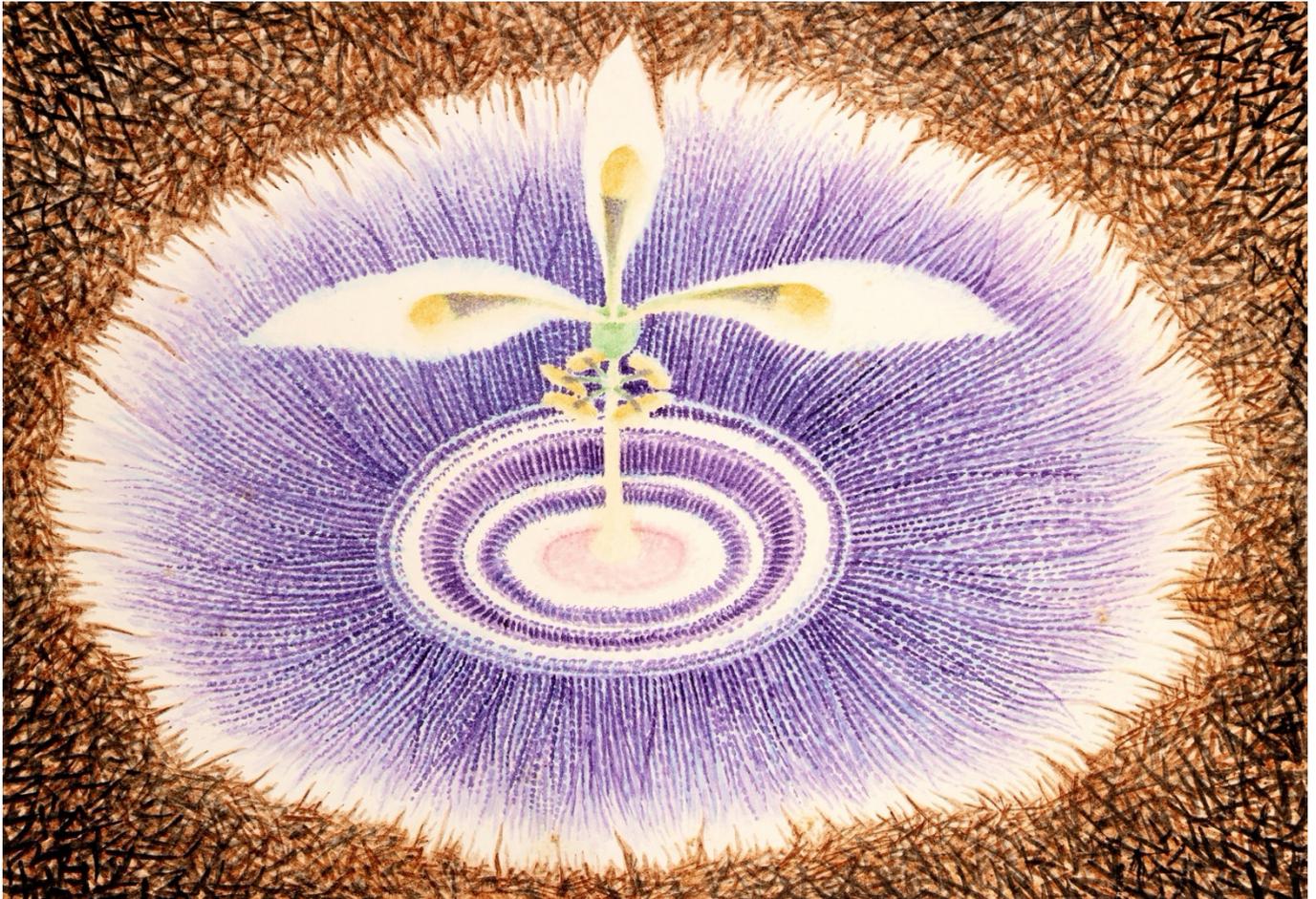


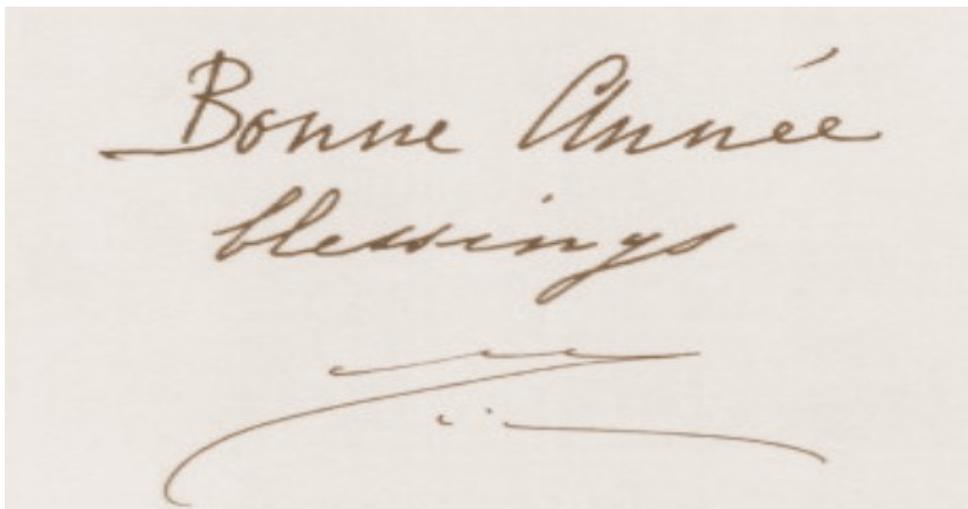
News and Notes

No 851 A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville 2nd January 2021

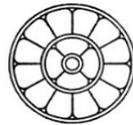


Untitled -141

Watercolor by Usha Patel



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. Mother's Agenda. 16 February 1972 (+ 50 years = Year 2022)

25 December 1971

(continued from last week)

Satprem: Yes, Sri Aurobindo said that in the supramental consciousness, past, present and future exist side by side on a single map of knowledge. [*"For while the reason proceeds from moment to moment of time and loses and acquires and loses and again acquires, the gnosis dominates time in a one view and perpetual power and links past, present and future in their indivisible connections, in a single continuous map of knowledge, side by side. The gnosis starts from the totality which it immediately possesses; it sees parts, groups and details only in relation to the totality and in one vision with it."* (The Synthesis of Yoga, XX.464)]

The Mother: Yes, that's it. That's right. But for me it is an experience. Not something I "think" (I don't think), but an experience. And hard to explain.

And its effect on us, the sensation it produces in us depends exclusively on the position of our consciousness. There is the consciousness of being in oneself or being in the whole (being in the whole is already a bit better than being egoistically oneself, and it has its advantages and disadvantages, but it's not the truth), the Truth is... the Divine as totality - totality in time and totality in space. And that consciousness, the body CAN have, because this body had it (momentarily, for a few moments), and while it has it, everything is so... you see, it's not joy, it's not pleasure, it's not happiness, nothing of all that... a sort of blissful peace... and luminous... and creative. Magnificent. Only, it comes and goes, comes and goes.... And when you go out of it, you have the impression of falling into a horrible pit - our ordinary consciousness (I mean the ordinary human consciousness) is a horrible pit. But we also know why it had to be momentarily that way, for it was necessary in order to go from this to that: everything that happens is necessary for the full development of the goal of creation. You could say (we could word-paint): the goal of creation is for the creature to become conscious as the Creator. There you are.

It's word-painting, but it's in that direction. This creation's goal is that Consciousness of the Infinite, the Eternal, which is omnipotent - Infinite, Eternal, Omnipotent (which our religions have called God: for us, with respect to life, it's the Divine) - Infinite and Eternal, All-Powerful... outside of time: each individual particle possessing that Consciousness; each individual particle containing that same Consciousness.

Division created the world, and it is in division that the Eternal manifests.

Words are stupid, but that's how it is. I don't know if you follow. *(silence)*

With, in addition (and not as a contradiction, but as a complement), the exact sense of what you are supposed to do - what you are supposed to be, what you are supposed to do and why you have been created. And all that TOGETHER... Oh!... *(Mother has a blissful smile)*.

That gives both the reason and the goal of creation - both at once - and almost the method of development. *(silence)*

Yes, it's like something that IS, that is as a whole and is successively projected on a screen. And yet it exists as a whole - and it is projected successively on a screen. *(Mother goes into contemplation)*

I have the impression that I am on the way to discovering... the illusion that must be destroyed so that physical life can be uninterrupted - discovering that death comes from a... a distortion of consciousness. That's it.

