

International Conference



Sri Aurobindo Society
Creating the Next Future



Sri Aurobindo Society
AUROBHARATI
INDIA - FROM PAST DAWNS TO FUTURE NOONS

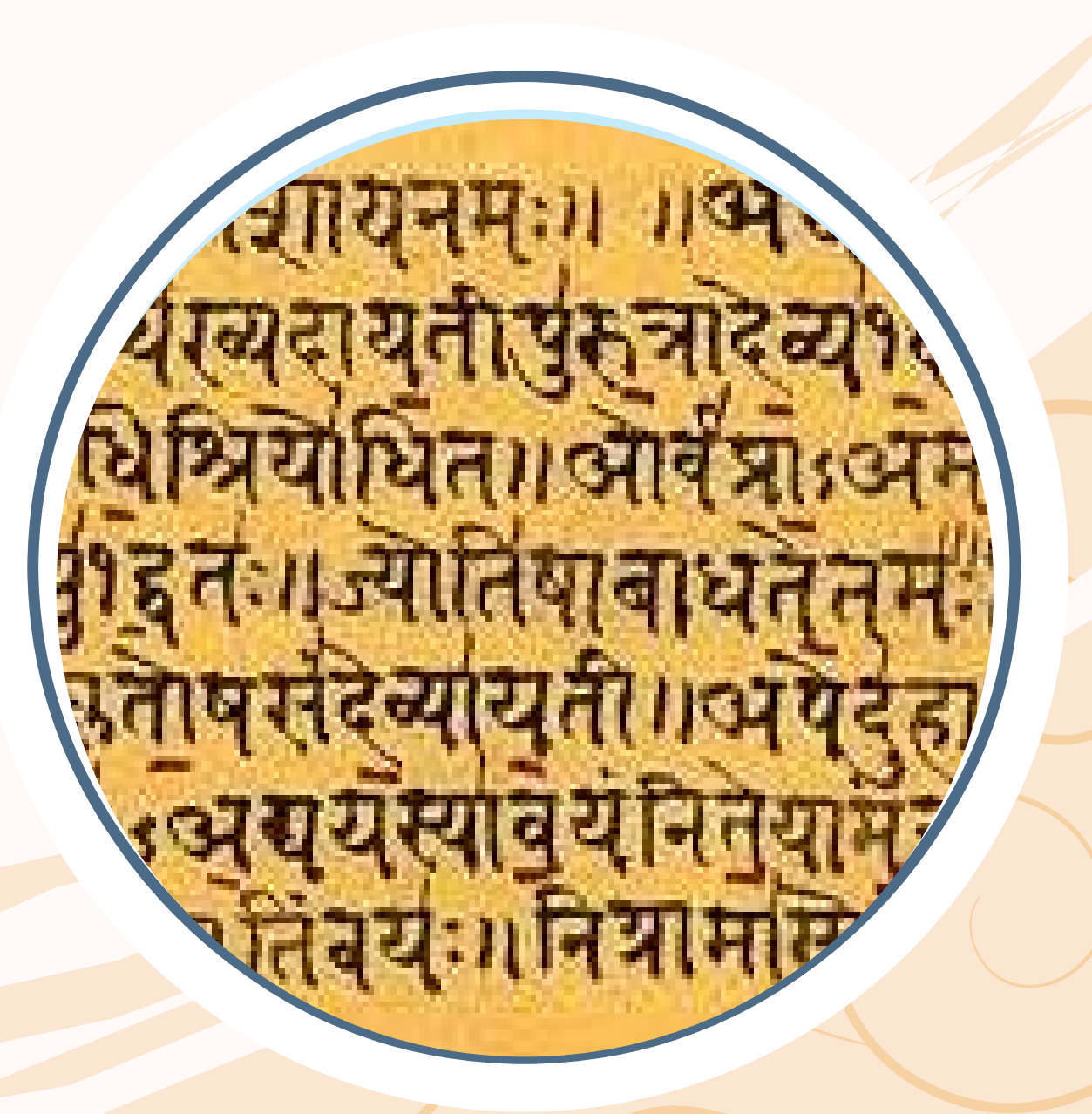
Rishi Agastya, Sri Aurobindo and the Vedic Tradition of Puducherry

On the occasion of

Siddha Day

Organized by

AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society, Union Territory of
Puducherry, India



"The world exists in the Brahman but the truth of the Brahman cannot be seized by the intellect. The Rishi Agastya speaks of It as tat adbhutam, above all, beyond all time."

