

# THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST

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*Editor*

**PRADEEP H. GOHIL**

# “STATE OF THE INDIAN SECTION”

## Address given by the President of the Indian Section

### I. Bird’s-Eye View of the Indian Section’s Work

Just like every year, this year also, I am very pleased to inform you all that the state of the Indian Section is very healthy. Let me give you a bird’s-eye view of the Indian Section’s work in the Theosophical Year Oct 1, 2021 to 30 Sept 2022.

The highlight of the year was the near unanimous resolution passed by the Indian Section Council at its meeting held on Zoom Platform on 20.12.2021 for the abolition of Admission Fees to the membership of Theosophical Society in the Indian Section as well as abolition of Annual Dues from the members of the Indian Section. This was a far reaching and brave decision taken in the best interest of the Indian Section. With an estimated income of about Rs 2 crores per year, now the Indian Section will not have any financial problems if they did not receive about Rs 5 lakhs from annual dues of the members. In fact, it was decided to give a financial assistance of Rs 75 per member as on October 1 in any year to the federation. They used to get only Rs 63.75 (say Rs 64) per member from the Annual Dues of Rs 150 per member. So the Federation will get Rs 11 more per members and will have an incentive to attract more new members. They would also be saved from the constant discussions with the Indian Section on understanding the status of their members based on what they had paid. An amount of Rs 7 to 8 lakhs will avoid the Federation vs Indian Section conflict on annual dues. The time saved of Federation official could profitably be used for propagation of theosophy.

Secondly, the abolition of admission fees and annual dues would make it easy to get college students as members of the Society. Thus, the goal of increasing the membership of youth would be achieved. However, there has to be some control that the Indian Section would exercise when a member renews his/her membership every

year. We had to ensure that one or two Federation Secretaries who canvassed against the abolition of life membership would not get a chance to bring more ghost members. If you remember, we had 1188 life members out of which 745 were dropped for not having contacted the Indian Section to express their desire to continue their membership as per the provisions of our constitution. With this in mind a simple system was introduced to renew the membership. A member can put on paper the name, diploma number, choice of language if he desires to get *The Indian Theosophist* (English or Hindi), his signature and send a scanned copy of the same to [renewalindsecmem@gmail.com](mailto:renewalindsecmem@gmail.com). To make things easier the lodge secretary can prepare a hand written table with the names of its members, their diploma numbers (This can be obtained from Indian Section Headquarters or the Indian Section Information System), choice of Indian Theosophist Language, get their signatures against their names and email it to “renewalindsecmem@gmail.com. The signature would ensure that nobody could inflate the membership by wrong means.

One of the positives of the Corona Pandemic was the evolution of on-line lectures organized by the Indian Section, the Federation, the Lodges and even some techno savvy members. Never had hundreds of such lectures on Theosophical subjects ever been organized, never had thousands of members ever heard such lectures and never had so many youth members delivered and heard such lectures. This trend was well established all over the Indian Section and helped in the propagation of theosophy- Our members like Pradip Mahapatra, U.S. Pandey, Shikhar Agnihotri, C.A. Shinde, N.C. Krishna, Taral Munshi of Mumbai, Harshvadan Sheth of Ahmedabad, conducted so many on-line lectures in various languages that members could listen to from their homes. This year the Indian Section had organized 132 on-line programmes in English and Hindi, which includes Group Discussion, Special lectures, seminar and youth programme.

Another highlight of the year for the Indian Section was the translating, printing and distributing *The Indian Theosophist* in Hindi. The Secretary of the Bihar Theosophical Federation, Dr. Rajkishore

Prasad, had given the above suggestion. Another Theosophist, Mr. Shyam Singh Gautam from Kanpur took up the herculean task of translating every IT from English to Hindi. He spends many days and nights to do this work every month in time for postal dispatch dates. I express my most sincere gratitude to him. As a result of this, many members and their families in the northern belt of India can now read the Hindi IT and keep themselves abreast of TS work.

This year, the President has recommended to the Executive Committee, the name of Brother U.S. Pandey, President of UP & Uttarakhand Federation, for the “Dr Radha Burier Award for the Theosophist of the Year”. He will receive this award during the opening of the Indian Section Convention. As a national lecturer he had delivered talks and conducted study camps in Delhi Federation, Utkal Federation, Bombay Federation, M.P. and Rajasthan Federation and Gujarat Federation. He rendered simultaneous translation in Hindi of President Tim Boyd’s inaugural address at the Indian Section and International Convention. He delivered many talks in international programmes and has published many articles in foreign journals. He conducted various activities for students and youth, organized meditation sessions and started a Annie Besant Lodge in Varanasi. He delivered many talks in his own U.P. & Uttarakhand Federation.

The Indian Section HQ is also in the advanced stage of giving its land between the Harmony building and the Advocate’s resident, along the Gurubagh Road, in and around the place where the old Masonic Temple stood on a 30 year lease at rent of about Rs 85 lakhs per year with a provision for increase of 15% in the rent every three years. This will put the Indian Section in a very sound financial position with an existing income of about Rs 2 crores per year from the college, school, hostel and Harmony building. More of money can now be spent on various programmes of propagation of Theosophy, particularly in the schools, colleges and amongst the youth in our country.

The Indian Section HQ was never closed this year despite the threat of COVID-19. Even though the hostel, schools and colleges

were closed, we paid full salary to the staff. We did not allow anyone to come inside the campus until COVID had gradually waned off. This was to ensure the safety of everyone inside the campus.

The membership of the Indian Section increased from 9039 to 11549 which is 28% increase. We have also achieved the highest number of new members in several decades. Many college members joined the Theosophical Society because of the fact that there were no admission fees or annual dues. The members tried to comply with requirement of sending a signed copy of name and diploma number of the member for renewal. Unfortunately, there were lot of errors in the report as obtained from Indian Section Management System. For example, in one Federation the President, Secretary and Council members were dropped by the system due to some data entry errors. Thousands of members have complained that they have sent the signed letter for renewal but found that they have been dropped. As a result, the Executive Committee of the Indian Section took an extraordinary decision to grant an amnesty to members from sending the signed renewal letters and paying the old dues, which can be done in the coming months.

We had published all the 12 monthly issues of *The Indian Theosophist* during the year even though there were some restrictions of partial lock down. Our Indian Theosophist is probably one of the most frequent, high quality and regular monthly magazine in the various sections of the Theosophical World. If there is any change in the postal address of the members then I request all Lodge secretaries to get the new address of every member. Now our Section’s magazine is available in English and Hindi and I would like to encourage federations to get the manuscript of IT early from us during every month, get it translated in local language like Kannada, Telugu or Tamil and then send it for printing. The Indian Section may consider sharing the printing cost.

## **II. Indian Section Conventions**

The 130<sup>th</sup> Indian Section Convention-I of the Indian Section was held on the Zoom Platform on 27 December 2021. The International Vice-President Dr. Deepa Padhi was the chairperson.

