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STATE OF THE INDIAN SECTION ADDRESS
GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN SECTION 5-26

Editor

PRADEEP H. GOHIL

STATE OF THE INDIAN SECTION ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN SECTION

I. Bird's-Eye View of the Indian Section's Work:

Just like every year, this year also, I am very pleased to inform you all that the state of the Indian Section is very healthy. Let me give you a bird's-eye view of the Indian Section's work from 1st October 2024 to 30th September, 2025.

The highlight of the year was certainly the active participation of 98 delegates from the Indian Section in the 12th World Congress of Theosophical Society at Vancouver, Canada, in the 150th year of the Theosophical Society. The second highest participation of 96 delegates was from the American Section which shares a border with Canada. Brazil was third with a participation of 26 members. There were 380 participants from about 30 countries in the World Congress. Outstanding efforts from Bro. Divyarth Dubey and Bro. Om Prakash Yadav culminated in a very successfully organized trip.

The other highlight of the year was a record number of 3022 new members who joined the Indian Section between 1.10.2024 and 30.09.2025. This is significantly higher than the next highest number of 2804 who joined two years ago. Young persons were made members in large numbers in Assam, U.P. & Uttarakhand, Marathi, Gujarat and Utkal Federations. This is why I consider membership development to be the second highlight of the year 2024-2025.

The next highlight of the year is also related to membership. There was the fourth successive net increase in membership this year. It went up from 13,506 to 14056, an increase of 550 members or 4%. The increase in membership is despite an unfortunate loss of about 700 members in the Rayalaseema Federation. The membership department at the Indian Section Headquarters always matched at random a few signatures that come for renewal with the signature on their membership application. However, this year it was found that the signatures of members on page after page had the same handwriting and ink. As a result of this, a very exhaustive exercise of matching each and every signature of Rayalaseema members was taken up. At the end of the exercise it was found that out of about 1300 members in the Rayalaseema Federation who had sent their renewal forms, more than 700 were found to be not matching. Hence, the Federation membership dropped by more than 899 members and they had only two conusellers for the Indian Section Council. Considering that similar

handwriting and ink was found on renewal applications from several lodges, it appeared that the four persons responsible for the administration of the Federation – the Chief Advisor, the President, the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary were involved in this racket. This was further confirmed in the case of a few members who had sent their signed renewal forms directly to the Indian Section but also had their forged signatures sent by the Secretary of the Federation for renewal. In several cases it was found that members who had signed just a few years ago now had put their fingerprints. After the detailed investigation a lot more things came up against all the four persons mentioned above. One of the reasons they did this was to get more money from the Indian Section as Rs 75 per member was being paid to the Federation. The Executive Committee has recommended to the Indian Section Council for the cancellation of diplomas of all four persons after thorough scrutiny of the case.

There was appeal filed by Mr Sashank Shekhar Basu and Smt. Shukla Basu through Saigrace Realty to the Divisional Commissioner of Varanasi against the judgement of the SDM & Tehsildar in our favour on the ownership of the land of the Indian Section at Varanasi. The judgement by the Divisional Commissioner has also come in our favour. Now they have appealed to the Revenue Board at Lucknow/Allahabad. However, we are on very solid grounds.

Another highlight of the year is that Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has allowed the teaching of the course on Theosophy to our Arts and Commerce College through a legal proclamation. In the academic year only our VKM College has been allowed to teach this subject. Subsequently, all colleges under BHU will be allowed to teach this subject. We had tried very hard since 2018 to get this approval from BHU to no avail. The persistence of Sis. Uma Bhattacharyya and Sis. Rachna Srivastava made this possible. We received a lot of help in presenting a syllabus to BHU from Bro. Vicente Hao Chin (Vic) of Philippines who has run a Theosophical College there for many years.

This year the Executive Committee of the Indian Section has selected Bro. N.C. Krishna, for the fifth 'Dr. Radha Burnier Award of The Theosophist of the Year' (Oct 2024 to Sept 2025). He is a person who learnt Theosophy from his grandfather and father. He has also lived Theosophy like an ideal Theosophist. He has given innumerable lectures on many subjects related to Theosophy and he is an International Lecturer of the Theosophical Society. He was the Secretary of the Rayalaseema Federation in the past and is presently

a member of the Indian Section Council as well as Executive Committee of the Indian Section. He has also been the administrator of the lodges in Kerala after the Kerala Theosophical Federation was suspended following disciplinary action against the President and Secretary. Bro. N.C. Krishna has done a very good job in this regard and the Presidents and Secretaries of all the Lodges in Kerala are all very happy with the way he has administrated the Lodges.

Another highlight of the year is the excellent work done in the propagation of Theosophy. So many Federations like Gujarat Federation, Assam Federation, etc have got their lodge officer bearers to visit schools and colleges, give lectures on Theosophy and make those students who are interested further as members. Bro. Pradip Mahapatra leads the drive on propagation of Theosophy. He has started a Theosophy India YouTube Channel with Broadcasting of programmes on Theosophical subjects twice every week. He has more than 100 subscribers. He conducts study class on every Friday and Sunday evening on *The Mahatma Letters*. He has uploaded 587 videos of various lectures on Theosophy till date. He had 9 of a total of 61,414 views on this channel. A quarterly e-Newsletter called '*Indian Section Insight*' has been started about two years ago by Sis. Suvralina Mohanty and sent to all interested members by email and has been very well received. Brother Taral Munshi continues to broadcast a discussion by 4 to 5 members for one hour every week on some theosophical subject. He has named the programme as 'Triveni Tuesday'. This is also available later on his YouTube channel. Besides, he recently started a TV Channel of Theosophy and got it inaugurated at Vancouver by our International President Bro. Tim Boyd. Telugu Federation and Marathi Federation are also having a programme that can be viewed by all, once in a while. The Shankar Lodge in Delhi is also doing an on-line study-cum-discussion on theosophical subjects every fortnight. Sister Vibha Saksena conducted 10 such programmes during the year.

