



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

Volume 93



No.3



December-2023



*Festive Greetings
From
Delegates of TOS, Mumbai Region Colloquium
At Leslie Sawhney Endowment Centre, Deolali
8th to 12th November 2023*



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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BLAVATSKY LODGE SAYS THANK YOU

It is thanks to spontaneous donations of Members & Friends in loving memory of their Dear Ones, who had dedicated their lives to Theosophy that Blavatsky Lodge was able to attend to emergency repairs of Green Room and First Floor Guest Room.

Blavatsky Lodge Building is of 90 years and more and so needs major Structural Repairs. To have planned repairs the funds have to be there.

President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta and the Managing Committee express their sincere thanks to the generous donors and request Members & Friends to keep in mind Blavatsky Lodge Appeal and whenever they wish the cheque can be drawn in name of:
BLAVATSKY LODGE T. S.

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.



**THE 92ND ANNUAL SESSION
OF
BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION
1st, 2nd & 3rd December 2023**

CHIEF GUEST
Shri Narsimh Thakariya
National Lecturer, Theosophical Society

THEME
Teaching of Life in Theosophy

OPENING SESSION
Friday 1st December 2023

Venue: Blavatsky Lodge, 7 – French Bridge, Mumbai 400007

5.15 PM Fellowship with Tea & Snacks

6.00 pm Lighting of the Lamp & Prayers of All Religions
Opening of Annual Session, Reading of Greetings,
Welcome & Introduction of Chief Guest by President
Bro. Vinayak Pandya

6.30 pm Presentation of Diplomas

6.45 pm **Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest**

Shri Narsimh Thakariya on
‘Awakening the Inner Self’
Questions & Answers

7.45 pm Vote of Thanks followed by Fellowship Dinner
(RSVP will be appreciated on M:9833131216)

SECOND DAY SESSION
Saturday 2nd December 2023

Venue: Blavatsky Lodge, 7 – French Bridge, Mumbai 400007

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-
- 5.15 PM Fellowship with Tea & Snacks
 6.00pm Universal Prayer, Welcome & Introduction of Chief Guest
 by President Bro. Vinayak Pandya
 6.15pm Dani & Mullan Competition Prize Winners' Speeches
 6.45 pm **Address by the Chief Guest on**
'Law of Giving'
Questions and Answers
 7.45 pm Prize Distribution for Dani & Mullan Competitions
 8.00 pm Vote of Thanks Followed by Fellowship Dinner
 (RSVP will be appreciated on M:9833131216)

FULL DAY CLOSING SESSION AT JUHU
Sunday 3rd December 2023

Venue: Juhu Theosophical Colony, Juhu, Mumbai 400049

- 09.00 am Tea & Snacks
 10.15am Bharat Samaj Pooja by Bro. Narsimh Thakariya and Bro.
 Navin Kumar
 11.00 am Welcome & Introduction of Chief Guest by
 BTF President & welcome by Juhu Theosophical Colony
 11.15 am Talk by TOS Mumbai Region President
 Sis. Thrity Dalal on **'Theosophical Order of Service**
– Joy of Service with Compassion'
 11.30am **Public Talk by Chief Guest**
Shri Narsimh Thakariya on
'Law of Karma & its significance'
Questions & Answers
 12.30 pm **The 92nd Annual General Meeting**
 (Annual Report & Audited Accounts will be given at AGM)
 1.15 pm **Lunch**
 2.30pm **Interactive Session conducted by Shri Sudesh Kumar**
of Centenary Lodge on 'Veganism & Theosophy'
 (Printed Sheets of FAQ will be distributed)
 3.15 pm Tea

3.45 pm **FUNDA – Prize Winning Hindi Skits with Street Plays of Junior & Senior Groups of Inter-School Competitions**

Prize Distribution for FUNDA Competitions

4.30 pm Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks

5.00 pm Closing of the Annual Session

Blavatsky Lodge Book Depot Counter will be open at Juhu Session. Brethren interested in specific books please inform in advance to Blavatsky Lodge Book Depot Manager Sis. Navaz Dhalla (M): 9820684021

Registration for Annual Session is requested to make arrangements for Bus, Venue & Meals. There are no Registration Fees. Voluntary contributions will be most welcome.