The President of the Indian Section, Bro. Pradeep Gohil welcomed the International President Tim Boyd, Vice-President Dr Deepa Padhi and all the delegates. He then read out the greetings from the well-wishers. Then the Federation Presidents/ Secretaries/ their representative conveyed greeting to all present and best wishes for a very meaningful convention. The International President gave his inaugural address. Then Indian Section President Bro. Pradeep Gohil declared that Brother Pradip Mahapatra gets the first Dr. Radha Burnier Theosophist of the year Award. That was followed by his report regarding the "State of the Indian Section". Brother V. Narayanan presented the Treasurer's Report. Dr. Deepa Padhi gave her concluding remarks and appreciated the work done by the Indian Section. The session ended with the vote of thanks given by Bro. Pradeep Gohil.

The 130th Indian Section Convention-II was held on zoom platform on 30th December 2021 with a theme "Look Beyond Yourself". Brother Narendra M. Shah, President of East and Central Africa Section of the Theosophical Society was the Chairman of the session. He spoke eloquently on the theme "Look Beyond Yourself". After that five young theosophists spoke on different subject. Sis. Aditi Maitreya spoke on 'The Fruit of Love is Service'. Brother Ajeesh Kumar spoke on 'Mankind is One'. Sister Arunima Baruha expressed views on 'Selflessness and Divine Life'. Sis. Shreeyashi Ojha's topic was "Look Beyond Yourself and the First Object of the Theosophical Society". Sis. Vibha Saksena spoke on 'Centre Everywhere, Circumference Nowhere'. Then, the chairman of the session, Brother Narendra M. Shah concluded the session giving some more insights to what the speakers talked about and presented his own views on the convention theme.

### **III. Election**

In the meeting dated 22 December 2021, Bro. V. Narayanan was unanimously elected as the Treasurer of the Indian Section for the years 2022 and 2023. In the forthcoming meeting of the Section Council to be held on 4th January 2023 at Adyar, the new President for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 has to be elected.

## **IV. Indian Section Headquarters**

**A.** Dr. Annie Besant's 174<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary was celebrated at the Annie Besant Hall in our campus on October 1, 2021. Floral tributes were paid to Dr Annie Besant by all those who were present in the programme. A small function was organized in the VKM auditorium which was attended by the Manager of VKM, Principal and the faculty members. An essay completion on the life of Dr. Annie Besant had earlier been held and winners of first prize, both in Hindi and English, were honoured on-line in that function along with the student with the best write-up delivered on-line. On this occasion the life of Dr. Besant was highlighted along with her contribution in various fields by the Manager and the Principal.

The Indian Section, TS, had also organized a lecture on this occasion by Sister Lind Oliveira, former International Vice-President of the T.S. and former President of the Australian Section. She spoke on the subject, 'Annie Besant and the Way of the Warrior'. It was held through on-line Zoom meeting. Sister Linda gave a brief background of Dr. Annie Besant's life and highlighted her contribution in improving the lot of the underprivileged. She spoke eloquently about her dedicated service to the mankind. The programme ended with vote of thanks given to the guest speaker and to the organizers.

### **B. Dr. Radha Burnier Memorial Public Lecture**

The 2nd Annual Dr Radha Burnier Memorial Lecture was delivered on-line by the International Vice-President of the Theosophical Society Dr. Deepa Padhi. This was held on the occasion of Radhaji's 8<sup>th</sup> death anniversary, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. The subject of the talk Dr Deepa Padhi's talk was "Radha Burnier and Practical Theosophy" in which she explained what is Theosophy. She said that the members of T.S. should not only have a quest for wisdom but for love and compassion for humanity also. Love and compassion are not luxury but necessary for the benefit of Humanity.

### **Foundation Day**

The Indian Section, TS, celebrated the 146<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

function through on-line mode on 17.11.2021, organized by Bro. P.K. Mahapatra. The Chief Speaker was Bro. Ricardo Lindemann, National Director of Studies and Former General Secretary of the Theosophical Society in Brazil. The subject which he chose to speak on was, ***Wisdom: The Inspiration of Founder's Challenge***. The function started with Universal Prayer by Ms. Shivani Keshari who gave a short talk on the importance of the Foundation Day. Bro. C.A. Shinde, introduced the speaker Bro. Lindemann to the audience.

Bro. Lindemann broadly discussed regarding Foundation of The Theosophical Society in New York elaborating the details of its founders Col. H.S. Olcott and H.P. Blavatsky. He briefed the audience as how the International Headquarters of the Theosophical Society was shifted to Adyar, Chennai in 1882 and from this International Headquarters at Adyar the work of the Theosophical Society has expanded for more than a century. He also explained in detail the Three Objects of the Theosophical Society. Further he mentioned that, the study of theosophy from which the name Theosophical Society has originated has always been encouraged in environment of freedom of thought.

Bro. Lindemann explained that there are three truths which are absolute and which cannot be lost and yet it may remain silent for lack of speech i.e. (i) The soul of the man is immortal and its future is the future of a thing whose growth and splendor has no limit; (ii) The principle which gives life, dwells in us and without us, it is not heard or seen or smelt. It is perceived by the man who desires perception; Each man is the dispenser of glory or gloom to himself; the decier of his life, his reward, his punishment. He further pointed out that these truths are as simple as the simplest mind of man and are as great as is life itself.

Bro. Lindemann concluded his speech by statement from Dr. I.K Taimni's book "*Principles of Theosophical Work*"- that the formation and growth of a new lodge is like planting of a tree. Today we have the support of internet to gracefully honour our founders by doing what they did in an inspired way; alleviating suffering of humanity and bringing wisdom to them.

Then, views on the significance of Foundation Day were expressed by Sis. Marja Artamaa, International Secretary; Sis Erica Georgiades, Secretary, School of Wisdom and Bro. Jitendra Sampat. They appreciated the chief speaker for enlightening the gathering on deep aspects of theosophy. Vote of thanks was extended by Ms. Shivani Keshari.

### **Adyar Day**

Adyar Day was observed on 17.02.2022 in on-line mode, which was organized by Bro. Pradeep Mohapatra. The theme of the programme was *Theosophy and Truth*. The programme started with universal invocation by President of Indian Section, Bro. P.H.Gohil. He delivered a short speech, highlighting the relevance of the day. He also gave a brief history of Adyar, how it came to be known as Adyar Day and the origin of the tradition of observing this day as Adyar Day. He underlined that Adyar Day is a day of realization of real truth, oneness of life, unity and brotherhood.

Then, the first speaker Sis. Pooja Gole, member of Dhantoli Lodge, Nagpur, spoke on 'Theosophy and Truth: Role of Col. Olcott'. She highlighted the journey of Col. H.S. Olcott and his work on theosophy.