Sri Aurobindo

19 DECEMBER, 2024



From 09:30 A.M Onwards



**SRI AUROBINDO SOCIETY
11, St. Martin Street
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605001, India**



Contact Us

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For more information
<https://www.sriaurobindoashram.org/>
<https://aurobharati.in>



ALL ARE WELCOME

Concept Note

स्तुतासौ नो मरुतो मृळयंतूत स्तुतो मृघवा शंभविष्ठः ।
ऊर्ध्वा नः संतु कोम्या वनान्यहानि विश्वां मरुतो जिगीषा ॥
Rigveda I,171,3 (Hymn by Rishi Agastya)

Affirmed let the Maruts be benign to us, affirmed the lord of plenitude has become wholly creative of felicity. Upward may our desirable delights be uplifted, O Maruts, upward all our days by the will towards victory.

(Translation by Sri Aurobindo)

तत्सवितुर्वरं रूपं ज्योतिः परस्य धीमहि ।
यन्नः सत्येन दीपयेत् ॥

Let us meditate on the most auspicious (best) form of Savitri, on the Light of the Supreme which shall illumine us with the Truth.

Gayatri Mantra by Sri Aurobindo

The ancient appellation of Pondicherry was Vedapuram or Vedapuri, which implies that this area was a center for Vedic scholarship and cultural activities. Evidence indicates that the Vedas were integral to the curriculum at historical educational establishments near contemporary Pondicherry, India. While the historical ties between Rishi Agastya and Pondicherry remain significant, the spiritual character of the area resonates with the Vedic and Tamil Siddha traditions he represents.

Rishi Agastya is highly regarded as one of the foremost sages in Indian tradition, celebrated for his role in spreading Vedic knowledge across South India. He occupies a vital position in Tamil culture, often acknowledged as the progenitor of the Tamil language and its literary traditions. Known for his deep insights and mystical powers, Rishi Agastya represents wisdom, control over natural elements, and the development of spiritual practices. Hymns attributed to him in the Rigveda highlight his significance as a spiritual pioneer. Temples in Tamil Nadu, located near Pondicherry, pay tribute to Rishi Agastya's enduring legacy. He and his wife Lopamudra are the authors of many Vedic hymns in the Sanskrit text Rigveda.

Puducherry stands as an important spiritual center, bridging the modern Vedic interpretations of Sri Aurobindo with the timeless spiritual wisdom of Rishi Agastya. The renowned visionary, poet, yogi, and philosopher, Sri Aurobindo, established a meaningful connection with the Vedic tradition. He expounded upon the Vedic mysteries by integrating and interpreting their wisdom within the framework of modern concepts and said that Vedas are identified as the Supreme Shastra.



“THE HYMN WAS TO THE RISHI WHO COMPOSED IT A MEANS OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESS FOR HIMSELF AND FOR OTHERS.”
— SRI AUROBINDO, SECRET OF THE VEDA

Sri Aurobindo acknowledged the important contributions of Rishi Agastya “The world exists in the Brahman but the truth of the Brahman cannot be seized by the intellect. The Rishi Agastya speaks of It as tat adbhutam, above all, beyond all time.” Sri Aurobindo has elaborated on particular mantras authored by Rishi Agastya, offering profound commentary that centers on the ultimate truth. Tamil Nadu and Puducherry function as a link between the Vedic and Tamil traditions, highlighted by the significant contributions of prominent personalities like Rishi Agastya and Sri Aurobindo.

