

Man in the world's life works out the dreams of God.

Savitri, Book VII, Canto II

Studying Sri Aurobindo's Works

"You came to earth to learn to know yourself. Read Sri Aurobindo's books and look carefully within yourself as deeply as you can."

"Read a little at a time, keeping the mind as tranquil as one can, without making an effort to understand, but keeping the head as silent as possible, and letting the force contained in what one reads enter deep within. This force received in the calm and the silence will do its work of light and, if needed, will create in the brain the necessary cells for the understanding."

(The Mother, CWM, vol 12, pp. 203-4)

When reading any of the works of Sri Aurobindo many of us have experienced the transformative and liberating force and power of their words. We share with our readers a sample of reflections recently shared by a few of our students in this regard.

When I read the phrase "Every moment and every movement should be consecrated to the Divine" from Sri Aurobindo's *The Synthesis of Yoga* I went completely silent for a few minutes. The enormity of the task was mind-boggling. When every moment and every movement is exhausted, what remains? Just eleven words and a lifetime or many can be dedicated to perfecting this movement of integral Surrender!

Gitanjali JB, MPhil student

A little book of 35 pages, *The Mother* by Sri Aurobindo has become so much a part of my life that whenever I have any problem, I turn to it and whatever my concern or trouble might be, I get the answer. At every possible opportunity I find guidance from this book. Even when I do not need answer to any specific question, reading this book gives me peace, tranquility and a constant faith.

Gilu Mishra, MPhil student

Reading *Savitri* somehow brings me in touch with the force or power of the wisdom hidden in its pages, even when I do not understand the words I am reading. This force has a deep impact on me. When I concentrate on some of the words from *Savitri*, it is as if I enter a little sphere of silence, presence, warmth and clarity where time doesn't exist.

Whenever I face a difficulty in life, I look up the canto that I think fits my situation at hand, and after reading a few pages I somehow come out of the difficulty into something or some place that is new and comforting. This book contains for me all possible experiences, planes of consciousness and realizations for human beings. If I would have to choose only one book to take with me on a lonely island it would be *Savitri*.

Tanja Rost, MA student

It is so incredible! Sri Aurobindo just sails smoothly through the most profound thoughts! Everything is so perfect when he says it! The essence of phenomena, its paradoxes, its difficulties and dangers with all its attractions for today and tomorrow, all is said in a cool sentence! Leaves me floored!

Chandra Pitchal, MA student



A View from SACAR Terrace
Photo by Suresh Kumar, MPhil student



Every idea contains a little of the truth or one aspect of the truth. But no idea is absolutely true in itself.

The Mother

To understand the true reason why you are here, you must remember that we want to become instruments that are as perfect as possible, instruments that express the divine will in the world. And if the instruments are to be perfect, they must be cultivated, educated, trained. They must not be left like fallow land or a formless piece of stone.

The Mother

Value Education Programme 2009

A Brief Report by Deepshikha Reddy

Every year SACAR holds EHV (Education in Human Values) workshops for about 300-600 students enrolled in higher classes at various schools of Pondicherry. These workshops are organized over a period of 2-3 days; while most sessions are held at SACAR premises, some are also held at different schools.

The EVH programme was promoted by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in the year 2000, primarily to re-establish and reawaken the true human values that are being fast forgotten in the present society. Today's students, unfortunately, do not have even a handful of good examples that they can look upto. The EVH programme tries to bring back the emphasis on value-based education which is often ignored because of the over-emphasis on book-learning in mainstream schools.



The EVH workshops organized by SACAR are highly interactive and participatory in nature. We discuss several topics like environment, dwindling values in the present times, issue of corruption, life and its struggles, Western influence on us, combating depression, glorious times in the past, etc. We do all these through discussions, deliberations, question-answer sessions, dramas, different art forms, debates, etc. For some sessions we also make effective use of computer technology for enjoyable learning experiences.



The whole idea behind the programme is to make each student feel that he or she is gifted with an inner power and strength that needs to be sincerely nurtured by truthfulness, faith in God, faith in man and faith in the unity of our unique nation.



It is always both great fun and joy to organize and work with students in these workshops. The Active participation by young and enthusiastic students brings much cheerfulness to the whole experience.

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News from Hyderabad

The Institute of Human Study conducted ten EVH (Education in Human Values) workshops in which about 500 students from various schools participated. Three of these workshops were held at Hyderabad, two at Jangaon and five at Warangal. These workshops were sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.



On 19th July 2009, Dr. Ananda Reddy gave a talk at the HIS on the subject of "Avatars and Vibhutis."

On 25th July 2009, the IHS celebrated the birthday of its founder, Prof. V. Madhusudhan Reddy. The children of Sri Aurobindo International School gave their tributes to Prof. Reddy.

On 3rd August 2009, Shri V. V. Raghava Rao gave a talk on Sri Aurobindo and the Mother to the students of Hindi Pandits Training College, Jangaon. About 70 students attended the event.

On 13th August 2009, Matridarshan Trust organized a one-day meeting in collaboration with Action Carbone, an NGO from France working on climate change. About 30 farmers from the village of Peddamadoor participated in this meeting held at Champak Hills. They were informed about the activities of the Matridarshan Trust. Dr Sai Bhakser Reddy, an environmentalist gave a demonstration of smokeless stoves and explained about their advantages. Miss Christina from France also participated in the event.



