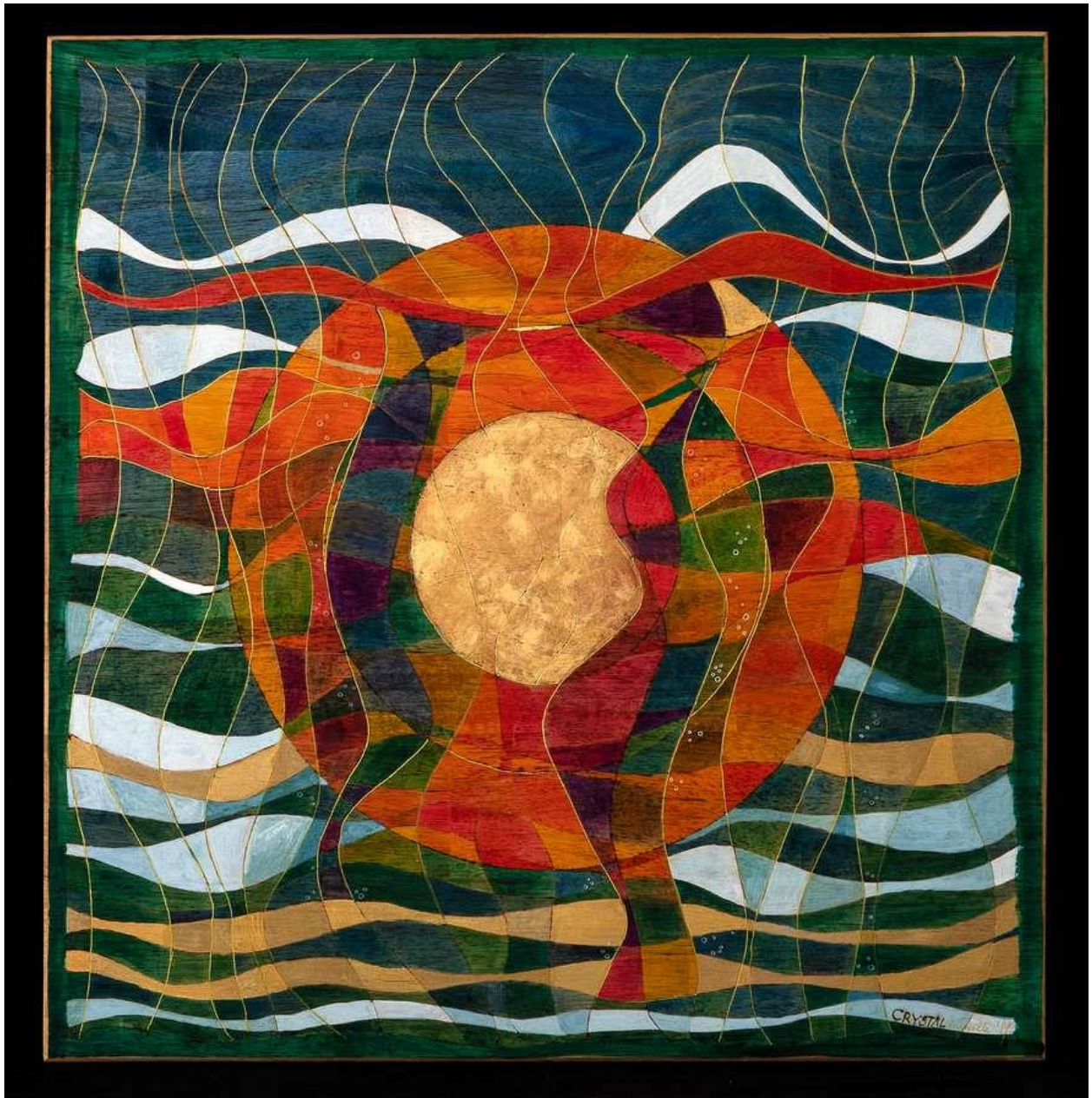


# News and Notes

No 842

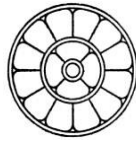
A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

31st October 2020



Paradise Birds by Crystal

# HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



(continued from last week)

The devotee on the other hand tends to look down on the sawdust dryness of mere knowledge. And it is true that philosophy by itself without the rapture of spiritual experience is something as dry as it is clear and cannot give all the satisfaction we seek, that its spiritual experience even, when it has not left its supports of thought and shot up beyond the mind, lives too much in an abstract delight and that what it reaches, is not indeed the void it seems to the passion of the heart, but still has the limitations of the peaks. On the other hand, love itself is not complete without knowledge. The Gita distinguishes between three initial kinds of Bhakti, that which seeks refuge in the Divine from the sorrows of the world, *ārta*, that which, desiring, approaches the Divine as the giver of its good, *arthārthī*, and that which attracted by what it already loves, but does not yet know, yearns to know this divine Unknown, *jijñāsu*; but it gives the palm to the Bhakti that knows. Evidently the intensity of passion which says, "I do not understand, I love," and, loving, cares not to understand, is not love's last self-expression, but its first, nor is it its highest intensity. Rather as knowledge of the Divine grows, delight in the Divine and love of it must increase. Nor can mere rapture be secure without the foundation of knowledge; to live in what we love, gives that security, and to live in it means to be one with it in consciousness, and oneness of consciousness is the perfect condition of knowledge. Knowledge of the Divine gives to love of the Divine its firmest security, opens to it its own widest joy of experience, raises it to its highest pinnacles of outlook.

If the mutual misunderstandings of these two powers are an ignorance, no less so is the tendency of both to look down on the way of works as inferior to their own loftier pitch of spiritual achievement. There is an intensity of love, as there is an intensity of knowledge, to which works seem something outward and distracting. But works are only thus outward and distracting when we have not found oneness of will and consciousness with the Supreme. When once that is found, works become the very power of knowledge and the very outpouring of love. If knowledge is the very state of oneness and love its bliss, divine works are the living power of its light and sweetness. There is a movement of love, as in the aspiration of human love, to separate the lover and the loved in the enjoyment of their exclusive oneness away from the world and from all others, shut up in the nuptial chambers of the heart. That is perhaps an inevitable movement of this path. But still the widest love fulfilled in knowledge sees the world not as something other and hostile to this joy, but as the being of the Beloved and all creatures as his being, and in that vision divine works find their joy and their justification.

This is the knowledge in which an integral Yoga must live. We have to start Godward from the powers of the mind, the intellect, the will, the heart, and in the mind all is limited. Limitations, exclusiveness there can hardly fail to be at the beginning and for a long time on the way. But an integral Yoga will wear these more loosely than more exclusive ways of seeking, and it will sooner emerge from the mental necessity. It may commence with the way of love, as with the way of knowledge or of works; but where they meet, is the beginning of its joy of fulfilment. Love cannot miss, even if it does not start from it; for love is the crown of works and the flowering of knowledge.

– Sri Aurobindo. *The Synthesis of Yoga. Part III: The Yoga of Divine Love. Chapter I: Love and the Triple Path*

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

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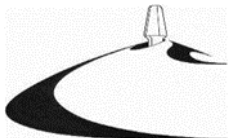


The soul is divine, an eternal portion of the Supreme Divine and therefore cannot be limited or bound by any law whatever, other than its own.

~ The Mother, *Words of The Mother, Vol. 14*



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## AMPHITHEATRE - MATRIMANDIR

Meditation at sunset with Savitri - read by Mother to Sunil's music  
Every **Thursday, 5.30 to 6.00 PM** (weather permitting)

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 cell phones, cameras, tablets, etc... Access is still limited to Aurovilians, Newcomers and Pass holders (have it with you) from 5.15 pm. The Gardens are open until the meditation ends.* - The Amphitheatre Team

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## Opening of Inner Chamber

The Inner Chamber is now open from **6:00 - 8:00 AM without prior booking** (Aurovilians and Newcomers only) & **4:30 - 6:30 PM with prior booking** (Aurovilians, Newcomers & long term

volunteers holding a valid Matrimandir pass)

15 people per sitting in the Inner Chamber. Mat will be folded after one use.

If you would like to come to the Inner Chamber for concentration in the evening, please inform the Matrimandir Access team at [mmconcentration@auroville.org.in](mailto:mmconcentration@auroville.org.in). (Note: You will first get the

public auto-response regarding closure, but this is for visitors who write to this address. The email of all Aurovilians will be answered in any case).

Please give your Name and Community, the date & time you would like to come and how long you would like to sit. As the number of places is very limited, you will be informed by email of the date/s and time/s when you can come. Every effort will be made to meet your request/s.