The second speaker was Sis. Shreyashi Ojha and the subject of her talk was 'Theosophy and Truth : Role of C.W.Leadbeater and G.Bruno'. In her talk she explained the significance and magnanimity of Adyar Day when great and noble soul like C.W.Leadbeater was born (in 1847) and G.Bruno and J.Krishnamurti passed to peace (in the year 1600 and 1986 respectively). She explained the close connection between the work of G.Bruno and the leaders of Theosophical Society who dedicated their whole life in the search of truth, which is the essence of theosophy.

The third speaker was Bro. Dakshina Murthy, National Lecturer and President, KTF, Bangalore. His topic was 'Theosophy and Truth: Role of J.Krishnamurti'. He explained contribution of J.K. to theosophy and truth and said that J.K. put forward that the universal brotherhood is not an ideal to be achieved but a truth to be perceived.

Then Adyar Geet was presented by two members of Kashi Tattva Sabha - Dr. Annapurna and Ms. Bharati Chattopadhyay.

Vote of thanks was given by Sis. Uma Bhattacharyya. She congratulated and thanked all the speakers for providing glimpses of history of Adyar, illustrating the significance of the day. She summarized the essence of the topic *Theosophy and Truth* explained by the speakers of the day. The programme was moderated by Sis. Kritika Goel.

### **White Lotus Day**

White Lotus Day was observed on 8 May, 2022 in the Annie Besant Hall at the Indian Section HQ, Varanasi. After pandemic it was the first off-line programme organized by KTS. The programme started with prayers of all religions and universal prayer. Dr. Bina Singh, President, KTS, welcomed the guests. Excerpts from the books *Bhagwadgita*, *The Voice of the Silence* and *The Light of Asia* were read by Dr. Annapurna, Dr. Bina Singh and Ms. Bharati Chattopadhyay respectively. On this occasion Sis Ranjana Srivastava, Member of Anand Lodge, Allahabad spoke about Madame Blavatsky and offered tribute to her. A lecture on “Madame Blavatsky: Practical Theosophy” was delivered by Dr. Abha Srivastava, Member, Kashi Tattva Sabha. In her address she gave a brief introduction on life and work of Madame Blavatsky and her firm belief on law of Karma. She further added that what we do today will determine how we live our life tomorrow. As per the law of karma, every positive deed which we do, generates a ‘merit’; while every negative deed results in a ‘demerit or sin’ which subsequently we need to repay by enduring happiness or unhappiness. The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Bina Singh, President, KTS.

### **V. The Easter Theosophical Conference**

The 98<sup>th</sup> Easter Conference was held on 15-16-17 April 2022. The theme of the conference was “From Known to Unknown”. The welcome address was delivered by Bro. Pradeep H. Gohil, President of the Indian Section. The opening address was delivered

by Sis. Marja Artamaa, International Secretary of the Theosophical Society. Messages were then read by Conference Officer Bro. Pradip Mahapatra. Bro. N.C. Krishna presented a talk on the theme of the conference, “From known to Unknown”. Later, Bro. K.A. Adikeshava Prakash Sastry gave a talk on, “The Path and the probation”. This was followed by three speakers who spoke on the qualifications to tread the Path. Bro. Devrajan spoke on 'Discrimination and Desirelessness'. Bro. Sairam Pate expressed his views about “Good Conduct”. Bro. S.V.M. Naveen Kasyap spoke on “Love.

Sis. M. Laxmi spoke on “Mind is the Slayer of the Real”. Dr. T.K. Nair explained “Three Halls” - The ending of Misery and Toils”. Bro. Vinaya Pat spoke on “Head Learning and The Soul Wisdom”. Bro. Dinakaran's subject of talk was “Inner Flowering of the Soul”. Then, there was a session of short talks on '*Seven Paramitas*'. Bro. G. Amardeep spoke in this session on '*Dana and Shila*', Bro. K. Damodaran on '*Kshanti and Vairaga*', Sis. Geetha Radhika on '*Virya, Dhyana and Prajna*'. Bro. K.V.B. Shastri very lucidly described the subject 'The Four Qualifications to Path Proper', Bro. Advocate Krishna Moorty spoke about 'Work, but work like those who are Ambitious'. Bro. Dakshina Murthy, Vice-President of Karnataka Federation spoke on 'Look for the Light, Follow the Light, Thou art the Light'. Brother N. Baskaran Nair's subject was 'Devotion, Contemplation, Self-Sacrifice-Rings of Spiritual Ladder'. Sis. R. Revathy of Adyar Lodge explained 'Be the Path to approach Life and Truth'. Finally, vote of thanks was given by Brother S. Raman, Secretary of Madras Federation.

### **VI. Indian Section Study Camp**

The Annual North India Study Class was organized on-line by the Indian Section, from 8 to 10 October 2021. It was conducted by Bro. Tim Boyd, International President of the Theosophical Society, on the occasion of Dussehera Festival. This year it was in on-line mode. The subject on which the International President spoke was “Personality and the Inner Life: Tuning the Soul’s Instrument”.

Welcoming the International President on the occasion, the

President of the Indian Section Bro. P.H. Gohil expressed his gratefulness for accepting the request of Indian Section to conduct three-day North Indian Study Class. He further appreciated the President's extempore talks on any subject with such ease and great depth, which is always a treat to hear by the audience.

The President elaborated the subject during the three-day study class to make the audience understand it from practical as well as from ageless wisdom perspective.

He dedicated the first day of the class clarifying the term personality in detail so as to give an overall view of this term. He provided a clear comprehension as to what constitutes personality and maintained that the personality has a function which is intimately linked with reincarnation and karma. He enlightened the audience on the aspect of personality in a very systematic, rhythmic and lucid manner, which enabled the participants to have a clear vision and understanding of the subject.

On the second day, he dealt in detail on the aspect - how the personality functions and how do we get influenced by the personality. The illustration of the subject with lot of examples and quotes from Indian ancient scriptures enabled the audience to have a clear vision about this crucial aspect.

On third day, the President touched the core issue, i.e. what human beings can do about it? meaning what are the avenues available through which we can proceed to shape the personality in such a way that it becomes a conducive instrument for inner life, life of soul. His illustrious description, particularly the diagram on meditation by H.P. Blavatsky which he shared with the participants was indeed very useful and the participants were greatly benefitted by it. The President, during these three-day study class took the participants on a spiritual journey, during which they could have a total insight into the subject and also could plan their future journey on the path of spirituality.

Vote of thanks was given by Sis. Uma Bhattacharyya to the International President for enlightening the participants on such a deep and core issue providing a great learning experience to the participants

who got enough food for their onward journey on this path. It was indeed an uplifting experience. She also thanked all those who contributed in organizing the study class on behalf of the Indian Section.

## **VII. Study Camp at the Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali**

Brother V. Narayanan reported that only two Federations were able to conduct the camp in summer 2022 mainly because of the travel problems and Covid restrictions. He also suggested that earlier announcement should be made in December 2022 itself for the summer camp 2023 at Bhowali. In spite of the difficulties the U.P. and U.K. Federation as well as Rayalseema Federation conducted study camps during June-July 2022 at Bhowali. They were well attended and appreciated by the participants.

