

The Gnostic Centre Landmarks

29th February, 1996: Birth of The Gnostic Centre

In the early morning, we offered the first brochure of The Gnostic Centre, with the first plans for its growth, at the feet of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

March to August, 1996

Thereafter the work began of designing growth of consciousness and integral education programs, specifically focusing on the age group 18-35 years.

15th August, 1996: The foundation is laid

The foundation stone was laid, with the inscription: 'All can be done if the God-touch is there.'

end-August to early September, 1996: Workshops for Professionals begin

The first workshops (for professionals, collegiates, teachers) were held:

- Education for the Future
- Communication
- The Journey

Over the years the Centre has conducted several workshops on diverse themes with varied groups.

17th November, 1996: Construction begins

January 1997: Journal is launched

The first issue of the bi-monthly Journal: 'The Awakening Ray' is published. Every year 6 issues are published. Each issue focuses on a different theme.

28th March, 1997: Inauguration of The Gnostic Centre

This day is taken as the Anniversary of the Gnostic Centre as on this day the physical basis of the Centre became functional.

June 1997: Weekly Study Circles begin

With the establishing of the physical space, regular weekly gatherings became possible and these have continued over all these years without any break.

July 1997: Talks Series is launched

'In Search of the Soul of India' has been an important part of our work with college and school students, introducing them to certain key aspects of Indian culture, Management, Psychology, Education, Spirituality, through talks by eminent speakers from different parts of India.

2nd half of 1998: Teachers Education programmes begin

Workshops and talks for In-service & Pre-service (B.El.Ed.) teachers/teacher-students began in 1998, based on the Integral Education philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. The Gnostic Centre is on the panel of Delhi University as part of the B.El.Ed. programme for teacher-students, and offers self-development training on a regular basis. Over the years the Centre has worked with nearly 150 educational institutes.

September 1998: Self-development Courses for Professionals begin

These courses (6 week to 18 month duration) have engaged the students (primarily professionals between 25 to 50 years) in a systematic study of Integral Yoga concepts, along with support for applying these in their daily lives to bring in a greater perfection in their own selves as well as the work they are involved in.

September 1998: Children's Activities (workshops, camps) begin

Work with students (between 4 to 16 years) has primarily focused on training the mind (powers of concentration, observation, imagination, reasoning, etc.), refining the character (developing the qualities of courage, leadership, beauty, etc.) and training the physical (refinement of senses, developing stamina, strength, balance, etc.) - through one day workshops, 10-day series, residential camps.

1999: Publishing of Books – Interactive Self-Discovery Series

October 2000: Workshops for School Students begin

From 2000 onwards the Centre also started taking workshops with large groups of students either in the school itself or at the Centre, specifically for students from a particular school, based on their needs.

October 2000: Multimedia production begins

Over the years the Centre has designed, created and produced several multimedia presentations, as well as screened them at various venues and events.

November 2000: Integral Education Conference for Mainstream Educators

Through this Conference the concepts of Integral Education were introduced to over 500 teachers and teacher-educators from over a 100 schools and colleges from different parts of India.

4th April, 2001: Birth of L'avenir: the future (a playschool for 2-4 year olds)

Based on Integral Education, L'avenir is a unique school that provides a space for young children where they can grow in an atmosphere of love, peace and beauty, along with a systematic training of the mind, character and the physical.

August 2001: Beginning of Exhibitions (in-house and at other venues)

November 2001: Subject-based Intensives for Mainstream Educators begin

These 3-4 day programmes have been primarily for college students, research scholars and university lecturers, to introduce new paradigms in subject areas such as Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Education, Indian culture, Management.

21st February, 2002: Birth of ICIS (International Centre for Integral Studies)

ICIS is the Higher Education unit of The Gnostic Centre for Academic Programmes.

5th December, 2004: Construction of the Shrine building begins

(for Sri Aurobindo's Relics)

15th August, 2006: Work begins on Online Post-grad Courses

Beginning of Work on Post-grad level Online Courses to be launched from 2008 under ICIS, in the fields of Philosophy, Consciousness Studies, Cultural Studies, Social Studies, Indian Studies, Sri Aurobindo Studies, Creativity and Aesthetics, Integral Education.

28th March, 2007: Enshrinement of Sri Aurobindo's Relics at The Gnostic Centre

18th November, 2007: Inauguration of Alchemy (an integral health centre)

A new dimension was added to the Centre's work with the beginning of the Gym, a Yoga studio, Massage Centre (with steam bath) and a Health Food Cafe.