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**Editor** 

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# **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

To the 147th International Convention of the Theosophical Society, Adyar (*In-person & on Zoom from 31 December 2022 to 4 January 2023*)

IT is a joy to warmly welcome all the delegates present at Adyar and on-line at this 147th International Convention, especially since after four years we are once again hosting an in-person Convention in our campus, particularly now with several recently renovated beautiful gardens. Let us now turn to those Great Ones whose compassionate care and blessings our Society has been enjoying during all these years. Please rise:

May those who are the embodiments of Love Immortal bless with their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for their work.

May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it with their Power, and energize it with their activity.

It is a pleasure to declare this 147th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS) open.

In order to give us time to complete the renovation of Leadbeater Chambers (LBC), in 2019 the Indian Section was gracious enough to host the event at their Headquarters in Varanasi. A month after the end of that Convention the world shut down because of the global pandemic. All of our work in progress halted and our focus at Adyar turned to protecting the health and safety of our workers and residents. It would be fair to say that we did a good job. With only one resident contracting the virus during the peak of Covid activity, Adyar was one of the safest places on the planet.

During the time that the pandemic was raging, we were planning. In the three years since the advent of the pandemic\_we have not been idle. The renovations at LBC are completed, new classroom buildings have been constructed at both the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School (OMHSS) and at the Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA), the boys' hostel at OMHSS is up and running, across the campus we have upgraded and installed new gardens (Library building, Admin building, LBC, entrance gate, and most notably the Medha Gautam Garden in front of the Headquarters building). The New Quadrangle complex is nearing completion of its extensive renovations. One of the buildings at the Social Welfare Centre was demolished and is also nearing completion.

Probably the most significant development during this past year was the signing of a long-term lease for the Damodar Gardens corner

of the TS campus. For the past 80+ years the 14-acre plot of land has been the home to successive first-class educational efforts. For the first 40 years The Besant School, founded during the administration of George Arundale, occupied the space. The next 40 years was The School run by the Krishnamurti Foundation India. In June of this year we signed a long-term lease arrangement for the construction of a high level private school with the Shiv Nadar Trust (SNT). The arrangement took a full three years to finalize. Although the TS has no involvement in running the school, one of the more difficult aspects of the process was finding a partner whose ideals and ethos would be compatible with ours — a fully vegetarian campus, ecologically respectful, alcohol and dissection free, integrity in business operations, and so on. All of these requirements are the norm for SNT across the numerous schools they operate in India.

The motivation for the lease arrangement was to utilize the land for the highest benefit to the TS. The lease will provide a significant and necessary financial support for the work of the TS for years to come. It will also be a valuable addition to the educational and cultural life of the larger community.

The highlights mentioned above might appear to relate solely to externals — buildings, gardens, income streams, but we need to look deeper. Annie Besant described Adyar as the "Masters' home". It is a place of power and presence passed down to us for the use of future generations and for the benefit of humankind. If you value something, it should show in how you treat it. It has been our view that this place should be maintained with respect. Outwardly our touch should call forth a beauty in our surroundings reflective of the inner beauty of those who work through this place and this movement. Our thoughts and actions should seek to uplift and maintain this space for future generations and as yet unknown uses.

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Admission fees and annual dues from members were abolished in **India** to encourage youth membership. The evolution of on-line communication during Covid-19 enabled around 132 programmes such as lectures, discussions, seminars, and so on, and better attendance, especially from young members. The publishing of the monthly *Indian Theosophist* was started in the Hindi language also, increasing the readership in north India. The Dr Radha Burnier Award for "Theosophist of the Year" went to U. S. Pandey, President of UP & Uttarakhand Federation. The 130th National Convention was held on-line last December presided by Dr Deepa Padhi and inaugurated by me. Dr Annie Besant's 174th birth anniversary was celebrated in October 2021 with Linda Oliveira speaking on "Annie Besant and the Way of the

Warrior". The second annual "Dr Radha Burnier Lecture" was done by Dr Deepa Padhi also in October on "Radha Burnier and Practical Theosophy". The North India Study Class was organized on-line for three days also in October with me speaking on "Personality and the Inner Life: Tuning the Soul's Instrument". The 146th Foundation Day was celebrated on-line last November on "Wisdom: The Inspiration of Founder's Challenge". Adyar Day was observed on-line in February on "Theosophy and Truth". The 98th Easter Conference was held in April on "From the Known to the Unknown". White Lotus Day was observed in May. There were no in-person workshops or study classes. The Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali, could conduct only two camps during summer due to travel restrictions. The Young Indian Theosophists Group organized 50 on-line sessions. Advar Day was celebrated in February. The website <theosophy-india.org> gives Section information and details of upcoming programmes. The TOS rendered services directly to needy communities this year. Voluntary work was better than earlier years. Both physical and on-line events were conducted.

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At the International Headquarters in Adyar, the Adyar Library and Research Centre has a long history of Eastern and Western cultural studies and research in philosophy, science, religion, and art. Fulfilling the vision of Col. Olcott, its founder, the Centre hosts a collection of magnificent, old palm-leaf manuscripts. Currently, the main activity is digitizing and enabling easy access to scholars. Brahma-vidyâ — The Adyar Library Bulletin, vols. 85 and 86, and Adyar Library Series nos. 129 to 134 were published during the year, 1,000 books were accessed and catalogued, and 1,200 books were added to the collection. Providing access to document copies via post was started. Homage was paid to Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam, former Librarian, who passed in August.

About 162 students in the **Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA)** from Nursery to Grade 5 were back with much enthusiasm in the campus, transitioning from on-line to in-person class work. A priority was maintaining the connection with Nature, as an integral part of school life and attending various workshops. Celebration of Learning was the first major event. Grades 1 to 4 showcased their learning in geography, art, history, environmental conservation, ecology, languages, and nutrition, enthralling visitors by their confidence and ease. Guests picked up several copies of the Zentangle Birds Calendar, Nature Journal Log, a collection of poetry titled "Rhythm, Rhyme, and Reason", all done by the students. The new academic year (2021-2022) began in January by celebrating the school's third birthday, being held on campus for the first time. The festivities took place under the Banyan tree with a recital of poems, a special birthday song in Tamil, and a dance performance. On India's

75th Independence Day, students put together a number of performances including a mime on the freedom movement and a song on what the term freedom means. A number of field trips, a student exchange programme, interactions on waste management, soil health, and composting were other highlights of the student experience. The Academy is building classrooms for Grades 5 and 6 for the coming year.

Though the **Blavatsky Museum** remained closed, the "Dr Maria Montessori Collection" was revised and rearranged for occasional visitors. A long-felt need was satisfied with a collection of digitized texts and catalogues offering greater insight into the displayed items which include the Mughal and Rajput paintings, and the Indian Renaissance canvasses, all from the Venkatachalam Collection. More research on them is on the cards.