Register your names latest by 25th November 2023

At Blavatsky Lodge with Kashmira Khambatta 9821459504 or Assistant Sis. Asha Tel: 23685026

OR

in North Mumbai with Vinayak Pandya 7021778977 or Taral Munshi 8450911118 or Bro. Nilesh Mehta (M): 9821354707

Bus Service for Juhu on 3rd Dec-pick-up timings & stops:

- 7-00 a.m. Colaba – Cusrow Baug
- 7-10 a.m. Dhobi Talao – Metro Cinema
- 7-15 a.m. Thakurward – opp. Banaji Atashbehram
- 7-20 a.m. Opera House – Blavatsky Lodge
- 7-30 a.m. Tardeo – Ganga-Jamuna Theatre
- 7-40 a.m. Byculla – Ismalia Co-op. Hsg. Society
- 7-45 a.m. Byculla – Palace Cinema
- 7-55 a.m. Dadar – Damodardas Mithaiwala
- 8-05 a.m. Mahim – Paramount Restaurant
- 8-10 a.m. Bandra – Lucky Restaurant
- 8-30 a.m. To reach Juhu Theosophical Colony

**BTF AT INDIAN SECTION GOAL MEET
AT VARANSI 29TH – 31ST OCTOBER 2023**



**On table near Dr. Annie Besant's statue from Right end BTF
President Bro. Vinayak Pandya and Treasurer Bro. Taral Munshi**

Indian Section was impressed with BTF performance related to 2022-2023 Goals for Tuesday TRIVENI Meet, preparations for starting Theo-Jyoti News Channel, Revival of Dormant Lodges, encouraging new Members to speak at Red Letter Days & Annual Session, FUNDA Street Play Competition and Dani & Mullan Elocution Competitions. Holding one Bhowali Study Camp with Gujarat TF was appreciated. We could not hold Study Camp with Marathi TF at Bhowali. What we lost out was for failing in achieving NET 30% increase in Membership. We had more than 30 New Members, but elderly members expired, and many did not send their e-mails for Membership Renewal Request to Indian Section. The **Tally of points approved by President Shri Pradeep Gohil is 77%. Heartiest Congratulations to President Bro. Vinayak Pandya, Treasurer Bro. Taral Munshi and all who have worked hard for BTF Goals.**

Our Propagation of Theosophy with appropriate Theosophical Books to Students, Judges, Invitees & Volunteers of three Competitions were acknowledged.

BTF Goals for 2023-2024 to be achieved by 30-09-2024:

Sr. No.	Goals	Weightage (%)
1	To increase NET Membership by 50 as compared to 30th September 2023	30
2	To maintain E-Lodge Network TRIVENI Tuesday through efforts of Bro. Taral Munshi	10
3	To revive One Dormant Lodge	10
4	To encourage 10 Members to speak on Red Letter Days, Annual Sessions, and other Theosophical events and to groom three second line workers	10
5	To conduct three 'Reach Out Programmes with students of schools & colleges on Theosophical Themes	20
6	To start a Theosophical News Channel	10
7	To participate for study camp Bhowali along with Gujarat Federation.	10
	TOTAL	100

Dear BTF Brethren, to increase NET membership by 50 members – Goal No.1 is the toughest challenge for us. We all will have to inspire interested persons to become members, to be a mentor for Retention of Membership and to remind & help members to send their e-mail Renewal Requests in time to Indian Section.

OBITUARY

Bro. Khushroo Dubash, member of Ananda Lodge, Juhu passed away to Light Eternal on 26-01-2023. His membership of 12 years was a silent support to Ananda Lodge. May his soul rest in peace.

(Sorry, we learnt very late in September 2023)

***BRO. TARAL MUNSHI INVITEE SPEAKER AT
TWO MANAGEMENT INSTITUTES OF VARANASI***



**Bro. Taral Munshi (From Left First of three Gentlemen) with students of
School of Management Sciences, Varanasi**

Bro. Taral Munshi was an invited speaker for ‘Marketing with Digital Expertise’. With professional knowhow Bro. Taral Munshi inspired Management Students to imbibe Spirituality to be a Successful Beneficent Professionals. At School of Management Sciences, he spoke about *Teachings & Stories of Swami Vivekananda and Lord Buddha*. At Management School of Banaras Hindu University, he introduced students to the teachings of books ‘*At the Feet of the Master*’ and ‘*The Path of Discipleship*’ by Dr. Annie Besant. Both institutes presented him mementos.



BRO. ARNI NARENDRAN
AT INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL FORUMS

On Deepawali 12th November 2023, **Bro. Arni Narendran of Mumbai was a Keynote Speaker** with Ms. Kathy Newburn of New York **at the Asian Esoteric Meditation Circle** for the *Theme ‘Spiritual Warrior’*. The Zoom Meet was conducted by Christopher See of Philippines. Ms Reiko Nakanishi translated talks in Japanese and Ms. Joshi Lee translated in Korean. Spiritual Warrior is a new Group of World serves as a Bridge toward Peace and Healing.

Bro. Arni sent Video Greetings for Moscow / Russia Adyar Theosophical Society National Conference on 17th & 18th November 2023 to be held in Moscow with *Theme ‘Practical Theosophy – The Science of Life and Art of Living’*.

Washington TS Lodge facilitated Bro. Arni’s talk with Sis. Kashmira Khambatta’s Ppt on *‘BLAVATSKY – Bombay Saga’*.

Reunion Islands (Caribbean) Lodge Theosophists attached to Paris TS took video interview of Bro. Arni Narendran explaining the History of Blavatsky Lodge.

To **Singapore Lodge Theosophical Society Lotus Circle** Bro. Arni Narendran gave a talk on *‘Meditation’*.

A REQUEST

In today’s digital world, Brethren and Friends of TS wishing to receive BTF E-Bulletin, please give your E-mail ID to Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, who the sends E-Bulletin to over 100 E-Readers every month. Her contacts are:

E-mail: [**kashmira.khambatta@gmail.com**](mailto:kashmira.khambatta@gmail.com)

Whatsapp (M): **+91-9821459504**

Your early response will be appreciated, It will save Bulletin printing and dispatch cost.

BTF Bulletin Committee

**JAMUBHAI & SURYABEN DANIINTER-SCHOOL
ELOCUTION COMPETITION 2023**
*Jointly by Bombay TF and Junior Red Cross Maharashtra
Saturday 7th October 2023 at Blavatsky Lodge*



Student Speakers with Teachers / Parents gathered in Besant Hall

The response to Dani Inter-School Elocution Competition of 2023 was overwhelming. For Junior Group of 5th to 7th Std. there were 29 schools with 54 student speakers. For Senior Group of 8th to 10th Std. there were 20 Schools with 40 Student Speakers. It was a taxing & challenging task for both the Panels of Judges.



**Students with Participation Certificates and the First Speaker
of Junior Group**

The subjects for Junior Group were: (5 minutes speech)

(1) The Funniest Incident in Your Life

-
-
- (2) An idle mind is a devil's workshop
 - (3) Save Mother Earth
 - (4) Why First Aid is important for schools?

Sis. Kashmira Khambatta introduced the Judges:

Dr. Rajam Pillai – Educationist, Managing Committee Member of Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Mani Bhawan and Blavatsky Lodge & Bombay Theosophical Federation and founder of SYNERGY Foundation to have a Journal to inspire youth.

