

THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST

JUNE 2024

VOI. 122

NO. 6

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Editor

PRADEEP H. GOHIL

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A STEP FORWARD

Loyalty and love to a person, mission or promise means a person is consistently trustworthy. A person has to be willing to sacrifice and uphold the commitment of staying the course of life even if the challenges they will face are great, and their energy is fleeting and weakening. When someone has loyalty and love for something, the object of devotion becomes a part of one's self.

However, devotion is not sentimentalism, though most people who are devotional are inclined to be sentimental. Devotion is quite a different thing. It is an act which has the value of purification. If you are devotional in the true sense, you can never be sentimental. You can never waste your time in sitting before a picture in a vague kind of happiness that comes from blessings. This is not devotion. This is mere sentimentalism, probably the worst form of devotion. True devotion, which is always purifying, should make our heart and mind respond to the nobility of great actions and impel us to carry them out.

Devotion raises us to a plane where we are able to perceive clearly what is right and what is wrong without being swayed by our personal prejudices; what is essential and what is non-essential; where our mind, cleaned of all weaknesses, arrives at firm determination. Devotion is like a song which rises in a clear atmosphere where every thing is pure, where divinity reigns, where reason gives place to intuition. It should produce in us the creative energy which gives us all the power to make us great.

J. Krishnamurti once said that "loyalty and love which we call devotion is the power that purifies and gives us the faculty to realize the essentials of life". Most of us are drugged by what the Mahayana Buddhists have called the "Perfuming power of ignorance". It is an expressive phrase, for ignorance has in it something which is spread

through and perceived in every part of the society. We are like children playing with toys and mistaking them for realities, and it is only through calamities and misfortunes that we grow out of our infancy and have some realization of the one spirituality in all life. Carlyle has used a peculiar phrase, "To the blind all things are sudden". To the man who is ignorant, to him who will not see the truth, life has strange pitfalls at every turn; like a lost man he walks in the wilderness of sudden snares and blinding disasters; he wanders in the bogs of illusion, ignorant of the stepping stones of truth which would lead him to secure enlightenment. This is what Carlyle meant when he used that phrase, "To the blind all things are sudden". But, one must remember, to the enlightened all things lie revealed.

If we try to realize the immensity of life, practise the presence of God in our daily life, do not try to find happiness in little things where we will never find it, but seek wisdom, seek happiness in infinity, then we will realize that spirituality knows no compromise.

We must try to lead a different life, to seek a different happiness, to gain the truth which will really enlighten our soul. If we live with loyalty and love and realize the compassion which is necessary for true attainment, which is infinite wisdom, infinite beauty, and which desires to uproot sorrow from all human beings, then it will be a step forward for all of us in the right direction.

H.P. B. called Theosophy the Wisdom-Religion, the essence of which is to be found in every formulated system of thought that has won human esteem and helped humanity. The word Wisdom has not only a formal but also a qualitative significance. If it is the Wisdom we seek, we should show its influence in our lives, and even on the lives of others. Otherwise we but profess something which is not ours at all.

N.SRI RAM

'What is Theosophy?'

NARENDRA SHAH*

ADYAR DAY - 17TH FEBRUARY**

I first visited Adyar 40 years ago, in 1984. I still vividly remember how, during that first visit, Adyar touched me - physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. It touched me to the core of my being. I feel, it is not possible to visit Adyar and leave quite the same person. Since then, I have visited Adyar about 10 times, the last being just about 6 weeks back. So, when Mr. Pradip Mahapatra asked me if I would give a talk on Adyar Day, I had very little to think about and I accepted the invitation. For me, Adyar is the home of my Gurus and is like a 'sanctum sanctorum'. A place that gives me a feeling of deep inner connection to the Divine; A place that invigorates me and gives me a greater perspective to the mysteries of EXISTENCE. A place, where I keep on returning!

So friends, let us understand what is so special about Adyar.

Early History and Background. Madame H.P. Blavatsky and Colonel H.S. Olcott founded the Theosophical Society on 17th November, 1875 in New York. The founders were advised by their Teachers, to move the Headquarters from New York to India. Moved by the ideas of Life's Unity and Human Perfectibility; by their yearning for Divine Wisdom; by their sole aim to help mankind to higher thinking and nobler living; they sought a location on Earth, for "centering" a world-wide organization with the above mentioned purposes. In search for such a place, they travelled to India, arriving in Mumbai on 16th February, 1879 and next day, on 17th February, a party was held in Mumbai, to welcome the two Founders. From there, they visited a very large number of cities and towns, looking for a suitable place for the Headquarters of the Society.

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** On-line talk delivered on the occasion of Adyar Day on 17 February 2024. This was held under the auspices of the Indian Section, TS.

After a search of over 3 years, it was on 31st May, 1882 that the founders were driven to a site at Adyar, at the confluence of the Adyar River and the sea, at the Bay of Bengal, near Chennai, in South India. Seeing the gardens and palatial building, H.P. Blavatsky meditated in one of the two existing buildings and straightaway exclaimed – "**this is the place**", and as mentioned in Col. H.S. Olcott's *Old Dairy Leaves* "**Our future home was found**". The property, known in those days as "Huddleston's Gardens", measured 28 acres of wooded land. With its avenue of mango and banyan trees and gardens surrounding a large bungalow and two smaller ones, the setting was that of an enchanting country residence. A nominal and affordable price of Rs. 8,500 (approximately 600 pounds at that time) was met through loans from members of the Society. The founders moved in on 19th December, 1882 and by 1st January, 1884 had repaid the loans.

The large bungalow became the Headquarters building. The building, according to the title deed, is now over 222 years old and still going strong! The upstairs room was occupied by Madame Blavatsky first and for several decades now, HAS been part of the President's Office.

In 1885, Colonel Olcott had the ground floor hall extended, by widening and incorporating the long verandah attached to it. This gives the hall its T shape. Architecturally, it was an ingenious project and provided an excellent meeting hall for the early Annual Conventions, beginning with the one in 1885. A new wing was added to the eastern end and decorated on the outside with the famous eight massive bas-relief elephant heads for which the Headquarters Hall is widely known. At the 1886 Convention, the Library was formally opened in this wing and was housed there for more than 80 years. Over the years, the building had been greatly altered and modified, and eventually the Headquarters building has assumed its present impressive size and shape.

With power, foresight and enthusiasm, the aspirations of the Founders was to make Adyar the “Flaming Centre” of Theosophy in the world. Many years later, Colonel Olcott said, “We have never regretted our choice, for Adyar is a sort of a paradise”.

From the beginning, Adyar was not merely the organizational and administrative Headquarters of the International Society, but an **Ashram**, that is, a focus for holy influences where aspirants and students could live, think and meditate, in an uplifting spiritual atmosphere. All the great leaders of the Society who followed the founders, added to the beauty and sanctity of the place in different ways.

