

INSTITUTE: BHĀRATSHAKTI
Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry

Highlights of Works Completed during
April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025
Focus Area: Indian Culture

bharatshakti.aurosociety.org

Report prepared by: Dr. Beloo Mehra

April 2025

Contents

ABOUT BHĀRATSHAKTI.....	4
ABOUT BHĀRATSHAKTI WORKS	4
SUMMARY OF WORKS BY BHĀRATSHAKTI DEPARTMENT	5
LIST OF KEY ACTIVITIES.....	8
I: Researching, Curating and Publishing 10 Issues of Online Journal, <i>Renaissance</i>	8
II: Photography Exhibition Integrating Indian History, Art and Culture (17 Days at Ashram Exhibition house)	12
III: ‘ <i>Sanskriti</i> ँ <i>Svādhyāya</i> ’: Insights from Itihāsas, Purānas and Upanishads (2-day workshop for teachers)	13
IV: Sangeet Sandhya: Lecture-demonstration on Hindustani Classical Music	14
V: Two-day Residential Retreat – “Yoga in Everyday Life”	15
VI: Invoking Shakti: Cultivating Courage, Faith and Concentration (4-day Workshop for Students)	16
VII: Yuva Shakti – Cultivating Virtues for Self-growth (Workshop for Youth)	16
VIII: Navakriti – Celebrating The Mother’s Birthday with Children.....	17
IX: Symbolism in Sanatana Dharma – 12-week online course	17
X: International Online Symposium: The Veda and the Vedic Spirit	18
XI: Invited Talks & Presentations Across India (Total = 31).....	19
XII: Publications (Total = 52).....	19
XIII: Our Culture, Our Pride - Workshop for Adolescents at Om Shanti Dham Gurukulam, Karnataka	20
XIV: National Webinars, Guest Lectures & Insightful Conversations (Total = 9)	20
XV: Poster Exhibitions Across India (Total = 6).....	21

XVI: BhāratShakti Blog (Total = 19)	23
XVII: Dissemination through Social Media, YouTube, Podcasts, Newsletters, April 2024- March 2025	24
HONOURS AND AWARDS	24

ABOUT BHĀRATSHAKTI

BhāratShakti is a department of Sri Aurobindo Society dedicated to study, research and programme development in the area of Indian Culture in the light of Sri Aurobindo's vision for India and her work for the future of humanity. We find inspiration for our name and focus of work in the following words of Sri Aurobindo.

“Each nation is a Shakti or power of the evolving spirit in humanity and lives by the principle which it embodies. India is the Bhārata Shakti, the living energy of a great spiritual conception, and fidelity to it is the very principle of her existence. For by its virtue alone she has been one of the immortal nations; this alone has been the secret of her amazing persistence and perpetual force of survival and revival.”

~ Sri Aurobindo, CWSA, Vol. 20, p. 57

ABOUT BHĀRATSHAKTI WORKS

“It is more important that the thought of India should come out of the philosophical school and renew its contact with life, and the spiritual life of India issue out of the cave and the temple and, adapting itself to new forms, lay its hand upon the world.”

~ Sri Aurobindo, Extract from an interview given to a correspondent of *The Hindu*

Guided by this new direction Sri Aurobindo has given for a true Indian renaissance, we have embarked on a mission:

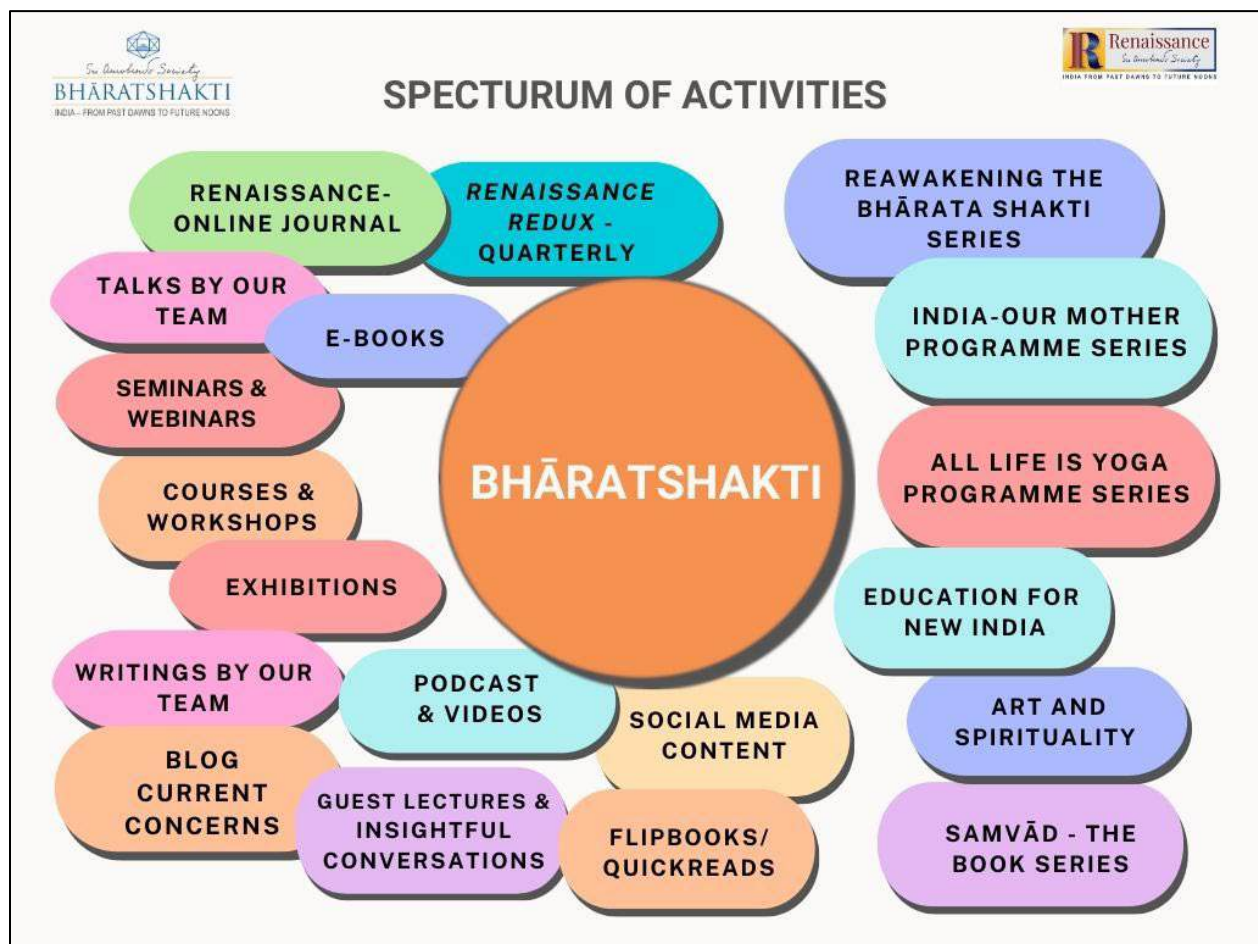
- To facilitate a deeper appreciation and understanding of Sri Aurobindo's vision of India's destined work for the future of humanity
- To design and curate inspiring educational programmes that emphasize the dynamic application of spirituality to life and all its activities necessary for the building of a new India
- To create, curate and disseminate inspiring and research-based content related to what Sri Aurobindo speaks of as soul, mind and body of India's rich and diverse culture
- To evoke among the young and young-at-heart a great love for India, pride in India's heritage and an aspiration and will to create an even greater future

To know more, explore our website – bharatshakti.aurosociety.org

SUMMARY OF WORKS BY BHĀRATSHAKTI DEPARTMENT

April 2024-March 2025

TOTAL ACTIVITIES = 164

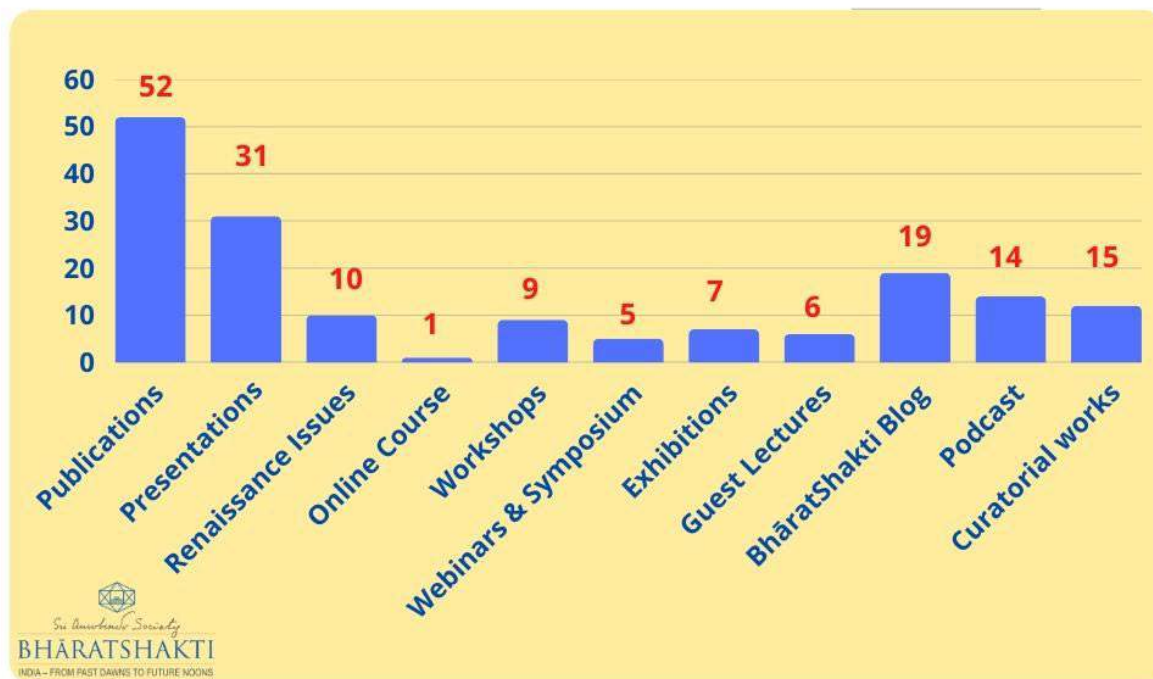


Spectrum & Number of Activities APR 2024 TO MARCH 2025

164



Total
Activities



DIRECT IMPACT Audience of Our Programmes

5425+



Total
Audience



LIST OF KEY ACTIVITIES

I: Researching, Curating and Publishing 10 Issues of Online Journal, *Renaissance*

