self in the Upanishadas" during a meeting of Anand Lodge on 03 December. He discussed administrative matters also with officials of these two lodges.

In the afternoon of 3 December a simple function was held to inaugurate a new lodge "Prayas" in Vaishali, Ghaziabad. The inaugural

function started with recitation of Universal Prayer. The members of the new lodge introduced themselves. Some senior members from other two lodges namely Besant and Anand at Ghaziabad, one senior member each from NOIDA lodge and from Delhi Federation also joined on this occasion and they offered their greetings to the new lodge. As desired by Sis. Suverlina, Secretary of the newly formed lodge, Bro. U.S. Pandey inaugurated the new lodge and delivered a talk on "Theosophy and its practical use in daily life". The talk was followed by interaction with the participants. Four new members submitted their application forms for membership.

Indian Section Headquarters

(1) Foundation Day

A meeting to observe the 142nd Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society was held at the Section HQ, Varanasi, on 17 November, 2017. The meeting started with the Prayers of All Faiths and the Universal Prayer. It was followed by the welcome address by Bro. S. Sundaram. He mentioned in brief about some chief characteristics of the TS and then said that we should not consider such occasions as terminus or end of a journey. Keeping the general morale of the society in general and the world in view we, the members, have to carry on responsibility with greater commitment.

Two members of Kashi Tattva Sabha, Dr. Abha Srivastava and Dr. Atul Bhatnagar, were asked to speak on this occasion. The summary of their talks are given below:

While expressing her views Dr. Abha Srivastava said that life is contradiction; life cannot be defined without contradiction. In other words, we can say that life is full of dualities. Life is attached to death. Whosoever comes will go. There are joy and woe, happiness and sadness, day and night, gain and loss in life. Actually this conflict of life provokes an intelligent mind to find a way out of this situation to come to a harmonious work of living full of happiness and contentment.

The cause of our conflict is the everlasting duality of desire, the endless corridor of the opposites creating energy, greed, ambition, aggression, fear and all the rest of it. Actually conflict is the outcome of unaware mind, a mind which is inattentive. The problem is in our ap-

proach. The state of mind is far more important than the conflict itself. Our ego, our ambition, our competitive attitude enhances the conflict. The undigested knowledge, imbalance between understanding and doing, flickering attitudes towards traditional and customs succeed in creating a self-contradictory personality. Contradictions are the creation of unhealthy thinking. Selfish, narrow and sectarian outlook have created great contradictions. As such the path that leads away from truth compels one to live amidst contradictions. In order to have a life free of contradiction one has to root out self-contradiction. One has to check his baser instincts and divert his energy into a culturally higher and socially acceptable activity. One has to sublimate and check his impulses, his urges, his outlook, his passion and mental attitude. One has to create complete harmony in oneself. One has to be religious minded. Here religion stands for unity and integration and not for conflict. Words like brotherhood, friendship, relationship must be lived in their true spirit, and at last if we wish to live a conflict free life there is no other path to go than truth.

As we all know that the Motto of our society is “There is No Religion higher than Truth”, Theosophy is no other than the ancient wisdom, but to proclaim the forgotten truths. The Theosophical Society was established in 1875 in New York by H.P.B. and Colonel Olcott. Materialism & Science were at their peak, especially in west. The thinking was that, there is nothing beyond the intellect and senses for gaining knowledge. So the establishment of the TS was the need of the time. In theosophy it was clarified that all religions are the branches of one tree, as a result all can feel related to the objects of society. With an open mind, clean life and eager intellect any one can become theosophist.

There are only Three Objects of the Theosophical Society. The first to form a nucleus of universal brotherhood, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste & colour. But the question is when one brother is injuring the other, how can brotherhood work? Theosophy answers this with the second object- that study of comparative religion, philosophy & science can help us and if understood and followed in right spirit the universal brotherhood can be achieved, because all the religions share the same truth and are inculcating the same ideals of conduct in life. The third object complements the other two, it says to investigate the unexplained laws of nature & the power latent in man. In the Ritual of the Mystics Star it is beautifully stated that “There is no dankness at all but

men turn their back to His light and walk in their own shadow”, crying out it is dark.

In the personal scenario of our social and political system, which is full of corruption and disorder, it is very necessary to improve our own way of thinking and living and in this regard the theosophical points of view are very significant. Today, on the occasion of this 142nd anniversary of the Theosophical Society this is our duty to wait and watch how far we have moved with theosophy. Are we really trying to fulfil the dreams of our founders in true sense? This will be the true homage to our founders and pioneers.