The Olcott Education Society (OES) continues to support the following activities: At the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary **School** the 75th Indian Independence Day was celebrated by distributing prizes to the toppers in the 2021 public examination. Sixth graders went to see the parade of vehicles at the Light House in Chennai. Class 12 students were given career guidance by students from Jain College. Awards were presented to seven talented students recognized at the South Indian level in the areas of martial art, memory, and dance. A software programme, MI Kids, that improves students' ability to speak and read reopened in February after Covid-19. It catered to 35 children, who were given food and taught rhymes, the alphabet, picture colouring, etc. Parents were apprised of children's safety and hygiene. The HPB **Hostel** was open in December and on a regular basis from June, with 10 students of the School. The Hostel was shifted closer to the School for their safety and close monitoring. Breakfast and dinner were provided by the hostel. The Vocational Training Centre reopened in March. New admissions were done in June and classes resumed. The 12 new students from poor backgrounds were taught cutting, tailoring, embroidery, and so on. Emblem bags were made for Convention use.

For prospective students of the **School of the Wisdom**, a set of suggested reading material is available on the TS website in English and Spanish: "**The School of the Wisdom**" by Jinarâjadâsa and Radha Burnier, "An Unending Path" by me, "Freedom of Thought and Freedom of Society", "Freedom of Thought: Is it Essential?" by Linda Oliveira, "Why Freedom of Thought?" by Pedro Oliveira, "What is Truth?" by H. P. Blavatsky, and others. During the year, all activities were organized on-line with free attendance. Though programmes were meant for members, around 10% of non-members attended. There were seven courses in English, each with six to eight classes of two hours each. In October 2021 Linda and Pedro Oliveira conducted classes on "The

Voice of the Silence: Inner Preparation for the Bodhisattva Path." Ven. Olande Ananda Thera talked on "Mindfulness in Daily Life" in November, and conducted a 3-month meditation class on "Keep on Being". In January, P. Krishna spoke on "Right Living in Modern Society". Vic Hao Chin gave classes on "An Introduction to the Ageless Wisdom" in July. Radha Raghunathan taught "The Fundamentals of Advaita Vedanta" in two parts during August-September.

The Spanish classes started in February with Esteban R. Langlois conducting classes on "Theosophy in its Sources: the Great Teachings of Esoteric Philosophy through the Religions and Philosophies of Antiquity". In March, Ricardo Lindemann taught "Yoga-Sutra as the Science of Self-Knowledge". Finally, Juliana Cesano gave a three-month meditation class focusing "Meditation: Why and How According to Different Traditions". Joma Sipe, from Portugal, designed a beautiful completion certificate for students attending 80% of the classes, and explained its symbolism. A worldwide team worked to update the website, manage the student list, organize translators, and hosting, make the banners, and so on.

During the last Convention in December 2021, the **Surendra Narayan Archives** made a presentation on "Adyar Archives — One Hundred Precious Years". The rich history of the Archives was narrated using visual media. In February, during the anniversary meeting, two of Fritz Kunz's rare audio recordings were played for the audience. About 93 spool tapes have been digitized for sharing worldwide. Enquiries and requisitions were received from around twenty scholars for documents and photographs.

The Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) is present in 36 of the 59 countries where the TS is active and has several outreach avenues. The links <international.theoservice.org> and <facebook.com/ tosinternational> provide information. Though physical meetings have resumed on-line talks and meetings continued due to their convenience. Ironically, this has allowed us to reach many more people than localized, physical programmes did. TOS on-line programmes were presented by India, the Philippines, Argentina, the USA, Ukraine and Adyar. The major area of activity this year was the assistance to refugees from Ukraine. The outpouring of help, good wishes and financial support was overwhelming. Assistance was also given to flood victims in the Assam region in India. The TOS India set up a Young Theosophists TOS group in Odisha region and opened a charity shop there. Assistance with various women's issues, educational and scholarship efforts and youth involvement remain central issues for many groups worldwide. Most are also active in animal welfare. Almost all countries have healing groups.

TIM BOYD

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

#### Assam

Two auspicious days-Annie Besant Day on 1st Oct and Foundation Day on 17 Nov were observed at the Assam Federation HQ, Guwahati. All the lodges of ATF also duly observed the Days. Nalbari District Lodge Co-ordination Committee with eight lodges centrally observed it where nearly one hundred members participated in the programme. Bro. Dr. Nakul Ch. Deka delivered a talk on 'Relevance of Foundation Day'. The meeting was chaired by Bro. Gokul Ch. Deka.

In Upper Assam, Pragati Lodge and Sampriti Lodge jointly organized the meeting at Jorhat where Bro. Bidyut Kr. Khatoniar delivered a talk on 'In search of Truth' and Dr. Bipul Sarmah, National Lecturer, spoke briefly on the subject 'Writings of HPB' with particular reference to "Cosmogenesis" from 'The Book of Dzyan". The meeting organized by Dergaon Lodge was chaired by lodge's President Bro. Uma Shankar Sahoo.

#### **Study Camp**

A Study Camp on the book "An Outline of Theosophy" by CWL was organized at Sowansiri Mansion, the Assam Federation HQ, Guwahati, from 2 Oct. to 4 Oct.2022. The study class was conducted by the National Lecturer and President of UP&UK Federation Bro. U.S. Pandey. He vividly explained all the ten chapters of the book and was able to create deep impact on the participants. Earlier in the opening session Bro. Pandey released a book entitled "Brahmaviyar Ruprekha"- a paraphrastic translation of the same book written by CWL and translated in to Assamese by Sis. Dr. Chandraprabha Bhuyan, Vice-President of ATF. While releasing the book Bro. Pandey hoped that it would definitely help the beginners to understand what Theosophy is. On the concluding day of the study camp Bro. Pandey conducted a meditation programme with all the participants. President of ATF Bro. Gokul Ch. Deka, was also present in the concluding session. Sis. Nilima Das, Secy ATF, proposed vote thanks.

#### 131st Indian Section Annual Convention

Twenty-three members from Assam Federation attended the 131st Annual Convention of the Indian Section held at Varanasi from 28 to 30 Oct.2022. 'ROHIT MEHTA MEMORIAL LECTURE' - "Rohit Mehta: Sharing Some Reminiscences" was delivered on 28 Oct. by our former General Secretary of the Indian Section Bro. S. Sundaram and the session was chaired by the National Lecturer Dr. Bipul Sarmah. "The Young Indian Theosophists "(YIT) session held on 29th Oct. was chaired by the EC member and Vice-President of ATF Sis. Dr. Chandraprabha Bhuyan. Four young theosophists participated in this session.

