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*Editor*

**PRADEEP H. GOHIL**

## A STEP FORWARD

The year 2014 saw a new International President at the Theosophical Society in Adyar. Even though he was very careful in making changes, they inevitably took place and they were undoubtedly for the better. Similarly, after I took over as the General Secretary, a number of changes have been seen at the Indian Section - good or bad, I will let you be the judge. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said “change is the only constant in life”. He believed that permanence is an illusion and that everything lives in a process of constant change. Think about it – change is seen in the natural worlds’ transformations as well as its transition from season to season; change occurs among people who transform – both physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and even spiritually – every single day of their lives; and change is seen in civilization, politics, thought, art, sports, geography and economy, etc., in just about every aspect of the modern world. The word “change” refers to an act or instance of making or becoming different – such as history’s change, or transition from a nomadic to an agricultural society. If this notion is valid, then why does it seem that so many people are resistant to change? It is a tough question to answer. Unfortunately, people perceive change in different ways. Some believe change is always for the better, while others think otherwise and keep on doing the same things.

Consider all the changes in a person’s life. A person is born a small baby, he lives and grows, then one day becomes old and decrepit, and he ultimately dies. It is the natural order of things, but no one wants to get old, suffer and die. So naturally, people do things to resist this big change, only to finally come to terms that they, like all living things, must wither away into a state of nothingness.

People willingly and deliberately do things to go against the grain of aging, such as avoiding unhealthy lifestyle choices and getting plastic surgery in order to convince themselves they are further away from old age and death than they actually are. But avoiding the natural changes of

life only adds more suffering, creating a deep feeling that one is not being true to oneself and not living according to the natural order of the world. This, in turn, creates inner turmoil, as one’s resistance to change does more harm than good. Change is an indispensable part of our lives, so people should accept this fact and try to learn how to tackle it rather than avoid it. Nonetheless, humanity as a whole is resistant to change. Heraclitus should have said “the resistance to change is the only constant in life”.

We all seek security, something to hold on to. We don’t like to be shaken up. We want everything to be permanent – and there is no such thing, really. We fear change, which is in fact the only constant reality. Change is inevitable, necessary and wonderful not only in terms of the external point of view, but, far more important, from an internal point of life also. We are never the same, even from one second to the next.

We never look at anything the same way for very long, our view, our viewpoint continually changes. Even when contemplating God and reflecting on our relationship to God, our conception tomorrow will be different from what it is today. We are forever unfolding, growing from our experiences. And as we grow by necessity we change. We gain deeper insight, deeper understanding. With it comes new projections and different ways of looking at things.

Nothing is that firmly steadfast or stationary – absolutely nothing!! This is where we falter, because we want everything to be permanent, in order to fit into something we can grasp and hold on to. There is an old saying that says: “never throw away the dirty water until you have clean water”. Well, how in the world are you going to put clean water in a pail when it is still full of dirty water? You have got to empty it first in order to make room for the clean water. That is the kind of job that has to be done in our thinking. Change does not happen when circumstances improve. It happens when we decide to improve our circumstances and act accordingly. Let us bring change in our feeling. Start loving each other. Spread love wherever you go. Challenge yourself every day to do better and be better. Remember growth starts with a change – with a decision to move beyond your present circumstances. Your relationship with the world is determined solely by your relation-

ship with yourself in relation to how you accept change.

What is required is a thorough spiritual house cleaning, and that is not easy. We cling to what we think we know. We are frightened of that which we don't know. We are either in the past with our fears, or we are projecting a future based on those very fears. Not only do we misuse the now, we are not even here. Mostly we are in the 'there' and 'then'. When you can decondition yourself, and learn to accept change, the loosening up process begins. But it is not easy to shed all our preconceptions and preconditioning. Total detachment is a very difficult thing. Yet we must all come to it sooner or later, if not in this life, in subsequent ones.

A total transformation of self cannot be forced. It comes about through giving in, letting go. Acquiescing, rather than opposing. Accepting rather than resisting. This again is not easy. Let us just remember that change is in the very nature of being. Every new day is different from the previous day. Growth of trees, revolving of planets, coming and going of tides, changing of the course of a river like the Saraswati and on and on prove that. The great insight of the enlightened Lord Buddha was that everything that is, will change and the changed will change further. Hence one must neither get attached to joy because that will pass away; nor get depressed with sorrow because that too will pass away. Nothing is permanent in this world.

Perhaps people are afraid of change and its implications for good reasons. They work hard both professionally and personally, to get the hang of it. Then comes along a big change, a departure from what was previously seen and understood as normal, and it is hard to accept. Change makes for new challenges, for different ways of doing things and it creates a disruption in the normal way of living of most people. It seems logical that a person can avoid much suffering in life if they take on a perspective that includes accepting change – and just going with the flow of life. It is better that way. It has to be. If we remain in step with life, accept changes as they come, then it will be a giant step forward in our lives.

*TIM BOYD*

## **ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBERS**

I HAVE been thinking about that moment when I joined the Theosophical Society (TS) many years ago, and reminding myself about the feelings and hopes I had at that time, because joining the TS requires some thought, it is not something that you do casually.

So as a result of your own thought, feelings, and silence, you make a choice. The choice is: "I will be a part of something — the theosophical movement, the Theosophical Society." Each of you has certain ideas, maybe expectations, of what lies ahead. This is a wonderful thing, but also it is something that you will continually have to re-examine within yourself.

What is it that you are looking for in this association with the TS? For some of you there might be the idea that you are joining because it is a continuation of a family pattern. For generations, perhaps, there have been members of the family who have been associated with this movement, and now it is something that you think "I can take on"; that is one view.

For others there might be the idea that somehow you have glimpsed something that speaks about a deeper potential, that is possible for you to realize. Maybe you have been around people that when you look at them you can see that they have some sense of peace or equanimity in them, and you wonder "Maybe this Theosophy has something to do with it", and, if so, it is something that you want to be a part of; that is another way of seeing it.

One of the things that always becomes clear is that, as new members, you take a step today that leads you toward tomorrow; this is a long process. In order for someone to even have an interest, to have the

sense that there is something of value to be found in this Theosophical Society, there has to have been a long process that has taken place not just in this lifetime, but in many lifetimes, bringing you closer and closer to your own association with Truth.

But now there is the moment when you make the conscious decision that you *will* proceed in this way, and this is a *very* important step, because now it is not just something that has been bubbling beneath the surface, it is something that you have decided and you commit yourself to act. This commitment has a powerful influence. What you will find is that with commitment come opportunities as well as challenges which otherwise would not have arisen. You will also find that as you are able to meet those challenges, something grows inside of you.

One of the things very peculiar to this theosophical movement is that it was *not* developed and founded by ordinary people. Our founders were great people: Henry S. Olcott, Helena P. Blavatsky, and a whole lineage of great members. But the actual movement of the TS was founded by great beings — the Masters of the Wisdom — who have always stood behind this movement. So in a very real sense, in making a connection with this movement, we make a connection with those great beings as well.

One of the things I was told when joining the Theosophical Society was that in doing so we become a link in a golden chain that stretches throughout humanity; each one of us is a link. So we both draw from others around us, and we also add to the strength of those who are around us. In our theosophical life we often find that a lot of what we do is done while we are alone. Sometimes it is possible to feel a sense of isolation that we are labouring and moving alone against a current in this world. But always behind and beneath there is a support that we can avail ourselves of; we can always tap into it. This particular moment, when we welcome our new members, is focused on that.

