

News and Notes

No 849

A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

19th December 2020



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)

(continued from last week)

Already even in the realised higher-mind being and in the intuitive and overmind being the body will have become sufficiently conscious to respond to the influence of the Idea and the Will-Force so that the action of mind on the physical parts, which is rudimentary, chaotic and mostly involuntary in us, will have developed a considerable potency: but in the supramental being it is the consciousness with the Real-Idea in it which will govern everything. This Real-Idea is a truth-perception which is self-effective; for it is the idea and will of the Spirit in direct action and originates a movement of the substance of being which must inevitably effectuate itself in state and act of being. It is this dynamic irresistible spiritual realism of the Truth Consciousness in the highest degree of itself that will have here grown conscient and consciously competent in the evolved gnostic being: it will not act as now, veiled in an apparent inconscience and self-limited by law of mechanism, but as the sovereign Reality in self-effectuating action. It is this that will rule the existence with an entire knowledge and power and include in its rule the functioning and action of the body. The body will be turned by the power of the spiritual consciousness into a true and fit and perfectly responsive instrument of the Spirit.

This new relation of the Spirit and the body assumes, - and makes possible, - a free acceptance of the whole of material Nature in place of a rejection; the drawing back from her, the refusal of all identification or acceptance, which is the first normal necessity of the spiritual consciousness for its liberation, is no longer imperative. To cease to be identified with the body, to separate oneself from the body-consciousness, is a recognised and necessary step whether towards spiritual liberation or towards spiritual perfection and mastery over Nature. But this redemption once effected, the descent of the spiritual light and force can invade and take up the body also and there can be a new liberated and sovereign acceptance of material Nature. That is possible, indeed, only if there is a changed communion of the Spirit with Matter, a control, a reversal of the present balance of interaction which allows physical Nature to veil the Spirit and affirm her own dominance. In the light of a larger knowledge Matter also can be seen to be the Brahman, a self-energy put forth by the Brahman, a form and substance of Brahman; aware of the secret consciousness within material substance, secure in this larger knowledge, the gnostic light and power can unite itself with Matter, so seen, and accept it as an instrument of a spiritual manifestation. A certain reverence, even, for Matter and a sacramental attitude in all dealings with it is possible. As in the Gita the act of the taking of food is spoken of as a material sacrament, a sacrifice, an offering of Brahman to Brahman by Brahman, so also the gnostic consciousness and sense can view all the operations of Spirit with Matter. The Spirit has made itself Matter in order to place itself there as an instrument for the well-being and joy, *yogakṣema*, of created beings, for a self-offering of universal physical utility and service. The gnostic being, using Matter but using it without material or vital attachment or desire, will feel that he is using the Spirit in this form of itself with its consent and sanction for its own purpose. There will be in him a certain respect for physical things, an awareness of the occult consciousness in them, of its dumb will of utility and service, a worship of the Divine, the Brahman in what he uses, a care for a perfect and faultless use of his divine material, for a true rhythm, ordered harmony, beauty in the life of Matter, in the utilisation of Matter.

– Sri Aurobindo. The Life Divine. Book Two. Chapter XXVII: The Gnostic Being

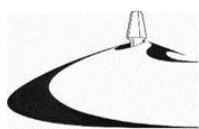
P.S. There's a new HOMA page on the Auroville website: <https://www.auroville.org/contents/1085>



At every moment all the unforeseen, the unexpected, the unknown is before us - and what happens to us depends mostly on the intensity and purity of our faith.

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





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.

NOTICE - The evening of music by Svaram in the Amphitheatre has been **re-scheduled for the Solstice, 21st December**, weather permitting!



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



WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From AVC: Participatory Working Group 2020 document

Proposal D gained the highest votes in the recently held Residents Assembly Decision (RAD) to make it the preferred Selection Process for new members of Auroville Council, FAMC, Working Committee and Entry Board. Hence, Part 3 of the Participatory Working Group (PWG) document 2018 has been replaced with "Proposal D" as is stipulated.

You may view the revised document at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2JWmPpy> - For the AVC, Balaji, Enrica, Ganesh K. Jayamoorthi, Mouttou, Riju, Shivaya, and Vatchala



From the Resident Assembly Service: Update on the upcoming Selection Process for our Working Group members

Following the decision made by the Residents' Assembly on the method of selecting working group members, the Residents' Assembly Service (RAS) is in preparation of the selection process to fill in vacancies of the working groups: **Auroville Council, Entry Board, Funds & Assets Management Committee and Working Committee.**

The 2-day selection process is planned to be held tentatively by **mid of January 2021** and each working group selection will take half a day. We'll keep the community informed with a confirmed date and time for this event. We invite everyone registered in the **Register of Residents (RoR)** of our community to take part in the selection process and choose the members for our working groups.

The RAS will also need help organising this event and we are calling out for volunteers who can support us, if you may be available and interested to help, please email us at raservice@auroville.org.in.

For those who will register as a nominee or as a participant, the Auroville Council will reach out to the management of your workplace and request for holidays to attend the selection process.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

This is a call to invite you to take part in the next Selection Process for the Auroville Council, Entry Board, Funds and Assets Management Committee and Working Committee.

According to the newly amended selection process guidelines <http://bit.ly/2JWmPpy>, an Auroville resident can either nominate him/herself or nominate others to become working group members. All community members on the RoR (confirmed Aurovilians on the Register of Residents) can participate in the selection process.

HOW

You can nominate yourself or others:

- Online - please follow this link to submit your nomination <http://bit.ly/37jjFES>. Please note, when you nominate others, the Residents' Assembly Service (RAS) will notify the resident(s) you nominate via email once and that the resident(s) will have to submit their nomination profile before or by the date specified below.

Nomination profiles submission will be open until
Saturday, January 2nd, 2021

NOMINATING OTHERS ON THE LAST DAY MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE RESIDENT(S) TO SUCCESSFULLY SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATION ON TIME!

- In person - a printed nomination form will be available from the RAS sounding board outside Financial Service in Town Hall and is also attached as the last page of this News & Notes. Please fill your form in and hand it over to the RAS members/resource persons (at the RAS desk, Town Hall) every Tuesday between 10am to 12pm.

WHEN

The selection will happen on **Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd of January 2021** (full days, timings will be confirmed in our future communications) at the Unity Pavilion. For those who register as either a nominee or as a participant, the Auroville Council will reach out to the management of the workplace and request for holidays to attend the selection process.

For more details (list of outgoing members, job description, requirements for candidates), please use this link <https://bit.ly/37i9PDj>.

Working Committee Report Oct 16th to Dec 8th 2020

The main issues in this period were as follows:

- 1) **Meeting of the Governing Board** - The 56th meeting of the Governing Board was held on-line on November 7th. The Working Committee members had a 30-minutes interaction with the Board members, in which the Board was asked to take decisions on the action points mentioned in the various reports that had been submitted to them. After this, the Board had its internal meeting. The minutes of the Board meeting have not yet been received.
- 2) **Auroville Foundation**
 - a) The term of office of the members of the Governing Board has ended on November 23rd. A video message from Dr. Karan Singh and a video appreciation made by a group of Aurovilians were shown at the Sri Aurobindo Auditorium and were made available through an internet link [here](#). On behalf of the community, the Working Committee has offered to the Chairman and members each a wooden board with the Gayatri Mantra in Sri Aurobindo's handwriting inscribed on them. Gratitude to WorkTree for its support.
 - b) We have not been informed about the appointment of any new members.
 - c) The appointment of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation is still awaited.
 - d) The appointment of new members of the International Advisory Council is still awaited.
- 3) **Selection / membership of the Working Committee /list of works and responsibilities**
 - a) **Selection** - Now that proposal D has been accepted by the community, we hope that the RAS will start the process for selecting new members soon.
 - b) **The term of office** of the present members expires as follows:
 - i) Chali: on April 21st 2022
 - ii) Sauro, Partha: on December 15th, 2020 They are eligible for a second term of 3 years
 - iii) Selvaraj and Jürgen: were appointed in accordance with the interim selection process and hold office till new WCom members have been selected. They are then eligible for their first full term of three years, minus their interim period.
 - iv) Ranjith and Carel: on December 15th, 2020. They have finished their second term of three years and are not eligible for another term in the Working Committee.
 - c) **Continuation of work** - As Chali is abroad due to family circumstances, and as work continues piling up, all Working Committee members will continue after December 15th till new members have been selected. We understand this to be in accordance with the section 'Commitment of members' of the Participatory Working Group's document approved by the community in 2018. *"Members of working groups are expected to commit to their term of office or at least to the next selection. If they are unable to make that commitment, then they should not accept nomination for the group. The exception would be circumstance outside their control."*
 - d) **List of main responsibilities and work areas of the Working Committee.** - We have posted a description of the main responsibilities, work areas and skills requirement of the Working Committee on the AuroNet at [this link](#).
- 4) **TDC membership**
 - a) We have informed the community about the appointment of interim members Anbu, Toby and Lakshay.
 - b) A proper selection process for the TDC needs to be formulated and be presented to the community.
 - c) As the Governing Board has not taken action on our proposal to contact former Governing Board member and former Chairman of the Town Development Council Dr B.V. Doshi, to

do through his organization an assessment of the present status of planning in Auroville and to propose a way forward including a suitable organizational structure, the Working Committee will be contacting Dr. Doshi directly.