#### 45th Annual Conference of ATF

The 45th Annual Conference of Assam Theosophical Federation was held with a day-long programme on 11 December 2022 at Freedom Fighters' Association Auditorium, Rupnagar, Guwahati. The celebration started with the flag hoisting at 8.00 AM by the President Bro. Gokul Ch. Deka followed by the open session from 9.30 AM. The proceedings of the meeting started with Prayers of All Religions conducted by Vice-President Sis. Dr. Chanraprabha Bhuyan followed by Universal Prayer by Bro. Gokul Ch. Deka. Federation Secretary Sis. Nilima Das and Treasurer Bro. Prem Narayan Das presented Annual Activity Report and Audited Accounts respectively and both the reports were approved.

"Jnan Jeuti", the 33rd Annual Bi-lingual journal of the Federation edited by Sis. Nilima Das was released by National Lecturer Dr. Bipul Sarmah. Dr. Zakir Hussain, a well-known neuro surgeon, Sufi scholar and Life Member of ATF was the guest speaker. He delivered his speech on the subject entitled "I am the Truth". Dr. Hussain clearly explained the co-relation between the concept of Theosophy and Sufism as well as how theosophy leads us to realize the 'One' in our own self. The speaker's depth of knowledge and the style of presentation created deep impact on the audience.

The existing Executive Committee (EC) was dissolved as the term was over and a new 15 member EC was formed for the next three years (2022 to 2025) with Dr. Bipul Sarmah as President and Dr. Chanraprabha Bhuyan, Bro. Uma Shankar Sahoo and Bro. Dr. Nakul Ch. Deka as Vice-Presidents; Bro.Ramesh Mahanta as Secretary, Bro. Kiron Ch. Buragohain as Jt. Secy; Bro. Prem Narayan Das as Treasurer; Bro. Gokul Ch. Deka as Publicity Officer, Bro. Binay Sarma as Editor, and Sis. Nilima Das as Librarian, along with five other executive members.

The other programmes of the meeting were chanting of a few verses from Bhagawad Gita by Sis. Shristi Sandilya and flute recital by Sis. Binu Devi. Vote of thanks was given by Bro. Kiron Ch. Buragohain. The meeting ended with a prayer recited by Bro. Bipul Sarmah.

## **Bombay**

# BTF Brethren at 131<sup>st</sup> Indian Section Convention 2022 at Varanasi

Bombay Theosophical Federation's President Bro. Vinayak Pandya, Treasurer Bro. Taral Munshi and Council Member Sis. Archana Munshi represented BTF at the 131st Indian Section TS Convention held from 28 to 30 October 2022 at the Indian Section HQ, Varanasi.

Bro. Taral Munshi was the Star of the Closing Session with his Solo Drama on 'Mai Tujhme hun aur too Mujhme hai' (I am in You, and You are in Me) to convey the essence of the Convention theme.

#### Bombay Theosophical Federation's 91st Annual Conference

The 91st Annual Conference of BTF was held on 12 & 13 November 2022. Bro. Pradip K. Mahapatra, National Lecturer, was the Chief Guest and the theme of the conference was 'Harmony: A Way of Life'.

Bro. Taral Munshi was the Master of Ceremony for all the Three Days of the 91st Annual Session.

Opening Day-Friday 11 November 2022 at Besant Hall, Blavatsky Lodge T.S.

The Chief Guest Bro. Pradip Mahapatra and his wife Mrs. Mitalini Mahapatra with BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya and Blavatsky Lodge's President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta lighted the Inaugural Lamp. The Prayers of All Religions & the Universal Prayer were recited. President Bro. Vinayak Pandya welcomed all and introduced the Chief Guest: Bro. Pradip Mahapatra, a Civil Lawyer at Bhubaneshwar who joined Theosophical Society in 1974. Bro. Mahapatra has held many responsible posts in Utkal Federation as well as of the Indian Section. He is the recipient of 1st Radha Burnier Award 2020-2021.

BTF Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal before reading the Greetings said that according to Radhaji's explanation – 'Reading of Greetings is not just a formality; it is a spiritual thought force of senders for Theosophical Gatherings'. The Greetings were received from International Vice-President Dr. Deepa Padhi, International Secretary Ms. Marja Artamma, Indian Section President Mr. Pradeep Gohil, International Lecturer Prof. C. A. Shinde, Mr. H. Dubal Assistant General Secretary of Theosophical Society East & Central Africa; National Lecturers Shri U. S. Pandey, Shri N. C. Krishna & Ms. Sonal Murali; Federation Presidents / Other Officers of Marathi TF, Telugu TF, Madras TF, Assam TF; Pune & Rewa Lodges; and from Secretary Sis. Parinaz Gandhi of TOS Mumbai Region and Adv. Sanjay Potey of TOS Maharashtra.

Felicitation of BTF Brethren for *Radiating Theosophy beyond Mumbai*: Blessing of Pandemic was that the World got connected virtually. From home comfort Theosophy was shared by Brethren not only from Delhi to Adyar and from Mumbai to Kolkata, but from Brazil & USA to Japan & Australia. Whether conceptualizing TRIVENI Talks, Study Classes, Power Point Presentations, Theosophical Articles, Theosophical Blogs/Links, Meditation or Publications, youth to elders

were motivated in their quest for Theosophy. Some have travelled in India and abroad also for their mission. The Recipients of Felicitation Mementos on the Opening Day were (1) Bro. Taral Munshi, (2) Bro. Arni Narendran, (3) Sis. Aban Patel, (4) Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, (5) Bro. Navin Kumar, (6) Sis. Meherangiz Baria, (7) Dr. Rajam Pillai, (8) Sis. Archana Munshi and (9) Bro. Zinoo Master.

# The Chief Guest Shri Pradip K. Mahapatra's Inaugural Address on 'Universal Brotherhood and Peace':

In his inaugural address Bro. Pradip Mahapatra spoke on *Universal Brotherhood and Peace*' and said that the Russia – Ukraine war is an example of the effect of lack of Universal Brotherhood. Ignorance of unity of mankind is behind this phenomenon. Divisive tendencies arising out of desire for power and the like, also contribute to this situation.

Brotherhood is not just at personal, family, or friend's level, it is much more. Even thoughtless destruction of plant and animal kingdoms also leads to disharmony in human kingdom. There has to be perfection, compassion and wisdom to realize harmony. Daily life is Spiritual life there is no need to go to temples or for retreats. No Adept or Master can make one spiritual. Self-Realization, Self-development, Self-perception and Self-deception and spending an hour alone – reading, thinking, planning are needed to unfold one's inner potentialities. Send out good thoughts for others – they are good for self, for recipient and for others. Love and Harmony are needed for this life and for Higher Life.

In Q & A dilemma of Theosophists' duty regarding Russia-Ukraine War was upper most. Answer was - what one can do in one's capacity is to send out thoughts of Love, Peace & Harmony. Sis. Kashmira Khambatta thanked Mahapatraji for sharing wonderful knowledge when negative things are in the world. Sanskrit Prayer was recited by Bro. Navin Kumar at the end of the session.

# Second Day - Saturday 12 November 2022, Besant Hall, Blavatsky Lodge T.S.

On the Second Day, BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya welcomed and introduced the Chief Guest Shri Pradip K. Mahapatra.

