

The Soul of a Nation: Art, Nationalism & the Evolution of Consciousness

A Study Camp

2nd to 7th April 2025

Conducted By



Prof. Bharat Gupta

Vice Chairman

National School of Drama, New Delhi

Venue of the camp and stay:

SACAR, 39 Vanniar Street
Vaithikuppam Puducherry, 605001

Fee: Rs. 7000 includes stay and food

Go to page 3 for details

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Talk Sessions
Questions and Answers
Group learning and discussions**

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Celebrating SACAR 25th Birth Anniversary 2000-2025

Concept Note:

This study camp will explore the profound and often overlooked connection between art and nationalism in the writings of Sri Aurobindo, a prominent Indian philosopher, poet, and revolutionary and others who have written upon these issues.

Sri Aurobindo, while a staunch advocate for Indian independence, transcended narrow nationalist sentiments. He envisioned a nationalism rooted in the spiritual and cultural unity of India, a nation that would not merely assert its own identity but contribute to the evolution of human consciousness.

Based on this premise the present workshop intends to explore a few key concepts from Indian Knowledge System and other key writers of contemporary India.

This study camp will delve into the following key aspects:

1. **Art as a Manifestation of the National Soul:**

- Examine how Sri Aurobindo viewed art as an expression of the collective soul of a nation.
- Analyze his ideas on how art reflects the unique cultural ethos, spiritual aspirations, and historical experiences of a people.
- Explore how he saw art as a means of awakening national consciousness and fostering a sense of shared identity.

2. **Beyond Narrow Nationalism:**

- Investigate how Sri Aurobindo critiqued the limitations of a purely political or territorial nationalism.
- Explore his vision of a "universalized nationalism" that transcends geographical boundaries and embraces the unity of humanity.
- Analyze how art can play a crucial role in fostering a sense of global interconnectedness and promoting a harmonious coexistence between nations.

3. **The Role of Art in Cultural Renaissance:**

- Examine Sri Aurobindo's ideas on the importance of a cultural renaissance in India.
- Analyze how he saw art as a key instrument in reviving and revitalizing India's ancient cultural heritage.
- Explore his vision of a new Indian art that would synthesize traditional forms with modern sensibilities and contribute to the global discourse of art.

4. **The Spiritual Dimension of Nationalism:**

- Investigate Sri Aurobindo's unique perspective on the spiritual dimension of nationalism.
- Explore how he saw the evolution of national consciousness as a step towards the evolution of human consciousness.
- Analyze how art can contribute to the spiritual and moral upliftment of individuals and society.

This study will utilise primary sources such as Sri Aurobindo's writings (essays, poems, plays), as well as secondary sources from scholars of Indian philosophy, art history, and cultural studies. It will contribute to a deeper understanding of Sri Aurobindo's thought and its relevance to contemporary debates on nationalism, cultural identity, and the role of art in society.

All who are interested to study intensely with our speaker is welcome



Registration Form



Fee for Registration
Rs. 7000



Venue
Study and Stay.

About the speaker:

Prof. Bharat Gupt is an Indian classicist, theatre theorist, sitar and surbahar player, musicologist, cultural analyst and newspaper columnist.

He is also a retired Professor in English, who taught at the College of Vocational Studies of the University of Delhi.

Travel, Lodging and Boarding Details

- All travel expenses to be borne by the participants
- Organizers will arrange for the stay of the participants
- Rooms will be shared between 2 or 3 participants
- Food arrangements will be made by the organisers at the venue

Coordinator

Dr. Shruti Bidwaikar

9994190403, sacarevents@gmail.com

**Calls will be answered only between
9.30am to 1.00pm and 3.30 pm to 6.30pm**