It's this close, you know *(Mother makes a gesture as if she were about to grasp the secret)*.

And as I told you, sometimes I feel that the great number of years makes the work somewhat more difficult, but taken on the whole, it is a GREAT help - I understood that were I young, I could never have done what I am doing. And when I am in the true consciousness, the moment I am in the true consciousness, the number of years is nothing! - The body feels so young, so full of... something else than young (for it, young is immature and ignorant, it's not that), it's... you're in communion with "something" ... which changes according to the need.

Our language (or our consciousness) is... inadequate. Later I'll be able to say. Something IS HAPPENING - that's all I can say. *(Mother laughs)* Merry Christmas, mon petit!

Satprem: Merry Christmas to you too.

The Mother: The festival of Light....

– Volume 12. 1971: Agenda of the Supramental Action Upon Earth

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



What men call knowledge, is the reasoned acceptance of false appearances.
Wisdom looks behind the veil and sees.

~Sri Aurobindo, Essays Divine and Human, Jnana



31st light meditation postponed!

Due to the PANDEMIC, we have to postpone the 31st light meditation for world peace and harmony. We wish everyone a great year ahead, and may 2021 bring more love, success, happiness, prosperity and wisdom to all of us.

~ Pavilion of Tibetan Culture



Matrimandir and Park of Unity are open every day, 6 to 8 am & 4:30 to 6.30 PM (for Aurovilians, Newcomers and Volunteers holding a valid MM Pass). Volunteers' place of work must send an email to mmconcentration@auroville.org to be considered for the valid pass. ~ Matrimandir Executives and Access team

COVID 19 Updates

All those who are travelling to Auroville from other countries, please read the [new guidelines/ SOP for surveillance and response for the new SARS- Cov2- Variant, issued by the Central Ministry of Health and Family Welfare \(MoHFW\)](#) issued on 22nd Dec' 2020. All flights arriving from the UK are suspended until 31st December, and all travellers arriving from other countries after visiting UK or transiting through UK airports will be subject to the RT-PCR test on arrival.

Furthermore, in view of these guidelines, the district authorities may contact passengers who have arrived in Auroville from the UK between 25th November and 8th December to monitor their health conditions even after the expiry of their quarantine period. And they may also contact all arriving international passengers, especially from the UK, who arrived after 9th December to check on their quarantine conditions. For those who have symptoms a new test could be asked for by the local authorities.

Please note that these guidelines are published by the Central government, and in addition to these other guidelines or ordinances may be issued by the state and/or the district authorities that could change depending on the evolving situation and more restrictions could be added. We will share them as and when issued and are made available to us.

Therefore, we are again requesting that all International arriving travellers please inform the Residents Service and the Covid-19 task force/ Working Committee soon after their arrival in Auroville. Those who have not yet done so are requested to inform us as soon as possible so that we can assist them when approached by district authorities.

For all future travellers who are planning to return to Auroville from abroad the existing rules regarding arrival procedures and mandatory 14-day quarantine protocol remain in place. We will do our best to inform as soon as possible if there are any changes to those.



WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Re: Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary celebration

As you may be aware, Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary will happen on August 15, 2022. As Sri Aurobindo is a person of national eminence, this anniversary will be recognized and honored all over India.

We are in the process of forming a task force to plan and prepare celebrations in Auroville. We have discussed if Auroville should request the Government of India for a special grant for this purpose, such as the one given by the HRD Ministry for Auroville's 50th anniversary. However, we propose that the community will celebrate this event independently of any GOI grants, and instead raise donations for the purpose and rely on our own funds. It is not envisioned that this celebration will be on the same scale or with the same approach as the 50th events.

We would like to have the community's views on this proposal. Please write to wcoffice@auroville.org.in latest by the 8th of January 2021. ~ The Working Committee

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A Question of Motive

As you all know, Auroville is of interest to many within and outside Auroville. But not all interests are Auroville's interests. There is a specific individual who is determined to malign and tar the image of Auroville in any way and by any means possible, and has been doing so at all levels for quite some time.

Some Aurovilians, perhaps unaware of the consequences, are serving this person's objectives by sharing with him all the negative information they can think of. He makes use of this by further publicly maligning and discrediting Auroville.

We have heard that this individual is now trying to create a series of negative films on Auroville which he wants to publish on the Internet, and he is asking Auroville residents for interviews. Some of you might have already been approached or could be approached and, doubtless, you have answered or will answer the

questions with goodwill and the right intention. But please be aware that the filmmaker has ulterior motives and may spin your words out of context or use only a part of what you said to advance his own negative designs.

We advise you to be conscious of this and always question the motivation of the interviewer. And please, consider that nothing good comes out of airing our challenges and difficulties in public; this will only undermine our collective efforts to manifest Mother's Dream.

Those who have already given an interview or are approached to do so are requested to please inform Outreach Media and share any relevant information. ~ The Working Committee

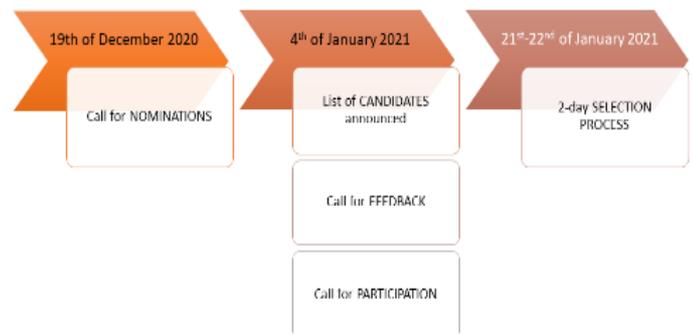


From RAS: REMINDER: NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL JAN 2, 2021!

This is a friendly reminder 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. Kindly note that we will invite all residents of Auroville and all nominees and the members of the concerned working groups to PARTICIPATE in the selection process AFTER the publication of the list of confirmed nominees and their nomination profiles. Please refer to a timeline below:

SELECTION PROCESS 2021 TIMELINE



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 specified date. Nomination profiles submission will be open until Sat 2nd January

NOMINATING OTHERS ON THE LAST DAY MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE RESIDENT(S) TO SUCCESSFULLY SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATION ON TIME! Please also make sure that anyone you nominate agrees beforehand to participate in the selection process.

- In person - a printed nomination form is also available from the RAS sounding board outside Financial Service in Town Hall. Please fill your form in and hand it over to the Town Hall receptionist by or before 5pm Saturday, 2nd of January 2021.

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>. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact the Residents' Assembly Service at raservice@auroville.org.in.



FAMC Weekly Bulletin:

Monday 7 December 2020 to Sunday 13 December 2020

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

- Kalpana: After further review and discussion the FAMC decided that Stewardship Agreements for the Kalpana Housing Project should be commenced from this week. The Housing Board and Housing Service were duly informed. Communication continued with the Project Holders regarding Kalpana Housing Project.
- FAMC met with Working Committee members and the TDC to start discussing the future of Tamarind Tope (and how it can be meaningfully developed for Auroville). Also discussed was New Creation Boarding. Issues affecting its current status and management mean that it cannot be allowed to remain as it is. Subsequent work on how to move those discussions forward began.
- FAMC met and consulted with other working groups (Auroville Council, Land Board, and Working Committee) to discuss how to develop more coordinated strategies for dealing with problems that cut across the mandates of working groups involving individuals that form the interest of the separate working groups for different reasons.
- Work continued in relation to Roma's Kitchen and in particular on how to settle and define liabilities and assets that will form the basis of a MoU with the selected executives, Gumsoon and Thulasigam. In particular, a site visit to Roma's Kitchen has revealed an asset in need of urgent maintenance.
- FAMC continued its correspondence with Auroville Arts Service regarding its scope of work and approach to contributions owed to City Services. Specifically, the AV Arts Service is attempting to include an unlimited scope of work that exceeds any normal understanding of art. This combined with its refusal to contribute to City Services as per the Code of Conduct would establish it as a broad based contribution evasion umbrella that could deeply diminish the income of City Services. This is a long-standing issue and all concerned should understand the need to move forward. *[Response to this item from Auroville Arts appears after this report - Eds.]*
- FAMC reviewed its responsibilities under its mandate and the skills needed to execute them to help better define them for future members. The results were shared with the RAS.

