

News and Notes

No 846

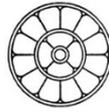
A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

28th November 2020



Photo: Pranab Kumar Bhanjadeo

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



High seers, moved poets saw the eternal thoughts
 That, travellers from on high, arrive to us
 Deformed by our search, tricked by costuming mind,
 Like gods disfigured by the pangs of birth,
 Seized the great words which now are frail sounds caught
 By difficult rapture on a mortal tongue.
 The strong who stumble and sin were calm proud gods.
 There lightning-filled with glory and with flame,
 Melting in waves of sympathy and sight,
 Smitten like a lyre that throbs to others' bliss,
 Drawn by the cords of ecstasies unknown,
 Her human nature faint with heaven's delight,
 She beheld the clasp to earth denied and bore
 The imperishable eyes of veiless love.
 More climbed above, level to level reached,
 Beyond what tongue can utter or mind dream:
 Worlds of an infinite reach crowned Nature's stir.
 There was a greater tranquil sweetness there,
 A subtler and profounder ether's field
 And mightier scheme than heavenliest sense can give.
 There breath carried a stream of seeing mind,
 Form was a tenuous raiment of the soul:
 Colour was a visible tone of ecstasy;
 Shapes seen half immaterial by the gaze
 And yet voluptuously palpable
 Made sensible to touch the indwelling spirit.
 The high perfected sense illumined lived
 A happy vassal of the inner ray,
 Each feeling was the Eternal's mighty child
 And every thought was a sweet burning god.
 Air was a luminous feeling, sound a voice,
 Sunlight the soul's vision and moonlight its dream.
 On a wide living base of wordless calm
 All was a potent and a lucid joy.
 Into those heights her spirit went floating up
 Like an upsoaring bird who mounts unseen
 Voicing to the ascent his throbbing heart
 Of melody till a pause of closing wings
 Comes quivering in his last contented cry
 And he is silent with his soul discharged,
 Delivered of his heart's burden of delight.
 Experience mounted on joy's coloured breast
 To inaccessible spheres in spiral flight.
 There Time dwelt with eternity as one;
 Immense felicity joined rapt repose.
 As one drowned in a sea of splendour and bliss,
 Mute in the maze of these surprising worlds,
 Turning she saw their living knot and source,
 Key to their charm and fount of their delight,

And knew him for the same who snares our lives
 Captured in his terrifying pitiless net,
 And makes the universe his prison camp
 And makes in his immense and vacant vasts
 The labour of the stars a circuit vain
 And death the end of every human road
 And grief and pain the wages of man's toil.
 One whom her soul had faced as Death and Night
 A sum of all sweetness gathered into his limbs
 And blinded her heart to the beauty of the suns.
 Transfigured was the formidable shape.
 His darkness and his sad destroying might
 Abolishing for ever and disclosing
 The mystery of his high and violent deeds,
 A secret splendour rose revealed to sight
 Where once the vast embodied Void had stood.
 Night the dim mask had grown a wonderful face.
 The vague infinity was slain whose gloom
 Had outlined from the terrible unknown
 The obscure disastrous figure of a god,
 Fled was the error that arms the hands of grief,
 And lighted the ignorant gulf whose hollow deeps
 Had given to nothingness a dreadful voice.
 As when before the eye that wakes in sleep
 Is opened the sombre binding of a book,
 Illumined letterings are seen which kept
 A golden blaze of thought inscribed within,
 A marvellous form responded to her gaze
 Whose sweetness justified life's blindest pain;
 All Nature's struggle was its easy price,
 The universe and its agony seemed worth while.
 As if the choric calyx of a flower
 Aerial, visible on music's waves,
 A lotus of light-petalled ecstasy
 Took shape out of the tremulous heart of things.
 There was no more the torment under the stars,
 The evil sheltered behind Nature's mask;
 There was no more the dark pretence of hate,
 The cruel rictus on Love's altered face.
 Hate was the grip of a dreadful amour's strife;
 A ruthless love intent only to possess
 Has here replaced the sweet original god.
 Forgetting the Will-to-love that gave it birth,
 The passion to lock itself in and to unite,
 It would swallow all into one lonely self,
 Devouring the soul that it had made its own,
 By suffering and annihilation's pain
 Punishing the unwillingness to be one,
 Angry with the refusals of the world,
 Passionate to take but knowing not how to give.

— Sri Aurobindo, Savitri - A Legend and a Symbol. Part 3: Book 11 - The Book of Everlasting Day
 Canto One - The Eternal Day: The Soul's Choice and the Supreme Consummation, lines 107-321

HOMA page on the Auroville website: <https://www.auroville.org/contents/1085>



*Be ever one-pointed in your surrender and sincere in your aspiration
 and you will constantly feel the presence of the Divine's help and guidance.*

~ The Mother, Words of The Mother vol. 14





From the Residents Assembly Service

REMINDER - RESIDENTS ASSEMBLY DECISION- MAKING PROCESS RESTARTED - METHOD FOR SELECTING WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

This is to remind you that the Residents' Assembly Decision making process (RAD) to agree the method of selection for working group members is going on.

The selection for working group membership is due to take place before the end of the year as a number of existing members' terms are ending. With multiple proposals to be considered, this decision-making process first seeks consent from the community to deviate from the 50% in-favour threshold for agreeing the method of selection. If accepted, the proposal A (https://bit.ly/3emlzWa), B (https://bit.ly/34Ssh48) or D (https://bit.ly/2UzkbYr) that receives the most votes will be regarded as the community decision, even if that proposal gets less than 50% of votes in favor. If the community chooses to use the 50% decision-making threshold (as per the RAD policy 2007 (https://bit.ly/3jWCL74) default), it will require one of the proposals A, B or D to receive at least 50% of votes in favor to be registered as the community decision. If no proposal is successful in the first round, there will be further rounds to determine whether one of the proposals can reach 50% votes in favor. Further details are set out in the RAS emails.

Proposal C presented by ABC/ABS representatives was focused on the selection of a representative form of membership for FAMC, followed by a review of the mandate. With the expected formation of the FAMC mandate review Taskforce, which includes proposal C stakeholders, it has been decided to withhold proposal C from this RAD, pending assurances from the Auroville Council about the Taskforce. The FAMC mandate, including membership selection, is expected to be brought back to the community within 4 months, with an RAD on the proposal(s) for change.

WHAT ARE THE PROPOSALS ASKING FOR?

Proposal A (https://bit.ly/3emlzWa) replaces the method of selecting working group members currently set out in the PWG 2018 (https://bit.ly/3mQIQnc).

Proposal B (https://bit.ly/34TsUv0) replaces the full PWG 2018 (https://bit.ly/3mQIQnc) with the suggested method of selecting working group members.

Proposal D (https://bit.ly/2UzkbYr) replaces the method of selecting working group members currently set out in the PWG 2018 (https://bit.ly/3mQIQnc).

HOW TO VOTE:

ONLINE: Please use your personalised link to the voting form sent through the RAS mailing system. The online voting will run till SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5. WATCH for this email and participate in voting online. Web based Gmail interface users should check their Promotions tab in case the email is not found in your inbox. Good to also check your Spam / Junk folders for this email.

