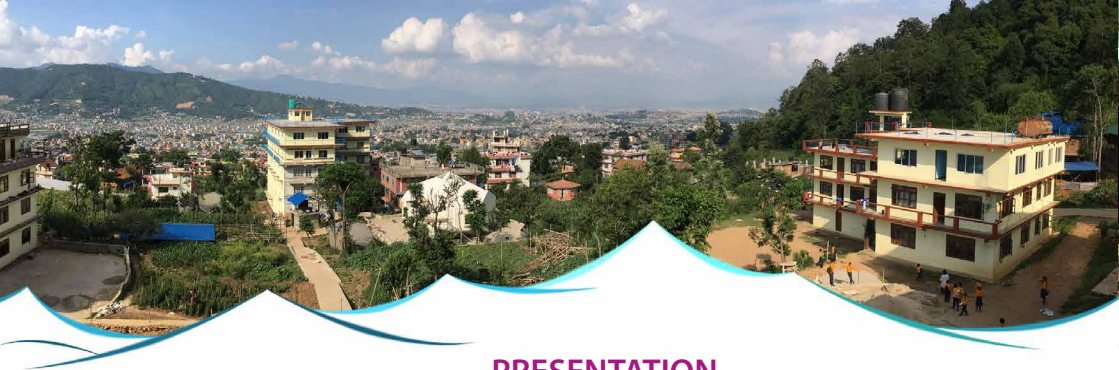


# HIMALAYAN INTERNATIONAL INTEGRAL EDUCATION FESTIVAL HIMALAYA, NEPAL



**FROM WED. 15TH OF OCTOBER  
TO TUE. 4TH OF NOVEMBER 2025**

**KATHMANDU & POKHARA  
SRI AUROBINDO YOGA MANDIR**



## PRESENTATION

The **educational ashram in Kathmandu** and the **Sri Aurobindo Yoga Mandir (SAYM)** invite you to the first **Himalayan International Integral Education Festival**.

### INTEGRAL EDUCATION

Integral education is education that takes into account all the dimensions of the human being: body, emotion, mind, vitality, psyche, soul and spirit. For many years now, numerous approaches around the world have been opening up the fields of this Education for the Future... an education that takes on its full meaning by being centered on the Being and the Human... an education that offers all the means to implement a humanity that preserves the planet, the water, the air, the soil and all living beings and that moves forward hand in hand with the laws of Life.

### HIMALAYA

The Himalaya has always fascinated. Over the millennia, it has welcomed the world's greatest sages to its bowels and slopes. It is both the symbol of the highest summits of Wisdom that a human being can reach... and also the place of the greatest spiritual realizations. The beauty, serenity and immensity of the Himalayas open our hearts and touch our lives to the very depths of our being.

### The FESTIVAL

It is open to all parents, children, grandparents, teachers, students, educators, pioneers, creators, etc. who are experimenting with and living these dimensions of education.

The Himalayan International Integral Education Festival (HI IEF) is a space for sharing, bringing together people from all over the world. Once it has begun, it is self-created by the initiatives and proposals of each and every one of us: it is like a great cauldron of diverse experiences that regenerate each other to offer everyone present the new ideas, perspectives and paths they need to go further along their educational or learning paths.

**Meeting with French and Belgian families.** This autumn 2025, **9 French or Belgian families** are staying at SAYM for 3 months for a collaborative project. The Educational Tribe is a group of 15 parents, 3 grandparents and 17 children, who are experimenting with living together, helping each other, sharing culture, skills and knowledge with the great family of educational ashrams. These 9 families will participate fully in the Festival, no doubt joined by 2 or 3 other families from Europe.



## RAMCHANDRA DAS & SAYM

### Transforming Lives through Education and Spirituality

Aged twelve, driven by the desire to support his family, Swami Ramchandra Das embarked on a remarkable journey, leaving his homeland Nepal for India. Like many Nepalese youths, he took any work he could get, anywhere, working for next to nothing. And amidst all the challenges he faced, not only did he survive, but his thirst for knowledge grew.

Seeing Indian children going to school every day, Guruji yearned for education. Alone and determined, he sought wisdom in Ashrams along the way, under the guidance of Gurus.

His years in various Ashrams across different cities in India, led him to study the Vedanta, which was originally written in Sanskrit. So, he learned Sanskrit, and eventually became a professor of Sanskrit literature in Delhi. The turning point in his spiritual journey, however, came when he discovered the teachings of Sri Aurobindo. After which he travelled directly to Puducherry in the southeast of India, where he stayed at the Sri Aurobindo ashram and became a disciple of Champaklal, the principal disciple of Sri Aurobindo.

### From Ashrams to Nepal: A Vision Unveiled

Many years later, sitting on a flat rock on a mountain in the Himalayas, in Nepal, Guruji had a vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, slowly descending and then disappearing into the mountain range before him. He sat for a long time afterwards on the rock, lost in meditation. He knew that in the vision there was a message, and it was walking back down the mountain in the late evening light, that it came to him: He had to help, nourish, feed, educate and look after impoverished children in Nepal.

