

News and Notes

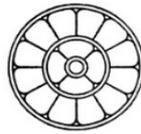
No 853 A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville 16th January 2021



Play of Blue
www.artforland.in

painting by Audrey

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)

The Supreme Word of the Gita

We have now got to the inmost kernel of the Gita's Yoga, the whole living and breathing centre of its teaching. We can see now quite clearly that the ascent of the limited human soul when it withdraws from the ego and the lower nature into the immutable Self calm, silent and stable, was only a first step, an initial change. And now too we can see why the Gita from the first insisted on the Ishwara, the Godhead in the human form, who speaks always of himself, “*aham, mām,*” as of some great secret and omnipresent Being, lord of all the worlds and master of the human soul, one who is greater even than that immutable self-existence which is still and unmoved for ever and abides for ever untouched by the subjective and objective appearances of the natural universe.

All Yoga is a seeking after the Divine, a turn towards union with the Eternal. According to the adequacy of our perception of the Divine and the Eternal will be the way of the seeking, the depth and fullness of the union and the integrality of the realisation. Man, the mental being, approaches the Infinite through his finite mind and has to open some near gate of this finite upon that Infinite. He seeks for some conception on which his mind is able to seize, selects some power of his nature which by force of an absolute self-heightening can reach out and lay its touch on the infinite Truth that in itself is beyond his mental comprehension. Some face of that infinite Truth – for, because it is infinite, it has numberless faces, words of its meaning, self-suggestions – he attempts to see, so that by attaching himself to it he can arrive through direct experience to the immeasurable reality it figures. However narrow the gate may be, he is satisfied if it offers some prospect into the wideness which attracts him, if it sets him on the way to the fathomless profundity and unreachable heights of that which calls to his spirit. And as he approaches it, so it receives him, *ye yathā mām prapadyante.*

Philosophic mind attempts to attain to the Eternal by an abstractive knowledge. The business of knowledge is to comprehend and for the finite intellect that means to define and determine. But the only way to determine the indeterminable is by some kind of universal negation, *neti neti.* Therefore the mind proceeds to exclude from the conception of the Eternal all that offers itself as limitable by the senses and the heart and the understanding. An entire opposition is made between the Self and the not-self, between an eternal, immutable, indefinable self-existence and all forms of existence, – between Brahman and Maya, between the ineffable Reality and all that undertakes to express, but cannot express the Ineffable, – between Karma and Nirvana, between the ever continuous but ever impermanent action and conception of the universal Energy and some absolute ineffable supreme Negation of its action and conception which is empty of all life and mentality and dynamic significance. That strong drive of knowledge towards the Eternal leads away from everything that is transient. It negates life in order to return to its source, cuts away from us all that we seem to be in order to get from it to the nameless and impersonal reality of our being. The desires of the heart, the works of the will and the conceptions of the mind are rejected; even in the end knowledge itself is negated and abolished in the Identical and Unknowable. By the way of an increasing quietude ending in an absolute passivity the Maya created soul or the bundle of associations we call ourselves enters into annihilation of its idea of personality, makes an end of the lie of living, disappears into Nirvana.

But this difficult abstractive method of self-negation, however it may draw to it some exceptional natures, cannot satisfy universally the embodied soul in man, because it does not give an outlet to all the straining of his complex nature towards the perfect Eternal. Not only his abstracting contemplative intellect but his yearning heart, his active will, his positive mind in search of some Truth to which his existence and the existence of the world is a manifold key, have their straining towards the Eternal and Infinite and seek to find in it their divine Source and the justification of their being and their nature. From this need arise the religions of love and works, whose strength is that they satisfy and lead Godwards the most active and developed powers of our humanity, – for only by starting from these can knowledge be effective.

– Sri Aurobindo . Essays on the Gita . Chapter VII . The Supreme Word of the Gita

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



If earnestly you say to the Divine, “I want only Thee”, the Divine will arrange the circumstances in such a way that you are compelled to be sincere.

The Mother





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

Enjoy the beautiful open space, the immense sunset and heavenly music in the very center of Auroville!
The Park of Unity is a place for silence, meditation and inner work. We request everyone not to bring/use cell phones, cameras, tablets, etc. Access is still limited to Aurovilians, Newcomers and Pass holders (have it with you) from 5.15 pm.