You are reminded that the Park of Unity is open **everyday from 6 to 8 am** (for Aurovilians and Newcomers only) & **4:30 to 6.30 pm** (for Aurovilians, Newcomers and Volunteers holding a valid Matrimandir Pass). Thank you,

~ Matrimandir Executives and Access team

## Covid-19 Updates

### Auroville residents abroad can return to Auroville

The Press Information Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs of India has issued a note on 22nd October, that permits all OCI and PIO card holders and all other foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose, except on a Tourist Visa, to enter by air or water routes through authorized airports and seaport immigration check posts.

Under this graded relaxation, Government of India has also decided to restore with immediate effect all existing visas (except electronic visa, Tourist Visa and Medical Visa). We understand this to mean that those who have a valid Entry Visa for Auroville do not need to apply for a new visa. If the validity of the Entry Visa has expired, a fresh Entry Visa needs to be obtained from Indian Mission/Posts concerned, with the recommendation of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation. In that case, please contact the Working Committee to do the necessary. To read the full text of the official note: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1666713>

### Auroville residents return from abroad and quarantine procedures

#### 1. VISA:

- According to the note of the Press Information Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs of India of 22nd October, if your visa is still valid you can come back with any of the bubble (special) flights available. If your visa is expired you have to apply for a new visa and write to Residents' Service [resservice@auroville.org.in](mailto:resservice@auroville.org.in) with the details of your passport in order to start the process to get a recommendation letter for a new visa.

#### 2. IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES AND QUARANTINE ON ARRIVAL:

- According to the existing government guidelines, upon arrival you will have to stay in institutional quarantine near the airport for 7 days plus 7 days in quarantine at home in Auroville. The institutional quarantine can be made in government facilities or in hotels that have an arrangement with the government. The cost of the hotel should eventually be borne by the passenger.
- Before travelling you should submit a self-declaration form on the online portal <https://www.newdelhiaairport.in/airsuvidha/aphoregistration> at least 72 hours before departure and give an undertaking that you would undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days.
- Institutional quarantine can be avoided if you obtain a RT-PCR negative test 96 hours before departure and upload it to the same link <https://www.newdelhiaairport.in/airsuvidha/aphoregistration> with request of waiver for the 7 days of institutional quarantine at/around the Airport on arrival.
- Requests for waiver from institutional quarantine can also be made by producing the negative certificate on arrival at the airport but it is safer to obtain the waiver online. If the waiver for institutional quarantine is not received online then it is at the discretion of the Health Immigration authority whether or not to grant the waiver.
- If the exemption is not given you have to stay 7 days in Institutional quarantine. If the exemption is given, then the entire period of 14 days quarantine can be made in Auroville.

3. In addition, in order to travel from the airport to Auroville it is required to get a Tamil Nadu E-pass at this link - <https://tnepass.tnega.org/>

4. Please be aware that there will be health immigration control at the arrival point with the possibility to be tested at the Airport, especially if you have to take a domestic flight connecting to Chennai and/or you are showing any Covid related symptoms on arrival. The health procedure for connecting flights from international to domestic terminals can be time consuming and if you choose to land in Delhi or Mumbai please make sure with your travel agents that there is enough time for all the procedures. It is advisable in this initial phase, until all procedures are tested, to take flights with direct destination to Bangalore and Chennai. We will do our best to update as things develop.

Please note that the guidelines are changing from time to time, therefore before departure please do one more check with the WC and CTF [covid19taskforce@auroville.org.in](mailto:covid19taskforce@auroville.org.in) about the procedures applicable and inform them about your intended date of arrival. The Covid Task Force will share with you all relevant information about the quarantine procedures in Auroville. Normally you are expected to stay in quarantine at your home, but if you are sharing the space with other people who are not in quarantine or do not wish to be in quarantine with you, then only in this particular case please contact the Task Force for advice regarding a suitable place for the required period.

**AFTER ARRIVAL:** Please remember to inform the Residents' Service within 48 hours from arrival in Auroville that you have returned. This is required by the RRO and will help to maintain your current data in the Register of Residents of Auroville.

-The Working Committee



## WORKING GROUP REPORTS

### From Working committee: Gesture of Thanks to our Chairman

As you may be aware, the term of office of the Chairman of the Governing Board, as well as the Board as a whole, is coming to an end on the 23rd of November. Dr Karan Singh has held the Chairmanship for more than 20 of the 29 years of the Governing Board's existence. The Working Committee, on behalf of Auroville, will be sending him a framed copy of the Gayatri mantra written in Sri Aurobindo's hand as an expression of our deep gratitude for the many years he has held the mantle of Chairman of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. We would like to invite you to add your voice to our gesture of thanks. **From Wednesday, 28th October, until midday on Tuesday, 3rd of November**, there will be square pieces of paper provided at the Town Hall reception, at the entrance of PTDC & PTPS on which you may write a brief message or simply sign your name. There will also be a box in which to put your message. On the 3rd afternoon, all the messages will be collected and bound in a cover, and then carried, with the gift, by Mr. Srinivasamurthy when he goes to Delhi on the 5th for the Governing Board meeting scheduled for the 7th, hence the deadline. We look forward to many of you joining in this message of appreciation.

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### Auroville Identity Cards 2nd round

As you may be aware, the first batch of ID cards issued by the Auroville Foundation were valid from August 2013 through 2018. Subsequently, a process of issuing new Auroville identity cards for all Aurovilians (those whose names are entered in the Register of Residents) was initiated, with Mandakini coordinating on behalf of the Working Committee and the Auroville Foundation.

So far, about 950 Aurovilians have been issued their Auroville ID Card, with validity from 2019 to 2025. This has also helped us to update information in the Master List (maintained by the Residents' Service) and the Register of Residents (maintained by the Auroville Foundation Office). For those of you who had applied to receive ID cards in 2019, and are still waiting to receive your card or have not yet picked it up, we invite you to do so now by visiting the Auroville Foundation Office, at the reception desk on the ground floor.

We would now like to open a second round in this process for those who have not yet applied for a card and would like to have one. Gum Soon will coordinate on behalf of the Working Committee and Auroville Foundation. We strongly encourage all Aurovilians to get themselves an Auroville ID card, taking into consideration the following:

- It doesn't replace the Aadhaar card; however, while traveling outside Auroville, within India, the Auroville ID card helps prove that you are registered with the Auroville Foundation and in some cases is accepted as ID proof instead of passport, driver's license, etc.
- More and more aspirants are joining Auroville. Within Auroville, this card will help all our services to identify new

Aurovilians. Therefore, we hope that all Aurovilians, new and old, will help by obtaining a card.

- This process helps streamline and update the data periodically (every 5 years) in the Master List and the Register of Residents.
- The card will be valid for 5 years.
- The card is only for Aurovilians (B-Form signed) who are 18 and above. ID Cards for children under 18 may be issued later. If you wish to have one, please click <https://forms.gle/UQgezNahwU1MXbBP7> and fill in the Google Form by the 15th of November 2020. Then you will need to get your photo taken at the Graphic Section in Town Hall. We will inform you of the timings to take a photo separately, once we have received your application through the Google Form.

To clarify any further questions (on the matter of Auroville ID cards) please feel free to continue writing to us at [idauroville@auroville.org.in](mailto:idauroville@auroville.org.in)

- The Working Committee and The Auroville Foundation Office

### Housing Mandate Governing the allocation and management of residential property owned by the Auroville Foundation (September 2020)

**Vision** - Auroville seeks to manifest Mother's vision in all spheres of its daily life, including the aim of it being entirely self-supporting. With an ever increasing population, it seeks the day when it is able to provide for the housing needs of all those who are drawn to live here, inspired by the wish for human unity. This is the vision for housing in Auroville.

**Guiding Principle** - There is no personal property in Auroville. All residential accommodation, whether it be for Aurovilians, Newcomers or Volunteers, remains at all times, regardless of any contribution that may be made towards it, the legal property of the Auroville Foundation. It is held in trust for humanity as a whole. This is the guiding principle by which all issues and policies relating to housing, including this one, in Auroville are considered.

**Responsibilities for Housing** - Residential accommodation in Auroville is regulated by three distinct bodies:

1. The Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC)
2. The Housing Board
3. The Housing Service.

1) **The FAMC:** The overall superintendence of all residential property in Auroville falls within the mandate of the FAMC. This requires the FAMC to ensure that all funds and assets of Auroville are being managed in a responsible manner and are used to achieve the vision set out in the Charter of Auroville. The Housing Board is a sub group of the FAMC. The Housing Service is the administrative and implementing wing of the Housing Board. They abide by the FAMC's decisions and guidance, thereby helping to ensure the implementation of FAMC's Residents Assembly approved mandate. Its specific responsibilities include:

- a) Providing **effective oversight** to the work of the Housing Board and the Housing Service for both operational and strategic matters covering immediate and longer term planning
- b) Acting, where necessary, as a binding **arbiter between the Housing Board and the Housing Service** regarding disputes concerning all aspects of this mandate's interpretation and work carried out further to it
- c) Reviewing and providing **guidance in relation to the financial management of all residential accommodation**, including the review of Annual Work Plans and Annual Reports regarding Auroville's Housing
- d) Reviewing, and providing **guidance in relation to, the operational workings and structuring of the Housing Board and the Housing Service** including, where appropriate, approval of operating procedures and manuals
- e) **Reviewing and approving an annual budget** submitted to it by the Housing Board
- f) Reviewing and **approving policies relating to housing** submitted to it by the Housing Board and
- g) Considering Auroville's housing needs (in conjunction with the Town Development Council) within **wider strategic planning** relating to Auroville's management of funds and assets.

