

THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST

FEBRUARY 2017

VOI. 115

NO. 2

CONTENTS

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS 65-70
Tim Boyd

NEWS AND NOTES 71-98

Editor

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Cover Page : **Dr. Radha Burnier Hall at the Himalayan Study
Centre of the Indian Section, TS, in Bhowali.**

Courtesy : **Sri Kuldip Singh Virk, Life Member of TS.**

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
To the 141st Annual Convention of
The Theosophical Society
Adyar, 31 December 2016

On this opening day of the 141st Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS), I would like to warmly welcome you all at Adyar after another year of challenging and important work around the theosophical world. On this occasion, let us remember the many members all over the world who are with us while watching via webcasting, and those in spirit though not in body, who like the rest of us seek wisdom for the sake of others. Let us also open our hearts to the Holy Ones who show the way to all those who seek selflessly, and guide every person who is prepared to learn. Please rise:

**May those who are the embodiment 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.**

I am very glad to open this 141st Annual Convention of the TS.

The eighteenth century poet, William Wordsworth, captured a sense of the human dilemma when he wrote, “the world is too much with us; late and soon, getting and spending we lay waste our powers.” In his time the invasive pressures of “the world” were being powerfully expressed in the Industrial Revolution that was changing the face of long-accepted social, economic, and political structures in Britain. Gandhi expressed the same idea very differently when he said that “to a hungry man, a piece of bread is the face of God.” Whether it is the preoccupation with “getting and spending”, providing nourishment for our bodies, or checking and responding to an endless stream of email and text messages, we find our attention absorbed by an outer world whose reality is continually confirmed by our needy involvement with it. Everywhere we look we see the conflict, limitation, and unhappiness that are the

Only some portions of the Presidential Address have been published here. For more details see *THE THEOSOPHIST*, January 2017.

necessary result of our conviction that we are separate from each other and from the natural world. HPB described our condition as the “heresy of separateness”. What we experience as normal and real, is viewed in the Ageless Wisdom tradition as fundamentally unreal. It is the *mâyâ*, the illusion, that binds us to an unrelenting cycle of suffering and need.

There is something which lies beyond illusion. Though our experience of it is weak, our remembrance dim, still it lives on the periphery of our awareness, always waiting for those moments when the grip of our illusory attachment weakens. At those moments it makes its presence known in a brightened perception of the present moment. So different are these momentary experiences from the dreary norm that they become the touchstones for our life’s direction. In the words of Albert Camus: “In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.” Illusion and reality are part of one fabric.

The prevailing quality of our forays into reality is a sense of expansion and connection. The more profound the experience, the deeper the awareness of an all-pervading, undivided consciousness —the sky encompasses both clouds and earth; though space seems to divide, in reality it connects, defines, and pervades all things. We live, move, and have our being within that consciousness which not only unites, but is Unity itself.

Although the voices of religion, philosophy, and contemporary science are calling out for us to deepen our awareness of the power of unity, the only call which we can truly hear and respond to is that muffled voice within us — the voice of our own Higher Self. In its still, small tone it continually calls out through the intervening layers of our busyness and worldly involvement to look beyond illusion.

The Theosophical Society’s emphasis on the primacy of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity is in a sense the means and goal of our practice. At whatever level we are able to see, and then engage with the separative tendencies of our mind, we lift a little of the heavy karma of this world. In *At the Feet of the Master* the statement is made that “though a thousand men agree upon a subject, if they know nothing about that subject their opinion is of no value.” Both value and power flow into the world as our study and practice verge onto genuine inner experience.

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The **Indian Section**, with 11,323 members in 408 Lodges under 16 Federations, held its annual Convention in January at Adyar, inaugurated by me and chaired by international Vice-President Dr Chittaranjan Satapathy. Their second day of Convention consisted of short talks by Shikhar Agnihotri (UP); Geetha Jaikumar (Adyar), and S. U. Mahesh (Karnataka). Their talks were appreciated and published in the March issue of *The Indian Theosophist*. The 93rd South India Conference was held during the Easter holidays in March at Adyar with 137 delegates. The theme was Mabel Collins' *Light on the Path*. It had 10 speakers and was inaugurated by Dr Satapathy, who also released a new book combining four classics, *The Theosophic Life and the Three Gems of Theosophy*, published by TPH Adyar. The North India Study Camp was held in Varanasi during October and I directed the study on "The Three Objects". While there, I was also invited to the Besant Theosophical School to inaugurate a new building. Other study camps were held at Gwalior, Lucknow, Bhubaneswar, and Bhowali through the year on far-ranging topics. A first-of-its kind School of the Wisdom course was conducted in Spanish on "Beyond Physical Death" by Drs Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig at Bhowali in September, with 35 enthusiastic participants from 8 countries.