If you are an Aurovillian and didn't receive this email on Saturday please write to raservice@auroville.org.in or visit us at the RAS desk, first floor, town hall on Tuesdays from 10am to 12pm. We are happy to help you register your decision.

IN-PERSON: A printed voting slip is also available from the RAS sounding board outside Financial Service in Town Hall and here below. Please fill your ballot out and hand it over to the RAS members/resource persons (at the RAS desk) on Tuesdays between 10am to 12pm. In-person voting (meeting of the Residents' Assembly) will be organized at Solar Kitchen on Saturday, December 5, 11am - 2pm.



**RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY DECISION MAKING PROCESS
METHOD FOR SELECTING WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

DEVIATE FROM THE 50% IN-FAVOUR DECISION-MAKING THRESHOLD

<p style="text-align: center;">YES, I ACCEPT</p> <p>In this instance only, the proposal that receives the most votes will be regarded as the community's decision, even if that proposal gets LESS than 50% of votes in favour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NO, I DO NOT ACCEPT</p> <p>The proposal that receives the most votes will only be regarded as the community's decision if that proposal gets MORE than 50% of votes in favour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I DO NOT KNOW, but I trust the collective intelligence, please give my voice to support the majority</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>
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MAKE YOUR CHOICE FOR METHOD OF SELECTING WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSAL A (received through the SP taskforce)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSAL B (received through the SP taskforce)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSAL D (received through the WCom)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NONE of these proposals</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>
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NAME COMMUNITY EMAIL



REFERENCE DOCUMENTS: Proposals from the Selection Process taskforce: [Proposal A>>>](#); [Essentials](#); [Proposal B>>>](#); [Summary](#)
Proposal from Working Committee: [Proposal D>>>](#); [Summary](#); [Explanation](#)

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From AVC: Anbu (Windarra) has resigned from the Auroville Council from 20th November 2020, as he has been selected for the interim TDC. We are wishing Anbu all the best.

-*~*~*-

Call for a Design Evaluation Panel for Matrimandir

For many years, successive teams of Matrimandir executives have faced the need for a body which could evaluate proposed designs, in various fields, and give expert judgment on their suitability. There is a need to raise and widen the level of design experience. This need is felt in areas such as general safety, garden excellence, mechanical features concerning the structure of Matrimandir, pathways, lake shore, lighting, the amphitheatre and others. Questions arise frequently on new designs that call for an evaluation. It is for this purpose, we are making a call for qualified people to come forward who could form together a "Design Evaluation Panel" (DEP) to fill this gap in the overall functioning at Matrimandir. -

Call for self-nomination is open for 2 weeks only. We invite people who are from the fields of:

- Architecture
- Landscape design
- Engineering
- Building construction
- The wisdom of the Integral Yoga
- Knowledge of the Auroville Master Plan
- City planning

- For the Auroville Council, Balaji, Enrica, Ganesh K. Jayamoorthi, Mouttou, Riju, Shivaya, and Vatchala

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Re: loud and speeding bikes on Auroville roads Meeting on October 30th 2020

The Council and Working Committee had been receiving complaints from the community about speeding bikes, noisy bikes and late-night racing, so we invited a group of youth and parents for a facilitated exchange.

Key question: How can we together create a safe place for all? Members from AVC, WCom and Security voiced clearly all the concerns and an honest and creative dialogue followed.

EDUCATION: Classes/courses on traffic rules and regulations, dangers, responsibility, liabilities, can be held in the schools, best to start at 7th/8th grade. Eventually, a kind of driving school could be set up. Also, Newcomers and volunteers need to get the driving basics and how to behave on Indian roads.

Improvement of **INFRASTRUCTURE** to reduce dangerous driving (e.g. cutting curves/corners) on Auroville roads in general:

- Line in the middle of the street through the curves/corners to remind people to stay on the proper roadside.
- Road signs, for slowing down
- Speed breakers
- Convex mirror at road junctions

DRIVING, LEARNING & FUN - Driving field and Driving Track, to learn to drive well and also have fun. This would need a group of people to take it up and build and hold it in a responsible way.

We want to thank the youth and parents who showed up, and for the respectful and constructive discussion we had. This is a good beginning. If any of you have further ideas or would like to participate and help in either the driving/traffic classes or with the fun trek, please contact us. ~ Auroville Council

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Auroville Council Report July, August and Sept 2020

Internal Functioning: The council in its new formation went through an intense team building process with weekly sessions over a two months span. The process was held by Elisa and

Suryamayi. Besides team dynamics including conflict management, it also taught us how to efficiently work together.

Resignation of two Council members: Dan and Siv resigned and standby members, Jayamurthy (La Ferme) and Anbu (Windarra) replaced them at the end of September. Anbu has since resigned.

Collaboration with Koodam: Koodam offered a series of learning sessions to the Council on the Conflict Resolution Policy. This included a diving into the policy as well as discussions on how to work together.

Coordination and collaboration with Mattram: The Council is continuing to meet regularly with Mattram to address common topics on mental wellness. There is work in progress with regard to caring for seniors with mental and other challenges. Additional efforts are being made to offer creative activities and social gatherings called "Hangout" for seniors. A survey has been conducted to organize activities that would be beneficial, enriching and entertaining to the aging population in Auroville. There is also ongoing work with Mattram in regard to counseling for people in debt. An awareness program is being prepared for Aurovilians and local employees that could bring a better understanding of the risks involved in taking loans at high interests, popularly in the form of Chit Funds.

People in Debt: The Council continues extending counselling and support in modest ways to people that are struggling with debt repayment & debt management, due to their involvement in Chit Funds and fast money-making schemes.

Selection Process: The Council has been marginally involved in the final preparation of the Selection process models presented to the community after the meetings in June when the process was rekindled.

MM Selection Process: The selection process for 3 new executives has been prepared and will soon be communicated. Simultaneously Matrimandir Executives asked the Council to look into the creation of a Design Evaluation Panel. In a collaborative effort with MM executives the form for the panel has taken shape. This panel will consist of 4 Aurovilians. We hope to soon present the proposal to the Community.

Auronet guidelines: After publishing the guidelines and harvesting a lot of feedback, the Council together with the working committee has studied and integrated the feedback. The document will be going for a RAD process.

Appeals: The Council received the outcome of few appeals which could be found on the following link - <https://auroville.org.in/article/81570>

Arbitrations: Sanjana: in process, presently all needed financial data are being collected.

Youth Center: In a meeting in February 2020 with the Youth Centre it was decided to look for some Aurovilians that would form a YC support group in order to help and support the YC in challenging situations and would act as liaison and possibly also in decision making processes. This group is now created. A mission statement and a set of guidelines for the Youth Center are being drafted.

Music and Noise: The Youth Center residents have been requested to respect the needs of Aurovilians living in the neighborhood and not play loud music after 10PM. They have agreed to initiate friendly conversations with neighbors and notify them when they intend to have a party.

African Pavilion: The new management used the quiet summer time to further clean up the premises and to do some gardening. Some unresolved issues in regard to projects started by the previous management team have come up and are being addressed. For this a new Africa Pavilion support team has been formed.

