

# THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST

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*Editor*

**PRADEEP H. GOHIL**

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

To the 148th International Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS)  
(*In-person & on Zoom from 31 December 2023 to 4 January 2024*)

I AM happy to warmly welcome all the delegates here at Adyar and those on-line around the world to open this 148th International Convention with us. I wish you a fruitful and inspiring time during the Convention programs and related events on our campus. Let us now turn to those Great Ones whose compassionate care and blessings our Society has enjoyed for all these years. Please rise:

**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.**

It is a pleasure to open this 148th Annual Convention of the TS.

For a number of years we have been required to give full attention to renovating and upgrading our Adyar home. It has been a necessary and all-absorbing effort that has demanded a dedicated group focus. Over time we have developed a team of people who have the concentration and commitment that has moved us forward. This year we have continued the process. The most obvious renovation project has been the completion of the New Quadrangle. Those of you who have stayed there in the past will appreciate the extensive upgrade — not only of the units themselves, but the installation of walkways and garden spaces. It has become our shared habit of thought that in all of our projects beauty is a requirement. Annie Besant described Adyar as the “Masters’ Home”. The outer expression of beauty and power must align with its inner presence.

We have also completed a number of infrastructure upgrades that will be unseen by most. Our electrical supply, sanitation, and water systems have been redone in various locations on campus. New classrooms for the Olcott Memorial School, the Adyar Theosophical Academy, and the Social Welfare Centre were constructed. Secured spaces for archival materials; restoration of important artwork in our Museum; upgrades to our dining facilities, Library Conference Room; gardens; Security Office; Internet access; Administration Building; and other improvements far too numerous to list have also been part of this year’s activity.

The work of maintaining and improving our physical campus will never end. However, we have reached a point where we can now apply a greater focus to the purpose for which this place exists. The hardest work — the development of a shared team ethos and functional systems to support that shared vision — at this point, is in place. That and the establishment of relative financial security for the TS brings new vistas

into view. The TS Adyar headquarters is the global centre for the Theosophical Movement. We are more than buildings and land.

In HPB’s book *The Key to Theosophy* she describes the purpose of the TS as “to make it known that such a thing as Theosophy exists”. Taking this as our direction, the question has been “How?” How do we make the existence of Theosophy known? Historically, this has been attempted along two lines: 1. books and magazines; 2. talks — the written and the spoken word. While valuable, these two avenues do not exhaust the possibilities. At Adyar we are working to provide a vital, usable centre for a higher work. Nothing less than the regeneration of the human mind can be an acceptable direction for us. Our answer to the question “How?” has become: By every means available. Toward that end here at Adyar we utilize every one of our activities to demonstrate a fundamental Unity we all share.

Two schools (the Olcott Memorial School, a free school which has been operating continuously for 130 years; and the Adyar Theosophical Academy, begun in 2019), the Social Welfare Centre for pre-schoolers, the Vocational Training Centre, our extensive animal rescue and care facility at the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary, which has become the premier institution of its type in South India; are ongoing projects. During this year we have added two new programs of outreach to the broader community: Wisdom for Living, which features highly accomplished presenters across the spectrum of human activity (Science, Medicine, Spirituality, Business, Arts, and so on) sharing the ways in which they apply spiritual principles in their work/life; and Libraries as Communities, which monthly draws people to the Library to hear from top people in fields directly related to the books in our collection, and to engage in the study and discussion of a curated book list. Both programs are in person and have experienced excellent participation. The School of the Wisdom (SOW) under the directorship of Erica Georgiades has become a global activity. In addition to the in person sessions taking place on our campus, on-line sessions have been successfully initiated. Additionally our involvement in art, music, children’s programs, and eco-responsibility have been prominent this year.

All of this is a “people-dependent” process. Anyone can pronounce the word “Theosophy” or quote the words of illumined past members, but Theosophy only comes to life through that person who, by personal effort, has realized something of its meaning. Though each of us is imperfect in our wisdom and in our personalities, working together we continue to accomplish remarkable things. The TS exists for the world, not for ourselves. We are committed to magnifying the Experiment that is the TS. We are aware that everything we attempt will not bear fruit, but some of it will — richly.

\* \* \*

The TS in **India** had another successive annual increase of

membership to 12,230. The trend towards on-line lectures set during Covid-19 had blossomed. Another highlight was a plan to contribute to the participation of 100 members of the Section in the 12th World TS Congress to be held in Vancouver in 2025. A three-day 131st National Convention was held in October at the Radha Burnier Amphitheatre in Varanasi. The 175<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Dr Annie Besant was celebrated in October with floral tributes paid by the students and staff of the educational institutions, the workers, and the members. The 147th Foundation Day was celebrated on-line as also Adyar Day. White Lotus Day was observed in the Annie Besant Hall in Varanasi. The 99th Easter Conference was conducted in April at Adyar, based on the book *The World Around Us*, a compilation of Radha Burnier's "On the Watch-Tower" articles during 1980–2007. Five Federations conducted study camps at Bhowali from April to June. Several on-line talks were given by the President and the national lecturers. *The Indian Theosophist* was published monthly in English and Hindi. The website, <theosophy-india.org>, hosts several magazines from the different Federations. TOS activities had active participation of members at all levels during the year.

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In the Adyar **Headquarters**, the **School of the Wisdom** conducted six courses in English, of which five were on-line: "From Intellectual Understanding to Life Practice: Foundations of the Buddha's Teaching in the Light of Theosophy" by Trần-Thi-Kim-Điêu; "The Fundamentals of Advaita Vedanta Tattva-bodha — Cycle II" by Dr Radha Raghunathan; "Sanskrit: The Divine Language" by Dr Sadananda Das; "Expanding Our Understanding and Compassion" by Dr Barbara Herbert; and "Exploring Meditation, the Real Occult Power of a Human Being" by Trần-Thi-Kim-Điêu. The course held in Adyar was, "The Necessary Journey of Self-Transformation" by Ravi Ravindra. There were also four online classes in Spanish: "Los Mahatmas y la Sociedad Teosofica: Origen y Proposito" by Isis M. B. Resende; "Pasado, presente y futuro de la humanidad. Su origen y evolucion fisica, intelectual y spiritual (Antropogenesis)" by Esteban R. Langlois; "Simbologia y Teosofia" by Maria Carmen Cesar Galante; and "La Meditacion, Su Importancia y Valor Espiritual" by Gaspar Torres Martinez. The last one could not be completed due to the passing away of the teacher.

Additionally, during the last International Convention, the School organized an Art Exhibition by Shiva Ram, a mini course focusing on "Theosophy & Ecology: Practical Wisdom for Living in the Contemporary World" with Linda Oliveira, Pradeep Gohil, and Radha Raghunathan, and the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Brahmavidya Ashram. Furthermore, at the time of the programme in the campus a few additional activities were included such as "Exploration Day — A Contemplative Walkthrough Nature, Listening to the History of the Adyar Campus" with Shikhar Agnihotri; a chanting workshop with Jaishree Kannan; and a vegan cooking class with Nidhi Sharma.

With the first full operational year of the **Theosophical Publishing**

**House** (TPH) following Covid-19, the sales of books increased during the year. The reprinting of 46 out-of-stock book titles was undertaken. Also the following 3 new books were published during the year: *Theosophy in the 21st Century* by Carlos Pérez Menéndez, *Annie Besant in India* by Pedro Oliveira, and *Blessed by Mysterious Grace* by Ravi Ravindra.

The **Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary** (BMAD), a charitable outreach programs of the TS, has grown to become one of Chennai's largest and busiest animal shelters. During the year it treated over 15,000 outpatients, admitted over 700 sick or critically injured street animals for treatment, discharged 400 animals post treatment, and conducted over 400 major surgeries. It also did 2,500 animal birth control (ABC) surgeries, a key initiative of the shelter, and found permanent homes for over 100 animals. The team was completely engaged in conducting rescues of stranded animals and humans alike, during Cyclone Michaung. Several ABC marathons were conducted this year as an initiative to control the rising street animal population in the city, and provide them with a better quality of life.

The **Theosophical Order of Service** (TOS), under the direction of Ms Nancy Secret, is present in 36 of the 59 countries where the TS is active. It also has several outreach avenues. Their website, <international.theoservice.org>, is being updated, and their Facebook page is <facebook.com/tosinternational>. This was a year of "thinking outside of the box" as several TOS countries began new programs. Meditations for Peace were begun in Argentina, Belgium, and USA. Brazil created a theatre group that presented several philosophical plays. They also distributed musical instruments to children. India began a dance group for children and started counselling 150 prisoners. Italy started a new project called "mail from the elves", where adherents receive envelopes having small, moving citations from books, to share and embrace awareness, openness of heart, solidarity, love, positivity, brotherhood, and acceptance. In the Philippines, students began a hydro-planting system. Several countries supported relief work in the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and for assistance to refugees from the Russo- Ukraine war. Help with various women's issues, education, youth involvement, and animal welfare were other activities. Almost all countries have healing groups.

