

# News and Notes

No 827

A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

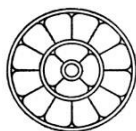
18<sup>th</sup> July 2020



A delicate wonder of Nature ...

Photo: Sven

# HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



(continued from last week)

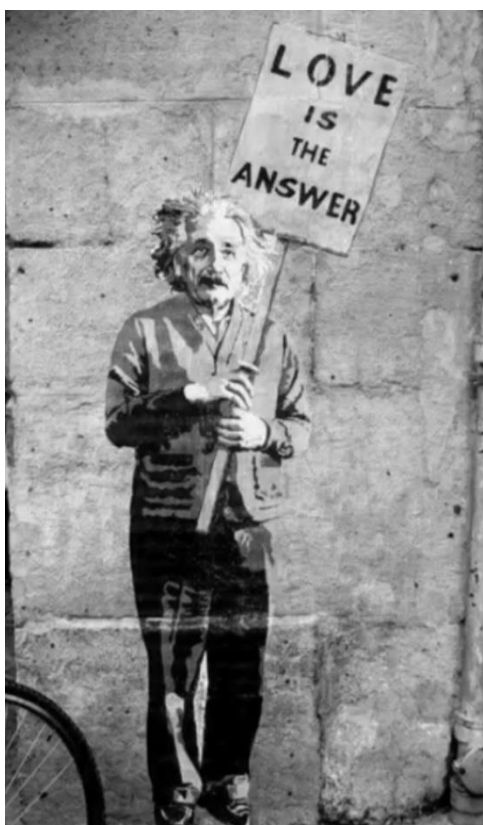
The all-pervading Impersonal accepts neither the sin nor the virtue of any: these are things created by the ignorance in the creature, by his egoism of the doer, by his ignorance of his highest self, by his involution in the operations of Nature, and when the self-knowledge within him is released from this dark envelope, that knowledge lights up like a sun the real self within him; he knows himself then to be the soul supreme above the instruments of Nature. Pure, infinite, inviolable, immutable, he is no longer affected; no longer does he imagine himself to be modified by her workings. By complete identification with the Impersonal he can, too, release himself from the necessity of returning by birth into her movement.

And yet this liberation does not at all prevent him from acting. Only, he knows that it is not he who is active, but the modes, the qualities of Nature, her triple *gunas*. "The man who knows the principles of things thinks, his mind in Yoga (with the inactive Impersonal), 'I am doing nothing'; when he sees, hears, touches, smells, eats, moves, sleeps, breathes, speaks, takes, ejects, opens his eyes or closes them, he holds that it is only the senses acting upon the objects of the senses." He himself, safe in the immutable, unmodified soul, is beyond the grip of the three *gunas*, *triguṇātīta*; he is neither sattwic, rajasic nor tamasic; he sees with a clear untroubled spirit the alternations of the natural modes and qualities in his action, their rhythmic play of light and happiness, activity and force, rest and inertia. This superiority of the calm soul observing its action but not involved in it, this *traiguṇātītya*, is also a high sign of the divine worker. By itself the idea might lead to a doctrine of the mechanical determinism of Nature and the perfect aloofness and irresponsibility of the soul; but the Gita effectively avoids this fault of an insufficient thought by its illumining supertheistic idea of the Purushottama. It makes it clear that it is not in the end Nature which mechanically determines its own action; it is the will of the Supreme which inspires her; he who has already slain the Dhritarashtrians, he of whom Arjuna is only the human instrument, a universal Soul, a transcendent Godhead is the master of her labour. The reposing of works in the Impersonal is a means of getting rid of the personal egoism of the doer, but the end is to give up all our actions to that great Lord of all, *sarva-loka-maheśvara*. "With a consciousness identified with the Self, renouncing all thy actions into Me, *mayi sarvāṇi karmāṇi sannyasyādhyātmacetasā*, freed from personal hopes and desires, from the thought of 'I' and 'mine', delivered from the fever of the soul, fight," work, do my will in the world. The Divine motives, inspires, determines the entire action; the human soul impersonal in the Brahman is the pure and silent channel of his power; that power in the Nature executes the divine movement. Such only are the works of the liberated soul, *muktasya karma*, for in nothing does he act from a personal inception; such are the actions of the accomplished Karmayogin. They rise from a free spirit and disappear without modifying it, like waves that rise and disappear on the surface of conscious, immutable depths. *Gata-saṅgasya muktasya jñānāvasthita-cetasah, yajñāyācarataḥ karma samagram pravilīyate*.

~ Sri Aurobindo. Essays on the Gita. Chapter XVIII - The Divine Worker

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

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The  
Ponder  
Corner

... a time must come when man has to look below the obscure surface of his egoistic being and attempt to know himself; he must set out to find the real man: without that he would be stopping short at Nature's primary education and never go on to her deeper and larger teachings.



~ Sri Aurobindo  
The Life Divine, Ch. XVII, p.694

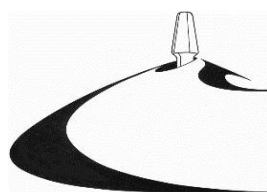
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## AMPHITHEATRE - MATRIMANDIR

Meditation at sunset with Savitri - read by Mother to Sunil's music

Every **THURSDAY, 6 - 6.30 PM** (weather permitting)

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. Thank you.*

~ Amphitheatre Team

## COVID-19 UPDATE

**From the WC/Covid Task Force** - As stated in a previous massbulletin, we are working to organize isolation facilities for our fellow Aurovilians and Newcomers who cannot quarantine at home because they may not be living alone, or have a small house, and/or it is not isolated. We would like to share the results of those efforts so far.

Centre Guesthouse has generously agreed to make rooms available for the quarantining of negatively tested people or those with travel history, and is open to receiving those who have tested positive but are asymptomatic or with mild symptoms; however, doctors who have been consulted advise that these 2 facilities ideally remain separate. After discussing and eliminating various alternative locations and facilities, the search for a place to quarantine positive tested persons continues.

The Chairman of the Governing Board and the Acting Secretary have given an "in principle" approval for the use of Sharanam guesthouse in Bharat Nivas, but the Trustees object and one trustee has written to the Acting Secretary and to Governing Board member Shri Madan Gopal Madabushi detailing the objections of the trustees, which include that "the Residents' Assembly has not been intimidated on this decision by the Working Committee", and complaining about "the absence of a road map or a list of qualified medical professionals, doctors and nurses who will attend to the facility." The trustee further writes that "Only with concurrence of the BMO and the district Collector giving ok in writing after full setup is shown that it can be brought to the RA to approve its acceptance."

As we have mentioned in earlier massbulletins, the Working Committee and the Covid-19 Task Force are not working in isolation but in close cooperation with the Indian authorities and Auroville's medical doctors. The Block Medical Officer has been invited to inspect the facilities at Sharanam, and there is no question of taking any step without his explicit permission. Also, all quarantine will be done strictly following the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) on home quarantine issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and also by the Tamil Nadu Govt, which specifies all details and the requirements meticulously. We view the request by the BN trustee to get the written approval of the BMO and the Collector after which the decision has to be brought to the Residents' Assembly for its acceptance, as a clear attempt to ensure that the Bharat Nivas facilities will not be allocated for this purpose and it undermines our efforts to find an isolation facility that can safely quarantine residents who test positive so they don't have to go to a government hospital. If they are here in Auroville, we will also be in a position to better support them.

