

News and Notes

No 822

A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

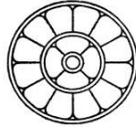
13th June 2020



ibex

artwork by Roy C.

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



(continued from last week)

It is the Timeless manifest as Time and World-Spirit from whom the command to action proceeds. For certainly the Godhead when he says, "I am Time the Destroyer of beings," does not mean either that he is the Time-Spirit alone or that the whole essence of the Time-Spirit is destruction. But it is this which is the present will of his workings, *pravṛtti*. Destruction is always a simultaneous or alternate element which keeps pace with creation and it is by destroying and renewing that the Master of Life does his long work of preservation. More, destruction is the first condition of progress. Inwardly, the man who does not destroy his lower self-formations, cannot rise to a greater existence. Outwardly also, the nation or community or race which shrinks too long from destroying and replacing its past forms of life, is itself destroyed, rots and perishes and out of its debris other nations, communities and races are formed. By destruction of the old giant occupants, man made himself a place upon earth. By destruction of the Titans the gods maintain the continuity of the divine Law in the cosmos. Whoever prematurely attempts to get rid of this law of battle and destruction, strives vainly against the greater will of the World-Spirit. Whoever turns from it in the weakness of his lower members, as did Arjuna in the beginning, – therefore was his shrinking condemned as a small and false pity, an inglorious, an un-Aryan and unheavenly feebleness of heart and impotence of spirit, *klaibyam, kṣudrām hr̥daya-daurbalyam*, – is showing not true virtue, but a want of spiritual courage to face the sterner truths of Nature and of action and existence. Man can only exceed the law of battle by discovering the greater law of his immortality. There are those who seek this where it always exists and must primarily be found, in the higher reaches of the pure spirit, and to find it turn away from a world governed by the law of Death. That is an individual solution which makes no difference to mankind and the world, or rather makes only this difference that they are deprived of so much spiritual power which might have helped them forward in the painful march of their evolution.

What then is the master man, the divine worker, the opened channel of the universal Will to do when he finds the World-Spirit turned towards some immense catastrophe, figured before his eyes as Time the destroyer arisen and increased for the destruction of the nations, and himself put there in the forefront whether as a fighter with physical weapons or a leader and guide or an inspirer of men, as he cannot fail to be by the very force of his nature and the power within him, *svabhāvajena svena karmaṇā*? To abstain, to sit silent, to protest by non-intervention? But abstention will not help, will not prevent the fulfilment of the destroying Will, but rather by the lacuna it creates increase confusion. Even without thee, cries the Godhead, my will of destruction would still be accomplished, *ṛte'pi tvām*. If Arjuna were to abstain or even if the battle of Kurukshetra were not to be fought, that evasion would only prolong and make worse the inevitable confusion, disorder, ruin that are coming. For these things are no accident, but an inevitable seed that has been sown and a harvest that must be reaped. They who have sown the wind, must reap the whirlwind. Nor indeed will his own nature allow him any real abstention, *prakṛtis tvām niyokṣyati*.

(to be continued next week)

– Sri Aurobindo. *Essays on the Gita. Chapter 10 - The Vision of the World-Spirit. Time the Destroyer*

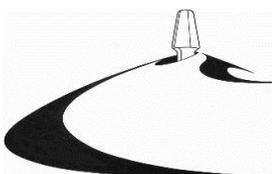
P.S. There's a HOMA page on the Auroville website: <https://www.auroville.org/contents/1085>



It is not by sinking below oneself that one removes fatigue.
One must climb the ladder and there one has true rest, because one has the inner peace, the light, the universal energy. And little by little, one puts oneself in touch with the truth which is the very reason of one's existence.
If you contact that definitively, it removes completely all fatigue.
~The Mother



AMPHITHEATRE - MATRIMANDIR



We are happy to restart the **Meditation at sunset with Savitri** - read by Mother to Sunil's music. Every **THURSDAY** (weather permitting), **6.00 to 6.30 pm**.

For the time being, access is limited to Aurovilians, Newcomers and Pass Holders. Enjoy the beautiful open space, the immense sunset and 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 not to bring/use cameras, i-pads, cell phones, etc. Please carry your pass with you. Access only for the Amphitheatre from 5.45 pm. Please be seated by 5.55 pm. After the meditation is over, the gardens will close so everyone must return to the gate and our vehicles at that time. Thank you. ~ ~ Amphitheatre Team

COVID-19 UPDATE

From the WC/Covid-19 Task Force - We hope this finds you all healthy and well, and feeling grateful that there are still no cases in Auroville or its immediate neighbors. This past week we have had meetings with various stakeholders in specific areas of work in Auroville, namely food/grocery outlets, sports activities/venues, and eateries (restaurants/cafes). Separate meetings were also held with the Matrimandir team and the Solar Kitchen. The aim of these meetings was to discuss the possibility of opening certain activities and under what conditions, keeping in mind the government guidelines, Central and State, as well as Auroville's particular context. (To see in Tamil and English the most recent statement with guidelines from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, released on 31st May, please go to this [link](#). Please find below a summary of what was decided in these meetings.

1. The **food/grocery outlets** (PTDC, HERS, PTPS) will maintain the current opening times, at least for this month, in order to allow enough time to carry out the necessary additional disinfection and cleaning on site. One suggestion that was made is that each of you wipe down or wash as much of your shopping as possible when you get it home, since the outlets cannot guarantee the safety of all the items they offer, which come from a wide range of suppliers from different places.
2. The **Solar Kitchen** dining hall will reopen under specific conditions. Please see below for details.
3. **Eateries (restaurants/cafes)** may open for dine-in with 50% seating per table, maintaining all Covid specific hygiene measures, maintaining physical distancing at all times, etc. Auroville is still closed to outstation guests and day visitors (a press release to this effect will go out soon), so payments should be accepted only via account or Auocard.
4. The **Matrimandir chamber** will remain closed while the team explores how to organize opening the chamber to Aurovilians and Newcomers to start with. This will have to be done in such a way that respects the necessary precautions for enclosed and air-conditioned spaces, sanitizing, etc.
5. **Sports and physical activities** that don't involve team play but rather are individual practice and fitness only, may resume with no more than 5 people gathered at a time, with as little physical contact as possible and proper distancing at all times. What may resume: badminton, tennis, table tennis (ping pong), horseback riding, skating, walking/ jogging/ running, archery & Aikido stick practice. What still remains restricted: basketball, volleyball, football, ultimate frisbee, cricket. Sharing of water bottles, food items, towels, clothing, etc, should be avoided and no use of showers or changing facilities on site. Individual equipment should be used as much as possible and any shared equipment must be sanitized after use, if possible.
6. **Yoga and dance activities** may resume with at least 1-2 meters between each participant, no sharing of mats or other equipment/materials and no use of showers or changing facilities on site.
7. Public **playgrounds and children's play areas** are to remain closed due to the impossibility of maintaining physical distancing and avoiding gatherings of more than 5 persons.
8. **Hair cutting and salon activities** may resume with additional sanitization of all spaces and equipment, and use of masks as much as possible by both parties.
9. **Therapies** with minimal or no body contact may resume with additional sanitization of all spaces and equipment, and use of masks as much as possible by both parties. Therapy that requires body contact should only be undertaken for therapeutic or medical reasons.
10. **Auroville will remain closed to outstation/new guests**, volunteers/interns/students and day visitors until at least the end of this month. A press release will go out to this effect soon. This includes all guest facilities (guest houses, eateries, work places, etc). Someone who has been staying in our immediate neighboring villages and wants to move into Auroville, may do so with the prior approval of the Working Committee.

The following must still **remain restricted/closed**, as per the most recent Tamil Nadu State guidelines:

1. Large meetings or gatherings (Section 144 is still in place) - social, cultural, sports, religious, etc.
2. Schools, training institutions, research institutions
3. Cinema halls, gymnasiums, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, auditoriums, assembly halls, beaches, tourist places, zoological parks, museums and similar places of public gathering.

While there are more and more relaxations of the various levels of lockdown we have all been under in the last 3 months, along with the rest of the country, we feel it is important to remind everyone that the relaxations, especially opening of some domestic and international travel, automatically create a higher risk of spread of the virus again. This is clear from the rising number of cases in the country (we are adding close to 10,000 cases every day). Therefore, we must all continue to practice the **New Normal**, which includes:

- Using masks in all public places ([please see the linked illustration](#));
- Washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer often and regularly;
- Maintaining physical distancing in public places;
- Giving more attention and deference to those at higher risk of infection, namely the elderly, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing health conditions that may make them more vulnerable;
- Protecting children below the age of 10 (who are also more vulnerable but can at the same time be asymptomatic carriers) by minimizing their presence in public places and activities, such as grocery shopping, etc;
- Staying aware and vigilant about any Coronavirus-like symptoms in self, family members, friends and colleagues;
- Screening for symptoms and temperature in all workplaces;
- Working from home as much as possible;
- Cleaning and disinfection/sanitizing of public spaces and facilities, especially toilets, to be carried out more often and more rigorously. (Please note that chlorine solution must be used cautiously, preferably with gloves, and with a safe dilution.)

We take this opportunity to make an appeal to everyone. **Please remember** that all the managers, staff and workers (both Aurovillian and non-Aurovillian), and volunteers at all the food outlets, essential services, work places, etc, are doing their best to help us all to stay safe. It is more important than ever to treat them, and each other as fellow human beings, with patience and respect at all times, in spite of the feelings of frustration, irritation and simply being fed up with the whole situation, that come over us all from time to time. Also, **please be self-aware and self-disciplined** so that they aren't put in the uncomfortable position of repeatedly issuing reminders about what is expected and necessary in this time of a 'new normal'.

We appreciate your attention to this long announcement. We are doing our best to communicate with enough details that people feel adequately informed but without overdoing it, which isn't always easy. Thank you for your continuing patience and support.

From **Economic Times**, 9th June: India has reported the highest single-day spike of 9987 new COVID19 cases and 331 deaths
Total cases in India now 266,598

Lufthansa offers to fly empty planes to India and carry passengers on outbound flights only to destinations in Europe. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/lufthansa-offers-to-fly-in-empty-take-out-fliers-back-to-europe/articleshow/76273032.cms>

The link for the Tamil Nadu Govt guidelines for people entering/returning to TN from outside of the state and outside of India is: <https://stopcorona.tn.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid19-Tamilnadu-Advisory-19.05.2020-3-Pages-English-634KB.pdf>

Regarding opening of the Solar Kitchen - The Solar Kitchen is open for lunches only. The Dining Hall will only be accessible for adults, not for children and youth, because a special allowance has been given to the parents for preparing their lunches at home. To ensure social distancing, a maximum of four people can sit at a table (one person in each corner). This means that less seating places will be available. The SK staff will monitor the number of people. and if too many people arrive at the same time, some will have to wait for a table to come free. The Solar Kitchen staff will clean each table before new people can be seated there. Please follow the instructions of the staff members.

Washing one's hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizers before picking up lunch is mandatory. We will provide a simplified menu at first, and look forward to the variety of available food items slowly increasing. To plan our food-amounts properly, we ask all those who would like to resume eating lunch at the Dining Hall to inform the Solar Kitchen as soon as possible. *La Terrace will remain closed for the time being as some construction work has to happen.* Working Committee/Solar Kitchen Team

From the BCC re: Solar Kitchen lunch booking: We are happy to read the announcement that Solar Kitchen is opening from Monday 8th June'20 onwards. **Just for clarity in regard of financial aspects:** During the lockdown - if you have not taken the Solar Kitchen tiffin - your lunch scheme of Rs 1,870 which was booked earlier to the Solar Kitchen was added to your IN-KIND- SCHEME (IKS Rs 1,700) so that you could purchase in PTDC or HERS/PTPS for this amount and cook for yourself at home. Or you decided to eat somewhere else and changed the location. Please be aware that it is not possible to change the system during the running month of June. Please make your new booking and financial arrangement directly with the Solar Kitchen team. New bookings will be charged from your Individual Account.

