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# IN SEARCH OF THE SOUL OF INDIA

## PROGRAMME, SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

### An Introduction

WITH INDIA'S POSITION and integrity under question, with sanctions against her, and incorrect motives attached to her role in the comity of nations, it becomes more urgent and necessary today, to re-look, question and discover her true founts of knowledge and just basis for her future action and role.

India's nobility, her very soul has been forgotten and buried in the mire. India, whom we consider our Mother and whose infinite Shakti, patience and toil over the centuries has created a peculiar race and temperament, has a unique soul with a special mission, which needs to be re-discovered, acknowledged and brought into the life blood of the nation.

This is why, we as citizens of a great nation, whose role is still not completely understood or fully realised, feel that it is our duty to bring to the younger generations, enlightened speakers and eminent thinkers on her true role, spiritual heritage and culture.

We are 'in search of the soul of India'.....

### THE SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF INDIA TALKS SERIES

Beginning August 1998

#### The Programme

The Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of India Talks series has been conceived and organised by The Gnostic Centre. It is sponsored fully by Life Positive (a body-mind-spirit magazine). It will be held at various schools, colleges and academic institutions of Delhi and Gurgaon. Should you be interested in attending any of the following, please contact us at 5563070 or 6179129.

#### At a Glance

Sraddhalu Ranade	1st-7th August
Dr. Arabinda Basu	23rd-27th August
Dr. Karan Singh	21st September
Prof. Kittu Reddy	10th-13th November
Dr. Makarand Paranjape	Aug, Sept, Oct
Ameeta Mehra	Sept, Oct, Nov
Prof. Supriyo Bhattacharya	November/ December



### DR.KARAN SINGH

*Dr. Karan Singh (a member of the Rajya Sabha) is an eminent scholar, writer and orator, with a deep insight into the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. He has served the nation as her former ambassador to the United States and as a Cabinet Minister.*



### THE RELEVANCE OF THE GITA IN THE CONTEMPORARY CRISIS

*St. Stephens College (Mon.21<sup>st</sup> Sept, time to be finalised)*

Why is the Bhagavad Gita so influential in modern times? How can its teachings be of practical help to us in facing the problems that confront us in our daily lives? Dr. Karan Singh explains the relevance of the Gita in overcoming the crisis that humanity is faced with today.

### DR. ARABINDA BASU

*Dr. Arabinda Basu is a well-renowned speaker on topics pertaining to philosophy (both Eastern and Western), religion and spirituality. He travels extensively all over the world to deliver talks at universities and international conferences. Dr. Basu has been a Professor at the Durham University, UK and guides students of philosophy in their research. He also brings out a journal: 'Gaveshana' and is running a research institute at Pondicherry.*

### WHAT IS YOGA?

*The Gnostic Centre (Sun.23<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 10am)*

What does the word 'Yoga' mean and how is it put into practice? An introductory talk on the meaning and various forms of Yoga - Hatha, Raja, Karma, Jnana and Bhakti, Yoga of the Bhagavadgita, the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo.

### SRI AUROBINDO'S CONCEPT OF PHILOSOPHY

*Dept. of Philosophy, DU (Thu.27<sup>th</sup> Aug, 11.15am)*

### ON 'DHARMA'

*Miranda House (Wed.26<sup>th</sup> Aug, 11am)*

An insight into the meaning of the word Dharma, as different from the ordinarily understood meaning 'religion'. An enquiry into the essential laws of human nature and principles of conduct, as well as the infinite variety of human nature, from the standpoint of Indian spiritual psychology. Dharma in accordance with one's own nature, temperament and stage of life. Dharma and human life, dharma and god.





## PROF. KITTU REDDY

*Prof. Kittu Reddy has worked extensively with the Indian Army - training officers, cadets and students in colleges and schools all over India. He has introduced the components on Indian culture and Spiritual values into the Army. Prof. Reddy teaches Social & Political Thought and Indian Culture at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education at Pondicherry, and is a highly acclaimed speaker and teacher. Recently, Prof. Reddy has also come out with a book titled, 'Bravest of the Brave'.*



## DEMOCRACY: AN INDIAN VIEWPOINT

*Sardar Patel Vidyalaya (Fri.13<sup>th</sup> Nov, 11.50am)*

It is generally believed that democracy with the sole exception of ancient Greece, is a phenomenon of the modern world and that the ancient world had no conception of democracy. In this talk we shall show that ancient India had a very clear concept of democracy. The one principle permanent at the base of construction of Indian polity was the principle of an organically self-determining communal life. This principle of self-determination was not only in the mass by means of the machinery of the vote and a representative body erected on the surface which is all that the modern system has been able to manage; it was a system which was self-determining in every pulse of its life and in each separate member of its existence. A free synthetic communal order was its character and the condition of liberty it aimed at was not so much an individual as a communal freedom.

*Indian Institute of Technology  
(topic and date to be finalised)*

## EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

*Central Institute of Education (Wed.11<sup>th</sup> Nov, 9am)  
Sri Venkateswara College (Thu.12<sup>th</sup> Nov, 12 o'clock)*

Education as it is understood and practised the world over today is almost entirely concerned only with the development of the mental faculties; the other parts of the being, like the body, the vital being with the two aspects of character building and aesthetic development, are not given the importance that is due to them. The Indian concept of education is based on a different perception of the human being; in the Indian concept the psychological structure of man is made up of: the body, the vital, the mind and the soul. A true education will therefore give equal importance to all these parts and give full scope to the development of each one of them. The educational system will thus provide for a detailed and elaborate system of physical education with the aim of developing fitness, strength, health and endurance and above all, infusing consciousness into the body; there will be system of vital education which will develop the powers of the life energy; these will include the development and mastery over one's character and the development of the aesthetic being; there will be a mental education which will develop the mind in all its aspects. It will lay great stress on developing the fundamentals, that is to say the power of concentration, imagination, reasoning, analysis and expression. Finally, great importance will be given to the education of the psychic being which is the true centre of human personality; this will open man to vast ranges of consciousness of which he is unaware now. With this awareness of the deeper layers of



consciousness, man will rise to his highest potentialities. As a result, the psychological conditions will be created which will help him to lead a better, fuller and more harmonious life.

### INDIAN GENIUS AND THE ROLE AND MISSION OF INDIA

*Apeejay School, Sheikh Sarai (Tue.10<sup>th</sup> Nov, 9am)*

The nation, like the individual, has a body, a life energy with a moral and aesthetic temperament, a developing mind and a soul. Continuing the parallel between the individual and the nation, it is one of the important concepts of Indian culture that the individual has a mission to fulfil on earth; he has taken birth not just by accident but to fulfil a particular role. In exactly the same way, the nation has a role and a mission to fulfil. However, in order to fulfil this mission, it is indispensable that the individual and the nation become aware of their true *swadharma*. The *swadharma* of the Indian nation is to erect spirituality as the chief and highest motivating force of life; for that it must become aware of its own soul and express it in all the activities of life. This, in short, is the role and mission for which the Indian nation was created.

### DR. MAKARAND PARANJAPE

*Dr. Makarand Paranjape is an associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Delhi. He is a poet, critic, novelist and newspaper columnist, with several published books and scholarly essays to his credit. He travels widely and speaks on topics pertaining to Culture and Spirituality.*



### FOUNDATIONS OF INDIAN CULTURE

*Central Institute of Education (Wed.19<sup>th</sup> Aug, 9am)*

*Delhi College of Art (Wed.23<sup>rd</sup> Sept, 11am)*

*Indian Institute of Mass Communication*

*(Wed.30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10.30 am)*

*Sardar Patel Vidyalaya (Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, 11.50 am)*

Who are we? What is our relationship with our past, with our ancient traditions on the one hand and with our contemporary world on the other? How do we relate to the West and to our own traditions? The talk will try to answer some of these questions. It will focus on the key characteristics, themes and elements of Indian culture. The attempt will be to survey the growth and development of Indian civilisation so as to understand where we stand at the present and what the future holds for us.





## PROF. SUPRIYO BHATTACHARYA

*Prof. Supriyo Bhattacharya is a leading economist and a professor at University of Kalyani, West Bengal. He is a guest lecturer at Calcutta University, and also the editor of 'Srinvantu' - a Bengali and English magazine, brought out from Calcutta. Prof. Bhattacharya writes for many leading newspapers and journals on topics pertaining to Indian culture, economics and the social and political system. He has lectured widely in various Indian universities.*



## TOWARDS AN ALTERNATIVE SOCIAL ORDER

*Delhi School of Social Work (date to be finalised)*

## ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

*Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (date to be finalised)*

## THE CURRENT PROBLEMS OF INDIA

*Hindu College (date to be finalised)*

*Miranda House (date to be finalised)*

## SRADDHALU RANADE

*Sraddhalu Ranade is an inmate of Sri Aurobindo Ashram since he was six months old. His comprehensive training has ranged from computer science to painting, from mathematics to music, parapsychology to educational research. A scientist by training, a spiritual seeker by predilection, he bridges the gulf between science and spirituality. His talks are known for their directness, lucidity and simplicity. He has a special capacity to make even the most abstract ideas seem meaningful and obvious.*



## INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

*Faculty of Law, DU (Sat.1<sup>st</sup> Aug, 11am)*

*Indian Institute of Mass Communication  
(Fri.7<sup>th</sup> Aug, 10.30am)*

Around the world, in every religious or cultural tradition, we find strange prophecies of great impending changes, large-scale destruction, and a transition into a new Age. Surprisingly all of them seem to point to the present times as the period of this radical transition. Is there any truth to these prophecies? What do they really indicate? Is there such a thing as a human destiny? If so, where is humanity heading through the increasing crisis and turmoil around the world? We find answers to these and many other questions in the larger comprehensive vision of human

evolution. The union of Europe, the break-up of the Soviet Union, and even a new world order were all anticipated and described as early as 1914. We are led to a deeper insight into the cause of present problems and their solution. We recognise the prominent and imminent role that India has to play in this period of transition. We learn how best we can prepare ourselves to take the leap into the new Age that is dawning on humanity.





## **EXPLORING INNER WORLDS**

*Jesus & Mary College (Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> Aug, 11.45am)*

Deep within the core of our humanness is the basic impulse to explore and conquer the unknown. Humanity has plumbed the deepest oceans and gazed at the mysteries of the farthest stars. But the final frontier is not outer space, it is *inner* space. The human being is a microcosm, a perfect image of the macrocosm; all that exists in the universe finds its reflection within us. This esoteric perspective of the cosmos leads us to a logical understanding of some of the so-far unexplained characteristics of the evolutionary movement. We begin to understand our place and role in the universe and our goal in life. We are led to study different parts of our own being, the ranges of consciousness represented within us and the extraordinary resources and faculties that lie untapped within us; we study the means by which we can recognise, develop and eventually master them. The exploration of inner worlds brings us face to face with profound questions that have troubled humanity throughout the ages. We study the nature of sleep and dreams, the journey of our consciousness after death, the basis and the limitations of the divinatory sciences such as astrology and palmistry, and find meaningful and satisfying answers to the problem of fate and free-will. We are led to rediscover the deep insights that our ancients had into occult and spiritual principles of existence and we examine how they put this knowledge into practice for the larger well-being of humanity. We peep into the science of symbolism, temple architecture and ritual practices that they utilised for this purpose. We then rise beyond all these techniques to grasp the essence of it all, the solution to all our problems, the key to all the mysteries of the cosmos, the ultimate secret that lies hidden within each one of us.

## **DYNAMICS OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN MANAGEMENT**

*Management Development Institute, Gurgaon*

*(Mon. 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 5.30pm)*

*Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (Tues. 4<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2pm)*

*International Management Institute*

*(Thu. 6<sup>th</sup> Aug, 10.30am)*

*National Institute of Fashion Technology*

*(Thu. 6<sup>th</sup> Aug, 3.30pm)*

*Faculty of Management Studies, DU (Fri. 7<sup>th</sup> Aug, 3pm)*

The Western approach to management is an offshoot of the assembly-line manufacturing industry. It looks upon a company as a giant piece of machinery, the worker as an expendable spare part, and the manager as one who compels the worker to produce more through a sophisticated system of reward and punishment. Such an approach based on antagonism and impersonality breeds all-round frustration and tension, leading eventually to the erosion of the very fabric of human society. The Eastern approach to management and to life itself is radically different. It looks upon the individual as a soul in evolution. Its goal is the harmonious growth and fulfilment of both the collectivity and the individual. But the individual is himself a conglomerate of so many conflicting parts and unless he can master himself, he cannot be master of his circumstances. We begin by studying the different parts and forces that make up our individuality, recognise their influence in our behaviour and our circumstances, and learn the means to eventually master our own nature. And since the individual is a part of the larger collectivity, we are led to study the dynamics of consciousness that relate the individual to the group, the occult and spiritual influences that work unseen to mould our relationships. We examine the role and meaning of money in our lives, the seeking for power, the source of tension and frustration. We discuss the origin of the universe, the meaning of our existence and our goal in life. Finally we outline some of the key spiritual principles which are the basis for the management of any successful endeavour, whether in business or personal life.



## AMEETA MEHRA

*\*English Honours (Lady Shri Ram)  
\*Management Education (IIM, Ahmedabad)*

*Ameeta is presently the Chairperson of the Gnostic Centre, where she takes study groups, workshops and short courses on the Gita, Upanishads, Meditation, and on Sri Aurobindo's integral yoga. She also gives talks on topics pertaining to self-development, Indian psychology, management and the Bhagavad Gita.*

*She has compiled and edited the following books: Dhyana: Meditation for Inner Growth, Sadhana: A Guide to Self-mastery, Karmayoga: Perfection in Works, Abhaya: Fear - Its Cause and Cure.*

*Her past experience includes teaching children and conducting youth empowerment workshops – both in India and abroad.*



### THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

*Miranda House (Wed.25<sup>th</sup> Nov, 11am)  
Lady Irwin College (date to be finalised)*

This talk will focus on the distinctive role of women in society as we enter the new millennium. The talk will elaborate on the following themes:

- \* The Problem of Women
- \* Sita and Savitri
- \* Marriage and the Family
- \* Man and Woman - an unnecessary conflict
- \* Woman and the Future

### SECRETS OF LEADERSHIP

*Management Development Institute, Gurgaon  
(Tues.15<sup>th</sup> Sept, 5.30pm)  
International Management Institute  
(Sat.19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10.30am)*

This talk is based on the Bhagawad Gita and The Mother's writings on How to become a True Leader. It focuses on the following issues:

- \* Qualities of a leader: The Indian mindset
- \* What kind of leaders succeed in India: the root cause of inefficiency and failure
- \* How to take decisions
- \* Conflict resolution
- \* The importance of building teams and collective work

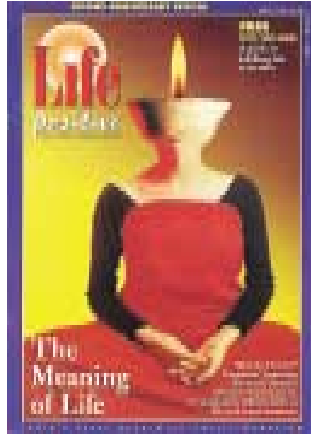
It ends with drawing attention to why our political system is doomed to fail. What is the true Indian model for governance?

*Faculty of Management Studies, DU  
(topic and date to be finalised)*



## The Sponsors

In Search of the Soul of India



## LIFE POSITIVE

Conceived to chronicle the spreading New Age movement in India, *Life Positive* soon catapulted into the role of a catalyst—promoting philosophies, traditions and systems which help in creating a New Man and Society where peace, plenty and harmony prevail. The monthly magazine is already touching and transforming the lives of lakhs of its devoted readers.

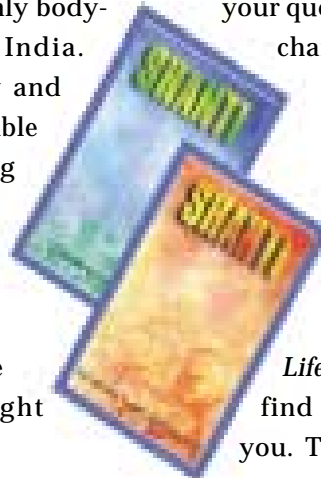
In its third year of publication now, *Life Positive* till date is the first and only body-mind-spirit magazine from India. Circulated all over the country and abroad, *Life Positive* has an enviable subscriber base and a growing readership among the educated and affluent sections of society. Acknowledging the magazine's salutary effect, Sahara Airlines and Jet Airways have virtually made it their in-flight magazine.

Designed as a complete guide to your personal and spiritual growth, *Life Positive* covers a wide range of subjects including meditation, alternative systems of healing, growth therapies and self-development skills that can be of interest to people of all ages and personality types.

### A YOUTHFUL GUIDE

If you are confused about your choice of career, your dreams, your relationships, your quest for a higher meaning to life, chances are that you will find a direction in *Life Positive*. The emphasis is not on preaching but on guiding and providing information you can use to transform your life.

Flip through any issue of *Life Positive* and you are bound to find something that will interest you. The June 1997 cover story, for



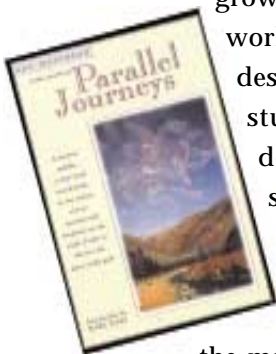


Laughing Buddha, *Life Positive's* mascot, aptly signifies the funny bone of existence—also illustrated in a column with the same title.

**FROM PAGE TO LIFE**

Since it believes that an ounce of practice is better than a pound of punditry, *Life Positive* also endeavours to provide opportunities to its readers to experience first hand what is published in the magazine. First it produced two guided meditation tapes—*Shanti* for conscious relaxation and *Shakti* for creative visualisation for success. Last year, it organised a well-attended concert of healing music by Swami Ganapati Sachchidananda at FICCI Auditorium in New Delhi. Then came the publishing of *Parallel Journeys*, a mystical novel by Anu Majumdar, an Aurovillean, accompanied by a panel discussion on New Age at India International Centre, New Delhi. The second anniversary was celebrated with a Spiritual Music Concert by renowned musicians Shubha Mudgal and K. Vaidyanathan at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. On the cards is a body-mind-spirit festival early next year.

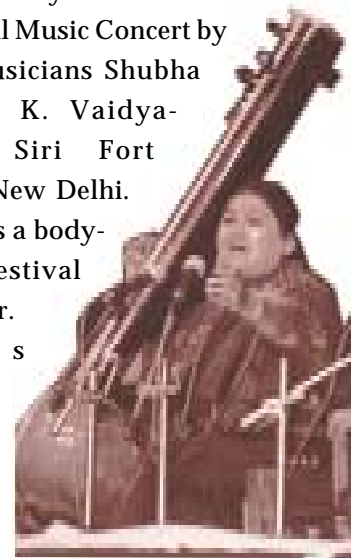
example, was titled *Find Your Life's Work*, which said that it's never too late to change your work and career. It also suggested ways to find the work best suited to you by tapping and understanding your inner aptitudes. The second anniversary issue in April 1998 went on a hitch-hiker's trip through life to figure out what the act of living means to people. Two months later, *Life Positive* took an overview of personal growth and development workshops and systems designed exclusively for students. Features on designing a rich and successful life, materially and emotionally, also appear regularly in the magazine.



*Life Positive* also gives you the unique scope for sharing your experiences with like-minded people through its various interactive columns. You can also seek solutions to your problems, take a quiz to find out, for example, how happy you are, or how creative you are.

However, life is not just about serious ideation and philosophic meditation. The

Here's inviting you to come and partake of the movement for a positive life.