5) **Gazetted version of The Auroville Foundation (Admission and Termination of persons in the Register of Residents) Regulations 2019**

- a) We would like to thank Paul Vincent for drawing our attention to the fact that the new wording of section 5 of Form I of the above mentioned regulations was not done properly. We have requested the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to make the necessary amendment. We have also stated that until the change is made we expect the office of the Secretary to refrain from giving any permission for land purchase in the Master Plan area to any Auroville resident, as per the instructions of the Governing Board in the minutes of the 54th meeting. Our letter to the Secretary was published on the Auronet at [this link](#).
- b) In this context we would like to clarify that the Working Committee never received a draft of the proposed new wording of this section. We had been informed that the Governing Board approved the proposal of the community, and that subsequently the HRD Ministry had approved of the Board's decision. We have received only the final gazetted version on twenty October 20 by Whatsapp without any comments. We had no reasons to expect any changes and nobody thought of checking this version. We apologize for the oversight that led to a belated shared of the information.

6) **Auroville Land Ownership Policy**

- a) We would like to stress that Form I of the Regulations is a form which a Newcomer who wants to become Aurovilian has to sign, before his/her name is entered by the Secretary into the Register of Residents. It is not a form which is to be signed by Aurovilians.
- b) The FAMC regulated the ownership of immoveable assets in the city and greenbelt area in 2000, when it formulated the mandate of the LEM (Land and Estate Management). As this group no longer exists, the mandate can now only be found in the Archive section of the Auronet at: <https://auroville.org.in/page/archive-mandates-and-policies> and <https://auroville.org.in/page/auroville-land-policy>. However, the part of it regarding land ownership is still valid, and we reproduce it here below:

AUROVILLE LAND POLICY (approved by FAMC, May 2, 2000)
*Auroville belongs to nobody in particular.
Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole.*

In order to give effect to these first two lines of Auroville's Charter, the Funds and Assets Management Committee has agreed to the following land policy.

1. It is the intention that all land within the geographical region earmarked as the Auroville city and greenbelt areas, with the exception of the areas earmarked as village related areas, will be owned by the Auroville Foundation. The Auroville Foundation will hold the ownership of all lands in trust for humanity as a whole.
2. A Newcomer to Auroville, an Aurovilian or a Friend of Auroville will have no private ownership of land within the geographical region mentioned in clause 1 above.
3. A Newcomer to Auroville, an Aurovilian or a Friend of Auroville who owns land in the geographical region mentioned in clause 1 above is requested to transfer those lands at the earliest possible to the Auroville Foundation, either by donation or, if such is not possible, by way of sale.
4. An Aurovilian or Friend of Auroville, who donates or sells the land which he or she singly or jointly owns in the geographical region mentioned in clause 1 above to another individual or to other individuals or to another corporate body than the Auroville Foundation, may, by that very fact, become disqualified to be Aurovilian.

7) **Privately-owned land by Aurovilians within- and outside the Master Plan area.**

- a) In our report of January 2020, we mentioned that individual Auroville residents as well as Governing Board members have raised questions about the propriety of land and/or house purchases by Auroville residents. In order to respond to these questions, the Working Committee has asked 45 people for

clarifications on their ownership and the source of funds to purchase lands within and outside the Master Plan area: 18 persons about their land outside the Master Plan area and 27 people about their land within the Master Plan area.

- b) We received responses from 31 people. Some responses are satisfactory, some are not.
- c) 14 people have not responded. One person explicitly refused to respond to our request.
- d) We will submit the responses to the FAMC for further action, as may be deemed necessary.
- e) We would like to reiterate our position on the ownership of immoveable property outside the Master Plan area, as stated in our report of January 2020: There are no grounds for objecting to an Auroville resident owning immoveable property (lands and/or houses) outside the Master Plan area unless there is proof that the funds for the property came from an Auroville unit or activity.

8) Auroville residents abroad - We are grateful that the Ministry of Home Affairs has promulgated an order lifting the suspension of all visas, except tourist visas, which means that all residents of Auroville who have an Entry visa or who will obtain a fresh Entry Visa can return to Auroville. We have requested the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, to start recommending entry visa for volunteers in accordance with the visa policy for Auroville.

9) Visit of the Collector Villupuram district. - The Collector Villupuram district visited Auroville on November 18. After inaugurating a new classroom building at Udavi, he and his staff met with the Secretary, members of the Safety and Security Team and members of the Working Committee and discussed:

- a) Beach erosion: the Collector informed that the Tamil Nadu government has approved a beach protection plan in Bommaiarapalayam village, involving the use of geo-tubes. The work is expected to be starting soon.
- b) The removal of solid waste in Kuilapalayam village. The Collector agreed that a tractor with trailer be purchased and 10 labors employed for the collection of solid waste at Kuilapalayam area. The BDO, Vanur has agreed to start with segregating and dispose the solid waste pile laying at Kuilapalayam, but due the rains they haven't been able to start the work.
- c) Various land issues within and outside the city area;
- d) The request for a license to transport molasses for MG Ecoduties.

10) Tamil Nadu Public Trust Bill - In consultation with our lawyer, the Working Committee has written to the Governor of Tamil Nadu expressing the difficulties Auroville will be facing if the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts Bill, 2020, as approved by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, receives his assent and becomes law. The Bill envisages that non-Indian citizens cannot be trustees. The Auroville Foundation has, for the better management of Auroville in accordance with Auroville's Charter, setup 37 trusts, which are managed by 93 trustees of which 54 are foreign nationals. The Governor has been requested to return the Bill to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for reconsideration to include a provision for grant of exception.

11) Privacy issues - The Secretary, Auroville Foundation, has informed us of his intention to publish excerpts from the Register of Residents maintained by him on the website of the Auroville Foundation. This Register contains the data of all residents of Auroville of 18 years and older. We have raised issues of data protection and privacy. The Secretary has responded that personal data (Auroville name, place of residence in Auroville, home telephone number, mobile telephone number, and email address) are available in the Auroville telephone directory which is for sale publicly, so he considers that these data can be made public on the Auroville Foundation website.

12) **Right of Way and Change Org petition.**

- a) Based on Budget questions, the GOI grant group initiated a meeting with the people from the Youth Center and the Forest Group. The meeting was facilitated and took place at the Youth Center with representatives of the above groups, members of the TDC, the GOI Group, the FAMC, the WC and the BCC attending.
- b) The discussion focused on alternatives routes of laying the HT cable, and the meeting participants walked the various routes. The constructive and fruitful exchange concluded with the understanding that a more detailed discussion between

Units and Trusts

Date applied	Date of approval	Type	Name of Entity	Parent Entity	Name of Executive	Category
2/10/20	3/12/20	Unit	AuroDeniz	Auromics Trust	Arun & Sandjivy	Shops & Boutiques/ eCommerce
13/10/20	3/12/20	Unit	Procultura	Kattida Kalai Trust	Guidelma Grandi	Manufacturing
4/08/20	3/12/20	Unit	RED EARTH RIDING SCHOOL	Hospitality Trust	Kali & Cameron	Others/ Sports
30/07/20	3/12/20	Unit	Essence of Nature	Artisana Trust	Aditya Nisar	Food Processing & Trading

the relevant groups including financial implications and issues with the RoW will take place.