TOS Mumbai Region President Sis. Thrity Dalal spoke about International Order of Round Table and about significance of 'The Flower Ceremony', which was to follow. She said that 'It is dedication to Nature and what one learns from Flower'. The Leading Knight Farhad Dalal of Maitreya Round Table with Pages, Companions, Esquires and Knights performed the Flower Ceremony.

It was an inspiring experience, especially for Prize Winners of Dani & Mullan Elocution Competitions. Leading Knight Farhad Dalal invited students and others to join the Round Table. Knight Navaz Dhalla proposed the Vote of Thanks and the ceremony ended with sending out gathered spiritual force to all His Creations.

Rtn Godrej Dotivala, Chairman of Junior / Youth Red Cross Maharashtra, said that Unity in Diversity of our Country is the example of Harmony in life. He liked Round Table Ceremony and appreciating TOS work said that as Junior / Youth Red Cross arranges activities for school & college children, both TOS & Red Cross can work together.

Sis. Aban Patel before asking First Prize Winners of Dani & Mullan Elocution Competitions students to give their talks, told the gathering about 'Guru Dampati Suryaben & Jamubhai Dani' and Minoo Mullan in whose memory competitions are held. These great Theosophists wanted to cultivate in students the ability to think with Theosophical Values.

# The Chief Guest Shri Pradip K. Mahapatra's speech on 'Action, Reaction and Inner Harmony'

In Divine Law there is only One Light. This One Energy emanates from within as Manifestation of Law. It is the Law of Adjustment – Law of Karma. If we violate any Divine Law there is automatic punishment, may be not in the same life but the next one. The Law of Karma or Rhythm states that whenever there is any movement, the harmony/balance will need to be restored by nature.

Have Harmony in thoughts, words and deeds and practice it in life. Realize that 'Hidden Light' is in everyone and so respect it. Remember, Child is a separate human being, only comes to us through us – hence parents should not impose their views on them.

If one concentrates on resolving the conflict within oneself, other external conflicts will start taking care of themselves. To have peace in the world/family, there must be harmony within. Practice from 'At the Feet of the Master' will help to attain 40% of spiritual progress in this life. Good Karma for good of others without any expectation will not have reaction and will lead to higher harmonious life.

Finale of the Second Day was with distribution of Prizes & Merit Certificates to the Winners of Dani Junior & Senior School Groups and Mullan College Group.

Bro. Navin Kumar proposed Vote of Thanks and then the session ended with recitation of Sanskrit Prayer.

# A Full Day session was held at Juhu Theosophical Colony on 13 November 2022

Brethren of South Mumbai, North Mumbai and of Juhu gathered in beautiful Juhu Theosophical Colony – A Garden Colony of Members of Theosophical Society on the shores of Arabian Sea formed with the Blessings of Annie Besant. This Garden Society named after *Besant Maiya* (also known as *Vasanta Maiya*) is called The Vasanta Theosophical CHS.

This time the venue for Full Day Session was on grounds of other premises of the school, which is in the TS President's Bungalow.

Mrs. Mitalini Pradip Mahapatra invoked Divine Blessings with performing the Bharat Samaj Pooja for good of humanity and all His creations. She explained that when two or three or more gather for Pooja the *group becomes a vehicle to gather Divine Energy (Pravah) and to spread it in surroundings and beyond.* Bro. Navin Kumar assisted in the Pooja.

BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya welcomed all and introduced the Chief Guest Shri Pradip Mahapatra and TOS Mumbai Region President Sis. Thrity Dalal. Young Theosophist Bro. Pratham Mehta extended warm welcome on behalf of Juhu Theosophical Colony.

Sis. Thrity Dalal conveyed Greetings of TOS Secretary Sis. Parinaz Gandhi and spoke on 'TOS – Opportunity to reach out with Compassion'. The Motto of TOS founded by Annie Besant conveys the commitment of Hand Wing of Theosophical Society - 'A Union of all who Love, in the service of all that suffers' In TOS Logo 'Bigger Circle denotes the organization which is like the sun. And Smaller Circle denotes members who like planets are constantly evolving.' Sis. Thrity spoke about how they continued to help 400 needy children with Educational Aids and even Mobile phones for on-line education. They conduct Healing Ceremony; observe the Death Anniversary of great Theosophist Jamshed Mehta and their annual Colloquiums are 'Life Training' opportunities. They care for animals, work for conservation of environment and visit hospitals and senior citizens at their homes. Today children helped by them are settled in life and even send donations from USA. Completion of 50 years during COVID was celebrated with virtual s of 'The Golden Glow'. Late Bro. Rusi Toddywalla and Sis. Freny Toddywalla continue to inspire them.

President Bro. Vinayak Pandya urged to TS Members and Residents of Juhu Theosophical Colony to revive TOS Juhu for which Charter was presented by Late International President Radha Burnier. The Chief Guest Shri Pradip K. Mahapatra's speech was on 'Ahimsa and Universal Love". He said that 3000 years ago, Shri Adi Shankaracharya taught 'Ahimsa'.

What is Universal Brotherhood – Universal Love', is described in 'At the Feet of the Master'. If Love is acquired, then the remaining qualifications will come automatically. Love means not hurting anyone else and to look for opportunities to help. There should be intense desire to serve humankind, plants & animals. The 'Will' to help should have 'Wisdom' to know how to help.

Humanity is divided into different nations and religions. Even in families and organizations divisions are there. The Universal Prayer beautifully explains Unity of Life, Light & Love and shows the way to develop 'Ahimsa' within. The reasons for divisions are many.

Practice 'Ahinsa' consciously and gradually it will become part of one's life.... Practice of meditative awareness, selfless service and observation of 'Abhyasa & Vairagya' will help to develop compassion leading to 'Universal Brotherhood – Universal Love'.

# Felicitation of Dr. Ajay Hora

Bro. Taral Munshi fondly remembered inspiration and guidance given to him during his younger days by Dr. Ajay Hora's Late Mother Mugdhaben Hora and in dedication to her he gave his Awards of TOS Maharashtra and Gujarat Theosophical Federation to Dr. Ajay Hora.

## 91st Annual General Meeting of BTF

The 91st AGM of Bombay Theosophical Federation chaired by President Bro. Vinayak Pandya was attended by 31 members. Silence was observed for Brethren who passed away during the year. Official Business of passing of last year's Minutes, Secretarial Report & Audited Accounts were conducted. New Team for Two Year Term of 2022-2024 of Office Bearers and Council Members, who were 'Uncontested **Elected'** were welcomed. CA Sis. Thrity Dalal was elected as the Auditor for same term. AGM adopted appointment by BTF Council of Bro. Vinayak Pandya as BTF representative to Indian Section Council for Three Year Term of 2022-2025. Resolutions for the Leaders and Devoted Members were passed. AGM recorded thanks to the Vasanta Theosophical Co-operative Housing Society for their generous sponsorship for 91st Annual Session and to Besant Montessori School for the use of their School Buildings & Compounds and for renovating Guest Room in school building in time for the Chief Guest's stay. AGM greatly appreciated President Bro. Vinayak Pandya's yogdan to vitalize BTF Lodges. The meeting ended with a Vote of thanks.