2) **The Housing Board** is responsible for the strategic planning for Auroville's housing requirements. Its specific responsibilities include:

- a) The identification of Auroville's housing needs, problems and potential solutions for both current and future generations
- b) Identifying priority areas for fundraising and advising in relation to the same
- c) The production of an **annual work plan and annual budget** highlighting key housing issues that will be encountered or resolved within the following year. This may, for example, include information regarding new housing projects, projected expenditure and budgetary information on housing repairs, loans, subsidies and anticipated problems. This shall be submitted to the FAMC for review and approval
- d) The responsibility for the production and submission of an annual report to the FAMC setting out information regarding the work of Auroville's Housing Board and Service over the last year. This shall be submitted to the FAMC for review and approval
- e) **Drafting and monitoring policies** relating to housing for recommendation and approval to FAMC
- f) Drafting and monitoring policies relating to waivers and fraternal contributions and recommending to the FAMC for approval individual cases where such waivers should apply
- g) Acting as the interface between the Housing Service and the FAMC
- h) **Approving all housing projects** (of all size and description i.e. for single and multiple household construction)
- i) **Approving the allocation of residential property**, the period of its occupancy (including Stewardship), and any conditions of occupancy that may apply to that occupancy, and doing so in a manner that is open, transparent, and free of conflicts of interest
- j) **Approving grants** relating to housing needs and maintenance that are above a threshold set by the Housing Board
- k) Undertaking, as necessary, inquiries in relation to particular housing matters that the FAMC may request information on
- l) Considering requests for, and recommending to the Loan Group, that loans, be issued in accordance with guidelines and applicable policies produced
- m) In relation to internal disputes within Housing, acting as a source of binding guidance for the Housing Service in relation to the staffing and operation of the Housing Service
- n) Acting as a first point of review for decisions of the Housing Service with final rulings relating to the management of Auroville Foundation Property falling within the remit of the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC)
- o) Reporting regularly to the community on Housing issues.

3) **The Housing Service** is responsible for the daily administration and attendance to Auroville's housing issues. It makes decisions that touch upon the Housing Policy and is accountable, in the first instance, to the Housing Board, implementing decisions and guidance that the Board may issue. Specific responsibilities include:

- a) Providing regular updates on its work including, but not limited to, information regarding its finances; at intervals to be agreed with the Housing Board.
- b) Providing effective day to day management for residential property owned by the Auroville Foundation
- c) Recommending to the Housing Board the allocation of residential property the period of its occupancy (including Stewardship), and any conditions of occupancy that may apply to that occupancy, and doing so in a manner that is open, transparent, and free of conflicts of interest
- d) Recommending loans or contribution waivers, where appropriate, to Housing Board for review and further approval, where appropriate from the FAMC
- e) Approving grants relating to housing maintenance and repairs below a threshold sum set by the Housing Board. Such grants shall be reported to the Housing Board
- f) Processing loan requests to housing needs will be as per the Loan policy
- g) Be the interface with the Auroville community regarding all housing needs
- h) Maintaining administrative and accounting records necessary for the smooth running of the Housing Service

- i) Arranging or prepare estimates for repairs approved by the Housing Service and provide oversight during the process of the repairs being undertaken
- j) Assisting, as appropriate, with work relating to the development of housing projects
- k) Maintaining current data regarding Auroville's residential properties (including staff quarters), their occupancy and stewardship and make it available to the Housing Board
- l) Collecting and recording contributions due in relation to occupancy and repairing of residential property; and
- m) Assisting, as necessary, with the Housing Board in the discharge of its duties.

**Selection of the Housing Board's members**

This mandate governs the selection of members of the Housing Board (the Housing Service not needing to undergo a similar community wide selection process). The Housing Board will be composed of nine members chosen by the FAMC in a fair and transparent manner. Key points to note are:

- 1. Two members shall be from the Housing Service
- 2. 1 member shall be from the FAMC
- 3. 1 member shall be from the Town Development Council
- 4. Five members shall be from the community at large
- 5. If there are not suitable candidates proposed, the FAMC may, at its own discretion, further to consultation with the current members of the Housing Board, appoint members to the Housing Board
- 6. Selected members will be submitted to the Residents Assembly for a two-week feedback period
- 7. Appointments to the Housing Board will be for a period of three year terms
- 8. The FAMC will endeavor to ensure knowledge retention within the Housing Board by, where possible, facilitating handovers between departing and newly selected Board members and, where possible, staggering the terms of Board membership.
- 9. Reappointment to the Housing Board will follow the same process as initial selection
- 10. Only one consecutive term of appointment will be permitted. A person may not serve a third consecutive term
- 11. If a member completes two consecutive terms, he or she will be eligible to be a member of the Housing Board after a gap of two years
- 12. Resource persons may be invited, by current Board members or the FAMC, to work with the Housing Board as needed on specific issues. Resource persons are there to assist the Board. They have no right to vote on or decide matters falling within the Housing Board's mandate
- 13. If, in the opinion of the Housing Board, a housing issue affects a particular sector then a liaison person from that sector shall be invited to work as a resource with the Housing Board in relation to that particular issue
- 14. Five members of the Housing Board shall be required to attend any individual meeting of the Board in order to constitute a quorum for decision making.

**Criteria for membership of the Housing Board**

To be a member of the Housing Board, an individual must:

- 1. Be listed on the register of residents for a minimum of five years. In circumstances it deems exceptional, the FAMC may waive this requirement, further to consultation with existing Housing Board members
- 2. Have a commitment to the Charter and ideals of Auroville
- 3. Be willing to dedicate their time to the work of the Housing Board in a spirit of goodwill, collaboration and transparency. This includes an acceptance of the need to attend Board meetings regularly and declare any conflicts of interest that have the capacity to cast doubt on the integrity of the Housing Board's decision making
- 4. A concern for and willingness to work toward the improvement of Auroville's housing situation
- 5. Display competence in areas of work covered by this mandate
- 6. Not be subject to any past or current inquiries, investigations or censure that may affect the perception of the member's credibility or the Housing Board's reputation. Any such matters should be referred to the FAMC and the Working Committee for consideration
- 7. Not own any private property or have any undeclared proprietary interest within the Masterplan area of Auroville.

**Removal of a member from the Housing Board**

- 1. The FAMC reserves the right to remove a Housing Board member if one or more of the above cited criteria for membership is breached.
- 2. If a minimum of six members of the Housing Board conclude that a fellow Board member is not in compliance with the criteria for membership of the Housing Board, they can recommend to the FAMC that the member be removed
- 3. If a member resigns from, or is otherwise unable to fulfil, his appointment as a Housing Board member, the terms and conditions of his or her notice period must be agreed by the Board.
- 4. In all circumstances where the need to appoint a new member of the Housing Board arises, the FAMC shall do so fairly, utilising, where possible, the selection process used to appoint existing members.



**From RAS:** the RAS has been preparing the final communications for the RAD on the process for selecting working group members and collecting final inputs from the stakeholders. We expect and hope to announce the RAD formally next week, with all the necessary details and clarity to enable the community to understand and engage constructively on the topic.

**From FAMC: Questions to Auroville Service Trust re: implementation of the PTPS RAD**

The results of the RAD concerning PTPS were published on 7th Sept. The clear decision arrived at by the community was that PTPS should be a service both in name and practice as originally intended, with a management board. It is now nearly two months since this decision. The FAMC, like everyone else, would like to see the RAD implemented expeditiously. PTPS is a unit under the Auroville Service Trust, consequently the Trustees are, in the first instance, responsible for ensuring that the RAD is implemented. The FAMC, as the body tasked with ensuring that Auroville assets are properly managed, has been in correspondence with the Trustees. We have requested information from them to understand what progress has been made to ensure that the wishes of the Community are honored, that PTPS starts to operate as a Service with a management board. As this issue concerns all of us, and the Auroville Service Trust has already shared some select information publicly, we thought it right that, further to the RAD that we initiated, we keep you apprised of our continuing deep interest in PTPS's future. Hence, our sharing of the following letter:

**Re: AVST to FAMC wrt implementation of PTPS RA decision**

Dear Auroville Service Trust Trustees, we write to you regarding PTPS. For ease of reference we have at the foot of this email pasted in a copy of the email we sent to you on 9th October 2020 and copied to the Governing Board. That email requested a response to the FAMC by 15 October. While you did not give us, nor the Governing Board, the courtesy of a direct response on 15th October, we acknowledge that you posted an update on Auronet that day (without, we should add, any indication that the update and specifically its timing was at the request of the FAMC). A copy of the same posting was emailed to us and the Governing Board the following morning. For that, we are grateful.

The text you posted on 15 October was brief. It did not answer all the questions asked in our email of 9 October. The ones it did address were dealt with briefly. It therefore inevitably raised further questions. These could have been curtailed if you had meaningfully engaged with us on this significant issue. For example:

- 1. You said: "On 3rd October we initiated a Transition Team with a detailed scope of work and expected outcomes." What is the scope of work and outcomes of the Transition Team, and who does this team consist of? Is this the Management Board that had to be created, or something else? Details of the Transition Team should be provided to the FAMC and published for the community. You said they have been requested to commit six months to working on PTPS. You did not say if they had. Have they?
- 2. If the Transition Team is not the Management Board, then when do you intend to mention the Management Board? This was a key aspect of the RAD. What steps have been taken to set out

roles and responsibilities and composition for such a Board, and the timescale for when it shall assume its responsibilities?

3. You said, "We will facilitate an audit with the Trust accountant, and ensure that a full inventory of products is conducted as soon as practically possible." There is, as you will know, a clear conflict of interest in the Trust accountant performing this audit. You will need to identify someone else and set out, for him, and for the FAMC, the terms of reference employed.

4. Your post to the Community did not address the question we asked on 9 Oct, namely: "How have you been monitoring the bank, cash, and stock of PTPS since the RAD? And who precisely have you appointed for this task?" Please answer this question. We have assumed from your reference to ensuring "...that a full inventory of products is conducted as soon as practically possible" that the stock has not been monitored by the Trustees thus far. If it had, you would already have the "full inventory of products" you propose to get. Is this right?

5. The third of our questions on 9 October was, "Who are the executives and individuals in day to day control of managing PTPS, and has this varied since 7 September? How did you arrive at this decision?" You have not addressed this question. Is the Transition Team in charge? You state, "we have talked a couple of times with Kala and Kumar" but it is unclear what you spoke about and what their current situations are. Are they still in charge of PTPS? If not, are they playing any role in PTPS?

6. Our sixth and final question to you on 9 October was "What problems are you encountering in implementing this critical RAD?" You did not answer this question. Are we to assume that no problems have been identified that would prevent a timely implementation of the RAD?

7. You said that the Transition Team has been requested to give a six months' time commitment. Is it fair to say that you anticipate it taking six months from their appointment (3 October 2020) to successfully complete this exercise?

Please answer these questions by 30 October 2020.

Finally, we note that you said that you have "met with the team of Easy Procurement Solutions to ask for advice..." You clearly have not sought the FAMC's advice. That is your prerogative in exercising your fiduciary duty. We hope you shall act expeditiously, with appropriate judgement in taking the "bold steps towards the future" that your post alludes to. All the while, we will have to insist that the FAMC be kept meaningfully informed of the steps you are taking: We trust you will appreciate our duty to ensure Auroville's assets are "being managed in a responsible manner...".  
-Yours sincerely, FAMC

#### From BCC: Temporary Emergency Bridging Maintenances: for Aurovilians out of work and in need

Auroville, India and the world are still facing economic uncertainty. Some Auroville units and activities are in the process of downsizing or closing. We are adjusting our current Bridging Maintenance guideline to be able to provide economic support to Aurovilians in need in this situation. **The Temporary Emergency Bridging Maintenance guideline will be in effect till March 31st, 2021.** After this we will review the need to extend or modify it, based on the overall economic situation. Please approach the BCC office ([bccoffice@auroville.org.in](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.org.in)), top floor left in the Town Hall, to apply.

#### Temporary Emergency Bridging Maintenance (TEBM)\*

A Temporary Emergency Bridging Maintenance provides support to Aurovilians who are temporarily out of work, whose previous workplace has insufficient funds to provide such support, and who are in need. The conditions are:

- Any Aurovilian requesting a TEBM should have already worked for an Auroville activity, unit or service for a minimum of 3 years and have stopped involuntarily (for example due to closure of unit) or due to difficult working conditions.
- A TEBM may be allocated for up to 3 months at a time and may be extended further, or reduced to a care package.
- The monthly TEBM may not exceed the last maintenance provided to the Aurovilian or the full amount of a TEBM (a half-time City Services Maintenance, amounting to Rs. 8010).

\*A temporary emergency amendment of the Bridging Maintenance, in effect 1 Nov 2020 - 31st March 2021.

#### Solar Kitchen is inviting children aged 12 + as part of the Children School Nutrition scheme

The Solar Kitchen is inviting children aged 12 and above to come and take their lunch there. Therefore the Children Nutrition scheme you are now receiving to your individual account for your children (12+) will be ending this month. Please book with Solar Kitchen before 30<sup>th</sup> October if you want your child to have regular lunch in our community kitchen and receive School Nutrition from Nov. onwards at Solar Kitchen.

See Solar Kitchen's announcement in "Announcements" section for more details.  
- Your BCC and FAMC

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**From Housing Board:** The Housing Board is happy to announce that Riju, as a representative of Auroville Council, is now a permanent member of the Housing Board. She has completed her 3-month trial period and has been confirmed by FAMC.  
\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_

**Reminder** to the community at large to please inform the Housing Service when you go out of Auroville for 3 months or more, so that we can arrange an agreement between the Steward and the house sitter. We are continually receiving reports of empty houses, but unless we have been informed by the residents it is difficult to arrange. If you have left Auroville already without informing us, please inform Housing Service on [housing@auroville.org.in](mailto:housing@auroville.org.in).

Your cooperation in this matter is fully appreciated, particularly in light of the housing crisis we are experiencing in Auroville which is causing a great distress to many people.

- Housing Board & Housing Service

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### Apartment for transfer

One asset is currently available for transfer:

- 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 Housing Transfer App at <https://housing.auroville.org.in>. All you need to do is:

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

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

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

#### Solar Kitchen lunches for kids/students from November 2020 onwards

Solar Kitchen is offering lunches for children/students in. This option is open to children of all ages, who are part of the Children Nutrition Scheme. The Dining Hall is open only for children aged 12 and above, but the tiffin option is available for all age groups. Please book with Solar Kitchen latest Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of October by email to [solkitchen@auroville.org.in](mailto:solkitchen@auroville.org.in) with cc to [bccoffice@auroville.org.in](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.org.in) - mentioning child name, parent name and school name- Please indicate where your child will take its lunch, Tiffin or Dining Hall. If you choose tiffin option you have to provide by latest 10 am a cleaned and empty tiffin with the name of the child on it, at the tiffin entrance.



**Taxi sharing** - From Auroville to Chennai Airport, on 6<sup>th</sup> November evening, Amal: 9774490591.  
\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_

**Taxi Sharing** - Bodhi Zendo, near Kodaikanal is open for guests. For travel, you need an e-pass that says "tourist" on it. I am returning to Auroville on Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. If you want to use the taxi coming to Bodhi Zendo on Wed. 4<sup>th</sup>, let me know. The driver can sleep there before leaving for Auroville the next morning. It's beautiful and the daily high temperature is about 19° c Contact: 8903516016 (SMS only) or [shanti@auroville.org.in](mailto:shanti@auroville.org.in)

## OBITUARY



### Gopal Narayanasamy

Born on the 29.03.1963, he left his body on the 21.10.2020, with a sudden heart attack while asleep at Jipmer hospital. Gopal Narayanasamy was originally from Alankupam village. At a very young age in the seventies he joined the Hermitage community helping them plant trees and lived a community life. Later he joined the Matrimandir camp and spent some

years working and driving there.

Being fond of The Mother he joined the Douceur community and ran one of the early taxi services in Auroville called the Narayan taxi service. He participated in several activities such as Himalayan camps, America tour and drove the van to Kodaikanal and Ooty. In the recent years he worked at the Auroville transport service and at La Piscine.

He lived a beautiful and peaceful life for his wife and 3 daughters. Think of him. -Vishva (Wife), Shamba, Vanitha and Nivetha (Daughters), Vetri and Alaya (Grandchildren)

## APPEALS

### Help the Solar Kitchen

Solar Kitchen is facing a serious financial crisis as it has to use its reserves to provide lunches to the remaining Solar Kitchen diners. One third of Aurovilian diners are now choosing the food-purchase option and all schools are still closed. Both contribute to a serious lack of income and have created this dire financial situation. This lack of income is also the reason why we can't add a salad on the menu or why we can't return to the pre-Covid menu, as any added item increases our monthly loss. Solar Kitchen was and continues to be a **100% Self-Supporting Service**, neither maintenances for Aurovilians or any other support is given to Solar Kitchen. On top the funds provided for lunches for Aurovilians on the lunch scheme have not been increased since 2018 and the guest income that was used to subsidize the lunches for Aurovilians is no more. VARUNA stopped the Free Electricity also which amounts to more than 1/2 Lakh every month since March 2020.