Dr. Atul Bhatnagar spoke on ‘Future for The Theosophical Society’. It is suggested to go into the question what is there in store for the Theosophical Society or what is the future of the Theosophical Society? Before going into the question there arises another question ...why one is interested in trying to know what is there in future? Is it that one is bored and by searching and coming upon an answer, one gets busy and entertained in the process? Or is it that one is not satisfied with current status of the Theosophical Society and its constituent members. By posing a question regarding the future one seeks to have positive outcome; and an exalted personally satisfactory status of the society. Or one is genuinely concerned to know the necessary actions to be undertaken to wipe out existing destructive divisions and divisive ways.

In order to reach out far one needs to start with what is near. Theosophy is a wisdom religion. It's motto clearly states that there is no religion higher than truth. The very purpose of the Theosophical Society is to devote itself in its myriad activities in quest of The Truth. The Society's Founders Col. Olcott and HPB held firm conviction that the quest for Truth can be carried out on day- to- day basis by bringing around inner and outer transformation. Inner transformation of self, free of its conditioning, seeing with clarity the depth of relationships with sentient and insentient beings and entities. Seeing the interdependence of self with all that surrounds it. The self being a part of whole and whole being expressed through the self. Therefore an inner transformation does affect the other. The external transformation is to take place through right education.

The three declared Objects of the Theosophical society are precise guide to bring about inner and external transformation of self, free

of the burden of conditioning and sense of division and separateness. The first objective of forming a nucleus of Universal Brotherhood of humanity points towards Empathy and Compassion. Empathy has three levels. The first level is when one sees others' perception and accepts, their beliefs, lifestyle as also being part of the reality. The second level is to comprehend the feelings and emotions of other and immediately to feel in oneself. The third level and the deepest level is to be eager and capable of helping the other in a way which is in accordance to the person needing help. This complete process can be summarised with a phrase "To Embrace"

The second objective points towards a study of comparative religion, philosophy and science. It is not to be confused with a comparative study, which is very superficial and dwells upon differences and commonalities objects of study. The word comparative points towards the objects of study being treated at par and studied from this level. This can be denoted by a phrase, "to Engage". There is a healthy engagement with various thoughts, beliefs and facts.

The third objective indicates to the process of evolution that takes place in a learner, while going through other two objectives. The mind is open enough to have a clear insight into the unexplained laws of nature and a realisation of one's immense potential and energy till now remained hidden and untapped. This in true sense "Allows" an inner transformation of self.

In the field of external transformation, firstly the person undergoing or having undergone the inner transformation acts as a beacon to the child and youth who comes in contact with it. Secondly, such transforming/ transformed individual creates an environment whether at home or in a school, college where an impressionable young mind of a child or teenager feels secure, wanted, cared and loved. It feels the Embrace of Goodness and Compassion. Secondly the teacher interacts and Engages the child as a co-learner and not as an authority. This leads to a state which "Allows" the child and the teacher- both being learners in this common journey, to explore experiment and arrive at finding out deeper meaning of living, existence and Love.

Both the talks were very much liked and appreciated by the members and the guests. Extending vote of thanks to the two speakers on the occasion of 'Foundation Day' of the TS, Smt. Uma Bhattacharyya summarized the views expressed by them. Emphasizing on the points

put forward by the speakers, she re-iterated that it is only through creating internal harmony we can liberate ourselves from the contradictions which are ailing the human mind. Subtle linking of three Objects of T.S. by the speakers, she maintained that they provided the gathering a clear insight into the depths of the Theosophical objectives. She applauded the speakers for enlightening the audience by their inspiring and thought-provoking views.

(2) Support Convention

The Support Convention on the 142nd International Convention's theme "From Teachings to Insight: The Altruistic Heart" was held in the Annie Besant Hall at the Indian Section Headquarters, Varanasi, on December 31, 2017 and on January 5, 2018 at 5.30 PM, preceded by tea for members and invited guests. An all enthralling first lecture on the theme was delivered by Smt. Manju Sundaram, a senior member of the Theosophical Society. Prof. Sushila Singh, Emeritus Professor, BHU, delivered the second lecture.

On December 31 the programme began by Universal Prayer. Sri S. Sundaram, in his Welcome Address introduced the theme of the International Convention. He traced the history of organizing International Convention and mentioned that upto 1989 all days of the Convention (held at Adyar) were followed with a Support Convention at the Indian Section Headquarters in Varanasi.

Smt. Manju Sundaram presented in her talk an inspiring discourse on the theme. Life begins with teachings, with *pathshala*. But this is not just school education, she said. The very creation, in fact, every atom in that creation becomes a book – teaching for man to learn and grow from. Life teachings are ingrained in the scriptures, works of litterateurs. Real teachings lead to insight – understanding of inner nature of things – not what one sees on the surface. From insight comes, knowledge, wisdom, and inner awakening. Inner feeling starts unfolding the divine design of things. Everything, all happenings are caused by divine design. Because Truth is immutable, in God's creation nothing is without purpose.

When one understands Divine scheme of things then one reaches the level of insight. There is inter-connectedness and interdependence in everything. From this originate feelings for fellow beings – sense of

oneness dawns. This is what love is. This is the altruistic heart. In small measures, little things, life can be perfect – love and joy can be found. One, who dreams, envisions, only he can be a revolutionary. From thought emerges insight – wisdom – awakening.

Prof. Atul Bhatnagar (BHU), Vice-President of Kashi Tattva Sabha, proposed the vote of thanks and said in his concluding remarks that teachings are pointers. Even when teachers are long gone their teachings remain with us as pointers.

The second lecture of the Support Convention was delivered by Prof. Sushila Singh on January 5, 2018. She focused on the idea of altruistic heart and its different connotations in philosophical and ethical thought. Discussing religious viewpoints she mentioned Mother Teresa in Christianity, karm yoga in Bhagavad Gita, advaita scholar Swami Sivananda, Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo.

Generating from perfect sympathy with the other, altruism is located in the Brotherhood of Humanity, its sure foundation being the spiritual planes – *atmic* and *buddhic*. She referred to Annie Besant's analysis of the intellect as separation principle – separating "I" from the "Not-I". Its very nature is self-assertive, seeing itself as different from others. Annie Besant says it is here that we find the root of separateness, ever-springing source of divisions among men.

As one reaches the *buddhic* plane, unity is felt and the heart becomes altruistic, sees all beings as his own self and wishes to give away everything in love. Weakness he sees as the need for protection, not an opportunity for oppression. Annie Besant believed one becomes wise by love, recognizing Universal Brotherhood leads in practicality pure and higher nature of man. Thus, Brotherhood is not made, it exists and anyone who opposes the laws of Nature is crushed. Everything breaks into pieces which are not in harmony with Nature. The conviction behind the thought is that this universe is an expression of spiritual forces, guiding, moulding energies pervading all things.

Referring to the International President of TS, Tim Boyd's article "Radha's Contribution" published in Radha S. Burnier, Commemoration Volume, Sushila Singh mentioned about a sense of connection with the

surroundings and people there. Radha ji lived this life of undivided consciousness. Because of this largeness of consciousness in Radha ji, Tim Boyd carries the memory of his two-minute meeting with her to this day even after forty years. Because of her largeness of spirit, in other words her generosity of spirit, anyone who met her felt expanded. This is altruistic heart – a result of perfect self-discipline practiced over many lives.

Referring to B. Sanjiva Rao's *Letters of Wisdom*, she said that each individual has to realize the truths of the spiritual life for himself. The truth of Love and Beauty cannot be experienced second-hand. Intense desire to heal the sorrow and suffering of people is the essence of the life of Bodhisatva. Love when free from self-love is as universal and blessed as the Light of the Sun. Sanjiva Rao says, Love is the only virtue. All virtues derive from Love – spontaneously flow from it – kindness, patience, generosity, forgiveness etc. Human beings suffer because of lack of love – for God is Love.

Prof. Singh concluded by quoting Annie Besant, "Love is that Immortal Flame in whose Light one can perceive Truth. In the warmth of this Immortal Flame all the defects and vices flower into Shivam and Sundaram i.e., Welfare and Beauty." And, Swami Vivekananda, "Where can we go to find God if we cannot see Him in our own hearts and in every living being."

The Support Convention concluded with a summing up and vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Atul Bhatnagar.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2018
As approved by the Indian Section Council on
4/1/2018

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The Indian Section Council in its meeting dt. 04.1.2018 has elected Bro. V. Narayanan unanimously as Treasurer of the Indian Section, The Theosophical Society, Varanasi, for the year 2018-2019.