Units and Trusts (to be added) 10/11/2020:

- The FAMC approved the Renewal of **INSIDE Trust**, Trustees reappointment (Mr. **Hubertus G. Peter**, Mr. **Klaus Onken**)
- The FAMC approved **Auro Agilam** an activity under AFA (Auroville Food Activities), **Banumathi** is appointed as manager
- The FAMC approved **Nutchease** an activity under AFA (Auroville Food Activities), **Debdatta** is appointed as manager

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AVArtS statement on FAMC meeting notes

We, at AVArtS, define ourselves as a platform for art AND CULTURE in Auroville. The scope of our work is Service work, and is not limited to the administration of a cooperative of activities registered with us. We are searching to establish the international emphasis that the Mother gave to Auroville as the home for the best of the culture and spirit of all nations.

An interesting non-Eurocentric global study of what art and culture encompass is beautifully graphically displayed by the UNESCO chart (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc10/BG-FCS-E.pdf>, figure 2, pg 24 'framework for cultural statistics domains'), which may help to understand where we are coming from. Other references can be found within the Indian traditions (list of 64 arts) and the Asian traditions. Whilst engaging in this large non-Eurocentric approach to art AND CULTURE, we would like to say that we offer this 'definition' only to say that we can help Auroville by registering small activities in these areas, if required by the Aurovilians working in these sectors, and if required by whatever group may be in charge of authorizing the

activity registrations. Meanwhile, we continue to offer our Services to this large sector of art AND CULTURE.

Regarding contributions by the activities registered with us, we are requesting the FAMC to give our activity managers a reprieve from the 5% mandatory contribution to City Service on turnover and asking that the activity managers can make a choice of how much to contribute to the CS according to their individual financial situation. We have explained that there needs to be an openness to the financial status of the activity managers, since, nowadays, many activity managers do not receive a maintenance and some have no other means of financial sustenance. Commercial units write off their maintenances as well as many expenses before making CS contributions and activity managers are, rather unfairly, left to fend for themselves. Flat rates on turnover do not work for many activities in the art and culture sector and we have explained these reasons to the FAMC.

To put the "broad based contribution evasion that could deeply diminish the income of City Services" in perspective:

2019-2020 consolidated figures of Auroville contributions made by all activity managers registered with AVArtS:

- CS contribution of about 1.5 lakhs instead of about 3.3 lakhs that would have been expected as 5% of turnover. (A deep diminishment of **1.8 lakhs.**)
- Cash donations to Land for Auroville: about 18 lakhs
- In-kind contributions to the City of Auroville by our activity managers listed below:
 - 20 Free Performances
 - 4 Free public art installations
 - 34 Free exhibitions
 - 32 Free workshops (1-4 days long)
 - 7 Free courses (10 days - 3 months long)
 - 3 Public art events (7-10 days long)
 - 524 Free 2 hr classes
 - 20 Free 1.5 hr classes
 - 160 Free 1 hr classes
 - 10 Free participation in fund-raising events
 - 41 Free participation in events that were free for Aurovilians
 - 400 Free art studio sharings
 - 500 copies of a free art/culture magazine, including working/writing/designing free for it
 - 20 Free art work for Art For Land
 - 19 Free films for AV projects/services
 - 4000 Free photographs for AV projects/units/services (approx. no)

All the above contributions have been shared with the FAMC and have yet to be acknowledged by them as a valid contribution to the life, economy, society and community of Auroville.

The activity managers registered with AVArtS indeed display generosity, a sense of responsibility towards Auroville, and a will to contribute liberally in spite of limited financial income. Our request is that this is recognised with a waiver of the 5% contribution to CS on turnover and replaced with an acknowledgment that all the activity managers may contribute according to their means.

- submitted by Krishna, Executive, AVArtS

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FAMC Weekly Bulletin:

Monday 14 December 2020 to Sunday 20 December 2020

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

- We are keenly aware of the issues some individuals (Aurovilians and Friends of Auroville) are facing with trying to get refunds of donations made in particular towards their housing needs. We met with one such individual this week and discussed possible ways to obtain further clarity (and some finality) on how we should approach this issue (and attendant issues concerning FCRA that it raises).
- Recurring issues we are dealing with, concern the best way to encourage work continuity and succession planning by Units and Trusts, particularly given the aging trustee pool that we have in Auroville. We wrote, again, to one such Trust (Auromitra) and asked that further consideration be given to these issues.

- A regular facet of our work concerns the handling and assessment of new entity applications. To give greater clarity regarding this work we posted (on 15 Dec) a short note from our Applications Review Group (ARG) regarding the process that new applicants go through to get their units and activities (hopefully) to the stage of their applications being approved by the FAMC
- The members met on Friday with the Auroville Council and Aurovilians the Council has selected to review the FAMC mandate. Discussions commenced regarding the process for reviewing the FAMC mandate. It is expected that this exercise will result in two different versions that the community can select from in an RAD.

- FAMC
(Aneeta, Daniel, Dhruv, Kalya, Lyle, Marc, Nicole, Palani, Sundar)
- * - * - * - * -

HOUSING BOARD COMMUNITY AT LARGE MEMBER

As you may be aware, the current Housing mandate of 2011 (being updated currently) requires the Housing Board to have both Green Group and Community at Large representation on it. At the moment, Vivek is acting as the Green Group representative. As he has suggested that he intends to step down from Green Group he can no longer continue on the Housing Board as its representative.

The Housing Board and the FAMC both agree that it would be beneficial to retain his contribution. They have therefore asked Vivek to retain his position on the Housing Board as one of its Community at large members. We are glad to say that he has accepted.
- FAMC and Housing Board

NEW FROM THE AUROVILLE BOARD OF SERVICES: ABS MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Auroville Board of Services is starting the new year with a renewed coordination team and spirit. As a clear step forward, **ABS monthly meetings will take place on the second Monday of every month**, so please mark the date in your calendar for your service to come and participate on:

MONDAY, 11th JANUARY 2021 - 3 to 5 PM
Bhumika Hall (Bharat Nivas campus)
ALL SERVICES MEETING!

The aim of the regular monthly ABS meetings is to hear and address the concerns and needs of our services, and to build together a flourishing Services and Prosperity economy for Auroville, as envisioned by the Mother. The first monthly ABS meeting took place on Monday 14 December 2020 at the Unity Pavilion, and was attended by 50 services members in good spirit. Meeting notes are available and were sent to all the services by email.

It was warmly suggested in the first meeting, that each time 2 services could present themselves shortly at the beginning of the monthly meetings. So this time, the theme will be “Services for food security in Auroville”, with FOODLINK and FARM GROUP to kick start the opening presentation series.

Some of the topics to be included in the main part of this coming ABS meeting are:

- Selection of your new Services representative for the BCC, as Jacques resigned end of October
- Collective update of the mission statement of ABS
- What IS a service in the Auroville context?
- Budgets and documenting the services situation on the ground
- How can the services participate to have an active and alive ABS?

We take this opportunity to thank Isha for the ABS coordination work done over the past years as she has recently stepped down as the main coordinator. We would also like to inform you of the **new ABS desk in Town Hall, first floor** - shared with ABC for a closer collaboration - with Rama as your ABS administrative member in the afternoons. The **ABS Coordination team** has started to meet once a week, and welcomes new volunteers to help with the many tasks at hand. Please join by contacting servicelink@auroville.org.in. Best 2021 wishes to all,
~ The ABS coordination team volunteers (Tenzin, Susmita, Sabine, Rama, Peter, Krishna D, Joseba, Anne, Angelika, Anandi)

From AVST: Pour Tous Purchasing Service update #4

The last time you heard from us was on 14th November [<https://auroville.org.in/article/82237>], we shared with you the latest developments towards implementation of the Residents Assembly Decision (RAD) for Pour Tous Purchasing Service (PTPS) to be a service for the community.

Over the last month, in close collaboration with the Transition Team, we have, 1) finalized the work plan or “*What do we mean by a service?*” [<https://auroville.org.in/article/82839>], 2) finalized the process to invite skilled & capable Aurovilians to a new executive team [<https://auroville.org.in/article/82839>]. This is an announcement and information at this time only. The invitation to serve on the new executive team will be made by the Residents Assembly Service (RAS) in mid-January and; 3) finalized the recommendation for maximum margin on all products. This has been done after an analysis of income & expenses in 2019-2020 was conducted. We recommend a maximum margin on all products is 11%, with the intended implementation date of 1st January 2021. The current PTPS team is in agreement with this recommendation. Two additional points are: 1) it is a temporary measure until a more detailed analysis will be conducted and; 2) it’s a recommended margin, with the objective of reducing the prices immediately.

The Trust accountant has finalized the audit recently and we expect the report in the next few days.

We have reworked the Management Board paper proposed by the FAMC. The FAMC proposed draft, in our view, sought to move some Trust responsibilities to the Board. In our revision, we feel the role of the Group respective to the Trust is now clear. We have prepared the document ‘PTPS Management / Advisory Group’ [<https://auroville.org.in/article/82839>] to be implemented after the new executive team is in place.

The work over the next month will focus on initiating, in collaboration with the Residents Assembly Service, and completing the process to create the new executive team. Be on the lookout for the RAS invitation to all Aurovilians with particular skills and capacities to offer to serve in a new four-person executive team. We hope that you’ll participate with an open heart and sincerity in this part of the transformation process. The transition continues to be a field of learning and growing for all of us who are directly involved and we’re thankful for this opportunity to serve the community in this way.

- Auroville Service Trust, Amy, Anne, Joseba, Ponnusamy & Ulrich

BCC Review of Pour Tous Water (PTW)

In October 2014 Residents’ Assembly decided to constitute the Pour Tous Water (PTW), a free service, as follows:

“The work and objectives of PTW is to be essentially an Emergency - Repair & Maintenance Public Service: 24/7 emergency availability. We are available for emergency situations: pipe broke/ Sludge crisis/ pump problem/ water delivery / Fire/ other natural damages. PTW is not available for new construction for or City water pipe supply and connection”.

In this RA decision the BCC was asked to review the activity of PTW. In September 2020 the PTW team requested the BCC to help with the administration and accounting of the service, because of disagreements between the two signatories, Grace and Shanmugam. Since October 2020 the BCC has started looking into the PTW administration and activities and is handling the PTW accounts and releasing payments. During the last 4 months the BCC has realised that:

- PTW service is not yet statutory registered as a service unit under an Auroville trust
- Due to the lack of this statutory registration of the service the seven employees were not registered
- Some practices related to payments and loans are to be improved
- The present disharmony between PTW team members is affecting the functioning of the service.

After thorough discussion together with PTW team and reflections on the possible next steps, the BCC recommends:

- To register the service with accountable executives under an Auroville trust, this is a priority.

- To suspend the PTW service until the registration process is completed.
- To pay the settlement of the current employees.
- The registered service will constitute and register the working team.
- That the BCC continue to support and supervise PTW's administration up to the end of the current financial year (March 2021).
- That the existing team reach out for help to solve their internal conflicts.

It is understood that during this temporary suspension PTW will complete pending works but won't be available to take up new tasks. During this time, the Housing repair team is willing to take up emergencies. If you have any emergency, please contact the Housing Service.

The BCC will try its best to speed up the registration of the service and keep this suspension as short as possible. The maintenances of the Aurovilians will go on. The BCC believes that PTW provides an important service to the community and would like to express its appreciation to all the Aurovilians who were and/or are still part of PTW team.
 ~ Your BCC members
 (Christine, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Inge, Mahi, Margarita, Meena, Rathinam, Suryamayi)

HR Initiative Report 2019-2020

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.

- Over 130 candidates registered
- 33 units and 4 services posted jobs via HRi
- 91 interviews
- 26 placements
- online platform for candidates to make a free multimedia CV

We are very happy to announce that our HR Initiative is showing solid results for work transparency in Auroville, even and especially in the trying times we live in.

Started in March 2019, we now have a (much more) clear overview of who is looking for work in Auroville and where work opportunities can be found.

Our way of keeping a profile confidential for both candidate and unit or service really seems to help in opening up opportunities for Aurovilians and Newcomers.

Our weekly announcement with available jobs has helped to attract more units and well as convinced candidates to fill in our form, come meet us to talk about their aspirations and even make a free online profile to share anywhere they desire.

Other activities we facilitate:

- 2 succession projects trying to find new dynamic leaders for units.
- assistance and advice towards becoming independent yet compliant and transparent contributors to the AV economy instead of relying on maintenance only.
- specific focus on getting the AV youth online (via online platform) and connected with the working world
- supporting peer to peer learning initiatives

Interested? Come join us! We need help in our administration and support from the community to become even better.

You have a skill you want to share? We'll try to help you get it out there. Contact us for more information: hr_hub@auroville.org.in
 ~ Joel, Lydia, Romel, Stephanie



Why we fundraise for land for Auroville

Today, 10% of City Area land and over 50% of Greenbelt land are still missing from the Master Plan area

Land for Auroville was first purchased with the active encouragement of The Mother. She told pioneering Aurovilians "The most important thing is to get the land now."

When Auroville became a legal entity in the 80's, the Government of India began supporting Auroville financially in many ways - funds for the research in education (SALIER) and housing projects (Humanscapes) are the most obvious examples. But it is not be expected that the Indian government gives funds for land purchase.

Many Aurovilians have given funds for purchasing land for Auroville, often investing their last personal resources. They have been backed up by loyal friends in India and around the world, and in particular, by the AVI - Auroville International Associations. In 2003, Aurovilians launched the "1 Million Dollar campaign" for the land - a great success, though it seemed impossible! In the past 7 years, the two campaigns "Acres for Auroville" and "GreenAcres" led by LFAU are today's dynamic actions for raising awareness and funds for Auroville's designated but still-missing plots. Encouraging support from within Auroville and the worldwide Auroville "Family" have enabled the purchase of over 70 new acres of Auroville land, enabling needed new youth housing, farmland, and coherent infrastructure.



Why is fundraising for land a priority for Auroville?

Today Auroville is no longer on an isolated, quiet plateau but finds itself in rapidly developing suburban area of Pondicherry. Now is the time to consolidate strategic land holdings to enable for Auroville's development. Only with consolidating its land, will Auroville be able to become a unified township, and safeguard water resources, forests, organic farming and biodiversity for Auroville and for the wider bioregion.

If you'd like to see Auroville manifest and flourish, please support our actions - and donate for Auroville's land and future. Acres for Auroville, GreenAcres and LFAU have their office at Town Hall, 1st floor, and is staffed mornings. 0413 2622657. Please come and see us and bring your ideas to support this work! - LFAU land.auroville.org; www.facebook.com/acresforauroville; <https://www.facebook.com/land.auroville>
 Donation gateway: <https://donations.auroville.org> or a direct transfer to FS 0100 Land

ANNOUNCEMENTS



COMMUNITY EVENT

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

EXHIBITION

(At Unity Pavilion till 6th Jan)

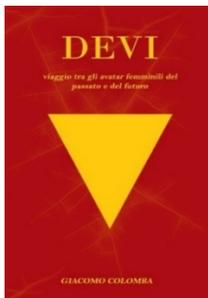


EGAI is an upcoming craft activity centre in Saracón Campus. Our craftwork is unique, aesthetic and made with sustainable raw materials. Take a look and get what you love.

After a long break (COVID). We are delighted to announce our **EGAI is open every day from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm.** Any Volunteers willing to join us, contact: egai@auroville.org.in, 978-601-6134 or 979-189-6488.

Wishing you all a successful New Year 2021 ahead

We are happy to inform our community that GP Cafe Restaurant will be open **from 4th January 2021.** Happy New year 2021!



DEVI - un viaggio tra gli avatar femminili del passato e del future

As some of you already know, after my first book (Le Sette Tetradi dello Yoga Integrale) I wrote a second book in Italian, a research on all feminine avatars in tantric tradition. Many of them are pretty unknown, and worthy of being discovered. The book is in Italian and it is available on Amazon, but I printed some copies only for Aurovilians, since the price on Amazon is quite high for average Aurovillian. If you are interested to get one of this few copies, Contact me on WA: 9487340778.

PS: I still have few copies of Le Sette Tetradi dello Yoga Integrale



Greetings from Aurosoya

We are happy to launch our **Organic Cold Coffee** made with our Organic soy milk and Marcs Coffee. You can find it in our unit right now and it will soon be available in stores too. ~ Aurosoya Team



Taxi Sharing - Chennai airport, Mon 4th Jan, for 9 PM pickup. Taxi is available to share both ways. Some time flexibility could be explored. Contact Lalit, lalit@auroville.org.in or 944 379 0172

APPEALS



Grass for our horses

We would love to pick up any freshly cut (on the day) grass. It is the best food resource for our 8 horses. We would like to make grass hay for them which requires huge amounts of raw materials. We can also figure out some kind of exchange if needed. Contact: Mirabelle (H2H, Horse 2 Human communication) via WhatsApp: 9626565134

Meet Deepa!