- c) After this positive meeting an exchange of letters between the AVF, TDC, the Forest Group and the Wcom has taken place and shared with the community.
- d) This internal constructive process has been disturbed by a petition posted by unknown people at the internationally-known change.org petition platform. This initiated a signature campaign in Auroville to clarify and correct the factually wrong information contained in this petition.
- e) We have alerted the Change Org administrator on the misleading information and wrong content of the petition. We have asked Sanjeev and Manoj for their help in removing the petition from the website.
- f) We have received a copy of the petition urging the HT cable to be laid along the crown signed by 90 persons.
- g) We reiterate that this issue should be resolved amicably through an internal process.

13) Clarification on the '60 signatures' issue. - As the issue of calling for meetings by 60 signatures has become confusing, the Working Committee has published its views on this issue on the Auronet at [this link](#).

14) Auroville resident arrested - A resident of Auroville has been arrested for the possession of a minimal amount of *ganja* as the possession and use of drugs is a criminal offense in India. He is now out on bail. We would like to remind all about The Mother's statement: *Drugs are prohibited in Auroville*.

- The Working Committee
Carel, Chali, Jurgen, Partha, Ranjith, Sauro, Selvaraj

FAMC Weekly Bulletin

First, we would like to apologise for the time it takes us to produce updates on the work we do on your behalf. We know it is not acceptable. The simple truth is that the sheer volume and pace of the work and issues we deal with, particularly during these last months, has made it very hard for us to keep our monthly reporting on track. While we have continued to give ad hoc updates on key issues, such as on Roma's Kitchen and PTPS, we know that is not enough. We promise to complete the monthly reports for June to November in the next few weeks. Thereafter, we want to try something a little different.

Starting with this communication, we intend to produce short weekly bulletins. These will set out key issues that we are dealing with and any relevant updates (including our regular updates on Units and Trusts). We hope it will help keep you informed in a timely fashion of the issues occupying us. On that note, welcome to the FAMC Weekly Bulletin for Monday 30 Nov to Sunday 6 Dec 2020.

Update for 30 November to 6 December 2020

In addition to our regular correspondence and meetings (such as with Working Groups and residents);

- FAMC worked with Matrimandir in the preparation of an announcement for Matrimandir regarding the management of the new compost project located just after Visitor's Centre. The team will be chosen by Matrimandir and FAMC together.
- Work continued on issues related to Roma's Kitchen. This included preparing communications with applicants, proposed executives and the Community regarding Roma's Kitchen and work regarding contents of an MoU.
- FAMC met with the Working Committee, MERA, and the Covid 19 Task Force to discuss issues affecting ongoing budgeting for the Task Force and the budgetary constraints that the valuable work of the Task Force is having to contend with.
- We discussed issues regarding subsidised housing and Housing Against Work and commenced setting out information that could potentially form part of an Operations Manual for Housing.
- We have also engaged in analytical work concerning the Kalpana project, its costing and lessons we can learn from the project. This has focused, in particular, on finances and improved documentation. This is, in part, with a view to assisting residents who have been long waiting for stewardship agreements.

A Note from FAMC Application Review Group

The Application Review Group, a subgroup of the FAMC is glad to share with you a quick update of the work that it has been carried out since June 2020. The aim of the ARG is to smoothen the entity (activity and unit) application process, and to be the bridge between the umbrella entities and applicants. In the last 6 months ARG has received, and processed overall 70 applications, among them 22 applications were forwarded to the FAMC for their final approval ([Link](#)).

Application Process: Any interested applicant (Aurovilian) can get the online entity application form by sending an email to the FAMC application admin (applicationsfamc@auroville.org.in). Once the application has been filled, and submitted; the ARG team will go through the application and give their comments to improve the application or to clarify the doubts, if there are any. There is a 2 week time period for the applicant to respond to the received comments, if there is no response from the applicant for more than 2 weeks, the application will be considered as discontinued.

The successfully completed applications will be first shared with the suitable Umbrella entities for their reviews, and to get their feedback. Based on the recommendation of the Umbrella entity, then the applications will be forwarded to the FAMC for their formal approval, and to issue the FAMC Resolution. In order to clear the common doubts of the majority of the applicants, we would be happy to clarify the fundamental categories of the entities, and their nature.

Activity: Nothing but a start-up which is in its very initial stage, and expected to have turnover less than 5 lakhs per year. For further information, please find the attached [activity guidelines](#). The advantage of the activity is even a single person (manager) can start an activity.

Unit: A matured activity that has or expected to have more than 10 lakhs turnover per year. The additional benefits are a unit can get an external bank account, and apply for fixed assets. A unit should have at least 2 executives.

The most common reason for applications being denied is that they are from **Newcomers** not entitled to start an entity. The applicants who have difficulties with the digital medium i.e. google documents can get support from the FAMC admin team (Balaji and Mathan) on Wednesday afternoons 2.30 to 4.30 PM.
- ARG team (Daniel, Luise, Marc & Palani with Balaji & Mathan)



New Members

We're happy to announce that after much anticipation, new members have joined the L'Avenir d'Auroville./TDC - Anbu, Lakshay and Toby - to support the continuing members - Saravan and Sreevatsa. The Working Committee has selected the new members on an interim basis, after carefully scanning, meeting and evaluating various applications from the community. It was very encouraging to see many applications to serve the positions, reinforcing the importance our community lays on this body, gracefully set up by The Mother herself. Furthermore, it's worth noting that the new composition has a right mix of experience and expertise, old and new, planning and action, etc.

We had a team-building session with Elvira and Elisa, to have a better understanding of each other and align our aspirations

related to TDC. With this strengthened new 'Interface Team', we shall look into the organisational aspects, constitution of 'Technical Teams', resource optimization and mobilization, deeper interaction and participation of the community, and to have smoother working relationships with other working groups. We hope this positive change shall bring harmony to our regular functioning and expedite the decision-making process.

In the future, we expect to have improved communication mechanisms in place, to address community members' queries in a quicker manner. Meanwhile, we request everyone to have a little bit more patience and allow us all to settle into our roles.

We're hoping the divine will guide us in our service and the community will shower us their blessing, love, and cooperation.
- Anbu, Lakshay, Saravanan, Sreevatsa & Toby

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Housing Asset for Transfer

One more home is currently available for transfer:

- Hope - Matthias house - Family

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

All you need to do is:

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

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

Housing Service invites the community to be informed about various housing processes and to give their valuable inputs on the following dates: **Mon 21st & Tue 22nd Dec, 10am to 12pm.** You can meet the members and ask any questions regarding housing and give us your feedback on housing, if any.



Light, Life, Power, Wealth

COMMUNITY PANEL EVENT AT UNITY PAVILLION -
TO SELECT THE LEAD DESIGN FROM TOP 3 & INTEGRATION
2ND JAN 2021 4.30- 6.30 PM
NOTE: SELECTING LEAD DESIGN WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DO IT IN THEIR OWN TIME

COMMUNITY PANEL REGISTRATION -
REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE IN SELECTING THE LEAD DESIGN
ONLINE VIA RAS MASS MAIL OR OFFLINE AT MATRIMANDIR OFFICE GATE
VISIT MATRIMANDIR.ORG/DESIGNS TO VIEW THE DESIGNS

We are finally able to move forward to the last stage of the Matrimandir Garden Design Call !

From AVHC: The Homeopathic Doctor will continue his consultation on Tuesday and Friday but the timings will change **from 22nd December onwards** to morning 10 am to 1 pm.

Announcing Aurodeniz

I'm happy to announce that our unit, Aurodeniz (an e-commerce store, exclusively created to promote the skills and products of the craftsmen of Auroville bioregion) has been approved as an Auroville unit. Following this happy news, we are now looking for energetic, aspiring, creative people who can support us with the various works related to the unit.

This will be a great platform for us to know each other and experiment with the world of e-commerce. The way we function is totally different from other Auroville units, and working with us will make you realise the difference, and give you a new experience of commercial activity designed to benefit all. Let's hold hands and move for a better future.

