



News Notes

#949 A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville 17 November 2022



*Across the silence of the ultimate Calm,
Out of a marvelous Transcendence' core,
A body of wonder and translucency
As if a sweet mystic summary of her self
Escaping into the original Bliss
Had come enlarged out of eternity,
Someone came infinite and absolute.
A being of wisdom, power and delight*

The Book of the Divine Mother

They beheld the self-force of the Divine Being deep hidden by its own conscious modes of working.

Swetaswatara Upanishad.

This is he that is awake in those who sleep. *Katha Upanishad.2*

Pondering



All our activities are the play of the triple force of the old philosophies, knowledge-force, desire-force, action-force, and all these prove to be really three streams of one original and identical Power, Adya Shakti. Even our states of rest are only equable state or equilibrium of the play of her movement...Consciousness uses the brain which its upward strivings have produced, brain has not produced nor does it use the consciousness.... Momentous logical consequences follow

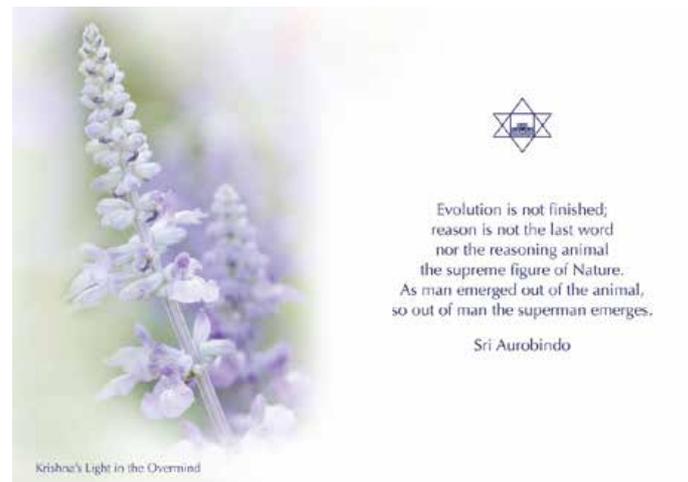
Conscious Force by Life Divine Sri Aurobindo

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24 November, Siddhi Day or the Day of Victory

"The descent of Krishna would mean the descent of the Overmind Godhead preparing, though not itself actually bringing, the descent of Supermind and Ananda."

6:30—7am

Meditation under the Banyan Tree at the Matrimandir.
Entrance from the Office Gate, open from 6am.

Guests are requested to carry their Aurocard.

AUM

News & Notes Guidelines

Hard deadline for submissions

TUESDAY 3pm

The content of News & Notes is a reflection of the growth process of this community towards its ideals of Harmony, Goodwill, and Truth.

Editing of submissions, mainly for reasons of space and clarity, is done according to an established policy.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed on these pages are those of their respective authors or work groups and do not represent the position of the editors or of the community as a whole. The News & Notes serves as a channel for the publication of material coming from trusted sources within Auroville. The editors cannot be held accountable for any alleged misinformation given or offense caused. In case of any dispute, the Auroville Council may be consulted and publishing of disputed material suspended.

Roy & Agnijata, News & Notes,
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House of Mother's Agenda

"In fifty years the whole world, all the receptive section of humanity (I am not saying intellectual, I am saying receptive), all the receptive section of the world will be embraced—not "embraced": ABSORBED in the power of Sri Aurobindo's thought.

Those who already are have the good fortune of being the first ones, that's all."

The Mother, Agenda 16 February 1972 (+ 50 years = 2022)

The Vision of the World-Spirit¹—The Double Aspect

Even while the effects of the terrible aspect of this vision are still upon him, the first words uttered by Arjuna after the Godhead has spoken are eloquent of a greater uplifting and reassuring reality behind this face of death and this destruction. "Rightly and in good place," he cries, "O Krishna, does the world rejoice and take pleasure in thy name, the Rakshasas are fleeing from thee in terror to all the quarters and the companies of the Siddhas bow down before thee in adoration. How should they not do thee homage, O great Spirit? For thou art the original Creator and Doer of works and greater even than creative Brahma. O thou Infinite, O thou Lord of the gods, O thou abode of the universe, thou art the Immutable and thou art what is and is not and thou art that which is the Supreme. Thou art the ancient Soul and the first and original Godhead and the supreme resting-place of this All; thou art the knower and that which is to be known and the highest status; O infinite in form, by thee was extended the universe. Thou art Yama and Vayu and Agni and Soma and Varuna and Prajapati, father of creatures, and the great-grand sire. Salutation to thee a thousand times over and again and yet again salutation, in front and behind and from every side, for thou art each and all that is. Infinite in might and immeasurable in strength of action thou pervadest all and art every one."

But this supreme universal Being has lived here before him with the human face, in the mortal body, the divine Man, the embodied Godhead, the Avatar, and till now he has not known him. He has seen the humanity only and has treated the Divine as a mere human creature. He has not pierced through the earthly mask to the Godhead of which the humanity was a vessel and a symbol, and he prays now for that Godhead's forgiveness of his unseeing carelessness and his negligent ignorance. "For whatsoever I have spoken to thee in rash vehemence, thinking of thee only as my human friend and companion, 'O Krishna, O Yadava, O comrade,' not knowing this thy greatness, in negligent error or in love, and for whatsoever disrespect was shown by me to thee in jest, on the couch and the seat and in the banquet, alone or in thy presence, I pray forgiveness from thee the immeasurable. Thou art the father of all this world of the moving and unmoving; thou art one to be worshipped and the most solemn object of veneration. None is equal to thee, how then another greater in all the three worlds, O incomparable in might? Therefore I bow down before thee and prostrate my body and I demand grace of thee the adorable Lord. As a father to his son, as a friend to his friend and comrade, as one dear with him he loves, so shouldst thou, O Godhead, bear with me. I have seen what never was seen before and I rejoice, but my mind is troubled with fear. O Godhead, show me that other form of thine. I would see thee even as before crowned and with thy mace and discus. Assume thy four-armed shape, O thousand-armed, O Form universal."

From the first words there comes the suggestion that the hidden truth behind these terrifying forms is a reassuring, a heartening and delightful truth. There is something that makes the heart of the world to rejoice and take pleasure in the name and nearness of the Divine. It is the profound sense of that which makes us see in the dark face of Kali the face of the Mother and to perceive even in the midst of destruction the protecting arms of the Friend of creatures, in the midst of evil the presence of a pure unalterable Benignity and in the midst of death the Master of Immortality. From the terror of the King of the divine action the Rakshasas, the fierce giant powers of darkness, flee destroyed, defeated and overpowered. But the Siddhas, but the complete and perfect who know and sing the names of the Immortal and live in the truth of his being, bow down before every form of Him and know what every form enshrines and signifies. Nothing has real need to fear except that which is to be destroyed, the evil, the ignorance, the veilers in Night, the Rakshasa powers. All the movement and action of Rudra the Terrible is towards perfection and divine light and completeness.

(to be continued next week)

Sri Aurobindo . Essays on the Gita, Chapter XI, pages 388-390

https://sri-aurobindo.co.in/workings/sa/13/essays_on_the_gita_19_e.pdf

*With love and gratitude,
For and on behalf of Gangalakshmi (HOMA), Zech*

¹ Gita, XI. 35-55

Townhall Speaks

ONLY THE GB CAN CONSTITUTE THE TDC:

Court Order of 13/10/2022

Dear residents, the Office Order issued by the Governing Board dated 01.06.2022, reconstituting the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC), responsible for the planning and implementation of Auroville's Master Plan, was challenged in a Writ Petition filed by resident Natasha Storey on August 16.

Natasha argued mainly that the Residents' Assembly, meaning all persons in the Register of Residents (as constituted under Section 18 of the Auroville Foundation Act), has the decision power regarding the town planning and development of the Auroville city, and that the Governing Board has to follow the advice and recommendations of the Residents' Assembly.

The Madras High Court dismissed the Writ Petition on the 13 October 2022

You can find the full Court Order attached to our AuroNet post;

- <https://auroville.org.in/article/93384>.

In summary, these are the most important rulings of the Hon'ble Madras High Court:

1. Only the Governing Board has powers to constitute committees under Section 16 of the Auroville Foundation Act, and it is the only governing authority under the Act.

2. The Residents' Assembly can only recommend, assist and advise the Governing Board, and the function of the Residents' Assembly is only to *supplement* the powers of the Governing Board, and not to *supplant* the powers vested with the Governing Board as per the Auroville Foundation Act.

3. Petitioner Natasha is only one member of the Residents' Assembly, and as an individual resident she may personally disapprove of a legal decision of the Governing Board, but she cannot claim that the rights, functions or activities of the Residents' Assembly as a whole are affected by legal decisions of the Governing Board.

4. The present TDC was legally constituted by the Governing Board, and has all the rights and powers to abide by its mandate.

This order passed by the Hon'ble Madras High Court goes a long way towards restoring the correct understanding of the Auroville Foundation Act in Auroville and dispels many misinterpretations circulating among Aurovilians.

In the past months there have been accusations against the legally constituted TDC while it is implementing the Master Plan, based on the Galaxy Plan as approved by Mother.

With the question of the legitimacy of the Auroville Town Development Council now cleared by the Hon'ble Madras High Court, we will leap forward into this new phase of development, with the aim to invite 12,000 new participants by 2025, as envisioned in our Master Plan titled "Perspective Plan 2025".

We remain at the service of the Mother, in helping to build Her city, and we request the collaboration of the Auroville residents to join us in this joyful momentum to enter the next phase of development of the city for all humanity.

Sincerely,
Govind, Hemant, Jaya, Ponnusamy, Prasad,
Sindhuja, Toby, members of L'avenir d'Auroville/ ATDC

PAN CARD INFORMATION REQUIRED

FAMC is working in many areas to make Auroville activities and residents compliant. We have come to know that not all Aurovilians have a PAN Personal Account Number- for Indian Income Tax registration.

All adult Aurovilians—Indians as well as non-Indians—should have a PAN card. If you don't have it please come to FAMC office (Archive building, first floor, rear side) and bring:

- Aadhar Card photocopy,
- Passport photocopy,
- Stay visa photocopy,
- Passport photos 2 number

Madhan in our office will help you make the PAN registration.

Most Aurovilians, Indians as well as non-Indians will have to file Income Tax returns, with very few exemptions. All residents of India (irrespective of nationality) who have any income or a bank account or assets outside India, will have to file a tax return in India, even if the income is lower than the minimum taxable income.

India has double taxation avoidance agreements (DTAAs) with most countries such that tax is payable only in one country or whereby the tax paid in the country of residence is reduced by the amount of tax paid abroad.

There is also a system of automatic data exchange between countries with common reporting standards whereby tax-related data is exchanged. Please see:

- <https://www.oecd.org/tax/automatic-exchange/>

The following link also gives information on the automatic exchange mechanism:

- <https://incometaxindia.gov.in/Pages/eoi/automatic-exchange-of-information.aspx>

It is important to remember that taxation is in most cases based on resident status, not on nationality.

In some cases (e.g., USA) citizens have to file ITRs on their world income irrespective of their place of residence.

- For the USA see: <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-publication-54>

In Her Service, Smiles,
FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan,
ShankarDev and Torkil)

FAMC'S SUPPORT PLATFORM FOR EFFICIENT TASK MANAGEMENT

FAMC team is working towards bringing in a culture of transparency, compliance, accountability and efficiency as part of our work.

To begin with we would like to start with how we are dealing with various support requests that are received by FAMC and its subgroups BCC and Housing. Starting today, we are rolling out a new and simple method to contact these two subgroups that will help the teams to be efficient, transparent and accountable to the community on our joint works.

When you want to contact Housing Service or BCC, please visit collective.auroville.org.in and click on the "Support Requests" link on the top. From here, you can contact either BCC or Housing Service. When you create a "support" request using this interface, it sends out an email to the respective concerned team as usual but at the same time puts your request as a new task in the project management tool used by the FAMC team and its subgroups. The task created in the project management tool makes it efficient for the teams to collaborate and decide on the requests given by the residents.

We aim to provide a meaningful response and also resolve the support request within 7 days to start with. Where there is a delay, we will also proactively respond asking for a time extension needed to resolve a few queries which are complex in nature. We will also track the time we take to answer different requests. This will help us reflect and analyse our response time to the community and look for ways to improve the same.

We are rolling this out incrementally to test our new platform on a small scale before opening it widely. As we learn from this small team exercise, we will also extend the same to other sub groups of FAMC and finally to FAMC as a whole.

*In Her Service, Smiles,
FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan,
ShankarDev and Torkil)*

FUNDS AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FAMC selected by the Residents Assembly
September & October 2022 Report

- **Members:** Amy B., Bobby P., Danny, Elodie, Mita R., Palani, Ranjith (TOS)
- **Resource Person:** Carel
- **Membership.** We have been informed that Ranjith is resigning from the FAMC with effect from 1 December. We appreciate very much his significant contribution in the governance organization of Auroville over many years, and will specifically miss his goodwill, knowledge and dedication in the team.

Please bear in mind that this is a report of decisions or events of a certain period and in the meantime changes, progress, or/ and collaboration might have occurred in any given subject.

1. Concerning the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation (AVFO)

We have nothing new to report.

2. General issues

- **Aurovilians removed from regular maintenance.** We were understandably distressed in September to be informed that up to 20 residents, without any notice or justification, were taken from their regular City Service maintenance and moved to a 'Bridging Maintenance' which is normally allocated to individuals who are in transition from one place of work to another. It seems this action has been taken at the demand by the 'GB FAMC' and is due to the Residents' Assembly working groups and services being taken over. We are in regular contact with the Budget Coordination Committee about how to insure uninterrupted financial support to all those impacted.

- **Budget Coordination Committee (BCC).** We had several meetings with the Budget Coordination Committee members while they were dealing with the day-to-day reality of another group, without any background or knowledge, taking over BCC tasks. We approved the 2022-2023 budget over several meetings with the members. We approved a 10% increase in maintenance to be rolled out in October, while evaluating its impact on reserves. We also committed to explore ways to increase sources of income. Implementation of the approved budgets and increase has been interrupted due to the takeover of the BCC's work. The BCC members were notified that some of their members' regular maintenance had been converted to 'temporary bridging maintenance'. This action has been done by someone working in the Financial Service at the direction of the 'BCC' under the 'GB FAMC'. *We were deeply disturbed to learn on 11 October that all the computer equipment of the BCC had been removed from its office located in the ground floor of Town Hall and taken to the Archives building 2nd floor. This included 6 desktop computers, monitors, and keyboards, in addition to chairs and cabinets. In addition, the BCC members' access to Financial Service and email was suddenly blocked.*

- **Housing Board.** We had a couple of meetings with some members of the Housing Board. In addition to the usual issues concerning residents' and other housing needs, and proposals for how to bring about much-needed improvements, we talked about another group taking over the Housing Service office tasks. Again, a group of people from one day to the next claiming to be 'Housing,' without any knowledge or experience, showed up and took over the office.

- *The takeover of both of these FAMC subgroups, the BCC and the Housing, has caused unprecedented, and quite frankly, completely unnecessary, confusion within the community. These takeovers are causing a loss of valuable human resource expertise. The residents involved have made a lot of progress with sincerity and goodwill. Again we say ... we do not accept the 'office orders' notified by Sathyanarayan 'Accounts Officer' of the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation. And we have made this clear in our public announcements and by emails.*

It must be noted that these actions are only implementable because of the Aurovilians who are willing to be used in this way by the AVFO and the group who took over our email ID (famc@auroville.org.in) at the beginning of June, and then took all our equipment, including computers, file cabinets, desks and chairs from Town Hall without giving any notice, and moved it to the Archives Building on the night of 26 June.

- **We need an administrative assistant.** We would be happy to welcome someone to provide us with secretarial and administrative support. Aurovilians with admin experience, including working with spreadsheets, a good command of English, and good knowledge of Auroville working groups, acronyms, etc. are most welcome to contact us at famc@auroville.services.

- **FAMC office.** Please feel free to visit us in the former Koodam office, across from the Auroville Library, where you can also find the Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly. You are welcome to our 'open hours' every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

- **FAMC team building.** On 7 September, Elisa facilitated us for a few hours to explore and develop our purpose: *'We stand for the RA by supporting and honoring the values of Auroville. We develop and improve systems managing funds and assets to bridge the gap between Auroville ideals and reality, while facilitating compliance to protect Auroville's interests and move towards Mother's Dream'*; to express and agree on three core values: integrity \rightleftharpoons openness \rightleftharpoons practicality; and to experience and become aware of some team dynamics such as: are you more team-oriented, or individual-oriented; are you more interested in the 'big picture' or 'organizational details'; are you more comfortable with 'change' or 'stability'? We were given a guide for constructive feedback (for the giver and for the receiver) for an experience of one-on-one, very short (1 minute) sharings with each other. It was an excellent experience and we highly recommend Elisa to other working groups and teams in Auroville.

3. Finance

Financial Service. We invited Otto, Rathinam, and Nico to a meeting. Nico declined the invitation. Otto and Rathinam shared how they are handling things in the Financial Service and their intention to keep things going, to the best of their abilities, during these unprecedented times. We asked if they needed additional support in any way; they said they did not.

Goods and Services Tax identification number (GSTIN). Several of our members attended meetings held to discuss a proposal to reduce the number of GSTINs in Auroville. Many questions and concerns arose during the meetings. A follow-up with questions and concerns about this proposal will be sent to those concerned. In parallel, we are determined to develop another proposal that will actually be manageable and implementable. More on this soon.

6 month trial balance and Tally data. We received several residents' inquiries after a request was received to provide a 6 month trial balance and Tally data. We confirmed that the information requested is as per normal procedure and can be provided to the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation. Since we lost our admin support and the ad-minfamc@auroville.org.in has been taken over by the 'GB FAMC', we are not in a position to receive the trial balances and then forward them to the Foundation office. A further complication is that our famc@auroville.services

address is totally blocked by auroville.org.in. In this situation, we advise all units to send their six-months trial balance directly to the AV Foundation. Those units who have not yet submitted their six-months trial balance may do so directly to sathyanarayan-avf@auroville.org.in.

- **City Service budget review.** Some entities have been requested to resubmit justification for their annual budget by the team that took over the City Services budget in September. We advised the concerned entities to submit the information so as to hopefully avoid said budgets being cut or not issued at all.

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Input Tax Credit (ITC).** GST and Input Tax Credit (ITC) and recovery of ITC was discussed. It is understood that a process exists which allows for claiming ITC under various circumstances under the sole Auroville Foundation PAN number. e.g. if / when a Trust or unit changes its GST registration number.

4. Housing

- **Demolition of housing assets.** The former FAMC of the Residents' Assembly requested collaboration with the 'ATDC' but never received any response to their repeated requests. Now, in collaboration with the Housing Board and TDC selected by the RA, we are addressing this issue. Our aim is to be proactive and to provide as much support as possible to those who are and will be impacted by the "Red Assets" list. Individuals will be contacted by the Housing Board.

- **Problems in the Housing office.** The Housing Board has written a report outlining several decisions taken by the people working in the Housing Service office. This is being done outside of the community agreed-upon mandate. According to the 2021 mandate, the Housing Board is the decision-making body, and the Housing Service is responsible for administration only. This report was sent by the HB to those Aurovilians responsible for putting the people in the housing office who have no mandate.

- **FAMC-Housing Board.** The FAMC and Housing Board have created a 'working group' to discuss and review topics together. One priority concern is for the residents who will be directly impacted by development of future roads.

4. Land-related

- The Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly has been diligently and tirelessly working to protect Auroville land, in the absence of timely and full collaboration by the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and the Land Board. Most of the communication and action has been with regional officials, which the FAMC has historically not been involved in. We are deeply thankful to the Working Committee for doing this difficult, time-consuming, complex work. We were asked by the WCom to provide an FAMC member as a liaison for land-related matters, however no one in our team felt up to the task based on limited knowledge, experience, and time. Several crucially important Resource Persons have been instrumental in helping with on-site negotiations, interventions, letter writing and various other detailed tasks. We sincerely hope that in future we will be working together, with the Land Board and the Working Committee, on land purchase and other land matters.