The Indian Section has published all the 12 monthly issues of '*The Indian Theosophist*' during the year in English and Hindi. This could not have been possible without the methodical and regular work of Mr. S. Sundaram. This year, the Indian Section was ready to publish *The Indian Theosophist* (IT) in Telugu also. Dr. Prasad Patri was ready to make the translation every month: About 300 members from Telugu Federation wanted to have IT in Telugu. It would not be economically viable to print only 300 copies. It was also found that a lot of original articles started coming in the IT from the members. The

Royalaseema Federation was also asked to find out how many of its members would want the IT in Telugu. They never informed the Indian Section about it.

The Indian Section received Rs 6.6 crores from acquisition of our land in the Salem Lodge. It was Bro. Rangarajan who had ensured that the government would pay the money related to acquisition of our land for road widening. Mr. V. Narayanan followed up with personal visits to ensure that the Indian Section get the money.

The case made by the Indian Section against Varanasi Development Authority for compensation related to their acquisition of our campus land to widen the Gurubagh Road is still pending with the Allahabad High Court. Hopefully, this should be done in the next couple of years.

II. Indian Section Conventions

A) Convention- I

The 133rd Indian Section Convention was held on 1.1.2025 at the Adyar Theatre of the Theosophical Society in Chennai during the 149th Convention of the Theosophical Society. It was inaugurated by our International President Bro. Tim Boyd by lighting the lamp. He then delivered the inaugural speech. He praised the work of the Indian Section overall and appreciated the growth of membership every year for the last three years.

The International President then presented Dr. Rahda Burnier Award of the "Theosophist of the year 2024 Award" to Bro. S.G. Sanath Kumar, who is now the President of the Karnataka Federation. He is instrumental in the administration of the Federation with support from the Secretary of the Federation Bro. M.S. Shridhara. The International President also released the book '*Spring in the Autumn of Death*' by Prof. Dr. Usha Chaturvedi.

Then, the Indian Section President Bro. Pradeep Gohil gave his annual 'State of the Indian Section Address'. It was followed by presentation of the 'Treasurer's Report' by Mr. V. Narayanan.

B) Indian Section Convention-II

The Indian Section Convention-II was held on 3.1.2025. The theme of this convention was "Know Thy Self". International Vice-President Dr. Deepa Padhi was the chairperson of this Convention. Dr. Deepa Padhi started the symposium with a story on King Janaka

and Ashtravakra, when Janaka was in dilemma whether he is a beggar or a King. Ashtravakra said that you are neither a beggar nor a king but pure consciousness.

Bro. Milind Joshi spoke on 'WHO I AM'. He described our bodies are only tools, bodies and mind are always changeable. When you know your bodies, then you will know who you are.

Sis. Smitapangya Patra on 'HOW TO KNOW THYSELF'— She said that we are always aware of everything in the world except ourself. She asked question? Do we know ourself? If we are fully aware of everything around us, then we would be able to know thyself. So, her advice is to serve all. She ended her speech with a story about Buddha. After Buddha became enlightened, a common man asked Him who are You? Are you a God? He said No, Then, are you a celestial being, Buddha said no, I am awake.

Sis. Arunima Baruah on KNOWING IS LOVING - Knowing and Loving are at two stages, one at personality level and another at individuality level. Personality consists of physical desires and lower mind whereas the Individuality consists of Higher Mind, Buddhi, and Atma. Truth cannot be realized at lower mental or intellect level. One is to unfold the faculty of higher consciousness to realize the Oneness of life. So knowing and loving means merging of the lower and Higher, then one can love all and serve all.

Bro. M.S. Sridhara on LIBERATION BY RENUNCIATION – Mind possesses knowledge which creates ego, that hinders liberation of the Soul within. One is to unfold one's own higher faculty by way of renunciation, so that one can get liberation

Sis. Sushma Srivastav on SELF-REALIZATION BY KNOWING THYSELF- By knowing thyself you will know the world. Raj yoga is the method by which one can become a self-realized person. There are two selves within us, when we are in lower self, we cannot be a realized person, but we must transcend the lower as *The Voice of Silence* says 'both cannot meet.' J.Krishnamurti says to know the self; you must be aware from moment to moment. Further do not go anywhere, everything is within vessel, to realize it dive within your own heart.

Dr. Deepa Padhi described what is '*Tattvamasi*'? The Individual Self and Universal Self are one and same. To get the answer 'Who I am?', one can get the answer through experience. How can one explain *One* who is indefinable, as such not answerable. Therefore, when one

realizes who am 'I', 'I' will be not there because 'I' is merged with Universal Consciousness.

President Pradeep H Gohil finally conveyed his gratitude to all the speakers and moderator of the Indian Section Convention-II.

Support Convention

Support Convention on the theme 'Practical Theosophy and the Art of Self-Transformation' was jointly organized by the Indian Section and Kashi Tattva Sabha on 31 December 2024 and 4 January 2025 at the Section HQ, Varanasi.

Dr. Abha Srivastav spoke on 31 December and said Human Evolution, Karma, Reincarnation, and Unity of All compel the learner to transform one's way of thinking and living. The philosophy described is very scientific which says that whosoever has a Clean Life, Open Mind, Pure Heart, and an Eager Intellect is capable of receiving Divine Wisdom. After receiving the Divine Wisdom a Theosophist starts living for the world and not for himself. The outpour of this living fills him with love and joy; Service becomes his Motto and the person becomes a blessing to the world.

