

J. N. Patowary: An Outstanding Regional TOS Worker



Jatindra Nath Patowary

Longstanding President of the TOS in the Assam and Arunachal Region of India and member of the TOS's National Committee, Jatindra N. Patowary passed away on 23rd February 2018. He is greatly missed by his daughters, Karabi and Purobi and their families and by his many friends and fellow TS and TOS members. Writes Karabi: "Service was very close to my father's heart as he believed service to humanity was above all religion."



Jatindra with his daughters Karabi and Purobi

As one of the Indian TOS's most dynamic workers, Jatindra set a fine example of tireless service in a rich variety of areas. Walking sticks, special shoes, crutches, walkers,

wheelchairs and hand-propelled tricycles were distributed regularly to people in need by Jatindra and his team.



Mobile medical units were set up in many rural villages, sessions providing veterinary care for livestock were organised, relief offered to countless people displaced by floods, earthquakes and ethnic disturbances, orphanages

visited with goodies for the children and vocational training offered to women. In May 2012 Jatindra and his fellow workers had the special honour of receiving a grant of 2,68400.00 rupees (US\$4,900) from the State Bank of India for the provision of mobility aids, educational kits, school uniforms and books under the H.P. Blavatsky Book Grant Scheme.



Annual General Meetings in Jatindra's region were no routine affairs! In addition to the

formal business, members were privileged to participate in a hands-on service outreach involving some travel in the region and enjoyed truly inspiring talks and discussion on the TOS's approach to service in relation to contemporary world problems. As was their habit on such occasions, Jatindra and his TOS and TS associates organised public



Mobility project supporting by the State Bank of India

meetings to talk about Theosophy and the TOS. All present, particularly the young people, were encouraged to study theosophical literature and to lead a service-oriented life in accordance with the principles of Theosophy.

Fellow member, Raghunath Choudhury, reminds us that when Jatindra took up theosophical work 37 years ago, he was in fact following in his father's footsteps. Dr Bhawani Charan Patowary was a co-founder of Pragjyotishpur Theosophical Lodge in Bharalumukh and he transmitted to his son a passion for Theosophy. Once he had retired from his career as an engineer for the Government of Assam, Jatindra took on the role of editor of *Jnan-Jeuti*, the Assam theosophical journal, and also the journal serving as the mouthpiece of the Regional TOS.



Jatindra was a great communicator. Over the years, more photographic reports on service work in Assam and Arunachal Region were received from him for the international TOS e-newsletter than from any other single individual! He attended the international convention of the TS at Adyar almost every year and travelled to the HQ of the TS in America in July 2013 to attend an international TOS workers' conference. He also spoke at a recent Indo-Pacific Conference of the TS held in Bali. His service projects attracted support from as far away as Australia and France.

Raghunath Choudhury tells us that even with failing health, Jatindra's thoughts were still focused on suffering fellow human beings for whom he arranged and participated in a programme at the B. Barooah Cancer Hospital, Guwahati on 10 January 2018.

We send our loving good wishes to Jatindra's family and also to his regional TOS team who are bravely facing the challenge of maintaining his high standard of work. Jatin: we miss you!