The Director of the **Adyar Theosophical Academy** (ATA), Mrs Sonal Murali, reports that ATA began its fifth academic year in June 2023 with 185 students from Nursery to Grade 6. Three new classrooms with glass up to the ceiling create a beautiful setting of learning in the midst of Nature. New site called Kirby Gardens has been identified for expansion of school up to Grade 12. ATA continues with its immersive and participatory activities providing divergent experiences to its learners, brimming with curiosity, questions, and discoveries, through outdoor learning experiences, Nature Journaling and other mindfulness activities, meditative assemblies to start the day, field trips as well as celebrations of Indian festivals and events. The Annual Sports Meet took place on 21 Jan 2023 with international President Tim Boyd as Chief Guest. The Republic

Day celebration on 26 Jan involved children in a vibrant discussion on the Indian Constitution. Mr Boyd and other TS members enjoyed interacting with activities set up by the students. Various guests from Argentina, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, New Guinea, Colombia, and Finland visited and spoke about their diverse cultures. Grade 6 students visited the Theosophical Society (TS) Adyar Museum, where they were enthralled by the rich legacy of the TS.

Educators enriched themselves through sessions of Waldorf philosophy; an Energy Healing workshop; a Relook at Education based on Aurobindo's Integral Education; How to bring about Creative Thinking based on *Six Thinking Hats* by Edward De Bono; Lesson Planning to integrate a multi-disciplinary approach; a series of Maths workshops; and Understanding J. Krishnamurti's Educational Philosophy.

TIM BOYD

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### 100th SOUTH INDIAN CONFERENCE- 2024

The 100th South Indian Conference will be held at the International Headquarters, Adyar, Chennai from 29th to 31st March 2024.

Theme "THE PATH TO PERFECTION." Venue: Blavatsky Bungalow, Ground floor, TS Adyar

Registration Starts: 15th Jan 2024 (Registration link will be activated at 9 a.m. on 15th Jan 2024)

Last date for cancellation: 15th March 2024 (No refund after this). Cancellation: Rs.300 will be deducted and the remaining will be refunded if cancellation is done up to 15th March, after 15th March no refund will be done.

Last date of registration 7th March 2024, For any queries, kindly send email to the Conference Officer, Mr. Shikhar Agnihotri: [easterconferenceis@gmail.com](mailto:easterconferenceis@gmail.com) Or WhatsApp on 8840926268

Package options for registration for the South India Conference. The package starts from 28th March Dinner to 1st Apr Breakfast. The rates taken are the standard rates as follows:

- A. Leadbeater Chambers with A/C package - Rs. 4,400 per person (includes the registration fee, accommodation, and meals)
- B. Leadbeater Chambers without A/C package - Rs. 3,500 per person (includes the registration fee, accommodation, and meals)
- C. New Quadrangle accommodation package - Rs. 2,600 per person (includes the registration fee, accommodation at NQ and meals)
- D. Registration for attendance only - Rs.300 per person

IF YOU ARE FACING ISSUES COMPLETING YOUR PAYMENT ONLINE, PLEASE EMAIL US AT [TREASURY.HQ@TS-ADYAR.ORG](mailto:TREASURY.HQ@TS-ADYAR.ORG)

Link will be activated at 9 a.m. on 15th Jan 2024. Following is the registration cum payment link. <https://rzp.io/1/h2fmEfAqvN>

Pradip Mahapatra

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### Bombay

Bro. Taral Munshi was invitee speaker at Two Management Institutes of Varanasi: He was an invited speaker for 'Marketing with Digital Expertise'. With professional knowhow he inspired Management Students to imbibe Spirituality to be Successful Beneficent Professionals. At School of Management Sciences, he spoke about Teachings & Stories of Swami Vivekananda and Lord Buddha. At Management School of Banaras Hindu University, he introduced students to the teachings of books '*At the Feet of the Master*' and '*The Path of Discipleship*' by Dr. Annie Besant. Both institutes presented him mementos.

Bro. Arni Narendran at International Virtual Forums: On Deepawali 12th November 2023, Bro. Arni Narendran of Mumbai was a Keynote Speaker with Ms. Kathy Newburn of New York at the Asian Esoteric Meditation Circle for the Theme 'Spiritual Warrior'. The Zoom Meet was conducted by Christopher See of Philippines. Ms Reiko Nakanishi translated talks in Japanese and Ms. Joshi Lee translated them in Korean. Spiritual Warrior is a new Group of World which serves as a Bridge toward Peace and Healing.

Washington TS Lodge facilitated Bro. Arni's talk with Sis. Kashmiria Khambatta's PPT on 'BLAVATSKY – Bombay Saga'.

Reunion Islands (Caribbean) Lodge Theosophists attached to Paris TS took video interview of Bro. Arni Narendran explaining the History of Blavatsky Lodge.

Bro. Arni Narendran gave a talk on 'Meditation' for the Singapore Lodge Theosophical Society Lotus Circle.

JAMUBHAI & SURYABEN DANI INTER-SCHOOL ELOCUTION COMPETITION 2023. It was jointly organized by Bombay TF and Junior Red Cross Maharashtra on Saturday 7th October 2023 at Blavatsky Lodge. The response to Dani Inter-School Elocution Competition of 2023 was overwhelming. For Junior Group of 5th to 7th Std. there were 29 schools with 54 student speakers. For Senior Group of 8th to 10th Std. there were 20 Schools with 40 Student Speakers. It was a taxing & challenging task for both the Panels of Judges.

The subjects for Junior Group (5 minutes speech) were: (1) The Funniest Incident in Your Life; (2) An idle mind is a devil's workshop; (3) Save Mother Earth; (4) Why First Aid is important for schools? Sis. Kashmiria Khambatta introduced the Judges: Dr. Rajam Pillai, Shri Ajit Bhide and Mrs. Kitayun Rustom. It was heartening to note that many students were concerned about havoc of idle mind and to save Mother Earth. The students were given Participation Certificates, snack-boxes and Theosophical Books in English / Hindi like '*At the Feet of the Master*', '*Application of Yoga in Daily Life*' and '*Short Biography of Annie Besant*'.

The subjects for Senior Group (5 minutes speech) were: (1) Impact

of Social Media on Mental Health; (2) Deforestation & Climate Change; and (3) Man is a part of Nature and not apart from it; and (4) Smart Phone has made us smart / lazy. The students were given Participation Certificates, snack-boxes and Theosophical Books in English – ‘Sri Ramachandra – The Ideal King by AB’ and ‘O Hidden Life ... by Joy Mills’.

The Judges of Both Panels were presented books ‘Theosophical Blooms’ and ‘The Path of Discipleship’ by Annie Besant’. JRC Chairman Rtn Godrej Dotivala, State Coordinator Mr. Bhavesh Sao & Secretary Ms. Joyce Pinto and JRC & BTF Volunteers were given appropriate Theosophical Books. Sis. Aban Patel was Master of Ceremony for both the Groups. While Judges prepared Results, Bro. Taral Munshi interacting with participants had made them interested in Theosophy. He had also organized video shooting of both competitions to give platform to youth on YouTube & other Channels. The Vote of Thanks for Junior Group was given by Sis. Archana Munshi and for Senior Group by Sis. Mahazaver Dalal.

Impressions of TOS, Mumbai Region Regarding the Colloquium 8 to 12 November 2023. Under the auspices of Theosophical Order of Service, Mumbai Region 41 delegates attended their Colloquium from 08 to 12 November 2023 at Leslie Sawhney Endowment Centre, 83, Rest Camp Road, Deolali, a beautiful place with greeneries all around and a well-groomed garden. The Theme of the Colloquium was “The Best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”. The forty-one delegates comprised of kids of five years to older members of 80+. It was an amalgamation of young and old, learning and teaching, playing, and singing and dancing for all five days.

The subject for the Panel Discussion for the Youth was “Choose being Kind over being Right and you will be Right every time”. This subject aroused a lot of interest in the youth visit to Shirdi, gave some religious flavour to the Colloquium. Then, on next day they visited Vikas Mandir-School for the Special (disabled) children and youth.

### **The BTF 92nd Annual Session**

The Bombay Theosophical Federation’s 92nd Annual Session graced by National Lecturer Shri. Narsimh Thakariya was held on 1st, 2nd & 3rd December 2023. The whole session was video recorded by Treasurer Bro. Taral Munshi. The theme of the annual session was ‘Teaching of Life in Theosophy’.

The 92nd Annual Session was opened with Lighting of Lamp by the Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya, Recitation of the Prayers of all Religion by Brethren and the Universal Prayer lead by BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya.

President Bro. Vinayak Pandya welcomed all and introduced the Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya and Guest of Honour Shri Hitesh Kantilal Patel of Sanatan Lodge Surat who is the Head of TOS, Gujarat

Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal conveyed the Greetings received from International Secretary Marja Artamaa, International & National Lecturers, Office-Bearers of other Federations, TOS Mumbai Region and Sis. Shirin Pomeroy of TOS & Round Table of London, UK. Sis. Deepa Kapur in person conveyed Greetings of Shri Narendra M. Shah, General Secretary East & Central Africa and Bro. H. Dubal, Assistant General Secretary, Tanzania.

Dr. Rajam Pillai, Publisher & Editor of ‘SYNERGY’ English Journal requested the Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya to release Year 5 July – December 2023 issue on ‘A Theosophical Vision on Architecture and Urbanism’. The Theme article is by Bro. Arni Narendran, who is the main driving force and compiler of SYNERGY Journal.

The Diplomas were given by the hands of the Chief Guest to New members of Centenary & Jyoti Lodge. With Diplomas we give President Tim Boyd’s Welcome Letter and Adyar TS Lodge Booklet ‘Information & Inspiration for New Members’.

Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya in his Inaugural Address on ‘Awakening the Inner Self’ said: According to Theosophical view we must understand the principle of Timeless Place, which is not visible. Our mind should become one with Universal Invisible Mind with Truth. Truth has to be experienced with Intelligence for which learning is required. Truth cannot be told in words, it has to be experienced. We are both Inner & Outer Being. We say we have Open Mind, Eager Intellect, but that is not true. To know Reality, one has to start from the realization of Inner Self, which is guided by Truth. For Divine Wisdom the heart is the seat of ‘Love’ which is the most important thing for realization of Oneness. Follow the Spiritual Path for awakening of Inner Self.

During the Q & A Shri Narsimh Thakariya’s guidance was: \*We need to have ‘Sadhana’ to experience Inner Truth that our ‘Atma’ has to unite with ‘Parmatma’ which is within us. From Heart, ‘Love’ should radiate for good & happiness of others. Liberation - ‘Amaratva’ means ‘Atma’ has to be one with Truth, and free of attachment to Finite. This is the purpose of Life. \*For ‘Brotherhood’ one has to act with Inner ‘Chetna’ – ‘Consciousness’ and not just with ‘Mind’. \*Be always in contented Bliss to spread ‘Anand’ around you.

The Second Day Session at Besant Hall, Blavatsky Lodge TS was opened with BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya leading The Universal Prayer. He welcomed all and introduced the Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya to Competition Students, Judges and Chairman and Officers of Junior & Youth Red Cross Maharashtra.

Young Speaker’s First Prize Winning Speeches: Dani – Senior Group: Ms. Arya Jain – Man is a Part of Nature and not apart from It, Ms. Merzina Irani – Impact of Social Media on Mental Health, Mullan – College Group: Mr. Pranav Raju – Your Attitude decides your Altitude.

Junior & Youth Red Cross Chairman Rtn Godrej Dotivala congratulated Winners and said what is important is Participation. He appreciated working together with BTF for many years for Dani & Mullan Elocution Competitions.

Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya with his Address in Hindi on 'Law of Giving' inspired Students & Brethren: Theosophy teaches us to see, speak and take action on the path of Truth. Truth gets distorted when Mind has attachment.

Bro. Taral Munshi shared his observations of interacting with students while Judges were deciding the Winners. Bro. Munshi said: Theosophy teaches that we all have the capacity to reach heights in spirituality. With on-line TRIVENI Tuesday Meets of Jyoti Lodge, he encouraged students to become members of TS.

Sis. Aban Patel conducted the Prize Distribution for Winners of Junior and Senior School Groups of Dani Elocution Competition and College Group of Mullan Elocution Competition. Cash Prizes were given to First, Second and Third Winners. Book 'Buddha's Stories' was given to winners of Consolation Prize. Merit Certificates were given to all.

Sis. Mahazaver Dalal thanked the Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya for his heart touching words of wisdom on 'Law of Giving'. She thanked Shri Hitesh Patel sharing TOS in Gujarat, Junior & Youth Red Cross for taking care of Elocution Competition requirements – especially State Coordinator Mr. Bhavesh Sao and Secretary Ms. Joyce Pinto, Blavatsky Lodge for their support BTF Volunteers and Students, Brethren & all present who made the session vibrant.

Third Full Day Session on Sunday 3rd December 2023 was held at Juhu Theosophical Society: Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed by Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya and Bro. Navin Kumar on the veranda of Masonic Lodge Building of Juhu Theosophical Society. Shri Narsimh Thakariya explained the significance of communal ceremony of Bharat Samaj Pooja.

Sis. Thrity Dalal, President of Theosophical Order of Service, Mumbai Region, spoke on 'Joy of Service with Compassion'. She said TOS was formed in 1908 by Dr. Annie Besant in order to promote participation in activities of the First Object of the T.S. Dr. Besant would like Universal Brotherhood to include all the other kingdoms of nature. TOS is a separate branch of T.S. but closely linked to T.S. in its service aspect. TOS member need not be a member of the TS. The aim of the TOS member should be selfless altruistic service-giving back to humanity. The Main project of TOS Mumbai region is that of Educational Sponsorship @ approximately Rs.5000/- p.a. Donor can either give the sponsorship annually or as a onetime lump sum. Eleven students who graduated this year were felicitated on this occasion. Some sponsored students have started supporting other poor students.

Other programme of TOS Mumbai region include the Jamshed Mehta

Commemoration Meet, Environmental Excursions and the annual Colloquium in which delegates from 4 years to 80 years participate. Values of punctuality, discipline, confidence in public speaking and cultural activities, exposure to the children in differently abled school and promoting their welfare, are encouraged during the colloquium. Other speakers in this session were Bro. Vinayak Pandya and the Honoured Guest Speaker Bro. Hitesh Patel.

Sis. Thrity Dalal's talk inspired many to sign Life Membership Forms immediately after her talk.

The Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya presented a Diploma to a New Member in the Juhu Morning Session and then he spoke in Hindi on 'Law of Karma and its Significance' which inspired Students & Brethren.

The 92nd AGM of Bombay TF : The 92nd Annual General Meeting of Bombay Theosophical Federation chaired by President Bro. Vinayak Pandya was attended by 44 Members. Silence was observed for Brethren who passed away during the year under review. Official Business of passing of last AGM Minutes, Secretarial Report & Audited Accounts were conducted. Resolutions for the Leaders and Devoted Brethren were passed. Treasurer Bro. Taral Munshi, who had attended Indian Section Goals Meet in October 2023 briefed the members about 7 Goals of BTF for 2023-2024 approved by the Indian Section President Shri Pradeep Gohil. Most challenging Goal is the Net Increase of 50 Members, for which 30% weightage is given. Bro. Taral Munshi urged all Members to motivate their Family & Friends to become TS members.

Blavatsky Lodge Book Depot Counter : Book Depot Manager Sis. Navaz Dhalla with Sis. Farahnaz Irani had displayed a huge range of Theosophical Titles for the benefit of North Mumbai Brethren. Special discount of 10% off sale over Rs.500/- was offered. Special Agarbattis prepared according to the formula given by C.W. Leadbeater for Meditation ordered from Adyar were also sold. The Sale was Rs.3,700/-+.

An interactive session on 'Veganism & Theosophy' was conducted in the afternoon by Bro. Sudesh Kumar, President of Centenary Lodge.

He explained 'Theosophic Diet' with references to 'The Key to Theosophy' and other writings of HPB. He urged that cow gives milk for her calf so not to take away calf's milk and stop use of Dairy products. Prof. Sudesh Kumar's message 'Be Kind' and articles printed in media were also distributed. To give up Milk Product right away was difficult for Brethren, but the thinking process was started in their minds & hearts.

Theosophy by ART :The venue was shifted to the compound of President's Bungalow, where floor was prepared for presentation of 6 Prize Winning Hindi Skits – Street-Palys by Junior & Senior Groups of Schools. The Street =plays enacted by 4 students were based on Stories of Munshi Premchand, Buddha's Stories and Theme 'Humanity'.

Much awaited moment for Bro. Taral Munshi and his wife Archana

Munshi was to receive the Charter of Jyoti Lodge from the hands of the Chief Guest Shri Narsimh Thakariya. Both of them with dedication and innovative ideas have Revived Jyoti Lodge as E-Lodge with TRIVENI Tuesday Meet and are inspiring many to become TS Members.

The 92nd Annual Session ended with the Vote of Thanks given by Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal.

## Delhi

On-line Meeting on the topic “*The Path of Discipleship*” (Part-3) by Dr. Annie Besant- was conducted by Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri on 2 December 2023. Study Class on Part -3 of “*A Textbook of Theosophy*” by C.W Leadbeater was directed on 9 December by the President of Delhi Federation and National Lecturer Dr. Rajiv Gupta .

National Lecturer Bro. S.K. Pandey spoke on the topic “Return to the Source- Nivritti Marg”. It was held in the on-line meeting on 16 December. Study Class on Part 3 of “Patanjali Yoga Sutras -Samadhi Pada” from I.K. Taimini’s book ‘*The Science of Yoga*’ was conducted by Dr. Rajiv Gupta on 23 December.

National Lecturer Bro. Shyam Singh Gautam explained “Changes required for moving towards Self Realization” in the on-line meeting held on 30 December.

Delhi Federation’s President Dr. Rajiv Gupta was invited as guest speaker on 21 December by Shashwat Yoga Sabha on their on-line platform for a talk in Hindi on the topic “Man and his bodies”. In this talk he introduced to them ‘the Scientific Terminology of Man and His Bodies as taught by Theosophy’. This talk is available on Youtube on their channel by the same name. National Lecturer and Delhi Theosophy Society.

Dr. Rajiv Gupta is continuing his lecture series in which he speaks on Theosophy in PSSM on their TV Channel PMC Hindi TV which is broadcasted on Jio TV App & Jio TV+: Channel No. 1109, Siti Cable: Channel No. 537, DEN Network: Channel No. 131, Chandani Digital: Channel No. 604, Harsh Cable: Channel No. 397. This programme is entitled Brahm Vidya. Already 20 episodes have been broadcasted. These talks are also available on YouTube channel - PMC Hindi.

