**REPORT PREPARED BY BHĀRATSHAKTI TEAM**

**RESEARCH TOPIC:**

BHĀRATA SHAKTI: MOTHER INDIA, A POWER, A GODHEAD

**PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR:**

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### Overview

Sri Aurobindo once said:

*“Each nation is a Shakti or power of the evolving spirit in humanity and lives by the principle which it embodies. India is the Bharata Shakti, the living energy of a great spiritual conception, and ﬁdelity to it is the very principle of her existence.” (CWSA, Vol. 20, p. 57)*

It is by this virtue alone – the virtue of fidelity to its inner Shakti – that India has been one of the immortal nations. This has been the secret of her amazing persistence and the perpetual force of her survival and revival, he further added.

This project aimed to explore this question – what is this Bharata Shakti, this living energy of our country we know today as India? How can one discover or re-discover this immortal Bharata Shakti, the force that is behind India’s persistence, survival and revival. Through a thorough study of several works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, the project aimed to highlight that inner force, that living energy, that Shakti of Bharata which will continue to lead her toward a new future, a renaissance of sort but one that is true to her spirit, to her *svadharma* and *svabhāva*.

This project was undertaken with a specific aim to design a poster exhibition on the topic.

### Methodology

Grounded in the vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother for India’s future, and closely connected with that, the future of the world, the exhibition was designed to lead a visitor on a journey to identify several key aspects of a living culture through which a nation’s, rather a civilization’s Shakti expresses itself. Sri Aurobindo’s perfectly conceived definition of a culture was the guiding spirit. He speaks of culture as an “expression of a consciousness of life which formulates itself in three aspects”: a side of thought, of ideal, of upward will and the soul’s aspiration; a side of creative self-expression and appreciative aesthesis, intelligence and imagination; and a side of practical and outward formulation.

An intensive literature review of various published volumes of Sri Aurobindo, the Mother and many senior sādhakas was conducted with the above guiding vision in front. Several compilations and other secondary works were also reviewed. A word-search through electronically available reference materials was also conducted. Old volumes of journals published by Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Sri Aurobindo Society were also researched to identify relevant material.

The selections were organised in various themes as determined by the primary investigator. Proper citations were added to every selection.

Appropriate images were selected from a variety of online and offline sources for the purpose of designing the exhibition posters. These images were also carefully scanned for their relevance to the quotes/passages which will be the accompanying text on the posters.

Each of the 150 posters was carefully designed with a combination of relevant text and image(s). Thorough attention was paid to the sequencing of the material being presented in the posters. More on this is explained in the Findings and Conclusions sections below.

### Findings

A 150-poster exhibition titled ‘Bhārata Shakti – Mother India, a Power, a Godhead’ was displayed from May 21 to May 30, 2022 at Sri Aurobindo Ashram Exhibition House, Beach Road, Pondicherry. More than 600 people visited the exhibition.

A nation’s or a people’s history is not only about the rise and fall of different empires that ruled and warred in that land. Rather a civilization’s march is first and foremost about an inner journey of its people – as expressed through its unique tuning of the soul, the mind and the body.

The exhibition display opened with the eternal soul of Mother India – her inner truth of a life-affirming spirituality, noting along the way a few salient aspects of the religion that sprang from such spiritual quest. This is that religion she called Sanatana Dharma, because of its eternal and universal truths.

Visitors were led through the different expressions of India’s creative intelligence and imagination – be it in different arts – visual and performing, literature, and various inner and outer sciences. All these expressions of the Shakti are in their highest form an offering to the Supreme Force, the Divine, that is all-pervading and eternal, Immanent and transcendent.

A complete culture would not only be concerned with the vital and mental development of the individual but also a well-harmonised physical development as a way to facilitate an integral growth – both of the individual and the society.

Going further, a visitor would note the key aspects which the Indian mind identified as the basis for a sound outer body for a collective of individuals, a society, which aspires to live up to, or rather progressively rise up to the highest ideal put before it by the people’s highest intuitive intelligence.

The exhibition also reminded that India’s true Shakti lies in her being loyal and devoted to her inmost truth, her true svabhāva and svadharma. India may be at present going through a tapasya, a national yoga of sort, in which many of the ideas and ideals put forth by Western civilization are being tested out.

### Conclusions

The problems of modern human civilisation – whether of division and diversity, or of political or social unrest — also find their acutest expression in India because it is here that the lasting solution to these problems is to be found, because the only lasting solution is that of the spiritual kind, the kind only India’s ever-living spiritual force, the Bhārata Shakti, is capable of offering to the humanity.

The research findings, and particularly the manner in which it was presented, help one see that the Bhārata Shakti, the force, is ever-working – sometimes behind the scenes, and sometimes in front; sometimes in the decline and sometimes in the rise. India is now well-poised for a rebirth, a renewal. The seeds of such renaissance were sown long time back, the garden is sprouting life here and there but the full bloom is yet to happen. India lives and moves in millennia and Mother Nature is most patient as she works out her experiments of different kinds, despite the numerous challenges posed by the forces of ignorance and inertia.

It is the youth of a nation who will lead the way for its cultural renewal and rebirth, but for that to happen the youth must first be educated in the right way. What will be the kind of education that will make our youth develop a love for their nation – a reverence for her past glories, an objective perception of her present condition, and a clear vision of the path she must pursue for her future progress? Our research also hinted at a few answers in this regard.

India must be reborn if it has to fulfil her destiny, her mission for the world – that of being a spiritual guru for the humanity. For that to happen, Indians must first open themselves to the spirit of India, the dharma of India, the Shakti of India. Indians must first discover the Shakti within themselves to become true sons and daughters of this sacred land, to discover within themselves the Indian-ness. It is in the discovery of that true self that the Indian will discover India.