In response to the email of the trustee, Shri Madan Gopal Madabushi has written to the Chairman, forwarding the latest SoPs on home quarantine issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. He stressed that, as far as possible, such facility must be away from any major habitation and with very limited access for entrance and exit, and that all safety precautions must be followed along with a strong monitoring team and adequate medical and paramedical human resources to ensure strict adherence to norms. Shri Madan Gopal Madabushi suggest that, if any formal decision of the Governing Board is required, a circular resolution may be drafted to be sent to all the members of Board for consideration and approval; but in view of the urgency of the situation, the Chairman may also take any decision that will be ratified by the Board subsequently. Shri Madan Gopal Madabushi calls on all the members of Working Committee, the Residents' Assembly, all the respective committees and trusts to make concerted efforts to dispel fear and stigma, build confidence and ensure safety for all the residents and people living around Auroville. We await the approval of the Block Medical officer for the use of Sharanam guesthouse as a facility to house Covid-19 positive-tested persons and the subsequent approval of the Governing Board.

In times of collective uncertainty, facing together a common challenge, it is important that we become the 'living embodiment of human unity' we aspire to in Auroville. Please let us know if you have ideas for additional isolation facilities, in case they are needed, and if you are willing to volunteer some time and energy to support Auroville's response to this challenge. Let us all remain calm and conscious and avoid movements emerging from fear or panic. We hope for your understanding and collaboration.

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**CTF: additional systems for quarantine food delivery** - We are setting up additional systems to offer food delivery for those in-home quarantine.

### **Who is home delivery for?**

- Home delivery systems are for those who are in home quarantine and who are unable to find adequate support from friends and family to take care of their needs. We encourage community members to step up and take care of each other whenever possible.
- If you are not in a mandatory quarantine as per the guidelines/ instruction posted by the Covid-19 Task force separately, then consider yourself in the lower risk group. That means that while we advise you to follow an abundance of caution when shopping, to avoid gatherings, and to take extra care of hygiene, the decision to go into quarantine is up to the individual. Please try to get your needs met through other community members before availing of delivery services.
- Home Delivery is also for the elderly people of the community who need support for their shopping and cannot avail the same from family, friends or the community members.

While we understand that not everyone is in a position to give and receive help, we encourage community members to support each other as we are relying on the energy and goodwill of volunteers.

**How do we make home delivery safe?** For home delivery we follow the Standard Operating Procedure on hygiene. Please make sure that if your friends and family are delivering food to you, they are aware of and follow these same guidelines ([click here](#)). This way, we make sure that there is no risk of further contamination.

**From where can I get home delivery?** - Currently, home delivery for those in quarantine who are members at PTDC and in a very limited capacity at Hers. PTPS is just starting to offer this option. Please select the outlet closest to your residence whenever possible.

As not everyone has a PTDC account, we understand that there may already be an urgent need for some community members. If that is the case for you, please send an email to [covid19TFdelivery@auroville.org.in](mailto:covid19TFdelivery@auroville.org.in) and we will make sure that your immediate needs are met. **For those who do not use email, you can place your order between 9-11 am via Sang at 709-4532-505.** If you are not using technology and need a printed list of available items, please let Sang know and we make sure that you will get one. Please limit yourselves to two orders per week.

**How will it work?** - The order for Hers, PTPS or PTDC will go through an online Application developed by Talam (already functional for PTDC) and focuses on basic needs - meaning that *only a selection of essential products from the outlet will be on offer through the delivery service*. The app can be used on computer or smartphone by visiting [consciously.auroville.org.in](http://consciously.auroville.org.in).

If you are someone or know someone who needs support but is not able to use such technology, please send an email to us at [covid19TFdelivery@auroville.org.in](mailto:covid19TFdelivery@auroville.org.in) with name, community, and phone number, so that we can get a physical list of available items to that person. You can also directly call Sang at 709-4532-505, who is available between 9-11 am to take your order. In general, **we aim to take orders between 9-11am for delivery on the same day.** In case you order after this time, delivery will be moved to the next day. We are still looking for volunteers to assemble the baskets at HERS and for the delivery system at PTPS. Please consider coming forward as having more people means that we can create a good distribution in the workload. **-Covid Task Force Delivery Team**



**Help needed** - In order for our 3 types of isolation facilities within Auroville to be able to function, **we urgently need people to volunteer to help!** Please see below the areas of work for which volunteers are needed:

**Category 1** - for logistics and delivery of supplies such as food, medicines, etc. For those who have tested negative supplies will be delivered to the building and then left outside the door of the quarantined person. For those who have tested positive, supplies will be brought to the gate of the compound only, not even to the building itself so volunteers in this category will not come in contact with the isolated individual(s).

**Category 2** - should be willing to serve quarantined persons, both positive or negative cases, for basic necessities, without any direct contact, but physical presence inside the facility will be required. Hence, it will be mandatory to wear protective gear. This category will undergo basic training with a paramedic professional.

**Category 3** - willing to be available on a rotational basis as a physical presence at the facility, in order to offer additional support and point of contact as required.

**Category 4 -URGENT NEED** for driving people in an Omni van belonging to the Visitors' Center, to the Covid testing center, with proper protection. This category will undergo basic training for wearing protective gear, as well as the protocols to be followed while on duty and cleaning of vehicle. These volunteers must be Aurovilian and be covered under the Health Fund or private health insurance that covers Covid 19. Indian driver's license is also a must.

*All volunteers should be within the age range of 22 to 55 and have no underlying serious health issues.*

*This is a time when we all must come together and support each other and our community. We appeal to each of you, as individuals and as part of a collective, to consider how you can help. Please contact the Task Force if you are ready to volunteer for any of the tasks described above. With best wishes to all, - The Working Committee and Covid 19 Task Force*

**SUNDAY CURFEW** - We would like to remind you all about the Sunday Curfew to be applicable on all Sundays in the Month of July as per Tamil Nadu Government guidelines. See below the details:

**Complete lockdown will be enforced without any relaxations throughout the State on all Sundays falling in the month of July 2020. Curfew is in effect from midnight on Saturday to 6 AM Monday.**

**No other activity except Milk distribution, Hospitals, Pharmaceutical Shops, Hospital Vehicles, Ambulance and Hearse Vehicle Services may be permitted during the above Sundays and that the private vehicles will be allowed to ply only for medical emergencies."**

We would also like to remind all the community members of the following, **applicable on all days until further notice:**

- 1. Night Curfew:** Movement of individuals shall remain strictly prohibited **between 10:00pm to 5.00am** throughout the country, except for essential activities including the operation of industrial units in multiple shifts, movement of persons and goods on National and State Highways, loading and unloading of cargo and travel of persons to their destinations after disembarking from buses, trains and airplanes.
- 2. Gathering of more than 5 persons at a time in public places will remain prohibited** under Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code. Obviously this means that **all Auroville restaurants, venues, and centers, as well as Matrimandir Gardens, are closed on Sundays!** We look forward to everyone's cooperation in complying with these measures. **The Covid 19 Task Force and the WC.**

The lockdown in Tamil Nadu has been extended until 31<sup>st</sup> July. Please find at this [link](#) the official new guidelines and English translation [here](#) from the Tamil Nadu Govt. **Standard operating procedures (SOP's) for workplaces, shops, offices, restaurants and construction sites can be downloaded [here](#).**

**Lufthansa Special Relief flights: 18th - 22nd July 2020;** Air France [www.airfrance.fr](http://www.airfrance.fr) & KLM <https://www.klm.com/home/in/en> also have flights from Bangalore

Mumbai- Frankfurt  
Flight Number: LH757  
Departure 18 & 20 July  
Departure Mumbai: 02:50 (LT)  
Arrival Frankfurt: 08:15 (LT)

Bengaluru- Frankfurt -  
Flight Number: LH755  
Departure Dates: 19 and 22 July  
Departure Bengaluru: 03:05 (LT)  
Arrival Frankfurt: 09:25 (LT)

Delhi-Munich - Flt Number: LH763  
Departure: 18 and 21 July  
Departure Delhi: 00:55 (LT)  
Arrival Munich: 05:25 (LT)

Delhi-Frankfurt - Flt Number: LH761  
Departure Dates: 20 and 22 July  
Departure Delhi: 02:50(LT)  
Arrival Frankfurt: 08:00 (LT)

#### **AIR FRANCE**

MUMBAI TO PARIS 0205 0830  
DELHI TO PARIS 0015 0610  
BANGALORE TO PAIRS 0125 0815

#### **KLM**

MUMBAI TO AMSTERDAM 0210 0745  
DELHI TO AMSTERDAM 0255 0805

Tickets can be bought on [lufthansa.com](http://lufthansa.com) and via Agency Support at 1-800-102-4744.

As per the approval by the Director General of Civil Aviation, following persons are eligible for transportation on these Lufthansa relief flights:

- All German and EU Nationals
- All German and EU Residents
- All other Foreign Nationals transiting through a Lufthansa Hub, Frankfurt or Munich and/ or the spouse/ children of such persons whether accompanying or otherwise, e.g. US Nationals and/or Spouses/ Minor Children of US Nationals
- INDIAN Nationals holding US green cards or Canadian Permanent Residence status are only permitted on this special repatriation flight if he/she is a spouse of US/Canadian National

**AND** Special flights are now available from **Delhi to Newark from 18 July till 1 August and San Francisco on 20, 22 and 25 July.** For details please contact: International Flight Ticket and Hotel bookings: 2622078, [travelshop@auroville.org.in](mailto:travelshop@auroville.org.in), Domestic Flight Tickets/Travel Insurance - 2623030, [domestic@inside-india.com](mailto:domestic@inside-india.com)

**Santé Update** - Please see [here](#) for a news update for services in light of the changing situation in Auroville. *Be well. Stay strong.*



## WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From the BCC re: Nutrition Scheme applications

Application period is open again: Nutrition scheme allocated directly to the parents until schools are open.

(If you are already receiving this budget scheme, please DO NOT send your request again.)

**Parents of Auroville Children:** You may be aware that the BCC has a nutrition scheme allocated for paying Solar Kitchen lunch for children during school holidays, when schools are closed. Because Solar Kitchen cannot provide tiffins for children, this budget can be made available to parents who have financial constraints and really need this extra support. If you feel this is an urgent need for you, please send a request to [bcc@auroville.org.in](mailto:bcc@auroville.org.in).

Please mention:

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

For children aged 1-6 yrs the amount provided is Rs 1,000/mo. For children aged 7-18 yrs, Rs 1,500/mo is provided.

**Parents of Newcomer children studying in Auroville schools**

If you are in a difficult financial situation please send your request with the above details to the following email address: [bcc.checkpoint@auroville.org.in](mailto:bcc.checkpoint@auroville.org.in)

This is a temporary measure for the time of the COVID crisis.

### From the FAMC: ON THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF TWO NEW TRUSTS: CITY TRUST AND FARM TRUST

We have shared with you in our FAMC report for the month of February that we intend to create a City Trust, and we are still in discussion about how we may move forward with the creation of a Farm Trust. Given the importance of the measures we are contemplating, we would like to say a few words about why we think them necessary.

The intention behind the City Trust is to provide an umbrella for numerous services that are not presented in the Auroville Foundation Annual Report. These services include City Services with over 100 activities and over 20 crores of annual income and expenses, representing about 7% of our internal economy, and Housing Service which looks after crores of community assets. To outsiders, reading our Annual report, it appears that Auroville is almost exclusively a commercial community with over Rs. 200 crores of turnover, and considerable profits. Nowhere is it shown that our surplus income is returned to the community via City Services. It is also not shown that our residences are not individual property, but belong to Auroville. It is not, therefore, clear to any reader why Auroville has been granted a tax-exempt status, or how Auroville is striving toward anything different than what exists in the rest of the world. The FAMC has consulted with several Chartered Accountants who all concur that the most effective and surest way to ensure that these services are truly reflected in the Auroville Foundation Annual Report is by holding them in a Trust, which then must be included in this annual report. This aligns with the trend of the government mandated Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) view, which has consistently called for greater consolidation and inclusion of our activities in the Auroville Foundation's Annual Report.

We are also very mindful of the increasing scrutiny that Auroville is under with a proactive CAG keenly reviewing our accounts to see that funds are used correctly. The CAG has made regular calls for greater transparency and better accounting practice in many areas of the work we undertake in Auroville. Such calls necessitate reflection on behaviour that

has occurred in our midst, and can lead to further inquiries. Its observations cannot be ignored. In relation to our farms, the CAG has clearly said the following in its 2017-18 Audit:

*"Considering the extent of the land under the disposal of Farm Group, FAMC/Foundation should have ensured proper monitoring of activities of Farms. But Auroville Foundation failed to do.*

*Effective action may be taken to have the accounts audited and incorporated in Annual Accounts of Auroville Foundation under intimation to Audit."*

The CAG's views carry great weight: It is able to place its observations before the Indian Parliament as part of its consideration of the Auroville Foundation's Annual Reports. These views can affect privileges enjoyed by Auroville such as our tax status, the receipt of Government of India Grants, and the receipt of foreign donations; note these are privileges, not rights. Our Chartered Accountants again concur that the most effective and surest way to address the CAG's concern about our farms is by holding them, and accounting for them, in a Trust.

The FAMC is very aware of the sensitivity of these Trusts. The formation of City Trust will differ in constitution and form from other Trusts. It will be a Trust that aims to establish a self-sustaining city, and is mandated to support the educational, environmental, and social arenas of our experiment, by receiving the contributions of the Furtherance Trusts, as City Services and Housing do today. The power of the City Trust Trustees will in no way undermine our community approved processes or the authority of the Budget Coordination Committee. With regard to the Farm Trust, we have held only one meeting with the Auroville farmers, and we are still working out how to best proceed with them. We will keep the community updated with the developments on this topic.

Yours sincerely, -FAMC



*L'avenir d'Auroville*  
Auroville Township Planning and Development Research Organization

### Update from L'Avenir/TDC

**WHERE WE ARE AT:** As you are aware L'Avenir d'Auroville/TDC has been running below capacity for the past year, with only two Interface Team members since February. We are also facing significant funding uncertainties. There are currently no funds available to support the work of the office. Whilst these factors have limited some of our functions (notably on building application approvals - see <https://auroville.org.in/article/77845>) we continue to process building applications that were received before end of January 2020. In addition, our Technical Teams have been progressing work previously agreed by the TDC team.

Work has been undertaken on areas including planning guidelines, development priorities, land use mapping, streamlining of application processes and standards, surface water management studies, policy development, regional planning etc. Details will be provided in our upcoming Annual Report.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The Working Committee and Auroville Council are working to finalise the Selection Process for new Interface Team members. It is anticipated this process will combine elements from the Standing Order issued by the Auroville Foundation with the community approved mandate for TDC. We hope to have new members in place soon.

We have identified several areas that need to be urgently addressed to underpin TDC's strategic work to develop Auroville. These are:

- Formalizing TDC's statutory status
- Understanding strategic value of lands required for Auroville's development
- Establishing remaining TDC Technical Teams
- Water - in both the Masterplan area and Bioregion

It is also critical that a way is found to finance the work of the TDC, both in terms of financial support for staff and funds to undertake technical studies etc.

**COMMUNICATING WHAT'S HAPPENING:** Our team is keen to improve our communications with the community to enable transparent information sharing, ensure that everyone has a chance to participate in decisions which impact them and hopefully inspire, encourage and enable responsible development. We had planned a series of community meetings to present our work and explore the priorities, but as this is not possible under lockdown we will instead provide a series of weekly updates through Auronet and News and Notes. These will begin with our Annual Report, which will outline the work undertaken by the TDC team over the past year and TDC finances. Subsequent posts will provide more detail on our priorities, work that has been completed and projects currently underway. We will also include any updates on TDC functioning. We are also exploring how we can communicate better going forward. If you have any thoughts on this - or would like support this process - then please email [communication-avenir@auroville.org.in](mailto:communication-avenir@auroville.org.in)  
Warmly, -Saravanan and Sreevatsa for L'avenir d'Auroville

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Re-announced Housing Asset for Transfer

Two housing assets are currently available for transfer:

- New Creation Community - Family
- Vikas Community - Single or Couple occupancy

To apply, please click on the new "Houses Available" button in the very right column of the Auronet main page. You will be directed to our new Housing Transfer App at: <https://housing.auroville.org.in>. All you need to do is:

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

Once the indicated deadline for applying has passed, you will receive an email from Housing Transfer with the date for the group site visit. For any questions, please feel free to come and see Svenja at Housing Service Office.



