

*"Our self shall be one self with all through her."*

*-Savitri, Book III, Canto II*

## SACAR gets ready for its first 10-day residential seminar

A new chapter opens up for SACAR as it prepares for the first ten-day residential seminar to be held April 20-29, 2008. The seminar titled, "An Orientation to the Multifaceted Genius of Sri Aurobindo" offers a unique programme covering four different aspects of Sri Aurobindo's thought and vision - Integral Yoga Psychology, Integral Education, Social-political Thought, and Literature. A team of selected speakers will present on different topics within these four areas. Several participatory sessions involving contributions from and interactions with audience are also being planned. Thirty people from various parts of India have registered for this intensive seminar, and more than half of them will be staying at the newly built International Scholars' Home at SACAR.

## Taking Sri Aurobindo to Academic Mainstream

SACAR continues to explore collaborations with like-minded institutions in India.

Last month Dr. Ananda Reddy, Director of SACAR visited The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. SACAR is recognized by MSU for granting Ph.D. in Sri Aurobindo's Philosophy. While the details and processes of this affiliation are being finalised, at the MSU Dr. Reddy met with the Dean of Faculty of Arts, and with the Heads of the Departments of English Literature, Political Science, and Sociology to explore possibilities for affiliation with these departments.

Dr. Reddy also visited Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in Delhi. Talks are currently ongoing with the Vice-Chancellor and other officials of IGNOU to explore possibilities of partnership and affiliation.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
2<sup>nd</sup> International Study Camp  
at Van Nivas, Nainital  
Theme: Yoga of Divine Love  
**OCTOBER 1-9, 2008**



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

## SACAR at Pondicherry University

Back at home, Beloo Mehra, a team-member of SACAR, presented a paper titled, "Retelling Classical Literature, Awakening a Generation: Case of the *Ramayana*" at a conference on Literature, Language, Communications at Pondicherry University. In her paper she applied Sri Aurobindo's perspective on the role played by Rama's *avatar* in the evolution of consciousness to interpret the portrayal of Rama in a contemporary Hindi novel based on *Ram-katha*. Shruiti Bidwaikar, a young research scholar at SACAR, also presented a paper titled, "Approaching Literature through Consciousness" in which she examined the three commonly used approaches of literary criticism in the light of Sri Aurobindo's views on the role of consciousness in literature and literary criticism.

## ISH at SACAR

Cleaning and organizing are in full swing at the newly built International Scholars' Home at SACAR. We are looking forward to welcoming our first group of scholars arriving here for April 20-29 seminar.



Art is nothing less in its  
fundamental truth than  
the aspect of beauty of  
the Divine  
manifestation.  
*The Mother*

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**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.**

## SACAR Family Visits Shankara Chetty's House, April 4, 2008

The special date of April 4 – the day Sri Aurobindo arrived in Pondicherry in 1910 -- has an additional significance for SACAR. On this date, SACAR celebrates its 'yearly' birthday without having to wait for a leap year every four years. Of course in 2008, we had the special blessing of celebrating our anniversary twice.

On Friday April 4, 2008, we started the day with a special Darshan and short meditation in Sri Aurobindo's Room, and then visited the first abode of Sri Aurobindo when he first arrived in Pondicherry. Master's Presence in the small second-storey room of Shankara Chetty's house where he stayed for six months is unmistakable.



## Recent Visitors to SACAR

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Shantiben from Nasik visited SACAR. She and Ananda Reddy worked together for several years at Aspiration school in Auroville in the early 1970s. The two friends and former colleagues met after a gap of almost twenty years and exchanged notes on the different directions their life and works have taken them. Shantiben greatly admired the work being done at SACAR and also its facilities.

On the same day, we had two other important visitors – Sangya from Mysore and Madhu from Australia. They have been helping SACAR in significant ways and through their donations. They visited SACAR after many years and were very happy to see the addition of International Scholars' Home.

## SACAR finds inspiration in the vision of late Dr. Mangesh Nadkarni, Chairperson of SACAR Advisory Council

In a recent book (*A Journey on The Sunlit Path* published by Mirravision Trust) released as a homage to late Dr. Nadkarni-ji, Ananda Reddy writes in his tribute: "Sometimes he [Dr. Nadkarni] spoke to me of this pain in his heart, sometimes he bemoaned the status of the academia and the intelligentsia who purposely avoid the multidimensional genius that is Sri Aurobindo...His anguish was to make Sri Aurobindo a contemporary person, that is, relevant to the present burning issues, especially in India." Drawing inspiration from this sentiment, SACAR continues its efforts to bring the true meaning and relevance of the vision and thought of Sri Aurobindo to contemporary Indians, especially the so-called educated intelligentsia. Our online and distance academic programmes and our residential seminars are examples of our efforts to translate Dr. Nadkarni's vision into action.

*"For me, painting is flowering. The unknown world unfolds itself..."*

– Bindu Popli, a Delhi-based artist

Bindu's work titled *Antaryatra* (Inner Journey) graces this issue of MĀSA.

SACAR photos, courtesy of Satya & Shruti.

MĀSA editor wishes to express special thanks to Satya for all the technical help he provides in the design and distribution of MĀSA.