The 125th anniversary of the Indian Section was marked by a special edition of its journal, *The Indian Theosophist*, in November, and by a two-day seminar on "Looking Ahead in the Context of the Theosophical Society" organized in Varanasi in the same month. Other seminars were also conducted in July in Delhi, and in December in Varanasi. Almost all the Federations held their annual conferences, and I delivered the inaugural address at the Bombay Federation conference in November on "The Illumined Mind". I was also the chief guest at the Kerala Federation conference in October, where the theme was "Man —the Problem and the Solution". Dr. Satapathy was the chief guest at the Utkal Federation conference in February. General Secretary Mr. S. Sundaram officiated at two of the annual conferences. National lecturers B. D. Tendulkar, G. Dakshina Moorthy, S. K. Pandey, Shikhar Agnihotri, C. A. Shinde, L. Nagesh, and Avatikaben Mehta visited and gave talks at various places during the year. The 14th East Zone Conference of the TS and TOS was held at Guwahati in April, with Mr Sundaram as the chief guest. The TOS had their National camp in Varanasi

in March, conducted by their director, Mr B. L. Bhattacharya, and secretary, Mr T. K. Nair. The North Zone Conference was held at Noida in August, and the South Zone Conference at Salem in September. In order to manage the properties of the Society it was decided to set up a Central Property Committee at Varanasi headquarters to expedite the decision-making process.

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In addition to the Covenant Lodge, there are 6 other **Lodges attached to Adyar**, totalling 85 members, and there are 35 **Fellows at Large**.

At the **International Headquarters** the Adyar River clean-up started in April by volunteers mainly from the Chennai Trekking Club and friends; clean-up has been done each Friday morning. Also the Dhyana Yoga, Naturopathy, and Ayurveda Clinic started in August in part of the Bhojanasala on a part-time basis.

The **Archives and Museum** has continued scanning documents, especially those of H. P. Blavatsky. The availability of many volunteers, mainly from abroad, has been helpful in this regard. A new catalogue is being prepared. Audio and video tapes are also being digitized. Several of them were publicly viewed, including talks by J. Krishnamurti and C. Jinarâjadâsa, and an interview with Radha Burnier.

The work of digitization of palm-leaf and other manuscripts initiated last year by the **Adyar Library and Research Centre** was continued in earnest, with the help of new equipment such as lights, camera, scanners, storage devices and so on, obtained through purchases and donations. They started a research affiliation with the American Institute of Indian Studies. Conservation of old and rare books and manuscripts continued to be done.

The **School of the Wisdom**, for the first time, had a session in Spanish, a one-week programme conducted in September at the Himalayan Study Centre in Bhowali, India, on "Beyond Physical Death", directed by Drs Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig. This was in addition to the sessions at Adyar by Dr Pablo Sender on "The Yoga of Theosophy", Prof. R. C. Tampi on "Life's Deeper Aspects", Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr on "Self-Transformation and the Spiritual Life", and Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-

Diêu on “Glimpses into Chinese Philosophies in the Light of Theosophy”, each lasting two weeks.

The **Theosophical Publishing House** brought out 28 books (1 new and 27 reprints) during the year. The Editorial Office brought out a special issue of *The Theosophist* on Joy Mills in December, commemorating the first anniversary of her passing.

The **Olcott Education Society** suffered a great loss when Mrs Lakshmi Suryanarayanan, who joined the Olcott Memorial School as its headmistress in 1999, and later became the School’s Director, passed away in April 2016. Her contributions have been invaluable. Also, the HPB Hostel is being renovated, and it has a new warden on board, Mr P. Perchamy.

The renovation of the **Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary** has started. The new veterinary surgeon Dr Rm. Kannambal, who took charge in June is an expert in animal birth control procedures. There were about 2,800 cases attended during the year.

The **Besant Scout Camping Centre** had thirteen institutions and scout groups utilizing its services. Around 1,400 children benefitted through camping activities in line with theosophical values.

The **Theosophical Order of Service** (TOS) continued its work with Mrs Nancy Secrest as its international Secretary. Carolyn and Geoffrey Harrod who were producing the quarterly e-newsletter —the latter was also the webmaster of the TOS website — retired this year, and Ms Rozi Ulics is the new webmaster. Activity on the Facebook Page started last year, has been growing. Efforts in raising a corpus fund for the Olcott Memorial School has begun. TOS Italy was involved in helping the Syrian refugees with material aid, and even constructed a small paediatrics clinic. A notable event was the First National Conference on Theosophical Education in Bhubaneswar, India, last September, for implementing a theosophical education model for schools linked to the TS and TOS, along the lines of similar work done in the Philippines.

As to **travels by International Headquarters Officers**, last January I went to Australia to speak at their National Convention and a public meeting; I spoke in Brazil at a Lodge and public meetings, and attended the first International Young Theosophists Conference, both in Brasilia.

I also spoke at Lodges in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo and to the public, and conducted a three-day workshop at the Raja Centre near Sao Paulo. In Cholula, Mexico, I gave talks at an Inter-American Federation meeting and at a public meeting. In Argentina, I spoke at the Lodge in Buenos Aires and gave a public talk, as well as conducted a workshop in the San Rafael Centre. I also presided over and spoke at the TS in America National Convention and at public meetings, ending with the centenary of the Detroit Lodge. On to Europe, I held a private meeting with the National President of the TS in Italy, and spoke at three meetings in the Netherlands. After returning to India, I spoke at the Kerala Federation annual conference in Alleppey and at the 125th anniversary of their Lodge in Kochi. Later I spoke in New Zealand at the Indo-Pacific Federation gathering and at Lodge and public meetings in three other cities. Finally, I went to Delhi at the invitation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to speak on “The TS: India’s Gift to the World”.

The **International Vice-President** went on a lecture tour of Europe in June, visiting Perugia, Vicenza, and Trieste in Italy; Ljubljana and Kranjska Gora in Slovenia; Barcelona and Madrid in Spain; and Lisbon, Evora, and Porto in Portugal. In Paris, he spoke at the French Section’s Headquarters for their National Conference, and gave a public lecture. He also travelled in India throughout the year to Tanjore, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, New Delhi, and Bhowali, to speak in different capacities.