Dog Breeding / Dogs to be vaccinated / Pitbull: Again, in the last months there have been incidents with dogs attacking Aurovilians and outsiders at various places in Auroville. We urge all people who hold dogs, be it a watchdog, domesticated stray or a pet, to **vaccinate their animals** and to maintain a vaccination booklet that can be demonstrated in the unfortunate event of an incident/bite. We request all veterinary doctors, both Aurovilians and vicinity to follow this as it is stipulated in their professional protocol. Dog holders are fully responsible and

liable for the behavior of their dogs. They have to sustain or refund the cost of post exposure rabies vaccination and any damage caused. **Please also neuter your dogs**, males and females, so that we may have a chance in coping with the ever-multiplying dog population in Auroville. Be aware that dangerous breeds like Pit Bulls and Rottweilers should not be bred, sold and distributed in Auroville. These dogs, if not well trained and carefully attended to, tend to become a menace for humans and other animals.

Discipline Community: The FAMC met with challenges in creating a Selection Panel for the selection of a new steward for Discipline Farm due to interference from various sides. During summer the Council has been called numerous times to resolve smaller or bigger conflicts. Only when there is clarity on the new farm management can meaningful efforts on building peace between Discipline residents and farm be initiated.

New Creation: The Council had to deal with an issue related to an asset that is part of the Child Development Program and had been given/ used as accommodation. The issue is slowly being resolved. Housing has offered to the party staying in that particular part of the building another accommodation elsewhere in AV. Presently they are still staying in the NC CDP living quarter.

Hearing Aurovilians: The Council receives grievances of all kinds. After offering a hearing to the concerned individual or party an effort is made to indicate who (which Auroville Working Group or Activity) to address, or what actions could help and resolve the issue.

Housing Board Report for Sept/Oct 2020



8 HB Members are present during this period:

Rama Narayana (Entry Board), Prabhu (Community at large), Vivek (Green Group), Xavier (Community at large), Sreevatsa (L'avenir d'Auroville on TDC related topics only) Riju (AVC), Venkatesh (Housing Service), Savithri (Housing Service). 5 members constitute a quorum.

Meetings: Wednesdays at the WC Meeting Room/SAIIR Conference Hall. Extra meetings held Saturday 5th Sept & Saturday 31st October via Google Meet.

Visits with the Housing Board:

- Sacred Groves 23/09/20
- Alexey Housing Service repairs every week 12pm
- FAMC 21/10/20
- Subbu Accountant 28/10/20

AV Council related matters:

Ana, New Creation - It was requested by AVC for HB/HS to find appropriate housing for Ana and her son due to an ongoing dispute with New Creation guest house. HB identified Pony Farm and Mukti as having suitable houses for Ana. Other issues not relating to housing rest with AVC.

L'avenir d'Auroville related matters:

Residential Zone 1&2 Draft - TDC gave a presentation to HS & HB on the Residential Zone 1&2 Draft, they requested & received feedback from both.

Topographic Survey of Promesse & Fraternity Communities - HB agreed to provide funds for TDC to carry out a survey of the Promesse & Fraternity communities in order to establish how many plots are available for future housing. The costs would be between Rs. 10000 - 20000 and could be recouped from future house transfers.

FAMC related matters:

Quorum on HB. FAMC has directed that, if there is not a quorum of HB members at any meeting, then the meeting notes are to be agreed after the meeting by those members who are not present.

Operations Manual. FAMC would like HB to put together an operation's manual to assist the functioning of Housing. A subgroup is to be formed between HS & HB to look after this matter.

Housing Board/Housing Service matters:

Separate Electricity Meters for Newcomer Housing - Separate electricity meters need to be installed in several communities where there are newcomer houses, as HS is often paying the full

bill for the community at present. These communities are Celebration, Aspiration and Courage, work has proceeded in Courage using AVES.

Simplicity - Mary has written requesting to be allocated bridge housing due to a number of reasons that makes the living situation in Simplicity unsuitable. Varuna eventually has plans to consolidate their privately-owned land with the Auroville land for a **desalination plan** there. HB made a visit on 25/09/20 to view the situation for themselves and agreed to provide the bridging house, after seeking assurances from Varuna that their long-term plans have not changed.

Celebration Tree Cutting Concerns were raised by neighbours of Celebration that extensive tree cutting was taking place beyond what was necessary. Work was halted whilst a visit from the HB was made to inspect the work that had already been carried out, and the work was finalised soon after that.

Kriya Electricity Bill Separate meters have been installed and were functioning from August. A request from the Kriya community to pay above the amount agreed by HB (5000 rs, or 30%, whichever is lower) for the last bill was turned down.

Account resolution to be signed by HB. The final accounts for Housing for the period 2019/2020 were studied by the Board and signed off by Prabhu on behalf of the Board as a whole.

Suguna Velu - Blocked Access. An urgent message was received from Suguna & Velu, living by the village in Edayanchavadi because a private landowner had blocked their access to their house and water. They managed to secure temporary access through a neighbours house but still have no access to water. Due to the urgency of the situation, temporary housing was arranged in the Celebration community.

Sundaramoorthy's house - family pooja. Sundaramoorthy's family requested & was granted to be able to collect some personal items from his house so that they could carry out a pooja on the anniversary of the families' death. WCom have agreed that the family can remove all the moveable items from the house in coordination with HS.

NC Stewardship agreements: HS asked HB to clarify if a Newcomer should have stewardship papers for their housing solution, as it was coming up on a few occasions that Newcomers were living in houses that were not mapped anywhere by TDC or Housing. It was agreed that they should, as papers can be drawn up in a short period of time. The cost of drawing up the papers would be borne by Housing.

Stewardship selection process: Sangeetha requested clarification about how a steward was selected for the ex-Peter's house in Prathana. The house had originally been presented to the community as suitable for a family but had finally been given to a couple. HB acknowledged that the house was presented incorrectly and this had led to the confusion. Discussions with community members had later revealed that the house had been extended without consideration to the amenities, and the water tank, which was shared, would not support a family. So although the sqm of the property was appropriate the facilities were not. The proximity of neighbors also had to be considered.

Housesitting request: Subramanian is an Associate of Auroville who is working as an accountant for several Aurovilian groups. His son attends an Auroville school. He requested to know if he was able to housesit an Auroville asset. It was felt that as he pays a contribution to Auroville he would be able to so long as his Auroville status remains current.

Staff Quarters at Dehashakti: HS asked for clarification as to whether SQ could be created at Dehashakti Sports Ground, as a few people have come to get a signature on their AVL form saying that they live at SQ there.

Need for additional members of HS, inc. a HS co-ordinator & financial contact. Due to Svenja leaving HS & HB there is a need for a HS co-ordinator & a financial contact to assist the smooth running of the HS office. It was agreed that this is necessary and HS should look at the available options.

Caretaker for Celebration Volunteer GH: Saggi left his position as caretaker at Celebration GH. A new caretaker will be recruited from the wider community, and criteria will be drawn up by HS.

Entry Topics:

Anbu/Promesse request- Anbu requested that he be allowed to continue to live in his newcomer housing in Promesse while being confirmed as an Aurovillian, as he is hoping to build a house there. The request was denied by the HB because it is against the policy agreed by the community, and it would set a future precedent. It was noted that Anbu has not yet received a NOC for the building of his house.

Pranshula request- The Entry Group & friends of Pranshula made a request to the Housing Board to decide on whether she could finish her Newcomer process and become Aurovillian whilst living outside Auroville in a local village. She has been unable to secure a suitable house inside Auroville due to her very particular set of family circumstances. The Board did not agree to make an exception because living inside Auroville is a key tenet of becoming an Aurovillian, and precedent should not be set that otherwise is possible.

