



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

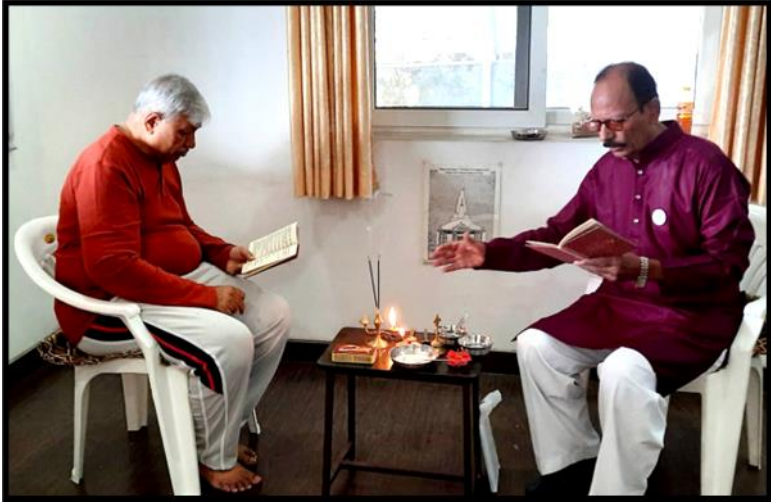
Volume 92

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No.9

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June - 2023



Bharat Samaj Pooja
At 'Himalayan Study Centre', Bhowali
Conducted by
Shri Harshvadan Sheth, President Gujarat TF
And
Shri Vinayak Pandya, President Bombay TF
At Joint Study Camp of Gujarat TF & Bombay TF

MISSION OF TS

To serve humanity by cultivating an ever deepening understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual self-transformation and the unity of all life

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**IT IS JUNE 2023 – TIME TO SEND E-MAILS
TO INDIAN SECTION TS, VARANASI
FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP**

According to President Shri Pradeep Gohil's instructions now last date to receive Membership Renewal Request E-mails is 31st August 2023(not 30th September 2022 like last year). Hence, instead of July, now from June we will have to send the e-mails. E-mails can be sent by a member for himself and his family. Lodges can prepare a common statement with members' signatures. The request form with the following particulars duly signed by members will have to be scanned for e-mail attachment.

Member's Name, Diploma Number, Lodge, Federation, Indian Theosophist required or not and if required in English or Hindi, signature, and date of signing the form.

To send E-mail to: renewalindsecmem@gmail.com

Acting Editor – Sis. Mahazaver Rustom R. Dalal Cover Page by: Sis. Kashmira Khambatta
Editorial Committee –Sis.Mahazaver Dalal (Reporter & in charge of Mailing List), Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, Sis. Aban Patel and Ex-Officio: President Bro. Vinayak Pandya. Note: News, Notes and Programs to be printed in the Bulletin be forwarded by e-mail to kashmira.khambatta@gmail.com latest by 16th each month. Readers' Views are invited.

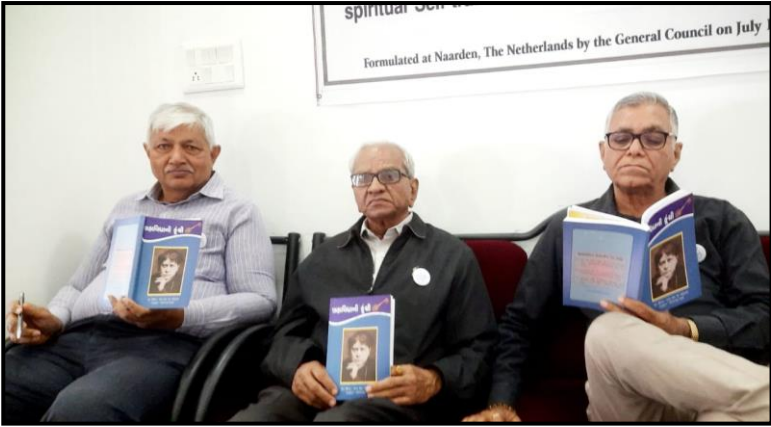
BHOWALI STUDY CAMP
JOINTLY OF GUJARAT TF & BOMBAY TF
26TH APRIL to 2ND MAY 2023

Study of Book:

**HPB's 'Key to Theosophy' – 'Brahmavidya ni Kunchi' Gujarati
 Translation by Yogendrarai Desai**

Resource Team:

Shri Harshvadan Sheth, President Gujarat TF
Shri Narsinh Thakaria, National Lecturer of Indian Section
Shri Vinayak Pandya, President Bombay TF



**L to R: Shri Vinayak Pandya, Shri Narsinh Thakaria, and
 Shri Chhabildas K. Soni**

The Study Camp was at Indian Section TS premises known as **'Himalayan Study Centre'** at **Bhowali, District Nainital, Uttarakhand State**. Bombay Theosophical Federation had joined the Study Camp organized by Gujarat Theosophical Federation. From GTF there were total 27 participants with 4 from Surat, 1 from Vadodara, 1 from Himmat Nagar and 21 from Ahmadabad. Bombay TF had 2 participants – President Vinayak Panya and his wife Malathi Pandya bringing total of participants to 29.

Shri Chhabildas K. Soni, Secretary GTF introduced and welcomed all participants. Daily six sessions each of one hour were conducted – Morning 2, Afternoon 2 & Evening 2 sessions. The study was guided by Shri Harshvadan Sheth in morning, Shri Narsinh Thakaria in afternoon and Shri Vinayak Pandya in evening. . Meditation was led by Shri Chhabildas K Soni, Secretary of Gujarat TF. In the late evenings there were Bhajans, Songs, Jokes, and Poetry etc. by members. Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed by Shri Harshvadan Sheth & Shri Vinayak Pandya.



Shri Harshvadan Sheth
Explaining on White Board



Shri Vinayak Pandya
Conducting Evening Session

Overall, it was a great learning experience for participants under the guidance of Shri Harshavadan Sheth, Shri NarshinhThakaria and Shri Vinayak Pandya. Their deep knowledge lucidly shared was very fruitful to participants. The Participants felt that 5 days' time was too short.

Arrangements at Bhowali were excellent under the guidance and hard work of Bro. V. Narayanan, our National Treasurer, from Varanasi. Shri Vinod was deputed from Indian Section, to take care of all delegates needs. He was ably supported by Shri Ganga Sing & his team to take care of food and housekeeping of the premises. Bro.

Mansukh Domadia did excellent work in clicking events. It was pleasant cold weather, despite the rain, with temperature Minimum 11° to Maximum 22°. Overall, it was an excellent opportunity to learn about '*Brahmavidya ni Kunchi*' at '*Himalayan Study Centre*'.

Editor adds: *Bombay TF is grateful to President Bro. Vinayak Pandya and his wife Sis. Malathi Pandya for crystallizing BTF Goal to have a study camp at Bhowali and sharing his wonderful experiences as the Resource Person and participant with BTF Brethren. Wish more of BTF Brethren had availed themselves of this opportunity.*

BUDDHA PURNIMA – WESAK BLESSINGS



***Buddha Purnima Alter
In Green Room of
Blavatsky Lodge
On 5th May 2023
Prepared by
Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta
and Rangoli with
Purnima Chandra by
Sis. Asha Mhatre***

Sis. Ruby Khan as MC asked BTF Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal to welcome the Brethren to this auspicious meeting. **Sis. Mahazaver Dalal** said, 'We have been blessed to be gathered in Green Room near Lord Buddha's statue

(depicting the moment of his Illumination with the Mother Earth as the Witness) and with reverence to pay gratitude to Lord Buddha for

his compassion to come close to our earthly plane to give his *Darshan* and to bless the Humanity.”

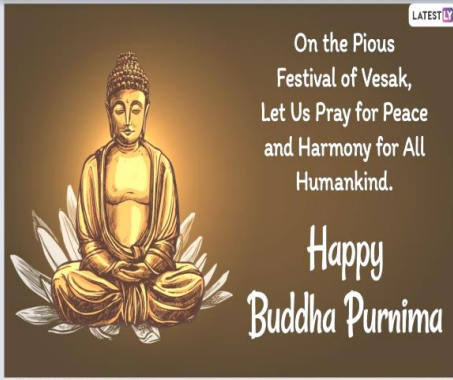
Attunement of devotion was recitation of Buddhist Prayer by **Sis. Meherangiz Baria**.

