P R E F A C E

Sri Aurobindo deals with traditional problems of the relation between the Transcendent and the Phenomenal world. His approach is scientific but his aim is to propound that the ultimate aim of life is to attain 'Life Divine'. This work undertakes a conceptual and critical study of his idea of social development with a view to propound that attainment of divinity in man is realisable in his social relations. Sri Aurobindo explains the evolutionary process which is manifest in the creative process, life of the individual and in the process of social development in particular. This work is an humble attempt to uphold that social development which also reflects evolutionary process is meaningless without adherence to values. The values that uphold the society and accelerate the social development are the spiritual values. Thus, in this sense, "The Life Divine" is the postulate of his hypothesis of social development. This hypothesis has been exposed to criticisms. It has been critically considered along with alternate models of explanation regarding social development. In the small proportion, I have endeavoured to uphold that Sri Aurobindo's idea of "Life Divine", is not abstract or transcendental altogether. Rather, it is an excellent manifestation of the "Life empirical". In the process, the relevance of his ideas, both in philosophical and extra-philosophical aspects, has been high-
lighted to show that his ideas are relevant in the modern context and that his spiritual "Weltanshauung" goes a long way in offering solution to the problems facing humanity.

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