**Taxi Share** - Auroville to Bangalore Airport, 30.07.2020. Both ways sharing possible. 2 seats from AV or 3 seats Bangalore-AV. Travel e-passes can be arranged by Raju from

Aurocabs. Contact : Cristina +39 338-571-0576 (WAonly) or Raju +91 944-307-4825 (WA), [aurocabs@auroville.org.in](mailto:aurocabs@auroville.org.in)

### Bread & Chocolate Home Delivery

We have started home deliveries for Aurovilians!

**Place your order before 11:30AM; delivery time 12- 1:30PM**  
For bake goods: If you order one day in advance, we can deliver between 8:30 - 10 AM next morning. Order here: <https://forms.gle/Mc9muZrsXNVofR7f8>. For the remainder of July, we will be **open Mon- Sat. 8am to 5pm**

Hope everyone is well and safe! -B&C Team

## APPEAL

**Laptop Needed** - I am Arun, a 24 yr old child of Auroville. I've lost a lot of my income due to the lockdown, and I need a laptop to help me develop an income generating project that has the potential to help not only my family, but provide income to handicrafters from the bioregion as well. My younger brother also very much needs access to a laptop for his studies (not asking for 2 - we will share!). Please help me help myself, my family and self-sufficiency for the bioregion. 763-981-0621 (ph/WA) or [arun.s@auroville.org.in](mailto:arun.s@auroville.org.in).

## OBITUARY



### Jean Neal

This is to inform the community that in the afternoon of Friday, 10 July, our dear sister Jean Neal, wife of Bob Neal, peacefully left her body at the age of 86 in her UK home. She had been in constant pain for years and had got to the point where communication was not possible anymore.

Jean was a lively, amazing woman who already in the early seventies was part of London's 'Bell Street' group that regularly came together to study works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. In 1998 Bob and Jean came to Auroville where, while living in Sri Ma, Bob would see many an Aurovilian in his capacity as healer, using Samalin chiropractic and bio-magnetic techniques. Jean, who had from young age a second sight & hearing ability, would assist Aurovilians in different ways by giving 'Beyond the 5th sense' and other workshops and one-to-one treatment sessions. Unfortunately, Jean's health gradually started deteriorating, causing the couple to leave in April 2006. They both joined AVI UK and worked from there, although Jean's health remained troublesome.

Thank you Jean, for having been with us. Our sincerest condolences go out to Bob and other family members. -OM-

## WELCOME

### FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 041 - 18-07-2020

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers and Friends of Auroville. Prior to "status confirmation", there is a community feedback period. For Newcomers, Associates and Friends of Auroville, this period is two weeks, and for Aurovilians and Returning Aurovilians, one month. Kindly forward your support or grievances to [entryservice@auroville.org.in](mailto:entryservice@auroville.org.in).

### NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:

- Elham VALI (Iranian) staying in Auromodele and working at Financial Service
- Fakeera MOHAN LAL VERMA (Indian) staying in Arka Guest House and working at TLC
- Gomathi DEVARAJ (Indian) staying in Fraternity and working at Pre-Creche

### CHILD OF NEWCOMER:

- Tara NAYAK (Indian) Born on 03/02/2011 (daughter of Fakeera)

### AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:

- Brigitte BASTIEN-SEPTFONDS (French) staying in Auromode and working at French Pavilion and N&N-French
- Jayasutha DHAYALAN (Indian) staying in Sanjana (Tatiana's place) and working at Auudent (Auromode)
- Pedro GUEDES (Portuguese) staying in Auromodele and working at Laboratory of Evolution and Aurochild (New Creation)
- Yatharth LAAD (Indian) staying in Prayatna and working at Matrimandir.

### Errata:

Jorge LOPEZ (Spanish) was announced as "Left on his own" on 14/03/2020. He subsequently decided to continue the Newcomer process, which the Entry Board agreed to.

### NOTE:

- The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after the NC kit has been completed and returned. Be aware that the duration of the process cannot exceed 18 months from the date of confirmation.
- An Aurovilian is a resident of Auroville, aged 18 and above, whose name has been entered in the Register of Resident (RoR) as maintained by the Auroville Foundation (AVF) Office.



- The change of status from Newcomer to Aurovilian is the B-Form. An Aurovilian's name is entered into the RoR after he/she has met with the Secretary of the AVF with an appointment arranged by the Entry Secretariat. These appointments are fixed by the Entry Secretariat according to the availability of the Secretary, but not at any personal request of an individual.
- The Auroville Foundation processes issuing of ID cards only to the Aurovilians who are registered in the RoR.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Introducing the WUA

The Water Users Association (WUA) for the sewage treatment plant in the Residential Zone (RZ-STP), formed in May 2019, arose from the need to manage the treatment system (see video on it here: [Sewage Treatment Plant Vortex DEWATS](#)). A decentralized and natural wastewater treatment system on this scale is the first of its kind in Auroville, and has the capacity to provide sewage collection and treatment to 450 people. Eight communities (Humanscapes, Realization, Kalpana, Maitreye 1, Maitreye 2, Serenity, Prayatna 2, Swayam) were hooked up to the RZ-STP Phase One of the construction. These communities receive treated water from the return line for the purpose of irrigation.

The WUA is comprised of one representative from each of the eight communities currently hooked up to the RZ-STP and will grow as more communities are connected. We meet once per month. Our responsibilities include collecting and managing funds from each of the eight communities to pay for the electricity (AVES) and operations and maintenance of the RZ-STP (Center for Scientific Research). We also communicate with community members on relevant RZ-STP issues and works together to determine best how to share water.

The WUA is a small step toward community-led water governance. It necessitates participation, communication and collaboration over the increasingly scarce and precious resource of water. It is an experiment in sharing and trust with regard to our water resources, and is hopefully the beginning of community-led water management on a wider scale. We can be reached at: [wua@auroville.org.in](mailto:wua@auroville.org.in)  
Best regards, Water Users Association

### Results of the Survey: Package-free options at HERS?

In an effort to reduce plastic waste in Auroville we have been discussing with HERS about the possibility of having more plastic packaging-free (bulk) options in their shop. With their support we decided to do a survey in order to understand if:

- 1) there is a demand for such an option in AV and why,
- 2) get an idea about which items would make the most sense to have package-free as a starting point,
- 3) HERS could gain from this shift in terms of customer frequentation and sales.

First and foremost, **we would like to thank the 404 people who took the time to respond to the survey.** It is with great pleasure and excitement that we present some of the results of the survey to the wider Auroville community:

- 1) [There is a demand for more plastic-free options in Auroville.](#)

At least 366 respondents (90% of the total) expressed that having a plastic-free packaging (bulk) options at HERS is of concern to them. On a scale of 1 (not important) to 5 (very important), 370 (92%) responded that it was "very important" for them that Auroville serves as an example in terms of reducing plastic pollution. Respondents were mainly concerned about the excess of plastic packaging and its impact on the environment which is why they want to have the option to make more environmentally sound choices as consumers and generate less waste.

- 2) [Some suggestions for which items to have in bulk:](#)
  - Around 87,5% of respondents selected that they would like to have Nuts & Dried Fruits, Brown Rice, Dal/Pulse/Beans.
  - 81% selected White/Red Rice.

