

TOS India - Eastern Zonal Conference

The Eastern Zonal Conference of the TOS India was hosted this year by Assam Theosophical Federation and the Theosophical Order of Service, Assam & Arunachal Region in April, 2016. The theme of the conference was "Peace, Harmony and Service." Two livestock camps followed the conference.



A replica of Shahid Minar gifted by participants from Bangladesh was presented by Dr Almasur Rahman (far right) to Bro. D. N. Chakravarty. It was accepted by Bro. B. L. Bhattacharyya, TOS National Director (far left).

Delegates from the Eastern Zone, comprising the states of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha, attended. The conference welcomed a special guest participant from Bangladesh, Dr Almasur Rahman, who presented the gift of a miniature replica of Shahid Minar, a national monument of Bangladesh, on behalf of the Theosophical Society there. Other special guests included Bro. S. Sundaram, General Secretary of the Theosophical Society Indian Section, Sis. Manju Sundaram, a veteran theosophist, and Bro. B. L. Bhattacharyya, National Director TOS

India. The reception committee, with Bro. J. N. Patowary, President, and Bro. Anil Barua, Secretary, did an outstanding job of arranging the conference. All of the participants enjoyed the accommodations and meals provided at the Kalakshetra Guesthouse. Bro. Patowary welcomed the delegates and thanked everyone for their kind participation, and Bro. Barua read the goodwill messages. A souvenir was prepared by Sis. Manju Sundaram assisted by Dr Chandra Prova Bhuyan, Editor of the Assam Theosophical Federation.



Bro. S. Sundaram, General Secretary, Theosophical Society, Indian Section (standing) delivered a speech on the opening day.



The souvenir is released by Sister Manju Sundaram.

The morning session on 2nd April began with the Prayers of All Religions, as arranged by Bro. Gokul Chandra Deka, Vice-President ATF, followed by the Brotherhood invocation. Bro. D. N. Chakravarty, President ATF gave the inaugural address. An outstanding talk given by Bro. S. Sundaram followed as did the review of the reports furnished by the different groups. That afternoon, with Dr Kunja Medhi as chair, short talks on the topic *Theosophy a Catalyst for World Peace* were arranged in which representatives of all the states took part.



Bro. Dhireswar Sarma distributing aids, assisted by Sister Charubala Kalita and Bro. Ramesh Chandra Sarma.



Wheel chair donated to a beneficiary by the regional TOS, Assam and Arunachal region.

The following day Bro. B. L. Bhattacharyya chaired the Morning Session. TOS Activity reports from the different regions for the concerned period were read and reviewed. Different types of mobility aids, such as wheel chairs, hearing aids, crutches and cycle repairing tool boxes, were distributed by Bro. Dhireswar Sarma, veteran theosophist, to the needy, specially abled persons. The scheme was sponsored by the State Bank of India, Dispur branch of Guwahati, Assam. An interactive seminar on "Service and Sacrifice" followed, with the delegates in attendance taking part. Representatives from the different states again participated in a short talk in the afternoon session entitled *Theosophic Life in Harmony with Nature*, with Bro. Nagendra Chandra Dutta, Publicity Officer ATF, acting as chair. The evening ended with a cultural programme arranged by Sis. Nilima Das, Panjabari Lodge, and inaugurated by Sis. Manju Sundaram.



A talk on TOS - its function and necessity was given by Bro J. N. Patowary, President Regional TOS.



Bro. Anil Baruah, Secretary of the Regional TOS talking about the recent progress of TOS works in Assam.



A cultural programme was arranged by the Reception Committee at the Eastern Zonal Conference and enjoyed by all.



Two Veterinary Doctors and livestock medications with Secretary of the TOS Mahabahu Group and the National Director of the TOS (left to right).

The next day, the first livestock camp was organised by the Regional TOS in collaboration with the local Veterinary Doctor and field staff in Boko, Kamrup District, Assam. The camp was attended by Bro B. L. Bhattacharyya, TOS National Director, Bro. J. N. Patowary and Sis. Charulata Kalita, Secretary of Mahabahu TOS group in North Guwahati. The beneficiaries of the camp were from the villages of Jongakhuli & Sakhati and numbered 876 in total including: cows, pigs, poultry, ducks and goats, etc. Vaccines and medicines were supplied by the Regional TOS as per

prescriptions given by the Veterinary Doctor, Syed Safiqur Rahman. At the end of the camp a meeting, arranged under the presidency of the Veterinary Doctor, was held. The purpose of the camp was explained by Sis. Charulata Kalita. Bro. B. L. Bhattacharyya spoke of Theosophy and brotherhood relating them to the necessity for the camp.

The second livestock camp was held the following day at Jhanjimukh covering Phukanbori and Kumargaon villages. It was arranged by the Pragati TOS group in collaboration with District AH & Vety. Dept, Jorhat. This new group was recently formed by Dr Bipul Sarma, Vice-President ATF. Bro. R. N. Choudhury, President of Pragjyotishpur Theosophical Lodge, Bro.

J. N. Patowary and Bro. Anil Baura attended the livestock camp. The camp provided vaccines (Haemorrhagic Septicaemia) and medicines purchased with a little bit of financial assistance from the Regional TOS. Medicine was also arranged by the group to combat diseases like Antidiarrheal, Anthelmintic (deworming), Liver stimulants, antibiotics, vitamins and minerals, etc. for about 1,000 cows and bullocks and five dogs.



The vaccination of a pet dog at the livestock camp in Jorhat.

Just prior to the camp on the evening of 6 April the diplomas of the group members were distributed and a discussion of the TOS and its functions was held.