The second talk was delivered by Smt. Manju Sundaram on 4 January 2025 in which she mentioned that Radhaji, in one of her editorials said, "No one ever is a stranger for a true theosophist" and finally, the last few lines of Invocation in the Ritual of the Mystic Star "my Brothers, we who are bound to one another in Brotherhood, and are pledged to our Lord's services" "...and, "As freely we have received HIS Blessings, so freely let us give the best of ourselves to our fellowmen".

These sayings undoubtedly and so very clearly convey what practical Theosophy is all about, what really is expected of us in our day-to-day life – in our behaviour, our action, our speech, our responses/reactions, our relationships with our fellow beings, nay, all beings. This is, perhaps, living Brotherhood in the deepest, the widest and in the real sense.

With deepened, enhanced sensitivity and understanding of life in its oneness, in its wholeness, one begins to see, to respond to life differently. And with this, then transformation, deep within, begins – spontaneously unawares. This inner transformation, on its own, widens the spheres of one's horizons, penetrating life in all its spheres and dimensions.

The programme on both days started with the Universal Prayer led by Smt. Bharati Chattopadhyay and the vote of thanks was given by Bro. S.L. Dar.

III. Election

There were no elections this year for the position of President and Treasurer of the Indian Section.

IV. Indian Section Headquarters

A) Annie Besant's Birth Anniversary

The 177th Birth Anniversary of social reformer and visionary Dr. Annie Besant was celebrated on 1st October, 2024, jointly by two educational institutions i.e. Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya and Vasant Kanya Inter College of the Theosophical Society. The programme was coordinated in the Annie Besant Hall by Annie Besant Progression Committee and Value Added Course Committee of the College.

The programme started with lighting of lamp and floral tributes were paid to Dr. Besant. Then, students of the college presented *Kulgeet*.

On this occasion, Chief Guest Prof. Swarvandana Sharma, presented a song in reverence to Dr. Annie Besant. She also shared her views on importance of cleanliness and laid emphasis on self-control, which according to Dr. Besant was the foundation of true freedom.

The welcome address was given by Prof. Rachna Srivastava. She in her address said that there is no religion higher than truth. She further added that Dr. Besant was a true educationist and devoted her whole life to the cause of welfare of Society. Highlighting the immense contribution of Dr. Annie Besant in various fields of life, Smt. Uma Bhattacharyya, Manager, VKM, exhorted the girls to follow the ideals set by Dr. Annie Besant. She also informed students about the Value Added Course based on Theosophy run by the college and its importance for the holistic development of the personality of students.

On this occasion students of VKIC and VKM presented programmes. Certificate of course completion for the session 2023-24 were distributed. Vote of thanks was given by Dr. Arti Chowdhary.

The programme was attended by theosophists, Principals, staff

and students of all the educational institutions.

B) Foundation Day

The Indian Section organized the Foundation Day through Zoom on-line on 17 November 2024. Sister Svitlana Gavrylenko, General Secretary of the TS in Ukraine, spoke on this occasion about the transformative potential of theosophy, about the current global evolutionary processes on planet and the role of theosophy as a worldview guide for current and future changes. She narrated that every citizen of Ukraine has a trident on his passport, the most ancient symbol has always been associated with this geographical place, as evidenced by numerous ancient artifacts and modern scientific research. Ukraine is the land of Shiva and it is the place on our planet where the creative energy of transformation is especially revealed. She spoke about social transformational potential and then on individual transformational aspects. As such, each one of us personally and jointly can take in the direction of developing our own ideas about the universe and man, and look to the future with hope. After all, our future is bright and beautiful.

C) Adyar Day

The Indian Section organized the Adyar Day through Zoom on-line on 17 February 2025. There were three speakers. Brother N. C. Krishna spoke on 'Importance of Adyar Day' - On this day the members of the Theosophical Society look up to ADYAR, which is a spiritual centre for inspiration. Before 17th February was named and called as Adyar Day, that date was observed as "Olcott Day". A day on which the first International President of the Theosophical Society passed away at 7.17 am, in the year 1907. President Olcott was an exemplary person, fully devoted to the cause of theosophy and the Theosophical Society. Masters opined that though Bro. H.S. Olcott has limitations yet, he was described as unselfish person. We also remember Giordano Bruno, who was burnt alive on 17th February in the year 1600 for speaking and spreading, what he believed as Truth. Madame Annie Besant felt, that was her previous incarnation. February 17th is the birthday of Bishop C.W. Leadbeater. Besides, J. Krishnamurti, affectionately called Krishnaji, passed away on 17th February of 1986. Adyar Day is not just collection of funds for maintaining Adyar. It is also a day to remember all those who worked selflessly at Adyar. They worked for the welfare of humanity. Adyar, is not only a Physical Adyar, but it is the International Headquarters, of the Theosophical Society. It is indeed a place, which inspires all of

us to lead the right kind of life. A life, which is based on the principles of giving and sharing. Just walking on the Adyar T.S. estate, brings about a great degree of Peace, Serenity and Joy. Those who can experience the deeper silence, and remain without useless thought can find, that quiet atmosphere, which will pave the way for the real freedom from the bondages. That free state of mind, will transport us to the realms of TRUTH. In that beautiful place one can experience the Master's grace and benevolence, as Adyar is Master's Home,