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

[auroville.org.in](https://www.auroville.org.in) to be considered for the valid pass.

– Matrimandir Executives and Access team



WORKING GROUP REPORTS



SELECTION PROCESS - 2021 REMINDER - FEEDBACK ON NOMINEES & CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

We would like to brief you about the upcoming process to select new members for Auroville Council, Entry Board, Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) and Working Committee.

IMPORTANT - In accordance with guidelines issued by the Central/State Governments, the current Protocols & Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Meetings is that the number of people in each meeting shall be restricted to 50% of seating capacity of the place, or maximum 200 people, whichever is less, including staff members, participants, organizers, etc. So far the Residents' Assembly Service registered 73 nominees, 281 participants (and this number is growing) + ongoing and outgoing members of the Working Groups, facilitators and organizers. With regard to this situation, we are exploring a possibility to book 2 or 3 venues in close vicinity to each other, in order to meet the criteria of the above protocols. Interaction between all attendees of the event will also include online communication via Zoom & the GM+ platform. The Selection of nominees will be held at the chosen venues. More details on this will follow soon.

HOW - The selection process for each working group will take half a day.

1. The working group will present its mandate, its work, its challenges and its needs.

2. Then, each of the nominees will make a personal presentation and answer any questions asked by the participants.

These 2 steps of presentations will happen online and be streamed to all venues simultaneously.

3. Each participant (selector) will get as many selection cards as there are vacancies in the working group.

E.g., if the working group needs to fill 5 vacancies, each participant (selector) receives 5 selection cards.

ATTENTION: The ongoing members of the working group for which new members are selected and the nominees for that specific working group cannot participate in the selection of members for that working group. They will leave the room when the selection takes place.

4. Feedback session and Selection.

- Feedback on nominees will be displayed to the confirmed participants (selectors) only, it is for individual information and reflection and will not be the basis of a discussion during the selection process.

- Participants (selectors), acquainted with the feedback, will select nominees, using only ONE CARD PER NOMINEE, or discard a card.

E.g., if there are 5 vacancies (5 selection cards) and 10 nominees, the selector can submit four cards for four (out of 10) candidates, and deposit the fifth card in the discard box. The selector can also deposit some/all cards in the discard box in case the selector is of the opinion that none (some) of the nominees are (are not) suitable to fill the vacancies.

5. To be selected, a nominee needs to have the trust of a minimum of 50% of the selectors. *E.g., if there are 100 selectors, each nominee needs to get 50 cards (minimum) to be selected.*

ATTENTION: A candidate will not be selected if he/she does not reach the 50% quorum.

6. All those involved in the selection process will endeavour to ensure that at least 2/3rd of the members of each working group consist of persons who have been resident of Auroville for at least 5 years. They will endeavour to ensure age and gender equality and a differentiation of nationality in each working group.

7. Taking into consideration the number of participants in the selection process, the RAS will take time to carefully count submitted selection cards and will inform the community about

the outcome of the selection process the next day, after the selection of all 4 groups.

ATTENTION: For the sake of transparency, the RAS will invite observers to be present at the procedure of counting and verifying submitted selection cards.

8. The selected persons will immediately after the RAS announcement, join the working group for which they have been selected.

FEEDBACK & PARTICIPATION

Please find the updated profiles of candidates and fill in a feedback form here: <https://bit.ly/38ymLFG>

And/or register as a participant: <https://bit.ly/35z9D1n>

FEEDBACK PERIOD & REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS WILL BE OPEN UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 2021

Kindly note that participants, nominees and the members of the concerned working groups should commit to participate in the entire selection process. It is not possible to participate in part of the selection process only (*PWG 2020, Part 3-B, 4*).

"b) Residents can give their positive or negative feedback on a nominee in the comment section below each nomination form and send this to the RAS.

c) Neither the Auroville Council nor the News and Notes will publish any feedback on a nominee.

*d) The RAS will share the feedback w/ the confirmed participants in the selection process only" (*PWG 2020, Part 3-A, 4*).*

*"The RAS will inform all participants in the selection process of the feedback it received on the nominees. The participants commit to treat all feedback as confidential and not publish or circulate it and only use this feedback for the selection of the confirmed participants. The feedback is only for individual information and reflection and will not be the basis of a discussion during the selection process" (*PWG 2020, Part 3-B, 3*).*

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact raservice@auroville.org.in.