This is a moment when not just the new members and the international President meet. It is when other members of the TS surround

you so that you can know that now, and in every moment to come, you are supported by individuals, but more importantly you are supported by a Wisdom Tradition. The more deeply and sincerely that you contact that presence, the more profound will be your influence in the world around you and the support that flows to you. That is why we are here to congratulate you on the step you have chosen to take.

We are also here to remind you that not just in this moment, but in all moments going forward, there is a group of supportive co-pilgrims on the Path. We are here to help you to build for yourselves the future that comes from making this very important choice. So we welcome you.

At many meetings that you *will be* attending in the future, there is an invocation which is said, a Universal Prayer written by Annie Besant, which expresses the universal sense of the divine and ever-present support for each and every one of you. I will say it first, and then I will ask all of you to stand and recite it together. This Universal Prayer speaks to three things that are hidden, unseen but ever-active within each and every one of us. First: “O hidden life, vibrant in every atom.”

Second, there is a light that also has a power, it is always present, but it is hidden, not just in us, but in *everything*. As you become able to see more clearly, you find that it is present in everything. At a certain point in our unfoldment it ceases to be hidden: “O hidden light, shining in every creature.” How often are we able to see this? *Everything* that exists comes into being through this hidden life, this hidden light.

So we say this Universal Prayer in order to tune our minds and our hearts to look for it: the hidden light that is *always* shining in every creature. Very often in our day-to-day circumstances we find ourselves faced with “problem people”. Sometimes it is difficult to acknowledge that just as there is a rose, there is a thorn, and that the same source creating the rose, creates the thorn. In order to see that and to act accordingly, there is this emphasis on the hidden light that is shining in every creature.

And third: “O hidden love, embracing all in oneness.” Very often we use the word “spirituality”. The whole basis of spirituality is oneness — the recognition, acknowledgement, and experience of oneness. Everything that relates to unity and unifying is based on love. Love, at whatever level we experience it, unites us. If it is just with our beloved friends, our husbands, our wives, there is a union that takes place. But the hidden love that animates the universe is the one that stands behind every form of life; it embraces everything equally in oneness.

This is the Universal Prayer. You will hear it, will say it, and ideally at some point will find yourself actually meditating on it and deepening it, driving its seed more and more deeply into your consciousness. With that, it will come to life; if you nourish the seed, it will come to life. And as with any seed, it has its own growth pattern, its own direction. Your role is to nourish it and tend it, to allow its life-giving force to come to the fore.

So I will ask all of us to please stand and we can recite “O Hidden Life”:

O hidden Life, vibrant in every atom;

O hidden Light, shining in every creature;

O hidden Love, embracing all in Oneness;

May all who feel themselves as one

with Thee,

Know they are therefore one

with every other.

(Courtesy: *The Theosophist*, August, 2019)

SONAL MURALI\*

## Living Theosophy\*\*

The Theosophical Society was not merely founded to bring a new ideology to the world or to become an academic body solely occupied with the metaphysical questions whether from the Eastern or Western traditions. Maha Chohan has said in his letter that part of the endeavour of the Theosophical Society and a major part is to influence the ethics and the values of the world in which we live. The best way to do this would be to have influence on the very building blocks of every choice that we make, if they are all value driven, which in turn would impact all our actions.

The words used by the Maha Chohan are that it is time that Theosophy should enter the arena. He refers to mankind as ‘the Poor Orphan Humanity’. What was said in 1882, is more stark today than ever. Poor not only in terms of impoverished in thought but how we have limited this immeasurable life into a single-dimension to serve self-interest.

Life is dynamic and full of subtleties but the kind of narrowing of life and living that the current generation is experiencing, is aptly and metaphorically described by Herbert Marcuse in his book, *One Dimensional Man in a One Dimensional Society*. The concept of ‘one-dimensional man’ asserts that other dimensions of human existence have been eliminated. And Maha Chohan’s words, ‘the poor orphan humanity’ come to mind.

What must we do in order to move in the direction of what Maha Chohan implied which is to influence the ethics and the values of the world and to see that every choice made is value driven. The real change

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\*\*A talk given at the South Zone Conference, Kerala Federation, Alleppey, on 29 July 2018.

has to take place at the individual level. When that happens, we can truly live on earth and treat earth's resources in the spirit of custodianship. We can live with a truly global outlook of a world without any frontiers, without borders, not limited or confined by boundaries or ideologies, where equality would reign supreme, where man would treat another man and all living creatures and bounties of nature with respect.

Theosophy has given to the world immensely valuable literature on man and his place in the universe and the interconnectedness and interdependence of everything. Lot of what Theosophy stated has become now a mainstream thought among environmentalists and social thinkers with a deep undeniable realization that one cannot remain isolated anymore. To know this to be true at a deeper level will actually bring about a fundamental change in ourselves where we give more than we receive; lead an altruistic way of life; and treat other living beings with respect and in the spirit of elder brothers.

Peter Wohlleben says in his book, *The Hidden Life of Trees* that there is no isolated tree in a forest as they truly take care of each other. Trees have a huge network below the ground which he calls, the Wood Wide Web. Through roots and fungus, messages and nutrients are passed on to support the weaker ones and guard against common problems. For example, if they are in danger of getting infested by a certain caterpillar, they would release a pheromone which will attract a predator of the caterpillar. And that is how a healthy happy forest is created. When we enter such a place where all the trees live in unity, a kind of benediction is felt and we come out rejuvenated. Something changes in us in a small manner.

To lead an altruistic way of life in the spirit of the elder brother would require a lot from us. Today there is the largest divide between the haves and the have nots. Wealth is owned by corporates. In India, recently a data was released that 1% of the population own 70% of the wealth and on the other hand, there is starvation, people living in abject poverty devoid of dignity. The Maha Chohan's words come to the mind, 'Poor Orphan Humanity'.

We are also the only species on earth, that is involved most part of each day and life in general, in making living comfortable. We use most resources and spend large part of our lives in building houses and buying luxury items for ourselves. Self-interest at the cost of larger good has become the mainstay.

There is a constant compulsion and a social need to 'fit in'. Progressive thinkers have said that this will result in an existential challenge 'of becoming'. Because a feature of modernity is to have always something new and different. Modern society has been called 'liquid society', liquid has no shape, there is no 'final state of perfection' – and we are constantly living with this feeling of 'incompleteness'. As whatever we do is not good enough for society. Social media assists in self-manipulation of our individuality and family happiness. Sharing our happy moments with others as they are happening is a new trend. And slowly what others approve of, starts dictating us, life starts becoming fake, there is no joy of being in the present moment but one starts living that is orchestrated by what is the desirable model on social media.

Ours is also the society where depression is a growing trend, and can claim to have young people, who should be so full of vitality, resorting to commit suicides all over the world. Umberto Eco, an Italian philosopher, says that the problems remain invisible to people born within that society. We are living in times of unbridled individualism. There is an upheaval in ideological values and we face crises of different kinds. With the nature of this liquid society today, it is not easy to find a pole star to guide us and lead us to light. Theosophy can become that pole star. It can become the touchstone to identify false from the true.