An explorer, Deepa cycled from Delhi to Auroville over 61 days without carrying any money or phone. I am her host family til Feb 28th, but she wants to deeply soak in the Auroville culture by experiencing the below (and more!) and offer her skills (link below) in return.

- exploring authentic homemade cuisines of all (50+) nationalities residing in Auroville. Already kickstarted with eating homemade lunch with our dear Tamilian ammas and bartered with the African Pavilion for a delicious vegan meal.
- house hopping - i.e. bunking with temporary hosts for 2-3 days (or more) to get to know the community a little better.

If any of this excites you or you have more ideas, write to her at stigmatad@gmail.com and she will get in touch with you.

About Deepa: She is a sustainability life coach experimenting with gift culture, zero waste lifestyle, conscious food, slow travel, a life of not buying anything new for over 12 years. You can read more about her work here: <https://tinyurl.com/v9nwba2>

(Submitted by Anveshan)



LOST AND FOUND



LOST DOG - White with red collar answering to the name of Rocky. He is missing since Fri., 18th Dec from Ganesh Bakery area. If found, contact Senthooor 786 800 1502.

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 065 - 02/01/2021

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 2 weeks, and for Aurovilians and Returning Aurovilians, one month. Kindly forward your support or grievances to entryservice@auroville.org.in.

NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- **Marzia LOCHIS** aka **Samantha (Italian)** staying in Swayam and working at M & M Cheese



Marzia

NEWCOMER CONFIRMED:

- **Vignesh KANDASAMY (Indian)**

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:

- **Kardash ILIAGUEV (Australian)** staying in Soffio and working at Buddha Garden
- **Matthias POMMERENING (German)** staying in Humanscapes and working at Savitri Bhavan
- **Nandalal SHERPALI (Indian)** staying in Auromics Staff Quarters and working at AUROMICS/AMANO
- **Sathyamoorthy KRISHNAMOORTHY (Indian)** staying in Mantra Staff Quarters and working at Mantra Pottery



Kardash



Matthias



Nandalal



Sathyamoorthy

YOUTH TURNED 18 CONFIRMED:

- **Raghul KATHIRAVAN (Indian)**

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

- **Muthu SUBBURAYAN (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 Residents (RoR) as maintained by the Auroville Foundation (AVF) Office.
- The change of status from Newcomer to Aurovillian is official only once the individual has filled in and signed 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

CLARIFICATION

Please note that the "**Hangout**" which has recently been created by the Third Age group at Center Guesthouse is **NOT exclusively for older Aurovilians**. We'd like to provide a space where people

of all ages can come together socially, mingle, have some refreshments, chat with friends, read the newspaper, play games, learn Tai Chi or Qigong, enjoy regular Dance nights and other such activities. It's an informal thing intended for having Fun and increasing Fraternity!

New Therapists at Santé

Santé is happy to introduce two new team members who will be joining us in January 2021.

Swati Rajput is a paediatric physiotherapist, with a focus on children with special needs, who have physical/ movement related issues. She volunteers her time in Deepam, where she works with several children and will be offering her services in Santé on a weekly basis from January. Swati works with children of all ages including babies and toddlers and her therapy promises to complement Santé's efforts in integral healthcare.

Svenja Capdeville is a Psycho-Somato therapist, offering psychotherapy through the body by working through psychological issues on the somatic level using touch and other psychotherapy techniques. This therapy can act as a bridge between the mind and body and in doing so can address and release chronic pain and/or trauma that is often internalised and held in the body.

For appointments with Swati or Svenja, please contact the Santé reception (2622803) during our working hours.

Naturellement Garden Cafe by night!

From the 1st of January we will extend our opening timings to 9 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, until the end of March. As our restaurant is lovely in the evenings, we want to offer the remaining evenings of the week for private bookings, (minimum 15 people.) We have tried it out a couple of times with great success. You can bring your own music and after dinner you can remove the tables from the lounge and dance if you feel like it... FMI, contact: 2622034/2623267 naturellement@auroville.org.in
Wishing you a Happy New Year!

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Citadines is looking for a handyman with experience in repair and maintenance. Aurovilian or Newcomer. Send application to citadines@auroville.org.in

We, the team of Probiotics House, are looking for a manager for our production. Do you love organizing stuff, enjoy working in a team and interacting with people? Then give us a call: 9443790180 or send us a message: mgecoduties@auroville.org.in. Full time with full maintenance.

LOOKING FOR

Someone traveling from Europe or USA - to carry a very small lightweight computer part. Contact: marlenka@auroville.org.in

A house - House sitting or transfer. We are family of 3 people looking for accommodation, preferably house. We are finishing our house sitting contract soon, so we would like to find place as soon as possible. We will be very happy to help and take care of your place. If you know any place available, Contact pedro.santos.guedes@gmail.com or 8754604810.

Furnitures - moving to a new unfurnished accommodation and looking for a cot, desk and chairs that you would like to sell or give away, Contact me on chungates@gmail.com.

Gear bicycle - For my son (5'10). If anyone has for sale. Unfortunately, 2 have been stolen in the last 6 months. Call or text: 88708 95691

AVAILABLE

Cartridges - I have two HP682 colour ink printer cartridges that I accidentally got online but can't return. If you can make use of this cartridge, contact: 7094956887 or kevin@auroville.org.in (I'd be happy to pass them on at 1/2 price)

Office/Co-Working space at Auromode

1. Ground Floor: Co-working space of 170-SqM which can be divided into two parts
2. First Floor: Five office spaces, each 24 SqM
3. Ground Floor: Office space of 63 SqM

Completely new w/ very quiet and green surrounding atmosphere, available at Auromode with Generator Power back-up / Aqua Dyn drinking water / Car & Bike parking / 24H Security service

Contact:-Pandian, General Manager, 0413-2622224; 994-339-0391
pandian@auroville.org.in; auromode@auroville.org.in

House-Helper & Gardener - Irusammal and Elumalai have been working for me (previously for Janet & Joy GH) for many years. They are looking for 1/2 time work. They have plenty of experience working in Auroville, and they are friendly & trustworthy!
Contact: L'aura: 9442788016 laurajoy@auroville.org.in

House Helper - Full or Half day. She has been working in Auroville for very long time. Contact 9786807071 (Submitted by Balu)

Yamaha Digital piano P45 - Full keyboard and functions. Excellent condition. Contact: +91 9500822629.

3 wheeled electric scooter - Light blue. In perfect condition, only used 3 months. Very stable, quiet with larger battery. Reduced price. Contact: 9500822629.

GREEN MATTERS



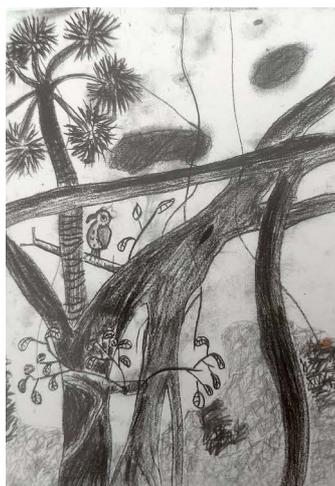
Water Saving Tip of the Week!

If you still have a garden that needs water, be sure to water it in the morning or evenings, ensuring that less water is lost through evaporation. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city.
watergroup@auroville.org.in/www.aurovillewater.in



YOUNG NATURALISTS PART IV

Today we introduce Tzur (or Grong as he likes to be called), who at 11 years of age divides his time between Grace where his parents live and Fertile where Johnny lives and where he built a house for himself and his friend Sijmen (aka "Pai") in the forest. When in Fertile he likes to help out with cutting dead trees, clearing paths and planting. He also enjoys watching wildlife - mainly birds, but also civet cats and porcupines ("I only saw it once though").



Tzur just joined a group of Aurovilians on a tour across social change initiatives in Tamil Nadu called the Vikalp Yatra. There he saw first-hand how people outside of Auroville are equally passionate about reforestation and watershed management. In fact, in one of the places he visited near Dharmapuri, people had managed to bring back to life an entire river! When asked how that's possible he explained "because the trees on the hill hold the water like a sponge". He saw a different approach to planting than we are used to in

Auroville: "they collect seeds from bird shit."

