

News and Notes

No 828

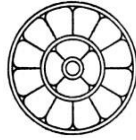
A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

25th July 2020



Aditi becoming Avatar ...?

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



Arjuna takes the declaration about the transmission of the Yoga in its most physical sense, – there is another significance in which it can be taken, – and asks how the Sun-God, one of the first-born of beings, ancestor of the Solar dynasty, can have received the Yoga from the man Krishna who is only now born into the world. Krishna does not reply, as we might have expected him to have done, that it was as the Divine who is the source of all knowledge that he gave the Word to the Deva who is his form of knowledge, giver of all inner and outer light, – *bhargah savitur devasya yo no dhayah pracodayat*; he accepts instead the opportunity which Arjuna gives him of declaring his concealed Godhead, a declaration for which he had prepared when he gave himself as the divine example for the worker who is not bound by his works, but which he has not yet quite explicitly made. He now openly announces himself as the incarnate Godhead, the Avatar.

We have had occasion already, when speaking of the divine Teacher, to state briefly the doctrine of Avatarhood as it appears to us in the light of Vedanta, the light in which the Gita presents it to us. We must now look a little more closely at this Avatarhood and at the significance of the divine Birth of which it is the outward expression; for that is a link of considerable importance in the integral teaching of the Gita. And we may first translate the words of the Teacher himself in which the nature and purpose of Avatarhood are given summarily and remind ourselves also of other passages or references which bear upon it. “Many are my lives that are past, and thine also, O Arjuna; all of them I know, but thou knowest not, O scourge of the foe. Though I am the unborn, though I am imperishable in my self-existence, though I am the Lord of all existences, yet I stand upon my own Nature and I come into birth by my self-Maya. For whensoever there is the fading of the Dharma and the uprising of unrighteousness, then I loose myself forth into birth. For the deliverance of the good, for the destruction of the evil-doers, for the enthroning of the Right I am born from age to age. He who knoweth thus in its right principles my divine birth and my divine work, when he abandons his body, comes not to rebirth, he comes to Me, O Arjuna. Delivered from liking and fear and wrath, full of me, taking refuge in me, many purified by austerity of knowledge have arrived at my nature of being (*madbhavam*, the divine nature of the Purushottama). As men approach me, so I accept them to my love (*bhajami*); men follow in every way my path, O son of Pritha.”

But most men, the Gita goes on to say, desiring the fulfilment of their works, sacrifice to the gods, to various forms and personalities of the one Godhead, because the fulfilment (*siddhi*) that is born of works, – of works without knowledge, – is very swift and easy in the human world; it belongs indeed to that world alone. The other, the divine self-fulfilment in man by the sacrifice with knowledge to the supreme Godhead, is much more difficult; its results belong to a higher plane of existence and they are less easily grasped. Men therefore have to follow the fourfold law of their nature and works and on this plane of mundane action they seek the Godhead through his various qualities. But, says Krishna, though I am the doer of the fourfold works and creator of its fourfold law, yet I must be known also as the non-doer, the imperishable, the immutable Self. “Works affect me not, nor have I desire for the fruit of works;” for God is the impersonal beyond this egoistic personality and this strife of the modes of Nature, and as the Purushottama also, the impersonal Personality, he possesses this supreme freedom even in works. Therefore the doer of divine works even while following the fourfold law has to know and live in that which is beyond, in the impersonal Self and so in the supreme Godhead. “He who thus knows me is not bound by his works. So knowing was work done by the men of old who sought liberation; do therefore, thou also, work of that more ancient kind done by ancient men.”

(to be continued next week)

– Sri Aurobindo. *Essays on the Gita. Chapter XV. The Possibility and Purpose of Avatarhood*

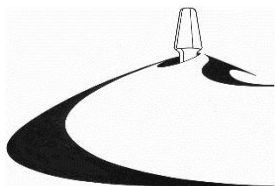
P.S. There's a HOMA page on the Auroville website: <https://www.auroville.org/contents/1085>



“Pain and grief are Nature’s reminder to the soul that the pleasure it enjoys is only a feeble hint of the real delight of existence. In each pain and torture of our being is the secret of a flame of rapture compared with which our greatest pleasures are only as dim flickerings. It is this secret which forms the attraction for the soul of the great ordeals, sufferings and fierce experiences of life which the nervous mind in us shuns and abhors.”

– Sri Aurobindo





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



There will be a silent gathering around the Banyan tree at Matrimandir, in remembrance of our dear elder brother **Paolo Tommasi**, this week **Friday, 24 July, at 5.30 PM**. Kindly wear masks and respect social distancing.

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

COVID-19 UPDATE

From the WC/CTF: This is to inform you that we have received confirmation from the local health authorities of a **COVID positive case in Edayanchavadi village**. The residence of the person as well as 4 to 5 houses immediately surrounding it have been isolated. Contact tracing is being carried out and it has been reported that the origin of the case is from a post-funeral ceremony in another town. According to the health authorities, employees from Edayanchavadi may still go to work as long as they have not had any contact with the positive patient or the family members.

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 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 it works - 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.

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 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

myGov
मेरी सरकार

SAY NO TO SOCIAL STIGMA

Faced by COVID-19 Survivors

- Survivors often suffers from anxiety, **stress & trauma** due to social stigma
- It is **unscientific & inhumane** to isolate people post recovery
- It is **safer to interact with a person** recovered from COVID-19
- A recovered person can **no longer spread the virus**

Dated: 1 May, 2020

AYURVEDA HOW TO BOOST THE IMMUNE SYSTEM
What are the recommendations from Ayurveda to boost our immune system? 1- Eat freshly prepared home-made foods With pulses or grains and vegetables along with spices (eg: ginger, turmeric, black pepper, cumin, coriander, cinnamon, ajwain, basil, garlic etc).

COVID-19 Crisis

MINISTRY OF AYUSH
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Ministry of AYUSH recommends, based on Ayurvedic literature and scientific publications, for preventive health measures and boosting immunity with special reference to respiratory health.

Measures for Enhancing Immunity

- Drink warm water throughout the day.
- Daily practice of Yogasana, Pranayama and Meditation for at least 30 minutes.
- Spices like Haldi (Turmeric), Jeera (Cumin), Dhaniya (Coriander) and Lahsun (Garlic) recommended in cooking.

Simple Ayurvedic Procedures

- Nasal Application** - Apply Sesame Oil/Coconut oil or Ghee in both the nostrils (Pratimarsh Nasya) in morning and evening.
- Oil Pulling Therapy** - Take 1 table spoon Sesame or Coconut Oil in mouth. Do not drink, swish in the mouth for 2 to 3 minutes and spit it off followed by warm water rinse. This can be done once or twice a day.