## Gujarat

The 93rd Annual Meeting of Gujarat Theosophical Federation was held on 24, 25, and 26 November 2023 in Kadoli, a small town near Himmatnagar in Sabarkantha Dist. It was hosted by the Harjeevan Ashram Lodge Kadoli. The theme of the annual session was the ‘Essence’ of Theosophy inherent in every being ‘.

Mrs Sonal Murli, National Lecturer and the Director of Academy of Education TS, Adyar was the chief guest. The guest of honour was Dr Ambadan Rohadia, a retired professor and head of Gujarati Department of Saurashtra University, Rajkot and also the Director of Meghani Lok Sahitya

Kendra established by Gujarat Government. There were 134 delegates from different lodges of the Federation and 70 members of the local lodge who participated in the annual gathering.

Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed in the morning on 24 November by Kailasben Rathod and the Secretary C.K. Soni. All the delegates took part in the pooja. Then, the first day’s session started with the prayers of all religions and the Universal Prayer recited by the GTF President. The lamps were lighted by the guests. The Convener and the Vice-President of the Harjeevan Ashram Lodge, Shri Vijaybhai Pandya welcomed the guests and the delegates. The Secretary of the lodge Shri Narendra Patel read out the report of the Lodge activities and the progress of the Lodge. The GTF Secretary Shri C K Soni read the messages of the International President Bro. Tim Boyd, the Vice-President Ms Deepa Padhi, the Secretary Marja Artama, Convention Officer Shikhar Agnihotri, Ex BTF President Shri Dr Ajaybhai Hora, a member of Rohit Lodge Miss Maya Lalvani and other dignitaries of different Federations. He also gave the detailed report about the GTF activities.

The President of GTF Shri Harshavadan Sheth welcomed the guests and addressed the delegates and explained about the importance of the annual gathering in a village area of Kadoli. Then the guests and the officials were honoured with the flower bouquets and Shawls.

The chief guest Mrs Sonal Murali delivered her key note address on the subject: ‘The Essence of Theosophy, inherent in every being’. The GTF President chaired the session. In the afternoon session there were short lectures on the book entitled ‘*Jeevan Shudhdhi*’ by the Late Harjeevan Mehta, and this session was chaired by Bombay Federation’s President Shri Vinayakbhai Pandya. The speakers were Shri Harshad Dave, the Editor of the *Theosophic Jyoti*, and the member of the Rewa Lodge, Vadodara, Shri Rameshchandra Dolia, the Treasurer of the GTF and the President of the Ahmedabad Lodge, Shri Narendra Patel, the Secretary of the Harjeevan Ashram Lodge, Kadoli, and Shri Udaybhai Pakawala, the President of the Sanatan Lodge, Surat. They all spoke very nicely about some important chapters of the book. A public lecture was delivered in the evening by the guest of honour Dr Ambadan Rohadia. The subject he spoke on was ‘*Har Jeevan Sanga, Brahma Rang* ‘. Shri Vijaybhai Pandya was in the chair. and Shri Deepakbhai Pandya introduced the speaker.

Then the delegates got the benefit of the purchase of the books of the GTF Publication. At night there was a cultural programme by the delegates.

Shri Kantibhai Patel, President of the Harjeevan Ashram Lodge, conducted Yoga practice and illustration in the morning on 25<sup>th</sup> November. At 9 a.m. the illustrative lectures on the book ‘*Jeevan Utsav nu Rahasya*’ were held and Sis. Keshwar Dastur, the former International Treasurer chaired this session. The speakers were Varsha Patel of Ahmedabad Lodge, Smt Rajeshri Shah, the President of Rohit Lodge, and Shri Rajesh Mehta from Mumbai. It was followed by talks delivered on the book ‘*Manushya*

*ma thi Mahatma* (From human being to the Mahatma) under the chairmanship of the GTF Vice-President and the national lecturer Shri Narsinh Thakaria, Shri Nayanchandra Purohit, the President of Rajpipla Lodge and Mrs Kailasba Rathod, the auditor of the Harjeevan Ashram Lodge spoke in this session.

The meeting of the Federation Council was held on the same day.

The afternoon sessions started at 3.30 p.m. It was jointly conducted by the GTF co-secretary Dr Prashant Shah and Dr Vasantbhai Panchal. Each Speaker was given 10 minutes to speak and illustrate the subject matter of the Theosophic book which each one has studied. The participants were Shri Praveen Mandalia of the Bhavnagar lodge, Shri Atul Darji of the Rewa Lodge, Vadodara, Shri Girish Nilgiri, the sub-editor of the *Theosophic Jyoti* and the Secretary of the Purnanand Lodge, Petlad, Shri Praful Shah, the Treasurer of the Ahmedabad Lodge, Shri Mukesh Makwana, member of the Karamsad Lodge and Shri Tarun Vasava, member of the Shabri Lodge, Kantidara.

Then a public lecture was delivered by the GTF President Shri Harshavadan Sheth and the session was chaired by Shri Vinayak Pandya – President of Bombay Theosophical Federation. It was a wonderful talk on the Life and work of the Late Harjeevan Kalidas Mehta, entitled 'Harjeevan Saurabh nu Satva'. It was very enchanting and unique experience for the listeners to journey with the life force of the Great worker of Gujarat who himself established the Harjeevan Ashram Lodge.

After the dinner, there was a very hilarious programme of 'Diaro' i.e. the Gujarati folklores, Garbas and Devotional songs, performed by very famous artist of Gujarat Shri Jitu Rawal. It lasted with Group Garba Dance. All the delegates enjoyed the 'Diaro'.

In the early morning session on 26 November, after the breakfast, there was the practice of the Yoga and the '*Pan-apan Kriya*', conducted by the GTF Secretary Shri C K Soni encouraging experience for the members. At 9 a.m. the special public orientation lectures were arranged. The chief guest Sonal Murli delivered special lecture on "Parmitas - the strength of Love and Wisdom". Then, Dr Ambadan Rohadia, the Guest of Honour spoke on the subject: the Seeds of Theosophy in the Charani Literature. The third speaker, the GTF Secretary Shri C K Soni spoke about 'Inspiration and the Code of Conduct in daily life'.

The new members were welcomed by the chief guest at 10.30 a.m. Then, the members of the GTF who have the membership of 30 years were honoured. A specially prepared certificate citation was read by the President. Such members were honoured with the shawls and the certificates. Then the souvenir of the Harjeevan Ashram Lodge, Kadoli was released.

An announcement was made that the Ahmedabad Lodge will host the next annual gathering of the Federation in 2024. The annual gathering ended with vote of thanks.

## Karnataka

On-line meetings are being conducted on every Sunday and Thursday. The book selected for Sunday meeting was "*Self Culture*". Bro. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy gave talks on "Developing Devotional Attitude" and "The skill of developing Samadhi Yoga". These talks were delivered on 3 & 17 Sept. 2023 respectively.

The book "*The Key to Theosophy*" was selected for study in the meetings held on every Thursday in Sept. In this context Dr. Jyothi Nagesh, J. D. Premaleela and Bro. G.B. Naganagoudar delivered lecture on "The Constitution of Man", "Reincarnation -I" and "What is Theosophy, Logos and Cosmos" respectively.

Bro. M R Gopal and his associates continued on-line studies on "Theosophy & JK" at Huliya Lodge. This was held on all days of the week except Sunday and Thursday. Bro. H.C. Jagadish directed a day-long TS Meet on 6 October in which he spoke on 'Universal Laws of Life'. Bro. D. Basavarajaiah presided over the meeting of the General Body held on 30 October in which the Annual Report was presented by the Secretary of the Lodge. The Birthday of Dr Radha Burnier was observed at the Lodge on 15 November in which Bro. M.R. Gopal gave talk on "Human Regeneration". Bro. L. Nagesh directed a day-long study camp on 19 November in which he spoke on the "Foundation Day of Theosophical Society". Dr. Jyoti Nagesh spoke on "*Aadhyatmagnana Sudha*" and some children chanted some hymns from Bhagavadgita.

Sis. Lalitha Nataraj gave lecture at Bangalore City Lodge on 3 September on "Different methods of practicing Yoga". Sis. Yamunavathi gave lecture on "Devachan or Swarga" on 10.9.23. Dr. Nagesh spoke on 17 Sept. on "The infinite universe, endless life and lonely travelling". Then, Sis. Chandrakalavathi gave talk on "Bhagvadgita" on 24.9.23. Dr. Annie Besant's birthday was celebrated at the Lodge on 1st October. The other programmes held at the same venue were: Dr. Nagesh gave a talk on 8 October on '*Mankutimana Kagga*' - a book by the renowned poet D.V. Gundappa, considered as the modern Bhagvadgita in Kannada literature. Sis. Lalitha Nataraj gave lecture on 5 Nov. at Bangalore City Lodge on "The Different methods of Meditation". Then, in November - Bro. Dakshina Murthy spoke on "*Bharatiya Tatvadarshana*" and Sis. Vani Vasudev explained "What is Bliss according to Ramana Maharshi".

Bharat Samaj Pooja was conducted at Vijayanagar Lodge (Bangalore), on 2 Sept. and 7 October. The other programmes held at the Lodge in September were: Bro. S R Nagaraj gave talk on "The fruitfulness of Satsanga", and Bro. M S Sridhara spoke about "Creative Silence". Then, in October Bro. Sridhara Chakrabhavi gave a talk at the Lodge on 'J. Krishnamurti's Life and Education'. The other two talks delivered were on 'Creative Silence' by Bro. M.S. Sridhar on 21 October and 'Four Portals for the Abode of God' by Dr. Jyothi Nagesh (on 28 October) respectively. The following programmes were held at Vijayanagar Lodge – in November 2023: Bro. Sridhara Chakrabhavi gave lecture on "Education and Life in the view of J. Krishnamurti" Dr. S.R. Nagaraj Lectured on "The Foundation



Day of Theosophical Society". Dr. L. Nagaresh directed a day-long Study Camp and spoke on "Spirituality in Vachana Sahitya" Dr. Jyoti Nagesh gave a talk on "The message of Divinity in Vachanas". Bro. H.C. Jagadish spoke on "*Anubhava and Vachanamrutha*" in *Allamaprabhu's Vachanas*.

Sis. Sarala Sanjeeva Reddy explained "The Theosophic Life" at Malleswaram Lodge, Bangalore on 4 Sept. The other talks held at the Lodge in September were: on "*Sadhana Chatushtaya*" by Sis. Puttamma. Bro. Tulsi Ramaiah gave talk on "Buddha". Bro. Honnappa spoke about "*The Voice of the Silence*" and on the same day Bro. B K Krishnamurthy spoke on "Theosophy". Sis. Nirmala Bharath Kumar spoke on 'The Life & Achievements of Dr. Annie Besant'. It was held on 2 October. The other programmes held at the Lodge in the month of October were a talk by Bro. N. Sanjeeva Reddy on the book '*At the Feet of the Master*'; Bro. B. Krishnamoorthy conducted *Goshthi Jnana* a programme and spoke on '*The Voice of the Silence*'. Sis. Parvatamma gave lecture on "The Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society" and Sis. Sarala Sanjeeva Reddy's subject of talk was "The Message of Theosophy". These last two talks were held on 6 and 20 November respectively.

The following talks were held at Kotturu Lodge in September 2023: Bro. K Kotrappa spoke on "Theosophy in Vachana Sahitya". Then, on next Wednesday he explained "The power of transformation of thoughts". Bro. Manjunatha Hombala gave a talk on "Mahabharata and Theosophy". Bro. B Hanumantappa spoke on "Gayathri". Then, he gave lecture on "Invisible planes and bodies". Sis. Kannika spoke on "The message of Lord Sri Krishna" and Bro. Chandranna's subject was "*Jnana Sindhu*" on 20 and 27 September respectively. The following talks were delivered in the meetings of the Lodge held during Oct. and Nov. 2023: Bro. T. Kotreshappa spoke on the subject of 'V.V. Chalam and his writings'. Then, Bro. N. Hampanna gave a talk in which he explained about 'Invisible World and Invisible Bodies'. Bro. Nagaraja Mathihalli spoke about Sri Siddeshwaraswamy and the subject of Bro. N. Hampann's talk was 'Dharma and Science'. Sis. Umarani explained "Some Spiritual aphorisms" (Sutras). The other three talks held at the same venue in November were on "The meaningful life" by Bro. Suryanarayana; "Be A Buddha" by Bro. T. Kotreshappa; and on "Colonel Olcott" by Bro. N. Hampanna.

Bro. A Venkatarreddy directed a day-long meet at Srinivasapura Lodge on 3 September in which Sri. Dattapadananda Swamiji gave lecture on "The message of Bhagavadgita". Bro. Ramachandra spoke on "Chandrayana" and the director explained "The Theosophical Thought". Sis. K. Parvathamma directed a day-long study camp at Srinivasapura Lodge on 1st October in which Sis. R. Madhavi delivered a talk on 'Dr. Annie Besant and Theosophy' and Bro. A. Venkatarreddy spoke about 'Annie Besant and India'. Sis. R. Madhavi directed a day's T S Meet at the Lodge on 6 November in which Bro. A. Venkatarreddy gave talk on "*Antaranga Stapakaru*" and the director spoke on "*Baahya Stapakaru*". The subject of Bro. Annayappa's talk was "*Manonigraha*".

Sis. K. Parvatamma directed a day-long T.S. Meet under the Patronage

of Mahila Vibhaga of City Lodge, Bangalore. She spoke on 19 November on "The importance of Foundation Day of Theosophical Society". Sis. N. Saraswatamma spoke on "The Founder President Colonel Olcott"; and Sis. N. Shashikala explained "*Divyagnana Makaranda*". Besides, Bro. Udaykumar is holding Study Classes on "Basic Theosophy" on every Sunday afternoon.

Bro. K S Prakash directed a day-long camp in Gowribidanur Lodge on 10.9.23. The subject taken up for study was 'Theosophy'. Bro. Prakash spoke on "Bhakti and Self-realization". On the same day Bro. Ratnavarma explained "Ashtanga Yoga" and Bro. Krishnappa spoke about "Bhakti". The eight lodge association of the Taluk conducted a T S Meet at Gouribidanur Lodge under the direction of Bro. H.C. Jagadish on 12 November. In this meeting, Sis. P. Bhuvaneshwari gave talk on "The founding of the T S and its aims" and the director explained the "Message of Theosophy".

Sis. Lalitamma spoke at Nitturu Lodge on "Theosophy in our daily life". It was held on 3 Sept. Then, on 10.9.23. Sis. Sudha gave a talk on "Creative Silence". Sis. D J Premaleela's subject of talk on 18 Sept. was "Love" and on the same day Sis. Navaratnamma explained "The Aphorisms on Meditation". Sis. Lalithamma spoke at Nittur Lodge on 1st October and the subject she dealt with was '*At the Feet of the Master*'. Besant Jayanti was observed by the Lodge on 8 October in which Sis. D.J. Premaleela spoke on 'Dr. Besant's Personality'. Then, Bro. B.C. Narasingappa conducted a practical meditation class at the same venue on 22 October and Sis. Bharamma gave a talk on 29 October on 'The Fundamentals of Theosophy'. The Foundation Day of Theosophical Society was observed by the Lodge on 19 November in which Sis. A.N. Puttamma spoke on "Thought Forms". Sis. Lalitamma was the felicitor.

Bro. B K Nagarajappa gave lecture at Jayasuvarnapura Lodge on 10 Sept and the topic of his talk was "Unexplained Principles of Man". On the same day Bro. Subramanya Shetty explained "*Viveka, Vairagya, Sadachara and Prema*".

Sis. A N Puttamma directed a day-long meet at Chintamani Lodge on 10.9.23 in which she spoke on "The Thought Power". Sis. Sarala Sanjeeva Reddy spoke on "Thought Forms". Bro. B Krishna Murthy gave a talk on "Theosophy in Saint Kabir's Dohas". Bro. M.A. Venkataswamy directed a day-long meet at the Lodge on 17 October. Besant Jayanti was observed by the Lodge in which Bro. K.N. Parmeshwaran spoke on 'The Role of Annie Besant in Theosophy', Sis. Shubha spoke on 'Besant's Role in Social Reformation' and Sis. Ambujakshi's subject of talk was 'The Role of Annie Besant in Indian Politics'. Bro. A. Venkata Reddy, Secretary of Srinivasapura Lodge, directed a camp at Chintamani Lodge on 19 November in which the President of Srinivasapura Lodge Sis. R. Madhavi delivered lecture on "The inner government". Bro. Ramalinga Reddy and Sis. Manjula offered service for this occasion.

Foundation Day was observed at Hiriyur Lodge in which Bro. Ranganatha spoke on the same subject. Bro. A Manjunatha explained the “Philosophy of Theosophy” and Bro. Jagannatha Joshi spoke on “Yogi”. Dr. L. Nagesh directed a day-long TS meet at the same venue on 1st October in which Dr. Annie Besant Jayanti was observed. Dr. Nagesh spoke on this occasion on ‘A Bird’s Eye View on the personality of Dr. Besant’ and then Bro. H.C. Jagadish gave a talk on ‘Universal Law of Life’. Bro. A. I. Basavaraja Reddy directed a T.S. Meet at Hiriyur Lodge on 19 November in which he gave talk on “Theosophy and the Theosophical Society”, Sis. P. Bhuvaneshwari lectured on “The Theory of Reincarnation”; Bro. R. Ranganath spoke on “Col. Olcott”; and Bro. Jagannath Joshi explained “The Secrecy of Life in Spirituality”.

The two talks held at Davangere Lodge in September were on ‘Buddha’ and ‘Twin Heart Meditation’. The speakers of these two talks were Bro. Basavalingappa and Bro. Thimmaraja.

As mentioned earlier, the Karnataka Federation is conducting on-line lectures on every Sunday and Thursday of every month.