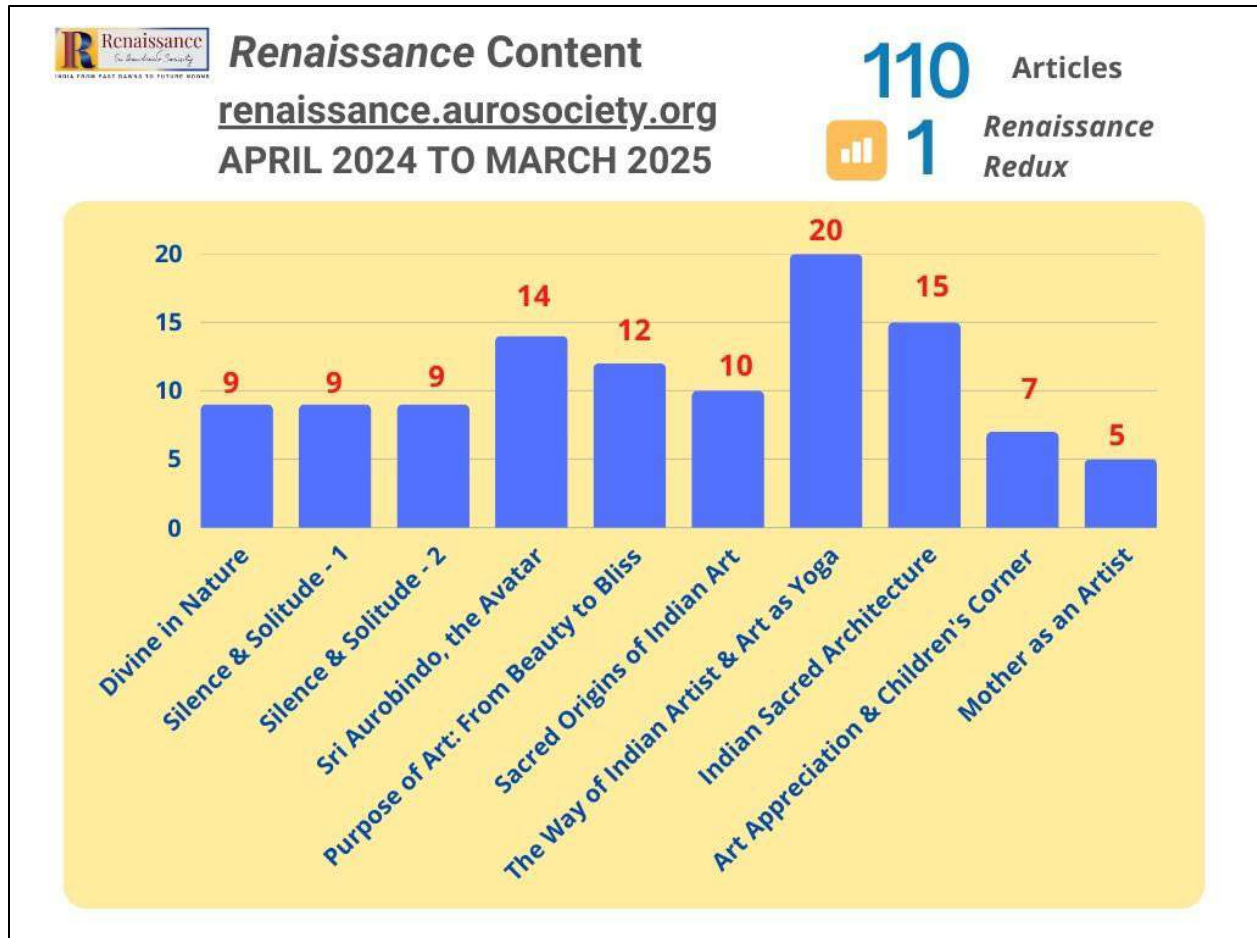
This journal features curated pearls of wisdom from the oceanic writings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, as well as fresh perspectives and insights on India and her creative genius manifesting in various domains – spiritual, artistic, literary, philosophic, aesthetic.