For July onwards: We will see together with the Solar Kitchen team how to move forward and will keep the community informed. Please note --- at this moment till further notice --- no changes can be done in the data system. Thanks for your understanding. Love. The BCC Team (Christine, Enrica, Hans, Inge, Jacques, Mahi, Margarita, Meena, Rathinam)

Entry Service - Temporary Operational Guidelines during COVID-19 situation

General Inquiries

- No Walk-In inquiries
- Send an email about your Inquiry OR Request to entryservice@auroville.org.in
- Entry Service will address your inquiry/request or provide an appointment if necessary.
- No new application will be issued till further notice
- Welcome Talk and Yucca Program suspended till further notice

Newcomer Kit Issue / Return

- NC Kit issue by Entry Service: We will send an email for registration to collect their Newcomer kit from us.
- NC kit return by Newcomer: After completing all the procedures the Newcomer needs to notify the Entry Service by email and request an appointment for submission of the completed kit.
- Entry Service will provide an appointment for document submission.

Newcomer Final Process

- Entry Service will initiate an email to the Newcomer and the mentors.
- The Newcomer needs to send the completed documents by email. Soft copies (pdf or jpeg formats) are welcomed to avoid personal contacts / delays
- Mentors can send the requested details by email to Entry Service (entryservice@auroville.org.in)

Interviews with the Entry Board

- Entry Service will schedule a meeting with the Newcomer/applicant and the mentors (from 2nd week of June onwards)
- The Newcomer / Applicant / mentors needs to confirm or request for changes.

Meeting with Secretary of Auroville Foundation / B-Form signing Requests (Newcomers / Youths)

- Entry Service will send an email to the newcomers with an appointment for signing the B-Form OR meeting the AVF Secretary (please expect delays)

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

PTDC is now open from 9 am to 2:30 PM. Preference given to those who are 60+ from 9-10AM

VC Cafeteria is now open for table service (<https://auroville.org.in/article/79882> for details).

Aurelec Cafeteria opens the garden sitting area at lunchtime (<https://auroville.org.in/article/79885> for details).

Some Reopening Announcements (more on p. 10)



Arka Wellness Center now open

We are pleased to announce the reopening of Arka Wellness Center. You can see the schedule of activities here: [ARKA WELLNESS CENTER-JUNE-2020.xlsx](#). We will strictly follow the guidelines provided to us by the Covid-19. Task Force. Please come to our reception for checking your temperature and use the hand sanitizer.
~ Arka team



We are delighted to inform you that we are now open for table service. NO CASH!
Please ask your guests to get an Aurocard!
- Neem Tree Eatery and hangout place behind Auroville Library in Mahalakshmi Park

Naturellement Garden Café Reopens

We are happy to welcome you back again! Our restaurant is open daily, 9 am to 5 pm with our regular menu.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From ABC Research: The FAMC has asked for feedback on the Code of Conduct (CoC) which may come up for an RAD. ABC Research has submitted its feedback and it can be found on AuroNet here: <https://auroville.org.in/article/79887>
 You can also write to us and we will send you the feedback document by email: abcresearch@auroville.org.in
 As the proposed Code of Conduct is a very important, but also highly controversial document, we **urge you to read it, form your own opinion and send feedback to the FAMC.**
 ABC Research is also happy to receive your feedback, suggestions and questions about this document. Please do write to us. -The ABC Research Group
 (Ananda, Bobby, Hendrik, Martina, Stephan, Ulli)

From the Auroville Service Trust re: the FAMC

Very recently, we have asked the Auroville Council to initiate a task force to review & change the 2016 FAMC. From our point of view, this action is overdue. As you may or may not be aware, the Auroville Service Trust trustees, services executives and managers are increasingly ignored by the FAMC. We have written to the FAMC in this regard but have not received either an acknowledgement nor a reply. The FAMC regularly circumvents the long standing Auroville Board of Services and makes unilateral decisions without consulting responsible Aurovilians in the service sector. The FAMC exhibits a distinct lack of regard and willingness to engage in dialogue with those serving in the service sector. Our experience is that this is disrespectful and unbecoming of a team that is expected to be thoughtful leaders within the Auroville community.

We feel duty-bound to inform the community members, who are not in any direct contact with the FAMC, so that when approval of a new FAMC mandate or selection of new FAMC members is presented to the community, residents may inquire if such actions have been addressed.

Thank you for listening, - Auroville Service Trust
 (Amy, Anne, Joseba, Ponnusamy & Ulrich)



L'Avenir d'Auroville

Auroville Township Planning and Development Research Organization

Building applications

These applications were submitted last week by L'Avenir, but inadvertently omitted from last week's N&N. They have already gone through the feedback process, so this is final notification for their NOCs.

Below are four applications which have gone through the full review process including working group and community feedback and will be issued the Final building NOC. The project holder/applicant can begin construction on site only after picking up the signed NOC document from the TDC office. Application forms, brief drawings & area maps for these have been uploaded on the Intranet in the application announcement posting. If you would like to have further information regarding the below building NOC's, please write to application-avenir@auroville.org.in

UTSAV 1A - application for final Building NOC - The building NOC shall be given to Roberta Keeping (Bobby), to build a mixed-use facility not exceeding 640sqm, in the industrial zone next to Verite & Udyogam. The ground plus two floors structure will be used for offices and long-term volunteer accommodation. The total built up area is 964sqm. Total estimated cost of project (1A) is 2,39,79,000/-. Site allocated for UTSAV 1A is 1640 sqm with an additional 660 sqm area

adjacent to this, kept for future development adjacent to the 1A structure. This additional area of 660sqm can be used by

the same project holder, for an extension of UTSAV provided due process is followed with applications and the project is taken forward within the next 4 years. If no construction is taken up within 4 years, TDC will open the site for other developments/project holders. The treatment system being built shall be shared by any project coming up in the additional area allocated - whether by the same or a different project holder. The building and ancillary facilities shall be used according to its description in the building application and any change in function or purpose of building is subject to TDC approval throughout the lifespan of the building.

UDAVI MIDDLE SCHOOL - application for final Building NOC. The building NOC shall be given to Sanjeev Aggrawal to build 6 classrooms, not exceeding 424 sqm in the Udavi school campus. The total built up area is 431sqm. Total estimated cost of the project is 1,16,42,850/- . The structure will be used as classrooms for the school. The NOC is only for the Ground floor structure and does not cover any further expansion on the first floor. The building shall be used according to its description in the building application and any change in function or purpose of building is subject to TDC approval throughout the lifespan of the building.

MEETING HALL - application for final Building NOC. The building NOC shall be given to Restorative Auroville to build a meeting yurt not exceeding 65 sqm in Centerfield. This is a temporary structure built in the Joy community. Total built up area of the structure is 61sqm. Total estimated cost of the structure is 6,70,000/- The structure will be used to have meetings with up to 40 people. This structure is to remain a temporary one throughout its lifespan and no changes in the material or total area are to be done to it without prior TDC approval.

COW SHED - application for final Building NOC. The building NOC shall be given to Selvam to build a cow shed in Manvasam Farm not exceeding an area of 120sqm. The structure will be used for A2 milk cows. The structure should be used according to its description in the building application and any change in function or purpose of building is subject to TDC approval throughout the lifespan of the building.

**Management of Emergency Responses in Auroville (MERA)
 COVID 19 - Emergency Fund Activity Narrative
 Report April & May 2020**

1. Name of the Service Unit/Activities received funds from MERA
 - I. SANTE - GOVERNMENT SCREENING CAMP
 - II. COVID 19 TASK FORCE
 - III. AUROVILLE AMBULANCE
 - IV. AUROVILLE HEALTH SERVICE
 - V. FOODLINK
 - VI. BCC Temporary Emergency Maintenances

2. Activities carried out with support of MERA

2.1. SANTE:



Activity: Space for the Government Camp separated from Sante to avoid spreading of infection was created on a request of Medical Block officer & Working Committee

Objective: Auroville Covid-19 Screening camp was held at Sante building from 18.03-21.04 (Mo-Sat 10am-1pm + 2pm-4:30pm). Aurovilians, Guests and workers of Auroville were screened by the Government Staff. Further screening was done

for repatriation flights organized by various embassies. After relocating the camp to another hotspot the medical Block officer has authorized Sante Doctors to continue screening for repatriation flights, that is organized at Sante reception with close collaboration of the Working Committee and local Police.

Beneficiaries: A total of 350 persons were screened, 71 persons with symptoms or travel history were advised strict quarantine. 6 People were referred for testing with only 3 samples collected, and 2 samples were collected on the site by a field team. None of the patients were tested positive.

A total of 196 persons were screened as per today (5/05), 123 were screened by the Government camp and 67 by Auroville doctors. This activity is ongoing.

2.2 COVID-19 TASK FORCE:



Activity: Sanitization of public spaces in Auroville, Distribution of masks, sanitizers, gloves, thermometers at public spaces, Distribution of cleaning & disinfection equipment

Objective: To keep the community spaces well cleaned and sanitized free of any infection in order to achieve safe operation of essential services and food outlets

Beneficiaries: 2500 Aurovilians, 700 Newcomers, 450 volunteers and guests and workers of Auroville - ongoing

2.3 AV Ambulance:



Activity: Increased need (disinfectant, fuel expenses, etc) for transportation of patients suspected of carrying the virus for testing as well as non-related cases for hospital visits as well as preparation to attend to Covid related medical issues (Medicines, IV, Injections, Medical equipment)

Objective: Preparation to attend to COVID related medical issues, transportation of patients.

Beneficiaries: Aurovilians, Newcomers, volunteers and guests.

20 March - 30 April 2020, 42 trips to hospitals

2.4 AV Health Services:

Activity: Operation of supply and procurement as well as support for sanitation

Objective: Sanitation of public spaces, additional coordinators were needed to support sanitation programmes.

Beneficiaries: Aurovilians, New-comers, volunteers & guests

2.5 Foodlink:

Activity: continued operation during lockdown with extra volunteers and labour, purchase of basket cleaner and packing materials for house deliveries

Objectives: Continued supply of Auroville farm products to the community during lockdown

Beneficiaries: Aurovilians, Newcomers, volunteers & guests



2.6 BCC:

Activity: temporary emergency maintenances

Objectives: A temporary emergency maintenance (TEM) budget has been created under the BCC. The TEM will run

from May to August 2020. 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.

Beneficiaries: support for 20 Aurovilians (in May)

Total budget allocated from MERA: April 1st - June 1st 2020: Rs. 10,40,642

Overview on Income and Expenditure:

| Donations by Designation: | Amount in Rs. |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Income for General Economy | 28,06,673.00 |
| Income for: Health & Sanitation | 6,62,712.00 |
| Total Income | 34,69,385.00 |
| Total Expenses | -10,40,642.00 |
| To be distributed | 24,28,743.00 |

| Donations by Source: | Amount in Rs. |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Foreign Donation | 14,04,363.00 |
| Individual Aurovilians | 9,96,858.00 |
| Units | 10,98,924.00 |
| Total Donations | 35,00,145.00 |

From the Auroville Council:

Support for elderly Aurovilians with mental challenges

The Auroville Council, together with Matram, recently initiated a concerted effort to help support elderly Aurovilians who are facing mental and other challenges. So far one Aurovillian and 2 volunteers have joined this much needed project. We want to keep our work as an open platform so that any Aurovillian, Newcomer or long-term volunteer that feels called to this area of work can join in.

In addition to direct involvement with regular help actions for the different elders that require support, we also intend to do a survey of the present and future needs of elderly members of the Auroville community, so as to be better prepared for their future needs. We would also like to organise a course for any Aurovilians who would be interested in getting basic training in the field of care for elders with mental challenges. We currently have 600 plus Aurovilians over the age of 65, so it is clear that suitable, adequate assistance for the elderly is something that concerns us all, and soon!

Our first meeting will take place on Saturday 13th June at 3 pm at Arka, Library. For more information, please write to Matram, matram@auroville.org.in, phone 94892 34298, or whatsapp 99304 54353.

FAMC Monthly Report: December 2019

Policy and Organization:

1. **Silver Fund.** The FAMC set up an advisory body to create a “Silver Fund”, to support Aurovilians from all sectors who are unable to work or who have reached an age where they prefer to work less. The FAMC asked the advisory to propose viable modes of funding and guidelines for allocating maintenances via the Silver Fund.