It is believed by many that **The Lord of the World (Sanat Kumar)** who resides at Shamballa and where the Rod of spiritual Power is kept, relays spiritual forces to various spiritual centres of the world and Adyar is one of the focal point or transformer of these spiritual forces. To ground these forces and conserve them for easy distribution, Madame Blavatsky was specifically requested by her Master to live in Adyar for some time, so that the place could be properly magnetized. This magnetism is felt by anyone who visits Adyar.

The founders’ personal example; self-sacrifice; meditation and all they did; created a channel for higher influences to be radiated into the physical world, through Adyar. They also brought an appreciation into the membership of the Society, of the fact that Adyar is the Masters’ home and not merely an external hub of activity.

Dr. Annie Besant succeeded Col. Olcott in 1907 as President of the Society and proved herself to be a ‘giant in practical vision and organizational capacity’. With great foresight and with the aid of the then Treasurer, Mr. Schmidt, she bought six very valuable pieces of property - Blavatsky Gardens; Olcott Gardens; Besant Gardens; Besant Grove; Alsace Grove and Damodar Gardens. In just 4 years, by 1911, the estate had expanded to 263 acres, with a river frontage of over a mile, along the Adyar River and a sea frontage of about one

third of a mile. The present area of the estate is about 250 acres.

Two large constructions were erected on Blavatsky Gardens. First one was the Bhojanshala – an Indian Guest House. The second one was the New Quadrangle – offering Indian style accommodation. In 1910, Leadbeater Chambers was constructed, being the first reinforced concrete building in India, and provided western-style accommodation. Each of its 26 suites contained a lounge, bedroom and bathroom. In due course, several other houses were built on the estate through private generosity.

SHRINES & TEMPLES. Later, the shrines and temples that represent most of the major living religions of the world, were added. Adyar, at present has a Buddhist Shrine; a Christian Church; a Hindu temple; an Islamic Mosque; a Zoroastrian temple; a Sikh temple and a co-Masonic temple. This shows the ‘freedom of thought and worship’ that is practiced by the Society, and gives the idea of Real Unity in Diversity.

In the last ten years, our current President, Bro. Tim Boyd has successfully completed several major renovation projects on the Estate. The Blavatsky Bungalow has now been beautifully restored and renovated. The School of Wisdom continues its fine work from there. The Leadbeater Chambers has also been completely redesigned and renovated. Though the outer Façade still remains the same, it now provides 63 rooms which can sleep 2 people each and has attached bathroom and a built-in wardrobe. All other accommodation facilities at Adyar are also being renovated and significantly upgraded.

The **Surendra Narayan Archives** is now housed at the Adyar Library Building.

The **Damodar Gardens** which was used by The Besant Memorial School for 40 years and then by the Krishnamurti School for another 40 years has now been leased out to Shiv Nadar Trust. They have built a very eco-friendly (Green) building to carry out its educational programme. The Adyar Theosophical Academy was

started in 2019, and is located in Besant Gardens.

Recently, our President, has also started activities for the revival of “Art & Music” - something like a renaissance - and this has been most impressive and welcome. He has also initiated a very important art conservation and restoration project.

THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE. Just a short distance from the sea, alongside the river path, is the Garden of Remembrance. This spot was originally consecrated on 17th May, 1917, the Full Moon day of Vaisakh, by Annie Besant. When she passed away on 20 Sept. 1933, her body was cremated here and her ashes were mingled with the soil. Subsequently, it became a hallowed spot where the ashes of prominent leaders of the Society were buried, with plaques to honour their memory.

The School of Wisdom. ‘The School of Wisdom’ was started in 1949 by C. Jinarajadasa, as a successor to an earlier effort named “**Brahma Vidya Ashram**”. The work of this school has continued under the guidance of all the successive Presidents. The School is located in Blavatsky Bungalow.

The Adyar Library and Research Centre.

The **Adyar Library** was founded in 1886 by Colonel Olcott with a small but valuable Collection of the Founders’ books. He wished to preserve the treasures of Aryan literature and make them available to the people. His enthusiasm was so great that he inspired Indian scholars to take the directorship and the new director presented his own rare collection of manuscripts. Large number of manuscripts and rare books were secured by gift and by purchase, and so the Library was launched. Originally situated in the Headquarters building, it was shifted in 1968 to a more spacious one, and better suited to its growing needs. It has always been one of the important aspects of the work at Adyar. The library later became a Research Centre, as well. Today, it is one of the most important oriental libraries and a celebrated centre, in the world, dedicated to research and publication in the field of eastern

civilization, philosophy and religion. It contains over 250,000 printed volumes and nearly 20,000 palm leaf manuscripts from India; Sri Lanka; China and other places. The printed books include RARE Indological publications in several languages and a fine collection of works on different religions, philosophies and cultures. The library has had a series of distinguished scholars as its Director and is recognized as a Research Centre for a Ph. D in Sanskrit and Indology, by the University of Madras.

The Museum and Archives. The Society’s Museum and Archives were originally located on the ground floor of the Headquarters building. Recently this facility has been moved to the Adyar Library Building. Original theosophical manuscripts, correspondence and other records are kept in air-conditioned area for better conservation. Here are found the first manuscript of “*The Secret Doctrine*” hand-copied by Countess Wachtmeister; the originals of “*Old Diary Leaves*”; HPB’s famous scrapbooks, from 1874 to 1888; and many other fascinating documents.

Many personal items are also preserved, such as young Madame Blavatsky’s lock of hair, her handkerchief, address book, and objects produced phenomenally, like the famous cup and saucer. There is also the ‘turban’ left behind by one of the Masters when he visited Col. Olcott. It also houses items of art and antiquity, and mementos of the early history of the Society. This includes a gilt bronze statuette of the Bodhisattva given to Col. Olcott by the Ambassador of Dalai Lama and a number of statuettes of Buddha in stone and metal, originating from different periods of history. Besides the original paintings of the “Thought Forms” as seen by C.W Leadbeater; Adyar archives has a full-scale portrait of J. Krishnamurti, painted in 1913 by Alfred Hitchens and a ‘symbolic work of art’ named “The Messenger” - a masterpiece, by Nicholas Roerich which was presented by him in 1925 – exactly 99 years ago! For Theosophist it is as important as Mona Lisa is to others!!

The Theosophical Publishing House. The Theosophical

Publishing House was started in 1879 in Mumbai with the 1st issue of *The Theosophist* on October 1, 1879. Subsequently, in 1913, the TPH building was built at Adyar and later on, to provide for the expanding work of the TPH, a new building was built, adjacent to the Vasanta Press, in Besant Gardens, in 1989.