## **VIII. Workshops and Study Classes at the Section Headquarters, Varanasi**

There were no physical Workshops and study classes at the Indian Section Headquarters in Varanasi due to Covid and travel restrictions. However, through the efforts of Bro. Pradip Mahapatra, the Indian Section organized 132 on-line programmes in Hindi and English which includes Group Discussions, Special Lectures, Seminars and Youth Programmes.

## **IX. Propagation of Theosophy in new Areas**

The Kashi Tattva Sabha Lodge leaders and the U.P. and Uttarkhand Federation President explored the new area of college students and youth for membership in the T.S. They introduced them to Theosophy through lectures. They were very successful in getting more than a 1000 new members who are all very young. This was largely made possible as the Indian Section had abolished admission fees to its membership and the annual dues from the members. Here is a way of getting the youth in our membership.

## **X. Indian Section President's Visits**

A number of on-line talks were given by the President Pradeep Gohil during the year. However, visit to the various Federations and Lodges was not possible due to Covid Restrictions.

## **XI. National Lecturers**

### **1. Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri**

He delivered 41 lectures during the year under review.

### **2. Prof. C.A. Shinde**

He delivered 31 lectures during the year under review.

### **3. Sri U.S. Pandey**

He delivered 60 lectures during the year under review.

### **4. Sri B.D. Tendulkar**

He delivered four lectures during the year under review.

### **5. Sri S.K. Pandey**

He delivered 7 lectures during the year under review.

### **6. Sri G. Dakshina Murthy**

He delivered five lectures during the year under review.

### **7. Sri Ashok P. Lokhande**

He delivered ten lectures during the year under review.

### **8. Sri N. C. Krishna**

He delivered seven lectures during the year under review.

### **9. Dr. Bipul Sarmah**

He delivered six lectures during the year under review.

### **10. Sri. R.V. Vastrad**

He delivered three lectures during the year under review.

### **11. Sri. Harihara Raghavan**

Due to his indifferent health and age-related issues, he was not able to do the role of a national lecturer.

### **12. Smt. Sonal Murali**

She delivered Eleven lectures during the year under review.

### **13. Sri. Narsinh Thakariya**

He delivered eight lectures during the year under review.

### **14. Sri Pradip Kumar Mahapatra**

He delivered 9 lectures and conducted 132 on-line programmes in English and Hindi on behalf of the Indian Section, during the year under review.

### **15. Sri Nandkumar N. Raut**

He delivered 13 lectures during the year under review.

### **16. Dr. L. Nagesh**

He delivered five lectures during the year under review.

### **17. Sis. Vibha Saxena**

She delivered 18 lectures during the year under review.

### **18. Dr. P. Sarathi Prasad Sarangi**

He delivered four lectures during the year under review.

### **19. Bro. Rajeev Gupta**

He delivered 15 lectures during the year under review.

### **20. Sri Shyam Singh Gautam**

He delivered three lectures during the year under review. In addition to this, he translated 10 issues of *The Indian Theosophist* from December 2021 to September 2022 from English to Hindi.

### **21. Young Indian Theosophist Group**

This is the report of Young Indian Theosophist Group: In the Theosophical year Oct'21-Sep'22, Young Indian Theosophist Group organized and conducted 50 on-line sessions including talks, symposiums, meditation, group discussions and observing important theosophical days, on different themes and subjects.



## 22. Other Speakers and Important Programmes of I.S.

Bro. Dhruba Prasad Panda delivered talks on 'The Essentials of Indian Philosophy' on 03 Oct. 2021); on 'Naya Darshan' (06 Feb. 2022); and on 'Vaisheshika Darshan' (on 10 April 2022).

Bro. Rajeev Mathur gave a special lecture in Hindi on "The Laws of The Higher Life" (on 16 Oct. 2021).

Bro. Kothakota Sivaprasad, National Director of TOS in India, gave a special lecture on 17 Oct. 2021 on "The Role of TOS in Spiritual and Social Development".

Bro. K. Dinakaran conducted study class on Chronological Mahatma Letters no.110, 123 and 69. It was held on 22 Oct. 2021.

Sis. Sandhya Rani conducted a study class on 05.11.2021 on Chronological letter no-28 B and 60; On CH. L-13,14A, 14B on 25.02.2022; and on Ch. L No. 19,23,26,27 on 30.05.2022.

Bro. Arvind Narware conducted study class in Hindi on TS Manual KARMA written by Annie Besant. It was held on 13 and 20.11.2021.

Sis. Aban Patel's Lecture - Cum Study Class was on the book *Principles of Theosophical Works* by I. K. Taimni Ch.-4 "The Qualifications and Preparation of a Theosophical Worker" Ch.-IV Sub Titles- [iii] Inner Life, [iv] Indispensable Qualities. This programme was held on 14 November 2021.

Sis. Mitalin Mahapatra, President of Sidharth Lodge, Bhubaneswar, delivered a lecture in Hindi on 27.11.21. The subject she spoke on was "Seven Fundamental Laws".

Sis. Pooja Gole of Dhantali Lodge, Nagpur, delivered a talk in English on 'Theosophic Life'. It was held on 4 December.

Sis. Suvralina Mohanty, Secretary Prayas Lodge, Ghaziabad delivered a talk on 12 December 2021. The subject of her talk was "The Working of a Theosophical Training Centre" from the book "*Principles of Theosophical Works*".

Sis. Varsha Patel delivered lectures in Hindi on TS Manual no.1 "*The Seven Principles of Man*" written by Annie Besant. These were held on 18 December 2021 and 1 Jan. 2022.

Bro. Ajai Rai, Secretary, Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur, delivered a lecture on 21 December 2021 and the topic of his talk was "Energy Matrix and Biochemical Changes During Meditation". His other talk held on 22 May was on The Science and Art of Dream.

Sis. Ranjana Vaidya conducted lecture-cum study class on the topic "Working of a Lodge" - Chapter -7 of the book "*Principles of Theosophical Works*" by I.K. Taimni. The programme was held on 9 and 16 Jan. 2022.

Bro. Ajay Singh conducted a special study class in Hindi on book TS Manual no.2 "*Reincarnation*" written by Annie Besant. It was conducted on 15, 22 and 29 Jan 2022.

Bro. S B R Mishra's topics of talks were SABDA BRAHMA (on 5 Feb.); GOSPEL OF KORAN (on 23 and 30 April); PARAMITA (on 14 May); and ALL IS BRAHMA (on 21 May).

Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri delivered three lectures in Hindi on TS Manual Book *ASTRAL PLANE*.

Sis. Vimal Balchander delivered two lectures on the book "*REINCARANATION*" on 20 and 27 Feb. respectively.

Sis Aban Patel delivered three lectures on *KARMA* on 24 April, 5 and 15 May respectively.

Bro. Adi Keshab Shastri delivered lectures on *DEVACHANIC PLANE*. These were held on 18 and 25 June and 2 July respectively.

