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Editor

PRADEEP H. GOHIL

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

To the 145th International Convention of the Theosophical Society On-line from 27 to 30 December 2020

I WOULD like to welcome you to this 145th International Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS). Last year, when the location for this meeting was moved to the Indian Section's Headquarters in Varanasi, we thought of it as an exceptional year. This year, 2020, will go down in history as a *most* exceptional year. This is the first time in the TS's history that we have been unable to gather face to face for this annual event. Even during the World Wars, in some manner we were able to gather in each other's presence for this International Convention. These challenging times should make us reflect on the root reasons for this global pandemic, and the role that humanity has played in bringing it about. Let it be our intention to come out of this moment stronger and wiser. Now let us please rise for the invocation to those Great Ones who guide and protect the Society:

**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.**

I am now pleased to open this 145th Annual Convention of the TS.

Every year has its trials, lessons, and challenges. This year the fact of our interdependence and inseparability has been confirmed in the most definite, if painful, manner. Even the darkest days are not without light. And this moment of trial is filled with blessings, if we can see and respond. For a brief time the “nor-

mal” behaviour of our human family has been interrupted. A globally shared threat to health and well-being has caused us to stop, to isolate, to halt our blind, headlong rush toward an unsustainable, damaging vision of progress affecting all of the life forms on our Earth. H. P. Blavatsky (HPB) once said: “Do not be afraid of your difficulties. Do not wish you could be in other circumstances than you are. For when you have made the best of an adversity, it becomes the stepping stone to a splendid opportunity.”

There is another way — not something new, or old, ancient, or modern, but the ageless potential for an applied Brotherhood/ Sisterhood, interdependence, interbeing that this moment cries out for. The entire reason for the existence of the Theosophical movement is to move from potential to the actual growing circles of compassion that must arise when we “get it”.

One of humanity's unfortunate features has been that we seem to learn more readily from crisis and suffering than from ease and comfort. During this time of stress and change let us all try to strengthen our link with that source that supports us all. This moment we are presently living through will come to an end, and with it will arise new challenges demanding a deepening access to our inner resources. Let us rise to meet the needs of this moment and the ones to come.

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The **Indian** Section has over 10,000 members distributed among 492 Lodges and Centres under 16 Federations. The term of National President Pradeep Gohil was renewed for another 3 years. Goal review and setting meetings were held with representatives of the Federations with the objective of inspiring all to do good theosophical work. The overall average achievement for the year was 63%, and there is room for improvement.

The main goal this year was to increase the Section's income and become financially independent. A dilapidated building in the Section headquarters was replaced by a new 4-storey building. This helped to bring in some substantial income as well as provide more accommodation for visitors. Now a total of 200 persons can be accommodated for study camps, conferences, and so on. Another important change was the renovation of the 1,500-seat Radha Burnier Amphitheatre inaugurated by me on 31 December at the start of the 144th International Convention. The Annual National Study Camp was held with 80 participants in the Headquarters in October on "The Teachings of Theosophy and J. Krishnamurti", directed by Prof. P. Krishna, who has for long been associated with both the TS and Krishnamurti Foundation. The reference book used, *A Jewel on a Silver Platter*, is his own. The Uttar Pradesh Federation organized its Centenary Conference in Agra in October, inaugurated by me. The theme was "One Life, One Consciousness". The highlight of the year was the hosting of the International Convention in Varanasi in December, after 30 years, with 1,500 delegates, good food, stalls, electric vehicle transport, sightseeing trips, slightly dampened by the extraordinarily unusual cold weather. All the customary activities went on smoothly.

The 128th Convention of the Section was held in Varanasi in January on "Kindle the Spark Within". A certificate course on "Self-Realization through Theosophy" was conducted in Varanasi in January, concluding with the induction of 10 new members. The Covid-19 lockdown affected regular activities considerably. The Easter Conference in April at Adyar had to be cancelled as also the 9 Summer Camps planned to be conducted at the Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali. The same was the fate of other study classes and camps as well.

The National President participated in the conference on

"History of Theosophy" in Greece. He also spoke at the European School of Theosophy Conference in Greece on "Reincarnation — Its Causes and Process" and "Ancient Wisdom and Modern Science" in October. From October to March more than 15 National Lecturers participated in various programmes all over the country. Some of them conducted on-line study classes after the advent of the pandemic. Annie Besant's 172nd birthday, Foundation Day, Adyar Day, and White Lotus Day were celebrated. *The Indian Theosophist* is the monthly journal. During the year the Section's website <theosophy-india.org> was re-designed.

* * *

At the International Headquarters, the **Adyar Library and Research Centre**, dedicated to the study of Oriental literature, philosophy, and religion, plays a crucial role in interacting with members and the public. Dr Radha Raghunathan joined as the new Director of ALRC in November. You are encouraged to visit the Centre and benefit from the treasured knowledge. Apart from numerous Sanskrit and other palm-leaf manuscripts, it houses important books in several national and international languages. Editing of rare articles and books consistent with the UGC-CARE guidelines was started. The Library becomes richer every year with generous book donations.

On 25 January we saw a milestone event when the new premises of the **Adyar Archives** was inaugurated and named after the late Surendra Narayan, International Vice-President of the TS for many years. The refurbishment was possible due to a generous donation from his family members. Despite the universal problem created by the pandemic, the digitizing of the Blavatsky Museum catalogues was adroitly accomplished. Handwritten books have been uploaded to the computer database where necessary. Efforts are under way to collect authentic in-

formation on the rare paintings gifted by the famous art historian, Govindraj Venkatachalam of Bengaluru.

The regular academic and cocurricular activities of the **Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School** continued until March, when the school had to be closed due to the pandemic as per government instructions. However, teaching strategies were fine-tuned to provide special training for the teachers to adapt to the requirements of a virtual classroom and the digital framework. A digital initiative of learning by providing computer tablets for students of grades 10 to 12 classes was successfully started and is in progress. The **Social Welfare Centre** continued providing care to 46 children, taking care of their nutritional requirements and play activities. In the **Vocational Training Centre**, 24 students underwent training in tailoring, weaving, and other craft-related skills. But since April these activities remain suspended due to the pandemic. The H. P. Blavatsky Boys' Hostel is operational, but activities remain suspended due to Covid-19.

In the November session of the **School of the Wisdom**, Dr José Foglia, from Uruguay, helped the students understand the deeper knowledge of the human nervous system and brain, and reactions and habits of thought. In the December session students were introduced to the J. Krishnamurti dialogues by Mr Paul Smith in a good interactive session. The Venerable Olande Ananda Thera, from Sri Lanka, took the third session last January, on meditation, and guided the students on how to practise it in daily life. During the fourth and last January-February session of the School, Dr Elena Dovalsantos, from the US, offered a course on *The Secret Doctrine*, explaining its relevance in day-to-day life.

The **Theosophical Order of Service** (TOS) is present in 35 of the 59 countries where the TS is active via several out-

reach avenues. This year Nancy Secrest, International TOS Secretary, gave talks and made presentations at the Indo-Pacific Federation Conference held in the Philippines in November. In January, Ms Secrest, with TS Vice-President Dr Deepa Padhi, went to New Zealand, where Ms Secrest gave a presentation on the TOS and both participated in a panel discussion on TOS activities. I would like to record my deep appreciation for the long years of excellent leadership by B. L. Bhattacharya, as Director of TOS in India, and welcome K. Sivaprasad as his successor.

The Theosophical Publishing House: The Covid-19 pandemic caused a complete shutdown of sales from the end of March to mid-September. During the first half year, the sale of books continued to be good both in India and abroad. Sales via the Amazon website continued to do well. Total sales for the one-year period from April to March was Rs 3.52 million compared to Rs 4.09 million of the previous year. The fall in sales was due to the International Convention being held in Varanasi instead of Adyar. During the period from October to September, fifteen reprints were published.

For the **Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary** (BMAD) the year has been very productive in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. The team that started off with one veterinarian and one caretaker four years ago has now become an army of twenty-five passionate workers, mostly volunteers, including four veterinarians and four managers. Animals have been in need of rescue and treatment more than ever. On an average there are 200 in house rescued animals and roughly 25 to 30 inpatient animals on any particular day. The team also manages around 200 outpatient cases per month.

Overall, more than 600 animals, including large ones, were rescued, during the year. New additions include beach horses and racehorses whose original caretakers did not have the facil-

ity to feed and care for them during the lockdown. Due to neglect, the once-admired horses had become malnourished and weak. After 5–6 months of continuous care they have once again become healthy and happy.

During the lockdown, despite being under the risk of Covid transmission, the team ensured that all animals, including those living in the TS, were fed and cared for. With crowd-funding through “Ketto”, BMAD successfully collected up to Rs 1.8 crores for renovating the facility. New equipment like an X-ray machine was added as also kennels for inpatient animals and a shed for in-house dogs. Sponsors have made significant contributions for feed and medical supplies, and one sponsor even helped to obtain an ambulance to rescue animals in trouble. The animal birth control programme has been a successful venture, and this year close to 1,000 such surgeries have been completed with smooth recovery.

The **Adyar Theosophical Academy** (ATA) concluded its first academic year in March with 54 students in classes from Pre-K to Grade II, a year full of activities, learning, and adventures. Contact with Nature and a focus on arts to explore the creative side were essential parts of the ATA’s spirit and approach to education. Academics were enriched with educational trips and project activities. Children’s days integrated sports, theatre, music, and arts. On 25 January, ATA had its very first “Sports Day” on the grounds of Olcott Memorial School, Adyar, with me as the Chief Guest. Students gifted little mementos created by them. I hoisted the School Flag and addressed the assembly of participants as well as parents. I emphasized how sports is an integral part of learning and encouraged children to participate with zeal and passion.

On 14 March, ATA celebrated its first “Annual Day” in the Adyar Theatre. Ms Marja Artamaa, International Secretary of

the TS, was the Chief Guest. The programme included cultural expressions from India and the world, dramas recreating life in the forest and care toward Nature, and songs that spoke of the unity of life and brotherhood. But a few days later a lockdown forced the school to close abruptly due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On 11 June, ATA started its second academic year, transitioning from in person to on-line classes, using the virtual platform Zoom. The second year brought the addition of Grade 3 and strength of 110 students. This also required training for teachers to adapt and orient themselves, who participated in more than 20 workshops.

On 24 June 2020, ATA celebrated its first birthday. Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, and other guests joined on-line. Children sang, recited, and shared their spontaneous drawings as well as birthday cards. The event ended with encouraging words from Vic and the other guests.

The final celebration of the period from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020 was on 21 August, to celebrate Ganesha Chaturthi. In Hinduism, this is a 10-day festival marking the birth of the elephant-headed deity, Ganesha, the god of prosperity and wisdom. The children sang slokas in his honour, had sessions of fireless cooking, and also different representations of Ganesha using various artistic techniques and elements.

One of ATA’s highlights of the year was “Gratitude Week” — an exercise inculcating thankfulness in everyday life.

TIM BOYD

(Courtesy: *The Theosophist*, January 2021)

NEWS AND NOTES

Bengal

The members of Bally Lodge celebrated Lodge's 107th Anniversary on 29 November 2020. Prof. Prahlad Kumar Sarkar, Retd. Head of the Philosophy Deptt., Calcutta University, presided over the meeting. After the prayers, welcome address was delivered by Bro. A.N. Chakraborty. Bro. Joydeb Goswami, Secretary, in his report narrated the different activities conducted by the Lodge. Prof. Sarkar in his speech emphasized on the need of enrolling more young members to carry out some Community Service activities for the propagation of Theosophy in the nearby areas. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

The 138th Anniversary of Bengal Theosophical Society (BTS) was conducted on 26 December 2020. Bro. N.C. Laha presided over the meeting. After the prayers, Sis. Madhusree Chowdhury, Secretary, presented her report and gave details about the various activities undertaken by the Society during the year. President Bro. Laha suggested some measures for improving the work of the Society. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.

Bombay

VASANT, GANESH & JYOTI LODGE'S VIRTUAL MEETINGS: The Virtual Meetings with series of Dr. Ajay Hora's talks in Gujarati on '*Is Reincarnation A Necessity?*' were started with the first meeting on 11 November 2020. The talks are based on Annie Besant's book translated in Gujarati by Dr. Ajay Hora. The meeting hosted by Bro. Vinayak Pandya is attended by Brethren of Ahmedabad and Surat also.

BTF BRETHREN ADDRESSING the members of the Lodge of other Federation: Rohit Lodge of Ahmedabad, Gujarat Federation, invited Dr. Ajay Hora at virtual meeting to give a

talk in Gujarati on '*Sevabhava Shikshan*'. It was held on 21 November 2020.

BUILDING BRIDGES: Blavatsky Lodge is building Bridges with Theosophists in Philippines, Singapore, and Russia. The members of Blavatsky Lodge participate in their activities and are invited as guest speakers in their Lodges. The Virtual Centre of Theosophical Studies also launched 'Wisdom Capsule #1' at Mumbai. A letter of Adamant Lodge, Moscow states, "*The historical connection between the people of Russia and India binds us, is the unity of our hearts and spirit!*" THEOSOPHY VESTURZ has covered Bro. Arni Narendran's article '140 Years Celebration of Blavatsky Lodge'.

FOUNDATION DAY VIRTUAL MEETING OF BTF & BLAVATSKY LODGE on 17 November 2020 morning hosted by BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya: The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Universal Prayer by Sis. Mahazaver Dalal. Bro. Vinayak said that to implement Theosophy in life and to experience spiritual life is important. Bro. Navin Kumar said that we have joined TS to strengthen it and to spread Theosophy revealed by the Founders to encourage Family members to join TS, to live as a Theosophical Family.

As Homage to the Founders the First Wisdom Capsule of The Virtual Centre for Theosophical Studies on 'Zoroastrianism in Light of Theosophy' was dedicated to them. Col. H. S. Olcott had given a talk on Zoroastrianism in Mumbai on 14-2-1882 and Madam H. P. Blavatsky had answered the queries on his talk, as HSO at that time was in Sri Lanka. This Wisdom Capsule conceived and produced by VCTS Education-Director Bro. Arni Narendran was presented with explanations by Researcher Sis. Meherangiz Baria. *The Wisdom Capsule #1 was with focus on the concepts of Zoroastrian religion considered from the Theosophical viewpoint.*

The presentation covered Zoroastrian Symbol of Fravashi, Introduction , Zarathushtra (Golden Shining Star), Important Principles, Cosmogogenesis, Theory of Creation with Evolution, Divine Hierarchy, Ameshaspentas Part 1 & 2, Prayers, Various Bodies, Life After Death, Law of Karma, Reincarnation, Zoroastrian Contributors to Theosophical Society, Bibliography and Introduction of Creators of PPT.

The List of Zoroastrian contributors to the Theosophical Movement, including of past and contemporary contributors, despite painstaking research, is by no means an exhaustive one.

They have served the Bombay Theosophical Federation (BTF), Lodges, Indian Section and T.S. Headquarters in different capacities. They have also been active participants of Allied Activities of T.S., like Theosophical Order of Service (TOS), Round Table, Ritual of the Mystic Star, Bharat Samaj Pooja, Co-Freemasonry and Theosophical Healing Ritual.

Sis. Aban Patel, on behalf of all, greatly appreciated the presentation and said even we Zoroastrian learn new things. She ended with recitation of '*Yatha Ahu Vairyo*'.

Kerala

A Webinar was organized under the auspices of Annapoorni Lodge, Alleppey, on 21 - 22 November 2020. The theme was '**Theosophy for a New World Order**'.

The Programme on 21st started at 10.00 a.m. with Universal Prayer. Bro. Madhusoodanan Pillai, Secretary, welcomed the on-line participants from various Theosophical Lodges in Kerala.

Bro. S. Sivadas, President of the Lodge, inaugurated the Webinar. Dr. M.A. Raveendran, President Kerala Theosophical Federation, spoke on '**First Object - the source of world**

Peace'. He stated that the Universal Brotherhood is the corner stone of world peace. It was followed by question and answer session. Dr. V.P. Viswakumar spoke on the **Second Object of TS**. He said that Religion, Science and Philosophy are the three main sources of wisdom which transform humanity. Bro. T.K. Nair spoke on **the Third Object of TS**. He said that we have to develop the latent powers in man like love, compassion, patience, endurance etc. and our intention should not be to acquire psychic powers. Bro. G Subramaniam proposed vote of thanks. Meeting on the first day concluded with Shanti Mantra.

The programme on the second day commenced with Universal Prayer. Bro. A Sivasubramaniam welcomed the members. Bro. K. Dinakaran, Secretary K.T.F., spoke on the subject **Evolution of Life**. He stated that we should deeply ponder over the statement mentioned in *At the Feet of the Master*- "God has a plan and that plan is Evolution".

Dr. P. Sivadas, a PHD holder from Kerala University, spoke on his Phd Thesis about 'Theosophical Society and Renaissance of Kerala'. He stated that Theosophists were behind all the socio-political and cultural movements in Kerala and India. TS has directly or indirectly influenced our national leaders like Nehru, Gandhiji and many others. TS was the pioneer of social reconstruction in India and Kerala. Theosophists were the forerunners of Girls Education, movement and upliftment of people belonging to the lowest stratum of society, Swadeshi Movement, Women empowerment etc.

Bro. S. Sivadas spoke on the subject **Theosophy and New World Order**.

Bro. S. Madhusoodanan Pillai proposed vote of thanks in the concluding session and then Webinar ended with the recitation of Shanti Mantra.

Utkal

Dr. Prafulla Kumar Das, President of Barabati Theosophical Lodge, has been awarded *Bharadwaja Sannmana*. This award has been given to him by Odiya Lyricist Association, Cuttack, for his outstanding contribution to literature.

Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand

On-line meetings were held in the following seven Lodges of the Federation during the month of November 2020 :

Four on-line meetings were held under the auspices of Pragya Lodge, Lucknow, in which talks were delivered on the topics 'Prayer', 'Path of Salvation', 'Yoga of Devotion' and 'Scientific Aspect of Om'. The speakers were Bro. U.S. Pandey, Bro. S. K. Pandey, Sis. Varsha Patel and Dr. Archana Pandey.

In the weekly meetings organized by Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, the book "*An Introduction to Yoga*" by Annie Besant was studied and its four chapters viz. 'The Nature of Yoga,' 'Schools of Thought' 'Yoga as Science,' and 'Yoga as Practice' were covered by Bro. Pramil Dwivedi, Bro. B.K. Pandey, Smt. Kusum Singh and Smt. Vasumati Agnihotri respectively.

During the meetings of Nirvan Lodge, Agra, held in November talks were held on the topics 'Outline of Islam', '*Tamaso ma Jyotirmaya*', 'Kathopanishad' and 'Sage Bharat'. The speakers were Bro. R. P. Sharma, Bro. H.K. Upadhyay, Bro. Sandeep Agarwal and Bro. S. K. Sharma.

Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed by Bro. G. K. Chaturvedi on 8 November.

In the meetings of Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur, talks were delivered on the topics 'Human Evolution' by Bro. Ajai Rai and 'Sanatan Dharma' by Bro. A.P. Srivastava. The subject of three talks given by Bro. S.B.R. Mishra's were 'Introduction of the

Secret Doctrine', 'One Life One Consciousness' and 'Science of Love'.

Sis. Suvralina Mohanty, Secretary of Prayas Lodge, Ghaziabad, delivered a public talk in a National Webinar organized by 'Art of Bliss', Odisha. The subject of her talk was "What I am" and it was held on 01 November 2020.

Study of the book '*The Science of Yoga*' by I.K. Taimini was conducted at Prayas Lodge, Ghaziabad, by Sis. Suvralina Mohanty.

Meditation for children: Sis. Suvralina Mohanty conducted on-line 'Basic Meditation' class for children on every Sunday morning at 07.30 a.m.

Two on-line meetings were held during the month of November at Noida Lodge. A panel consisting of Col. B. K. Kailash, Bro. J.K. Khanna and Sis. Vibha Saxena expressed their views on "Third Eye of Shiva" on 01 November. Life and teachings of saints like Nanak, Ramkrishna Paramhans, Yogi Ram Charak and Kabir were narrated by Sis. Sunita Gahrotra, Bro. Prabhat Saxena, Col. Kailash and Sis. Asha Khanna on 15 November. Bro. J. K. Khanna spoke about the two Masters M and K.H. during the same meeting.

Sis Preeti Tewari spoke on 'Karma and Dharma' in the meeting held under the auspices of Chohan Lodge, Kanpur, The three talks delivered by Bro. S. S. Gautam at the same venue were on 'How to help the world', 'Teachings of Astavakra to King Janaka', and 'Avatars'.

UP & Uttarakhand Federation, along with Delhi Federation, organized a joint on-line programme on 17 November, 2020 in which a group meditation guided by Bro. U.S. Pandey, President UP & UK Federation, was practiced by the participants.

Thereafter the Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society was observed in which Bro. Ashok Lokhande, National Lecturer, Bro. U.S. Pandey, and Bro. Rajiv Gupta - President of Delhi Federation spoke. Bro. Lokhande spoke about the background in which the Theosophical Society was founded at the instance of Masters. Bro. Pandey spoke about the preparatory work done before November 17, 1875, and salient points of the inaugural address of the founding president Col. H. S. Olcott. Bro. Gupta spoke about the objects of the Society.

Talks/Programmes in Utkal Federation: Sister Suvralina Mohanty, delivered talks in three sessions on “Daily Life” based on the book “*The Theosophic Life*”. It was organized for the youth group of Siddharth Lodge, Utkal Federation, on 06, 13 and 20 November 2020. Besides, she conducted a session on “Meditation and observation of breathing” for the youth group of Siddharth Lodge on 27 November, 2020.

National Lecturer

Talks in Delhi Federation: On invitation by Indraprastha Lodge of Delhi Federation, Bro. U.S. Pandey, National Lecturer, delivered two of a series of three talks on the theme “Sun, Moon, and Sacred Planets”. He covered the topics ‘Moon’ and ‘Sacred Planets’ during the talks delivered on 14 and 21 November 2020 respectively.

On invitation by Shankar Lodge of Delhi Federation, Bro. S. K. Pandey, National Lecturer, delivered a talk on the topic “Role of Theosophy in Human Regeneration”. It was held on 28 November 2020.

Besides, Bro. U.S. Pandey participated in the following international programmes:

On invitation by President of the Theosophical Society in Philippines, Bro. U. S. Pandey delivered an on-line talk in their

joint lodge meeting held on 07 November 2020. The subject he spoke on was ‘Human Happiness’. Members and other persons from several countries like New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, U.K., Nigeria and India participated in it. During this talk Bro. Pandey covered extensively the points such as; Happiness being the basic need of human beings and search for happiness going on for ever; causes of unhappiness; nature of happiness; baseline or set-point; differences of happiness in separate persons -causes for the same and related research finding, Genetic factor or karmic effects of past lives in determining level of happiness, how to change the baseline by inner discipline of mind, degrees of well-being and age factor, spiritual dimension of happiness, role of virtues, meditation, selfless service and self-forgetting in certain actions, four levels of happiness- body, emotion, intellect and spirit and their durability etc., It was followed by interaction with the participants.

On invitation by President of Theosophical Society in Ukraine, Bro. U. S. Pandey participated as a guest speaker in their Convention held on 14 and 15 November and delivered a talk on “Divinity within and without”. It was held on 15 November, 2020.

Bro. U. S. Pandey was invited to participate as a guest speaker in the IVth International Theosophical Congress organized in Russia on 21-22 November. He delivered a talk there on the theme of the Congress “Cosmogenesis, Anthrpogenesis, Theogenesis- a single evolution of Consciousness”. It was held on 22 November.

Bro. U. S. Pandey joined as a speaker and panellist in an international seminar organized on-line by ‘Adamant’ Lodge, Moscow of the Theosophical Society in Russia. The theme was “The Secret Doctrine of H.P. Blavatsky- Prologue” and it was held on 28 November, 2020. Bro. Pandey delivered a talk there

on “The Absolute Principle.” Several members from countries like U.S.A. Russia, Finland, Greece, South Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, and India participated in this seminar.

An article on “The Law of Reincarnation” written by Bro. U. S. Pandey was published in the issue No.1 of November 2020 of the science magazine “Theosophical Vector” of the International Theosophical Publishing House “ALBATROSS” and sponsored/published by The Theosophical Society in Russia, “Adamant” Lodge, Moscow.

TOS

The Bengal Theosophical Federation’s Hirendra Nath Dutta TOS Group along with the members of the Federation visited the “AMPHAN” affected areas of Mathurapur, Bishnuopur-Neempith, Joynagar on 21 June, 29 June and 4 July/2020 respectively and distributed the relief items like Rice, Grocery items, Tarpaulins, Masks, Sanitary items etc, amounting to Rs.70,000/-, to the people affected by the cyclone. The team was led by Bro. Ratan Ch. Das, Bro. Amal Krishna Mandal. Bro.Arindam Mandal and Sis. Jaysri Das. Local transport facility was not available due to lockdown. So, they somehow arranged a private vehicle and carried the relief items to the aforementioned areas for distribution.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for 2021 As approved by the Indian Section Council on 4/1/2021

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Sri Pradeep H. Gohil - | President
The Indian Section
The Theosophical Society
Kamachha Varanasi- 221 010
Phone No. 0542-2397340
Mob. No. 09824214891
Email: theosophyvns@gmail.com
phgohilexcel@gmail.com |
| 2. Sri V. Narayanan | Treasurer
The Indian Section
The Theosophical Society
Kamachha, Varanasi-221 010
Phone- 0542-2400773
Mob. No. 09793888596
Email: auroson@gmail.com |
| 3. Sri Nareshbhai A. Trivedi | 305, Nandanvan Apartment, B/H
Dwarkadhish Market,
Opp. Sardarbaag,
Junagadh-362 001 Gujarat
Mobile: (0) 9879065200
Landline 0285-2630281
Email ID: nareshtrivedi82@gmail.com |
| 4. Sri. C.A. Shinde | Upasika, Theosophical Society
Adyar, Chennai- 600 020
Mob. No. (0) 9940140228
Email: cashinde22@gmail.com |
| 5. Smt. Uma Bhattacharyya | The Indian Section
The Theosophical Society
Kamachha Varanasi- 221 010
Mob. No. 9648742212
Email: umabhattacharyya15@gmail.com |

LIST OF NATIONAL LECTURERS - 2021 (As approved in the Executive Committee's Meeting on 4/1/2021)

6. Sri S.G. Sanath Kumar 112/4, Diagnol Road,
Behind Syndicate Bank
V.V. Puram
Bangalore-560 004
Mob. No. 09448856179
Email-akhilavijay12@gmail.com
7. Sri N. C. Krishna 10-283/1/5, Plot No. 84,
Vasanthapuri Colony,
Malkajgiri, Hyderabad- 5000 047
Mob. No. 09866355661
Email: nck.krishna@gmail.com
8. Sri U.S. Pandey A-893, Indira Nagar
Lucknow-228 016
Mob. No. 09451993170
Email: usplko@gmail.com
9. Sri Y.P. Desai C/o Dr. A.Y. Desai
“Dev Park”, F/3, First Floor
Vidyutnagar Road, Veraval-362 266
Gujarat
Mob. No. 09426982156
Email : aydesai44@yahoo.com
10. Ms. Sripriya Treasurer, Madras Federation
Govinda Vilas,
The Theosophical Society
Adyar, Chennai- 600 020
Telephone No. 044-24911569
Mob. No. 09840775571
Email:mtf.treasurer@gmail.com
11. Sri. S.L. Dar “Raghukulam”, B-21/81,
Kamachha, Varanasi
Mob. No. 9415221425, 7704023317
Email – snldar@gmail.com

- Sri. C.A. Shinde Upasika, The Theosophical Society
Adyar, Chennai- 600 020
Mob. No. (0) 9940140228
Email: cashinde22@gmail.com
- Sri. B.D. Tendulkar Bldg. G1, Plot No. 14,
2nd Floor Hig Scheme,
MHB Colony Janwadi,
Pune- 411 016
Phone: 020-25652393,
Mob. No. 09881519108
Email: b.tendulkar@yahoo.com
- Sri S.K. Pandey 4/136, Kalpana Kutir,
Shukla Ganj, P.O.
Gangaghat- 209 861
Unnao
Mob. No. 09839817036
Email: sheo_2010@rediffmail.com
- Sri G. Dakshinamoorthy Flat G.3, Devagiri Meadows,
1781, 14 Main, 34 Cross,
BSK-II Stage, Bangalore
Karnataka- 560 070
Mob. No. 09986023299
Email: gdm23@rediffmail.com
- Sri Ashok Pratap Lokhande Plot No. 68,
Madhav Nagar
Nagpur-4400 010
Mob. No. 09822734680
Email: meenalokhande18@yahoo.com

Sri N.C. Krishna
10-283/1/5, Plot No. 84,
Vasanthapuri Colony,
Malkajgiri, Hyderabad- 5000 047
Mob. No. 09866355661
Email: nck.krishna@gmail.com

Dr. L. Nagesh
101, II Cross, 4th Main Income
Tax Layput, Vijayanagar
Bangalore- 560 040
Karnataka
Landline No. 080-23396000
Mob. No.09844035470
Email: drlnagesh72@gmail.com

Sri Shikhar Agnihotri
MMB1/111, S.B.I. Colony
Janakipuram ,
Sitapur Road Yojan (Scheme)
Lucknow- 226 021
Mob.No.09839912070
Land Line-0522-4103468
Email: shikhar9379@gmail.com

Dr. Bipul Sarmah
Chakravarty Lane, Tarjan,
Jorhat-785001
ASSAM
Mob. No. - 09435357432
Email id- dr.kanaibs@rediffmail.com

Sri R.V. Vastrad
Chaitanya, Sri Hari Colony,
Behind KHB Colony
Gandhi Nagar
Bellary- 583 103
Karnataka
Mob. No. 09448572511
Email: vastradv@gmail.com

Sri Harihar Raghavan
Madras Federation
Govinda Vilas,
The Theosophical Society
Adyar, Chennai- 600 020
Telephone No. 044-24911569

Smt. Sonal Murali
Besant Bungalow,
1, Besant Avenue,
The Theosophical Society,
Adyar, Chennai 600 020
Mob. 9049867345
Email: mrigshirsha@gmail.com

Sri Narsimh Thakariya
A/201, Sanai Residency,
Opp. Parshuram Garden, Adjan,
Surat- 395 009
Mob. No. 94426362253
Email- divyarajthakaria1310@gmail.com

Sri U.S. Pandey
A-893, Indira Nagar
Lucknow-228 016
Mob. No. 09451993170
Email: usplko@gmail.com

Sri Pradip Kumar Mahapatra
Plot No. 625 Saheed Nagar
Bhubaneswar
Odisha-751 007
Phone No. 09437697429
Email-peekem0277@gmail.com

Sri. Nandkumar Narayan Raut
Madhumalati Apartments
Flat No.8, Mohite Plots,
Chhoti Umari, Akola,
Maharashtra-444 005
Mob. No. 09975722582
Email: nandkumarnraut@gmail.com

Fragments of the Ageless Wisdom

There is no such thing as heresy; for no man is another man's judge and master in any sphere of thought, whether in the sphere of religion, of politics, morals, or philosophy. Thought must be free and unfettered, otherwise you will have stagnation and death. But because that is true, do not make the illogical deduction: 'It does not matter what I think.' It matters enormously what you think. If you think falsely, you will act mistakenly; if you think basely, your conduct will suit your thinking. So think your noblest, your highest, your purest. Think the best you can, and not the worst. Aim high, for the higher the arrow is aimed, the higher the mark it hits. Keep your own ideals lofty, while you keep your judgement of others charitable; and your ideals shall lift you, and your charity shall raise your fallen brother. For never yet did a man rise by being trampled on. Man only rises by being loved in the midst of his sins and follies, and as we deal with our brethren, so do Those who are above us deal with our outer selves. Such our final lesson, and I finish with the words of the Upanishad (*Svetasvatara*, II.14): 'The embodied Self, beholding his real nature, obtains his true end, and every pain ceaseth'.

Annie Besant

The Wisdom of the Upanishad-s