



# ***THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN***

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

---

Volume 89

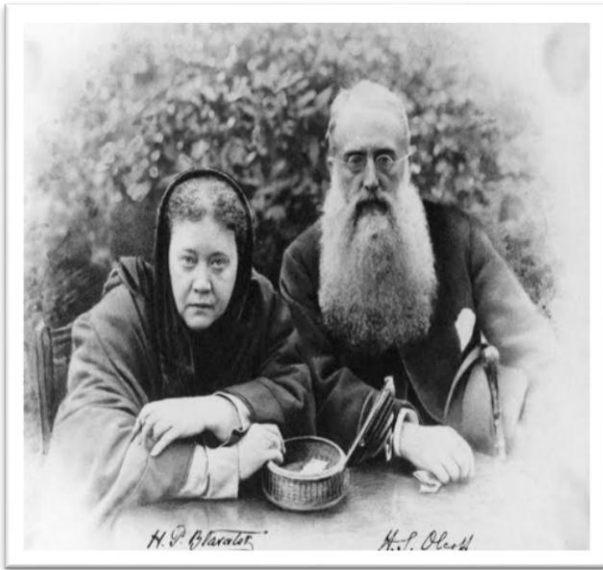
४०

No.2

ॐ

November 2019

---



**“Everything in the Universe, throughout all its kingdoms, is conscious i.e., endowed with a consciousness of its own plane of perception.”**

**- H. P. BLAVATSKY**

---

---

---



---

**MISSION OF TS**

*To serve humanity by cultivating an ever deepening understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual self-transformation and the unity of all life*

---

**CONTENTS**

Cover Page Quote of HPB	Cover
DoorDarshan Hindi Channel documentary ' <i>Annie Wood Se Annie Besant</i> ' shot at Blavatsky Lodge	2 - 3
Annie Besant's Birthday Meetings	3 - 4
BTF Goals 2019-2020 & TS Sri Lanka Visit	4 - 6
Mullan & Dani Elocution Competitions 2019	6 - 9
'The White Dog Cafe' by Bro. Arni narendran	9 - 10
BTF& Lodge Programmes Nivember 2019	11 - 12

**DOORDARSHAN – HINDI CHANNEL on 1st October 2019 at 9.00 a.m. broadcasted (for worldwide viewing)**

***'ANNIE WOOD SE DR. ANNIE BESANT BANENA KA SAFARNAMA'*** covering 8 hour shoot over two days at Blavatsky Lodge TS Building with Telecast of 20 minutes. It opened with recitation of the Universal Prayer by Brethren. Their young woman Anchor - with a back drop of Besant Hall, Green Room, Library with Besant's Books, Dr. Annie Besant's portrait on staircase and shots of our Blavatsky Lodge building-narrated the life and greatness of Annie Besant. She was a Reformist, Activist for Laborers' Rights, Author, Orator, Activist for Women Empowerment and Educationist. She gifted her college with land to Pandit Madan Mohan Malavyaji to start Banaras Hindu University. She was Second International President of Theosophical Society. With interviews of our Office Bearers, the Anchor brought out different facets of Dr. Anne Besant's life.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Editor** – Bro. Rustom R. Dalal    **Cover Page By:** Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta  
**Editorial Committee** – Sis. Mahazaver Dalal (Reporter & in charge of Mailing List),  
 Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta, Sis. Aban Patel and **Ex-Officio:** President Bro.  
 VinayakPandya. **Note:** News, Notes and Programmes to be printed in the  
**Bulletin be forwarded by e-mail to [kashmirakhambatta@yahoo.com](mailto:kashmirakhambatta@yahoo.com)** latest by  
 16th each month. **Readers' Views are invited.**

---



---

**Bro. Arni Naredran** spoke on Annie Besant's life journey 'Storm to Peace' and her dedication to 'Her Motherland India' as a great Theosophist and Freedom Fighter for India. **Bro. Navin Kumar** spoke about expansion of Theosophical Society under her Presidentship around the world. **Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta** said that even today there is a need to continue work of Annie Besant for Women Empowerment. **Sis. Aban Patel** conveyed message of this Irish Lady to whom India was Motherland and whose message was that India has great responsibility for spiritual progress of humanity.

Blavatsky Lodge greatly appreciates dedication & research of the Door-Darshan Team of Script Writer, Director, Anchor, Photographer and others to produce a documentary on '*Annie Wood Se Dr. Annie Besant Banena ka Safarnama*' at Blavatsky Lodge.