Interested people can reach us at aurodeniz@auroville.org, or Ph/whatsapp to +917639810621. -Arun for the AuroDeniz team



Open call for solo and group exhibition at Centre d'Art for the 2021 - 2022 season

Centre D'art is pleased to accept submissions of cohesive art projects, and we carefully go over all submitted portfolios. However, we hope you understand that due to a high number of applications, we cannot reply in person to each submission. If we are interested in your work, we will be sure to contact you via the details provided w/ your submission. Submissions may be made to centredart@auroville.org.in. When making a submission, please note the following guidelines:

- The subject line of any submission email must begin with the subject 'Exhibition Submission'
- All images should be sent as jpeg files, at screen resolution, not more than twenty-five images.
- Attach a short artist statement for the project being submitted, that will help us understand your work better.
- Provide contact details - email address.

Deadline for the submissions is 31st January 2021 and the exhibition season August 2021 to April 2022.

Connect with us: centredart@auroville.org.in www.centredart.in

APPEALS



MADE WITH LOVE - MEAL TRAIN

We have several new births in the community! Please consider offering a home cooked meal (or gift credit to a restaurant for delivery) to a family of a new-born. It's a great way to show practical support. During monsoon, it's even more precious!

TO PROVIDE a nutritious meal, receive announcements of births/sign, join WA group (silent): request to 8056888715 or email list (silent): abadyrotem@gmail.com

TO RECEIVE meals, if your family just had a birth, contact Rotem at either of the above. -Kaliananda (for Made with Love)

A kind request from Auroville Printers

Auroville Printers kindly requests & informs all units, services & schools in Auroville to consider all their jobs like vouchers, visiting cards, bill books, delivery note books, library cards, book binding, packaging (die cutting) work (boxes, packets, tags etc.), and all kinds of labels etc. - just name it & we'll do it! We are very grateful to those who give their orders to Auroville Printers and request others to kindly consider next time when you need something to allow us to do the work for you.

For those who don't know, Auroville Printers was originally created primarily for fulfilling all the printing needs of all units in Auroville. It has been very hard during this pandemic for many of us but with a little gesture of good will, to support an Auroville unit, you can utilize & thereby support the services offered at Auroville Printers by means of your orders. THANKS! MERCI!

Wishing you all an advance Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy & happy New Year 2021!

- Auroville Printers, (in front of the Auroville Health Centre) (0413) - 2622534, 9443202786, aurovilleprinters@auroville.org.in

Laptops Needed - If there are any lying around that either are functional or could be made to be, please let us know. We were working on 2 used ones but they both died on us! Thanks so much! aurodeniz@auroville.org, 7639810621. - Arun S. for AuroDeniz

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 063 - 19-12-2020

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.

NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- Jayaprakash JAYABALAN (Indian) staying in Shanthi and working at Mukti Accounting



Jayaprakash

NEWCOMERS CONFIRMED:

- Archana SEKHAR (Indian)
- Chloe TADIOTTO (French)
- Punniyakodi MANJINI (Indian)

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:

- Krista MUDD (USA) staying in Auromodele and working at Just Be
- Nithya VEERAPPAN (Indian) staying in Azhagu Bhoomi and working at Azhagu Bhoomi & Deepanam
- Prakash VENKATESAN (Indian) staying in Humanscapes and working at Auroville Art Service
- Rebeca LOPEZ (Spanish) staying in Terra Amata (Frederic's house) and working at Sante & Auromode.



Krista Nithya Prakash Rebeca

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

- Jean-Yves TARIOT (French)
- Patricia GUICHARDAN (French)

LEFT ON HIS/HER OWN:

Kalaiselvan ELUMALAI (Indian)

NOTE:

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To Managers of AV Guest Houses re: your cycles

If you have cycles to offer your guests, it might be a good time to have those cycles serviced and made beautiful again, now the monsoon is moving on its way. Cycle Kiosk is here to help with all repair needs. We provide estimates for a full range of options. Please contact us, also you can let us know if you need help to arrange transport. 89401 15240; avcyclekiosk@auroville.org.in

- Cycle Kiosk Team

Holidays for the year 2021

(recommended by S.E.W.A)

S.E.W.A recommends that all employees be given a choice of 10 (ten) holidays from the list below. We recommend that Republic Day, May Day, Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanthi be included in them.

Holidays	Date	Day
New Year's Day	January 1	Friday
Pongal	January 14	Thursday
Thiruvalluvar Day / Mattu Pongal	January 15	Friday
Uzhavar Thirunal / Karinal	January 16	Saturday
Republic Day	January 26	Tuesday
Masi Magam	February 27	Saturday
Tamil New Year Day	April 14	Wednesday
May Day	May 1	Saturday
Ramzan (Idul Fitr)	May 14	Friday
Independence Day	August 15	Sunday
Vinayagar Chaturthi	September 10	Friday
Gandhi Jayanthi	October 2	Saturday
Ayutha Pooja	October 14	Thursday
Deepavali	November 4	Thursday
Karthigai Deepam	November 19	Friday
Christmas	December 25	Saturday

S.E.W.A. also recommends that employees are granted paid leave for unanticipated events or personal exigencies up to a maximum of 12 days in a year. Further, that they be granted paid leave on account of sickness up to a maximum of 12 days.

Public Holidays for the year 2021

declared by the Government of Tamil Nadu

Holidays	Date	Day
New Year's Day	January 1	Friday
Pongal	January 14	Thursday
Thiruvalluvar Day	January 15	Friday
UzhavarThirunal	January 16	Saturday
Republic Day	January 26	Tuesday
Annual closing of Accounts for Commercial Banks & Co-operative Banks	April 1	Thursday
Good Friday	April 2	Friday
Telugu New Year's Day	April 13	Tuesday
Tamil New Year's Day & Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birthday	April 14	Wednesday
Mahaveer Jayanthi	April 25	Sunday
May Day	May 1	Saturday
Ramzan (IdulFitr)	May 14	Friday
Bakrid (IdulAzha)	July 21	Wednesday
Independence Day	August 15	Sunday
Muharram	August 20	Friday
Krishna Jayanthi	August 30	Monday
Vinayagar Chaturthi	Sept 10	Friday
Gandhi Jayanthi	October 2	Saturday
Ayutha Pooja	October 14	Thursday
Vijaya Dasami	October 15	Friday
Milad-un-Nabi	October 19	Tuesday
Deepavali	November 4	Thursday
Christmas	Dec 25	Saturday

Anitya community kitchen (Joy of Impermanence)

Here is the [video](#) we made about the Anitya community kitchen: how it was made, & what's so special about it, all told by Anitya community member, ION. We hope you enjoy learning on the journey with us. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9AllinwZ8>

CARPENTRY AND REPAIR WORK

I have 20 years of carpentry experience in Auroville. If you would like custom furniture made, broken furniture mended, or any sort of carpentry work, I can do it at affordable price. Contact: Iyanar 877 818 0971.



Seedlings and More!

We have seedlings for your vegetable garden ready to plant: Basil, Salads, Brinjals, Dill. Also we have nice

Xmas trees and maybe you will find a plant you wish to offer to a dear one. We are looking forward to see you in the gardens! Come for a walk, there is plenty of new things to discover!

Anti-Inflammatory Diet

There are a few of us in Auroville who are eating simple organic food and avoiding inflammatory substances such as white flour, refined sugar, strong spices, and nightshades (tomatoes, potatoes, bell peppers, brinjal, chillies, etc.)

We are wondering if there is a group of people staying connected on this and sharing meals, or that would be interested in creating a communal kitchen / eatery for this purpose. Those interested in an Ayurvedic diet or Macrobiotic diet may also benefit.

Feel free to get in touch: G (sattvig@gmail.com, 840 799 7970)

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.

Hospitality position - You have experience in all work related to a restaurant, either you have studied Hotel Management or similar or have previous practical experience. You know stock taking and the related programs, you are flexible and you like to drive, you are hardworking and committed. You are good at organizing. Full time or part time, maintenance available.

Guest House Supervisor - You are able to supervise staff, you are meticulous, have an eye for details and know how to welcome guests. You have experience in the field. You will be flexible and work in other areas if needed. You have handyman skills. Full or part time, accommodation can be provided.

