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**Editor**

**PRADEEP H. GOHIL**

## A STEP FORWARD

Faith can be defined as having complete confidence or trust in a person or a thought. Faith is that distant light that still keeps us moving even when the circumstances and surroundings seem to fall apart. When one has faith and keeps practicing with hard work, courage and determination, there is nothing that can stop him from realizing what he had faith in.

Faith helps in keeping a person's aim clear to one's self. It helps one to focus on the destination by not being deterred by the hardships that come on one's way. When an individual feels enlightened and does not lose heart in a moment of hopelessness, that is the state when one has true faith.

Great men and saints have lived their lives challenging the mainstream and stereotypes. They have accomplished tasks and missions that ordinary men were far from achieving. It was their faith, hope and belief that helped them achieve all this. Freedom fighters have faith in their country and themselves and have won great battles. This faith has also helped them in not getting disheartened when they have encountered failure. A doctor has full faith in his abilities that gives him the strength to cure his patients.

Even in the epics, there are examples of great characters like Shri Krishna, who won the battle against evil forces with his faith in goodness and fairness. Swami Vivekananda is another example of great men who practised and preached the power of faith to people so that they may be able to come out of the uncomfortable and

unpleasant situation. Mother Teresa had faith in humanity and brotherhood- and she kept serving the poor and sick selflessly. All this shows that faith is the mother of success and force of life.

The Buddha speaks of five faculties through whose means an ignorant ordinary man may emerge from ignorance to right understanding, and so from suffering to its cessation. They are faith, energy, mindfulness, concentration and understanding. The Buddha speaks of faith as one of the 'Seven Noble Treasures', one of the 'Seven True Ideas', one of the 'Five Factors of Endeavour', as an 'Idea on the Side of Enlightenment', as a 'Fount of Great Merit' and as one of the 'Three forms of Growth' which brings five advantages.

Faith begins to appear as a fusion of two elements- confidence and what the confidence is placed in. Faith as confidence is often described as a clearing of the mind, like water cleared of suspended mud by a chemical called 'Alum', or like a boat's launching out from the near bank to cross a flooded area in order to reach the other side of the river. When faith is aided by concentration, the mind launches out to its object and acquires confidence, steadiness and decision. Now something may have faith well placed in it, and yet it may be hollow, empty and false. Again, something may have no faith placed in it and yet it may be factual and true. So a wise man should never say, "only this is true."

It is commonly felt and often stated that faith is a weakness, a mere substitute for knowledge and a blind belief in dogma. But the point overlooked is that there is an element of faith in every conscious act. However, if you see the case of death, it is an obvious fact. No one will say that it is my faith that I will face death. Now one can have faith in that life will not continue after death or that life of some sort

continues after death. Whichever of the two one adopts is a matter of pure faith.

Faith dictates how one views life. With it, faith can make one's whole outlook positive. Without it, one's view will be clouded with negativity. It helps one reach any goal he puts his mind to. If one believes that he can achieve something, he will achieve it. On the other hand if one does not have faith in himself, he will never reach those goals. Without faith one would have nothing to look forward to, and life would be an interminable bore. Having faith in oneself about growing spiritually is certainly a step forward in his life.

The unity of every faith that loves God and serves man, that is the message which comes to the world as the inner purpose of the Theosophical movement: to draw all faiths together, to see them all as sisters, not as rivals, to join all religions in one golden chain of divine love and human service; to reverence and serve religion wherever we find it, and to pierce through the varieties of the outer faith to the unity of the hidden life.

ANNIE BESANT

*The Inner Purpose of the Theosophical Society*

TIMBOYD

## YOUTH & THE ADYAR SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

AS international President of the Theosophical Society (TS) I had a special interest in the Young Theosophists (YT) gathering in June of this year at the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden, the Netherlands. Having witnessed the recent resurgence of the YT movement, I looked forward to meeting and sharing with this group. Of the 31 who attended I had met a few over my years of TS travels. Coming from 16 different countries they were a diverse group with a variety of interests and experiences. It was fascinating to watch this group come together, each with their own unique background, with the Ageless Wisdom and its application as the binding factor.

Prior to June 3 almost everyone was new and unknown to each other. By the time they were leaving, five days later, tears were shed on parting from their new sisters and brothers. A great deal of energy and focus was placed on Theosophy and the role of the TS, but the real benefit of the gathering was the friendships that formed among young people searching for ways to grow and to serve. For some those bonds may be fleeting, but others have met brothers and sisters on the path with whom they will be working for years to come. I came away filled with great hope for the YTs and for the TS.

Whether young or not so young, we are creatures of habit and find ourselves repeating things: waking up in the morning, everyone has their process. Probably the regimen we did today is the one we did yesterday, and the day before. Every day most of us take at least a brief moment to look at ourselves in the mirror, and the face we see today we believe is the face we saw yesterday, and the day before. Our patterns during the course of a normal day repeat themselves. So

time after time we find certain expectations arising in our minds, of what this day is, of who we are, of what our capacities are, based on what they have been yesterday. Then we come to the School of the Wisdom in Adyar, Chennai, India.

Frequently we come with at least the background hope that something we find will be different, that there is something about the teacher, or the place, or the information that will alter something fundamental within us and open up new horizons. Whether or not it is openly voiced, it is on our mind. Then we find ourselves here with the facilitator, always one that is capable in the area that they present. We sit and we listen.

