

News and Notes

No 848

A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

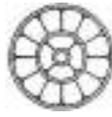
12th December 2020



Bird Watches

watercolor by Marlenka

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



"In fifty years the whole world, all the receptive section of humanity (I am not saying intellectual, I am saying receptive), all the receptive section of the world will be embraced - not "embraced": ABSORBED in the power of Sri Aurobindo's thought. Those who already are have the good fortune of being the first ones, that's all."

— The Mother. The Agenda . 16 February 1972 (+ 50 years = Year 2022)

As mind seeks for light, for the discovery of knowledge and for mastery by knowledge, so life seeks for the development of its own force and for mastery by force: its quest is for growth, power, conquest, possession, satisfaction, creation, joy, love, beauty; its joy of existence is in a constant self-expression, development, diverse manifoldness of action, creation, enjoyment, an abundant and strong intensity of itself and its power. The gnostic evolution will lift that to its highest and fullest expression, but it will not act for the power, satisfaction, enjoyment of the mental or vital ego, for its narrow possession of itself and its eager ambitious grasp on others and on things or for its greater self-affirmation and magnified embodiment; for in that way no spiritual fullness and perfection can come. The gnostic life will exist and act for the Divine in itself and in the world, for the Divine in all; the increasing possession of the individual being and the world by the Divine Presence, Light, Power, Love, Delight, Beauty will be the sense of life to the gnostic being. In the more and more perfect satisfaction of that growing manifestation will be the individual's satisfaction: his power will be the instrumentation of the power of Supernature for bringing in and extending that greater life and nature; whatever conquest and adventure will be there, will be for that only and not for the reign of any individual or collective ego. Love will be for him the contact, meeting, union of self with self, of spirit with spirit, a unification of being, a power and joy and intimacy and closeness of soul to soul, of the One to the One, a joy of identity and the consequences of a diverse identity. It is this joy of an intimate self-revealing diversity of the One, the multitudinous union of the One and a happy interaction in the identity, that will be for him the full revealed sense of life. Creation aesthetic or dynamic, mental creation, life-creation, material creation will have for him the same sense. It will be the creation of significant forms of the Eternal Force, Light, Beauty, Reality,- the beauty and truth of its forms and bodies, the beauty and truth of its powers and qualities, the beauty and truth of its spirit, its formless beauty of self and essence.

As a consequence of the total change and reversal of consciousness establishing a new relation of Spirit with Mind and Life and Matter, and a new significance and perfection in the relation, there will be a reversal, a perfecting new significance also of the relations between the spirit and the body it inhabits. In our present way of living the soul expresses itself, as best it can or as badly as it must, through the mind and the vitality, or, more often, allows the mind and the vitality to act with its support: the body is the instrument of this action. But the body, even in obeying, limits and determines the mind's and the life's self-expression by the limited possibilities and acquired character of its own physical instrumentation; it has besides a law of its own action, a movement and will or force or urge of movement of its own subconscious or half-emerged conscious power of being which they can only partially,- and even in that part more by an indirect than by a direct or, if direct, then more by a subconscious than a willed and conscious action,- influence or alter. But in the gnostic way of being and living the will of the Spirit must directly control and determine the movements and law of the body. For the law of the body arises from the subconscious or inconscient: but in the gnostic being the subconscious will have become conscious and subject to the supramental control, penetrated with its light and action; the basis of inconscience with its obscurity and ambiguity, its obstruction or tardy responses will have been transformed into a lower or supporting superconscience by the supramental emergence.

(to be continued next week)

— Sri Aurobindo, *The Life Divine* . Book Two . Chapter XXVII : *The Gnostic Being*

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



Awaken the psychic in you, let the inner being come out and replace the ego, then the latent power also will become effective. You can then do the work and the service to which you aspire.

~ Sri Aurobindo, *Letters on Himself and the Ashram*





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.



Matrimandir and the Park of Unity is open **everyday from 6 to 8 am & 4:30 to 6.30 pm** (for Aurovilians, Newcomers and Volunteers holding a valid Matrimandir Pass). Volunteers' place of work will need to send an email to mmconcentration@auroville.org.in to be considered for the valid pass.

- Matrimandir Executives and Access team

Covid-19 Updates

From the WC/CTF: The latest guidelines from Tamil Nadu government now allows opening up of all **tourist places and beaches** for public purposes. E-registration for travelers into Tamil Nadu from **Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh** is now **NOT required**. For travelers coming from rest of the states should use the existing portal to register at <https://eregister.tnega.org/>. With the current Unlock phase of COVID19 pandemic in place, the state and central government has now allowed more and more activities and facilities to open up. Therefore it is even more important now than before, that we all do our best to be safe as we carry on with our day to day activities, and have safe workplaces, as we will be interacting with more people from inside and outside of Auroville and that increases the chances of the virus spreading.

To ease the opening up and to ensure the hygiene and safety, we have compiled **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for several activities such as meetings, offices, grocery stores, restaurants and eateries, shops, sport ground, gyms, regular classes, etc, in adherence to the guidelines issued by the state/central governments. We have already shared the relevant SOPs with all Auroville units, offices, eateries, etc. based on their operations to help them carry forward their activities safely and smoothly. Here we are sharing the same with you the same guidelines and are appealing to the community to take extra precautions, be vigilant and don't let your guard down. And if during your visit to places in Auroville, you find that protocols are not being followed, do politely remind them of the same.

We would like to again reiterate that we are not a "permission giving" group with any authority. Our role as a Task Force of the Working Committee, with this massbulletin, is to assist the opening up of places and activities in accordance with the government issued guidelines and SOPs, and interpreting them in the context of Auroville. Below are the links to the SOPs we have sent to various places/activities:

- For eateries and restaurants/common kitchens -- click [here](#)
- For grocery outlets -- click [here](#)
- For offices/workplaces -- click [here](#)
- For meetings -- click [here](#)
- For shops/stores/boutiques -- click [here](#)
- For activities including classes, performances, exhibitions, etc -- click [here](#)
- For yoga and gyms -- click [here](#)
- For sports ground -- click [here](#)
- For Theatres - Cinema/movie halls -- click [here](#)

Also you can find a compilation of signages in this [link](#) that can be put up at any of these places for public notice.

Please do not hesitate to write to us if you see any discrepancies and/or have any questions/concerns. We shall update the SOPs and keep the community informed if there are any changes, and/or any new ones are issued by the government. Please look out for the same.



WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Correction: In the Housing Board report for September & October (N&N #846) it was reported that Sangeetha had requested information about the transfer of the house formerly belonging to Peter. This was an error, as the request was referring to the house formerly belonging to Christian. Apologies for any confusion.