Available at: <https://renaissance.aurosociety.org/>

***Renaissance* highlights during April 2024-March 2025**

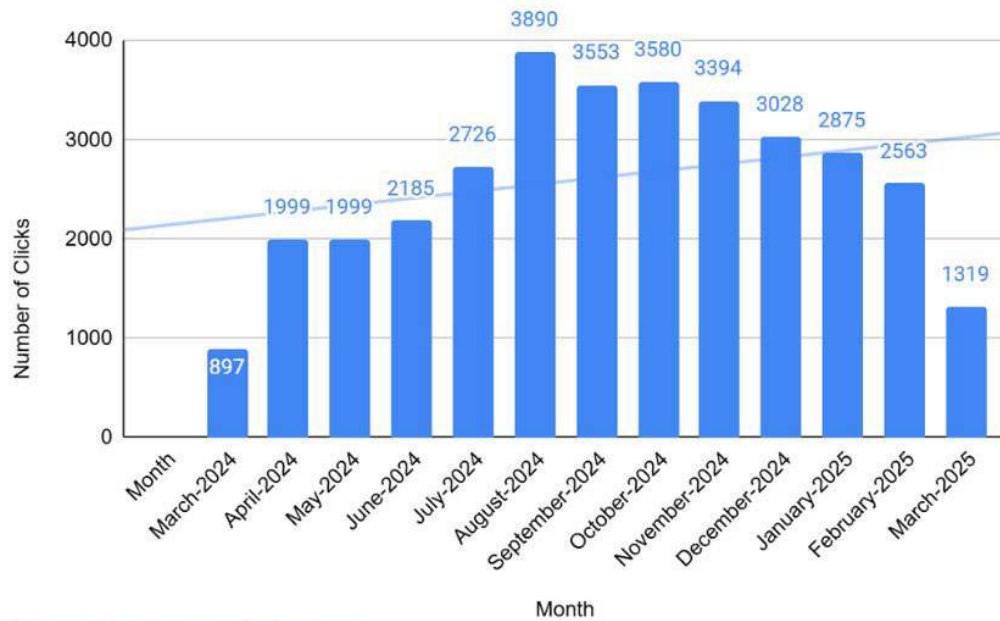
- Published **10 issues** of online journal *Renaissance*, including two double issues.
- **Total no. of articles published in Renaissance from April 2024-March 2025 = 110**
- Led by readers' request, a new quarterly periodical, *Renaissance Redux*, was launched in **February 2025** which will feature selections from journal archives and present them in downloadable PDF format to subscribers.
- ***Renaissance* reach over the past 12 months**
 - **2000+ visitors accessing journal website every month, peak being 3890 visitors in August 2024**
 - **200 genuine users daily**
 - **5000 unique users monthly**
 - **23% of all traffic to all Sri Aurobindo Society main websites and subdomains is coming through the traffic to *Renaissance* website alone.**
- For many of the themes explored in the journal through research-based and reflective articles, related educational events were also organized to make the exploration of our theme more 'dynamic' and to facilitate deeper immersion into the topic.
- **More than 600 posters were created for these 10 issues, and more than 200 photographs accessed through online research**

THEMES EXPLORED IN *RENAISSANCE*, APRIL 2024 TO MARCH 2025



REACH OF *RENAISSANCE*, APRIL 2024 TO MARCH 2025

Renaissance Journal - Number of visits
March 2024 - March 2025
2000+ every month

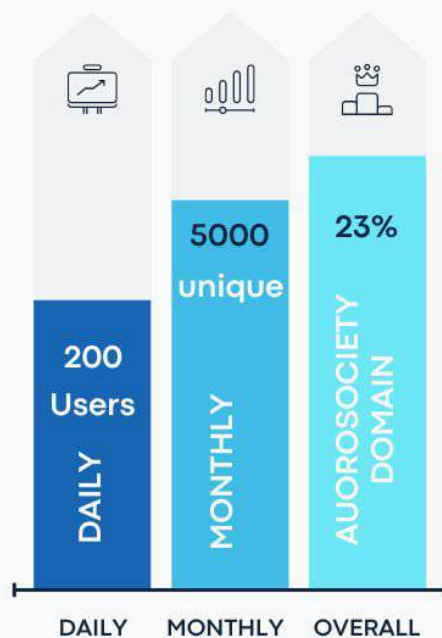


renaissance.aurosociety.org

2024-2025 Renaissance Website Traffic

Annual

renaissance.aurosociety.org



DAILY

200 genuine users daily

MONTHLY

5000 unique users monthly

OVERALL

23% of the total traffic of all society subdomain and main society websites.

II: Photography Exhibition Integrating Indian History, Art and Culture (17 Days at Ashram Exhibition house)

Dates: March 6-23, 2025

- Since September 2024, the BhāratShakti department has been exploring the theme ‘Spirit and Forms of Indian Art’ through its online journal *Renaissance* and various activities and educational programmes. As part of this ongoing exploration, the department concluded a 17-day-photographic thoroughly researched exhibition on the theme: **“HAMPI – A Photographic Journey: Tracing the Aesthetics of Perseverance and Valour”** at the invitation of the Exhibition House of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry.
- The exhibition was inaugurated on 6th March, 2025 at 5.00 pm and continued up to 23rd March, 2025.
- The exhibition showcased the story of magnificence of Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as a highly prosperous city during the peak of Vijayanagara empire, its architectural and sculptural riches, its connection with stories from the Ramayana and much more.
- All the 150+ photographs selected for the Exhibition were procured from a BhāratShakti volunteer resource person. The textual panels accompanying the photographs were curated by Dr. Beloo Mehra from the writings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, in addition to her own descriptions of some of the details of the temples and the architecture, as well as history of Hampi as the capital of Vijayanagara empire.
- Dr. Beloo Mehra worked closely with the curator at the Ashram Exhibition House to make final selections of the photographs – a process that went over several months – and create a narrative flow to integrate different historical, artistic, architectural and cultural facets.
- As a part of the Exhibition, BhāratShakti department also organized a lecture-discussion event on 13th March at the venue. Dr. Nanda Kishore MS, Head of the Department of Politics & International Studies and Chair of Sri Aurobindo Studies, Pondicherry University was the speaker on the topic ‘The Cultural and Political Legacy of Vijayanagara Empire.’
- **Over the exhibition duration, about 600 people attended the exhibition including several groups of students from the Ashram School (SAICE), Pondicherry University, and also a large number of visitors from Ashram and Auroville.** This effort was highly appreciated by all the visitors.
- **Some comments recorded by visitors in the Visitors’ Book:**
 - Long, detailed photography exhibition. Almost a visual gallery of Hampi itself. One almost doesn’t need to step down there.
 - It is one of the best exhibitions on Indian sculpture that I have seen. It would be nice to see it in Auroville.