- **Land support group or task force.** This has been suggested by a resident, and has also been taken up in earnest by the 4 RA working groups. A brief has been developed and individuals proposed to be part of the team. A joint Residents' Assembly working groups meeting discussed this further and invited a knowledgeable Aurovillian to a meeting with the Working Committee and FAMC of the Residents' Assembly, to form a team of capable and willing members who can help with specific land related work. A wider support team is also being looked at. RA Working Committee and a few FAMC of the RA members will carry this forward

- **Land exchange.** We are reliably informed that the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, has conducted a land exchange. This has been done without following the proper process, which includes a fair evaluation of the concerned lands. This has been conducted with no transparency towards the community, to the extent that significant details have not been shared with the residents.

- **Land requested.** We were informed that the Auroville Institute of Applied Technology (AIAT) is requesting upwards of 10 acres of land. We have inquired with the team of AIAT about the project. We have not received a reply.

5. Unit, Trust, and activity related

As previously reported, for the time being we have set up a file folder for receipt of hard copy documents. Documents can be dropped off in the former 'Koodam' office located at Kailash Youth Housing located across from the Auroville Library. Uma, the secretary for the Working Committee, has graciously agreed to support us by receiving our documents, until we have an FAMC office again.

- **Afsanah Guest House.** We appointed Mr. Shiraz Panthaky as an additional interim executive from 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2022.

- **Pour Tous Purchasing Service (PTPS).** We appointed as new executives Mr. Joel de Graaf and Mr. Kumaran Selvam from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. This is after a trial period that was from October 2021 to March 2022. An initial three-year period is the standard practice for new executives. Mr. Kumar's executive position was not renewed and our team has met with him about it. Mr. Naren gave notice of his resignation on 12 September, which we accepted.

- **Afsanah Guest House.** Afsaneh requested the refund of a Rs. 30 lakh loan she had given to the Guest House in 2015. After confirming the loan in the accounts, and the funds available, it was agreed to return the loan in payments over several months. The initial payment was made to her this month.

- **dTree Care.** We received an inquiry from the unit 'Tree Care' about a notice 'to cease all work' that they had received from ATDC. We clarified that pruning trees is markedly different from cutting trees and the former is in no way against the National Green Tribunal judgment as incorrectly indicated by the ATDC. Pruning is also very necessary for safety reasons and should continue.

6. Other

- **We have reconstituted the Funds and Assets Resource Group (FARG).** We have had a couple of meetings with the participants. The members of FARG are volunteers with recognized knowledge and competency from both the service and income-generating sectors plus liaison-members from the FAMC. The group concerns itself primarily with the economy, administration, and issues related to Trusts, units, and activities under the Auroville Foundation.

- **Farm Group.** At the beginning of the month, we met with some of the Farm Group 'core group'. We heard about: 1) the 'Gratitude Farm' pilot project proposed at the Foodlink farm (at Certitude) where Kumar is the manager; 2) how the Farm Group is focusing now on supporting and developing subgroups (dairy, vegetables, grains) and ; 3) how the Aruvadai pilot project is progressing. We talked about the farm land that was purchased in Irumbai and some ideas for how to develop it. It was observed that the infrastructure 'should come from Auroville' (and not from individuals). At the end of the month we followed-up with a couple of specific requests for information. We await a reply.

- **Wednesdays for Auroville.** Some members attend the Wednesdays for Auroville gathering to give updates and answer questions.

- **Increasing income for City Service (CS) budgets.** In early September the Budget Coordination Committee requested us to make a commitment to take up as a priority the matter of increasing income. We have committed to do so and are forming an 'Abundance' group which will

look at CS income and the wider concern of income for the community as a whole. They also requested our practical support to increase contribution collection.

- **Ms. Dena Merriam (International Advisory Council chairperson).** In September we received a request from the Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly to make time to meet with Dena during her visit at the beginning of October. On 2 October we met her for about 30 minutes. We had members of both the BCC and the Housing Board with us. It was too short but we made the most of the time explaining some of our concerns and challenges.

- **Raghu A. and 'deep dialogue'.** Around mid-September we received an email invitation to meet one-on-one with Raghu during his short visit to Auroville on 2 and 3 October. We responded that we would be available to meet and talk as a team because 'We have experienced these recent events not just as individuals, but as a working group of the Residents' Assembly.' We did not hear back, nor meet with him during his visit.

- **Auroville Council (AVC).**

- a. The AVC asked us to take part in a matter between a steward and a house-sitter in which an Rs. 10,000 bill was in dispute. We declined to get involved and suggested that the AVC get the parties together to reach an agreement;

- b. Two of our members met with three AVC members to talk about FAMC membership as the mandate is for nine, and we have seven. FAMC expressed strongly the need for the additional 2 members to be selected, and requested the AVC to hold the next working groups selection process as soon as practically possible.

- **Repatriation Fund.** This Fund, also known as the Leave Auroville Fund is currently minus 2 lakhs rupees. Previous known and agreed-upon practice held that 50% of transfer value of a housing asset once stewarded by an Aurovilian who received financial support upon leaving Auroville, would be deposited into the fund. We have been made aware that the Housing office personnel responsible for collecting this deposit have stopped doing it. We are also aware that one housing asset has been allocated 'pro bono', the transfer of which would have replenished the fund by over Rs. 15 lakhs; another asset has been transferred by donation and the 50% (Rs. 12,73,890/-) has not been applied to the Fund.

- **We met with the Town Development Council selected by the Residents' Assembly.** We talked primarily about the residential and other building assets that are directly impacted by the development of future roads, and the current progress towards an update of the Master Plan.

- **We met with Matthew and Binah from AVI USA.** We had a very encouraging sharing with Matthew and Binah, primarily about how to fund projects in Auroville. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with our brothers and sisters in AVI USA.

Warmly, Amy B, FAMC of the RA

CITY SERVICE INCOME AND BUDGET TAKE-OVER

Dear residents, the Budget Coordination Committee (BCC) previously announced in mid-October that the City Service budget and income has been taken over. To be clear: the City Service budget is compromised. The BCC no longer has access to make Financial Service transfers. There is no longer transparency, or accountable administration as per approved processes, of both contributions and disbursements.

Sincerely, FAMC selected by the Residents' Assembly
Amy B., Bobby P., Danny, Elodie,
Mita R., Palani, Ranjith (TOS)

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE—ES # 156

Dated: 17-11-2022

The following people have been recommended by the Entry Board to join our community. Please share your feedback within 2 weeks for potential Newcomers, Associates and Friends of Auroville and within 4 weeks for Potential Aurovilians, Returning Aurovilians, Youth and Spouse/Partner of an Aurovilian in writing to auroville.entryservice@gmail.com. We thank you in advance.

NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:



Ruben Muthulakshmi Neha Sahiti

- Ruben PORRU (Italian) staying in Future School Staff Quarters and working at Dehashakthi and Future School
- Muthulakshmi GUNASEKARAN (Indian) staying in Gokulam Farm and working at Solar Kitchen and Matrimandir
- Neha GANDHI (Indian) staying in Auromode and working at Matrimandir
- Sahiti DIVI (Indian) staying in Mohanam and working at Mohanam Cultural Center

NOTE: The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after the NC kit has been returned and should not exceed 18 months from the date of confirmation.

A Newcomer becomes an Aurovilian once his/her name has been confirmed by The Admission Committee (aka the Entry Board) after following due process.

The date of becoming Aurovilian is the date of confirmation. An Aurovilian confirmed by the Entry Board is eligible to participate in all community decision-making processes. A confirmed Aurovilian becomes officially a Resident of Auroville once the individual has filled in and signed the B-Form and his/her name has been entered in the Register of Residents (RoR) maintained by the Auroville Foundation Office (AVF).

A Resident of Auroville is eligible to become an executive of a Unit or Service of Auroville and to get an ID card issued by the Auroville Foundation.

A meeting with the Secretary of the AVF will be arranged by the Entry Secretariat according to the availability of the Secretary and not at any personal request.

Yours, The Entry Board

(Alain, Aureore, Dheena, Jayanthi, Lakshmanan, Matilde, Matripasad, Ramanarayana and Swadha)

APARTMENT FOR HOUSE TRANSFER

Dear Community, an asset is currently available for transfer:

Petitfemme, PET016, Family

To apply, please click on the new "Houses Available" button in the very right column of the Auronet main page.

You will be directed to our Housing Transfer App at

<https://housing.auroville.org.in>

All you need to do is:

- click on the transfer you are interested in,
- view all the details and pictures of the asset for transfer and if you wish to apply,
- click on the "Apply" button and fill in the online application form.

Once the indicated deadline for applying has passed, you will receive an email from Housing Transfer with the date for the site visit.

For any questions, please feel free to come and see Venkatesh at Housing Service Office

Thank you, The Housing Service, K. Venkatesh

THE FACTS ABOUT SEIZED STATUES IN THE AUROVILLE AREA

We would like to address the several recent incidents relating to the recovery of so-called 'idols' from the Auroville area, and correct any misconceptions. The press reporting has been such that it gives an impression that there were deliberate attempts by Auroville residents to engage in illegal activities related to these items. This is false as due process was followed by these residents to the best of their knowledge, and full cooperation was extended to relevant authorities at all times.

Residents, friends and well-wishers of Auroville, nationally and internationally, are concerned about the tone and misrepresentation of the facts as this tarnishes the image of Auroville. We assert that to the best of our knowledge, none of the seized statues are genuine "antiques" (i.e., older than 100 years), and no Auroville residents concerned broke any rule or law in this connection. We also express concern that no warrants, identification or seizure receipts have been presented and that misleading press statements have been issued, which create wrong impressions in the public mind. Below please find a brief description of the facts of each case.

Incident one, September 11, 2022

- Executive of Aurorachana, a registered unit of Auroville, is visited by officers from the Idol Wing of the Tamil Nadu police who stated they were following up on an application to export 'idols' that had been submitted several years before.

- When these law enforcement agents came to look for these items it was explained that these items belonged to two French nationals who left Auroville 3 years ago.

- The items were purchased by them as rejected pieces from various shops in Mahabalipuram and Puducherry, and were not of high value.

- At the time of leaving Auroville to return to France, they wanted to take these pieces with them along with their other household goods.

- Following the regulations, Aurorachana, as the shipper, sought permission from the Department of Antiquities in Chennai, as per law.

- Permission to export the figures was granted for several items but was rejected for some, which were left at the residence they had been occupying in Dana, either outside in the garden, or inside the house.

- The executive of Aurorachana duly guided the officers to the location when he was asked to do so. These items were subsequently seized by the concerned department on dubious grounds.

- There was no intention by the original owners to ship these items to France after they were rejected for shipment by the Department of Antiquities.

- Hence all talk of attempted smuggling of antiques is without any basis, nor is there any evidence that the seized items were "antiques" at all.

Incident two, September 16, 2022

- The shop in which statues were seized on 16 September was wrongly reported to be an Auroville shop when in fact it is a private enterprise near Bommaiarpalayam village.

Incident three, September 16, 2022

- In February, 2022, an application was made by Maroma to the Antiquities Department in Chennai to ask permission to export a metal statue at the request of the owner of the statue, a resident of Puducherry.

- This request was refused on the grounds that there was some possibility that the statue might be an antique.

- This statue was not the property of Maroma or of the executive of Maroma, and so the statue was given back to its owner in Puducherry. The owner complied with the decision of the Antiquities Dept, Chennai, and did not export the statue.

- The Idol Wing department of Tamil Nadu came to Maroma on Friday, 16 September, at 5:30pm just as the office was closing.

- The officers explained that they were following up on applications made to export statues.

- They wanted to see the statue. As it was in possession of the owner in Puducherry, they were taken there to see it. During the visit to the residence the officers also noted some granite statues.

- On Monday, 19 September, the same team came back to Maroma at 8:30am and asked the executive and staff to bring the metal statue and the granite statues from Puducherry and hand them over.

- Even though Maroma was not the owner of the statues, and even though the Idol Wing officers had no proper warrant for the summons of the said statues from another state than Tamil Nadu, full cooperation in this matter was extended from the Maroma executives and staff.

Incident four, November 7, 2022

- Three bronze statues (Nataraj, Amman and Chandrasekhara) were seized by the Idol Wing Police CID from the residence of Poppo and Mona.

- This was done without producing a warrant before entering, without providing a receipt of seizure and without showing any credentials or official identification. Two persons claiming to be from the Village Administration Office, Irumbai Panchayat, also accompanied them. The visit was conducted at the same time when the meeting with Mr Ravi, Governing Board Chairman, was taking place at Unity Pavilion and therefore they could not reach anyone from any working group, speaking good Tamil or understanding the official procedures required.

- Mona, Poppo and Aurotaranti (who has been working with Poppo) were questioned about possession of any antiques. They cooperated fully, offering refreshments and taking the Idol Wing officers around the house.

- The three statues in question were located in a first floor bedroom/study area.

- A false narrative of concealment was created in the media by using the term 'attic' to describe what is, in fact, a bedroom/study area.

- The seized bronze statues were expertized about ten years ago by Devasenapati Sthapathy (Rajan) of Swamimalai, who holds the world record of creating the biggest bronze statue, with the centuries old almost lost wax method of casting. According to Mr. Rajan, the said 'idols' were not more than 80 years old. (He could even identify the sculptor for the Chandrasekhara statue by name as he was famous for facial details.)

- The Chandrasekhara statue was purchased in 1970 for rs. 400 in Puducherry. The Nataraj statue was also purchased in Puducherry and the original bill of Rs 675 from 1978 was produced. Amman, a hollow statue, was purchased in 1989 in a shop in Mahabalipuram.

- The Idol Wing left the premises refusing to wait for a Working Committee member to arrive and without leaving a copy of the seizure report in spite of being asked repeatedly to provide one, for which there is video evidence.

- While some news media reported the statues to be "antiques", even possibly dating back to the Chola era (!), it is unlikely that any of the three statues are antiques; they were legally acquired and remained throughout with their owner.

*Sincerely, the Working Committee
selected by the Residents' Assembly
Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant,
Mael, Sauro, Valli*

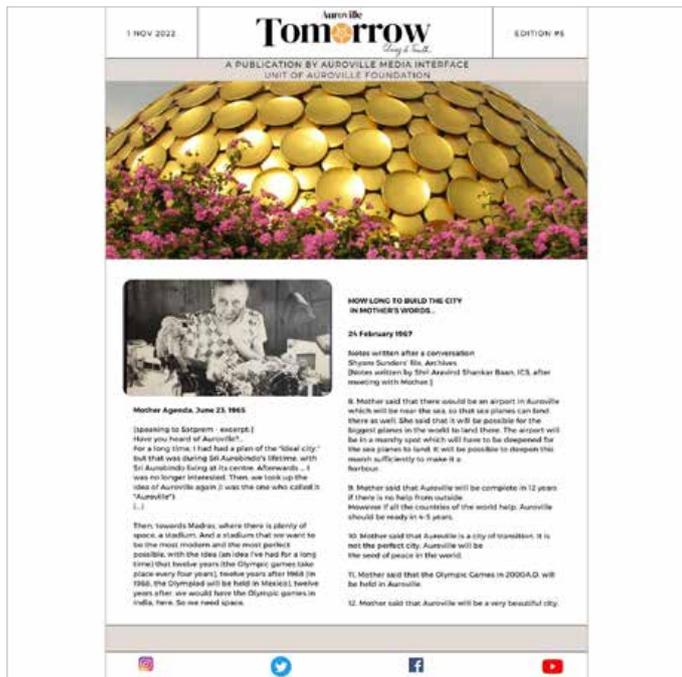
*Submitted by Chali
for your Working Committee*



Community News

Auroville Matters

AUROVILLE TOMORROW ISSUE NO. 5/1 NOVEMBER 2022 & DOCUMENTARY ON THE GALAXY



- You can read and download the Auroville Tomorrow newsletters from the Auroville.org page:
 - <https://auroville.org/page/auroville-media-interface-%28ami%29>
- You can also subscribe to our newsletter by entering your email here:
 - <https://mailchi.mp/21d7334f0dd4/avtomorrow>
- Or scan the QR code

Auroville Media Interface is preparing a video documentary on the history of the Crown and the Galaxy, we are looking for participants willing to be interviewed, write to us:

- mediainterface-avf@auroville.org.in
Joel, for AMI



UPDATE ON THE DEEP DIALOGUE FOR HARMONY

Dear Ones, many have asked about my role in the deep dialogue with Raghu Ananthanarayanan for harmony in Auroville and the next steps on it. For those who are interested, here is a link to a document in which I've shared some background, reflections and updates: <https://tinyurl.com/updates-deep-dialogue-harmony>

ॐ आनन्दमयि चैतन्यमयि सत्यमयि प्रमे।

Sincerely, Deven

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS OF ARULVAZHI

A hearty congratulations to the students of Arulvazhi (school of Yoga and learning activities) for achieving 14 prizes out of which 8 stood for excellence in yoga among 300 participants at the State level yoga competition at Dindigul Tamil Nadu on 15 October 2022.

Hats off to our Yoga grand master Velumorgan for once again breaking the records at the State level competition

Arulvazhi Team

APPEAL FOR COMPANY

TO ELDERLY COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Dear People of Good Will from Wider Community of Auroville, Dear Aurovillians, Newcomers, Volunteers of ALL ages!

• Many of us are heavily impacted by the turmoil we are in in Auroville. Even though a lot has been paused and there is so much uncertainty, there are many parallel realities needing our attention. One of them are our elders. These are our elders who for longer or shorter time of their lives lived and contributed in their unique ways to Auroville's diversity. Now they need care & some simple connection.

Someday sooner or later, myself and each of you might be in a similar place, where a simple compassionate presence with warmth can be so nourishing. For a while I have been brainstorming with myself on and off with a couple other people, about a simple service, visiting elders of this community that live alone at home, or in many cases with a caretaker. This could be 1 or more visits, to 1 or 2 people per week, for half an hour or longer.

The visits as I imagine are simple presence and company. And for those that have a desire or capability for more, visits could include; conversation, a simple touch, maybe a song, reading to them, sitting in silence or even a game. As diverse as the skills in this community are, so diverse are the needs of some of these people. Their daily bodily needs are mostly wonderfully taken care by trained staff from bio-region. However what is needed is more of a 'human factor' company, presence, connection, shared values...

I have been visiting 2 of those unique people 1 a week for the past month & I found it mutually enriching. Plenty of research can be found online about mutual benefits of inter-generational connections and support.

With the help of a volunteer of home care services, we identified between 10 & 15 people that could benefit from such visits. Now, Home care health services, and people caring for Mahalakshmi home and Marika's house inhabitants, are more than overworked. They can NOT take care of such an initiative.

I have another more than a full time job once the season begins in a month, and plenty of other current engagements on the side. I am however willing to be part of it, if there is a resonance in the community, to cocreate a simple system that could run through a group with links. This would be a volunteer service by people of good will, NOT another unit of Auroville.

- What I can see is needed before starting is this:
 - c. A response from 'you' to give me a sense, if there is energy or not in the community to go ahead with this idea.
 - d. A list of people in need, with brief descriptions of their needs, character etc. This I would gather with the help of the angel volunteer working more than full time.
 - e. Someone with some computer skills can create a simple system that will be easy to use with; a google sheet, or calendar, or whatever is needed to help manage and coordinate this program.
 - f. Volunteers, willing people of all different ages to go and try befriending one of those people and see how it unfolds. Special skills, training or preparation are not needed. Just being willing to go and be present is all that is required.

If you feel called to participate you can contact Dariya on WA or Telegram +9786658967

Dariya

RAGHU ANANTHANARAYANAN SHARES INSIGHTS

Dear Residents, this is to inform you that there will be a screening of the video in which Raghu Ananthanarayanan had shared his understanding of the current situation with the GB, IAC and AVF team, followed by a dialogue with Raghu (joining online) in a fish-bowl format.



More details will follow via email. (Please be aware that auroville.org.in email addresses are still blocked from receiving RAS emails.)

Please join us on Monday, November 21, at 5—7:30pm, Unity Pavilion.

Warmly, For the Residents' Assembly Service,
Giovanni P, Sathish A, Tatiana S

Awakening Spirit

DUE TO WORK ACCESS TO CHAMBER IS RESTRICTED



Due to some work on the chamber AC, the chamber will be closed from 8 to 20 November for visitors.