In the Nilgiri mountains he saw the difference between man-made and natural forests. "The man-made ones have only one type of tree, and much less wildlife. In the natural one we saw lots of deer, elephants and birds like the Malabar Grey Hornbill and the Brown headed Barnet. There are also leopards and tigers and vultures but we didn't see them."

Before going on the trip Tzur proposed to do activities with kids in schools, like finding out about local birds and making stencils

to print pictures of them on T-shirts. Unfortunately the schools were closed due to Covid, so instead he focused on making tea for everyone (another skill learned at Fertile). Grong and Pai quickly gained a reputation as “tea masters”.

****BROADCASTINGS - 2020 and onwards****

We have been reporting on global, bioregional and local environmental issues throughout this tumultuous year, overshadowed as it was by the Covid pandemic, and above this the threat of serious climate change: they had a compounding effect on the quality of life loss of work, health and our mental states and upset the foundation of our very existence.

Climate Change is Anthropogenic (human driven) with our continuous greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere causing a 10 °C temperature rise in the Arctic and the Black summer in Australia, Indonesia, the Amazon and the US with apocalyptic forest fires. The changing weather patterns are driven by a complex mix of warming ocean temperatures and atmospheric phenomena, fuelling hurricanes and cyclones, causing devastating damage to life and property in coasts in Asia, America, the Caribbean and even East Africa. Flora and Fauna are going extinct on a scale never seen before. We see melting and retreating glaciers from Iceland, Greenland and the Arctic to the Antarctic and closer to home in the Himalayas. Glacier lakes are filling up, overflowing, damaging settlements downstream, causing floods of biblical proportions. Glaciers are our lifelines, the water resources for India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan on which over 1 Billion people depend... India alone counted loss of lives and \$ 10 Million in damages.

We have been reporting on all these in the Green Column, noting how interconnected all life on the planet is and how vulnerable our societies are to even 1.5 degrees C of temperature rise (over pre-industrial values). The end of a year is a good time to reflect: how can we learn to live with these changes in 2021 and the decade to come? Which actions can we take; all governments in tandem globally, and we, ourselves in our daily lives? The Covid isolation has taught us to look around ourselves more carefully, and in gratitude, noticing the natural wealth that surrounds us, seeing how we can make do with what is given to us with awareness, compassion and understanding for people which have so much less, separated from loved ones, living in war zones, displaced in refugee camps, or lost as migrants at sea..

Preparation is on for the Climate Conference in Glasgow Scotland at the end of 2021: a make or break event, a chance to turn words into action if we want to come to grips with the Climate Crisis...

We wish all our readers the best for 2021 let us hope it is a year where all the climate- and humanitarian crises get a little more untangled: a year with hope and gratitude for a world that slowly starts to recover from all that has been visited upon it. The Age of Aquarius?

Wishing all a Green and Healthy Year! ~ Gijs & Lisbeth

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



Your favorite radio wishes you a Happy New Year and never forget: stay tuned! [Here](#) you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7). [Here](#) you can see on-air schedules.

Last published podcasts

- [Soul Tracks in Space: The Search for David Bowie's Starman](#) (Music)
- [The Akademik Genius Brothers - The Making Off... ep.12](#) (Theatre)
- [The Tamil Literary Forum - “ஏழாம் தந்திரம்- திருவருள் வைப்பு”](#) (Tamil culture)
- [The Best of What Still Around - ep.22](#) (Music)

- [Happiness, Love and Laughter - “T’was the Night Before Christmas”](#) (Wellness)
- [Marlenka's Weekly Offering - ep.15](#) (Integral yoga)
- [Lectures par Gangalakshmi - 342](#) (Sri Aurobindo)
- ...and more! on www.aurovilleradio.org. For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in. Peace and Love

Savitri as the Veda of the Future

In this talk delivered on 26 December 2020, Dr Alok Pandey draws interesting parallels between the Vedas and Sri Aurobindo's Savitri.

In the Vedas, there is a goal that Heaven and Earth ultimately become one. There has always been a struggle between the powers of darkness and light. In their hymns, Vedic Rishis described the sacrifice to the higher, the true, the right and the good.

With the help of his yogic powers, Sri Aurobindo traveled through all the planes of the world traversing its entire existence including its darkest corners. He found and revealed the light in darkness and wrote what kind of transformative work was needed for the widening of human consciousness, development of love and attainment of the knowledge of Oneness.

*A mutual debt binds man to the Supreme:
His nature we must put on as he put ours;
We are sons of God and must be even as he:
His human portion, we must grow divine.*

Our life is a paradox with God for key. (Savitri, p.67)

The Mother also mentioned that: “Savitri is a Mantra for the transformation of the world”.

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ4V7DrHHlc>

Reflections on Elder-ing

The fact that Auroville has many elderly people is voiced by many, and is true percentage-wise. We certainly do need to keep a balance of age, but the need for more youth should not denigrate those of us who have been around for years. The fact that we have been here for awhile, learned, and given service has gratefully enriched our insights and abilities and made us more useful to the community rather than a burden.

In Lockdown, I have had a very rich time of learning with a student who has been insatiable. When we came to the end of the teaching mode, we explored together, each learning and teaching the other. This learning through expression and creativity broadens and deepens and can raise consciousness for student and teacher at any age. We are all getting older but our attitude toward that process has a great deal to do with how active and well we stay. I was surprised and grateful to find how most Indians treat us with respect and caring in our seventies and eighties.

As we have to slow down many personal issues become clear. Interaction has become important as isolation looms. That may be obvious, but from a very active life with many choices of activity, the opposite can be daunting and surrender more difficult, not easier. As we all know, when we come here we are asked to deal with those parts of ourselves that have been avoided. That does not stop with age. May we all grow with wonder.

~ Audrey

Young World

“When all the world is young and all the trees are green...”
(Charles Kingsley: “The Water Babies”, November 1863)

I saw a peacock near Marika Home almost without its splendid tail. It was the time for the bird to change its feathers. This process is very natural. Evidently the peahens of its harem don't pay attention to the peacock's beauty in November.

Another autumn bird with remarkable tail appears in Auroville. It is the male Paradise Flycatcher. I never saw this bird changing its feathers. Every creature in our city has its own kind of life. The plants too, they live by different modes. For example, a Banyan is always green, but the Peepal sometimes loses its leaves. The Nature has a long evolution, but it is new, young in every moment. Sometimes the whole environment is changing. Jean in “Two

Banyans" told me that about in 1973 Auroville had not many trees, but a strong cyclone made them naked.

In average the age of Aurovilians changed during half of century. The pioneers of the city were mainly young. After some time the share of Aurovilians in second and third age was growing. But in comparison with the old cities (for example Rome) the dwellers of Auroville are more young.

The Greek word entropy has many meanings. According to one of them the sunrays reflect from deserted landscapes, the Earth loses of these rays. But the green environment of contemporary Auroville catches the sunny beams and transforms them in oxygen, biomass, fertility of soil. There were deep canyons in the place of Auroville; after the strong rains the red soil moved to the ocean. But the plants stopped step by step this erosion. Sometimes it seemed that Auroville is a city of utopia, its dwellers are idealistic ones and they haven't a practical future. I arrived in Auroville almost thirty years ago, in 1991. Then I saw a child in every Aurovillian. And now my vision isn't changed. It is a city of very young people who created their own young world. This reality has a great perspective. The physical and spiritual atmosphere of the city creates the constant youth of Aurovilians. In both hemispheres of our planet the air is polluted. Buenos Aires means good air but really now it is not for the healthy breathing. Auroville is like a healthy island where children, adults and all living creatures can use the clean air. A lot of green trees in the city produce the new and again new portions of the elixir of life - oxygen.

- submitted by Boris

partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to bring the world's treasures online. <https://artsandculture.google.com/experiment/cultural-crosswords/JgGaXxGHVxpn4A?cp=e30>.

5. THE SAPTAK SCHOOL OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC PRESENTS AN ONLINE MUSIC FESTIVAL - Vishwamangal - the 41st Saptak annual music festival, from 1 - 13th Jan.