House Checking Group - The Entry Service proposed that there should be a joint HS & ES house checking group, which would visit the home of all newcomers to ensure that they are living as they say they are. This was agreed so a sub group has been formed to go ahead with this new process.

Newcomer Applicants -The Housing Board sought clarity from the Entry Board about whether new applicants were being accepted for the Newcomer process, as this has a bearing on planning the newcomer housing supply. The Entry Board clarified the process was still closed but that they had 71 applicants waiting at present.

Tamara request - Tamara wrote to explain that she and her family were at the end of their newcomer process but have not been able to secure a house sitting despite searching for several months. She said that a number of Aurovillian houses were offered to her for high prices, outside of the correct house sitting process. The Housing Board declined the request, as this was against the policy of EB & HB and it would be setting a precedent, which has to be avoided if possible. It was noted that although there are a number of Newcomer houses empty at present, this situation is anticipated to change within the near future when the entry process opens up again.

House transfers, Stewardships and Evaluations - Assets left behind by an Aurovillian passing. The HB proposes that properties under the stewardship of Aurovillians who have passed away should be managed differently. Smaller houses that would be manageable for those with limited funds could be given as houses against recognised work (previously called pro bono housing), while larger houses could be transferred, with the funds received placed in a fund to assist those with housing needs in the future.

Re: House Sitting - A message was placed on Auronet & in N&N, reminding community members that if they leave AV for more than 3 months then they must arrange a house sitting. HS receive many reports, particularly from NC who are trying to arrange housesitting, that houses are left empty when their stewards leave for long periods. Doing this adds greatly to the housing crisis that Auroville is experiencing.

Repair and Maintenance - Message from BCC regarding funding during COVID. BCC wrote to HS & HB to inform them that there would be no budget for repairs & maintenance given for the 2020/2021 period. Instead they directed that HS utilise their 38 lakh Fraternity fund for emergency repairs only. BCC also directed that there is no budget for grants during this period either, but loans can be given in accordance with the normal processes of Housing.

Chitra Babu Door repair - two quotes have been given, one for 6235rs from Rahul or 6435rs from Velu. HB agreed that they are happy with either quote and the work can go ahead.

Terra Amata roof - Roof adjustment/extension. Anbalagham Murugan's bid was Rs. 39,950. HB requested and received assurances that this would be the last time housing has to pay money for this roof, as around 1 lakh has already been spent and the construction is relatively new. These assurances were given that this should be the last time this roof should need repair.

Sven, Djama Roof Repair. Sven had an urgent roof repair, the cost was quoted at Rs. 20,000 and Sven was able to pay for half. The request for 10,000 rs was approved based on the urgent need.

Repairs in Mukti - the lock is being repaired and there is an estimate for the fence being drawn up.

Subramaniam, Prayathna - Subramanian needed to change his toilet from Indian style to Western because he could not manage with it anymore. There is also a new soak pit cover required, for the pit that is shared between his & the NC house. Approved based on the shared nature of the infrastructure and urgency of the new toilet needed.

Nilen, Adventure - Not an emergency and can be patched up until after the monsoon/March time when we will have a better idea of the budget.

Loans and Grants - All Grants are on hold as per BCC's instruction.

Matilde Loan - Matilde requested, and was granted, a 27,000 rs loan for her soak repair.

Housing Development/Youth Housing:

Fraternity Roundhouse Renovation -HB decided to stay with the original agreement with the community and HS of last year, to make it a NC house for a single person. HS to proceed with obtaining quotes for the work.

-Warmly, Amy HB Secretary, on behalf of **The Housing Board** Prabhu (Community), Rama Narayana (Entry Board), Riju (AVC), Savithri (Housing), Sreevatsa (L'avenir), Venkatesh (Housing), Vivek (Green Group), Xavier (Community).
housingboard@auroville.org.in



Lands for Auroville Unified Newsletter for November 24th

We have just published our November Darshan newsletter and we invite you to read the rich variety of its many interesting articles:

1. **Our A4A flier** -November 24th 1926 became the paving stone for Auroville's creation 42 years later. The Mother described Auroville as "an attempt to achieve on earth a slightly more ideal life". And she said "Now is the time, it has to be done"
<https://land.auroville.org/a4a-flier/>

2. **LFAU letter** -Auroville has always put an emphasis on a health-inducing environment with a variety of healing treatments offered, in line with The Mother's advice that a way to progress, is to "constantly enrich ... and ceaselessly perfect" the functioning of our physical instrument."
<https://land.auroville.org/lfauletter/>

3. **New land purchases** - all thanks to your solidarity! Since August 15th, 6 new Greenbelt plots have joined Auroville's consolidated base - and all of have been purchased thanks to your solidarity to A4A and LFAU ! See some of the new land and the land Board hard at work here. <https://land.auroville.org/new-land-purchases/>

4. **New book and new solidarity** - "Auroville 80" by Nadia Loury The beautiful new book "Auroville 80" is the fruit of Nadia's experience as a photographer living in Auroville in the '80s. Read the history behind this photo testimonial - don't miss the special Christmas offer! Profits go to A4A for land purchase. <https://land.auroville.org/new-book-auroville-80-nadia/>

5. **Karan Singh - Doing Something Substantial for the Divine** Karan Singh has been doing his best to direct the course of Auroville, "the arrow shot into the future" - the words he used to describe Auroville to the Indian Parliament. Here is a personal view of Dr. Singh and his work by LFAU's Aryadeep. <https://land.auroville.org/dr-karan-singh-three-decades/>

6. **Zech - Auroville's First Newcomer from Hong Kong** We are pleased to present this sharing from Zech, a newcomer from Hong Kong and the Phillipines, who adds his many professional skills and commitment Auroville's international mix. Zech also contributes his inspired poetic writings about the yogic path. <https://land.auroville.org/zech-inspiring-newcomer/>

7. **Art for Land 2021 - COMING SOON!** Art for Land is now starting its 6th year of sharing AV's artistic talent and bringing solidarity for AV land. With AV Art Service's and A4A's support, the enlarged Art for Land team is full of fresh ideas, and the new AFL Boutique at Unity Pavilion is almost ready. <https://land.auroville.org/art-for-land/>

8. The Force behind the Indian Renaissance and Crucial Significance of Auroville's Emergence is a new research paper by A4A co-organizer Aryadeep, published in « The Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo » by Bloomsbury in August. It treats the soul of India and the rôle of Auroville in the renaissance of both India and the world. Contact to order the book or a soft copy of the paper lfau@auroville.org.in

9. Inspiring quotes from Sri Aurobindo & The Mother

Here is a selection of words of inspiration for these challenging times - walking the path, what we should tell children, the body's inner resources, and finding inspiration within ourselves. As always, Sri Aurobindo and The Mother's words are deeply nourishing. <https://land.auroville.org/inspiring-quotes/>

See all our news at <https://land.auroville.org/news/> and <https://land.auroville.org/donate/> for how to make a land donation with possible tax deductions from within Auroville, India and abroad, or via your national AVI center.



photo by Nadia Loury, 1983

From the Forest Group re: the disputed HT Line

In an effort towards transparency, clarity, and inclusion, the Forest Group and the Youth Center would like to inform the community on the topic of the HT line through Bliss Forest and the Youth Center.