- The exhibition gives a clear idea about Hampi. Anybody who wants to visit Hampi must visit the exhibition first to have a perfect idea about the place. Great applause to the photographer and the idea behind it.
- Thanks a lot for the wonderful work. Have always wanted to visit Hampi. Your amazing work of art has instilled in me a burning desire to see this historic place as soon as possible. Ever grateful for this exhibition and the beautiful narrations next to each picture.
- An in-depth presentation of Hampi, very nicely placed with historical snippets.
- A must-see exhibition, especially for the youngsters to know and preserve our Indian heritage.
- First of all, hearty congratulations to the photographer for showcasing his magnificent work of art through his mighty and skillful lens captured at Hampi – the grand old capital of Vijayanagar empire – the old dynasty famous for its grandeur and beauty in varied fields. These photos have given us an opportunity to see the Truth of Sri Aurobindo’s famous revelation: Matter shall reveal the spirit’s face. You have brought out that “face” through your lens for the people at large.
- I was deeply drawn towards every picture which was on the wall. Very magical and powerful vibrations and I got connected to every image. Beautiful and calmed my whole being within, inside. I just fell in love with every single picture.

III: ‘Sanskriti ँ Svādhyāya’: Insights from Itihāsas, Purānas and Upanishads (2-day workshop for teachers)

Dates: September 23-24, 2024

- Part of BhāratShakti teacher-education initiative under the title
- **Participants: 70 teachers including 25 teacher-leaders and school administrators**
- **Venue:** Beautiful and serene campus called Freedom Land in rural Karnataka.
- The workshop facilitated by Dr. Beloo Mehra and Mr. Narendra Murty included Lecture-discussions, Q & A, Group reflections, Storytelling, Chanting & Contemplative activities.
- **Key themes explored:**
 - *Shāstra* within
 - Revisiting our legends and stories for new light
 - Symbolism in the stories from *Purānas*
 - Insights for Education in our scriptures
 - Dharma and our role as educators
 - Women in the *Itihāsas*

- The focus was on the study of scriptures for gaining deep insights on life, spiritual growth, our work as learners and teachers, dharma and living with truth, social organization, building a grounded personality which is rooted in our culture and is also progressive, and many more such values.
- **A few takeaway points from the two-day workshop as shared by some of the participants:**
 - We are all potentially divine. As your faith is so are you.
 - To understand and grow into the innate Shāstra within.
 - Symbolism of each of the characters of the Ramayana and how it applies to my life.
 - Dharma is the compass of my life. It gives certitude to my life.
 - Going beyond the shastras should be pursued only when a new truth emerges within.
 - *Ekam sat, vipra bahudha vadanti*
 - Symbolism of *halahala* or poison in Samudra-manthan story
 - Our puranas and stories have deep meanings to show us the right path for the sadhana.
 - Approach the Shāstra with *sraddhaa*, without any mental or intellectual prejudice
 - Shraddha is the deepest truth within to hold on to.
 - Relying on Shāstras as guiding compass during conflicting choices
 - Shāstra does not mean a single text, or set of customs.
 - Be the disciple and the guru will find you.
 - Guru holds within as in a womb, impregnates the student which his/her spirit and delivers student in a new birth.
 - Reverence for the symbolic meaning in *puranas* and *Itihāsas*
 - An acharya leads by example, seeks to awaken the child.
 - Doing sadhana through assertion of One and negation of Materialism

IV: Sangeet Sandhya: Lecture-demonstration on Hindustani Classical Music

Date: 25 March, 2025

- Smt. Deepshikha Reddy was invited to coordinate the programme with other artists from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Music Section.
- A brief history of the evolution of Hindustani classical music was shared with appropriate demonstrations throughout the lecture-demonstration programme.
- **More than 55 people attended the 1 hour and 45 minutes long lecture-demonstration programme.**

- Attendees were mesmerized to experience the richness and wide spectrum of Indian classical music and wished there was more time to explore other forms which could not be presented due to shortage of time.

V: Two-day Residential Retreat – “Yoga in Everyday Life”

Dates: 27-29 December, 2024

- **Venue:** Sri Aurobindo Dhama, at the banks of Kaveri river in Sangama-Mekedatu, Karnataka
- **About 40 participants attended the 2-day retreat.**
- The retreat programme included chanting, Savitri readings, presentations, discussions, creative activities, reflective exercises and open interactions.
- The following topics were explored in the light of Sri Aurobindo’s and the Mother’s vision of an integral development and transformation of human life and living:
 - Integral Yoga and Life
 - Yogic Approach to Work
 - Dealing with Change at Workplace
 - What is This Thing Called Love?
 - Human Relations and Self-growth
 - Right Attitude towards Money
 - Humour in Spiritual Journey
 - The Money Force
- The entire period was spent in a joyful spirit of learning and communing with nature.
- **Sample of feedback from the participants:**
 - I appreciated learning about the right value and place of money when trying to practice sadhana, and also about the right attitude toward human relationships.
 - All the topics concerning Love, Relationships, Attitude towards life and work were very helpful.
 - The idea of integral surrender for Divine’s work and becoming the perfect instrument for Divine’s work was strengthened in me.
 - Appreciated learning about how Integral yoga can be integrated into life.
 - Learned how one can dedicate one’s work to The Mother.
 - It was helpful for me to rethink from a spiritual perspective my mental ideas and formulation about money.