Sister Khusbu Mishra spoke about 'Contribution of C. W. Leadbeater'— Charles Webster Leadbeater (1854-1934), an influential figure within the theosophical society, dedicated his life to exploring the esoteric dimensions of human existence and disseminating ancient wisdom to a modern audience through his books, popularizing complex concepts and fostering a sense of spiritual seeking among readers. Leadbeater's prolific writings and lectures served as a cornerstone for disseminating theosophical teachings to a broader audience, contributing significantly to the popularization and interpretation of esoteric knowledge. Leadbeater played a pivotal role in shaping modern theosophy by emphasizing spiritual evolution, karma, reincarnation, and clairvoyance. His books, such as *The Astral Plane* (1895), *The Chakras* (1927), and *Man: Whence, How and Whither* (1913), explored metaphysical topics and provided insights into subtle energy bodies, life after death, and higher consciousness. His teachings on spiritual anatomy and the various planes of existence helped shape the framework of theosophical thought. Leadbeater's Theosophical interpretations promoted the idea of universal brotherhood and esoteric Christianity, resonating with individuals seeking spiritual insight beyond conventional religious doctrines. His contributions to religious and occult thought lie in his clairvoyant investigations, popularization of esoteric concepts, and advocacy for esoteric Christianity. He provided a structured path for spiritual seekers, solidifying his place as a prominent figure in the Theosophical Society and the broader occult movement. His commitment to global dissemination ensured that Theosophy reached a diverse audience, fostering a greater understanding of spiritual evolution and metaphysical knowledge.

Bro. Pradip Mahapatra's subject of talk was 'H. S. OLCOTT an ideal par excellence for each T.S. Member'— H. S. Olcott studied at the University of New York, specializing in the science of agriculture. He was only twenty-three when his success at the model farm of Scientific Agriculture he set up near Newark, led the Greek Govern-

ment to offer him the Chair of Agriculture in the University of Athens. He declined the honour, and founded in the same year 'The Westchester Farm School' near Mount Vernon, New York, which is regarded as one of the pioneers of the present system of national agricultural education. Madam Blavatsky was sent by The Adept to the United States, to find, the man [H.S.Olcott] chosen by *Them* to form with her The Theosophical Society, to which he gave its democratic constitution with full freedom of thought, which does not exist in other spiritual organizations. The remainder of Olcott's life was spent in organizing T.S all over the world. He brought to his task his unsullied record of public services rendered to his country, his keen capacity, his enormous powers of work, and an unselfishness. The work done from 1875 to 1906 may be best judged by the fact that up to the year 1906 the President had issued 893 charters to branches of the Theosophical Society worldwide. The Adepts in one of his letters mentioned that 'Where can we find an equal devotion? He is one who never questions, but obeys; who may make innumerable mistakes out of excessive zeal but never is unwilling to repair his fault even at the cost of the greatest self-humiliation, who esteems the sacrifice of comfort and even life something to be cheerfully risked whenever necessary; who will eat any food, or even go without; so H.S. Olcott was a leader of theosophical movement selected by the Adepts to help H.P. Blavatsky to form the Society by which Blavatsky can disseminate theosophy to the world'.

D) White Lotus Day

White Lotus Day was observed on 8 May 2025 in the Annie Besant Hall of the Indian Section HQ. It was jointly organized by the Indian Section and Kashi Tattva Sabha (KTS). The programme started with the Prayer of All Religions and Universal Prayer conducted by the students of Vansant Kanya Inter College. Then, excerpts from the books *The Light of Asia* and *The Voice of the Silence* were read by Smt. Bharati Chattopadhyay and Dr. Bina Singh. Smt. Uma Bhattacharyya read some portions from the *Bhagavad Gita*.

Bro. K. Sivaprasad, National Director, TOS in India, was the guest speaker who spoke about the 'Significance of White Lotus Day'. He narrated the life story of Madam H.P. Blavatsky and brief events during her life time. She was a courageous person with deep commitment as co-founder of Theosophical Society to counter materialism and religious dogma which existed at that time. It is the synthesis of Religion, Science and Philosophy in her writings for the progress of human evolution towards a peaceful society to live in

harmony. H.P.B. had communication and relationship with the Masters of Wisdom throughout her life to get strength and overcome her difficult times. She is the mother of Theosophical Society who has sown a seed of theosophy that is growing as a plant and it depends on all of us, as members, how we will nourish this plant and allow it to grow as a big tree to serve humanity for all time to come.

The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Kumud Ranjan, President of KTS.

V. The Easter Theosophical Conference

The Theme of the Conference was ‘Theosophy and Humanity’ The reference books were [i] *Mahatma Letters*, [ii] *Human Regeneration* by N. Sriram and [iii] *Human Regeneration* by Dr. Radha Burnier. Bro. N. C. Krishna delivered a talk on Theme i.e. ‘Theosophy and Humanity’, Bro. C A Shinde delivered a talk on ‘Spiritual Regeneration- A fundamental Need for Humanity’, Dr. Nagesh spoke about ‘Realizing Truth from Within’, Sister Sonal Murali spoke on ‘Taking Consciousness back to its real nature’, Bro. Krishnamurti’s talk was on ‘Authority- Does it help in Spiritual Journey’, Sister Vimal and Sister Sandhya Rani spoke on ‘From Divisive Mind to Integrated Mind: A Journey’ and Sis. Sobha Prakash explained ‘Need for Regeneration an Urgent Necessity’. There were speakers who spoke on other topics relating to the theme. Besides, there were Group Discussion and Presentation amongst the delegates which were divided into the following three groups: [1] ‘You are the World’ led by Bro. Pradip Mahapatra [2] ‘Human Regeneration’ led by Sis Sripriya Raghavan [3] ‘Work of Theosophical Society in present world’ led by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri. Finally, Brother Shikhar Agnihotri delivered concluding remarks and conveyed vote of thanks. Sister Jayshree Kanan rendered the *Shanti Mantra* and the 101st South Indian Conference successfully ended with the wish to gather again on Easter day 2026 for the 102nd South Indian Conference at Adyar.

VI. Indian Section Study Camp

A) The Indian Section Study Camp on the theme “The Ideal of Human Progression and Perfection” was held at the Section Headquarters in Varanasi from 25th to 27th October 2024. The opening address was given by Bro. Pradeep Gohil, President of the Indian Section. It was followed by a brief introduction of the Camp Director Sis. Vibha Saxena, given by Bro. Pradip Mahapatra, the Camp Officer. The study began with the Universal Invocation and

was well attended by members of all Federations. About 105 members from various federations attended it.

The object of the camp was not only to deepen our understanding of the ancient wisdom, but also to introspect whether our life is panning out as per that wisdom, are we self-transforming? Our highest aspiration should organize our life. The window of human life-span is limited. Which milestone we hope to reach on the Path before the present window closes? Are we making earnest efforts for the same or are we meandering along the way? By becoming members of the TS, we have already placed ourselves under the watch of the Masters. How useful have we made ourselves in *Their* work? These were some of the points of reflection and contemplation throughout the duration of the camp.

The study sessions were interspersed with question-and-answer sessions and short meditations, allowing participants to freely share their thoughts and reflections.

The study was organized broadly in three parts:

Part 1 – Ideal of Perfection

- Man’s Aspiration
- Path of Progression
- Science of Initiation
- Ideal of Perfection
- Glimpses into nature of SELF (*Brahman Jnanavalimala*)

Part 2 – Path of Ascent

- Natural Course of Evolution
- Purpose of Incarnation
- Septenary Constitution of Man
- Three-fold evolutionary cycle of man
- Hints on future Manavantaras

Part 3 – Yoga and Meditation

- HPB’s diagram of Meditation
- States of Consciousness
- The Divine Flame in the Heart

It is imperative to understand the ideal of perfection first and foremost, so that we progress in the right direction. The ideals of man keep rising and falling through the evolutionary cycles, as do kingdoms and civilizations. Even so, there is definite, though imperceptible, progressive development of everything, worlds as well as atoms; and this stupendous development has neither conceivable beginning nor imaginable end.

This progressive development is a process of ever-becoming which happens only on the external illusory or phenomenal planes. On the ultimate plane of the spiritual essence “all IS”, and therefore remains immutable. It is towards this eternal “Esse” that everything, and every being, is gravitating, gradually, almost imperceptibly.

The nature and characteristics of a person who has attained to the eternal essence or Self, is given in “*Brahman Jnanavalimala*” composed by Adi Shankaracharya.

Many are the paths that lead to the eternal essence. Very few souls are fit for the Path of Initiation; a path of forced spiritual growth. “The adept is the rare efflorescence of a generation of enquirers;” The mass of ordinary humanity follows the slow winding path of natural progression - the three-fold evolutionary cycle in Nature, which leads to man’s physical, intellectual and spiritual evolution. This happens in parallel with the planetary, solar and cosmic cycles. But man can speed up his own progression on the spiritual path by self-induced and self-devised efforts. Practice of yoga and meditation and living a virtuous life of study, meditation and service, are crucial in this endeavour.

As we progress on the path towards the eternal spiritual essence, neither do we travel in space or time, nor does the world change. It is only that our perception of the world changes. Thus, progression is marked by unfolding of consciousness.

The study camp ended on the note that the Divine Flame of spiritual essence is an ever-present reality in the hearts of all men. The Truth of that Divine Flame, man has to manifest here in his physical life, for he is *That*.

The three-day camp drew to a close with a vote of thanks proposed by Bro. V. Narayanan, Treasurer of the Indian Section and several participants resolving to conduct this study in their regional language, in their respective lodges.

B) A three-day Indian Section Study Camp on ‘Orientation to Theosophy’ was held at the Indian Section HQ from 21 to 23 March. It was directed by Bro. U.S. Pandey. The other facilitators were Bro. S.K. Pandey and Bro. S.B.R. Mishra. A group meditation session was held on 22 March.

VII. Study Camp at the Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali

Due to acute summer and shortage of water supply at Bhowali, it was difficult to manage the Bhowali study camp. Only two federations

- the Marathi Federation and the U.P & U.K Federation conducted camps at Bhowali. Other difficulties pointed out by the members are the cost of travel etc. Efforts have to be made for full utilization of the Bhowali facility by the Lodges. It may be possible for the Lodges themselves to come forward and conduct the study camps, this is because some lodge members want to go to Bhowali for study but their Federation is not ready to do that for various reasons.

VIII. Workshops at the Section Headquarters, Varanasi

This is a special initiative (Group) taken by the Indian Section to bring out the Indian Knowledge system, mainly relating to human consciousness/psychology and relate it to the ever-expanding race to find out the truth of consciousness by the scientific world. On a basic level, the group is in touch with IIT(BHU) and AIIMS, New Delhi for interaction with professionals there and to use the technical infrastructure/labs available there. In a recent experiment conducted at AIIMS by some members of the group, it was established, in a scientific sense, that the human mind (mental will) can consciously control the heart activity and slow down the pathological activity of the individual physical system. More interactions are slated for the future.

IX. Propagation of Theosophy in New Areas

The Federation officers in the Utkal federation visited several areas to start a lodge. They have started an unchartered Lodge.

Bro. Bipul Sarmah, President of Assam Theosophical Federation, visited the National Institute of Technology in Nagaland and expects to start a new lodge.

Similar efforts have been made by the teams of Marathi Federation and Rayalaseema Federation.

X. Indian Section President’s Visits

I attended the Annual Conference of Bengal Theosophical Federation near Shanti Niketan in West Bengal from 22nd to 23rd February, 2025 and delivered the inaugural address.

I led a delegation of 98 delegates from the Indian Section to Vancouver, Canada, to attend the 12th World Congress of Theosophical Society. I introduced Pedro Olivera before his address.