The Solar Kitchen which is serving the Community for the past 23 years is in urgent need of financial support. We kindly request the community to help the Solar Kitchen with generous contributions to **Solar Kitchen Donation A/c No. 251656**

### RE-CENTRE is looking for metal scrap for a gate

Do you have some metal scrap at home or in your workshop? We're looking to source unique bits of metal scrap that are lying around unused and need some love! Our dream waste-tackling campus called the RE-CENTRE needs a gate and we'd love to build it with waste and scrap bits of metal from Auroville.

Do you have an old (atlas or other classic model) cycle that mechanics won't touch, kitchen utensils beyond repair (like a broken stainless steel grater, leaky SS teapot, broken thali plates, unused forks, broken tiffins, old steel or aluminium pans or a decommissioned cast iron wok), metal buckets that leak so much the water group would report you to the Council 😊, old window grills, scrap metal plates, sheet metal, broken gas cylinders, old SS sinks, steel ladder, broken tools (spanner, plier, wrench - basically anything metal), old cycle or motorcycle chains, steel letter box, antique steel, brass or aluminium things that are linked to India and could be used in our gate. We are also looking for L-shaped steel angle (30x30x6mm or 40x40x6mm) of any size which we can weld together to make the gate's frame. We need around 15-18 meters of this.

If you have something we can weave into this dream, please let us know. Ribhu (9488483871) & Dinagar (9655977940), on behalf of the RE-CENTRE team



## WELCOME

### FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 056- 31-10-2020

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

### NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:



Pawan

- Pawan MITTAL (USA) staying in Djaima and working at Sanskrit Research Institute
- Anna Bianca TORRACO (aka Bianca) (Italian) staying in Sunship and working at Dynamis



Bianca

### NEWCOMERS CONFIRMED:

- Anand RAJARAM (Indian)
- Ramana JAYARAMAN (Indian)

### CHILD OF NEWCOMER:

- Aariv MITTAL (USA) Born on 10/11/2014 (son of Pawan)

### AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:

- Renzo PEZZATO (Italian) staying in Vikas and working at Linea & Auroservice



Renzo

### AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

- Brian HIGGINSON (British)
- Saranraj PONNUSWAMY (Indian)

### NOTE:

- The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after
- 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 Residence (RoR) as maintained by the Auroville Foundation 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

### Auroville Child Protection (AVCP)

AVCP aims to promote children's well-being and safeguard their rights. We are a new team, working in collaboration with the Working Committee. Contact us if you have any questions or concerns and particularly if you have any allegation of child rights violations within Auroville and outreach institutions. Our desk is currently located on the 1st Floor of the SAIER building (9 - 12:30am and 1:30-5pm). We will continue to communicate more about our work and service as we progress. Email: [avcp@auroville.org.in](mailto:avcp@auroville.org.in), Tel: 9443730370. In case of an emergency, call the Auroville Safety & Security Team: 9443090107. Marion, Honor, Thamizhselvi, Harishini & Himanshu

### Citizens' Assembly pilot restarts

This Saturday, (31<sup>st</sup> October) the Citizens' Assembly pilot experiment restarts. The first session was held in March but subsequent sessions were disrupted by the lockdown, so this is a new beginning. This Citizens' Assembly brings together a randomly selected group of Aurovilians. During nine sessions over the next three months, around thirty participants will watch videos on water issues from a diverse group of presenters, they

will ask questions, discuss their perceptions and, finally, come up with a water vision which we hope will guide the major players in terms of water management and planning in the community. During the sessions, the participants will also learn essential group discussion skills, such as active listening, identifying bias and effective communication. For one of the aims of the Citizens' Assembly experiment, apart from providing guidance and inspiration on issues which are of importance to the community, is to build expertise in these discussion group areas so that our collective meetings are improved.

The videos and documentation will be shared with the community in due course. Meanwhile, more information can be accessed at <https://caexplorationauroville.wordpress.com/>

- The Citizens' Assembly Exploration Group  
(Kathy, Suryamayi, Helen, Alan, David, Aditi, Martin, Sandhya, Nikethana, Anshul & Lesley)

### Auroville Institute of Applied Technology (AIAT)

We are happy to inform you that Auroville Institute of Applied Technology (AIAT), located in Irumbai and Aurobrindavan has reopened since 5<sup>th</sup> October with government SOP after the long covid-19 lockdown. Admission for the students is going on for the current academic year on following courses/trade. All the courses/ trades are affiliated with the Government. Minimum education qualifications required to join the courses are 8, 10<sup>th</sup> standard pass/fail.

#### Central Government Recognized 1 & 2 years courses (NCVT) Under DST

1. Information Communication Technology and System Maintenance (ICTSM)- 2 years.
2. Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (COPA)- 1year.
3. Electronic Mechanic - 2 years.
4. Welder (arc, TIG, MIC & Gas welding & Plasma cutting)-1 year.
5. Fitter (add. training in milling, turning & Auto CAD) 2 years.
6. Draughtsman Civil with Auto CAD and Surveyor - 2 years

#### Tamilnadu Government Recognized short term courses (TNSDC) 3 to 4 months.

1. Manual metal arc welding/shielded metal arc welding.
2. Field Technician Networking and Storage.
3. Domestic Data Entry Operator.

#### AIAT Certificate courses (1 year):

1. Electrician with special Training in Solar System.
- Contact: [aiat@auroville.org.in](mailto:aiat@auroville.org.in) / 0413-2671758 / 8903166923  
Website: [www.aiat.in](http://www.aiat.in) - Angelika, Lavkamd, Karin and Ranjith  
For Auroville Institute of Applied Technology.

### Calling the Future survey full report

In May, the community was invited to participate in the Calling the Future survey by filling in a questionnaire. A further simplified questionnaire was sent to under-represented sectors of the community in June. The results showed how individuals and the community as a whole had responded to the lockdown, what changes are needed in our behaviour and relationships, in our economy, farming and food distribution, in our water and energy supply, etc., and which new initiatives in these fields have gained the most support.

Three brief summaries of the main findings of the report have already been published. Now, as promised, the survey team is making the full report available to the community, currently at <https://auroville.org.in/article/81964>. We hope very much that it will be found useful, for it not only documents a unique period in Auroville's history but also incorporates many inspiring suggestions for the way forward. We would like to thank everybody who contributed in any way to this project.

-The Calling the Future survey team  
(Alan, Amy, Dan, Dom, Fred, Laurence)

### Third Age "Hangout" gathering

Our last Third Age "Hangout" gathering was held at Center Guesthouse and was again a great success! 20 of us enjoying ourselves, eating some great cake graciously prepared by Axum as well as various AV Bakery cookies, and refreshments ... most of us were playing board games or just chatting with friends and everyone had a great time and lots of fun.



We will be continuing this activity every 2 weeks and the next "gathering" will be held at Center Guesthouse again, on **Saturday 30th October** from 2:30 to 5:00pm. Just drop in anytime you want and stay as long as you like, it's totally **informal**. We will of course have all the usual cookies and cake with juices and coffee and tea. This time we will have all the board games again, hopefully with Mah-jong instruction from Fabienne & our Qigong instructor for those that are interested.

Spaces will be a bit limited so please let us know as far in advance as possible if you'd like to join us: 915 990 0709 or [strebor0808@gmail.com](mailto:strebor0808@gmail.com)  
- Don (Third Age group)

### Let's talk about death



The 'Let's talk about Death' group intends to provide space, time and content on the topic of Death in Auroville. Our 1st gathering about death happened Saturday 17 Oct. and was successful with 20 attendees. **The next dates are 7 & 28 Nov. & 19 Dec.** An additional date specifically dedicated to teenagers may be communicated later.

**Saturday 7 Nov. will be held at Center Guest House, from 3 to 5 pm**, and will start with a cake. **A few places are still available.** Book by email to [quietusauroville@gmail.com](mailto:quietusauroville@gmail.com). Once you reserved, an email of confirmation will be sent to you.

- For the 'Let's talk about Death Group',  
Fakeera, Julietta, Lisa, Kalsang, Valeria and Dan

### NEWS FROM CAFETERIA @ VISITORS CENTRE

We are now **open every night except Mondays till 9.30 PM** (last order from the table at 8.30). HOME DELIVERY is available every evening. KOREAN MENU is available every Wed/Fri/Sun night. REGULAR MENU including Indian and French specialties, vegan & tandoori is available Tues/Thurs/Sat nights. PIZZA MENU is available every night. Orders and pre-booking are welcome via WhatsApp 89 039 63 137 or land line 2622 248.

