

"Our outward happenings have their seed within"

-Savitri, Book I, Canto IV

A homage to the victims of terrorist attacks in Mumbai, 26/11/08

In the last week of November 2008, India suffered one of the worst terrorist attacks in Mumbai, in which more than 180 people were killed and several hundreds were wounded. The list of victims also included several police, military and other security personnel who were killed in the line of fire.

We at SACAR pay our sincere tributes to all the martyrs and victims of this tragedy and fully support all the brave men and women who are fighting against the menace of terrorism. As we look for some sense in this seemingly senseless act of terror against innocent people, and pray for a resurgence of the strong and self-confident Mother India, we seek inspiration in the words of Sri Aurobindo, which are just as relevant today.

"One needs to have a calm heart, a settled will, entire self-abnegation and the eyes constantly fixed on the beyond to live undiscouraged in times like these which are truly a period of universal decomposition." (*From a letter written to the Mother in France, while World War I was raging. On Himself, Centenary Ed, vol 26, p. 424.*)

"Wherever thou seest a great end, be sure of a great beginning. Where a monstrous and painful destruction appalls thy mind, console it with the certainty of a large and great creation. God is there not only in the still small voice, but in the fire and in the whirlwind." (*Thoughts and Glimpses, Centenary Ed, vol 16, p. 392.*)

"Wherefore God hammers so fiercely at his world, tramples and kneads it like dough, casts it so often into the blood-bath and the red hell-heat of the furnace? Because humanity in the mass is still a hard, crude and vile ore which will not otherwise be smelted and shaped; as is his material, so is his method. Let it help to transmute itself into nobler and purer metal, his ways with it will be gentler and sweeter, much loftier and fairer its uses." (*ibid, p. 392*)

"I believe that the main cause of India's weakness is not subjection, nor poverty, nor a lack of spirituality or Dharma, but a diminution of thought-power, the spread of ignorance in the motherland of Knowledge. Everywhere I see an inability or unwillingness to think -- incapacity of thought or "thought-phobia"...Our civilization has become ossified, our Dharma a bigotry of externals, our spirituality a faint glimmer of light or a momentary wave of intoxication. So long as this state of things lasts, any permanent resurgence of India is impossible" (*From a letter written to his brother Barin Ghose in 1920. Archives & Research, April 1980, pp. 1-10.*)

"Our call is to young India. It is the young who must be the builders of the new world, - not those who accept the competitive individualism, the capitalism or the materialistic communism of the West as India's future ideal, not those who are enslaved to old religious formulas and cannot believe in the acceptance and transformation of life by the spirit, but all who are free in mind and heart to accept a completer truth and labour for a greater ideal...It is with a confident trust in the spirit that inspires us that we take our place among the standard-bearers of the new humanity that is struggling to be born amidst the chaos of a world in dissolution, and of the future India, the greater India of the rebirth that is to rejuvenate the mighty outworn body of the ancient Mother." (*Cent. Ed, 16, p. 331*)

"Our first necessity, if India is to survive and do her appointed work in the world, is that the youth of India should learn to think, -- to think on all subjects, to think independently, fruitfully, going to the heart of things, not stopped by their surface, free of prejudgment, shearing sophism and prejudice asunder as with a sharp sword, smiting down obscurantism of all kinds...." (*Archives & Research, April 1981, pp. 1-6.*)



**All the countries live in falsehood.
If only one country stood courageously for truth, the world might be saved.**

An inner communication from Sri Aurobindo to the Mother, Mother's Agenda, vol 8, p. 173

Contact: Beloo Mehra
Phone: 0413-2348067
beloome@gmail.com
sacar@auromail.net



It is always good to look
within oneself from time
to time and see that one is
nothing and can do
nothing, but afterwards
one must turn one's eyes
to Thee, knowing that
Thou art all and Thou
canst do all.

Thou art the life of our life
and the light of our being,
Thou art the master of
our destinies.

*The Mother, Prayers and
Meditations, January 3, 1914*

We invoke the
Grace and Blessings of
our beloved Mother and
Sri Aurobindo through
our reference to
MA and SA.
MASA 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 for details

MEET OUR LEARNERS

In this issue we introduce the readers to three more learners presently pursuing their study through SACAR-IGNOU programmes.



Angshuman Basu from Tamil Nadu (Certificate Programme)

In his statement of purpose submitted with the application, Angshuman wrote:

"I am interested in Sri Aurobindo Studies because I wish to know more deeply the meaning of life...I have been connected to the institutions like Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville, and Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, Kolkata since my childhood, and for a while now have felt the need to study Sri Aurobindo more comprehensively and understand deeply His enormous works. I wish to join the Certificate Program because I think the assistance of knowledgeable scholars will help me in my understanding of Sri Aurobindo's works. I love to read Sri Aurobindo and to know HIM is the sole purpose for my joining this programme.

Sibabrata De from Maharashtra (Certificate Programme)

An engineer by profession, Sibabrata has always been interested in areas of study beyond engineering. He wrote the following in his initial application to the programme: "So far I am aware of Sri Aurobindo's life and work only through my limited and selective readings. I came to know about this course which will help me through guided and structured study. I am interested in acquainting myself with various aspects of Sri Aurobindo's life, work & vision, his philosophy and yoga psychology. Within the scope of this programme I would like to understand Sri Aurobindo's philosophical concept of evolution for the human kind. I would also like to understand his hypostasis of The Supermind...and the postulated process of transcending and transforming human nature with a new consciousness." After attaining a foundational level of understanding through the Certificate Programme, Sibabrata intends to further take up advanced programme of study at SACAR, if possible.

Milind Mashankar from Maharashtra (M.Phil in Sri Aurobindo Studies)

It was in 1990's that Milind first came in contact with the vision and works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother because of the inspiration of his father-in-law. According to Milind, who is a lecturer in English, reading Sri Aurobindo's poetry made a deep impact on his "mind and soul." He is currently pursuing his M.Phil study at SACAR and would like to focus the advanced study and research component of his programme on the poetry of Sri Aurobindo.



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

To learn about the programmes, visit -

www.sacar.in/ignou/mainpage.html

To apply, visit -

www.sacar.in/ignou/admission/application_ignou.html