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Editor

PRADEEP H. GOHIL

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

To the 146th International Convention of the Theosophical Society, On-line from 27 to 30 December 2021

GREETINGS friends! I would like to welcome you all to this opening of the 146th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS). It is a very good thing to be together in this virtual manner once again.

Many of you will know that 2020 was a historic year for the TS in that it was the first *ever* fully virtual Convention of the TS in, at that time, its 145-year history. Conditions did not permit for a physical gathering even though during the courses of World Wars we somehow managed to have a physical gathering. But last year was different, it was historic!

When the history books of the future are written, 2020 will be a very exceptional year for humanity, and for human history, a watershed year, a tipping point. There are a lot of ways that we can describe it; there are many perspectives on it; but it is very clear that during that year something profound changed. There are many ways to interpret it, but from an Ageless Wisdom perspective, or even just from a level of a keen sort of observation, it is clear that there was something new. Through this pandemic that we are still experiencing, a global recognition was forced upon us of our interdependence without regard for financial status, educational level, race, caste, religion, sex, or colour.

No one stood outside of this shared human experience of a pandemic. Of course, it was largely a fear-based recognition for the safety of our loved ones and of ourselves — but it was recognized. Alongside of this particular global recognition issue, it seems as if there has been another rising recognition of a global sense of human responsibility for a planet that is simultaneously drowning and burning, resulting from the effects of human choices, human-induced environmental conditions over a period of time.

Now we are seeing what could be called “predictable”, but dire, consequences or effects on the environment. There is a recognition that in spite of our past behaviours humanity does not stand outside of Nature. We are not separate from it, above it, or immune to the natural world. This is a dawning recognition, again, imposed upon us by the effects of global patterns that we are witnessing of weather shifting, and the models that have been developed to track their potential results. This is something new. The isolation, or separation, that we have fostered in our behaviours as nations and as individuals are at least coming into question. It is a very important moment of how we, as a human family, will respond — that remains to be seen.

Sometimes, as individuals, the slightest glimpse of a truth is life-changing, direction-changing. But sometimes the sense is that the demands of truth, having seen something that is too demanding, make people respond differently, and then maybe distract themselves from what they have seen. In the words of T. S. Eliot: “We are distracted from distraction by distraction.” So these are some of the possibilities.

H. P. Blavatsky (HPB), one of the Founders of the Theosophical Society, made an important statement in discussing the power of truth. She said: “There is no more fatal fallacy than ‘The truth will prevail by its own force. It has only to be seen to be embraced.’” The fact, as she presented it, is that “The desire for truth exists in very few minds, and the capacity to discern it in fewer still.” If one believes that this is a correct analysis, it means that for us members of the TS who believe in the motto of the Society that “there is no Dharma [or religion, or any system of thought] higher than Truth”, there is a role for anyone among us who feels that there is value in seeking truth.

This is because it places a certain responsibility on us not only to seek for truth, but when some realization of the nature of a truth, or of truth comes to us, also to suffer it, to respond to its demands, and not go back to sleep. This is a serious need in the world and it is a duty for those who are so inclined.

From the perspective of this year’s Convention and its theme,

the role for us is to live more fully, to live in the now, to learn, to see, and to accept the challenges of the inner life. With that as a prelude, at this time I would like to request you all to rise while I pronounce the traditional invocation to the Great Ones for beginning this Convention:

**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.**

At this point I declare this 146th Annual Convention
of the Theosophical Society open.

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The Indian Section, with the largest membership in the international Society, has 9,039 members (443 of them life members) in 480 Lodges and 13 study centers. A positive result of Covid-19 was the evolution of on-line lectures resulting in both an increase in audience attendance as well as the discovery of new speakers, many of them young theosophists. The new college building was completed with an additional capacity of 300 students, and there are plans to expand the scope of courses offered to the management and education streams. The Besant Education Fellowship managed two schools in the Section's headquarters campus. An inperson meeting marked the celebration of Dr Annie Besant's birth anniversary, whereas Foundation, Adyar, and White Lotus Days were celebrated in on-line meetings. After giving the opportunity for life members to confirm their presence for continued membership, 745 out of 1,188 were dropped due to lack of response. This contributed significantly to the overall membership drop of about 14% from the previous year.