Six members spoke in the Symposium on 'Harmony: Way of Life'. The gist of their talks are given in the following pragraphs:

**Bro.** Kishore Thakural of Ganesh Lodge, said that Harmony is deeply connected with the balance of mind, body and soul. The best way of maintaining a harmonious relationship among people is to understand them without being judgmental.

#### Sonali Desai of Ganesh Lodge

Harmony in Life means, 'The quality of forming a pleasing and consistent society where human being can exist'. What a lovely work Harmony is. The word itself gives us the feeling of oneness. In Music, when *Gayak* (singer) knows his *sur taal* of 7 Notes (*Sur*) then there will be a most beautiful song for the listeners. How can one be peaceful, joyous & contented? For this Yoga, Pranayam, Om Chanting, listening to spiritual talks show the way. To make life simpler one must de-clutter thoughts and surroundings.

#### Apurva Parekh of Vasanta Lodge

Teachers instilled Values in me. Invoking blessings of Higher Ones help me. Harmony is needed in Relationship in any sphere of life. Smoothen out petty issues and live life as per Narasi Mehta's Bhajan 'Vaishnav Jan to tene kahiye je'.

## Vidisha Mehta- Jyoti Lodge

'What a perfect world, this could be, if we could live in harmony'. Vidisha with this quote had her own poetic message: Caring about our fellow man, doing for each other what we can. Helping out, when the going gets rough and not even wondering, if we did enough.

## Dr. Usha Parikh of Centenary Lodge

Dr. Usha Parikh said, 'Sangit men eak Sur hota hai'. Music is the best example of Harmony. Happiness is a shadow of Harmony. Three things are important: Compassion, Acceptance & Tolerance [CAT] beginning with Family Life to nation to International.

# Rajesh Mehta – Vasanta Lodge

Every Religion, Philosophy, Science, Activity draws what it has of Truth and Beauty from the Divine Wisdom, but cannot claim it as its own against others, unless it is in harmony with each other. Many Ideas contribute to the logic of Peace & Harmony. So if we bring harmony within our self, within our family, our society then the whole world will become one harmonious family and we all will be able to listen to the Music of everlasting Peace & Harmony.

The Chief Guest Shri Pradip Mahapatra appreciated thoughts of all speakers of the Symposium and said that without Harmony Family, Society, Nation and even World will not be safe. Then, before breaking for Tea, Chief Guest Bro. Mahapatra gave Diplomas to New Members.

Finale of Three-Day Annual Session was with Bharat Natyam by Sis. Namita Bodaji and her student Devashri Vora. They started with *Shri Gajanan Vandana*. Second was *Abhinaya* on Tulsidas' Bhajan '*Thumaki chalat Ramchandra*' by Devashri. Next by Namita was Padam - '*Yamuna Teere Vanmali*'.

They ended with joyous *Tillana* performed together. About Namita and Dvashri's Bharat Natyam, Dr. Usha Parikh (a dancer herself) said that it was truly a Harmony of *Nad*, *Tal* & *Nritya* – *Spirituality* in highest form.

Dr. Ajay Hora, though in wheelchair had seen that the Full Day at Juhu Theosophical Colony would be an inspiring harmonious experience for Brethren.

The Annual Session concluded with Vote of Thanks given by Secretary Mahazaver Dalal to the Chief Guest Pradip Mahapatra, Mrs. Mitalini Mahapatra, Vasanta Theosophical CHS, Besant Montessori School, Blavatsky Lodge, President Bro. Vinayak Pandya, Bro. Taral Munshi for making the first Hybrid Annual Session and all Brethren who at Blavatsky Lodge & Juhu Theosophical Colony made the 91st Annual Session a memorable experience.

#### Kerala

The 91st Annual Conference of Kerala Theosophical Federation was held at Alleppey on 22 and 23 October 2022. The theme of the conference was 'Practising Theosophy'.

The conference was inaugurated by the Federation President Dr. M.A. Raveendran by hoisting the T.S Flag. The Annapoorni Lodge which hosted the conference is one of the oldest lodges in Kerala and India. It was founded by Dr. Annie Besant in 1903.

The inaugural function was presided over by the Federation President Dr. M.A. Raveendran. The Programme commenced with Prayers of All Religions followed by the Universal Prayer. Federation Secretary read out the greetings received from various Federations, lodges and Theosophists in India. Welcome address was given by the Lodge Secretary Bro. S. Madhusoodanan Pillai. In his talk Federation President spoke on the importance of practicing Theosophy in our life. In the Short Talks Session Dr. T. Krishnankutty spoke on the subject 'On Duty' as stated by H.P. Blavatsky in *The Key to Theosophy*. Bro.

K. Dinakaran spoke on the subject 'How Members can help the Society'.

The programme of the second day commenced with Bharat Samaj Pooja lead by Sis. Laxmibai. Bro. M.G.K. Nair spoke on 'Theosophy and Asceticism'. Dr. M.N. Sasikumar's subject was 'Self-Sacrifice'. Bro. T.S. Usman spoke on 'Theosophy for the Masters' and Bro. N. Bhaskaran Nair explained his views on 'Theosophy for Masses'.

Members actively participated in the Open Forum and offered suggestions. The speakers answered the questions raised by the delegates. Then the meeting concluded at 2.00 p.m. with *Shanti Mantra*.

#### M.P. & Rajasthan

The 98th Annual Conference of MP & Rajasthan Federation was held on 15 & 16 Oct. 2022 at Udaipur Lodge, Rajasthan. The theme of the Conference was "परमसत्ता के गूढ़ रहस्यों की अभिव्यक्ति अनिर्वचनीय है"('The manifestation of the deep secrets of the Supreme is indescribable'.) The Chief Guest was Secretary of UP & Uttarakhand Federation and National Lecturer Bro. Shiv Kumar Pandey. The Special Guest was National Lecturer Sister Vibha Saxena.

The conference started with Prayers of All Religions followed by Universal Prayer. Welcome address was given by the Federation's President Sister Kamal Monhot. The agenda and programme schedule were informed by Federation Secretary Dr Divyarth Dubey.

Three sessions were conducted by Bro. S.K. Pandey on the theme of the conference. His lecture was very informative and brought new insights of Theosophy. Bro. Pandey impressed the audience with his knowledge and the art of presenting the content.

About 100 listeners were present in the conference out of which 30 members came from different Lodges of the Federation.

Sister Vibha Saxena in her two sessions enlightened the audience with her thoughts. Her speech was so meaningful that no one went out of the Hall and listened to her with great attention.