2. **City Service Trust.** City Services provides funding for core community services such as education, health, arts and culture, support to forests and farms, security, etc. This support is a central feature of our in-kind economy as these services are available freely to all Aurovilians. Income comes from a variety of sources, mostly internal. The total amount of income and payments is about Rs. 22 crores annually. Yet, none of this is consolidated into the Auroville Foundation accounts. On paper, it is not evident to outsiders or Government to what extent Auroville surplus generating units are supporting the township. The CAG has also indicated that a registered entity needs to be established to enlist and account for all the activities under City Services. It is,

therefore, imperative that we put these activities under a Trust. The FAMC worked extensively on the nature of this Trust, which will be documented in the City Services Trust Deed.

Units

1. **Executive Changes.** Executive changes entail a review of the unit balance sheet, loans if any, status of contributions to City Services and roles and responsibilities of each executive.

a. **Mandala Pottery Unit.**

- i. Resignation of Angela Julietta Kuehle,
- ii. New appointment of Stephanie Bussmann.
- iii. Other executive is Adil Writer

b. **Auroline Unit.** Termination of Jean-Michel Argouin. This was a long pending action that finally was acted upon. FAMC Admin is currently engaged in sorting out all these old administrative issues that were never brought to a closure.

c. **Integral Health Service.** The FAMC approved the following

- i. Resignation of Ruslan Yeskendirov as Executive.
- ii. Reappointment of Linda Grace Mosselman as Executive.
- iii. Other executives are: Sumeet Kumar, Jocelyn Brynhild, and Helena Becker.

d. **Integral Rural Development (IRD).** The FAMC approved the request to reappoint Alain Bernard. Current executives are Joss Brooks and Alain Bernard.

e. **Afsaneh Guest House.** Baskaran Jayaram was appointed as a new Executive for an initial three-year term. The FAMC requested Afsaneh GH to also propose a third executive.

f. **Aureka.** Aleksendr Sineev was appointed as a new Executive for an initial three-year term. Other executives are Robi Trunz and Palani Murugesan

g. **La Boutique D'Auroville.** Marlyse Odile Piccand was appointed as a new Executive for an initial three-year term. Other current executives are Selvi Arumugam and Sundar Rajamani.

h. **Auroville Service Trust.** Ulrich Bretschneider was appointed as a Trustee for a five-year term. Current trustees are M. Ponnusamy, Joseba (Eusebio) Martinez, Anne Dufour and Amy Basset.

2. **Trust Changes.** The FAMC approved the request to transfer Tree Care from Discovery Trust to Kattida Kalai Trust.

3. **Closures.** Unit closures require nil balance sheets. This entails closure of all cash, bank and financial service accounts and settlements of all liabilities and receivables.

a. **Homestays Unit.** Homestays was an umbrella unit under which all home stays were managed. Homestays was closed and Exploration was opened. The individual home stays were then transferred to the unit Exploration which operates under the Guest House Trust.

b. **Eternal Builders.** There were ongoing discussions via Koodam regarding the settlement of an outstanding contribution to City Services.

c. **Auroville International Programmes (AIP).** The FAMC approved AIP's request to close the unit. Executives were Alain Bernard, Dhanya, Dominique and Shivaya.

4. **Other Issues**

a. **Mattram, the new mental health initiative** needs to be registered. FAMC aims to put it under Health and Healing Trust pending the Trustees' approval, and register it through an FAMC resolution.

b. **Discipline Farm.** There is a conflict between the Farm Group appointed managers and the Discipline Community over the operation of Discipline Farm. The FAMC seeks a way to have the two groups cooperate.

c. **News and Notes Appeal** was completed. The report noted that it was within the FAMC mandate to ask Sabine to step down from her position in the News and Notes. The report is available with the Auroville Council.

d. **Aurelec.** Aurelec sought permission from the FAMC to allow non-Auroville entities to rent office space. Aurelec

needs 80% occupancy to remain viable. Some AV units do not find Aurelec is a good fit, hence the need to rent to outside entities. Aurelec management checks to see if activities of outside parties being offered space will overlap or interfere with the activities of Auroville entities, and preference is given to external parties who have a connection to Auroville. The FAMC requested that ADPS Trust develop a template Memorandum of Understanding for renting to external parties and ensure that protection of Auroville's interests are embedded in the MoU. Once the FAMC is satisfied it will give approval.

5. **Address Change: Guest House.** Changed the address from Center Guest House to "Guest House Trust/ Guest Accommodation and Registration Service/ Visitors Centre/Auroville"

Housing

1. **Housing Finances.** FAMC requested Stephanie and Subbu to conduct an internal financial audit of the Housing Service. The report, submitted in December, helped the FAMC and Housing Board to agree that a stronger financial and budgeting administration and system need to be established.

2. **Youth Housing.** FAMC approved seven singles and one couple for occupancy at Humanscapes and Kriya.

Government of India Issues

- **GST Committee.** The Government of India issued a memo creating a GST committee for Auroville because Auroville's structure is unique and consequently the GST laws have not been designed with Auroville in mind. The committee is to be composed of Tax officials from the Government, representatives from the Auroville Foundation, and people to be appointed by the FAMC. The FAMC discussed various candidates for this committee. It was agreed to have an Auroville Accountant, a Chartered Accountant, and an FAMC member on the committee.

- **Income Tax Assessment.** The Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax (ACIT), Chennai issued a notice of demand for the assessment year 2017-18 for the sum of Rs. **14,56,04,318, payable by the Auroville Foundation under section 156 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.** Auroville has always enjoyed income tax exemption under Sec 10(23C) (iv) of the Income Tax Act. However, when filing for exemption, this section has various categories, with different objectives, and therefore different tax implications. CA Sangarnarayan & Co., the firm hired by the Auroville Foundation as their statutory auditors, mistakenly filed the AV Foundation under an object of general public utility. Whereas the objects of the Foundation fall under 'education', 'preservation of environment (including watershed, forest and wildlife), and also preservation of place' of charitable purpose as defined under Section 2(15) of the Income tax Act. General Public Utilities are only exempt up to 20% of the total of their income, while education, preservation of environment, and preservation of place of charitable purpose are 100% exempt, regardless of the total income. The Auroville Foundation and FAMC have jointly hired CA Prabakaran to file an appeal to have our return correctly assessed, which would reduce our tax liability to zero.

L'Avenir

1. **Vibrance.** Phase I was initiated with Government of India Grant. Phase 2 is proposed to be implemented with private funds. It is proposed to be a mixed purpose building, both residential and commercial. For this reason, L'Avenir requested the FAMC to review the request.

2. **Ecofemme** - Request to be part of the Re-Center, and as part of this request, increase the land allocated to the project from 2,850 sqm to up to 3,850 sqm. TDC and FAMC agreed that Ecofemme is welcome to join the project at the current land allocation of 2,850 sqm or move to Mangalam.

3. **Morning Star Project.** Morning Star is not a registered entity and therefore ineligible to apply for Building, Site or Project application. The project holders propose to operate in the center of Auroville where it would be a Service for Aurovilians only. Given the number of births in Auroville

annually the size of the building and the operational costs are not perceived to be warranted. It was recommended to Morning Star to find a way to integrate more organically into Sante.

4. **Mango Garden.** The FAMC endorsed the allocation plan proposed by TDC, dividing the eastern (road side) area into 5 parcels of which 2 plots abutting the road/junction are earmarked for productive entities that can take advantage of the easy access location and three plots located away from the road for residential purposes. The FAMC reiterated that the allocation of residential plots is the responsibility of Housing, through an open process with clear criteria.

5. **Individual Houses on Auroville Land in Edyanchavadi.** The FAMC endorsed the TDC proposal to give building permission to two houses, one for Geetha and one for Jayasudha, on an isolated plot of Auroville land in Edyanchavadi to protect the land from encroachment.

6. **Mohini House, Nine Palms.** The FAMC endorsed the TDC proposal to deny a NOC to Mohini to build in Nine Palms because she aimed to build a large residential house that was not in compliance with building specifications for a Forest area, and she has not yet demonstrated active engagement toward Forest development.

7. **Matrimandir Composting Shed.** The FAMC endorsed the TDC decision to strengthen the newly built composting shed rather than demolishing it because it was not originally built to withstand cyclonic wind conditions.

8. **Work in Progress**

a. **Annual Work Plan.** The FAMC worked on its Annual Work Plan.

b. **Boards of Trustees Meeting.** Extensive meetings with the facilitators group to plan the meeting

9. **Activity Guidelines.** Ongoing discussions occurred to finalize Activity Guidelines

FAMC Monthly Report January 2020

The FAMC monthly report does not include regular liaison interphase work with other working groups unless there is a final outcome, in which case the items are reported in the reports of TDC, Working Committee, Housing Board, Land Board, or the BCC.

City Trust Update - Following up on the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) paras and drafting of a City Trust Deed, this was presented to the Governing Board (GB) and an overview of the Auroville turnover vis-à-vis the contributions collected by City Service was shared with the GB. The need for the City Trust was emphasized by the members of the GB and they have approved its formation in principle.

Income Tax Appeal update - The Auroville Foundation filed an appeal against the demand order from the Income Tax department demanding Income Tax to be paid on the surplus income generated by Auroville Foundation for the year 2016-17 (see our December report). The next step will be to attend the hearing with the arguments as discussed with the Auroville Foundation office and Governing Board, once the date of the hearing is announced. It is also likely that the automated processing system of the Income Tax department will raise a notice for a similar demand for the subsequent financial years (2017-18 and 2018-19) until the verdict of the first notice (2016-17) is given. The wrong filing for the said years, as reported previously, can be revised only for the subsequent years (2017-18 and 2018-19). The income tax return for 2016-17 cannot be revised because the order for that year is under appeal.

Draft Activities Guidelines/Policy - In the Code of Conduct and previous Unit guidelines, the creation and management of Activities under Umbrella units lacked adequate definition and specific guidelines. The FAMC proposed a draft guidelines policy that was handed over to a larger committee composed of representatives of Activities managers, Umbrella Units executives, Trustees of Trusts that have Umbrella Units within them, and some resource persons making a total of 16 members with a representative of the FAMC to coordinate. This group

went through a thorough process of discussions and modifications to the draft policy and has arrived at a final version which has been endorsed by FAMC. The FAMC aims at appending this Activities Policy to the Code of Conduct to be presented to the community for feedback and approval.

News and Notes - After the lengthy suspension of the News and Notes, the FAMC took up the responsibility of continuation of the digital service with the appointment of a new team composed of Swaha (pka Kathryn), Satyavan and Roy. A support (editorial) team from the Working Committee and the Auroville Council has also been proposed. Anne Marie will continue as resource person especially in the transition phase.

All Trustees Seminar - The FAMC conducted an all Trustee seminar, where Trustees of all 37 Trusts of Auroville were invited. It was attended by 58 Trustees. The FAMC presented an overview of the financial year 2018-19 for the whole of Auroville and its different sectors. The seminar focused on creation of an advisory body that would be holistic, comprising representation from all sectors of Auroville and be the bridge between the Activities, Units, Trusts and Aurovilians with the Funds and Assets Management committee. The need for a facilitated dialogue between the FAMC and the ABC and ABS was clearly highlighted. The all-day seminar brought forward the need for more collaboration, better communication and regular fora of this kind.

Governing Board 55th meeting; FAMC interaction - The FAMC met with the Governing Board during the 55th meeting of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. The GB appreciated the work of the FAMC with a suggestion that standardized accounting should be implemented for Auroville. The Governing Board noted that the CAG points raised repeatedly indicate that there should be registration of all Farms in Auroville under a Trust and a registered accounting of City Services budget under a possible City Trust. The Income Tax orders received by Auroville Foundation were discussed and the Governing Board was informed that an appeal has been filed by Auroville in court. Hon. Chairman Dr Karan Singh and other members of the GB offered help for attempting to resolve the issue. The FAMC with the Working Committee are following up on the offer. The FAMC presented to the GB that the Code of Conduct approved by the GB in Sept 2017, is in the process of amendment and the amended version will be presented to the Residents Assembly for feedback and input before a final version is approved.

