

# **THE SHAKTI MISSION & SHAKTI CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE**

Concept Outline (updated for 15 Aug 2023)

by Nilima Bhat [nilima@shaktileadership.com](mailto:nilima@shaktileadership.com); [www.shaktileadership.com](http://www.shaktileadership.com)

## **PREAMBLE**

### **The Shakti Mission (TSM)**

Empowered women are critical to the economy, ecology, technology and the peace process. We will create 100,000 women change-makers across these key sectors, in India and globally, by 2030. Shakti Leaders will collaborate to create peace, prosperity and beauty through the exchange of multiple forms of capital. With a focus on ‘*Self-Mastery & Selfless Service*’, they will be trained to innovate sustainable systems and models to create a world that works for all.

### **Shakti Centres of Excellence (SCoE)**

#### **Educate, Incubate & Accelerate Deserving Women Entrepreneurs & Innovators**

The SCoE project is a fulfillment arm of The Shakti Mission.

It aims to provide post-graduate education, incubation and acceleration services for deserving women entrepreneurs and innovators in the fields of Art & Culture, Governance & Policy, Business & Economics, Health & Wellbeing, Science & Technology, Truth & Reconciliation, Equality & Social Justice, Environmental Regeneration and Recovery of Indic knowledge systems for integrated national development. To undertake research, publish and develop thought-leaders in these fields. The Shakti CoEs will be housed within reputed institutions in India and overseas.

---

#### **About Nilima Bhat – Distinguished Professor, Faculty of Excellence, Tec de Monterrey, Mexico (wef 1 Sep 23)**

- Founder-Director of **The Shakti Mission** and [Shakti Fellowship Program, jointly certified with University of San Diego](#) (a 9-month global program) and core faculty of [FLOW Skolkovo](#) (6-month program in Russia) for Women Changemakers (based on the Shakti Leadership book and model). Proven design and delivery over five cohorts, with an active alumni of 137 Shakti Leaders from over 15 countries.
- Promoter of **Shakti Centres of Excellence (CoE)**, as Knowledge Centers and Innovation Hubs, that are being set up to serve women as change-makers across key sectors, for Integrated National Development. (Business, Finance & Economics - Politics & Governance - Arts, Culture & Technology - Science, Education and Health - Environment and Social Justice). Approach: *Transform Self, Transform the World; Ancient Wisdom, Modern Outlook*
- Expert on Women’s Empowerment, Conscious Leadership, Gender Reconciliation, and Integral Health; Yoga & Meditation teacher, Spiritual guide and mentor, demystifying ancient Indian wisdom for modern audiences; Co-author of 2 books: *My Cancer Is Me* and **Shakti Leadership**; International keynote speaker, workshop facilitator and certified coach.

## 1. Why Now

- **2030** is a time-horizon for the Anthropocene Age. (*“The Fierce Urgency of Now”*)
  - We have a very short 7-year runway to avert planetary collapse
  - UN aims to achieve SDGs by 2030

## 2. Why Women

- Global Call for Gender Equality & Rising Women
  - UN SDG-5: Women and Girls Empowerment
  - Feminization needed to restore balance
  - Women are critical to the Economy, Ecology, Technology and Peace Process
  - Need:
    - More women in leadership and entrepreneurship
    - Leveraging of the global movement to inspire and catalyze
    - Training and networks of support
    - Institutions and programs to facilitate

## 3. Why Shakti Leadership

- Regardless of Gender and Race, we need
  - Leaders who are *conscious* (i.e., show self-mastery and selfless service of a higher purpose) and *integrated* (i.e., express mature masculine and feminine values and behaviours)
  - A new model of Leadership based on a unique synthesis of Eastern and Western wisdom and best practices needed to heal and empower a world that works for all.

## 4. Why institutionalise Shakti Centres of Excellence (CoE) for Women Changemakers

(see concept note with proposed initiatives on following pages)

## 1. What is Shakti?

In the Indic system, *Shakti* is defined as the archetypal innate, creative and regenerative force of Nature. It is considered Feminine or referred to as 'The Mother' as it is the source-force that gives birth to all existence. As life-givers, both Mother Earth and women's bodies are understood as deeply inter-related and seen as embodiments of Shakti. It is hoped that women's bodies and women's wisdom will help our species to find the solutions urgently needed to save our planet.

"Regenerative" refers to that which is reborn or restored to a higher state. This is an increasingly popular term among scientists, activists, and educators who are restoring ecosystems and developing ecological resilience; it is an outlook that emphasizes the transformational power of natural cycles. In contrast, the outdated economic paradigm based on the linear, goal-driven, objectified view of development is ecologically blind. "Regenerative" on the other hand, works in alignment with the laws of nature. - Dr. Irena Ateljjevic

## 2. What is a Shakti Centre of Excellence?

A CoE that primarily will curate and develop best practices for women's empowerment, women's health, women's psychology & spirituality, women in leadership, etc., with a focus on:

The Indic Knowledge System of Shakti, research in other knowledge systems from around the world, ancient and modern, that *serve women as change-makers* in their chosen sectors.

It will also be a gathering ground for conscious Change-makers of all genders.