Bro. Navin Kumar speaking on the occasion said:

Siddhartha Gautama was the first from our humanity to have achieved the Buddha Initiation. Priors to that Buddhas had come from other Chains. Buddha stressed in his first Sermon, called the Dharma Chakra Parivartan Sutra, that It is difficult at this stage about the nature of the Ultimate Divine Power which rules the creation. More stress therefore should be given to Good Conduct. Such is the advice in all the great religions of the world. The last five lines on the Buddhist Prayer also lays stress on five promises, called the Pancha Sheet, i.e.

1. Not harming any one
2. Not stealing anything
3. Not having illicit sexual relationship
4. Not saying anything which not true
5. Not consuming intoxicating drug or drink.

On the Waisak Festival Lord Buddha gives *darshan* to devotees in Wesak Valley. Similarly on Asala Festival day there is a gathering of the sages and adepts wherein Lord Maitreya reads the '*Dharmachakra - Kappavattana Sutta*'.



(1st Slide of PPT)

Sis. Kashmiria Khambatta had Power Point presentation on Buddha Purnima with beautiful inspiring photos and sketches and lucid explanations about ceremony in Wesak Valley of Himalayas.

Sis. Kashmiria had invited members to read in turns '*Mahamangala Sutta – The Greatest Blessing*' and translation of the Buddhist Prayer projected on the screen.

Sis. Jasmin Cawasji thanked all and distributed Holy Water from the bowl kept on the Alter Table to all.

The Meeting had ended with Meditation on '*Om Mani Padme Hum*' by **Bro. Arni Narendran**.

TRIVENI Tuesday Meet also had a Zoom gathering on 2nd May 2023 for Buddha Purnima - Wesak Purnima. Bro. K. Dinakaran, the main speaker in English, spoke about Lord Buddha's Teachings and the Books on Lord Buddha's Teachings.

WHITE LOTUS DAY

8th May 2023 Meeting in Besant Hall, Blavatsky Lodge



Brethren of Bombay Theosophical Federation right from Ghatkopar, North Mumbai gathered in Besant Hall on 8th May 2023 evening in attunement to Theosophists of the world to observe Anniversary of passing away of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, Founder & Light Bringer of the Theosophical Society

In her will HPB had suggested that her friends gather together on the anniversary of her passing and read from Poet Edwin Arnold's THE LIGHT OF ASIA and the ancient Hindu scripture THE BHAGAWAD GITA. Later President Col. H. S. Olcott had added the reading from HPB's THE VOICE OF SILENCE. *White Lotuses grew in unusual profusion one year later on that day and so 8th May became known as White Lotus Day.* – Said Blavatsky Lodge President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta.

The Meeting opened with BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya lighting a *Diya* near HPB's photo and recitation of the Prayers of all Religions by Members. The Universal Prayer led by Bro. Vinayak Pandya was recited by all gathered.

BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya spoke about significance of Readings on White Lotus Day and impressions of attending joint Gujarat & Bombay TF Study Camp on Gujarati Book on HPB's 'Key

to Theosophy' at Bhowali as one of the Resource person in pleasant Himalayan Cold of 10° to 22°.



New Members of Centenary, Shanti & Jyoti Lodges were welcomed with presentation of Diplomas.

It was heartening that readings were by quite a few New Members: **Bro. Suhas Goswami** from **Ghatkopar Lodge** read a few passages and explained “The Bhagawad Gita”.

Bro. Pankaj Gupta from **Centenary Lodge** read passages from “The Voice of Silence” and explained the same.

Bro. Sudesh Kumar from **Centenary Lodge** read passages from “Light of Asia”.

Bro. Apurva Parekh from **Vasanta Lodge** spoke on the life of Madam Blavatsky.

Bro. Anil Kumar Deshpande from **Centenary Lodge** explained the significance of White Lotus Day. He added that Madam HPB was Abul Fazal in one of her earlier incarnations and she had travelled a lot and visited many Secret Societies. He recited ‘*The Golden Stairs*’.

Blavatsky Lodge **Vice President Bro. Navin Kumar** mentioned that HPB in her life span of sixty years travelled all over the world. The birth of Theosophy took place where HPB met Col. Olcott. They attended several séances where the dead appeared and that convinced

them that there was life beyond physical. They were guided by the Masters to travel to the East and that was the reason they landed in India. Madam HPB and Col. Olcott both came out with the common wisdom in each religion, i.e. comparative study of all religions.