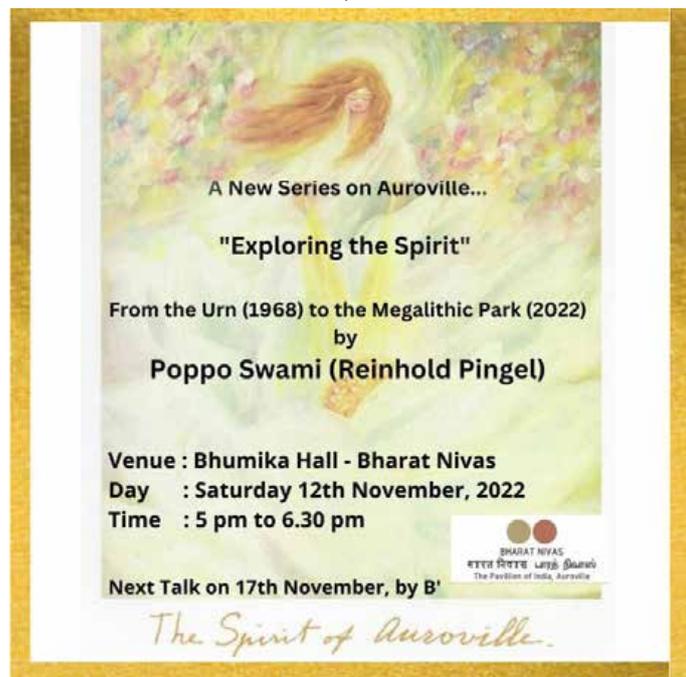
For Aurovilians, we will do our best to keep the chamber open, in the evening only, from 4:30 to 7:30pm.

We will inform you in case of changes in this schedule. Thank you for your understanding.

Antoine,
for MM Executives

EXPLORING THE SPIRIT

Saturday 17 November, 5—6:30pm,
Bhumika Hall, Bharat Nivas



Love & Light, AnC team

SRI AUROBINDO:

THE SUPREME AVATAR OF A NEW RACE

Monday, 21 November, 4pm, Savitri Bhavan

Savitri
B H A V A N



Sri Aurobindo stated: "Man is a transitional being, he is not final; for in him and high beyond him ascend the radiant degrees which climb to a divine supermanhood. The step from man towards superman is the next approaching achievement in the earth's evolution...it is at once the intention of the inner Spirit and the logic of Nature's process". (Essays Divine and Human, p. 157)

Commenting on his quest for the next step in evolution he said: "It took me four years of inner striving to find a real Way, even though the Divine help was with me all the time...; and it took me ten more years of intense Yoga under a supreme inner guidance to find the Way — and that was because I had my past and the world's past to assimilate and overpass before I could find and found the future." (Letters on Himself..., p.239)

In 1934—after much effort and outstanding psychological and spiritual research work—Sri Aurobindo described his Yoga in the following words (mentioning himself in the third person): "The one aim of his Yoga is an inner self-development by which each one who follows it can in time discover the one Self in all and evolve a higher consciousness than the mental, a spiritual and supramental consciousness which will transform and divinise human nature." (Autobiographical Notes, p.549-550)

And a special message the Mother gave in 1972 about Sri Aurobindo's work to bring the supramental consciousness on earth: "In fifty years the whole world, all the receptive sections of humanity (I am not saying intellectual, I am saying receptive), all the receptive sections of the world will be embraced—not "embraced": ABSORBED in the power of Sri Aurobindo's thought..." (Mother's Agenda, 16 February 1972) We are now in 2022—it is exactly fifty years after the above words by the Mother.

The video by Aravind T. Akki of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry contains texts from Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Duration: 39min.

It will be followed by two small videos

- The Power of Sri Aurobindo's Thought (5:24min) and
- My Touch Is Always There—Sri Aurobindo (3.02min).

The films are available on YouTube.

With gratitude and light and joy
and best wishes for all, Margrit

AMPHITHEATER—MATRIMANDIR

Meditation with Savitri read by Mother to Sunil's music
5:30 to 6pm, every Thursday at Sunset



We follow the sun and the timing changes with the season...

We are restarting from Book 1. Enjoy the beautiful open space, an immense sunset, heavenly music in the very center of Auroville!

- **Reminder to all:** the Park of Unity is a place for silence, meditation and inner work and is to be used only as such.
- **We request everyone:** please do not use cameras, laptops, cell phones, etc. No Photos.
- **Dear Guests,** please carry your Guest Card with you
- **Access only for the Amphitheater from 5:15pm.**

Thank you, Surya & Velmurugan, Amphitheater team

LECTURE: PEACE WITHIN



Peace Within: Peace Without
Revisiting Sri Aurobindo's Vision for Our Times
December 7, 2022, Wednesday, 5:15- 6:30 pm
 by
Professor Sehdev Kumar
 Based on Sri Aurobindo's trilogy of *The Human Cycle, The Ideal of Human Unity, and War and Self Determination*, this lecture presents the integral vision of Sri Aurobindo about matters of war and peace in the world, spiritually and existentially synthesizing the within and without in one seamless whole.

Dr. Sehdev Kumar is a Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo, Canada. A nuclear physicist, Prof. Kumar is a historian and a philosopher of science, and an ardent pacifist. He has written and spoken extensively about matters of war and peace, from scientific and spiritual perspectives. He is the author of several books including *The Vision of Kabir* and *7000 Million Degrees of Freedom*. His forthcoming book is *Angels in Black Holes*.

PRACTICE SESSIONS FOR BHAGAVAD GITA CHANTING

श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता
 Full chanting of the Bhagavad Gita

On the Gita Day 2022 (December 3), we invite all to come together with a harmonious collective aspiration and immerse in the Bhagavad Gita. We will chant all the 700 shlokas in Sanskrit. All are welcome to join anytime and chant together or simply listen and soak in the sacred vibrations.

Date: December 3, 2022 (Saturday)
Time: 7:00 am to 10:30 am
Venue: Progress Hall, Bharat Nivas
 Livestream: youtube.com/SamskritamAuroville

For details write to: devabhasha@auroville.org.in
 With Sincerity and Gratitude,
 Samskritam Auroville and Bharat Nivas Team

On the Gita Day 2022, December 3, we invite all to come together with a harmonious collective aspiration and immerse in the Bhagavad Gita. We will chant all the 700 shlokas in Sanskrit. All are welcome to join anytime and chant together or simply listen and soak in the sacred vibrations.

Practice schedule to prepare ourselves

- Every day from Monday, 21 November to 2 December
- 6:30—7:30am
- Progress Hall, Bharat Nivas, Auroville

Sloka 6.57: योगनिमपि सर्वेषां मद्गतेनान्तरात्मना ।

श्रद्धावान्भजते यो मां स मे युक्ततमो मतः ॥

Transliteration: yogināmapi sarveṣāṃ madgatenāntarātmanā,
 śraddhāvānbhajate yo māṃ sa me yuktatamo mataḥ.

Sri Aurobindo's Interpretation

Of all Yogins he who with all his inner self given up to me, for me has love and faith, him I hold to be the most united with me in Yoga.

All are welcome to join with a harmonious collective aspiration.

Sincerely, Samskritam Auroville
 and Bharat Nivas Team

Health Care

AURO DENT
 Dental Clinic
 Auromode, Auroville.
For Appointment please contact us
 Email: aurodent@auroville.org.in
 Phone: 0413-2622063 What's up: 9629199328
Working hours
 Monday – Friday (9am – 1 pm & 2pm – 6 pm) Saturday (9am – 1pm)

MAATRAM

Centre for Psychological Development & Support:
 Schedule for November 2022

Walk-in, Open Consultation Hour (OCH)

- Monday to Friday: 9am—10am
- Monday/ Wednesday/Friday: 4:30—5:30pm

Therapists (for OCH) as listed below

Monday	Saif	Palani
Tuesday	Rashmi	
Wednesday	Palani	Tia
Thursday	Chetna	
Friday	Gopa	Tia

OCH is a walk-in session where anyone can come without an appointment. If the therapist is already seeing someone by the time you walk in, please leave your contact details and we will revert.

Other activities

- Rural Mental Health activities at Thamarai, Annai Nagar. First Thursdays of every month between 10—12:30 noon
- Street Play on Mental Health Awareness, once a month at different venues or by invitation
- Care for senior Aurovilians
- Initiating sessions of Self work using Clay
- Contacts
- Message or call: 90877 09434
- Email: mattram@auroville.org.in
- Web: mattramav.in
- Location: Mitra Youth Hostel near Town Hall.

Many thanks, Megha

AUROKIYA

Aurokiya provides the following services for the community.



- Complete eye examination and eye screening programs for schools and workplace
- Support for hospital visits (Aravind, PIMS, JIPMER) and diagnostic services (X ray and scans)
- Laboratory services (Blood Test, Covid Rapid and RT PCR) and home collection facilities

Contact us

- aurokiya@auroville.org.in
- WA, call: 80123 05151

Thanks, Aurosugan for Aurokiya

Activities

HEMP WORKSHOPS
Auroville Green Practices

1ST DEC THURSDAY
HEMPCRETE
BY VEEDUSHI MALIK

2ND DEC FRIDAY
HEMP PAPER
BY VIVEK SANKARAN

3RD DEC SATURDAY
HEMP FOOD
BY ALEX

CONTACT REGISTER@AGPWORKSHOPS.COM +91 83008 83945
SCAN TO BOOK SPOT
Hemplanet

SALSA DANCE CLASS

Every Tuesday group class
New Creation Sports Ground, Auroville

Salsa dance class

2 months commitment for group class
Every month's new batch For beginners and intermedium, every Tuesday
private class by appointment for any day's place: New creation sports ground, Auroville
Mani: +91863763369

2 month commitment for a group class. Every month a new batch starts for beginners and intermediate. If they want to learn private class for Salsa, Bachata and Kizomba Dance any day's by appointment

Mani : +918637633696, In: bakisata_dance

SWIMMING CLASS

Any age kids and Any age adult by appointment.

Kids (6+) & Adults
Courses from beginners to advanced level

To book contact Mani
+91 8637633696

Swimming classes

Mani, +918637633696

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS FOR BEGINNERS

5—9 December, 5—6:30pm,
le Morgan Cafe, Town Hall

Youthlink is happy to invite you to our new educational program: Sign Language Class For Beginners.

One intensive week taking place from 5 to 9 December & taught by Venkatesh

This class will start from 5 to 6:30pm at le Morgan Cafe in Town Hall.

- To register email us at youthlink@auroville.org.in or come to our office in Town hall at 9:30am—12pm and 2—4pm to sign up.

Aure from Youthlink team



TANGO DANCE CLASS

Every Monday group class at Cripa, Auroville

Tango dance class

2 month commitment for group class,
Every month's new batch for beginners and intermedium every Monday
private class by appointment for any day's Place: cripa, Auroville
Mani: +918637633696

2 month commitment for a group class. Every month a new batch starts for beginners and intermediate. If they want to learn private class for Tango dance any day by appointment.

Mani, +918637633696, In: bakisata_dance

AUROGAMES SESSION AT HUMASCAPE

Sessions with Aurogames games help develop concentration and memory. Open to all ages from 6 year old on. The sessions take place in small groups, for a better stimulation of the children. For individual sessions, it is best to make an appointment.



- Sessions take place at **Humanscape**, the community building
 - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4—5pm
- Limited places, please reserve and confirm your venue.
- Possibility of private session on appointment only.
 - Free of Charge

Geetha 7094688421, Veronique 9488512678

For Your Information



Korean Pavilion welcomes visitors.
Please feel free to contact us
if you need any help :)

코리안 파빌리온에서는 방문자분들을 환영합니다.
도움이 필요하시다면 언제든지 연락주세요



Kakao Talk ID
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(MINT) conscioumint

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(JIN) +91 94871 92023
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Instagram
auroville_korean_pavilion

Bioregion

FOOD FOREST TOUR



Every Sunday, 9:30 to 11 pm at La Ferme Community
(5 min from Av Bakery)

I welcome you to a tour through my permaculture garden! We will take a look at local food and you will get an idea on how to start growing your own food and the importance of where your food comes from.

This tour includes a mini **Raw Food** workshop where we will prepare a seasonal snack with the gifts collected from the garden.

- Limited to 6 people.
Please register no later than Saturday 8pm.
- **For info and directions:** Sarah, 9047421044 WA, sarah@auroville.org.in

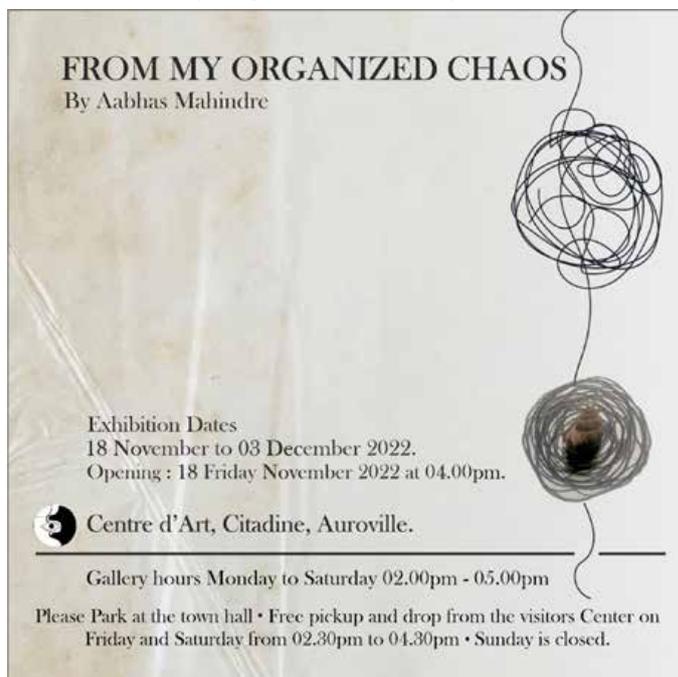


The Arts

FROM MY ORGANIZED CHAOS

Opening Friday, 18 November, 4:30pm
Centre d'Art Gallery, Citadines

Centre d'Art Gallery, Citadines, Auroville invites you to an exhibition "From My Organized Chaos" by Aabhas Mahindre



- **Exhibition opening** on Friday, 18 November at 4:30pm
- **Exhibition Dates** 18 November—3 December.
- **Gallery hours:** Monday to Saturday, 2—5pm
- Centre d'Art Gallery, Citadines, Auroville.
Please Park at the Town Hall.
- Free pickup and drop from the visitors Center on Friday and Saturday, 2:30—4:30pm.
- Sunday is closed.

Exhibition overview

This exhibition is a long time in the making ever since the first lockdown settled us away from all the world. settling the world around us to stillness. which drew my mind and attention towards the chaos inside my thoughts and the layers of memories accumulated over the years. sorting through it over the years resulted in the form of "from my organized chaos" which is to be displayed in this exhibition.



Artist Statement

From my organized chaos. As our mind is full of thoughts and memories which pile up slowly layer by layer, it's kind of a mess, like my working space where there are lots of things collected over the time as I have been working, few of these were used and few were left unused. In my work I have slowly organized it, taking and arranging it. Whilst working, I discover every object has a memory connected to it and has a tiny story of its own. Which becomes a hook in innumerable memories. These works of mine have turned into a memorable diary. My work often lingers on common things which are around us. I try to collect, as in cosmos, nothing is useless, and everything is used and to be reused. I like to take the time out to see the beauty of the marks people make on the world knowingly or unknowingly. Treasure the ordinary: whatever is made out of caring. Find the beauty in some cluttered, nature, around everyday objects and stories while it's still around us.

Aabhas Mahindre
Warm regards, Sri/ Centre d'Art

Children's Week

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 20, 2—7pm, Youth Center

All beautiful shimmering young souls of Auroville,

We would like to invite you for a spectacular celebration of youth, joy, and excitement on international children's day, on Sunday, November 20. The focus will be on a large-scale treasure hunt which takes you on an adventure through the entirety of the youth center, with exciting bounty to be won!

Join us for games, drinks and food from 2 to 7pm at the Youth Center.

Treasure hunt is open for children of ages 5 to 14, games and food is open to all!

See you all there! YouthLink, X Youth Center teams

*Thank you! Sincerely,
Namu for the Youthlink team*



TLC PRESENTATION

**19TH NOVEMBER 16.30
IN TLC'S BASE CAMP**

We welcome everyone interested to know more about the educational aims and practices in TLC (The Learning Community)

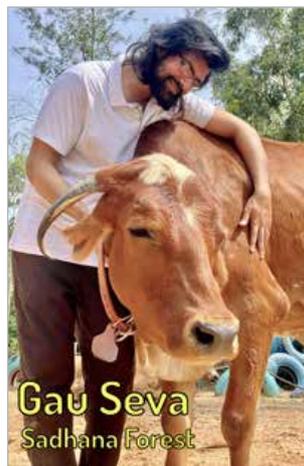
In Celebration of Children's Week
a play
Bravely Speak Out
by
Aikiyam School Students

In collaboration with
Yatra Arts Media and Auroville Child Protection
Supported by AVI Germany

Saturday, 19th November 2022
Timing: 6:30pm / Duration: 45mins (In Tamil)
Venue: Unity Pavilion, Auroville

Honorary Voluntary

GAU SEVA AT SADHANA FOREST!



Your heartfelt service is needed at the Sadhana Forest Gashala! You are most welcome to join us on any day **from 6am onwards**, and have a vegan breakfast at **8:45am**. Breakfast is offered as a gift, and there is no need for prior booking.

If you would like to contact us:

sadhanaforest@auroville.org.in,

WA 8525038274 or call
8122274924.

**Looking forward
to welcoming you!**

The Sadhana Forest team, warmly, Shek

Work Opportunities

HR HUB INITIATIVE



HR Hub Initiative is a service which helps individual Aurovilians and Newcomers who are looking for suitable work to find it, and to help Auroville units and services who are looking to fill positions to find the right individuals to step in

Carpenter (half time)

A Unit that works in the construction field and specializes in wood frame and roofing sector is looking for a Carpenter. The person needs to be able to correctly use wood cutting tools, circular saw, jigsaw, plane, drill, router, screwdriver... very manual and physical work, at height and outdoors. Wood carving, frame assembly, painting, sanding, polishing. Prerequisite is a minimum of experience in this field of activity, complete beginner abstain. Part time, morning time, timing to be defined. English recommended, or also french. Maintenance for construction sites outside Auroville.

Training as much as possible, alternating with more "tedious" work such as sanding, varnishing or polishing. There is a trial period.

Please contact us for more information and if you are interested in any of these work opportunities or if you are looking for something else. You can find us at hr.hubauroville@gmail.com.

- HR Hub is also looking for someone that can offer some time to the Candidates that wish to learn computer skills (basic word, excel, google drive...) and conversational and written English. If you would like to offer your time and help people to perfect the above skills, do let us know and we can put you in contact with them.

*Warmly,
Sara for HR Initiative*

WHO CAN MAKE A REPORT?

Who can make a report about the life's work of a well-known writer? His discoveries in the field of religious history are to be recorded with a Dictaphone and then transcribed (by typing or using speech recognition) preferably in German (!), but maybe also in English. This should be done for 4 weeks, starting at Christmas, for five days with about 4 hours each. Earnings: €300 per week. Please send a detailed application.

*Holger, with best regards,
Selvi A, 9787362497*

Education

**AUROVILLE INSTITUTE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY
IS CLOSING ADMISSIONS**



Auroville Institute of Applied Technology is closing admission on 26 November 2022 for the following bachelor Degree B.Voc courses of 3 years duration affiliated to Pondicherry University under the MOU signed between Auroville Foundation and Pondicherry University. These courses are designed along the line of integral Yoga. It includes personality development, Yoga, Meditation, Leadership and Integral Yoga.

The courses will be conducted at our Palmyra campus beginning from 1 December 2022.

1. Software Development & Machine Learning
 2. Green Energy and Electric Systems
- Eligible are youth who have completed 10+2 years or equivalent schooling.
 - These courses are conducted together with C3 Stream Land Design.
 - 60% of the curriculum is subject-oriented and 40% is soft skills-oriented.
 - Students would practice on projects.
 - 2 months / year are foreseen for internship.

For more information pl. contact principal@aiat.in

*Thank you so much,
Lavkamad*

Available

Seedlings Ready for Planting



At Savitri Nursery, some seedlings of Supramental Action, Prosperity and Pitanga (a bush of berries) are ready for planting in the monsoon season. Please make sure that you know where you are planting and the plants are to be properly watered in the first few years.