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 are very good and you have basic computer skills for bookings, billing and registrations. You are flexible, a team player and fluent in English (any other language is a bonus). Maintenance available.

Social Media Curator - Several units do need support for social media networking. Please let us know if you have experience in this field, so we can connect you with those units.

And other positions (please inquire about details):

- Customer Care and Website Maintenance
- Production Management (part-time)
- Graphic Designer and Video Editor
- Coordinator (volunteer)
- Volunteers for Auro Orchard
- Workshop Assistance (PT, volunteer or AV Contribution only)

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

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

Someone coming back from Europe USA soon - I want to get two small pharmacy items for my baby which I can't find in India. if someone is coming back very soon from Europe or USA and has a tiny space left in their luggage, please let me know. Thank you in advance for your help! Mathilde. mathildet@auroville.org.in; WhatsApp message: 7094058699.

Hindustani classical music teacher - Contact Kshitij - 9739916003 (WA/SMS only), kshotika@gmail.com

An office and a house - can be housesitting or a transfer. Michelle: +91 8300731300. Merci!

Work - My name is Raja and I am living in Kulapalayam and I am looking for work. I have more than 12 yrs experience working in Auroville. I am good at **computer, billing, sales, maintenance and assisting for accounts**. Please contact me regarding any job openings. Thank you, Raja, 8124157585. (submitted by Suresh)

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

Phone - for a young Aurovillian that needs it for his work. 2nd hand, not too expensive. Contact 9489601312. shivaya@auroville.org.in

AVAILABLE

House helper - from Sanjeevinagar, experienced, very trustworthy and good natured. She has timeslots available 2 or 3 afternoons per week. If interested contact Kalaivani: 96267 40708 (Tamil) or write to isha@auroville.org.in

Phone - I have a spare phone, Vivo v17 pro, 6 gb ram, 128gb internal memory. Very good condition, no cracks and dents. If interested, Eden, 7598394821.

Kittens - 4 friendly kittens (2 months old) are looking for new house. Good health. They have grown half inside house, so are used to a litter box. They can adapt both to indoor and outdoor. Contact: 8939831775, himichiyo@gmail.com

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Next time it's time to plant, make the effort to put local plants in your garden. Replace your water hungry grass lawn with native species of plants that do not require water.

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



HOME - the Earth:

Our Home is a Miracle and a Beauty

Life on Earth started two million years ago and its subtle, fragile harmony gradually developed. All life forms are interlinked in a delicate but crucial natural balance with each other. Mankind is 'only' 200,000 years-old, but over the past 50 years it has brought about such changes that are threatening to upset this balance. This alarming process is accelerating.

The film shows the beauty of the Earth seen from above and urges us to become more conscious of and caring for our beautiful blue home. And this film about life on Earth and global warming is a result of a dedicated effort of the 88,000 employees of Europa Cooperation. Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqxENMKaeCU>



YOUNG NATURALISTS, PART III

Today we meet Zohar (17), known to most as Zozo, who might be Auroville's youngest full time forester. He lives and works in Evergreen, where he grew up among the trees and animals. He likes to go for walks and in the mornings he joins the community to do pruning, cutting, planting. "I do whatever needs

doing. There is so much! One time a volunteer asked me "are we finished with the forest work?" I had to laugh and said "for today maybe, but we're never really finished".



When deciding what to do in the forest, Zozo says "I look at the tree and what it needs. I see if they are happy or not, and how they want to grow. Also, according to local culture we should not cut certain trees on specific days." About the relation with the village, he explains: "there is a sacred pooja place in Evergreen on the border between Edayanchavadi & Kuilapalayam village. Before the annual fire-walking ceremony large groups come here to worship."

Talking about pooja places, there is another one which marks the birthday of a part of Evergreen they call the New Land. I ask Zozo to show this auspicious site and on the way we encounter a resident feral water buffalo. "She just decided to come and live here. We don't know who she belongs to. It's quite strange! We made a drinking spot for her, but had to lift it off the ground because otherwise the wild boar come and make a big mess." Besides the stray buffalo and two families of boar, he often sees porcupines, jackals, civet cats ("one who used to live inside my neighbour's house") and very large owls that look like flying foxes, but are white. And of course plenty of snakes.

Zozo has had a thing for animals since he was very young. "Before, I used to look after rescued birds. I had a cage full of them. One owl had lost an eye (perhaps due to poisoning). One kingfisher had a broken neck (probably after flying into a glass window). There were pond herons, babblers and many more. One time someone called from Pondy where a kite (bird) was caught in a kite (toy). I cut it loose and it was fine. Sometimes the people from BARK India who are into rescuing dogs call me when they find a bird that needs help."

He also worked with farm animals. First in the dairy next to Sun Farm, and later grazing the owner's goats. "I was walking full days with the goats along the side of the road, making sure they wouldn't break any fences or get mixed up with other people's goats. But I hardly got to see my family anymore, so I quit."

Next Zozo plans to establish a patch of grass land inside the forest, because many animals (such as deer, but also reptiles who need sun) like to have a diverse landscape. And humans too. "The forest has become so dense that there's hardly any place where we can see the moon." So has Zozo found his own niche here in the forest? He says: "there is so much to learn. I don't think we can ever really know it all. After the cyclone I saw so many indigenous trees bouncing back. They are very happy here. And so am I. It feels good to be looking after this piece of Auroville land."

***** BROADCASTINGS *****

Virtual Climate Ambition Summit - Five years after the Paris Climate Agreement, UN Chief Antonio Guterres called on all governments to declare a state of climate emergency and make good on their promises to slash carbon pollution as they recover from the pandemic. In the virtual Climate Ambition Summit held online he said: "Nations' current commitments are far under the limit of the target of a temperature rise of 1.5 °C. To reach this target 50 % cut in CO2 emissions need to be achieved in the next decade."

Carbon emissions by the richest 1 % of the global population equals the emissions of the 50 % of the poorest on the planet... The Nations of the G20, responsible for most of the CO2 pollution, spend 50 % more in their Covid rescue packages on sectors linked to Fossil Fuels than on low carbon energy. Guterres: "we cannot use fossil fuel resources to lock in policies that burden future generations with a mountain of debt on a broken planet." He pleads for a 'Coalition of the Willing' and did not invite countries

like Brazil and Saudi Arabia for the summit as they showed no serious commitment. PM Modi says India is on track and reduced emission intensity by 21% from 2005 levels. Solar energy capacity will be augmented to 450 GigaWatt by 2030. China said it will be Net Zero by 2060.

Global Warming is impacting Tiger Conservation - In Nepal a Royal Bengal Tiger was spotted above 3000 meter altitude. The sighting demonstrated the importance of the Kanchenjuga's forests which are connected to National Parks in Sikkim and Bengal. Tigers were spotted even higher up at 4000+ meters in Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh!

How are the Bisons and river dolphins? - The European Bison population, the largest land mammal in Europe, have improved. But all 4 species of freshwater river dolphins in the world are threatened with extinction.

The Funga Project - Is all about research and application of the wonderful Mycelium -the vegetative part of a fungus: a network of fine white filaments through which the fungus absorbs and passes on nutrients from its environment through an electrical-like circuit also known as the Wood-Wide-Web. The Funga project got \$ 3 Million from the European Community to develop applications for construction and food. A fungal house is built by bonding (dead) Mycelium between life mycelium panels. As resources become scarce and sand is running out there are great expectations from the humble fungus for construction.

***** Tread lightly on this Earth *****

~ Lisbeth & Gijs - *The Green Column reports on green issues in Auroville, the bioregion and the wider world. It appears biweekly in the News & Notes and on Auronet. We like to hear from you!* avgreencenter@auroville.org.in



A lot of new episodes this week! Please check the list below and... stay tuned! [Here](#) you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7). [Here](#) you can see on-air schedules.