<https://www.saptak.org/saptakDesk/saptak2021> (Computers)

<https://www.saptak.org/saptakTab/saptak2021> (Mobile Phones)

6. LIVING LIGHTLY FILM FESTIVAL NOW ONLINE - Srishti Films (Srishti Manipal Institute) presents a selection of pastoral stories on film. To watch: <http://movingimagesindia.in/film-festival/>

7. OUR MIDNIGHT SONG - 25 sessions that celebrate the thought, work and song of diverse women artists <https://www.facebook.com/shruthising>

Bharat Nivas is happy to announce its next webinar with Sanskritam Auroville team under the series "Performing Arts"



Chanting Together in Sanskrit
Tuesday 5th January at 4 pm

Chanting is an art, and yet so much more... mostly we think of the other aspects of it, like prayer, invocation, devotion and surrender, merging and uniting with the Divine. It is offered to the inner, deeper and higher Presence, not 'performed' for an audience, although listeners do enjoy and benefit from it immensely.

Sanskritam Auroville team chanted the full Bhagavad Gita on Gita Jayanti day, which coincided this year w/ Christmas, the festival of Light. For all of us this was a deeply moving experience. We will chant some shlokas from the Gita and share some reflections in the webinar.

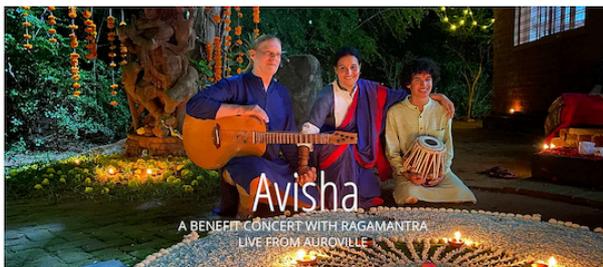


Online Access through Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92746829024?pwd=TnNoMGZVMTJ5Z0xoYkZzRDZyUHVEQT09>

Meeting ID: 927 4682 9024 / Passcode: bnwebinars

Please note, those of you who are interested in this topic 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 3:45 pm.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



1ST JAN
2021

09:30 PM INDIA TIME
04:00 PM GMT (EU)
11:00 AM EASTERN TIME (US)
08:00 AM PACIFIC TIME (US)

RagaMantra
Indian & World Music

Benefit concert for the
Auroville Unity fund

For online viewing, register at
www.ragamantra.com/avisha

LIVE CONCERT - UNITY PAVILION - AUROVILLE



Greetings from Auroville, the City of Dawn



AUROVILLE ART SERVICE - 'basket' for the week

1. ART FOR LAND INVITES Artists 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>

2. COLORFUL VIGNETTES BY AUGUST TIMMERMANS - August Timmermans (Guus) is an ex-Aurovillian who lived here from 1977 to 1985. He worked on the Matrimandir construction and later co-managed the Matrimandir Nursery. <https://lucidpanorama.blog/2020/12/27/the-things-that-matter/>

3. MUSEUM OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY - ONLINE TALK WITH MAX PINCKERS - Max Pinckers (1988) is a Belgian photographer based in Brussels. This talk for MAP explores the stories that lie within photographs and behind their making. <https://map-india.org/stream/max-pinckers/?pg=1>

4. GOOGLE ARTS AND CULTURE - CULTURAL CROSSWORD Features content from over 2000 leading museums and archives who have



Hidden Cities

A solo exhibition by Claire Iono

Jan 9th - Jan 24th, 2021

Monday - Saturday

10:30 am - 12:30 am; 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Opening Saturday 9th at 4.30 pm

Claire Iono, Aurovillian artist, has been living and working in Auroville for the past 10 years. Her abstract paintings are a true expression of her own personal adventure to fulfil the profound spiritual longing that is at the core of her artistic research. She intuitively fluctuates between the abstract and the figurative, creating subtle worlds that evoke imaginary and symbolic landscapes, where nature is animated. In her visual storytelling there are no boundaries between realms, instead they simply unfold into each other in a kind of continuum.

Hidden cities was born from Claire's aspiration to integrate her past, present and future artistic explorations and practices. "Hidden cities" refers to what cannot be seen within us that emerges; it is also a nod to the lost mythical cities.

The symbolic and allegorical cityscapes, timeless and unknown, may sometimes evoke metropolises or some undiscovered cities.

"The cities are a metaphor of our limitations and resistances", says Claire, "and that's actually the parallel I make, it's between walls and limitations, they form layers of all that must transform in us. The journey to experience this inner transformation is not a linear ascending process but rather a multi-dimensional one"; and this is how Claire etches out her visual narrative, playing with different planes.

Her iridescent paintings are always alight with a fire which is the manifestation of the will that allows us to overcome limitations. "These tormented skies may sometimes seem dramatic but actually they always relate to something beautiful, something that wants to transform, it is where all the possibilities lie. The skies represent these possibilities", she explains, "and on Earth, there is a sea or a river, a flow, that allows us to link everything.

For Claire, words and images go hand in hand and it's from this prose that sounds like a prayer, that this series started two years ago:

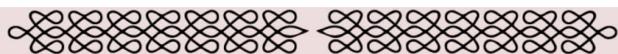
*May these cities we build inside ourselves
become those tiny silhouettes far away,
May these walls disappear,
and the New World will come.*

Claire Iono's evocative and imaginary is effortlessly fused to create an image of hope and life, with this positive energy that radiates through the beautifully ethereal world that manifests in her work.

This year, Claire was a finalist of the national competition Ora Mojarto and of the international exhibition, Art revolution Taipei in Taiwan; she has joined the artists catalogue of Kalakriti Art Gallery, one major gallery in India. Hidden Cities is her third solo show in Auroville.



You are all cordially invited to visit the exhibition at Centre d'Art, Citadines, until January 24th. The gallery is open from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM & 3 - 5 PM



Kolam Festival

9th & 10th January '21, Mohanam Centre

Come and join us for a day getting hands-on experience of the native culture & tradition and a celebration of Kolam, with the localities. Get in touch w/ us: auroshakthiawakening@gmail.com

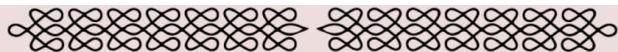
Kolam Festival Plan:

Day 1 - 9th January:

- 13:00 - Festival starts with opening by Meenakshi (special guest for the event) followed by workshop and exhibition exploration, and launch of Manjal.
- 15:00 - Snack break.
- 15:30 - Video on the significance of Kolam and talk by Rajaveni or Meenakshi.
- 16:00 - Kolam workshop with traditional techniques.
- 17:30 - Circle time for experience sharing and feedback.
- 18:30 - Optional paid dinner.

Day 2 - 10th January:

- 05:30 - Before sunrise - Colossal Kolam Making by the Auroshakthi women comprising all the elements and explanation by Ananda.
- 06:30 - Breakfast break.
- 08:00 - Meditation with Kolam.
- 10:00 - Refreshments/free time to move around & explore the stalls.
- 12:30 - Lunch.
- 13:30 - Kummi w/ Kolam & dance drama presentation by the Auroshakthi girls & women. Prize distribution for the Kolam competition.
- 15:00 - Circle time for experience sharing and feedback.



CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Contemporary Jazz Dance classes w/ Grace Gitadelila
Mon, Wed & Fri 4 to 5.30 PM in Sharnga (right gate) Aurora's Hall. For Teenagers aged 14 to 18! 3x a week commitment is compulsory. For info & to apply: +91-8072449091

ALL LIFE IS YOGA

short yoga course that goes beyond asanas

philosophy | chants | pranayama | meditation | asanas



First week of Jan 2021

4 weeks.

Benefits - individuals to self design a home practice, and for teachers in training.

Contact directly if interested | G. +91 84079 97970

NEW AIKIDO CLASSES

Monday & Wednesday, 9.30 - 11.30 AM
Thursday, 5 - 7 PM & Saturday, 4 - 6 PM



I am Philippe, a recently-joined Aurovillian, black belt 1st Dan, student of Jean-Pierre

Pigeau/Paris, and now will offer from January 4th onward: 4 Aikido classes per week at the Auroville Budokan in Dehashakti. Aikido is not a sport - it's a martial art without competition, based on the idea that: "The only competition is against oneself". Advanced practitioners as well as beginners are welcome. FMI: philippegourmetz@orange.fr or budokan@auroville.org.in, 83006 43963, 262 2951.