Educational and Welfare Facilities. At Adyar, several Educational and Welfare activities have been running for a long time. Some of them are:

1. The Olcott Memorial High School – providing free education for over a 1000 boys & girls, including free textbooks, exercise books and uniforms to many of them. Free nutritious breakfast and midday meals are also provided to all the children;

2. The HPB Hostel – founded in 1971, offers free board and lodging to students of Olcott School and some others.

3. The Social Welfare Centre – cares for over 200 infants of poor working mothers from the neighbourhood; free of charge. It also runs a pre-primary school for children aged 3-5 years. Besides providing nourishing breakfast, the children are given a midday meal. Poor women of the area receive training in sewing and handicrafts.

4. A Craft Centre, started in 1988, gives instructions in skills like carpentry, plumbing, screen printing, gardening, tailoring etc.

5. The Adyar Theosophical Academy, started in 2019, is a brain child of Bro. Vic Hao Chin of Philippines. It has students from Nursery to grade 6. The uniqueness of this academy is that there is no punishment, no competition and no fear! It is located in Besant Gardens.

Animal Welfare Centre. In 1968, the Society constructed a building in Besant Gardens for running an animal dispensary, with facilities for hospitalization when necessary. More recently it has been renamed as **The Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD)**. They have acquired a lot of modern equipments and the number of animals treated and surgeries done has surged significantly. In the last

couple of years the work at the Dispensary has increased several folds and frankly the amazing amount of work that ‘**Shravan and his team**’ are doing, is worth saluting.

The Monument to the Unknown Theosophist.

There is a beautifully designed monument and it reads: “To those unknown members of The Theosophical Society, throughout the world, whose silent Loyalty and Sacrifice ensures to it, the Masters’ constant Blessings”. This Monument known as the Monument of the Unknown Theosophist is dedicated to all the humble servants of Theosophy, wherever they may be in their remotest fields. There is a very beautiful Lotus pond in front of this monument.

ADYAR’S ENVIRONMENT. Adyar’s environment is unique. At first, when it was purchased, the Estate lay in the countryside, outside the city. Gradually, over the last century, the city of Chennai has spread its tentacles and surrounded the Estate, so boundary walls had to be put up, to protect it from encroachment. Adyar thus remains a precious island of natural beauty, calm and peace - in a noisy, urban setting. At Adyar, there is a beauty which eyes cannot see, words cannot tell and photographs cannot picture. It is “un-describable”, but it takes possession of the soul.

It was not the physical aspect alone which moved the Founders to establish the headquarters of the Society at Adyar, but more the magnetism and atmosphere of the place, which was suitable to receive the influence of, the Great Powers who were behind the work of the Society. Those who are familiar with the early history of the Society, know that Adyar was visited by the Elder Brethren, from time to time and made sacred in many ways. Many strangers, who are not Theosophist, have felt the deep influence of the Centre. One such case was that of a British Admiral of a navy fleet, who never failed to pay a visit to the TS Headquarters when his naval duties brought him to Chennai, for he felt that this place was unlike any other he had known and it carried a deep sense of peace and purification.

The Adyar Estate is a botanist's and nature-lover's delight, for within it are gardens and wooded areas containing several indigenous and exotic species of plant which are a heaven for small animals and a wide variety of birds. The river estuary is a sanctuary for about 200 species of birds including 70 migratory ones, one of them being the pink flamingo. A variety of lizards, snakes, jackals, wild cats, mongooses, polecats and hares have their homes on the Estate.

Much of the park-like beauty of the compound derives from the acres of casuarina groves and 'flowering trees and shrubs' of great variety. Bougainvillaeas of many shades, and frangipanis blossom in great profusion. Other beautiful trees are the flamboyant, the copper pods that drop carpets of yellow flowers in early summer, the fragrant cannon-ball trees, the water palms from Malaysia, the baobabs from Africa, the acacia from Australia, the sacred Pipal or Bodhi trees and several banyan trees. There are coconut groves and mango orchards, cashew nut and other fruit plantations. There is a 99 years old avenue of wonderful mahogany trees, called '**Founders' Avenue**'. It has trees planted in soil, brought from countries represented at the Golden Jubilee Convention, in 1925.

THE BANYAN TREE. The most spectacular tree on the Estate, is the world renowned Great Banyan Tree. To truly give justice to the Banyan Tree, it would need a separate full talk. However, no talk on Adyar can be complete, without spending a few minutes talking about its Banyan Tree.

The Banyan is unique; there is no other vegetation like it on the face of the earth. It is a species of fig, with a thick woody stem that spreads out in an enormous canopy of leafy branches, which throws down hundreds of aerial roots, which in turn develop into trunks. It is one of the oldest in India - almost 475 years old - and has a canopy circumference of over 250 metres, a height of over 12 metres and an area of almost 4,700 square metres. This tree has attained such enormous dimensions that it is sufficient for sheltering a moderate sized army.

This great Banyan tree, led centuries of unfabled existence, till Annie Besant burst on the scene in 1908 and it was discovered, only sometime after Blavatsky Gardens was bought, as it was hidden in deep jungle. After the space around it was cleared, it was tended with care and soon it became the nucleus of T.S. activities. Talks and lectures, receptions and parties, dances and concerts, under its leafy canopy became the order of the day. The annual conventions of the TS came to be held under it. The entire ground, large enough to seat some three thousand and odd, was swept clean and decorative flowerpots formed a tiara around the tree.

It was here in 1909, that Dr. Besant held her "In the Twilight" talks, and in 1935 the Diamond Jubilee Convention was held, when loudspeakers were used for the first time in India. The Indian National Congress used to hold its meetings here and from here, Annie Besant launched, her Home Rule Movement. Education was a consuming passion with Arundale who invited Madame Maria Montessori to train Indian teachers on the campus and delivered many lectures under the tree.

Eminent people like J. Krishnamurti, Mahatma Gandhi, the Dalai Lama and others have lectured or have been received under this special tree. It is under this tree that Sir Baden-Powell presented the "**Silver Wolf**" award – the highest Scout honour, to Dr. Annie Besant, the founder of the Scout movement in India.

Now close your eyes for a couple of minutes and visualize the following incident as I quote from an extract of what happened 96 years ago in May 1928 – when in the evening, Rabindranath Tagore visited Adyar.

"A golden haired Besant, holding a reception for the poet under the tree, her head reverently lowered and welcoming arms outstretched, to greet the poet, the patriarchal figure of Tagore, with flowing beard, and matching humility, and a benedictory wave of the arms, the two white heads, statuesque visages,

bowed down with age, sharply silhouetted in the bright gaslight, came together, in mutual salutation, and a hush fell on the audience - oh! It was a sight for the gods!”

Against the sylvan backdrop, a stunningly beautiful Rukmini Arundale staged several dramas, with prop roots making do as royal columns, tree leaves as royal festoons, banyan figs as bright necklaces, *all of a piece with Kalidasa's imagery*, with consummate artistry.