The students of Udaipur Lodge School presented beautiful Songs and Dance in the closing ceremony of 1st day. The entire audience was amazed and was highly appreciative of the programme presented by the students.

Next day, short lectures were delivered by Bro Mahesh Dev (Jodhpur), Bro Arvind Narvare (Ujjain), Bro Ambalal Sharma (Jaipur) and Bro Sushil Doshara (Udaipur).

The AGM was held at Udaipur Lodge on the second day in which

Bro Divyarth Dubey (Secretary) presented the report and Financial Statements and they were accepted unanimously. Thereafter new Executive Committee of the Fed. was formed for next 3 years.

The Federation is having 12 lodges with 462 Members. Federation opened One new Lodge last year at Khachrod (MP) with 11 members.

In the closing ceremony, Secretary of Udaipur Lodge Bro Dinesh Mathur presented momento to all the members who attended the conference from different lodges and then gave vote of thanks.

#### U.P. & Uttarakhand

A talk was delivered on the topic 'Death and After' by Bro. Pramil Dwivedi in the weekly meeting of Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, held on 02 November. Study was conducted by Bro. U. S. Pandey on the subjects covered in the booklet 'Temple Talks-III, IV, and V' of J. Krishnamurti. It was organized in the weekly meetings held on 09, 23 and 30 November.

A special meeting at Dharma Lodge was held on 17 November to observe 'Foundation Day' of the Theosophical Society. After invoking the Universal prayer, Bro. U. S. Pandey spoke about the significance of the day. He also mentioned in brief the history, directions from the Masters, preparations, spiritual impulse given by the White Brotherhood in 3rd quarter of the century, prominent role of H.P. Blavatsky and formal inauguration of the Society on 17 November, 1875 in New York, quoting extracts from the inaugural address of Col. H.S. Olcott. He also quoted extracts from the letter of Maha Chohan received in the year 1881, outlining and clarifying the objects of the Society. Bro. Pramil Dwivedi supplemented by mentioning the scope of theosophy and nature of the Society as spiritual movement.

Talks were delivered on the topics '*Purusharth*' and 'Kabir' at Nirvan Lodge, Agra, by Bro. J S. Fauzdar and Bro. R.P. Sharma on 03 and 24 November respectively. A symposium was organized by the Lodge on 10 November on the theme '*Yoga-Shakti*' and the Foundation Day was observed on 17 November.

Sis. Vasumati Agnihotri conducted study of the book "Man: Whence, How and Whither" at Pragya Lodge, Lucknow on 06, 13, and 27 November. Members of the Lodge joined in the meeting of Satyamarg Lodge, Lucknow, held on the occasion of Foundation Day on 17 November.

Satyamarg Lodge, Lucknow, organized a special meeting on 17 November on the occasion of Foundation Day. Bro. Vipul Narain, Lodge's Secretary, after invoking the universal prayed mentioned briefly about the history of founding of the Theosophical Society. Bro. Vijay

Gupta delivered a talk on the topic 'Triguna' in the light of teachings in Chapter 14 of the Bhagavad Gita. Bro. U. S. Pandey in his comments elaborated on two aspects-lower and higher of each of the three *gunas* i.e. *Sattva*, *Rajas* and *Tamas* and how to reach the state of *gunatit* by transcending the three *gunas*.

A talk on 'Universal Brotherhood' was delivered by Bro. Ajai Rai at Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur on 02 November. Study of the book "Viveka Chudamani" was conducted by Bro. S.B.R. Mishra in the weekly meetings of the Lodge held on 09, 16 and 23 November.

Prayas Lodge, Ghaziabad: Sis. Suvralina Mohanty conducted study of Ch.10 of the book "*The Key to Theosophy*" on 06 November. Then, she delivered talks on 13 and 27 November on the topics "Theosophical literature and their impact on our life", and "Importance and review of Study, Meditation, Service in daily life" respectively. Sis. Shradha Rani delivered a talk on 20 November on the topic "Universal Prayer: O! Hidden Life".

Bro. J.K. Khanna concluded the study of the book "*Light on the Path*" on 6 November at Noida Lodge. The members discussed about the significance of Foundation Day of the Theosophical Society on November 17.

Talks were delivered on 'Atma-Buddhi-Manas' and 'Selfishness is the cause of all strife' by Bro. Shiv Baran Singh and Bro. S. K. Pandey respectively. These talks were held at Chohan Lodge, Kanpur on 6 and 20 November. Besides, Bro. S.S. Gautam spoke on 'Talks on the Path of Occultism-III' in the meetings of the Lodge held on 13 and 27 November.

Sis. Archana Pandey delivered a talk on the topic 'Vicharon ka Prabhav' in the meeting of Anand Lodge, Prayag Raj, held on 6 November. Bro. K. K. Jaiswal conducted the study of the book "At the Feet of the Master" on 13 and 20 November. In the meeting of 27 November, the Lodge officials discussed and finalized the arrangements for the study camp to be held from 02 to 04 December 2022.

Programmes in Educational Institutions: Bro. U. S. Pandey, during his visit to the Indian Section HQs from 25 to 27 November, discussed the status of admitting students/staff of the three institutions namely VKIC, BTS and Annie Besant Primary School as members of T.S. He discussed it with their Principals/ Managers / Coordinators and complemented them for the good work done in this regard.

Bro. Pandey delivered a talk on 'Theosophy and purpose of the Theosophical Society' on 25 November before a group of students and teachers of Vasant Kanya Inter College. Then, he delivered a talk in the afternoon before a group of students and teachers of Besant Theosophical Higher Secondary School. The subject of this talk was 'Life of students as responsible and sensitive beings'. He addressed the students of Annie Besant Primary School on 26 November and the subject he spoke on was 'How to become happy and helpful with feeling of brotherhood.'

An outline of theosophy and the theosophical society was explained in brief by Bro. U. S. Pandey in an informal interactive session with a group of hostel students on 27 November. It was followed by questions and answers. Students displayed their keen interest on certain points of theosophy.

Annie Besant Lodge, Varanasi: Federation President Bro. U. S. Pandey was invited to address the first formal meeting of the newly formed Annie Besant Lodge, Varanasi. It was held in Mahila Maha Vidyalaya of B.H.U. on 26 November. After invocation of the Universal Prayer, President of the lodge Sis. Sarita Rani welcomed Bro. Pandey and the participants. Bro. Pandey handed over a set of theosophical books on behalf of the Indian Section to the president of the lodge. During his address he complimented the members for forming the new lodge and presented 'An Overview of the Theosophy and the Theosophical Society.' He also indicated guidelines for holding regular meetings and other activities of a theosophical lodge. After his talk there was close interaction with the participants. Bro. Divakar Maurya, Secretary of the Lodge thanked the speaker and the participants.

# **Contribution to the Indian Section Work/ Programme**

Bro. S. S. Gautam translated the Section's journal "*The Indian Theosophist*" of December 2022 in Hindi.