I attended the Annual Conference of the Karnataka Federation at Kaivara Temple complex in Chintamani, about 60 kms east of

Bangalore. I delivered the inaugural address.

XI. National Lecturers' Visits

The activities conducted/directed by all the National Lecturers and others during the year under review (2024-2025) have been published in the Annual Report (2024-2025). For details please see pp. 13-31 of the Report.

XII. Besant Education Fellowship (BEF)

The BEF is managing two schools in Varanasi; 1.) Vasant Kanya (VKM) Inter College for Girls and 2.) Besant Theosophical Higher Secondary School (BTS) for boys. Apart from this there are two affiliated colleges one at Hospet and another in Bengaluru. In Varanasi Schools there are about 1,300 students. All the schools are performing very well.

XIII. Centenary Conferences

No report has been received from any Federation for their Centenary Conference.

XIV. Visitors

Sis. Mansi Neema of Edu Crafter Education Research and Consulting Pvt. Ltd. along with her 10 associates visited the Indian Section in July 2025.

XV. Membership

1. The membership of the Indian Section on 30th September 2025 was - 13,506.
2. Total members as on 30.9.2024 were— 13,506
3. Total members revived this year — 146
4. Total new members this year — 3,022
5. Total members dropped this year — 2,615
6. Total members gone to peace this year - 127
7. Member resigned — 0
8. Net increase in members this year — 550 or 4%
9. Number of members in Good Standing as on 30.9.2025 - 9,104

I request Lodge Presidents and Secretaries to continue with their best efforts for enrolling new members so that we can sustain the increase of membership in our Section next year also. If we can achieve that it will be the fifth consecutive year of increase in membership. It should be noted that the Indian Section is the only Section where

membership is increasing. I congratulate all Lodge and Federation officials and members for their efforts in increasing membership.

The following are the figure of our life members:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1. Life members as of 01.10.2025 | = | 517 |
| 2. Life members as of 01.10.2024 | = | 545 |
| 3. Life members revived this year | = | 10 |
| 4. Life members dropped this year | = | 32 |
| 5. Life members gone to peace this year | = | 06 |

Federationwise summary of membership is given below as on 1.10.2025

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP AS OF 1.10.2025									
Sr. No.	Name of Federation	Total Members as of 1.10.2024	Total Members as of 1.10.2025	Good Standing Members as of 1.10.2024	Good Standing Members as of 1.10.2025	Not in Good Standing Mem as of 1.10.2025	Increase		No of Council Reps
							Number	%	
1	Assam	665	669	399	507	162	4	0.6	3
2	Bengal	172	179	75	103	76	7	4.07	1
3	Bihar	344	440	195	278	162	96	27.9	2
4	Bombay	259	275	192	215	60	16	6.18	1
5	Delhi	75	71	63	69	2	-4	-5.33	1
6	Gujarat	984	1134	489	675	459	150	15.2	3
7	Karnataka	2684	2966	2156	2383	583	282	10.5	5
8	Kerala	203	164	169	127	37	-39	-19.2	1
9	M.P. & Raj	462	473	409	434	39	11	2.38	2
10	Madras	312	263	43	79	184	-49	-15.7	1
11	Marathi	684	862	447	502	360	178	26	3
12	Rajalaseema	1423	867	876	432	435	-556	-39.1	2
13	Tamil	557	612	368	426	186	55	9.87	2
14	Telugu	791	835	553	641	194	44	5.56	3
15	Utkal	625	750	299	528	222	125	20	3
16	U.P. & Uttarakhand	3259	3483	1401	1702	1781	224	6.87	5
17	HQ	7	13	0	3	10	6	85.7	0
Grand Total		13506	14056	8134	9104	4952	550	4.07	38

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

A. The Indian Theosophist

Our monthly magazine was published regularly in all the 12 months in English and Hindi. The material value of this magazine is always quite high along with the large fonts and a different colour cover page every month. It should also be noted that *The Indian Theosophist* is being sent free of cost to the members who ask for it, whether in English or Hindi. All the credit for this work goes to our former General Secretary, Bro. S. Sundaram, for the English version and Bro. S. S. Gautam, National Lecturer, is credited for doing the Hindi translation on a timely basis, month after month.

B. Indian Section Website

The address of the Indian Section website is “www.theosophy-india.org”. A number of Federations and the Indian Section load their magazines on this site and are available for the people to read. It contains lot of information about the Indian Section and a list of upcoming programme on-line and off-line with the name of the speaker, the subject and the date. The following is the information on use of our website during the last year.

Sr. No. Item	2023 -2024	2024 –2025
1. Total New users	5,995	7,813
2. Total Visitors to the Site	6,052	7,879
3. Total Sessions	7,821	9,667
4. Ratio of Session/User	1.29	1.23
5. Total Page Views	21,303	24,355
6. Ratio of page/session	2.72	2.52
7. Average Session Duration	1.44	3m 40s
8. Bounce rate	49.56%	38.74%
9. %Users of India	64.21%	68.31%
10. % New visitors	11.45%	99.16%

The Indian Section has joined social media two years back for the dissemination of THEOSOPHY. The name is THEOSOPHY INDIA.

[1] YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmghC_GjLOGKHR90TcD6peQ

[2] FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081315351270&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

[3] INSTAGRAM <https://instagram.com/theosophyindia?igshid=ZDdkNTZiNTM=>

(4) The Indian Section’s quarterly E-Newsletter INSIGHT, which was started by Sister Suvralina (Editor) and Brother Adi Keshav (Co-Editor) has been published regularly in soft copy.