The tree also had its stint of glamour from the celluloid world. Two classics were shot here – one starring T.R. Mahalingam, the flute phenomenon, and the other M.S. Subbulakshmi - the nonpareil singer of India. Concerts also used to be held under the tree. A notable one was by T. Veeruswami Pillai, the maestro on the ‘nadaswaram’, a wind instrument of full bodied vigour, which can do only with the acoustics of the un-walled open, ideally met by the precincts of our great Banyan tree.

The crowning event under the tree was, the gala **Golden Jubilee Convention of 1925**. From the extracted account of a European delegate:

“Such an audience it was, that gathered under the Banyan tree, as Adyar had never yet thought to behold, out to the very farthest limits of those long many-rooted branches, sat or stood, that historic crowd – gay European frocks, rich-dyed Indian saris, red Muhammadan fez, velvet Hindu caps worked in gold, and in cool relief, the white shirt and dhoti, worn by Hindu men and adopted also by many Europeans and Australians. For the first time in India, an electric transmitter was used, and up among the branches, looking rather like church bells, were the ‘loud speakers’ (Some of the posters in the streets of Chennai announced: ‘Come and see the Electric Loud Speaker’ - ‘*Dr. Annie Besant*’ added in small type below) – to date the discussion exists, whether the poster writer meant the Loud speaker or Dr. Annie Besant - for Besant’s talk was truly

Electrifying and the message louder than any message given so far from under the Banyan Tree.

I will read three other extracts from some interesting records, I have managed to dig out.

Extract 1 of 1984.

Much work has been done, to give a new life to the Banyan Tree. After a great deal of search, a ladder of sufficient height was purchased, in order to help in the work of pruning the tree of dead branches; and propagation of new roots by use of hormones, as per the advice of specialists. More than a 100 new roots have been brought down. All these, will enable the old Banyan Tree to get extra nutrition and strength, and thus rejuvenate itself.

Extract 2 of 1985.

The Banyan Tree is being carefully looked after all the time, as if it were a baby – a big baby indeed! Experts from the Botanical Survey of India, who came to Adyar from Calcutta, were so enthused to see the improvement in the Banyan Tree, that on sighting it from a distance, they ran towards it and congratulated the Superintendent of the Garden Department.

Extract 3 of 1989. RESTITUTION OF ADYAR BANYAN TREE.

“A highlight of 1989, at Adyar, was the restitution of the Great Banyan Tree. The central trunk was felled by a freak thunderstorm on the night of Saturday, 17th June, 1989. Apart from being a centre of tourist attraction, for decades, it has been an elegant host to a galaxy of eminent personages, men of God, leaders, statesmen, international celebrities, philosophers, scientists, men of letters, artists, thinkers, and so on. To what unending orations, sermons, dances, concerts, parties, rollicking laughter and merriment the tree had been a serene witness! It

was given only to a few privileged clairvoyants like Leadbeater and Geoffrey Hodson, to see in the tree, the Deva tirelessly shedding a beatific aura around. Its value as a national treasure was evident during the week of June 17 – 23, 1989, from the sentiments that welled up from every quarter of India, as well as overseas.

Its fall attracted unprecedented press/ radio/ TV coverage, as well as advice and offers of help from numerous persons and institutions. Several horticultural specialists expressed confidence that if re-erected, the leviathan will survive – as the Banyan is an immortal tree. After nearly a week of preparations, Friday, June 23 witnessed the memorable event of re-erection of the 8 ton trunk with the help of engineers and horticulturists, aided by a 20-ton Caterpillar crane and a 100 foot snorkel crane provided by the Chennai Port Trust. It was as if a whole army was out to complete an exercise with precision and absolute certainty.

On the technical advice of experts in the Botanical Survey of India, special care is being bestowed to ensure that this national treasure remains in a state of good health”.

We all know that it is over 35 years since that incidence, and our Banyan has continued to grow happily. History has so closely intertwined the tree with the Society. To think of the one is to think of the other. If botanists are to be taken at their word, ‘A Banyan is Immortal’. Let us then draw comfort from the thought that an immortal Banyan spells an immortal Theosophical Society.

ADYAR DAY – 17th February

A question automatically arises as to why *17th February is celebrated as Adyar Day*.

When the founder President, Col. H.S. Olcott died on 17th February, 1907, he was known and beloved by all who worked on the Estate. He had touched the hearts of every employee on the estate,

for the care and concern he had shown for their welfare. Each year a service, to commemorate the Life and Work of Colonel Olcott is held at 7.17am, on the anniversary of this date. It is attended by all the employees, each of whom would gladly and reverently, place a flower in front of his statue.

On the 15th Anniversary of his death, in 1922, it was suggested by Madame Irma de Manziarly that February 17th be known as Adyar Day - a day on which the Headquarters at Adyar, should be honoured and strengthened, throughout the world. Annually celebrated, since that time, it has become the day on which members pour out their gifts of heart, mind and purse upon Adyar, in loving Homage.

There are several reasons why the choice of 17th February is especially appropriate and important to be called as ADYAR DAY.

1. On 17th February, 1600, Giordano Bruno was burnt alive for his belief in Truth that the earth revolved round the Sun.

Bruno, later on took birth as Dr. Annie Besant. It has been said that “a person who knows how to die in one century, lives for centuries to come.

2. On 17th February, 1847, Bishop Charles Webster Leadbeater was born.

It was Bishop Leadbeater who, with his clairvoyance sight, saw the extraordinary capacity of J.Krishnamurti and then took up the task of educating him.

3. On 17th February, 1907, Theosophical Society’s first International President, Col. H.S. Olcott left his Physical Body.

[Mahatma Koot Homi has said the following about H.S.Olcott: “We can put our trust in him in ANY circumstances. We have received his faithful services - come well, come ill. My dear Brother! My voice is an echo of unbiased judgement. Where else can we get such unmatched devotion. He never asks

questions, but just obeys our orders. Because of his extreme enthusiasm he makes many mistakes but he is ready to correct them even at the cost of self-humiliation. He is ready to sacrifice his comforts and even his life, he would eat any food or even go without it, will sleep anywhere, he will work anywhere.”]

4. Thirty-eight years ago, on 17th February, 1986, the well-known philosopher, J. Krishnamurti left his physical body.

Adyar is a place which has been hallowed by the Great Ones, and Their presence is still felt there by one who is capable of that perception. Dr. Besant loved to call Adyar, “The Home of the Masters”, for so she regarded it. The early writings are full of references to **Their** visits on a number of occasions in their materialized forms. And if C.W. Leadbeater’s testimony can be accepted, it has since then been frequently visited by **Them**, though invisibly. According to Bro. Jinarajadasa, it is **Their** “brooding thought” which gives Adyar its special atmosphere, which even many people not connected with the society, feel quite often. The magnetism engendered by **Their** visits and thoughts must be present here, in addition to the magnetism of the various leaders who have lived here.