Theosophy is replete with 'sutras' on how to live. It exhorts us to give more than we receive; to lead a deeply altruistic way of life and have a deep and abiding respect for all living beings and for life itself. When this happens, there would naturally be a spirit of custodianship and a truly global outlook that can bring about a world without any frontiers or borders, not limited or confined by boundaries or ideologies, founded on equality, where man would treat another man and all



living creatures and bounties of nature with respect. Theosophy teaches us to be humble in the knowledge that we are a mere speck in the vast design of the universe which has an intrinsic order and rhythm. It is with this spirit of unity that we can truly make theosophy a living force in the world.

Our heritage is the theosophical teachings that will continue to be a beacon of light based on wisdom for the service of humanity. Wisdom, which is the highest quality of mind can be awakened through self-transformation, shows that selflessness is the only way in contrast with the self-interest that is the root cause of all the ills of the world today. There is an urgent need to re-examine ourselves, individually and collectively.

As mentioned by Radha Burnier:

Life has immeasurable dimensions and subtleties. It is rich, creative, dynamic. Truth, being the discovery of the beauty and mystery of Life, is also necessarily without limit, a blessing without parallel.

We may also constantly examine the dharma of the Theosophical Society, the *why* of the TS, and see that it is necessarily dependent on the actual experience of its members. So the cultivation of this state of awareness that takes us beyond ourselves is perhaps one of the ways we can affect the change in the TS. It is the only way.

Dharma is the unique purpose, a driving reason for one's being. Until we do that we shall not be truly happy. It is like the lion cub brought up by lambs who did not know his true nature and in a moment of perception of his true nature, he knew what he was.

How do we find what is soul's purpose? How do we bring to light that which will inspire us to take responsibility for our lives? The principle of dharma is the enduring truth that our individual happiness is inextricably linked to the fate of the world around us. It is out of this wisdom that sensible actions would emerge. We will realize that the only way to nourish our souls is by nourishing the souls of others. It is by

loving others that we find love for ourselves. When the need to secure, strengthen and protect the 'self' dissolves, then reverence, the reason to love others, the power of turning the other cheek, the importance of being honest, of forgiving others, of acting with compassion will drive all our actions and intents.

Living theosophy is characterized by a deep thirst and seeking that by which the soul is refreshed and strengthened. And nothing else satisfies. In that sense, living theosophy is not a solution in life's journey, it is a way of life itself, the science of life. It is not a steering wheel that will take us on a bumpy road. It is the wheel, the road and the destination. It is to drink of the living water, day to day and moment to moment. It is to have an alertness and awareness that is like a backdrop and in its light the mind has clarity. The mist then is blown away and the world takes on a different dimension. Till we achieve this, we must 'check in' with ourselves as often as possible.

Radha Burnier has said:

The objects point us in the direction we – and one day all humanity – must walk, the direction of being brothers, of knowing our brotherhood not just as a theory, but as a reality, acting at every moment in harmony with ourselves, with others, and with all the life that surrounds us. Yes, an ideal perhaps not to be realized in one lifetime, perhaps not to be realized for centuries to come, but truly an ideal for which no effort can ever be lost, no failure to achieve can ever be final, no action toward its attainment ever too small or insignificant. We have been given magnificent aims to set before ourselves. The purpose of the Objects is clear: to remind us constantly of why we are here, not just as members of this Society, but as men and women walking the ways of humankind toward the gods.

The more we absorb theosophy, the more it absorbs us.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Bengal

Bengal Theosophical Federation organized a study class on 13 & 14 July 2019 at BTS Hall. The study was conducted by Bro. P.K. Mahapatra & Sis. Mitalini Mahapatra on "Theosophy and Theosophical Work". Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed on both the days with the assistance of Sis. Mitalini Mahapatra.

A public meeting was organized at "Bilasi Club" Barrackpore (W.B.) for propagation of Theosophy with the assistance of Bro. Tapan Kr. Giri. A good number of advocates, professors, local sr. citizens, & students attended the meeting and took part in the question- answer session. Our members elaborated the significance and relevance of Theosophy in the context of present day crisis.

Bengal Theosophical Society and Jnanmarga Lodge celebrated their anniversary functions at BTS hall on 18<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2019, respectively. The functions were organized in a befitting manner by BTS Secretary Sis. Madhusree Chowdhury, Ex-Secretary of BTS Bro. Ratan and Secretary of Jnanmarga Lodge Sis. Jaysri Das.

A public lecture was held to pay homage to Late Sarat Chandra Das, an eminent research scholar of Buddhist and Tebatan Literature & Culture. Dr. B.B. Ghosh, President, Bangla Sahitya Parishad, Dr. S. Nath, Ocnologist and Rabindra Literature Awardee, Sri P.K.Dutta, President, BTF and Editor of 'Divyanayan' paper, Dr. S.C. Saha, Ex-Vice Principal, Ven. P. Sewli Thero, Gen. Secretary, Mahabodhi Society of India & Secretary, Mahabodhi Society and Sri H.B. Chowdhury participated in the discussion and deliberation.

A cultural programme was held in the evening in which Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore's dance-drama "**Abhisar**" directed by Sis. Madhushree Chowdhury was performed and it was very much appreciated by the audience.

### Bombay

BTF's President Bro. Vinayak Pandya attended the TS International Council Meet for Strategic Planning in Naarden from 27 June to 2 July 2019. His description regarding the International Meet has been published in the Federation's Monthly Bulletin of August 2019.

A Workers' Training Camp was organized in Besant Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. It was for the members of Bombay Federation & Dombivali Lodge of Marathi Federation. Prof. C.A. Shinde, National Lecturer, directed the camp. Forty members participated in it. - out of which 11 were from Marathi Federation. Bro. Navin Kumar welcomed the brethren of Dombivali Lodge and shared his association with Prof. Shinde in atcivizing the Sangli Lodge 30 years ago. Marathi Federation's President Bro. N.N. Raut and Bro. Jitendra Thakur spoke about theosophical study and service of Dombivali Lodge. Sis. Thrity Dalal spoke about the objects & service of TOS.

The camp commenced with the lighting of lamp and the Universal Prayer. Then BTF's President Bro. Vinayak Pandya welcomed and introduced the Director of the camp Prof. C.A. Shinde. Prof. Shinde presented theosophical books to Sis. (Dr.) Rajam Pillai, Publisher & Editor of "Synergy". The books were presented for non- TS writer Students & Teachers of April-June 2019 issue of "Synergy". Dr. Rajam Pillai presented her Hindi books on Maharashtra and Saints of India to Prof. Shinde.

Prof. Shinde started with the explanation of TS' Invocation 'O Hidden Life'. Then, he guided an interactive session on 'What is needed to be a TS' worker?' Speaking about TS' Mission Statement he explained that it is the way to work for the Three Objects of the TS. With a chart he linked simple words to Theosophical terms. And then he spoke on the Three Great Truths, Lesser and Greater Mysteries, Fundamentals of Theosophy, etc.

The post-lunch session was on 'Know your International Presi-



dents'. So, before the lunch-break, Prof. Shinde gave handouts on three International Presidents to three group leaders for study. These handouts were on Shri N. Sri Ram, Mr. John B.S. Coats and Smt. Radha Burnier. The purpose was to know about the life, work, books and greatness of the aforementioned three recent former Presidents. Dombivali Lodge group studied about Smt. Radha Burnier; Blavatsky lodge Group about Shri N. Sri Ram; and the group of three Lodges of BTS studied about Mr. John B.S. Coats.

The study was followed by presentation by the group leaders. Then Prof. Shinde gave guidelines to the members and in this context he mentioned a few lines of Dr. Annie Besant. The camp concluded with the vote of the thanks given by BTF's Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal and recitation of a Sanskrit Prayer.

Bro. Kanubhai M. Raval, a Life Member of Vasanta Lodge, passed to peace on 16 June, 2019.

### **Karnataka**

Guru (Ashada) Poornima was celebrated by the members of Bellary Sanmarg TS on 16 July. Bro. Basavaraj Reddy explained the significance of the day on this occasion. About 50 persons attended the programme.

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

Study class on J. Krishnamurti's book *Freedom from the Known* was conducted at the Theosophical Lodge in Gwalior. These classes were held on every Sunday in January and February. The study continued on the first two Sundays in the month of March as well. Readings from the aforementioned book was followed by exchange of views among the members regarding the content studied. Then, on the remaining three Sundays in March and on every Sunday from April to June, study class was organized at the same venue on I.K. Taimni's book *Self Culture*. These classes concluded with the members expressing their personal experiences based on the content presented in the book.

Adyar Day was observed at Gwalior Lodge on 17 February. Federation's Secretary Dr. H.S. Dwivedi spoke on this occasion about the significance of Adyar Day.

A meeting to observe White Lotus Day was held at Gwalior Lodge on 8 May. The meeting started with the reading of the Introduction of the outstanding personality of HPB as described by Smt. Gyan Kumari Ajeet in *Shwet Kamal*. Then excerpts from *Bhagwadgita*, *The Light of Asia* and *The Voice of the Silence* were read out. It was followed by Dr. Vinod Kumar Strottriya's talk on 'Life & Work of HPB'. The meeting concluded with the members paying homage to the Great Soul.

'*Mangal Sutra*' was read out in the meeting held at Gwalior Lodge on the occasion of Buddha Poornima. It was followed by Dr. H.S. Dwivedi's talk on 'The Life & Teachings of Lord Buddha'.

Vedanta Lodge of Ratlam organized meeting of the members on every Sunday between January and April. Study of Theosophical literature was conducted by the Lodge on the aforementioned days. The study was followed by the exchange of views and comments on the content studied.

Adyar Day was observed by Vedanta Lodge on 17 February. White Lotus Day was observed on 8 May and the teachings of Lord Buddha were discussed by the members on the occasion of Buddha Poornima (19 May).

Besides, nutritious diet was provided by Vedanta Lodge to young girls and pregnant women on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> day of the months from January to June.

The following activities were held under the auspices of Sadhana Lodge of Bhopal between January and June: Study class was organized on every Sunday and it was followed by exchange of views and discussion about the content dealt with in the book/article. Adyar Day was observed at the Lodge on 17 February. White Lotus Day and Buddha

Poornima were observed on 8 May and 19 May respectively. *Swachhata Abhiyan* was conducted by the Lodge in April. On the occasion of *Vishwa Yoga Diwas* a programme was organized on 19 June at Sadhana Lodge as well.

Besides, the members of the Lodge collected about 2500 old books and distributed them among the students.

### **Utkal**

The Khageswar Rautry Memorial Study Class was held from 13 to 15 July at UTF Hall (Brahmavidya Bhavan), Bhubaneswar. The study was directed by the National Lecturer Bro. B.D. Tendulkar and the book selected for study was *In the Outer Court* by Annie Besant. Ashal festival (Guru Poornima) was celebrated at the same venue on 16 July. Sis. Purnamasi Pattnaik read out a chapter on 'Ashal Festival' and Sis. Sailabala Acharya read out an Odia article on Guru Poornima. These were followed by brief talks delivered by Bro. B.D. Tendulkar and Bro. P.K. Mahapatra.

Bro. B.D. Tendulkar addressed the students of a hostel on 16 July. The subject of his talk was 'Theosophy' and it was held in the premises of Siddharth Lodge, Bhubaneswar. He spoke on 'Relevance of Theosophical Teachings' at Balesore Lodge on 17 July. Bro. P.K. Mahapatra introduced the topic.

Bro. B.D. Tendulkar addressed the students and teachers of Venkateswar English Medium School in Bhubaneswar on 18 July. He spoke there on 'Character Building'. The Principal of the school Mr. Srinibas Udgate presided over the meeting. Sis. Purnamasi Pattnaik gave brief introduction to the students regarding the subject of the talk. Bro. Satyabrata Rath, Jt. Secretary of UTF, along with Bro. Tendulkar took part in the question/answer session.

The following talks/activities were organized at Cuttack Lodge in June & July: Prof. Sunanda Mishra spoke on 'Control of the Mind'. Prof. Kamalini Panigrahi's talk was on the 'Teachings of Saint Poet

Kabir' and she related them with Theosophical precepts. Swami Avyaktananda of Texas, USA, spoke on 'Practical Spiritualism'. All the three talks were followed by interactive session. A well-known spiritual teacher Satchidananda gave a public talk in which he dealt with the subject 'Mind'. It was attended by about 100 members and non-members. Bro. B.D. Tendulkar presented a summary of the book *In the Outer Court* written by Annie Besant. Besides, Prof. Partha Sarathi Sarangi conducted study on N. Sri Ram's book *Life's Deeper Aspects*. These study classes were held on 16 June, 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July.

The President of Cuttack Lodge Dr. Chittaranjan Satapathy visited Ahmedabad in July. At the invitation of Rohit Lodge and Ahmedabad Lodge he gave talks there on 'Elements of Yoga' and 'Teachings in Mahatma Letters', respectively.

Cuttack Lodge has recently organized an afternoon study group which meets four days in a week and is open to members and sympathizers. To start with, the study of Bhagawadgita has been undertaken with a view to understand the relevance of its teachings in the life of a theosophist.

The President of Siddhartha Lodge Bro. P.K. Mahapatra delivered a talk on 'Theosophy & Theosophical Society' and Sis. Mitalini Mahapatra, Vice-President, UTF, spoke on 'The Significance of Lodge Meetings'. These two talks were held at Sambalpur Lodge on 21 July.

### **Uttar Pradesh**

The following activities were organized by Sarvahitkari Lodge at Gorakhpur between February and June 2019: In February Bro. S.B. R. Mishra spoke on 'Hath Yoga' - a technique to keep the body and mind healthy through Meditation and Pranayam. Dr. Ajai Rai spoke on 'The social obligation of a Theosophist' in which he emphasized on the importance of charity. Bro. Raghuvirji's content of talk was the importance of Brotherly Love-especially during the Ramayan era. Prof. R.P. Singh explained the concept of God in different religions, including the

one explained in Theosophy. Besides, Dr. Ajai Rai addressed the students of St. Anderson College and explained to them the technique to prepare and face the challenges of life.

Shri A.P. Srivastava gave a talk in March on 'Shiv Tattva' in which he explained about the origin of the universe as well. The relevance of the Holi festival in Hindu religion was explained by Bro. S.B.R. Mishra and Dr. Ajai Rai explained how the vitality increases in plants and animals after winter. Bro. S.B.R. Mishra addressed the members of a ladies' club where he spoke on 'The Relevance of Satsang & Spirituality'.

Bro. A.P. Srivastava spoke on Vikram Samvat and why it is celebrated as New Year by the people belonging to Hindu religion. His other talk in April was on 'Jain Darshan and the Teachings of Mahavir' in which he especially focussed on Ahimsa. The subject of Shri Raghurajji's talk was 'Qualities of Prabhu Shri Ram'.