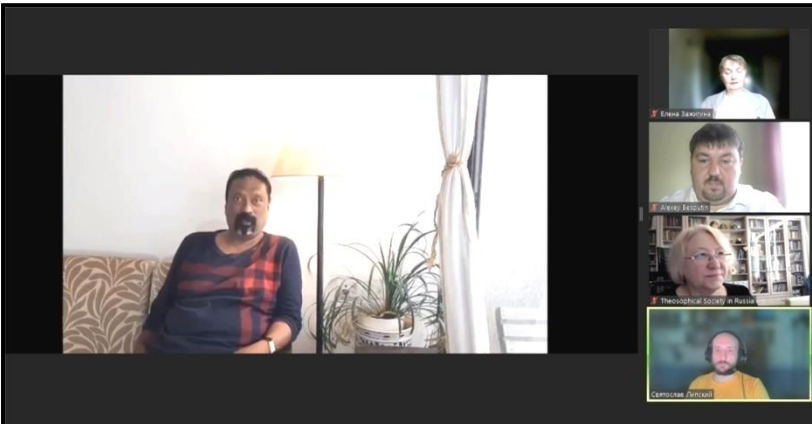
Sis. Ranjana Katarkar from **Vasanta Lodge** spoke in Hindi, our Matru Bhasha, about Theosophy showing the common essence of all Religions –**TRUTH. *There is No Religion Higher than Truth.***



Bro. Navin Kumar recited the ‘*Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhino prayer*’.

Bro. Taral Munshi concluded the programme with his poem dedicated to HPB ‘*Rainbow of Humanity*’ In the end members paid obeisance to HPB by offering white flowers on the table with her photo, Diya & Lotus bowl.

On White Lotus Day Bro. Arni Narendran’s Greetings to Theosophical Society, Moscow, Russia



Bro Arni Narendran sent a video Greetings from Blavatsky Lodge on the occasion **to the Adyar Theosophical Society in Moscow** highlighting the need for integrating the Theosophical objective of *Universal Brotherhood* in *'the Globalization'*, the needed effort in the new direction of contemporary economic thought . **Bro. Alexey Basputin, President of TS Russia** appreciated the message with words, 'Inspiring! In mind, my thinking is with you.'

Blavatsky Lodge President Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta, in her Report about Bro. Arni Narendran adds:

On May 8th every year, over 25000 Theosophists representing over a 1000 Lodges worldwide observe the WHITE LOTUS DAY - a day of remembrance and Gratitude to Madam Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, Co-Founder of the Theosophical Society. It was on this day that she left her physical Body in 1891 at London. The Wellington Lodge of the TS in New Zealand organized a full Day event 'BLAVATSKY UNPLUGGED'. Speakers from United States, India and New Zealand spoke on the occasion. The programme was hybrid and was networked with the Hamilton Lodge as well. Sushma and Simon Webber of the Wellington Lodge curated the lively event, which was a fitting Tribute to HPB. Bro Arni Narendran - Hon Treasurer of Blavatsky Lodge was a guest speaker. He spoke on *THE LUMINOUS LIFE OF MADAME BLAVATSKY - the Bombay Saga*. The talk was first delivered in Kiev, Ukraine and subsequently in Moscow, Russia which was simultaneously translated in their local languages .The talk highlights the three-year activities of the Founders in the city between 1879 and 1882. before their eventual departure to Madras. The effort of the Theosophical Society in revitalizing and popularizing Hinduism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism within the overall Wisdom Teaching of Theosophy. Also how Mumbai proved a springboard for Society to expand both within the subcontinent and worldwide.

NEWS OF BTF LODGES

Centenary Lodge, Bandra of 75 years, in the presence of BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya had the **Reopening Meeting on 23rd April 2023** at 5.30 pm at the Residence of Bro. Anil Kumar Deshpande. Thanks to enthusiasm of Bro. Anil Kumar and Bro. Sudesh Kumar Centenary Lodge is getting New members.

Shanti Lodge, Sleater Road of 76 years restarted its meetings after Pandemic with AGM on 27th April 2023. Initially there will be monthly meetings. Thanks to motivation of President Sis. Aban Patel there are three New Members.