Shri Ajit Bhide – Manager from Public Sector Bank and committed to spread Spirituality with talks, Videos, and publications.

Mrs. Kitayun Rustom – Environmental Activist and Deputy Director of Centre for Environmental Research and Education. A Teacher at heart concerned for future generations through CERE works with government collaborations, Corporate partnerships, and public awareness campaigns.

It was heartening to note that many students were concerned about havoc of idle mind and to save Mother Earth.

The students were given Participation Certificates, snack-boxes and **Theosophical Books in English / Hindi** like '*At the Feet of the Master*', '*Application of Yoga in Daily Life*' and *Short Biography of Annie Besant*'.



Dani Junior Group Winners with Judges and BTF & JRC Officers
The subjects for Senior Group were: (5 minutes speech)

- (1) Impact of Social media on Mental Health
- (2) Deforestation & Climate Change

(3) Man is a part of Nature and not apart from it

(4) Smart Phone has made us smart / lazy

President Bro. Vinayak Pandya introduced the Judges:

Prof. Harshad Janjarkiya – Assistant Professor in Department of Accountancy of Bhavan's Hazarimal Somani College, author of books for B.Com. & M.Com. levels and a Guest Lecturer for many colleges of Mumbai.

Ms. RachelleAranha – HR Professional with experience in Behavioral Learning. As Active Volunteer of Indian Red Cross Society she has conducted sessions like Leadership for youth and has organized many Youth Drive.

CS Rajkumar Tiwari – A Company Secretary with wide range of qualifications in fields of Finance, Economics, Corporate, Labor& other Laws and Capital Market & Investments. He is a lecturer for professional institutions in many cities of India and Ex-Professor of Bhava's College, Andheri.

Digital Age students apart from Social Media & Smart Phone were concerned about Mother Nature.



Senior Speakers with Certificates

MC Sis. Aban Patel & Team

The students were given Participation Certificates, snack-boxes and **Theosophical Books in English** – '*Sri Ramachandra – The Ideal King by AB*' and '*O Hidden Life ... by Joy Mills*'.

The Judges of Both Panels were **presented books** '*Theosophical Blooms* 'and '*The Path of Discipleship by AB*'. JRC Chairman Rtn Godrej Dotivala, State Coordinator Mr. Bhavesh Sao & Secretary Ms. Joyce Pinto and JRC & BTF Volunteers were given appropriate Theosophical Books.

Sis. Aban Patel was Master of Ceremony for both Groups. While Judges prepared Results, **Bro. Taral Munshi** interacting with participants had made them interested in Theosophy. He had also organized **video shooting of both competitions** to give platform to youth on YouTube & other Channels. The **Vote of Thanks** for Junior Group was by Sis. Archana Munshi and for Senior Group by Sis. Mahazaver Dalal. The role of Mr. Bhavesh Sao, Ms. Joyce Pinto and Volunteers of Junior Red Cross Maharashtra was greatly appreciated. President and the Managing Committee of Blavatsky Lodge was also thanked.

The First Prize Winners will speak at BTF 92nd Annual Session on 2nd December 2023 evening at Blavatsky Lodge. Prizes & Merit Certificates will also be given to winners.



Dani Senior Group Winners with Judges and BTF & JRC Officers

**IMPRESSIONS OF TOS, MUMBAI REGION
COLLOQUIUM - 8TH TO 12TH NOVEMBER 2023**



Under the auspices of **Theosophical Order of Service, Mumbai Region** 41 delegates attended their Colloquium from 08.11.2023 to 12.11.2023 at Leslie Sawhney Endowment Centre, 83, Rest Camp Road, Deolali, a beautiful place with greeneries all around and a well-groomed garden.

The Theme of the Colloquium was “*The Best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others*”. TOS is a branch of Theosophical Society, which gives yeomen service for upliftment of the underprivileged strata of society over 100 years and TOS Mumbai Region for last fifty-four years. Their commendable work is for education of poor and deserving children. **The forty-one delegates comprised of kids of five years to older members of 80+.** It was an amalgamation of young and old, learning and teaching, playing, and singing and dancing for all five days.