Come to pick up on Wednesdays, 8—9:30am.

*With joyful Gratitude,
Anandi Z. for Savitri Nursery volunteer team*

Available Brand New Custom Offices and Apartment near Verité

UTSAV (meaning Celebration) is an under construction, mixed-use project that is expected to be completed soon. It is located along the Verité Radial in the Industrial zone. As an urban development, UTSAV provides for both commercial offices and residences.

- **Two offices are still available on the ground floor, while 1 two bedroom apartment is available on the second floor.**

The office spaces are ideal for Auroville Services / units / activities and startups. Each unit type is available in multiples of 21 sq mts carpet area, with quality infrastructure, and can be configured as per need.

Please note: The spaces are NOT available on rent. They are to be booked via your unit (for commercial space) or through housing service (for apartment).

- For inquiries please write to: utsav@auroville.org.in
 - UTSAV Project Holder—Bobby (Auromics),
 - Project Architect—Mona (Yantra),
 - Project Contractor—Baskar (Sincerity)

Taxi Share

22 November, 7:45am to Chennai airport



I leave on November 22 from Auroville at about 7:45am to Chennai airport. The taxi is available for sharing both ways. Contact Nandita

- nandita@sharan-india.org
- +91 9488483286 WA

Help Needed

REMEMBERING VEENAPANI FESTIVAL



Greetings from Adishakti!! We are back with the 7th edition of the "Remembering Veenapani Festival" from 3 to 9 April. We have 7 performances this time, and we are proud to announce that one of these performances is our own Fellow

of the Theatricualte fellowship.

We would like to give 1 lakh each to our performers and the estimated cost is 8 lakhs and we would like to raise 8.5 lakhs to meet our cost. We have raised almost 2 lakhs as of now and would be grateful to you as our well-wishers and friends and those who love and celebrate the work that we do to raise the rest of the amount.

You can donate to us at this crowdfunding platform using the link below

- <https://www.ketto.org/fundraiser/support-the-remembering-veenapani-festival-2023>

A few words:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwhVhgZypPc>

Please ignore this message if you've already donated.

*Regards, Vinaykumar,
Artistic Director*

AUROVILLE ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC BUS SEEKS FUNDING



Dear All, Auroville Accessible Public Bus was running at loss till end of October. Additionally we had annual insurance renewal and Annual Fitness certificate renewal from the Transport department. All together brought us a big minus. Auroville Vehicle Service had made the advances to cover the running cost since August 2022. We were hoping the BCC would support the running cost for the year 2022—23 but unfortunately BCC has no access to grant any budget at the moment. We kindly request you to support the community public bus in contributing whatever amount is possible to you.

• **We are currently in minus of Rs.137,000**

We do understand the current situation of Auroville but if we don't get the support from the community now, there is no other option for us, other than to close the service completely.

You could transfer to our Account **251675/ AV Accessible Bus**
*Thank you, Raju, Sauro & Susmita
for AV Accessible Public Bus Team*

SEEDS OF UNITY FESTIVAL, 23 DECEMBER

Dear friends, the work on the festival is going on at a good pace! Lots of people are coming together to co-create this amazing community event that will happen on December 23, from 5 to 10pm.



- Here is a short 15 second video about the event. Check it out!!! [Seeds of Unity festival—YouTube](#)

Volunteers

- We welcome volunteers for our first work shift on coming Saturday, November 19, morning, starting at 9am.
 - We will be clearing spaces for various activities for the festival.
 - We also need hands for: cooking, serving, stage creation, fund raising, cleaning, health and safety, security, parking, decorations and so much more.
 - Refreshments and lunch will be provided for the volunteers.
- We look forward to seeing you here.

Artists

- We welcome artists (dancers, acoustic, musicians, healers, jugglers and all creative hearts) to come and hold mini—interactive spaces throughout the farm from 5 to 7:30pm.
- During this time there will also be a beautiful pooja, havan and interactive art happening after which the food will be served.

Music

- At 7:45pm the music will start with Emergence performing with guest musicians Mahesh Vinayakaram and Atman Mahajan along with Auroville drummer Suresh Bascara, bassist Dhani Muniz and Emergence front man—Krishna McKenzie.
- The event will wrap up at 10:00 pm.

Donations

- We still need financial support to provide the food offering for a 1000 people and cover the expenses of the performance and other aspects of the event.
 - [Concert—Solitude Farm](#) for donations.
- Donations can also be made at Financial services on 252255 and please specify **Seeds of Unity Festival**.

Contact Us

- Priscila is coordinating with volunteers and artists. She can be reached on 9361618654, if you have any questions.
- For any other questions: 9843319260

Krishna, Solitude Farm Cafe

Foods, Goods and Services

POURTOUS COMMUNITY CANTEN AT ASPIRATION

is now open again for breakfast and lunch

Monday to Saturday from 7:30am till last order at 2pm

Dear Community, the PourTous Community Canteen at Aspiration is now open again for breakfast and lunch!

PourTous யூத்ராஸ் For All

We serve you affordable, sustainable wholesome food every Monday to Saturday from 7:30am till last order at 2pm.

Come enjoy our 50 Rupees breakfast combo with

- 2 idi, 1 vadai & milk coffee/tea, idli (7 rupees), dosa (30), omelets (45) and soon pancakes.

News @pourtousav

- **Avoid plastics:** Metal buckets and dustpans and coir coconut fibre brushes
- **Monsoon gear:** Rain poncho's from Rs115—Rain suits from Rs525—umbrella's—storage boxes
- **From Kofpu:** Dried mango, banana, papaya and banana-spirulina sheets to make your own wraps 50Rs & vegetable bread
- **Hemplanet:** Hemp Seasoning and gomasio
- **Natureland:** Organic Quinoa, Buckwheat flour and whole arrived
- **50AP:** handmade soaps

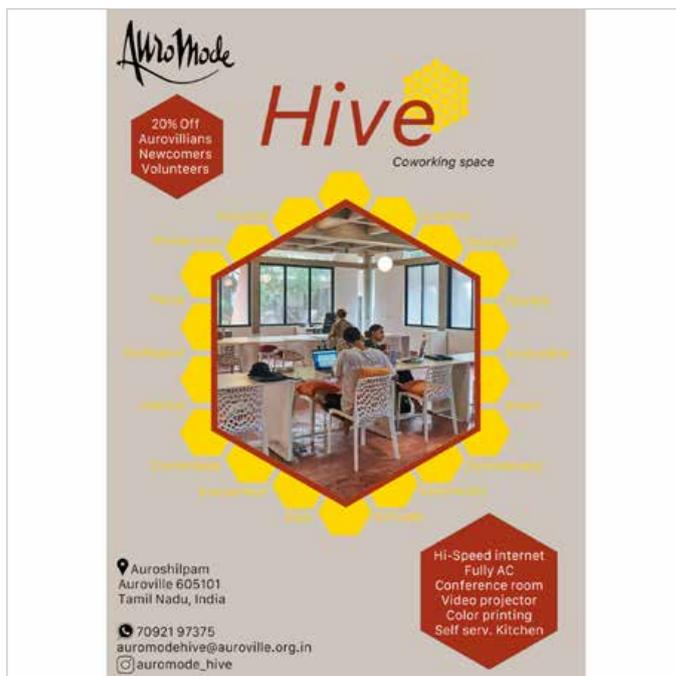
*Love, Joel,
Your PourTous Team*

AUROMODE HIVE OPEN HOUSE

Friday, 28 October, 10am—5pm

Dear All, Auromode Hive would like to invite you to an Open House on Friday, 28 October from 10am to 5pm.

We will have free internet! All are welcome to try out our coworking space, Free of Charge!!!



For more details regarding our Plans check out our catalog at our WA Business No. 7092197375

Auromode Hive Team

NEW OPENING HOURS AT KINISI

We are happy to inform you that KINISI will now be open on Sundays and holidays, exclusively for receiving and delivering e-cycles for service or rental.



New opening hours:

- Every day from 9:00 to 12:30 and from 2:00 to 4:30

Note: on Sundays and holidays, we are open exclusively for delivering and receiving rental or servicing e-cycles.

Marlyse,
Your KINISI Team

ECO FEMME OPEN HOUSE

Every Thursday morning from 10:30am

Dear friends, join our open house at our office in Auroshilpam every Thursday morning from 10:30am. Come and learn about sustainable menstrual products and our not-for-profit programs and pick up discounted cloth pads, cups and cloth nappies.



See you soon!

The Eco Femme Team'

Auroville Poetry

DRIZZLES SEEP DEEP INSIDE

Drizzles seep deep inside
Torrents carry away.

∞

The sky cried so much
Her face brightens up.

∞

It rains.
Plans change.
The river of Life
Flows.

The river of Life
Flows...

With joyful Gratitude, Anandi Zhang

ALMOST A FULL MOON

Venus and
Almost a Full Moon
The water sings in my cells
The crystal reflects the sky
in my eyes .

How to move out ?
The Eternal minute
and the Presence
are there ...

Anandi-ayün, Certitude, 11.11.22

THE ETERNAL NOW

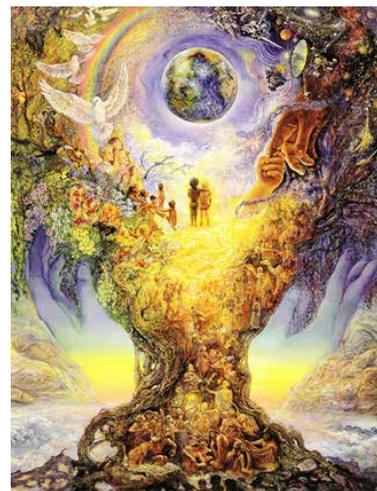
Life is a cumulative process,
A collective experience,
So it's always best
To start in the present.
Or better yet

Bring the envisioned future
Into the Eternal Now
Wherein the infinite becomings
Co-learners of past-present-future
Are here with their particular roles,
Ever-flowing,
The One smiling,
Teasing,
Playing each of Its unique beings
Towards Love's True Union
Beyond Mind's separative illusion
Onto a Life Divine.

Zech, 2022.11.13

THE LAW OF LOVE AND ONENESS

"No real peace can be till the heart of man deserves peace; the law of Vishnu cannot prevail till the debt to Rudra is paid. To turn aside then and preach to a still un-evolved mankind the law of love and oneness? Teachers of the law of love and oneness there must be, for by that way must come the ultimate salvation. But not till the Time-Spirit in man is ready, can the inner and ultimate prevail over the outer and immediate reality. Christ and Buddha have come and gone, but it is Rudra who still holds the world in the hollow of his hand. And meanwhile the fierce forward labour of mankind tormented and oppressed by the Powers that are profiteers of egoistic force and their servants cries for the sword of the Hero of the struggle and the word of its prophet."¹



And this Law of Love and Oneness
Is the Divine Love and Oneness,
Not the distorted attachments
And false unity of humanity
That sees only either side
Then acts in conformity
Instead of complete equality,
Not seeing the divine hierarchy
In the contradictory yet complementary.
The painful consequence
Of this action in ignorance
Is the Truth in evidence.
It is all a co-learning experience.
Divine Love will not manifest
Until Divine Truth of Unity in Diversity
Settles in the hearts and minds of humans
Catalysed in Spirit and Matter by the few receptives,
The willing servitors of the One Divine.

Om Namō Bhagavate

Zech, 2022.10.26

¹ Sri Aurobindo, Essays on the Gita, Chapter X, page 386:
https://sri-aurobindo.co.in/workings/sa/13/essays_on_the_gita_19_e.pdf

AUROVILLE RADIO



Dear Aurovilians, please check the latest podcasts of your favourite radio! Stay tuned!

[Here you can listen](#) to the stream channel (playing 24/7).

[Here you can see](#) on-air schedules.

Last published podcasts

- [Soul Tracks—Se4 Ep19 “Nothin in particular” \(Music\)](#)
- [Kadhai Ketpoma—Ep.8 \(Literature\)](#)
“நீ நதி போல ஒடிக்கொண்டிரு”
- [Marlenka’s weekly offering—ep.70 \(Literature\)](#)
- [Une série hebdomadaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi—417 \(Integral Yoga\)](#)
- [Tamil Express—Lesson 30 \(Tamil Language\)](#)

...and more! on www.aurovilleradio.org

Please help us to relocate the radio!
Donate to F.A. number 251369

For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in

Peace and Love

Regards, Wobbli

WHY CAN'T AUROVILLE FEED ITS PRESENT POPULATION

Why can't Auroville with its thousands of acres not feed its present small population of ~ 4000?. Here is my take:

The Forest Group's fatwa against using EB grid electricity covering the whole Greenbelt. They control who settles in the Greenbelt.

1. Our normal regional rainfall pattern gives us a dry spring, mixed irregular summer & falls and an extreme wet winter, uncondusive for vegetables, edible oils, pulses or cereals.

2. We are on a local high plateau way above the groundwater levels, so only deep wells are viable year round.

3. Thus strong three phase pumps are required, which with solar is super expensive to impossible.

4. Growing trees block out the little wind (and also sun) making (weak) windmills unproductive.

5. any other farmers in Tamil Nadu do connect to the EB grid, get free electricity thanks to state politics and therefore produce always cheaper than us.

6. Having to skip groundwater the only alternative is direct rainfall. This leaves land stewards with only a few possibilities:

- leaving the land half a year fallow like pre Auroville times
- create large ponds with sealing bottoms (plastic like MM lake or clay). These need to be lower than a catchment area and are expensive. iii) Plant deep rooted plants only = trees.
 - Food trees like cashew, mango or avocado.
 - A nature sanctuary.
 - A timber forest. The last became the most popular land usage under the FG fatwa: cheap, easiest and extra income from the wood.

Auroville has no water crisis but a well-pump power crisis I would say.

Anton

EGO IS HAPPY WITH CRUMBS

Non Ego (spiritual freedom) is Happy with the Vastnesses of the skies infinite.

Sham, Soham

RECOVERING MOTHER'S GUIDELINES: GM



In his speech to the RA the Chairman Dr. Ravi made two striking remarks: Matrimandir has become a place for tourists – and what do we produce here, getting things from Israel or everywhere, instead of producing ourselves what's needed to the day-to-day life as the Mother expected (famous conversation, 30.12.1967)? Not even the food are we capable to produce if not in small quantities? We scream at his rebukes, but haven't we said the same for years, those among us responsible enough to realize that this is not the

way to go? Rejecting the “Line of goodwill” (with its train/tower/Zen-gardens roofs for tourists' meditation) because no, Matrimandir and Auroville are not for tourists?

I walked out from the general meeting yesterday because it became terribly clear, and this was my speech, that we started going astray when the pioneers' spirit of self-giving and sharing, living with nothing, gave way to petty-bourgeois setups making wonder even a past GB. We keep quoting the Charter, so compellingly beautiful that one cannot disagree, but steadily doing the opposite we never, never quote the Mother's guidelines: we don't even know they exist or do we care. In the Galaxy there are no cars – and we flood Auroville with cars and parking. In the Galaxy (and the master plan) singles live in 30 square metres, but here large flats and villas multiply. In the admission form to be signed by the Mother it is specified that Auroville takes in charge only those who have no means or donate whatever they have to Auroville; but instead people with pensions, cars, rents, guest houses, yearly holidaying to the West, getting extra paid jobs etc. get a maintenance (if working in units, up to thrice the ordinary one, their children too!!!) – so that those who really have nothing, starting from the youth, are automatically eliminated. And being excluded starts right away, with the newcomers' fee and cost of housing – whereas in Mother's admission form no fee is asked; and if the newcomer is not in position to maintain him/herself the first year and pay for an accommodation, yet works proficiently for the community, he/she was taken in charge, and given a place to live, right away. **This Is The Mother.**

Brushing away the Mother's guidelines for the Galaxy and lifestyle in Auroville, people sit in the WC and groups appointed by the Secretary or in the others. And what about the servants and hired labour, then talking on human unity, instead of doing the work oneself as the Mother expects? Are we sick, handicapped, so that we can't maintain the 30 sqm where we are supposed to live?

Spiritual beings don't need anything, oneness with everything and all is supreme felicity. Do we need the Governor of Tamil Nadu to tell us that things are wrong, awake the sadhak, the seeker? Mother's admission form commences with the text “To be a true Aurovillian” and the first paragraph is about ‘the inner discovery’: the psychic being. When the psychic takes the lead, it is impossible to behave the way I have described. The golden rule, universal, is to treat others as one wishes to be treated: do we want to be treated as servants? Do we want that, when the only chance to live in Auroville is to be taken in charge according to the minimum material needs, this is usurped by people who don't need anything and do not care? What “willing servitors of the divine consciousness” are these? We don't need to be accomplished yogis, we only need to have a heart, to feel for others who are but ourselves: human unity commences from there. Then things fall spontaneously into place and Mother's guidelines are our natural way to be, it is impossible to be otherwise.

Paulette

THE FARMS SITUATION

The general mission of our farms is “firstly” to Produce healthy, organic and affordable food for Auroville; and “secondly” to create an environment of Research and Education.

Is this happening? Certainly not. Officially Auroville farms are able to produce only 17% of the food we consume. (I say “officially” because in reality the percentage is much lower. Some farms buy outside produce (rice, varagu etc), repackage them and sell them as Auroville produce. Other farms buy things like sesame seeds, press the seeds and bottle the oil, and sell it as Auroville produce. This “food processing activity” helps raise the percentage of food “provided” by our farms, but in reality the food is not produced in Auroville).

So the question is why aren't our farms producing food for Auroville? Are Auroville farmers lazy? No, that's not the cause of the problem.

The issue starts with the economical change here in India. This has had a drastic influence on the consumers' habits, particularly in the food sector (let's also consider that Auroville is cosmopolitan).

If you look in your fridge and observe what you usually bring home from ptdc or your local store, you will notice that except for the occasional papaya, some cheese, and the repackaged rice, most of your shopping consists of

items such as: tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, broccoli, zucchini, corn, cauliflowers, white cabbage, red cabbage, Chinese cabbage, iceberg salad, apples, oranges, grapes, pears, wheat products (pasta, bread, biscuits, etc) olive oil, and more.

These products are not cultivated here, they come from mass production systems far away from Auroville, and are not organic (most probably they are also genetically modified). Yet there is a constant demand.

Indian Aurovillians, especially the young generation, although familiar with their local varieties, are now inclined towards a more Western lifestyle of which food plays a major role.

Most non-Indian residents of Auroville are not very familiar with the local vegetables and legumes, don't know what these taste like, how to prepare them, or how to combine them.

Until a few years ago FoodLink and PourTous used to have on their shelves a modest variety of local cucumbers, gourds, spinach and more. At some point these local edibles started disappearing from the shelves because the consumers weren't buying them.

If consumers don't buy local edibles, farmers won't grow them. It is as simple as that.

So what do we do? Do we educate Auroville consumers to buy local produce, and increase our own production and decrease dependence on external procurements?

That's a fantasy! If our distributors stopped offering non local produce, people would simply buy it outside.

This is the core reason why Auroville farms are unable to produce more than 17% or less of the food consumed. Because we consume what doesn't grow here.

What's the point of having farms in Auroville then? Good question! Auroville farms cost quite a lot of money to maintain, and costs are rising higher every year.

Yet, without a doubt, farming is paramount for a township which aims at becoming self-sustainable, and wants to excel in research and education.

Depending on outside food means depending on petrol price (because food travels from outside to here), and ultimately means depending on the economy. The Indian economy is doing quite alright at the moment, but the future is unpredictable.

We might have to face a global economic crisis one day, and this consequently would result in a food crisis also.

So perhaps, if/when we will face a food crisis, then we will start thinking about cultivating and consuming local edibles. Not quite!

The local edibles varieties are becoming extinct. Think about it, it's not so difficult: the consumers don't buy them, therefore farmers don't cultivate them, consequently the local edible variety disappears from the environment. This is not my opinion, it's a fact. We won't be able to cultivate much on this land one day.

My constructive criticism is this: there is no point in focusing on production because we can't possibly reach that goal anyway.

We must think and prepare for the future.

Production—considering we are failing at it—should by no means be the sole focus of Auroville farms. We must also focus on Research and Education. And these are important points not only because they play important roles in the larger context of Auroville philosophy, but also because they are crucial for any chance of our farms to produce food.