Aiming to raise the creative and regenerative energy of Shakti by offering a range of services in the field of sustainability and social innovation & impact, including higher education programs, lifelong learning, international research programmes, social entrepreneurship boosters, community outreach, cultural events, conferences, skills training, capacity building, retreats, and mind-body-spirit activities.

It will be a set of global hubs, where leaders and change-makers from the domains of business, new technologies, politics, activism, education, arts, academia and citizenship come together to get inspired, restored, share ideas and resources, grow their networks, and co-create progressive sustainable ventures.

Shakti Centres will partner with like-minded individuals and be housed in like-minded and esteemed universities, organisations, institutions from around the world. This will bolster the Centre's quality and reputation., while assuring international recognition and stature.

----

### a. Starting with seven locations:

- Five across the four corners of India, one at the Centre
- one in Singapore / Japan (?) (for Asian Women), and
- one in Croatia (for European Women)

### b. Each CoE is the holder of its area of Expertise; Other CoEs can be used as implementation partners for its projects.

### 3. Proposed Architecture & Roadmap

	Location	Domain Focus	Topics & Activities	Partners
01.	South India (Auroville/Pondicherry)	<b>Perfection:</b> Arts, Culture and Technology, CCI (Creative & Cultural Industries)	<i>Foundations of Indian Culture</i> ; Indic Aesthetics & Art appreciation ( <i>Rasika</i> ); Regenerative Tourism for <i>Golden Pondicherry</i>	Anjalee Wakankar/Kaaru, Sri Shakti Academy, Usha RK, Dr. Irena Ateljevic, Uma Prajapati – Auroville, Dr. Arati Sharma – Sri Aurobindo Society
02.	North India	<b>Wisdom:</b> Yoga/IKS, Science, Education, Health	<i>Shakti Kumbh:</i> Shakti Knowledge & Practice; Women’s Mythologies & Meaning-making; Integral Yogini (Teacher Training Course) Recovering the Indic Scientific temper <i>Moje Kasheer:</i> Inter-Spirituality Women	Parmarth Niketan, Aurovalley, Auroville, Devipuram, Dena Merriam – GPIW, GERI Cynthia Brix/Will Keepin, Mandar Apte, GKSF, Dr. Neela Bhattacharya, Dr. Laurie Larsen, Dr. Frederique Apffel Marglin, Kumar Sharma, Gitanjali JB, etc
03.	East India	<b>Strength:</b> Environment & Social Justice	Tantric Ecology; Theatre of Transformation; Healing Collective Trauma (for Caste & Gender, Partition & Colonisation; Rape of Nature)	Dr. Neela B & Dr. Frederique AM, Dr. Rama Mani & Dr. Irena Ateljevic; TRW Partners
04.	West India	<b>Harmony:</b> Business, Finance, Economics	Innovation Lab for conscious business and financial models; Hackathon for new, inclusive economies and equitable & sustainable capital systems	Purnima Das, Elsie Maio, Ketan Patel, Damaris and Jacque, SEEDS, <a href="#">Catalyst2030</a>
05.	Centre	<b>Unity:</b> Politics, Governance & Policy	<i>College for Women in Politics</i> ; Women in Policy-making ( <i>Women changing Policy</i> )	Dr. Mazal Shaul/ <a href="#">WePower Israel</a> ; IAS female partner, Dr. Sampadananda Mishra - Rishihood University

06.	Asia: Singapore / Japan?	<b>Conscious Business &amp; Social Entrepreneurship</b>	Conscious Capitalism; Lead Like a Girl, WIN Japan	Raj Sisodia, Dalia Feldheim, Kristin Engvig
07.	Croatia/Europe	<a href="#">Terra Meera: Regeneration</a>	Regenerative Tourism & Agriculture/Permaculture	Dr. Irena Ateljevic

## Annexure

### 1. The Deeper Why

15 Aug 2022 marked Sri Aurobindo's 150<sup>th</sup> Birth centenary and 75 years of India's independence.

Followers of Sri Aurobindo's vision are working together towards the fulfilment of the main ideals of this great Indian spiritual master and evolutionary pioneer.

TSM wishes to take up the [Five Dreams of Sri Aurobindo](#)

- a. The Renaissance of India
- b. The Resurgence of Asia
- c. Innovative Models for World Unity
- d. India's Gift of Spiritual Values and Practices to Serve Humanity
- e. Evolving a Perfected Society through a New Consciousness

Shakti Centres to become **glocal hubs** for Consciousness-based Leadership practices, anchored in Indian and Asian wisdom