Ayurvedic Immunity Enhancing Tips

- Take Chyavanprash 10gm (1tsf) in the morning. Diabetics should take sugar free Chyavanprash.
- Drink Herbal Tea/Decoction (Kadha) made from Tulsi (Basil), Dalchini (Cinnamon), Kalimirch (Black Pepper), Shunthi (Dry Ginger) and Munakka (Raisin) - once or twice a day. Add jaggery (Natural Sugar) and/or fresh Lemon Juice to your taste, if needed.
- Golden Milk- half tea spoon Haldi (Turmeric) powder in 150 ml Hot Milk - once or twice a day.

Actions During Dry Cough/Sore Throat

- Steam inhalation with fresh Pudina (Mint) leaves or Ajwain (Caraway Seeds) can be practiced once in a day.
- Lavang (Clove) powder mixed with Natural Sugar/Honey can be taken 2-3 times a day in case of cough or throat irritation.
- These measures generally treat normal dry cough and sore throat. However, it is best to consult doctors if these symptoms persist.

Immunity Boosting Measures for Self-Care

PIB India | PIBHindi | /pibindia | /pibindia | /pibindia.wordpress.com | /pibindia | pib.gov.in | KBK

Avoid Kapha-producing foods like dairy products and sugar/sweet food 2- Drink hot water with ginger and lemon or herbal teas or green tea 3- Keep moving, do exercise, sweat it out even if it's just 15 minutes per day 4- Keep your senses lubricated: drink enough water; put 2 drops of sesame oil or Anu Tailam (ayurvedic medicated oil) in each nostril in the morning and at bedtime; massage the sole of feet and palms of hands with sesame oil if you can't do a full body oleation 5- Gargle with hot water, salt and a pinch of turmeric 6- Cultivate happiness and positiveness by nourishing your senses and mind with uplifting news, sounds, images, contacts 7- Clean the atmosphere with sage fumigation or holy basil vaporization 8- Wash your hands regularly especially before preparing and eating food and before/after the use of the toilet 9- Do not eat left-overs, stale or junk food or do not eat out in uncleaned premises 10- Organic fruits or vegetables are nature's "Farm"acy, they might not look appetizing and shiny but they are full of vitamins and minerals and their seeds are "mother seeds" (they reproduce fruits or vegetables when you plant them, unlike hybrid or modified seeds that are sterile) 11- Burn incense or do aromatherapy with eucalyptus, holy basil, rosemary, sage, sandalwood

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 31st 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](#).

Special flights are now available from **Delhi to Newark** till **1 August** - For details, contact: International Flight Ticket and Hotel bookings: 2622078, travelshop@auroville.org.in, Domestic Flight Tickets/Travel Insurance - 2623030, domestic@inside-india.com



WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From the Working Committee: New Emergency Email List

We would like to inform you of a new email group that has been formed by the Working Committee, in which you are included. As the current massbulletin does not reach everyone in Auroville due to the fact that Newcomers are not included and that people can opt out of the list, it is proposed to create an emergency bulletin mailing list, which will reach the largest number of persons in Auroville as follows:

1. It contains all addresses of persons receiving the massbulletin at present, irrespective of whether the address is an auroville.org.in address or an external address.
2. It contains all addresses with the auroville.org.in ID including those who have opted out of the massbulletin list.
3. It contains the email IDs of current Newcomers as registered by Entry Service.

Note: The postings will be handled in the same way as is being done for the regular massbulletin.

This email list will only be used in times of emergency and all postings will go through the Working Committee only. All communications regarding the current Coronavirus situation will now go through this list (emergency bulletin) instead of the regular massbulletin list, in order to ensure that as many residents as possible receive information that is needed during this time.

We thank you for your understanding and support.

Re: Land Brokering

It has been reported to us on several occasions that fellow Aurovilians are involved as a land broker and assisting real estate developers to purchase private lands inside the Master Plan area of Auroville. Aurovilians acting as land brokers inside Auroville is unacceptable. It is unethical and goes against a

basic principle of Auroville/what it means to be Aurovillian. It is also undermining the efforts of the Land Board to consolidate all lands in the Master Plan area.

We strongly advise every Aurovillian to refrain from playing a direct or indirect role in assisting any private real estate developers to procure lands inside the Master Plan area of Auroville. With regards, -**The Working Committee**

Social Media Harassment!

We would like to bring to your attention that we are greatly concerned about regular reports we have been receiving of certain types of postings on social media. We have heard that people who have gone for [Covid] testing have been negatively targeted on social media; and also, that social media are being misused to make derogatory comments on young women and make racial-tinted denunciations.

The IPC, the Indian Penal Code, has an extensive section on cyber-crimes, including on issues relating to harassment of women, either directly or indirectly. Please be aware that any such comments coming to notice of the cyber-crime department will be investigated and can be detrimental to the future of the person who posted or who distributed the comments, and will also be detrimental to Auroville as a whole. For those who sincerely wish to live a life in Auroville dedicated to self-discovery and spiritual growth, the advice of Sri Aurobindo on psychic self-control is our inspiration and aspiration:

1. If there is gossip about others and harsh criticism, not to join - for these things are helpful in no way and only lower the consciousness from its higher level.
2. To avoid all that would hurt or wound others.

We request you all to please review your social media use in this light and adopt a very conscious approach to the use of any social media platform. - The Working Committee

[Ed. Note: It feels like a pretty sad day in Auroville when the Working Committee feels compelled to admonish us about the two previous items. Come on People! One of the few requirements that The Mother specifically articulated for us to possess is GOODWILL. Surely, we all have our lapses, but

just as surely, we can realign and rededicate ourselves to being true Aurovilians, and take conscious and deliberate aim at "a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity". Can we re-member?]



L'avenir d'Auroville

Auroville Township Planning and Development Research Organization

L'avenir/TDC update on priority areas

In our last post we noted several areas of work that need to be urgently addressed to underpin our strategic work to develop our city. We would like to provide more detail on why these areas are important and the work being undertaken.

Formalizing TDC's statutory status - You may be aware that the government is not inclined to open up new NTDAs. We are therefore actively seeking the support of the Working Committee and Auroville Foundation for exploration of alternative options at the earliest. To support this work, our mapping team has been busy identifying the existing and proposed land use for each parcel within the Master Plan area. This is the first step and is required for getting Statutory Land status from the TN government. We are keen to have clarity on Auroville's statutory land status - and that of TDC - as soon as possible as this is critical in underpinning our work to develop the city.

Understanding the strategic value of lands required for Auroville's development - Our technical teams have also been busy in identifying externally owned land in the Masterplan area that has strategic value for Auroville's development. Land may be considered strategic for a variety of reasons, including its potential to support and protect our environment, to enable integrated infrastructure, or unlock wider areas for development. It is critical that the strategic value of these lands is more widely understood to enable informed decision making. We have therefore started providing the Land Board with maps identifying these lands with strategic development and environmental value. This information will enable them to prioritise the purchase of key lands. We have also initiated regular meetings with the Land Board to strengthen this dialogue and to help us understand where we can better support their work to prevent encroachment of Auroville's existing land assets.