The Healing Ceremony conducted by Ms. Niyosha Gandhi was well appreciated by one and all, as everyone took part in Invocation to Lord Buddha, to the World Teacher, to the Divine Mother, to the Healing Devas/Angels etc. A silent prayer of Healing was sent to many ailing members of family and friends of the delegates present there.

Before the inauguration of the Colloquium, Ms. Suhasini Ghodke, the Secretary of The All-India Disabled Rehabilitation Education Institute, Nashik, sang a devotional song. Then **the Chief Guest, Maj. Gen. Cyrus Pithawalla (Retd)** spoke brilliantly on the Colloquium Theme giving his own personal experiences when he was active in the army as a '*Fauji*' himself fighting in various sectors in indifferent weather conditions and how they faced emergency situations and helped fellow '*Fauji*'s'. **His talk made all the delegates realize how duty and service comes first even before one's own self.** Later, in the Symposium many delegates spoke on this subject explaining what service means to them and how it is rendered to the society in whichever way they can.

The subject for the **Panel Discussion for the Youth** was "*Choose being Kind over being Right and you will be Right every time*". This subject aroused a lot of interest in the youth

Visit to Shirdi, gave some religious flavor to the Colloquium.

Next day we **visited Vikas Mandir- School for the Special (disabled) children and youth**, in the morning. After the lighting of the traditional divas, garlanding the photo frame of Late Purvez Gandhi and welcome speech, one of the Special students sang a song. Packets of biscuits, chocolates, wafers and mithai were distributed to the inmates. Items like candles, divas, and food items made by the students and their parents were bought by the Delegates.

At the Delegates Art Evening, the Special(disabled)inmates showcased their talents through dance and songs and even magic show. It was an eye-opener for all of us that if properly guided with love and care these children/youth can do wonders by overcoming their handicaps. In the end some of our talented delegates entertained them by performing Indian Classical Dance and also the traditional Garba. At night we treated them to a dinner at Leslie Sawhney Centre. Next day all returned to Mumbai carrying with them sweet memories of this well planned and well-organized Colloquium.

BTF & LODGE PROGRAMMES DECEMBER 2023

BLAVATSKY LODGE: 7 – French Bridge, Mumbai 400007

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

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Tuesday 5th	6.00 pm	Talk by Member
Tuesday 12rd, 19th & 26th	6.00 pm	Study of ‘Theosophy Explained with Questions & Answers by P. Pavri’ conducted by Bro. Arni Narendran
Friday 8th	6.00 pm	Mystic Star Ritual
Friday 15th, & 22nd & 29th	6.00 pm Hybrid	First Friday ‘Mystic Star Ritual’ Other Fridays Talks by Members
Sunday 24th	10.45am	Maitreya Round Table & Healing Group

CENTENARY LODGE c/o Anilkumar Deshpande (M):9969764637

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
1st & 3rd Sundays	10.30 am to 12 pm	Study with discussion of subjects

JYOTI LODGE: c/o Bro. Taral Munshi, (M): 9820187317

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th	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, (M):7021778977

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th	6.00 pm	GURUDEV GOSHTHI virtual on Zoom to study Gujarati book ‘ <i>Shri Guru Charane</i> ’ Host: Bro. Bhavesh Pandya

VIMADALAL BILIA / GANESH LODGES: (M):9819523476

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Thursdays	6.00pm	Theosophical & Religious Talks

JAMSHED MEHTA LODGE: C/o Bro. Noor Baig (M):9321026804

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

SHANTI LODGE: C/o Late Bro. Rustom Dalal, (M):9833131216

DAY	TIME	DETAILS
Fourth Thursdays	5.30 pm	Study of P. Pavri’s book ‘The Living Wisdom’ by Sis. Aban Patel

Price Rs.1/-

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