VI: Invoking Shakti: Cultivating Courage, Faith and Concentration (4-day Workshop for Students)

Dates: 24-27 September, 2024

- **A total of more than 350 children participated in the workshop.**
- **Venue:** The Creative School, Freedom Land, Bengaluru, a progressive educational institution inspired by the Integral Education teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.
- **Parallel sessions** were conducted with small groups of children, ranging from 20 to 25
- The workshop involved a wide range of learning activities:
 - chanting sessions
 - storytelling
 - crafts activities
 - **poster exhibition** on the soul qualities of Faith, Courage and Concentration
 - learning Sanskrit songs
 - games involving affirmations
 - fun games to improve concentration and memory
 - self-awareness exercises
 - Cultural performances by the students
- The facilitators also shared with the students especially curated presentations and video content during some interactive sessions, engaging them in meaningful conversations and peer-learning.
- With senior students in the age group of 14-19, a special topic was explored in an interactive session – Who is the Mother and what is the significance of the Mother’s Symbol?

VII: Yuva Shakti – Cultivating Virtues for Self-growth (Workshop for Youth)

Date: May 30, 2024

- Participants included 24 undergraduate and post-graduate students from various departments and colleges of Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat, and also several faculty members and university coordinators.
- Apart from the students, Dr. Niranjana Patel, Vice-Chancellor of Sardar Patel University, Dr. Bhailabhai Patel, Registrar, and three professors Dr. Parambhai Pathak, Prof. Rajesh Kariya, and Dr. Jigna were also present.

- The interactive learning programme involved stories, discussions, humour, engaging games for developing concentration and memory and other creative and contemplative activities.
- Using the Mother's symbol as inspiration, specific qualities or virtues, namely, Courage, Perseverance and Concentration were highlighted.
- Through anecdotes, illustrations and engaging students in a discussion, the connection between Courage and Faith was also explored.
- A separate session was dedicated to listening to students' understanding of the selected virtues. Each of them was asked to select a quote from a basket and then invited to share their reflection or understanding of it based on some personal experience or observation.
- Games full of laughter and active engagement were followed by short contemplative activities to highlight the significance of cultivating concentration in silence.

VIII: Navakriti – Celebrating The Mother's Birthday with Children

Date: February 13, 2025

- Participants of this special celebration of the Mother's birthday included a group of **35 children ages 6 to 8, and 9 teachers** from Creative School, Bengaluru, who were on a field visit to Pondicherry.
- The 2.5 hour-long programme included a variety of creative learning activities which helped students reflect on the deeper significance of birthdays, and also learn about the Mother's childhood.
- The activities included chanting, interactions, creative activities, fun games and storytelling.
- The games involved activities meant to facilitate development of alertness and word formation using different combination of letters.
- Storytelling was used to engage children with the idea of cultivating sincerity.
- Creative activities and group sharing were used to encourage children to aspire for progress and to cultivate gratitude.

IX: Symbolism in Sanatana Dharma – 12-week online course

Dates: June 1 – August 17, 2024

- **A total of 25 participants registered for the course**
- The course was facilitated by Mr. Narendra Murty, and Dr. Beloo Mehra.
- Online classes were held every Saturday from 9:00 AM to 10.30 AM.
- On each day of the class, introduction and the initial presentation were made in the first 35-40 minutes and thereafter the remaining time was devoted to answering questions from the participants through lively interactions.

- Each session was concluded with a devotional musical rendering by one of the participants.
- Following topics were covered in the course:
 - The Language of Symbolism
 - Nataraja – The Cosmic Dancer
 - Vishnu – The Seshasayi
 - The Significance of Pilgrimage
 - Symbolism in the Ramayana
 - The Inner Meaning of Samudra Manthan
 - The Human Chariot in the Kathopanishad
 - Om in the Mandukya Upanishad
 - Sri Aurobindo’s Interpretation of the Rig Veda
 - Ila, Saraswati and Sarama
 - Agni – The Lord of the Sacrifice
- Through this rich diversity of topics, the course touched upon several aspects related to symbolism from the Puranas, Upanishads and the Rig Veda.
- The course content and pedagogical approach were highly appreciated by the participants. Here are some samples from the participants’ feedback:
 - The simplicity and avoidance of heavy philosophy were much appreciated. The course was designed keeping in mind that most of the participants are ignorant, yet curious about the Sanatana Dharma. The fact that even the simple rituals and symbols depicted in our ancestral scripts are representations of deeper and everlasting truths was most intriguing.
 - I loved the inner meaning that exists behind the symbols.
 - Please conduct more sessions which can connect both spiritual knowledge and Indian history.
 - I highly appreciated the vast knowledge of the facilitators and imparting them in a simple and beautiful way so that we can understand it. All the discussions were very enriching for me.

X: International Online Symposium: The Veda and the Vedic Spirit

Date: August 18, 2024

- Organized jointly with Sri Aurobindo Kapali Shastri Institute of Vedic Culture (SAKSHI), Bengaluru, AuroChit, USA, and La Grace Sri Aurobindo Integral Life Center, USA
- More than 80 people attended the 2.5-hour-long symposium
- More than 80 participants from various parts of India, USA and Europe joined the 2.5-hour-long online symposium.
- The programme included two keynote speeches, a brief Vedic chanting session and a panel discussion. The keynote speakers included:

- Dr. Vladimir Yatsenko, Director, Institute for Applied Research in Integral Studies at La Grace, Sri Aurobindo Integral Life Center, USA
- Dr. Alok Pandey, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry.