Establishing remaining Technical Teams - Over the past three years, Technical Teams have been established within L'avenir/TDC to undertake the works initiated, anchored and co-ordinated by the Interface Team. We are pleased to announce that to some extent, the teams are now in place. **Teams have been established for Mapping and Data, Development and Building Applications, Evaluation and Monitoring, Energy, Integrated Water Resources, Planning, Mobility, Policy and Development Priorities, Regional Planning and Development and Administration.** We also now have support for our communications. More details on the teams and their work will be provided in our upcoming Annual Report.

However, there are still several critical gaps within the teams which need to be filled to enable full operation. In particular **funding is required to support those who have offered to join our Planning team.** We will be working to address these gaps as a matter of urgency.

Water - As stated in our post of 17 February (<https://auroville.org.in/article/77897>) our strategic priorities for water are to:

1. Prioritize the creation of an Auroville Water Master Plan, so that we can systematically create water projects and request funding according to our collective priorities.
2. Support the water sector to overcome its differences and harmonize in working together.

3. Begin to search for other sources of funding other than GOI-Ministry of Human Resource Development for water projects.

Our Water Team currently has two members:

Ing-Marie is our part-time water coordinator, with the aim to help clarify roles and responsibilities of Auroville's water players and help increase communication between them. She also assists community members with water related issues and can be reached at: water-avenir@auroville.org.in

Gilles B. is our Integrated Wastewater and Fecal Sludge Management Consultant, with the aim to optimize our treated water resources.

Recent water work has included: borewell application processing and feedback, rebuilding positive relationships and communication with various water players, evaluation of MM Test Pond proposal, and more.

Ongoing work includes: study of surface water management in Residential Zones 1 & 2, initiation of a project to build sludge treatment facility, determining water quality standards and for drinking and treated water and working to institute regular water testing, revision of borewell application to emphasize multi-sourcing/sharing water and minimise future drilling of borewells, creating a standard design of wastewater treatment systems for individual houses,, archiving of Auroville water studies and reports, harvesting water priorities of different groups and establishing a road map to move forward, and more.
Warmly, -Saravanan and Sreevatsa

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Taxi Share - Auroville to Bangalore Airport.
Both ways sharing possible.

24.07.2020 AV - BLR = 2 seats / BLR - AV = 4

26.07.2020: AV - BLR = 3 seats/BLR - AV = 6

28.07.2020: AV - BLR = 2 seats / BLR - AV = 3

30.07.2020: AV - BLR = 1 seats / BLR - AV = 4

Travel e-passes can be arranged. Raju +91 944-307-4825 (WA), Office : 0413-2623200, 201; aurocabs@auroville.org.in

Call for Proposals SDZ Fall 2020

The Stichting de Zaaier Board invites proposals from Aurovilians to consider for funding at their upcoming Board meeting. We are very grateful for this encouraging gesture. In addition to the criteria given in bullet points below, the SDZ Board has indicated that they are willing to consider, **"proposals in relation to COVID-19 challenges"** and, **"initiatives aimed at a more sustainable economy with a comprehensive plan or roadmap that can support the various initiatives to become more than the sum of the parts"**.

It is **IMPORTANT** that what is being proposed as your project can be executed within the given parameters during lockdown, following the guidelines and restrictions in force at the time of implementation.

The last date for submitting proposals for this call is Monday, 3 August 2020. Please submit earlier if possible. You are welcome to send us a draft version of your proposal for comment prior to the due date. *(If you plan to submit a proposal, please carefully read this full announcement to the end!)* NB There will be another call for proposals in two months' time if you cannot prepare a proposal now.

The Project Coordination Group will check whether proposals fall within the SDZ funding criteria and forward those that do to the SDZ Board for final selection and grant allocation.

Stichting de Zaaier welcomes project proposals for:

- research studies in the fields of sociology, economy, psychology and inner development;
- exploratory (research) studies into the relations with the world outside Auroville, in particular with the villages (and villagers) surrounding Auroville, as well as proposals for initiatives that seek to contribute to strengthening these relations;

- initiatives that seek to enhance efficient co-operation of Aurovilians with the aim of making full use of the existing potential in Auroville;
- studies exploring a sustainable future for Auroville and initiatives contributing to such a future;
- Initiatives requiring seed money (micro-projects) for innovative and informal education & training, women's development, outreach as well as proposals prepared by youth.

Funds are generally not available for infrastructure, buildings or transport. Requests for equipment will only be considered if specifically required for the implementation of the project and are not already available in Auroville. Please note that Stichting de Zaaier has also indicated a preference for funding projects where the maintenance of Aurovilians is either provided by Auroville or from a source other than SDZ grants.

Grant application form and budget request spreadsheet available on request from pcg@auroville.org.in at the links at the end of this announcement. NB If you have already received funding for a project through the Project Coordination Group, please send in a progress report/status update (if project is ongoing) or final report (if project has been completed or all funds have been utilized) before making an application for a new grant.

Please note that if you are submitting a project that has anything to do with Auroville or Auroville Outreach schools, or, students of any individual classes, your project is to be reviewed by all concerned School Boards prior to the Project Coordination Group review. (Please contact all individual schools before submitting your proposal to the School Boards.) Therefore, it is important that all the relevant bodies (i.e. schools, teachers, school boards, etc.) are aware of your project and support it. In this way, the Project Coordination Group can more easily recommend a project for funding knowing it will have the support of schools and hereby have a greater impact on the beneficiaries of the project.

For more information or assistance please write to pcg@auroville.org.in. Last date for submitting proposals for this call is Monday, 3 August 2020. Please submit earlier if possible.

[2020 Auroville PCG Grant Proposal FORM TO FILL IN AND SUBMIT 2020.doc](#)

[2020 Auroville PCG Grant Proposal BUDGET Table 2020.xls](#)

All Guest Registration Service locations (Aspiration, Town Hall, Visitor Centre) are now open mornings, 9:30 to 12:30.

Auroville Information Service is open

Monday and Thursday mornings, 10.00am to 12.00pm

for viewing the beautiful exhibition on Auroville quietly, providing information on Auroville to stranded guests and volunteers and also for the purchase of books, brochures, cards etc... We now have in stock the new issue of La Revue d'Auroville. If anyone would like to purchase a specific book but is unable to come to the office, it will be a pleasure to deliver to you. We hope you are all safe and well.
- The Info Service team

La Boutique at Visitors Center is open 9 AM to 1 PM

every day except Sunday. Aurocard & account only.

Re: the Internal Delivery Service for Online Purchased Goods

The project announcement and survey were erroneously published as an initiative of the Auroville Council. The group working on the pilot project consists of Aurovilians from various working groups, who are working voluntarily on this project and not necessarily representing their group vis-a-vis the project. We apologize for the confusion.