You are welcome to visit and interact with *Life Positive's* staff at:



S 487 GREATER KAILASH I, NEW DELHI 110 048  
Ph: (011) 6451327/9, 6215934  
Fax: 6481418; E-MAIL: india@lifepositive.com



## The Organisers

In Search of the Soul of India

# The Gnostic Centre



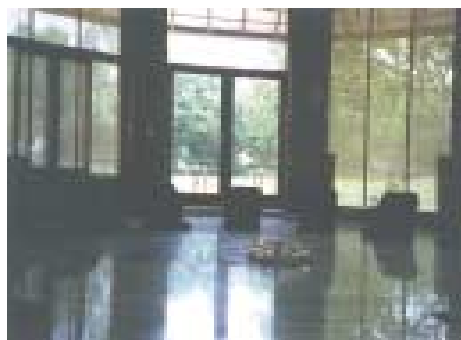
A RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE GROWTH OF CONSCIOUSNESS, registered as a non-profit trust, started in 1996, Delhi. The Gnostic Centre is a pioneering effort towards the university of tomorrow and attempts to create a bridge between Matter and Spirit. Such a radical advance in higher life education has been long overdue and the Centre is a response to this growing need.



### WHAT IS OUR ENDEAVOUR?

- \* To offer study programmes, courses, workshops, and research facilities in various subjects and disciplines.
- \* To create a space for those who are looking for a deeper consciousness and a new spirit and forms of knowledge to express it.
- \* To offer consultancy in Education, Business Management, Law, etc.
- \* To facilitate the understanding and practice of the Integral Yoga.
- \* To create a bridge between matter and spirit.

We invite you to participate in the following:



### A LIBRARY, MEDITATION CENTRE

*"... an intellectual sanctuary where one comes to find light and progress."*

The library offers a personalised service – should you need guidance.

**Timings: 10am-6pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)**

### WEEKLY MEDITATIONS

A quiet and meditative environment has been created for those who wish to spend time in this atmosphere.

### THE GNOSTIC CENTRE NEWSLETTER

*('The Awakening Ray')*

The Awakening Ray symbolises both the human aspiration and the divine response. It is the ray that illumines the depths of the subjects it touches. Some of its sections include: Issues of Life, Living from Within, Stories of enlightenment, Spiritual humour, Report and Calendar of events of the Gnostic Centre.

(Should you wish to subscribe, please fill in the enclosed subscription form.)





## INTEGRAL GROWTH WORKSHOPS & STUDY PROGRAMMES



- \* Meditation for Inner Growth
- \* The Journey (Self-development and self-mastery)
- \* Fear: Its Cause and Cure
- \* Karmayoga: Perfection in Works
- \* Hathayoga, Pranayama, Mudra & Bandh
- \* The Art of Healthy Living
- \* The Gnostic Centre Holistic Architecture Series
- \* Isha Upanishad
- \* Education for the Future (including Teacher Education)
- \* Works of Sri Aurobindo & The Mother (Essays on the Gita, Savitri, The Human Cycle, The Mother, Fivefold Education)

**Gnostic Centre Publications and Reading Material**  
on all our workshops and courses is available on request.

### SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF INDIA SERIES

*(In Search of the Soul of India)*

Each year the Centre organises a series of talks, audio-visuals and interactive sessions at schools, colleges, academic, training and management institutes.

### HOW IS THE CENTRE FINANCED?

For the nurturing of this unique experiment, we at the Gnostic Centre, presently depend on the random contributions from well-wishers. Thus, when you contribute towards the Gnostic Centre, you are actively supporting the growth of this higher educational experience.

### HOW COULD YOU PARTICIPATE?

- \* By associating yourself as a trainee - the Centre's guides facilitate a personalised study programme for those interested in:
  - \* An in-depth study of the Gita and the Upanishads
  - \* The Yoga Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother
  - \* Integral Education
  - \* Indian Psychology
- \* By participating in the courses by the International Centre for Integral Studies
- \* By participating in the workshops, study circles and meditations
- \* By becoming a newsletter subscriber
- \* By contributing in any other way - through your unique skill

### DONATIONS TO THE CENTRE

If you would like to give donations, books; advertise in our newsletter; or contribute in any way towards the growth of the Centre, please contact us.

The Gnostic Centre is a public charitable trust. All donations are exempt under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.