The theosophical work comes under the heading of the Ageless Wisdom tradition. The “ageless” part of it should not be forgotten. It is as fresh as this new day, every day. It is ever-renewed and ever-present. There is only one thing that is required of us. When we hear “only one thing” it always points to something that sounds as if it is simple; and perhaps that is because it is, in fact, simple; but “simple” does not mean “easy”. The only thing that is required of us to experience the newness, the freshness we desire, is even a momentary lapse in the barriers of habitual expectation that we erect around ourselves. The only thing that prevents a light from shining into a room is that the door or the window is closed. The opportunity for them to open is ever-present.

In these moments when we are here together, we have a very special opportunity. Where are we? We are seated at Adyar, and what is that? In many ways it is just another point on the map, a spot of earth that if you look at a map could be identified. Lines could be drawn around it defining where it is and how we can find it, as with every spot of earth on the planet. This one has a very particular nature, as does every spot on the planet. But this one also has a particular history that has been embedded in the land on which we stand in

many ways. It has been called “The Masters’ Home”.

Adyar is a place where great people have had profound experiences of connection to this Ageless Wisdom, and have then been able to communicate their experience to the world in their behaviours, writings, speech, art, in all the ways that they express across the spectrum of their relationships. Wisdom has been able to pervade their being. So when we come here to a School of the Wisdom, this is the wisdom that we seek, the wisdom that is ever-present if allowed to be unobstructed. The words that we will hear will have great meaning if we allow for the capacity to hear.

In various scriptural texts it is said that stones can preach sermons to those who have the ears to hear. Do we have those ears? Is our hearing sufficiently unobstructed? In every moment, wherever we are, it is true that the place where we stand, the ground on which our feet are planted is holy ground. Here it is especially clear because we do not have the sounds of honking horns, or the constant movement of crowds that we encounter in cities, so it is a little bit more obvious. The place where we stand at any moment, any place in the world, is holy ground if we can realize it. Here more so, because in this particular moment that we call the School of the Wisdom, the intention is to become present in this way. There are many of us, so we magnify that intention, and we create a possibility. It is up to us what we do with it, how we treat it.

So, again, I would encourage each and every one of you, and especially young Theosophists, to make the most of this opportunity. This moment does not repeat itself— none do. So while we have it, let us appreciate it. Then we will be able to carry it on and pass on our exposure to wisdom — a wisdom that exceeds the words we will hear and the concepts we will come to understand.

(Courtesy: *The Theosophist*, September 2022)

N.C. KRISHNA\*

## DR. ANNIE BESANT : THE DIAMOND SOUL

A diamond has many facets, or geometric shapes. The diamond looks bright, colourful and rich from any side and every side. Dr. Annie Besant is one such person, with so many facets, and on each facet we can perhaps write a volume. So many words have been used to describe her and her achievements in various fields. Is it possible to describe what all she stood for, the values for which she lived, using our limited vocabulary. We have to look into or hear from the persons, who wrote about her and spoke about her. In the years of Nineteen sixties, (i.e. 1960 to 1969) there were quite a few who were living at Adyar, who have actually had the opportunity of working with Dr. Annie Besant. We can recall the names of persons like Bro. N. Sri Ram who was the international President of the Theosophical Society from 1953 to April 1973, we had the presence of Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale; we had Bro. K. N. Ramanathan the then General Manager of the Theosophical Publishing House; we also met Sri B. Shiva Rao who was a leading journalist and Parliamentarian from Mangalore. we had the presence of persons like Bro. Baleforce Clarke, Bro. Yagnesware Sastry, and a few others. During their speeches or during their casual interactions, they shared lot of their impressions, their experiences, they had with Dr. Annie Besant. Bro. Nilakanta Sri Ram, whom many knew as Bro. N. Sri Ram, was the fifth International President of the Theosophical Society. He as a youngster worked in various capacities with Dr. Annie Besant. Dr. Annie Besant started many schools and colleges. Bro. Sri Ram was picked up by Dr. Annie Besant, and under her guidance worked at the Besant Theosophical

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College at Madanapalle, then at National College Bangalore, and Madras. The schools, and colleges were started as part of nation-wide movement, of resurrecting India, through education. Mrs Besant awakened youth to their heritage and reminded them, and inspired the youth, to realize the responsibilities and their duties as future free citizens of India. Many youth during those times, both men and women, threw up their plans, they had otherwise, and worked with Dr. Besant for true renaissance and spirituality of their Motherland, Bharat, the India, which was reeling under the British rule. Bro. Sri Ram was inspired by her presence, and her talks, and without bothering about the so-called worldly success, followed the footsteps and directions of Dr. Besant.

When Dr. Annie Besant started the Home Rule Movement, Bro. Sri Ram, joined her band of workers, and he volunteered to lecture on the Principles of Home Rule, and he also gave lectures on Theosophy. Besides, Bro. N. Sri Ram was active in the Labour Union Movement as well which was started by Dr. Annie Besant. She was demanding proper working conditions, and demanded humane treatment, when the poor Indian labourers were exploited. Bro. Sri Ram was the Assistant Editor of the daily newspaper, “*New India*” for which Dr. Besant was the Editor and Publisher. Bro. Sri Ram said, that he learnt many valuable things while working with Dr. Besant. He acknowledged that his talent as a writer and editor developed under the guidance of Dr. Annie Besant. At Dr. Besant’s school he learnt that the superstitions, customs, and conventions had to be given up. Whatever was not in agreement with the Principles of Theosophy, all those were to be dropped. He dropped the suffix of Sastry, which indicated that he was a Brahmin by birth. Bro. Sri Ram embraced the Universal religion, Theosophy. He was inspired to adopt theosophy as a way of life. Dr. Besant trained him in all aspects of life. He said in

one of his talks at Adyar that when Dr. Besant gave a lecture, there used to be so many points to make note of and implement them in life. One could notice that a simple life, generosity, humaneness, sympathy, were there in her way of living and as he mentioned his Guide and Benefactor practiced them in her life. Bro. Sri Ram used to say, letting go - renouncing, detachment gives and carries one to Bliss. He used to talk about how Dr. Besant gave everything she had, to those who needed it. He emulated Dr. Besant and said that he learnt that in *giving* there is lot of *happiness*. Though he had few possessions, he gave away, when he found some one else needed it more than him. The choice of words to drive the exact shade of meaning, he learnt from Dr. Annie Besant. Every person who came into contact with her felt that he was the closest to her. That was the kind of Love and affection, she showered on others. Bro. Sri Ram used this expression that Dr. Annie Besant licked them into shape.

Next, we will consider, how, Smt Rukmini Devi Arundale was inspired by Dr. Annie Besant. She came under the influences of Dr. Annie Besant when her father built a home, near the International Headquarters of the Theosophical Society, Adyar. Thanks to Dr. Annie Besant, Smt Rukmini got introduced to various forms of Music, Dance, and Culture. Dr. Annie Besant, was one, who gave the details of the rich Indian Culture to Smt Rukmini Devi. The revival of Bharat Natyam- cleansed the dance form, which was beset with overdose of *Sringara rasa* and Erotic elements. Along with her husband Bro. George S. Arundale, she started two institutions. In the year 1934, in memory of Dr. Annie Besant, she started a school, the Besant Theosophical High School at Damodar Gardens of the Theosophical Society. Dr. Annie Besant expressed a wish at the time of her death that a school, a running institution as a memory should be established.

She was not for putting up statues or monuments. Dr. Besant wished, that a school be established where the child will be educated without fear. Smt. Rukmini Devi declared, that the school she started stood as a memorial to Dr. Annie Besant. She took personal interest in the development of that school. In the year 1936, truly inspired by Dr. Annie Besant, she started 'Kalakshetra; a Centre for Performing Arts, based on traditional values where Music, Carnatic Music, and Bharatnatyam were taught. Smt. Rukmini Devi used to say that the suggestions of Dr. Annie Besant were very meaningful and powerful, as good as law. Besides, Smt. Rukmini Devi mentioned that how persons were identified based on the ray to which they belonged, and were encouraged to take up such activities which will develop them into well balanced personalities. The compassion which Smt. Rukmini Devi had for all living beings, was the direct result of observing with what care, love, and compassion, Dr. Annie Besant displayed to all living beings. Dr. Besant knew how to use the good qualities in all, for the development of the Society and Nation in general. Smt. Rukmini Devi used to say, whatever she has achieved in her life, much was due to the guidance, inspiration and direction she had received from Dr. Besant, and Bro. G.S. Arundale. A marriage which took place between a traditional Brahmin girl, and the British Born Theosophist George Sydney Arundale, was with the Blessings of Dr. Annie Besant.

Bro. K.N. Ramanathan, before taking up the assignment of the General Manager of the Theosophical Publishing House, was the General Manager of the Press Trust of India. He was living at Adyar from the year 1962. In one of the talks delivered on the occasion of Dr. Besant's birthday, Bro. K.N. Ramanathan gave so many personal details of his interaction with her, as a student. He too opined that he learnt a lot from her about the Art of writing and editing. Watching her

work regarding the Daily Newspaper '*The New India*' Bro. K.N. Ramanathan detailed, about how Dr. Annie Besant trusted people. She loved them, the people as they are and she inspired them to change, she did not force anyone to change. Bro. Ramanathan mentioned that Dr. Annie Besant used to say if one finds the need to change he would do that, not because someone asked him to change. Bro. K.N. Ramanathan was in tears when he narrated an incident. There was an employee who was handling cash in one of the departments of the T.S. Estate. But, one day, when his superior verified the cash he found that the exact amount of the money was not there. So, the matter was reported to the President. Dr. Annie Besant was asked to remove him from his job. After asking everybody else to leave the room, Dr. Besant talked to the employee as to what led him to do it. The said employee, in tears, fell at her feet and accepted that he took the money and used it for meeting an urgent domestic need. Dr. Besant found out that this person was having problem in running the family, and the employee pleaded for mercy. She called her personal attender, to call, the head of the department, and then instructed that Head of Department to employ this person, where there problems regarding the cash amount was located. Dr. Besant, took care of employee's children's educational expenses. Such was the trust, such was the love and compassion, she showed to that person, who otherwise would have lost his Job. She used to say that if we go on removing persons from jobs, for their faults, or even grave errors, we will not have anyone to serve the various departments on the T.S. Estate.

Sri B. Shiva Rao was a journalist and a parliamentarian. He gave the 'Besant Lecture' in one of the Annual Theosophical Convention at Adyar. Thanks to his Elder Brother Sri Sanjiva Rao, he met Dr. Annie Besant who was actively advocating the Home Rule at that point of

time. Bro. Shiva Rao joined the Newspaper *New India* edited by Dr. Anne Besant Bro. Shivarao joined the Newspaper as its sub-editor in the early part of the year of 1917. He was inspired by Dr. Besant, to dive headlong into the Home Rule Movement and so he started attending the meetings, gave talks on the subject of Home Rule at various places in the present Karnataka- then called Mysore. He was a distinguished journalist and was elected to parliament on number of occasions. Sri B. Shiva Rao said that he learned his skills as a journalist and as a speaker in Public Forums, by reading Dr. Besant's Editorials, and listening to her speeches at Gokhale Hall, in the American street, in Madras. Bro. Shivarao recalled the details of Dr. Besant's Oratorical skills. The Last syllable of each word was audible to the person sitting in the last row. Bro. Shivarao also said that the Gokhale Hall was built by Dr. Annie Besant, and that was the building in which she started the Home Rule League Movement. She donated the building to the citizens of Madras. Dr. Annie Besant also started the Young Men's Indian Association an organization dedicated to the development of the youth of Madras. She got constructed an impressive building and gave it to that organization. The YMIA Building is at Royapethah, in Madras. She said that YMIA was to serve the purpose of a political gymnasium as it were to equip the youth with a strong body and an informed mind of a noble character. Bro. B. Shivarao, recalled the significant contribution, she made in the field of Education, Bharat Scouts and Guides, and she fought for freedom for India and Indians, by raising her voice against British rule.

We also had Bro. Balfours Clarke, an Englishman, a qualified engineer who lived in the campus. He was closely associated with the up keep of the Maintenance Department of the T.S. Estate, which was spread over 300 acres of Land. One day Dick, said (Nick name

of Bro. Balfoers Clarke), she called him, and asked him to assist Krishnaji, to learn cycling. She was full of compassion, Love, and Possessed Powers to Heal People, said Dick.

In the preceding paragraphs an attempt has been made to present the views and impact of Dr. Annie Besant on the life and work of five prominent persons. They narrated them on different occasions. Dr. Annie Besant inspires us even today. As she mentioned in her autobiography **...I ask no other epitaph on my tomb but “SHE TRIED TO FOLLOW TRUTH.”**

If a comrade be fiathless, let us be faithfull to him;

If an enemy injure, let us forgive him;

If a friend betray, let us stand by him;

Then shall the Hidden God in us shine forth.

ANNIE BESANT

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Bihar

A Study Class was on Buddha's Dhammapad was organized by Bihar Theosophical Federation on 09-10 September 2022. The study was conducted by Bro.H.K.Sharan in which every member participated in Bangladesh Monastery at Bodh-Gaya, Bihar. The class started with Prayer of all Religions by Inter-Faith Organization headed by Bro. A.H.Khan, followed by Universal Prayer by Prof. R.K.Prasad, Secretary, BTF. The Chief Guest of the function Bro. N. Deorji welcomed all the participants and presented a comparative study of Theosophy and Lord Buddha's Teachings. Then Bro. Chitaranjan Sinha "Karnak " also welcomed all the participants and spoke about theosophy and Lord Buddha.

Bro. H.K.Sharan presented a detail picture of Lord Buddha's Dhammapad which presented in a very interesting way in Hindi on 9th & 10th of September-2022 .On this ocasion the four volumes of DHAMMAPAD were distributed free of cost amongst all the participants by Bro. H.K.Sharan “*At the Feet of the Master*” was taken up for study on the 11 September in which the subject was introduced by the Secretary, BTF. Every member participated in it and then the vote of thanks was given by the Secretary, BTF, Prof. Raj Kishore Prasad.

### Bombay

70<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Meeting to Pay Tributes to Nar Asho Jamshed Nusserwanji Mehta

Theosophical Order of Service, Mumbai Region, jointly with Blavatsky Lodge TS had a Hybrid Meeting from Besant Hall of Blavatsky Lodge on 1st August 2022

Blavatsky Lodge’s President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, host of Hybrid Meting, in her welcome speech said that ‘It is significant that



we have gathered in Besant Hall to pay our fond tributes to a Great Humanitarian Jamshed Mehta, as he had heard Dr. Annie Besant's lecture in this very Besant Hall and was inspired to live Theosophy'.

TOS< Mumbai Region Secretary Sis. Parinaz Gandhi conducted the meeting and introduced the speakers.

Sis. Mani Mullan inspired dedication to Nar Asho Jamshed Mehta with singing Bhajan '*Jhankho Jhankho Divo Maro joje bujay na*'.

Blavatsky Lodge's Vice-President Bro. Navin Kumar said that Jamshed Mehta regarded '*Work as his Tonic*'. Bro. Navin read out a note Jamshed Mehta had written to his friend saying that *Zoroastrianism does not permit Non-Vegetarian food*. Jamshed Mehta was elected ten times as Mayor of Karachi and was 'The Builder of Modern Karachi'. So the second prominent road in Karachi after Jinnah is in the name of Jamshed Mehta. Mahatma Gandhi had invited him to join Indian Liberation Movement and had said, '*Jamshed Mehta is accepted as the truest man of Karachi and one of the best representatives of Theosophy*'. Jamshed Mehta was Member of Legislative Council of Theosophical Society and was open in giving his views politely when he differed. Sharing Tributes of other personalities, Bro. Navin said that '*Real tributes to Jamshed Mehta will be learning from his life to imbibe Theosophical values*'.

Guest Speaker Ms. Shernaaz Engineer, Editor of *Jame-e-Jamshed Weekly* said: Jamshed Mehta embodied enlightened leadership. He put service before self. He felt that politics would not be suitable for the kind of life he lead. He was a visionary. He lived a Righteous Life and stood up for Truth. He spoke the truth and stood up for truth at all times. One should learn from his life, which was to serve a higher purpose.

Chief Guest Ms. Dilnavaz Variava has family connections with Bro. Jamshed and his family. She was 8 years old when he passed away, but he has been part of her everyday life and considers it as Blessings from Divine. He had an illustrious career. *He was epitome*

*of Karma, Bhakti and Gyan Yogi*. He transcended his own ego to be an instrument of the Divine. He transformed the lives of so many people. Municipality was his temple to discharge his work. Very humble. When people wanted to have his statue as the Builder of Modern Karachi, he persuaded people to have the Statue of the First Mayor of Karachi. With life of Spirituality, Service & Sacrifice, he declined to be a part of any Political party. The fact that he is being remembered 70 years after his demise is that he was righteous, courageous, loving and compassionate and able to influence so many persons and used to be there for family and people for solution to their problems.

Jamshed Mehta believed that India needed not only political but also economic independence. Hence, he persuaded and helped Dilnavaz' father to start a business in Karachi in 1922 which employed many people and even provided medical facilities and midday meals to the workers at a time when labour laws were non-existent.

Like Lord Buddha's teachings he practiced Right Livelihood. He also embodied the teachings of three important Zoroastrian Prayers - Ashem Vohu, Yatha Ahur Vairo & Yanghe Hatam. Pursuit of hard work and excellence was part of their family's ethos. Giving back to Society instead of pursuing wealth for its own sake was an integral part of their upbringing. Courage in adversity was also put into practice. This happens when one works for a higher goal without complaining. *Jamshed Mehta was like a 'Lotus', i.e. he lived in world but was not attached to world.*

Sis. Parinaz Gandhi proposed the Vote of Thanks. The Commemoration Meeting ended with song written by Ketayun Patel with music by Navroz Mehta and sung by Jamshed Kotwal: "***Satya Nishtha, Satya Premi Tu, Avo Nar Tu Jamshed Mehta!***"

Vimadalal Bilia Lodge Starts Physical Meetings

Members of Vimadalal Bilia Lodge, Dadar have started meeting in person on the first and third Thursday of every month. On 7th July

Sis. Meher Contractor spoke on 'Bahman Yasht'. Bahman (Av. Vohuman, Good Mind) is the 2nd of the 7 Ameshaspentas (Holy Immortals, Planetary Logoi as per CWL). There was a group discussion on 'Karma' led by Bro. Rustom Chothia. It was based on the readings from the book *The Living Wisdom* by P. Pavri. This discussion was held on 21 July and continued on 4th August as well. Five members – excluding the speaker - were present in all the 3 meetings.

Bro. Arni Narendran Guest Speaker at Madam Blavatsky's 191<sup>st</sup> Birthday Virtual Celebration of TS in Ukraine on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022:

The Dedicated Theosophists Brothers and Sisters of the Theosophical Society in Ukraine celebrated the 191<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary of Madam Blavatsky on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Amidst missiles and bombing of the war torn country the Theosophists gathered in great numbers on zoom. It was attended and watched by around seventy Theosophists from Ukraine, Hungary, England, America and India. The programme started with a musical overture on piano by Ms. Olena Scherbyna and followed by the introductory lecture by Secretary Sr. Svetlana Gavrylenko. She introduced the Speakers Brother Arni Narendran and Sr. Julia Shabanova of Helena Blavatsky Lodge, Dnipro. The programme ended with "A candle in a circle" Tribute to Madam Blavatsky. The English translation was done by Br. Leonid Kedenko, Vice-Chairman of the TS in Ukraine.

### **Meditation for Peace in Ukraine**

Bro. Arni conveyed to them that there was dedicated Healing Meditation for Peace in Ukraine - conducted by Singapore Lodge of the TS under Bro. Kow Choon Tang and Facilitator Bro. Brandon Soo with Sr. Des Abella of Philippines for PEACE IN UKRAINE Also Sr. Esther Zigane group holds Peace Meditation on Mondays in Australia. Theosophists all around the world pray for our Brothers in Ukraine and Russia to live in Peace and Safety. The Bombay Theosophical Federation also joins the prayers for Peace.

### **Jamubhai & Suryaben Dani Inter- School Elocution Competition 2022, Junior Group**

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022 by 9.30 a.m. Besant Hall was full of Junior Group (5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Std) students and their Parents / Teachers for Dani Inter-School Competition 2022 organized jointly by Bombay Theosophical Federation and Junior Red Cross Maharashtra. Master of Ceremony Sis. Meherangiz Baria, welcomed all. The opening of the Competition was with recitation of The Universal Prayer and address by BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya. He spoke about *Guru Dampati Jamubhai & Suryaben Dani*, inspiring Teachers and ardent Gandhians & Theosophists. JRC Chairman Rtn Godrej Dotivala said that Annie Besant was a great Educationist, and we are happy that competition is held in Besant Hall. JRC Committee Member Principal Erick Elavia introduced the Judges – Mr. Ajeet Bhide, Dr. Rajam Pillai and Vice-Principal Edward Mascarenhas.

#### **The options for topic were:**

1. Wipe out Pollution before it wipes you out
2. Pros and Cons of Technology
3. Values & Ethics – Real treasure in our lives
4. If I had a Superpower

Many spoke on 'If I had a Superpower' and their superpowers like 'Love', 'Smile', 'Universal Brotherhood'. The Judges were impressed with presentations of all the participants. While Judges selected the Winners, BTF Treasurer Bro. Taral Munshi interacted with participants and explained to them the Seal of Theosophical Society. Sis. Mahazaver Dalal proposing vote of thanks said that it was the initiative of Bhavesh Sao, JRC Maharashtra State Coordinator who said not to worry about Pandemic and to hold the Competition. He along with Secretary Ms Joyce Pinto and the Team took care of organizing the competition. The students were given Theosophical Books – *Short Biography of Annie Besant* by C. Jinarajadasa and

*At the Feet of the Master*, Participation Certificate, and snacks. Books – *Education as Service* by JK and *Education, Science, Spirituality* by P. Krishna were given to Judges and JRC Officers. The Results were announced. Prizes & Merit Certificates will be given at BTF Annual Session. Besides, the First Prize Winner will speak on the Second Day of the Annual Session.

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

Bro. U. S. Pandey delivered talks on the topics ‘Theosophy in Daily Life’ and ‘Krishna and Krishna Jayanti’ in the meetings of Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, held on 3 and 17 August respectively. In the meeting held on 10 and 24 August, talks were delivered on the topics ‘The Seven Principles of Man’ and ‘The Reign of Law in Buddhism’ by Bro. Pramil Dwivedi and Bro. Ahok Kumar Gupta respectively.

The Lodge held its annual general body meeting on 31 August.

In the meetings of Nirvan Lodge, Agra, held on 04, 18 and 25 August, talks were delivered on the topics ‘Discourse between Nachiketa and Yama-the God of Death’, ‘Time’ and ‘Rise of Islam’ by Bro. H.B. Pandey, Bro. C. R. Rawat and Bro. R.P. Sharma respectively. A symposium was held on 11 August on the theme ‘Scope of Theosophy’.

Pragya Lodge, Lucknow, organized a talk of Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri on ‘Golden Stairs’ on 7 August. During the joint meeting with Satyamarg lodge held on 14 August, Bro. Vipul Narayan spoke on the topic ‘Desire and Purification’ from the book ‘*A Study in Consciousness*’ by Annie Besant. Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri read and discussed the article on ‘Yoga’ published in the journal *Dharm Path*. It was held on 21 August. Members of the lodge participated in a public talk on the topic ‘Mystery of Karma’ delivered by Bro. S. K. Pandey and organized by Satyamarg Lodge on 28 August.

Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur organized meetings on 03, 10, 24 and 31 August in which, talks were delivered on the topics

‘Evolution of Man’, ‘Aroma of Theosophy’, ‘Meditation’ and ‘Ashtang Marg of Buddha’. The speakers were Bro. S.B.R.Mishra, Bro. Ajai Rai, Bro. Arvind Rai and Bro. S. B. R. Mishra respectively. A participative discussion was held on 17 August in which the members expressed their views on the topic ‘Our Duty in the Present’.

Sis. Suvralina Mohanty conducted study of chapters 8 and 9 of the book ‘*The Key to Theosophy*’ during the on-line meetings of Prayas Lodge, Ghaziabad, held on 7, 14 and 28 August. Besides, she spoke on the topic ‘Objectives of the Theosophical Society’ on 21 August.

Study of the book ‘*Light on the Path*’ was continued by Bro. J. K. Khanna at Noida Lodge on 7 and 21 August.

Bro. S. S. Gautam, gave three talks at Chohan Lodge, Kanpur, on the topic *Talks on the Path of Occultism*. These talks were held on 7, 14 and 21 August. Bro. Shiv Baran Singh spoke on the topic ‘Intuition’ in the meeting held on 28 August.

President of the Federation Bro. U. S. Pandey visited Mahila Dharma Lodge at Prayag Raj on 6 August and had interaction with lodge officials on administrative matters. The members of the lodge performed Bharat Samaj Puja. Thereafter during the meeting of the lodge, Bro. Pandey delivered a talk on ‘The Four Qualifications’.

During his visit to Anand Lodge on 07 August, Bro. U.S. Pandey had interaction with lodge officials on administrative matters. During the lodge meeting held on that day Bro. Pandey delivered a talk on the topic ‘Symbols and Allegories in Religious Narrations’. Bro. K.K. Jaiswal delivered a talk on 14 August on the topic ‘*Seva ki Triveni-TOS work*’.

Sis. Sushma Srivastav’ delivered talks on the topics ‘J. Krishnamurti’s thought on Relationship’ and ‘*Anugrah and Purusharth*’ respectively. These talks were held in the meetings of Anand Lodge held on 21 and 28 August.

The members of the executive committee of Kashi Tattva Sabha, Varanasi, attended meetings regarding the Indian Section Convention on 16 and 28 August. They also participated in the meeting conducted by the President of U.P. and Uk Federation on 22 August with coordinators of the four educational institutions within the campus of the Indian Section Hqrs, it was for reviewing status of admitting students and staff as members of TS.

**Joint programme (Triveni) of three lodges of Mumbai Federation (Jyoti lodge) and Gujarat Federation (Rewa and Rohit Lodges):**

Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered an on-line talk on the topic 'Idol Worship and Animated Statues'. It was held on 30 August.

**Contribution to the Indian Section work/ Programme:**

Bro. S. S. Gautam translated the Section's Journal "The Indian Theosophist" of September 2022 in Hindi.

Sis. Suvralina Mohanty moderated the sessions held on 05, 06 and 20 August on 'Mahatma Letter', 'Theosophy teaches us true Consciousness' and 'Man and his bodies' respectively.

**Contribution in the events of other Forums:**

In Young Indian Theosophists Group:

Sis. Suvralina Mohanty moderated the session on 'Guided Meditation' on 07 August.

Sis. Kritika Goel moderated the session on 'Sketch of Theosophy' on 21 August.

**National Lecturer**

Satyamarg Lodge, Lucknow, organized a public talk by Bro. S. K. Pandey on the topic 'Mystery of Karma' on 28 August. Bro. Pandey in his talk covered many aspects of the Law of Karma and its

working. The talk was followed by interactive session of questions and answers.

**Special Programmes at Chitrakut University:**

On the initiative of Br. Rajesh Sinha, a member of T.S. and faculty member of Mahatma Gandhi Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakut, a public talk on the topic 'Self-Management and Self-Transformation' by Br. U. S. Pandey was organized by the University on 08 August, as a part of series of programmes related to *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava*. During his address to a gathering of students and faculty members, Bro. Pandey highlighted the factors of physical, psychic and mental disorders in individual persons and in society, techniques for making these factors orderly and resulting benefits leading to satisfying and happy life. During his talk he touched upon basic points of theosophical teachings. Prof. Bharat Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of the University, presided over the meeting and during his concluding address thanked the speaker and commented that the theme was timely and useful for all. He advised the students and faculty members to apply these techniques in their life. Prof. Rajesh Sinha and Prof Duggal conducted the programme. This event was widely covered in the local news media.

Theosophical Meeting: A meeting with some interested faculty members and staff was organized by Bro. Sinha in the evening of 08 August, when Bro. Pandey described outline of Theosophical Society and basic points of theosophical teachings. Some persons in the audience expressed desire to become member of T.S, for which the procedure was explained and membership forms were given. Bro. Rajesh Sinha was requested to coordinate.

**Contribution in other Federations:**

**M.P & Rajasthan Federation:** On invitation by Chhatarpur Lodge, Bro. U.S. Pandey visited that lodge on 09 and 10 August. During a meeting of the Lodge held on 09 August, he delivered a talk on the topic 'An Introduction to *The Secret Doctrine*'. During another

meeting held with lodge members on 10 August AN, he delivered a talk on 'Reincarnation.' Bro. Pandey also clarified certain doubts of the members regarding the procedure for renewal of membership henceforth.

President of the lodge Bro. Surendra Kumar Goswami arranged a public talk in Government Teachers Education College, Chhatarpur on 10 August FN, before an audience of about 200 student-teachers of B.Ed. and M.Ed., Bro. U. S. Pandey delivered the talk on 'How to live a Happy and meaningful Life'. Before delivering the talk on the theme, Bro. Pandey gave a brief introduction of 'Theosophy and The Theosophical Society' to the audience. After the talk there was close interaction between the speaker and the audience..

Sis. Vibha Saxena conducted study of Mahatma Letters Nos. 46-part 2, on 05 August, and of Nos. 55, 56 and 57 on 26 August. She also worked as moderator for panel discussion on the book "Creating Character" on 13 August.

**Special Talk in BHU:** On invitation by Dr. Anand Mishra, HOD of the Philosophy department in BHU, Bro. U. S. Pandey delivered a talk there on 'Theosophy' on 20 August. About 80 persons including HOD and other faculty members and students of the philosophy deptt. and some other persons participated both in physical and on-line mode. At the outset Dr. Anand Mishra welcomed the speaker and the audience, he recalled the historically close association of the theosophical society, particularly of Dr. Annie Besant with Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya and in founding the BHU. During his one and half hour talk, Br. Pandey covered many points such as purpose of founding the Theosophical Society in the year 1875 as mentioned in Maha Chohan's letter and in the writings of H.P. Blavatsky, the main founder of the society, its inner founders, various ways of describing the term 'Theosophy', the Synthesis of Science, Religion and Philosophy, number of kingdoms evolving on earth, purpose and goal of human life, how to expedite the journey of the human soul so as to reach the goal of perfection quickly, One Fundamental Law and Three

propositions as given in *The Secret Doctrine*, interpretation of , allegories and symbols so as to shed illuminating light on the scriptures, Three objects of the Society, Significance of the Universal Brotherhood, Three Great Truths and their explanations and importance, Death and its necessity for the soul in unfolding more and more powers through a series of reincarnation guided and regulated by Law of Karma, divine ethics, Fundamental Unity at all levels, Inadequacy of knowledge of modern science, Etheric force to come in future, Importance and Effects of the nature of good or bad thoughts of human beings, Need for people of all religions to go back to original pure teachings of their respective religions, etc. The audience evinced keen interest in the content of the talk and post talk. Besides, there was close interaction with the audience for another hour on many important points. Bro. Pramil Dwivedi, Secretary of Dharma lodge Lucknow who accompanied Br. Pandey, assisted in distributing few copies of the journal 'The Indian Theosophist' and also copies of two pamphlets concerning theosophy among the audience.

Prof. D. A. Gangadhar, a former professor, who presided over the session made his observations appreciating the content of talk and the way of presentation. The programme ended with vote of thanks given by Dr. Neeti Singh, Asstt. Professor of Philosophy Department.

This programme was important one in propagating theosophy among people outside the groups of TS members.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This convention was planned in an emergency situation when Adyar could host maximum 250 Indian delegates to the International Convention due to renovation work there. So, we decided to help out Adyar.

On behalf of the Indian Section. I welcome all the delegates to discuss and deliberate on how "Universal Brotherhood is the need of the hour".

With universal brotherhood will come that deep love for everyone. If there is more love in the world, it will be a beautiful place to live. The idea of war will cease globally. Isn't this the need of the hour?

Date 23.08.2022

Pradeep H. Gohil  
President  
The Indian Section  
TS

## 131<sup>th</sup> INDIAN SECTION CONVENTION

From 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Daily: 09 AM – 12.30 PM and 03.00 PM – 06.00 PM.

### MEALS

7.00 AM	-	7.45 AM	Breakfast
12.30	-	2.00 PM	Lunch.
04.30	-	5.00 PM	Tea
8.00	-	9.00 PM	Dinner

### Thursday, 27 October 2022

#### Additional Activities

06:00 AM Bharata Samaj Puja - Bharata Samaj Temple

08.30 AM - 08.30 PM - Full Day Excursion

[i] 09.00 AM - Executive Body Meeting of TOS India AB Hall

[ii] 05.00 PM - Indian Section Council Meeting AB Hall

### Friday, 28 October 2022

06:00 am Bharata Samaj Puja - Bharata Samaj Temple

**09.00 AM to 10.30 AM Opening Session** RB Amphitheatre

[a] Prayer of All Religions

[b] Universal Prayer

[c] Welcome Address by the President-Indian Section

[d] Greetings by the Federation Representatives

[e] Readings of the messages from other Sections/Lodges/ Members

[f] Presentation of the Annual Report of the Indian Section by the President.

[g] Presentation of the Treasurer's Report of the Indian Section by the Treasurer.

[h] Speech by the Chief Guest Dr. Deepa Padhi

**10.45 AM to 12.15 PM 2<sup>ND</sup> Second Session** RB Amphitheatre

Lectures on Theme "Universal Brotherhood is need of the hour"

[i] Bro. G. Dakshina Moorthy on "The Essence of Brotherhood"

[ii] Bro. Sheo Kumar Pandey on "स्वार्थ सभी संघर्षों का मूल - **Selfishness is the Root cause of Strife**"

[iii] Bro. N C Krishna on "Brotherhood-is it a Fact or Myth!"

**3.00 to 3.45 PM - 3rd Session-** RB Amphitheatre

**"Rohit Mehta Memorial Lecture"**

Bro. S. Sundaram on "**ROHIT MEHTA: SHARING SOME REMINISCENCES**". ,

**03.45 to 04.30 PM- 4th Session- Convention Lecture**

[i] Bro. U S Pandey on "Universal Brotherhood- Our Dharma"

**05.00 to 06.00 PM 5<sup>th</sup> Session Special lecture**

Prof. Sudhir Ku. Jain, V.C BHU on "**Indian Universities: Challenges and Opportunities**"

**07.00 to 08.00PM 6th Session** AB Hall

**Ritual of the Mystic Star**

**Saturday, 29 October 2022**

Additional Activities

6.00 am. Bharata Samaj Puja Bharat Samaj Temple

**09.00 to 9.45 AM 1<sup>ST</sup> Session** RB Amphitheatre

Dr. Radha Burnier Memorial Lecture on "**The other man is yourself**" by Prof. P Krishna of KFI, Rajghat, Varanasi.

**9.45 to 10.30 AM 2<sup>nd</sup> Session– Symposium on Theme**

RB Amphitheatre

[i] Bro. Narsinh Thakaria on "**How to apply Universal Brotherhood in Daily Life**"

[ii] Dr. Rachhna Srivastav on "**Universal Brotherhood and World Peace**"

[iii] Sis. Preeti Tiwary on "विश्व बंधुत्व– एक चुनौती - **Universal Brotherhood- A Challenge**"

**10.45 to 12.15 PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Session for [YIT] Young Indian Theosophists** RB Amphitheatre

1- Sister Kritika Goel of Prayas Lodge- on "**Making Brotherhood a Reality**"

2- Sister Monica Vakare of Pune Lodge- on "**Religions Decay without Brotherhood**"

3-Brother Pradeep M S of Bangalore City lodge - on "**Brotherhood without Distinctions**"

4- Dr. Darshan Jha of Anand Lodge, Prayag Raj, U.P. - on "**Self**" is visible in everything and everything visible in "self"

**03.00 to 04.00 PM 4th Session- TOS Programme**

RB Amphitheatre

[i] "**TOS Actions in the changing times**" by Dr. Deepa Padhi, International Vice-President Theosophical Society

[ii] “TOS School Education in West Bengal” by Satrajit Chakroborty

Moderator -K. Sivaprasad- National Director TOS India

**04.00 to 04.30 PM 5th Session- Convention Lecture**

RBAmphitheatre

Prof. C A Sindhe on ”Act to Attract and Not to React”

**05 to 06 PM 6<sup>th</sup> Session. Special Lecture**

Sri. Sandeep Pandey on Fundamental duties in Indian Constitution.

**07.00 to 08.00 PM 7<sup>th</sup> session at– Cultural Programme organised by KTS, VKM of Varanasi and Prayas Lodge Vaishali, UP**

**Sunday, 30 October 2022**

06:00 am Bharata Samaj Puja

Bharata Samaj Temple

**08 to 8.45 AM 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION - Devotional Song**

RBAmphitheatre

**09.30 to 10.30 AM 2<sup>nd</sup> session**

RBAmphitheatre

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS Session

[Questions on the Theme of the Convention]

The Panellists are

[I]Sis. Uma Bhattachariya, Chairman and Moderator

[ii] Bro. U S Pandey

[iii] Bro. N C Krishna

[iv] Bro. C A Sindhe

**10.45 to 11.30 AM 3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION** RB Amphitheatre

“OPEN HOUSE DISCUSSION” on Subject – “**Branches of the Theosophical Society as the harbingers of a Universal Brotherhood**”

Motivator Sister Vibha Saksena, National Lecturer, Indian Section TS

**11.30 AM to 12.15 PM**

RB Amphitheatre

Closing of 131<sup>st</sup> Indian Section Convention

03.00 PM -General Body Meeting of TOS India

AB Hall



**Dear Brothers and Sisters of TS,**

The 15th Indo-Pacific Federation Conference of the Theosophical Society (IPFC15) will be held on 12-14 November 2022. We, as the organizing hosts, look forward to the active participation of all members to participate/ attend the 3-day event that will be held virtually.

It would be so great if you could extend the invite by sharing this email to other TS members.

Kindly register your interest by filling up the Registration Form by clicking on the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qwx-attsDnX1SIboBAv-DviDzCmAkxfyIjOIWUdbhOY/edit>

Or

I am more than happy to register for you if you could reply to this email (benvern83@gmail.com) with the following: Yes, I am attending

Thank you, save the date and we sincerely hope to see you there.

P.S. Kindly disregard this email if you have registered your interest.

Regards,

Benny Chong

Head of Youth Group

Selangor Lodge Theosophical Society Malaysia