GOI grant request for 2020-21 - A total of Rs 20 crores has been requested from the Government of India as a grant in aid. Of this amount approx. Rs 3.5 crores is for general (Revenue) expenditure and Rs 16.5 crores is for Capital (assets creation) expenditure. The beneficiaries are the regular approved recipients of the grant: SAIER, Bharat Nivas, Working Committee, and TDC for Infrastructure and Youth Housing. Additionally, NESS, Udhavi School, and Aurinoco were included in the grant request. The request is subject to approval of the Finance Committee of AV Foundation constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Governing Board and the Auroville Foundation Office have requested that the FAMC take over responsibility from the Working Committee as the single one point of contact for handling Government grants-in-aid requests and disbursements.

Creation of a Farm Trust - Repeated CAG paras raised about non-inclusion of farm accounts in the Auroville Foundation balance sheet has resulted in FAMC meeting with the farmers for discussion about creating a Farm Trust. We aim to achieve consensus and include all farms in the new trust. If not, the farms that have initially requested for the formation of the Farm Trust may be taken under the new Trust. This new direction was also presented to the Governing Board and has seen their approval.

Nandini sections- Tailoring and Distribution To help ensure smooth functioning and financial accountability of both the Distribution and the Tailoring Sections, the FAMC assigned two separate financial service accounts, one for each section with advances released from the main account by the FAMC. The

distribution section has been monitored by Jocelyn as an interim manager reporting to the FAMC in the absence of a Trust structure above Nandini. The FAMC wishes to move Nandini under a Trust, like all income generating units and service units.

Housing Service internal accounting study - The FAMC requested Stephanie and Batemanabin Subramanian (Subbu) to analyze the accounts and the accounting structure of Housing Service. The aim was to assess and recommend a clear structure for accounting and protocol for decision making with respect to release of funds. This was taken up with the extended cooperation of the Housing Service team with the implementation of the proposed outcome expected by February. The assessment and recommendations were made to the Housing Board and were received positively. The FAMC is very thankful to Stephanie and Subbu for this exercise.

Resignation of a FAMC member - Inge Van Alphen stepped down as a member of the FAMC. This was notified to the Auroville Council. With the upcoming selection process, the need for another member to be selected was added to the list.

FAMC - L'Avenir d'Auroville Policy discussion on Building and Project Violations - The two groups jointly discussed the issue of constructions occurring without the mandatory No Objection Certificate from the TDC, and other similar breaches of common procedures. A policy framework for handling non-compliance procedures that has been proposed by the TDC is being reviewed by the FAMC.

Units

New Units created

- **Mo Betta Surf** New unit approved; Nicola Erni and Suhasini Damian as executives
- **Natraj**, an activity under AVA approved to become a new unit under the Team Trust. Executives are Geeta Nilesh Nisar and Harish Chandra

Appointments, Renewals and Termination of executivship

Artisan Revolution Changes in listed scope of work approved; Fabien Bontems and Mirra Tardeil have been requested to propose a 3rd executive due to being above 1 crore turnover

Conscious Living Changes in listed scope of work approved; Fabien Bontems and Kumbha Grenier have been requested to propose a 3rd executive due to being above 1 crore turnover. Bobby Patel proposed.

Wellpaper Executives changes; Current executives are Danny Merguei to continue and Orly Alon Merguei, whose request to resign has been approved. The appointment of a new executive Anitha Gaur has also been approved.

Auroville Road Service Executive reappointment for Jacques Rosier with current ongoing executive Manickam Perumal.

Auroville Safety & Security Resignation of Srijita Roy approved and appointment of a new executive Anandamayi Legrand approved with current ongoing executives Carlos Herrera and Samuel Charpentier.

ASSA Executive reappointment of Guy Dinot has been approved. Current executives are Claudine Blancard and Kumar Kannappan.

Auro-Orchard Resignation of Christian Tarpin who left Auroville for good was accepted. Current ongoing executives are Gerard Cruz and Bithi Poddar.

Abundance Guest House re-appointment of current executives approved; Selvam Rajamani & Manjula Selvam.

Easy Procurement Solutions unit under Swagatam Trust; executives' reappointment for current executives Angelo Jacob Salerno, Balu Kuppusamy and Iyyappan Jayamoorthy was approved.

Trusts

Guest House Trust Resignation of Afsaneh Bader from being a Trustee was accepted. Current remaining Trustees are Lieve Claes, Selvam Rajamani and Xavier Cuiat Guerraz

Auromitra Trust Trustees term is up for reappointment; Juergen Puetz, Joss Brooks and Paul Blanchflower are the

Trustees. As the internal audits for the year 2019-20 are on going and as the Auromitra Trust is one of the audits (under not-for-profit category) Appointments are postponed until the audit is concluded.

- Funds and Assets Management Committee (Daniel Emdin, Dhruv, Inge vA., Kalia, Lyle, Marc T, Nicole C-S, Prabhu M.)

Funds and Assets Management Committee Report: February 2020

1. General updates:

- Income tax notice :The most critical issue currently affecting Auroville's economy concerns the Income Tax notice demand for the financial year 2016-17 for the sum of Rs. 14,56,04,318, payable by the Auroville Foundation, as reported in the December FAMC report. Devising an effective strategy to appeal this tax demand has been a key concern for the FAMC. It necessitated close collaboration with the Working Committee and experts drawn from within and outside of Auroville. The FAMC requested the Income Tax department to waive the 20% deposit on the Rs. 14.56 crores generally required when making an appeal. This was rejected by the Income Tax Department. Consequently, an advance of Rs. 50 Lakhs was paid by the Unity Fund toward the deposit. Discussions and planning regarding the development of an effective strategy to appeal this tax demand formed a very significant aspect of the FAMC's work.
- FAMC spent much time discussing the future of PTPS both as a group and with others, such as the Service Trust Trustees, assessing the needs and merits of various possibilities such as an audit, the creation of a suitable management structure, and how PTPS's accumulated funds could potentially be utilised in the future to best serve the community. Given the great significance of PTPS for the community as a whole, all the members felt the need to explore as deeply as possible the potential options for its future and how these could meaningfully be presented to the community at a general meeting.
- The Activities Guidelines were finalised with a Task Force formed for this exercise over the last few months. This 16 member Advisory Body was composed of representatives of Activities managers, Umbrella Units executives, Trustees of Trusts that have Umbrella Units within them, community at large resource persons and a representative of the FAMC. The Advisory Body and the FAMC both agreed and forwarded the Guidelines to the Working Committee for their approval, after which the FAMC will finally be able to begin processing new Activity applications.

2. Liaising with the Community and other Working Groups

With the Auroville Council - The FAMC met with Auroville Council (and RAS) to present an explanation of the stratified, randomized methodology utilised for the selection of Units for the purpose of internal auditing. This was aimed at better compliance with statutory norms.

With TDC - The FAMC and the TDC agreed to regular, weekly meetings to discuss town planning related items. A key subject matter for discussion was various options for the location of a proposed electricity sub-station in the Auroville area.

With the Land Board and Working Committee - FAMC met with the Land Board and the Working Committee to discuss potential land purchases, possible improvements to due diligence processes, and to receive an update regarding specific due diligence being undertaken in relation to lands under consideration.

3. Trusts and Units

- Auroville Consulting: The reappointment of Vimal Bhojraj as executive was approved.
- Freeland: The reappointment of Lemaire Arnout Jozef Fernand as executive was approved.
- Tapasya Design Studio: The reappointment of Vidhyalakshmi Veerasamy as executive was approved.
- MG Ecoduties: The reappointment of Margarita Correa and Guidelma Grandi as executives was approved.

- Comfort Design: Its transfer from Swagatam to Kattida Kalai Trust was approved.
- Papyrus: Its transfer from Artisana Trust to Kattida Kalai Trust was approved. New executive appointments for an initial period of 3 years were approved for Auroprem Dhamodaran and Muniandi Radhakrishnan.
- Treecare: The reappointment of current executives; Jonas Suchanek, Anadi Skoles and Julian Becker was approved.
- International Zone: After discussion, there was agreement for the creation of a new Unit for the construction of pavilions that shall sit under the Service Trust and be subject to a management board with a minimum of 5 members, who are not Executives of the new Unit.
- Nandini: Nandini Tailoring informed the FAMC that they would close the service with a short notice of only one week and settle all workers' gratuities due. The FAMC stopped Nandini Tailoring from closure by appointing an interim team to carry on the service.

4. Miscellaneous:

Integrated Entrepreneurship Laboratory (IEL): FAMC met with IEL to discuss the development of a toolkit to assist with the process of applications for the creation of new Units and Activities. Discussions included methods by which IEL could assist existing Units in upscaling or general business strategizing.

Unity Fund: The FAMC met with Unity Fund and agreed that while Unity Fund executives had the delegated duty of vetting and approving investments, they would also submit to FAMC quarterly reports on those investments to facilitate financial oversight of the work of the Unity Fund.

FAMC - Farm Group Meeting: An open meeting of the Farm Group, attended by about 25 farmers was held to discuss long term planning for Auroville's farms and, in particular, the merits of creating a Farm Trust, which ensure greater financial transparency and accountability and help the Farm sector. It would also address the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) observation that Auroville's Farms' accounts must be consolidated in the AV Foundation Balance Sheet. This is still a work in progress as many concerns and viewpoints were expressed.

In community, -**Funds and Assets Management Committee** (Daniel Emdin, Dhruv Bhaskar, Inge vA., Kalia, Lyle Jaffe, Marc Tormo, Nicole Clarence Smith, Prabhu M.)

AUROVILLE TELEPHONE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2019 - MARCH 2020

The dedicated and skilled engineers of BSNL were transferred from our Exchange to various places. During their period, fiber optic connections were given. We express our sincere gratitude for their services! In the month of March, BSNL leased their copper cable connection maintenance to contractors which resulted in the non-availability of telecom technicians. We are exploring the possibility of getting a subcontract to maintain our community connections.

Several attempts were made to repair the 400 pair cable pillar near Auroville Bakery with no success. BSNL franchise arranged fiber optic connection in all communities on the western side from New Creation, Auromodele, La Ferme, and Utility. Optical Line Terminal was installed at Omega at Fraternity; all our connections go from there.

We keep receiving requests from city area dwellers to arrange BSNL fiber connection. We look forward to collaborating with other service providers in our community so that the existing cable networks may be utilized. We have enough fiber optic cable to spare for our future use, but unfortunately, private developers in the green belt are enjoying it. We are unable to stop it.

During the monsoon period, thunder & lightning damaged our cable, distribution box, cable joints, and modems, etc. To restore the connections, BSNL has delivered the required cables and restored the connections with user's participation.

New connections: In this financial year, 20 new copper cable connections, 183 new fiberoptic connections, 5 shifts, 39 broadband in copper connections, and 93 changes in plans were facilitated.

Nature's challenges: Ants, lizards, and rats are damaging the fiber optic leads and connections were lost. This is happening only in our community. To avoid this problem, we took some precautions and regularly applied "no entry" chalk and naphthalene balls. It remains to be seen ...

Request to the community: To provide good service we seek your collaboration and request you to follow our technician's suggestions. It will help you avoid frequent faults and to have a more stable connection.

Financial details:

Income (₹ Average Per Month)

10% Group Billing discount: 107810.00
AVTS Service charge: 28158.00
New connections, shifting, etc.: 11489.00
TOTAL 147457.00

Expenses (₹ Average Per Month)

Employee costs: 129395.00
Administration Costs: 14485.00
Maintenance of BSNL infrastructure: 922.00
TOTAL 144802.00 Surplus 2655.00
Cellphone Recharge BSNL and Vodafone 84412.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Taxi share to Chennai airport - Friday 12th June, leaving AV - 7PM. E-pass for the cab is secured. Shiv, 709-737-0699.

Taxi Share to Bangalore - Mon, 15th June. Sylvie 262-3027



Housing Service Open Hours

Monday 10am - 12.30

Tuesday thru Friday 9.30am - 12.30

Saturdays (accounts only) 10.30am - 12.30

As we are still under lockdown, please

continue making appointments with the person you need to see, and to wear your mask and sanitize your hands when entering the office.

The Housing Service is updating its lists for Aurovilians with limited funding for their future housing solution. For those interested to be included, come and meet Savithri at the HS office, (no appt needed) between

Monday, 8th June & Friday, 19th June, 9.30 am - 12.30 PM

Please note: This does **not** concern those who have sufficient funds for transfer, who should look as usual for transfers under the "Houses Available" section on Auronet.

Warmly, -The Housing Service Team



It's a girl!

Velmurugan & Anitha of Promesse are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Dhanani, on June 3rd 2020 at Nallam Clinic

Taste of Korea at Le Morgan!

You can now experience the Taste of Korea at dinner time! We have a new location at Le Morgan (located between Town Hall and MMC). Join us to dine in, reservations not necessary.

Take away lunch is now discontinued (but you can still order for takeaway at dinner). Orders can be made by phone or website. However, our beloved Gimbab will need extra time and we ask that you order before 2 pm. Dinner will be served from 5pm taking last orders at 8 pm. Please be advised that we will be adhering to COVID regulations. We look forward to having you! Phone 0413-262-2832 (from 4.30 PM).

<https://forms.gle/Pv13cxLuRNbAse5UA>

**Bread & Chocolate Café has reopened
Tuesday to Sunday, 8am to 5pm.**

Our menu will still be limited for now, but all our best sellers will be available. Takeaway is always a better option in the present situation. If you plan to take away, kindly bring your take away boxes. We will be at 50% sitting capacity and will be following strict hygiene protocols. See you soon!
~ B&C Team

M&M Cheeses shop new opening time: 9AM -4 PM



Sakura Sushi is a small restaurant under the AV Unit "Aurora". We serve vegan, vegetarian and non-vegetarian varieties of sushi, miso soup, homemade drinks and cake.

There is choice of beverages and snacks to take away, such as vegetarian bread-spread, sauerkraut, etc. We also offer delivery within Auroville. Our menu can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/sushiauroville/> For orders and information ph/whatsapp: 94873 86172 or 94880 47368.

Opening hours: Tues -Thurs., 5:30 pm - 9 pm
Fri - Sun 11:30 am - 15 & 5:30 pm - 9 pm

Location: Opposite new Era Secondary School (on the road going down to the ECR), on the left, before the ice-cream shop. email: sakurasushi@auroville.org.in

Pilates classes w/ Savitri at New Creation Studio have resumed. Monday 5-6pm; Tuesday & Saturday 7.30-8.30 AM

THANK YOU!

**KUDOS to the women GARBAGE WARRIORS
World Environment Day**



A big thank you to the women from Naturellement who every year clean up the area between Udyogam & Horizon. This year, in 3 hours, they collected over 30 bags of garbage (often thrown in thorny bushes,) then sorted it all and brought it to Eco service.



It's interesting to note that, although a lot is plastic, alcohol and beer bottles, there are also whole bags with some very fancy items inside which give us important cues to who would be doing this. There are still some Aurovilians who prefer to

give their waste to other garbage collectors and most of it lands on the roadside after the money generating waste has been sorted out.

Many neighbors who regularly work and walk in this area appreciate the dedication of this team to clean up the area.
~ submitted by Mona

OBITUARIES

Jan Pieter Derksen



Our dear Jan Pieter Derksen passed away peacefully on 02-06-2020 in the Netherlands after a period of illness. Jan Pieter's connection with Sri Aurobindo, the Mother and Auroville goes back to the mid-seventies. In those days Jan Pieter stayed in one of the houses of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and visited Auroville almost every day, as a guide. He informed visitors about the Dream that is being realized in Auroville. He was very good at his work. In addition to his native language (Dutch), he spoke English, French and German fluently. Jan Pieter was a soft spoken and patient guide who answered the numerous questions about Auroville, sincerely and tirelessly. After his work in Pondicherry, Jan Pieter lived at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi Branch, before joining Findhorn, in Scotland. There he met Sonja. Together they have two daughters, Marjon and Samantha. The family visited Auroville several times. Jan Pieter was a member of the board of Auroville International Netherlands in the eighties, again in the nineties and during a third period from 2009 till 2016 he was the treasurer. It was during this period that he translated Sri Aurobindo's 'The Synthesis of Yoga' into Dutch and wrote many articles on his frequent visits to Auroville, as a candidate newcomer. He had recently completed his Newcomer period, took up residence at Sunship in Auroville and was about to return to Auroville for good.

Arya Maloney



We were recently informed that Arya (Charles William) Maloney, USA, passed away on 17 April due to a long-term illness. He had just become 80 years old. While at Columbia University (NYC) working toward his doctorate, he came across Sri Aurobindo's work which would entirely direct his further life. Already in the late 70's-early 80's he was facilitating groups to study the Integral Yoga in Woodstock (NY).

At the end of 1983 he came to Auroville, along with his then partner Marlenka and 8-year old Ashaman (who both had lived here in the seventies), and stayed with them in Verité. A year later he returned to USA where he worked in the various fields of science, philosophy, psychology and spirituality as a teacher and psychologist. His book, [Alchemy of the Soul](#)— based on his life, work and spiritual exploration is his contribution to the field of transpersonal psychology.

While he lived in Auroville only shortly, residents remember him as a caring teacher and effective therapist. Abroad, his wide range of influence enabled Sri Aurobindo's and Mother's yoga and vision to find access to innumerable young and open minds. For a more detailed US-based obit, [click here](#).
~ Jay MA!

LOST AND FOUND

Panasonic mobile phone - found Tuesday 2nd June at PTDC. If it's yours, you can reclaim it there.

Bicycle Lock - I lost my Kinisi bike's number lock on my way from Maitreye to PTDC. If you find /have it, please whatsapp me at 87620-58675. Thank you! ~ Sangeetha

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

From the AVES:

L.T. Billing Details post Covid-19 by TANGEDCO

We want to clarify the L.T. Billing method adopted by TANGEDCO (Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation) for post-Covid-19 meter reading & bill calculation. As we are all aware, TANGEDCO has not come for meter reading during the previous bi-monthly billing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead the Tamil Nadu Government has issued a publication asking the consumer to pay the previous bi-monthly bills, and then the excess or short collection will be adjusted when the TANGEDCO Assessors come for the reading for subsequent bills. Readings were taken and the bills are now being generated. Meanwhile, we take the opportunity to explain to consumers, how the billing will be done post pandemic.

For Example, we take a Domestic Service Connection where they paid Rs.3,166/- for 710 units during Feb/March Bi-monthly period, now the new reading taken by the TANGEDCO Assessors are 2140 units. This 2140 units is basically for 4 Months i.e. for the periods 21/01/2020 to 22/03/2020 and 22/03/2020 to 22/05/2020. So the billing has been as follows:

2140 units for 2 Bi-Monthly = 1070 units for 1 Bi-monthly

Calculations are as follows for 1070 units

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • 0 to 100 units - free Electricity | |
| • 101 - 200 units @ Rs.3.50 | = Rs. 350 |
| • 201 - 500 units @ Rs.4.60 | = Rs. 1,380 |
| • 501 - 1070 units @ Rs.6.60 | = Rs. 3,762 |
| Total | Rs. 5,492 |
| Fixed Charges | Rs. 50 |

TANGEDCO charges Rs. 5,542/- for 1070 units for 2 months. So for the current (4 month) bill, it is Rs. 5,542 x 2 = Rs. 11,084/-, - Rs. 3,166 (already paid in Feb/March) = Rs. 7,918/-

So for this Bi-monthly the payable will be Rs. 7,918/- . Since the consumption is above 500 units, VARUNA will give you Rs.1,000/- as Subsidy for this bill.

Second Example, a Domestic Service Connection where they paid Rs.2,374/- for 590 units during Feb/March Bi-monthly period. Now the new reading taken by the TANGEDCO Assessors is 970 units. This 970 units is basically for 4 Months i.e. for the periods 21/01/2020 to 22/03/2020 and 22/03/2020 to 22/05/2020. So the billing has been as follows;

970 units for 2 Bi-Monthly = 485 units for 1 Bi-monthly

Calculations are as follows for 1070 units

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 0 to 100 Units - free Electricity | |
| 101 to 200 units @ Rs.2.00 | = Rs. 200 |
| 201 to 485 units @ Rs.3.00 | = Rs. 855 |
| Total | Rs. 1,055 |
| Fixed Charges | Rs. 30 |

TANGEDCO charges for 485 units Rs. 1,085/- . This amount is for 2 months, so for the Bi-monthly bill it is Rs. 1,085 x 2 = Rs. 2,170/- . So the TANGEDCO bill for this service connection is Rs. 2,170 - Rs. 2,374 (already paid in Feb/March) = -Rs. 204/- . So for this Bi-monthly bill, the payable will be "NIL" and the excess amount of Rs.204/- will be adjusted in the next bill.

We take an example for General Purpose connection, where they paid Rs.4,320/- for 410 units during Feb/March Bi-monthly period. Now the new reading taken by the TANGEDCO Assessors are 830 units. This 830 units is basically for 4 months i.e. for the periods 21/01/2020 to 22/03/2020 and 22/03/2020 to 22/05/2020. So the billing has been as follows:

830 units for 2 Bi-Monthly (4 months) = 415 units for 2 months

Calculations are as follows for 415 units

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 0 to 415 units @ Rs.8.05 | = Rs. 3,341 |
| Fixed Charges 6 KW @ Rs.140 | = Rs. 840 |
| Total | Rs. 4,181 |
| Tax @ 5% | Rs. 209 |

TANGEDCO charges for 415 units Rs. 4,390/- .

So for 2 Bi-monthly (4 months), it is Rs. 4390 x 2 = Rs. 8,780/-

So the TANGEDCO bill for this service connection is Rs. 8,780 - Rs. 4,320 (already paid in Feb/March) = Rs. 4,460/- .

So the current payable amount is Rs. 4,460/- .

Since the consumption is 415 units - the full bill of Rs.4,460/- will be covered by VARUNA.

This is the way the TANGEDCO billing is being done post Covid-19, hence we would like you all to take a note of these calculations. -With regards, -AVES Team.

Auroville Smart Mini Grid Phase 1 completed

Recently the first phase of an Auroville Smart Mini Grid project was completed. The project was conceived and driven by Auroville Consulting and includes 122 kW of distributed rooftop solar energy systems (installed on 6 buildings in the Administrative area of Auroville). Most of the solar energy produced by the solar energy systems is consumed in the area itself. Surplus solar energy flows to other buildings and building clusters within Auroville through the Auroville internal distribution network. On most sunny days the monitoring system shows that the area is energy positive between about 10:30h and 16:00h.

The solar PV systems are expected to reduce Auroville's electricity consumption from the TANGEDCO grid by an average of 1,65,416 kWh per year (calculated for a 20-year period). Together with solar PV systems that were installed in the same area in earlier years, the total solar energy generation from this Auroville area represents a grid energy reduction of about 4%.

In addition to the rooftop solar systems, the project includes an energy storage system with a capacity of 50 kWh, 68 smart energy meters with remote reading facility and additions to the Auroville internal electricity distribution system.

The Smart Mini Grid project aims to demonstrate that distributed and connected renewable energy generation and storage systems will be essential parts of a sustainable energy future. The Ministry of Power, Government of India (National Smart Grid Mission) endorsed the project in December 2019.

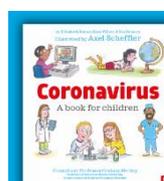
Phase 1 of the Auroville Smart Mini Grid project was made possible by a generous corporate grant. The project was implemented by a group of Auroville units lead by Auroville Consulting. The participating Auroville units include Auroville Electrical Service, Sunlit Future, Aurinoco and Cynergy.

- submitted by Martin S.

Savitri
B H A V A N

The latest issue of our journal
Invocation (Savitri Study Notes 52)
is now available.

This is a special issue commemorating the Centenary of the Mother's Final Arrival to Pondicherry. If you would like to receive a copy, please collect one from the Reception Desk of Savitri Bhavan between 9.30 and 11.30am on all days except Sunday. - Savitri Bhavan Team



At the Library: A free information book explaining the coronavirus to children, illustrated by The Gruffalo illustrator Axel Scheffler has been released. The book answers key questions in simple language appropriate for 5-to-9 year olds:

- What is the coronavirus?
- How do you catch the coronavirus?
- What happens if you catch the coronavirus?
- Why are people worried about catching the coronavirus?
- Is there a cure for the coronavirus?
- Why are some places we normally go to closed?
- What can I do to help?
- What's going to happen next?