In March the **International Secretary** gave a talk on “Brotherhood” for the Theosophical Seminar of sister-organizations in Helsinki, Finland. She attended the European Federation meeting in Barcelona in April, and the annual meetings and Europe Day at Naarden in September. In October she was invited by the Karnataka Federation to meet theosophists on their premises in Bangalore, and on to Huliya to give the inauguration address at the Golden Jubilee of their Lodge.

This ends my report and I offer my warm good wishes to everyone present and also to every one of our members worldwide.

TIM BOYD

NEWS AND NOTES

Bombay

The Bombay Theosophical Federation's 85th Annual Session on 4-6 November 2016 was graced by the International Vice-President of the TS Dr. Chittaranjan Satapathy as the Chief Guest. The Theme of the Annual Session was "Theosophy the Ageless Wisdom" and the function started in the evening on 4 November at Blavatsky Lodge with lighting of the Lamp and the Prayers of All Religions & The Universal Prayer. BTF's President Dr. Ajay Hora welcomed and introduced Dr. Satapathy, and Vice-President Bro. Vinayak Pandya conveyed the greetings received by BTF.

Dr. Satapathy in his opening address on "An Ancient Theosophical Text- Modern Relevance" spoke about one of the three gems of Theosophy-*Light on The Path*'. He spoke about the history and uniqueness of the book and explained the Rules written for all disciples' as stated in the beginning of Part-I. The evening ended with Mirabai's Bhajan '*Mane Chakar Rakhoji*' by members of Maitreya Round Table.

On 5 November, Dr. Satapathy in his address 'Theosophy and the Upanishads' spoke about similarities between Theosophy and Upanishads. He explained four *Mahakavya* with stories and the meaning of Upanishads i.e. *Upa* (coming closer) *Ni* (with humility) *Shad* (with quiet stable mind) with realization of one's humbleness to learn from Guru. This is akin to *At the Feet of the Master*. The meeting ended with members of the Ritual of the Mystic Star singing '*Lord, from Thine all-strengthening Presence, Gifts of peace we take away*'.

On 6 November there was a full day session at the beautiful Juhu Theosophical Society with warm hospitality of the Vasanta Theosophical Housing Cooprative Society, Juhu. The day started with an uplifting ceremony of the Bharat Samaj Pooja conducted by Bro. Navin Kumar and Bro. Navin Patel. Dr. Ajay Hora & VATCHS Secretary Bro. Anup Bodaji welcomed the Chief Guest Dr. Chittaranjan Satapathy. Sis. Lata Navin Kumar was felicitated on this occasion for her 40 years' of membership. Dr. Satapathy presented a newly published TPH book '*The Theosophic Life and the Three Gems of Theosophy*' to President Dr.

Ajay Hora. It was published at his initiative. There was an immediate request of Brethren to order 200 books. Dr. Satapathy turned his talk on '*Theosophy for the New Inquirers*' into an interactive session. He answered questions like 'Difference between Philosophy & Theosophy', 'To start study with which Theosophical Books?', 'Message of AB's book *The Theosophic Life*', 'Clairvoyance', 'Can TS Lodges be activity oriented for youth?' His answers were guidelines not only for new comers, but also for all Brethren.

The BTF's 85th Annual General Meeting held after the morning session was attended by 53 members. Tributes were paid to Brethren who passed away between July 2015 to the day of the AGM. The Minutes, Secretary's Report and audited Statements of Accounts were passed and the Auditor was elected. The Elected BTF Council with President Bro. Vinayak Pandya for 2016-2018 was welcomed. The Lodges were asked to inform their members.

Dr. Ajay Hora and Bro. Vinayak Pandya were elected as BTF's Representatives to the Indian Section, Council for three years 2017-2019. Resolutions of regards and good wishes were passed for the Leaders of International and Indian Section and for old and ailing members. A resolution expressing thanks was passed for the Vasanta Theosophical Co-operative Housing Society for their generous hospitality and sponsoring the Full Day Session. Retiring President Dr. Ajay Hora, expressed his thanks to BTF Council & Brethren for their co-operation over the years. Bro. Vinayak Pandya expressed thanks to President Dr. Ajay Hora for leading BTF over 30 years and Retiring Secretary Bro. Ram Kalra for serving BTF and working as volunteer at Adyar & the Indian Section at Varanasi. The AGM ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

At the initiative of Bro. Navin Kumar a meeting to re-activate Ananda Lodge, Juhu, was organized at Sis. Zenobia Khodaiji's house. Ananda Lodge Members and young interested residents were guided and enthused by Dr. Chittaranjan Satapathy, BTF's President Bro. Vinayak Pandya, Blavatsky Lodge's President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, Vice-President Bro. Navin Kumar, Secretary Sis. Jasmine Cawasji and Sis. Aban Patel. They decided to have the initial re-vitalizing meeting on 21st November and to invite all to encourage them.