There have been long pending issues around the proposed roads in the Master Plan (Perspectives 2025) hitting the realities on the ground. Recently, this has come to head in one specific case: the planned laying of the HT line in the area of Bliss Forest / YC. For detailed accounts, please see the documents posted on Tuesday, November 24th 2020 on Auronet <https://auroville.org.in/article/82384> that shed light on the ongoing discussion between the various stakeholders (Forest Group, Youth Center, AV Foundation, Gol Grant Group, WCom, FAMC, TDC, Unity Fund, AVES, Green Group). The documents uploaded to the AVNet are:

- A timeline of the events and communication regarding the HT line since March 2020
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) commissioned by the TDC in order to justify any deviation of the proposed route to the GOI (submitted in July 2020) [02]
- Notes from Forest Group meeting, presentation by TDC, at Aurodam in March 2020 [01]
- Notes from meeting between FAMC, GOI grant group, TDC, Forest Group, Youth Centre, AVES, WC, at Youth Center, November 2nd, 2020 [03]
- A TDC map showing the proposed road layout in the city area, and a map showing the costs of the two options (along the road vs. through YC and the forest) [10] & [06]
- The letter from the Foundation office advising the TDC to mark and clear all Right of Ways (RoWs) on Auroville-owned land by January 2021, and Forest Group's response. [05] & [08]
- A letter of the TDC to the Working Committee (and copied to the Foundation office) insisting on the TDC's planning authority and the right to issue work orders to clear the RoWs. This letter also included a list of a few Aurovilians who are "opposed" to the laying of the cable as per "Master

- Plan", a move we find incompatible with Auroville ideals, as it was clearly meant to intimidate the mentioned persons. Also, it did not reflect the numbers of Aurovilians who signed the petition and those who are members of the Forest Group. [09]

What next? - The Forest Group, Bliss Forest stewards and Youth Centre have written to the TDC to understand how we could move out of this deadlock situation. As the provided information and materials might bring up various questions and concerns, here are two links to google forms to address these. Add your own inputs here: <https://forms.gle/HYywwzPswqS5zjGHB7>
See the input of others here: <https://bit.ly/397ovXn>
Please feel free to write to forestgroup@auroville.org.in as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auroville Institute of Applied Technology is looking for work orders from Auroville units or construction projects for any kind of welding, lathe or milling machines at our mechanical workshop for welding & fitter trades. The AIAT campus at Aurobrindavan / Palmyra is well equipped with all types of welding machines such as Gas, TIG, MIG and Arc welding. We have 6 lathes and one milling machine, as well as drilling machines and one sheet bending machine. Our trainers have many years of welding experience at construction sites in the Middle East. Our Fitter trainers have many years of work experience. Contact: Mr. Arumugam Vice Principal, Auroville Institute of Applied Technology, yppalmya.aiat@auroville.org.in or Mr. Anbazhagan /Anbu04132671758.

Sales at Arthena

Bags and small accessories will be on 50% sales from 01.12.20. You are all welcome to pass by our work shop in Rêve, 8.30am to 12pm & 12.30 to 4.30pm

APPEALS

Our MA Birthday Fundraiser for Auroville's missing land - hosted by AVI-USA on Facebook

Anandi-a & Mandakini LB invite you to help us celebrate our birthdays by donating to the **MA Fundraiser between November 17th and December 24th**. Supporting the purchase of Auroville's designated but still-missing land is the gift that will make us the happiest! Your donation will be sent to the **Acres for Auroville** land campaign, the unity action of "Lands for Auroville Unified" with "Auroville International" - to be used by Auroville's Land Board for Master Plan land purchase. To date, **A4A donations have funded the purchase of 63 new acres of City of Dawn land and together we can make that number bigger**. Each friend who contributes to our fundraiser will receive a warm thank-you from A4A. Here's the Fundraiser link: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/297315144771290/>. If you can't use your credit card via Facebook, you can always donate directly to A4A via the Auroville Donation Gateway <https://donations.auroville.com/> or by check or bank transfer <https://land.auroville.org/a4adonations/> and **Aurovilians can donate directly to Unity Fund's Main account 240001 from their FS account. Please specify "Acres for Auroville - MA Fundraiser"**. We thank all the friends who support and share our enthusiasm for securing the missing plots and consolidating the designated physical base for the City of Dawn!
- Love, The "MA" girls, Anandi-a & Mandakini

Volunteers needed in Kulilai Creative centre

Kuilai Creative Centre- a Sub-Unit of SAILER, which is located next to Av Bakery, is looking for volunteers who could help at our Library in covering the books. Contact: 9843195290 or kulilaicreativecentre@auroville.org.in

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 60- 28-11-2020

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.

NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:

- Archana SEKHAR (Indian,) staying in Auromodele and working at Isaiambalam School & Stemland
- Chloe TADIOTTO (French), staying in Arati and working at Unity Pavilion
- Punniyakodi MANJINI (Indian), staying in Youth Camp (Fraternity) and working at Youth Camp



Archana



Chloe



Punniyakodi

YOUTH TURNED 18 CONFIRMED:

- Arunachalam BALAMURUGAN (Indian)
- Jagan MUTHURAMAN (Indian)
- Mira Charlotte ROYER (French)
- Sarah ZIMMERMANN (German)
- Shankar SHARMA (Indian)
- Sona Priyanka AUOPREM (Indian)
- Saoumya PICHAIKARAN (Indian)
- Yogesh VENGADESAN aka SHANKAR (Indian)

SPOUSE / PARTNER / CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER OF AN AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:

- Muthu SUBBURAYAN (Indian) Spouse of Kowsalya Iyyappan, staying in Courage

SPOUSE/PARTNER/CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER OF AN AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

- Aparna MANOHARAN (Indian)



Muthu

NOTE:

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Market Survey for Auroville products

The results of the survey are now available, and can be accessed here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vHziwl8ziF2yAF3X3LG6OxvifihFekFZ/edit>

“HANGOUT” at Center Guesthouse



Our “Hangout” is going strong and becoming ever more popular. Thank you all for helping to make this happen and please be sure to tell your friends and colleagues about it! The more people we have there the better it will be.

We now have a regular “gathering” every 2 weeks and the next one is on Saturday 28th. As usual you and your friends and family can come by any time you like between 2:30 and 5:00 and stay as long as you want, it's

totally informal. Whether you want to play games or just chat with friends or perhaps meet new people of all ages, do come on by and join in... for some fun!

As always, we will have some cookies and juices and coffee and tea, and if you feel like preparing and bringing something special for all to enjoy then please feel free to do so! We will have all the usual board games again, as well as some of Veronique's very own creations, along with Mahjong instruction from Fabienne and our Qigong instructor Eli for those that are interested. Please just let us know in advance if you'll be joining us. Looking forward to seeing you soon, Don (for Third Age group) 9159900709; strebtor0808@gmail.com

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

HR Initiative is a service which helps individual Aurovilians and Newcomers who are looking for suitable work to find it, and to help Auroville units and services who are looking to fill positions to find the right individuals to step in.