This conference is an integral component of the ongoing project by AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society. Its objective is to delve into thematic expressions that highlight the profound heritage of Rishi Agastya, Sri Aurobindo, and the Vedic tradition of Pondicherry.

The eighth Siddha Day subject, "Siddha for Public Health," which is being observed by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, will also be one of the focus areas of the conference.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Inaugural Session
09:30 am-10:30 am

01

Special Lecture and Plenary Session: Rishi
Agastya, Sri Aurobindo and the Vedic Tradition
of Puducherry
10:30 pm-01:00 pm

02

Academic Session-I
Vedic Tradition: Interpretation, Scholarly
Perspectives and Documentation.
01:30 pm-02:30pm

03

Academic Session-II
Tradition of Vedic & Siddha Practices and Its
importance
02:30pm-03:30 pm

04

Academic Session-III
Vedic Tradition of Puducherry: Literary,
Archaeological and Archival Resources
04:00-05:00 pm

05

Validictory Session
05:00 pm-06:00 pm:

06



Program schedule

Siddha Day-2024

International Conference on
Rishi Agastya, Sri Aurobindo and the Vedic Tradition of Puducherry

19th December, 2024 at 09:30 am

Inaugural Ceremony: 09:30-10:30 am

09:30-09:35 am: Welcome by **Dr. Kishor Kumar Tripathy**, Member Secretary, AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India.

09:35-09:45 am: Introductory remarks by **Shri Pradeep Narang**, Chairman, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India.

09:45-09:55 am: Speech by **Prof. K. Tharanikkarasu**, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India.

09:55-10:05 am: Speech by **Smt. K. Swarnambika**, IPS, Deputy Secretary, Auroville Foundation. Tamilnadu, India.

10:05-10:15 am: Speech by **Dr Ajit Sabnis**, Trustee, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry & Chairman of Sri Aurobindo Society State Committee, Karnataka, India.

10:15-10:20 am: Reading of Messages by **Shri Nagesh Bhandari**, President, Indus University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
Message by **Prof. Dr. N. J. Muthukumar**, Organizing Chairman, Director General, Central Council for Research in Siddha, Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India, Chennai, India.

10:20-10:30 am: Report of the Project "Vedapuri, Rishi Agastya, Sri Aurobindo and the Vedic Tradition of Puducherry" by **Dr. Kishor Kumar Tripathy**, Member Secretary & **Mrs. Charu Tripathy**, Associate Director, AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India.

Special Lecture: 10:30-11:00 a.m

10:30-11:00 am: **Dr Alok Pandey**, Sadhak, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Puducherry, India.

Topic: Sri Aurobindo, Rishi Agastya and the Vedic Tradition.

11:00-11:30 am: Tea Break

Plenary Session: 11:30-01:00 pm:

Theme: Rishi Agastya, Sri Aurobindo and the Vedic Tradition of Puducherry

Chairperson: Dr Ajit Sabnis, Trustee, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry & Chairman of Sri Aurobindo Society State Committee, Karnataka, India.

11:30-11:50 am-Professor Dr Krishna Mohan Kotra, Department of Behavioural Sciences, University of the Commonwealth Caribbean, Jamaica W.I.

Topic: Siddha and Integral Yoga Approaches of Rishi Agastya and Sri Aurobindo to Attain Psycho-Spiritual Lifestyle: Scope and Implications for Public Health and Mental Wellness.

11:50-12:10 pm- Prof. Charlotte Schmid, Director of studies, Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (French School of the Far East), France.

