

*Always a nameless goal beckons beyond,
Always ascends the zigzag of the gods
And upward points the spirit's climbing fire.*

Savitri, Book II, Canto X

Path that Leads to the Truth

Siddharthan, a current PhD student in the SACAR-IGNOU programme posted the following comment in the online forum for his course on *The Psychology of Yoga*:

Eternal knowledge is greater than any Shastra; hence one can find the Bhagavad Gita exhorting the seeker to go beyond the word of the scripture: *sabda brahmativartate*. The exhortation in fact is to go beyond not only the heard but also beyond what is not yet heard: *sratavyasya srutasya ca*. The seeker is not a seeker of the truth in a book or very many books, but of the Truth, the Infinite. Hence even while upholding the greatness of Shastra and according it all veneration, the seeker is given the freedom to go beyond the lines indicated by the Shastra. This is so because the general truths of the path to realization are constant, but the details of the steps to be taken have to be flexible enough to suit the individual needs warranted by individual variations in nature. The search after Truth is not a pilgrimage treading a well beaten track; but an arduous hewing of a new path through an unexplored territory. For Truth, as J. Krishnamurti used to say, is a pathless land.

Do I have the call for the path?

What do you want the Yoga for? To get power? To attain to peace and calm? To serve humanity?

None of these motives is sufficient to show that you are meant for the Path.

The question you are to answer is this: Do you want the Yoga for the sake of the Divine? Is the Divine the supreme fact of your life, so much so that it is simply impossible for you to do without it? Do you feel that your very *raison d'être* is the Divine and without it there is no meaning in your existence? If so, then only can it be said that you have a call for the path.

THE MOTHER



From MĀSA Editor's Desk

MĀSA will now be a bimonthly publication; a new issue will come out every two months. We also take this opportunity to invite our readers to send us their input, comments, and short write-ups that they may like to be included in MĀSA.



Perfect Path

For each one it is the path that leads fastest to the Divine.



*If you want to have
knowledge or see all as
brothers or have peace, you
must think less of yourself,
your desires, feelings, people's
treatment of you, and think
more of the Divine - living
for the Divine, not for
yourself.*

Sri Aurobindo



INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS HOME AT SACAR

International Scholars' Home located at the SACAR premises in Vaithikuppam, Pondicherry, has been conceived as a comfortable lodging place for students enrolled in various academic courses and programmes of SACAR. It is a place where they may live for a few days or for an extended period as required for their academic work. When it is not in use by SACAR students, the facilities are offered to other students of Sri Aurobindo's thought and also to those who are seeking and exploring albeit in less structured way. The facilities may also be offered to others visiting Pondicherry.

- A central tap on each floor for hot water round the clock.
- Electronically purified drinking water on every floor round the clock.
- Kitchen for use by guests: Since the students and other visitors may be from diverse backgrounds with different tastes and habits of food, a well equipped kitchen is provided on the ground level available for use by all at nominal extra charges.



- The kitchen has gas stoves, refrigerators, cooking utensils, crockery, cutlery, plates, glasses, etc. The sink has round the clock running water supply and the residents are expected to wash and wipe the utensils, plates, etc. used by them.



- Attached to the kitchen is a dining hall which can accommodate about 30 people.
- Residents are welcome to wash their clothes in their bathroom. The spacious terrace offers clothing lines and ample space for drying.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The variety of accommodation available at ISH meets the needs of individual scholars, seekers and travelers as well as couples and even for larger families with children.
- Kitchen facility has been found to be popular and useful as it allows not only for individual food preferences but also for individual daily schedules and timings.
- *Particularly important for long term residents:* Because of the availability of the kitchen facility the long-term residents need not be dependent on restaurant food or the limited dining hours of the Ashram Dining Hall which is located some distance away.



Photo by Gregory Colbert

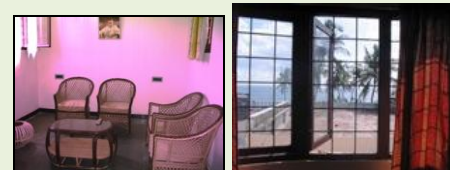
Sourced from the internet

www.ashesandsnow.org/en/portfolio/



THE FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- Single Rooms (6), Double Rooms non A/C (7), Double Rooms A/C (2), Suites A/C (2, one overlooking the ocean), and a common TV room.
- The bedrooms furnished with single or double cots with coir mattresses, soft pillows, bed sheets and bed spreads, and of course a very useful item mosquito net. Also included area cupboard, stone slab-top as a writing surface and 2 chairs.



- Each room has an attached bath and toilet with a western style water closet, wash basin, overhead shower, buckets and mugs with 24 hours running water.
- Every room is provided with a broom, dust pan, a garbage bin and a toilet brush; the residents are responsible for the day to day cleaning of their rooms and once a week the ISH staff cleans the rooms and changes the beddings.

MĀSA is a bimonthly electronic newsletter published by SACAR and provides updates and information about various activities at SACAR. We invoke the blessings and grace of our beloved Mother and Sri Aurobindo through our reference to MĀ and SĀ.

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Current Affairs

Are we facing a global recession or is it a personal recession?

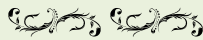
NEW AUDIO CD FROM SACAR



A SACAR-IGNOU student compels us to think

For an article on the ongoing global recession published in the March 2009 issue of Vogue magazine, Menaka Deorah, a member of SACAR family was interviewed by the writer. Menaka is a highly motivated MA student in the SACAR-IGNOU programme. This is what she had to say about the recessionary phenomenon we are currently going through:

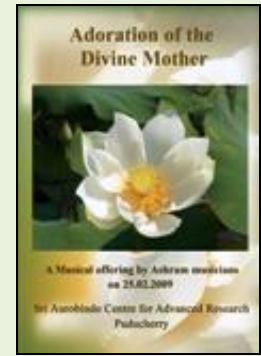
“The macro is inextricably linked to the micro...So any global recession crisis can be traced back to personal or individual recession...It all began with a personal lack of higher values and giving in to excess desire and ambition, which is in contradiction with evolutionary fundamentals like equality, oneness and holistic growth. Anything that goes against the very purpose of evolution cannot last too long without crushing, slumping, melting or even being wiped out of existence. So the change too must begin at micro level, with our everyday choices and decisions.”



Do not dream that when thou hast got rid of material poverty, men will even so be happy or satisfied or society freed from ills, troubles and problems. This is only the first and lowest necessity. While the soul within remains defectively organised, there will always be outward unrest, disorder and revolution.

The existence of poverty is the proof of an unjust and ill-organised society, and our public charities are but the first tardy awakening in the conscience of a robber.

Sri Aurobindo



This is a live recording of an hour-long performance at Hall of Harmony, Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, Pondicherry. This musical offering by Ashram musicians performed on February 25, 2009 includes readings from Sri Aurobindo's *Savitri* and *The Mother*, and invocations and songs by Pujalalji (in Sanskrit), Nishikanto-da (in Bangla) and Arpan Gaan.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
<http://www.sacar.in>



Admissions are ongoing for August 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

Deadline for applications: June 10, 2009