The afternoon session had a symposium on the theme 'Right Citizenship' based on the title of Dr. Annie Besant's book. Sis. Navaz Dhalla spoke about 'Training for Right Citizenship' by varied activities started by Annie Besant for youth. Sis. Soonoo Vesuna said that AB's vital message for young and old, men and women to regenerate India was: a Great Nation's citizens should have spiritual character, public spirit and civic discipline. The message is relevant even today. Sis. Aban Patel said that in a wider perspective we are citizens not only of a nation but also of the world. The Universal Prayer 'O! Hidden Life...' guides us how with vibrancy, Light & Love within us we can have '*Vasudheva Kutumbakam*' (the whole world is one family). Bro. Bhavesh Pandya said Matru Bhoomi gives civic, social & political rights to its citizens. If one is not a Right Citizen, he cannot guide others to be right citizens. One should have courage to face challenges. As Annie Besant has said right from a young age good values, national spirit, love for Mother Land and respect for other nations should be cultivated. Bro. Taral Munshi, reading from Annie Besant's book, '*Right Citizenship*', was moved by what she had experienced and felt within her heart to regenerate her Motherland India. Hence he read out passages from the book conveying her messages and ended with her words for 'love of her Motherland' - '*Vande Matram*'. Dr. Satapathy, in conclusion, said that a citizen's loyalty has to extend from his home town to his nation and beyond his nation. Let us be patriotic citizens of '*Vasudheva Kutumbakam*'.

Bro. Vinayak Pandya summed up the Annual Session and proposed the vote of thanks. The Annual Session ended with Bro. Bhavesh Pandya singing the Bhajan '*To Hi Ram hai, Tu Rahim hai*'.

Foundation Day meeting was jointly organized by BTF & Blavatsky Lodge on 17 November 2016 in Besant hall. The meeting started with the Prayers of All Religions & the Universal Prayer. Blavatsky Lodge's VP Bro. Navin Kumar welcomed Lodge's President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, Treasurer Bro. Rustom Dalal and all the Brethren. Maitreya Round Table Group created devotional atmosphere with Meerabai's Bhajan 'Mane Chakar Rakhoji', especially with little child Arish Engineer (of 4-5 years only) singing the Bhajan. Sis. Jasmine Cawasji relat-

ing the life of Madam H.P. Blavatsky highlighted her greatness and her serving the Masters, despite being in great pain, to bring Light to humanity. Sis. Kashmira Khambatta spoke about Col. H.S. Olcott who with complete surrender took up difficult work to educate humanity about the Wisdom unfolded by The Masters. Sis. Navaz Dhalla spoke about Col. H.S. Olcott's preordained meeting with HPB, his knowledge of all Religions, his service to Buddhism and obeying the Masters without question and sacrificing all comforts for serving them. Bro. Arni Narendran spoke about the significance of the Foundation Day. Sis. Mahazaver Dalal with reverence and gratitude spoke about the Master Morya and Koot Hoomi, who convinced the White Brotherhood to spread Theosophy through the Light Bringers HPB and HSO. To rejoice on Foundation Day, there was a 'Line dance' choreographed by sis. Zeena Rustomji with Brethren Navin Kumar, Arni Narendran, Ruby Khan, Jasmine Cawasji and Navaz Dhalla dancing to the music. Bro. Navin Kumar presented a Pictorial Slideshow with quotes of the Masters, HPB, HSO, AB, CWL and International Presidents George S. Arundale, C. Jinarajadasa, N. Sri Ram, John Coats and Radha Burnier. He also showed TS activities held in Bombay & Juhu during the last three years covering visit of International President Tim Boyd and Mrs. Lily Boyd, Group Photos of different occasions and photos of Brethren over several years. The meeting ended with recitation of the Sanskrit Prayer.

Sis. Perin Gustasp Karkaria, a member of Blavatsky Lodge for 48 years, passed away on 16 October 2016. A dedicated old time member, whom even late Bro. Jalbhai Sanjana used to respect and as a Blavatsky Lodge's Treasurer and even later was keen to see that her membership link with Theosophy was kept alive.

Sis. Avan Shroff, Blavatsky Lodge's member for 62 years passed away on 3.11.2016. A gentle devoted TS member and co-Freemason of High Degree, with music in her heart, was always ready to serve Theosophy and TS in Mumbai. She used to play the piano for the Ritual of the Mystic Star and organ for Masonic Meetings.

Kerala

The 87th Annual Conference of the Kerala Theosophical Federation was held at Alleppey on 1st and 2nd October 2016. The International

President Bro. Tim Boyd was the Chief Guest. The **Theme of the Conference was “Man – The Problem and the Solution.”**

On 1st October the function commenced at 4.45 p.m. with flag hoisting by the Chief Guest followed by the flag song which praises the TS flag which flutters in more than 50 countries of the world. When nation to nation different flags are hoisted, this TS flag the symbol of Universal Brotherhood is hoisted at the temple of *Brhamavidyalaya* where man unites without the distinction of caste, creed, sex or religion. Meeting commenced with prayers of religions followed by Universal Prayer. Federation Secretary Bro. P.T. Krishnadas read out the greetings received from various Federations, lodges and Theosophists. Welcome address was given by Bro. K.M. Vasudevan, President of the Annapoorni Lodge which is one of the oldest TS Lodges in Kerala. K.T. F.’s President Bro. S. Sivadas presided over the meeting.

Bro. Tim Boyd inaugurated the conference and said that the prediction of Col. Olcott when he inaugurated the Theosophical Society on 17 November 1875 in America came true and now the work of the Theosophical Society during the last 141 years cannot be ignored by any historian. The main work of the Theosophical Society is to make known to the world that such a thing as Theosophy exists. Theosophical Society has contributed a global vocabulary such as *Karma*, *Dharma*, Reincarnation etc. which was foreign to the West. Meditation and unfoldment of consciousness was unknown to the West before Theosophical Society started functioning there. The Ageless Wisdom promulgated by H.P. Blavatsky, C.W. Leadbeater, Annie Besant and others were rendered to the world through its new agency the Theosophical Society. All the great movements of the world were started by a few people who had the vision and commitment. Theosophical Society was founded by a few dedicated servants of humanity, Christ had only a dozen followers when he was alive. The freedom struggle of India started, only by a group of people who had an urge for freedom. The fundamental teaching of Theosophy is that the Spark within you is the same as in every living creature. You have to fan it into a flame for the welfare of humanity and society at large.

Prof. R.C. Tampi spoke on the subject “*Theosophy in India: Yesterday and Today*” as part of the observation of Dr. Annie Besant’s Jayanti and the 125th year of the Indian Section of TS.

On 2nd October programme started with *Bharat Samaj Pooja*. At 9.30 a.m. Bro. Tim Boyd made the keynote address “**Man- The Problem and the Solution**”. He also released a CD on *Bharat Samaj Pooja* rendered by Sis. Lakshmi Bai and Bro. Madhusoodanan Pillai of Annapoorni Lodge. In the second session Bro. M.N. Sasikumar spoke on ‘Karma-the choice between Effort and Destiny’. Bro. N. Bhaskaran Nair spoke on ‘Theosophy and Ecological World view’, Dr. M.A. Raveendran on ‘The Choice between Goodness and Success’ and Sis. Sitalaxmi’s subject of the talk was ‘The Path of Taking Vs. The Path of giving.’ There was also a theme based discussion and Bro. Tim Boyd answered questions raised by the delegates.

A replica of an oil paint of Dr. Annie Besant kept at the Lodge was presented to Bro. Tim Boyd by the Lodge’s President Bro. K.M. Vasudevan and Bro. S. Madhusoodanan Pillai. Various lodges honoured the president by putting a *Ponnada* (an upper cloth made out of golden silk threads) on him. An *Aranmula Kannadi* (Aranmula Mirror- A hand-made metal alloy mirror made in Aranmula a village by traditional artisans in Kerala. It is a front surface mirror which eliminates secondary reflections and aberrations typical of back surface mirrors) was presented to Mrs. Lilly Tim Boyd.

The valedictory address was given by the newly elected President Dr. M.A. Raveendran. New Vice-President Dr. K.K. Haridas also spoke. K.T.F.’s Secretary K. Dinakaran proposed vote of thanks.

Sree Sankara Theosophical Lodge, Ernakulam, celebrated its 125th Anniversary on 2 and 3 October 2016. Bro. Tim Boyd was the chief guest. On 2nd evening a classical music concert was arranged in honour of the President and Mrs. Lilly Tim Boyd. The *Guru* – the music teacher was honoured by the International President by garlanding him a *ponnada* in the traditional Kerala style. There was an interaction with the members of the lodge in which Lodge’s President Dr. T.P. Babu and Bro. K. Dinakaran also participated. Bro. Tim Boyd answered the questions raised by the members of the lodge.

On October 3, the programme of the day commenced at 8.00 a.m. with *Bharat Samaj Pooja*. At 10.00 a.m. the programme commenced with Prayers of Religions followed by the Universal Prayer. Sis. A.V. Seethalaxmi welcomed the President, Mrs. Lilly Boyd and all the members and public who attended the programme. Dr. T.P. Babu, President of the Lodge, welcomed the gathering. He briefly described the history of Sree Sankara Lodge in the 19th century in the erstwhile princely state of Cochin by stalwarts like Pallyil Gopalamenon and Cochin Diwan Sankarayya. He also presented the various activities of the lodge like free Homeopathic treatment, naturopathy classes etc. The lodge is also the venue of the J. Krishnamurti study centre at Ernakulam. Bro. T.S Usman narrated the history of the Sree Sankara Lodge since its inception and the various hurdles it had to face during this period such as encroachment and long battle which finally met with success. All these happened only due to the will-power and thought-power of its sincere members.

Bro. Tim Boyd inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp in the Indian style to mark the beginning of a function. His subject for the talk was **“How Theosophy is unique and can it be a panacea for human misery?”** President in his speech said:- One of the unique teachings of Theosophy is that there is no empty space. We live in an intelligent universe where there is no empty space but inhabited by intelligent beings such as *devas*, angels and *Boddhisatvas* and they are constantly interacting with all of us knowingly or unknowingly. This idea was lost during the modern so-called scientific world. Physical Science itself is limited, since it approves things that it can smell, taste, experience and touch with its instruments of measurement.

Another important teaching of Theosophy is the Self-Responsibility of Man. There is no divine being that will determine your future. But the inner man in you is solely responsible for your actions in the present and in the future. In the little but profound book *Idyl of the While Lotus* three Great Truths are mentioned. The Third Truth says. “Each man is his own absolute law-giver, the dispenser of glory or gloom to himself; the decreer of his life, his reward, his punishment.”

Bro. K. Dinakaran felicitated the members of the Lodge for orga-

nizing the function and wished that this will be a beginning of a year full of theosophical activities. Bro. S. Sivadas, former President K.T.F., also spoke on the occasion. Bro. M.B. Priyakumar, S. Zoe Secy. KTF, proposed the vote of thanks. Members from various lodges and public took this opportunity to take selfies and group photos with Bro. Tim Boyd and Mrs. Lilly Boyd. The International President was also honoured by the Lodge President Dr. T.P. Babu by garlanding him with the *Ponnada*. The whole programme was videographed and will be available in U Tube for the public later on.

Lodges in Kerala Federation observed the Foundation Day on 17 November. The Sri Sankara Lodge, Ernakulam, organized a meeting on commencing with *Bharat Samaj Pooja*. A video show on the 125th anniversary of the Lodge held on 3rd October 2016 was arranged at 2.00 p.m. in which Bro. Tim Boyd was the chief guest of the function on 3rd October 2016.

In the evening, the public function commenced with Universal Prayer by Smt. A.V. Seethalakshmi, Vice-President of the Lodge. Bro. Nixon P.G., Secretary of the Lodge, welcomed the members and sympathizers. Dr. T.P. Babu, presided and in his presidential address he talked about the importance of the Foundation Day and evaluated the noble work of H.S. Olcott and H.P. Blavatsky. Dr. M.A. Raveendran, President K.T.F., inaugurated the function and pointed out the relevance of Theosophy and the Theosophical Society in the present world. The keynote address was delivered by the Federation Secretary K. Dinakaran on the subject **‘Inaugural Address of H.S.O. a re-reading’**. In his talk he emphasized the need to study the inaugural address of H.S.O. to understand the prophetic words of the Founder President.

In a world of class., creed, colour and caste divisions, Theosophy and Theosophical Society entered as a beacon light, he said. Sri. Jose Mohan proposed the vote of thanks. Bro. T.P. Babu unveiled the picture of late Bro. V Krishnankutty, former president of the Lodge. The Journals of the Society *The Theosophist* and *Wake Up India* were introduced to the members and many members subscribed for them.

Geetha Lodge Chovva, Kannur, also observed the Foundation Day on 17 November. Bro. M.P. Mohanan, President of the Lodge, presided over the function. Dr. Sasindran, a well known physician and

speaker on Vedanta, was the Chief Guest who spoke on the relevance of Theosophy in the present world. Bro. Venugopal spoke on H.S. Olcott and H.P. Blavatsky founders of the Society and the contribution of Annie Besant and J. Krishnamurti in spreading the message of Theosophy in the world. Bro. Manoj Kumar proposed Vote of Thanks.

Blavatsky Besant TS Lodge of Kodungallur observed the Foundation day of the Lodge on 6th November. Bro. Ramakrishnan K. K. welcomed the gathering. Dr. M.A. Raveendran spoke on the subject **Noumenon and Phenomenon**. Lodge's President Bro. Unnikrishnan spoke on *Sabda Brhama*. He also spoke on **Tantra Mantra Philosophy**. Sis. Shoba, N. Zone Secretary, summarised the talks. Bro. Sidharthan V.K. gave the vote of thanks.

In the afternoon at 2.00 p.m. there was an informal meeting of the members of the federation in which discussion was conducted on the future work of the society in Federation. Members suggested to organize various meetings to spread the message of Theosophy. The importance of organising study camps, youth camps, Inter lodge meetings and Zonal Conferences were emphasized. Federation President Dr. M.A. Raveendran, Secy. K. Dinakaran and Sis. Shoba N. Zone Secretary lead the discussion.

Rayalaseema

Foundation Day was celebrated on 17 November 2016 by the members of the Lodge at Bellary. After reciting all religions prayers. Bro. S. Rangaiah Setty, Vice-President, told in brief about Madam H.P. Blavatsky and H.S. Olcott. Approximately 40 members were present. *prasad* was distributed to all the participants.

Foundation Day of the TS was celebrated at Secunderabad Lodge on November 17. Bro. N C Ramanujachary explained in detail the difficulties and hardships faced by the Founders in the earlier years. He pointed out that the Lodges are becoming dormant due to less or no Theosophical activity and increase in allied activities. Members from all the Lodges in the city attended the meeting. Fed. Secy. Bro N. C Krishna added that the study of Theosophy and reviving of dormant lodges should be given priority.

On all Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays theosophical study is conducted and good number of members are attending meetings and taking part in the deliberations.

(see Federation's news regarding TOS on page 82-83)

Uttar Pradesh

The following programmes were organized at Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, in the month of November 2016: The subject of talks delivered and name of the speakers are: 'The First Object of the Theosophical Society and The Theosophy' by Bro. B.B. Lal; 'Interpretation of the Dream of Ravana' by Bro. U.S. Pandey; and 'Meditation – Methods and Effect' by Bro. U.S. Pnadey. There was also a question and answer session on Theosophical topics on Nov. 30. Besides, on the occasion of the Foundation Day of the TS the first Presidential Address by Col. H.S. Olcott delivered on 17 November, 1875, and Mahachohan's letter were read and discussed. Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered talks on 'Karma' and 'God and Prayer' at Dharma Lodge in December.

A special study of the book "Philosophy of the Bhagavadgita" was continued by a group of members of the Dharma Lodge at Lucknow during additional weekly meeting.