We have downloaded the book and have it with our eBook collection and intend to print a hard copy for borrowing. You can download the PDF yourself here:

<https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-childrenillustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler>



STILL FRESH AT THE PEAK OF THE SUMMER

Ayurveda healthy tips

According to Ayurveda, the qualities of summer are hot, sharp, and penetrating. That's why our *pitta dosha* - the subtle fire that controls metabolism and transformation - can cause us to overheat. The sun saps the energy from the body, from the plants and the earth, increasing the heat and dryness.

Pitta needs to be looked after to maintain a good energy, mental clarity, joyfulness, good digestion and blood circulation, a beautiful glow of the skin and a sound sleep.

When Pitta is out of balance it will give skin problems, hot flashes, exhaustion, indigestion or loose stool. Emotionally, excess Pitta manifests through irritation, short-temper, impatience, judgement/criticism, perfectionism...

Before Pitta reaches uncontrollable heights, let's keep it cool and calm and pamper the liver:

With the food: As Agni (digestive fire) is naturally weak, it is better to eat light, unctuous (slightly oily), cooling food such as salads and juices.

- Favorable taste: bitter and sweet (to take moderately in case of diabetes and high triglycerides). Salty taste should be taken reasonably
- Drink water stored in earthen pot
- Raw food/salads are taken at lunch mainly or as a side dish for dinner
- Proteins: from vegetable kingdom (mungdal, chickpeas, beans, sprouts, nuts and seeds), from animal (white meat, fish, seashell, dairies for breakfast or lunch, eggs)
- Cereals for energy: jasmine rice, barley, oats, granola, millet (fermented ragi)
- Vegetables: pumpkin, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, snake gourd, ash gourd, cucumber (taken separately), salads (green, rucola...) and green leafy vegetables, broccoli, cabbage, celery, carrots, drumstick (moringa), zucchini, plantain
- Fruits: amla, pomegranate, banana, ramphala, chiku, papaya, apple, grape, date, watermelon and melon (to be taken separately), bael fruit, coconut
- Beverages: buttermilk, sweet lassi, coconut water, mint, lemongrass, cardamom, chamomile, nannari (sarsaparilla), amla juice, watermelon juice, Hibiscus juice, Aparajita (Radha's consciousness - clitoria terneata), aloe vera juice, vegetable juice, cucumber milk (blend ½ cup of peeled cucumber in 1 cup of milk with a pinch of sugar), electrolyte drink (1tsp of lemon juice + 1tsp of sugar + 1 pinch of salt in a glass of water)
- Other products: ghee, olive or sunflower or coconut oil
- Spices: tamarind, cumin, coriander, black pepper, turmeric, fennel seeds, fresh aromatic herbs (dill, coriander, fennel, mint, parsley, saffron)

Avoid:

- Pungent and sour tastes (especially for people who are Pitta dominant)
- Pitta increasing products: sharp spices, fermented (apart from idli and dosai), deep-fried, sour buttermilk or curd, red meat, alcohol (strong liquor, red wine), coffee ...
- Drinking beverages coming from the fridge or freezer during meals
- Ice-cream at the end of a meal (best to be taken when the digestion is finished, around 4pm)

Routine to favour:

- Avoid direct sun contact specially between 11am and 4pm, and protect from the heat by keeping a humid towel/cap on the head
- A nap of half an hour after lunch is allowed (under a neem tree as it is refreshing)
- Body massage with coconut oil - if there's no time every day to apply oil on the body, then massage ears, hands and feet + pour 4-5 drops of coconut oil on the fontanelle
- Bath with cool water and apply a paste of sandalwood on the face, heart and lower abdomen (these are the 3 main parts that should remain fresh to maintain the coolness in the whole body); do foot bath in the evening with vetiver roots, rose water or hibiscus flowers
- Swimming, Aquagym, any water activities. Qi-Gong, Tai Chi, light running: max 30 minutes early morning or late evening; walks in green environment, forest
- Soft yoga, pranayama (Sheetali, Sheetakari, ida nadi inhalation-left nostril inhalation), meditation with Gayatri mantra
- Walk under the moonlight, full moon bath
- Wear loose and comfortable cotton or linen clothes (white, blue, green, grey colors)
- Cooling jewellery: sandalwood beads, jade, pearl, amethyst crystals, moonstone, silver, aquamarine
- To refresh the ambiance use lemon or orange peel, jasmine flowers, lavender, wet cloth hanging at the open window, vetiver curtains

Avoid:

- Direct exposure to the sun between 11am and 4pm
- Physical exertion

Cooling plants for the summer:

- Amalaki - Amla: the fruits are refrigerant and full of Vitamin C, also a Rasayana fruit
- Aloe vera: the pulp is a bitter tonic, rejuvenate the blood and tissues
- Bilva - Aegle Marmelos - Bael fruit: the fruit pulp is used to make a juice and the leaves in a decoction to calm body and mind. It is slightly laxative, do not take during pregnancy
- Dhania - Coriander: the seeds are used in urinary infections, kidney weakness
- Japapushpa - Hibiscus: the leaves and flowers are used for hair shampoo and conditioner; the flowers for herbal tea
- Manduka parni - Centella asiatica - Gotu Kola: the leaves are rejuvenative and a tonic for the brain and nerves
- Pudina - Mint: the leaves are used for herbal tea, recipes and foot bath
- Radha consciousness - Clitoria Terneata: the flowers are used in herbal tea or juice
- Saariva - Sarsaparilla - Nannari: the roots are used in syrup
- Shataavari - Asparagus racemosus: the rhizome is Rasayana (rejuvenative), cooling, calming Pitta, very good for women to harmonize the hormones
- Usheer - Vetiver: the roots are used for bathing
- Yashtimadhu - Licorice: the root is Rasayana (rejuvenative), used internally to refresh the body and when there is irritation, inflammation or ulcer in the digestive tract.

Wishing you a beautiful summer!
~ Berengere (Be) @ Santé Clinic

From Nandini - Nandini has been a functioning service since 1994. It provides a variety of clothing and household items to Aurovilians and Newcomers who choose to join the service. The contribution received from the members each month allows us to buy bulk garments at best prices, aiming for quality. In the near future we hope to have a stronger collaboration with Auroville's garment units, to provide Nandini's members with products created within our community.

Nandini has two sections: a Distribution Center and a Tailoring Section.

The Distribution Section offers readymade garments for children from 2 years to adults.

The Tailoring Section offers a variety of tailored items for the household besides garments all stitched to sample measurements.

The members take what they need, keeping in mind the spirit of sharing as in a big family, being aware that their needs should fit into their budget. **We have resumed our services to the community since November 2019 and feel that many of you are not aware that you or your child still actually are a member of this service. We kindly request you to look into this.** For those of you who are not a part of the service, we hope that you will join our family.

We take this opportunity to inform you about our opening times:

Distribution section: Mon/Wed/Fri: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

We are not able to open at our usual timings due to the present situation. We are very sorry and hope to resume our original timings soon. If you are not able to come during the given time please let us know, we will be happy to arrange a convenient time for you.

Tailoring section:

Tues/Thurs/Sat - 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon & 2 to 4:00 PM

With love, -the Nandini Team

Road Service is available for all kinds of work

Please see the (non-exhaustive) list below:

- trench digging and other excavations (manual and/or mechanical)
- fencing work
- laying of pipes, electrical cable and optical fibre
- renovation and/or creation of pathways, paved or stabilized earth
- removal and transportation of rubble
- transport with our 407, Lorry and tractor.
- JCB
- all kind of earth movements
- cleaning and /or clearing of green spaces/bushes including grass cutting
- local stormwater management transport with our 407
- Small painting job with spray Gun.
- Small welding Job, etc...

For any other specific job please consult us. Road Service equipment and our well trained and qualified workers enable us to provide you with quality work in a smooth and quick interaction. Contact details: Jacques Rosier - 9585761677; Manickam - 9443001761; Office - 0413 - 2622844
Email: roadservice@auroville.org.in

From Rangoli - All of the beautiful Rangoli creations that you enjoyed at the Visitors Center are available at the atelier. We are open! Please make an appointment to visit by contacting me on WhatsApp or phone. +91 94433 62528. - Prema

Dreamers Cafe update - We are happy to inform the community that you can now come to Dreamers Cafe and have the option to sit and enjoy any of our organic products **from 8 am to 4,30 pm.** Of course, we have coffee cold and hot, gelato, pastries, sandwiches and juices, with vegan options.

Just remember to wear a mask while you walk in and while ordering your coffee or food. Keep social distance and do not sit more than 2 at a table. We do not accept cash, and for now, this service is for Aurovilians, Newcomers, guests of Auroville and volunteers ONLY. See you soon.

Dreamers cafe team, Visitors Center

Marc's Café - We are open and we welcome you to have a cup of coffee inside the cafe. This facility is only for Aurovilians, Newcomers and guests of Auroville. We can only operate at 50% capacity, so please be aware and keep appropriate distance.

We have some new menu items like **Annapurna brown rice dosai** for breakfast or lunch. We've also added some **probiotic booster drinks** like tepache, beet kvass and kefir. We have our homemade gelato and bakery products, as well as sourdough bread, plus the **new vegan croissant and pain au chocolate.**

And of course, our great coffee beans or powder as usual.
Thanks so much and see you soon. - Marc's cafe team

A REMINDER: Laboratory of Evolution moved from Bharat Nivas to Lorenzo's quantum laboratory in Horizon. Our new timetable is: **Mon-Sat, 9 AM - noon and Tues & Fri, 2.30 - 4.30 PM**
HAPPY TO SEE YOU THERE!

Home Visits for massage and vacuum cupping - undertaken for:

- * Back Pain
- * Stiff Neck
- * Frozen Shoulder
- * Blood Circulation
- * Muscular aches and stiffness
- * General well-being

Only high grade Ayurvedic Therapeutic oils are used. May involve use of kneading and tapping appliance. As always, extreme care is taken w/ sanitization. For more information and bookings: Sumit, 6379669034 (also WhatsApp no.)

Auroville Papers' show room is open to public
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM every day except Sundays.



You can find a colorful variation of paper products in our show room, such as stationary, flower, jewel, home and office accessory, and art work. Located in Aspiration area. (0413) 2622122.

ALSO

Our bookshop at the Visitors Centre is open. One can find there not only books, but also some items made by Auroville Papers (notebooks, etc). See you there! Ph. 262-2302

The **FARMER'S MARKET** happens **MONDAYS & FRIDAYS** at TERRSOUL from 9.30 on. A few farms will offer their **FRUITS & VEGETABLES**. Please bring your **BAGS and EMPTY JARS**, and please respect the rules (masks, distance, spray).

Latest News from the Travel Shop/Inside India

Guidelines for Air Passengers

https://static.mygov.in/rest/s3fs-public/mygov_159015121455063671.pdf

<https://www.mygov.in/covid-19/>

You can contact us only through e-mail.

International Flight Tickets travelshop@auroville.org.in;

Domestic Flight Tickets/Trains/Bus: domestic@inside-india.

Tours, domestic hotel bookings: insideindia@auroville.org.in

APPEALS

Appeal to land owners in this area!

Dear Landowners,
Auroville is a long-term project that will evolve and aims to have a positive impact on the entire region for generations to come. We humbly invite those who are willing to sell their land, to meet with the Auroville Land Board team, Town Hall 1st floor, (10-12) Mon, Wed Thu, Tel 262-3699.

We look forward to meeting with you, and we thank you for your help in joining hands to ensure the growth and success of the Auroville project, and to not undermine our future together. Thank you for your consideration of the welfare of all and the Auroville project.

~ Auroville Land Board

AV ART SERVICE is looking for an office space - .and we don't have money to pay as rent. Thanks in advance for any offers/suggestions! ~ Krishna, aurovillearts@auroville.org.in

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Ambassador Coordinator for Eco Femme - Eco Femme Ambassadors are a network of volunteers around the world who are passionate about raising awareness about cloth pads and revaluing menstruation. It is the Ambassador Coordinator's role to support each Ambassador's personal journey and learning around menstruation, as well as the execution of their ideas. Support includes providing and/or creating learning tools and resources, training, organising support materials, networking (with other Ambassadors, as well as key stakeholders known to us), and generally providing a friendly ear to listen, encourage and brainstorm!