Sis. Dr. Manshi Bhagat conducted study class jointly with Dr. Rajeev Gupta and the book taken up for study was "*Man and his Bodies*". This study was conducted on 20 and 27 August and then on 3 September respectively.

### Special Programmes

12.02.2022 and 13.02.2022 Study class by the Young TS

Members [YTSM] was conducted on the occasion of Adyar Day. The book taken up for study was “*IPROMISE*” The speakers were [i] Prof. Dr. Balajinarayanswamy of Kerala explained from Chapter-1 'Bright Looks', [ii] Sis. Shivani Kesari, UP, spoke about Ch.2- 'Brave Words'.

The study class by the Young TS Members [YTSM] was continued on the book “*IPROMISE*” by [iii] Bro. Aditya Mathur, Delhi, who spoke on Ch.3 — 'Joyous Thoughts' and [iv] Sister Kiritika Goel of Ghaziabad, who expressed views on chapter- 4th- 'Knightly Deeds'.

A WORKSHOP ON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FORM was held on 09.07.2022. The subject was THEOSOPHY AND THEOSOPHICAL WORKS and the participants were [1] Bro. Sanjaya Potey, President of Maharastra Federation; [2] Bro. Dibyarth Dubey, Secretary of MP and Rajasthan Federation; [3] Bro. Raj K. Prasad, Secretary of Bihar Federation; and [4] Bro. Raghu Ram Pattamatta, Secretary of Telugu Federation. The Moderator was Pradip Mahapatra.

In the Group Discussion on the book “*CREATING CHARACTER*” written by Annie Besant- the participants were [1] Sis. Suvralina of Prayas Lodge, UP Federation; [2] Sis. Smita Prangya Patro of Pythagoras Youth, Utkal Federation; [3] Vimal Balchandran of Adyar Lodge, Madras Federation; and [4] Bro. Amardeep, Rayalseema Fed. The moderator was Sis. Vibha Saksena.

## **XII. Besant Education Fellowship (BEF)**

Currently the BEF is managing two schools under its supervision. They are 1. VKM inter College (for girls) & BTS Higher Secondary School (for boys). Both the schools are under the U.P. Board and have produced very good results. The Girls School have added a Commerce Section this year. In all, there are about 1300 students in these institutions.

## **XIII. Centenary Conferences**

No report has been received from any Federation for their centenary conference.

## **XIV. Visitors**

The prominent visitors to the Indian Section Campus during the period were:

Prof. Rajesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya University, Gorakhpur.

Prof. T.N. Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi.

## **XV. Membership**

The total number of members of the Indian Section on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was 11549 compared to the membership of 9039 on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

There was a net increase of 2510 members during the year compared to a net decrease of 1374 members last year. This was largely because of an increase of 2,258 new members in the Indian Section, a large per cent of which are young members.

Total number of members who passed to peace during the year was 25.

At present there are 502 Lodges and Centres against 493 in 2020-21 under 16 Federations and Headquarters (unattached members).

This year 2258 new members joined against 431 last year. This can be largely attributed to abolition of admission fees and annual dues and excellent propagation of Theosophy in colleges.

Maximum efforts will have to be made by all Federations and Lodges to ensure that all members would renew their membership annually between June 1 and August 31 along with their signature in the renewal letter. The same has to be sent by email to “renewalindsecmem@gmail.com”. There will be no amnesty next year and every member regardless of his/her designation will have to do this if they want their membership to be continued.

## XVI. The Indian Theosophist (IT) & Indian Section Website

### A. The Indian Theosophist

The Section's Journal "The Indian Theosophist" was published regularly every month from October 2021 to September 2022. There were no special issues in this period. The average monthly circulation was 2300 copies with 1800 being in English and 500 in Hindi.

We are proud of *The Indian Theosophist* as it is one of the best monthly magazine of any Section in the theosophical world. We must express gratitude to the former General Secretary Bro. S. Sundaram for taking care of the English Edition of the magazine. I also congratulate Bro. S.S. Gautam, National Lecture, for doing the Hindi translation of *The Indian Theosophist* regularly and promptly month after month.

I am sure everyone is aware that *The Indian Theosophist* is being sent free of charge to all members who express a desire to get it by writing it in their membership renewal form or through a letter to the Indian Section.

### B. Indian Section Website

The address of the Indian Section Website is [www.theosophy-india.org](http://www.theosophy-india.org). All members are encouraged to visit it regularly. It contains lot of information about the Indian Section and a list of upcoming programmes on-line and off-line with the name of the speaker, the subject and the date. The following is the information on use of our website during the last year.

Sr. No.	Item	2020-21	2021-22
1.	Total New users	5836	5832
2.	Total Visitors to the Site	5905	5892
3.	Total Sessions	7641	7533
4.	Ratio of Session/User	1.30	1.28
5.	Total Page Views	20,948	19,028
6.	Ratio of page/session	2.74	2.53
7.	Average Session Duration	1.46 mins	1.43
8.	Bounce rate	48	49.93
9.	%Users of India	57%	61.39%
10.	% New visitors	15%	13.30%

List of Members in Good Standing (GS) & Counsellors for Each Federation

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI
Sr. No.	Name of Federation	Total Members as of 1.10.21	Total Members as of 1.10.22	New Members in 2020-21	Members Revived in 2020-21	New Members in 2021-22	Members Revived in 2021-22	Total Members Reomved	Total Members in Good Standing on 1.10.2022	No. of Council Reps
1	Assam	337	454	7	0	117	0	124	330	2
2	Bengal	164	183	5	0	18	1	24	159	1
3	Bihar	236	240	33	0	0	0	4	203	1
4	Bombay	198	231	9	1	14	19	43	188	1
5	Delhi	93	131	0	15	6	32	53	78	1
6	Gujarat	599	790	26	8	180	19	233	557	3
7	Karnataka	2674	2774	45	11	59	44	159	2615	5
8	Kerala	223	230	10	1	1	7	19	211	1
9	M.P. & Raj	358	463	12	1	96	11	120	343	2
10	Madras	383	432	15	4	46	6	71	361	2
11	Marathi	451	561	41	8	88	23	160	401	2
12	Rayasema	836	1076	150	6	230	12	398	678	3
13	Tamil	518	593	15	1	62	13	91	502	3
14	Telugu	933	1037	43	8	101	4	156	881	4
15	Utkal	303	346	1	0	17	29	47	299	2
16	U.P. & U.K.	704	1969	19	5	1221	45	1290	679	3
17	HQ	29	39	0	0	2	8	10	29	0
		9039	11549	431	69	2258	277	3035	8514	36

