

*"All is too little that the world can give:  
Its power and knowledge are the gifts of Time  
And cannot fill the spirit's sacred thirst. "*

*-Savitri, Book III, Canto I*

## MEET OUR LEARNERS

In this issue we profile some of our learners presently pursuing their study through SACAR-IGNOU programmes. Future issues will feature a few more of our learners. We hope the readers will enjoy 'meeting' these enthusiastic seekers of knowledge.

**Karl Tansey from Australia** (Certificate Programme in Introduction to Sri Aurobindo Studies): In his statement of purpose, Karl wrote: "I have read a small amount of material written by both Sri Aurobindo and The Mother and it has impacted my life and way of thinking immensely. I understand there is a great deal more to learn but the works of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother resonate with me in a way I have never felt before....The works of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother seem to only get deeper and deeper, enticing me to explore. I am having progressively more profound experiences as I try to implement the material in my life and am very excited at the prospect of being able to study these ideas formally. I also feel having an experienced teacher to be able to ask questions and receive feedback from would be very helpful to me at this point in my learning."

**Lakshmi Jayaram from New Delhi** (M.Phil in Sri Aurobindo Studies, with a focus on Integral Education): In her admission essay, Lakshmi reflected on her role as a facilitator and teacher-educator and said that she has been contemplating on some of the key questions concerning the present crisis in our education system and looking for answers in the educational insights given by several eminent thinkers. The deeper question that has brought her to pursue an advanced degree in the area of Integral Education is, in her words, "after several years of interaction with children, now I take the liberty to reframe the question as: "what is my role in the evolution of consciousness?"

**Sreerangan Siddharthan from Kerala** (Ph.D. in Sri Aurobindo Studies, with a focus on Integral Psychology): In his initial research idea paper submitted with the application, Siddharthan wrote that through his doctoral research he would like to explore how Integral philosophy and psychology can be applied for promoting the mental health of all human beings. He is presently pursuing a series of courses in order to prepare for the independent research work for his PhD thesis.

**Humera Roshi from Kolkata, West Bengal:** (Post-graduate Diploma in Studies in Indian Culture): In her statement of purpose submitted with the application, Humera reflected on the observations she has made about Indian society and culture and the changes occurring over time, and expressed her desire to deepen her learning and awareness about Indian culture. She particularly chose this programme because it would allow her to learn about the spiritual foundations of Indian culture and explore the contemporary socio-cultural scenario in the light of these spiritual foundations.

**Shakti from Auroville:** (MA in Sri Aurobindo Studies): Originally from Ukraine, Shakti has been living in Auroville since 1994 and is also studying with some teachers there. She now feels ready to pursue a systematic study of Sri Aurobindo's thought and has therefore chosen the SACAR-IGNOU Master's program. She writes: "I think I am entering another stage of life and I have to study Sri Aurobindo to educate my mind and to re-find my being, and to be in contact with higher consciousness. I need to know."

**True progress lies in the widening of the spirit and the abolition of all limits.**

*The Mother (CWM, vol 12, p. 186)*



Perceive always and act  
in the light of thy  
increasing perceptions,  
but not those of the  
reasoning brain only.  
God speaks to the heart  
when the brain cannot  
understand him.

*Sri Aurobindo*

Contact: Beloo Mehra  
Phone: 0413-2348067  
[beloome@gmail.com](mailto:beloome@gmail.com)  
[sacar@auromail.net](mailto:sacar@auromail.net)

*The painting titled 'Divine Song' by Delhi-based artist Bindu Popli, which is featured on page one of the present issue is in the private collection of the MĀSA editor.*

We invoke the Grace and Blessings of our beloved Mother and Sri Aurobindo through our reference to MĀ and SA. MĀSA is also a Sanskrit word which means month - appropriate for this monthly publication.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi branch is organizing two summer study camps where Dr. Ananda Reddy will conduct classes.

**May 30-June 6, 2009:** Madhuban, Talla Ramgarh, Dist. Nainital  
Theme: Significance of Sacrifice (From *The Essays on the Gita*)

**June 8-15, 2009:** Van Niwas, Bara Pathar, Nainital  
Theme: Yoga of Divine Love (From *The Synthesis of Yoga*)

E-mail: [aurobindo@vsnl.com](mailto:aurobindo@vsnl.com) for details

## Relevance of studying the spiritual roots of Indian culture

Menaka Deorah, MA student

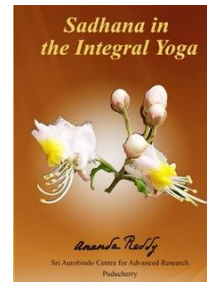
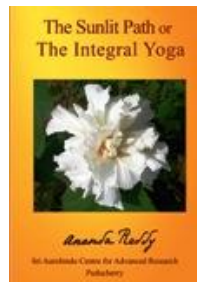
currently pursuing a course in Foundations of Indian Culture

Our socio-cultural environment today is under the threat of violent criticism, dangerous misunderstandings, power politics, economic conversion, excessive hedonism and on the verge of disaster. Be it marriage, family, education, work, industry, politics or even health and sanity, our society is cracking up big time. We are at a loss, flung midway between westernization and modernization, we have lost our bearings and sense of balance. We don't know what is right anymore or how to put a halt to this huge current that sweeps the ground beneath our feet. Desire, ego, competition, pleasure, the race is unstoppable now. Only the firm, clear and high anchor of Indian Spirituality has the answers and solutions to the mess we are in. It is only in the *sanatan dharma* that we shall find again the right direction, the true understanding, and the great conviction of the spirit that alone has the power and means to realign our mind, life and body around its evolutionary purpose and intent; the power to embrace all differences and dualities into one harmonious whole; the power to re-look at life and world with a new vision and the real truth.

The boom in contemporary Indian art and economy shall find a new direction, its true role in the world and will turn into a means of expressing the spirit and uniting people of the world under its "spirited" energy. Education, commerce, politics and management will all conform to the spiritual benchmarks of Oneness, self-determination, perfection, universality and the bliss that arises out of such an outlook. If India already has lived in her past the richness of a life-affirming spirituality why then can she not re-apply that knowledge to this hour of crisis and see the results it yields? If nothing else has worked so far then perhaps it is time to give spirituality an unstinted, unwavering and unlimited chance. It is up to each of us to understand the foundations of Indian culture in our own minds, live it in our own way and become living examples of its revival.

## NOW AVAILABLE AT SACAR

Two valuable collections of talks for all practitioners of Integral Yoga  
*The Sunlit Path & Sadhana in the Integral Yoga*



For information and purchase, email: [sacarmiresh@gmail.com](mailto:sacarmiresh@gmail.com)

## Admissions are ongoing for February 2009 session of SACAR-IGNOU programmes

To learn about the programmes, visit - [www.sacar.in/ignou/mainpage.html](http://www.sacar.in/ignou/mainpage.html)

To apply, visit - [www.sacar.in/ignou/admission/application\\_ignou.html](http://www.sacar.in/ignou/admission/application_ignou.html)