NEW! Whole roast chicken from the wood oven available on Tues/Thurs/Sat with one-day advance booking. Please visit the Visitors Centre Facebook page to see our special TAKE AWAY/HOME DELIVERY MENU for Tues/Thurs/Sat nights.

Thank you for your patience with the Home Deliveries. We are working on improving our service!  
- Your Cafeteria Team



## Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium

### ANNOUNCEMENT

### VENUE AVAILABLE

Dear Friends: Multimedia Center venue is available for seminars, workshops, classes, and presentations with prior booking. In the hall, you will find alternative seats are locked so that safe distance can be maintained while sitting. A maximum of 40 seats are available. Responding to the need of the time, Multimedia Center is also offering the facility for audio recording needs.

**For details about the booking conditions/booking write to [mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in](mailto:mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in)**

Take care, be safe  
MMC-CP Team





**Tea and clearance sale at Upasana!**  
from 19th to 31st of October.

**UPASANA**  
Integral design

We are opening Upasana for a clearance sale with personalized styling support. This is a warm invitation to restart our frozen economy with fun creativity and care. There will be no billing for Aurovilians working in services, only contributions. Keep in mind social distancing and come in small numbers.

**MATRIMANDIR**

**COHERENCE**

Sat. 31st Oct 2020, 6:15 - 7:15 PM  
At Matrimandir Amphitheatre

The seasons, they are changing  
The leaves, will soon be leaving.  
The journey: is it about what's ahead,  
Or about what is yet to be shed?

**Celebrating Sharad Purnima**

Raga Hem-Basant alap, jor - Pt. Nikhil Banerjee  
Sharad-Hemant-Shishir Baramasi - Pt. Kumar Gandharva  
(Recorded music playback)

**LOOKING FOR**

**Cycle** - If you have that you don't use, I would be happy to put it back in shape and to good use, can contribute if needed.  
[amos@auroville.org.in](mailto:amos@auroville.org.in)

**House sitting** - Hoping to (finally!) come back soon after 5 long months and since I couldn't till now, find a permanent house, I'm looking for a temporary home (after the mandatory travel-quarantine, of course). I'm Aurovilian, quiet, loving plants and would be really grateful if you help me ;-)  
[gali@auroville.org.in](mailto:gali@auroville.org.in)

**House-sitting** - Long term, for Valentina and Pablo (Aurovilians, Kriya community). We love pets and gardening and would be very happy and grateful to look after your home during your departure. Contact: [valentina@auroville.org.in](mailto:valentina@auroville.org.in)

**Harmonium** - If you have a good and functional one collecting dust in your home I would be happy to use it. I want to learn some bhajans and practice singing. Contact Andres: 7548871866 or WhatsApp: +57311555878

**Small Djembe** - contact Jan: [yogajanbudin@gmail.com](mailto:yogajanbudin@gmail.com) or WhatsApp: +393406887720

**Phone** - for Amma working at my home who is struggling to ensure her kid's education. It needs to support **WHATSAPP** as the classes of her children are happening on this app. Without this her kids are unable to attend. Any help would be appreciated - Megha :8870730567 (WA)

**A cast steel pan** (any size) and a **water filter or container** in any material but not in plastic. [huyslaure@gmail.com](mailto:huyslaure@gmail.com)

**AVAILABLE**

**OKINAWA Raise electric scooter** - lithium battery, 2500km, only 1 year used, no need of plates and insurance - Contact: Robert 8098680467 or [happy@auroville.org.in](mailto:happy@auroville.org.in)

**GREEN MATTERS**



**Water Saving Tip of the Week!**

Consider getting a dual-flush toilet. It has two flush options: a half-flush for liquid waste and a full flush for solid waste. Best yet: use a composting toilet!  
With Love from the Water Group - helping Auroville

become a water-sensitive city. [watergroup@auroville.org.in](mailto:watergroup@auroville.org.in) / [www.aurovillewater.in](http://www.aurovillewater.in)

**Invitation to explore and report runoff this monsoon**

We know that water is an essential resource which needs to be safeguarded and protected. Our region is part of the rich Indian history regarding water catchment and conservation practices. Since the beginning of Auroville, many people have contributed

to initiatives which shaped the lands to prevent surface water running off to the sea, this outstanding work has benefitted all of us. Trees and vegetation help water to percolate in the soil and their roots, facilitating a downward water movement. Recent studies point out that rains will most probably be much more intense in the near future, with massive downpours in short periods of time. Such events allow only a portion of the rain to percolate in the ground, unfortunately larger volumes of water are expected to run off to the ocean.

As the monsoon is approaching, we invite people to observe the next rains while checking where water runs off, this is also an occasion to playfully enjoy the rains as children do all over India. Take your umbrella and your smartphone with its GPS app activated: if you see water running off, try to follow and observe where it flows, take pictures and video, and GPS points along its route. Send us your photos, videos, GPS points, perhaps with their date, description and your remarks (e.g.: is water running off to the wrong place? is the pond too small and getting flooded?)

Thank you for emailing the pics and comments to [watergroup@auroville.org.in](mailto:watergroup@auroville.org.in)

-Water Group (Tom, Tency, Ing-Marie, Giulio, Eric Chakra)

**World Vegan Day - 1st November**

The United Nations and the FAO have stated that livestock contribute more to greenhouse gases than all the cars in the world. Hard to believe but true! There are now more than 20 billion livestock on earth at any given time. All these animals are reared only for the sake of human consumption. If we all want to help our Earth survive we can do our part by eating less meat, fish, chicken and dairy.

**WATER** - The world is heading towards a drinking water shortage. It takes 500 litres of water to produce 1 kg of potatoes, 600 for 1 kg of wheat, 2000 for 1 kg of rice, but 100,000 for 1 kg of beef. Livestock consume 80% of the world's water supply.

**FOOD** - 60 million people die of starvation each year. It takes 12 - 16 kilos of grain to produce 1 kilo of meat or milk. Livestock consumes 40 % of the total grain grown worldwide. A vegan needs 0.5 acres of land for sustenance, a non-vegetarian 30 times this amount! Starvation can literally be wiped out by wiping meat and dairy off our diets.

**TREES** - Our diminishing forests are seriously threatened by grazing animals. Large numbers of wild animals are killed each year to protect or to make room for grazing animals in our food chain. Millions of acres of virgin forest in the world have been cleared for cropland to support a meat-centred diet.

**ENERGY** - Meat & Dairy are energy intensive. Energy is required to raise animals and their food, to slaughter them and refrigerate their body parts and they cannot be eaten without the energy of cooking.

**POLLUTION** - Animal husbandry and slaughter result in air, water and land pollution.

**ANIMALS** - Death is never a pleasant affair, least of all for the animals killed. Over 70 billion land animals are killed each year to appease our appetites! (This does not include aquatic animals) They suffer claustrophobic confinement, terrible transport without food and water and rest, to meet their final bloody end in the slaughterhouse.

**HEALTH** - We are descendants of primates that are primarily fruitarian, and our anatomy is similar to theirs. There is ample evidence to show that a balanced, non-refined vegan diet is the best for our health.

Whether it is to improve our health, end global starvation, save wildlife, conserve water and energy, reduce pollution or to reduce animal suffering perhaps the greatest impact each individual can have is to reduce or stop animal products in their diet. It is now easier than ever before to be vegan. What are we waiting for?  
- Dr Nandita Shah



### Car Sharing Scheme

Most of us in our community of Auroville occasionally need a car, be it for medical reasons, pondicherry visits, travel to Chennai, leisure travel or entertaining guests and family members visiting us. However, most of us do not own one. We rely instead on taxi services that overall as a mode of transport for occasional use, may turn out to be relatively expensive for the collective. At the same time, there are a number of cars in our community owned by units and also many individuals which are put to use for less than 10 days in a month. The cost of insurance, minimum maintenance and depreciation is to be covered regardless of the low usage.

Could we imagine a modality of sharing whereby these cars could be shared within the community at the same time the car owners/stewards get a priority over their use and the cost of ownership also is brought down? When implemented effectively, this could:

- Provide an affordable access to our cars across the wider section of the community
- Reduce the cost of ownership for existing asset for the owner or the unit steward
- Optimize use of existing asset for the collective use
- Curb the pressure to buy/own a car that is currently on the rise inside Auroville
- Reduce pressure of large parking spaces in communities of Auroville.

The car owners/stewards could potentially benefit with:

- Significantly reduced insurance cost (ITS will cover the rest)
- Significantly reduced maintenance cost (ITS will cover the rest)
- No hassle of arranging for repairs and maintenance (ITS will take care)

ITS wants to start a pilot for this car share ownership program and is seeking 3 to 5 willing collaborators to take part in this initiative. The minimum period of engagement could be for 6 months. ITS commits to taking good and proper care of your vehicle and to arrange competent drivers for ensuring professional upkeep and utmost safety.