The lectures on Sunday are being given on the content of the book *Self-Culture*. The following lectures were delivered in October 2023: Sis. Lalitha Nataraj expressed views about ‘Preparation for Yoga’. Sis. Jyothi Nagesh’s talk was on ‘Pantanjali’s Ashtanga Yoga and Self-realization’ and then her second talk was on ‘Blissful Search’. The subject of Bro. Venkata Chalapathi was ‘The Question of Guidance’ and Bro. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy gave a talk on ‘Self Culture’. Four speakers expressed views on different content of the aforementioned book in the month of October. Sis. Vani Vasudeva explained ‘Ramana Maharish’s Upadesha Saram’ on 15 October. Bro. Pradeep’s lecture on 22 October was on ‘The conditions of Thoughts’ Sis. Lalitha Nataraj presented a demonstration lecture on 29 October on different methods of meditation practices. Besides, Sis. B. Sandhya Rani gave two talks on ‘The Evolution of Life’ in November and Dr. Jyoti Nagesh spoke about “The power of discriminations and usefulness” on 26 November.

The subject selected for on-line study on Thursday was ‘Theosophy through Questions & Answers’. In this context Sis. Premaleela delivered two talks on ‘Reincarnation’ Part-2 and Part 3 and Sis. Navaratnamma spoke on Karma on third and fourth Thursday in October 2023.

Bro. Jayaramappa – President of Devapalli Lodge- presided over the meeting which was organized on 29 October to observe Dr. Annie Besant’s Birthday. Sis. Savitramma spoke in this meeting on ‘The Childhood days of Dr. Besant’. Then, Bro. Ramchandra of ISRO and Bro. Vittal of ISRO spoke on ‘The journey of Chandrayan’ and ‘The Missile Man A.P.J. Abdul Kalam’ respectively.

Bro. Venkataswamy directed a programme at Bodimpalli on 27 October. Bro. H.M. Sonnappa Reddy spoke in this programme on ‘Thought’; Bro. M. Reddeppachar gave a talk on ‘Dharma’; Sis.

Ambujakshi’s subject of talk was ‘Remembrance’; and the Director Bro. Venkataswamy gave a lecture on ‘Thought Power’. The programme was sponsored by Bro. G. Krishna Reddy and Bro. Narasimha Reddy.

Bro. A. Venkata Reddy directed a study camp at Konakuntlu on 22 October, Bro. M.P. Venkataramanappa spoke in this camp on ‘The contribution of Dr. Besant to Theosophy’. Bro. Y.A. Vasudeva gave a talk on ‘The Relationship between Dr. Besant and J. Krishnamurti’. The subject of talk given by Bro. M. Reddeppachar was ‘Dr. Annie Besant and Discipline’.

Bro. A. Basavaraja Reddy directed a day-long TS Meet at the Lodge in Hassan. Bro. Reddy spoke in this programme on ‘Truth, Beauty and Virtue’. Then, Bro. M.R. Janadhana Gupta delivered a lecture on ‘There is no Religion higher than Truth’. Besides, the following lectures were delivered at the Lodge on 1st October: ‘Blooming Beauty’ by T. Thippesway; ‘Nature is Beauty’ by Bro. M.S. Pradeep; and Bro. H.P. Raghvendrachar spoke on ‘The Virtue of Incarnation of Beauty’.

The Foundation Day of Bellary Lodge was observed on 29 October. Bro. A. I. Basavaraja Reddy presided over the meeting. The Secretary of the Lodge Bro. S. Hanumantha Setty presented the report regarding the development of the Lodge. Dr. R.V. Vastrad directed a day-long Study Meet at the Lodge on 17 November. He spoke on this occasion on “Theosophy and the Theosophical Society”. Bro. T. Chandrashekar gave vote of thanks.

Sis. Usha Prakash’s talk on ‘Dr. Besant’s Life’ was held at Davangere Lodge on 1 October. Bro. G.B. Nagan Gowder spoke at the same venue on 8 October and the subject of his talk was ‘Seeing and Listening – Imagination and Problems’. Bro. Vasudevappa expressed views on ‘Literature and Life’. Sis. K. Parvatamma directed a day-long T.S. Meet at Davangere on 19 November, in which Bro. G.B. Nagana Gouda gave lecture on J. Krishnamurti. The director spoke on “The Significance of the Establishment of the Theosophical Society” and Sis. N. Shashikala spoke on “No other path to go”. Bro. M. Ashok Kumar and his family offered felicitation on this occasion.

Bro. K N Parameshwar directed a day’s TS Programme on 4.10.23. Dr. Besant’s Birthday was observed. Fruits, biscuits and bread were distributed on this occasion among 70 students of Government High school, Bangarapete. Special prizes were given to 8 students who had secured highest marks in SSLC examination. Rs.2000/- financial aid was also given to two poor students for their fees and books.

Sis. P Bhuvaneshwari directed a TS Meet on 1 October under the patronage of eight Lodges of the Taluk. Dr. Besant’s Birthday was observed on this day and Sis. Susheelamma, K N Jalajakshamma, Chikkananjamma and Rukmini spoke on this occasion on ‘Besant’s Childhood’, ‘Besant and Theosophy’, ‘Besant and Indian Politics’ respectively.

Dr. Annie Besant’s Jayanthi was observed on 2.10.23 in collaboration

with Snehajivi Charitable Trust at Heggere in Tumkur district. TOS Secretary G K Nataraj gave lecture on TOS. White School Uniform clothes were distributed to students with the financial help of Sis. Susheela Shivanna. School bags and books were also given to the students of Government School and Anganavadi children of Heggere.

The following on-line lectures were held under the auspices of Karnataka Theosophical Federation in November 2023. Sis. Navaratnamma spoke on Karma Part -3; Bro. M.S. Pradeep delivered lecture on “Life’s existence after death”; and Sis. Jyoti Nagesh continued the lecture on “The discrimination of Power and Usefulness”.

Bro. M.R. Gopal with H.C. Jagadish, Bro. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy and Bro. K.N. Lakshmisha is conducting on-line lectures at Huliya Lodge. These lectures were organized every day except Sundays and Thursdays of every month.

Bro. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy directed a study Meet at Challakere Lodge on 17 November. The Foundation Day of TS was celebrated at the residence of Bro. Rudramuniyappa Bharama Sagara. Bro. T. Thippeswamy spoke on this occasion on the book “*At the Feet of the Master*” and Bro. M. Gangadharappa gave talk on “Truth and its Practice”.

Sis K. Parvatamma directed a day-long T.S. Meet at Chitradurga Ldgo on 26 November. It was presided by Bro. M. Gangadharappa. Sis. Parvatamma spoke on this occasion on the significance of the founding of Theosophical Society and Sis. N. Shashikala gave a talk on “The Contribution of Madam Blavatsky to the Theosophical Society”.

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

Dr. Annie Besant’s Birthday was celebrated at Vikaram Lodge, Ujjain, on 1st October 2023. Besides, the following programmes were conducted by Vikram Lodge in October, November and December 2023:

Weekly get-together meeting was held on every Sunday from 10 to 11 a.m. in which talks on the main subjects related to Theosophy were delivered. Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed on the first Sunday of every month. Bro. O.P. Garg presented his views in the meeting organized to celebrate the Foundation Day of the TS on 17 November.

National Lecturer Bro. Arvind Narware gave a talk on Srimad Bhagavadgita. Bro. Sanat Vyas conducted discussion on C.W. Leadbeater’s book ‘*To those who Mourn*’. Group discussion was held on the last Sunday of the aforementioned three months.

The study of the books ‘*The Key to Theosophy*’ and ‘*The Master*’ were held on every Sunday and Thursday. These study classes were directed by Dr. S.C. Kori. Gurunanak Jayanti and Jesus Christ’s birthday were celebrated on 27 November and 25 December respectively.

Bro. Arvind Narware explained Theosophy and its significance to

21 non-members who had come from Ahmedabad. Dr. S.C. Kori and Bro. Arvind Narware conducted Bharat Samaj Pooja in the evening on 22 November. Besides, Bro. Arvind Narware gave a talk at Parshuram Ashram on ‘Introduction to Theosophy’ and distributed the pamphlets which were available from Vikram Lodge.

### **Marathi**

Volunteers of the Theosophical Order of Service Chittrak Group Akola (Maharashtra) distributed solar lanterns to the needy tribals in Retakheda village in Melghat on the occasion of Diwali. The programme was held on the eve of Foundation Day of Theosophical Society.

The small village with 70 houses in Chikhaldara Tehsil of Amravati Dist, located in the core areas of Melghat Tiger Reserve, is without power supply. Considering the need of the villagers the workers of the TOS here donated solar portable lantern to 51 houses in the village.

Bros Shrikant Ukhalkar, Chief of TOS Akola, Dr Ashok Sonone, President of Theosophical Society Akola, Dr Pradip Awachar Secretary TOS and members Dr Kiran Waghmare, Dr Amol Gawande, Mahendra Wakare, Rohit Gadge Sarpanch Nishatai Lokhande were present on the occasion. Villagers expressed gratitude as they received the Diwali gift from TOS. TOS Akola has been engaged in social service activities like distribution of books to ZP Primary School libraries, organizing health check-up camps for school children, etc.

Lectures by Youngsters : Youngsters/Young members of Marathi Theosophical Federation participated actively in on-line symposium of YOUNG INDIAN THEOSOPHISTS organized by the Indian Section, Theosophical Society. The symposium programmes were conducted on-line on every Sunday of November 2023 except 12 November (due to Dipawali festival). Eleven youths of the age between 14 to 18 years presented their views on various topics such as ‘Thought Power’, ‘Meaning of Pain’, ‘Freedom from Attachment’, ‘Purifying Mind’, etc. which have significance in day-to-day life. The lectures were also moderated by the youngsters. Bro. Milind Joshi and Sis. Manjusha Wankhade took efforts to prepare the youngsters for the programme. Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri took care of on-line presentation and telecasting the programme.