From the Residents Assembly Service RAD Results - METHOD FOR SELECTING WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

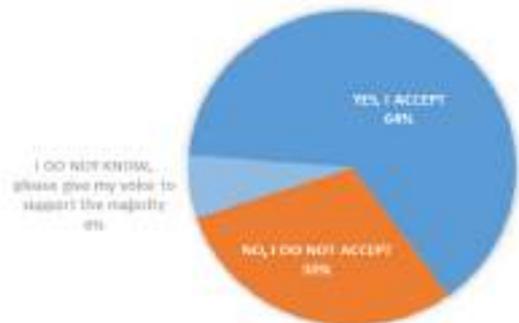
Many thanks to all the residents who participated in this decision-making event!

Here are the results of the RAD (voting) to decide on the method for selecting working group members. A total of 224 registered residents participated in the online and in-person voting. The number of participants exceeded the 10 per cent quorum required to validate the decision (213 votes).*

** Based on data received form the Residents Service, the total adult population of our community eligible to participate in RADs (age - above 18, listed in the Register of Residents) is 2127. As of the beginning of December 2020.*

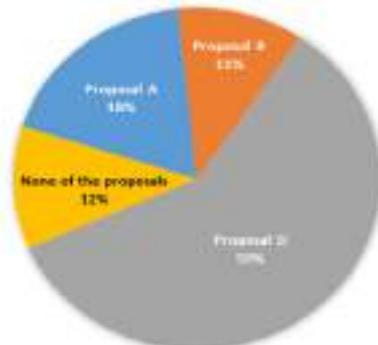
DEVIATE FROM THE "50% IN-FAVOR" DECISION MAKING THRESHOLD

- 143 Aurovilians (64%) accepted to deviate from the 50% in-favor threshold.
- 67 Aurovilians (30% of all who participated) DID NOT accept to deviate from the 50% in-favour threshold.
- 14 (6%) Residents decided to give their voices to support the majority.



This means that in this instance only, it is agreed by the Residents Assembly, 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 favor.

METHOD OF SELECTING WORKING GROUP MEMBERS



Proposal D (<https://bit.ly/2UzkbYr>) received 132 (59%) votes;
 Proposal A (<https://bit.ly/31ltpG6>): 41 (18%);
 Proposal B (<https://bit.ly/34TsUv0>): 25 (11%);
 None of the above proposals: 26 (12%).

We will keep you updated on the next steps.
 ~ Warmly, The Residents' Assembly Service

From AVC: Revised Housing mandate

We present to you the revised Housing Mandate for your feedback.

This mandate was first ratified in 2011 and keeping in view that the composition of our community has changed considerably, the Housing Board in collaboration with FAMC have made amendments. We appreciate your participation and you may also send your feedback to avcouncil@auroville.org.in by 26th Dec.

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.



Monthly Report of the Green Group November 2020

1. **NEW MEMBERS:** at the end of October the Green Group welcomed four new members from the Farm Group. This has increased the age diversity in the group and a request was made to the Forest Group to increase the diversity still further by adding some female members. We await their reply with interest. There will be a transition period till end of December when the existing Farm Group members will leave.

2. **HIGH TENSION ELECTRICITY CABLE THROUGH BLISS FOREST:** the Forest Group has been dealing with this issue for some time and after various meeting with a variety of interested parties they sent a letter to the Auroville Foundation and TDC. In this they stated clearly that this issue is still going through a community process which should be allowed to proceed so that a clear and unified decision can be made. The Green Group has sent a letter supporting this position.

3. **SLUDGE ISSUE:** The temporary arrangement for the sludge to be deposited in Fertile has now finished and the site is closed. Once again TDC is urgently looking for an alternative place and have made 2 suggestions as to where a permanent sludge disposal unit could go, both of them in forested areas. The present situation with the Forest Group, which the Green Group supports, is that before considering any piece of forested land, the TDC should present a clear plan for sludge management which includes; design, costs, acreage needed, etc. Discussion of this issue raised the problem of possible village reaction and the best way to deal with this. It was thought that in general Auroville could benefit from having a permanent group of people who provide a communication hub to which those outside Auroville could relate. Various ideas were expressed and the group will look at this in more detail next month.

4. **GREEN GROUP MANDATE:** it was agreed that the Green Group will continue their work with other groups and will continue to develop and nurture the long standing working relationships they have with them.

5. **CODE OF CONDUCT:** the need for confidentiality was emphasized so that Green Group meetings are safe spaces in which to share information.

6. OTHER ITEMS:

- **Kalpavruksha farm:** Land Board were called to this farm after yet another problem with stealing and fences. The farm has suffered for many years from these long standing issues and it was agreed that the Farm Group will take this up.

- **Newly purchased land in the Greenbelt in Rayapudupakkam panchayat:** members of the Green Group were asked to make an assessment of newly purchased land to decide whether it was better for farming or forest. Together with Land Board staff, some Green Group members visited the site which is nearly 6 acres and surrounded by well-tended farmland.

If you have any feedback or would like further info, contact Priya greengroup@auroville.org.in. Members of the Green Group are: FOREST GROUP: David (Aurodam), Fabian, Yuval (also represents Land Board), Enea. FARM GROUP: Vivek (also represents Housing Board), Iyengar. New members are Ramana, Prakash, Manikandan, Sathyavan. Vivek and Iyengar will leave at the end of Dec 2020.

Bharat Nivas monthly report - November 2020

November saw the continued opening of the Bharat Nivas campus since programs open to the public restarted in October. Here is some news from Bharat Nivas campus from the month of November 2020:

Sri Aurobindo Centre for Studies

- A few events open to the public were held in Bhumika Hall, such as a slideshow presentation on Nicholas Roerich, a film screening of "A Far Afternoon" and discussion on Perspectives of Indic Art, a film screening of "The One Whom We Adore as the Mother", and a talk and discussion about "Odissi - A Dance of Sculpture".
- Sanskrit classes continued for Aurovilians, Newcomers & Volunteers, including "Introduction to Sanskrit" classes and a class on "The Bhagavad Gita" through Sanskrit.
- The Resource Library is still open by appointment only.

Kalakendra

- The "Samvijanam: Scientific Heritage of India" exhibition was re-inaugurated this month. It had been prematurely closed due to the lockdown earlier in the year. This was an activity of the Sanskritam Auroville group which is now organizing their activities from the Bharat Nivas campus.
- Regular painting classes and other activities for Aurovillian children continued.

Sri Aurobindo Auditorium

- There was a screening and live-streaming of Dr. Karan Singh's video address to Aurovilians on the occasion of the end of his tenure as Chairman of the Governing Board, as well as a video tribute to Dr. Karan Singh from Auroville.
- The auditorium is planning to host an upcoming film festival next month in December.

SAWCHU & Progress Hall

- Regular classes were held for Aurovilians, Newcomers, volunteers and children, including Ashtanga Yoga, Capoeira & Dance classes (Bharatnatyam, Odissi & Hip Hop).
- The Sanskritam Auroville group will now be organizing their activities on Bharat Nivas campus from the office and gathering space behind the Progress Hall.

Harmony Hall - The hall interior was painted and lights and fans installed. An inaugural program for the newly finished hall is being planned for some time in December.

Atithi Griha Guesthouse - First floor expansion of the Guesthouse is completed and the rooms and surroundings have been thoroughly cleaned in anticipation of an official inauguration of the new guest facilities in early December.

Sharanam - Sharanam dormitory next to Atithi Griha Guesthouse continued to be used as a Covid-19 quarantine facility for Aurovilians.

Tamil Heritage Centre - Work on construction of the Tamil Heritage Centre was ongoing during the month of November.

Administration

- The Bharat Nivas Trustees and team members continued weekly meetings to develop, administer and coordinate the work and activities on campus. The team is looking at myriad ways to bring activities, engagements, programs and webinars to rejuvenate the Bharat Nivas facilities for the wider use of Auroville.
- Dr. Aster Patel resigned as trustee from the Bharat Nivas Trust but continues to be a valued member of the Bharat Nivas team. The team is grateful for her long service for Bharat Nivas and Auroville.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



On November 27, we welcomed Leela into our family, our first baby girl. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Morning Star team for their support before, during and after the birth. We are also very grateful to friends and volunteers from "Made with Love", who are bringing us food every day.

- Mathilde & Andrés

Auroville Visitors Centre is reopening to the public on **Monday 7th December**. We are taking all precautions following Covid Task Force detailed guidance.

Mira Boutique is open at Visitors Center, every day except Tuesdays from 9.30am to 5.30pm. You can find lots of beautiful items from Amano, Auromics, Flame, Miniature, Santosham and Shradanjali. We hope to see you there.



Aerial Auroville by Om & Julie

We are happy to announce that the photobook "Aerial Auroville" is now available. The book, consisting of Drone Photos of Auroville compiled with Quotes from The Mother and Sri Aurobindo, takes you on an Aerial Journey through Auroville. In this book, you will be able to observe from

a new perspective, the different colours, lights and textures of Auroville.

To know more about the story of Aerial Auroville, go to <https://www.thedronezoneav.com/aerialauroville>

The book is available for viewing and purchase at Centre d'Art, Citadines until 24th December during our exhibition or you can contact us at thedronezone@auroville.org.in

Book release

Janaka is happy to announce that he has signed a contract for "l'île de Soranil" It will be released by Hachette in spring 2021.

"The Auroville Adventure!"

We are happy to announce the launch of our new and improved blog, "The Auroville Adventure"!

The blog of the Auroville Online Store has been updated and expanded to make online information on Auroville more lively, accessible, personal, and diverse. The Auroville Adventure is run by a small editorial team that works with contributors from around Auroville. This format, as opposed to a more traditional website, creates an online platform where different types of content can exist next to each other, and gives interested people the chance to stay in touch with Auroville from wherever they are. We put an emphasis on telling the stories of Aurovilians and give our readers an insight into what life in Auroville is like, without promoting or advertising. You can find our new blog version at adventure.auroville.com Please have a look and enjoy a scroll through our new blog!

- The Auroville Online Store team



Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium **Re-opens**

Cinema Paradiso Team happy to announce that we are resuming our regular movie screening at mmc from 14 December 2020 onwards with strict covid19 protocols.

Please note: For the moment we only allow 40 viewers per screening in case more people turn up we screen the same movie again on later date. For the safety of viewers, we urge you all to wear a mask. A proper mask (and not a scarf etc.) is essential to enter the venue. Please come 20min before movie starts. There may be a queue. You will need to sanitize your hands, get your temperature checked, write your name and community in our ledger, before entering the auditorium.

Currently the film screenings will be open to Aurovilians, Newcomers, Long-term volunteers/guests with Auroid only. In the coming weeks / months we hope to open up and operate as we used to.

We are seeking your support – in form of one-time/ monthly donations. For details about booking the venue for your own programs, presentations, and seminars, please write to mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in

~ Thank you, MMC-CP Team



Taxi Sharing - My family is arriving in Chennai Airport and traveling to Auroville on 20th Dec at 10:30 am. If someone is interested to travel early morning from Auroville to Chennai on the same taxi, contact Prem Shakti at 9489244823

APPEALS

Old clothes, old bedsheets, newspapers?

The Dog Shelter (IACC) is looking for old clothes, bedsheets, newspapers to keep the dogs (especially the 45 puppies) dry during this wet season. I can come and pick it up (if it is not too big). Contact me via email (tineke@auroville.org.in) or by phone (2622216/9443469330). ~ Thank you on behalf of all the dogs!

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 62- 12-12-2020

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers and Friends of Auroville, joining Auroville. Prior to Newcomer, Aurovillian 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.

NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

Vignesh KANDASAMY (Indian) staying in Celebration and working at Thamarai



Vignesh

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:

Elisabeth CAMILLE (French) staying in Fraternity and working at Lumiere



Elisabeth

Georgia BENNER ROSS (Canadian) staying in Anusuya and working at Quiet Healing Center

Jean-Luc BUREAU (French) staying in Revelation and working at AV Film Festival, AV Arts Service & Terrasoul Farm

Neetha JOTHI (Indian) staying in Siddhartha Forest and working at PTDC

Prajnya RAO (Indian) staying in Kalpana and working at Integral Entrepreneur lab (IEL)



Georgia

Jean-Luc

Neetha

Prajnya

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

Brigitte MARANGANTI-KUMAR aka Gita (German)

Monica CARELLA aka Lakshmi (Italian)

Yogini GANDHI (Indian)

NOTE:

The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after the NC kit has been completed and returned. Be aware that the duration of the process cannot exceed 18 months from the date of confirmation.

- An Aurovillian is a resident of Auroville, aged 18 and above, whose name has been entered in the Register of 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.
- The Auroville Foundation processes issuing of ID cards only to the Aurovilians who are registered in the RoR.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PT Water offers help with water drainage

We would like to inform you that Pour Tous Water has a diesel engine pump with which we can help remove rain water if it might enter your house, office, agricultural land, etc.. Call Nagappan (9443627117) or Shanmugam (9442992371) when needed.

“Unending education” in Auroville

We would like to introduce you to a new social media (instagram) account @myunendingeducation that we are just launching. Its aim is to highlight individual's experiences of Auroville as a place of 'unending education'. Individuals profiled would reflect the diversity of people engaging in the Auroville experiment: long-term Aurovilians, returned Auroville youth, volunteers, interns, apprentices, researchers etc.

If you would like to share your experience on this platform, you can do so [here](#) (if reading N&N online) or write to us at unendingeducation@auroville.org.in

We are an informal group of individuals engaged in various units active in the 'post-school' space. Our common understanding is that Auroville is already a rich and vibrant place of unending education for many, but that some are unaware of depth and breadth of such opportunity here. This is why we embarked on this awareness-raising project J. We welcome your feedback!