HIMALAYAYN STUDY CENTRE BHOWALI SUMMER PROGRAMME OF STUDY CAMPS — 2018

Sr.	Date and Details	Dormitory	Old Rooms	Deluxe Rooms
	No. of Programme	6 persons	20 persons	24 persons
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.	13 April to 19 April 2018 Indian Section's Study Camp on "GLIMPSES INTO THE SECRET DOCTRINE" by Bro. U.S. Pandey	3600	4000	4400
2.	22 April to 28 April 2018— STUDY CLASS BY RAYALASEEMA THEOSOPHICAL FED. [BOOK for the STUDY— "THE KEY TO THEOSOPHY" by HP BLAVATSKY. The resource persons are Bro A. I Basavaraja Reddy, Bro. N C Krishna and others. The proceedings will be in Telugu)	3600	4000	4400
3.	04 May to 13 May 2018 Karnataka Federation's Study Class on 'Furthering of JK's Teachings' Director- Bro. B.V. Thippeswamy and others.	4500	5000	5500
4.	From 16-17 May, 2018 UTTARAKHAND STUDY CLASS — Free for the Members of Lodges under State Uttarakhand only.			
5.	From 19-23 MAY, 2018 STUDY CLASS for the members of EAST ZONE TS (Federation like Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Utkal and Country Bangladesh) Book for study SELF CULTURE IN THE LIGHT OF ANCIENT WISDOM by I K Taimni; Co-ordinator- Pradip Mahapatra. Resource persons- Bro. Bipul Sharma two others.	2700	3000	3300
6.	From 25-27 May, 2018 YOUTH CAMP Directors- Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri and Sis. Varsha Patel	1800	2000	2200

7. From 29-31 May, 2018
TOS INDIA Camp 1800 2000 2200

a) Members who want to attend the programme should remit the amount given above latest by 28.2.2018 by cheque or transfer in the name of Indian Section, Theosophical Society, Varanasi in Vijaya Bank, SB A/c No. 718301010005045, IFSC Code VIJB0007183.

The rate includes afternoon tea, coffee and dinner on the day prior to the camp and breakfast & lunch on the day after the camp. Any extra stay will be subject to availability will be charged separately. The amount is based on Dormitory bed for Rs. 100/day, Old Room bed for Rs. 150/day and Deluxe bed for Rs. 200/day. Food will be charged at Rs. 350/day.

- b) Members having any physical problem and requiring any special attention should write to us about it along with the application.
- c) We have 6 beds in the Dormitory, 20 beds in the Old Rooms and 24 beds in the Deluxe Rooms. We cannot accommodate more than 50 persons.
- d) Accommodation will be on “first pay first serve” basis.
- e) For any further information kindly contact Mr. V. Narayanan, Treasurer of the Indian Section, at 09793888596.

Pradeep H. Gohil
General Secretary

SOUTH INDIA CONFERENCE

The 95th South India Theosophical Conference of the Indian Section will be held at the International Headquarters, Adyar, Chennai from 30.03.2018 to 01.04.2018. The subject will be “**THE ILLUMINATION MUST COME FROM WITHIN**”. Sister B. Sandhya Rani is appointed as Co-ordinator of South India Conference. The members of the Theosophical Society [TS] in good standing are welcome to attend as delegates, and are requested to study following books:

The Masters and the Path, By C.W. Leadbeater.
Teachings on Discipleship, By S.S. Varma
Inner Government of the World, By Annie Besant
Path of Discipleship, By Annie Besant
The way of the Disciple, By Clara M. Codd
The Charges per delegate are as follows—

1. Registration Fees Rs. 150/- and Accommodation at Bhojanasala and New Quadrangle will be provided free of cost.
2. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner will be arranged at the Leadbeater Chamber [LBC] dining hall. You are requested to write to the Superintendent, LBC, for the necessary arrangements. Bills can be settled at the time of departure. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be available at Rs. 30, Rs. 60 and Rs. 60 respectively. The amount must be paid in advance by 15-03-2018.
3. Delegates wishing to register are requested to send cheque for Rs. 150/- favouring “Treasurer, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai.
4. Delegates will have to provide information of the date of arrival, date of departure, contact number and details of Lodge membership. The membership form is attached separately.
5. All correspondence regarding Registration should be addressed to Bro. Jaykumar, The SOUTH INDIA CONFERENCE OFFICER C/o The International Secretary’s Office, Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai.
6. For accommodation at LBC, delegates will have to write to the Superintendent, LBC, Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai – 600 020.
7. For any clarification or for booking accommodation through email, you may write to the following email id ; acco.hq@ts-adyar.org
8. Last date for receipt of the application at Adyar is 15.03.2018.
9. In the event of cancellation, there would be no refund of registration fees.

Pradeep H. Gohil
General Secretary
The Indian Section

**94th SOUTH INDIA CONFERENCE
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA**

1. Name: Mr/Mrs.....
2. Nationality:.....3. Date of Birth.....
4. Address
5. E-Mail:.....
6. Phone/Mobile Number:.....
7. Occupation (if retired, former occupation):.....
8. Date of Joining the T.S.....9. Diploma No.....
10. Section / Federation / Lodge to which attached and whether now in good standing as a member:.....
11. Proposed duration of stay in Adyar:

From:To:

12. Details of person(s) accompanying:-

Sl.	Name	Age	Member (Y/N)	Relationship

13. Special Request, if any:
14. Recommended by

Signature

Signature of applicant:

Date: