

Indira Gandhi National Open University

MPYE – 016

School of Interdisciplinary and

Trans-disciplinary Studies



**Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo**

**Block 1**



**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY OF AUROBINDO**

**UNIT 1**



**Personality, Vision and Work of Aurobindo**

**UNIT 2**

**Sri Aurobindo on Indian Scripture**



**UNIT 3**

**Spiritual Thought in Indian Philosophy**

**UNIT 4**



**Integral Worldview**

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## **BLOCK INTRODUCTION**

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Sri Aurobindo was an extraordinary genius, mystic and activist. It was when India lay prostrate at the feet of the British that Sri Aurobindo was born. What India then required was a strong political awakening, a cultural consciousness and a spiritual rebirth. Born to a highly anglicised and denationalised father Sri Aurobindo had become one among the great patriots of India. Aurobindo was essentially a seer and a great mystic poet. In order to focus on the spiritual thought in Indian philosophy, we study the spiritual adventure of Sri Aurobindo.

In the **unit 1**, we are making a humble attempt to describe the person, vision and works of Sri Aurobindo. It opens up the world and vision of Aurobindo to the students, with his life story, literary and political background.

**Unit 2** exposes the students to the spiritual depth of Aurobindo with the study of the impact of Indian scripture on his thought and his own understanding and interpretation of them. Stephen H. Philips describes Aurobindo as “mystic empiricist” who has high regard for Indian scriptures. Aurobindo had a “metaphorical understanding” of the Indian Scriptures and interpreted creatively to make them relevant for the Indian context.

**Unit 3** brings to the forefront the spiritual journey of Aurobindo. It is interesting to note how Aurobindo’s spiritual thought coexists with the needs of the country. Aurobindo drew strength from the rich Indian tradition, while remaining open to other philosophies.

**Unit 4** allows the students to know the basic insight of Aurobindo that we are all related to each other. In order to appreciate the integral nature of reality, the unit makes us realize the differences at the levels of beings and to know that these beings with their individual differences are evolving towards the Supermind. The term “Integral” is applied to a wide-ranging set of developments in philosophy, psychology, religious thought, and other areas that seek interdisciplinary and comprehensive frameworks. In the world-view of Aurobindo, the whole of reality, including physical, psychological and spiritual, is integral.