**Bro. Navin Kumar** downloaded the Telecast and showed it to Brethren at Annie Besant's Birthday Meeting on 1st October at Blavatsky Lodge. He forwarded the clip to Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta to organize viewing of the documentary at Indian Section TS Goal Meet in Varanasi also on 1st October 2019.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANNIE BESANT'S BIRTHDAY MEETINGS

**Vasanta Lodge TS Meeting on 30th September 2019 at Sis. Kalpanaben Jani's place:** The Meeting was chaired by **Dr. Ajay Hora**. The Guest Speaker **Bro. Bhavesh Pandya** conducted deliberations on Gujarati Book translation of Dr. Annie Besant's book 'Path of Discipleship'.

**At Blavatsky Lodge Joint Meeting of BTF & Blavatsky Lodge on 1st October 2019:** The Meeting was opened with the Prayers of All Religions and the Universal Prayer. **Bro. Navin Kumar** in Opening spoke about multifaceted personality of Dr. Annie Besant. **Sis. Jasmine Cawasji** read out Dr. Besant's own words about her Parents and the values they had instilled in her.

---



---

**Bro. Arni Narendran** said HPB was spiritual knowledge giver, while Dr. Besant had exemplified spirituality. She reached out to outside world. There are many First Reforms to her credit like Voting Rights for Women, Labourers' Rights. Reviewing of the Secrete Doctrine brought her close to HPB, whom she accepted as her Teacher. Banaras was home for her. She started schools and college there. For India's freedom she founded Hoe Rule League and for developing consciousness of people of India she started New Life India Movement. She has said that India has a role to play in the world with its spirituality.

**Dr. Rajam Pillai** spoke about Dr. Annie Besant's life journey of 'Storm to Peace' and the trauma she had gone through for being deprived of her children and many other things in the life. Yet she gave her life for the good of humanity. Her words were, 'I speak the Truth as I see it'. Even before she came to India she had said, 'India is my Motherland'.

**BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya** said AB believed that nothing is impossible. She was perfectionist, compassionate and cared to reply personally to all her mail. She treated servants as fellow human beings, who were there to help her in her life journey. For her cook even she built Hanuman Temple in Adyar. At the end of each year she would empty her coffer to help the needy.

Bro. Navin Kumar showed the downloaded Telecast of Door-Darshan Hindi film on '*Annie Wood Se Dr. Annie Besant Banena ka Safarnama*'.

The meeting had ended with recitation of the Sanskrit Prayer.

\*\*\*\*\*

**INDIAN SECTION TS 'GOAL SETTING MEET 2019'  
ATTENDED BY BTF REPRESENTATIVES SIS.  
KASHMIRA KHAMBATTA & SIS. ABAN PATEL:**

The Meet was held on 30th September and 1st October 2019 at Besant Hall of Indian Section TS HQ at Varanasi. It was a Meet

to review accomplishments of Indian Section and Federation Goals of 2018-2019 and to set the Goals for 2019-2020. Under the directions of Shri Pradeep H. Gohil, President Indian Section TS the Goals committed for Bombay Theosophical Federation for 2019-2020 are as under:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>BTF Goals for 2019-2020</b>	<b>Weightage (%)</b>
1	To increase NET membership by 5	20%
2	To create and commission an E-Lodge net-work through efforts of Bro. Taral Mumnsi	15%
3	To ensure that Ananda Lodge will meet at least once in a month	05%
4	To encourage 20 Young & New Members to speak at Red Letter Days, Annual Sessions	10%
5	To conduct two 'Reach Out Programmes' with students of Schools & Colleges on Theosophical Themes	10%
6	To groom three second line workers	10%
7	To raise Rs.15 Lakhs for TS activities from CSR funds	10%
8	To send at least 10 members for study camp at Bhowali along with Gujarat Federation	05%
9	To organize one Study Camp by National Lecturer	05%
10	To arrange a visit of 8 individual Lodges separately either by President, Secretary or Knowledgeable member for better functioning of Lodges	10%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sis. Kshmira Khambatta and Sis. Aban Patel also attended Indian Section Study Camp from 2nd to 4th October 2019. The **Study Camp on 'J. Krishnamurti and the Teachings of Theosophy'** was conducted by **Prof. P. Krishna** (of JK's Rajghat School in Varanasi)

presentations on Foundation Day. around his book '*A Jewel on a Silver Platter*'. Both will give presentations on Foundation Day.