In regard to the content of the text, we want to highlight that this initiative is in an experimental phase and use of the service is voluntary.
-Dan and Shivaya

OBITUARY



Paolo Tommasi

This is to inform the community that our dear friend and brother Paolo Tommasi passed away in JIPMER on 16 July at around 11.15am due to complications of the Covid19 virus. He had just turned 92 years old.

Paolo, born in Ancona, Italy, and recognised in the fifties as a leading figure and point of reference in the world of art and performance in Europe and further abroad, was an architect gifted with a true passion for architectural interiors, design, theatre, scenography (such as in Milan's La Scala Theatre) and painting; his exhibitions travelled worldwide.

Always a searcher, he was in his thirties called to India, where he met Mother at the age of 38 and felt he had found what he had been seeking. This was just before Auroville's inauguration in '68, and a few years before the concept of Matrimandir would emerge. In this very process Paolo would, in his reserved and reflective manner, play an unobtrusive but significant role. He later would also propose elaborate designs for the twelve gardens around Matrimandir.

While continuing his artistic activities abroad, from 2010 onwards Paolo came to live in Pondicherry for increasingly longer periods as *"In no other place do I feel my soul reawaken and do I achieve that inner work that gives meaning to my life: becoming more aware of myself and the mystery that surrounds us."* From time to time he would visit his friends in Auroville and Matrimandir.

In his Pondy house, he would continue painting his often strikingly expressive images, which were published in the book *'Immagini sull'Invisibile' - 'Images on the Invisible'* and [exhibited in Savitri Bhavan](#) in 2016. The biography *'Alla Ricerca dell'Armonia' - 'In Search of Harmony'* follows him throughout his life.

At the end of June, Paolo was tested positive for the Corona virus and has been treated for the same, remaining stable for the first weeks on mask ventilation. On 15 July intubation was needed as his condition rapidly deteriorated. In the morning of Friday 17 July his remains were cremated in JIPMER's crematorium; due to Covid19 restrictions only 4 people were allowed, one of them was from Matrimandir, Auroville. *May he be in peace.*

We profoundly and lovingly thank Paolo for his creative vision and the support extended by him for the Soul of the City, Jay MA-

Recent interview w/ Paolo speaking of his life, of building Matrimandir, the Mother, Satprem, the yoga and many other things of Interest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkeVKSnhpse&feature=youtu.be>. A 5-minute clip on Paolo, Piero and Gloria visiting the Matrimandir in 2009 can be found at <https://youtu.be/h2ziJPligNE>

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Dear Paolo, let me gather my heart and mind and soul in a letter to you, friend and guide and fore-runner.

You are one of the first, along with Nata and Maggi, who greeted the first Auroson. You saw through your loving and artistic eyes his first hours in Promesse and recorded it with your camera.

You shared with us through Roger and Purnaprem and Satprem the Mother's vision for Matrimandir and Auroville.

You showed her the tantric egg, which became the inspiration for the present Matrimandir, the crystal and the marble.

You visited and inspired Auroson's Home and passed through on your way to Piero.

You built a beautiful house in Auroville and wanted it to be a shelter for artists and you contributed to the richness of the gardens of the Matrimandir.

In an interview you asked while pointing at the Matrimandir: "Do you know what this is?" and answered it yourself: "The future is being written there."

Those who were born while the Mother was in her body, are leaving us. We are now called upon to find HER answers among and within us.

Gratitude and Love to all those who gave themselves to be HER instruments and messengers.

Shanti Shanti Shanti
- Ohm -

- Frederick

~ * ~ * ~ * ~ *

Remembering Paolo

Just a few years ago, when he was already in his mid-80's, I went with Paolo, who rode on the back of the scooter of his closest friend of the last years, Pad, down to the end of the Pondicherry harbor where a local fishing boat with a motor was waiting for us. We embarked around the rocks of the harbor mouth and headed south to a deserted part of beach that Paolo had discovered. Arriving at our destination, the boat lay anchor about a hundred meters from shore. Paolo stripped naked and got into the water, swimming to the abandoned beach and then laying in the sun for an hour before our return. It was a marvel for me; while we live stuck in a certain ordinary routine, he was able to find beauty within the mundane chaos. This ritual of individuality was like a throwback from another time. He had a deep and lifelong connection with the ocean. "The sea, it's the source of everything" he would say, and tell me how the local fisherman, "They understand this... it is the Mother of all!" (his hands were always expressive, moving in growing circles or punctuating some truth with two fingers.)

"Knowledge. Without knowledge, we are nothing." Paolo lived his life within a spiritual mythology - an evolving spiritual mythology. At the center of which were The Mother and Sri Aurobindo. He was a man whose synthesis of living; whose everyday life, was in dialogue with what the Mother had written, or perhaps a line from Savitri, and these lines would come alive not only in his art, but in an evolutive way in how he wanted to be alive and embrace life. "Life, it's a great mystery. It's a gift."

Paolo's father died in Mauthausen when he was 14. "The same concentration camp as Satprem". How this effected his character I do not know, but he seemed to be drawn back toward this event as he grew older, and perhaps it formed in him part of this distrust or disassociation with groups. He had close and deep connections with people, but never belonged. He would come and go, he was an outsider. He had a house lent to him by the Ashram for 40 years, but he was not an Ashramite. He built a house in Auroville which he never lived in. I think in the way of the artist who is only the translator of divine symbols - of what is above, or what comes out of nature - into our human sphere, this was a necessity. Not be entangled or dragged down into a repetition of the ordinary.

When The Mother began to work on what was to become the Matrimandir, his ideas were brought to her of a sphere rising out of earth, a cosmic egg. I asked him "Why the circle? The sphere?" (for years he only painted golden orange circles on horizons of blue). "Ah..." he said, his eyes looking up from the white table filled with books, pencil marks on his readings, a vase with roses, an ashtray, and looked out the window to find a point in the ocean. After a long pause - "It is the totality."
- Auroson



WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 042 - 25-07-2020

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.

NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:

- **Bondeepa PATOR** (Indian) staying in Sunship and working at Dynamis
- **Cleo Tanja Marianne LUKKARINEN** (Finnish) staying in Certitude and working at Land Board
- **Kowsalya ASHOK** (Indian) staying in Transport Service staff quarters and working at Dental Clinic

CHILD OF NEWCOMER:

- **Arjun** (Indian) Born on 20/6/2019 (Son of Kowsalya ASHOK)

NEWCOMERS CONFIRMED:

- **Alexandre MANGANO** (Italian)
- **Irene DAOUST** (Canadian)
- **Patricia ROUSSET** (French)

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:

- **Kibum LEE** (Korean) staying in Future School and working at Future School & Housing Service
- **Mano SELVARAJ** (Indian) staying in Auromodele and working at Auroville Language Lab
- **Sedhuraman MUTHUVEL** (Indian) staying in Svedam (Aurore) and working at Auroville Online Store
- **Sunmi Kim aka Miya** (Korean) staying in Maitreye 1 and working at TLC

RETURNING AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:

- **Arumugam ASOKUMAR aka ASHOK** (Indian) staying in Arya and working at Unity Pavilion

NOTE:

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Housing Service Open Hours

The Housing Service is open only in the mornings and we are working on an appointment basis.