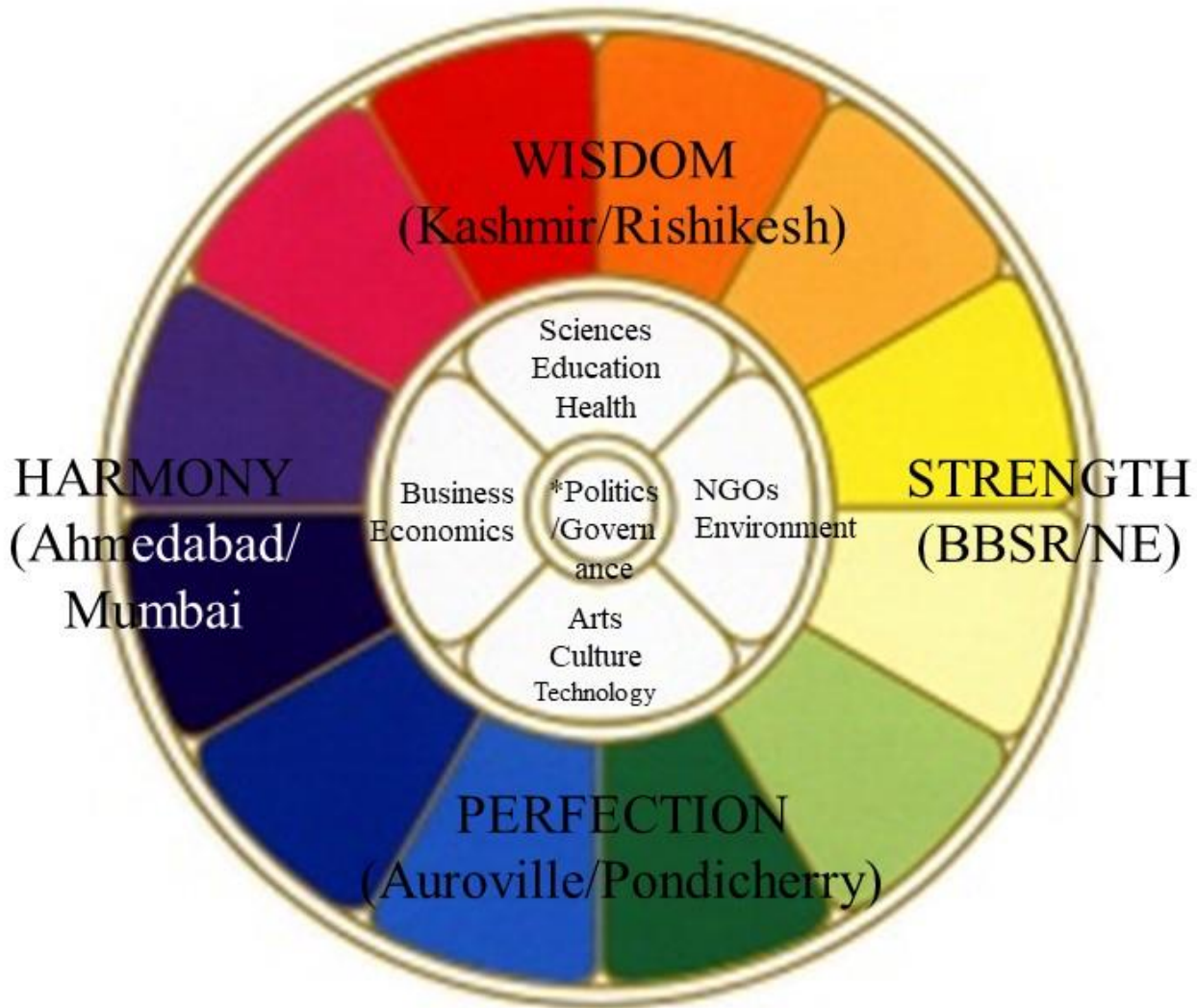
- Inspired by the setting up of Mathas across four corners of India in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century by Adi Shankaracharya, to revitalise Sanatan Dharma (Indic Knowledge System and Consciousness Practices) and train men to become spiritual adepts, we believe this is the time to set up centres to create highly trained and sensitised women change-makers across all critical domains of society, who embody and uphold original principles and universal spiritual values. Read '[Who is a Shakti Leader – The Ideal of Shakti Leadership](#)' and also '[The Genesis of Shakti Leadership](#)'.
- The following five locations are proposed, aligned with the Four Great Powers of Shakti; **Calling Changemakers who are ready for or practicing the growing of their Spiritual Intelligence.** *Cindy Wigglesworth defines spiritual intelligence as "the ability to act with wisdom and compassion, while maintaining inner and outer peace, regardless of the circumstances."*
  - North – Changemakers in **Spirituality/Religion** & Sciences, Education, Health (Wisdom)
  - East – Changemakers in Environment, NGO sector (Strength)
  - West – Changemakers in Business, Finance, Economics (Harmony)
  - South – Changemakers in Arts, Culture and Technology (Perfection)
  - Centre – Changemakers in Politics and Governance (Unity)

### 2. Additional reading/viewing

- a. [Shakti Centres & Flagship Fellowship Program Presentation](#) – Detailed Program Design
- b. [Impact Assessment Report of 2019-202 cohort](#)
- c. Two 25min keynotes on the book's core content: The [model](#) and the [journey](#)



*Shakti Centres across India*  
**Creating Women Changemakers across key sectors, for Integrated National Development**



**\*UNITY – At Centre  
in Delhi NCR**

*Who will*

**Collaborate to create Peace, Prosperity and  
Beauty through the exchange of multiple  
forms of capital**