

West Zone TOS Conference at Amravati (Maharashtra)

by K. Sivaprasad

Our meeting was held on 24-25 August 2019 at Shri Krishna Theosophical Lodge at Amravati. This Zone consists of Maharashtra, Mumbai, Rajasthan and Gujarat. There are 12 active TOS groups in the Maharashtra region. In this gathering 50 members participated from different groups in Maharashtra. The theme was “Towards reforms, addressing Social reforms.”



Nancy lighting the lamp

The meeting started with the lighting of the lamp and the universal prayer. Bro. Sanjay Potey, Regional President, welcomed all participants. He expressed his deep regards on behalf of the region to Sr Nancy Secrest from Chennai for accepting their kind invitation to participate in this conference. He conveyed greetings from Bro. Bhattacharya, National Director and Sr Freny Toddywalla, Mumbai for the success of this conference. Bro. Arun Palkrut, Regional Secretary, spoke on organising this event with the interactions of Bro. Nitin Rout and Bro. Wankhade of Amravati along with National Secretary Bro. Sivaprasad.

Chief guest of the function, Sr Nancy Secrest, addressed the members about the TOS focus on education and service programmes. She emphasised the development of free will in boys/girls through theosophical education, as quoted by HPB. She pointed out that, regarding the neglected fishermen communities around Chennai, Bro. Olcott, in 1894, started a free school for the children, the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, that is even now being continued.



Bro. N. N. Rout, president of Maharashtra Theosophical Society Federation, expressed his support for all the TOS activities in the region. Bro. Lokhande, National Committee member of TOS in India, shared methods of theosophical teachings to inspire common people.



Standing for Universal Prayer

Participants raised some questions and shared valuable thoughts on the social issues faced by them in local communities. Interesting dialogue took place around the grassroots-level village communities, suffering for having to share scarce water resources for agriculture, as well as other farmers' issues. Local NGOs are playing a vital role in creating awareness and motivation for the less educated rural communities. All the members participated and appreciated the process of open discussion and being able to attain appropriate solutions for these local social issues.

Maharashtra region, along with its 12 active TOS groups, resolved to take up a plantation programme with the help of NSS. Nandurba group is very active and in their programme the District Collector participated. Nagpur group member, Bro. Borade, revived Bharat Samaj Pooja in the Lodge.

Individual groups of Maharashtra presented their service activities in their respective locations.



Temple we visited during the conference

Certificates were distributed to students from Amaravati schools in the essay writing competition on Annie Besant's life, Famous Scientists, Water conservation and the environment. This get-together gave a good opportunity for young students who participated to know the implications of social problems in our society, what is Theosophy and the life of great personalities like Annie Besant and other leaders.

Bro. Sivaprasad spoke about how theosophical inputs into good governance at local communities can lead to peace and harmony. He shared views on TOS history, gender inequality, good governance, climate change, compassion, cooperation, love, and truth. Bro. Sivaprasad appealed for the revival of dormant TS lodges and TOS groups.

All the members gathered participated in the devotional programme of Bharat Samaj Pooja on Sunday 25th, in the morning. It provided good vibrations and peace to the members.

Sri Krishna Theosophical Lodge has decided to start a Theosophical school for the poor in the locality in a two-storey building, which is rented out by the Lodge.

For both days of the event the translation from Hindi to English and vice versa was done so well by Bro. Sanjay Potey, that it helped in sharing without any language barrier and involved all members in the dialogue.

Sr Manjusha of Amravati lodge and her son conducted the programme anchoring with great enthusiasm and taking care of all requirements of the delegates. Mrs Shalini, mother of Bro. Sanjay Potey, spoke well of her active involvement in TOS. Even during old age, she is so active, and her presence was an inspiration to all those present, especially Madam Nancy related to her, as if Mrs Radha Burnier was present there and speaking. Mrs Shalini donated money for the flood victims in the recent floods in Maharashtra and an appeal was made to all to render support for the flood disaster.

Srikrishna Theosophical lodge at Amravati is fortunate to have the direction of noble person Bro. Ahok Ramachandra Kajale as President of the Lodge, who is rendering selfless service and enabled the success of the event.