Last published podcasts:

- [The Aura Network, a Presentation](#) (Alternatives values)
- [Aarohan - ep.11 "The Melody of Romance"](#) (Music)
- [Savitri, B. VII, C. VI, Part 2](#) (Integral yoga)
- [Happiness, Love and Laughter - ep.66](#) (Laughter yoga)
- [The Akademik Genius Brothers - The Making Off... ep.10](#) (Theatre)
- [The Tamil Literary Forum - ep.15](#) (Tamil culture)
- [Audible Weed Walk - "I am what I eat! Really?"](#) (Edible weeds)
- [Neo Urban Chronik - "In search of a ray of sunshine"](#) (Humour)
- [The Best of What Still Around - ep.21](#) (Music)
- [Martenka's Weekly Offering - ep.13](#) (Reading)
- [Lectures par Gangalakshmi - 341](#) (Sri Aurobindo)
- [Sacred Music - ep.2 "Vedas: Yajur Veda"](#) (Music)
- [Soul Tracks - "This, that, and a bit of the other."](#) (Music)
- [Nutritional Cultural Redemption - ep.20](#) (Organic farming)

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

Remembering Astad by Tapas

While working at the Indian Embassy, in Paris, Tapas Bhatt met Astad Deboo at an International Dance Competition and invited him to Auroville to perform at the Sri Aurobindo Auditorium. Astad became a regular visiting guest in Auroville and we were fortunate to see his magnificent whirling piece set to Tagore's poem, a slow, swirling infinity. He also brought his work with the martial arts dancers of Manipur, his work with dancers with hearing impairment from America, quite a feat, produced as a full scale, fun-filled choreography. In Auroville Astad had an appreciative, full house audience for his performances. He also offered dance workshops and got the puppeteer, Padamjee, to show us his craft. Astad loved coming to Auroville, to hang out in Pondicherry, perform at the Lycee and making many friends wherever he was. His awards were many, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi award and the Padmashri.

Astad (13 July 1947 - 10 December 2020) was an early pioneer, breaking ground to other shores and opening the door of possibility for contemporary dance in India. He came to forge a unique style in Indian Contemporary Dance that carries so many influences in it. Dancers in Auroville were fascinated by his trajectory which included Martha Graham, Pina Bausch, of being commissioned by Pierre Cardin to choreograph for the legendary Maya Plisetskaya, plus his assimilation of Kathak, Kathakali, Bharatanatyam, its abhinaya, the different Indian martial art forms, poetry, a sufi spirit, as well as his attention to stage design, play with costumes, the eclectic music, all melded into something now easily recognizable as the School of Astad. This was also in evidence in the choreography he created, long distance, for Anita R Ratnam's lockdown initiative, just a few months ago - simple, sparse, yet full of Astad's original complexity, rigor and grace - a delight to watch. His last works show a tendency to start deep, unfurl slowly and open wings to fly. It was great knowing you Astad. Thanks for passing by Auroville. Keep flying with the Light.

Book Release: Pilgrims of the Infinite

I am happy to share the joy of publishing my first book "Pilgrims of the Infinite". It is a collection of the insights I have gathered over the years in my life's journey, expressed in the form of single lines, poems, poetic prose and as narrations of events. It is essentially an offering to the seekers on the way.

The content has been organised into 8 chapters - Solitude, Silence, Fire, Aspiration, Grace, Surrender, Love and Purpose. However, you can open any page randomly and read a snippet because each piece is complete in itself, offering a window of insight for contemplation. I hope you enjoy this offering. Also available as an e-book. Available from: Amazon, Flipkart, Becomesakespeare.com, Google Play, Amazon International, & Smashwords Channel. ~ With Love, Manoj

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



AUROVILLE ART SERVICE - 'basket' for the week

1. THE AUROVILLE THEATRE GROUP IN THE ONLINE DANKUNI THEATRE FESTIVAL - presents 'Barabbas' on the 24th December at 6pm IST at an international virtual festival organised by Theatre Shine. <https://www.facebook.com/THEATRE-SHINE-142951079143319>
2. 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>
3. WEEKEND SERIES BY AUROVILLE FILM INSTITUTE - Transition Transference Transformation: Understanding film Shot by Shot! Aurovilians and Newcomers against voluntary contribution. Contact timelines@auroville.org.in for details.
4. ROOF STUDIO/IVANA PRESENTS CHILD PORTRAIT - An art exhibition in the Auroville library. "Children are our future. The future depends on how we care for them and how they experience our behaviour towards each other." Contact ivana.frousova@yahoo.co.uk
5. MUSEUM OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY - ONLINE - The Alchemist - about Jamini Roy. This Discover MAP pack includes: a guide to the life, times and practice of Jamini Roy; learn to make your own colours with items handy at home; get creative with some Jamini creations; power up your imaginations and build Jamini-inspired worlds. <https://map-india.org/download/the-alchemist/?audience=kids-families>
6. 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. Learn about The Tower of Babel painted by Pieter Bruegel <https://youtu.be/aRodeuCGEUu>
7. GRANT 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/>

An interactive session with Dr. Anuradha Choudry "Sanskrit as Yoga"

Sat 19th Dec, 2.30 - 4 PM, Progress Hall, Bharat Nivas

We all have an intimate engagement with language in our lives and yet we seldom pause to ask ourselves fundamental questions about it like, 'What role does it play in formatting who we are, how we look at the world and relate to it?' 'Is the sole purpose of language thought-expression or do different languages generate different thought-formations altogether?' 'When a community like Auroville with people from 50+ countries succeeds in making Sanskrit a living language, how does that impact the world?' This session is an invitation for an open exploration of what Sanskrit is, what it offers as a method of yoga in itself and what is its importance for the world of yoga.

Dr. Anuradha Choudry is a joint Faculty at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and at the Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur where she teaches Sanskrit, Indian Psychology, French and on Mind and Language Sciences in the course History of Science and Technology in Ancient India. In 2019, she was awarded the Excellent Young Teachers Award for her contributions to the Institute. After her Ph.D in Sanskrit on Vedic Psychology she received the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship of the EU to do an MLitt in Crossways in European Humanities from the Universities of St. Andrews, Scotland, & Bergamo, Italy. An Alumna of the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, Puducherry, she is a multilingual passionate Sanskritist who works in the areas of Indian/Yoga Psychology, Philosophy and Culture and travels across the world to deliver lectures and conduct workshops on these topics at national and international organisations and at events like the Annual Yoga Congress organised by the European Union of Yoga in Zinal, Switzerland amongst others. She has published in various journals and has co-edited and co-authored books titled 'Perspectives on Indian Psychology' and 'Happiness: Indian Perspectives' respectively along with Dr. Vinayachandra B. K.

All are welcome for the session. For questions, feedback and registration, please write on devabhasha@auroville.org.in धन्यवाद Samskritam Auroville and Bharat Nivas Team

SPECIAL SOLSTICE KIRTAN

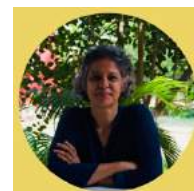
Monday 21st Dec 3 - 4.30 pm, Butterfly Barn, Svadam

Welcome to join this circle of singing from our hearts and celebrating Divinity of life! Solstice is at 3.32, and we are going to greet & invoke the divinity of life through singing through that major planetary event....

Announcing a New Webinar Series on Performing Arts

Bharat Nivas is happy to announce that we are starting a series of Webinars on the theme of Performing Arts between 22nd December till the end of February 2021.

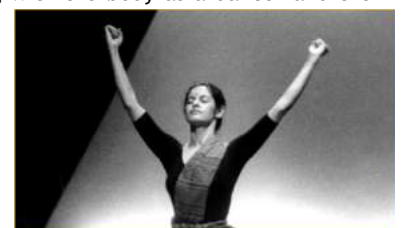
The first two Webinars are scheduled for Dec. 22nd & 29th from 4 to 4.40pm presented respectively by Anu Majumdar and by Aurelio.



"Exploring the Auroville Experience through Dance"

By Anu Majumdar (Dancer, Writer, Poet),
Tue 22nd Dec, 4PM

The invention of Auroville as a life and humanity in transformation through a city, is the work and vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. This 'presence' offered infinite scope and freedom to explore all ideas, all avenues available in Auroville then and to break new ground, starting with the body as a dancer and then with others as a choreographer. As my formal training in dance started very late and was very short, with no exposure at all to choreography, that 'presence' became the guide.