The 129th National Convention-II was conducted on-line in December on the theme, "Awareness Transforms Life", chaired by Vic Hao Chin, Jr, former General Secretary of the TS in the Philippines, and a master of the subject. The first Public Lecture in memory of Radha Burnier, the 7th international President of the TS, was held on

30 October, with the keynote address, "Radhaji: Glimpses of Her Life and Influence", attended by 90 global participants. The 97th Easter Conference (originally called South India Conference) was held on-line in April with 250 registrants (68 from outside India), on "Theosophy and J. Krishnamurti". The consensus was that, far from being contradictory, Krishnamurti's teachings were an affirmation of Theosophy. Of the 16 Federations, seven held on-line annual conferences and three in person. One was the Telugu Federation's centenary celebrations planned for March 2020, which had to be deferred and was held one year later. There were 100 delegates and 150 members of the public participating.

The annual study camp was conducted on-line, directed by Ven. Olande Thero, on "Mindfulness, the Heart of Buddhist Meditation", with 100 participants. No study camps could be organized at the popular Himalayan study centre at Bhowali. Over 80 study classes were held on-line on *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett* and other theosophical books. Numerous special lectures, seminars/workshops, and other programmes were conducted in English and Hindi, mostly by over 15 national lecturers. Overall, propagation of Theosophy was the highest in decades due to the extensive use of on-line media. The TOS continued its activities like women's empowerment, subsistence and treatment support for Covid19-affected economically disadvantaged families, cyclone relief, and so on.

The International Vice-President, Mrs Deepa Padhi, was invited to chair the 129th Indian Section Convention-I in December.... The 56th annual conference of the Utkal Theosophical Federation in September on "Humanity and Beyond" had her as the chief guest.

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At the **International Headquarters** of the TS in Adyar, Chennai, India, the Administrator of the **Adyar Theosophical Academy** (ATA), Mrs Sonal Murali, reports that the second academic year continued on-line due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, and started its third year in June with 130 students from Nursery to Grade 88/ THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST, Feb./ 2022

4. The anniversary was celebrated on-line with President Tim Boyd as the chief guest. At the crux of the ATA student/teacher interaction is transformative learning. A typical day begins with “circle time” when children bring to the table what they would like to share and build on via organic conversations. Arts and crafts in many forms continue to be explored, whether Form Drawing or Mandala Art. During the year, a successful link with Nature and its wonders was achieved for children from home through Nature Journaling. Language acquisition in Tamil and Hindi grew steadily using games, stories, and music. Theatre classes instil skills like good communication, coordination, and group work.

A Science Hub was launched for students to actively engage in experimenting, designing, and querying. This is not to omit school events like creating music, Science Day, and Annual Day with plays and songs. Teachers had regular, skill and knowledge upgradation programmes in areas like systems thinking, stages of development, multiple kinds of intelligences, non-violent communication, and contemplation of the core question: “What is education for?”

The Officer-in-Charge of the Surendra Narayan **Archives**, Ms Jaishree Kannan, reports that no researchers could visit the Archives during the pandemic, but there were fifteen research scholars using its resources on-line. Their requirements were catered to by scanning or copying the materials available. The 17th of February 2022 will mark the beginning of the centennial year of the Archives, and they are gearing up for this important landmark by having a year-long programme starting with the International Convention 2021.

In the Adyar **Museum**, Dr Bernd Jesse continued his valuable voluntary work. The Venkatachalam Collection consists of over 100 early 20th-century paintings and Hindu bronzes, in various states of preservation. Cleaning and identification of these artefacts is in progress. Photographing these items has consumed more time than previously thought, so the immediate focus is on the more prominent pieces. This includes several other items in the display room as well.

The **Theosophical Publishing House** reports that during the

year, book sales were Rs. 1.8 million with royalties accounting for Rs. 0.8 million. This was lower than earlier years due to the Covid19 disruption and also to some options for e-books rather than the printed version. Still, 44 book titles, many of which were out of stock, were reprinted; 22 book titles were scanned and converted to the soft copy format. Subscribers to *The Theosophist*, a monthly, were 864, of which 612 were Indian. The quarterly *Adyar Newsletter (ANL)* had 372 subscribers (256 in India). Apart from the periodicals, **Vasanta Press** continued to print titles ordered by TPH and Adyar Library. They also printed 9 book titles, 11 issues of *The Theosophist*, and 4 issues of *ANL*.

The **Theosophical Order of Service (TOS)** is present in 36 of the 59 countries where the TS is active and has several outreach avenues, per Ms Nancy Secrest, TOS Secretary. The TOS: *in-touch. on-line* e-newsletter is published quarterly. The website is <international.theoservice.org> and the Facebook link is <facebook.com/tosinternational>. Covid-19 created restrictions, but ironically allowed many more people to interact via on-line talks accessible worldwide. On-line activities were held from India and the Philippines. Due to retirement, new Directors were elected in Argentina, Mexico, and Bolivia. A large donation was received from TOS England for Covid-19 relief in India, used to distribute food and household articles in several cities. Face masks, hand sanitizers, and oxygen tanks were some items distributed for Covid relief. A few Adyar employees were also helped with medical costs or replacement of loss of spousal income due to the lockdowns. Many TOS groups around the world helped those who needed food, medical, education and other assistance. Regular projects were mostly maintained. Assistance with various women’s issues, educational and scholarship efforts, and youth involvement remained central issues for many groups, along with animal welfare, and humanitarian assistance. Also, almost all countries have healing groups.

TIM BOYD

(Courtesy: *The Theosophist*, January 2022)

NEWS AND NOTES

Bengal

The 108th Anniversary celebration of the Bally Theosophical Lodge was held on 21 November 2021, at Sishu Samity Hall, Goswamipara Road, Bally, Howrah. The function started with the Prayers of All Faiths followed by the welcome address by Bro. A.N. Chakraborty., Jt. Secy. Then, Lodge's Secretary Bro. Joydeb Goswami read out the activity report of the Lodge. Prof. Prahlad Kr. Sarkar, Ex. Hd. of the Deptt. of Philosophy of Calcutta University, in his presidential address beautifully explained the origin of "Brotherhood" as propagated by TS, the contribution of Dr. Annie Besant to the Theosophical movement in India and the efforts made by her for spreading education specially for women. Bro. A.M. Patra, narrated the significance of "Golden Stairs" of Madam H.P. Blavatsky. Shri S. Banerjee, (invitee), Shri A. Banerjee, Bro. H.K. Halder, Bro. P.K. Ghosh, Bro. S. Chatterjee also spoke on this occasion. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks given by Bro. J. Goswami.

Kerala

An on-line meeting was organized to celebrate the Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society on 17 November 2021. Federation's President Dr. M.A. Raveendran presided. Meeting commenced with Universal Prayer. Bro. K. Dinakaran, Secretary, K.T.F., welcomed the members and speakers of the day.

Dr. Raveendran in his Presidential address mentioned the importance of the Foundation Day and narrated the events which took place before the formal inauguration of the Theosophical Society by Col. H.S. Olcott.

Sis. Laxmibai of Annapoorni Lodge, Alleppey, spoke about the glorious life of Madam H.P. Blavatsky. She pointed out that when an option was put before her by her Master whether she would like to complete *The Secret Doctrine* or release from the torturing illness of the physical body, she desired to complete *The Secret Doctrine*. Her care for the poor, sacrificing all comforts in life is a shining example of her greatness.

Dr. Beena of Sri Sankara Lodge, Ernakulam, spoke on H.S. Olcott the founder President of T.S. H.S.O. was a lawyer, agriculturist, writer, journalist, Healer and a great Theosophist who sacrificed worldly comforts and sacrificed money, time and energy for the cause of Theosophy. Bro. N. Bhaskaran Nair, Vice-President K.T.F., also expressed his views on the occasion.

Bro. K. Dinakaran displayed the books written by W.Q. Judge and said that the books like *Ocean Of Theosophy*, *Bagavad Gita*, *Notes on Bagavad Gita* and *Patanjali Yoga Sutra* are very valuable contributions of W.Q. Judge.

Marathi

Bro. Nitin Abhyankar of Poona Lodge delivered eight on-line talks during one month's celebration programme conducted by MTF on the occasion of White Lotus Day. He spoke on i) Hinduism ii) Zoroastrianism, iii) Jainism, iv) Buddhism, v) Christianity, vi) Islam, vii) Sikhism and viii) Divine Wisdom. These talks delivered in Marathi were based on the book *Seven Great Religions* by Annie Besant.

As part of "Annie Besant Day", Bro. Abhyankar delivered a series of 7 lectures on every Saturday and Sunday in the month October 2021. These talks too were given in Marathi and were based on the book "*Damodar and the Pioneers of Theosophical Movement*" compiled by Even Seek.

Utkal

Professor Prafulla Kumar Dash, President of Barabati Lodge, Cuttack, delivered a talk on 'The spiritual significance of Gayatri Mantra' in the meeting of the Lodge held on 22 November 2021. The other speakers who spoke on this occasion on different aspects of Gayatri Mantra were Bro. Sahadeb Patro, Bro. C.A. Shinde and Bro. B.S. Mohanty respectively.

Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra conducted on-line study class in a programme of UTF in which the subject for study was 'The Divine Plan' and it was held on three days in October and on two days in November 2021.

Bro. Tim Boyd had conducted a study class organized by the Indian Section from 8-10 October 2021. The content explained by him on 8 October was translated into Odiya language by Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra and presented in an on-line programme of Sidhartha Lodge held on 26 October. Besides, Bro. Mahapatra conducted a study class on 28 November in a joint on-line programme of Pythagoras Lodge and OM study group of Bhubaneswar. The book selected for this study class was *Talks on the Path of Occultism (Light on the Path)*.

Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand

In the on-line meetings of Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, held on 03, 10, and 24 November, 2021, talks were delivered on the topics 'The Life of the Disciple', 'Dasavatara', and 'Epitome of Theosophy' by Bro. B. K. Pandey, Bro. U. S. Pandey and Bro. Ashok Kumar Gupta respectively.

Dharma Lodge held four on-line meetings on different days in December 2021. In these meetings talks were delivered on the topics 'Some Key points of Theosophical Teachings', '*Ash tang Marg*', 'Life of a Disciple (Four Initiations)' and 'Emanation and Evolution of Cosmos'. The speakers were Bro. U. S. Pandey Bro. Pramil Dwivedi, Bro. B. K. Pandey and Bro. Ashok Kumar Gupta respectively.

Nirvan Lodge, Agra, conducted meetings on 11, 18 and 25 November in which talks were delivered on the topics, 'Awareness', 'Evil spirits and mental health' and 'Sankhya Darshan' by Dr. C.R. Rawat, Bro. R.P. Sharma and Dr. Vinod Sharma respectively. A symposium on 'Foundation Day' was organized on 17 November. Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed on 14 November. The Lodge organized talks in its three meetings held in December in which talks were delivered on the topics, 'Universal Prayer', 'HPB spake', 'Questions of King Nim and answers by Yogishwars'. These talks were delivered by Bro. Shyam Kumar Sharma, Bro. Praveen Malhotra and Bro. H.B. Pandey respectively.

Besides, two seminars were organized by Nirvan Lodge on 02

and 23 December. The subject of one seminar was 'Feeling of wholeness in Theosophy' and the other was on 'O! Hidden Life vibrant in every atom'. Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed on 12 December.

Pragya Lodge, Lucknow, organized five on-line meetings in November, in which talks were delivered on the topics, 'Significance of the Symbols in HQ Hall of TS Adyar', 'Light on the Path and Hints for a happy life', 'Living from the Centre', 'Holistic Health and Naturopathy'. The speakers were Bro. Vinay Kumar Patri, Sis. Sabine Van Osta (GS of Belgian Section), Sis. Sonal Murali and Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri respectively. Besides, Rajive Gupta and Sis. Mansi Bhagat spoke on 'Mental Body'.

Apart from the aforementioned meetings, Pragya Lodge organized meetings in Hindi exclusively for the members of the Lodge. These meetings were held on 11, and 25 November in which talks were delivered on the topics, '*Sukhi Jeevan ke Sutra Series -IV; Seva*', and 'The Creative Silence' by Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri and Sis. Sushmja Tiwari. Besides, a guided Awareness meditation was conducted on 18 November by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri.

Pragya Lodge held on-line meetings on 05 and 12 December, in which talks were delivered on the topics, 'The Self' by Bro. S. Raman and on 'Etheric Double' by Dr. Rajiv Gupta respectively. The Lodge also published a YouTube video on "Hidden meaning of Christmas" on 24 December.

In the on-line meeting of Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur, two talks were delivered by Bro. Ajai Rai- one talk was on the topic 'Journey' and the other talk was on 'Biological changes during meditation'. These talks were held on 7 and 21 November respectively.

In the on-line meetings of Sarvahitkari Lodge held on 05, 12, 19 and 26 December the following talks were delivered: 'Three Objects of Theosophical Society' by Bro. Ajai Rai, '*Shabd-Brahman*' by Bro. S.B.R. Mishra, 'Spiritual Sun', by Bro. Ajai Rai; and Unity of Consciousness and its action' by Bro. S.K. Pandey respectively.