~ Avinash (ACI), Aneeta (Anveshan), Valentine (Disha), Suryamayi (Research Platform), Sara (Savi), Ankhita (YouthLink).

Eat Local Week

14th to 19th Dec at Solitude Farm



The Eat Local Week "6 day farm-to-table food festival" is an amazing opportunity to explore and get to grips with local foods.

In this Covid time we are waking up to the fact that our relationship with Mother Nature and thus where our food comes from is crucial for humanity's survival.

Local foods are easy to grow, use less water, have a high nutritional and medicinal value and are cheaper. They are also relevant both culturally and socially. Becoming familiar with and eating local foods is essential for the future of Auroville.

We invite you to come and harvest **every morning at 6:30** with the aim to eat **at 8 am** or even a little earlier. After breakfast you are free to go (or help on the farm) and come back at lunch time.

If you have time you can help at the Solitude Farm Cafe with lunch preparation but people who have jobs or other activities can just come and eat. For the evening meal participants can come at **5:00pm** to harvest with the aim to eat by **7pm**.

Every day we will prepare traditional recipes that make use of local foods that are part of the nutritional heritage of this bio-region. The dishes will be tasty and different every day. This experience will demand your enthusiastic participation. It is really a group exploration so be ready to help create!

For more info contact: solitudepermaculture@gmail.com
To join fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/tNQZ381yjp0D2EYo7>

Brand New Custom Offices and Residences available

UTSAV (Celebration) is an under construction, mixed-use project that is expected to be completed by the end of next year (2021). It is located along the Verité Radial in the Industrial zone. As an "urban" development, Utsav will feature both commercial offices and residences developed in an aesthetic and conscious manner.

Offices are available on the ground and first floors, while the residences are located on the second floor. The office spaces are ideal for Auroville Services / units and start-ups. The ground-floor units can also be utilised for retail sales. The residences can be customised to accommodate volunteers or long-term residents. Each unit type is available in multiples of 21sqm carpet area, at reasonable costs with quality infrastructure, and

can be configured as per need. Some spaces are still available. For inquiries please write to : utsav@auroville.org.in

UTSAV Project Holder - Bobby (Auromics), Project Architect - Mona (Yantra), Project Contractor - Baskar (Sincerity)

Let's talk about Death, part IV



There are still some Aurovilians who haven't heard or read about this group. So here is again a new chance to check it out.

The 'Let's talk about Death' group intends to provide space, time and content on the topic of Death in Auroville. We have met three times now at different locations

with each time 20 new interested people attending. The sharings were heart-warming and inspiring. We learned a lot.

The last date for this year is **Saturday 19 December** at Bhumika Hall in Bharat Nivas. We'll start **at 3pm** with coffee & cake, followed by sharing until around 5pm. **Open for all ages.**

Please book by email to quietusauroville@gmail.com. Once you reserved, a confirmation will be sent to you. If you would like to give a donation to help us to cover the expense, we opened an FS account, no 106829 Quietus. Hope to see you, take care and stay healthy.

The 'Let's talk about Death Group'
Dan, Fakeera, Julietta, Kalsang, Lisa, Valeria

Naturellement Christmas specials

It feels like this year we need something to cheer us up, so we will indulge a bit in special Christmas goodies!

Apart from our traditional Christmas Cake and Marzipan, we will also bake German Stollen and Lebkuchen, Dutch Speculas and Swedish ginger cookies (plus some surprises if we get the time.) Since we don't have proper labels we will only be able to sell them at Naturellement. Advance orders by email are recommended. naturellement@auroville.org.in



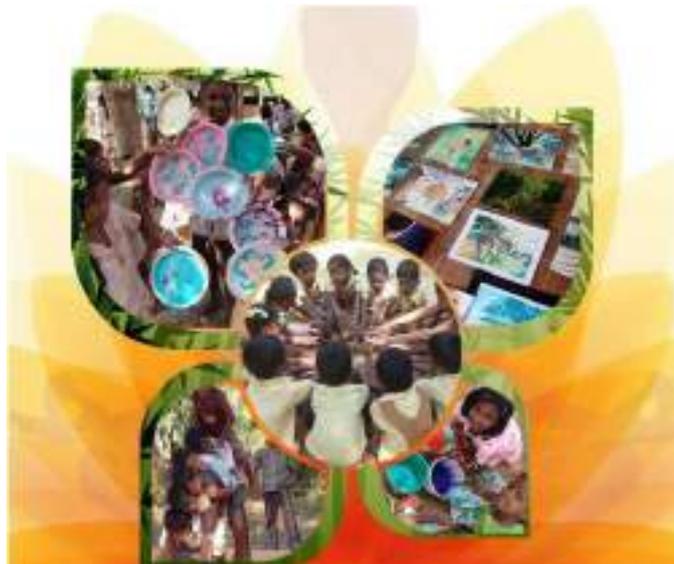
December To Remember -2020
26th December, 9 Am to 4pm
Mohanam Campus (Opp. Imagination)

We are glad to inform you that Mohanam is organizing a one-day camp, this will help the children to reflect on the past year and dream for the future. We invite children aged 10 to 13 YO from Auroville & bioregion to participate.

Participant number is limited to a maximum of 50 participants. Hence spots are available on a first registered, first-served basis. Covid Protocols are Mandatory. Please carry Mask for the event.

We will provide food and refreshment for the participants who are attending this camp.

For Registration: 8531045671(Bharathi), 9632551408(Ricky)/
Email: mohanamprogram@auroville.org.in



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.

Dynamic, capable and young-spirited receptionist - You are handling a variety of reception tasks and are open, friendly and patient to deal with clients Your communication, organisation and administrative skills plus are very good and you have basic computer skills for bookings, billing and registrations. You are flexible and a team player and fluent in English (any other language is a bonus). Maintenance available.

And other positions (please inquire about details):

- Customer Care and Website Maintenance
- Production Management (part-time)
- Graphic Designer and Video Editor
- Social Media & Communications Manager (Ecofemme)
- Coordinator
- Volunteers for Auro Orchard
- Workshop Assistance (volunteer)
- Hospitality position
- Guest house supervisor

Please contact us for more information and if you are interested in any of these work opportunities or if you are looking for something else. hr_hub@auroville.org.in

Kitchen Manager

Sunship community is looking for a Kitchen Manager for its community canteen. Our canteen prepares daily 25-35 lunches for its residents 6 days a week, Sunday off. Characteristics of the job: Defining the Menu / Managing the staff (2-3 ammas), cooking, cleaning... / managing and optimising the purchasing in respect of the budget/communicating with the management team. It is a part time job that may become full time with a maintenance offered. If you are interested please contact us at: sunship@auroville.org.in

LOOKING FOR

Someone going to France/Europe - I made a handmade Christmas gift for my 2 YO nephew Mattia living in France. I would be so grateful if somebody could take it and send it to my sister from the arrival place in Europe (speed refund of the post fees by my mother living there too). The weight of the gift (textile toddler book) is 230 grams. Contact Camille 8098796307 (WA) or camille@auroville.org.in

Folding massage table in good condition, a good size **Mirror & Carpets**. Contact Maya: 7025100991

Household items - Shoe rack, cupboard, foldable bed (adult or child), Child bicycle (6yo). Contact Kshitij - 09739916003, kshotika@gmail.com

Sewing machine - 2nd hand, to rent or buy; electric preferred, with reverse stitch. Zig-zag would be a true Godsend. Contact Chandra 85310 33318 WA or chandrag108@gmail.com

House-sitting - starting from 13th December. I am Rahul, volunteer at Marc's Coffee. Contact: 9892556371

Work - I Build Wonderful Websites. I'm a freelance Graphic Designer (10 y) and Web Developer (5 y). If you're looking for a beautiful website, sweet! Because I'm looking to make you one. If you've visited AfricanPavilion.org or AurovilleTheatreGroup.com, then you've seen my work. I code from scratch and work from home. Contact Malcolm: 9080159721 (WA)

AVAILABLE

House-worker - 4 days/wk, experienced, good English, honest, hard-working. 944 343 4182 or terrasoul@auroville.org.in

Jigsaw Puzzle - 1000 pieces, to give away. Can be collected from Auromics or call 9843387755. Great for de-stressing.

Tailor - Mr. Vazhumuni from Alankuppam is a skilled tailor who can help with mending clothes, stitching new clothes and chair/cushion covers too. He has been working with Aurovilians for 25 years. As many of his usual guests from abroad are not returning due to travel restrictions, he is looking for work. I have had good experiences with him. Contact him directly and he will be happy to make a visit: +91 91598 03336

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Retrofit your taps with aerated ones. Look for the Jaguar brand, which can be found in Pondy. The water savings can be up to 60%! With Love from the

Water Group - helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city.
watergroup@auroville.org.in / www.aurovillewater.in

GOOD NEWS!

This year's rains have surpassed Auroville's average annual rainfall (~1300mm). And more rain is expected! It's a good rain year and our hearts are smiling. - With love, Water Group

EXPERIENTIAL PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP

18th, 19th, 20th Dec at Solitude Farm

This workshop aims to empower you to start growing your own food and to gain an insight into knowing where our food comes from. As a participant you will also discover:

- Identifying and harvesting of the treasure trove of local plants, and transforming them into a delicious dinner
- Experience making a circle garden to grow a variety of crops, using permaculture techniques.
- Create your own nursery. Learn about seedlings, cuttings and seeds and optimal soil composition. Create a mini-urban garden to take home.
- Make our own organic soap and thus explore the importance of recycling water.
- Learn and implement permaculture design on a field.
- Explore how you could implement social permaculture through education, basket service, tourism, etc..

The work at Solitude Farm has been deeply inspired by Masanobu Fukuoka, a Zen master Farmer. Every evening we will be reading from Fukuoka's book - The One Straw Revolution. A copy of this book will be offered to each participant.



What to bring - You will live on a farm and work on the farm for 3 days. Please bring appropriate clothes for farm work, shoes, hats/caps, torch, sanitary products as needed and other basic stuff, sleeping bags or bed sheets to make your stay comfortable.

Accommodation - Solitude Farm is a sustainable farming community with simple yet charming bamboo huts and a few tree houses for guests. There are compost toilets, western toilets and showers are open to the sky. We are by no means a resort but the authenticity of the farm, the food and the closeness to nature will touch your heart. Please note : Our accommodation is a shared dorm, except for 1-2 private spaces for families/couples/friends. We will provide basic bedding as well! Living on the farm is an experience.

This is an intensive workshop and it requires you to have energy, enthusiasm and an inquiring mind. Take a look at our videos from past workshops! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPYqR6DW97M>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L6QskgmiM8>

For more info contact: solitudepermaculture@gmail.com
 To register: <https://forms.gle/LRTJnHQ3XgvMD2hQ7>

Voices Notes



A new entry last week: Raghu proposes his programme on sacred music. Every Thursday at 11am. Stay tuned!

[Here](#) you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7). [Here](#) you can see on-air schedules.

Last published podcasts

- [Audible Weed Walk - "Let there be lights...and greens in healthy soil!"](#) (Edible weeds)
 - [Neo Urban Chronik - ep.24 "2 zany Monologue"](#) (Humour)
 - [Sacred Music - ep.1 "Vedas: Rg Veda"](#) (Music)
 - [The Best of What Still Around - ep.20](#) (Music)
 - [Soul Tracks ep. 20 "Return of the Son of ..."](#) (Music)
 - [The Akademik Genius Brothers - The Making Off... ep.9](#) (Theatre)
 - [Aarohan - ep.10 "Mharo Pranaam"](#) (Music)
 - [The Tamil Literary Forum - ep.14](#) (Tamil culture)
 - [Happiness, Love and Laughter - "Raining Heals and Destroy"](#) (Wellness)
 - [Savitri, Book VII, Canto VI, Part 1](#) (Integral yoga)
- ...and more! on www.aurovilleradio.org. For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in. Love and Peace

A Prayer for Sri Aurobindo

"Open us. Transform in us everything that is not you."

~ The Mother

Open eyed
 Fill us through and through
 Your Presence
 Your Light
 Your Consciousness

Made us Crystal
 In the Center
 Gold

With your Symbols
 Thanks to the waves
 That carried you
 To the India
 Of your birth

To Pondy
 Your Mission
 Our Home

Let everything in us
 Be You.

~ Anandi-a

Anonymous, Secretive and Misleading petition against Auroville & Auroville Foundation

Last week people in Auroville got messages from friends in India and abroad regarding a petition on Change.org. What was going on? What was wrong? How bad was it? Some people even donated money to the cause. It was an anonymous petition by a certain 'AA' from Kolkata accusing the Auroville Foundation of destroying Auroville's forests. This petition reached mostly people outside, both via *Change.org* and via Aurovilians and generated nearly 1.5 lakh signatures in a day. Strangely, no one thought of posting it on Auronet, nor in the News and Notes. The Working Committee's disclaimer was so mild that most people did not notice it. The petition continues to be up on *Change.org* and the Working Committee seems helpless to do anything further. Here then are some things it must look at and provide answers for:

- Who is AA of Kolkata? Why do we still not know?
- Who instigated him/her to provide misleading information against Auroville?
- Why was money collected? Who is the recipient of this money and what happens with it?
- Why was this petition not circulated within Auroville but aimed at people outside who mostly know very little about Auroville: this is a serious breach of trust against Auroville?