Three talks of Dr. V. Dwivedi- a scholar of Indian Philosophy- were organized by Sarvahitakri Lodge in May. The subjects he spoke on were: 'Kapil Muni's Sankhya Darshan', 'Yoga Darshan of Patanjali' and 'Vedant Darshan'. The other talks organized by the Lodge in May were 'Relevance of ID & Islamic Philosophy' by Shri A.P. Srivastava and 'Consciousness' by Bro. S.C. Tripathi in which the speaker explained the difference between Divine Consciousness and Individual Consciousness.

The talks held under the auspices of Sarvahitkari Lodge in June were 'Events in the life of Shri Ram' by Shri Raghurajji. The speaker in his talk mentioned only about those few events which have not been covered in *Ramcharit Manas*. Dr. Ajai Rai gave a talk on *Isis Unveiled*. He explained the meaning of the word Isis and the history of how the book was written. Prof. Arun Bajpai spoke on the relevance of Yoga in human life. He explained Rajyoga in the light of its essential features as described by Patanjali. And then the members did practice of *Pranayam and asan* under Prof. Bajpai's guidance. The subject of Bro. S.B.R.

Mishra's talk was 'Ageless Wisdom before Vedas-in the light of *Isis Unveiled*'.

Keeping the World Environment Day in view a programme was organized under the auspices of Anand Lodge and TOS Group Allahabad, on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Plants of Ashoka were planted in the Besant campus and a pledge to protect environment was taken on this occasion. The members of Anand Lodge, Mahila Dharma Lodge and Seva Sangam TOS attended this programme.

The following talks were held at Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, in July: 'Practical Theosophy' by Bro. B.K. Pandey, 'Love a Healer' by Bro. Pramil Dwivedi, 'Live neither in present, nor in future but in Eternal' by Bro. Ashok Kr. Gupta, 'Service as Sacrifice' by Bro. Atulesh Jindal. Bro. U.S. Pandey spoke on Damodar K. Mavalankar's article "Castes in India" which was reprinted in the July 2019 issue of *The Theosophist*.

A seminar on 'Meditation' was held under the auspices of Nirvan Lodge, Agra, on 6<sup>th</sup> June in which Bro. R.P. Sharma, Bro. N.S. Jain, Dr. Pratibha Sharma, Bro. U.C. Verma and Bro. S.N. Sharma expressed their views. The other seminar organized by the Lodge was on *Atmajnana* and the speakers were Bro. A.K. Singh, Bro. Kripa Shankar, Bro. S.N. Sharma and Dr. Pratibha Sharma. It was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Besides, two talks were held at the Lodge in June- one was on 'Meditation on Heartfulness' by Bro. O.P.S. Chouhan; and the other talk was on *At the Feet of the Master* by Bro. Gyanesh Kr. Chaturvedi.

Members of Gyanoday Lodge at Barabanki studied the book *Man and His Bodies* during the weekly meetings held in June.

U.P. Federation organized a study camp under the auspices of Kashi Tattva Sabha at Varanasi from 05 to 07 July on the book *The Voice of the Silence*. Bro. U.S. Pandey and Bro. S.K. Pandey directed the study. On first day, after recitation of the Universal Prayer, Smt. Bina Singh, President of the Lodge, welcomed the participants and directors.

Bro. Pradeep Gohil, President of the Indian Section, while inaugurating the study camp expressed his appreciation for the study camps organized by U.P. Federation. The study was conducted in four sessions on each day with close interaction with the participants. Before commencing the study sessions in the morning on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July, group meditation guided by Bro. U.S. Pandey was practiced by the participants. In the concluding session on 7<sup>th</sup> July, the participants expressed their appreciation for the presentation of matter during study. Smt. Bina Singh thanked the directors and the participants for success of the camp.

Bro. V. Narayanan, National Treasurer, gave two talks on 'Meditation: Theory & Practice'. These talks were organized on 26 July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August under the auspices of Kashi Tattva Sabha(KTS) at the Indian Section HQ, Varanasi. The salient features of mediation based on the mind-centre and heart-centre were explained and the participants practiced the two types of meditation for ten minutes. A number of students of Vasant Balika Vihar attended the talks. After seeing the interest of the students and on their request, it was decided to have a daily collective meditation, except on Sundays. Accordingly, a programme for daily meditation has been organized in the Annie Besant Hall. It is held under the guidance of Bro. V. Narayanan from 7 am to 7.30 am since 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019 .

A talk on 'Women's Safety and Challenges' was organized by KTS on 9 August and it was delivered by Ms Ranjana Gaur, Secretary, SARC, Varanasi

Bro. U.S. Pandey was invited to visit Sanatan Dharm Bal Vidya Mandir in Khoda village (adjoining NOIDA) on 11 July. There he addressed a group of students on the theme "Oneness." During the interaction with students he gave tips for improving concentration on study.

A study camp on "Self-transformation through awareness" was organized in NOIDA from 12 to 14 July, 2019. Bro. U. S. Pandey conducted the study. Members from NOIDA and Ghaziabad lodge of U.P.

Federation and also from Delhi Federation participated in the camp. On first day, after recitation of the Universal Prayer, Bro. J.K. Khanna - Vice-President of NOIDA Lodge welcomed the participants and the speaker. The study was conducted in three sessions on each day and in close interaction with the participants. On the last day a guided group meditation was practiced.

### **Theosophical Order of Service**

The TOS Group of Bhopal has made arrangements to provide coaching free of cost to the poor and brilliant students. About 38 students were benefited under this scheme in January.

Bro. Prabhat Kumar Gupta (L.L.M.) provided free legal advice and guidance to exploited people and destitutes in January & February. This facility was provided under the auspices of TOS in Bhopal.

About 300 leprous were medically examined by the doctors of J.P. Hospital in Bhopal. This was done free of cost in the month of February. Similarly about 150 patients were examined free of cost in the month of March.

### **National Lecturer**

Prof. C.A. Shinde's two talks on the book *Light on the Path* written by Mabel Collins were held at Blavatsky Lodge, Bombay, on 24 & 25 June. His explanations and charts covering the content of the book at a glance were of great help to the members and inspired them to study the book. Then on 26 June he addressed the members of Vasanta-Ganesh-Jyoti Lodge at the residence of Sis. Padmaben Mehta.

Bro. U.S. Pandey, National Lecturer, conducted a study on "Basic Theosophy" from 1 to 3 July, 2019 at Patna. It was held under the auspices of Bihar Federation.

### **Study Camp**

U. P. Federation is organizing a study camp on the book *Meditation: Its Practice and Results* by Clara M. Codd. It will be held on 31

October and 01 November 2019 and Niravan Lodge, Agra, will manage the camp.

Members of U.P. Federation and also of other Federations are welcome to participate in the Study Camp.

The persons coming from outside Agra will be provided board and lodging from 31<sup>st</sup> October morning to 01st November evening for which each such participant will pay a contribution of Rs.400/- to the lodge official on arrival at Agra. Each such person may advise his/her name to any of the following contact persons latest by 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

Bro. L.S. Sengar, President, Agra Lodge, Mob. 7409497975

Bro. R. P. Sharma, Secretary, AgraLodge, Mob. 9897137227

Bro. Shyam Kumar Sharma, Mob. 9897910990

U.S. Pandey

Secretary U.P. Federation, T.S.

Mob. 9451993170; 7905068911

A study camp on *The Light of Asia* is being organized at Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur, from 29 November to 01 December 2019.