During the on-line meeting of Prayas Lodge, Ghaziabad, held on 07 November, summary of Chapters 13, 14 and 15 of the Bhagavad 94/ THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST, Feb./ 2022

Gita were presented by Bro. Smruti Sagar Mohanta, Sis. Shruti Goel and Bro. Baivab Patnaik respectively. Then, during the on-line meeting held on 14 November, summary of the Chapters 16, 17 and 18 of Bhagavad Gita were presented by Sis. Suhani, Bro. Vansh and Sis. Urvashi respectively. In the meetings held on 21 and 28 November Sis. Suvralina Mohanty spoke on 'Objectives of Theosophical Society' and 'Theosophical teachings and their applications' respectively.

In the on-line meeting of Prayas Lodge held on 05 December, a talk was delivered on 'Theosophical teachings and their application' by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri and Sis. Catalina. Besides, in the meetings held on 12, 19 and 26 December, talks were delivered on 'Trinity and Triangle' from Ch.13 of the book *Masters and the Path*, 'Ch. 1, 2 and 3 of the book *Commentaries on Living*', and 'Ch.4 and 5 of the book *Commentaries on Living*'. The speakers were Sis. Suvralina Mohanty, Sis. Sandhya Rani and Sis. Mridula Naik respectively.

Sis. Suvralina Mohanty conducted on-line study class on every Sunday for children and youth at 09.30 am. The subjects covered by her during November, 2021 were: 'Experimental attitude and questioning' and 'Discipline.' And the subjects taken up in December were "Serving attitude in daily life' and 'Importance of giving.'

In the on-line meetings of Noida Lodge held on 07 and 21 November and 5 and 19 December the study of the book "*The Voice of the Silence*" was continued by Sis. Lalita Khatri.

Bro. S.S. Gautam delivered a talk on 'Law of Reincarnation' on 07 November at Chohan Lodge, Kanpur. Besides, he conducted group study on 'Karma' on 14, 21 and 28 November and conducted group study of the book '*A Study in Consciousness*' on 05, 12 and 26 December 2021. He delivered a talk on the topic 'Obstacles in the path of Yoga' on 19 December.

Kashi Tattva Sabha, Varanasi, held one on-line meeting on 26 November in which talk on the topic 'Spirituality and our life' was delivered by Bro. Vinod Sharma. Besides, in the on-line meetings of

Kashi Tattva Sabha held on 17 and 24 December talks were delivered on the topics '*Adhyatm aur hamara Jeevan*', and '*Bhartiya Jeevancharya ki pratimurti Dr. Annie Besant*' by Bro. Vinod Sharma and Prof. Asha Yadav respectively.

Anand Lodge, Allahabad, held meetings through WhatsApp and members listened to pre-recorded talks, on 07, 14 and 17, November, on the topics 'Importance of Vedas', 'Dhyannmala-Ch. 3-Seva' and 'Plan for establishing the Theosophical Society'. Matter for the talk on 07 November was recorded by Bro. Sudeep Mishra, and for other two were recorded by Sis. Sushma Srivastava. Similarly, talks on 'Dhyannmala-Atmtyag' in two parts were recorded by Sis. Ranjana Srivastava and were listened to by members on 21 and 28 November.

The Lodge observed the birthday of late Smt. Radha Burnier on 15 November 2021.

Anand Lodge held meetings through WhatsApp and members listened to pre-recorded talks, on 05, 12, 19 and 26, December. The talks were on '*Dhaynamaala, Ch.Sadhan-Path*' by Annie Besant., '*Adhyatmmaala*' by Annie Besant, '*Jeevan ki rah men chhote chhote deep*', and 'Theosophic Life'. Matter for the first two talks were recorded by Sis. Jyotsana Srivastava and the remaining two talks were recorded by Sis. G.K. Ajeet and Sis. Sushma Srivastava respectively.

U.P. and UK Federation Programme: The Federation organized a special on-line programme on 17 November, 2021 to observe the Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society. Members from various lodges of the federation and also from other federations like those of Bihar, M.P/Rajasthan, Marathi and Karnatak also joined. Federation's President Bro. U.S. Pandey, after invoking the Universal Prayer, welcomed the participants and conveyed greetings received for the occasion. Then Bro. S.K. Pandey, Federation Secretary, delivered a talk highlighting the history and purpose of founding the society, initial work done by the founders, objects of the society, special contribution of H.P. Blavatsky, and Col. H. S. Olcott, etc., Thereafter, Bro. U.S. 96/ THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST, Feb./ 2022

Pandey mentioned some specific preparatory work done by the founders before formal inauguration of the society and also shared some important points from the inaugural address delivered by Col. Olcott on 17 November 1875 in New York.