XVII. The Theosophical Order of Service

The National Executive Committee’s meeting was held at Headquarters (HQ) Hall, Adyar on 1-1-2025 to review the policy matters, programmes carried out and for the approval of financial matters. The members of the National Committee gave suggestions based on the Director’s report covering events and activities of the groups from different regions and at National level. On 3-1-25 the

approvals of the Executive Committee were shared with the TOS members in the Annual General Body Meeting at the HQ Hall, Adyar. Concern of dormant regions/groups remain as challenging issue and it was discussed to take initiatives for revival to render service activities in the places where TOS activities are not active. Women empowerment and livelihood activities for the deserving communities continue as priority for the attention required by groups at local level. Dr. Revathy, Secretary, Chennai region from Adyar was nominated as new addition to National Executive Committee as member. Bro. Umakanth Rao expressed his inability to continue as EC member on health grounds. National Director expressed sincere thanks for the dedicated services rendered by Bro. Umakanth Rao for many years with his valuable suggestions.

The Annual National TOS Conference was held on 7th and 8th June 2025 at Adyar with participation of 65 members from all over the country. The theme of the conference was ‘Altruistic Service’. In this event interactive sessions were held in groups on ‘Love and Kindness’, ‘Selflessness and Courage’ and ‘Tolerance and Cooperation’. Important topics covered include how the Theosophical Society supports the Theosophical Order of Service and how Theosophical Order of Service supports the Theosophical Society. Other short talks by speakers were on selected aspects of altruistic services. Activity reports presented by the different regions were very interesting and learning for all participants. It was good experience sharing among groups to know from each other’s innovative approaches in implementing service activities. Cultural programme by young talented artists entertained the participants. Bro. Nalli Kuppuswami Chetty, Industrialist and Philanthropist and a very senior member of Chennai TOS group was honoured as chief guest on this occasion.

During this year two new TOS groups were formed, one is Panchamrutham group in Uttarakhand and another Motihari group in Bihar. This year 22 Life and 19 Patron members were enrolled as new members.

The National Director Bro. K. Sivaprasad attended the Theosophy World Congress in Canada, from 23-29 July 2025 as a sponsored member by Indian Section and gave the presentation of Indian group activities at the TOS world conference. He Visited American retreat centre Krotana Institute of Theosophy from 2-10 Nov. 2024 and visited J. Krishnamoorti School at Ojai, California. and then, from 11-16 Nov. attended the European School of Theosophy History Conference and Gate way to Mystical

Consciousness at Ascona, Switzerland and delivered talk on 'Theosophy and Biodiversity'.

Odisha TOS convened the 12th Regional Conference on 19th Sept. 2025. The theme of event was 'Sympathy and Compassion to build bridges and not walls'. Honourable Governor of Odisha State was the Chief Guest and the main speaker was National Director Bro. K. Sivaprasad.

Active TOS groups all around country are doing their best in rendering regular service activities related to Health, educational support, old age support, stress reduction counselling, awareness on Mobile phone addiction, livelihood support for under privileged, study camps on theosophy, revival of dormant lodges and groups and disaster relief to the needy communities.

XVIII. Status of the Educational Institutions in Varanasi and Hostel Run by the Indian Section

Please see the details in the Annual Report (2024-2025) pp. 35 to 42.

XIX. Review of Financial Position of the Indian Section

The total income of the Indian Section in April 2024 to March 2025 is Rs 6,18,76,415.25. This financial year reflects the results of reforms initiated in the Section.

1. A payment of Rs 10,13,475 was made for 13513 members in the Federation to compensate the Federations for not charging any annual dues. The lodges are allowed to charge a nominal fee.

2. The Section has disbursed an amount of Rs 18,50,000 for property repairs to Lodge during this period.

3. Part expenses of Rs 80,13,916 were incurred for sending 98 persons to attend the World Conference of Theosophy at Vancouver, Canada.

4. Income Tax of Rs 1,55,55,452.11 was paid on Rs 37,97,44,000 of compensation received by us for the Govt. acquiring 4784 sq. m. of our land.

5. We had to write off Rs 70,42,186.20 for the TDS receivable of past 20 years or so.

6. House Tax and Water Bill of Rs 28,37,264 have to be paid.

7. Staff Salary of Rs 14,05,344 was paid.

8. Honorarium of Rs 9,67,200 was paid.

9. Legal expenses amounted to Rs 4,01,480

10. Other expenses Rs 78,45,850

11. Grand Total of expenses = Rs 4,69,32,167.31

Deducting Rs 4,69,32,167.31 of total expenses from a total income of 6,18,76,415.25 gives a total surplus of Rs 1,49,44,247.97 for April 2024 to March 2025.

XX. Report of the Central Property Committee (CPC)

The CPC has taken up the following properties of the Indian Section for review & further action:

1. Kakinada
2. Chittoor
3. Rajahmundry
4. Eluru
5. Dewas
6. New Delhi.

Due to land acquisition by the state govts for road widening, the section's land at Kakinada & Salem were affected. We have received compensation in the case of Salem land and awaiting the same for Kakinada Land. The Indian Section's Property in New Delhi (East Patel Nagar) is a leased land for 100 Years and the lease expires in 2056. Efforts are being made to convert this lease into ownership, so that the same can be developed into an appropriate monumental presence in the Capital of India. Efforts are also being made to purchase the adjacent land in Bhowali, as decided by the Section Council in its last meeting.

XXI. Gone to Peace

Brother Ram Kalra has passed to peace. He was a devoted worker of the Theosophical Society for a long time. He had worked for Blavatsky Lodge, Bombay Theosophical Federation, Indian Section and served at Enquiry Office during the International Convention. He was also active in printing and distribution of Notebooks for the students. Ram took initiative to distribute "*The Theosophist*" to more than 50 Colleges and University Libraries.