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

Young Indian Theosophists- Sis. Suvralina Mohanty delivered a talk on 13 November on the topic 'Hidden Side of Lodge Meetings' and Sis. Kritika Goel moderated this session.

Eve's Welfare Club Gorakhpur-Bro. S. B. R. Mishra delivered a talk on 17 November on "Viveka- Chudamani and Life of Shankaracharya"

#### National Lecturer

On invitation by Assam Federation, Bro. U. S. Pandey conducted a three-day study camp from 02 to 04 November at Guwahati. The book taken up for study was on 'An Outline of Theosophy'. He also spoke on 'Meditation and its importance' on 04 November and then conducted a session on 'Guided Meditation' for the participants.

On invitation by Shankar Lodge Delhi, Bro. S. K. Pandey delivered a talk on 19 November on the topic 'Transmigration of life atoms'.

Sis. Vibha Saxena conducted study of Mahatma Letter no. 66 in three sessions held on 11, 18, and 25 November.

On invitation by Pyramid Meditation Centre, Gujarat, Bro. S.K. Pandey delivered an on-line talk on 23 November on the topic 'Concept of the Supreme Brahman and the emergence of the Universal Laws'.

Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered a public talk on 12 November 2022 on the theme 'Self-management-Rejuvenation and Self-transformation by Awareness'. Basic points of theosophical teachings were brought in during this talk which was delivered before a group of senior retired officers and their family members in Lucknow.

#### 131st INDIAN SECTION CONVENTION

Under the aegis of the Indian Section, Theosophical Society, Varanasi, the three-day 131<sup>st</sup> Indian Section Convention was held from 28 to 30 October 2022 at the Radha Burnier Amphitheatre, Indian Section Headquarters, T.S., Varanasi. The programme commenced with the '*Prayers of All Religions*' and Universal Prayer on 28 October.

The welcome address was delivered by Bro Pradeep H Gohil, President, Indian Section. He presented the Annual Report of the Indian Section and informed that from last year The Indian Theosophist, a monthly magazine is available in Hindi as well and appreciated the efforts of Bro Shyam Singh Gautam of Chouhan Lodge Kanpur for translating the English version into Hindi within the minimum possible time. He also announced that the admission fee and annual dues are abolished for becoming a member of the Indian Section of TS in line with the resolution passed in the year 2021-22. Consequently, the membership of TS has increased by 300 now reaching 11,549 members. He wished for the success of the programme. It was followed by greetings given by the representatives of various Federations. Bro. V. Narayanan presented the Treasurer's report of the Indian Section. Bro. U.S. Pandey was felicitated on this occasion with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Radha Burnier award of 'Theosophist of the Year 2021-22'. So also Brother Pradip K Mahapatra was felicitated with the 1st Radha Burnier Award of "Theosophist of the year 2020-2021"

Thereafter, Sis. Deepa Padhi, International Vice-President, TS and Chief Guest of the programme delivered the keynote address. She mentioned that war, terrorism, global warming, gender disparity and racism are big challenges in today's world. Citing Bhagavadgita, Rigveda and Upanishads, she said that Universal Brotherhood (*Vasudhaiv* 

*Kutumbkam*) forms the roots of Sanatan Dharm. She added further that one of the lessons taught by Covid-19 is that one cannot consider oneself safe if another person is suffering in the other corner of the world. This is an apt example of our interconnectedness with each other. She emphasized the need of nurturing altruism, compassion, humility, love and peace to achieve Universal Brotherhood.

The second session was chaired by Bro. Divyarth Dubey. Bro. Adi Keshab Shastri spoke about the Essence of Brotherhood. Quoting Isha Upanishad, he said that the whole universe is an envelope of God and HE dwells in the entire universe. Mentioning Adishankaracharya's words he said that Shakankaracharyaji not only said 'Aham Brhmasmi but also said 'Tat Twam Asi.' So, one has to be conscious of oneness in all. He also mentioned 15 important rules as said by Mahachohans such as Kill Ambitions, Kill Desire for life, Kill separateness, Kill desire of sensation, Kill hunger for growth etc. then he quoted Odiya poet Santh Kavi Bhimo Bhoi 'Mitu mora Jiban'.

Thereafter, Bro. Sheo K Pandey, Secretary of U.P. & Uttarakhand Federation, delivered a talk on the topic of 'Selfishness is the root cause of Strife'. He said that Theosophists believe in every religion and the wisdom of theosophy is above the boundaries of nations. He added that the process of analyzing and discriminating keeps running all the time in our minds and we seek peace externally. We are a consequence of what we think and feel. We accept separateness and consider it normal, however, it makes us selfish in our endeavours. Citing the example of the functioning of the physical body, he emphasized that cooperation and coordination are deep-seated in nature everywhere and it is also required to be imbibed within us to achieve the Universal Brotherhood.

Dr Ajay K Rai said that Universal Brotherhood is an essence of our existence. He emphasized removing 'I', nurturing Love and Compassion and attaining the quality that makes a person happy. He stated four ways to avoid 'reaction' in any situation. The ABCD of these ways are as A- being Alert, B- let it Bypass, C- maintaining Cool and D- Diverting to positivity. Further, he mentioned that to avoid confrontation, one should focus more on 'What is Right' in any given day-to-day situation rather than focusing on 'Who is Right'.

In the third session, Bro S. Sundaram, former GS of the Indian Section, TS, delivered a lecture on 'Rohit Mehta: Sharing some Reminisences' followed by a deliberation given by Bro U.S. Pandey on 'Universal Brotherhood-Our Dharma'.

Bro N C Krishna delivered a Special Lecture in the evening session

on 'Brotherhood- Is it a fact or myth?'. Dr. Rachna Srivastav, Principal of Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalay, chaired this session.

The Ritual of the Mystic Star was performed in the Annie Besant Hall at 7 p.m.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> session on 29 October the Chairperson Sis. Mitalini Mahapatra invoked the Universal Prayer. Then, Prof. P Krishna of KFI, Rajghat, delivered Dr. Radha Burnier Memorial Lecture on "The other man is yourself". Prof. Krishna described our duties to the other man who is not other but yourself.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session was for the Young Indian Theosophists[YIT] and the Chairperson was Sister Chandra Prava Bhuyan, Vice-President of Assam Federation. The speakers were Sister Kritika Goel of Prayas Lodge who spoke on "Making Brotherhood a Reality", Sister Monica Vakare of Pune Lodge spoke on "Religion Decay without Brotherhood", Brother Pradeep M S of Bangalore City Lodge spoke on "Brotherhood without Distinctions" and Brother Prof. Darshan Jha of Anand Lodge, Prayagraj, spoke on "Self" is visible in everything and everything visible in "self".

Brother Pradeep H Gohil, President, Indian Section, TS Varanasi, was the Chairperson of the Special Lecture programme held in the 3rd Session. Dr. Rachna Srivastav introduced the guest speaker Prof. Sudhir Kumar Jain, Vice- Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University. He delivered a talk on "Indian Universities: Challenges and Opportunities". The vote of thanks was given by Sister Uma Bhattacharyya.