Mondays, 10am - 12.30

Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am - 12.30

Saturdays (accounts only) 10.30am - 12.30

Please continue taking appointments with the person you need to see and to wear your mask sanitize your hands and sign the register when entering the office. Thank you!

- Accounts: Aravind and Meena - housing-accounting@auroville.org.in
- House Repairs: Alexey - housing-repair@auroville.org.in

- House siting: Venkatesh - housing@auroville.org.in
- House Transfer: Svenja - housing-transfer@auroville.org.in
- Newcomer Housing: Sundar - housing@auroville.org.in
- Youth housing and Volunteers: Savithri - housing@auroville.org.in

- The Housing Service Team

Community Center for Auroville Seniors

There is a growing need for some sort of “hang out” facility, a sort of a social centre to be set up specifically for the older Aurovillians - somewhere comfortable to meet up with people of a similar age, chat with friends and make new ones, quietly read the papers, or play cards or board games or pool - somewhere nice to just socialize and have some fun from time to time. Of course, there would be wifi and some refreshments would also be available. Ideally there would also be various activities and classes such as dancing (Tango, Swing, Rock?), Tai-Chi, Qigong, drawing/painting, ikebana, kolam drawing.

Initially we envisage a suitable venue that would be easily accessible and open one or two days a week in one of the existing buildings. Then depending on the participation and feedback, ideally this would eventually have its own dedicated space and be open every day. Perhaps in time it might even become a full-fledged center for older Aurovillians providing all of the above, as well as comfortable and affordable accommodations, some self-contained, with a full communal kitchen and dining area, a medical facility and staff, a lounge, a meeting/common room, garden(s), exercise area, and whatever else is deemed to be needed and wanted.

Right now there are approximately 500 Aurovillians over the age of 65, who could be considered “seniors”. While many of them are of course fit and healthy, living well balanced and active lives, there are unfortunately all too many who are not and are living alone, without much or any help and/or with disabilities of one kind or another and who would directly benefit from our intended project. Some data:

- 172 residents are aged between 65 and 69
- 265 residents are between 70 and 79
- 55 residents are 80 or more years old

We hope these figures help illustrate the reality of the situation and the urgent need to be much better prepared, especially for the years to come!

To understand our community's needs and resources better, we have created 2 short surveys. The first survey (<https://bit.ly/32yKltX>) is aimed towards our residents over the age of 50, to find out what the community thinks of this initiative and to obtain some specific feedback. The second survey (<https://bit.ly/32BNyyq>) is aimed towards practitioners (artists/ musicians/ dancers/etc.) who would like to offer their skills and services for our seniors. This survey will help us understand you and your activity better, and thus plan accordingly.

We encourage everyone concerned to please complete and return as soon as possible (latest by 7th August), so that we can finalize the details and then get this centre open!

(This will of course only start once the Covid restrictions are sufficiently relaxed to permit such activities.)

If you have any questions or would like to help, please email us at thirdage@auroville.org.in

Donations are very welcome and can be made to: Compassion account number 251404.

- Camille, Dan, Don, Fakeera, Rashmi, Saif, Shivaya, Susmita

Auroville Internal Drop and Delivery Service ...

... for online purchased goods is operating for 10 days now. So far, some 15 parcels were handled. The team is learning with each day how to run the Service in an optimal way. The purpose of the service is to curb the vehicles that cross the Auroville City Area and so to lighten the traffic burden on our roads.

It is voluntary. It will be run as a pilot project for 3 months and will then be evaluated. It is located at the UTS office, Service Area. Office timings: 9.30 AM - 1pm & 2pm- 5 pm

You can pick up goods directly at UTS office/ Internal Delivery Service. Goods can also be delivered to your house the same day. Phone 85319 69746 or 0413 2623586 or email: deliveryservice@auroville.org.in

We encourage Aurovillians to start using this service for their online orders and give the delivery address and details below when ordering:

Full name: Internal Delivery Service Service Area)

Mobile Number: 8531969746

Pin code: 605101

City: Auroville

State: TAMIL NADU

Address details: (Pickup / Delivery: Name - Community - Phone Number)

Details of the customer and either it is for pickup at UTS of delivery t home.

Address Type: Office/Commercial (10 AM - 6 PM delivery)

You may send your email address and mobile number to UTS/ Delivery Service so they can contact you to inform you of the delivery status of your order.

For cash on delivery orders please contact **UTS/ Delivery Service, phone 85319 69746** or send email (deliveryservice@auroville.org.in) with the details of the order and to arrange payment. You may use Financial Service account # 252826 for transferring the amount.

Contributions towards purchase of needed equipment and building up the Service are most welcome and appreciated. **FS account 252826 (Internal Delivery).** Thank you!

Survey on Internal Delivery Service

We thank the 209 Aurovillians who took the time to share with us their enthusiasm and/or concerns.

To the question: "Do you welcome this initiative of a collective drop-place and an internal pickup/distribution and delivery service" and would you like to support it?" 141 responded with Yes (68.4%), 25 responded No (12.1%), 29 responded Maybe (14.1%), and a few more with other replies.

The most important part of this survey was the part called: " Comments & Suggestions" which contains 130 valuable and detailed responses, with a few uncomfortable and critical ones. We deliberately created this survey to be submitted anonymously (to respect your privacy) just to get the pulse of the community. Since we didn't collect names or email addresses, we would like now to address the individuals who expressed interest to us in helping with the next steps, in particular to make a thorough analysis of the comments, and to cluster them in order to revert back to you all with a clear picture of what is felt to be the best way to serve the community. To volunteer, kindly contact Dan: dan-avc@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! We also have my new breathable handloom cotton face masks at a special price for Aurovillians. Please make an appointment to visit. +91 94433 62528 (ph/WA) . Prema

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

AV Internal Delivery Service - We are looking for an Aurovillian or Newcomer who can be present in the afternoon from 2-5 pm at the Service, receive/hand out orders, and coordinate deliveries across Auroville. Please contact Krishna, UTS, 0413-262-3587, 944-336-2218 or Shivaya, 948 960 1312, shivaya@auroville.org.in

Join the News & Notes team!