**VISIT OF 'TS SRI LANKA' IN COLOMBO BY SIS. MAHAZAVAR DALAL:** Thanks to Prof. C. A. Shinde, Sis. Mahazaver Dalal had a rare opportunity to meet **Ven. Olande Ananda of Pagoda Meditation Centre** and to visit 'TS Sri Lanka' in Colombo on 3rd October 2019. Ven. Olande Ananda, who is greatly revered in Sri Lanka was very kind and caring. First he took Sis. Mahazaver to **Ananda Collge** (for boys) to see *the statue of 'National Hero of Sri Lanka – Col. H. S. Olcott'*. Next he took her to **Musaeus Buddhist Girls' College** to show one more statue of Col. H. S. Olcott. Unfortunately the statue had broken while shifting during renovation and was under restoration. However, Col. Olcott's portrait painted by a student was impressive. The College Archives' display of Theosophical photos & literature was very informative. After lunch, there was a **meeting with members of 'TS Sri Lanka' at their Centre**. It was an interactive meeting sharing of Theosophical thoughts with President Mr. Duminda A. L. and other members. Sis. Mahazaver will share her impressions of 'TS Sri Lanka' on the Foundation Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COLLEGE & SCHOOL STUDENTS VOICE  
THEIR CONCERN  
FOR BETTER HARMONIOUS TOMORROW  
AT MULLAN & DANI ELOCUTION COMPETITIONS**

**The Bombay Theosophical Federation and Youth Red Cross Maharashtra jointly organized Minoo Mullan Inter-College Elocution Competition on 21st September 2019 at Besant Hall of Blavatsky Lodge Theosophical Society.**

**Bro. Vinayak Pandya, President of Bombay Theosophical Federation opened the event** with recitation of The Universal Prayer written by Dr. Annie Besant. He welcomed all and spoke about character building with Theosophical Values. He added that participation is for self-development and so BTF congratulates all participants. **Sis. Aban Patel, Master of Ceremony** said that the

---



---

competition was in memory of a great Theosophist Minoo Mullan. She introduced the Judges Mr. Errick Elavia, Principal Lady Engineer High School, Ms Pasheen Kasad, well-known Theatre Artist and Ms Behnaz Mody, Teacher & Stage Actress.

**12 College Students spoke with concern about the subjects:** (1) Compassion (2) Human Development & Peace and (3) Challenges of Youth. Theosophical Books and Participation Certificates were given to all participants. Theosophical Books were presented to the Judges and Team of Youth Red Cross headed by Shri Bhavesh Sao and Miss Joyce Pinto. **Youth Red Cross Chairman Rtn Godrej Dotivala presented memento ‘The Best Partner In Academia 2018-2019 The Bombay Theosophical Federation’** to BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya.

**The Bombay Theosophical Federation and Junior Red Cross Maharashtra jointly organized Jamubhai & Suryaben Dani Inter-School Elocution Competition on 28th September 2019 at Besant Hall of Blvatsky Lodge Theosophical Society.**

The participants were told that this Elocution Competition was in memory of **‘Guru-Dampati’** Jamubhai & Suryaben Dani, who were great Teachers with Gandhian & Theosophical Values and wanted ethical values and original thinking developed in students.

Lady Engineer High School Principal Mr. Errick Elavia **introduced the Judges** Mr. Ajit Bhide, Spiritual Teacher, Ms. Rachele Aranha, Consultant in the field of Behavioural Learning and Mr. Khurshed Mogrelia, Musical Theater Performer.

**The subjects for Junior Group of Std. 5th, 6th & 7th were:** (1) When I found a Stray Dog or Cat (2) Study Subject I like and Why (3) Nature Outing & Inspiring Experience (4) Gandhi Bapu & Children. **The subjects for Senior Group of Std. 8th, 9th & 10th were:** (1) My Environment, My Concern (2) Ethical Values in Education (3) Wonder of No.7 in Creation (4) Harmony. Judge Mr. Ajeet Bhide, who has judged the competition for three years, remarked that the standard of eloquence has gone up. Theosophical

Books & Participation Certificates were given to all 39 students. Books were given to the Judges also.