As we turn our thoughts to Adyar today, and silently or otherwise pay our homage and appreciation to those associated and remembered on this day, our greatest homage can be to emulate in our lives, something of what they represented.

NEWS AND NOTES

Bombay

HOLI KE RANG, SOORON KI BAHAAAR - COLOURS OF HOLI, SPRING OF SONGS were strung with ‘Theosophy by Art’ presented by TRIVENI of Rewa Lodge Baroda, Rohit Lodge Ahmedabad and Jyoti Lodge Mumbai. It was a Musical Journey with Music – Emotion – Devotion, with Multi Singers in Multi Languages from Varanasi to Adyar and Ahmedabad to Kolkata on Tuesday 26th March 2024. The flyer splashed with colours of Holi also announced ‘shortly coming Theo Jyoti News & OTT Channels’ with inspiring Logo having a Jyoti in Lotus to spread NEWS of *Humanity *Wisdom *Brotherhood *Values. The Spanish Song ‘*Somos Uno*’ (*We are One*) composed by the Trio of Adyar marvelously conveyed profoundness of Theosophy. Its English translation displayed on the screen with the song is separately printed in May 2024 Bulletin.

Blavatsky Lodge Member Sis. Aban Amroliwalla attended the symposium on ‘*Esoteric Teachings of the Tibetan Master D.K.*’ sponsored by Esoteric Group of The Toronto Theosophical Society on 16th & 17th March 2024. The symposium was based on the books of Alice A. Bailey.

Sis. Navaz Dhalla, a member of the Managing Committee of Blavatsky Lodge, as Vice-President of Zonta Club of Bombay III, is working for Zonta International Goal to ‘*Build a Better World for Women & Girls*’ with Educational Scholarships & Service Projects.

Karnataka

On-line lectures were conducted on every Sunday under the auspices of the Federation in the month of February. Sis. D J Premaleela gave a talk on ‘The Golden Stairs’ on 4 February. Sis. Shashikala spoke on ‘The Soul’ on 11 February. The subject of Sis. N Saraswathamma’s talk on 18 February was ‘Satsanga’. Bro. A I Basavarajareddy spoke on ‘The Mind & Consciousness’ on 25 February.

On-line meeting was conducted in Huliyaar Lodge under the

guidance of Bro. M R Gopal for six days in every week. Bros. A I Basavarajareddy, K N Lakshmeesha and Dhananjaya are taking part in the programme. The subject discussed in the month of February was 'JK Literature'.

Programmes at various Lodges: Bro. G Dakshina Murthy delivered a lecture at Bangalore City Lodge on 11 February and his subject was 'Bharatiya Tatva Darshana'. Sis. K. Parvatamma spoke on 'Adyar Day' on 17 February. Besides, Sis. Chaitra spoke on 'C W Leadbeater', Sis. D J Premaleela on 'Giordano Bruno' and Bro. M S Pradeep on 'J. Krishnamurti'.

Sis. Savitri spoke on 'Raja Yoga' at Vijayanagar Lodge, Bangalore on 10 February. Adyar Day was observed on 17 February and Sis. Indira Swamy spoke on this occasion on 'Giordano Bruno', Dr. S R Nagaraj gave talk on 'Col Olcott' and Bro. M S Sridhara spoke on 'Creative Silence'.

Sis. Sarala Sanjeeva Reddy gave a talk on '*Sadhana Chatushtaya*' at Malleswaram Lodge, Bangalore, on 5 February. The other programmes held at the same venue in February were: Bro. Bharat Kumar spoke on 'The Rise and Evolution of Religions'. Sis. M N Puttamma's subject of talk was 'Founders of the Theosophical Society'. Bro. G Dakshina Murthy explained 'Gayathri Manthra Yoga', Bro. B Shiva Prasanna spoke about 'Gayathri Manthra Japa' and Bro. Sudarshan Achar explained 'The Importance of Gayatri Mantra'.

Bro. Hampanna spoke on '*Vishaya Sangraha Jnana*' at Kotturu Lodge on 3 February, Bro. Kotresh gave a talk on 'Bhagavadgita' on 7 February, Bro. Arunkumar's subject was '*Dama*' on 10 February, and Bro. Shashidhara gave a talk on 'Self Realization' on 14 February.

Bro. A Venkatareddy directed a day-long TS Meet at Srinivasapur on 4 February. He spoke on 'The Importance of Adyar Day' and Sis. R Madhavi spoke on 'The message of Gita'.

Bro. Vedamurthy gave a talk at Davanagere on 'Jnana and Karma' on 4 February. Bro. Adi Keshava Prakash's subject of talk on 11 February was '*Antar Jnana*'. And, Sis. Usha Prakash spoke

on 'Adyar Day' on 17 February.

In the meeting held on the occasion of Adyar Day at Bellary Lodge -Bros. S Hanumantha Setty, Chandrashekar, S K R Vijayakumar spoke on Col Olcott, Giordano Bruno, C W Leadbeater and J. Krishnamurti respectively. Rs. 3000/- were collected on this occasion and sent to Adyar.

Adyar Day was observed in Mangalore on 17 February. The President Bro. Tuppekallu Narasimha Setty spoke on this occasion on 'Kaivalya Upanishad'.

Adyar Day was celebrated at Hukkeri on 17 February. Besides, the subject '*Sadhana Chatushtaya*' was discussed in the TS meet held there on 27 February.

A meeting was organized on 17 February at Huliya in which Bro. Gopalakrishna spoke on 'The Importance of Adyar Day'.

Adyar Day was observed at Tumkur on 18 February and Rs. 2600/- were collected and sent to Adyar.

Bro. Sonnappa Reddy directed a day-long TS Meet at Chintamani on 18 February. Bro. M A Venkataswamy spoke on this occasion on Giordano Bruno, Sis. Ambujakshi on Col Olcott, Sis Shubha on JK, and Sis. Padma's spoke on Yogi Leadbeater. Then, International Lecturer Bro. C A Shinde gave a talk there on 28 February on 'The Spreading of Theosophy', and Sis. Parvatamma spoke on 'Theosophy'.

Bro. Ananda Setty directed a day-long TS Meet at Hiriya on 20 February. Besides, on the occasion of Adyar Day, Bro. Hampanna spoke on 'The Mind', Bro. T Thippeswamy on 'Adyar Day', Bro. Adikeshava Prakash on 'Yogi Leadbeater', and Sis. Usha Prakash spoke on 'Theosophy in Real Life'.

Bro. M Reddeppachar directed a day-long TS Meet at Kadaburu on 25 February and spoke about Giordano Bruno. Bro. K N Nagireddy spoke on 'Shambala'.