- 77% selected Snack items such as biscuits and chips.
- Around 70% selected Muesli/cereal, flour and pasta.
- 90% of Respondents also chose Laundry detergent and Dishwashing soap to have in refilling stations

Many open suggestions were also frequently given by the respondents, such as AV oils, sugar, tea/herbs, tofu, pet food, soap, shampoo and EM. We will be exploring these possibilities with producers and HERS executives soon.

- 3) [HERS would most likely gain customers and increase sales by making this shift.](#)

**282 people (70%) said that they would buy more and/or shop more often at HERS.**

We further asked the community how often they shop at HERS on average so we could correlate their present level of shop frequentation with possible increased levels in terms of shopping more often and/or buying more items at HERS once the bulk option is introduced.

- Out of the 117 respondents who shop at HERS "Once every 2 months" or less, 53% selected that they would "SHOP MORE OFTEN" if the bulk option became available.
- Out of the 178 respondents who shop between "Once/month" and "Once/2weeks", 57% said that they would "SHOP MORE OFTEN", and 33% that they would "BUY MORE" at HERS.
- Out of the 109 respondents who shop "Once/week" or more, 43% selected that they would "BUY MORE".

~ Ann, Fabienne, Ishan, Laure, Sara and Vivekan

### Response to the Auroville community and FAMC regarding unit registration of 'Funding Auroville'

Unfortunately, FAMC published their statement in last week's N&N, rather than meeting us to clarify the issues one by one, based on our inputs. We requested the FAMC to meet us in person since on 8 Aug 2019.

'Funding Auroville' is a fundraising service unit built up by Sigrid since 4 years, in order to raise funds for land-related projects in the greenbelt with funding agencies (institutional funders) outside the Auroville circle. Tine joined one year ago, and a professional team in fundraising, law, finance, and town planning is collaborating with the work.

Initiating a 5-year planning together with the Residents Assembly and TDC in a collective approach is of utmost importance in order to foster and develop Auroville's future. FAMC's concern with structuring fundraising in Auroville has to be taken forward by them, inviting major stakeholders in this sector. Funding Auroville can join as a start-up unit. However, FAMC's work to set up structural amendments cannot be a reason to stop processing day to day procedures like unit applications. FAMC's concern with Funding Auroville's internal functioning can be looked into, but it is set up very detailed already.

We are of course supportive of A4A, and sister campaign GreenAcres and see our work as complementary. But our strategy, network and approach is absolutely different from A4A and GreenAcres. There is absolutely no overlap as we raise funds with institutional donors, and a promising listing of 100 Foundations has been compiled, and we are ready to start.

Our unit application is pending with FAMC since 2,5 years. To delay processing a simple consulting service registration is unacceptable, especially when the benefit for Auroville is highly relevant. This applies even more so now, as many Aurovilians struggle financially, and Auroville is unable to support them adequately. We have contacted AV Council to begin a complaint process. We have published a detailed reply to FAMC's post on Auronet: <https://auroville.org.in/article/80363> and are happy to email it to all concerned. Please contact us directly with questions or comments.

Let's work together to manifest Auroville, every day again with renewed energy! ~ Namaste, Sigrid and Tine  
Sigrid, started A4A and GreenAcres 7 years ago, [sigrid@auroville.org.in](mailto:sigrid@auroville.org.in) and Tine, fundraising for Matrimandir since 2003, [tine@auroville.org.in](mailto:tine@auroville.org.in)

**Auroville eggs:** The community has been receiving eggs from AuroOrchard for many decades. During the ongoing pandemic, all Auroville farmers have been making efforts to increase production and enhance our food security, and egg supply has also increased in response to community demand. We are very happy to announce that starting this week, 4000-5000 eggs will be delivered by AuroOrchard to Foodlink weekly, and probably even more in next few weeks/months. We ask members of the community to request AuroOrchard eggs when provisioning, and help support Auroville's food self-sufficiency goals. Thank you! - Foodlink and AuroOrchard

#### Further update on the 'Calling the future' survey

The team which has been processing the 245 replies to the 'Calling the future' survey have been working hard over the past month. In addition to tabulating the responses, which provide much interesting information, we have been working upon identifying deeper trends. We realise now that key sectors of our population are under-represented. This makes it difficult to know how representative of the larger community are the responses of those who have completed the survey. Consequently, we are designing a simplified questionnaire which we will ask some people in the under-represented sectors to complete. After that, we will integrate this additional information before we release the final results of the survey which, hopefully, will be soon. We thank everybody for their patience.

- Dan, Fred L, Dominique, Laurence, Isha, Amy, Alan

#### EPS (Easy Procurement Solutions) Update

EPS (a registered unit under Swagatam Trust) has been providing a collective procurement service to the Auroville community since April 2017). We leverage the collective purchasing power of the community to get the best price & deals from the various materials manufacturers and suppliers and pass on the savings to Aurovilians, Auroville units & projects. We have had some success in this regard in the last few years, but we know that there is a much larger scope for progress & improvement. The more that the community is aware of and uses the service, the more will we be able to leverage that into better prices and more savings.

Our financial model is simple: EPS takes a 3% surcharge/ service fee on orders (Rs. 250 minimum) to pay for administrative costs and to pay the maintenance of the Aurovilians which work in the unit. Shipping cost is actual and depends on the circumstances of each particular order.

During the three years that we have been operating, we have been able to procure the following types of products and materials on behalf of the community:

- Construction materials: Cement, steel, blue metal, roofing sheets (metal, bitumen, sandwich panel), plumbing pipes and fittings, electrical materials, plywood, bison board, door locks, tiles (floor, wall, roof), stone (granite, marble, kadappa), sanitaryware (sinks, bath and kitchen fixtures), light fixtures, paint (interior/ exterior, MRF, acrylic), fencing materials (wire, wire mesh, chain link)
- Home appliances & electronics: Air conditioners, ceiling fans, floor fans, refrigerators, stoves/ hobs, ovens, water purifiers, UPS & batteries, generators, solar panels, water heaters
- Others: shipping containers, overhead water tanks, sump pumps, tools & equipment (drilling machines, bench tools, compressors, etc.), steel shelving/ cupboards, etc.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for its trust in using our service and helping us to develop it. For any questions, inquiries or feedback, please feel free to write to us at: [eps@auroville.org.in](mailto:eps@auroville.org.in)

- EPS Team - Iyyappan Jayamoorthy & Balu Kuppusamy

**Rangoli Atelier** - All of the beautiful Rangoli creations that you enjoyed at the Visitors Center are available at the atelier. We are open! We also have new breathable handloom cotton face masks at a special price for Aurovilians. To make an appt to visit: +91 94433 62528 (ph/WA). - Prema

**Auromics** - Our showroom is open 9am to 5pm every day except Sunday. Most of the items we make (dresses, T-shirts, tops, pants, scarves, cardigans, jumpers, leather bags, and some kids items) are available at a 20% discount for Aurovilians and Newcomers. As Mira Boutique is closed for the foreseeable future, we welcome you to visit our factory outlet in Kottakarai, just below Verite. Masks should be worn and hands sanitised. social distancing to be observed. Welcome!

**Gelato Takeaway** - We've been thinking about how to provide takeaway gelato that doesn't involve plastic packaging, and we found a solution! Locally made, terracotta pots! (which can be reused). Our homemade gelato is made in small batches in our Dreamer's Bakery. You can get yours @ HERS, PTPS, Dreamers Cafe (Visitors Center) and Marcs Cafe Store in Kulapalayam. It comes in servings of 250 and 500 grs. We have a very special seasonal flavor, Mango from Auroville farms! Come and try it!

### WORK OPPORTUNITIES

**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.

**Communications-in-charge** - You will work with the villages of the Auroville bioregion, taking care of its communication and documentation needs, which includes:

- Quarterly newsletter
- Annual report
- Website updates
- Social media
- Fundraising, project proposal writing and reporting

You have fluency in both written and spoken English and computer literacy. You have the necessary skills, the ability to be self-motivated and are a sensitive and engaged team player, responsive to the needs of the organization. Tamil is desirable but not essential. Graphic and social media skills also desirable. Maintenance is available but commensurate with skills, experience, and time commitment.