Online Access through Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98706501857?pwd=QW1FL25XUJZsaUU4dWxJWGGQ0V2d1dz09>

Meeting ID: 987 0650 1857 / Passcode: bnwebinars



“Sound and Music composition in Theater”
(Aurelio’s work with Aryamani of AV & Veenapani of Adishakti)
With Aurelio (Founder of SVARAM musical instrument & research), Tue 29th Dec, 4PM

If theatre as a sacred stage performance wants to sustain its power and presence against the onslaught of electronic multimedia and film culture, it can do so by captivating the audience through the live human presence, the authenticity of the moment, the storyline, imagery and the soundscape creating the scene-specific as well as shifting atmospheres. The auditory sense leads into the depth, brings in and enhances the subtle information and themes of setting and story. Sound and music touch the emotions, trigger imagination, create spaces, change perceptions, extend the scene into the totality of space along with its participants, making everyone part of the unfolding experience.



Online Access through Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95314138865?pwd=RGc5eGZ4dFNuMWJLNDJwOEhBUzFjQT09>

Meeting ID: 953 1413 8865 / Passcode: bnwebinars

Please note, those of you who are interested in these topics and do not have access to Zoom are most welcome to hear it live at Bhumika Hall in Bharat Nivas. You are requested to be seated inside the hall latest by 3:45pm on both the dates.

- The Bharat Nivas Team

Invitation for Christmas Tea & Potluck
23rd December, 4.30 - 6 PM at SAWCHU, Bharat Nivas

Christmas brings sweet memories of childhood for many of us. A week before the day, family members are often busy choosing gifts for each other. But, one that we are proposing at Bharat Nivas is a bit different. We invite all our brothers & sisters from different communities to join us for **Christmas High Tea Potluck** to have fun & appreciate being together - sharing varieties of specialities prepared by all of you (just bring for 6 to 8 persons). So that while relishing and sharing with each other, one discovers many new friends and thus each festival is a unique way of celebrating Life. Let's participate, while spreading joy & laughter.

Solitude Farm presents
Wednesday 23rd December
6:30pm - 9:00pm
With Dhani, Raul and Amando in concert.
With guest appearance by Amrit, Noe and surprise act.
Live Christmas Concert and vegan localicious dinner
Bands & artists covered: Yes, Jethro Tull, Cream, King Crimson, The Police, Radiohead, Wings, Grateful Dead, Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Neil Young, Rod Stewart, Chuck Berry, George Harrison, Carlos Santana, and original arrangements.
COVID-19 RULES AND REGULATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED

December 25 - The Day of Light
Invitation for Bhagavad Geeta Chanting & Harmony Hall Inauguration

Fri 25th Dec, 6.30 to 11.30am, Harmony Hall, Bharat Nivas

Once the Mother was asked about the special meaning of Christmas Day and here is what she had replied: *“Long before the Christian religion made December 25th the day of Christ’s birth, this day was the festival of the return of the sun, the Day of Light. It is this very ancient symbol of the rebirth of the Light that we wish to celebrate here.”*

According to the Indian calendar, this year’s Bhagavad Geeta Jayanti, the anniversary of the colloquy of Arjuna and Krishna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, also comes on Christmas Day, December 25th. We are glad to invite everyone to join us on this special day at Bharat Nivas and the newly renovated Harmony Hall for an extended program of Bhagavad Geeta chanting and the inaugural opening of the Harmony Hall*.

*Harmony Hall, formerly known as CIC, Center of Indian Culture, has been re-envisioned as a multi-purpose venue for community meetings, gatherings, and other programs, wherein Aurovilians can come together to meet and share and to invite their common aspirations.

Here is the schedule:

06:30 to 06:45 am - Agnihotra, Invocation and Collective Silence (Agnihotra at sunrise around 6:32 am, invocation with Sri Aurobindo’s Gayatri Mantra followed by collective silence.)

06:45 to 10:15 am - Bhagavad Geeta Chanting (We will chant all 700 shlokas from the 18 chapters in Sanskrit. You are welcome to join anytime to chant together or to listen.)

10:15 to 10:30 am - Short Break in Silence (Request all to maintain silence in the Harmony Hall after the chanting is over.)

10:30 to 11:30 am - Opening Ceremony of the Harmony Hall (Including tea and snacks)

Everyone is welcome. Please note that during the program, we request all to please keep your mobile phones switched off or in airplane mode with wifi and bluetooth disabled because there are some participants who are very sensitive to the radiation and would appreciate your understanding and support.

For RSVP, please write to bharatnivas@auroville.org.in and for details on the Bhagavad Geeta Chanting please write to devabhasha@auroville.org.in

- Bharat Nivas & Samskritam Auroville team

Christmas Concert at CRIPA

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
with Anushka, Shakti, Rolf, Varun, Dhani & Suresh
December 26th & 27th 8pm
Children's Special 27th 4:30pm
CRIPA

After a long year of not so many performances and events, please join us for an evening of Christmas songs and a special afternoon for children with surprise guests! Please note due to limited seating, booking at booking.christmasconcert@gmail.com is essential. We will be following Covid guidelines and this event is supported by the Auroville Covid Taskforce.



“DILILI À PARIS” (DILILI IN PARIS) FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER, 8:00 PM

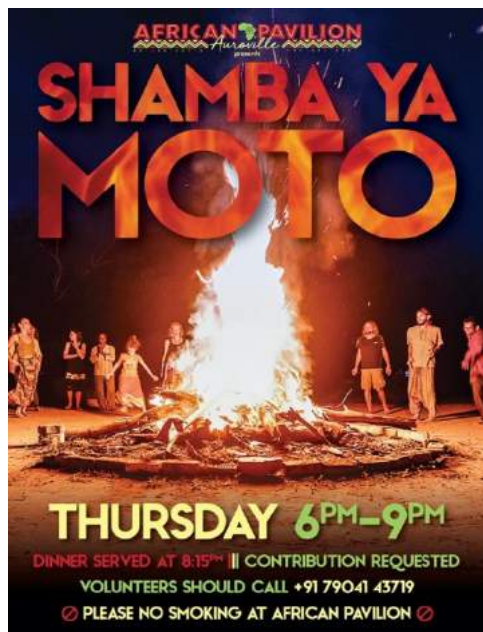
At Multimedia Centre Auditorium (MMC, Town Hall)

Directed by Michel Ocelot, France, 2018

Synopsis: Dilili in Paris is a Franco-Belgian-German animated film, and it tells the adventures of Dilili, a little girl from New Caledonia, in the Paris of the Belle Époque, where she investigates alongside Orel, a young delivery boy, to find girls who have mysteriously disappeared, kidnapped by a network of bandits called the Male-Masters. Dilili meets extraordinary men and women who give her clues. She discovers very particular underground villains. And the two young friends will fight with enthusiasm for an active life in the light and living together... The film won the César Award for Best Animated Feature at the 44th César Awards.

Original French version with English subtitles - Duration: 1h35' - General Audience - Please follow the current sanitary SOP
We wish everybody a Happy Christmas and end of the year!!

REMINDER: "MINI FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIAN CINEMA" at the Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Bharat Nivas on Fri 18th & Sat 19th.



CLASSES/WORKSHOPS



Rooted in Yourself w/ Dariya
FRI 18th Dec (3pm) - MON 21st Dec (noon)
at Quiet Healing Center

A residential retreat on land and in water.
Info/Bookings: quiet@auroville.org.in,
0413 262 2329/948 808 4966

Yoga course

Starts 22nd December, for 4 weeks

I am organizing a short yoga course for a small group, that goes beyond just Asana practice, including some philosophy, chants, pranayama and meditation practices. 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 me if interested: 840799797, sattvig@gmail.com -G

JIVA - your journey in healing & transformation

“Jiva” is a growing collaborative of highly experienced therapists living in Auroville.

Therapy, Workshops, Retreats, Courses & Classes

Sufi Retreat: 3-7 Jan w/ Sufi Master Nirupam, Unity Pavilion. Explore Sufi techniques (Whirling, Zikr), Gurdjeff movements, active meditation, breathing practices... combined harmoniously to guide to opening your heart deeply with a still mind... Experience stillness in motion with Sufi whirling. Nirupam is a well-known for his retreats going deep into experiences, life changing at times, his whirling smiles speak of his research of sufi techniques since decades. He has been to



Konya, Turkey and is experienced in a wide range of meditation techniques.