Each Auroville farm must be a laboratory of research and education, and this hopefully will lead us to production.

What might a laboratory of research and education look like on a farm?

Well, for a start a farm can reserve part of its land for cultivating local edibles. It doesn't matter if these products don't get sold, they must be cultivated for the purpose of keeping them alive and be able to pass them onto future generations. This means researching all possible local edible varieties. Learn about them. Their names, characteristics and properties. Obtain plants, cuttings and seeds, and ensure that we can reproduce all possible species with the “seed to seed” method. If we continually need to buy seeds from outside, we aren't doing it properly!. A farm is not complete without a seed bank from which it can rely to grow food.

Parallel to this, should our farms also invest in innovative farming techniques (such as hydroponics, aquaponics, etc) and try to cultivate what doesn't grow here? Yes! Even if we might need to compromise the organic method? Yes, of course. Auroville farms can still today be proud of adopting the organic approach. This is fantastic, it's very good, but it's a placebo because in reality we eat outside produce which is non organic, has little or no nutrition value, and it doesn't contribute towards a sustainable Auroville. Since we're so addicted to outside produce, why not try to cultivate it ourselves?

So, two parallel types of research: one focusing on traditional methods and traditional edibles; and one focusing on innovative farming techniques to compete with outside produce.

An environment of farming research might lead us to achieve farming solutions. It's like if a father says to his son “go to work, you need to earn money”, and his son replies “but dad, if I go to school now, I will get a proper job in the future and I will be able to earn good money”.

By the way, a research environment will also attract students, and experts prepared to help us in the research. One thing will promote the other: research will attract students, students might be the future of farming.

Very enthusiastic plan!! It requires a lot of work though and a new mindset. The reality of today is that people obtain farmland to settle (their families and their relatives). Their focus is to get maintenances, grants and loans for producing what they can, and make money with food processing and guest houses. This is where we are now.

We can't blame them because there is no direction for these farmers. I'm sorry to say this, but production at the moment is an abstract promise which cannot possibly be fulfilled.

It's nice to hug trees and sing peace songs, but we also need to embrace reality if we want to be good to our Auroville environment. I hope with this article I'm planting a seed.

PS: I posted this article a few days ago on auronet. Here I'm adding a few points in response to some friends' comments.

Food Production and Food Processing are two very distinctive things

Food Production is basically agriculture, farming, and cultivating food (including also raising animals for meat, eggs, milk).

Food Processing is when you process food into something:

fruits into jams, flour into biscuits, milk into cheese, cocoa into chocolate, coffee beans into coffee powder, etc

Back in 2011 there was a big meeting/conference held at Town Hall, where all stakeholders in the field of food production had been called to sit together and come up with a plan for producing food for the Auroville community. If I remember well, not many farmers attended this conference. Instead there were quite a few people from the food processing business, and they were the most active in the talking. Still today I can't understand why those food processing people were invited to that conference. If you think that making biscuits can solve food insecurity, then please think again. First of all, if the biscuits are made of wheat, and wheat doesn't grow here, we are back to square one with the issue of buying outside food. But even making jams (with Auroville fruits), or cheese (made with our milk), is still not food production. It's food processing! Investing time, money, effort and space in food processing doesn't help the food production. The fact that all Auroville farms have a parallel business like jams, dried fruits, cheese, guest houses etc to ensure an income, has been accepted a long time ago. But transforming farms into food processing units or guest houses, that's quite another story. Anyway, my point is that if we want to be prepared to face food insecurity, we must invest our forces in **food production research** (forget making jams and dried fruits!!).

Tomatoes: Do we grow tomatoes in Auroville? Yes but also no. Prices for outside tomatoes can fluctuate according to the season, but during an average season "outside tomatoes" can still be very cheap. Our tomatoes don't grow very easily (they get the 'wilt' disease, get attacked by various bugs, need lots of water, and only grow for a short season) therefore, when we have them, they are expensive. Tomatoes, by the way, are the major plant model in classical genetics, and are not native to Tamil Nadu.

During the first two decades of the twenty century, when the new trend of scientific studies of genetics started, tomato, potato, pepper, and eggplant were among the first plant species subject to genetic experimentations.

Solitude farm is a very beautiful farm, and I take my hut off to the outstanding work which Krishna has been doing. However, when I talk of reintroducing the Local Edible Variety, I mean mainly native varieties which have been disappearing very fast (but also some "not native", as long as they are healthy and grow well here). Solitude farm grows mainly Solanaceae (tomatoes, chillies, peppers, aubergines). These are not native and are also not very healthy. I don't mean to criticize Krishna. On the contrary, I compliment his work. But I'm talking about something totally different when I speak of reintroducing the local (native) edible varieties. Only people who have seen and eaten those varieties know what I'm talking about.

When one day Auroville will be ready for this project, there will be a lot of work to be done, including a big deal of research (on the field as well as on the computer). People physically unfit for field work will still be able to help with online research and data documentation. People with no experience... well, we're all here to learn.

Gino



Classes, Workshops & Healing Arts

THE LAUGHTER YOGA CLASS CANCELED

19 November

The Laughter Yoga class at Mohanam on 19 November will be canceled because the facilitator will be solo baby-sitting his young daughter whilst his wife is on a trip.

Marnix

YOGA OF FORGIVENESS WITH DR. SEHDEV KUMAR



- Professor Emeritus, Canada
- Internationally renowned Author, Poet, Mediator
- Author of "7000 Million Degrees of Freedom", "Ocean in a Drop: Verses of Kabir"

Verite, Saturday, 26 November, 2—4:30pm.

- From the Darkness of Hatred & Indifference to the Light of Forgiveness is a momentous step
- From Fear & Festering Revenge to the Courage of Being is the True Journey of the Spirit

We must let go

What ties us to the prison bars

And dream once again of Freedom.

In this freedom alone

lies our true

Redemption.

- Register: +91 7867805812

Thank you,
Sehdev Kumar,

www.lotusinthestone.com

TRANSFORMATIONAL YOGA AND PRANAYAMA

Transformational yoga is inspired by Mother and Sri Aurobindo's Integral Yoga teachings.

It is an innovative and highly effective yogic system, which synthesizes techniques of Hatha, Raja, Mantra, and Kundalini Yoga to bring about rapid transformation within the mind, body and spirit. Powerful, yet gentle, everyone can reap the benefits of this purifying yoga practice.



In depth focus of asanas, chakras, mantras, breathing and meditation techniques gives you the knowledge you need to purify your body, stabilize your emotions, focus your mind, and increase your spiritual well-being.

Private classes

- One to one
- Group

Please contact me for an Appointment:

- Lakshmi 84 89 76 46 02
- Lakshmiprem369@gmail.com

Offered under Abhaya an activity of ASSA trust

Namaste, Lakshmi

QUIET HEALING CENTER



www.quiethealingcenter.info/quiet@auroville.org.in

+91 413 2622329/+91 9488084966, 9488079871

Heartfull® Meditation Classes with Avantika Nirupama

- Sunday 20 & 27 November, 9:30—10:30am.

Thanks, Guy for Quiet Healing Center

100 HR HATHA / VINYASA YOGA TTC

December 1—11, Auromode Yoga Space

6:30—9:30am and 3—7pm

- Daily Hatha & Vinyasa flow yoga sessions along with Pranayama, Meditation, Kriya.
- Introduction to Karlakattai, Animal flow, kalaripayatu, Sound healing Meditation, Karma Yoga and more
- Learn Anatomy & physiology for injury free self practise
- Yoga Philosophy of Patanjali and other yogic texts
- You can work between 9:30am and 3pm every day, if necessary
- Health is the real wealth & learn how to achieve it through self practise.
- Not just Asanas, we will also visit and volunteer in some Auroville projects as part of your Karma Yoga



For more information contact@auromodeyogaspace.com or balaganesh.siva@gmail.com, WA + 91 98926 99804

- Contact: contact@auromodeyogaspace.com

AWARENESS THROUGH THE BODY WORKSHOP

Saturday, 3, and Sunday, 4 December, 9—5pm

ATB Hall in Transition School

ATB1: A two-day introductory workshop with Amir and Lison

A space for cultivating one's ability to direct sustained conscious attention.



A program to nurture individuals to discover and explore the body, and through the body awaken the consciousness of the entire being and the parts that form it. The activities are creative and often fun.

Some of the activities are original and others are inspired by a wide variety of disciplines including Dance, Hatha yoga, Taoism, Martial Arts, Physiotherapy, Somatics, Shiatsu, Relaxation Techniques, and Breathing Therapies...

"If you want union in the world, first unify the different parts of your own being." Sri Aurobindo

ATB has been developing in Auroville since 1992. This practice is based on Aloka Marti and Joan Sala's work following integral education and their experiences on the path of integral yoga. In Auroville ATB is offered regularly in the schools, from kindergarten through high school, and to adults. ATB is also gradually spreading into the world of education and inner growth in India, France, Ireland, Holland, Spain, Italy, Germany, Argentina, Israel, Canada and the United States.

For more information visit:

- <https://awarenessthroughthebody.org/>
- <https://atbwithamir.com>

to sign up for this introductory workshop mail Amir

- connect@atbwithamir.com

INTEGRAL HEALTH

Classical Homeopathy, Hypnotherapy, Child Care

We are providing alternative health care for the body, mind and emotion through classical homeopathy and transpersonal regression therapy since 2001. Homeopathy is the 2nd biggest medicine globally, practiced since 200 years, and further developed by our teacher Dr. Sankaran, Mumbai, www.theothersong.com

Sigrid is member of the international teachers team

- <https://www.wish4healing.net/>

Aqua Terra—Water of Unity

We are offering Aqua Terra, a homeopathic remedy prepared from the water from 324 water sources on Auroville's 50th Birthday. We invite all interested to meet on Saturday 10th Dec 5pm at Integral Health, to share the research as well as potential benefits for Auroville community. All are welcome to pick up Aqua Terra C 200 and C 1000 from our remedy box in the waiting area.



- Sigrid offers homeopathic consultancy since 1997, with a special focus on long term constitutional homeopathic treatment, to address chronic diseases, migraine, autoimmune diseases, psychiatric issues, and treatment of children incl special needs children and behavioral issues.
- Malar offers consultancy in Tamil, as well as First Aid Remedies and PC remedies.

First Aid Kits with 32 remedies are available, description in English, French, German and Tamil are available. Please contact us if you would like to learn how to use homeopathy for First Aid.

Available from our remedy box in the waiting area, 24-7, for free: PC Shock Trauma, PC Allergy, PC Diabetes, PC High Blood Pressure etc. and 70 more PC remedies for trauma, as well as chronic diseases are available. Benefits are well established—no side effects.

Harmony and Samata, remedies related to Mothers and Sri Aurobindo energy, which can enhance meditation, and support healing.

- Consultations are free for Aurovilians and newcomers, from others donations are welcome. Consultations are generally held in English, French, German, and Tamil
- Malar is managing the office, the FirstAidKits and PC remedies, daily Mondays to Fridays 9—12.30 a.m,

You are welcome to contact us at integralhealth@auroville.org.in to enquire about the most suitable approach for your health or psychological issue.

- Sigrid, sigrid@auroville.org.in
- Malar, malar@auroville.org.in, 9080054843

Integral Health, Prayatna 2623669, Central building 1st floor

SOUND CHAKRAS HEALING

Guided vibrational sound journey using (Bija mantras, Tibetan Bowls and Tuning forks therapy) to help to Reduce Stress, Anxiety, Depression, Insomnia, stimulating the natural cellular healing process, Rebalancing the emotions & Reconnecting with your true essence.



- Individual session
- Couple session
- Small group (max 4 people)

For an Appointment contact me at:

- 8489764602 or lakshmiprem369@gmail.com

Offered under Abhya an activity of ASSA trust

Namaste, Lakshmi



www.auroville-jiva.com, WA 9626006961
contact@auroville-jiva.com, [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#)

Inner Child Work Webinar

• 21-23 November, 4—5:30pm

Inner Child Work is an effective therapy modality to address issues of self confidence, relationship problems and recurring reaction patterns which originate from early childhood experiences. The early imprints in the first 7 years usually keep replaying and these can be made aware, as well as healed through a session of 2—3hrs in “Inner Child Work”.



Inner Child Work is one of the modalities of “Integral Regression Therapy”, and can create surprising shifts in the clients relationships and professional life.

• Trainer Sigrid Lindemann
Experienced faculty in Integral Regression Therapy, and classical homeopathy (Sensation Method Dr. Sankaran), in Germany and Auroville.

• Webinar 20 October, 6—7:30pm, via Zoom
• contact@auroville-jiva.com, WA 9626006961

Natural Horsemanship

• Individual and group sessions ongoingly

Mirrabelle offers webinars, classes and workshops in Natural Horsemanship. Natural Horsemanship focuses on body language of horse and human, which is universal, by effectively using intention and centered presence to communicate clearly, with purpose, and without violence. This is the key to building a vocabulary with the horse, your partner. Experience yourself beyond words! 7 horses and ponies of all sizes and temperaments are curious to know you!



Natural horsemanship improves your self confidence, your trust, your skills in nonverbal communication—and it’s just fun time to BE with a sensitive, naturally trained horse!Mirrabelle lives with horses since she was 3 years young. Past 10 years she fulfills her life`s dream to bring children, adults and horses together in a healing way, in Auroville, Sharnga Guesthouse. Mirrabelle has studied human and horse psychology, and offers consultancy on all aspects of horse care—hoofs, nutrition, psychology, care, riding and therapy!

• Sessions afternoons 4—6pm or mornings 8—10am
Contact: WA 9626565134, contact@auroville-jiva.com

Acupuncture, Qigong, Shiatsu with Andres



Andres Lokutta, is a experienced practitioner in Acupuncture (over 12 years) , and further practices of Chinese Medicines: QiGong energy exercises, and Shiatsu: gentle stretches to increase energy flow.

Please contact us for an appointment via contact@auroville-jiva.com, WA 09626006961

Intro to Past Life Therapy with Sigrid

• 19, 20, 21 November, 7:30 to 9pm



We invite you to explore the domain of past lives in these 3 online sessions, through the lens of the experienced therapist and practitioner, Sigrid Lindemann. In this introduction to PastLife Therapy, you will get a profound and rich

understanding of the hidden source of our present- day beliefs, psychological movements, motivations and inexplicable bodily phenomena.

Sigrid Lindemann is firmly grounded in the insights and wisdom of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, and has been developing “Integral Regression Therapy” on this base. Inner Child Work, Trauma Relief and Past Life Therapy are integrated in intense, yet transforming personal sessions.

A hybrid training in “Integral Regression therapy” is offered from Dec 2021 onwards.

Contact: WA 9626006961, contact@auroville-jiva.com

Our Venue Sharnga Guesthouse

• www.sharngaguesthouse.in

Sharnga Guesthouse is a green oasis, with a huge Banyan Tree, horses, birds, a lively tropical garden, with a small pool, gym and rooms from simple to AC, single to family units. A Yoga Hall, AC lounge with big screen, and the great service and international cuisine make it a perfect spot.

YEP We do offer adventure camps with kids programs, <https://www.facebook.com/YEPAY> parallel with wellness and healing sessions for parents: forest walks, camp fire, visits to various activities in Auroville, Yoga and TaiChi, art sessions, bird watching, etc! WA 09626565134

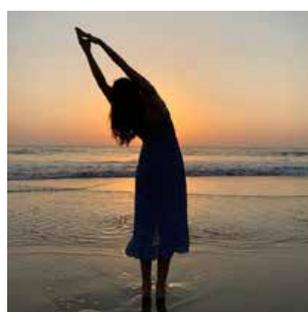
• We offer transformational practices addressing all issues of body, mind, emotion and soul, for conscious evolution. Acupuncture, Shiatsu, QiGong, TaijiQuan, Energy work, Fasting Natural Horsemanship, Horse Assisted Therapy, Medical Clowning, Yoga Nidra, Gentle Birth & Pregnancy, Integral Regression Therapy, Trauma Therapy, Advanced Classical Homeopathy Systemic Constellation & Family Constellation

VINYASA YOGA FLOW WITH REBECA

Tuesday & Thursday, 5pm

At Maloka hut in Anitya Community

(“Joy of Impermanence” on google maps), Center field



Teaching a non-dogmatic style of yoga fusing ancient wisdom with contemporary understanding of the body, challenging it in different ways, focusing on the development of coordination, balance, strength and flexibility. Under the view of a physiotherapist teacher, there is a main focus on individual alignment with anatomical explanations for

the safe performance, considering this practice as therapeutic exercise.

Recommended for those that are familiar with foundational yoga postures and enjoy a dynamic class. Absolute beginners can find it challenging.

Please join the WA group to be informed: 9344295315

Warmly, Rebeca



ARKA
WELLNESS CENTER & MULTIPURPOSE HALL
 Regular activities, November 2022

Classes

Classes	With Whom	When
Acro Yoga	Damien 9047722740	Monday to Saturday
Pilates	Teresa 7867998952	Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30-8:30am. Wednesday 4:15pm Friday 5:30pm, Only by Appointment.
Iyengar yoga	Olesya, 9159052743	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 6:30-8am. Monday, Thursday, Saturday, 5-6:30pm.
Qigong Yang Style, self-massage	9600094875, +353877420282	Monday to Saturday, 8:30-9:30am,
Chakra Breathing Meditation	(WA), Marco	Friday: 7:30-8:30am, by Appointment
Heartfull Meditation	Avanthika, 6380238326	Tuesdays 9:30am to 10:30am
Sound Chakras healing	Lakshmi, 8489764602	Only by Appointment

Treatments

Treatment	With Whom	When
Body Logic, Soft Massage And Deep Tissue Massage.	Pepe, by appointment 9943410987	Monday to Saturday
Cranio sacral, Lomi Lomi Kahuna massage, Barefoot body massage	Silvana, by appointment 9047654157	Monday to Saturday
Facial, Manicure, Pedicure, Threading, Waxing, Haircuts, Haircolouring, Hennacolouring	Meha, by appointment, 9443635114	Monday to Saturday
Shiatsu, Thai Yoga Massage, Osteothai, Somatic Bodywork. Only by Appointment	Marco, WA +353877420282 9600094875	Monday to Sunday
Chinese Fire Cupping and Moxibustion Therapy	Chun, 8098900708	Monday to Saturday
Tarot, Oracles and Akashic Records Reading	Valentina: 9791719387, +39346225804, WA	Monday to Saturday (Morning)
Acupuncture	Dr. Mohammad Sahel, 9994208068 Only Appointment	Monday to Saturday
Psychospiritual Introspective Tarot Reading, Deconditioning Self Inquiry. Also in French	Antarjyoti: 0413 2623767, antarcalli@yahoo.fr	Monday to Sunday



VÉRITÉ INTENSIVES
 Phone: +91413 2622045, 2622606,
 Mobile: 7867805812
programming@verite.in,
veriteprograms@gmail.com

**Anatomy for Yoga Practitioners:
 The Spine, with Rebeca**

- Saturday, 19 November, 9:30am—12pm

As the spine is the central axis of the physical body and it houses the central nervous system, it is intimately involved in everything we do in daily life and in our yoga practice. Through practice and focussing on anatomy, we will explore its role as both structural support and sensory receptor. You'll sense your own unique anatomy to find ways of practising yoga that are inspired by the shape and form of our own bones, allowing us to move with more ease and grace, and preventing injuries. Session open to all, specially designed for yoga teachers or yoga practitioners.

Balance your bodies through the Practice of Yoga, with Sabrina

- Saturday, 26 November, from 9:30am—12:30pm

According to the Taittiriya Upanishad, the human being is composed of 5 bodies (physical, mental, vital, intuitive & bliss) called koshas. In this workshop, Sabrina will guide you to balance each of these koshas through a specific yoga practice: 1 asana, 1 pranayama, 1 japa, 1 pratyahara, and 1 meditation practice. This workshop will teach you how to connect with and harmonize each of your koshas, enhancing your autonomy and awareness. A beautiful session open to all levels, can be done independently from the workshop "explore your bodies".

Yoga of Forgiveness, with Sehdev

- Saturday, 26 November, 2—4:30pm

From the darkness of hatred & indifference to the light of forgiveness is a momentous step. Shifting from fear & revenge into the courage of being is the true journey of the spirit.

Thushar and Radhika

UNIQUE ONE-OFF EVENT!