- At Her service, The Residents' Assembly Service

From the Auroville Council:

Leave of absence for nominees and participants taking part in the selection process

The selection process for new members for the Working groups takes place on 21st and 22nd January 2021. If you want to take part in the selection process you must participate for the entire 2 days. The AVCouncil requests the community services, commercial units and all other working places and management teams to please give leave for those 2 days for Aurovilians who participate in the Selection Process, this includes nominees and participants. RAS already published the nominees on Auroville Council and the same will be done with the names of the Aurovilians who participate as selectors.

- The AVC - (Balaji, Enrica, Ganesh K. Jayamoorthi, Moutou, Riju, Shivaya, and Vatchala)

FAMC Weekly Bulletin:

Monday 21 December 2020 to Sunday 3 Jan 2021

Our regular correspondence and meetings (such as with Working Groups and residents) continued, but with less frequency than normal over the Christmas and new year period. Key updates:

- **FAMC Mandate:** Further to its annual review meeting the FAMC conducted a review of its mandate with a view to identifying its strengths and weaknesses. This was with a view to share the outcome of its deliberations with the Community via the Auroville Council's process to present these amendments to the community for ratification by the residents at an RAD. The main outcome from the review has been to improve (from the current membership's perspective) the Vision and Mission of the FAMC, and to discuss a major question: whether the FAMC should remain a body in which all members are selected through a community selection process or membership is limited mainly to Aurovilians who are already members of other groups and who represent those groups. In other words, whether Aurovilians have the right to select all of the members or can only select a few of the members of the FAMC. The current FAMC believes that all of its members should be selected by Aurovilians via a community selection process.

- **Returning donations:** The question of how to handle requests for the return of donations (particularly in relation to housing) remained high on the agenda. The FAMC had already sought advice from respected Chartered Accountants but, given the importance of the issue to all of us, decided to seek further advice on the matter from Legal Counsel. To understand the FAMCs position better, we quote from the concluding element of our letter to Legal Counsel: *“Underlying our request for advice, is a wish to act honorably towards people who have come to Auroville in good faith. If we can effect some level of return of donated monies to help individuals restart their lives then that is what we wish to do. Advice to help achieve this goal is the raison d’etre of our approach to you.”* As set out in the FAMC post on AuroNet of 21 December, no one should expect a refund of any donation. We hope this will change. If it does, we will, of course, inform the Community expeditiously.

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

Response from the Forest Group to the TDC:

There are some mistakes and misleading twists in your AVnet post (<https://auroville.org.in/article/82977>) and letter published in News & Notes #852 which we would like to correct and/or reply to:

1. We had issued the work order and we want to share with you how we arrived at our decision.

You had issued the work order on 17-12-2020 and had sent this email / posted this post on 04-01-2020. You did not publish the work order in the News&Notes for two weeks feedback as it is regular practice and as asked by the Working Committee in their mail of 21-12-2020. In the meeting called by GOI group on 02-11-2020 and attended by FAMC, WC, AVES, Forest Group, Youth Centre and others the TDC has agreed to a consultation process. In this meeting it was agreed by all that in case no consensus can be found an RAD process will be initiated. As the consultation process has not happened, despite an email by you on 01-12-2020 claiming your intention to do so soon, and the work order had been issued without any further communication, a GM with subsequent RAD has been initiated. You are in no position to take any decision in this regard before the outcome of the RAD.

2. Alternatively, we’ve also dived deeper into ATDC’s roles and responsibilities and tried to make the decision as objectively as possible.

While looking into the TDC’s roles and responsibilities you might have come across point 6h) of the “Standing Order” which states that a properly functioning TDC (with its envisioned 13-15 members for different areas of work) should work with:

6h) Prepare and implement communication and consultation processes that encourage an active, constructive and participatory involvement of Auroville residents in the implementation of the Master Plan

3. First and foremost, we would like to restate that ATDC’s mandate is to realize Mother’s Dream, and this is the Galaxy Plan.

The Mother’s Dream and the Galaxy CONCEPT are two different things. See Mother’s Dream here: <https://auroville.org/contents/197>. See the Galaxy CONCEPT here: <https://drive.google.com/contents/691>. Note: “Circular” does not mean a perfect circle. “... everything is flexible, nothing is fixed.”

4. Our role is mainly technical in nature, we ensure the planning and development work - infra and project alike - are implemented according to the RA ratified plan.

Only the Master Plan of 1999 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nTYcKkljE6N2utS8RvL0KUVQevF7gF1g/view> is ratified by the RA. The Master Plan of 2001 (Perspectives 2025) (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VtxTyDKdjz1UzcRgELC1GMhIXRZTcA0R/view>) which has been gazetted in Delhi in 2010 has never been approved by the RA.

5. No NOC has, subsequently, ever been issued to YC for any of their structural work or for planting trees. Despite not having NOC, structures and tree planting have been made against the planning norms and against the community mandated process of having NOC, which sets the wrong precedent and is detrimental for our development.

It has been attempted by members of the YC several times in the past to receive a subsequent NOC with no result. The area of Bliss Forest is the origin of two major canyons in the city area and has high percolation rate soil. In fact it is highly beneficial for the development of the city to maintain this forested area with least disturbance for water management reasons.

6. We also agree that the building of Auroville should have the least environmental impact. It was with this in mind that TDC requested the Forest Group to submit an EIA to explain their reasons.

At the Forest Group meeting in Aurodam in March 2020, we were told by the two members of TDC and Ulli Blass that an EIA is needed to justify any deviation of the planned route of the HT cable to the GOI. If you are concerned about the least environmental impact why don’t you follow the outcome of the EIA?

7. The EIA clearly shows there are no threatened or endangered species of trees in the proposed route. During the walk around, mostly common shrubs and trees, exotic invasive trees are the predominant flora. Even avenue trees were planted to demarcate the crown by the Bliss Stewards.

Please read the EIA again: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s9FuNcEvnv_OwJugTJ7QXYMoAUpmOfv/view. On the Bliss RoW there are 115 trees and shrubs of 34 different species plus 500+ small evergreen regenerating specimens. Out of these 34 species 22 are rarely now found in Tamil Nadu. Just because they are not on the national IUCN Red list does not mean they are not rare and endangered in Tamil Nadu, (this was stated in the EIA). The Service trees to demarcate the Crown were planted in respect to the Galaxy concept, as it is a concept of shapes. These shapes may be demarcated by trees or stones or anything, not only by roads, cables and concrete buildings.

8. As this infrastructure follows permanent and planned mobility corridors we need to define infrastructure corridors at the onset and assign the trenches on both sides. Infrastructure (BSNL fibre optic cable) has already been laid at the proposed alternative route along the existing roads.

9. The ATDC’s position is that we define and implement the trench needed, which in this case is around 1 meter. In the end, as can be seen in various locations in Auroville, infrastructure is laid with a minimum of vegetational and/or constructional effects.

So far, we were informed by AVES and TDC that a 3 meter wide clearance is needed for future maintenance. Also, saying “we need to define infrastructure corridors at the onset” clearly shows that you are planning to clear the entire RoW, which for the Crown has a width of 30 meters.

10. Please have no misunderstanding that the highway has been thwarted because of the gazetted Auroville Master Plan (perspective 2025).

As one member of the Highway Task Force reports: “...the main focus was Auroville and its bioregion and not the MP. The presentation that was prepared for NHAI and the Villupuram collector did not mention the word Master Plan, but it did mention the vision of Sri Aurobindo, the Mother, the Charter, the sanctity of Auroville, the re-afforestation work, its outreach work in health, education and environment.”

11. Auroville as a community has promised to develop the township as per the gazetted document.

The community has not approved the gazetted document (see above, point 4).

12. Changing goal post is detrimental to planning and has been one of the fundamental roadblocks Auroville TDC has been facing in moving forward.