Topic: First representations of Agastya in the south of India: The Kailasanatha of Kancipuram

12:10-12:30 pm- Professor (Dr.) Vedvyas Jayprakashnarayanji Dwivedi, Executive Vice-President & Dr. Nagesh Bhandari, President, Indus University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

Topic: Practical Perspectives of Ancient Vedic Wisdom and Vedanta's Scientific Philosophy for the Sustainable and Peaceful Next-Generations

12:30-12:50 pm- Dr. Siva Velu Narayanan, EX lecturer VHMC, Chennai, EX Medical Officer, Puducherry, Founder, Yogic Homeopathy, Arokya homoeopathic clinic, Ariankuppam., Puducherry, India

Topic: Temple Traditions associated with the Vedic Rishi Agastya in Puducherry: Reflections from Vedic and Siddha Yoga Traditions.

12:50-01:00 pm: Remarks & Discussions

01:00-01:30- Lunch



Academic Session: I: 01:30 pm-02:30 pm

Theme: Vedic Tradition: Interpretation, Scholarly Perspectives, and Literary Documentation.

Chairperson: Dr J Krishnan, Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Pondicherry University, India.

01:30-01:45 pm: Shri M.S. Shrinivasan, Researcher, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India.

Topic: Vedas and the future of Indian culture in the light of Sri Aurobindo

01:45-02:00 pm: Dr Sundar Murugan, Eminent Tamil Scholar, Poet & Founder ABAY NGO, Puducherry, India.

Topic: Siddha and Vedic Tradition of Rishi Agastya and Sri Aurobindo

02:00-02:15 pm: Dr.Deviparasad Mishra, Deputy Director, French Institute of Pondicherry, India

Topic: Manuscript Collection of Vedic and Associated Knowledge Systems in French Institute of Pondicherry.

02:15-02:25: Dr S. Ananda Subrahmanya Sarma, Researcher, École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), Pondicherry Centre, Puducherry, India.

Topic: Vedic Education in Puducherry: Tradition and Its Continuity

02:15-02:30 pm: Remarks & Discussions



Academic Session: II: 02:30-03:30 pm

Theme: Tradition of Vedic & Siddha Practices and Its importance

Chairperson: Professor Dr Krishna Mohan Kotra, University of the Commonwealth Caribbean, Jamaica W.I.

02:30-02:45 pm: Dr Chaman Lal Raina, Eminent Scholar and Indologist, Florida Miami, USA.

Topic: Rishi Agastya and Sri Aurobindo on the Vedas

02:45-03:00 pm: Dr. Balanehru Subramanian, Principal of School of BioMedical Sciences, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry, India.

Topic: Perspectives of Rishi Agastya and Sri Aurobindo regarding Siddha and Vedic Knowledge Systems as pathways to healing and self-perfection.

03:00-03:15 pm: Swami Japasiddhananda, Assistant Professor (Co-ordinator) of the Department of Sanskrit and Philosophy, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational & Research Centre, West Bengal, India.

Topic: Vedic and Yogic insights on Public Health in the Modern Context: Integral Approach

03:15-03:25 pm: Shri Bhaskar Mukherjee, Integral Education Expert & Assistant Teacher, Uttar Garifa Palli Mangal High School Higher Secondary, Naihati, West Bengal.

Topic: Sri Aurobindo's Yoga of Transformation and Its connection with the Ancient Vedic Seers

03:25-03:30 pm: Remarks & Discussions

03:30-04:00 pm- Tea Break



Academic Session: III: 04:00-05:00 pm

Theme: Vedic Tradition of Puducherry: Literary, Archaeological and Archival Resources

Chairperson: Dr Kishor Kumar Tripathy, Member Secretary, AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry

04:00-04:15 pm: Dr Rukmini S, Associate Professor, Department of English, School of Languages and Social Sciences, VIT University, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.

Topic: Understanding God, Nature, and Man and Its Implications to Spiritual Consciousness and Ecology from Sage Agastya's and Sri Aurobindonian perspective

04:15-04:30 pm: Prof. Sivesan Sivanandamoorthy, Professor, Department of Marketing, University of Jaffna, Colombo, Srilanka.
Topic: Tamil Medical Heritage: A Critical Review

04:30-04:45 pm: Dr. Ravitchandirane P, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Government of Puducherry, India.