This is a full-time role (35 hrs/wk), immediately available. We are seeking someone who is able to make a minimum 1 year commitment and ideally stay long term. If interested write to: kathy@ecofemme.org for a detailed job description, final applications to be submitted by 19th of June.

Inspired Organization Goddess for Solitude Farm
It is an exciting time. There is a real wave of energy in many communities that have started to grow their own food in circle gardens, perennial hedges and kitchen gardens. I am involved with creating many of the gardens, helping them get started and I see that a long-term guidance is so important and I am so happy to be able to do this.

Along with this, our fruit and vegetable basket service has really taken off with many people valuing the local plants that for so long have been forgotten, like turkey berry, green papaya, banana stem and so many wild and semi-wild spinaches. It is a big job to organize the basket service and of course the farm; planting, rotations, harvests and also the cafe with lunch schemes, guests, etc etc. This too is a joy to witness: the evolution of Solitude Farm and the Cafe.

Now with lockdown slowly coming to a close I am also inundated with requests for workshops, tours and help to start projects in farms, schools and urban settings. Along with the cafe and my ongoing passion with bringing the community together through celebration with music and concerts and also lots of media work; videos, interviews, film projects, recordings, etc. I am searching for someone to help me organise this intensity. It would be amazing to find a creative, organized, inspired and patient goddess!!

We should reach for the stars! If you can help let me know. Love, Krishna

HR 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.

Secretary (part-time) - You prepare meetings, take care of our office's correspondence, prepare drafts and reports and

keep in touch with other working groups. You have good written and spoken English communication skills, good organizational skills and have good knowledge of MS Office and Google Drive. Part-time, maintenance provided.

And other positions (please inquire about details):

- Customer Care and Website Maintenance
- Production management

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. hr_hub@auroville.org.in
~ HR Initiative (Angelo, Joel, Siv, Stephanie)

AVAILABLE

Office space available for registered units or activities in the Aurosarjan Complex, Auroshilpam:

- small office of about 23 sq mtrs
- larger office of about 38 sq mtrs

If you are interested, please make an appointment with Stephan, stephan@auroville.org.in

Paver blocks - in good condition, available at the Road Service stockyard. Can be used for pathways, parking and plaza. If interested, email us at roadservice@auroville.org.in for rates and other details. The Road Service team is also available if you need us to lay them. Office - 0413 - 2622844; Jacques - 9585761677; Manickam - 9443001761



Bicycle - Bitwin, good condition, perfect for dirt roads.
Patricia - guichardan.p@gmail.com

Lots of second-hand furniture and household items:

I have to empty the house I am staying in, before the end of June. Some things, but not all, are published on Auroent as well. You're welcome to come and take a look from the 12th 21st of June from 4 to 6 PM, in Serenity, between Maitreye 1 and 2, last apartment, next to Cynergy). Please don't write or call me just to know what I am giving away. There is too much stuff and too many people already calling, so better you just pass by! Kyara, 830-066-8334.

FURNITURE and BIKE - 2 wooden beds, size 1.20m x 1.90m, 1 rattan bed, 0.90m x 1.90m; 5 small wooden tables, 1 big wooden desk, 0.94m x 1.4 m; wooden armchair, 4 high stools, and diverse other items. Motorbike - YAMAHA YBR 110, 8 yrs old, TN plate. Maggie, 9489969825(WA); maggy@auroville.org

2 seater sofa, dining table & Synthesizer KORG TRITON Pro. alain@auroville.org.in / or 958-598-1832

Nice, hard-working amma - from Sangeevinagar, with good references, is available for half-time work. For details: 948-808-4961 (Dominique) or 948-848-3485 (Rakhal).

Excellent amma - from Edayanchavadi, w/ 4 yrs experience, is looking for house cleaning work, 6 mornings and/or 3 afternoons/week (Tuesday, Wednesday & Fridays). If interested pls call during work hours: 944-336-6517.

Amma - Kokiela, a wonderful 34 year old mother of 2, living in Edayanchavadi, is looking for a nice place to work, at least half time. She speaks English, can cook and is amazing with children. Camille, 8098796307, camille@auroville.org.in

LOOKING FOR

Mobile phone - Still desperately looking for a 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



Looking for a **second-hand bicycle for my 9 year old son**. Gifted if possible or moderate cost. Size is around 24 inches for a boy from 9 to 13. Contact Mira by phone/whatsapp 759-891-5842 Thanks!

Chiropractor - Is there a chiropractor or other therapist who is able to diagnose misalignments in the spine and help correct them? Thank you! -G, 840-799-7970, sattvig@gmail.com

Long-term housesitting - We are a family: Ishay, Tamara, Elay (9) and Nina (6) and we are Newcomers here in Auroville looking for a long-term housesitting arrangement. We have been in Auroville for over a year now, coming from London UK. We are happy to take care of your pets, garden, plants and home. We are very tidy and clean and we have housesat in Auroville in the past. For more details and, questions or offers, please contact: tamara.sivan@gmail.com

Long-term housesitting - Sebastien, Camille and Laly (2 years old) are still looking for long-term housesitting. We are Aurovilians and we're currently living at Kriya. We'd love to take care of your house or flat, garden and pets if you have some, during your time out. Contact Camille : 8098796307 or camille@auroville.org.in

Long-term housesitting - This is Valentina and Pablo (son) from Kriya community. We would love to take care of your home and pets if you have any. I also love gardening, so I could also take care of your garden if you would like. You can contact me at +919498896117 or valentina@auroville.org.in

Housesitting - I am Lakshmi, Newcomer. I'm looking for a long term or any other possibility to housesit. I feel very connected to nature, plants, flowers and animals, and would be happy to take care of your garden and house. Contact: 848-976-4602 or lakshmiprem369@gmail.com. - Love & Gratitude. Lakshmi

Housesitting - My name is Dinesh. I'm a long-term volunteer at Sanskrit Research Institute, Aurelec. I'm looking for a place to housesit (can pay expenses). I can take care of the garden if you like. +91-9176153703 (ph/whatsapp).

Work - Sarasu, a very experienced amma from Edayanchavadi, is looking for half day of work, mornings. Currently working afternoons in SveDam. Contact Sigrid, for more info. sigrid@auroville.org.in, 0413 2623888. Thank you.

MATRIMANDIR

Volunteers needed for garden weeding work - Please come **weekdays between 7am and 9am** via the office gate.

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Drop toilet tissue in your sanitary waste bin instead of flushing them and save water every time. Better yet, use a handkerchief! With love from the Water Group, helping

Auroville become a water-sensitive city.

watergroup@auroville.org.in



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Here a belated announcement of World Environment Day, which was celebrated on the 5th of June. World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nation's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. From beach clean-ups to mass tree-planting to marches, individuals, communities, NGOs, major corporations and governments use this global platform for public outreach, with participants in over 147 countries.

WED was established by the UN in 1972 on the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment: resulting from discussions on the integration of human interactions and the environment. In 1974, the first WED was held with the theme 'Only One Earth' raising awareness on environmental issues emerging from marine pollution, human overpopulation and global warming to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime. This year, the theme is 'TIME FOR NATURE'. Because of the pandemic and full or partial lockdowns globally, we cannot take to the beaches, forests and streets as most of us must stay at home, keep our distance and mark World Environment Day virtually.

Colombia is this year's World Environment Day host nation, in partnership with Germany. Columbia is one of the largest 'megadiverse' nations in the world. It holds 10 percent of the world's biodiversity, and as part of the Amazonian Rainforest, it ranks first in bird and orchid species and second in plants, butterflies, fresh water fish and amphibians. With one million species facing extinction **there has never been a more important time to focus on biodiversity.**

While these online celebrations are a tribute to human commitment and ingenuity, the fact that we have to do it this way means something is terribly wrong with human stewardship of the Earth. This virus is not bad luck, or a one-off event that nobody could see coming. It is an entirely predictable result of humanity's destruction of nature - which will cause far greater suffering if left unchecked. More on this topic in the next column

Sources ; UN site, WED, and speech of Inger Anderson, Director of the UN Environment program.

For AV Green Center - Lisbeth & Gijs
We report on Green issues in Auroville, the Bioregion and the wider world. We like to hear from you : avgreencenter@auroville.org.in. The Green Column is published bi-monthly in the News & Notes and on Auronet

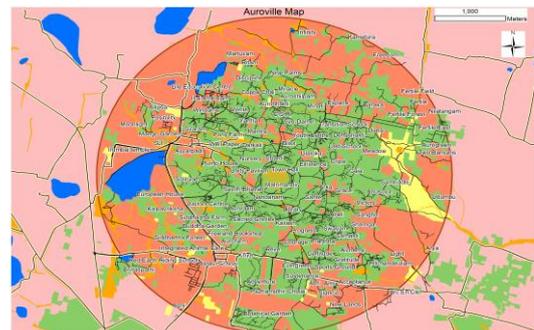


Reimagine your vintage fabrics!

Upasana invites you to Redesign, Recreate, and Reimagine your vintage fabrics! How many of us have that quintessential heirloom piece of fabric passed on for generations in our families from our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, or dear friends? That exquisitely woven or embroidered saree, dupatta, scarf, wedding dress, old undersized pieces, tapestry, tablecloth or bedsheet carefully wrapped and stored in our wardrobes with moth repellants?

The 'Dream-weavers' team at Upasana offers you an opportunity to upcycle or restore your precious fabrics and their memories. Bring us your dearly preserved fabrics, dreams and your stories and our team will hand you back a redesigned garment to flaunt in contemporary times. We deeply believe that conscious clothing leads to conscious living!

-Upasana team, office@upasana.in



Invitation to envision Auroville in 5 years!

All are invited to envision Auroville, **mornings 7- 7:10 AM for the next 4 weeks.** See Auroville in 5 years, blossoming, prospering, spiritually and physically manifesting. Let's focus on the full manifestation of the land (map)!
When we are together, the land is together.
-submitted by Sigrid

Bride

Last night she retired,
Hopeful of new morn, dreaming of beautiful life,
plucked from children's story books,
the eyes of every adult,
and some from marvelous love story movies
she watched a few days back.

Under blue sky, cot of sand, carpet of green,
Swings of eastern wind, holding her feelings tight,
Twinkling atoms of souls
Making her shine.
Make up of laughter, jewels of sparking eyes,
Raiment of white peace,
Making her the perfect bride,

Spreading chorus of wordless melody,
Children of roses holding her hands tight,
She was ready to marry this colorful world,
Taking the ups and downs of life in stride,
Careful, tiny steps of love,
Reading the beautiful story of life
on every face, on her way to her groom.

Suddenly she woke in the depth of night,
CRACK!
and through open eyes and shattered dream
she looked
and remembered
the sole restraint,
the epitaph inscribed on the day of her birth,
the brand that the world had burned into her:
"BLACK"

~ Vivek - Certitude

Re: the proposed Code of Conduct:

The recent feedback that has been circulated by ~30 young and not so young executives of various units resonated very strongly with me. I resent and reject the proposed COC document because it simply treats the various units of Auroville as some sort of cash cows that need to be milked regularly and punished when milk yields fall. They are expected to make up shortfalls of milk but aren't allowed to get credit for extra milk provided. The whole document leaves one feeling like being told to work while being choked (if you'll allow a recent metaphor).

I can't be bothered to refute every clause or paragraph and I believe most need refutation. Nowhere does the document acknowledge that units have been created by individuals. I don't think there is any unit that earns money and has been created and funded by the FAMC or any such apex like body of Auroville.

Auroville needs decentralised systems that work based on inspiration. People should be made to feel to want to voluntarily contribute rather than have to. The COC falls way way short of this!

- Angad

Sri Aurobindo on Education & Teaching

"The supreme truths are neither the rigid conclusions of logical reasoning nor the affirmations of creedal statement, but fruits of the soul's inner experience." ~Sri Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo enunciates certain sound principles of good teaching, which have to be kept in mind when actually engaged in the process of learning.

According to Sri Aurobindo, the first principle of true teaching is "that nothing can be taught" He explains that the knowledge is already dormant within the child and for this reason. The teacher is not an instructor or task-master; "he is a helper and a guide." The role of the teacher "is to suggest and not to impose". He does not actually train the pupil's mind, he only shows him how to perfect the instruments of knowledge and helps him and encourages him in the process. He does not impart knowledge to him; he shows him how to acquire knowledge for himself. He does not call forth the knowledge that is within; he only shows him where it lies and how it can be habituated to rise to the surface.

Another important aim of education according to Sri Aurobindo is the **development of morality**. Sri Aurobindo has emphasized that without moral and emotional development, only mental development becomes harmful to human process. [The] heart of a child should be so developed as to show extreme love, sympathy and consideration for all living beings. This is real moral development. Thus, the teacher should be a role model to his children that mere imitation can enable them to reach higher and higher stages of development.

Development of Conscience is another important aim of education that needs to develop by the help of teacher. Conscience has four levels - chitta, manas, intelligence, and knowledge.

Aurobindo emphasized that the main aim of education is to promote spiritual development. According to him every human being has some fragment of divine existence within himself and education can scan it from each individual with its full extent.

In contrast to the educational ideas of Sri Aurobindo, the present-day education systems all over the world, are purely an instruction-of-information enterprise, supported by a subject-time-bound curriculum, which neither relates to the needs or abilities of the learner nor takes into consideration the way children learn successfully. Instead of being child-oriented it is subject-oriented. The schools focus on competition with others, mastery of subject matter for getting better marks or grades than on learning in cooperation with and from one another for personal growth and for welfare of others.

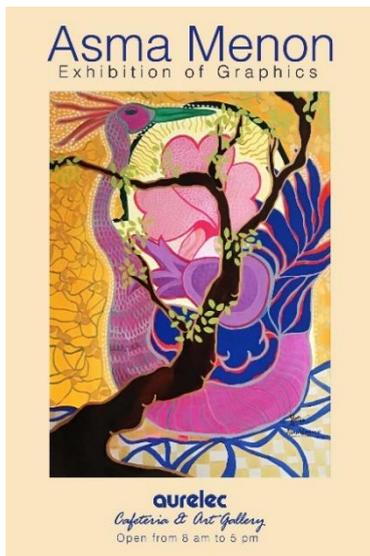
Education all over the world education is largely reductionist, materialist, ego enforcing, and devoid of the joys of the spirit. It is in this context that there is a need to examine initiatives which are rooted in national tradition, seek alternatives in curriculum teaching and learning for measuring success, involve children in the process of learning and focus on learning from one another and not from an authoritative pedagogue. Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of education aims at modifying the school curricula, maximizing the learning modalities, helping the child to achieve his potentiality at his own pace and level and devote his time to discover himself. This kind of schooling is seen as an anti-thesis of an imposed uniformity of prescribed courses and teaching which the traditional schools purport to do.

- Sumit

Sweet children's book illustrating the richness & necessity of diversity: https://auroville.org.in/sites/www.auroville.org.in/files/article_attachments/Colors.pdf

June is Pride Month! If you identify as LGBTQ+ and would like to connect with Queer community, please message me so we can meet one another for tea or coffee: Naomi Shtilman (Omi) +91 80985 03349.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Asma Menon - Exhibition of Graphics
Aurelec Cafeteria & Art Gallery, open 8 am to 5 pm

A student of Chennai artists, R.B. Bhaskaran and Alphonso Doss, Asma Menon's art is easy to mistake as simple illustration or playful, faux naive painting. In fact, her work is the culmination of years of research into the world of mythology, religion and mystical storytelling. Her art is animated, colorful and magical though also deeply meaningful and

sympathetic to those elements of pictorial story telling that we, as humans, have enjoyed for all eternity. With the gift of a gypsy tea-leaf reader, Menon moves freely between fables, myths, personal stories and allegories in her paintings, constantly connecting, mixing and overlapping her brew on the canvas. The role and image of women, particularly the multicultural and trans-deistic concept of Earth Mother, take an especially important position in her paintings.

With her normal flamboyant palette, Menon has created three still-life paintings, all with their own individuality though even stronger seen together as a set. They occurred, she explains, during a time of great change. I continue with love, strength and creativity, my mind intrepid as to the many adventures in store for me. I embrace all this. with the fragrance and beauty of life in full bloom.

AUROVILLE ART SERVICE - 'basket' for the week



1. ELIZABETH GREENSHIELD FOUNDATION GRANT - One of the most prestigious grants available to figurative artists, it awards work within a representational style of painting,

drawing, sculpture or printmaking (no other artistic activities or disciplines and no abstract or non-objective art). It is available to students and artists around the world. <https://www.elizabethgreenshieldsfoundation.org/>

2. INDIA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS - Seeks proposals for Arts Practice Programme. If you are an Indian national, or have been residing in India for the last five years, you are eligible to apply at <http://indiaifa.org/programmes/arts-practice/request-for-proposals.html>

3. AV ART SERVICE - Offers free music classes to Aurovilians, Newcomers, Auroville Children! If you like to sing, Shalini Sekhar will share with you the things she has learnt about a free and relaxed voice, exercises to practice, and songs in different languages. Contact her at write.shalini@gmail.com for online lessons.

4. AV ART SERVICE - Offers a free online story-building session for 8-12 year-olds every Friday at 11am, facilitated by Rashmi, a theatre professional from Bangalore. To join, contact Rashmi on 9448235935.

5. FREE ONLINE WRITING CLASSES - 20 free online writing classes with the funny and endearing Melbourne-based Catherine Deveny; <http://www.catherinedeveny.com/donation-to-devs-ten-online-writing-classes/>

6. LEARN SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD - Since the lockdown began, musicians from all over the world have been

stepping up and offering teaching a song from their country (Ethno Hope Sessions) live on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Ethno>

7. GAGA CLASSES ONLINE - Live-streamed on Zoom from Tel Aviv and New York. Multiple classes daily, 7 days a week. Donation-based. These energetic classes offer a framework for people to connect to their bodies and imaginations, experience physical sensations, improve their flexibility and stamina, and enjoy the pleasure of movement. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/gaga-online-classes-2>

8. GOETHE INSTITUT OFFERS - Virtual Partner Residencies. Solo artists and small ensembles can apply for international musical collaboration projects, as long as one of the artists is based in Germany. <https://www.goethe.de/en/uun/auf/mus/vir.html>

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Pilates classes w/ Savitri at New Creation Studio have resumed. Monday 5-6pm; Tuesday & Saturday 7.30-8.30am

Somatic Movement w/Maggie
Online intensive for every body!
 Sat & Sun, 13th & 14th June, 2 - 5.30 PM each day

Neuromuscular re-education (mind-body training) Workshop in the tradition of Thomas Hanna. Somatic education is a system of slow, mindful movement. It improves the function of the nervous system, creating more ease and freedom within ourselves. Somatics teaches up to recognise and release holding patterns, resulting from pain, injury, stress or habituated posture. This work enhances any kind of exercise such as a yoga, dance sport or just moving through life.

Over afternoon sessions you will learn how to release tension in the body and learn a daily practice in order to maintain better flexibility, coordination, balance and wellness, resulting in a decrease of aches and pains commonly attributed to stress, injury and aging.

Open to anyone whether you are completely new to this work or want to rediscover the basics, however a good understanding of English language is essential as is a commitment to attend both sessions. Please sign up by emailing maggie@auroville.org.in and I will send you full details and link for joining. Should you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Maggie presents on behalf of SoMagic, consultancy activity under LEAD, a Unit under the Auroville Foundation

Lhamo restarting therapies and classes from June 15th in Joy Community



Joy Community (located in Center Field, opposite Center Guest House) is happy to announce that we are able again to start some activities and therapies from June 15th. Only Aurovilians and guests registered in Auroville can participate at this time. For further conditions and info: joy.auroville.org; facebook.com/joyauroville; joycommunity@auroville.org.in.

Lhamo is the first facilitator offering her skills to heal our bodies & minds. For more info, specific requests or appointments, contact Lhamo via mobile/WA +91 956-552-4237. Other facilitators will also restart in the coming weeks. As there are no guests, we request Aurovilians to contribute as well to support our facilitators and Joy Community in this difficult economic situation.

Qi Gong every Monday from 6.30 to 7.45 am

Qigong is a mind-body-spirit practice that improves one's mental and physical health by integrating posture, movement, breathing technique, self-massage, sound, and focused intent. Specifically, this form of gentle exercise is composed of movements that are repeated a number of times, often stretching the body, increasing fluid movement (blood,

synovial and lymph) and building awareness of how the body moves through space. As Lhamo has a very extensive knowledge of many Qi Gong styles, she will explore different styles according to the students.

Tai Chi every Friday from 6.30 to 7.45 am

Tai chi is a non-competitive martial art - an ancient Chinese tradition that has evolved over centuries into a graceful form of exercise that's now used for stress reduction and a variety of other health conditions. Often described as meditation in motion, tai chi promotes serenity through gentle, flowing movements. Lhamo will be teaching the 24 form (which is a simplified style) for beginners; but according to the students' level she will then progress to more advanced forms.

Infants and Small Children (0-6) Massage Therapy by appointment

A very interesting way of looking at small children's health and well-being. It is a way to cure infants' daily problems (cold, digestive functions, fever, cough, etc.) and increase the immune system without medicine. The first mention of children massage dates back to 1000 BC. Nowadays, it is very popular in China. It works through very soft massage using different acupressure points than adults. It is an empowering tool for parents to deal with their kids 'daily ailments'. It is very effective for newly born babies and suitable for children up to 6 years old.

Gua Sha (Chinese Detox Scrub) by appointment - This is one of China's oldest treatments. The practitioner uses a Tool like a flat piece of jade to scrap the skin to help release blocks, stagnant blood, energy and restore a natural flow. When the toxins in the deep layers of the body reach the surface through scraping, they get more easily released from the body. This treatment is also suitable for healthy people to detoxify, to purify and improve the metabolism of the whole body.

Facial Acupuncture/Massage (by appointment) - Facial acupuncture works on the principle that there is a holographic miniaturization system covering the whole human body, that is represented on the face. Very small needles are used solely on the face of the patient, which is a mirror of the whole being. It is useful for people who are more sensitive and feel uncomfortable with the needles.

Hypnotherapy on appointment - In modern hypnosis, the emphasis is put on our own relationship to our own creative unconscious. There are many different aspects and parts in our outer and inner life. And there are parts that don't have a positive appearance. But in hypnosis, we can turn them into positive possibilities and let them teach us how to discover their positive meaning. Lhamo has a very humorous, gentle and sensitive approach to make everyone feel at ease. Her motto is: may we all enjoy our lives with endless creativity.
Joy Community Guesthouse, Center Field, 91 (0)413 262 3993

Tatiana's online yoga classes for June 2020

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------|----------------|
| Asanas - Simple movements | All levels | Mon | 7.30 - 8.45am |
| Inverted Asanas-included | Level 1 & 2 | Tues | 5.30 - 7.00pm |
| Asanas - level 1 & 2 | Til 9am If you practice Inverted asanas | Wed | 7.30 - 8.45pm |
| Asanas - level 1 & 2 | Til 9am If you practice Inverted asanas | Fri | 7.30 - 8 .45am |
| Immunity & Hormonal Balancing | Intermediate & Advance | Sat | 4.30 - 6.00pm |

Regular students only and advance registration required. Contact Tatiana: yogini@auroville.org.in



Natural horsemanship classes w/ Mirrabelle are happening again: Mon- Fri, 4 - 6 PM

Sigid (integral regression therapy & homeopathy) and Andres (acupuncture) are available for therapy sessions! Contact Andres on 9655474497 directly. contact@auroville-jiva.com; www.auroville-jiva.com; Whatsapp 9626006961.

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⇒⇒⇒⇒ **PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!**

RECEIVE THE NEWS&NOTES by EMAIL weekly!
It comes 2 days sooner and is in color! Subscribe at newsandnoteslist+subscribe@auroville.org.in or click directly on this [link](#)

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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, mainly for reasons of space and clarity, is done according to an established policy. **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. Any modifications of submitted News items must be sent to the editors before Tuesday 5pm. Please do your best to submit copy that is ready for printing (i.e. Word shows you typos, extra spaces, punctuation errors, etc - don't make us do all the work!).

We regret not being able to attend to visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thurs AM due to work pressure.

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

Visiting hours: MON 9-4; TH PM 2-4:30; FRI & 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