Bro. M A Venkataswamy directed a day-long TS Meet at

Konakuntlu on 25 February and spoke on Giordano Bruno. Sis. Padmamma spoke on this occasion about C W Leadbeater, Sis. YA Sulochana spoke on J. Krishnamurti, and Sis. Ambujakshi spoke on Col Olcott.

Bro. C A Shinde visited Bangarapete Lodge on 29 February and spoke there on 'The Essence of Adyar'. Sis. K Parvatamma spoke on this occasion on 'Col Olcott', Bro. Venkataramanappa on 'C W Leadbeater', Bro. M Reddeppachar on 'Giordano Bruno' and Bro. M S Pradeep spoke about 'J Krishnamurti'.

Tamil

Visits: Bro. R. Krishnamoorthi, President of Tamil Federation visited Sivagangai Lodge on 13 January 2024. Bro. E.T. Sarveswaraiah, Treasurer of Tamil Federation, visited Vellore Lotus Lodge on 23 November 2023 and Bro. V.A. Nagappan President of Vellore Raja Lodge visited Vellore Lotus Lodge on 7 January 2024.

Conference: Tamil Theosophical Federation organized conference at Siva Ganga Lodge on 17 and 18 February. The theme of the conference was 'Adyar Day'. Federation President Bro. R. Krishnamoorthi presided over the conference on both the days. Sis. Sonal Murali, Director of Adyar Theosophical Academy, was the chief guest. She gave the inaugural lecture on the topic 'Adyar Day'.

Bharat Samaj Pooja was conducted by Bro. E.T. Sarveswaraiah on both the days.

Short talks were delivered by the following members: Bro. K. Subramanian, Secretary of Besant Lodge, Thanjavur explained 'What is Theosophy?'; Bro. P. Devarajan, Federation Secretary, spoke on '*Saram*' (Breath); Bro. M. Narasimhan, Secretary of Lotus Lodge, Vellore, gave a talk on *Vallalar Arutkodai*; The subject of Bro. V. Thangamani, Treasurer, Sivagangai Lodge, was 'Annie Besant'; Bro. T.N. Anbythuraj of Sivagangai Lodge spoke about 'Tamil Scholars of Sivagangai District'; Bro. A. Ramalingam, Secretary of Tiruchirapalli Lodge gave a short talk on 'Life and Theosophy'; the subject of Sis. Gnanambigai of Sri Krishna Lodge, Puducherry, was 'Spiritual Mind'; Bro. K. Baskar, Madurai Lodge spoke on 'J. Krishnamurti'; and

Bro. S. Kannappan, Sivagangai Lodge on 'Life History of Saint Sudhanandha Bharati'.

Bro. A. Anantharaman and Bro. Veluchary of Sivagangai Lodge rendered Devotional songs. Bro. E.T. Sarveswaraiah recited few slokas from Bhagavatha and explained their meaning in Tamil.

The highlight of the conference was Federation Secretary Bro. P. Devarajan imparted Yoga practice to the audience for one hour on 17 February.

Sivagangai Lodge arranged visits to nearby temples on 17 Feb. About 30 members participated in it.

Bro. Gagiratha Nachiappan, President, Sivagangai Lodge welcomed the gathering and Bro. S. Rajagopal, Secretary of the Lodge gave vote of thanks on 17 Feb.

Bro. E.T. Sarveswaraiah, Federation Treasurer and Bro. P. Devarajan, Federation Secretary presented the receipt and expenditure statement for the period from 1.10.2023 to 31.12.2023 and it was approved by the members.

Governing Council meeting was held on 18 February in which 8 resolutions were passed unanimously.

The conference came to a close with the vote of thanks given by Federation Secretary Bro. P. Devarajan.

Other Activities: Ten members from Tamil Federation participated in the 148th International Convention held at Adyar from 31 December 2023 to 4 January 2024.

Fifteen members from Tamil Federation participated in the 100th South Indian Conference held at Adyar from 29 to 31 March. Sis. M. Vijayalakshmi, Vice-President, Tamil Federation, performed Bharat Samaj Pooja on 29 March.

Secretary of Tamil Federation Bro. P. Devarajan conducted 'Margazhi Bajans' at his native Laligam village with about 50 children and about a dozen devotees from 17 Dec. 2023 to 14 Jan.2024. Those children were given simple yoga training also.

About 30 boys and girls studying at Puvitham Model School at Nagarkoodai village with 8 teachers visited Laligam village. Bro. P. Devarajan took them around the handloom and power loom sites and explained to them their functioning. He spoke to them in brief about the TS and its Objects.

TOS Activities: Bro. M. Subramanian and his wife Sis. S. Malarvizhi of Dharmapuri Lodge gave away cash award of Rs 1000/- each to the 7 girls students of Govt. Girls H.S. School Kambainallore. These students have secured Ist, IInd and IIIrd position in the public examination held for X and XII Standards in the year 2022-23.

Sis. Gnanambigai of Sri Krishna Lodge, Puducherry donated Rs 1,500/- for purchasing of prizes to the winners on Children's Day celebration at Kochithe High School, Puducherry.

Bro. N. Selvaraj of Vellore Raja Lodge donated Rs 10,000/- to the Tamilnadu Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund in Jan 2024.

Bro. V.A. Nagappan, President of Raja Lodge, Vellore, and Secretary of TOS, Tamil Region collected donation of Rs 14,000/- from 15 individuals for the Tamilnadu Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund, and remitted on 27 February 2024.

Bro. D. Arasu and his wife Sis. Kavitha of Dharmapuri Lodge provided morning Tiffin to 100 persons at Laligam village on 13 February viz., 1st day of Maasi Tamil month.

U.P. & Uttarakhand

Bro. B.K. Pandey's talk on the topics 'Bodies of Human Soul and its journey in three worlds' and 'Ram Chandra- the Ideal King' were held at Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, on 3 and 18 April. Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered a talk at the same venue on 'Paramitas' on 10 April, and the subject of Bro. Pramil Dwivedi's talk on 24 April was 'Pain'.

A study camp on the book "*The Philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita*" was conducted by Bro. U.S. Pandey at Dharma Lodge from 5 to 7 April.

Sis. Rakhi Singh explained the 'Power of Karma' in the meeting

of Nirvan Lodge, Agra, on 11 April and Bro. Rajveer Singh spoke there on '*Navadha Bhakti*' on 18 April. Besides, symposiums on the topics 'Relationship' and 'Hanuman Chalisa' were held at the same venue on 4 and 25 April respectively.

Bro. S.B.R. Mishra explained the 'Teachings of Buddha and Bhagavad Gita' at Chaturbhuj Lodge, Bansgaon on 6 April.

Talks on the topics 'Philosophy of Mind' and 'Yoga and Meditation' were delivered by Bro. S.B.R. Mishra and Bro. Arvind Rai at Sarvahitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur on 3 and 10 April respectively. Then, Bro. Ajai Rai spoke there on 'Ramnavami', and 'Conscience and Enlightenment' - which were held on 18 and 24 April.