To discuss this further, visit the ITS Centre at Solar Kitchen or contact us 8098776644 | 9442566256 | [its@auroville.org.in](mailto:its@auroville.org.in)



Did you know that all the episodes of the past week are played on Sundays? Starting from 9am Stay tuned! [Here](#) you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7). [Here](#) you can see on-air schedules.

#### Last published podcasts

[Nutritional Cultural Redemption "Reading of M.Fukuoka book"](#) (Natural farming)

[Happiness, Love and Laughter "Happiness Starts Right Where You Are"](#) (Wellness)

[Soul Tracks - "Black & White & Blue"](#) (Music)

[The Akademik Genius Brothers "The Making Off" ep.4](#) (Theatre)

[Aarohan - "Maihar Maestros - Pt. Nikhil Banerjee"](#) (Music)

[Audible Weed Walk "The eternal Shakti in Cocoyam/Taro"](#) (Edible weeds)

[The Tamil Literary Forum "□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□"](#) (culture)

[Neo Urban Chronik "Global warming"](#) (Humour)

[Martenka's Weekly Offering - ep.8](#) (Sri Aurobindo)

[Lectures par Gangalakshmi - 335](#) (Sri Aurobindo)

[Savitri, B. VII, C. V, Part 1](#) (Sri Aurobindo)

....and more! on [www.aurovillradio.org](http://www.aurovillradio.org)

For more info write to [radio@auroville.org.in](mailto:radio@auroville.org.in), Love and Peace

### An Open Letter to the Community of Auroville

We would like to bring to your attention and consideration a final decision made by the Working Committee and FAMC in collaboration with L'avenir d'Auroville. After four years of processing, the project of the Morning Star Birth Center has been

refused building permission. We understand this as a very serious failure in the building of Auroville and the realization of the ideals given to us by the Mother. We see this failure as symptomatic of the current world crisis and also as a wake-up call to re-align ourselves with what Auroville is for. Each Aurovilian needs to take responsibility for what is happening in our city. We are sure that Aurovilians when aware of the facts in this case would fully support the Morning Star Birth Center.

We all know that Mother referred to Auroville as the cradle of the supramental. Those who know the history of Auroville are aware that one of the first things Mother arranged was the Maternity Clinic at Promesse and appointed her secretary Maggie to carefully record each birth. Mother so impressed on Maggie the importance of caring for the incoming souls that Maggie worked tirelessly to establish the school at Udavi and the Quiet Healing Center. The conception and construction of Quiet included a state-of-the-art birthing center with a water-birth tank and a support service room for pregnant women. After Quiet was built, no one came forward to carry on the maternity work and so soon the facilities were removed. Now we have the opportunity with Morning Star's dedicated and qualified team of six, already fully functioning, to carry this essential service forward into the dedicated space that it needs. The project is already fully financed and sustainable with approved plans. The Integral Health campus, of which Sante is a part, has already an approved plan for where Morning Star is to be built. The Morning Star site was dedicated by the Community on 21 February 2018. What more could be required? Perhaps, each Aurovilian needed to know all this so we can move consciously forward out of our stagnation.

The reasons specified to block the project seem to come from a mindset that gives priority to what these working groups feel to be more important. They say we must keep the "status quo" during Covid. Money should not be spent to build Morning Star when we have two health centers where births could take place. The building does not justify the annual number of births in Auroville. Birth is a risk and the death of mothers or babies could be legal and social trouble for Auroville.

Dr. Kireet Joshi, a great mentor of Auroville, always insisted that Auroville must be "child-centered." Auroville is about evolution of the species and the defining moments when a soul enters the body must be optimal. Birth is normally never a medical issue. It is a natural process that has been taken by the medical industry for profit. The brutal conditions that women still must face giving birth in hospitals is unacceptable anywhere, but to impose it on parents in Auroville is absurd. The abuse mother and child usually face is a human rights violation. Recently, the government of Tamil Nadu has set the goal of 100% hospitalization for childbirth. This becomes one more reason why Morning Star needs to be built now. Morning Star is not just for the birth moment, but there's the whole pregnancy period, the educational and counselling service of this center which the "planners" don't seem to be considering. The value of Morning Star is incalculable.

Now, we are stuck administratively. The only option is the appeal process which is possibly long, tedious and probably a waste. Can the Community rise up against ignorance? The Residents Assembly? The Citizens Action Group?

Auroville has been able to manifest more conscious care for the elderly with the Mahalakshmi Home and other new services. The Farewell Room miraculously manifested for the dead to rest in peace. Let's also welcome the souls who choose to come "down the amber stairs of birth" to Auroville for the Charter, the Dream and to be true Aurovilians. Let's give them a conscious place to arrive: "Out of the paths of the morning star they came."

This letter was written on October 14th, 2020 when the Morning Star Team and a support group met to find a solution. The solution has to be that Aurovilians approve this project. **Will you personally support Morning Star being built?**

#### Kaleidoscope issue #18

On Distance Learning by Faith group of Deepanam School  
Candid views of students and teachers  
on their experiences of distance learning. To read it online:

[https://issuu.com/faithclass/docs/distance\\_learning](https://issuu.com/faithclass/docs/distance_learning)

## Centre d'Art, Citadines - UFO!

Saturday, I walked into a fantasy future that held creativity, skill, planning and beauty. Our contemporaries show us what they found ten years from now, on a crumpled map, the locations of old mechanical instruments, thrown away, no longer in use.

The ego rose why didn't they let me find a cast away object? Answer: Because no one expects you to be around in ten years.

Do come see the large paintings that bring to us the energy pulsing forward through our dedicated service, now.

Thank you for this vision of the future. Please, Aurovilians, especially artists, go to this surprising, exciting display. ~ Audrey.

### How We Drive

Thanks to the Working Committee's recommendations (N&N 841, P.4) on expected driving-manners on our costly roads: we Aurovilians are supposed to go on trying to develop our inner radar advising us to control our penchant for excesses and passions, and accordingly make Auroville greater. Options to transform our mechanical mounts into cult-objects detrimental to the environment should be left to people who have chosen other times & places. Better they remain cool, obedient servitors, driven sound-neutral, not polluting and terrorizing our city's human, animal & green inhabitants. Then only we will hopefully not have to go the China-way: built-in artificial intelligence in every street-light post analyzing the body-language of speeders, collecting automatically fines from their P.T accounts. The inner radar is more commendable. ~ Amar

### Nocturne

*A wise owl lived in an oak. The more he saw the less he spoke, the less he spoke the more he heard. Why can't we all be like the wise old bird?* (Anonymous)

The first Aurovilians could more often see the starry sky than the contemporary residents of the city. When Auroville started, it had no electricity, not many high trees were in its territory. There was a good situation for the star gazing. The Lord created the stars. People mainly prefer to see not the Milky Way but the roads for motorbikes.

In "Aspiration" Guest House once lived a Japanese girl, a student of Tokyo University, a department of art. In India she studied the ancient sculptures. I asked her: maybe she wanted to look on the stars and planets through a telescope? She agreed and we used our bicycles to reach Aurelec. In that time there was an American telescope in Aurelec and Russian Igor Zenkin exploited it. The girl and me rised on the roof of one building and looked through the telescope. After some time, I understood that the Japanese like more to contemplate the sky without telescope. The girl told me: "My native place is near Osaka. I often saw there the starry sky. But in Tokyo there is a lot of electricity and very high buildings."

More and more people on earth live with electricity, among high buildings, but without stars, constellations, planets. Is it an evolution? No. It is an element of involution, degradation. The industrialisation kills nature, but mankind is a part of nature.