**And other positions (please inquire about details):**

- Customer Care and Website Maintenance
- Production Management
- Secretary (part-time)

- HR Initiative (Angelo, Joel, Siv, Stephanie);

[hr\\_hub@auroville.org.in](mailto:hr_hub@auroville.org.in)

### LOOKING FOR

**Housesitter** - Looking for a responsible housesitter in Acceptance, for 3 months from beginning of August. FMI: [matej@auroville.org.in](mailto:matej@auroville.org.in).

**House work** - Selvi has taken care of my home for 3 years to my satisfaction. She is courageous, reliable, and speaks good English. I am leaving Auroville, and want to help her find suitable employment. For references or more info: [maggy@auroville.org.in](mailto:maggy@auroville.org.in). She can be contacted via her son, Satish @ 957-854-8128.

**Work** - Aurovillian, independent metal and all-round worker is looking for work in and around Auroville. Experienced in making fences, gates, roof structures and more. Please contact Anand Ranganathan, 82701 03198. Thank you!

**Cycle** - an L size (large frame) mountain bike to commute inside Auroville. Would be happy to contribute for it. [ankitasheth1@gmail.com](mailto:ankitasheth1@gmail.com). Thanks in advance!



**Child care** - for 3 year old boy. Lover of nature and understanding of raw vegan lifestyle would be helpful. +447825589305 (WA) or [kieraei@live.co.uk](mailto:kieraei@live.co.uk).

**Massage table and electronic keyboard**, both in good condition. Contact 262 3615 from 8 AM - 8 PM or 95008 22629.

**Long-term housesitting** - Sebastien, Camille and Laly (2 yrs old) are still looking for a long-term house sitting. We are Aurovilians, 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 of town. Please contact Camille: 8098796307 or [camille@auroville.org.in](mailto:camille@auroville.org.in). Warm thanks!

**Housesitting** - A long-term volunteer at Rangoli is looking for a housesitting opportunity, preferably long term. She is a responsible young woman from Mumbai and we have confidence that she will take good care of your home. Please get in touch if you are interested. Prema (9443362528).

## AVAILABLE

**Ampere 'Adya' Electric Moped** - Silver, good condition. Recently serviced and upgraded by Kinisi and Govindaraj. New batteries (5X12V). New comfortable thick cushion seat for a smoother ride. Bigger wheels make mopeds more stable than scooters on AV mud roads. Quite possibly one of the best-performing (and best-looking) electric mopeds in Auroville. -G ☺ ([sattvig@gmail.com](mailto:sattvig@gmail.com), 8407997970)

**Macbook Pro 13** - Late 2009 with upgraded RAM and SSD. For further details contact at 9864138997

**Yamaha FZ 16** - 2009 Model - Sparingly used - 22000 kms old - Single owner - For further details contact 9864138997

**TV** - 27 in. screen, Videocon model LEDTVMK28HHO7FA, good condition, 4 yrs old. 994 310 6579, [jmlanthier63@gmail.com](mailto:jmlanthier63@gmail.com)

## MATRIMANDIR

Matrimandir Gardens are **closed on Sunday** for the remainder of July.

## GREEN MATTERS



### Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Reuse leftover water from cooked or steamed foods to start a nutritious soup, or pour it on your plants. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. [watergroup@auroville.org.in](http://watergroup@auroville.org.in) / [www.aurovillewater.in](http://www.aurovillewater.in)  
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### Water Words: Take the pledge to Catch Every Drop

The Better Home (from The Better India) has recently launched a campaign encouraging people to conserve water at the household level. Check out more at this [link](#), and note some basic actions you can take to reduce your water consumption:

| Actions that you can take  | Water saved (in litres) |
|--|-------------------------|
| Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth                               | 1                       |
| Partially flush the toilet   | 3                       |
| Turning off the tap while washing your hands                             | 2                       |
| Washing vegetables in a bowl instead of using running water from the tap | 2                       |
| Using the washing machine only when you have a full load                 | 5                       |
| Taking a bucket bath instead of using a shower                           | 10                      |
| Turning off the tap while washing vessels and clothes                    | 4                       |
| Reusing the water used to mop the floor                                  | 4                       |
| Re-purposing water to water the plants                                   | 8                       |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Collecting and using rainwater whenever possible                | 5         |
| Periodically checking taps and plumbing system to prevent leaks | 10        |
| <b>Total saving from all actions</b>                            | <b>54</b> |

Water Group  
(Tom, Tency, Satprem, Ing-Marie, Giulio, Eric Chacra)  
[watergroup@auroville.org.in](mailto:watergroup@auroville.org.in) / [www.aurovillewater.in](http://www.aurovillewater.in)



**It is time!**  
(SW Monsoon, locusts,  
Greenpeace documentaries)

These are some extracts from Down to Earth by Sunita Narain (July 2020):

It's a time for the world to come together. But it's a time when the world is falling apart. It's a time for global institutions to have a loud voice. But it's a time when they are most feeble. It's a time for cooperation and trust, so that local and global action can be decisive and meaningful. But it's a time when partisan, divisive and hurtful politics are ruling – across nations and within nations.

All the crises we see before us today – from air pollution to climate change, from coronavirus to locust attacks that are now destroying the fields of farmers – are about pollutants and viruses. Bubble-wrapping countries to fight the contagion will be, at best, a short-term solution. In the long-run, the world needs to come together.

The imperative of global action on climate change is clear. The atmosphere is one; emissions of greenhouse gases know no boundaries. The need for global cooperation needs to be stressed – and trust between nations. The agreement to act will be built on nations doing what is best in the common interest of the world. This only happens when they know that the agreement is equitable, fair and proportionate.

So - trust is crucial. It is what effective action boils down to – people have to trust their governments and institutions and then take the harsh actions that are being mandated, otherwise, it will not work.

We are at a crucial point in world history. The key global institution is the United Nations (UN) that was set up after World War II. It then spawned many agencies and agreements. But over the years, it has made fatal mistakes – never standing up to power and death by bureaucracy and money. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has decided to postpone critical discussions on what is today's, and tomorrow's, most catastrophic global challenge till end of next year end of 2021. What an absolute abdication of its role and responsibility.

The answer should be clear; fixing weaknesses in democracy is not about less, but more, democracy. It means investing in the local on the one hand, and global community on the other. It is about that compact that will keep the world safe; but most importantly, will keep democracy and the rights of human beings and the environment at the centre of our universe. Nothing less should be acceptable. Not now. Not tomorrow.

**Weather Report** - The South West monsoon had an early onset; 1st of June and by the 1st of July covered almost the entire country at a pace not seen since 2013. Rain-bearing concentrations of clouds -monsoon troughs- are oscillating from the east to the west of the country. Moisture is added from the SSW winds from the Bay of Bengal. The state of Tamil Nadu had already 12 cm of rain, 39 % more than normal!

**Free downloadable documentaries/short films from Greenpeace** -The ongoing pandemic has left us overexposed to information and stress, but it has also refocused our minds on our mission to protect the environment. Unwind and enrich your mind with some incredible stories that will remind you why we must continue fighting for our planet. These inspiring short-films, documentaries and movies, expose crimes against the

environment, explore the reality of protected natural habitats and tell the stories of real heroes.

[greenpeace.india@act.greenpeace.org](mailto:greenpeace.india@act.greenpeace.org)

**Locusts** - Locusts come in large numbers, traversing continents and oceans. From time immemorial, desert locusts have journeyed with the winds in search of rain and food, moving rapidly and covering areas as extensive as 16.5 million sq km. From the deserts of the Sahel and the arid zones along the Red Sea, they grow steadily in numbers and begin to spread across the Arabian Sea. They fly at heights of up to two km and, aided by winds, can cover a distance of 2,000 km at a stretch. Travelling in bands as dense as 12,000 per sq km, they eventually land on the shores of the Indian subcontinent, their arrival coinciding with the southwest monsoon.