- Why is Auroville being portrayed falsely as a “forest” without mention of the city and the greenbelt?
 - How did an urban green corridor become a “forest” and overrule a whole area of the master plan that pertains to the City Centre of the Industrial Zone, right from 1968? The petitioner clearly does not know this or possibly does not care.
 - What process was followed to appropriate all this land? Are there records of agreements or permissions in the form of approvals from the TDC? If so, on what grounds were these obtained? How come trees were planted on land that is earmarked for the Crown?
 - The Crown area land is earmarked for the City Area and has been purchased with donations. How is this misappropriation being justified?
 - Does this action respect fellow Aurovilians who joined Auroville to contribute with their work to the manifestation of the Auroville township and all those who have supported Auroville for years with the understanding that a township is being built?
 - This last stretch of HT ring cable laying accounts for only 430m of the Crown. It is the final stretch of an important part of the electrical infrastructure, which can provide for the whole city, in a secure way. All this cannot be obstructed by the whim of some people.
- If the Working Committee takes a sincere view on all this it will be very possible to remove the misleading petition. See the petition below with remarks in bold.

Petition with remarks in bold italics

Change.org / 20 NOV 2020,

Here is a sad update! Now, the threat to the Auroville forests is coming from within Auroville itself!

Not at all. It is part of the development of the Crown, which is a key element of the township master plan which was prepared by the Auroville residents and approved by the Auroville Foundation Governing Board. The cable that is being installed now follows the right-of-way of the Crown as was planned. There is no forest in the area. Planting trees in an area clearly earmarked for city development does not make that area a “forest”.

Just recently, the Auroville Foundation advised the laying of infrastructure through Auroville, along a route that will cut wide lanes (7m-30m) through many of their forests, destroying, in my lay estimation, between 200 to 500 acres out of the 1200 acres of carefully planted forest land and impacting the remaining forests with the noise and pollution of heavy vehicle traffic.

The infrastructure cable along the Crown does not cut across forests as it lies in the heart of Auroville’s city area. Cables and other underground infrastructure services have already been laid in its other zonal areas and must be installed always along the rights-of-way (RoW) for future access. The present cable is the final stretch of a ring feeder for the whole town, which also interconnects distributed renewable energy generation and storage systems. The Crown is intended for a non-polluting, largely pedestrian, urban and environment friendly mobility.

Please note: there are no forests in the city centre, only parks and gardens. Forests fall in the outer edge of the parks closer to the Greenbelt and in parts of the Greenbelt.

Please do take a moment out of your busy day to email the Auroville Foundation to remind them that:

Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole and the decisions they make impacts all of us

Auroville was created as a city and pledged by a Charter written by the Mother. It also has a greenbelt for farms and forests. All decision-making must respect this for humanity as a whole.

That Auroville was created to work towards human unity and the Auroville forests are a shining example of how humans can heal the earth’s wounds.

Man is the first environment that needs to be healed of its arrogance, selfishness and greed which will have a lasting impact on earth’s environment.

That the Auroville forests now are the only holder of the diverse evergreen species and that if these are destroyed, there is a significant loss for the nation and the world

The green corridor in question, bordering the Crown has a high percentage of Work trees and also Neem trees which are self-propagating and not endangered. Endangered tree species are best planted in designated green belt areas for now and not in city areas that still need development.

That 50 years of conservation, research and dedicated care have gone into making the Auroville forests a byword around the world as an example of how humans can, in fact, work towards reverting climate change.

The Urban green areas must develop co-operatively with different parts of the city. The potential for this is huge if there is collaboration as well as a real respect for the city.

That cutting through forests to lay roads and other infrastructure are commonly considered a great crime amongst all conscientious human beings around the world and that we all look to Auroville to hold the example of how we can consciously evolve

There is no cutting through forests as claimed. It must be noted that as per the Auroville Master Plan the greenbelt land use includes a variety of purposes, including agriculture, food processing, energy farms, watershed management, reforestation etc. as can be seen in the zoning regulations of the Auroville Master Plan (part 3, page 93). The Auroville Master Plan does not provide for “forests” inside the city area. If the word “crime” is to be used, the crime in this case is the misuse of funds and land assets that were given for the realization of the Auroville township project in accordance with the Auroville Master Plan.

Living peacefully with nature and protecting nature and habitat for all living beings is a sign of evolution towards a higher humanity

This must be practiced, not preached.

Please do email avfoundation@auroville.org.in with a CC to workingcom@auroville.org.in. Let them know we care and that what they decide impacts all of us. Concerned Residents of Auroville hereby request the Auroville Foundation Secretariat and the Working Committee to take the following steps:

- Report this misleading petition to Change.org and have it taken down;
- Ensure that donations collected through the petition are properly accounted for and not used to contravene the Auroville Master Plan;
- Obtain the identity of AA of Kolkata (in which name the petition has been posted and circulated);
- Take the necessary actions to ensure that Auroville is developed according to the Master Plan as a harmonious town, both its city area and greenbelt, in a spirit of collaboration.

Letter of Support sent to L’avenir d’Auroville /TDC from Concerned Residents of Auroville

copy to Working Committee and Auroville Foundation on 5th December, 2020. The letter has been signed by 90 people - Aurovilians and Newcomers only. As more people now wish to sign it, we are keeping this open for some time. There will be sheets with the letter at PTDC, PTPS, Town Hall and Pitanga in the coming days. Friends of Auroville and AVI members will not sign this as of now as each has different policies regarding such interventions but support in any other way will be welcome.

Letter from Concerned Auroville Residents to l’avenir d’Auroville / Auroville Town Development Council. Copy to: (Acting) Secretary, Auroville Foundation / 27-11-2020

Dear l’avenir d’Auroville / TDC team,

The undersigned Auroville residents herewith express our full support for the planning and development of the Auroville Township, in line with the Auroville Master Plan which is based on the Mother’s vision of the city. This city is to be developed and safeguarded accordingly, so that different people from around the world and our youth and can find a place in the experiment and which future generations can continue to manifest.

We are aware of an anonymous petition, still in circulation outside of Auroville, spreading misleading information to obstruct the final stretch of HT cable laying along the Crown. Completing this installation along the Crown is essential for Auroville, the advantages of which were evident again during and after the recent cyclone. We urge you therefore to ensure that all city lands are used and developed as per the zoning outlined in the Auroville Master Plan.

We also urge you to ensure that all underground infrastructure services are installed along the Crown, radials, international zone loop road, outer ring and other right-of-ways (RoWs) within the zones and sectors.

We strongly recommend that, where land ownership permits, all main RoWs are cleared for their full design widths so that there is clarity on the ground about their existence and exact location, which also ensures correct installation and maintenance of underground services. Opening up these RoWs for various types of mobility may be done in stages as per evolving mobility plans.