**Theosophical Books given according to age groups to students were:** \*At the Feet of the Master \*Annie Besant on Right Citizenship \*Annie Besant on Brotherhood of Religions by Surendra Narayan \*Power and Use of Thought by CWL \*The Living Wisdom by P. Pavri. **To Judges and Junior Red Cross Team books given were:** \*Light of Asia (Prose) by H.K. Sharan \*Dhammapada by C. Kunhaan Raja \*Seven Graet Religions by Annie Besant

**Minoo Mullan Inter-College Elocution Competition 2019 Prize Winners are:**

Prizes.	Prize Winners	Topic
1st Prize	Ms. Ayesha Shamsi	Compassion
1st Prize	Mr. Aymaan Badi	Challenges of Youth
2nd Prize	Ms. Elina Dsoza	Human Development and Peace
3rd prize	Ms. Nitika Sadhukla	Human Development and Peace
Cons. Prize	Ms. Riddhi Waghela	Compassion
Cons. Prize	Mr. Nathan Dias	Challenges faced by Youth

**Jamubhai & Suryaben Dani Inter-School Elocution Competition 2019 Junior Group (5th, 6th 7th Std.) Winners:**

Prizes.	Prize Winners	Topic
1st Prize	Ms. Kiara Athaide	When I found a stray dog or cat
2nd Prize	Ms. Anupreet Kaur Sahoo	Study Subject I like & Why
3rd prize	Mst. Jatin Mirchandani	Study Subject I like & Why
Cons. Prize	Mst. Vivan Mathur	Study Subject I like & Why
Cons. Prize	Ms. Priya Sharma	When I found a stray dog or cat



---



---

**Jamubhai & Suryaben Dani Inter-School Elocution Competition  
2019 Senior Group (8th, 9th, 10th Std.) Winners:**

Prizes.	Prize Winners	Topic
1st Prize	Ms. Nandini Bhatted	My Environment, My Concern
2nd Prize	Ms. Simran Justin	Harmony
3rd prize	Mt. Maya Subbaraman	Ethical Values in Education

**Prizes & Merit Certificates will be given to Winners of both Mullan & Dani Elocution Competitions at the BTF 88th Annual Session on Friday 18th October 2019 at Besat Hall of Blavatsky Lodge TS. The First Prize Winners of both competitions will speak on that evening.**

\*\*\*\*\*

***THE WHITE DOG CAFÉ***  
**Bro. Arni Narendran shares story about  
 Portrait of Madam Helena Petrovna Blavatsky  
 at ‘White Dog Cafe - Philadelphia. USA**

When John Vidumsky, a Philadelphia based rowing reporter went to the first floor restaurant “The White Dog Café’ he was intrigued to find the place steeped in History. In fact its owner, Judy Wicks, a west Philadelphia waitress who bought the place at 3420 Sansom street in the city’s Ritten House Square, seventeen years ago, was concerned **when someone knocked at her door one night and enquired whether it was the very house that Madam Blavatsky stayed 113 years ago.** At that time she did not know either Madam Blavatsky or about Theosophy. But then, on finding a letter written by HPB about her gangrenous knee and how **a White Dog that lay across her leg when she slept, brought about a miraculous cure.** The Doctors had lost all hope and recommended to amputate. **This miracle was also narrated by HPB to the iconic Irish Poet and**

---



---

**Theosophist Y B Yeats.** It was this incident that inspired Judy to name her restaurant – **The White Dog Café.**

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky in fact resided in this House in 1884. She had moved to investigate the séances of Nelson and Jennie Holmes, who later in life were found to be conning the public, faking two mediums John and Katie King, an old Spanish pirate and his pretty young daughter, whose graceful picture was a sellout and the monies collected were misused to buy a Horse and a Carriage. Initially though she was in support of them, subsequently on finding their fraud, she was forced to expose them to safeguard ‘Spiritualism’, which was gaining ground in America, with Philadelphia having as many as 300 odd members in this esoteric community. She described the Holmes as the biggest fraud of the age of spiritualists. In later years HPB stayed away from these séances, being aware of the pitfalls. HPB at that point of time was living with her short term husband, the whimsical Michael Betanally, a Businessman from Georgia. It was upon her divorce that she left for New York, where in 1875 she founded the Theosophical Society together with Col Henry Steel Olcott.

The restaurant is now popular with students and heritage seekers. On White Lotus Day, the Death anniversary of HPB, around fifty enthusiasts had gathered, Professors and students from the University of Pennsylvania, members of the Theosophical Society and Ms Marsha Siefert a concert pianist played the music of Alexander Scriabbin, a Theosophy inspired composer. As John Vidumsky remarks’ though their numbers are few, Theosophists have an outsize influence on American culture as forerunners of the New Age Movement.