A dire warning issued by R Breitbaird, Islamabad, representative of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, the international locust monitoring agency, "This is a dangerous and unpredictable period. Hoppers (young locusts) coming into the swarm-formation stage in Pakistan and India must be immediately controlled or a cycle of plagues lasting 2-3 years could set in. The locusts could migrate back across the Arabian Sea to Yemen and Saudi Arabia, thereafter returning year after year."

There have been a dozen plague cycles in the country since 1860, each lasting an average of seven years. Crop losses due to locust plagues have increased the incidence of famine in India.

**Pesticide pollution** - While control operations must obviously be stepped up to deal with swarms, officials themselves fear they may have dumped more pesticides into the desert soil than is safe. Ground-level officials claim to have received recent orders to suspend the use of dieldrin, a highly toxic and retentive pesticide banned for use against all other pests. But other pesticides such as benzenehexachloride (BHC) are not as effective. "Each plague is dealt with in a fire-fighting manner. Pesticides, both toxic and expensive, are indiscriminately used and are considered the only way to tackle the menace." The entomologists say a long-term, pest management strategy would reduce the need for using pesticides.

By this time, the monsoon showers have coaxed greenery out of the inhospitable Thar desert and this becomes a veritable feast for the exotic visitors. Crops that grow fast and full to the farmer's delight -- sometimes after years of drought -- and thriving bushes of fodder grass: every speck of green is food to these invading hordes of hungry desert locusts (*Schistocerca gregaria*).

Possessing gargantuan appetites unparalleled in the insect world, each of these small creatures eats its own weight of plant matter every day. The male weighs an average of 2.2 gm and the female 3.2 gm. So, feasting parties of 10 million locusts can devour 200,000 tons of green food in just 24 hours." Such voraciousness makes desert locusts one of the farmer's worst enemies in more than 65 countries. The rise of a scourge... (United Nations FAO (Food and Agricultural Org) ~Gijs & Lisbeth AV Green Center [avgreencenter@auroville.org.in](mailto:avgreencenter@auroville.org.in))

The Green Column appears bi-weekly in the News & Notes and on Auronet. We report on green issues in Auroville, the Bioregion and the wider world. We like to hear from you!  
\*\*\*\*\*



Hello Auroville, your radio moves forward and online! The streaming channel can be heard here: <http://aurovilleradio.org:8000/av-radio-128.mp3> (just click on it!) It broadcasts mixed music and LIVE events from our studio.

Next LIVE episodes:

**A Cup of Joy** (wellness) by Vega & Francesco, Mondays, 2:30pm

**Nutritional Cultural Redemption** (food and farming) by Krishna McKenzie, Tuesdays at 10:30am

**The Best of What's Still Around** (music) by Dhani Muniz, Wednesdays at 2:30pm

**The Neo Urban Chronik** (opinion) by Froggy de Frenchy, Fridays at 10:30am

New entry for Fif / MediClown Academy with **Happiness, Love and Laughter** live program about wellness and well-being every Monday, Wednesday and Friday AM (the exact timing is not scheduled yet so stay tuned and get ready!).

All the programs are also available as podcasts (just click...)

Next new entry:

- Nina Sengupta's live program about edible weeds. She will teach us which local weeds are good food, Fridays at 2:30pm
- Luca's live musical selection every Tuesday at 2:30 pm

All the recordings are available to be copied on your memory stick at the AurovilleRadioTV premises in Town Hall, opposite the Financial Service. Please visit our website [www.aurovilleradio.org](http://www.aurovilleradio.org), call us 0413-2623331 or email [radio@auroville.org.in](mailto:radio@auroville.org.in)

Your favourite radio is constantly changing and evolving... STAY TUNED! Please write us for your suggestions :)

~~~~~  
Amma - The most worshipful, loveable and adorable

After watching the beautiful film on Sri Ramana Maharshi and his mother, Maha Puja - Remembering Mother Alagammal <https://youtu.be/F1ZAHJ9bmDg>, I request residents to reflect on the inappropriateness of addressing their domestic help as amma. In all the states of South India our biological mother is Amma to us. For all of us, definitely for most of us who love, adore, worship and venerate our biological mother- Amma, she holds a very special place in our heart. She is the first Guru for the child.

Unfortunately though, such great mothers in this great country India are becoming less and less due to the famous globalisation etc. The famous Guru Mata Amritanandamayi is called Amma by her disciples. Here in the place of The Mother and Sri Aurobindo, it is strange how in different tones people call their domestic helpers as amma. Even Indians got into the habit of saying 'my amma', 'looking for amma', etc. The North Indian way of calling one's mother is not too different, mother is Ma, Mata ji. A son and a daughter don't, should not, can not give work and order around one's mother to clean the house, cook, wash clothes, clean bathroom and toilet etc. I heard from a volunteer that the 'owner' of a home stay directed her helper to clean the toilet with a tooth brush. It can shock anyone with basic human sensibilities. Many residents are proud that so many from the village are provided employment, are paid better, are treated better! The need for domestic help is understandable for old and physically challenged people, and in public places. Coming from a family where we had a minimum of seven domestic helpers, I decided when I was young that I will do all the house work by myself. People who cannot do without domestic helper, will continue to have them. But it is time they are not called "amma". They have beautiful names. It's time to remember their names and address them with their name. Those who did it out of ignorance can be excused. Although 50 years is too long for ignorance. But Indians can't say they did that out of ignorance. The word amma can be used as a suffix to connote affection or respect. Ask any Indian who loves his/ her mother - Amma, Ma, Mata very intensely and who has enthroned his/ her mother in the heart together with the Guru and God. But one should take care not to speak about such profound things to people who speak mundane shallow language and to those who don't care for the profound. What is profound should be kept close to the heart. Amma is enthroned in the heart.

~ Vijaya Reddy (first appeared on Auronet on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020)  
~~~~~



## Journey

Born with color, i dissolved  
Born with cast, i merged in hearts  
Born with language, i learned silence  
Born with nationality, i grew boundaryless  
Born with sexuality, i became love  
Born with temple, i found soul  
Born with body, i conquered death.

~Vivek Singh  
Needham, Certitude

## Beauty and Ugliness

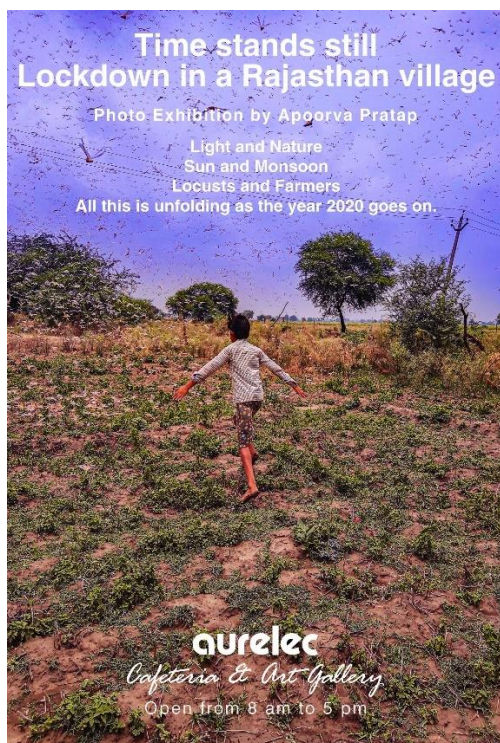
"A thing of beauty is a joy forever" (Keats, "Endymion")

Some people are very beautiful: Sri Aurobindo, the Mother, Leonardo da Vinci, Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Leo Tolstoy etc. But many human beings hate one another, according to the Latin proverb: "homo homini lupus est": one man is a wolf for another man. They started the wars, created nuclear bombs, chemical pesticides, deforestation of planet...