Total members in Each Federation as of 1.10.2022

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI
Sr. No.	Name of Federation	Total Members as of 1.10.21	Members Revived in 2021-22	New Members in 2021-22	Total Members as of 30.09.2022	Gone to Peace in 2021-22	Dropped due to non payment (2021-22)	Dropped due to no sig for renewal (2021-22)	Total Members dropped in 2021	Total Members on 1.10.2022
1	Assam	337	0	117	454	0	0	0	0	454
2	Bengal	164	1	18	183	0	0	0	0	183
3	Bihar	236	4	0	240	0	0	0	0	240
4	Bombay	198	16	14	228	0	0	0	0	228
5	Delhi	93	32	6	131	0	0	0	0	131
6	Gujarat	599	17	180	796	8	0	0	8	788
7	Karnataka	2674	44	59	2777	3	0	0	3	2774
8	Kerala	223	7	1	231	1	0	0	1	230
9	M.P. & Raj	358	11	96	465	2	0	0	2	463
10	Madras	383	3	46	432	3	0	0	3	429
11	Marathi	451	23	88	562	1	0	0	1	561
12	Rayasema	836	11	230	1077	2	0	0	2	1075
13	Tamil	518	13	62	593	1	0	0	1	593
14	Telugu	933	4	101	1038	1	0	0	1	1037
15	Utkal	303	29	17	349	3	0	0	3	346
16	U.P. & U.K.	704	44	1221	1969	1	0	0	1	1968
17	HQ	29	8	2	39	0	0	0	0	39
	Seq. Restored		10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Total	9039	277	2258	11564	25	0	0	25	11549

## XVII. The Theosophical Order of Service

The pandemic situation turning to a stage with more free movement of people has enabled TOS groups to render their services directly reaching out to the needy communities this year. Overall involvement of voluntary actions by groups are better than the previous year. Service activities are happening with physical presence and also the virtual on-line events are further continuing. Hearty greetings and best wishes to all the 68 new members who joined this year as patron and life members of TOS in India. The National/Executive Committee Meeting (EC) and Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) were held on virtual basis on 11 October 2021.

Assam was severely affected by floods with heavy rains in the months of June-July 2022. An appeal was made by TOS in India in this regard and the contributions were received from Col. Kailash, Sanatan NOIDA and Odisha region and also individual contribution from Sis. Vibha Saxena from Delhi. TOS in India express deep gratitude to all those who helped and contributed in relief work during the disaster. By adding additional money from TOS in India a total amount of Rs 75000 (Seventy-Five Thousand) was sent to Assam for flood relief. Every year floods are common in Assam but this year it was very severe affecting domestic animals with shortage of fodder and spreading of diseases due to inundated water. Many places in remote areas were not accessible for relief support by Government and so people suffered for want of essential food items and lost their homes. TOS Assam region played active role by rendering to about 300 persons with food items, Mosquito nets, Bed sheets and sanitization materials to the displaced families in remote villages. A livestock camp was organized with veterinary doctors to protect animals from the epidemic diseases spreading in the area and also arranged fodder for the animals.

National Director Bro. K. Sivaprasad was happy to attend as chief speaker in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional TOS Conference of Odisha region

at Bhuvaneswar on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Dr. Annapurna Pandey, Professor of Cultural Anthropology from University of California gave an excellent talk on women empowerment. *SEVA* magazine was released on this occasion covering informative articles and success stories. It was announced in the meeting that a Youth forum has been started where in youth will join and work as volunteers for one year or more choosing their option to support in any field of their interest covering Natural Disaster, environment, education, health, skill development, Livelihood, Organic agriculture, fund raising etc. Activities carried out by the Mahabharat Group of Odisha was remarkable with continuous programmes towards the ideals of TOS being conducted throughout the year. Salient activities of Odisha during this year were: conducted International Women's Day on March 08, 2022. Empowered women of Odisha 2022 award presented to Miss. Pragnya Paramita Kumar, a Tribal girl pursuing B.Sc, who became National Champion and distribution of Lap Tops to poor students and painting competition. Free Medical clinic started in the month of July with Dr. Rashmi Mahapatra, Gynecologist serving people on every Thursday between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm. A blood donation camp was organized on 12<sup>th</sup> April. On April 25<sup>th</sup> differently abled residents of Beggars Home were given Sewing machine, Crutches and walker. Odisha region donated Rs 20000 to TOS in India towards Assam flood relief. Organized stage show of Dance and Music named "Ability in Abundance" a cultural event on 2<sup>nd</sup> July as an event to raise funds for the vocational training. Served relief activities for the flood affected people were carried out in the month of August 2022. A charity store named SAMBEDANA was opened for distribution of pre-owned but sparingly used articles, books, dresses etc for the economically poor. The credit for all these marvellous achievements goes to Dr Deepa Padhi and her team of TOS.

Maharashtra region is regularly conducting on-line lectures from Pune to enable teachings of theosophy as lodge gathering is restricted with Corona Pandemic. Senior members of Theosophical Society and doctors and staff of animal clinic were felicitated on 17 August for their selfless service. English coaching classes at Akola Lodge, Homeopathic clinic and the initiation of National Youth Social Forum have been significant steps taken by the Maharashtra region.

In all the other regions of the country TOS activities are in progress as per their prevailing conditions due to Pandemic and the cooperation of office bearers and members.

National Director gave the following on-line talks: 1) Special lecture on “Role of TOS in Spiritual and Social Development” organized by the Indian Section on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021; 2) Presented activity report of TOS in India at the BTF conference held in Kolkata on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022; 3) TOS legacy interview by TOS American Section on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022; and 4) TOS public talk on 'Environmental Challenges and Theosophical Solutions' organized by TOS Philippines on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

National Director visited Delhi TOS Sanatan NOIDA groups on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and visited Chennai TOS group on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 respectively.

### **XVIII. Status of Hostel Run by the Indian Section**

Vasant Balika Vihar Hostel is being run under the Indian Section for providing hostel facilities to the students of Degree College (VKM). There is great demand as it is in the heart of the city along with the college. This hostel meets the crucial requirement of such girl students who are keen on pursuing their studies in Varanasi but stay at far off places.

A chart reflecting the occupancy in the various buildings of Vasant Balika Vihar in 2021-22 is given below:

Name of the Building	Total no. of seats	Session 2021-22	Ses. 2022-23
Blavatsky & Dhruv Bhawan	166		
Anand Bhawan			
Vinay Bhawan			
Shanti Bhawan		25	29
Maitrey Bhawan		6	77
Bhojanshala & others			
Rohit Mehta Bhawan	144	17	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>226</b>

Due to the pandemic the admission process for B.A. & M.A. in BHU is yet to be completed. In the current session we have 71 seats to offer to new students yet to be admitted.

Vasant Balika Vihar has two mess - Maitryee Mess, & Sri Devi Mehta Mess. It is ensured that the mess serves healthy & hygienic food to the students along with good quality milk and fruits. Sri Devi Mehta Mess is run on an outsourced basis.

Currently in Vasant Balika Vihar, we have students from various states, ranging from Ladakh to West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar. The residents are very talented. Three VKM faculty have been entrusted with the responsibility of Administrative Warden, Student Advisor and Member Secretary.

### **XIX. Review of Financial Position of the Indian Section**

The Financial position of the Indian Section during 2021-22 is of a steady character. This was a period when recovery from the Covid-19 effects were visible. For this period ending 31 March 2022, however, the Section has created a Surplus of about Rs.2 Crores.

Total Investments stood at Rs.9,20,38,000 which has generated an Interest Income of Rs.50,36,000. Apart from this, the Section has received contributions from its affiliate institutions amounting to Rs.80,18,158. Major expenses include Establishment Charges and Building Maintenance, both of which have not seen any sizable increase. Total Assets Value Stood at more than 12 Crores as on 31 March 2022.

### **XX. Report of the Central Property Committee (CPC)**

The CPC consists of three members: 1) Bro. V. Narayanan (Chairman), 2) Bro. N.C. Krishna & 3) Bro. Sanath Kumar. The CPC members camped in Varanasi for three days to scrutinize all Original Documents of Properties in the name of the Indian Section, and a report on this was discussed in the Executive Committee's meeting held in Bhowali in July 2022.

The following properties of the Indian Section were identified for immediate action:

1. Vijayawada, 2. Rajahmundry 3. Chittoor 4. New Delhi (East Patel Nagar) 5. Chennai (Triplicane), 6. Ranipet (T. Nadu), 7. Kakinada, 8. Chitra Durga & Eluru.

Individual Reports on each of the aforementioned properties are being prepared for further action. This includes legal action for vacating, Repair & Renovation in some places, Property Development and sale in other places.

The CPC requests the Federation and Lodge authorities for close co-operation with the CPC members in executing the aforementioned actions. It is necessary that Federation & Lodge Officers should take a comprehensive view on all these matters and should have a national view on the matter to enhance the value and income from these properties.

### **XXI. Gone to Peace**

Bro. P.K. Jayaswal, Bro. S.M. Amarnath Rao, Sis. Ruxan Homi, Messman, Bro. C.V.K. Maithreya, Dr. N.C. Ramanujachary and Sis. Dhun Fitter passed to peace during the year 2021-2022.

### **XXII. Tasks Ahead**

It is the considered opinion of most of the members of the Indian Section that a lot of very good work has been done, including what is achieved in the Indian Section campus at Varanasi. However, a lot more needs to be done.

1. The National Highway authority of India has informed us that they plan to acquire about 4000 square yards of our land in the Indian Section Campus to build a ropeway from Varanasi Cantt. Railway Station to Kashi Vishwanath Temple via Rathayatra Crossing. They require the land at the Besant Theosophical School playground to build a station for the ropeway. About 5 pillars will have to be constructed inside our campus along the Gurubagh Road starting with one adjacent to the Richardson House and the other in the parking lot along our boundary wall near Vasant Kanya Inter College. Like Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) they will try to acquire the land free of charge but the supreme Court has given a judgement that

a payment twice that of the circle rate has to be given. We will have to fight this out so that they do not take away the land for free.

2. We have to follow up on the Writ Petition we have made in the Allahabad High Court against VDA demanding from them monetary compensation for 10,580 sq. ft. of our land acquired by them to widen the Gurubagh Road.

3. Work is in process to get an official approval from VDA for Rohit Mehta Hostel, Harmony Building, College Building and the new laidback Masonic Building.

4. Efforts are continuing to give about 8400 sq ft of Indian Section land on a 30 years lease at rent of about Rs 85 lakhs per year. This will further strengthen the financial position of the Indian Section.

5. The Indian Section land at Patna has been given on rent for a 30 years lease at Rs. 1.25 lakhs per month. The Bihar Federation will get Rs 25,000 per month from that amount. The monotonous period will be over next year and we will start getting the rent.

6. We are also planning to give the land from near the main gate of the Indian Section HQ upto the post office along the Gurubagh Road on rent for a 30 years lease. Some prospective buyers are looking at it now. We expect to get another Rs 75 lakhs per month for it.

7. Effort should be made to revive the membership of those members who have been dropped for not sending a signed renewal form before 30.9.2022. They will have to fill out a new application form and apply to the Indian Section through the Lodge and Federation Secretary. Their diploma will remain the same but they will not be able to vote for 2 years.

8. To arrange to start the Commerce Faculty, the Education Faculty (B. Ed) and the Management Faculty, one by one, at the new college building of VKM.

### **XXIII. Gratitude**

It has been a practice for me to always thank Mr. V.

Narayanan for the outstanding support that he has given me in the financial and general administration of the Indian Section throughout the year. He is a very positive person who does not delay any work that he has taken up.

I have already mentioned how well Bro. S. Sundaram has worked and contributed to get all the 12 issues of *The Indian Theosophist*. Sis. Uma Bhattacharyya and Brother S.L. Dar have also taken many responsibilities. We all know what a great job Umaji has done as the Manager of the college and the Manager of the hostel. Similarly, Mr. Dar has done a good job in the operation of the Besant Theosophical School as well as in many administrative matters of the Indian Section. I thank them both for outstanding philanthropic work as volunteer.

I cannot find words to express gratitude for the most outstanding service provided by the very reliable Shri Pradip Mahapatra. He organized so many programmes for the Indian Section throughout the year and encouraged so many young theosophists. After all this, he accepted to be the Convention Officer for our first Indian Section Convention in Varanasi. Well done, our first awardee of the Radha Burnier Theosophical worker of the year 2021-2022.

Mr. Om Prakash Yadav is our precious salaried Information Technology professional. He went out of his way to do the difficult work where the Indian Section abandoned the admission fees as well as annual dues. He has meticulously entered all the renewal applications even when most of them came at the end. Mr. A.N. Singh is a perfectionist in his accounting work. Sri. Rajkumar Pandey, Smt. Madhu, Sri Radheshyam, Sri Somnath Maurya (Mintu), Santosh Yadav and Chhuna have all worked diligently and I thank them from my heart. I will cherish the opportunity I had to work with this outstanding team at the Indian Section Headquarters.

Date: 26.10.2022

Pradeep H. Gohil

Place: Varanasi

President Indian

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Kerala

White Lotus Day was observed on 8 May by the Federation. The on-line programme was presided over by the Federation President Dr. M.A. Raveendran. Programme commenced at 7.00 p.m. with Universal Prayer. Dr. M.A. Raveendran spoke on the contribution of H.P. Blavatsky to the modern world. He said that she was given the highest Freemason's honour for her work *Isis Unveiled*. Sis. Laxmibai read out from the *Bhagavad Gita*. Bro. Damodaran K. read out from *The Voice of the Silence*. Bro. K. Dinakaran read out portions from *The Light of Asia*.