Short Term Course on Theosophy: The Foundation Day of Theosophical Society was celebrated by different lodges by conducting various activities. The Federation organized on-line lectures on this auspicious day. Federation President Bro. Sanjay Potey and Secretary Bro. Kaustubh Bhadbhade talked about the importance of the day and duties of the members respectively. On the eve of Foundation Day, a short term course of 20 hours on ‘Atma-Vidya’ (to know self) was started for the public as well as the members. National Lecturer Bro. B.D. Tendulkar and Bro. Sanjay Potey prepared and designed the course which will be conducted face to face for 1.5 hours on every Saturday and Sunday for

about 2 months. The medium of instruction is Marathi and English. Besides, this course is made available to persons at distance by providing necessary on-line facility. The video recording of entire course sessions shall be taken and made available to interested persons. The course materials are provided to participants. The expenses of this course programme are borne by the federation.

**Let's Read Theosophy:** A programme entitled 'Let's read Theosophy' was started on the eve of Dr. Annie Besant Day. The book of theosophy which is not yet translated in local language (Marathi) is selected. One or two pages of this book is read by one presenter and another presenter immediately presents translation of the same pages in Marathi. This presentation is conducted on-line on every Friday evening from 8.30 to 9.15 pm. Bro. Kaustubh Bhadbhade, Sis. Rashida Contractor, Sis. Mrunal Joshi alternatively read same original version and translated version of the book. This programme is to be run continuously and for long time. The first book which is being read and understood through translation is *Theosophy as the Masters See It*. Few number of pages are read in one session. More and more persons are attending this on-line programme conducted by the federation.

The Nagpur Lodge starts its weekly (Sunday) meeting by performing *Hindu Samudayik Pooja* at 7.30 am. The youth members namely Sharayu Wagdeo, Ved Vaidya, Soham Yede and Aditi Ambulkar take part in performing the Pooja. Lodge celebrated Dr. Anne Besant Day in which Lodge's President Mrs. Deogade delivered a lecture. Bro. Dharaskar also presented his views on the life of Dr. Annie Besant. Youth members paid homage to the great leader and visionary.. Lodge Secretary Bro. Milind Joshi delivered a lecture on Bhagwadgita all the lecture on 8 and 29 October respectively.

In the programme of YOUNG INDIAN THEOSOPHISTS held in November four youngsters from the lodge delivered lectures. The speakers were Sharayu Wagdeo, Ved Vaidya, Soham Yede and Aditi Ambulkar. All these youths were trained by four mentors/members of the lodge namely Bro. Wagdeo, Bro. Joshi, Sis. Gaidhani and Sis. Wagdeo. Bro. Sunil Wagdeo conducted lectures on Spiritual Life on 3 and 10 December. The lodge held a welcome and introduction programme of new members on 5 November. Diwali celebration was also held on the same day. Bro. S.K. Kadam briefed the new members about the aims, objectives and activities of Theosophical Society. He also advised them to be a part of theosophical movement. Regular meetings of the lodge are held on every Sunday from 9 to 11 a.m. Talks on various topics of theosophical teachings are held in these meetings. Ten to twenty members attend these meetings.

Lodge activities are extended by on-field work of Theosophical Order of Service. Books are distributed to primary school students in a village named Ruikhed. Besides, two doctors (members of the lodge) interacted with students and their parents and gave guidance for children's health care.

Twelve members of Sangli and Miraj Lodge attended study class held at the Indian Section HQ, Varanasi in the last week of October.

In the programme of YOUNG INDIAN THEOSOPHISTS in November four youngsters from the lodge delivered lectures namely Shrusthi, Himani, Sai and Kaivalya. Sis. Manjusha Wankhade was the mentor. Bharat Samaj Pooja is also conducted regularly at the Srikrishna Lodge, Amaravati.

The Poona Lodge observed Dr. Annie Besant Day. A day-long seminar was organized in which Bro. Tendulkar, Bro. Burse and Bro. Bhadbhade and Bro. Potey delivered lectures. The lodge activities include Sunday meetings, study classes and ES meetings. In Sunday meetings Bharat Samaj Pooja is performed followed by healing rituals. Then, a lecture of about an hour is delivered on theosophical subjects. From July to October, the lodge organized one-hour introductory lectures on every Saturday for the public in order to get them acquainted with theosophy. Bro. Tendulkar, Bro. Sinare, Sis. Jadhav and Bro. Bhadbhade helped in arranging the lectures.

The repair and maintenance works of the building of the lodge was done in October followed by entire painting work in December. The library of the lodge is being updated and computerized. New books from Theosophical Publishing House are being bought. More than 8000 books related to theosophy, philosophy, religion and spirituality are available in the library.

#### **U.P. & Uttarakhand**

During the meetings of Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, held in November talks were delivered on the topics 'Social and political reforms from viewpoint of Theosophical Masters', 'Man, Know Thyself' and 'Theosophising Our Lives' by Bro. Pramil Dwivedi, Bro. U.S. Pandey and Bro. A. P. Capoor respectively. Members of the Lodge assembled on 15 November at the residence Bro. B.K. Pandey (whose elder son passed to peace recently) The members did group meditation for those who mourn. Then, at the end of meditation the group sent its good wishes to the disembodied soul for its peaceful and smooth journey in higher planes. Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society was observed at the Lodge on 17 November, in which background and purpose of establishing the society were discussed; Bro. U. S. Pandey read and explained highlights of the inaugural address of the Founding President Co. H. S. Olcott. In the meetings held on 22 November the articles "A step Forward" and 'Memories of Radha Burniner' from the journal *The Indian Theosophist* November 2023 were read by Bro. Ashok Kumar Gupta and Bro. Pramil Dwivedi respectively. Then, talks on the following topics were delivered during the meetings held in December: 'Theosophising our Lives', 'The Universal Yoga Tradition', 'The Science of Soul', and 'Love - Freedom from the Known'. The speakers were Bro. A. P. Capoor, Bro. U.S. Pandey, Bro. Ashok Kumar Gupta and Bro. B.K. Pandey respectively.

Two symposiums on the topics '*Dhyan ka Vaigyanik aur Vyavaharik*

*Paksh* and *Theosophy mein Dharm aur Vigyan* were organized on 02 and 23 November respectively by Nirvan Lodge, Agra. In the meetings of the Lodge held on 09, 16 and 30 November talks were delivered on the topics 'What is Theosophy?', 'Management in Gita' and 'Sufism and Theosophy' by Bro. G. K. Chaturvedi, Dr. P.N. Asthana and Bro. R.P. Sharma respectively. Besides, the Foundation Day of the TS was observed on 17 November.

Gorakhpur- Sarvahitkari Lodge: Talks on the topics 'Festivals of Deepawali, Navaratri and Chhatt in reference to spirituality' were delivered by Bro. S. B. R. Mishra and Bro. Ajai Rai during the meeting held in November. Then, a talk on the topic 'Message of Bhagavadgita' was delivered by Bro. A. P. Srivastava on 22 November. A talk on 'Twenty-one Updeshas in Bhajgovindam' was delivered on 13 December by Bro. S.B.R. Mishra and Bro. N.S. Shukla spoke about 'Evolution of Man' on 27 December

Federation President Bro. U.S. Pandey visited Sarvahitkari Lodge on 30 November where he discussed administrative matters with lodge officials and also delivered a talk on the topic 'Planets and Seven Sacred Planets.'

The new – Sanatan Dharm Lodge in Gorakhpur was started in October 2023 with efforts of Bro. Laxmi Shankar Shukla in Mohalla Singhadia of Gorakhpur City. Federation President Bro. U. S. Pandey and Bro. S.B.R. Mishra, President of Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur visited the lodge on 04 November evening when this Lodge was formally inaugurated. Bro. Laxmi Shankar Shukla introduced the visitors. Bro. Ravinder Pandey President of this new lodge welcomed the visitors and all members present during the meeting. After recitation of Universal Prayer, Bro. S. B. R. Mishra explained about the objects of theosophical society. Bro. U.S.Pandey complimented the members for starting this new lodge, and thanked Bro. Shukla by whose efforts the lodge has been started. During his address, Bro. U. S. Pandey explained the organizational structure of the society, importance of lodge as a basic unit of society and work to be done in a lodge.

Vill. Jigna (Distt. Gorakhpur) - Brham-Vidya Lodge: Bro. U.S.Pandey accompanied by Bro. S.B.R. Mishra visited Brahm Vidya lodge in Village Jigna on 05 November. During a meeting of the Lodge held on that day, Lodge's President Bro. Shyam Ji Mishra welcomed the visitors and all persons present on the occasion. Bro. S.B.R. Mishra introduced the Federation President. During his address Bro. U.S. Pandey explained the meaning and significance of the contents of the Universal Prayer, explained the organizational structure of the Theosophical Society, importance of lodge as a basic unit of the Society and the purpose and object of establishing the theosophical society. On this occasion, the charter of the lodge was also handed over to the President and Secretary of the lodge. After an interactive session with the participants, Bro. Shesh Nath Tripathi, Lodge Secretary, thanked the visitors and all other persons participating in the meeting.