Once I walked with my two long sticks between Center Guesthouse and Solar Kitchen. Opposite me about one hundred children moved on bicycles, together with some adults. One of these adults (evidently a teacher) stopped near me and said: "Auroville is beautiful." Of course, I agreed with him. Auroville is a fine example of collaboration of beautiful people with beautiful nature. But it was an ugly place before 1968 - about half a century ago: a semi-desert landscape, erosion. Sunny beams fell here and return in cosmos. It's called entropy.

But now we have the opposite process in our beautiful city: the numerous plants catch the sunny days and use them for photosynthesis, they create oxygen and biomass. The ecosystem of Auroville is almost perfect. It is an example for the hope of mankind: the future of Homo sapiens has not only dark perspective. ~submitted by Boris, Biologist

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



13 July 2020 - 13 August 2020

Apoorva Pratap, the younger brother of an Aurovilian, lives still with their family in a village near Rajasthan, at the Madhya Pradesh border, Bundelkhand. During the recent Lockdown he picked up his small camera and documented photos around his village.



## AUROVILLE ART SERVICE - 'basket' for the week

**1. INLAKS INDIA FOUNDATION: FINE ART AWARD** - This award provides financial assistance to young artists in their formative years to develop their creative talent while working independently anywhere in India. <https://www.inlaksfoundation.org/art/fine-art-award/how-to-apply/>

**2. EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES: 2021 CALL FOR ARTISTS** Embracing Our Differences invites artists to participate in creating a society where diversity is embraced and individuality is celebrated. [https://www.embracingourdifferences.org/clientuploads/docs/2021\\_call-to-artist.pdf](https://www.embracingourdifferences.org/clientuploads/docs/2021_call-to-artist.pdf)

**3. PLATFORM FOR ARTISTS: VIRTUAL FLEA MARKET** - Looking for artists who create unique products to participate in a virtual flea market which will happen in mid-August. [hello@pfaindia.com](mailto:hello@pfaindia.com); <https://www.instagram.com/p/CCgD0J3JVot/>

**4. GOETHE-INSTITUT: ELECTRONIC MUSIC JOURNALISM** GROOVE Magazine, in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut. are now inviting young journalists from all over the world to participate in a workshop program with the aim of developing a written, in-depth feature on their respective local scene. <https://groove.de/2020/06/29/global-groove-electronic-music-journalism/?fbclid=IwAR0a-WbnrlKylFKcTioCvMM3AM4LLg> (Scroll down to see the information).

**5. THE RINGING MUSEUM OF ART** - Offers loads of interesting art activities for kids and families to get creative with materials on hand. <https://www.ringling.org/learnfromhome>

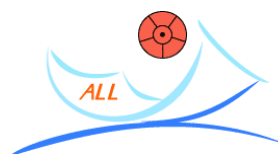
**6. WRITING LESSONS** - Catherine Deveny is putting up her third series of writing lessons in her usual funny and endearing style. <http://www.catherinedeveny.com/donation-to-devs-ten-online-writing-classes/>

**7. GET CREATIVE WITH CLASSICAL MUSIC** - BBC Ten Pieces opens up the world of classical music to 7-14 year olds with exciting films, lesson plans, instrumental arrangements and live events. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces>

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

**Somatic Movement - Online Intensive for Every Body!**  
Saturday & Sunday, 18th & 19th July, 2.00 - 5.30 PM  
w/ Maggie

Open to anyone whether you are completely new to this work or want to rediscover the basics. A good understanding of English is essential, as is a commitment to attend both sessions. Please sign up by emailing [maggie@auroville.org.in](mailto: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 by email or call+9486623465 Maggie presents on behalf of SoMagic, consultancy activity under LEAD, a Unit under the Auroville Foundation



Auroville Language Lab  
announces ONLINE COURSES

Learn German Online w/ Verena  
(Beginner Level)

Tuesday and Thursday from 08:15 AM to 09:45 AM

Course Content:

- Listening, Understanding, and Speaking
- Basic Knowledge of grammar and first writing experience
- First conversation and pronunciation
- Learn to build first sentences with fun and appreciation

An hour of English a day with Asha! Attention Unit holders:

- Want your staff to answer your calls/emails/WhatsApp messages efficiently?
- Want your staff to say the right things to your clients?
- Want your staff to communicate on time?



Inform your staff and get them to sign up for communication skills courses ONLINE. This 10-hour course is unlike any other!

- It is bilingual (Eng/Tamil): your Tamil-speaking staff can learn from a teacher who will use a comparative approach of learning the essential phrases in English for the workplace using Tamil for easier understanding.
- It uses the “unlearning technique”: your Tamil-speaking staff can now unlearn incorrect phrases. We will provide them the right stuff (English with Tamil paraphrasing) instead of dragging them through long complex study material.
- It offers an add-on module: basic telephone etiquette.

Monday - Friday 3:00 to 4:00 PM (can be revised on request)

Group classes at the Lab (only for Aurovilians, Newcomers, Pre-newcomers and guests who have been living only in Auroville during lockdown):

- English with Asha every Mon & Wed from 4 pm to 5 pm.
- Tamil w/ Saravanan every Tue and Thurs, 9.30 - 10.30AM
- Spanish w/ Mila every Tue and Thurs, 2.30 to 3.30 PM.

Those interested can register at:  
<http://register.aurovillelanguage.org/>  
FMI: 2623661/4036920 or: [info@aurovillelanguage.org](mailto:info@aurovillelanguage.org)



### Ashtanga Yoga - Mysore Style workshop 21<sup>st</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July

Join us for an exploration of the Ashtanga yoga method and learn all the tools you need to deepen & expand your practice. This 7 class workshop will help you understand the philosophy & essential aspects, as well as focus on finetuning your asanas to be able to carry on your practice effectively.

**Registration:** Spaces are limited. Registration and advance payment required. FMI & to register (by 20<sup>th</sup> July): +91 948-980-5493 or [christine@auroville-holistic.com](mailto:christine@auroville-holistic.com)

Beginners, intermediate or advanced students are welcome and will get benefit from this workshop. Experienced practitioners will deepen both their understanding and their practice, while beginners will learn the beginning of the primary series and will be able to continue with a personal practice.



**Schedule:** Classes start at 7:15 AM (be in the shala 10 min early)  
Tuesday 21 July/Wednesday 22 July/Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July/Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July: Led class and Philosophy introduction at 10:00 AM  
Monday 27 July /Tuesday 28 July/Wednesday 29 July

**Venue:** Yoga shala @ LOKA house (Good Earth), on the left before Adishakti.

### Deep relaxation workshop with scientific meditation and sound healing Friday, 24th July, 4:30 PM

Pre-registration by mail required: [contact@auroville-holistic.com](mailto:contact@auroville-holistic.com). More details about the sound used on our website: <https://www.auroville-holistic.com/deep-relaxation-session/>

### ONLINE COURSE ON AYURVEDA - JUL 20th-26<sup>th</sup>

A wonderful authentic Ayurveda center (Vaidyagrama, Coimbatore) that I have visited in the past is offering an online course from Jul 20-26 on the following: *Basics of Ayurveda, Daily and Seasonal Regime, Significance of Natural Urges and Sleep, Care and Conduct in Pandemic Era with Ayurveda, Immunity building through Ayurveda, Food and Dietetics.*

The course will be taught over 7 days in the mornings by a team of 7 qualified and caring doctors. Please contact me for details and I'll send you the flyer. Stay healthy and well!

- G ☺ [sattvig@gmail.com](mailto:sattvig@gmail.com), 8407997970)

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Be sure to have a look at the **Regular Activities Addendum** for classes and treatments that have restarted.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 9-2; TH PM 2-4; 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](mailto:newsandnotes@auroville.org.in)**