Bro. Pankaj Kumar Datta (Diploma No. 101708), former President of Bengal Federation, who expired untimely on 30th November at Benaras Hindu University Trauma Centre leaving us grief stricken. He went to Benaras to attend the Goal Setting Meeting on 22nd Oct./24 and suddenly fell sick on 23.10.24 and was immediately admitted to BHU Trauma Centre & expired there after few days.

Bro. Arvind Narware (Diploma No. 73435) of Ujjain Lodge, M.P. & Rajasthan Federation, passed to peace in November 2024.

Bro. Ram Laxhan Gupta (Diploma No. 48081) of Chohan Lodge, Kanpur, passed to peace on 17 May.

XXII. Tasks Ahead

A lot of work has been done by the Indian Section in the year Oct 1, 2024 to Sept 30, 2025. However, a lot needs to be done in the year ahead.

1. We plan to execute a daily meal distribution scheme, where the Indian Section, Varanasi, will offer one free meal every day to the poor and hungry, free of charge. This can cost about Rs 30 per person per day or about Rs 1.1 crore for fooding about 1000 people. This plan was discussed and approved by the Indian Section Council last year but could not be executed because of a very busy year including the trip to Vancouver to attend the 12th World Congress. As a Society and a registered trust, we must do something to serve the people while providing spiritual service.

2. To complete the Amphitheatre with a capacity of about 2000 persons. The stage will be designed in such a way that it can be used as a conference room as well as a place for study camp with about 200 persons.

3. To try to get permission from BHU to start a management faculty (BBA/MBA) and an Education Faculty (B.Ed./M.Ed.) for higher studies in the case of VKM graduates in Arts and Commerce.

4. To continue to follow up with VDA for their official approval of Rohit Mehta Hostel Building, Harmony Building and the new College Building.

5. To demolish the Dhruv Bhavan Hostel building because it is falling apart and taking water heavily. The new building will have 10 rooms on ground plus three floors. Each room will accommodate 2 students and will have attached bathrooms. It will have two beds, two mattresses, two working tables, two chairs, two pillows and two cupboards in each room. It will accommodate 80 students increasing the total capacity to more than 400 students.

6. To plan to start dispensary for Hostel and College students as well as for the members of T.S. residing in the campus. It will also provide testing facilities and treatment of extremely poor people who

are suffering due to some disease and cannot afford to meet the cost of treatment.

7. To continue to follow up on the Writ Petition made by us in the Allahabad High Court against Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) for having acquired 10,586 sq.ft. strip of our land for widening the Gurubagh Road.

8. "रूको और रहो घर" in Harmony Building – Floor 2 & 3.

9. Seven Hrs working from April 1, 2026 in Indian Section instead of 6 hours.

10. Give 15% increase to everyone next year to compensate for the above.

11. Old Amphitheatre left out area to be converted into covered dining area for camps.

12. Free schooling from BEF for the children of all direct employees of Indian Section.

13. Letter from BEF President to Manager BTS to transfer the fixed deposit from BTS to BEF account.

XXIII. Gratitude

I must thank Mr. V. Narayanan for extraordinary help and support he has given in my work. In the capacity of a Chairman of the Property Committee, he has travelled extensively to see that Indian Section property is well maintained and sold where no lodge is functioning. He also looks after the finances in the capacity of the Treasurer of the Indian Section.

This year, there was extraordinary contribution from Mr. Om Prakash Yadav and Mr. Divyarth Dubey in co-ordinating all the arrangements for 98 members to visit Vancouver and attend the 12th World Congress. Mr. Dubey worked for hours on the follow-up of Visas for our members and other arrangements at Vancouver. All this was done while he was working full time. Mr. Om Prakash Yadav worked tirelessly to keep the data for all members going to Vancouver and was at his desk till late evening of r days together. I must thank them both heartily.

I thank Mrs Uma Bhattacharyya for taking entire burden to manage all the hostel Bhavans and the College. In fact, the tension she took in managing about 320 hostel students had badly affected her

health. After her recovery, she is now looking after the college, which itself is a big job. Mr. S.L. Dar has taken the additional responsibility to administer the hostel while looking after the administration of the campus and for attending the court cases against the Indian Section and me. I am very thankful to Mr. Dar for playing this dual role effectively. I must also thank Mr. S. Sundaram, the former General Secretary, for his help in editing *The Indian Theosophist*.

Mr Pradip Mahapatra worked round the year to organize programmes and study camps in his capacity as chairman of the propagation committee. My deep gratitude to him. I must also express the same gratitude to Om Prakash Yadav in his other role where he assists me in my work all the time. He is also involved in preparing the soft copy of *The Indian Theosophist*. Additionally, he heads the membership department and enters the data of all members when they send the renewal applications. He has been very helpful to the Federations and Lodges. He also randomly checks the signatures of the member in his renewal application along with the signature of the same person in his/her membership application.

I must also thank Mr. A.N. Singh for his precision in accounts and dealing with the banks where he ensures that all Fixed Deposit Receipts are renewed in time. Many thanks to Mr. Rajkumar Pandey and Maduhuji for supervising the security personnel, house keeping staff and others in addition to taking care of Shantikunj where I stay when in Varanasi. I also thank Raju and Deepamala, Santosh Yadav, Radheshyam, Smt. Urmila Yadav, Chuuna, Mr Jha and Ilaka Singh. I also thank all persons working in the garden department and others whose names have not been mentioned here.

How can I forget to thank all the members of the Executive Committee and Indian Section Council for continuously guiding me and motivating me to do good work for the Indian Section. Their support to my proposals is the reason why good work has been done.

It has been a real pleasure and privilege for me to work for everyone at the Indian Section Headquarters in Varanasi.

Date: 25.10.2025
Place: Varanasi

Pradeep H. Gohil
President, Indian Section
The Theosophical Society