Coordinator - You are an efficient organizer with good coordination skills, basic knowledge in IT and communication. You are able to work in a team, proactive, committed and enthusiastic. You can draft letters in English, have basic accounting skills, you are able to plan events, oversee the updates of our website and support a fundraising team. Part-time or full-time, there is no maintenance.

Workshop assistance - You will assist in a workshop. You have fluency in both written and spoken English & computer literacy. You have skills in website management social media work. From December, minimum part-time, flexible timings. No maintenance, AV contribution paid if you commit to more than part-time.

And other positions (please inquire about details):

- Customer Care and Website Maintenance
- Production Management (part-time)
- Web Assistance
- Graphic Designer and Video Editor
- Social Media & Communications Manager (Ecofemme)
- Coordinator
- Volunteers for Auro Orchard
- Management & Accounting Position

Contact us for more information, if you are interested in any of these work opportunities or if you are looking for something else: hr_hub@auroville.org.in

MATRIMANDIR



COHERENCE - Full Moon world classical music Monday 30th Nov, 6-7pm at the Amphitheatre

- Joep Franssens - Harmony Of the Spheres - Movement II
- Barber - Agnus Dei (Sung by VOCES8 acapella group)
- Eric Whitacre - Sleep (Curated music playback by Varun of Svaram with Chandra)

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!

The Park of Unity is a place for silence, meditation and inner work. 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 Inner Chamber is open from **6:00 - 8:00 AM without prior booking** (Aurovilians and NC only) &



4:30 - 6:30 PM with prior booking (Aurovilians, NCs & LT volunteers holding a valid Matrimandir pass). 15 people per sitting. Mat will be folded after one use. If you would like to come to the Inner Chamber for concentration the evening, please inform the Matrimandir Access team at

mmconcentration@auroville.org.in. 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). ~ Matrimandir Executives and Access team

LOOKING FOR

Someone to carry a parcel from Europe or USA - we are missing some essential photographic material to run an Analogue Photography Workshop in Centre d'Art in the upcoming months. Would you be able to carry 2-3kg parcel from Europe or USA to India (Auroville). We can order the material online and ship it to your address. It would take 7-10 days to arrive at your place. Contact us at centredart@auroville.org.in

English teacher - Narayan is looking to learn English through conversation while working w/ you. He is willing to help w/ gardening, housework, or any other work in exchange. If interested, call 9786861658

Laptop - 2nd Hand, No mac. Contact: vonlieres@gmx.de

Computer mouse - Any type, any brand- huyslaure@gmail.com

Furnitures - Moving into a new house and looking for bed, mattress, table, chairs etc. If you have extra furniture lying around and would like to rent or give away or for contribution. Contact Ankita: 8690586909 (WA)

Household items - fans, dishes, blankets, tables, chairs, saris, paint and brushes, etc, we are transitioning to another home soon. Grateful. Contact: 8870895691

Household items - 2 to 4 top Gas burner, Dining table with 4 chairs, Double Bed and single bed, Iron, Fridge, Utensils holder, Cloth drying rack, Study table and chair, Side table. Contact Pawan @ 91197 62631

Small office space - only for few hours a day (and at times at night) near Maitreye. Contact Pawan @ 9119762631

AVAILABLE

Carpentry & Repair Work - I have 20 years of carpentry experience in Auroville. If you want custom furniture, mend broken furniture or any sort of carpentry work, I can make it at affordable price. Contact: Iyanar 8778180971

TAKAMINE electro-acoustic nylon string guitar for left handed players. Contact Tejas : 9787732313

Gardener - Elumalai is looking for part-time work. He is very passionate and reliable. You can call him directly at 9585180393. (Submitted by Lakshmi)

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drop per second can waste up to 10,000 litres of water each year. Be sure that there are no leaky taps in your house or your community. With Love from the Water Group - helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. watergroup@auroville.org.in / www.aurovillewater.in



Voices Notes



We hope you're all safe and well after cyclone Nivar! **Here** you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7). **Here** you can see on-air schedules.

Last published podcasts:

[Soul Tracks ep. 18 "Monsoon Music"](#) (Music)
[Nutritional Cultural Redemption - "Reading Masanobu Fukuoka"](#) (Organic farming)
[Aarohan - ep.8 "Maharishi of Maihar"](#) (Music)
[Savitri, B. VII, C. V, Part 5](#) (Integral yoga)
[Happiness, Love and Laughter - Lilaloka - the Joy of Learning](#) (Laughter yoga)
[The Academic Genius Brothers - The Making Off... ep.8](#) (Theatre)
[Audible Weed Walk - "The language of climate and soil"](#) (Edible weeds)
[Neo Urban Chronik - "A tragicomic greetings"](#) (Humour)
[The Best of What Still Around - ep.19](#) (Music)
[Une série hebdomadaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi - 339](#) (Sri Aurobindo)

...and more! on www.aurovillerradio.org. For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in. Love and Peace

How The Mother's Inner Quest brought Her to Sri Aurobindo (By Lopa)

Lopa, the former student of the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, has collected stories recounted by the Mother about herself. In this talk, Lopa speaks about the Mother's spiritual experiences from childhood on, her studying occultism in Tlemcen, Algeria and her meeting with Sri Aurobindo on 29th March 1914 in Pondicherry.

As a child the Mother meditated in her chair. She sleepwalked, wrote poems and received spiritual teaching in her dreams. At the age of thirteen in Paris, the Mother went out of her body in the evenings and she was wearing a long golden robe where the suffering people took refuge. And when she was twenty, she created a passage through the vital world, so that when people die, they can go through a protected passage to the Light.

In 1906 and 1907, she traveled to Tlemcen, Algeria and stayed with Max and Alma Theon learning advanced occultism from them. Alma Theon was a powerful medium and with her occult vision she could see the Mother wearing a crown with twelve pearls above her head and said: 'You are That' - Tat.

Around the time when the Mother stayed in Tlemcen, Sri Aurobindo had his own occult experiences. In Baroda, he was practicing pranayama five hours a day and realized that it protected him from mosquitoes. And he became aware that there was an electric current around him, that his body was glowing, and that poetry was flowing easily to him. Then, under the guidance of Yogi Vishnu Bhaskar Lele, he experienced the total silencing of his mind and found that in the silent mind state he was able to continue with his political work for India's Independence. From within the inner voice, the Master of his Yoga, gave him his full program of sadhana, and was guiding him. The first contact between the Mother and Sri Aurobindo came about through the question regarding the spiritual meaning of the hexagram, the ancient symbol in many religions and of Shakti and Shiva. Then in 1914, the Mother was able to come to Pondicherry and meet Sri Aurobindo. When she saw him for the first time, she realized it was the same Krishna she had seen again and again in her dreams. They recognized each other and shared their spiritual and occult experiences. And particularly the knowledge about the Divine spark, the psychic being, which the Mother had received from the Theons, enriched the evolutionary and integral yoga of Mother and Sri Aurobindo. The film is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LEU53j4Ec>

Celebration of Light

Close bells
Faraway roaring
The Light is here
To stay.

- Anandi-a

To Look on Nature

"I have learned to look on Nature"

(William Wordsworth, 1770 - 1850)

Nature was the first school of mankind. But it changes of course. If we saw Auroville's landscape about 200 years ago, in the Wordsworth's time, we can see the forest, full of life. But in 1968 this place was semidesert with the deep erosion. His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Auroville in 1973 and 1993. He said in 1993: "Twenty years ago it was difficult to find a shade here, but now Auroville hasn't this problem."