So, leaving the comfort of the Ashram he loved so much in Puducherry, he returned to Nepal where he established an ashram – the Sri Aurobindo Yoga Mandir, in Kathmandu – dedicated to spiritual life, and the welfare of children.

Starting with a small, rented apartment and a handful of family members' children, he faced the challenge of convincing others to trust him, and his vision. Which was no easy task in Nepal for a man who, by now, had an Indian accent. Local, parochial communities invariably turned their backs on him. But – rooted in the principles of Karma Yoga and devoted to Sri Aurobindo and The Mother – Guruji persevered, and succeeded.

Exactly ten years later, and ten years after that, two more ashrams were added.



## FESTIVAL ORGANISATION

### DATES

In order to open up the festival to all financial possibilities, we have organised **various options for stays** around the 4 periods of the festival: the 3 proposals at the Kathmandu ashram and the proposal in Pokhara.

### PROGRAMME in KATMANDU

#### 1/ Ashram life - Support and preparation

**Wednesday 15 to Sunday 19 October**

**Sri Aurobindo Yoga Mandir Ashram - Kathmandu**

Sharing ashram life, centred on :

1/ Preparing for Tihar, the huge annual festival which, for 5 days, keeps some of the children and young people busy with an extraordinary experience.

2/ Preparing for the festival meetings, which will require a completely different organisation from the ashram.

#### 2/ Tihar and Excursions - Celebrations and Visits

**Monday 20 to Thursday 23 October**

**Sri Aurobindo Yoga Mandir Ashram - Kathmandu**

These 4 days will be devoted to free time, visits to the Kathmandu valley and a few meetings with the children and young people of the ashram during **Deusi Bhailo**: during the 5 days celebrating Tihar, two groups of around thirty children and young people go from house to house to bless the people and the place. This is called Deusi Bhailo. They sing and dance for half an hour... and then go off to another rendezvous... and this goes on into the night!

The last day of Tihar (23 October, this year) is the day of celebration for brothers and sisters: **Bhai Tika**. At the ashram, it takes on a universal dimension: we are all brothers and sisters to each other. It's a magnificent moment of sharing, enchantment and dance!





### **3/ Integral Education Meetings - Sharing and Experiencing**

**From Friday 24 to Wednesday 29 October**

**Sri Aurobindo Yoga Mandir Ashram - Kathmandu**

This will be the heart of this Himalayan International Integral Education Festival, a time for encounters and sharing, diverse and varied experiences, cultural exchanges and human and educational adventures.

The ashram will be reorganised around a large panel that will allow everyone to propose all kinds of activities that can take place in different parts of the ashram.

### **PROGRAMME in POKHARA**

**-/ Journey to Pokara (Bus or Plane)**

**Thursday 30th October**

A day of transition and adventure by air or road to Astam, a small village above the Pokhara valley.

### **4/ Himalaya Nature Festival - Entraides et Préparations**

**From Friday 31 October to Monday 3 November**

**Annapurna Eco-village - Astam - *To be confirmed (we are considering other alternatives)***

This old farmhouse has been totally eco-fitted by the Adhikari family, who have lived in the Astam region for over seven generations. Committed to environmentally-friendly techniques, they invent all sorts of things to save water, filter it and be as eco-responsible as possible. They also grow

varieties of vegetables, herbs, spices and cereals into delicious food. Their kindness and attention to detail make you feel part of the family.

This is the ideal place to continue the festival at the foot of the Annapurnas and share 4 days of nature and educational adventures, walks and discoveries.

**-/ Return journey to Kathmandu (Bus or Plane)**

**Tuesday 4th November**



## GENERAL ORGANISATION

Your stay will begin when you arrive in Kathmandu. Auronepal Travel & Trek, a solidarity travel agency set up by young people from SAYM, will be your local travel agent.

**Arrivals: Tuesday 14 October OR Thursday 23 November - From 15:00**

**Departures: Thursday 30 October, Tuesday 4 or Wednesday 5 November**

### Cost of organic and vegetarian full-board accommodation

**Kathmandu** : Adult: \$26 / day - Child under 12: \$13 / day

**Astam Village** : Adult & Child: \$60 / day - Children under 5: free

### Festival prices

**Kathmandu** : Adult: \$150 - Child under 12: \$60

**Pokhara** : Adult: \$150 - Child under 12: \$60

**All Festival** : Adult : \$270 - Child under 12: \$100

**Price including**: accommodation, water, vegetarian food cooked entirely with organic produce from the ashrams' farms, festival organisation and entertainment.

**Not included**: meals in town and transport for visits to Kathmandu or Pokhara.

**Airport transport** : \$18/pers.

**One-way transport to Pokhara**: Bus: 25 to \$45 per person - Plane: around \$110 / person.

**Bus hire for a day trip to Kathmandu + guide** : 30 to \$55 / pers.

**Reservation** : To book your retreat, simply follow the BilletWeb link below. The balance of your stay must be paid in cash (euros) on arrival at the ashram.

You are free to arrive before 15 October and/or leave after 4 November.

## RESERVATION & CONTACT

[www.billetweb.fr/himalayan-international-integral-education-festival-nepal-2025](http://www.billetweb.fr/himalayan-international-integral-education-festival-nepal-2025)

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