The Master Plan itself states that it needs to be adjusted on a regular basis. See point 2.11.1 of the Master Plan (Perspectives 2025):

“Although the Master Plan (Perspectives 2025) indicates a time horizon of 25 years, it will neither be traditional, nor static and rigid. In the framework of Perspective 2025, the Planning Group would prepare a detailed Five Year Development Plan containing the priority items to be taken up for development as given in Table 22. At the close of the first Five Year Development Plan, the progress would be assessed. A second-phase detailed

development plan would then be prepared on the basis of the feedback obtained from the field/monitoring which will be followed by further detailed development plans for subsequent five-year periods.”

This has never been done. Nor has any input, e.g. from the Dreamcatchers or the “Auroville City Area - Land Sustainability and Land Use Proposal” of 2014 by Suhasini Ayer Guigan https://research.auroville.org/system/papers/attachments/000/000/677/original/Auroville_City_Area_Land_Sustainability_and_Land...roposal_Suhasini_Ayer_Guigan_2014.pdf been taken into account.

The goal post of manifesting the Galaxy CONCEPT has not been changed as far as we can ascertain. What is, on the other hand, one of the fundamental roadblocks is inflexibility on the part of TDC and an unfortunate intention to avoid at all costs the preparing and implementing of communication and consultation processes that encourage an active, constructive and participatory involvement of Auroville residents in the development and implementation of the Master Plan.

- The Auroville Forest Group

The Master Plan and the Highway Threat

As members of HTF (Highway Task Force), we have noticed an important error in L'avenir's message about the highway and the Master Plan, and wonder how well-established facts came to be so radically misrepresented and turned into their opposite.

Their report says: *“Regarding Highway: Please have no misunderstanding that the highway has been thwarted because of the Gazetted Auroville Master Plan (perspective 2025)....”*

Initially, when it was found that the proposed highway was crossing Auroville, the Master Plan argument was presented to NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) in Delhi by the Working Committee. It is well known, especially in WC and AV Foundation, that the NHAI in response, shifted the alignment only slightly towards Kuilapalayam village, to border the edge of the Master Plan. This new routing, respecting the Master Plan boundary, would not only devastate the large reforestation and water conservation work achieved on this barren plateau after 50 years of hard work, including exemplary areas like Forecomers, Pitchandikulam etc, but also cut through Auroville lands on the East and South East side, splitting a significant part of Auroville's population from the City Centre, and furthermore, split Auroville from the villages of Kuilapalayam and Bommayarpalayam.

Not only did this shock and alarm our community (which led to the formation of the HTF) but we also faced the rage of the villagers for having pushed the Highway closer to them! They made strong appeals to the District Collector to shift it back inside the Auroville Master Plan! It was a nightmare, as NHAI insisted on this alignment on the basis that it was avoiding the Master Plan, as initially requested from Auroville.

It took months of persistent and extraordinary efforts, and many meetings with several stakeholders and government officers of all levels (in Delhi, Chennai, Viluppuram, Vanur, Puducherry, etc) to avert the threat of the planned highway. The final meeting was held at the Foundation offices, with high-level representatives of NHAI and the Transport Ministry, members from HTF, WC, GB, and the greatly respected participation of our Secretary Mr. Chunkath. In all these negotiations, the main focus was Auroville and its bioregion, the vision of Sri Aurobindo, the Mother, the Charter, its reforestation work and its outreach in health, education and environment. It was on these grounds that we were able to convince them of an alternative alignment far North of the surrounding bioregion which is inseparably linked to Auroville. **Not once in these exchanges did we lean on the 'gazetted Master Plan', as it would have been counter-productive.** It was during that time, seeing the weakness of the current Master Plan in protecting Auroville from such threats as this planned highway, that the need of an enlarged or 'Vaster Plan' including the Galaxy concept and surrounding bioregion was brought up by some Aurovilians.

Dear TDC team, please make note of this, and modify your records, notion and misunderstanding regarding the current Master Plan being instrumental in thwarting the Highway.

- Aravinda, Glenn, Mita R, Philippe, Prashant, Renu, Tine



Why we fundraise for land for Auroville

Today, approximately 10% of City Area land & over 50% of Greenbelt land are still missing from the Master Plan area. Auroville's relevance is growing!



Auroville started on its hot, arid, eroded plateau in a rural area with just a few young pioneers from the Ashram, from Kuilapalayam, Kottakarai and Edayanchavadi, and several more coming from the West. Today,

this experiential community has grown into a UNESCO-recognized international township with 3000 people from 57 countries, and 700,000 visitors per year.

Auroville is one of very few projects worldwide that has successfully bridged from regenerating its land and environment towards radiating out with its ecological and educational approaches for the upliftment of its bioregion. Auroville has made significant contributions in restoring the bioregional traditional water system, with the creation of 6 health care facilities and 36 educational facilities, and through its social work organisation “Auroville Village Action Group (AVAG)” working with over 80 villages and 100,000 people. <https://www.Village.action.in/>. The past decades have seen Auroville develop into a learning center that attracts volunteers, interns, scholars and students worldwide. Several research teams work in the different sectors to further Auroville's educational character as a campus or a Univer-city as its next step, gaining even wider relevance. Many of the income-generating activities are in fact social enterprises, acting in service to humanity. Additionally, research in a circular economy, and a regenerative approach to economy has been ongoing over the years.

Auroville is the largest such project to make this transition and by living, dynamic example, represents one of the great hopes for the future of humanity! The seed planted on 28th February 1968 has grown and flourished - but today the rapidly expanding Pondicherry area changes the dynamics of Auroville's physical environment! **We urgently need to consolidate “the base camp” - the land for Auroville's ongoing work. The challenge to do so is bigger than ever.** 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, open mornings, 0413 2622657. Please come see us and bring your ideas to support this work! LFAU: land.auroville.org; Donation gateway: donations.auroville.org or a direct transfer to FS 0100 Land.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GP Cafe Restaurant

We are happy to inform our community that GP Cafe Restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch again.



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

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 unfortunately reply in person to each submission. If we are interested in your work for exhibition, we will be sure to contact you via the details provided with your submission. Submissions may be made to centredart@auroville.org.in. If 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 for the exhibition season August 2021 to April 2022.

OBITUARY



Mr. S. Bhavani Shankar

This is to inform the community, that our beloved Manager, Mr. S. Bhavani Shankar, a senior Aurovilian, who worked with us from March'1991 to October 2011, has passed away peacefully in his native place, Kurnool Dist, Andra Pradesh, on Monday 3rd January 2021. He was accompanied by

his son and daughter.

He was a diploma holder in Mechanical Engineering and worked as a Principal in a private I.T.I. firm at Kurnool District. He also represented the Senior State Volley Ball team of Andra Pradesh. After becoming a devotee of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo, Mr. Bhavani Shankar had come to visit the Ashram during his early days.

After he joining Auroville in 1991, he stayed in Promesse community till 2011, when first he left Auroville due to difficulties of his advanced age. He returned back to Auroville after 2 years and stayed in Inspiration Community until 2018, when he finally left Auroville, again due to his age.

We, the Staff of Auroville Electrical Service, along the whole community of Auroville extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family members and pray for him and his family members. **REST IN PEACE, SIR.**

- Auroville Electrical Service

APPEALS

TLC School is in urgent need of some new equipment

Do you have a sewing machine, mixie or vacuum cleaner in good working order that you are not using, and could donate to our wonderful cause? We would love to be able to save money and avoid waste by getting these items second hand. Please call/WA Amy, +91 915 919 8534 if you can help us:)

- TLC Finance Team (Amy, Danny, Maya, Mira)

YC FAIR

The YC annual fair happens in two weeks! On the **23rd of January, starting at 10am**, the YC welcomes the community's children and students for a day of performances, games and food.

In order to make this event successful, we are reaching out looking for financial support. A monetary contribution of ANY amount will be extremely helpful and appreciated. Our Auroville account number is: **0099**. Thank you and see you soon!

Auroville International Potters Market

Needs 30 volunteers who can help with setting up, running and taking down the potters market on Saturday 23 to Wednesday 27 of January. Email aurovillepottersmarket@gmail.com with CC to ange@auroville.org.in and aurovillearts@auroville.org.in

with "I want to help AVIPM" in the subject line. In the email please let us know the dates and times you are free, along with your mobile number. Thank you very much, ~ Auroville Potters

Will you translate Mother's symbol into your language(s)?