The Indian Medical Association, Trivandrum, Kerala (founded in 1933) invited Bro. Dinakaran, Secretary K.T.F. as a special guest for their Seminar on "Spiritual Well-being and Our health." Dr. Prasanth C.V. Welcomed the viewers and introduced the subject. Dr. Roy Abraham Kallivayalil Presided. Dr. Arun B. Nair opened the discussion. Bro. Dinakaran said that humanity will never achieve health and peace unless it realizes the Unity of Life and Brotherhood of Humanity. We can see that in spite of various inventions and preventive medicines, new diseases are appearing in different parts of the world. Human cruelty towards his fellow beings and other various kingdoms like animal and vegetable are backlashing with tremendous power. Violation of harmony of nature and ill-treatment of the physical and mental bodies are the real cause of the disease. Health is a condition of harmonious unity of ideal, thought, feeling and conduct. "Health depends upon the mental, the emotional and the physical conduct of life, not only in present life, but also in former and future lives", as said by Geoffrey Hodson. Dr. M. A. Raveendran President K.T.F. and Fr. Joseph Puthenpurakkal also spoke on this occasion.

A camp on "Meditative Life" was organized under the auspices of Kerala Theosophical Federation at Haritha Ecological Park, Eruthavoor, Trivandrum, on 18 and 19 June 2022. The Camp opened at 10.00a.m. with Universal Prayer followed by short Meditation. Bro. N. Bhaskaran Nair, Vice-President, K.T.F. welcomed the participants and explained the importance of meditative life for

everyone of us in a world of turmoil and ecological threat. Bro. K. Dinakaran, Secretary, K.T.F. presided and pointed out that a Theosophical worker should lead a meditative life and feel the Oneness of Life and its manifestation in Nature. While inaugurating the camp Dr. M.A. Raveendran said that various Meditative systems are prevalent in the world such as Raja Yoga, Buddhist Meditation, Meditation according to various religious traditions, but the aim of all these systems can be summed up into, the control of the modifications of the mind. Though seemingly they are different, if you go into the core of the teaching, there is unity. Theosophists follow H.P. Blavatsky's Diagram of Meditation also. Sis. Vrinda and Bro. Mohandas of Anantha Lodge, also made felicitation speeches. The inaugural session was followed by discussion.

The discussion continued in the afternoon session also. In the evening participants had a silent walking meditation in the Ecological Park full of medicinal plants, and other various trees. At 7.00 p.m. a Meditative session was conducted and an audio on occult significance of Bharat Samaj Pooja by Dr. M.A. Raveendran was also played.

A Yoga teacher Bro. Sivanandan conducted Yoga Classes on 19th morning at 6:30 a.m. for the participants and demonstrated various asanas and Soorya meditation. At 8.30 a.m. morning session commenced with Universal Prayer followed by short meditation. Bro. K. Dinakaran spoke on the 'Path' according to *At the Feet of the Master* and explained the first qualification for treading the Path "Discrimination." Bro. Janadasan spoke on the Spiritual life and Meditation according to the Christian tradition and explained the history of Biblical covenants. The aim of the Christian disciple is to have a reunion with the Father in heaven.

At 10.00 a.m. Vicharbindu Sreekumar spoke on leading a spiritual life, the definition of *Bhakti* according to Sree Sankara, terms like *Deva*, *Bhagavan* and *Iswara*. He said that when the *Shishya* or Disciple is qualified or ready for getting the Initiation. A true *Guru* will appear and he will be initiated. Bro. Sivanandan, Anantha Lodge, spoke on *Yama and Niyama* according to Patanjali and how a disciple can lead a meditative life by strictly following the austerities prescribed

in the Yoga Sutras. Many non-members around the campsite also participated with their families. The presence of young participants was encouraging. Questions on Theosophical Society, Theosophy were asked by them and answered adequately. Bro. R. Sasidharan Nair, Secretary, Anantha Lodge, Trivandrum and members Bro. Rabel and Bro. Sanat Kumar also spoke. Bro.N. Bhaskaran Nair, Vice-President who hosted the camp gave the vote of thanks. It is worth mentioning that this Ecological Park on a hilltop full of medicinal and other plants and trees is the brainchild of Bro. N. Bhaskaran Nair who toiled for the last 20 years. The open air auditoriums and meeting halls are constructed very eco-friendly without disturbing the ecosystem. Peacocks, monkeys and various birds are usual visitors of the Park. Lodges, groups of students and other Federations are also welcome to this beautiful place and lead a contemplative life.

Besant Day was celebrated on 1st October by various lodges in Kerala. The function at Sri Sankara Lodge, Ernakulam, was inaugurated by the Federation President Dr. M.A. Raveendran. He spoke on the various contributions of Dr. Annie Besant in the field of socio-political, religious fields and for women upliftment. He also emphasised on her contribution in the Co-freemasonry. President of the Lodge Bro. T.P. Babu, presided over the meeting. Bro. K. Dinakaran, Secretary K.T.F spoke on the life of Dr. Annie Besant and how she influenced the life of the Indian Society. She was instrumental in starting National Schools in India. In response to her call schools were started by Theosophists in Kerala at Alleppey, Calicut and Ernakulam which paved the way to the renaissance of Kerala. Bro. T.S. Usman welcomed the gathering. Adv. M.S Unnikrishnan also spoke on the occasion. Bro. Vijayan gave the vote of thanks.

Asoka Sankara Lodge, Calicut, celebrated the Besant Day. The Lodge building itself is named after Dr. Annie Besant - Annie Hall. Prof. R.C.Tampi and Adv. Anil Kumar spoke on the occasion. Anantha Lodge Trivandrum and Annapoorni Lodge Alleppey also celebrated the Besant day in a befitting manner.

The Foundation Day of TS was celebrated by various lodges in Kerala on 17 November. The function at Sri. Sankara Lodge,



Ernakulam was inaugurated by Bro. K. Dinakaran, Secretary K.T.F. Dr. T.P. Babu presided. Bro. Murali welcomed the members and the programme commenced with Universal Prayer. Dr. T.P. Babu in his speech spoke on the importance of the Foundation Day and reminded the members that the inner founders of the T.S. are Great Ones - the Masters of Wisdom. They wanted to establish a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, which is the need of the hour. Bro. K. Dinakaran in his speech spoke on the contributions of our great founders H.P. Blavatsky and H.S. Olcott. The philosophy put forward by T.S. is the only panacea for the present day problems in the world. Bro. M.K. Murali also spoke on the occasion. Bro. Vijayan, Treasurer of the lodge, gave a vote of thanks.

Various lodges in Kerala reported about the celebration of Foundation Day. Anantha Lodge Trivandrum reports that the Foundation Day programme was inaugurated by Prof. S. Balakrishnapillai and Lodge President Bro. Ajith Kumar presided. Bro. R. Sasidharan Nair Zonal Secretary K.T.F. and Bro. Sivanandan spoke on the occasion. Lodges at Alleppey and Calicut also celebrated the Foundation Day.

### **English Theosophical Society's magazine Esoterica**

The latest edition of the English Theosophical Society's magazine Esoterica is published today, the solstice, and can be found at:

<https://theosophicalsociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Esoterica/Esoterica-2022-Winter.pdf>