The News & Notes keeps us connected and informed about what is happening in our community. We are looking for additional team members, full time or half time, who can help with one or more of the below tasks and activities:

- corresponding with community members
- proofreading, editing, formatting
- setting the News & Notes: making sure that articles and contributions fit nicely and beautifully
- preparing files for printing and (electronic) distribution
- keeping the subscriber lists updated

Reliability, excellent written English, experience working with different formats and attention to detail are required. If you have the skills and you want to help with one or more of the above tasks, then please write to us at bccoffice@auroville.org.in. Maintenance is available if needed. Thanks in advance from the N&N and BCC.

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. If you have contacted us in the past, please let us know again if you are still looking for work. Be aware that a lot of units have to scale down, but in case there is an opening, we would be able to place you. Units who have positions opening up soon, please contact us as well. hr_hub@auroville.org.in

- HR Initiative (Joel, Romel, Siv, Stephanie)

LOOKING FOR

Long term housesitting - My name is Jan. I'm after long time still part of the newcomer process due to my age. I'm over 40 and I don't have a long-term agreement with the Housing service to stay in an Auroville house, which is required for the final interview for my age group. So I'm looking for a long term housesitting to step out of the blue and into the light. Thank you. yogajanbudin@gmail.com

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: maggv@auroville.org.in. She can be contacted via her son, Satish @ 957-854-8128.

House work - Sarasu, experienced in all household work, very reliable, from Edayanchavadi, is looking for part time work, 6 mornings or afternoon, near Svedam. Recommended by and to be contacted via Sigrid, sigrid@auroville.org.in; 0413 23888

Cycle - an L size (large frame) mountain bike to commute inside Auroville. Would be happy to contribute for it. 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. Kiera +447825589305 (WA) or kieraei@live.co.uk

Children's picture books - I would like to read picture books with my 2 year old son at bedtime, but, I do not have sufficient books. Do you have a picture book for children that is not used anymore? If you want to share it with me, it would support good dreams for my son and me. Win Katsumi, winwing1173@gmail.com, +91 999-439-5015.

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

Tempeh mold - I'm eating more healthy and cooking more for myself and friends these days. Could you share with me a tempeh mold? I want to try it. Thank you very much. Ivana, 7094344154, ivana@auroville.org.in

AVAILABLE

House-sitting opportunity - Apartment available for minimum 3 months. Single or a couple, no kids, no pets. Contribution required. Contact manohar@auroville.org.in

Rental of Construction Tools - from 8:30 to 9:30 AM at: Transformation, Pierre's entrance, (pink gate). Contact: Mr. MUNUSWAMY, 8903767434 or 8925052805 for the list and rates.

OFFICE SPACE: 38 sqm. closed office space with attached store room of around 12 sqm. Located inside Aurelec premises with superb infrastructure, including generator, UPS System, provision for air-conditioner, high speed fiber internet access (BSNL and Aurinoco), 24 hr security, parking and canteen facilities. Interested people may contact Mr Siva at Aurelec in person, by phone 2622293/294 or adps@auroville.org.in

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, 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

Washing machine, bath tub, Samsung laptop with broken frame, 2 big beautiful paintings: 1 with galloping horse, 2 with family tree, steel garden table with 6 chairs, toddler car seat, electronic photo frame, toddlers table seat. For details contact Prem Shakti 9489244823

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 1135 litres a month. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. watergroup@auroville.org.in / www.aurovillewater.in

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Next Steps for Water

L'avenir recently requested that the Water Group share a list of immediate actions or "low hanging fruit" that could be taken up to help ameliorate Auroville's water situation. In our discussions on this, three things became immediately apparent. First, many water projects in Auroville have been half completed, planned and not executed, or are simply in disrepair. The amount of potential in resurrecting and rectifying such projects has yet to be quantified but is substantial enough to our warrant attention. Second, in the ongoing search for diversified income sources, completing smaller projects within communities encourages everyone to get involved in search of funding. Third, while intermediate or long-term plans are constantly reported in studies that are then shelved, leading to discouragement, shining the light on smaller projects has the potential to empower community members to make change directly.

The Water Group has begun a list, by no means exhaustive, of the various projects that could be completed/repaired/executed within Auroville. Each project would need to be looked at afresh by a neutral team/individual, with suggestions for how to move forward.

The first priority, underlying all the steps below, is to continue to establish a dynamic harmony amongst water players. This is aided, in part, by transparency (sharing of information), honesty (about one's own capacities and more), and a recognition that we each play a part in the greater whole.

Diverse inputs will facilitate diverse solutions, which are a necessity given the complex of today's water crisis. We should all continue to strive toward this harmony.

Please find the list of priorities at [this link](http://aurovillewater.in/list-of-water-priorities-or-low-hanging-fruit/). (<http://aurovillewater.in/list-of-water-priorities-or-low-hanging-fruit/>). At the end of the document, please find a list of references and people who assisted us in our work. We welcome your feedback in the comments section of our blog or directly to the email below. Thank you,

Water Group (Eric C., Giulio, Ing-Marie, Satprem, Tency, Tom)
www.aurovillewater.in/watergroup@auroville.org.in



Hello Auroville, your radio moves forward and online! The streaming channel can be heard here: <http://aurovilleradio.org:8000/auroville-radio-128.mp3> (just click on it!).

It broadcasts mixed music and LIVE events

Next LIVE episodes:

- [A Cup of Joy](#) (wellness) w/Vega & Francesco, **Mon., 2:30pm**
- [Nutritional Cultural Redemption](#) (food and farming) with 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**
- [Happiness, Love and Laughter](#) (wellness and well-being) Fif/ MediClown Academy every **Mon/Wed/Friday** around noon.
- [Audible Weed Walk](#) (local food) by Nina, **Fridays at 2:30pm**
- [Capriole](#) (music) by Luca every **Tuesday at 2:30 pm**
- [The readings by Gangalakshmi](#) (en francois) are back. **Wednesdays at 10:30am**

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

And one more podcast:

- [Marius and friends - live concert in Fertile](#)

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, call us 0413-2623331 or email radio@auroville.org.in

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

Open letter to FAMC re: Nandini management

The service of Nandini was started in 1994, and has been developed over the years through the committed work of dedicated Aurovilians like Aryamani, Pala, Ane, Vidya, Diana, Marie, Anne and many others. Serving a vast number of Aurovilians since its inception, it is an integral part of our Auroville economy and its In-Kind economy, providing a true service of generosity and attention to individual needs.

There has been an unfortunate series of events the last few years, ending with the dismissal by FAMC of the unit's executive, after 11 years of managing Nandini to everybody's satisfaction.

Having much appreciation for this Aurovilian and for her work in Nandini over these years, we are extremely concerned and unhappy about what has happened and find FAMC actions and decisions arbitrary and unacceptable. We request that the process be respected and the former executive is given back full executive responsibilities of the work and the team at Nandini.