XI: Invited Talks & Presentations Across India (Total = 31)

- A total of 31 presentations and invited talks delivered by BhāratShakti team (**24 by Dr. Beloo Mehra and 7 by Mr. Narendra Murty**)
 - At National Events including National Conferences, Seminars, Invited Lectures, etc. (13)
 - At International Conferences (2)
 - At other events and programmes in Pondicherry, Auroville, including Online talks (16)
- **SPECIAL MENTION: Fortieth Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture at Jadavpur University, delivered by Dr. Beloo Mehra, January 28, 2025**

XII: Publications (Total = 52)

- A total of **52 publications** which included:
 - Books + Book Chapters (10)
 - Articles in National Journals related to Sri Aurobindo Studies (12)
 - Writings in *Renaissance* (17)
 - Writings for Sri Aurobindo Integral Education Network Blog + BhāratShakti Blog (13)
- **Publications of Dr. Beloo Mehra (2024-25) - 2 books, 5 book chapters, 1 edited book, 22 articles, 10 Blogs (Total = 40)**
- **Publications of Mr. Narendra Murty (2024-25) - 2 books, 5 articles, 5 Blogs (Total = 12)**
- In addition, the team also **curated 5 Periodicals** in the area of Sri Aurobindo Studies (4 issues of *Sri Aurobindo's Action: A Journal of Indian Resurgence* and 1 *Renaissance Redux*)

XIII: Our Culture, Our Pride - Workshop for Adolescents at Om Shanti Dham Gurukulam, Karnataka

Date: December 27, 2024

- **Number of participants: 70 students + 15 teachers**
- The workshop's primary focus was to introduce the teenagers to reflect on their understanding of Indian culture, and their connection with India from the perspective of Sri Aurobindo's vision of India's destined role for the future of humanity and the world. A few specific questions were explored through a variety of sessions.
 - What is culture? And why should I care about it?
 - Is India One Culture or Many?
 - Is culture static or dynamic?
 - What is India's role in the world?
 - What is my responsibility as an Indian?
- The workshop included a variety of activities including exploratory interactions, experiential activities, storytelling, games, exhibition, and dance.
- The students were divided into two groups – ages 12-14 and 15-17, and parallel sessions were conducted.

XIV: National Webinars, Guest Lectures & Insightful Conversations (Total = 9)

- **National Webinars organized (Total = 4); *Number of participants = 150+***
 - **National Webinar:** Shiva, the Lord of Tapas
 - **National Webinar:** Durga, the Divine Mother
 - **National Webinar:** Sri Aurobindo, the Seer-poet
 - **National Webinar:** Devi Ahilyabai Holkar and Bhāratiya Resurgence
- **Guest Lectures and Insightful Conversations (Total = 5)**
 - The Cultural and Political Legacy of The Vijayanagara Empire
 - Appreciating Hindustani Classical Music
 - Art for *Chittashuddhi*, Purification of the Heart
 - Exploring Human Psychology through NāṭyaŚāstra
 - Arts-based Learning: Insights from the Practice of Integral Education
- Total online views of these recordings = 2500+

XV: Poster Exhibitions Across India (Total = 6)

- **THE GREATNESS OF INDIAN CULTURE, at Om Shanti Dhama Gurukulam, Bengaluru (December 27 – 31, 2024)**
 - **20-poster exhibition** covering several key facets of Indian culture:
 - Physical Education in Ancient India
 - Aspiration for Strength
 - Temple Heritage of India
 - Temple as the Body of God
 - Indian Sculpture and Painting
 - Rich Variety of Art in India
 - Music for the Divine
 - Dance for the Divine
 - The Future Belongs to the Young
 - Duty of Every Indian
 - **More than 70 students and 20 teachers went through the exhibition content during the three days.**
 - During the first day of the exhibition special interactive sessions were organised at the exhibition venue during which Dr. Beloo Mehra and Mr. Narendra Murty were available for answering any questions students and teachers had while going through the posters.
- **SRI AUROBINDO ON YOGA – Exhibition at 30th International Yoga Festival, Puducherry (January 4-7, 2025)**
 - At the invitation of Pondicherry Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Dr. Beloo Mehra curated a **15-poster exhibition** on the theme – Sri Aurobindo on Yoga - which was displayed at the 30th International Yoga Festival organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Puducherry.
 - Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Shri K. Kailashnathan inaugurated the festival in the presence of Chief Minister Shri N. Rangasamy on January 4, 2025 at Convention Centre, Old Port Premises, Puducherry.
 - The exhibition included selected quotes from Sri Aurobindo which briefly describe what is unique about Integral Yoga, and how it is different from the old Yogas. The quotes were selected so that the key idea can be presented simply and unambiguously.
 - **Total number of visitors to the exhibition = 500+**
- **AN INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING PROJECT ON HAMPI, Creative School, Bengaluru (December 10-31, 2024)**