The following talks were held at Nirvan Lodge, Agra in November: 'Food for Thought' by Bro. R.M. Malhotra; 'Ramayan and Mahabharat' by Dr. Anand Kumar; and 'Theosophy and Humanity' by Bro. Qamar Iqbal. Besides, Bro. Gyaneesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Bro. R.P. Sharma and Bro. Devendra Vajpayee expressed their views on the occasion of the Foundation Day of TS.

Participation in 92nd Annual conference of M.P./Rajasthan Federation: On invitation of M.P. & Rajasthan Federation Bro. U.S. Pandey Federation Secretary participated in their 92nd annual conference held at Jodhpur on 05-06 November. During the inaugural session on 05 Nov. Bro. Pandey offered greetings on behalf of U.P. Federation and delivered a talk on "Insight into Bhagavad Gita" on 06 November. Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri, Secretary of Pragya Lodge, Lucknow and National Lecturer also participated and delivered a talk on "Gita and Spirituality" on 05 November.

Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered a talk on “Free and Open Mind” in the meeting of Shankar Lodge, Delhi, on 26 November. Bro. Rajiv Gupta, President, Delhi Federation, introduced and welcomed the speaker. After the talk interaction was held with the audience.

Muzaffar Nagar: Bro. U.S. Pandey visited Muzaffar Nagar Centre on 27 November. Bro. Rahul Sharma, Secretary of the centre introduced and welcomed Bro. Pandey who delivered talk on two topics, “Historical background of the Theosophical Society and its work” and “Death and Re-birth”. The members of the centre and some non-members as well attended the talks.

A study camp on the book *The Key to Theosophy* was organized by U.P. Federation on 09-10 December, 2016, at Allahabad. The camp was managed by Anand and Mahila Dharma Lodge of Allahabad. About 40 members from Barabanki, Lucknow, Kanpur and Allahabad participated in it. The camp started in the morning of 09 December with the recitation of the prayers of all religions followed by Universal Prayer. Bro. K.K. Jaiswal, Treasurer of Anand Lodge welcomed the participants and speakers. The study was directed by Bro. U.S. Pandey Fed. Secretary, who introduced the theme of the book and also covered matter of chapters, I, II, VII, VIII and XII in three sessions. Bro. K.K. Srivastava covered ch.III and IV in one session, Bro. S.S. Gautam covered ch. V, VI, IX and XIV in three sessions and Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri, covered ch. X, XI and XIII in two sessions. At the end, a close interactive session was held when participants asked many questions for clarification to which the speakers responded. Bro. U.S. Pandey made concluding remarks and also announced programmes of two study camps to be organized in February and March, 2017 at Lucknow and Gwalior respectively.

Thereafter, Bro. S.S. Gautam and Sis. Sushma Srivastava, secretary of Anand Lodge, proposed vote of thanks on behalf of the Federation and the two host lodges respectively.

Prof. Bina Singh delivered a talk on ‘Literature: A New Religion to save Humanity’ in a meeting organized by Kashi Tattva Sabha on December 9. The subject of Prof. Atul Bhatnagar’s talk held on 16 December was ‘Thought: Its genesis and growth in the light of Theosophy and Neuroscience’

Smt. Raj Kumari Sharma (Dip. No. 100415) of Pragya Lodge Lucknow, passed to peace on 18 December 2016.

Indian Section Headquarters

The 141st Foundation Day of the TS was observed at the Indian Section Headquarters on 17 November 2016. The programme started with the Universal Prayer followed by the welcome address by the General Secretary of the Indian Section. The GS, throwing light on the significance of the day said that since the members of Executive Committee were at Section Headquarters it was decided to request them to share their views with the audience on this significant occasion. They agreed with the suggestion.

As such, Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra (Asst. General Secretary), Bro. P.S. Panchakshari (National Treasurer), Bro. S. M. Umakanth Rao (special invitee), Bro. B.L. Bhattacharya (National Director TOS), Dr. T.K. Nair (Secretary of BEF and TOS) and Bro. V. Narayanan (Administrative Officer) spoke on the occasion. Besides, Dr. Abha Srivastava (Principal, Annie Besant School) was the other speaker. The content of their talks were ‘Significance of the Day’, ‘The Relevance of Theosophy and TS have increased with the passage of time’ and ‘Tasks Ahead’. Prof. Sushila Singh (Professor Emeritus at BHU and Member, Besant Education Fellowship and TS) while proposing vote of thanks presented the gist of each talk and also mentioned some very significant points related to the occasion.

Theosophical Order of Service

On 13-11-16, TOS Group of Secunderabad visited Ashray home for boys in Lalapet and distributed 30 wollen blankets to the children. It was attended by several members and lunch for all was sponsored by TOS members Smt. Suchita and P. Sridhar. It was well coordinated by Secretary K. Ramesh and M. Padma. Young Dhananjay gave a nice talk in Telugu to children about unity of life. Bro N. C. Raghava of Singapore Lodge gave a donation of Rs 2000/- to TOS.

On 18-12-2016 TOS group Secunderabad visited Maitrey Foundation for Old Age and Saranya Orphanage at Sarroornagar in Hyderabad

and distributed one month commodities for the home. Smt. Suchita offered cake and samosa to all the members of the Home. The visit was well coordinated by Secretary K. Ramesh and President M Padma accompanied by Parasuram and Dhannajay. TOS under active participation under Bro. K. Seshubabu resolved to organize ONE activity every month. Bro Rabbani arranged logistics for transportation. On 19-12-16, Bro. P. Sreedhar arranged a delicious lunch to all inmates of the orphanage on the occasion of his father's 73rd birthday.

