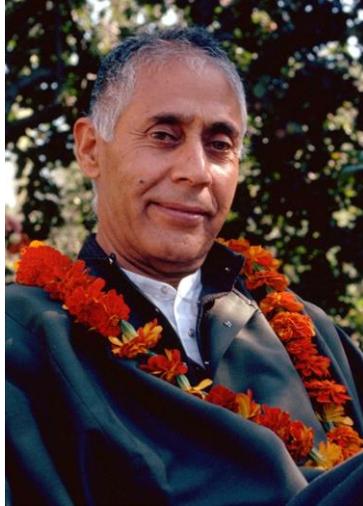


# Ishwar Ashram



Shaivacharya Swami Lakshmanoo was also known as “Ishwar Swaroop” (manifestation of God) and hence the ashram came to be known as “Ishwar Ashram”. Ishwar Ashram is located between the famous Mughal Garden of Nishat Bagh and the village of Ishber, Gupta Ganga. The ashram is set at the foothills of the Zabervan Mountain range, close to the shimmering waters of Dal Lake. This is a place where nature abounds in all its glory. Swamiji lived in this ashram from 1962 till he attained Mahasamadhi in 1991.

North



East

# *Upper level*

## **Swamiji's Residence**



The main building of the *ashram* is double-storeyed with exposed brickwork, almost in the form of a sugar cube. The short entrance staircase opens into the verandah. This was initially an open area but was covered in 1990-91 to form an enclosed structure. During the mornings and evenings, Swamiji would sit on the verandah and meet with devotees and visitors.

Swamiji's bedroom is located on the first floor with windows facing south towards the ashram garden. Adjacent to his bedroom is his meditation room that faces east. On the western side above the ground floor verandah is an open balcony and storeroom.

*Note: This area is not open for general access.*

## **Satsang Hall**



Near the entrance of the *ashram* is a *satsang* hall (on the first floor of the building). In this hall, Swamiji would deliver discourses to his foreign disciples and / or other scholars who would come to learn various Shaiva texts under his guidance. The walls of this hall are adorned with pictures of Swamiji, his master and grand master, his parents, Lord Shiva, and various saints of Kashmir and India. All these have been preserved the way they

were during the life of the Master. Regular evening prayers and Sunday prayers are conducted in this hall. The ground floor has two rooms.

### **Kitchen**



Below-the *satsang* hall is a small kitchen, which was used daily for cooking in the ashram. It was also used by the devotees on Sundays and still continues to be used for this purpose.

### **Parbhairava Dhama**



In 1990, under Swamiji's meticulous instructions, a new structure was built which was named *Parabhairava-dhama*. The structure has a hexagonal shape. It surrounds the tree under which Swamiji meditated on his birthdays.

### **Tea House (Pavilion)**



Located on the western side of the *ashram* is an open wooden tea-house, fondly called the "Pavilion". Swamiji would often sit and take his meals here. After 1980, Swamiji also used this Pavilion during his annual birthday celebration when he sat for early morning meditation.

### **Criss-Cross Room**

This is a small room made of wood, that houses various types of household tools all kinds of tools. Since it was constructed of a criss-cross design, it was also nicknamed as the “criss-cross room”. Devotees commonly used these tools on sundays, for gardening and maintenance work.

### **Godown**

This small isolated structure with a wooden staircase was meant to store grains.

### **Garden**

Since the establishment of the Ashram, the garden has always been meticulously maintained. It often sports the rarest species of flowers which complement the already existent beauty of the *ashram*. Around the periphery of the garden are also some fruit trees.

### **Glass House**



A small structure, with multiple glass windows, was transferred from Swamiji upper ashram. In this glass house he would store many plants and seedling during the long winter months. This single room structure, among other sundry uses, also served as the residential room for the tailor who came to make clothes for Swamiji on his birthday each year. This structure is significant because it was brought from the old ashram and then placed in the present ashram.

## ***Lower level***

### **Big Kitchen or Vur**

The large kitchen or Vur was constructed in 1999 for cooking during major functions in the Ashram like Swamiji’s birthday. It included a dining hall above the ground floor kitchen. This replaced the earlier kitchen, which was found to be inadequate for large functions.

## Amriteshwar Bhairav Temple



The Temple's foundation-stone was laid by Swamiji on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1981 and was formally inaugurated by Swamiji on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1983. The temple is a single story wooden structure with a roofing of slanted tin sheets, octagonal in shape, with a *parikrama* on which are inscribed eight of the *Shiva Sutras*. Inside the temple is a Shiva *linga*. *Note: Swamiji has left behind special instructions for those intending to enter this temple. Among the other instructions, the most important to note are that leather items should not be taken into this Temple and only pure vegetarians should be allowed to enter.*

## Havan Shala



Adjacent to the *ashram* was a cowshed where a few cows were reared for the purpose of providing the daily milk for the inhabitants and visitors of the *ashram*. In 1983 Swamiji renovated the cowshed and built a storeroom with a *havan-shala* on top. Shortly after, he sold his cows, and later, in 1991, he demolished this structure and built a larger *havan-shala* with a store room below. This *havan-shala* is used for Swamiji's annual *Mahasamadhi havans*.

### **Ashram residential complex**

This was originally the residence of Swamiji's brother, Sri Bhagavan Dass Raina. The Raina family donated the entire complex, along with the adjoining land, to the Ishwar Ashram Trust.