For details please contact: Bro. U.S. Pandey, Mob. No. 9451993170; 7905068911

Bro. S.B.R. Mishra Mob. No. 7905171988

**From IPF President Gerard Brennan**

To

The Presidents of Sections in the IPF region,

Greetings. This email is just to inform you that the 14th Triennial Conference of the Indo-Pacific Federation will take place from 9th to 12th November, 2019. Arrivals should be on 8th November and Departures on 13th November. All members of the Theosophical Society in the IPF region are warmly invited to this conference, to be held in the Philippines in the city of Manila.

To find out more, including how to register, you may find the information on the TS Adyar website [www.ts-adyar.org](http://www.ts-adyar.org)

In addition the information can be found on the IPF website [ipf-ts.org](http://ipf-ts.org)

Please advertise this conference to the Members in your Lodges. We would like to see as many TS members as possible from a wide variety of lodges around our region. Please note that payment should be made on or before September 15, 2019. This information may also be published in any TS bulletins or magazines published by the lodges in your region.

Thanks for your help. We do hope that some of your members will be able to join us in Manila for this wonderful event. All the best!

Kind regards,

Gerard Brennan

President

Indo-Pacific Federation of

The Theosophical Society

[president@ipf-ts.org](mailto:president@ipf-ts.org)



## GOALS FOR — 2018-2019 Indian Section Headquarters

	% Ach.
01. To conduct a goal setting meet at Varanasi/Bhowali for the President and Secretary of all the Federations.	100
02. To organize one workers' training camp in Varanasi and one in Adyar.	50
03. To strengthen the administrative set-up of the Indian Section by hiring at least two administrative officers and two volunteers.	50
04. To make a pilot project/camp for combined study, meditation and service at Varanasi.	100
05. To reprint at least six Theosophical Books which are out of copyright period.	100
06. To develop a syllabus and start a course on Theosophy at Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya (VKM).	100
07. To initiate generation of a surplus at the rate of Rs. 1 Crore per year before the end of the year at The Indian Section HQ and grant a reasonable amount to each federation that qualify for work on propagation of Theosophy.	100

## Assam Theosophical Federation

01. To organize visits of good speakers to 4 schools and 6 colleges in order to attract young generation towards Theosophy.	30
02. To form two new Theosophical lodges.	50
03. To revive four inactive lodges.	25
04. To conduct 6 study classes at federation and lodge level for the better understanding of Theosophy.	75
05. To translate two English books on Theosophy in Assamese.	50
06. To conduct a study camp at Bhowali in which at least 10 members will participate.	100
07. To publish 500 copies each of 10 pamphlets in Assamese on Theosophical subjects for lodges and general public.	80
08. To organize 10 debate/essay competitions at school and college level.	20
09. To publish Quarterly newsletters in Assamese for the members.	75
10. To increase net membership in the federation by 10 members.	100
11. To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	100

## Bengal Theosophical Federation

01. To increase net membership by 16 members.	100
02. To open two new lodges during this year.	50
03. To increase the number of members attending our weekly study classes by 25%.	80
04. To popularize Theosophy amongst students through the members who are in teaching profession and induct at least two new student members.	50
05. To translate, publish and distribute four books on Theosophy in Bengali.	50
06. To conduct 4 study classes by National Lecturers.	25
07. To make the Federation's library facility available to the public.	100
08. To reactivate two dormant lodges/centres by visiting and motivating workers and old members.	50
09. To send at least 10 members for the Bhowali study camp.	100
10. To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	100

## Bihar Theosophical Federation

01. To organize a two hours' talk on a Theosophical topic in each of the 11 lodges.	10
02. To organize a two-day study class in each of the 11 lodges.	100
03. To organize a three-day study class by Bihar Theosophical Federation.	0
04. To organize a day-long seminar in each lodge on a social topic related with Theosophy in which chairperson will be a reputed person other than a member of the TS.	0
05. To revive four defunct lodges. (Hajipur, Patna Maurya, Patna Bodha and Patliputra)	0
06. To organize one talk on basic theosophy in two schools and two colleges.	0
07. To achieve a net increase in membership by 30 members.	0
08. To develop a website of Bihar Theosophical Federation.	100
09. To conduct a five-day study camp at Bhowali in the first week of May/June, 2019, with at least 15 members.	0
10. To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	100



## Bombay Theosophical Federation

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|--|----|
| 01.To increase net membership by 5 members.  | 0  |
| 02.To start an E-Lodge as a pilot project in Mumbai.   | 0  |
| 03.To ensure that the members of Anand Lodge meet at least once in a month.  | 0  |
| 04.To encourage participation and presentation by young and new members in at least three meetings.                              | 50 |
| 05.To have at least two reach out programmes at schools and colleges.  | 0  |
| 06.To prepare at least three Second Line Workers to take more responsibility for the administration of the lodge and federation. | 33 |
| 07.To organize funding for one Indian Section Educational Project (Library Upgradation).   | 0  |
| 08.To send at least five members for the study camp at Bhowali.  | 0  |

## Delhi Theosophical Federation

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| 01.To publish 1000 copies of pamphlets in Hindi on introduction to Theosophy for general public.         | 0 |
| 02.To arrange at least 6 lectures on Theosophical subjects at various schools and colleges of Delhi.     | 0 |
| 03.To achieve an increase of 10 members in net membership.   | 0 |
| 04.To organize 6 study classes of two days' duration at the Lodge and Federation level.                  | 0 |
| 05.To organize a workers' training camp.   | 0 |
| 06.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.                       | 0 |
| 07.To conduct a three-day study camp at Bhowali in the last week of May, 2019, with at least 30 members. | 0 |

## Gujarat Theosophical Federation

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|--|---|
| 01.To organize a workers' training camp.   | 0 |
| 02.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.   | 0 |
| 03.To organize a three-day study camp for at least 70 members at one location in order to activate the members of the Lodge. | 0 |
| 04.To reactivate two dormant lodges/centres by visiting and motivating workers and old members.                              | 0 |

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|---|-----|
| 05.To publish 1000 copies of pamphlets and two books in Gujarati, each on five Theosophical subjects and distribute them to lodges and members. | 100 |
| 06.To organize one youth camp, one elocution competition and three essay competitions to encourage youth activities.                            | 0   |
| 07.To celebrate Foundation Day, Adyar Day, Dr. Annie Besant's Birthday and White Lotus Day at different schools and colleges.                   | 75  |
| 08.To increase net membership by 20 members.  | 100 |
| 09.To conduct a four-day study camp at Bhowali in April/May, 2019, with at least 35 members.  | 0   |

## Karnataka Theosophical Federation

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|--|-----|
| 01.To set up a school of Theosophy at Bengaluru to imbibe standard practices of learning and dissemination of Theosophical wisdom for the benefit of different classes of membership-basic, intermediary and higher. | 0   |
| 02.To set up a cadre of at least 20 teachers of Theosophy and supplementary staff as resource persons and enabling staff, at all events for propagation of Theosophy.  | 0   |
| 03.To set up a committee of 10 core members to prepare a common plan of activity for all lodges and oversee its implementation.  | 0   |
| 04.To lend a characteristic identity of Theosophy to all lodges in the state by enforcing uniform pattern of activity in the lodge's programmes for at least five days in a week.                                    | 100 |
| 05.To establish a Lodge Activity and Development Fund (LADF) made up of voluntary donations, sponsorship and endowments worth at least Rs. 3 lacs.   | 0   |
| 06.To set up libraries, one each, in at least 10 lodges and provide them with free supply of books, journals, pamphlets for the benefit of the members and interested general public.                                | 100 |
| 07.To achieve an all-round progress in the number of general activities by + 20%.  | 0   |
| 08.To conduct a ten-day study camp at Bhowali in the first week of April, 2019, with at least 45 members.  | 0   |
| 09.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.   | 0   |
| 01.To organize visit to ten schools.   | 0   |