The 4th Session was TOS Programme, in which the Chairperson was Bro. K. Sivaprasad- National Director of TOS, India. Dr. Deepa Padhi, International Vice-President of Theosophical Society, delivered a lecture in this session on "TOS Actions in the changing times". Then, Brother Satrajit Chakroborty spoke about "TOS School Education in West Bengal".

A symposium was held in the 5th Session in which the Chairperson was Bro. Rajeev Mathur. Bro. Narsinh Thakaria described beautifully "How to apply Universal Brotherhood in Daily Life". Dr. Rachna Srivastav expressed her views on "Universal Brotherhood and World Peace' and Sis. Suvralina Mohanty explained that "Separateness comes from ignorance".

The 6th Session was presided over by Brother P Raghu Rama Rao and the Speaker Sri. Sandeep Pandey spoke on "Fundamental Duties in Indian Constitution" describing the role of Indian people as enshrined in the Constitution of India. The 7th session was the Cultural Programme organized by KTS, ABS, BTS, VKIC, VKM of Varanasi and Prayas Lodge, Vaishali, UP.

The three-day 131st Convention of the Indian Section, Theosophical Society concluded on 30th Oct 2022. It started with devotional recitals by Sushil Bandher, Manjula Thakkar and Vidhu Ben Patel followed by a One-Act Play performed by Mr Taral Munshi of Mumbai.

A Q &A session was held on the theme of the convention 'Universal Brotherhood- the need of the hour '. The panellists were Sis. Uma Bhattacharyya, Manager, VKM, Bro. U.S. Pandey, President UP & UK Federation and Bro. N.C. Krishna from Hyderabad. During the session, Sis. Uma Bhattacharyya informed the participants about a 'Value Added Course on Theosophy' that has been commenced for the graduation level girls' students of VKM Inter college. She further added that a training programme will be soon started to introduce theosophy to the youth of the country.

It was followed by an open house discussion chaired by Bro. Adi Keshav Shastri and moderated by Sis Vibha Saxena. The theme of the session was 'Branches of Theosophical Society as the harbingers of a Universal Brotherhood.' The gist of the session was that Universal Brotherhood is not an idle phrase rather it already exists at the higher plane. It must be brought down at the level of lodges realizing that all of us are one and the transformation of the lodges will start by transforming ourselves. For self-transformation, the members of TS should earnestly follow the three steps i.e. Study, Meditation and Service.

The Closing Session was chaired by Bro. Pradeep H Gohil, President, Indian Section. He stated that if we walk and talk together, meet and eat together and stay and play together, then we can propagate brotherhood and peace within and around us. Various participants shared their experiences of attending the convention. The convention concluded with the vote of thanks given by Bro. Pradeep Mahapatra.

This event was observed by 755 delegates from different corners of the country that includes Karnataka, Odisha, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, W. Bengal, Gujrat, U.P. & Uttarakhand and Bihar.

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Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra Plot No. 625 Saheed Nagar **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2023** Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751 007 Mob. No. 09437697429 As approved by the Indian Section Council Email-peekem0277@gmail.com on 04/01/2023 Bro. S.L. Dar "Raghukulam", B-21/81, Kamachha, Varanasi-221 010 Bro. Pradeep H. Gohil President Mob. No. 9415221425, 7704023317 The Indian Section Email – snldar@gmail.com The Theosophical Society Kamachha Varanasi- 221 010 Bro. Sanat Vyas B-50/3, Triveni Vihar, Mob. No. 09824214891 Near Water Tank Email: theosophyvns@gmail.com Malanwasa Ujjain – 456 010 phgohilexcel@gmail.com Mob. No. 9406635501, 8226007650 Email-sanatvyas2011new@gmail.com Bro. V. Narayanan Treasurer The Indian Section Sis. Sonal Murali Besant Bungalow, The Theosophical Society 1. Besant Avenue. Kamachha, Varanasi-221 010 The Theosophical Society, Mob. No. 09793888596 Advar, Chennai 600 020 Email: auroson@gmail.com Mob. 9049867345 Email: mrigshirsha@gmail.com Sis. Uma Bhattacharyya The Indian Section The Theosophical Society Bro. K. Dinakaran Saroja, Kamachha Varanasi- 221 010 Trikkur- 680 306 Mob. No. 9648742212 Kerala Email: umabhattacharyya15@gmail.com Mob.No.9495739773 Email-dinakaran60@hotmail.com Bro. C.A. Shinde Upasika, The Theosophical Society Annie Besant Military Academy Bro. Amrit Priyadarshani Adyar, Chennai - 600 020 Near Municipal Chowk Mob. No. (0) 9940140228 Theosophical Society Email: cashinde22@gmail.com Campus, Chapra Bihar- 841 301 Bro. N.C. Krishna 10-283/1/5, Plot No. 84, Mob No. 8199921395 Vasanthapuri Colony, Email- amy.crooz@gmail.com Malkajgiri, Hyderabad- 500 047 Mob. No. 09866355661 Ex-Officio Email: nck.krishna@gmail.com President, The Indian Section Bro. Pradeep H. Gohil The Theosophical Society Bro. U. S. Pandey A-893, Indira Nagar Kamachha Varanasi- 221 010 Lucknow - 226 016 Mob. No. 09824214891 Mob. 9451993170, 7905068911 Email: theosophyvns@gmail.com Email: usplko@gmail.com phgohilexcel@gmail.com Bro. Nareshbhai A. Trivedi 305 Nandanvan Appt. Treasurer, The Indian Section Bro. V. Narayanan B/H. Dwakadhish Market The Theosophical Society Opp. Sardarbuag, Junagdh - 362 001 Kamachha, Varanasi-221 010

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#### **Study Camp**

A study camp on "WISDOM IN MAHATMA LETTERS" has been organized by Vikram Lodge, Ujjain (M.P. & Rajasthan Federation) from 7 to 9 April 2023. The Director of study is National Lecturer Bro. Pradip Mahapatra.

There will be a public lecture on "Unity in Diversity" on 09.04.2023.

The members of the Theosophical Society are welcome to attend the camp. Registration will be made on The First come First serve Basis, Registration charge will be Rs.100/- and for this please contact Brother Arvind Narware, President of Vikram Lodge, Ujjain on phone number-87198 57866. Send Name & Diploma No. on watsapp no.8719857866.

Please send Registration Charge of Rs. 100/ to:

Bank's name - Bank of India, Br.Narang Complex Free Ganj, Ujjain IFSC Code- BKID0009101, A/C no.- 910110100000238.

Accomodation & Meal charges from 6th April evening to 10th April morning will be of Rs.900/ which will have to paid in cash at Vikram Lodge, Ujjain.

Late joining or early leaving of camp will not be permitted.