In the 19th and 20th century the anthropogenic deforestation was in almost all the planet. Auroville's ecosystem is a miracle, we have now a resurrection of Nature. The heroic pioneers of our city with their titanic efforts returned the land to forest, life, school of Nature. It is a remarkable lesson among the ecological crisis on Earth.

There is an invisible nature. For the biologist, ontogenesis repeats philogenesis. It means, individual development suits the evolutionary one. The human foetus is once very similar like fish. In the full history of mankind there was a time where our ancestors lived in the ocean. In that old time the ocean didn't know overfishing and pollution. Now there is a slogan: SOS - save our seas.

The ocean isn't indifferent to its fate (hikmet in Arabian). It is sometimes in the counterattacks - for example to use the tsunamis. In 2004 the tsunami killed many people - thanks the Lord there weren't Aurovilians among them. But in Auroville the ocean destroyed Repos and Waves (previously its name was Wild Waves). Now Aurovilians have a contact with the ocean in Sri Ma mainly. The situation in Quiet isn't really quiet.

If the human population on the earth is growing in the geometrical progression, Nature creates its own limit - the pandemy of virus. Est modus in rebus - there is a measure in the things. This expression belongs to Horacius, Rome's poet. It is true in any time. People became the slaves of industry, machines. But Nature repeats again and again: "I am living and not so weak." It can give more lessons to mankind.

Auroville shows the positive way for humanity: it needs collaboration with nature, not confrontation. Nature awaits from us amicus curiae - friendly care.

- Boris

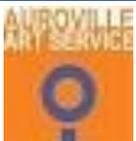
Thank You

Two years ago, there was a Fs account 256190 created for my home/studio to paint. I have received only one donation. I really wanted to thank very, very, very much the donator for his generosity. Please note that I do not write amount of money as it is not about money but about realization of human unity as it is the purpose of Auroville.

Now I am in process of becoming "steward of a Vikas apartment" and have enough money to donate to Auroville for it. But any amount money or physical help for basic repair as a lock of door, tap water, etc will be very appreciated.

- Ivana

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



AUROVILLE ART SERVICE - 'basket' for the week

1. BHARAT NIVAS IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE DANCE ROUTES CENTRE PRESENTS "Odissi - A Dance of Sculpture", a film projection followed by a talk and discussion by Rekha and Michael, on Saturday the 28th of November, at 4pm, at Bhumika Hall.

2. AUROVILLE TIMELINES & AUROVILLE FILM INSTITUTE OFFER an online course on art history with Dr. Deborah L Stein (of California College of Arts & San Francisco State). There is a special offer for Aurovilians, who can participate with a voluntary contribution. For more details: <https://filminstitute.auroville.org/2020/09/08/art-history-lecture-series/>.

To register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOTvK_EqGunU8k55Lfc5-0JbeqyCa-8VzAtjw7FfdJWifVVG/viewform?gxids=7628

3. MUSEUM OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY - ONLINE. Download and enjoy activities on the theme 'Worlds of Wonder', exploring the art of American-born, Udaipur-based artist Waswo X. Waswo, known for his contemporary miniatures and hand-tinted studio

photographs. <https://map-india.org/discover-map/worlds-of-wonder/>

4. MUSEUM OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY DIGITAL MUSEUM PRESENTS Art (is) Life, a week-long festival (Dec 5-11) with thoughtfully curated events, including drumming, yakshagana, contemporary dance, jazz fusion music, and theatre. To register: http://www.artislife.events/?mc_cid=3bc56c5f4f&mc_eid=3aa3d68510

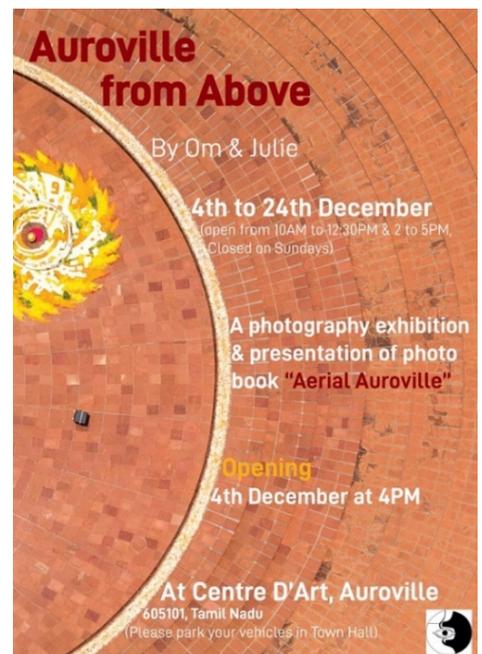
5. GOOGLE ARTS AND CULTURE - COMPARE CULTURAL MOMENTS Features content from over 2000 leading museums and archives who have partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to bring the world's treasures online. Play 'What Came First' and test your knowledge of cultural moments in time <https://artsandculture.google.com/experiment/what-came-first/ZQGBUPErEE3bVg>

6. HEDGEBROOK OFFERS ONLINE WRITING COURSE. Hedgebrook is a women-only writer's retreat and community. They offer a wonderful pay-what-you-can series of online writing classes. <https://www.hedgebrook.org/online-classes>

7. OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN BE MUSIC BEES 2020. A western music competition for south Asian musicians on the occasion of 250 years of Beethoven. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-dimIUUQwPQE_q8xrU173jzYb9CU7r4wgAxmkmL_FhHLRrWg/viewform

8. PARTICIPATE IN RACINE DU CIEL PERFORMANCES. Participate online in an art 'performance'. Read more <https://www.racinesduciel.com/en/take-part>

When in 2017, Om and Julie decided to buy a drone, they didn't imagine how much it was going to change their lives. "Earth from above" by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, with its pictures taken from a helicopter, comes out in 1999, bringing about in photographers the desire to defy gravity. Drones, without matching the capacities of a plane or helicopter, free the photographers by offering them radically novel points of view.



Dronemania has since then invaded the whole world.

And Auroville is no exception. But drone owners who want to get authorisation for filming or taking pictures in Auroville, usually limit themselves to the Matrimandir, in order to make spectacular postcards. What Om and Julie are looking for is much more ambitious. Their aim is to show Auroville like no one has done before.

After the first pictures and the progressive mastering of the camera, they realise their tool's enormous potential and decide to document Auroville in its integrality. Their approach, however, is not in any way documentary but artistic and creative: it is to reveal the landscape's unique beauty, always offered to us in a horizontal way, in a partial manner, because of the forest's omnipresence. The zenithal view reveals, in the midst of the greenery, precious gems like crimped diamonds: the geometry of constructions, clearings, watercourses, a landscape as surprising as a newly discovered planet.

Om and Julie, sky explorers, take hundreds of pictures, undergoing a metamorphosis, becoming full time professional photographers. In 2018, the idea imposes itself: it must be made into a book. The project starts in 2019 with the support of

SAILER. "We tried organising our work - Om tells us - starting from the Matrimandir, progressively enlarging the operative field, dividing the territory into zones, forests, schools, communities, etc..., then enlarging again, Kuyilapalayam, the farms, the green belt... In fact, following a method is almost impossible because we can't predict anything, everything changes depending on the time, the light, the weather. What we were trying to show was sometimes difficult to achieve, and not always up to our expectations.