Sincerely,

Alain B and Christine, Amy, Ananda, Anandi F, Angelika SK, Anna M, Antim, Anton, Amudha K, Auroasha, B Sullivan, Boobalam, Celine D, Christina K, Chitra, Christophe B, Dharmesh, Devasmita, Elene, Fabienne, Galina S, Henri, Jivatman, Jaya, Jocelyn J, Jurgen P, Krishna D, Mady, Mallika, Martina, Margrit, Michael K, Mohan J, Monna, Nandini, Bobby K, Joseba, Kaliyananda, Karin, Orly, Pashi, Rakhi, Rosanna, Sabine, Samata, Sara S, Satyakam, Srimoyi, Stephan, Suryanina, Svetlana T, Thierry L, Uma G, Uma T, Vani, Venkat K, Veronique J, Yvelise, Yuval V.

Coronavigating beyond our polarities

All over the world and since more than four months now, there isn't a single day that doesn't have breaking news about the coronavirus, an interview with a so-called expert, the ratification of a new law about the pandemic, or simply a set of sensational reminders about this crisis. This hysterical media hype around the topic creates a climate where it is not possible to detach oneself completely from the situation, and this leads one's reality to be pervaded with recurring thoughts, questions, doubts, beliefs or fears about the virus.

This is also true in Auroville, as a consequence of the regular announcements of the Working Committee and the Covid Task Force and the endless Auronet debates between the 'skepticals' and the 'believers' concerning the truth of the mainstream institutional discourse about the coronavirus. Every conversation ultimately gets to a point where one shares a remark or a thought about the so-called pandemic; and our way of physically interacting with the world and with each other is tainted by this hackneyed common denominator - face masks and social distancing being just an example. Even more so since we have had our first COVID-19 positive cases in the community, which have led the pressure-cooker to whistle, and gave birth to a real firework of emotional reactions.

All of this creates a reality in which the virus is at the center of our actions, thoughts and conversations. Whether the virus is genuinely harmful or not, whether it has been created in a laboratory or is a natural phenomenon, whether it is a divine judgment or an asuric force doesn't really matter. What matters is that it is being strengthened by all the attention it gets from us. Because of all the polarities, it grows bigger - and with it this overwhelming field of fear that one can sense in our collective consciousness. This is exactly where the danger lies.

Now, let's take a step back, take a deep breath and ask ourselves: how can we go beyond the polarities and divisions that widen our already existing gaps? How can we move towards this 'living embodiment of an actual human unity' that we collectively aim at?

For me, this can only happen in full trust and surrender to the Divine. When one trusts that the Mother, the Universe, the Divine - or whatever words one feels the closest to - is behind all actions and all reality, then one rises above division; and when several individuals follow that path, a collective movement of Unity can be born.

Then it no longer matters whether the virus exists or not, or whether the government and official institutions are having a hidden agenda, or whether we have had our first Covid case in Auroville. All of this has no impact anymore, because everything is Divine. The Grace is in every little thing.

Of course, this doesn't restrict one's need and call to sometimes stand for one's core values, and to defend what one believes is true. But in doing this, one can become aware of being only an instrument - and that someone carrying a different or even an opposing view is also an instrument of the same Force. There is no 'Other' - only One.

This realisation allows me to show care and respect to those who might think and act differently. Even if we may navigate within different belief systems, I can agree to disagree and retain my joy, knowing that we are all only playing the game of the Divine.

In 'On Thoughts and Aphorisms' The Mother says:

"And this Sun, this Sun of divine laughter is at the centre of all things, the truth of all things: we must learn to see it, to feel it, to live it. [...] It's not that there are "some things" where the Lord is and "some things" where He is not. The Lord is always there. He takes nothing seriously, everything amuses Him and He plays with you, if you know how to play. [...] So, it is agreed, we shall try to learn how to laugh with the Lord."

When one stops being serious and grave about one's own beliefs and opinions, when one is able to agree or to disagree and still laugh because one sees the play of the Lord behind all things, then our apparent divides can be transcended.

"Truth is simple. It is the simplest thing in the world - that is why we do not see it", Satprem wrote. Some simple and invisible realities contain a power and a truth that could be the key, perhaps, to building a better tomorrow. So, this is what I have written for myself as a reminder: to always keep in my core and center that all is One, and that this Unity we aim at isn't a far-fetched goal - it is already here to one who sees with a smiling heart.

~ from Maël's Auronet blog 18/7/20 - reprinted w/permission

The Soul of Auroville

The Mother says that Matrimandir is the symbol of Universal Existence (Satchitananda). One can understand it. How can one understand her statement 'Matrimandir is the Soul of Auroville'? Matrimandir is a physical structure whereas the Soul is ethereal. The Mother has also said that Matrimandir is the center of Auroville. This view is based on the perception of the Terrestrial Nature of Auroville ie, Matrimandir is a geographical center of Auroville. She has also added that the banyan tree close to Matrimandir is also the center of Auroville. In the beginning, Matrimandir workers (Aurovilians) lived near the Matrimandir construction site known as 'center camp' and had their food in 'center Kitchen' which is now Matrimandir office. The terrestrial outlook of Auroville will not help us to manifest the Supramental Truth.

The Mother asks us to look at Auroville from the spiritual point of view. According to the Vedic Theory of Existence, there is one Spirit with two aspects Soul (Purusha) and Nature (Prakriti). Soul is involved in Nature; and Nature is the Spirit in action. Before manifestation Soul is containing Nature.

During manifestation Nature is containing the Soul which is concealed (avyakta) in the centre of Nature. Thus, the similarity in the presence of Matrimandir as the center in the Terrestrial Nature of Auroville and also as the center in the spiritual perception of Auroville during manifestation has prompted The Mother to say that Matrimandir is the Soul of Auroville. The Mother has used a simple illustration to explain the relationship between Soul and Nature. In the bakery, the dough is used to make the bun. Yeast is put in the middle of the dough. When you bake it you get a bun. Here yeast represents the Soul of the Universe and dough Its Nature.

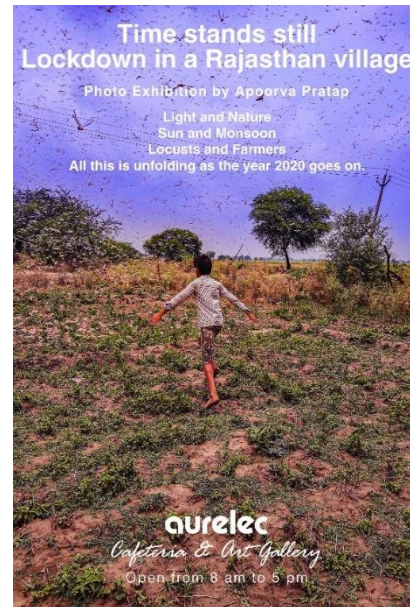
During manifestation Satchitananda (Universal Existence) has manifested seven planes of consciousness; upper trinity consisting of Satya, Tapo, and Ananda loga(the plane of consciousness), middle the supramental plane of consciousness and lower trinity consisting of the mental, vital and physical plane of consciousness. The world where we live in has also seven planes of consciousness. Auroville which is part of the world has also seven planes of consciousness. Aurovillian like any other man in the world has seven bodies of consciousness, corresponding to seven planes of consciousness in the City of Dawn (Auroville). The above arrangement of planes of consciousness connecting Auroville with the Universe would enable Aurovilians to keep a close relationship with the Soul or the divine Nature of Satchitananda (Universal Existence) which would deliver him from the struggle and suffering in life and increase in him the sense of immortality in his life.