**Yatra Art & Culture Foundation Nr New Creation
 Sports Ground
 Guest Spiritual Healing Practitioner**

Ms. Teja Priyadarshini of ACH Academy (Maharashtra) is offering two unique opportunities for self-discovery and healing

• **QHHT—Quantum Healing Hypnosis Therapy (Dolores Cannon)**

Discover who you really are, why you are here and heal long standing health issues in just one session

A limited number of one-on-one QHHT sessions available either at Yatra or at your place in Auroville



- **6, 7, 8 or 9 December.**

Each session takes approx. 4-5 hours

• **Phoenix Rising—A Transcendental Journeying Workshop**

In a safe group space delve deep to release karmic emotional trauma and rise reborn like the phoenix from the ashes!

- **Saturday 10 December 4:30pm**

This session lasts approx. 3 hours depending on the number of participants (max 15)—please bring a yoga mat/towel to lie on for your comfort. After session refreshments provided. Don't miss out on this incredible and rare opportunity towards contribution.

For reservation and information contact Teja Priyadarshini

- aakashiofficial@gmail.com
- tel: +91 7337066934

For additional information see:

- <https://www.qhhtofficial.com/>
- <https://www.achofficial.com/transcendental-journeying>

Thank you, Yatra Srin

Current Language Courses at ALL

New: English for Total Beginners with Rupam

If you can read this, then obviously this course isn't for you! But, if you know someone who could use some basic, everyday English in their daily lives, feel free to pass this along. This one-month semi-intensive course will begin with the alphabet and take the students through basic nouns, verbs, and simple sentence structures.

- Classes will take place Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 11am to 12noon. Enquire now to register!

New: French with Jean-François

Jean-François's first round of French courses concluded last month and we received fabulous feedback from his students! His new batches have just commenced. We are filling up spots quickly but you can still register!

Jean-François is offering four 3-month (24-hour) courses:

- **Beginner French:** This course is for all those wanting to join a French course but finding themselves too busy through the week! Our Beginner French Course is deliberately planned for Saturdays! The classes are highly interactive delving into French vocabulary of everyday life and the basics of grammar. By the end of the course, you would be able to make simple sentences useful for interaction, and talk about your work, hobbies, daily life, etc. in a simple way.
 - This course started on November 5. Classes take place Saturdays, 2:30 to 4:30pm.
- **Beginner French for Teens:** This course is for students between 13 to 16 years of age. The course is based on exercises that use many mediums like videos, games, role-playing, etc. to make learning both fun and effective. By the end of the course, students will have an immersion in the French language and will be able to express themselves in a simple way.
 - The course started on November 12, and classes take place Saturdays, 11am to 12noon. We have 3-4 spots left.
- **French Conversation (Pre-Intermediate):** For those of you who know a bit of French, this is the perfect course to get more fluent, expand your vocabulary, and speak without inhibition in a diverse & fun group! Each lesson covers a theme of daily life (work, family, hobbies, shopping, projects, etc.) and is aimed at developing the students' ability to express themselves and interact in French. Jean-François will also review the grammar useful for basic conversation.
 - This course will start on November 21. Classes will take place Mondays & Thursdays, 2 to 3pm.
- **French Conversation (Intermediate):** This course is for those who have a good level in French. In this course, the basics of public communication like expression, understanding, argumentation, meeting participation shall be deepened. Jean-François would explore a range of topics like food, sports, travel, philosophy, news, literature, economics, social sciences, theater, and more. At the end of the course, students will also have reviewed the grammar useful for interaction.
 - This course started on November 3. Classes take place Mondays & Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30pm.

New: Tamil Written and Spoken with Murugesan

Our teacher, Murugesan, is ready to start a new Beginner Written & Spoken Tamil Course. This course is for those who wish to enrich themselves with the complex beauty of the Tamil written alphabet and speech. Murugesan will explore the difference between spoken & written Tamil, and focus on developing listening & reading skills through songs & lyrics. Grammar will also be taught with an emphasis on practical usage. The new batch will start in November.

- Classes will take place Mondays & Thursdays, 10am to 11am. The course will start as soon as we have a minimum of 5 students. It will run for three months comprising 24 hours of teaching.

Languages

NEWS FROM AUROVILLE LANGUAGE LAB



Please remember to put your mobile phones on flight mode and switch off all wireless and bluetooth devices before you enter the lab, since it is a wireless-free space

Tomatis

There are spaces available for both language & therapeutic programmes!

Please contact 4036922 or email us at tomatis@aurovillelanguagelab.org to schedule your Listening Tests & Consultations

For more information about the Tomatis program, please have a look at the following links:

- <https://www.aurovillelanguagelab.org/tomatis-method.php>
- <https://www.aurovillelanguagelab.org/tomatis-kids.php>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnpXprTi3m0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeTiG0y-sBmlyy-wZNdzCang/videos>
- <https://www.listenwell.com/>

New: German with Verena

• A1.1 Beginner German:

Great news for German Learners!

Verena will soon start a new A1.1 Beginner German Course! Verena has been trained through the Max Mueller Bhavan, Chennai/ Goethe Institute, and she brings a variety of interactive tools and offbeat approaches to her classes. We have always got excellent feedback on her course! By the end of this three-month course, you would be able to carry out simple conversations in German like introducing yourself, talking about your work, your family, your hobbies, and ask & answer questions about everyday things like shopping, restaurants, holidays, etc. No previous knowledge of German is needed for this course!

- Classes will take place Mondays & Wednesdays, 11am to 12:30pm. Course starts in November comprising 36 hours of teaching over three months. Register soon! Limited spaces.

• A1.2 Beginner German:

This course is for students who have already taken a Beginner Course with Verena in the past or have a basic knowledge of German. The course is meant to deepen the basics previously learned and further advance the learner's German language skills.

- Classes take place Mondays & Wednesdays, 9am to 10:30am. Course started on October 31 comprising 36 hours of teaching over three months.

English Conversation with Ramesh

Ramesh's classes are ideal for pre-intermediate and intermediate level English speakers. The course aims to equip students with day-to-day conversation skills in practical situations, improved vocabulary and pronunciation, idiomatic expressions, building listening comprehension, fluency and confidence in speech. Ramesh will also touch upon basic grammatical concepts.

- Ramesh runs two groups
 - Mondays & Thursdays, 2 to 3pm and
 - Tuesdays & Fridays 3:30 to 4:30pm.
 - This is a monthly course.

Beginner and Pre-Intermediate English with Rupam

Rupam continues to offer morning English classes. Her classes are a mix of discussion on current topics, and grammar as necessary. You are welcome to try out a class and see if it fits your needs. However, please note that this is not a drop in/walk in class but is meant for students committed to joining the course.

- Classes take place Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:15am to 11:15am. Enquire now to join!

Spoken Tamil with Saravanan

Saravanan has been running this interactive and practical-oriented course for the past seven years. The class modules are based on a booklet called "Fun with Tamil", which has been put together with a lot of research and thought. By the end of this course, you would be able to converse in Tamil on day-to-day matters, having achieved a deeper understanding of its sounds, pronouns, conjugations, etc.

- Classes take place Tuesdays & Fridays, 9:30 to 10:30am. The course started November 1 and will run for three months comprising 24 hours of teaching.

If there is a language you would like to learn, and it's not on our list, please send us a query!

To join or enquire:

Please [fill out our form](#) to join or inquire about any language classes at the Lab! You can drop us an email to info@aurovillelanguagelab.org, or call us at 2623661

- **Please Note** Registration (correct contact details on our database, plus payment/contribution) is important when joining a course with us. Please see our team member at the front desk to ensure this is complete before joining a course, thank you!

Current Schedule of Classes

Language	Level	Time	Day(s) Of Classes
English	Beginner & Pre-Intermediate	10:15—11:15am	Tuesday & Thursday
	Total Beginners To start soon	11am—12noon	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
	English Conversation Group 1: Started 7 November	2—3pm	Monday & Thursday
	English Conversation Group 2: Started 8 November	3:30—4:30pm	Tuesday & Friday
French	Beginner Started 5 November	2:30-4:30pm	Saturday
	Beginner for Teens Started 12 November	11am—12noon	
	French Conversation 1 To start 21 November	2—3pm	Monday & Thursday
	French Conversation 2 Started 3 November	3:30pm—4:30pm	
German	A1.1 Beginner To start soon	11am—12:30pm	Monday & Wednesday
	A1.2 Beginner Started 31 October 2022	9—10:30am	
Hindi	Beginner, Started 10 September 2022	10am—12noon	Saturday
Tamil	Spoken Beginner, Started 1 November	9:30—10:30am	Tuesday & Friday
	Written & Spoken Beginner, To start November 2022	10—11am	Monday & Thursday
Sanskrit	Beginner To start November	TBA	TBA
Spanish	Beginner: Group 1 Started 3 October	2:30—3:30pm	Monday & Wednesday
	Beginner: Group 2 Started 3 October	3:45—4:45pm	
Japanese	Beginner To start December 2022	TBA	TBA
Italian	Beginner To start November 2022	TBA	TBA

The Language Lab's Opening Hours

Monday—Friday:

9:00am—12:00pm & 2:00pm—5:00pm.

Saturday:

9:00am to 12:00pm.

Location: International Zone, after Unity Pavilion & Pump House.

Phone: (0413) 2623 661, 4036920/22.

Email: info@aurovillelanguagelab.org

Find us on    @aurovillelanguagelab
Auroville Language Lab Tomatis Research Centre



Presents at Multi Media Centre Auditorium (MMC, Town Hall)

- **Reminder:** Friday 18 November, "Children of Heaven" by Majid Majidi, Iran, 1997
- **Friday 25 November, 8pm**

"Vision—From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen"
original title: Vision—Aus dem Leben der Hildegard von Bingen, directed by Margarethe von Trotta, Germany, 2009

With: Barbara Sukowa, Heino Ferch, Hannah Herzsprung

Overview: The life story of the multi-talented and famous German 12th century Benedictine nun "Hildegard von Bingen", Christian mystic, composer, philosopher, playwright, physician, poet, naturalist, scientist and ecological activist. Lushly shot in the original medieval cloisters of the fairytale-like German countryside, Vision is a profoundly inspirational portrait of a nun who has emerged from the shadows of history as a forward-thinking and iconoclastic pioneer of faith, change and enlightenment. A nun who was a pioneer for women in the church, whose grand claims often run counter to the patriarchal world around her.

Synopsis: At the age of eight, Hildegard of Bingen was sent by her parents to the Abbey of Disibodenberg; she receives the education of Jutta von Sponheim and is introduced to medicine and herbalism. When Jutta dies, she succeeds him as abbess and teaches the nuns theology, medicine and botany. The monks and nuns at the convent become a kind of family, offering both confidants and enemies as she fends off outrage from some in the Church over the visions she claims to receive from God...

Original German version with English subtitles.

Duration: 1h50'

Kind regards, Susan

THE VELVET QUEEN (PANTHÈRE DES NEIGES)

Saturday, 19 November, 5pm, Cinema Paradiso



the French Pavilion presents a documentary

Directed by Marie Amiguet and Vincent Munier, with Sylvain Tesson. Film in French with English subtitles, duration: 92 min

Synopsis: In the heart of the Tibetan highlands, multi-award-winning nature photographer Vincent Munier guides writer Sylvain Tesson on his quest to document the infamously elusive snow leopard. Munier introduces Tesson to the subtle art of waiting from a blind spot, tracking animals, and finding the patience to catch sight of the beasts. Through their journey in the Tibetan peaks, inhabited by invisible presences, the two men ponder humankind's place amongst the magnificent creatures and glorious landscapes they encounter along the way.

"Wondrous and utterly sublime, The Velvet Queen is a visual ode to perfection—a mesmerizing piece of cinema that exudes utter childlike joy and sets the gold standard for those that would follow in its footsteps." June Butler *Vivekan*

ECO FILM CLUB

Every Friday at Sadhana Forest

Schedule of Events:

- 16:00 Free bus from Solar Kitchen to Sadhana Forest for the Tour
- 16:30 Tour of Sadhana Forest
- 18:00 Free bus from Solar Kitchen to Sadhana Forest for the Eco Film Club
- 18:30 Eco Film Club begins with "previews" of short Sadhana Forest films



20:00 Dinner is served

21:15 Free bus from Sadhana Forest back to Solar Kitchen
Before the movie, at exactly 16:30 you are welcome to join us for a full tour of Sadhana Forest and an update of our most recent work! After the film, you are welcome to join us for a free 100% vegan organic dinner!

The bus service is operated by Sadhana Forest. For more information about the bus service please contact Sadhana Forest at 8525038274.

****Note:** Families and children are welcome! Dinner for children will be served at 19:00:)

Friday 25 November

The spectacular underwater world of Coral Reefs

2022/ 50 minutes/ Sigurd Tesche

The documentary accompanies a team of specialists to overwhelmingly beautiful coral reefs, ancient shipwrecks in the Mediterranean Sea and sunken submarines that are clouded in secrecy, to explore the versatile forms of underwater communication. What language do fish use? Do they make sounds? Do they have body language? And what role do colors play? With the aid of complex underwater audio and video equipment those and further questions are answered during a suspenseful journey around the world.

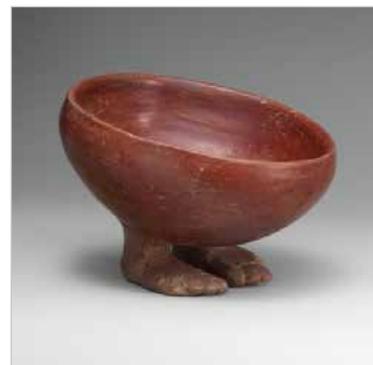
FROM THE EDITORS



Bowl with Human Feet, ca. 3700–3450 B.C.

Predynastic, Late Naqada I–Naqada II

In the Predynastic Period, potters created a wide variety of ceramic vessels. One unusual type is a bowl with supports shaped like human feet. This simple, round bowl, tipped slightly forward as if to offer its contents, has two such feet solidly attached to its underside. Made from Nile clay, the bowl has a smoothed, slipped, and polished surface, giving it a light sheen. The bowl standing on feet is very similar in form to the Egyptian hieroglyph meaning "to bring." Since none of the known bowls of this type comes from a well-understood context, archaeologists cannot interpret their original use. Perhaps vessels like this were placed above a tomb to present offerings from the living to the deceased, a practice that was an established part of funerary ritual in pharaonic Egypt. Alternatively, they may have held offerings to a deity in his shrine.



The Metropolitan Museum of Art



CINEMA PARADISO
Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium
 Film Program
 21 November to 27 November 2022

Cinema Paradiso-Multimedia Center is now in operation at 100% seating capacity. Maintaining standard Covid protocols, i.e. temperature check, registration, and Mask (and not scarves) etc. are a must even now. Please come prepared. To organize seminar/program please contact us via email.

We continue to have issues with our projector. It is getting repaired, and we will continue the program with an older alternative. Clearly it is time for us to look for a new one. If you are able to kindly donate at MMC's FS Account for this.

Indian- Monday 21 November, 8:00pm
VIKRAM

India, 2022, Writer-Dir. Lokesh Kanagaraj w/ Kamal Haasan, Vijay Sethupathi, Fahadh Faasil, and others, Action-Thriller, 175mins, Tamil w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (R)

Inspired by a 1986 film, following a series of murders of police officials by a mysterious gang of masked men, Police Officer Jose brings in a undercover agent team headed by Amar, who starts digging into Karnan, who turned out to be Vikram, a former commander of the black-ops squad's pilot batch. Amar also finds Santhanam, the biggest drug dealer in the city who runs the business from his home. What are their connections? How the story weaves in these sub-plots, in its narration? You will have to watch to find out!

Potpourri - Tuesday 22 November, 8:00pm
W.E.

UK, 2011, Writer-Dir. Madonna w/ Abbie Cornish, James D'Arcy, Andrea Riseborough, and others, Drama-History, 119mins, English-French-Russian w/ English subtitles, Rated R

Dissatisfied with the way her own life is playing out, New York-based Wally Winthrop becomes obsessed with the romance between American divorcee Wallis Simpson and England's Edward VIII when Sotheby's holds an auction of the royal couple's belongings. Wally is especially drawn to Wallis' side of the story, and as certain events transpire in her life, the line between fantasy and reality begins to blur.

Interesting - Wednesday 23 November, 8:00pm
OWL POWER

USA, 2015, Dir. Lucy Smith w/ Paul Christie, Lloyd and Rose Buck, and others, Documentary (Part of Nature series Episode), 56mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG

For centuries, the mysterious lives and uncanny hunting skills of owls have made fascinating children's stories and folk tales worldwide. But what makes owls so special? Lloyd and Rose and their very special family of owls, and other birds, provide a rare opportunity to learn more about these unique birds. Using the latest technology, we can take a brand-new look at owls in more detail than ever before. At last a good old nature film!

Selection - Thursday 24 November, 8:00pm
RUBY SPARKS

USA, 2012, Dir. Jonathan Dayton, Valerie Faris w/ Paul Dano, Zoe Kazan, Antonio Banderas, and others, Romance-Drama, 104 mins, English-French w/ English subtitles, Rated: R

Young author Calvin is having trouble composing his next novel. Following a therapist's advice, Calvin pulls out an old manual typewriter and creates a vivacious, flame-haired woman he dubs Ruby Sparks. Overnight, Ruby leaps from the page into Calvin's home as a real flesh-and-blood woman, unaware that she's a fictional character.

International - Saturday, 26 November, 8:00pm
I MADRES PARALELAS (Parallel mothers)

Spain-France, 2021, Writer-Dir. Pedro Almodóvar w/ Penélope Cruz, Milena Smit, Israel Elejalde, and others, Drama, 123mins, Spanish w/ English subtitles, Rated: R

Two women, Janis and Ana, coincide in a hospital room where they are going to give birth. Both are single and became pregnant by accident. Janis, middle-aged, doesn't regret it and she is exultant. The other, Ana, an adolescent, is scared, repentant and traumatized. Janis tries to encourage her while they move like sleepwalkers along the hospital corridors. The few words they exchange in these hours will create a very close link between the two, which eventually gets complicated.

Children's Matinee—Sunday, 27 November, 4:30pm
THE CROODS

USA, 2013, Dir. Kirk DeMico, Chris Sanders w/ Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds, Emma Stone, and others, Animation-Adventure, 90 mins, English, Rated: PG

The prehistoric Croods family survive the harsh conditions by gathering food by day and huddling together in a cave by night. But after a hip caveman arrives and tells them the world is ending, they must go on an adventure to find a new home.

Bruno Ganz Film Festival @ Ciné-Club

Ganz was an acclaimed German film and television actor of Swiss origin. Over 50yrs, he had worked with many well-known European actors and directors of his time.

Sunday 27 November, 8:00pm
DER AMERIKANISCHE FREUND (The American friend)

Germany-France, 1977, Dir. Wim Wenders w/ Bruno Ganz, Dennis Hopper and others, Drama-Mystery, 128 mins, German w/ English Subtitles, Rated: NR (R)

Based on the novel Ripley's Game by Patricia Highsmith, the film is a probing character study of two very different men, one a solitary high stakes adventurer, the other a staid family man grown desperate by his circumstances. The business relationship between the two slowly develops into a reluctant friendship, powerfully illustrating the complexity of the human condition.

Rating codes we often use are from Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA): G=General Audiences, PG=Parental guidance suggested, PG-13=Parents strongly cautioned, R=Restricted (equivalent to Indian rating: A i.e. for Adults), NR=Film Not rated, Rating awaited, or Rating not available.

For scheduling programs at MMC/CP venue: please email us at mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in. We appreciate your continued support. Please donate to "Cinema Paradiso" (account #105106) or set up for a monthly contribution. We need it now more than ever.

Thanking You,
 MMC/CP Group Account# 105106,
mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in

The Long Read

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE ADDRESS
TO THE RESIDENTS OF AUROVILLE BY SHRI R.N. RAVI,
CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE AUROVILLE FOUNDATION**



The N&N could not verify the accuracy of this transcript. You might go to the following link to [view the video of this address](#).

Monday, 7 November 2022, Unity Pavilion

Note: Small words (“of”, “it”, “them” etc.) have been added in places to restore flow to a sentence otherwise spoken as a train of thought, and for grammar.