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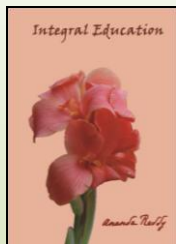
**Last date for applications for
Feb 2010 session:**

December 15, 2009



Flute Player, Varanasi
Photo by Raghu Rai
Sourced from the Internet

**VCD on
Integral Education**
Video recording of a talk
by Ananda Reddy
delivered at
Sri Aurobindo Institute
of Education,
Salt Lake City, Kolkata.
December 2007



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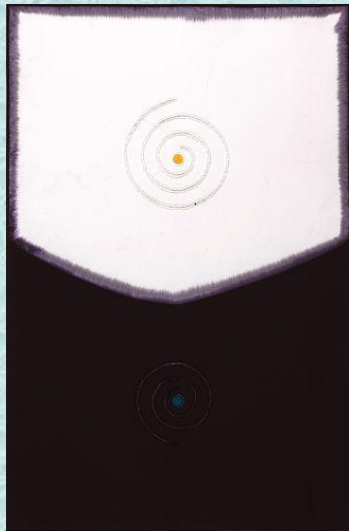
**SACAR invites submissions for
the Special Issue of
New Race: A Journal of Integral
Studies,
April 2010**

**"Sri Aurobindo
and the
Next Future of India"**

Last date for submissions:
January 15, 2010

Email your submissions as Word
document to
<beloome@gmail.com>

**SEE NEXT PAGE
FOR MORE DETAILS**



Untitled
by Sohan Qadri
www.delhiartgallery.com

Special Issue of New Race, April 2010

April 4th, 2010 marks the 100 year anniversary of Sri Aurobindo's arrival in Pondicherry. As a gesture to pay our salutation to Sri Aurobindo on this momentous day – momentous for India and the future of the world – we would like to bring out a special issue of our publication, *New Race: A Journal of Integral Studies*.

In this special issue, titled **“Sri Aurobindo and the Next Future of India”**, we invite you all to participate in a comprehensive reappraisal of Sri Aurobindo's contribution to India's nation-soul in all its multi-dynamism. We solicit articles and essays by students, facilitators, friends and well-wishers of SACAR, in which they not only consider their idealistic hopes and dreams for India's future, but also engage in a thorough and original analysis of the given theme in the light of a realistic appraisal of the dreams and pursuits of present and future generations of India.

In an essay titled, “On Original Thinking” (circa 1910-1913), Sri Aurobindo wrote:

“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 prejudgments, shearing sophism and prejudice asunder as with a sharp sword, smiting down obscurantism of all kinds... [I]n order to find out what in our conceptions is true and lasting, we must question all alike rigorously and impartially.” (CWSA, volume 12, pp. 40-42)

We hope that this special issue of *New Race* becomes a vehicle for such original thinking among all those who love and care for the future destiny of India, and who aspire to consciously participate in a genuine resurgence of the true Indian Spirit. A spiritual revitalization of Indian hearts and minds is necessary not only for India's future and her destined mission in the world, but for the future of the humanity and earth itself.

We encourage our writers to dig deep into their minds and hearts, to go beyond the surface-level readings and interpretations of present developments and limiting portrayals of India, to earnestly search for the deeper truth that is trying to reveal itself in India's onward march, to explore the critical role of the present and future generations in India's renaissance, and to critically investigate into the present and future forms in which will manifest the eternal Nation-soul of Mother India.

Some broad guidelines and suggestions for authors

We highly encourage authors to present in their essays an in-depth reappraisal of Sri Aurobindo's thought and vision which can help India move towards her next spiritual destiny.

Suggested Topics: India's Nation-soul and Generation Next, India's Evolutionary March of Consciousness, Sri Aurobindo's Vision for the Future of Indian Polity, Envisioning a True Democracy in the Light of Sri Aurobindo's Vision, True Meaning of Equality and Justice for All, Relevance of Mass Media and Universal Education for the Next Step of India's Awakening, Integral Education and the Indian Spirit, A True National Education for India: Opportunities and Challenges, Moving beyond an Information-society to becoming a Truly Knowledge Society, Possibilities and Prospects of a United South Asia, Envisioning and Working towards a United India in a Land of Diversity, India and the Future of the World, India's Role in the Future of Human Unity, Integrating Material and Spiritual Prosperity, Integrated Rural Development Programme in the Light of Sri Aurobindo's Vision, Multi-generational View of India's Present and Future, Contributions of Modern Religious and Spiritual Gurus toward a True Spiritual Awakening in India, Future of Religion in India, India's Progressive March toward Her Spiritual Destiny, Addressing Social Issues in the Light of Sri Aurobindo's Thought and Vision, Re-discovering and Applying the Authentic Indian Creativity to Solve her Problems Resurgence of Indian Spirit in Literature and Arts, New Directions for Indian Literature and Arts, The Future of Scientific Study in the Light of Indian Spirituality.

The maximum word limit for your submission is 7000.

Please include in your essays complete details of all the references you cite.

Last date for submissions for the Special Issue is January 15, 2010.

As a matter of policy, *New Race* doesn't pay any honorarium to the authors.