## **Other places of interest**

### **Bhairava Temple.**



This small temple was made in 1991 by Swamiji just before his Mahasamadhi. It is located in the premises of one of his ardent devotees, just adjacent to Ashram complex on the northern side. These premises were also used during some Sunday lectures and during Swamiji's birthday for Prashad distribution to devotees. This area is presently not accessible.

### **Gupta Ganga**



Located at Ishber, this is a very ancient Shiva temple complex and has sacred springs within its premises. The smaller of the springs has three idols of Shiva, Parvati and Ganesh in it. The adjacent premises were also the seat of Kashmir Shaiva Institute facilitated by Dr. Karan Singh for the propagation of Kashmir Shaivism studies. Swamiji often used the specially made lecture hall for his Sunday lectures. The Havan Shala, adjacent to the temple, was used by Swamiji for the performance of His Master's Mahasamadhi twice a year.

### **Old Ashram of Swamiji**



This is a pleasant 20 minute walk from the present ashram. Although the original structure is still intact, it is now a private property and thus not accessible.

### **God's House**



This is located very close to the old ashram. Constructed around 1972, this was often used by Swamiji for his Monday meditation. Swamiji gave this away as a part of his Will to one of his dear disciples who renovated and expanded the place. It is normally accessible from outside

### **Sadhu Ganga**



This is the forest hermitage where Swamiji spent time in seclusion during his youth. It has a spring surrounded by some small huts. Sadhu Ganga is located near the village of Kandi Khas, in the Handwara district, about 12 kilometers from Kupwara, and 65 kilometers from Srinagar.

### **Gopi-Tirth**



Located at foothills of Zaberwan mountains, just above the village of Nishat, this is a sacred place frequented by Shaiva masters for centuries. The facility has been renovated and rooms for meditation have been constructed at the site.

### **Shri Ram Trika Ashram**



Located at Fatehkadal in downtown Srinagar. This house originally belonged to Swamiji's father, Pandit Narain Dass Raina. Out of devotion, Narain Dass gave this residence to his master, Swami Ram. Since then this has been a highly revered place of worship. The original structure exists even today.

### **Shiva Rock (Shankar pal)**



Located at the Dachigam wildlife sanctuary (nearly 10 km from Ishwar Ashram), this rock is the sacred rock bearing the Shiva Sutras. The surface inscribed with sutras, however is facing down and cannot be seen. Going to the sanctuary and the rock requires special permission from authorities.

## **Bhairava cave**

It is said that one fine day, Abhinavagupta decided to shed his mortal coil and he approached the Bhairava-guha (Cave of Bhairava), followed by twelve hundred disciples. He alone entered the sacred cave, reciting his favorite hymn, Bhairava Stotra. This cave is located in today's town of Beerwah in Kashmir, about 30 kilometers from Srinagar Airport.

## **Important instructions for devotees during stay at Ishwar Ashram Residential complex.**

1. If you plan to stay in *ashram*, kindly enter your name and other details in the register marking your date of arrival and departure.
2. Please adhere to the timings for meals. Meals would be served in the designated room on ground floor. No room service is available
3. The entire ashram complex is a vegetarian zone. Consumption or bringing any non-vegetarian item in ashram is strictly prohibited.
4. As per Swamiji's instructions, only vegetarians should enter the Amriteshwar Bhairav Temple.
5. There are no room charges/meal charges.
6. Voluntary donations are welcome.
7. During your stay in *ashram*, you are welcome to do voluntary work such as cleaning the garden, helping with office work, and other activities as specified.
8. It is expected of all inmates to attend the evening prayers in the satsang hall.
9. Books and CD's can be bought from the office room at the specified times.

# **ISHWAR ASHRAM TRUST**

(FOUNDED BY SHAIVACHARYA ISHWAR SWAROOP SWAMI LAKSHMAN JOO MAHARAJ)

Web site: [www.ishwarashramtrust.com](http://www.ishwarashramtrust.com), Email: [ishwarashramtrust@gmail.com](mailto:ishwarashramtrust@gmail.com)

Ishwar Ashram Trust came into existence in 1991 by virtue of will of The **SHAIVACHARYA ISHWAR SWAROOP SWAMI LAKSHMAN JOO MAHARAJ**.

**ISHWAR ASHRAM TRUST** is actively engaged in preserving and propagating Kashmir Shaivism. During last two decades in addition to Srinagar Ashram, Ashrams in Jammu, Delhi and Mumbai have been established. Seminars and workshops are organized on Kashmir Shavism are organized by the Trust from time to time.

## **Kendras of the Trust**

1. **Kashmir:** Ishwar Ashram, Ishber, Nishat, P.O Brein, Srinagar- 191121 Tel 0191-2461696

2. **Jammu:** 2, Mohinder Nagar, Canal Road, Jammu Tawi - 180016 Tel 0191-2501199
3. **Delhi:** Plot No R-5, Pocket D, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi - 110076 Tel 011-26958308
4. **Mumbai:** c/o KPA, 3rd floor, Sharda Sadan, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai Tel 022-27578147

**For further details about Swami Lakshmanjoo, Kashmir Shaivism, available books/CD and upcoming events please visit our web site: [www.ishwarashramtrust.com](http://www.ishwarashramtrust.com)**