My dear friends from Auroville, at the very outset I express my sincere sense of gratitude to all of you for responding to our request for the meeting today afternoon. You know, when this Governing Board was constituted about a year back, we had come and met you. At the time we didn't have such a large presence. And so it is a matter of delight that we have a larger presence today.

Having expressed my gratitude and thanks to you for coming over, I would like to state the objective of this meeting, the purpose why we are meeting this afternoon. The Governing Board has requested this meeting and the meeting is being held. This is essentially—you all know it at some level, but I would like to express on behalf of the Governing Board, the Governing body—that we have some serious concerns about the affairs at Auroville, and we are here to share our concerns with you and then leave you with these thoughts.

And I'd certainly like to have the benefit of your suggestions, your views, because being Aurovilian, you are the one who's supposed to be or should be the one who may be the most interested and primary stakeholder in the development and management of Auroville.

When this new Governing Body was constituted, we got on the job earnestly to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us. And of our responsibilities, one was of course, to promote the ideals of Auroville. We have to help the people, Aurovilians and others, on how to promote it. But one tangible part of the responsibility was to implement the Master Plan as duly framed by the Governing Body in consultation with the Residents' Assembly and duly notified by the government in 2010 through Gazette notification.

This process, in fact, when it started, unfortunately, there were developments which were unpleasant in nature. There was boisterous opposition to it.

Now opposition was of the nature of 'this is not the way to do it', that the Master Plan is not finalised as yet, that it is not consistent with the ideals of Auroville because it is against the environment... on various lines, opposition was expressed.

Of course, the matter then started going to the media, national and international, the projection was made that Auroville was in distress, Auroville was under siege, Auroville was being destroyed by totalitarian control. The matter also went to court, to litigation.

In fact, the way the whole thing erupted, it gave us a shock. And especially to me as an individual, because I have been a student of Sri Aurobindo right from my college days. I have grown in my personal life following the two great icons, Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo.

So, I was shocked, what could be there, then we started going into the background—why.

Now, we also started meeting Aurovilians. And in the last one year, several hundred Aurovilians have met me at least, individually and in groups of two, four, fourteen. They have shared their concerns—some saying that this is not the way to do it, this should not be done like this, some saying that, no, we must not delay it, we must do it. So both kinds of views and opinions have been coming.

Then we started wondering—Why is it so? This small family is hardly 3000 people with so many differences.

When the governing body in the late 90s and early years of the first decade of the present millennium, they drafted the Master Plan. And they drafted in consultation with the Residents' Assembly, because these are all matters of records. And it took almost 10 years or so.

When the government notified the Master Plan, for some reason, it took time and it was not implemented. When the new Governing Body came, we thought we should go ahead and do it. And then the opposition started coming: don't do it. Some people for, some against. Those who are against it say this is not the way, it should be tweaked, there should be some readjustment. There were ideas coming like that. Some people say that look, the fact that it has not happened shows that this is not the way, we must or will move forward.

A question haunted us as to why this small family is not able to collectively advise us on how to go about this.

Then we went into the background.

We all know that this unique experiment here began in the year 1968. And this experiment was essentially to translate the vision of Sri Aurobindo of creating a community of gnostic beings which Mother defined in terms of the Charter.

And it began.

In 1980, the government of India had to come up with the Emergency Provision Act 1980. And the very preamble of that Act says that the management of Auroville entered into such serious difficulties and differences that the government had to take over the management, and the government took over the management of Auroville.

At the time, for the next eight years till the Foundation Act came, the government managed Auroville with the advice of the International Advisory Council. There was no Residents' Assembly at the time, residents were associated but there was no formal body as Residents' Assembly. So, till 1998 [sic], affairs went on like that.

And then came the Act; the government thought the government should not be in it. So, they created a body corporate called Auroville Foundation. This Auroville Foundation created three bodies: International Advisory Council, Governing Board, and Residents' Assembly, to run the affairs of Auroville, to manage its affairs.

And we started the journey. And as a part of that journey, the physical manifestation of Auroville; Auroville has two parts: a spiritual evolution and physical manifestation; so to fulfil the physical manifestation of Auroville, the Master Plan was created. The Master Plan was drafted by the Governing Board in consultation with the Residents' Assembly, which finally the government of India approved and issued through Gazette Notification.

Now, when they started implementation, the problem again came. Questions were raised that it should be revisited. That is one part of it as far as the physical manifestation of Auroville is concerned, how the Master Plan has become a matter of debate.

There are differences, but when we started, I for one started looking into trying to understand, because as I told you, being a student of Sri Aurobindo, there was a deep anguish within me and I wanted to understand why is that? Where are we, how are things going on? We tried to understand and study Auroville, how it is functioning, how the individuals are functioning, how the institutions are functioning, how this collective is evolving.

In the process, I myself have gone through several areas, I have traveled to farms, I have traveled to the institutions where they are doing good things, manufacturing things. I have traveled to centers where they are producing things for the sake of Auroville.

A question that is lingering and very, very, very crucial: As far as the physical manifestation of Auroville is concerned, this is an area of concern in which there is a difference of opinion. But the core thing is the ideals of Auroville. We are not talking about the ideals of Auroville.

We know that we are all here as students of Sri Aurobindo. We have all been reading him and trying to understand and trying to evolve. The first thing that Mother's Charter makes very clear, that to be in Auroville, one must be a willing servitor of the divine consciousness.

And in plain and simple language, it means one has to be a bhakta, with total surrender to the Divine Consciousness, one must be a bhakta, a devotee, or a sadhak, who comes over here with a desire for further evolution to the higher level of consciousness. And that it's a place of constant education and progress.

Sri Aurobindo has also said—which we are all aware, and even Mother said, I myself have gone through the collective works of Sri Aurobindo, Life Divine and all. All of you, I'm sure many of you have gone through it,—that Auroville is different from other places because it is the place where collectively, through assisted evolution, one reaches the higher level. In normal course, it may take several lives to evolve. But by assisted living, Sri Aurobindo makes it clear it is possible it may be possible even to evolve in one lifetime. Sri Aurobindo lays down a process of integral yoga which is a combination of jñāna (: ज्ञान), bhakti and karma. It is not one.

First and foremost, a stipulation is through the Charter, that a person coming to Auroville has to be a bhakta, a devotee, a willing servitor of the divine consciousness and then integrate the two—karma and jñāna (: ज्ञान), knowledge—evolving it.

Now, it pains me, when I move around, the sadhana element of it, we find it is GROSSLY deficient, grossly deficient. You may find my statement very provocative, but I want to provoke because after all, we are here not for the brand Auroville but for the soul of Auroville. If the soul is not there, brand does not matter.

People often say, we have built the Matrimandir—wonderful. But Matrimandir, which is the soul of Auroville, should be the place where Aurovilians should be regularly going and meditating. It has become a place of tourist attraction, tourists come and visit and go.

Sadhaks I have met individually, there are very good people who actually, when I met them, tears started flowing, they just didn't utter a word. I could feel a sense of pain and anguish among them—where are we? Where are we going? They were not even able to speak.

Someone very elderly said—Mr. Chairman, we have lost our way.

Now, the question is, when I look here, I find a lot of commercial activities going on. Somebody is doing good business. Is it a place of commerce? No, certainly not. Because karma is nishkaama karma, where it is not self desire. I am doing the work but the work is not for my profit and benefit, it is for the benefit of the community's desire, that is nishkaama karma.

I find it very strange. And I find it very strange that in a small family of 3000, we are not able to produce enough food for ourselves. This is something which is intriguing.

I've seen people here doing distribution business. Things are being brought from different agencies in Calcutta, Bombay, and so many places, some are for distribution of things which are coming from Israel and some other foreign countries—we are doing trading, we are doing business, we are doing commerce.

I'm not saying everyone—some of us are doing that. But is it consistent with the ideals of Auroville? I think we need to do some serious thinking on it.

As far as the physical manifestation of the Township is concerned—that is one part of it. But we are more concerned about the ideals of it. Everybody comes and explains to me, 'we are for human unity.' And when I ask what is human unity, what do you understand? Someone says, well, we have got 500-600 people collectively, we have met and had lunch together.

Now human unity as we all know that Rishi Aurobindo said, is when I am standing here, a few 100 people are sitting here, and I see myself in each one of you as a divine manifestation of myself in all of you. When I'm able to see

myself in all of you and you will start seeing yourself in me—that is unity.

Because we all know under what circumstances Rishi Aurobindo evolved this theory, his lifetime was a time when humanity was at its worst crisis. The world has seen two devastating World Wars, the unleashing of atomic weapons, millions of people were killed. And the question that bothered him was—what is the fate of humanity? Is it self-destruction?

And then, through the long process of meditation and study, he realised that no, we are one stop short of evolution, we have to evolve to that level where we all see the divine which is present in all of us in the form of consciousness. The consciousness evolves by disciplining the physical part of the being, and then I start seeing myself in all of you, and then differences will dissolve, then humanity will be able to live in peace. And individually while some people were doing it for thousands of years in this country, he wanted as an experiment that let it be a collective exercise where the collective community of gnostic beings.

I've met, as I told you, several hundred people. And again, I'm surprised that many people I met are not even aware of all of us in this small village of a community. Everyone is living, by and large, I won't say everyone but by and large, people are living in silos.

That is a Governing Board concern, and it should be your concern as well, that Auroville is not like any other place where we are free to do whatever we wish, here the freedom is the freedom of a sadhak. The basic essential condition is that I am a sadhak. So, I have a right to be here, and I have the freedom to pursue it following the broad compass, the directions which are illustrated by Sri Aurobindo through triple transformation and Sapta Chatusthaya, how to do the sadhana.

How we are going to do this, how to do this, those things have to be evolved. We are doing some excellent work, I must say this, somewhere I've seen very good work being done.

But these are good works in the material domain.

Where is that sadhana? Who is coming?

You know, in 1988, when the Foundation came, even before in fact, in 1980 itself, the government was treating it, because Auroville is also the identity of India, because this is India's spiritual identity, which says Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world is a family, and that is based on the fact that everyone is a manifestation of the same divine.

So for the growth of Auroville, the Government of India gave a number of special relaxations—like Visa. Anyone who seeks to come to India has to go through a scrutiny. Everyone doesn't get it; after all, with foreign countries, there is a security dimension. But the moment Auroville recommends, there is a trust that this recommendation is conveyed to our embassy and mission, and the visa is taken for granted.

Relaxation also is that a visa is for a longer term, for five years, normally we give it for a short term six months or a year to any tourist coming visiting, or one who is coming for some kind of well approved functions. We give it for longer periods.

Relaxation was also given to be exempted from taxation, the remittances which are coming up free, all these extraordinary relaxations, disregarding the security concern of the country because who all is coming is not vetted by the security agencies. It is trust.

These all were done primarily with a belief that Auroville must grow and must grow freely. According to the ideals of Sri Aurobindo, and as defined by Mother.

There may be a lot of problems, a lot of issues, we can keep discussing whether the road should be built here or not, we may be concerned about whether the crown is built or which building is built where, these are one aspect of it.

But the ideal of Auroville has to be preserved, it has to live here, and in the most vibrant manner. You know, all these publications that happened, the adverse publications that went to the international press, it did create a very, very bad name for Auroville. It was not in good taste.

But the question is, this is one part of it. The image of Auroville, the image of Auroville is important, but more important than that is the ideal of Auroville. The ideal of Auroville, if it suffers, the image is a fleeting thing. If our substance is good, the packaging will take its own course, we don't have to worry about it.

When Mother was here, there was no need for branding it. Everyone accepted it, and people believed it.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would request all my dear friends, Aurovilians, to think of how to restore the ideal of Auroville. And I can tell you for sure, so far in this last one year meeting, visiting, I have seen activities which are just the opposite of the ideal. Some of the Aurovilians told me which I don't wish to repeat here... people were doing activities.

When I talk to the agencies, they say—Look, we don't usually interfere in Auroville because we believe that Auroville is a special place. However, we have got cases of substance abuse, money laundering, embezzlement, fraud, land grab, I don't wish to go into detail of it. But these things don't edify us, these things don't bring us any closer to what we should be.

Neither I nor the Governing Board is here to give you a talk or lesson, no, you are all experienced. Some people say, 'I have been here for 40 years', some people say 'I have been here for 50 years'. Somebody says, 'I'm a third generation Aurovilian'. I wonder and we all wonder, is their being third generation something stipulated in the Charter? The Charter is whether we are committed to the ideals or not, that is important. Somebody says, I have met Mother—Yes, very good. You had that holy touch, you are blessed, but that should not be for you to tell me I have met Mother, so whatever I'm doing is perfect, because Mother has recorded it, Sri Aurobindo has recorded whatever he wanted, how he wanted the city to come. So it is not important.

How do you find stewardship being taken as ownership? Somebody who has been there at a particular place for, let us say, 40 years says 'it is mine'? Is it Auroville? Do we have that concept? I think there is a need for very serious churning. And it is something which is not beyond redemption, it can be done and it has to be done. And the Governing Board has a responsibility.

Now the question comes: who has got the power? Now these are immaterial matters whether the power is with the Governing Board power or with the Residents' Assembly power or with the International Advisory Council. These are immaterial. As far as we are concerned, there are only two powers—one is the Constitution of India and the laws of India, and second is the Charter given by the Mother.

There is no other power. We don't recognize any other power, Sri Aurobindo's teachings and Mother's Charter: that is one, sacrosanct. And the Constitution and the laws of India.

It is not important whether the Residents' Assembly has the power or the Governing Board has the power. We have come down to the level where we are doing it for the power struggle. I think we have moved far away from being a sadhak.

Now, we believe, and sincerely believe, that any way forward should be, as far as possible, in consultation and taking everyone along, aboard. We don't like to create any sense of discrimination, or any impression that force is being used—NO. Auroville is not the place where force and coercion should be the choice; that should not be the choice. But we also have an obligation, since the Act tells us to see that the ideals of Auroville are to be promoted.

Now when we see that the ideals of Auroville are being compromised, and compromised in a big manner, I have no hesitation to say, because I have not come here to play music to your ears, I have come to tell you what I feel as a pain, it is the anguish of someone who has been a devotee of Rishi Aurobindo. The issue has to be confronted frontally; it cannot be just wished away by nice talking.

If my words hurt you, you are free to hurl at me, I will not mind it; but the issue has to be confronted. And I would suggest now that Auroville has to have a set of guidelines, agreed norms how to conduct its affairs, in terms of who should be allowed to come, who should be in Auroville, what are some common minimum activities which are consistent or necessary for being a sadhak in this process of our forward journey. These norms should and MUST be there.

We have 50 years plus. We have made some significant achievements, there's no doubt about it, but these achievements in the physical domain are not everything. The core has to be respected, the core has to be restored. So I would request every dear friend of mine present here, and those who could not make it due to some circumstances; let us not get passionate, let us not get angry at each other. Think over it.

Because I am telling it plainly: to let the status quo continue is not acceptable. Because India cannot afford for Auroville to decline, Auroville to move away from the ideal.

Auroville has to be spiritually strengthened, and of course materially reinforced as well, for which we need to have some set of norms...

I have always maintained that Auroville should be managed by Aurovilians; there should not be any external interference—this is the ideal situation. But when we see that the Auroville community, which is a small community, is not able to reach a consensus, and this is not the first time.

The Auroville Foundation Act's preamble states how the Emergency Provisions Act was brought in, because there were very serious internal difficulties in the management of Auroville and so the government had to step in. Now, we don't like the government to step in again. We would like Auroville to grow with the cooperation and goodwill of all the Aurovilians to make it what is its destiny.

But certainly Auroville is not a place for... Yes, some people said that we are helping the farmers. I asked how they are helping the farmers—they said they are helping them do productive farming. I asked, where did you learn farming? He was quiet. What is your expertise in farming? He says 10 years back, we were in Bangalore for 2 weeks learning something about farming.

First thing is, it is a 10 year old technique. Secondly, did you try it in Auroville? As a demonstration? We do not have any demonstration farm at Auroville for the farmers to come and see; so why should a farmer of the neighboring village trust you? Simply for you to say that you are helping the farmers is not convincing. You don't have the requisite qualification to guide the farmers.

Somebody says yes, but for Auroville, I would have been lost. I come from a very poor background, my parents were very poor, and we have come. Very good—Auroville helped you and gave you a home and very, very noble land.

But tell me, how is it different from, in Tenkasi, there are people who from the last 45 years have committed themselves to rehabilitating the physically disabled, 24/7 they have been working, committing their own resources, and they have helped more than 40,000 disabled people. Their life is devoted to Seva.

How is it different from Villupuram in this very district, where there is a place where one young couple, for the last 12 years, have been helping the mentally disabled, intellectually deficient, autistic people. They also acquired a barren piece of land, and now they are growing into farming. They have rehabilitated more than 500 intellectually disabled people. They had invited me; I had to go over there and was so happy to see and touched by the sense of service, that as young persons after doing MBA and all that, they could have had a chance to go and do a good living. They chose to devote their lives to people who are marginalized and ignored by society; mentally disabled, autistic children. Both husband and wife. I was so touched when I found in front of me, one child of about 12 years, retching and the man went over and caught the vomit in his hand. That sense of service!

But that is not Auroville. Tenkasi, those who have helped

more than 40000, is not Auroville. Auroville is for more than that, but here we don't see that.

I think there are people who are very, very anguished here. As I told you, when I met them, I saw their tears flowing. Their silence was so loud, so loud, they could not speak, but their silence... they were so anguished. I think we need to restore the ideal. We have to have some agreed norms for being in Auroville.

Following certain norms may not be strict, of course, nobody says it has to be a strict line that everyone has to follow, that independence has to be with every Aurovilian, but that freedom is that of the sadhak, not just of anybody else. We need to do that. As far as the physical manifestation of the Master Plan is concerned, the question is, when the Master Plan was prepared, in consultation with the Residents' Assembly, and it was in process for more than a decade and then it was notified, the question is: Do we revisit it?

There are people in Auroville who tell me not to go ahead. There are people who say this is not the way, we have to change it. The question is, do we keep revisiting a decision arrived through due process? I think if we continue doing that, there will not be any end to it. Here today, we have come, the GB has come to you, to clearly spell out the concern that we have, and to appeal to you and urge you all to be dispassionate and think it over.

Think over it—how do we develop Auroville? How do we keep the ideals of Auroville?

We—when I say 'I', I am talking on behalf of the GB, it's not individual—would be very happy to have your mails. As I told you, several hundreds of Aurovilians have come and met me. We are open to meeting you all. I am open, I hear. We are not short of time as far as listening is concerned, and come up with your ideas. But we also cannot keep waiting endlessly.

I would appeal to you all, if you have some suggestions, please send us a mail in the next one week. What do you wish for? How should it be according to you, and what should be the agreed norms for the sadhaks, for the Aurovilians to follow. And let us come away from these arguments which are essentially materialistic in nature. Those things are there, as far as the Master Plan is concerned, all those things there, those thing

*Shri R.N. Ravi,
Unity Pavilion, 7 November*

SOME RESPONSES FROM AUROVILIANS TO SHRI R.N. RAVI, CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

Olivier Barot, Revelation

Auroville 11.11.2022

Your Excellency, as we have been asked to write to you about the way forward for Auroville in a positive and constructive way, I would like to say a few words about the organization of Auroville.

We do know for a long time here that the way Auroville has been organized in the last few decades didn't correspond to the ideals we are seeking for and throughout all these years we did many researches and experiments about new ways like the studies about Prosperity, the Active Residents Assembly, the Citizen Assembly, Dream Weavers and many others.

But we are here in uncharted territories and everything needs to be discovered, invented, experimented and, as in any real adventure, mistakes and wanderings are bound to happen and when they come, they always come to teach us something.

But truly, we are looking for Something Else. We do not know what, we do not know how and we don't want to pretend anything but we are all here seeking and aspiring to a New World, despite all our shortcomings.

Not a spiritual society, not a materialist society, as they are both opposite and exclusive to each other, but a **third position** which has been called Divine Materialism and which much reconcile these two opposite poles of existence into a more complete expression of life and evolution...

Today, as it stands at the centre of Auroville, Matrimandir can be seen as a good expression of our collective sadhana to manifest this Divine Materialism through Karma Yoga. But there is much more too... our schools, kitchens, forests, communities, farms... and all what has been done in the last 54 years with an urge to express perfection in matter.

