

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
REGIONAL CENTRE RANCHI**

Seminar on ‘Sri Aurobindo: The Great Sage of 20th Century’

(as a part of AzadiKaAmritMahotsav)

“The vast universal suffering feel as thine:
Thou must bear the sorrow that thou claimst to heal;
The day-bringer must walk in darkest night.
He who would save the world must share its pain.
If he knows not grief, how shall he find grief’s cure?”
- Sri Aurobindo (Savitri, Book 7, The Book of Yoga)

The *Yoga Purusha*, Sri Aurobindo has been considered as the one who has bred renaissance in the 19th century Indian. It was that era when our motherland was aggressed by *the Raj*, which initially infiltrated for trading. Sri Aurobindo understood and preached that light can be brought back to this nation through inner spiritual awakening. He strived to make changes referring to the advancement of human and cosmic evolution. His secluded life, spiritual pursuits and concentration made him mystic, for which, he was also accorded as *Mahayogi*.

Sri Aurobindo, an earthly man, was a great revolutionary who fought and almost gave up his life for the freedom of India. His commitment was to transform and liberate India and to accomplish that, arrangements were made for armed resurrection against the British. In the year 1857, India lay crushed and broken after the “War of Independence”. It was unimaginable for Indians to claim freedom. In such a dark era, Sri Aurobindo was one of the early leaders who decisively turned the Indian National Congress towards its settled aim for *poornaswarajya*, complete freedom from the British and self-reliance based on its own innate genius. He was the first political leader in India to openly put forward, in his newspaper *BandeMataram*, the idea of complete independence. His literary skills, published in many leading magazines of his time, served as an important method of disseminating political awakening. In addition to *The Life Divine*, his major works include *Essays on the Gita* (1922), *Collected Poems and Plays* (1942), *The Synthesis of Yoga* (1948), *The Human Cycle* (1949), *The Ideal of Human Unity* (1949), *Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol* (1950), and *On the Veda* (1956).

Sri Aurobindo was more than a revolutionary. During his forty years in Pondicherry he evolved a new method of spiritual practice, which he called the *Integral Yoga*. At its very core, the term means our union with our inner being. Its aim is a spiritual realisation that not only liberates man's consciousness but also transforms his nature.

The Seminar titled ‘Seminar (hybrid mode) on ‘Sri Aurobindo: The Great Sage of 20th Century’ aims to discuss the philosophical, socio-cultural aspects of teachings of Sri Aurobindo and its impact on the Indian society.

Hon'ble Speakers and Guests to be present on the dias:

Chief Guest:Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari&Trustee, IGNC

Special Guest:Prof. (Dr.) Kamini Kumar, Vice –Chancellor, Ranchi University

Guest of Honour:Dr. S.N. Trivedi, IFS, Sri Aurobindo Society, Ranchi.

Speakers:

1. Ms. Anuradha, Trustee, Gnostic Centre, New Delhi.
2. Sri Matiprasad, Secretary, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry.
3. Ms. Lopa Mukherjee, Writer, Teacher and Psycho- Spiritual Counsellor, Puducherry

Welcome Address & Introduction: Dr. Kumar Sanjay Jha, Regional Director, RC Ranchi.

Comper: Dr. Kamal Kumar Bose, Associate Professor, Dept. of Hindi, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi