

News and Notes

No. 818

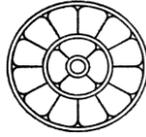
A Weekly Bulletin for residents of Auroville

16th May 2020



Dance performance during Auroville's 50th Anniversary festivities

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



25 September 1965

The Mother: Ah! What have you brought? Is the *Bulletin* finished? **Satprem:** Except for the aphorism. **M:** What is it?

111 - Knowledge is a child with its achievements; for when it has found out something, it runs about the streets whooping and shouting; Wisdom conceals hers for a long time in a thoughtful and mighty silence.

M: This is an experience I had some two years ago. What he says here, I had the living experience of it - half a day of living experience; at the time I could have told you very interesting things, but now I find it old, old, so old, far behind.

S: I'd like to ask you a question, and it's linked to what you said just now, when you had that fever while lying on your bed, and above, you said, there was a wonderful, immutable Peace - what's the power of that Peace? What's the power of that Silence? When one rises above, one enters a sort of vast silence, frozen, all-pervading, but what's the power of that silence? Does it do anything?

M: That's what people in the past used to seek when they wanted to get out of life: they would go into a trance, leave their bodies still, and then they would enter that, and they would be perfectly happy. And for the Sannyasins who got themselves buried alive, it was the same thing; they said, "Now my work is over" (they would make beautiful sentences), "it is over, and I am going into samadhi." And they would have themselves buried alive; they would enter a room or whatever, then it would be closed, and it was all over. And that's what happened: they would go into a trance, and naturally after a time their bodies would dissolve, while they were in Peace.

S: But Sri Aurobindo says this Silence is "mighty." **M:** Mighty, yes. **S:** Well, I'd like in fact to know in what way it is mighty? Because you have a feeling that you could stay in it for an eternity... **M:** Not for an eternity - for Eternity. **S:** ... without its changing anything.

M: Yes, because it isn't manifested, it's outside the manifestation. But what Sri Aurobindo wants is for us to bring it down here. That's just the difficulty. That's it. And one must accept infirmity and the very appearance of stupidity and everything, and there isn't one being in fifty million (Sri Aurobindo told me I was the only one!... [laughing] It may be so!) who has the courage for that. Just yesterday I was looking at this body, and there were no... the reactions that might be called "personal" were truly reduced to an imperceptible minimum, which means there was a sense... I can't say a "universal" sense because it's not certain that Matter in other universes follows the same law, I don't know (I don't know - I once knew: there was a time when I was in contact with this and that and I could have said, but now I don't want to concern myself with it: I am concerned only with the earth). Because this is always there, too: the possibility of escaping by going elsewhere. Lots of people did that in fact: they went off elsewhere, into another, more or less subtle world. Of course, there are millions of ways to escape - there is only one way to stay, and that's to truly have courage and endurance, to accept all the appearance of infirmity, the appearance of powerlessness, the appearance of incomprehension, the appearance, yes, of a negation of the Truth. But if one doesn't accept all that, nothing will ever be changed! Those who want to remain great, luminous, strong, powerful and what have you, well, let them stay up there, they can do nothing for the earth. And it's a very small thing (a very small thing because the consciousness is sufficient not to be affected in the least), but the incomprehension is so general and total! In other words, you receive abuse, expressions of contempt and all the rest, precisely because of what you do, because according to them (all the "great intelligences" of the earth), you have renounced your divinity. They don't say it like that, they say, "What? You claim to have a divine consciousness, and then..." And this manifests in everyone and every circumstance. Now and then, someone for a moment has a flash, but that's quite exceptional, while "Well, show your power!", that's everywhere.

S: For them, the Divine on earth must be all-powerful, obviously.

M: That's right: "Show your power, change the world. And to begin with, do as I want; because the first, most important thing is to do what I want - show your power"! (long silence) Ah, but this won't do for an aphorism, it's not an answer to what Sri Aurobindo says! No, I told you, I had the experience long ago. I remember, it was so lovely, so clear, so luminous, and I expressed it so well to myself (!), it would have made a very nice little article! But now it's there, behind (gesture over the shoulder), far, far behind. So I don't know what to do. I think unless you have a question to ask (but you see the condition!), we'll take up our Savitri.

(to be continued next week)

Volume 6. 1965: Agenda of the Supramental Action Upon Earth

P.S. There's a new HOMA page on the Auroville website: <https://www.auroville.org/contents/1085>

The
Ponder
Corner

When you want to prepare something within you, that is how it is, it is like the chick in the egg. You need a very long time, and this without having the least result, never getting discouraged, and continuing your effort, absolutely regularly, as though you had eternity before you and, moreover, as though you were quite disinterested about the result. You do the work because you do it. And then, suddenly, one day, it bursts and you see before you the full result of your work.



-The Mother

Covid-19 UPDATE

From the WC/Covid19 Task Force (from 10th May):

We have requested and received information from the Vanur Block Medical Officer about cases as of yesterday, May 9th, in the Vanur Block in which Auroville is located. We are sharing this with the community for awareness and to address the rumors and fears of cases in our neighboring villages. There are currently about 20 Covid-19 positive cases (19 active, Kottakuppam case has recovered) in Vanur Block (see map [here](#)). Most of them are in around Eraiyur village (8 cases) close to Mailam (western edge of Vanur Block). The rest of the cases (that are closer to us) are as follows:

- Vanur Colony -- 5 cases
- Pulichipallam -- 3 cases
- Kiliyanur -- 1 case
- Nallavur -- 1 case
- Nesal -- 1 case (this person didn't have any contact locally and lives in an isolated house which has been quarantined)

Although there are containment zones around these cases and no one should be leaving those zones, *if any of your workers come from any of these areas, please ensure that they do not come to work until the area has been declared clear.* Also, if you have friends/relatives in these villages, it is highly advised that you don't visit them, and they shouldn't be visiting you here in Auroville. We will update the community (and the map) as and when we receive information about more cases in the coming days. Thank you all for your continued patience and support.

Visitors not to be encouraged to come to Auroville - You may have heard that some domestic travel has resumed (special trains only) and some more domestic travel relaxations might be coming in the near future. We would like to remind you that **we are still in a state of lockdown** and there is still a danger of spread of the virus. **Auroville is still not taking new guests and this situation will continue until further notice.** Therefore, even if some people are now able to travel, please do not encourage any visitors to come to Auroville, including family members or friends.

We look forward to your understanding and cooperation in this, in order to continue to keep Auroville and its immediate neighbors safe. - The Working Committee and Covid-19 Task Force

Guidelines for Workplaces - This attached document has instructions on ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace after the relaxation of the lockdown. Ideally, this needs to be followed for coming months until the Covid-19 pandemic is under control. We would like to ask Unit Executives / Managers to review their workplace/office setting, so that they reorganize it to accommodate these protocols.

This Govt Order (<https://stopcorona.tn.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/lock-down-go.pdf>) contains SOPs, but the guidelines attached below are more elaborate and made specifically for Auroville context. We recommend all Unit holders to read Annexure 4 of the Govt Order which is for offences and punishments, for their information. Thank you,-
Covid-19 Task Force (with the support of the Working Committee)

 [Workplaces premises guidelines .pdf](#)

Pondy passes- We often receive requests to issue passes for employees living in Pondicherry to come to Auroville. The Working Committee, however, cannot issue a pass to any person from Pondicherry to come to Auroville and go back, or vice versa. For that, a letter co-signed by both the Collector of Villupuram District as well as the Collector of Pondicherry will be required. This procedure may take quite some time. According to the Puducherry Government Order of 6th May, movement into and out of Pondicherry is allowed without passes for medical purposes either with an ambulance or in a taxi with an appointment letter from a doctor or medical facility. Transport of supplies, both essential and non-essential, is allowed using cargo vehicles/load carriers. Be aware that things may change as the realities on the ground change.

ITS, UTS and Sunrise Taxi have passes to go to Pondy for medical purposes. ITS offers this service free of charge.

From the BCC: You may be aware that the BCC has a **nutrition scheme allocated for paying Solar Kitchen lunch for children** during school holidays, when schools are closed. Because Solar Kitchen is closed and cannot give tiffin for children, this budget can be made available to parents who are in financial constraints and really need this extra support. If you feel this is an urgent need for you, please **send a request to bcc@auroville.org.in before 20th May '20** with

- the name of the parent
- account number for the transfer (it will be transferred to the KIND account)
- name and age of your child/children
- name of the school

For children aged 1-6 years the amount is Rs 1,000 per month.
For children aged 7-18 years the amount is Rs 1,500 per month.

For Newcomers, the lunch amount of Rs 1,730 is part of the monthly contributions to the School Participation fee.

If you are in a difficult financial situation and need to reduce it, please send your request with the above details to the following email address: bcc.checkpoint@auroville.org.in before 20th May '20

In case you have applied earlier and not received a budget, please send your request again. This is a temporary measure for the time of the COVID crisis for the month of May. In June we will have to review the situation again.

Sincerely, Christine, Enrica, Hans, Inge, Jacques, Mahi, Margarita, Meena, Rathinam, Stephanie

Current opening times for food outlets:

- PTDC from 8 am to 1 pm, with 8 to 9 reserved for those who are 60+
- PTPS from 9 am to 4 pm
- HERS from 8 am to 2 pm
- Foodlink - 10.30 to 12 for pre-prepared bags of mixed vegetables and fruits; milk as well as yoghurts will be delivered to those who have regular booking; dry goods will be delivered on request. Details are posted at <https://auroville.org.in/article/78629>
- Solar Kitchen: tiffin on order only. Leave tiffins by 9:30. **No mask; no tiffin!**

- Visitors Centre cafeteria Lunch pick up time 12.15 to 1.30; Evening pick up time. 6.30 to 8.30; <https://auroville.org.in/article/78600> (for full menu scroll down to comment)
- Aurelec Cafeteria: open daily (including Sunday) for tiffin order. Call between 9 - 10 AM for booking at 2622416 or 9245433988.
- Auroville Bakery and Cafe - 7:30 AM - 5 PM; <https://auroville.org.in/article/79393>
- Ganesh Bakery open for takeaway from 8AM to 5 PM.
- Breads & Chocolate - Sourdough bread is available on Tues/Thurs/Sat in our bakery in New Creation from 11:30AM to 1PM <https://auroville.org.in/article/78779>; Bread & Chocolate Store 9 am to 1 pm, Mon/Wed/Fri; <https://auroville.org.in/article/79333>
- Naturellement takeaway (open on Mondays also), 9am-5pm. For food deliveries, please place the order before 4.30pm <https://auroville.org.in/article/78517>
- Neem Tree eatery takeaway lunch time 11 am till 2 pm, dinner time 5:00 pm till 8:00 pm; <https://auroville.org.in/article/78604> and <https://auroville.org.in/article/78649>
- Dreamers Café - open for takeaway from 8am to 1pm (closed Tuesdays); <https://auroville.org.in/article/78937>
- Kafé Delights: 10am-4pm; <https://auroville.org.in/article/79427>
- La Maison at Kottakarai Plaza, 8am to 5pm; 9489956101 or WhatsApp 9843600701; <https://auroville.org.in/article/79448>
- Marc's Coffee - 8:30 AM -4:30 PM, <https://auroville.org.in/article/79494>

For the up-to-the-minute global stats junkie: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronaviru>

A perhaps relevant article: <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/110520/with-covid-poised-to-soar-pm-modi-to-confer-with-chief-ministers-again.htm>

Some Re-Opening Announcements (more on p.5):



Matrimandir Gardens open for Aurovilians & Newcomers

We are happy to inform all that the Matrimandir Gardens are now open to Aurovilians and Newcomers. Note: Guests, friends, pass holders etc. are not allowed yet.

Timings: 6 to 7:30 AM and 4:30 to 6:30 PM

Entry by office gate only. Please observe these points:

- No mask, no entry
- Sanitise hands at office gate
- Maintain social distancing - no groups

The Inner Chamber & Petals remain closed till further notice.
- The Matrimandir team

The Auroville Health Centre is now open 8am - 4pm.

SANTE Schedule Update: Sante is open for the full day during regular working hours, **Mon to Sat, 8:45-12:30 & 2 - 4:30 PM**. For a regular schedule of doctors and therapists, [see Auronet](http://seeAuronet.com). FMI, please call SANTE reception at (0413) 2622803.



ITS is now open from 9 to 5 PM for local taxis; pickup & deliveries; scooter & cycle rentals; and other mobility related services within

Auroville. To find out how ITS can support your transportation needs in an eco-friendly way, please visit us at our office opposite Solar Kitchen. You can also write to us - its@auroville.org.in or call us on any of these numbers: +91 8098776644 | +91 9442566256 | 0413 403 6913

ITS can now pickup and drop people travelling for medical emergencies to Pondicherry. The passengers should have relevant documents from a medical professional or a hospital for the visit. **Under current circumstances, ITS is offering this as a community service with no travel cost for patients.** ~ ITS team, +91 8098776644 | +91 9442566256

Tree Care services reopen

Our team of professional arborists are ready to take care of your trees again. We would love to help you with the pruning and maintenance of your garden/forest. We will be operating within Auroville only until further easing of lockdown measures. Please contact us to schedule an appointment. Phone: 9159843579, 9655477329, 9443658125
Email: office@treecareindia.com

Avdzines (Graphic Section) at Town Hall is open

Monday-Saturday: 9.30am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 5pm

Note that all measures for preventing possible spread of the virus (use of masks, physical distancing, use of sanitizer before entry) must still be respected.

Auroville Library is now open during our usual timings:

Mon - Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 2pm - 4.30pm

Tues: 4pm - 6.30pm

for returning and borrowing books (no reading or studying onsite). Please wear a mask and wash your hands before entering the library. At the moment we cannot provide drinking water so bring your own flask. We look forward to receiving your overdue books! You can search through our catalogue of books on our website: library.auroville.org.in/ 0413 2622 894; avlib@auroville.org.in

Cycle Kiosk Open Mornings



You may have noticed the Kiosk was not fully 'closed' - some small urgent repairs got done by the Aurovillian in-charge even while we were 'closed' these past weeks. Now we will be open mornings again, as long as things continue in the current trend, however we don't know if this will be maintained. So, it is a good time to take care of pending cycle repairs if you need some.

A reminder - Cycle Kiosk does not 'make money.' - it is a break even venture and has no reserves. If your FS account is empty, it would be better to defer service, as it is really difficult to manage if people delay covering the cost of their repairs for weeks or months. Hope to see you and your cycle soon.
-AV Cycle Kiosk Team

Mattram is open for consultation from 18th May, with necessary precautions like wearing of masks, sanitizers and sharing of health history. To book an appointment (required), write to us at mattram@auroville.org.in. For more info visit www.mattramav.in.

Le Morgan Café is now open daily 8-5 for takeaway - breakfast (idli/dosai, omettes, samosas), veg and non-veg meals and pancakes. Menu will be posted on Auronet. We advise you to order one day before. Bring your tiffin/boxes. Ph: 262-2832 or 948-647-5968

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From the BCC: Financial Support during this emergency

The FAMC and the BCC realize that many people may require financial support during this emergency. There are a few options that people in need may consider.

- Temporary Emergency Maintenance
- Contribution reduction or suspension
- Loan restructuring or suspension

Please be aware that any of these measures reduces our pool of money and consequently our ability to support everyone.

Please only make these requests if you are truly in need. Currently, Children's Maintenances are not included; the BCC and the FAMC will look into the possibility of including some Children's Maintenances.

Temporary Emergency Maintenance

A temporary emergency maintenance (TEM) budget has been created under the BCC. The TEM will run from May to August 2020. The FAMC and BCC will review the situation at the beginning of August to assess if it can and should be extended.

It is meant for Aurovilians working in activities, units or services who are no longer able to receive a maintenance from their unit or service due to the Covid-19 emergency, AND truly are in need. The maintenance will be the same as a half-time City Service maintenance. The allocation shall be:

<u>Allocation Destination</u>	<u>Amount</u>
FS Cash Account	3,000
FS Kind Account	990
Health Fund	450
Lunch Scheme	1,870
In-Kind Scheme	1,700
Total	8,010

Anyone already receiving Rs. 8,010 or more should not apply.

The application must be made by the unit/activity on behalf of the individuals in need. Only those who are truly in need should apply:

1. The unit executives will first need to get the approval of the Trustees who will evaluate the health of the unit and send their recommendation to the BCC. As part of the approval, the Trustees must complete the Financial Health Check for the unit, if it has not already been done. This Excel Workbook has been sent to all Trustees and Units. After which,
2. The executive should contact BCC either by email (bccoffice@auroville.org.in) or by a visit to the Town Hall, 2nd Floor, in the morning (9:30 am to 12:30 pm).
3. BCC will then inform the unit if they are able to accommodate its request and it will then provide the unit with details, including starting date, and the amounts allocated.

This is being offered in the spirit of ensuring basic needs to all Aurovilians, as much as possible with our limited resources and in anticipation of a decline in the economy ahead of us in the near future.

Contribution Reduction or Suspension

Individual Aurovilians who are contributing as individuals may request the City Service Contribution Group (cscontribution@auroville.org.in) to reduce or suspend their contribution. This group will review your situation.

Activities and Units that can no longer make contributions for Aurovilians working in the unit should apply to the BCC (bcc@auroville.org.in). The BCC will review the unit's request.

Loan Restructuring or Suspension

Loan restructuring means reducing the payments and paying over a longer period of time. Loan suspension means suspending payments. Aurovilians and Units that have loans

and are no longer able to make loan payments may request their loan to be restructured or suspended.

Unit loans have been allocated by the ABC Support Group via the ABC Loan Fund. Therefore, units with loans should approach the ABC Research Group for restructuring or payment suspension (abcoffice@auroville.org.in). The ABC Research Group will forward their recommendation to the Loan Group.

Individual, Housing, and Education Loans have been allocated via Financial Service. If your loan is more than 1 lakh, it may be considered for restructuring or suspension.

You may contact Financial Service at financialservice@auroville.org.in

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Housing Assets available for transfer

Two homes are available for stewardship:

- Kalpana community (Single)
- New Creation community (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 new 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 group site visit.

For any questions, please feel free to come and see Svenja at Housing Service Office (once office is re-opened after lockdown). Thank you. -The Housing Service

Procurement of materials from Pondicherry

Now that there is some relaxation of the lockdown, it seems to be possible to resume procurement of needed equipment and materials from Pondicherry for Aurovilians and Auroville projects. Please let us know if you require any building materials or household appliances like air conditioner, ceiling fan, refrigerator etc. and we will do our best to provide you an estimate and procure it for you. Feel free to write to us at eps@auroville.org.in with any questions.

- Easy Procurement Solutions (Angelo, Balu, Iyyappan)

SEWA has moved to the Town Hall area - near Bluelight. We are currently open in the mornings only. - SEWA team

Delicious Bites has reopened for lunch time take-away, under a new name and new Kitchen Team: TRIO KITCHEN. We have a new menu for takeaway. Place your order via WhatsApp 8531044473 by 6pm the day before and state the number next to the item on the menu. Please see attached the menu and how to order :). We hope to see you all soon.

 [TrioKitchenMenu1205-1.pdf](#)

Freeland bookshop opens again

We are happy to announce that the bookshop is open again, every day from 10AM to 5PM. Our ever-growing stock of books on all subjects: organic farming, yoga, ayurveda, children, education and green architecture -to name just a few, are worth a look. You will find us on the Edayanchavadi road, right after the Visitors Centre parking.

Looking forward to seeing you!

- The Freeland team

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to ITS for offering transport for Pandy medical visits free of charge to community members. That's the spirit!

To KINISI for their wonderful KIM program - one of the best offers/services in Auroville. They have more now, so if you've been thinking about it, GO for it! I love my e-cycle! ~ Swaha US

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 037 - 16-05-2020

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers and Friends of Auroville. Prior to Newcomer, Aurovillian and Friend of Auroville status confirmation, there is a window for community feedback. For Newcomers, Associates and Friends of Auroville, two weeks, and for Aurovilians and Returning Aurovilians, one month.

Kindly forward your support or grievances to entryservice@auroville.org.in.

NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- Naomi SHTILMAN aka Omi (USA) staying in Surrender and working at Support Learning Satellite (Teachers' Centre)

NEWCOMER CONFIRMED:

- Saravana DEIVASIGAMANY (Indian)

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

- Suresh Babu VEDHANARAYANAN (Indian)
- Davide ROTA (Swiss)
- Iyanar SELVARAJ (aka Radha) (Indian)
- Subramani SAMIKKANNU (Indian)
- Vasanthan KUMARASWAMY (Indian)

RETURNING AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

- Kali JOUBERT (French)

CHILD OF RETURNING AUROVILIAN:

- Laya JOUBERT NEGRIT (French) Born on 15/12/2018 (Daughter of Kali JOUBERT)

FRIENDS OF AUROVILLE CONFIRMED:

- Jean Christophe MARZO (France)
- Line MARZO (France)

NOTE:

- The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after the NC kit has been completed and returned. Be aware that the duration of the process cannot exceed 18 months from the date of confirmation.
- An Aurovillian is a resident of Auroville, aged 18 and above, whose name has been entered in the Register of Resident (RoR) as maintained by the Auroville Foundation (AVF) Office.
- The change of status from Newcomer to Aurovillian is official only once the individual has filled in and signed the B-Form. An Aurovillian's name is entered into the RoR after he/she has met with the Secretary of the AVF with an appointment arranged by the Entry Secretariat. These appointments are fixed by the Entry Secretariat according to the availability of the Secretary, but not at any personal request of an individual.
- The Auroville Foundation processes issuing of ID cards only to the Aurovilians who are registered in the RoR

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



KIM scheme gets another 15 -20 e-cycles!

KIM was conceived to allow Aurovilians and Newcomers to enjoy all the advantages of electric bicycles without having to deal with the inconveniences (initial purchase cost, maintenance, repairs and battery replacement). Kinisi takes care of it all, for the

reasonable membership contribution of 850 rupees per month. The e-cycle remains an asset of Auroville and can be recalled if it is neglected, misused or left unlocked. This membership runs from month to month, with an initial trial period of 1 month. When you leave Auroville for more than a month, you are encouraged to store your e-cycle at Kinisi. It will be given back to you fully serviced when you return.

If you want to become a member of KIM, please email us at kinisi@auroville.org.in with your name, phone number, and community, and we will get in touch with you as the e-cycles are prepared. First come, first serve!

To the members of KIM: **Kinisi is now open during regular hours ((9:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 16:00) and you can come for your monthly service.** We are also open for service and repairs of any other e-cycles and e-scooters. Onwards to sustainable transport in Auroville!
~ Your Kinisi Team

Unity Transport Service (UTS) is providing emergency services such as hospital visits to Pondicherry. We have got the necessary permissions and the service is available 24/7. Kindly note that presently this is for medical purpose only. We also provide all kinds of transportation within Auroville. Please contact: 9443362218 -Krishnan

Masks - During the lockdown, Miniature has successfully produced 10,000 medical masks for the Covid-19 Task Force (Organization, Health Centre, Santé etc). More masks are now being produced and ready to be bought. Please contact us for more info and pass by our office to take yours! Mail to: miniature@auroville.org.in

Update from AVAG on village relief



Auroville Village Action Group is about to launch its second phase of relief distribution. We estimate that there are 4,000 families in the Auroville bio-region and 1,000 in distant villages who are in need. We are working with the local communities and receiving requests to support many people who work in the informal sector such as

masons, painters, agricultural workers, artisans and crafts persons, taxi/rickshaw drivers and small sole traders reliant on passing tourists.

This upscale is a response to a shift from the first phase where food packs supported 335 migrant workers from Kulpalayam, Periya Mudaliar Chavadi, Edayanchavadi, Sanjeevi Nagar and Alankuppam and the tribals in Edayanchavadi, Rayapetta and near Morattandi and stranded travelers (poor families living in Morattandi to avail free treatment in JIPMER). During this first phase 24 physically disabled got Rs.1000 bank transfers and with the financial support of our women's federation another 355 women got Rs.500 bank transfers. The 24 physically disabled from distant areas were recommended by Velu from Gas service and the Deep Adaptation group.

We have been humbled by the support so far from the Auroville family both here and abroad. We have received 124 donations totaling 11.9 lakh from Auroville and AVI Centres. We have also received an in-kind donation of 1770 kgs of rice purchased with the help of the Hers team and contributions of masks from Miniature and Colours of Nature, soaps from Eco Duties, and hand sanitizers from Maroma. We would like to acknowledge the fundraising support of the Deep Adaptation group, AVI Centres, and the Udhayam Women's Federation which is the self-help network of women's groups associated with AVAG. The women have transferred 500Rs into bank accounts of 355 families in need (mentioned above) and offered 4.8 lakh that was used for oil for the food packs.

The selection of beneficiaries and distribution has been a combined effort and we would like to acknowledge the commitment of the AVAG community workers and the local

community groups such as the Panchayats secretaries, Paalam youth and Women's groups, Yatra, and Aurovilians from local education organisations who were involved in the difficult work of selection of the most in-need beneficiaries, distribution of tokens, procurement and deliver (with verification of need). This team has really stretched to ensure that the money donated was used as effectively as possible and that those in most need were looked after. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to Auroville for the care and the quality of the food received.

Phase 2 began last week with local-level meetings to identify and agree on the list of the most in need in the villages of Kuilapayalam, Edayanchavadi, Kottakarai, Ambek nagar, Irumbai, Alankuppam, Annai Nagar, Sanjeevi nagar, Thuruvai, Rayapudhpakkam, Aravindapuram, Rayapettai, and Morattandi. This list is prepared by the local community and Auroville educational reps but is verified by house to house checks by AVAG staff. The food is being procured and the foodpacks will contain 5kg of rice, 1kg Dal, 1litre of oil, 1/2 kg of masala powder and a mask. We hope to have funds to deliver this to 4,000 families in the immediate villages and 1,000 families in the poorest more distant villages later this week and early next week.

Here is a link to a [short film on the first phase distribution](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvfQDasqS-l&feature=youtu.be), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvfQDasqS-l&feature=youtu.be> and attached a report written by Bindu (with edit contribution from AVAG) on the impact of Covid our area and the first response. We have a balance of 8 lakh to start 2nd phase distribution which will be a Rs. 500 food pack and a mask. We will need 17 lakh more to cover all 5000 families. Donations are being kindly accepted at financial centre account 0226 or by credit card through [Auroville donation gateway](#) and though the transfer links and a crowd funding page is given on [AVAG web site https://villageaction.in/](https://villageaction.in/).

In solidarity, Auroville Village Action Team
 Auroville Village Action Group, Irumbai Main Road
 Irumbai 605111, Tamil Nadu, India
 Ph. +91-413-2678871/2678872
avagoffice@auroville.org.in
[Auroville Village Action Group Website](#)
[Auroville Village Action Group Facebook](#)
[Auroville Village Action Group Youtube Channel](#)

For a Fresh Summer - Ayurveda Health Tips

 [Summer season recommendations.pdf](#)

CSR Geomatics resuming well monitoring

CSR Geomatics would like to re-start the monitoring of well water levels in Auroville communities from **June onwards**. The plan is that the monitoring man, Mr. Bala from Kuilapalayam (the same person who was monitoring before the lockdown) will be visiting community wells. Due to possible understandable concerns regarding Coronavirus, kindly let us know if you feel uncomfortable with him visiting your community by sending an email to: csrgeomatics@auroville.org.in



The **FARMER'S MARKET** happens **MONDAYS & FRIDAYS** at **TERRSOUL** (near spirulina farm) from 9.30 on. **A few farms** will offer their **FRUITS & VEGETABLES**, as well as **MILK and CURD**.

Please **BRING** your **BAGS** and any **EMPTY JARS**.

As usual, the rules will be respected (masks, distance, spray). Please share this information with your friends.

NEEDED

Mobile phone in good condition. If anyone has one willing to give away or sell kindly let me know. Dheena, Aspiration, dinar@auroville.org.in; M: 848 953 7303; home: 0413-2622771

Piano (electronic or acoustic) to borrow or buy as soon as possible. It's urgently needed. Many thanks!
 Kalou: 9787332791; eluciolecircus@gmail.com

AVAILABLE

STOVES - anyone need one? **GIVING AWAY** a gas stove & an induction (small, electric) stove (free). Also a **blue bean bag couch** (big) (for donation) and a **vegetable steamer** in good working condition (for donation). Contact Smiti, 944 207 0212 or Smiti@auroville.org.in



Bed and mattress - rattan bed + sleepshine mattress, 120X190. Like new. Purchased in Nov 2019 for: mattress, 7800rs & bed, 8500rs. Selling both for Rs. 15,000. Patricia, phone: +91 852 584 0999 or guichardan.p@gmail.com.

Amma - a good and reliable Amma with 20 years experience in Auroville is available. Please contact me if interested. Serge auroville.org.in or 0413-262-2861.

MATRIMANDIR

Matrimandir Gardens open for Aurovilians & Newcomers
6 to 7:30 AM and 4:30 to 6:30 PM
 Do the Covid needful.

The 12 Gardens and the 800 Flowers
 - Pavel Bogdanovich

The Consciousness Garden

"The world is a cyclic movement (samsara) of the Divine Consciousness in Space and Time"
 [Sri Aurobindo, SABCL, 12: 78]

The main flower:
 Supramental consciousness - *"Gloriously awake and powerful. Luminous, sure of itself, infallible in its movements"*



The following grouping can be offered for general comprehension of flowers related to Consciousness garden:

Consciousness

New birth

- Consciousness one with the Divine Consciousness
- Aditi - The Divine Consciousness
- Occultism (Occult power)
- Initiation
- Ascension
- Presence
- New birth

Centres and planes

- Complexity of the centres
- Psychic centre
- Mind
- Vital centre
- Physical centre

Perception

- Correct perception
- Foresight
- Observation
- Concentration
- Alchemy
- Exclusivism
- Sentry
- Curiosity
- Inspiration
- Thirst to understand
- Revelation
- Without Grief

Knowledge & Wisdom

- Intuitive knowledge
- Supramental knowledge
- Wisdom in the physical mind
- Integral wisdom
- To know how to listen

Immortality

- Conscious vital immortality
- Integral immortality
- Perpetual vitality
- Supramental immortality upon the Earth

Sub-gardens:

New birth (13 flowers):

"When I speak of "New Birth" I am always speaking of the birth of a new consciousness"

-The Mother - White Roses [Letters to Huta]



Aditi - The Divine Consciousness



Consciousness turned towards the Light

Aditi - The Divine Consciousness - "Pure, immaculate, gloriously powerful"

Consciousness turned towards the Light - "It thirsts for Light and cannot live without it"

Agni - "The flame of purification which ought to precede all contact with the invisible worlds"



Agni



Occultism

Occultism (Occult power) - "Truly blossoms only when it is surrendered to the Divine".

Initiation - "It is unique in the whole existence of the plant."

Ascension - Stage by stage one climbs towards the Consciousness"

Presence - "Consciousness seeking for the presence"

New birth - Birth into the true consciousness, that of the Divine Presence in us"



Initiation



Presence



Ascension



New birth

Centres and Planes (24 flowers):

"Philosophy and Science, if they are to help mankind without hurting it and themselves, must recognise that mankind is a complex being and his nature demands that every part of that complexity shall have its field of activity and every essential aspiration in him must be satisfied."

- Sri Aurobindo - The Hour of God



Complexity of the centres



Psychic centre



Intuitive mind centre



Illumined mind centre

- Complexity of the centres - "Responds to several influences at a time"
- Psychic centre "Luminous and calm, it is meant to govern the human being"
- Intuitive mind centre "The activity of correct perception"
- Illumined mind centre "In the peace that comes from the perfect light"

Mind - "Its true value depends on its surrender to the Divine"

Mental voice - "The mind must learn to express only what is dictated by the Divine"

Higher mind- "Its superiority lies in its capacity to open to the Divine Light"

Physical mind- "Becomes a good instrument of action when it is content to be that alone"



Mind



Mental voice



Higher mind



Physical mind



Emotional centre



Happy heart

Emotional centre - "Vibrant and sensitive, it needs to be controlled"

Happy heart - "Smiling, peaceful, wide open, with-out a shadow!"



Vital centre



Vital plenitude

Vital centre - "Passionate and strong, it needs to be controlled"

Vital plenitude - Can only be obtained through conversion"



Physical centre



Physical consciousness entirely turned towards the Divine

Physical centre - "Occupied mainly with material things, it likes to have an ordered life"

Physical consciousness entirely turned towards the Divine - "It thirsts for the Divine and wants nothing but Him"

Sex centre aspiring to be purified - "The awakening of the consciousness to a higher life"



Sex centre aspiring to be purified



Future supramental centre

Future supramental centre - "What is involved in Nature will evolve and become manifest"

Perception (17 flowers)

"It [spiritual knowledge] is the conscious experience of the Truth, seen, felt, lived within and it is also a spiritual perception (more direct and concrete than the intellectual) of the true significance of things which may express itself in thought and speech, but is independent of them in itself"

- Sri Aurobindo - Letters on Yoga



Correct perception



Foresight



Observation



Concentration

Correct perception - "A perception that does not deform the Truth"

Foresight - "A perception that is under the Divine Influence"

Observation - "Likes to prolong its attention in order to see better"

Concentration - "Does not aim an effect, but simple and persistent"



Alchemy



Exclusivism

Alchemy - "Supple and plastic, ready to take any form whatever"

Exclusivism - "The inability to do several things at the same time"

Sentry - "Ever awake"

Mental curiosity - "Should be strictly controlled so as not to be dangerous"



Sentry



Mental curiosity

Inspiration - "Brings its manifold gifts to him who knows how to receive them"

Revelation - "True revelation is the revelation of the Divine"

Imagination - "Abundant and varied, may be charming, but must not be substituted for Truth"

Without Grief - "The contemplation that leads you beyond suffering"



Inspiration



Revelation



Imagination



Without Grief

Knowledge & Wisdom (7 flowers)



Intuitive knowledge



Supramental knowledge



Integral wisdom



To know how to listen

Intuitive knowledge - "Innumerable and vast for exploration, it is pure and fragrant"

Supramental knowledge - "An infallible vision of problems"

Integral wisdom - "The wisdom one obtains through union with the Divine"

To know how to listen - "To be attentive and silent"

Immortality (7 flowers):

"Immortality is meant the consciousness which is beyond birth and death, beyond the chain of cause and effect, beyond all bondage and limitation, free, blissful, self-existent in conscious-being, the consciousness of the Lord, of the supreme Purusha, of Sachchidananda"

- Sri Aurobindo - Isha Upanishad



Immortality



Perpetual vitality

Immortality - "Forms are in perpetual trans-formation; identify yourself with the Immortal Consciousness and you will become it"

Perpetual vitality - "A vitality that is not affected by external influences"



Supramental immortality



Supramental immortality upon the Earth

Supramental immortality - "It is an established fact, but few human beings have experienced it"

Supramental immortality upon the Earth - "This still remains to be realised"

P.S. Hope you have learned something interesting about Consciousness!

BOOK OF JUICES 1:1

Once there was the Great Churning.
Everything was on lockdown.
And the lockdown was extended,
and then extended, and then again extended.
It seemed as if there's no end to it...
But when the Great Churning was finally,
finally over
divine nectar flowed and flowed.
The deities were so delighted with this gift
that they decided to share it with the people.
And they named it...

(to be continued)



Understanding the Shadow: The Dual Nature Within Us ~ by Manoj Pavitran

It is a very common experience to encounter some tendencies within ourselves that are exactly the opposite of what aspires to become, the tendencies that we often find nearly impossible to overcome regardless of all the battles we wage against them. Some people may even work around this embarrassing situation by adopting some form of philosophical narratives that claim to stand on the ground beyond all dualities of right and wrong or good and evil. But the fact remains that these tendencies which are almost in direct opposition to our ideals coexist within ourselves possessing an active will of its own and standing on the way of our progress. Most people are not necessarily aware of these contradictions within themselves especially when they have not begun the work of transforming themselves. It is only when one begins the work of transforming one's habitual and unconscious nature, these opposing tendencies and forces show up with vehement intensity. It is relatively easy to see the contradictions, the dual nature, in others especially among those who are of larger than life proportion. While this double nature exists in all, it becomes much easily visible in people who are larger personalities commanding impressive capacities and stand for great ideals. For example, when we study the life of Gandhiji, we find his exploration of sexuality crossing boundaries that make the lovers of Gandhiji look for a philosophical justification that works around this glaring feature of his life. Such a dual nature exists in all of us and it

is important to understand this phenomenon if we are to transform it.

Light and Shadow, Our Two Sides

According to the integral perspective, this dual nature is something quite universal, Sri Aurobindo writes:

*"There are always two sides to every human being. In Western occultism they call them the good and the evil Persona (personality)" *1*

*"As for the two natures, it is only one form of the perpetual duality in human nature from which nobody escapes, so universal that many systems recognise it as a standing feature to be taken account of in their discipline, the two Personae, one bright, one dark, in every human being. If that were not there, Yoga would be an easy walk-over and there would be no struggle." *2*

*"...a double being (or a double nature in the special sense) refers to those who have two sharply contrasted parts of their being without as yet such a linking control over them. Sometimes they are all for the heights and then they are quite all right – sometimes all for the abysses and then they care nothing for the heights, even sneer or rail at them and give full rein to the lower man. Or they substitute for the heights a smoky volcano summit in the abyss. These are extreme examples, but others while they do not go so far, yet are now one thing, now just the opposite." *3*

The Role of the Shadow

Sri Aurobindo explains further in a letter to a sadhak, the role of the shadow in the occult economy of things:

*"What you say about the "Evil Persona" interests me greatly as it answers to my consistent experience that a person greatly endowed for the work has, always or almost always – perhaps one ought not to make a too rigid universal rule about these things – a being attached to him, sometimes appearing like a part of him, which is just the contradiction of the thing he centrally represents in the work to be done. Or, if it is not there at first, not bound to his personality, a force of this kind enters into his environment as soon as he begins his movement to realise. Its business seems to be to oppose, to create stumblings and wrong conditions, in a word, to set before him the whole problem of the work he has started to do. It would seem as if the problem could not, in the occult economy of things, be solved otherwise than by the predestined instrument making the difficulty his own." *4*

The same phenomena were reconfirmed by the Mother:

*"...everyone possesses in a large measure, and the exceptional individual in an increasing degree of precision, two opposite tendencies of character, in almost equal proportions, which are like the light and the shadow of the same thing. Thus, someone who has the capacity of being exceptionally generous will suddenly find an obstinate avarice rising up in his nature, the courageous man will be a coward in some part of his being and the good man will suddenly have wicked impulses. In this way life seems to endow everyone not only with the possibility of expressing an ideal, but also with contrary elements representing in a concrete manner the battle he has to wage and the victory he has to win for the realisation to become possible." *5*

The Battle

The dual nature within us turns our life into a battlefield, not only an inner battle with our own inner tendencies but also often an outer battle with the psychological forces of the people and society around us. This idea is very ancient and can be found in many religious scriptures.

"The fundamental idea of the Rig Veda is a struggle between the Gods and their dark opponents, between the Masters of Light, sons of Infinity, and the children

*of Division and Night, a battle in which man takes part and which is reflected in all his inner life and action. This was also a fundamental principle of the religion of Zoroaster.” *6*

In the puranic literature of India, this gets translated into the story of the battle between Devas, the beings of light and Asuras, the being of darkness. It is a profoundly deep and symbolic representation of inner and outer battle people go through in the process of their spiritual evolution. The narrative continues even now in modern forms like Star Wars and The Lord of The Rings expressive of some or other aspects of a complex battle that is fought within all of us.

References

1. <https://incarnateword.in/cwsa/31/the-difficulties-of-human-nature#p30>
2. <https://incarnateword.in/cwsa/31/the-difficulties-of-human-nature#p31>
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5. <https://incarnateword.in/cwm/12/vital-education#p6>
6. <https://incarnateword.in/cwsa/19/deva-and-asura#p7>

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GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Shorten your shower time or take bucket showers. Install a low-flow showerhead. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. watergroup@auroville.org.in

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Water Group Report and Reflections, Jan-April 2020

Water Group Update:

Members of the Water Group presented to the Governing Board in January and updated it on the water situation. Some members also met with planning advisor, David Stein, in January to discuss the potential for a bioregional plan. Water Group visited Sacred Groves and took a tour with Manu. Sacred Groves has 400,000 liters of rainwater storage capacity, and it was nearly full at the time of our visit. Similar rainwater catchment systems must be integrated into future constructions in Auroville! Manu was open to discussing the pros and cons of his system and lessons learned along the way. In February, we hosted two visiting filmmakers and screened their films on community-driven underground water management to a full audience at MMC, followed by a Q&A. Finally, three of the March Water Talks happened, but the final two were postponed due to the current situation. Thank you to all the speakers and participants, as well as to an anonymous donor who supported this work financially. April has been a time of pause and reflection for the Water Group.

Relevant Publications:

We draw your attention to a few important and relevant recent publications including “Water, Auroville, and Coronavirus” (<https://auroville.org.in/article/79286>), in which we discuss how the current situation might impact our water resources. Also read the two recent reports by CSR Geomatics, “Report of Three Years DST Project” (<https://auroville.org.in/article/79237>) which addresses water security of an urban settlement through a multi-sourcing model, as well as “Well Monitoring Report 2017-2020” (<https://auroville.org.in/article/79238>).

On Borewells

Part of our ongoing work is to advise L’avenir d’Auroville on new borewell applications that they receive. Let’s be clear: the position of the Water Group is that finding other sources of water and/or sharing water is always preferred to tapping

into our already overexploited aquifers. As such, we will do our best to look for alternatives to digging a new well, and borewell digging requests will only be approved under exceptional circumstances. Moreover, let’s remember that water is a basic human right and a common resource for everyone to share. Therefore, you do not have individual ownership over your borewell; you are the steward of a common resource.

~ Water Group

(Tom, Tency, Satprem, Ing-Marie, Giulio, Eric Chacra) watergroup@auroville.org.in

MOBILITY IN AUROVILLE

See Updates on service openings under Announcements and FYI

CULTURAL ACTIVITES



AUROVILLE ART SERVICE - 'basket' for the week

1. **STORY BUILDING SESSION WITH RASHMI** Friday the 15th and Friday the 22nd @ 11 AM

Rashmi, a professional theatre person, is offering online story building sessions for 8-12 year olds. To join, sms or whatsapp her on 94482 35935.

2. **THE FILMS AND THEATRE SOCIETY** presents:

The Ultimate Theatre Monologue Challenge

Video yourself doing a monologue from any published play and email it to president.fts@gmail.com
Language: Hindi, Urdu, English; Duration: 3-5 minutes
No background music.

3. **KRISHNA MCKENZIE** Is offering readings from The One Straw Revolution by Masanobu Fukuoka. #masanobufukuoka, #krishnamackenzie, #theonestrarevolution
The One Straw Revolution by Masanobu Fukuoka - CHAPTER 1 read by Krishna McKenzie. - [watch here on youtube](#)

4. **GOETHE-INITIUT** - In cooperation with Filmgalerie 451, the Goethe-Institut presents an online streaming program called Goethe on Demand. It contains an exquisite selection of films that is free of charge on Vimeo until 30 June 2020. - <https://www.goethe.de/ins/in/en/kul/sup/vim.html>

Auroville Home Cinema program

Every WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SUNDAY you can watch film 24 hour any time it fits you, free of charge from your home.

HOW TO WATCH -

1. GO TO www.taskovskifilms.com/watch-online
2. Click on the film that is on program for that day
3. on film page click watch online - go to vimeo
3. Sign up
4. click on RENT - Skip the payment details and click on the 'APPLY PROMO CODE'. DOCSCONNECT is code you need to use.

To follow all info on films and see directors talking about the films, follow our facebook page: Taskovski Films ltd or on instagam #taskovski_films

This cinema program has been secured in collaboration with Taskovski Films - who donated the rights for the film screenings free of charge to Laboratory of Evolution CHU so that our community can watch high quality award- winning documentary films.

Our program is happening on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday - on Sundays we program films for kid and family to watch together. All films are of high educational, cultural and art value and all of them are bring awareness to social, environmental, cultural difference supporting and diversity in unity aiming to dream of Auroville: Human Unity

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Auroville Emergency Contact Numbers - Save them in your phone now!

Auroville Safety and Security Team: 9443090107:
04132623400; security@auroville.org.in)
Ambulance: Auroville: 9442224680 -
PIMS: 0413-2656271/72
Farewell: mobile number: 8903836246. reachable 24/7
Emergency Service of India: 108
JIPMER hospital 2278380 / 2272389
General Hospital 2336050
Puducherry helpline: 104
TN COVID helpline: 044-29510500

Important information about News & Notes

Hard deadline for submissions or cancellations: Tuesday 5pm
FOR THE ISSUE to be published that SATURDAY, (though the
digital version generally goes out on Thursday)

The contents of *News & Notes* are a reflection of the growth process of this community towards its ideals of harmony, goodwill, discipline and truth. Editing of submissions is done mainly for reasons of space and clarity and the best interests of the whole.

How to submit material: Material (no pdf files, please) may be sent (in English only) to: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in.

Please do NOT send submissions and inquiries as a "Reply" to the digital subscription mail! There is NO guarantee that anyone will see communications sent this way!

Please try your best to send your announcements, reports, film schedules whenever they are ready.

We regret not being able to attend to visitors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays due to work pressure.

Articles for the Notes section should ideally be no longer than 500 words.

Visiting hours: Mondays & TH-F-SAT mornings 9-12

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 offence caused. In case of any dispute, the Auroville Council may be consulted and publishing of disputed material suspended.

News & Notes, Media Centre, Town Hall. Phone:
0413-2622133, email: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in

Cover photo: Manohar