TRIVENI TUESDAY MEET expanding into **TRIVENI INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS** had its 1st Meet of Greece – Utkal – Gujarat – Mumbai on Tuesday 16th May 2023 on Theme ‘**Know Thyself**’. The **Guest Speaker Sis. Erica Georgiades** spoke in English. Bro. Bhabani Sankar translated in Odia and Sis. Vibha Saxena translated in Hindi. Bro. Taral Munshi was the Moderator. The presentation was based on Plutarch’s thought - ‘**The Ship of Theseus**’.



**WRAPPUP SESSION OF CWL’S
BOOK
‘THE INNER LIFE’
Volume II
on 28th April 2023**

Over two to three years through Pandemic Sis. Aban Patel conducted physical, on Zoom and after Pandemic with Hybrid from Green Room study of C. W. Leadbeater’s ‘The Inner Life’ Volume I & II (As no printed books

printed books - both big volumes were downloaded by Bro. Navin Kumar) conducted. To make things easy and interesting she used to explain with Charts, her own drawings and appropriate anecdotes. At the Wrap up session Sis. Aban spoke about the purpose of the study and members shared their views and profusely thanked her. On behalf of the Study Class, Bro. Kanubhai Shah presented flowers to Sis. Aban _Patel with congratulations and thanks to her for completing study of one more volumes Theosophical book.

'INSIGHT'

The Indian Section Quarterly E-Newsletter

The First issue released on White Lotus Day 8th May 2023

Indian Section Programme Coordinator Shri Pradip Mahapatra had invited Federation Reports for January – April 2023 and articles from Federation Members for the First Issue. The issue is released with President Shri Pradeep Gohil's special message. Article on White Lotus day is by National Lecturer Shri U. S. Pandey and Poem with homage to Madam HPB titled '*Rainbow of Humanity*' is by BTF Treasurer Shri Taral Munshi. Our BTF report is printed. There are other Federation Reports & Articles also.

MEMORIAL MEETING TO HONOUR

BRO. PURVEZ GANDHI'S POSITIVE STORKES

BY THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE, UMBAI REGION



On Sunday 30th April 2023 morning Besant Hall of Blavatsky Lodge was full with TOS & Round Table Maitreya Members, Student recipients of TOS Annual Scholarships with their Parents, Corporate Colleagues, TS Members and Benefactors even from outside Mumbai. Ms. Suhasini Ghodke, Founder & Secretary of All India Disabled Rehabilitation Education Institute, Nashik had come all the way from Nashik.

Sis. Meherangiz Baria, Treasurer TOS, Mumbai Region opened the Memorial meeting with Universal Invocation. Ms. Suhasini Ghodke of Nashik sang Bhajan '*Itni Shakti humen do Datar*'.

Sis. Meherangiz Baria in her opening address said: Bro. Purvez Gandhi brought light to the Life of many. A gentle, sacrificing soul upholding Theosophical high thinking had simple living. Deeply concerned about the welfare of others and reached out with time, effort & money. He radiated love and affection. As TOS Committee Member, he was very supportive and guiding force. May his soul move forward in his spiritual journey on Higher Planes.

Sis. Behrezida Gandhi read out messages of his many Associates paying tributes to his '*Seva Marg*'.

Young TOS Committee Members Bro. Farhad Dalal & Sis. Niyosha Gandhi fondly remembered their Mentor Late Purvez Gandhi, who was always there to guide them. Though he was in a high position in Godrej Company, he was easily approachable. He was full of love & very patient, but a fighter for a purpose and honest to the core.

Bro. Percy Fouzdar and Bro.Yezdi Sabavala sharing their reminiscences as Bro. Purvez's Colleagues of Godrej Company spoke about his Compassion and concern for the Education of youth.

Ms. Suhasini Ghodke of Nashik said, Bro. Purvez Gandhi used to appreciate the goodness of others. She paid tributes with her Hindi poem '*Mai Hun na*' describing how in any problem Bro. Purvez used to say, '*I am there. Do not worry.*'

Gratitude poured from Students and benefactors who were assisted and guided – Bro. Anil Prasad, Sis. Sis. Astha Ghumare, Sis. Kogani Shinde, Sis. Sushma kale, Sis.Jhanvi Kudtarkar and Sis. Menka Jadhav. Students said from Std 2nd to today when we are working, he instilled in us discipline & spirit to participate and never to say cannot do. A Thane School student now working for Sis. Freny Aunty Toddywala for TOS work fondly recalled his guidance.