Ghaziabad- Prayas Lodge: Sis. Suvralina Mohanty conducted study of ch.4 and 5 of the book "*An Approach to Reality*" by N. Sriram. It was held on 05 and 26 November.

Group study of the book '*Nirvana*' (Ch.8) continued and was completed during the meetings of Noida Lodge held on 05 and 19 November.

In the meetings of Chohan Lodge Kanpur, talks were delivered on the topics 'Divine Plan – Journey of Infinite', 'Soul and All Soul', 'Duties of Kaliyuga and protection from Kaliyuga', and 'Three Halls'. The speakers were Bro. S. K. Pandey, Bro. S. S. Gautam, Br. Shiv Baran Singh and Bro. Gautam respectively. These talks were held on 05, 12, 19 and 26 November.

A talk on the topic '*Asamanya drishti aur manav sharir*' was delivered on 19 November by Sis. Archana Pandey at Anand Lodge, Prayag Raj. The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Lodge was held on 23 November.

Prof. Manisha Jaiswal delivered a talk on 'Understanding of Theosophical Philosophy and Arhatic Yoga for spiritual progress.' It was held on 04 November under the auspices of Kashi Tattva Sabha, Varanasi. The Foundation Day of the TS was observed at the Indian Section HQ, on 17 November in which Bro. V. Narayanan spoke on the significance of this day.

A discussion and interactive session on the content of the book, "The Ultimate Reality and Realization" - Chapter 'Anavopaya' was organized at Annie Besant Lodge, Varanasi.

Contribution in other Federations: Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri delivered an on-line talk on 21 November. The topic of her talk was '*Manav jati ka bhavishya*' and it was held under the auspices of the Joint Lodge meeting of Rewa and Rohit lodges of Gujarat Federation and Jyoti lodge of Bombay Federation.

Delhi Federation: On invitation by Shankar Lodge, Delhi, Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri delivered an on-line talk on '*Mumukshu ka marg – Deekshaen aur prarambhik taiyari*'. It was held on 18 November.

Sis. Sushma Srivastava delivered an on-line short talk on 'Theosophy and Theosophical Society' on 17 November. It was held in a programme organized on the occasion of the Foundation Day of TS.

Contribution to other Forums: Bro. S. B. R. Mishra delivered a talk on 'Paramitas'. It was held under the auspices of Seva Spiritual Group Gorakhpur on 23 November.

Public Talk to Students and Teachers in St. Andrews' College Gorakhpur: On invitation by Mrs. R. N. Samuel, Principal of St. Andrews' College, Gorakhpur, Bro. U. S. Pandey visited that college on 04 November 2023 and addressed students and faculty members during a long assembly

of the college held on that day. He spoke on the topic “Science of Conduct and Law of Morality.” About 200 students of graduate and post-graduate standard and their teachers were present in the assembly.

Address to students and teachers of Col. J.P. Tripathi Nursing College, Kusumhi (Distt. Gorakhpur): With cooperation of Dr. Anju Mishra, a practicing gynecologist of Gorakhpur and also a member of T.S. attached to Sarvahitakari Theosophical Lodge Gorakhpur, Bro. S.B.R. Mishra President of Sarvahitakari Lodge took initiative to organize a talk of Federation President Bro. U.S. Pandey in the Nursing College located at Kusumhi (near Gorakhpur). It was held on 06 November. Ms. Pankhuri Mishra Director and Shri Pankaj Singh Principal of the Nursing College welcomed both Bro. S.B.R. Mishra and Bro. U.S. Pandey. About 60 nursing students and their teachers were present. Bro. S. B. R. Mishra in his introductory remarks introduced the guest speaker and also gave a brief outline of theosophy and theosophical society. At the beginning of his address Bro. U. S. Pandey appreciated and complemented the profession of Nursing for the invaluable service rendered by it to human society. During his talk on the theme “Spirituality in Daily Life” Bro. Pandey explained the meaning of religious and spiritual life and how to follow spiritual principles in daily mundane activities, such ways being the only method for advancing evolution of human beings as individuals and also as a group of humanity.

Bro. U. S. Pandey conducted study of *The Secret Doctrine* – Proem-part II on 19 November.

Sis. Vibha Saxena conducted an on-line study of *Mahatma Letter* No.90-part 1 on 24 November.

Asha Foundation of Pyramid Spiritual Societies Movement: Sis. Vibha Saxena delivered an on-line talk on 16 November. The topic of the talk was ‘Causal Body’.

Shashvat Yog Sabha, Delhi: Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered an on-line talk on 23 November and the subject he spoke on was “*Parabrahm*”.

A talk on the topic ‘Maryada Purushottam Ram’ was delivered by Acharya Vashishtha Muni Tripathi at Brahavidya Lodge in Village Jigna. It was held on 30 December.

A special meeting of Satya Darshan Lodge in Jogia (Distt. Kushinagar) was held in nearby Fazilnagar town on 01 December, when Bro. U. S. Pandey and Bro. S.B.R. Mishra along with some other members of Gorakhpur lodge visited this lodge which was created during previous year President of Satya Darshan Lodge Bro. Vikas Kumar Srivastava welcomed the visitors and local participants. Bro. Vipin Rai - a member of Gorakhpur Lodge by whose efforts this new lodge was created, introduced Bro. S. B. R. Mishra who in turn introduced Bro. U. S. Pandey. Bro. U. S. Pandey complimented Bro. Vipin Rai, Bro. Mishra and members of the lodge for their efforts in creating the lodge. Then, Bro. Pandey explained the meaning of the universal prayer and also significance of holding regular

and timely meetings of a lodge. Thereafter as desired by the participants, Bro. Pandey spoke in detail on ‘Law of Karma’. This was followed by close interaction with the participants.

Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri discussed on topics ‘Love’ and ‘Dharmpath Editorial’ respectively during the meetings of Pragma Lodge, Lucknow, held on 03 and 17 December.

Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed at Prayas Lodge, Ghaziabad, on 03 December- the Annual Day of the Lodge. Sis. Suvralina Mohanty discussed about ‘Self-Review of Year 2023 on Study, Meditation, and Service.’ This was held on 31 December.

Group study of the book ‘*Nirvana*’ (chapter 9) was conducted at Noida Lodge on 3 and 17 December.

Talks on the topics ‘Three Halls’, ‘The World Mother’ and ‘Seven Sounds’ respectively were delivered by Bro. S. S. Gautam during the meetings of Chohan Lodge, Kanpur held on 03, 10 and 17 December.

A talk on the topic ‘Invisible world and Seven bodies of man’ was given by Bro. Darshan Kumar Jha at Anand Lodge, Prayag Raj, on 14 December.

A meeting of the executive committee of Kashi Tattva Sabha was held on 22 December. Study of the book ‘*The Key to Theosophy*’ was also conducted on that day.

Support Convention was held at the Indian Section HQ on 31 December. Sis. Manju Sundaram gave a talk on this occasion on the theme of the International Convention “Exploring and Understanding Universal Intelligence”.

Bro. D. K. Satsangi delivered a talk at Maitreya Lodge Gr. Noida on 10 December and the subject of his talk was ‘*Pratibhijana Hridayam* - Fundamentals of Kashmir Shaivism.’

A day-long study camp was organized at Gorakhpur on 03 December. Bro. U. S. Pandey conducted study of the book “*The Universal Yoga Tradition*” by Radha Burnier. Then, on specific request of some participants Bro. Pandey indicated the outline of the “Divine Hierarchies” as mentioned in theosophical literature.

Contribution to the Indian Section Work/ Programme: Bro. S. S. Gautam translated the Indian Section’s journal “*The Indian Theosophist*” of December 2023 and January 2024 in Hindi.

Passed to peace: Smt. Raj Deepika (Dip. 58235) of Chohan Lodge, Kanpur passed to peace on 17 December, 2023 and Shri. V. K. Agnihotri (Dip. 67639) of the same lodge passed to peace on 18 December 2023.

### **National Lecturer**

Contribution in other Federations: On invitation by Shankar Lodge,

Delhi, Bro. S.K. Pandey delivered an on-line talk on 16 December. The subject of the talk was 'Nivritti Marg – Returning to Source'.

Karnataka Federation: Bro. U. S. Pandey delivered three talks, one talk in each of the three lodges in Bangalore: at Vajaynagar Lodge he explained 'Occult Functions of Human organs and their correspondences' on 23 December, (ii) at Bangalore City Lodge he spoke on 24 December on the topic 'Paramitas, and (iii) the subject of his talk at Malleswaram Lodge on 28 December was 'The Science of Soul'.

Sis. Vibha Saxena conducted on-line study of Mahatma Letter No. 90 part 2 and 3 on 01 and 08 December.

Contribution to Young Indian Theosophists (Indian Section): Bro. U. S. Pandey delivered an on-line talk on 10 December on "Virtues and Vices in relation to Superiors and Equals"

Contribution to other Forums: Sis. Vibha Saxena delivered an on-line talk on the theme 'Oneness - Unity in Diversity'. It was held on 18 December at Asha Foundation of Pyramid spiritual Societies Movement.

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by the Indian Section Council on 04/01/2024**

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