U.P. and Uk Federation Programme: The Federation has planned a series of on-line talks on “Basics of Theosophy”. First talk in this series was delivered on the topic ‘Karma’ by Bro. U.S. Pandey on 05 December. Besides members of the federation, about 25 students and teachers of Praxis Vidyapeeth Rudhauri and members from many other federations and also one member from U.S.A. joined in this programme. After the talk there was close interaction with the participants.

From January 2022 onwards, two talks in this series will be arranged on the second and fourth Sunday of every month.

Programme for students/teachers/ youth: A sixteen weeks course on ‘Self- realization through Theosophy’ has been introduced to add value to the regular courses of all disciplines taught at UG and PG levels in Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi. The curriculum for this course emphasizes on character building aspects, life skills, imbibing right values and practicing right behaviour. The course aims at helping the students to prepare for challenges of life and get ready for the future with internal peace, happiness and virtues of right behaviour. 125 students got enrolled for this course. The resource persons for this course are: Smt. Uma Bhattacharyya, Bro. V. Narayanan and Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri. The first two sessions were conducted by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri on 20 and 27 November, 2021 on the topics ‘Theosophy and Fundamentals of Indian Philosophy’ and ‘Law of Karma and Man is maker of his own destiny’ respectively. Besides, a session on ‘Thought Power’ was conducted by Bro. Agnihotri on 4 December.

Contribution in other Federations:

Talks in Delhi Federation:

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On invitation by Shankar Lodge, Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri delivered on-line talk on ‘Ashtavakra Gita-Ch. 2” It was held on 20.11.21.

Talk in M.P. and Rajasthan Federation:

On invitation by Besant Lodge, Jodhpur Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri delivered a talk on the topic ‘Emotions and Daily Life’ on 12 December 2021.

Contribution in the India Section Programme/Work:

Sis. Vibha Saxena conducted on-line study of the book ‘*Man and his Bodies*’-part III on 06 November. She also conducted study of Mahatma Letter no. 1 on 12 November.

Sister Suvralina Mohanty delivered a talk on the topic ‘The working of a Theosophical Training Centre’ on 12 December 2021.

Bro. Ajai Rai delivered a talk on the topic ‘Energy Matrix and Bio-chemical changes during Meditation’. It was held on 19 December.

Sis. Shreeyashi Ojha of Allahabad and Sis. Vibha Saxena of Noida delivered short talks on the topics ‘Look Beyond yourself and the First Object of The Theosophical Society’ and ‘Centre everywhere, Circumference Nowhere’ respectively. These talks were held during the Indian Section Convention II held on 30 December 2021.

Bro. S. S. Gautam has translated the Section’s journal “*The Indian Theosophist*” of December 2021 in Hindi and it has been published by the Indian Section.

Contribution in the events of other forums:

Sis. Kritika Goel moderated the study of the book ‘*The Ancient Wisdom*’ conducted on 12 December, 2021, in Young India Theosophists Group.

Bro. S.B.R. Mishra delivered a talk on ‘Spirituality’ in Railway Club Gorakhpur on 30 December.

National Lecturer

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri delivered a talk on the topic ‘Principles 98/ THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST, Feb./ 2022

of Theosophical Work' on 07 November. He also conducted study of Mahatma Letter no.2, in two parts on 19 and 26 November 2021. These two programmes were held under the auspices the Indian Section.

Study for three days: Bro. U. S. Pandey conducted study of the book "*Ancient Wisdom-Modern Insight*" authored by Shirley Nicholson. During this study conducted on 23-24-25 November 2021, Bro. Pandey mentioned about uniqueness and purpose of such a book in appreciating as to how the principles of Ancient Wisdom are manifesting in the ideas of some of the modern scientists, philosophers, psychologists, artists etc. and by that process we can appreciate the practicality of these principles in our living the life in general and spiritual life in particular. During the study period, he covered the main points brought out in the Foreword, Preface, Introduction and in the chapters on 'Healing the World View, 'Holons and Hierarchy', 'Time and Timelessness', 'The Two in One', 'Divine Mind', 'Progressive Development', 'Karma', 'The Self and Its Spheres', 'Self-Transformation', and 'Man, the Microcosm.'

At the end of each day's session there was close interaction with the participants. During the concluding session on 25 November, the participants expressed their appreciation of the contents and their presentation during the study. While concluding the programme of study, Br. Pradeep Mahapatra thanked the speaker and the participants.

Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra delivered talk on 'There is no Religion Higher than Truth'. It was held at Indraprastha Lodge, Delhi, on 7 November.

Contribution in the theosophical activities of other countries and in International programmes

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri delivered an on-line talk on 4 November 2021 on the topic 'Symbolism of Diwali Festival' for Bogota Lodge in Colombian Section. During this talk he explained exoteric and esoteric aspects of Diwali. His wife Catalina Isaza Cantor translated the talk in Spanish language.

International Seminar on *The Secret Doctrine*: Bro. U. S. Pandey joined as a speaker and panelist in an international seminar organized on-line by 'Adamant' Lodge, Moscow of the Theosophical Society in Russia. The seminar was on the theme "Sloka 9, of Stanza I of *The Secret Doctrine*-Cosmogogenesis". It was held on 20 November, 2021 and several members from countries like Russia, Ukraine, Great Britain, Greece, South Korea, Australia, Portugal, Brazil, U.S.A. and India participated in it.

Fifth International Theosophical Congress: The Vth International Theosophical Congress was organized by Admant Lodge Moscow on the 146th anniversary of the foundation of the Theosophical Society. Bro. U. S. Pandey, who was invited as a speaker in this event, delivered a talk on "What is Truth?" on 28 November (FN). He also spoke during a symposium organized on the "Sloka 4, of Stanza I of *The Secret Doctrine*-Cosmogogenesis, in the evening of 28 November, 2021.

Publication of article in foreign journal: An article on "The Absolute Principle-The Parabrahman" written by Bro. U. S. Pandey was published in Russian Theosophical Vector Journal- '*Albatross*' - issue no. 2 in November 2021.

In a joint programme of three lodges of Mumbai Federation (Jyoti lodge) and Gujarat Federation (Rewa and Rohit Lodges): Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri translated in Hindi the talk given in English on the topic 'Hidden meaning of Christmas'. It was held on 23 December.

Bro. U. S. Pandey rendered simultaneous translation in Hindi of the Inaugural Address delivered by the International President, Bro. Tim Boyd during the Indian Section Convention - I held on 27 December 2021.

Contribution in International Programmes:

'The World United', a global body of binding force of all pockets of wisdom across the world and which has been organizing 'World 100/ THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST, Feb./ 2022

Parliament on Spirituality’, organized a Global Transformation Festival 2021. Bro. U.S. Pandey was invited by the organizers to deliver a talk during this event. Accordingly Bro. Pandey delivered a talk on the theme ‘Divine Wisdom and Science’ on 19 December 2021. During his talk Bro. Pandey covered the aspects such as: purpose of the divine wisdom and science being- to seek the truth at different levels; need of human for both these modes; limitations of modern science; difference and commonality between approaches of the two; one fundamental law and three fundamental propositions enumerated in *The Secret Doctrine* and scientific views in their respect; some scientific researches approaching the principles in divine wisdom; science as spiritual path, and role of divine wisdom and science in transformation of man. During the talk he quoted statements of some great scientists and adepts also.

Contribution in 146th International Convention of T.S.:

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri rendered active assistance to International Headquarters in Adyar in managing on-line sessions during the International Convention.

Bro. U.S. Pandey rendered simultaneous translation in Hindi of the eight talks delivered by seven foreign delegates, including the opening and invocation on 27 December and public lecture on ‘A life within a Life’ delivered on 30 December by the International President, Bro. Tim Boyd.

Gone to Peace

Bro. Hemendu Bikash Chowdhury, Diploma No.98648 of BTS, Kolkata, passed to peace on 17 December 2021. He was the President of BTS and Vice-President of the Bengal Theosophical Federation. A kind hearted noble person loved by all was associated with many Social and Religious organizations. A prominent writer, scholar of Buddhist literature and an orator of great repute. A good organizer, active social worker and used to take part in all sorts of community development activities. We pray for his peaceful onward journey.

ADYAR DAY

Adyar Day will be observed through Zoom Platform by the Indian Section, TS, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on 17 February 2022. Short talks will be delivered on this occasion by Bro. Pradeep H Gohil, President of the Indian Sec. TS; on **Theosophy and Truth: The role of Olcott** by Sis. Pooja Gole; on **Theosophy and Truth; The role of C W Leadbeater and G. Bruno**; by sis. Shreeyashi Ojha; and on **Theosophy and Truth: The Role of J. Krishnamurti** by Bro. Dakshina Moorty.