On the other hand, there were surprises, places so beautiful, seen from above, that we could only go back to, during seasonal changes for example. A little bit of rain can completely remodel a landscape." The experience acquired over time allows them to interpret certain signs, anticipate perceptions, as if sight was no longer only the prerogative of the eye but of all senses, as if they had the power, in the same way their flying device does, to propel themselves in the air and embrace the horizon from 360 degrees. They learn to conjugate skies and lands, to become fluid and shifting.

After some time, the material is so abundant that it becomes obvious: the book is not enough. That is when they decide to hold an exhibition. "The book and exhibition are indissociable, one is only the extension of the other - says Julie - in fact, the book will be presented on the opening day."

The exhibition is a day, from dawn to dusk, a fragment of astronomical revolution, an inner journey much like the one these two artists when through. Auroville - as promised - like you have never seen it. The infrastructure, roads, sports grounds, edifices and electric lines emerge from the forest like Aztec remains, the architecture, dusty or saturated with the life of an omnivorous nature, the perfection of dawn of time waters and skies, minuscule humans and their shadows cast through the evening's gold.

The pictures are accompanied by quotes from the Mother and Sri Aurobindo, that tell us about what originated Auroville's creation, like a comment that isn't one, but rather a question as if the images themselves were asking: are we living up to the dream? Without answers, without judgment. Just a vision.

Note: Only Auroville residents and registered guests and volunteers will be allowed. Please park at the townhall parking! Thank you for your support. - Centre d'Art Team



The Planet of Green Buddhas
by Tomas Sanchez
8am to 5pm
at Aurelec cafeteria

Tomás Sánchez (born May 22, 1948 in Cuba) is a painter and engraver, known for his landscapes. He is one of the most important and celebrated living Cuban Master. His work is meticulous in its breath-taking detail. Usually critics and curators have linked his work to the experience of meditation.



नमस्ते Bhagavad Gita Chanting

This year Bhagavad Gita Jayanthi, the anniversary of the colloqui of Arjuna and Krishna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, will be on **December 25th**. We intend to collectively chant all the 700 shlokas (in Sanskrit) of the Bhagavad Gita on that day. It will take approximately 3 hours and we will announce the time, venue etc. next month.

To know more about the practice schedule and to join us, write to devabhasha@auroville.org.in. You are welcome to join us in chanting the Bhagavad Gita (partly or fully, as per your preference) or just to share your presence in silence.

- Warmly, Samskritam Auroville Team

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

FAMILY and SYSTEMIC CONSTELLATIONS w/ Moghan
SATURDAY, 5th of December, 9 AM to 6PM
At CREATIVITY, Hall of Light
Contact moghan@auroville.org.in or 9751110486

Solitude Farm - Eat Local week
Farm to Table Food Festival - 14th - 19th December
exploring the bounty and diversity of local foods

Learn to harvest, prepare and cook all your meals for 6 days using the best local, seasonal produce. Residential and non-residential available. FMI: solitudepermaculture@gmail.com

This workshop was conducted 3 years ago with the team from Joy of Impermanence and Serena made this video which really gives a good insight into what we will do. Check it out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpF3GtewiMU&t=6s>



⇒⇒⇒⇒PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!

RECEIVE THE NEWS&NOTES by EMAIL weekly!

Subscribe at newsandnotes-list+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
- Mattram: 9487746051, reachable 24/7
- Emergency Service of India: 108
- JIPMER hospital 2278380 / 2272389
- General Hospital 2336050
- Puducherry helpline: 104
- TN COVID helpline: 044-29510500

EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING
at ANY TIME:

** The News&Notes is available FOR ALL to download ** from the Auroville website at
www.auroville.org/contents/4186
The N&N archives are found at
www.auroville.org/contents/186
And also on Auroville Wiki
http://wiki.auroville.org.in/wiki/News_%26_Notes

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!). Rule of thumb: eliminate as much "white space" as possible.



Soul Of Soil

Auroville & Bio-Region Eco and Cultural Experience Program for December 2020

Touch | Ride | Feel | Taste | Hear | Discover | Experience

HEALING AND THERAPY

SOUND CHAKRA HARMONY SESSION

Come and experience with Lakshmi on Sound Harmony session

- Transformational Yoga Meditation
- Pranayama technique
- Sound chakra harmonization
- Walk into Medicinal garden & prepare tea together & Guide aware of sense Mindfulness workshop (awaking of 5 sense)
- Guided with Consciousness silence dinner with covered eyes

1-day advance booking is necessary

Day: Every Day

Time: 1 Hour (3.30 – 4.30pm)

Facilitator: Lakshmi (Certified massage therapist and Yoga teacher)

TRANSFORMATIONAL YOGA MEDITATION

Come and experience with Lakshmi Transformational Yoga Meditation

1 day advance booking is necessary

Day: Every Tuesday

Time: 5 pm to 6.30pm

Facilitator: Lakshmi (Certified massage therapist and Yoga teacher)

AYUR SIDDHA REJUNUVATION THERAPY

Siddha is an ancient Indian traditional treatment system which evolved in South India, Our practitioners **Satendra Kumar Chouhan** is traditionally trained, He is offering following Therapy and Massage:

- Ayurvedic Massage (1hr full day)
- Kalari Marma Massage (1hr full day)
- Kalari Massage by foot (1hr)
- Marma / Varma Back Massage
- Marma / Varma Shoulder Massage
- Sarvanga Dhara with medicated Oil
- Massage + Steam
- All kinds of Shoulder / Neck / Back / leg / Knee Massage
- Banana leaf treat + Massage
- Shirdhara Treatment

1-day advance booking is necessary

Facilitator: Satendra Kumar Chouhan, B.NAT, DVMS, BANM, DYYIC

CLASSES

KALARI AND SILAMBAM

Martial arts for developing the body and strengthening the soul

Kalari Class

Day: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Time: 1.30 Hour (4.45 pm – 6.15pm)

Silambam

Day: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Time: 1.30 Hour (4.45 pm – 6.15pm)

Facilitator: : Satendra Kumar Chouhan, B.NAT, DVMS, BANM, DYYIC

KOLAM VILLAGE WALK (a sacred mandala) WITH SOUTHINDIAN BREAKFAST

Let the inner spirit & emotions lead the flow of Kolam and enjoy the Tamil breakfast after the small trip inside the village earlier in the morning.

Day: Every Friday Timing: 07:30 am to 09.00am

Facilitator: Rajaveni – Kolam Practitioner

On Special request we will arrange followings service:

1. Auroville Bio-region Tour (7 hrs)
2. Auroville Bio-region week end camp (overnight stay in the mountain - Perumukkal)
3. Village Walk – 3 hrs
4. Tiruvannamali, Chithambarm and Mahbalipuram Tour.
5. Transport Service

Please register to call us for more details :
0413-2622667, 8300949079

or

Mohanamprogram@auroville.org.in

Please visit: www.mohanam.org

**Contributions requested from guests/Volunteers, Volunteer reduction by advance application for specific activities only.
Give Time a Break: Discover Village Life!!**