Bro. S. B. R. Mishra explained the 'Law of Karma' at Sanatan Dharm Lodge on 6 April.

Bro. Bipin Rai spoke on the topic '*Vidya and Avidya*' at Satya Darshan Lodge, Jogiya (Distt. Kushinagar) on 28 April.

Talks on the topic topics 'Mystery of generation and regeneration of matter', 'Mental plane and Swarg' were delivered by Bro. S. K. Pandey, Bro. Shiv Baran Singh at Chohan Lodge, Kanpur on 7 and 28 April. Bro. S. S. Gautam spoke there on 'Head Learning and Soul Wisdom' in two session held on 14 and 21 April.

Sis. Sushma Srivastava's subject of talk delivered at Anand Lodge, Prayag Raj, on 25 April was 'First Initiation'.

National Treasurer Bro. V. Narayanan gave a talk on 'Universal Intelligence' which was held under the auspices of Kashi Tattva Sabha on 12 April. Bro. U.S. Pandey's talk on 'Theosophy for young students' was held at Annie Besant Primary School. His talk on 'Good Conduct' was held in the Besant Theosophical High School (BTS) on 20 April. Copies of the book '*At the Feet of the Master*' in Hindi were distributed to the audience there.

A study camp on the book "*An Outline of Theosophy*" was conducted by Bro. U.S. Pandey on 19 and 20 April. It was held under the auspices of Kashi Tattva Sabha at the Indian Section HQ.

Study of the book 'Avataras' continued in the Annie Besant Lodge, Varanasi, on 10 April. Besides, Bro. U. S. Pandey delivered a talk there on 19 April and the subject of his talk was 'Character Building'.

Sis. Lalita Khatri spoke on 7 April at Noida Lodge on 'Pain and Suffering' and Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered a talk there on 27 April on 'Divine Wisdom and Science'. The study of the book 'Nirvana' was completed on 21 April.

Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered a talk on 'Law of Karma' at Maitreya Lodge, Gr. Noida on 28 April.

Other Activities: On-line talk on the topic 'Spirit, Spirituality and Spiritual' by Bro. U.S. Pandey and on the subject 'Initiations on the Path' by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri were delivered on 6 and 20 April respectively. These talks were held under the auspices of Shankar Lodge Delhi Federation.

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri gave an on-line talk on the topic 'Nurturing the Divine Seed' which was organized on 22 April by Barabati Lodge, Utkal Federation.

Indian Section Programme: Sis. Sushma Srivastava's on-line talk on 'What Theosophists believe?' was held in the Indian Section programme on 7 April.

Study of Mahatma Letters No. 93 A & B parts 5 and 6 was conducted by Sis. Vibha Saxena on 12, 19 April. And then, study of Mahatma Letters 57 was conducted by Bro. S.S. Gautam on 21 April.

In other Forums: PMC Gujarat – On-line talk on the topic 'Seven Portals' was delivered on 3 April by Bro. S.K. Pandey.

Buddha Polytechnic Gorakhpur - talk on the topic 'Research and Development' was delivered on 4 April by Bro.S.B.R. Mishra.

Seva Spiritual Club Gorakhpur—a talk on 'What is Mind?' was given by Bro. S. B. R. Mishra.

PMC Hindi New Delhi TV Channel conducted the interview of Bro. U.S. Pandey on T.S. and the book *Theosophical Blooms*.

Indian Section Convention-I

The 132nd Indian Section Convention was held on 01.01.2024 at Adyar Theatre, Theosophical Society, Chennai, during the 148th International Convention of The Theosophical Society. President Bro. Tim Boyd opened the Convention by lighting the lamp and then he delivered the inaugural speech with the words 'Happy new year 2024 to all the members of the Indian Section'. He further said that one should look back at the attitude and state of mind on the new year day, and also to think about what we achieved and gained during the previous year and then make a plan for the future. We should need spiritual power for reflection as well as to analyse our work. Annie Besant says Study, Meditation, and Selfless Service are the three pillars of TS which are important to help the members to proceed in the work. Further, Bro. Tim said - make a commitment, plant a seed now and improve it. We may add gratitude to the three pillars as fourth pillar, by saying 'Thank you'.

The International President released the Special Number entitled 'STEPS ON AN ENDLESS JOURNEY'. This number contains the editorials and articles written by the former General Secretary Bro. S. Sundaram. These were published in the Indian Section's journal 'The Indian Theosophist' between 2002 and 2016.

The International President distributed awards on this occasion to the best TS workers of the Indian Section - Bro. V Narayanan for the year 2022-2023, Bro. U S Pandey for the year 2021-2022 and Bro. Pradip Mahapatra for the year 2020-2021 respectively.

Then, the Indian Section's President Bro. Pradeep H Gohil presented the Annual Report for the year 2022-2023 and it was followed by the Treasurer's Report presented by the Treasurer of the Indian Section Bro. V Narayanan.

Indian Section Convention-II

The Indian Section Convention -II was held on 03.01.2024. The Theme of the Convention -II was 'Illumination from Within'. International Vice-President Dr. Deepa Padhi was the Chairperson, who started by saying that 'HE is source of all light, HE is knowledge,

object of knowledge and goal of knowledge. Further she said “Guru or Master will only guide us, but it is our inner journey to find the Light within our heart.”

The first speaker Vinay Patri’s spoke on ‘Meaning of illumination from within’. He said there exists an intricate and profound relationship between human body and the COSMOS. The real inner journey begins when there is conscious efforts to overcome the illusions and veils of several curtains pertaining to the worldly pleasures. The members of the TS are fortunate to receive the Theosophical Teachings that provide Philosophical and Spiritual Tools. These tools help harmonize our divided selves so that our inherent radiance may shine through even more brightly, spreading its glow to all in need of guidance to their own inner Source of Light. This is the Path of Illumination from Within.

The Second Speaker Sri Harsha explained ‘How to get illumination from within’. He started with a story - how to overcome death, then he described that Illumination is the Path, in which one searches for Truth. There is no hereditary trade in which illumination can be given to one by his Guru or his father. One is to get illuminated by his personal efforts. At present the basic trade is education, marriage, having children, earn money and death. But there is another trade in which human being has to provide compassion, shelter, extend hand to those who need your help. He said Compassion is the first step to illumination and then ended the speech with the recitation of Gaytri Mantra.

The third speaker Bro. Adi Keshav Sastri spoke about ‘Advantage of having illumination from within’. He quoted from Raman Maharshi that “when knowledge and ignorance are known, the knowledge and ignorance disappear.” He referred Nasadiya Sutta mentioning the ‘State of Voidness’ which is a stage beyond everything where Truth or untruth does not exist. That is the stage where everything exists and nothing exists. When one reaches that stage, it is an advantage to him. The 2nd advantage is state of thoughtlessness, which means seeing something as that *is*, no addition either from memory or *masala* opinions of others. Thoughtlessness can be achieved by the processes of Resonance, by which one will reach a stage of perfection.