02.To organize gift books on TV programmes (Chandana) – That Antha Heli.	100
03.To organize 130 one-day camps.	50
04.To organize 10 two-day camps.	10
05.To organize 9 three-day camps	10
06.To organize 10 four-day camps.	40
07.To organize a ten-day study camp cum-workshop.	0
08.To organize 313 half-day study classes.	0
09.To organize 365 Bharat Samaj Pooja.	10
10.To publish five Theosophical books in Kannada.	100

### **Kerala Theosophical Federation**

01.To organize two “Wake Up India Youth Camps” with at least thirty students in each camp.	50
02.To organize two “Reaching Out” programmes for interaction with Teachers and Students.	100
03.To organize one workers’ training camp with at least thirty members.	100
04.To organize two book exhibitions for ten days with the co-operation of public libraries and other institutions.	100
05.To publish two books in Malayalam, this year.	0
06.To organize two Retreats/Study camps in Kerala and Bhowali with at least thirty members in each camp.	50
07.To celebrate four Red-Letter Days of T.S., like October 1 <sup>st</sup> by organizing competition for school and college students in their respective school and college, followed by the final competition at the lodge.	75
08.To celebrate the 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Besant’s arrival in India with a public function on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Trivandrum.	100
09.To publish 500 copies of pamphlets on two Theosophical subjects in Malayalam.	0
10.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	100

### **M.P. & Rajasthan Theo. Federation**

01.To increase membership by 20 members.	15
02.To arrange at least four Theosophical orientation sessions for Scouts and N.S.S. students from college.	25

03.To arrange at least four “Yoga and Meditation” camps at different lodges.	0
04.To form four groups and clusters of lodges for better communication and better documentation.	0
05.To conduct one study camp at Bhowali in June with at least 20 members.	0
06.To organize five study camps/seminars at different lodges.	20
07.To form at least two Youth Groups at lodge level for Theosophical activity.	0
08.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	15

### **Madras Theosophical Federation**

01.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	100
02.To improve attendance by 25% through dissemination of information in the print media.	30
03. To organize two study camps on Theosophy at Adyar.	0
04. To publish two books in English on Theosophy.	100
05. To publish 500 Theosophical pamphlets on five aspects of Theosophy for wider circulation amongst the public.	0
06. To prepare a concise book on political role of Dr. Annie Besant in India and have it printed with support from the Indian Section.	0
07. To increase the net membership by 10 members.	50

### **Marathi Theosophical Federation**

01. To organize five one-day seminar on Theosophical Subjects.	60
02. To conduct five Essay competitions and Debate competitions, based on Theosophical books, for Higher Secondary and College level students.	20
03.To publish 1000 copies of a book in Marathi language, covering five topics of Theosophy, then distribute them to lodges and also in schools.	0
04. To introduce one three-day vacation study camp based on theosophy for 30 students of Higher Secondary Schools at Akola.	0

05.To increase the membership by 10 members.	50
06.To conduct three one-day introductory camps for new members.	0
07.To arrange three guided meditation sessions for the members and also for general public.	66
08.To conduct a five-day study camp at Bhowali in the first week of May, 2019, with at least 25 members.	0
09.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	20

### **Rayalaseema Theosophical Federation**

01.To develop a website of the federation in order to popularize Theosophy and present Theosophical ideas among the members and outsiders.	100
02.To activate four dormant lodges.	0
03.To form three study centres and one new lodge.	0
04.To enhance the net membership by 25 members.	25
05.To conduct a study camp at Bhowali during the last week of April, 2019, with participation of 40 members.	40
06.To visit two colleges/schools at least once in every two months for popularizing Theosophy.	15
07.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	0
08.To start Theosophical Libraries in 4 lodges of the federation.	25
09.To conduct three training camps in order to train members to become federation lecturers and resource persons.	0
10.To print and distribute 500 copies of four Theosophical books, and 1000 copies of pamphlets on Theosophical subjects in Telugu.	25

### **Tamil Theosophical Federation**

01.To organize 6 study classes in different lodges.	50
02.To publish 500 copies of pamphlets in Tamil on 10 Theosophical subjects for lodges and general public.	10
03.To increase net membership in the federation by 10 members.	100
04.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	100

05.To organize 10 debate/essay competitions at school and college level.	20
06.To conduct a study camp at Bhowali with at least 10 members.	0
07.To organize at least six lectures in Tamil on Theosophical subjects in six schools/colleges.	50

### **Telugu Theosophical Federation**

01.To increase net membership by 50 members including 10 Women and 10 Youth members.	100
02.To revive and activate three dormant lodges.	33
03.To popularize Theosophical literature in three colleges and one University by providing 500 copies of pamphlets on basic Theosophy.	0
04.To conduct a five-day study camp at Bhowali with at least 40 members during May, 2019, and a two-day study camp at any lodge of the Federation.	0
05.To conduct two meditation classes at different lodges.	0
06.To conduct at least two public meetings to introduce Theosophy to the people in order to attract new members.	0
07.To publish two sets of 500 copies of pamphlets on basic Theosophy in Telugu language.	0
08.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.	100

### **Utkal Theosophical Federation**

01.To form two new lodges and revitalize four dormant lodges.	60
02.To increase net membership by 20 out of which five shall be women.	100
03.To invite four National Lecturers for conducting study camps of three-day duration.	0
04.To impart Theosophical education once in a fortnight at two different schools.	50
05.To arrange two study classes of two-day duration for non-members at Bhubaneswar and at Cuttack.	100
06.To publish three translated Theosophical books and one reprint in Odia.	0

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|--|-----|
| 07.To distribute 500 Odia pamphlets and 100 books in schools, colleges and social functions.   | 100 |
| 08.To organize a two-day youth camp at Bhubaneswar.  | 100 |
| 09.To use electronic and print media in order to popularize Theosophy among general public through three TV interviews/talks and three newspaper articles. | 0   |
| 10. To conduct literary competitions on Theosophy for Youth at two different colleges and schools with incentives.   | 0   |
| 11.To conduct a five-day study camp at Bhowali in the last week of May, 2019, with at least 20 members.  | 0   |
| 12.To conduct a goal setting meet for the President & Secretary of all the Lodges.   | 100 |

### Uttar Pradesh Theosophical Federation

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|---|-----|
| 01.To conduct 6 study camps of two to three days in different lodges.   | 100 |
| 02.To organize 8 sessions/public talks of one to two hours each for exposure of Theosophy to general public.  | 100 |
| 03.To conduct 6 one-day seminars on Theosophical subjects.  | 100 |
| 04.To organize three programmes for students on integrated development/self-transformation at college level, higher secondary level and school level. | 100 |
| 05.To organize two introductory camps for new members   | 100 |
| 06.To arrange four guided meditation sessions.  | 100 |
| 07.To increase net membership by 5 members.   | 0   |
| 08.To conduct a three-day study camp at Bhowali in June, 2019, with at least 20 members.  | 100 |
| 09. To set goals for all the 22 lodges.   | 100 |
| 10.To print Hindi translation of one Theosophical book.   | 100 |

## HEADQUARTERS OF THE INDIAN SECTION, THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

### THE 144th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AT VARANASI

#### Theme: *Nurturing the Divine Seed*

The 144th International Convention of the Theosophical Society will be held at the National Headquarters, of the Indian Section, Kamachha, Varanasi, **from 31 December 2019 to 5 January 2020**. All members of the Society in good standing are welcome to attend as delegates. **Non-members** may send **requests** for permission to attend, together with a recommendation from an officer of the Federation or the Section, **to the Convention Officer (CO) before 25 November**. Mr. Shikhar Agnihotri (Cell. Phone 91-8840926268, 9839912070) will be the Convention Officer.