Topic: The Role of Archaeological Remains for Puducherry History

04:45-04:55 pm: Dr. M. Prakash Rao, Former Scientist & Research Officer, Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, Department of AYUSH, Government of India.

Topic: Knowledge Skills in Ancient Medicine from Rishi Agastya to Sri Aurobindo

04:55-05:00 pm: Remarks & Discussions



Valedictory Session-05:00 pm-06:00 pm:

05:00-05:10 pm: Wrap-up of the Conference by **Dr. Kishor Kumar Tripathy**, Member Secretary, AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India.

05:10-05:20 pm: Shri V Kaliaperumal, Director, Department of Art and Culture, Government of Puducherry, India.

05:20-05:30 pm: Dr. Dharaneedharan K., Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India.

05:30-05:40 pm: Dr Sashikant Dash, Principal, Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Government of Puducherry, India.

05:40-05:50 pm: Shri Peeyush Arya, Patron, Vedic Vidya Kendra, Puducherry, India.

05:50-05:55 pm: Vedic Chanting



Speakers.



PROF. DR. N. J. MUTHUKUMAR

Organizing Chairman, Director General of the Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India



SRI PRADEEP NARANG

Chairman, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India



DR. NAGESH BHANDARI

President, Indus University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India



DR. VEDVYAS JAYPRAKASHNARAYAN DWIVEDI

Executive Vice-President, Indus University Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India



PROF. K. THARANIKKARASU

Vice-Chancellor (i/c), Pondicherry University Puducherry, India



SMT. K. SWARNAMBIKA

IPS, Deputy Secretary, Auroville Foundation. Tamilnadu, India



DR AJIT SABNIS

Trustee, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry & Chairman of Sri Aurobindo Society State Committee, Karnataka, India.



DR ALOK PANDEY

Sadhak, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Puducherry, India.



DR KISHOR KUMAR TRIPATHY

Member Secretary, AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India



SHRI M S SHRINIVASAN

Sadhak, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India



DR. CHARLOTTE SCHMID

Director of studies, Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, France.



MRS. CHARU TRIPATHY

Associate Director AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society



SHRI V KALIAPERUMAL

Director, Department of Art and Culture, Government of Puducherry, India.



DR. BALANEHRU SUBRAMANIAN

Principal of School of BioMedical Sciences, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry, India.



DR DHARANEEDHARAN K

Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India.



Speakers.



DR RUKMINI S

Associate Professor, Department of English,
VIT University, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.



DR KRISHNA MOHAN KOTRA

Professor, Department of Behavioural Sciences,
University of the Commonwealth Caribbean,
Jamaica W.I.



DR CHAMAN LAL RAINA

Eminent Scholar and Indologist,
Florida USA.



DR SUNDAR MURUGAN

Eminent Tamil Scholar
& Founder of ABAY NGO, Puducherry, India



PROF. J. KRISHNAN

Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Pondicherry
University, India.



DR SASHIKANT DASH

Principal, Tagore Government Arts and Science
College, Government of Puducherry,
India.



DR SIVA VELU NARAYANAN

EX lecturer VHMC, Chennai, Founder, Yogic
Homeopathy, Arokyo homeopathic clinic,
Ariankuppam., Puducherry, India



PROF. SIVESAN SIVANANDAMOORTHY

Professor, Department of Marketing, University of
Jaffna, Colombo, Sri Lanka.



DR M PRAKASH RAO

Former Scientist & Research Officer, Central
Council for Research in Homeopathy, Department
of AYUSH, Government of India.



SHRI PEEYUSH ARYA

Patron, Vedic Vidya Kendra
Puducherry, India



DR RAVITCHANDIRANE P

Asst. Prof. Department of History, TGASC,
Government of Puducherry, India.