- A 58-poster exhibition titled ‘Hampi: A UNESCO World Heritage Site’ to be used as part of an educational project for the students.
 - The poster exhibition researched and curated by Dr. Beloo Mehra gave students a glimpse of the rich and marvellous history of the region, its connection to Ramayana, the spiritual and political history of Hampi and Vijayanagar empire, the splendid architecture, carvings and sculptures.
 - These exhibition posters served as important anchor and starting point for the entire learning project which involved students’ and teachers’ field trip to Hampi, reading age-appropriate relevant literature, co-creating learning through arts-based projects, and more.
 - The well-researched and carefully designed exhibition posters when creatively used by trained teachers who are well-grounded in interdisciplinary and holistic approaches to teaching-learning became a great vehicle for awakening healthy curiosity and a need to learn among the students.
- **CULTIVATING SOUL-VALUES – COURAGE, FAITH, CONCENTRATION, Creative School, Bengaluru (September 24- October 24, 2024)**
 - **30-poster exhibition** which included inspiring images and age-appropriate quotes on each of the soul-values – Courage, Faith and Concentration from Sri Aurobindo, The Mother and Swami Vivekananda
 - **More than 300 students and 70 teachers went through the exhibition content.**
 - On the first two days of the exhibition, students were divided into 6 groups (about 35-40 in each group) and were given ample time to go through the posters and note down some key points or quotes they found most interesting.
 - The BhāratShakti facilitators team led by Dr. Beloo Mehra and Mr. Narendra Murty, supported by Ms. Biswajita Mohapatra and Dr. Runalika Roy, engaged the students in follow-up discussion activity.
 - During this time students were encouraged to share what they found inspiring and intriguing in the exhibition posters, and also ask questions regarding any thing they read for which they needed further elaboration or explanation. The facilitators also shared some interesting anecdotes or stories to illustrate a few ideas included in some of the posters. This interactive approach helped deepen students’ understanding.
- **SRI AUROBINDO IS AS VAST AS THE UNIVERSE, Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Kendra, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat (5-25 August 2024)**
 - 15-poster exhibition showcasing significant quotes illustrating the significance of Yogic work of Sri Aurobindo along with several beautiful photographs
 - The inspiration for the exhibition came from the Mother’s words – “Who can understand Sri Aurobindo? He is as vast as the universe and his teaching is

limitless...The only way to come a little close to him is to love him sincerely and give oneself unreservedly to his work.”

- In addition to highlighting the Mother’s words where she reminds us that Sri Aurobindo is *the* Future advancing towards its realisation, and that he represents a mighty action straight from the Supreme, the exhibition also features selected quotes from Amal Kiran and Kireet Joshi.
- A few moving words from Sri Aurobindo himself about the work he did for the future of the earth are also included.

- **OUR SWEET MOTHER. Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Kendra, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat (22 April to 15 May 2024)**

- 14-poster exhibition showcasing selected words of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother which help bring the Divine Mother closer to her children.
- The exhibition highlights that the Mother had been spiritually conscious from her youth, and that Her Force is not only above the summit of the being, but works in each of us whenever we open ourselves to Her and call for Her Force and Light.
- Another poster also speaks of the Mother’s way of initiating someone, while one more reminds us of the inner meaning and significance of different photographs of the Mother.
- The content further explores Sri Aurobindo’s description of the Four Great Powers of the Mother – Maheshwari, Mahakali, Mahalakshmi, and Mahasaraswati.

XVI: BhāratShakti Blog (Total = 19)

- On June 24, 2024 we started BhāratShakti Blog – Musings on Indian Renaissance, with an objective to feature reflections, musings and contemplative thoughts by different authors.
- The focus of the blog is on highlighting and making sense of some of the current happenings in India and abroad where we see some signs of what Sri Aurobindo speaks of as “reawakened national spirit” and “original creation” in the light of India’s timeless spirit.
- Total number of authors featured = 6
- Total number of blog entries = 19
- Two noteworthy series
 - Symbolism in Sanātana Dharma (Narendra Murty)
 - Bhagavad Gita: A Study in the Light of Sri Aurobindo (Beloo Mehra)

XVII: Dissemination through Social Media, YouTube, Podcasts, Newsletters, April 2024-March 2025

- Organic Facebook views and reach – 146,578 and 45,157 (46% From followers; 54% From non-followers)
- Organic Instagram views and reach – 103, 860 and 23, 643 (60% from followers; 40% from non-followers)
- YouTube views = 66,500+ (165 videos); Average views = 20,000 per year
- No. of newsletters = 30 (*Renaissance* related, important updates and special occasions)
- Podcast plays = 14 entries (poetry, reading, talks); 230 plays
- Designing of social media posters and reels = 800+

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture at Jadavpur University

The Centre for Sri Aurobindo Studies, Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University – an institution whose roots go back to Bengal National College of which Sri Aurobindo was the founder-principal – organizes Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture every year to commemorate this legacy. This year, Dr. Beloo Mehra, Director, BhāratShakti, Sri Aurobindo Society, was invited to deliver the 40th Sri Aurobindo Memorial lecture on 28th January, 2025. Dr. Mehra’s lecture was titled, “Sri Aurobindo’s Vision for a True National Education.”

The Annual Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture has been instituted from an endowment made by Late Samar Basu of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry.

Literary Awards for Books

Two books by Narendra Murty, Research Associate, BhāratShakti, SAS won prestigious awards during 2024-2025.

- *An Odyssey of the Mind* was awarded Best Book in Pioneer Literary Awards 2024
- *An Oak Tree in the Garden* won three awards:
 - Best Non-fiction in LIFT Magazine Awards, 2024
 - Indian Awaz Awards 2024
 - Yathakatha International Film and Literature Awards, 2024