There are the nocturnal and diurnal creatures on Earth. Owl is a nocturnal one, a human being - diurnal. According to the cosmic rhythm mankind needs to be active during the day and use the night for rest, relaxation, to think about stars and God. People refuse normal circadian circle. They are laughing about nature. Of course nature will be laughing last. Can mankind escape from asuric unnatural behaviour? Can it return to a healthy correct life before the Lord's punishment? Can we reach wisdom like the old owl? Can our motorbikes bring us to real happiness? Shall we overcome some days? Please, my Lord, help us to be enough reasonable for the love of life more than for the sympathy for technic. ~submitted by Boris

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



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

1. AV ART SERVICE OFFERS ONLINE STORY BUILDING SESSION WITH RASHMI - Every Saturday at 11am, for the age group 6-16. To join the google meet session, WhatsApp Rashmi 94482 35935. Join with Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/pdz-giak-fta>

2. CENTRE D'ART CITADINES OFFERS all exhibitions viewable online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B10sIOQgjdC>

3. ACCESSIBLE HORIZON FILMS PONDICHERRY SHARES (TAMIL) EP 11 - A series on screenwriting in Tamil. This is not only for aspiring screenwriters or writers, but also anyone who's interested or passionate about the filmmaking process. How to test your screenplay idea: <https://youtu.be/ml14aR1vAB0>

4. GOOGLE ARTS AND CULTURE - COLOUR FAMOUS ARTWORKS ONLINE features content from over 2000 leading museums and archives who have partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to bring the world's treasures online. Try your hand at visual crosswords and discover unexpected art pairings: <https://artsandculture.google.com/experiment/visual-crosswords/JwGOLSD8L0DzyQ>

5. MUSIC WORKSHOP ON THE SACRED MUGHAM OF AZERBAIJAN - American scholar Jeffrey Warbock will present a free Zoom workshop based on traditional Azerbaijani mugham, played on oud, tar, and kamancha. Azerbaijani mugham is monophonic, modal music, highly microtonal, meter-free, densely ornamented, composed of complex melodic lines that are somewhat improvised according to the eastern tradition of theme and variation. Sunday 1st November at 8.30 PM <https://www.facebook.com/events/1004208070062381/>

6. EMERGENCE MAGAZINE OFFERS Blessings, a short film by Emmy-winning filmmaker Andrew Hinton, interpreting David Whyte's "Blessings" poems. <https://emergencemagazine.org/story/blessings/>

7. FIRST TAMIL NADU INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL - Free and online upto November 15, featuring 298 films from 52 countries! To watch the films, fill the registration form TNFF 2020 Festival Audience <https://bit.ly/2Hn1UKE>. To interact with filmmakers, fill TNFF 2020 New Dialogue <https://bit.ly/3kd2MA3>. To attend a seminar, fill TNFF 2020 Seminar <https://bit.ly/3jiddBRC>. WA: 98409 73445; Email: [info@tniff.com](mailto:info@tniff.com); Website: [tniff.com](http://tniff.com)

8. EUROPEAN UNION FILM FESTIVAL INDIA 2020 - The festival will be free and online from the 5<sup>th</sup> of November on Festival Scope. Keep an eye out on their website and Facebook for more information: <https://euffindia.com/>

Feedback welcomed by email at [aurovillearts@auroville.org.in](mailto:aurovillearts@auroville.org.in)

### KIRTAN - call and response circle

Monday, 2nd Nov, 5 - 6.30 PM, Butterfly Barn, Sve Dame

Celebrating Divinity through joyfully singing from our hearts! Please join us! (Butterfly Barn is an activity registered under Auroville Art Services)



### Centre d'Art Exhibition

Since always, the tree, this mystery in full light, has fascinated photographers. From Ansel Adam's naturalist fervor, who has left us hundreds of pictures, from the 30's onwards, taken in the great American natural parks, to the photograph Beth Moon who travelled the world in search of the world's oldest trees, to the symbolic mannerism of Israeli Tal Shochat who cleans fruit tree branches before immortalizing them on black fabric backgrounds, trees remain one of the artists' subject of predilection. This obsession for these life generating creatures brushing past immortality and connecting us to the sky comes with a feeling of loss and desire for initial purity. The tree, this sacred being, reunites us with our selves' best.

The protagonists of Sasi Somu's exhibition at Centre d'Art in this month of November, are not simply trees - they are Auroville's trees.

"Fifty years ago, when Auroville was born, it was a desert, there were no trees around explains Sasi - the first inhabitants planted them. They are exactly the same age as the city and have developed along with it. They are, therefore, privileged witnesses." It is also a testimonial which the photograph offers us, whose vision renders us, the spectators, in turn, witnesses. "And if they could speak..." What Sasi's images do, is give the trees a voice. For years he has been tirelessly photographing them from all angles, alternating seasons, time of day, light variations, exploring textures, patterns, contrasts.

This exhibition, we could say, is a frozen frame in a process with endless creative possibilities. "This work is not finished, and will never be. Each discovery leads to another and generates connections as complex as the structure of the branches, the roots, the leaves."

What interests most the photographer is the tree's relationship with the environment, to what extent the physiognomy of a landscape, its atmosphere, are shaped by its presence. "This is why I don't use frames; it creates a separation. The picture is a moment in a story being told. There is a before, an after, and all that is happening around an image that is not isolated stays subtly perceptible."

With this perspective, Sasi shifts the borders of what is visible, cutting his images into fragments which are all, in themselves, an abstract composition. The elements of the polyptychs thus created can be distanced. The space, as a silence or a breath in music, generating rhythm and tension, underlines the plasticity of the composition. The feeling of freedom and respect which transpires through these images is born from rigorous stylistic choices. The choice of analog photography, of black and white. Analogy is the key word of this exhibition. Analogy between the long work of the pre-digital era photograph and the patient development of the plant system, the shots and ensuing complex phases of the chemical process, the time factor, the transition from film to paper, from negative to positive, the role of light in the development, the photosynthesis. Analogy claimed until osmosis between classical photography and the tree. From one to the other, a declaration of love.

- Dominique Jacques October 2020/ Centre d'Art Citadines



### PHOTO CIRCLE

After 9 months we would like to restart the PHOTO CIRCLE. It takes place once a month (usually the first Friday of the month) from 5 to 7pm in Centre d'Art Citadines, and brings together Auroville's photographers. We share our work, sometimes have a theme to prepare, show work of global photographers, we admire, discuss the techniques, the history of photography and more. On Friday 6th November at 4.30pm we will have the exhibition opening of Sasi Somu (photographer) and he will give a talk around 5.30 pm. Therefore, we will not meet in a regular format but members of the Photo Circle will be present. If you are interested to join us, meet us there or drop us a line to [centredart@auroville.org.in](mailto:centredart@auroville.org.in)

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

### For art students age 7-12 yrs

You are very welcome to join us on our exploration of drawing and crafting with a true student of The Mother. Classes are shared two afternoons a week, 2-3.30pm. Enjoy an inspiring time with a master of drawing and many more arts.

### For french students, age 5-10 yrs

You are most welcome to our French classes, two afternoons and one morning every week. It's more fun together! With a good concentration we sing, draw, craft, laugh, even write at times; hearing and speaking French all along. Perfect class to build or improve your kid's French.

For information on those two wonderful classes and to let us know when you would like to join us, please contact: Ulrike Urvasi 9442069249 (sms/call), 2622906, [ulrikrishna@gmail.com](mailto:ulrikrishna@gmail.com), 00491745803786 (WA).

Figurative life drawing class w/ Lakshay, Saturdays, 9-11am at Creeva, Creativity. Contact: 9810052574.

## The Art of Chi with Hans

Mondays 6.30-7.30 PM & Wednesdays 5 - 6 PM

New beginner's classes at Mahalakshmi park, opposite Neem Tree Café. All are welcome

**NOVEMBER 2020 YOGA CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday - 17.00 to 18.15 - Hatha yoga by Rebeca**  
Open to all

**Wednesday - 17.00 to 18.15 - Pregnant yoga by Camilla**  
Pregnant women only

**Thursday - 17.00 to 18.15 - Hatha yoga by Rebeca**  
Open to all

**Saturday - 17.00 to 18.15 - Vinyasa flow by Bala**  
Open to all

**Drop in classes - Beginners to Intermediate level**  
Classes conducted in English - Private session available at request  
[www.auromodeyogaspace.com](http://www.auromodeyogaspace.com)  
email - [contact@auromodeyogaspace.com](mailto:contact@auromodeyogaspace.com)  
Phone +91 413 2622224

### Kundalini Yoga with Bel

Wednesdays at 4.30pm in the Hall of Light. Creativity

Kundalini Yoga is a dynamic, powerful tool that is designed to give you an experience of your soul. To achieve that it uses the combination of Asanas, Pranayamas, Mudras and Mantras. All levels welcome, come 5 minutes before, bring some cloth to cover the mat and water. Contribution for the use of the room. Contact: 7598892065.

**So Qi Gong Workout and Moxa on Acupuncture Points**  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> November, 7 - 8.20 AM  
Pavilion of Tibetan Culture (under the Bodhi tree)

Orientated to: Relief the tension in the low back, hips, leg, feet, and. reinforcement of the kidneys. Feel the water. Be like water. Monsoon time is the best time to concentrate on the fluidity. Guided by Andres Lokuta. Contact: 9655474497 (WA)

### Somatic Movement with Maggie

Online live intensive for everybody!

Sat & Sun 31 Oct. - 1 Nov, 2.00 - 5.30pm, (total 7 hours)

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

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

Open to anyone whether you are completely new to this work or want to rediscover the basics, however a good understanding of English language is essential as is a commitment to attend both sessions. To sign up: [maggie@auroville.org.in](mailto:maggie@auroville.org.in) and I will send you full details. For questions contact me by email or +9486623465

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