Adyar Song will be rendered by the members of Kashi Tattva Sabha, Varanasi.

Pradip Mapapatra

APPROVED AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Indian Section Constitution were approved in the meeting of the Indian Section Council held on 20-12-2021 and approved by the International President Bro. Tim Boyd on 27 Dec. 2021.

The New Booklet of the Indian Section Constitution will be sent to every Lodge and to the members of the Indian Section Council.

Guidelines on Abolition of Admission Fees and Annual Dues

The annual dues from members and admission fees for new members to the Indian Section have been abolished effective from 1.1.2022 through a constitutional amendment passed by the Indian Section Council on 20.12.2021 and approved by the International President on 27.12.2021. A New Member Admission Form has been sent to all Federation Secretaries and uploaded on the Indian Section Website.

1. A copy of the Aadhar Card properly signed by the applicant must be attached with the Admission Form which too must be signed by the new member; he/she must specify whether the free copy of "The Indian Theosophist" is required in English or Hindi, must have a full and detailed residential address, email address or a "care-of" email address, telephone number or "care of" telephone number and a latest photograph, without which membership will not be approved.

2. Every existing member must send an email to the Indian Section Headquarters at "renewalindsecmem@gmail.com" before 5 pm on 30th September every year as per the format given below which must have their signature. The same is applicable for life members.

"I would like to continue my membership in the Indian Section of the Theosophical Society".				
.....
Member Name	Name of Lodge	Diploma No.	Signature of Member	Date

The fully filled, signed and dated copy of the above format must be scanned and sent to the email address given above between 1 July to 30 September. Copies sent by post will not be accepted.

3. One copy is sufficient for all family members living at the same place but all T.S. members must sign it.

4. A Lodge (not a Federation) can take the signatures of its elderly members on one page in the format given above, scan it and send it to email address given in item 2.

5. The members will not be required to pay any International Dues or Federation Dues. However, they will be required to pay Lodge Dues, if any. There will not be any life membership for Lodges.

6. There will be no annual subscription of The Indian Theosophist but every member must specify whether they want it in English or Hindi.

7. Starting from April 2023, every Federation will get Rs 75 per member (not counting the life members) as of October 1 of the previous year for propagation of Theosophy. The membership figure given on ISMS will be considered final. Hence, Lodges and Federations should check the figures in the first week of September and sort out any discrepancies with the Indian Section. The allocation of money for life members to the Federations will be as per earlier practice. Audited accounts of propagation expenses must be maintained and sent to Indian Section in Feb. to qualify for any further money from the Indian Section.

8. Every Lodge must maintain a register of its members having a Diploma, keep a record of their presence and maintain record of dates on which lodge meetings took place along with the subjects discussed.

9. It will be the primary responsibility of the Lodge Secretary & President and the Lodge Council to ensure that any new member that is taken is proper, does not have any unpaid past dues and is worthy in every respect of membership to the Theosophical Society.

10. Federation will not have to send any ADS from now onwards except that for members who have pending amounts against their name as of 1st October 2021. However, they will have to forward new member application form to the Indian Section office after due verification of the credentials of the new members.

11. Federations will have to report to the Indian Section Office by 30th September every year the names of the members (including life members) who have 'Gone to Peace' and those who have resigned from membership during the last 12 months.

Pradeep H. Gohil
President
Indian Section

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for 2022
As approved by the Indian Section Council on
22/12/2021

1. Sri Pradeep H. Gohil - President
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LIST OF NATIONAL LECTURERS - 2022
(As approved in the Executive Committee's
Meeting on 5/1/2022)

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EASTER CONFERENCE

The 98th Easter Theosophical Conference will be held from 15 to 17 April 2022. The theme of the conference is **FROM KNOWN TO UNKNOWN**

The members/sympathizers of the TS are requested to register after 01.03.2022 through mail theosophyindia1891@gmail.com. On registration, each one will be provided with ZOOM meeting ID and Passcode before 10.04.2022. For any clarification kindly contact Pradip Mahapatra, Conference Officer, Cell /Whatsapp No-9437697429, [email- peekem0277@gmail.com](mailto:peekem0277@gmail.com)

REGISTRATION FORM

- 1-Name of Delegates'/Sympathizers _____
- 2- Name of the Theosophical Lodge/Federation _____
- 3- Name of the Country _____
- 4- Whatsapp No- _____
- 5- Email I.D. _____

Pradip Mahapatra
Conference Officer