Package rates apply from 29 Dec. 2019 dinner to 5 Jan. 2020 dinner. Please pay in package rates only.

#### A. HARMONY BUILDING - (Only for G.C. Members & Overseas Members) **Registration with full board**

Basis: US\$(1\$=Rs70), EURO(1€= Rs77), AUD (1AUD= Rs 47)

Western Food	Registration	Accommodation	Total Package
\$60(Rs 4200)	\$70(Rs 4900)	\$230(Rs 16,100)	\$360(Rs 25,200)
€5	€4	€09	€28
AUD89	AUD104	AUD343	AUD536

#### B. MEHTA HOSTEL - **Registration with full board**

Overseas delegates			
Food	Registration	Accommodation	Total Package
\$25(Rs 1750)	\$70(Rs 4900)	\$85(Rs 5950)	\$180(Rs 12,600)
Indian and Less Developed Countries' delegates			
Food	Registration	Accommodation	Total Package

(Rs 1750)      (Rs 500)      (Rs 5950)      (Rs 8,200)

Includes registration fee, sharing room, mattress of cots sheets, blankets, all meals etc.

**C. INDIAN STYLE ACCOMMODATION- Registration with full board**

Indian and Less Developed Countries' delegates

Food	Registration	Accommodation	Total Package
Rs 1750	Rs 500	Rs 950	Rs 3200

Includes registration fee, mat/cot or mattress, sheets, blankets, all meals at the Canteen.

*Note: half rate for children of 3-10 years*

**D. PEOPLE NOT REQUIRING ACCOMMODATION- Only meals**

(Canteen from 29 Dec.2019 to 5 Jan. 2020)

Food	Registration	Total Package
Rs 1750	Rs 500	Rs 2250

**E. BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACKS, DINNER FOR ONE DAY IS**

**Rs 600, in addition to one time registration charge of Rs 500.**

*Note: half rate for children of 3-10 years*

**ACCOMMODATION**

All Indian style accommodation is dormitory accommodation – that is, shared accommodation, multiple cots and mattress within the same room or hall; no attached bathrooms or toilets; and, no kitchen. No special facilities can be provided for members who are ill or for women with babies. Ordinary medical attention will be available for minor complaints and there are no facilities to treat serious illness. Since accommodation is limited, especially ground floors, preference will be given for very elderly delegates who register early. Accommodation availability will be confirmed by the Convention Officer by email. Specific building / room allotment requests cannot be entertained.

**REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS**

*Last date for registration: 1 December 2019*

*Cancellation: last date 10 December 2019; payment will be re-*

funded, except the Registration fee of Rs.500 or USD 70. After 10 December there will be no refund of any amount. Cancellation request must reach Indian Section, Varanasi by 10th December for refund consideration.

**Delegates from India:** Send the Registration form with the details (available at [www.theosophy-india.org](http://www.theosophy-india.org) and [www.ts-adyar.org](http://www.ts-adyar.org)), along with the package charges, to the Convention Officer before 1 December 2019. Remittance by crossed **cheques or bank drafts** should be **made payable to Indian Section, The Theosophical Society**. If making online transfers, it is essential to communicate by email to CO, the following details: Delegate(s) Name, Bank name and Branch, Amount, Date of Transfer and Transfer reference number. The online transfer can be made to Bank of Baroda( formerly Vijaya Bank), Kamachha Branch, Varanasi. Account No. 718301010005045, IFSC Code VIJB0007183 in the name of Indian Section, The Theosophical Society.

**Delegates from other countries:** Make sure you take travel insurance. Send the Registration form (available at [www.theosophy-india.org](http://www.theosophy-india.org) and [www.ts-adyar.org](http://www.ts-adyar.org)) by email. Payment on arrival in foreign currency is accepted. If payment is being made by online bank in Rs at the above mentioned account no., then make sure that it is in Indian Rupees and purpose of payment is marked “donations” and an email is sent to CO with the following details: Delegate(s) name, Bank name, Amount, Date of Transfer and Transfer reference number.

**Contact Convention Officer by email:**  
**[tsvnconvention@gmail.com](mailto:tsvnconvention@gmail.com)** or By Post: The Convention Officer,  
Indian Section, The Theosophical Society, Gurubagh, Kamachha,  
Varanasi - 221 010, India

Marja Artamaa  
*International Secretary*



**HEADQUARTERS OF THE INDIAN SECTION, THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, Kamachha, Varanasi 221 010, India**

**International Convention 2019-20**

**REGISTRATION & ACCOMMODATION FORM**

[To be filled in Block Capitals and sent to the Convention Officer, preferably by email [tsvnsconvention@gmail.com](mailto:tsvnsconvention@gmail.com)

*Main applicant details to be entered below; the application should be completely filled up in all the fields.*

Name: ..... Nationality: ..... Email: .....  
 .....Address (in home country) .....  
 Phone/Mobile: .....

Section/Federation/Lodge ..... Special Request: .....

**PACKAGE RATES:**

**A. HARMONY:** Overseas delegates USD 360\* or Rs 25,200- Includes registration fee, ‘western’ meals, double occupancy accommodation with attached bathrooms, cots, mattresses, sheets and blankets.

**B. MEHTA Hostel:** Overseas delegates USD 180 (Rs.12,600), delegates from India and less developed countries Rs.8,200 – includes registration fee, Indian meals, double occupancy accommodation, cots, mattresses, sheets and blankets.

**C. INDIAN STYLE:**Delegates from India and less developed countries Rs.3,200 – Includes reg. fee, meals, sharing/dormitory type accommodation, cots, mattress sheets and blankets.

**D. PEOPLE NOT REQUIRING ACCOMMODATION:** Rs.2250 – Includes registration fee and Indian meals.

*Note: half rate for children of 3-10 years*

\* EUR 328 or AUD 536

No.	Name (include the main applicant)	Age	Gender F/M	Member Y/N	Package (A/B/C/D)	Payment mode (cash, cheque, bank)	Amount	Remarks (blatant family group, medical condition if any)

Date of Arrival: ..... morning/afternoon

Date of Departure: ..... morning/afternoon

Signature of applicant: .....

Date: .....

**For all delegates:** Completing this Registration Form with all particulars is important – please do not send or submit incomplete forms.

Last date for registration: 1 December 2019. Last date for cancellation: 10 December 2019 (by email or by post) For online payments and any clarifications, contact Convention Officer at email to [tsvnsconvention@gmail.com](mailto:tsvnsconvention@gmail.com) or visit [www.ts-adyar.org](http://www.ts-adyar.org) for details.



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