Study Camp at Gwalior

M.P. & Rajsthan Federation and U.P. Federation are jointly organizing a study camp on "Philosophy of the Bhagavadgita in the Light of Theosophy" on 24-26 March 2017 at Gwalior.

Members of all Federations are welcome to participate in the study camp.

The persons coming from outside Gwalior will be provided board and lodging from 23 March (evening) to 26 March (afternoon), for which each such participant will pay a contribution of Rs. 300/- on arrival at Gwalior. Those willing to participate may advise his/her name to any of the following contact persons latest by 5 March, 2017.

Dr. H.S. Dwivedi Secretary M.P. & Rajasthan Federation- Mob. No. 09425119409.

Bro. U.S. Pandey, Secretary, U.P. Federation – Mob. No. 09451993170

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ELECTION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Indian Section Council in its meeting held on 4 January 2017, at Adyar, elected Bro. Pradeep H. Gohil as General Secretary of the Indian Section for a term of three years from 2017-2019.

The Council also appointed the members of the Executive Committee, The Indian Section, The Theosophical Society, for the year 2017. The list of members of the Executive Committee for the year 2017 is as follows:

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The newly elected General Secretary, then, announced that Bro. Pradip K. Mahapatra will be the Joint General Secretary for the year 2017, 2018, and 2019.

SOUTH INDIA CONFERENCE

The 94th South India Theosophical Conference will be held at the International Headquarters, Adyar, Chennai, from 14 to 16 April 2017. It will be on “Theosophy – Defining the Indefinable”. Members of the Theosophical Society (TS) in good standing are welcome to attend as delegates, and are requested to study the following books:

1. *The Key to Theosophy*, by H. P. Blavatsky
2. *How to Study Theosophy*, by H. P. Blavatsky
3. *Ancient Wisdom*, by Annie Besant
4. *Divine Wisdom*, by N. Sriram
5. *Human Regeneration*, by Radha Burnier

The Charges per delegate are as follows:

1. Registration Fee: Rs 130/-.
2. **Accommodation** at Bhojanasala and New Quadrangle will be provided free of cost.
3. Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner will be arranged at the Leadbeater Chambers’ (LBC) dining hall. You are requested to write to the Superintendent, LBC, for the necessary arrangements. Bills can be settled at the time of departure.
4. Delegates wishing to register are requested to send a cheque for Rs.130/- favouring “Treasurer, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020”.
5. Delegates will have to provide information of the date of arrival, date of departure, and contact number besides details on Lodge & membership.
6. All correspondence regarding Registration should be addressed to Convenor c/o, The International Secretary’s Office, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020.
7. For accommodation at LBC, delegates will have to write to the Superintendent, LBC, Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020.
8. For any clarification or for booking accommodation through email, you may write to the following email id: acco.hq@ts-adyar.org.
9. Last date for receipt of application at Adyar is 1 April 2017
10. In the event of cancellation there would be no refund of Registration fee.

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

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

From:To:

12. Details of person(s) accompanying:-

Sl.	Name	Age	Member (Y/N)	Relationship

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

Signature of applicant:

Date:

HIMALAYAYN STUDY CENTRE, BHOWALI
SUMMER PROGRAMME OF
STUDY CAMPS — 2017

	Dormitory 6 persons	Old 24	Deluxe 20
1. 20 April to 26 April-2017 Indian Section's Study Camp on 'Self-Realization through Love' [<i>Narad Bhakti Sutra</i>] of I. K. Taimni By Prof. C A Shinde	3100	3450	3800
2. 29- 30 April and 01 May -2017 ES Retreat by Prof. C A Shinde	1500	1650	1800
3. 03 May to 12 May 2017 Karnataka Federation's Study Class on 'The Teachings of J. Krisnamurti' Director B. V. Thippeswamy and others	3900	4350	4800
4. 15 May to 19 May -2017 Indian Section's Study class on 'Wisdom of Upanishads- from 'A Theosophical Perspective' By Dr. Chittaranjan Satapathy	2300	2550	2800
5. 22 May to 28 May- 2017 Telugu Federation's Study Class on 'Treading the Occult Path' in Telugu [<i>Aadhyaathmika Prasthaana Pravesam Prayaanam</i>] The Camp will be jointly conducted by Dr. PLN Prasad and KVL Kantha Rao.	3100	3450	3800

6. 31 May, 01,02 June 2017 EST Retreat by Prof. R C Tampi	1500	1650	1800
7. 04 June to 06 June 2017 'TOS — WORKERS' Training Camp Organized by the TOS India, Director Bro. B L Bhattacharya National Director TOS India	1500	1650	1800
8. 10 -11 June 2017 Uttarkhand Lodges' Study Camp, Book for Study- 'At the Feet of the Master' Director Bro. S.K. Pandey, National Lecturer, Indian Section, TS.	1100	1200	1300

a) This programme will enable you to reserve train tickets.

b) Members are requested to remit the above mentioned amount in February-2017 by cheque/ or deposit in the name of Indian Section, Theosophical Society. Varanasi, in Vijaya Bank, SB Account no.718301010005045, IFSC Code- VIJB0007183.

c) Accommodation in [i] Dormitory- 6 persons, [ii] Old Rooms -24 persons, [iii] Deluxe Rooms- 20 persons.

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