This being said, it is clear that Mother had seen Auroville as being organized on her idea of **Divine Anarchy**, a society that is governed by the soul. The individual soul and the collective soul. This is the whole meaning of a Gnostic Society as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo in *The Life Divine*.

And this is why, as stated by the Mother in *Her Dream*, Auroville should be a place "where all human beings of goodwill who have a sincere aspiration could live freely as citizens of the world and obey **one single authority, that of the supreme truth**".

These statements are profound and not easy to understand. What is this Supreme Truth, for instance? But fortunately, we have the great chance to have the recording of one of Sri Kireet Joshi's talk about Self-Governance in Auroville, a talk in which he clearly explained the meaning of what the Mother envisaged as Divine Anarchy.

I would like to invite you, Sir, to read a short extract of this talk as it might be of crucial importance for the future re-organization of Auroville if we truly wish to do in the spirit of the Charter and the Dream:

• Sri Kireet Joshi's Talk—19 July 2003 (extracts)

"When The Mother declared the Charter of Auroville in 1968, She declared it very clearly: "Auroville does not belong to anybody". This was the underlined idea for proclaiming true self governance of Auroville. When She declared "to live in Auroville one must be a willing servitor of the Divine consciousness", She defined what is self governance, true self governance of Auroville. It is soul governance, it is governance by the Divine. To declare that this Auroville has to be governed only by one authority, the authority of the truth, the authority of the Divine. And there is a true meaning of "self governance".

Now this proposition is completely new in the history of the world. Never was any group, any country, created with this declaration that this whole concept, this land, this experience is dedicated to the Divine and Divine alone. So, to my mind, the real conception of self governance is : Auroville governed by the Divine's will, in which the Divine is recognized as an authority and, therefore, no other authority at all... This is the starting point.

Today we need urgently to prepare a procedure so that people from Auroville can take decisions freely even without the need of temporary and small intervention of the Governing Board in the future. Let such a situation not arise. And let us therefore create such procedures by which we can have arrival and fulfillment of the Divine's will.

Now many people say we are not ready for Divine's will, we are still very ordinary. May answer is: this is a very superficial understanding of Auroville. I have seen hundreds of people in Auroville totally dedicated to the Divine's consciousness. I have seen myself and I can tell you truly... even this morning I had a meeting with young people and they all have given to me their personal statement, and I am very happy to say that all of them are very happy to be in Auroville. This is a very great thing. When the youth of a society is happy with the society, all is well. All of them have written to me they are very happy to be in Auroville. It's a very good finding, you might say. And this can come about only if the inner spirit is burning. Therefore if some people say, oh, we are not ready for it, I will say : no, please, you are not right. I will urge you, please, develop your procedures in such a way that you can discover the Divine's will.

Our search must be to create such a system, or such a lack of system, such a lack of machinery—because machinery always blunts the life force—such a procedure, which is not a procedure, so that there is delicacy in the development of relationship of people—there is tact, flexibility, plasticity, swiftness and there is a possibility of variation of the system according to the situation. A machine cannot vary according to different circumstances but a machinery created by human beings dedicated to the Divine's will can create a system by which it can vary according to the needs, according to the circumstances, according to the people—and this task is given to us as a matter of experiment.

Sri Aurobindo wrote a very important essay in "The Ideal of Human Unity": *Inadequacy of the State idea*. Now, remember, we are not to make a State when we make the Residents Assembly and its functioning. The State is an inadequate idea and we should not create a state. **Auroville should be a LIVING BODY**. And this is experiment and if this is not attempted, I would say we are doing nothing. If you are going to create the kind of machinery which every parliament is doing everywhere in the world then we are not making any experiment, we are not moving forward according to what we have to create.

I will read out to you the sentence that Sri Aurobindo has written, how the state normally acts and, therefore, by implication how we have to avoid it: "The State is bound to act crudely and in the mass; it is incapable of that free, harmonious and intelligently or instinctively varied action which is proper to organic growth. For the State is not an organism; it is a machinery, and it works like a machine, without tact, taste, delicacy or intuition. It tries to manufacture, but what humanity is here to do is to grow and create." *Sri Aurobindo, the Ideal of Human Unity*.

I would like to say that all people should think about it, study, create such a procedure in Auroville that Divine's will is manifested. I would like to say very clearly, I do not like when it is said that the Residents Assembly is the Authority. No. The Authority is only ONE in Auroville—the Divine. And do not say the Divine is some abstract idea, not at all. It was said in the Supreme Court by somebody that when The Mother declared the 'Auroville belongs to nobody in particular but to humanity as a whole', it was contended that this was only a platitude written by The Mother. It's not true. It's really meant.

Therefore how shall we make our procedure in such a way that the Divine's will is manifested? But if you don't do it we are not working for Auroville at all. There is only one authority, The Mother has said in the very first line of The Dream, there must be a place somewhere where nobody can claim authority except the Truth. And this is where we are. We have to do it. And I'm happy to say all this because I know that in Auroville there are hundreds of people who are very-very keen that this Ideal is realised. Therefore we are here for that purpose and nothing else. We don't want anything short of it. How many people have come to me and told me this? Therefore if anybody says "Oh, this is not possible", I will categorically say: this is not true. If you can't do it, it means you haven't made the effort. Actually Mother has said: "Do not attempt, succeed". And I think we have to do it. And I think we can do it."

Sri Kireet Joshi

Today, at this important crossroad of our life, I can only agree with what Sri Kireet Joshi told us in 2003 and I would like to urge you to consider this possibility as an opening to a higher perspective for the present crisis.

Sincerely yours, Olivier Barot

"All life is yoga. Therefore, one cannot live without practising the supreme yoga. The opposition between spirituality and material life, the division between the two, has no meaning for me, for in truth life and the spirit are one and it is in and by physical work that the highest spirit must manifest." The Mother

"Yoga is skill in works." Bhagavad Gita

Ancolie

Dear Honourable Thiru R.N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu and chairman of the Governing Board,

"The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."
By Rabindranath Tagore, a very close friend of Sri Aurobindo.

Thank you for visiting Auroville on November 7. Many of us were unsure how the meeting would develop but we did wish to have been able to ask you questions and convey to you our deepest aspirations and concerns of the moment.

When Auroville first began in 1968, the soil was a barren, desert-like piece of land with only one banyan tree and a few palmyras. This was the only vegetation for miles. Stretching from the canyons down into the Bay of Bengal, the land was completely eroded, not even farmers could use.

Days and nights were spent by some good willing servitors of the Divine Consciousness to make this land habitable again by understanding the land, creating bunds to prevent the water runoff and soil erosion thus enabling plants and trees to grow creating shade and a cooler climate for everyone. **Through this afforestation work, Auroville has become world renown.**

I don't believe anybody living in Auroville here today is against development and the persistent narrative that green work is by its nature anti-development is incorrect and misleading. Well managed forests and green spaces are an integral part of the city that Auroville wants to be.

The IAC, the GB and Aurovilians need to wake up to the fact that only 25 % of the master plan's greenbelt has been bought and that the land prices have skyrocketed or have been bought by private land estate developers. It's too late to talk about a Master plan **UNLESS** the govt of Tamil Nadu protects this area, with a **NOVEL PLAN** in its entirety and doesn't let anyone buy any land within this designated area. Land exchange without prior consultation and agreement with the Residents assembly is not at all the solution and will only create more division.

According to facts and figures **over the past 40 years, 30 % of the forest cover the world over has been cut down.** Tamil Nadu continues to remain the most urbanised and fast-growing state in India. The vegetal cover acting as a protective buffer zone for the regulation of the temperature is gone, the exposed spaces heat up drastically. We have to wake up to this reality and save whatever forests we have not only for the earth itself, but for the survival of the human species.

Of course, we understand that some trees need to be cut but the pattern in which development has been pursued over the last months is detrimental to the long-term health of Auroville and the bioregion. The forests in Auroville are mostly in the green belt, and what has been planted in the Master Plan area will be transformed into forested parks, according to the Galaxy concept. Darkali and Revelation are excellent examples of that, which shows "landscaped" areas but also wild forest.

We find there's not much respect and consideration for the work done because actually forests **help with pollution control, they recharge the water aquifers, they regulate the temperature, they create soil for farming etc. Forests are our ally.** I quote Sir David Attenborough: "Forests are a fundamental component of our planet's recovery. They are the best technology nature has for locking away carbon and are centres for biodiversity. The wilder the forests are, the better they are absorbing carbon from the atmosphere."

Our forests are very unique, most of the evergreen trees are perfectly adapted to our environment in terms of being cyclone, drought and water surplus resistant. The seeds mostly come from remnants of sacred groves from the surrounding areas. **We remain shocked at all the destruction and environmental damage that has been done over the last months.**

The green cover is why Auroville is so attractive to Indians who live in big metropolitan cities. Because it's green. Green elevates and calms the soul. It is because a city is green that one becomes more relaxed and yes more spiritual. Development, in this modern day, has to be done

hand in hand with nature. To restore stability on earth today, amongst others, the standards of living need to be raised and there needs to be more green jobs available.

Most of the trouble on our planet is due to **bad planning and human error** and unfortunately in Auroville too. Moreover, to instil fear on our visa situation and economy and internal functioning is against unity, and it certainly cannot be called collaboration. We aspire for human unity yet all we do is create more and more division.

For flowers to grow they need the right conditions, so it is for humans. Auroville is for humans to grow into something more noble and more Divine and unite with their souls and their true nature. If we are to work harmoniously together, we need to have the right conditions and then our differences can be a source of innovation and creativity, where we can become our best selves and create a beautiful society.

A good friend wrote, someone who only got a 3 months visa: *"A city governed by the principles of the Charter, a city where its citizens exemplify diversity united around one spiritual goal, that is Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's gift to the world and that we believe is the city the earth needs. That is the city we are committed to serve, to build and ...to plant."*

Our goal is to become yogis, seekers of the Truth. Falsehood, greed for power and money has no place in Auroville.

In India all sages and rishis even the Buddha took refuge in nature, or just found bliss under a tree.

Thank you, Spiritual India, thank you Government of India for hosting Auroville, thank you Sri Aurobindo for enlightening our minds, thank you sweet Mother for your infinite and timeless love. And a big thank you to all the sages, seers and saints for paving the way from darkness to light.

Ancolie

Rod Hemsell

9 November, 2022

To: *The Chairman of the Auroville Foundation, Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri R. N. Ravi*

Regarding your invitation to the Auroville community to respond to your presentation of Nov. 6, 2022, this is my response, including a few suggestions.

The purpose of Auroville is the evolution of a new collective consciousness to which thousands of people have dedicated their lives for the past five decades. By fixating on the plan to build a city for 50,000 inhabitants, you seem to have ignored the level of human commitment that such an outer manifestation requires, and also the substantial progress that it has already achieved, although you have made passing references to these things.

You have heard or read ideas about Auroville's collective purpose expressed by those who were closest to the Mother at Auroville's commencement, such as Roger Anger and Kireet Joshi. Many of us have also heard these ideas from them, as well as from the Mother herself. The message we have received through working with them is that the inner development of the human being through dedication to the Divine is the essence and truth of Auroville, necessary in order to realize its destined outer development, and the ideal of human unity.

By assuming that building a concrete city is the first priority of Auroville, you have authorized actions that are contrary to the truth of Auroville and detrimental to its progress and the realization of its aims. Because of this, court cases have been undertaken against the AVFO, and members of the community have repeatedly voted in large numbers against such detrimental actions. You say that you find it difficult to understand this opposition. I would like to address your difficulty, and to offer some suggestions for moving forward.

We implore you to reverse the approach that you have taken to the reorganization of Auroville based on erroneous assumptions, and to adopt a wiser approach that restores harmony and order to the collective process of Auroville's development.

You unfortunately do not seem inclined to follow such a course of action. It is unfortunate, too, that you consider

your opinions and judgments about Auroville's stewardship and sadhana to be more correct than and superior to those of the residents of Auroville. It is disconcerting that you say Auroville's development should be the responsibility of Aurovilians and yet you persistently demean their commitment and achievement. You seem to consider the commitment of their lives, sometimes for family generations, as a violation of principle and a sign of ownership and entitlement to be shunned, broken, churned and disrupted, so that your mission can be achieved.

In order for you to see yourselves as the saviors of Auroville it seems necessary for you to see Auroville as a place of deviation from its ideals, and a habitat for people who have lost their way. It seems easy for you because you are not an Aurovilian and you do not share the commitment and experience of Auroville; you consequently do not perceive and understand the level of devotion to its ideals that their lives represent.

You are experiencing difficulty with these things because your judgments are based on preconceptions, and you are motivated by an attitude of self-importance and superiority, to which you are accustomed as an official of the government. Your statements have made your position abundantly clear. Unfortunately the point of view that you express regarding the nature of Auroville, the vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, the Charter, and the role of the Governing Board in relation to these things is distorted and misguided by a certain attitude of self-righteousness and authority that prevents you from seeing the truth of these things. The difficulties that you have and the distortions that you perceive are a reflection of your own misconceptions.

Auroville is not the place that you have described in your presentation. It is not a place without norms where the ideals on which it is based have been compromised. It is not a place where service to the community and its surrounding populations have been neglected, or where a sense of collective purpose and well-being has been lost. These thoughts and impressions are a projection of some confusion about many unrelated ideas, concerns, and experiences of life that occupy your own mind. The distorted view of Auroville that you have expressed is a false view. And such a distorted view cannot possibly be the basis of any form of resolution of the difficulties of Auroville at present, most of which have arisen primarily due to your erroneous assumptions and misguided interventions.

Let me, therefore, suggest a few simple corrections to this view and course of action that might be made so that we can find a path forward together that could be more fruitful. The separation that you have made between the Auroville Charter and the laws of India, on the one hand, and the management structure defined by the Auroville Act, on the other hand, asserting that the former are of primary importance and the latter do not matter, is erroneous and must be rethought by you. These things are in fact a unity. The Auroville Act is a law. The governance structure is an instrument of the Charter and, as such, it matters a great deal.

The Master Plan was never set in stone; it was the product of immediate, practical circumstances. It is unfortunate that the government did not see fit to step in and fund it at the time, but that would probably not have been appropriate. However, you must understand that "revision" is an inherent part of the Master Plan, by definition. To revise it after 10 years is the normal course of such an instrument, and not a deviation. Similarly, the norms of life in Auroville were defined by the Mother and are embodied in a living way by the lives of the residents in an evolving way, in accordance with the Mother's guidelines. It is an inherent necessity and responsibility of Aurovilians to adhere to them, and their lives are a constant endeavor to do so. But such norms, with their developing interpretations and applications, cannot be dictated by an external authority; they are a product and expression of the swabhava of Auroville. To attempt to alter them, improve them, determine them from outside the life of Auroville would be a violation of the norms themselves, and the attempt to do so will naturally be rejected like a disease from the body and mind of an

organism. It is you who are violating the norms of Auroville, not the Aurovilians.

The answer to your question, Why is there such opposition and resistance to our intervention?, is that the authoritarian, destructive, disruptive nature of your approach is the wrong approach to solving any of Auroville's problems. It is contrary to the spirit and truth of Auroville. It is not Auroville and Aurovilians that need to be corrected; it is your approach and the intention of your intervention that were wrong from the beginning.

If you have truly studied the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo, you will know of the central importance to sadhana, and to the processes of the world in general, of the factor of Time. One of your fundamental errors has been the leap you make in your conception of Auroville's development between 2010 and 2020, and your attempt to connect a past with a present, excluding the significant movement that has taken place in between. The past decade has borne the fruition of the previous decade and forms the basis of the next decade. There is an inevitable continuity that you have failed to consider. My sincere request is that you make an effort to understand this reality of the movement of Time, which is an expression of the Divine Will. If you can attune yourself to that reality, it will be easier for you to rectify the disjointed and erroneous nature of your conceptions. The future can only be built on the reality of the past; to ignore this reality of Time can only be the cause of disharmony and destruction. You have asked for suggestions and advice, and I am responding to your request as sincerely and frankly as I can.

My comments are not made from a vacuum, nor are they random reactions to an unpleasant disruption of the status quo. I have been present at the foundation of Auroville, at the first government intervention, at the formulation of the Master Plan, and throughout the productive period of interaction between the Residents' Assembly, the IAC, and the GB between 2010 and 2020. I have participated actively in Auroville's educational development, taught courses and published books on Sri Aurobindo's philosophy, and graduated many students from village families with hardly even a secondary education, who have gone on to earn Bachelor's and Master's degrees. In the 70s I was associated with AVARD and published articles in their journal, at a time when your party was on the verge of its first brief assumption of power. I have taught Indian political science and I know something about the subject; I have lectured at MS University in Varodra.

I speak from the experience of Auroville, and I say to you that your attempt to deny and disrupt the integrity of the Residents' Assembly and its legitimate role in the development of Auroville is contrary to the purpose of the Auroville Act and contrary to the Charter of Auroville. I sincerely implore you, as I stated in the beginning of this letter to you, to take my observations into serious consideration, reverse your course, and restore integrity, harmony, and order to the collective process of Auroville's development.

You have made harsh but revealing judgments regarding the soul of Auroville and the Bhakti of Auroville, about which you know nothing. You claim to know the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo based on what you have read and the conceptions you have formed, but these have not enabled you to grasp the soul, the *sadhana*, and the *swabhava* of Auroville. You have condemned Auroville's commercial activity without understanding that it was emphasized by the Mother, along with the creation of an industrial zone, because it is essential to the growth of Auroville. You have not grasped the fact that Auroville is a township devoted to the Divine and not an ashram. You have failed to make these fundamental distinctions because you are not one of those who have dedicated their lives to Auroville and for whom its truth is a reality. When you say, "The core has to be respected, the core has to be restored," let this aspiration be directed to your own soul, and let your mind grasp the truth of Auroville on a higher, wider, more holistic, more inspired plane of consciousness. Then let us realize that unity and universality about which you have spoken.

Rod Hemsell, November 9, 2022

Accessible Auroville Public Bus

avbus@auroville.org.in, +91 94430 74825



Auroville TO PONDICHERRY

	Trip 1	Trip 2	Trip 3
Svaram Musical Center	7:00	8:50	14:50
Veite Guest house—Junction	7:02	8:52	14:52
Town Hall—Main Parking	7:06	8:56	14:56
Solar Kitchen (Round About)	7:10	9:00	15:00
Certitude Enterance	7:12	9:02	15:02
New Creation Road	7:17	9:07	15:07
SBI Bank—Kuilapalayam	7:19	9:09	15:09
ECR Junction—Aroma Guest House	7:23	9:14	15:14
Quiet Healing Center—Junction	7:26	9:17	15:17
Lotus Hotel—S.V Patel Salai	7:36	9:30	15:30
Ashram Road Junction	7:38	9:33	15:33
Ashram Dinning Hall	7:40	9:35	15:35



Pondicherry TO AUROVILLE

	Trip 1	Trip 2	Trip 3
Ashram Dinning Hall	8:00	12:15	18:10
Ashram Road Junction	8:02	12:17	18:12
Lotus Hotel—S.V Patel Salai	8:07	12:22	18:17
Quiet Healing Center—Junction	8:17	12:32	18:27
ECR Junction—Aroma Guest House	8:20	12:35	18:30
SBI Bank—Kuilapalayam	8:25	12:40	18:35
New Creation Road	8:27	12:42	18:37
Certitude	8:32	12:47	18:42
Solar Kitchen—Round about	8:34	12:50	18:44
Town hall Main Parking	8:38	12:54	18:48
Verite Guest House—Junction	8:42	12:58	18:52
Svaram Musical Center	8:45	13:00	18:55

- Monthly Rs.800 (Aurovilians & Newcomers/ No validity)
- Student Pass Rs.1200 per month/ 24 days round trip.
- Rs.150 Round trip for Aurovilians & New comers
- Rs.200 Round trip for guests.
- Bus passes are available at Auroville Vehicle Service, Town Hall, Auroville, 0413 2623302

Emergency Services

Ambulance (24/7): Auroville—9442224680

- PIMS—0413 2656271

Security (24/7):

- Auroville Safety & Security Team—9443090107
- Auroville Police Station—0413 2677318
- Kottakuppam Police Station—0413 2236148
- Vanur Fire Station—0413 2677368

Health: Health Center—0413 2622123

- Santé—0413 2622803
- Farewell—8903836246

Mental health 24/7 support: Matram—9487746051

India Emergency Response Service (24/7): 108