The retreat is focused on the active practice, meditations are majorly moving meditations, to stay inwardly with the experience of the moment. Here’s an insight into Nirupam’s workshop in China <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUynT8-o0AY&t=88s> !

Timings: 3 Jan: 3pm onwards / 4,5,6 Jan: 7-8 am: meditation, 9.30am - 1pm: practices, 3-6pm: practices, 8-9 pm meditation / 7 Jan: 7-8 am, 9.30am - 1pm only

Integral Regression Therapy - deeply transforming sessions
Start planned for Dec 2020, modules - every 2 weeks. Integrating regression therapy, insights of the Integral Yoga, trauma therapy, systemic constellations. A naturally induced state of insight allows healing and transformation for issues of this life - inner child work, trauma, and past life regression.

Sigrig Lindemann offers sessions and teaches a full course. She will give a short introduction followed by Q & A & sharing of her experience as therapist & trainer. Zoom link send on request by email.

Webinar and Seminar: 6, 3 hr. webinars on the theory of “integral regression therapy”- understanding of the background psychology and spiritual perspective. Plus 3 x 3 days practice seminars - enabling participants to apply the therapy successfully

A background in psychotherapy, hypnotherapy or trauma therapy is desirable for practicing integral regression therapy. Booking possible for only webinars or full package of webinars and practice of therapy sessions. www.auroville-jiva.com, WA: 9626006961, contact@auroville-jiva.com

FAMILY CONSTELLATION WORKSHOPS 2021
Saturdays 16th JAN, 13th FEB, 13th MARCH, 10th APRIL
9am to 6pm HALL of LIGHT, CREATIVITY
Please contact MOGHAN: 9751110486, moghan@auroville.org.in

⇒⇒⇒⇒PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!
RECEIVE THE NEWS&NOTES by EMAIL weekly!
It comes 2 days sooner and is in color!
Subscribe at newsandnotes-list+subscribe@auroville.org.in
or click directly on this [link](#)

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 due to work pressure.

Articles for the Notes section ideally be no longer than 500 words.
Visiting hours: Ad hoc at the moment as we work from home a lot. Best to call to confirm.

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 offense caused. In case of any dispute, the Auroville Council may be consulted and publishing of disputed material suspended.

News & Notes, Media Centre, Town Hall. Phone: 0413-2622133, email: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in



Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium
Film program 21 December to 27 December 2020

Cinema Paradiso Team happy to have resumed our screening at mmc but with strict Covid19 protocols.

Please note: For now, we have only 40 seats. If more people turn up, we will screen the same movie again at a later date. To be allowed in - we need you to wear a proper mask (and not a scarf etc.). Please come ~20 min before the film is scheduled to start. There may be a queue. You will need to sanitize your hands, get your temperature checked, write that along with your name and community in our ledger, before entering the auditorium. For the time being the screenings are open to Aurovilians, Newcomers, long-term volunteers, and guests w Aurocard only. In the coming months we may review this.

Indian - Monday 21 December, 8:00 pm:

- **PUTHAM PUDHU KAALAI (A Brand New Dawn)**
India, 2020, Dir. Sudha Kongara, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Suhasini Mani Ratnam, Rajiv Menon, and Karthik Subbaraj w/ Madhavan, Jayaram, Kalidas Jayaram, and others, Drama, 129mins, Tamil w/English subtitles, Rated:NR (PG)
Five stories of love, new beginnings, second chances and hope are set in the times of COVID-19.

French - Tuesday 22 December, 8:00 pm:

- **MON ROI (My King)**
France, 2015, Dir: Maiwenn, w/Vincent Cassel, Emanuelle Bercot, Louis Garrel, Drama-Romance, 124 mins, French w/English subtitles, Rated: NR
Tony is admitted to a rehabilitation centre after a serious ski accident. Dependent on the medical staff and pain relievers, she takes time to look back on a turbulent relationship that she experienced with Georgio. Why did they love each other? Who is this man that she loved so deeply? How did she allow herself to submit to this suffocating and destructive passion? For Tony, a difficult process of healing is in front of her, physical work which may finally set her free.

Interesting - Wednesday 23 December, 8:00 pm:

- **BURKINABÉ RISING: the art of resistance in Burkina Faso**
Burkina Faso-USA-Bulgaria, 2015, Dir: Iara Lee, Drama-Romance, 72 mins, French-More-English w/English subtitles, Rated: G
A new documentary from Cultures of Resistance Films, showcases creative nonviolent resistance in Burkina Faso. A small, landlocked country in West Africa, Burkina Faso is home to a vibrant community of artists and engaged citizens, who provide an example of the type of political change that can be achieved when people come together. It is an inspiration, not only to the rest of Africa but also to the rest of the world.

Favorites - Thursday 24 December, 8:00 pm:

- **THE DRESSMAKER**
Australia, 2015, Dir. Jocelyn Moorhouse w/Kate Winslet, Judy Davis, Liam Hemsworth, Comedy-Drama, 119 mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: R
A glamorous woman returns to her small town in rural Australia. With her sewing machine and haute couture style, she transforms the women and exacts sweet revenge on those who did her wrong.

International - Saturday, 26 December, 8:00 pm:

- **I AM WOMAN**
Australia, 2019, Dir. Unjoo Moon w/Evan Peters, Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Danielle Macdonald, and others, Biography-Music, 116mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG-13)
Grit, music, talent, and phenomenal rise of Australia-born Helen Reddy is the center plot of this film. Helen arrives in the USA as a single mom with a 3yrs old daughter and very little money. Even without a visa she decides to stay on and pursue a career in music in New York. Within 5yrs she becomes a superstar. The song she wrote - "I am Woman" encouraged by her friend and confidant Lillian Roxon, a legendary rock journalist, becomes the anthem for feminist movement in the USA. In New York she meets Jeff Wald, a young aspiring talent manager, who she eventually marries. The film follows as this relation turns toxic and she re-emerges. *Helen Reddy passed away at the age of 78 in September 2020 (for non-Covid health issues). With this film we pay our tribute.*

Children's Matinee - Sunday, 27 December, 4:30 pm:

- **ARCTIC DOGS**
USA, 2019, Dir: Aaron Woodley, w/ Jeremy Renner, Heidi Klum, James Franco and others, Animation, 92mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG
An Arctic fox works in the mailroom of a package delivery service but wants to be doing the deliveries.

CLASSIC FILMS @ Ciné-Club Sunday 27 December, 8:00 pm:

- **MOTHER OF GEORGE**
USA-Nigeria, 2013, Dir. Andrew Dosunmu w/Danai Gurira, Isaac de Bankole and others, Drama, 145 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: R.
Adenike and Ayodele, a Nigerian couple living in Brooklyn, are having trouble conceiving a child - a problem that defies cultural expectations and leads Adenike to make a shocking decision that could either save or destroy her family.

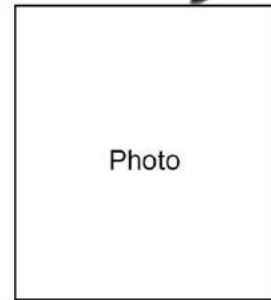
Rating codes we often use are from Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA): G=General Audiences, PG=Parental guidance suggested, PG-13=Parents strongly cautioned, R=Restricted (equivalent to Indian rating: A i.e. for Adults), NR=Film Not rated, Rating awaited, or Rating not available.

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.*

Wish you all a Merry Christmas!

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

**Working Group Nomination Form
for Auroville Council, Entry Board, FAMC & Working Committee**



1) Where are you working at present?

2) What is your work experience in Auroville?

3) Do you have knowledge and understanding of the task of the working group for which you are nominated? (A 'yes' or 'no' reply is not sufficient. Please explain.)

4) Do you consider that you are qualified and competent to participate in the work of the working group for which you are nominated? (A 'yes' or 'no' reply is not sufficient. Please explain.)

5) Do you consider that you can work in the team of the working group for which you are nominated? (A 'yes' or 'no' reply is not sufficient. Please explain.)

6) What do you think you will contribute to the work of the working group?

7) Are you interested to join the working group full-time or part-time? _____

8) Do you need a maintenance for your work in the working group? _____

5) Any additional relevant information you wish to share?

6) Signature _____ place _____ date _____