With thanks for the warm support for the city and its harmonious realization.
- Concerned Residents of Auroville

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Krishna - a Sonnet by Sri Aurobindo

In a video talk, Dr Alok Pandey is speaking about Avatars, Sri Krishna's work and message and how Sri Aurobindo carried it further to its logical conclusion. The talk also includes Sri Aurobindo's sonnet:

KRISHNA

*At last I find a meaning of soul's birth
Into this universe terrible and sweet,
I who have felt the hungry heart of earth
Aspiring beyond heaven to Krishna's feet.
I have seen the beauty of immortal eyes,
And heard the passion of the Lover's flute,
And known a deathless ecstasy's surprise
And sorrow in my heart for ever mute.
Nearer and nearer now the music draws,
Life shudders with a strange felicity;
All Nature is a wide enamoured pause
Hoping her lord to touch, to clasp, to be.
For this one moment lived the ages past;*

The world now throbs fulfilled in me at last. (CWSA 2: 608)

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s55h70BFqVw&feature=youtu.be>



AUROVILLE ART SERVICE - 'basket' for the week

- AUROVILLE PHOTO CIRCLE AT CENTRE D'ART** - Photographers in Auroville are invited to bring some work to share. Friday 11th Dec 5-7pm.
- ART FOR LAND INVITES PARTICIPATION** - Artists are invited to offer their beautiful artworks for the upcoming Art For Land Exhibition 2021. To submit, fill up the online form, and you will be contacted. <https://forms.gle/PevEng51LhZXJPY48>
- WEEKEND SERIES BY AUROVILLE FILM INSTITUTE** - Transition Transference Transformation: Understanding film Shot by Shot! The first of a weekend series with Kamal Swaroop on 12th & 13th December, 2-5pm. Aurovilians and Newcomers against voluntary contribution. For details please visit: <https://filminstitute.auroville.org/2020/12/01/shot-by-shot/>; register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7VJ4PE9f4ki7P2cYkmEc9PESbVlh4gF_zcgBy9WjuZbcZSg/viewform
- MUSEUM OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY** - ONLINE - Dreamscape - download activities around the art of Arpita Singh. This Discover MAP pack includes: an introduction to Arpita Singh through a close look at her works, exploring her unique style; a guide to playing with textures and their effect; an activity sheet to puzzle out the meanings that may be hidden in her works and create your own symbolic painting; and stories that bring some Arpita-inspired superheroes to life. <https://map-india.org/download/dreamscapes/?audience=kids-families>
- GOOGLE ARTS AND CULTURE** - COLOUR ARTWORKS Features content from over 2000 leading museums and archives who have

partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to bring the world's treasures online. Colour in famous artworks: <https://artexperiments.withgoogle.com/color-hunt/>

6. REEL DESIRES, CHENNAI INTERNATIONAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL 2020 ONLINE - A festival of shorts, feature films and documentaries on sexuality and gender diversity. Online screenings on 12-13 December from 4-7pm. On December 12, the film screening will be accompanied by a panel discussion, "LGBTIQA + Community Activism: Priorities post-Navtej and COVID-19", featuring activists and community organisers from across India. Watch at ciqff.org and <https://tumblr.co/ZmSQKIZLJCWv8a00>

7. GRANT FOR ARTISTS - This grant is for artists who have art projects that support animals, and includes performances as well as the visual arts. <https://www.cultureandanimals.org/grants/grant-application/>



, a SAIER sub-unit presents:

A MINI FESTIVAL OF INDIAN CINEMA

With some of Aurofilm's favorite films along the years
18th & 19th December 2020

Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Bharat Nivas, Auroville

Friday 18th December

17:30: THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS TIGER

Documentary directed by S. Nalla Muthu, India, 2018

Machli, the legendary Tiger Queen of Ranthambhore National Park in Western India was known for her fierce determination, bravery and confidence. A wonderful document shot over a period of nine years. 44'



20:00: ELIPATTAYAM (RAT TRAP)

directed by Adoor Gopala-krishnan, Kerala, 1982, w/ Karamani, Sharada, Jalaja, Rajam K. Nair
Set in rural Kerala, the story of Rat-Trap concerns Unni, the last male heir of a decaying feudal family. His inability to accept the socio-economic changes of a new society results in his gradual withdrawal into isolation and paranoia. A landmark film of the New Indian Cinema movement. Malayalam/EST2h10'

Saturday 19 December

16:00: CLASH OF TIGERS

Documentary directed by S. Nalla Muthu, India, 2019

A tiger mother called Krishna faces unusual challenges while raising her family of 4 cubs in the Ranthambhore National Park of Western India. Even though Krishna loses one of her young cubs while shifting them to a safer den, she raises the remaining three cubs. But her troubles are far from over as the greatest danger comes from within, with her own dominant daughter called Lightning....English 44'

17:00: WHEN THE FOREST BLOOMS (KAADU POOKKUNNA NERAM)

by Dr. Biju, Kerala, 2016, with: Indrajit Sukumaran, Rima Kallingal, Indrans & Prakash Bare.

A policeman arrests a suspected Maoist woman while in operation in the forest. But he loses the way in the vast forest he is unfamiliar with. Thus, both are stranded in the jungle! Power, rebellion, man, woman, the hunter and the hunted ... all equations utterly change the protagonists who are no more what they used to be. Malayalam/EST, 1h46'

20:00: MEMORIES IN MARCH -Directed by Sanjoy Nag

West Bengal, 2010. w/ Deepti Naval, Rituparno Ghosh and Raima Sen
A bereaved mother, dumbstruck by the news of an accidental death of her 28-year old son, comes to Kolkata to carry the last rituals, pack and carry his belongings back to Delhi. Her three-day stay in Kolkata makes her realize that the ownership of her son's belongings, tangible or otherwise, is actually ubiquitous, distributed among all his friends and acquaintances that she will meet. Bengali-English/EST, 1h44'

5 films - Original version with English Subtitles (EST) except the Tiger documentary in English

Aurofilm, aurofilm@auroville.org.in, 0413-2622037; 8300189062

With support from SAIER & in collaboration with Bharat Nivas,

Art exhibition at the library

My new project "Child Portrait" from Roof Studio/AV Art Service is now ready for exhibition at Auroville library. I have been drawing portraits of children in pencil and sending jpg files of the drawings for free to the parents. The portraits are displayed to the public to bring awareness to children. Please go there during their opening hours (Mon - Sat: 9am - 12.30pm / Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 2pm - 4.30pm / Tue: 4pm - 6.30pm) and open your heart. Children are our future. The future depends on how we care for them, and on how they experience our behavior to each other.

If you want to support my work, please contribute to FS account 256190 which is set up to repair the permanent house/studio of the artist. If you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Ivana: ivana.frousova@yahoo.co.uk



⇒⇒⇒⇒PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Auroville Emergency Contact Numbers

Save them in your phone now!