SWAMI JAPASIDDHANANDA

Assistant Professor (Co-ordinator), Dept. of
Sanskrit and Philosophy, RMVE&RC
West Bengal, India.



DR DEVIPRASAD MISHRA

Deputy Director,
French Institute of Pondicherry, India



DR S. ANANDA SUBRAHMANYA SARMA

Researcher, École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO),
Pondicherry Centre, Puducherry,
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SHRI BHASKAR MUKHERJEE

Assistant Teacher, UGPMHSSHS,
Naihati, West Bengal,
India



International Conference on Rsi Agastya, Sri Aurobindo and the Vedic Tradition of Puducherry.

Advice & Support:

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Chairman, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, India

Shri Vijay Podddar

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Convenors:

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19th December, 2024,

09:30 am onwards



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Registration link

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About us.

Sri Aurobindo Society is an international organization dedicated to the pursuit of individual excellence, societal transformation, and the promotion of human unity grounded in spiritual principles. Sri Aurobindo Society is an association, a movement, an invitation and an opportunity to connect and then oneself, to realize one's unity with others and integration with the entire creation, to work for a happier world, to participate in the collaborative effort, and to create the Next Future. A notable initiative within the Society is AuroBharati, which aims to rediscover and celebrate the brilliance and richness of Indian culture, actively integrating it into contemporary life and endeavors to foster the development of a new India in the light of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Our efforts are directed towards cultivating a deep appreciation for Mother India and enhancing the understanding of her diverse cultural expressions, as well as the cultural unity of India and its global relationships, all aimed at fostering a sustainable society through institutional collaboration, qualitative research, publications, and outreach initiatives. In addition to our cultural focus, we are committed to the preservation and promotion of India's national heritage, placing particular emphasis on both tangible and intangible cultural assets through cultural interactions and organized networking framework.

Significant Projects and Outreach activities related to Indian Literature, Culture & Heritage

- **Bharat Vaibhav: Study of Indian Art, Culture & Heritage**
- **Devabhasha: A Language of the Divine Origin**
- **Vedic Chanting: Intangible Cultural Heritage, Tradition & Continuity**
- **Digital Portals on the Vedas and Associated Knowledge Systems**
- **Sri Aurobindo Integral Study & Research Forum**
- **Scientific Heritage & Knowledge Systems of India,**
- **Legacy of the Siddhas: Philosophical and cultural significances**
- **Research, Documentation and creation of Digital Repository of the Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Promotion of Heritage Tourism**
- **Tamil Heritage: Community Culture, Documentation and Conservation Measures**
- **Design and Development of Museums, Training and Capacity building programs for Museums professionals.**
- **Capacity Building Program for Artists and Cultural Professionals**
- **Sanskrit Study & Research Forum:**
- **Devavani-AuroBharati Sanskrit Radio**
- **Balasahtya: Towards Creativity & Integral Development**

We have launched multiple new academic initiatives, courses, and research programs within this field and aims to attract a diverse group of enthusiastic individuals to contribute to these project related to Indian art, culture & heritage. AuroBharati is seeking applications from eligible candidates for internship/project positions focused on projects pertaining to Sanskrit and Indian Culture. This initiative is designed for students enrolled in post-graduate or doctoral programs at universities, providing them with the opportunity to gain experience across various projects within the department. Additionally, interns will have the flexibility to participate and work remotely from locations outside of Puducherry.

You are welcome to participate in our activities in a spirit of selfless service.

Volunteer your services, skills or time for any of the projects in the focus areas, according to your interest. If you feel you have something to share or learn, lend your energy in programmes, activities, events and projects, we have several areas that might inspire you. This can also be done from your own place, according to your time and availability.

Interested candidates may send their CV and experience details to the Associate Director, AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society at charu.tripathy@aurosociety.org

Registration link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdC2uwKPPI4V3nEUozwV-7eEkVTciQo2UCf54yobr4BDq9heg/viewform?usp=pp_url

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All are welcome

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