



Centenary Celebrations of Sri Aurobindo's Arrival in Pondicherry
(April 4, 2010)

A National Seminar
Organised by

Sri Aurobindo Centre for Advanced Research (SACAR), Puducherry

**SRI AUROBINDO'S CONTRIBUTIONS
TOWARD A GLOBAL SPIRITUAL CULTURE**

March 27-29, 2010

PROGRAMME



Art and Culture at the Seminar

- A photographic exhibition depicting many moods and movements of Indian classical dance forms is on display at SACAR, second floor hall. This exhibit is organised by Sri Geetagovinda Pratishthana. The exhibition timings are 9:30-12:00, 3:30-5:00.
- A special dance programme by Meera Dance Academy will be held at SACAR on March 29th, 2010, at 7:00pm. The programme will include Odissi and Bharatnatyam performances, choreographed by Ms. Sangeeta Dass.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

- 9:00-9:30** **Meditation; Invocation; Welcome**
Deepshikha, Ananda Reddy
- 9:30-10:15** **Plenary Session I:**
K.R. Srioathsan, Pro-VC, IGNOU: Some Thoughts of Sri Aurobindo on India and Our Education System
- 10:15-10:45** **TEA BREAK**
- 10:45-11:15** **Session I: Toward a Harmonious Collective Existence**
Georges Van Vrekhem, The Integration of the Four Varnas
Beloo Mehra, Envisioning the Future Society
- 11:15-11:45** **Discussion Panel I: Contemporary Social Issues in India**
Chairperson: *Beloo Mehra*
Georges Van Vrekhem, Beloo Mehra, Jamsheed Mavalwala
Discussion Questions: 1. What are some of the most urgent issues or problems facing Indian society?
2. What are some possible solutions to these problems in the light of Sri Aurobindo's thought?
- 11:45-12:15** **Session II: Sri Aurobindo, the Social-Political Thinker**
K. Srinivas, Sri Aurobindo's Social Philosophy
Bhagwandas Lahoti, On Politicians and the Inadequacy of the State Idea
- 12:15-12:45** **Discussion Panel II: Searching for India's Nation-Soul**
Chairperson: *Kittu Reddy*
Kittu Reddy, K. Srinivas, Bhagwandas Lahoti
Discussion Questions: 1. What is the potential and possibility for an alternative political system for India?
2. What are the prospects and challenges for a united South Asia?
3. What is India's nation-soul and how do we work toward discovering it?
- 12:45-2:00** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 2:00-2:45** **Session III: Poetry of the Spirit**
R Y Deshpande, A Biographical Aspect of Savitri
Murali Sivaramakrishna, Poetry, Politics, Spirituality:
The Aurobindian Poetics – Theory and Praxis
Sampadananda Mishra, Sri Aurobindo's Original Writings in Sanskrit
- 2:45-3:30** **Discussion Panel III: Literature of the Future**
Chairperson: *Murali Sivaramakrishna*
Murali Sivaramakrishna, R Y Deshpande, Sampadananda Mishra
Discussion Questions: 1. What is the nature and extent of the influence of Sri Aurobindo on contemporary poetry and poets?
2. In what ways have Sri Aurobindo's poetry and poetics opened the way for the future course of Indian and world literature?
- 3:30-4:00** **TEA BREAK**
- 4:00-4:30** **Session IV: Contributions to Literary Criticism**
Vinod Balakrishna, Sri Aurobindo, the Literary Critic
Shruti Bidwaikar, Sri Aurobindo on the Importance of Poet, Text and Reader
- 4:30-5:15** **Plenary Session II:**
Goutam Ghoshal, Sri Aurobindo's Theory of Poetry:
Searching for a Complete Manifesto
- 5:15-5:30** **Summarizing the Day's Deliberations**
Ananda Reddy

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010

- 9:00-9:15** **Meditation; Invocation**
Deepshikha
- 9:15-10:00** **Plenary Session I:**
Binu Mukherjee: Science, Mind and Yoga
- 10:00-10:30** **Session I: Science and the New Consciousness**
Sraddhalu Ranade, Towards the Ultimate Theory of Everything: Some insights from Sri Aurobindo
Alok Pandey, Where the Parallel Lines Meet
- 10:30-11:00** **TEA BREAK**
- 11:00-11:30** **Discussion Panel I: Future of Science**
Chairperson: *Binu Mukherjee*
Sraddhalu Ranade, Binu Mukherjee, Joss Brooks
Discussion Questions: 1. What is Sri Aurobindo's vision for the future of science in general?
2. What is the extent and nature of the usefulness of science in the discovery of the higher levels of consciousness?
- 11:30-12:00** **Session II: Toward a Spiritual Age**
Aster Patel, The Presence of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother
S. M. Joshi, Sri Aurobindo, The Supramental Avatar: Spiritual Significance
- 12:00-12:30** **Discussion Panel II: Science and Spirituality**
Chairperson: *S. M. Joshi*
Alok Pandey, Aster Patel, S. M. Joshi
Discussion Questions: 1. What is the nature and extent of the inspiration and influence of Sri Aurobindo's vision of spirit and matter on science and scientists?
2. What are the possibilities and prospects of bridging science and spirituality?
- 12:30-2:00** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 2:00-3:00** **Session III: Studying Sri Aurobindo's Thought: Personal Reflections**
SACAR Students: Gitanjali JB, Chandra Pitchal, Siddharthan, Angshuman Basu
- 3:00-3:30** **Session IV: Applying the Ideal of Integral Education**
Chhalamayi Reddy, Integral Education: The Ideal and the Possibilities
Prabhjot Kulkarni, Integrality for Teacher Preparation: Case of a New Mode
- 3:30-4:00** **TEA BREAK**
- 4:00-4:30** **Discussion Panel III: Integral Education and the Future Society**
Chairperson: *Prabhjot Kulkarni*
Chhalamayi Reddy, Prabhjot Kulkarni, Deepshikha Reddy
Discussion Questions: 1. How is Integral Education different from other philosophies and systems of "holistic" education?
2. What are the challenges in practically applying some of the principles of Integral Education in the mainstream educational system of India?
- 4:30-5:15** **Plenary Session II:**
Shraddhavan, "Seer deep-hearted": A Metrical Fragment by Sri Aurobindo
- 5:15-5:30** **Summarizing the Day's Deliberations**
Ananda Reddy

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010

- 9:00-9:15** **Meditation; Invocation**
Deepshikha
- 9:15-10:00** **Plenary Session I:**
Ananda Reddy, Evolutionary Crisis and Alternative Solutions
- 10:00-10:40** **Session I: Sri Aurobindo's Philosophy Revisited**
Vladimir, The Integral Structure and Evolution of Consciousness in the Rig Veda
Indrani Sanyal, Does the Universe Provide for Morality? The Life Divine
Weltanschauung
Gitanjali JB, Recovery of the Indian Scriptures by Sri Aurobindo
- 10:40-11:00** **TEA BREAK**
- 11:00-11:30** **Discussion Panel I: Practicing Integral Philosophy**
Chairperson: *Indrani Sanyal*
Vladimir, Indrani Sanyal, Ananda Reddy
- Discussion Questions:*
1. What are the prospects and problems in bringing Sri Aurobindo's philosophy from the level of mind to life and living – on the individual and collective levels?
 2. What are some common misunderstandings of Integral philosophy and how to avoid those?
- 11:30-12:30** **Session II: Living a New Worldview**
Alok Pandey, Cradle of a New World
Joseba, Rhythms of The Human Cycle applied to Auroville
Pashi Kapoor, Auroville: An Experiment in Human Unity
Pradeep Narang, Reflections on Living out the Vision
- 12:30-1:15** **Discussion Panel II: Towards Human Unity**
Chairperson: *Pradeep Narang*
Alok Pandey, Joseba, Pashi Kapoor, Tine, Pradeep Narang
- Discussion Questions:*
1. How are Ashram and Auroville contributing to the movement toward a deeper, inner human unity?
 2. What are the challenges in practicing collective yoga? What lessons may be learned the experiences of Ashram and Auroville?
- 1:15-2:30** **LUNCH BREAK**
- 2:30-3:15** **Session III: New Developments in Psychology**
Larry Seidlitz, Developments in Transpersonal Psychology Inspired by
Sri Aurobindo's Thought
Soumitra Basu, Integral Psychotherapy
Manasi Pahwa, Psychologist Search Thyself
Jamshed Mavalwala, Applicability of the Principles of 'Equality' on the Individual
Level
- 3:15-3:45** **Discussion Panel III: Practicing Integral Yoga Psychology**
Chairperson: *Soumitra Basu*
Larry Seidlitz, Soumitra Basu, Manasi Pahwa, Jamshed Mavalwala
- Discussion Questions:*
1. What is the nature of the influence of Integral Yoga on the field of psychology?
 2. What are the challenges in applying Integral Yoga Psychology as a therapy?
- 3:45-4:15** **TEA BREAK**
- 4:15-5:00** **Plenary Session II:**
Matthijs Cornelissen, Faith and Love for the Divine: Their Role in Sadhana and in
the Development of Psychology
- 5:00-5:30** **Closing Session:** *Participant Impressions, Gratitude, Invocation*