*(Acknowledgements: Nancy Bragin and Jon Knebel)*



---



---

***BTF & LODGE PROGRAMMES NOVEMBER 2019***

**FOUNDATION DAY MEETING** jointly by BTF and Blavatsky Lodge at Besant Hall on Sunday 17th November 2019 at 10.30 pm with presentation on ‘Indian Section TS Goal Meet 2019’ by Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta and Sis. Aban Patel and ‘Impressions of Visit of TS Sri Lanka’ by Sis. Mahazaver Dalal

**1. ANANDA LODGE:** Theosophical Colony, Juhu, Mumbai 400049. Contact Ananda Lodge Secretary Sis. Zenobia Khodaiji (M): 9820308163 for Meeting of November 2019

**2. BLAVATSKY LODGE:** 7 - French Bridge, Mumbai 400007 Tel: 23685026 (M): 9821459504 (M): 9819334333

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Fri 1	6.00 pm	Study of CWL’s book ‘Inner Life’ conducted by Sis. Aban Patel
Sun 3	10.00 am	Bharat Samaj Pooja
Fri 8	6.00 pm	‘Autobiography of a Yogi’ by Paramhans Yogananda – conducted by Bro. Arni Narendran
Fri 15	6.00 pm	Study of CWL’s book ‘Inner Life’ conducted by Sis. Aban Patel
Sun 17	10.30 am	Foundation Day Meeting
Fri 22	4.30 pm 6.00 pm	‘Autobiography of a Yogi’ by Paramhans Yogananda – conducted by Bro. Arni Narendran
Sun 24	10.45 am	Maitreya Round Table
Fri 29	6.00 pm	‘Autobiography of a Yogi’ by Paramhans Yogananda – conducted by Bro. Arni Narendran
Tues 5, 12,19, 26	5.45 pm	‘Autobiography of a Yogi’ by Paramhans Yogananda – conducted by Bro. Arni Narendran

**3. CENTENARY LODGE:**

Please contact Sis. NajmaDewan (M): 9987204038 for meetings

**4. JYOTI LODGE:** Contact Bro. Taral Munshi, C/101, Building No.19, New Mhada, Garden Hill C.H.S., New Mhada Colony, Behind N.P.A., Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400065 (M): 9820187317

**5. SHANTI LODGE:** C/o Bro. Rustom Dalal, Vijay Niwas, 2nd Floor, Plot 5, Sleater Road, Mumbai 400007 Tel: 23800422 (M): 9833131216 Time: 6.15 p.m.

Thurs 7	Study of CWL's book 'The Power and Use of Thought'
Thurs 14	Study of CWL's book 'The Power and Use of Thought'
Thurs 21	Study of CWL's book 'The Power and Use of Thought'
Thurs 28	Study of CWL's book 'The Power and Use of Thought'

**6. UNITY YOUTH LODGE:** Sis. SoonooVesuna (M): 9619339787

Wed 20	5.30 pm	Theosophical readings guided by Sis. SoonooVesuna at her residence Vijay Niwas, 4th Floor, Sleater Road
--------	---------	---

**7 & 8 VASANTA LODGE & GANESH LODGE:**C/O Sis. Kalpana Pramod Jani, 804, Ajanta, Tilak Road, opp. Shabari Hotel, Santacruz (West), Mumbai 400054

Wednesday 6, 13, 20 & 27	6.30 pm	Study of Gujarati Translation of Annie Besant's book 'Path of Discipleship' conducted by Bro. Bhavesh Pandya
--------------------------	---------	--

**9. VIMADALAL BILIA LODGE:** Family House, Parsi Colony, Dadar, Mumbai 400014

Thurs 7	5.45	Lodge Members' Meeting
Thurs 14	6.00	Talk by Bro. Rustom Chothia
Thurs 21	6.00	Talk by Sis. Meher Contractor
Thurs 28	6.00	Lodge Members' Meeting



\*\*\*\*\*

**Price: Rs. 1/-**

**Annual Subscription: Rs. 10/-**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Bombay Theosophical Federation, c/o Blavatsky Lodge, 7 – French Bridge, Chowpatty, Mumbai – 400 007. (Tel: 23685026) and Printed at Vijay Copy Centre, 48/A, Saidunnisa Building, Sleater Road, Opposite Grant Road Station (West), Mumbai-400 007.*