The fourth speaker was Bro. Harsh Vadhan Sheth spoke on ‘Consciousness as source of illumination’. Illumination is the light which one sees, understands, and feels of a particular object. Consciousness is the source of Illumination. He narrated the story of Kabir and Meera. As a student of Occult Science, one has to study Theosophical texts, then one would get illuminated from within, and the consciousness of the one becomes centres everywhere, circumference nowhere.

Foundation Day

The Indian Section organized the Foundation Day through ZOOM On-line. There were three speakers - [i] Sis. Vimal Balchandran spoke on ‘Future of Theosophical Society’, [II] Sis. Sushama Srivastav on ‘Theosophy and Theosophical Society’ and [iii] Bro. Harsh Vadhan Sheth explained ‘Purpose of Theosophical Society’. Sis Vimal Balchandran spoke on the past history of Theosophical Society, where the leaders were rendering selfless service to the humanity thereby the people who read those things naturally observed the former leaders, and became interested in Theosophy and Society. Sis. Sushma Srivastav spoke about Theosophy and T.S. She gave a detail description of TS leaders’ views on Theosophy, particularly of John Algeo, who said theosophy - one is Eternal, and another is Timely Theosophy. She further explained how TS is disseminating Theosophy and quoted former International Secretary Diana- “Vision without action is a dream and action without vision is drudgery”. Bro. Harsh V. Sheth presented the Purpose of Theosophical Society with the words of Master ‘modern science is our best ally’ and it is our duty to approach the sublime truth in a more scientific manner, so that the purpose of the Society can be fulfilled.

Adyar Day

Adyar Day on 17.02.2024 The Speaker was Bro. Narendra Bhai Saha, General Secretary of Africa, East and Central Africa, Central Section, TS, who delivered key note address through Zoom On-line of the Indian Section. He narrated how the Adyar Head Quarters was chosen by the founders and why Adyar is still important for the members of the TS.

South India Theosophical Conference

The 100th South India Theosophical Conference (SITC, earlier known as Easter Conference) was held from 29-31 March 2024 at the Blavatsky Bungalow in the Theosophical Society, Adyar, campus.

Being the 100th anniversary it was a significant milestone in the journey of this theosophical gathering and equally special and significant was the theme of the conference – *The Path to Perfection*. The recommended books were :-

1. *At the Feet of the Master* by Alcyone
2. *The Voice of the Silence* by H.P.Blavatsky
3. *Light on the Path* by Mabel Collins
4. *Masters and the Path* by C.W.Leadbeater
5. *Freedom from the Known* by J.Krishnamurti

It was a very well attended conference right from the beginning till the end and in each of the sessions in between. In all, 132 delegates registered for this conference. Very encouraging fact was that although the majority of delegates were from South India but there were representations from other federations as well. The delegates were from ten different federations (Karnataka, Kerala, Madras, Rayalaseema, Tamil, Telugu, UP&UK, Gujarat, Maharashtra & Utkal) of the Indian Section. The International President of the TS Mr Tim Boyd, Intl. Vice-President Dr Deepa Padhi and the Indian Section's President Mr Pradeep Gohil sent their greetings and good wishes for the success of the conference. International Secretary Ms. Marja Artamaa was the chief guest who delivered the inaugural address. Mr. P.K. Mahapatra and Mr. Shikhar Agnihotri were the conference officers who took care of the programme planning and implementation with the diligent support of the various departments at TS Adyar.

All the speakers based on their subject, shared with the delegates the path, the obstacles on the path, the qualifications to tread on the path, the do's and the don'ts on the path, the path of attachment and non-attachment, importance of altruism-humility-love on the path, need of a teacher or not, and very aptly bringing in the JK's approach of enquiring "Why walk the Path?" – And all these while keeping the perfection in the centre of discussion.

All the 23 speakers shared with the delegates the glimpses of the path to perfection with their inspiring, thought provoking and insightful deliberations covering the various aspects and dimensions that are or possibly can relate to becoming PERFECT or to the path to PERFECTION.

Apart from the talks, a group discussion was organized on 30th March afternoon in which three groups were formed who discussed and presented their views on the themes – 'The Three Halls', 'The Seven Portal's & 'The Three Great Truths'.

On the evening of the 29th March, the Ritual of the Mystic Star was organized at the HQ hall and on 30th March the Cultural event was organized in the evening by Dr Revathy with the loving support from Mrs. Ambika Buch and her team of artists, musicians & students. The theme of the cultural event was – Dances of India. It was a very well presented and very well attended event as art is also one of the paths to perfection. Bharat Samaj Pooja was conducted every day at the temple. The conference ended with the concluding remarks and the *Shanti Mantra* at 5p.m. on 31st March 2024.

One of the delegates Mr K.N.Lakshmeesha made this centennial conference immortal (as long as you tube exists) by doing the video recording of it on his own selfless impulse and uploading it on the you tube channel of the Indian Section of the Theosophical Society. So, those of you who missed the interesting and inspiring talks during the 100th SITC, can visit the you tube channel of the Indian Section of the Theosophical Society and view them. The name of the channel is THEOSOPHY INDIA.

Study Camp at Bhowali

A study camp was organized from 22 to 25 April 2024 by the Theosophical Order of Service at Bhowali, Indian Section Himalyan Centre. In all, 24 members attended the camp to review and update Future Five Year Plan of TOS in India. The interesting presentation of power point slides on Buddhism by Berend Jesse was highlight of the programme.

THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST
Statement about ownership and other particulars
FORM IV
(See Rule 8)

- 1) Place of Publication : The Indian Section
The Theosophical Society
Kamachha, Varanasi-221 010
- 2) Periodicity of its publication : Monthly
- 3) Printer's Name : Ravi Prakash Pandya
(Whether citizen of India) : Yes
(If foreigner, state the
Country of origin) : X
Address : Rainbow Printers
Siddhgiribagh, Varanasi
- 4) Publisher's Name : Pradeep H. Gohil
(Whether citizen of India) : Yes
(If foreigner,
State the country of origin) : X
Address : The Indian Section
The Theosophical Society
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010
- 5) Editor's Name : Pradeep H. Gohil
(Whether citizen of India) : Yes
(If foreigner, State the
country of origin) : X
Address : The Indian Section
The Theosophical Society
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010
- 6) Name and address of
Individuals who own the
Newspaper and partners or
Share holders holding more
than one per cent of total capital : The Indian Section
The Theosophical Society
Kamachha, Varanasi- 221 010

I, Pradeep H. Gohil, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: 1 April, 2024

Pradeep H Gohil
Signature of publisher