

PG DIPLOMA IN STUDIES IN INDIAN CULTURE

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

In this year-long programme, the learners complete a short introductory course and four 'core content' courses, attend a 7-day Personal Contact Period at SACAR, and complete a final interview for a total of 32 credits. Learners are assigned a programme mentor who will serve as the coordinator for other facilitators teaching different courses in the programme and will be responsible for ongoing assessment of the learner's progress and for the final evaluation at the end of the programme.

This PG Diploma course may be of special interest to anyone interested in a deeper study of Indian culture and Indian-ness.

PROGRAMME DURATION

- One (1) year for full-time students
- Two (2) years for half-time students
- Maximum time allowed to complete the programme: Three (3) years

PERSONAL CONTACT PERIOD: (PCP)

Important note for August 2009 candidates for Certificate, PGD, MA, M.Phil & PhD programmes:

7-day PCP will be held at SACAR, Pondicherry from July 27-August 2, 2009

Foreign applicants, please email at sacaroffice@gmail.com for details

While the bulk of the learning and teaching for this programme is conducted online, learners are asked to come to SACAR, Pondicherry for a 7-day personal contact period held at the beginning of their programme. During this time the learners will participate in various learning activities which serve as an orientation for their programme. They are also given demonstration and hands-on training for the online learning system used for the programme. Additionally, learners benefit immensely by experiencing and absorbing the spiritual atmosphere of Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville.

Learners are awarded 4 (Four) credits for attending and completing the PCP.

PGD IN STUDIES IN INDIAN CULTURE AT A GLANCE

FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

7-Day Personal Contact Period at SACAR (4)	Semester I		Semester II	
	Sri Aurobindo and His Essential Thought (3)		Spirituality and Creative Expression in India (7)	
	Foundations of Indian Culture (7)		Contemporary Issues in Indian Society (5)	
	Contemporary Views on India and Indian Personality (5)		Final Interview (1)	
4	15		13	32

FOR HALF-TIME STUDENTS

7-Day Personal Contact Period at SACAR (4)	YEAR ONE		YEAR TWO		
	Semester I	Semester II	Semester III	Semester IV	
	Sri Aurobindo and His Essential Thought (3)	Contemporary Views on India and Indian Personality (5)	Spirituality and Creative Expression in India (7)	Contemporary Issues in Indian Society (5)	
Foundations of Indian Culture (7)	Final Interview (1)				
4	10	5	7	6	32

Programme design may be revised from time to time; enrolled students will be notified of the changes at the appropriate time.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Sri Aurobindo and his Essential Thought

This course introduces the learner to some of the key details of the outer life and personality of Sri Aurobindo. Learners also learn about his spiritual collaborator, the Mother, and gain a brief overview of their vision and work. Through the selected readings learners are exposed to the multiple facets of Sri Aurobindo as a political revolutionary, nationalist and globalist, philosopher, social thinker, psychologist, yogi and a poet. They also write a short paper on any one particular facet of Sri Aurobindo and his work in that area.

Foundations of Indian Culture

This course will provide a broad overview of spiritual foundations of Indian culture from its ancient times to contemporary scenario. The learners will also have an opportunity to engage in cross-cultural study and analysis. In addition to the main text, Sri Aurobindo's *Foundations of Indian Culture*, the course material also includes several articles and selections from other relevant books.

Contemporary Views on India and Indian Personality

What does India of twenty-first century look like? How does the present India connect to her past, and what are her aspirations for the future? Is there something distinct about Indian personality, and what is unique about Indian culture that shapes such distinct personality? What is understood by "being Indian", what is Indian-ness, what is the group-soul of India, and what is India's *dharma*? These are some of the questions that will be explored in this course. A broad selection of readings from a variety of contemporary authors will be provided to allow students to investigate these questions from multiple perspectives. Learners will also be asked to interpret some of these contemporary views in the light of what they read in Sri Aurobindo's *Foundations of Indian Culture* and other writings on India. They will be required to present critical summaries of these readings and incorporate their personal observations and reflections in their written assignments.

Contemporary Issues in Indian Society

This course will allow the student to broadly investigate a sampling of issues concerning the present socio-cultural reality of India. We will focus on four main topics – caste and class, inter-religious harmony, gender and womanhood, and consumerist and commercial mindset. While a number of contemporary texts by different authors will be used as the reading material for this course, a distinct feature of this course is that these issues will also be examined in the light of Sri Aurobindo's social, political and cultural writings.

Spirituality and Creative Expression in India

This course will help the learner to develop a spirituality-informed critical perspective to examine and appreciate the uniqueness of Indian art, architecture and literature. According to Sri Aurobindo, spirituality is the master-key of Indian culture because the Indian spirit saw since the beginning of its cultural development that the material, vital, and mental aspects of life do not get their full meaning until they are rightly related to the spiritual reality. This course will examine Indian culture in light of its spiritual basis in such areas as art, architecture, and literature.