Fond Sentiments from family were expressed by Sister Arnavaz Jehani and Nephew Farshid Master. For them he was a pillar of strength and a great teacher full of good qualities given by Late Stalwart Bro. Rusi Toddywalla. To overcome obstacles and not to put emotions over intelligence were his advice.

Bro. Navin Kumar & Sis. Ruby Khan from Blavatsky Lodge and Sis. Mahazaver Dalal from Bombay Theosophical Federation paid the tributes.

Sis. Meherangiz Baria read out **the Condolence Resolution, which said:** He was the heart & soul of TOS, Mumbai Region, a pillar of Educational Sponsorship Programme and mainstay of Annual Educational Colloquiums and Excursions. As **Sis. Freny Toddywalla conveyed on the phone**, Bro. Purvez was a noble soul. Always ready with a smile for Theosophical Order of Service.

The Memorial Meeting ended with Niyosha Gandhi on Piano accompanying Round Table Members singing *Hymn 'Take My Life and Let It Be'*.

**GHATKOPAR ADINATH LODGE INAUGURAL MEETING ON
14TH MAY 2023**



The Ghatkopar Adinath Lodge was inaugurated on Sunday 14th May 2023 at 10.00 am at the Residence of Bro. Subhash Goswamy, 302 – New Durga Darshan, Anandji Lane, M. G. Road, Ghatkopar (east), Mumbai 400077. The Brethren gathered were Bro. Subhash Goswamy, Sis. Sudhaben Chhotalal Shah, Sis. Vinayaka Shah, Sis. Poonam Upadhayay & Bro. Deepak Sampat. **BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya** spoke about Activities of Theosophical Lodge & TOS. **BTF Treasurer Bro. Taral Munshi** spoke about Theosophy and expressed wished to share it with students' of Bro. Deepak's school. Sis. Sudhaben shared her thinking on the Way of Life. Sis. Poonam Upadhaya will take up Study meetings twice a month, preferably on Sundays. Bro. Subhash & his Family were thanked for their zeal for starting the Lodge and for warm hospitality with Breakfast.

BTF & LODGE PROGRAMMES JUNE 2023

BLAVATSKY LODGE: 7 – French Bridge, Mumbai 400007

The Bombay Theosophical Bulletin June 2023 Vol. 92 No.9

Tel:23685026 (M):9821459504 (M):9819334333

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	6.00 pm	Study of 'Theosophy Explained with Questions & Answers by P. Pavri' conducted by Bro. Arni Narendran
Friday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th	6.00 pm Hybrid	Talks on 'Meher Baba's Teachings in Light of Theosophy' by Sis. Aban Patel
Sunday 25th	10.45am	Maitreya Round Table & Healing Group

JYOTI LODGE: c/o Bro. Taral Munshi, Goregaon, Mumbai 400065

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	6.30 to 8.00 pm	TRIVENI Meet Virtual on Zoom on Theosophy / Spirituality Hosted by Bro. Taral & Sis. Archana Munshi

VASANTA LODGE: c/o Bro. Vinayak Pandya, Santa Cruz (E), Mumbai

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Wednesday 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th	6.00 pm	GURUDEV GOSHTHI virtual on Zoom to study in Gujarati Theosophy & Spirituality Hosts: Bro. Bhavesh Pandya & Sis. Archana Munshi

VIMADALAL BILIA / GANESH LODGES: Family House, Dadar Parsi Colony, Mumbai 400014 - Fortnightly Meeting

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Thursdays	6.00pm	Theosophical & Religious Talks

JAMSHED MEHTA LODGE: C/o Bro. Noor Baig, 43 – Shangrila, colony entrance next to the Church, opp. Colaba Post Office, Colaba, Mumbai

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Third Saturdays	5.30 pm	Learning Theosophy from Life Experiences

SHANTI LODGE: C/o Late Bro. Rustom Dalal's Residence, Vijay Niwas, 2nd Floor, Flat No.7, Naushir Bharucha Road, (Sleater Road) Mumbai 400007

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Last Thursday	5.30 pm	Study of P. Pavri's book 'The Living Wisdom' by Sis. Aban Patel

Price Rs.1/-

Annual Subscription: Rs.10/-

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