Auroville Safety and Security Team: 9443090107,

04132623400; security@auroville.org.in

Ambulance: Auroville: 9442224680

PIMS: 0413-2656271/72

Farewell: mobile number: 8903836246. reachable 24/7

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

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

All Life is Yoga' course

If there is an interest in learning the system of Yoga beyond just asana practice, including some philosophy, chants, pranayama, and meditation practices, I would be willing to organize a short course for a small group. This could be a good preparation for a teacher training for those interested. It could also help one design a home practice for themselves. Contact G sattvig@gmail.com or 8407997970

Self-defence/ 'Kiriki-do' classes with Hans Tuesdays, 4.30 to 6PM, Budokan, Dehashakti

We will practice only a few movements, concentrating on efficiency and presence. No sparring. Open to all.

Kshetra Kalari Aspiration

Kalari Class for Beginners

Morning classes 6.30 - 7.30am Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Evening classes 5.00 - 6.00pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Kalari Classes for Advanced

Morning classes 6.30 - 7.30 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

KALARI MASSAGE AVAILABLE By appt. 9042009200 Maneesh

Bansuri - The North Indian Bamboo Flute

Open classes, Sat 2-3pm: Advanced / Sat 3-4pm: Total Beginners, at Fertile More info at <https://www.the-sound-of-bamboo.com>. Contact Michael 9150567003 or mail@the-sound-of-bamboo.com

EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING 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!).

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

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

Visiting hours: Hit or Miss. Call first or email for appointment.

Disclaimer: The views expressed on these pages are those of their respective authors or work groups and do not represent the position of the editors or of the community as a whole. The News & Notes serves as a channel for the publication of material coming from trusted sources within Auroville. The editors cannot be held accountable for any alleged misinformation given or offence caused. In case of any dispute, the Auroville Council may be consulted and publishing of disputed material suspended.

News & Notes, Media Centre, Town Hall: 0413-262-2133



Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium
Film program 14 December to 20 December 2020

Cinema Paradiso Team happy to announce that we are resuming our regular movie screening at mmc from 14 December 2020 onwards with strict covid19 protocols.

Please note: For the moment we only allow 40 viewers per screening in case more people turn up we screen the same movie again on later date. For the safety of viewers, we urge you all to wear a mask. A proper mask (and not a scarf etc.) is essential to enter the venue. Please come 20min before movie starts. There may be a queue. You will need to sanitize your hands, get your temperature checked, write your name and community in our ledger, before entering the auditorium.

Indian - Monday 14 December, 8:00 pm:

- **EEB ALLEY OOOH!**

India, 2019, Dir. Prateek Vats w/ Shardul Bharadwaj, Mahender Nath, Nutan Sinha and others, Comedy-Drama, 97mins, Hindustani w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (G)
In this debut film by the director that premiered at Pingyao Film Festival and screened at several prestigious festivals including Berlin Film Festival, the story highlights a young migrant in New Delhi, who scores the unusual government job of keeping monkeys away from public buildings. The title is somewhat onomatopoeiac, as it derives from the distinct sounds used by experienced monkey chasers to scare away the rhesus macaques. *Please remain after the screening for a brief online interaction w/the director.*

Italian Classic - Tuesday 15 December, 8:00 pm:

- **CHE ORA È (What Time Is It)**

Italy, 1989, Dir: Ettore Scola, w/, Marcello Mastroianni, Massimo Troisi, Anne Parillaud, Comedy-Drama, 97 mins, Italian w/English subtitles, Rated: G
Marcello is a wealthy and successful lawyer in Rome who equates life's luxuries with personal happiness. He travels by train to the coast to visit his son, Michele, whom he has rarely seen since splitting with his mother. A scholar and a soldier, Michele values friends and experiences more than things. The father and son's vastly different lives cause friction during the day-long visit, as long-held grudges and misunderstandings stunt their communication.

Interesting - Wednesday 16 December, 8:00 pm:

- **WILD KARNATAKA**

India, 2020, Dir. Amoghavarsha & Kalyan Varma w/ David Attenborough, Documentary, 53mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: U (G)
One outstanding production on Karnataka's rich biodiversity narrated by David Attenborough. The film is a visual tribute to the state hosting the highest number of Tigers and Elephants using the latest technology, a crisp cinematography - showcasing its flora, fauna. *The film was shared with us by the directors and was supposed to be part of the Eco-Film Fest in April 2020.*

Favorites - Thursday 17 December, 8:00 pm:

- **THE FALL**

USA-South Africa-India, 2006, Dir. Tarsem Sing w/ Lee Pace, Cantinca Untaru, Justine Waddell, Adventure-Drama-Fantasy, 117mins, English-Romanian-Latin w/ English subtitles, Rated: R

In a hospital on the outskirts of 1920s Los Angeles, an injured stuntman begins to tell a fellow patient, a little girl with a broken arm, a fantastic story of five mythical heroes. Thanks to his fractured state of mind and her vivid imagination, the line between fiction and reality blurs as the tale advances.

International - Saturday, 19 December, 8:00 pm:

- **AND THEN WE DANCED**

Sweden-Georgia-France, 2019, Dir. Levan Akin, w/ Levan Gelbakhiani, Bachi Valishvili, Ana Javakishvili, Drama-Romance, 113 mins, Georgian w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR
A passionate tale of love and liberation set amidst the conservative confines of modern Georgian society, the movie follows Merab, a devoted dancer who has been training for years with his partner Mary for a spot in the National Georgian Ensemble. The arrival of another male dancer, Irakli-gifted with perfect form and equipped with a rebellious streak-throws Merab off balance, sparking both an intense rivalry and romantic desire that may cause him to risk his future in dance as well as his relationships with Mary and his family.

Children's Matinee - Sunday, 20 December, 4:30 pm:

- **A SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE: FARMAGEDDON**

UK, 2019, Dir: Will Becher, w/ Justin Fletcher, John Sparkes, Chris Morrell and others, Animation, 86mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: G
When an alien with amazing powers crash-lands near Mossy Bottom Farm, Shaun the Sheep goes on a mission to shepherd the intergalactic visitor home before a sinister organization can capture her.

CLASSIC FILMS @ Ciné-Club Sunday 20 December, 8:00 pm:

- **THE LITTLE TRAITOR**

USA-Israel, 2007, Dir. Lynn Roth w/ Ido Port, Alfred Molina and others, Drama, 128 mins, Hebrew w/English subtitles, Rated: PG.
Based on the novel "Panther in the Basement" by the world-renowned author, Amos Oz, the movie takes place in Palestine in 1947, just a few months before Israel becomes a state.

Rating codes we often use are from Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA): G=General Audiences, PG=Parental guidance suggested, PG-13=Parents strongly cautioned, R=Restricted (equivalent to Indian rating: A i.e. for Adults), NR=Film Not rated, Rating awaited, or Rating not available.

For scheduling programs at MMC/CP venue: please email us at mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in. *We appreciate your continued support. Pl donate to "Cinema Paradiso" (account #105106) or set up for a monthly contribution. We need it now more than ever.*

Thanking You, MMC/CP Group
Account# 105106, mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in