The statement 'Matrimandir is the Soul of Auroville' means that Matrimandir represents the Soul of Auroville. Which is concealed (Avyakta) in the Conscious-force (Nature) of

Auroville. It cannot be seen by the physical eyes. Even the Vedic Rishis had not seen the Soul of the Universe. But its action would be a miracle. One can know its action and the results of the action are true and wonderful and would reveal the features of Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent. The Mother says that Aurovilians should submit and surrender to the Soul of Auroville which is also the Soul of the Universe and receive the Truth Consciousness (Satyam) and manifest it in the life of Auroville.

-Submitted by Somasundaram

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



thru 13th August

Apoorva Pratap, the younger brother of an Aurovillian, 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. AN INVITATION TO COLLABORATE ON A FILM - Kim Noce invites Aurovilians to contribute to a short film. "Tell me something that is important for you! Something you wish the world could hear. A sentence, a single word, a reflection...". Link to participate: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebj2LB05Ka0zcKhkNmVObNBR12FwnsUkmtt-v2maPIRuDYA/viewform?usp=sf_link

2. MUSEUM OF ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY - TALK WITH MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ - MAP brings 'Breaking the Fourth Wall: From Witnessing to Participation', Marina Abramović in conversation with Nikhil Chopra on 25 July at 6pm. To register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q5LQP0BaRielUaKE19D3AA

3. 1st EMAMI ART ONLINE DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL Featuring films by Supriyo Sen, Pankaj Rishi Kumar, Miriam Chandy Menacherry and Haobam Paban Kumar. Two films of each filmmaker are available for free online film viewing. To watch films, film details and schedule register at <https://www.emamiart.com/learning-details/...>

4. NINA SENGUPTA & KRISHNA MCKENZIE SHARE Edible Weed Walk #3 - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=S9y-YJw9mmk>

5. KRISHNA MCKENZIE IN WHO IS THE FOOL - Who Is The Fool?, written by Masanobu Fukuoka, performed by Krishna McKenzie. In this short performance, Krishna explores the philosophy of non-duality as expressed by Fukuoka in his book The One Straw Revolution and at the same time teaches how to make green papaya salad.

6. GOETHE INSTITUT - FROM REAL TO REMOTE - Cultural Management in the Digitalverse. All cultural professionals in India dealing with adapting, managing and promoting projects and performances online are invited. More information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/608308080065087/>

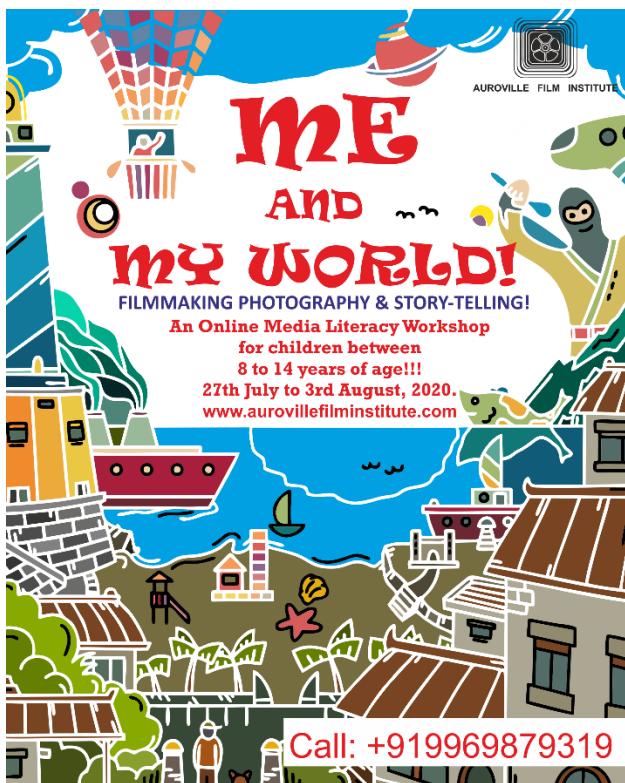
7. JABARI JUMPS - A NARRATIVE PANTOMIME FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS - A 12 minute video leading children through a solo pantomime that can be done at home.
<https://youtu.be/oA6BS6m20p4>

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

SHARAN Auroville has been conducting many programs online since the lockdown, and I want to invite Aurovillians to our **3rd Salad Revolution**. This is for anyone who wants to gain health and immunity or even just lose weight or learn how to make quick, easy and delicious salads. It's totally FREE and is over the weekend of 25 - 26th July and it's lots of fun. Please register here <https://sharan-india.org/events/the-salad-revolution-free-event/> See you there!
 ~ submitted by Dr. Nandita

Auroville Aikido News

We hope to find everyone in good health! :-)
 At the Auroville Budokan (Dehashakti), we have started Aikido Weapon's classes only (no contact sport/martial art) on Wednesdays 4 to 5 PM for children & Tuesday, 6 - 7 AM & Saturday, 6.30 to 7.30 AM for adults
 This limited practice takes place until we can practice 'normal' Aikido classes and we welcome new students. If you are interested in joining, please contact Surya for more information and registration before to come: tel. 83001 89062 or 0413-2623 813 or write to budokan@auroville.org.in
 To our previous Aikido students (children & adults): we need to get back all the Keikogis (Aikido suit -with the belt!) and the wooden weapons you might have borrowed from the Budokan and still have. Please bring them to AV Budokan at the above timings when we are open -or contact Surya. With thanks and best wishes to all, ~ Cristo, N. Murugan and Surya



Registration link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMOYmSw-X-KAwtdig7y9mLsD6Rbl5S...>
 For more information: www.filmstitute.auroville.org or <http://www.aurovillefilmstitute.com/>

Sharing Uplifting Moments

Inviting those interested in Auroville's purpose who want to practice English or to read and share together with *Savitri* or any uplifting message. Individuals or group of up to four, in a quiet outside place. In service, Patricia H., Aurovilian, native English. 0413- 262 3750 or pat@auroville.org.in.

See **Auroville Language Lab's online course listing** in the Regular Activities addendum

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

 ⇨⇨⇨ **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](#)

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 9-2; 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