Analogue Photography Workshop w/ Sasikanth Somu



8th -16th January 2021, Centre d'Art, Citadines
2 Fridays, 2 -5 PM & 2 full Saturdays, 9 - 12 & 2 - 5

Total Hours: 18 Maximum 5 students

Venue: Multimedia and Darkroom at Centre d'Art, Citadines

Program:

1st Friday - Introduction to analogue photography with a touch of history and the technicalities of using a film camera.

1st Saturday - Half day is used to finish a roll of 24exp film on the participants chosen subjects plus all debugging and problem solving. Afternoon is used to spool the film and develop it in tanks by the individual participants.

2nd Friday - Participants get to do a contact sheet of their film negatives

2nd Saturday - Each participant gets to select 5 of their best negatives and make a postcard size print of each of them.

To register: centredart@auroville.org.in



Workshop on Palm Leaf Weaving and Coconut Shell Craft Techniques

Egai Craft heritage workshop brings you a session on learning native palm leaf weaving techniques and coconut shell crafts. Learn Weaving techniques and craft designs that you can apply to accessories decor and functional items. Perfect for creators who do like to learn this heritage craft to apply with a modern twist. Come & learn unique design earrings, Pendants, Key chains and more interesting crafts. Join us with basic contribution.

Coconut Shell Craft Workshop -

Sat. 9th, 23rd & 30th Jan 2021, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Palm Leaf Weaving Workshop -

Sat 23rd & 30th Jan 2021, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Venue: Saracon Campus (Near Ganesh Bakery and Svaram)
To register: egai@auroville.org.in, 9791896488, 9786016134.

Registration will close a day before the event date



Quiet Healing Center, +91 413 262 2329 / +91 948 808 4966
www.quiethealingcenter.info/ quiet@auroville.org.in



New in Arka - KoTreeYoga w/ Grace
 every Saturday from 5:00 to 6:30 PM

For intermediate and advanced yoga practitioners only

KoTreeYoga is derived from a feminine Yogini source of practice with Grace Gitadelila. The cardinal directions of space within and around us are addressed in structured sequences of poses that are at times held and woven together, flowing with the breath. After one introduction class, a monthly commitment and financial contribution is expected. To sign up or for more information write to info@kolamyoga.com CONTACT: GRACE- 8072449091

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



Woga 1 & 2 with Dariya
 Sat & Sun, 9th & 10th Jan.
 9 am - 5 pm

Woga is based on yoga poses and stretches modified for warm water. Thanks to reduced gravity, water allows greater ease of movement, unblocks articulations, length-ens and

melts muscles, and removes negative tensions, thereby preventing stress, insomnia and anxiety. No previous experience required (also no need to know how to swim).

~ * ~ * ~

Watsu & OBA Basic with Dariya & Daniel
 Tuesday 12th - Sunday 17th January
 1 pm - 6 pm (first day starts at 1.15 pm!)

Watsu & OBA are aquatic bodywork modalities given in a warm water pool (ideally 35°C). Watsu introduces the qualities and body mechanics required to work with someone on the water surface in order to create a profound state of both physical and mental relaxation. During the OBA part the receiver is also brought under water (with nose clip), which offers a unique experience.

In this course, you will practice basic techniques & qualities (grounding, presence, stillness, movement, attention) of being and moving another body in water. You will experience floating other people and being floated, on the surface and under water, thereby creating space for deep relaxation and nurturing body, mind and spirit. No previous experience required!



⇒⇒⇒⇒PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!

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Subscribe at newsandnotes-list+subscribe@auroville.org.in
 or click directly on this [link](#).



The Auroville Theatre Group presents:

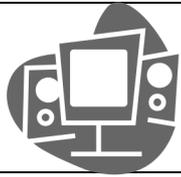
RED BIKE by Caridad Svich

7th, 8th & 9th Jan., 7:30 PM

Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Bharat Nivas

A story about a boy and his bicycle

Lighting design: Sugumar Shanmugam
 Light board operator: Lucky



Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium

Film program 4 January 2021 to 10 January 2021

Cinema Paradiso Team is happy to resume our screening at the MMC, but with strict Covid-19 protocols and **now with 52 seats**. Kindly find other details at the venue and/or in the last couple of N&N.

Indian - Monday 4 January, 8:00 pm:

- **SOORARAI POTTRU (Hail the Brave)**

India, 2020, Writer-Dir Sudha Kongara w/ Suriya, Aparna Balamurali, Paresh Rawal, and others, Drama, 153mins, Tamil w/English subtitles, Rated:NR (PG-13)

Based on Captain GR Gopinath's reality-based book *Simply Fly: A Deccan Odyssey*, this is an inspiring tale about a common man who dreamt big. The film revolves around Maara, the son of a schoolteacher in a Madurai village, who decides to start a low-cost airline that can be aspirational for even the less privileged. But Paresh Goswami, a leader in the aviation industry is trying his best to ensure that this dream does not take off, will Maara be able to reach for the sky? *We start the year with a popular film written and directed by a woman film maker.*

Spanish - Tuesday 5 January, 8:00 pm:

- **NUEVE REINAS (Nine Queens)**

Argentina, 2002, Dir. Fabian Bielinsky, w/ Ricardo Darin, Gaston Pauls, Graciela Tenenbaum and others, Mystery-Thriller, 114 mins, Spanish w/English subtitles, Rated: R
It's the story of two small-time swindlers, Juan and Marcos, who team up after meeting in a convenience store and become involved in a half million-dollar deal. As the deceptions and duplicity mount, it becomes increasingly difficult to figure out who is conning whom, and "Who isn't a thief?" Deliciously twist-filled, it is a clever and satisfying crime caper.

Interesting - Wednesday 6 January, 8:00 pm:

- **GATHER**

USA, 2020, Dir. Sanjay Rawal, Documentary, 74mins, English, Rated:NR (PG)

Through interviews with Native Americans of all ages and different tribes, this thought-provoking and inspiring film, looks at the potential for food sovereignty to transform communities, provide locally sourced food for regions that have otherwise become "food deserts" with junk food and little else. The film follows indigenous peoples who heal themselves, restore hope, and bring dignity to places where despair and substance abuse are natural. One of the interviewees calls this a "restorative revolution" and the idea is universal. *This much acclaimed film is currently been shown in various festivals, has been shared with us by the director. We thank him for this generous sharing.*

French - Thursday 7 January, 8:00 pm:

- **LE CHANT DU LOUP (The Wolf's Call)**

France, 2019, Writer-Dir. Antonin Baudry w/ François Civil, Omar Sy, Matthieu Kassovitz, and others, Thriller, 116 mins, French w/English subtitles, Rated: PG.

The film is about a submarine's sonar officer Chanteraide, who must use his brilliant sense of hearing to track down a French ballistic missile submarine and end the threat of nuclear war...

International - Saturday, 9 January, 8:00 pm:

- **SOUND OF METAL**

Belgium-USA, 2019, Writer-Dir Darius Marder w/ Riz Ahmed, Olivia Cooke, Paul Raci, and others, Drama-Music, 101mins, English-American Sign Language, French w/ English subtitles, Rated:R

'Being unable to hear and unable to listen are two very different issues.' In this hugely acclaimed directorial debut then filmmaker tells the story of Ruben punk-metal-experimental drummer and recovering addict who experiences both. His music, his life in sobriety with his girlfriend Lou, are suddenly under threat. Grudgingly he agrees to attend a rehab run by a Vietnam vet Joe whose greatest challenge is getting Ruben to embrace the idea of stillness, in both the audible sense and the spiritual one. Ruben begins to settle into the community – learning American Sign Language, making new friends, and trying to absorb the lessons– but the draw of Lou and the life he left behind lead him to difficult choices.

Children's Matinee - Sunday, 10 January, 4:30 pm:

- **ABOMINABLE**

USA, 2019, Dir: Jill Culton w/ Chloe Bennet, Albert Tsai, Tenzing Norgay Trainor and others, Animation, 97mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG

Three teenagers must help a Yeti return to his family while avoiding a wealthy man and a zoologist who want him for their own needs.

CLASSIC FILMS @ Ciné-Club Sunday 10 January, 8 pm:

- **RAY**

USA, 2017, Dir. Taylor Hachford w/Jamie Foxx, Regina King, and others, Drama-War, 152 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: PG

The story of Ray Charles, music legend. Told in his adult life with flashbacks to his youth we see his humble origins in Florida, his turbulent childhood, which included losing his brother and then his sight, his rise as pianist in a touring band, him writing his own songs and running his own band, and then stardom. Also includes his addiction to drugs and its effect on his working life and family life.

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