Mother's symbol has been translated into over 30 languages, including the four languages of Auroville, i.e. Tamil, French, Sanskrit and English, as well as indigenous languages and those used across the world, including Amharic, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Esperanto, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Korean, Macedonian, Marathi, Nepali, Niugini Pisin, Odia, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Telugu, Tibetan, Ukrainian.

<https://auroville.org/the-mother-s-symbol>.

Other languages in the process of symbol design or translation include Gujarati, Malayalam, Pali, Persian, Bahasa Indonesia, Turkish, and Czech.

If your language is not listed above, will you join in and translate? If yes, please write to symbol-in-translation@auroville.org.in. We hope to make an offering of these symbols in various languages, hopefully in February of this year. More translations and offerings will be made thereafter.

With deep Gratitude for Her Grace and your participation, Anandi Zhang and over 100 contributors

THANK YOU!

Thank you, PTDC

I here want to express my appreciation for the interim team that so nicely and swiftly jumped in and kept the Pour Tous Distribution Centre safely and efficiently going, while under great pressure during the first year of the Covid19 drama when the PTDC management was TOS. The energy was lively, upbeat and energetic, catering and other logistics under control. Bravo, and a big thank you. -Mauna



Heartfelt gratitude for the support

As the pilot Citizens' Assembly moves into its final phase, we would like to offer our heartfelt gratitude to the community for its support. It has been incredible to witness the immense goodwill to help manifest this dream of improved and effective collective decision making in our community.

Over 100 people have been involved in the first pilot as participants, experts, organisers, volunteers and in the overall documentation of the process. For the first topic of creating a water vision for Auroville, the participants have watched 8 videos totaling 320 minutes over the past two months - a compilation of 30 interviews with those involved in water in Auroville. As this learning phase has now concluded, we would like to offer a sincere thank you to those involved with the videos. We have calculated that over 150 hours of work went into the translation of the videos, done almost entirely by volunteers - a big thanks to Raja Ganesh, Chitra, Sangeetha, Nikethana, Manoj, Karthikeyan, Kalvi, Thillai, Buvana for their Tamil translation work and Suryamayi (for French).

Our gratitude also to our Tamil dubbing volunteers for their time and effort - thank you to Parthiben, Vivek, Shivaraj, Karthikeyan, Karthick, Nikethana, Sathish, Anand, Ramani, Sathya, Harishini, Thambidurai and Auro-Venkatesh.

For about 80 hours of English transcription work, a huge thank you to our volunteers - Pala, Paula, Anandi, Anuviya, Kathy, Kalvi, Karen, Lesley, Doris and Alan. We are also immensely thankful for almost 100 hours of work done by volunteers to include English subtitles for the videos - Karen, Kalvi and Aditi.

Our topic advisory team who peer reviewed the editing of the videos volunteered over 100 hours of their time for the interviewing, reviewing and finalizing of the content of the videos. A big thanks to David, Helen, Aditi and Nikethana for this effort!

Finally, a HUGE thank you to Outreach Media and Aurora's Eye films - to Serena and Auro-Venkatesh for their time, energy and commitment towards content creation and documentation of this

community experiment. The videos shown during the sessions both English and Tamil versions, can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs2vYRrMr0pk_P4VDj5CW7u14uh1VJH

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SERVICES PROVIDED BY S.E.W.A

Savings Scheme - S.E.W.A operates a savings scheme for the workers of Auroville. Under this scheme, the Employer and the worker (Employee) each contribute 12% of the workers' salary every month into an account set up in the name of the worker. The funds in the account accrue interest as well. Upon completion of 4 yrs., the Employee is allowed to withdraw not more than 25% from his/her account for any emergency. The Employee can avail a loan as well if the Employer undertakes to ensure timely payments.

Education Loan - S.E.W.A has an education fund set up for providing Education Loans (without interest) for higher education of the children of workers who have an account with S.E.W.A.

Gratuity Account - At the end of their service or retirement, or upon termination of services, workers are entitled to a gratuity (also referred to as 'settlement'). The gratuity amount is equal to 14 days salary at the time of retirement or termination for every year of employment, which can add up to quite a large amount. For Aurovilians to not have to shell out this amount all at once, S.E.W.A has set up a Gratuity Account wherein Aurovilians can contribute 5% of the monthly wages paid to the worker every month.

Salary increase and bonus recommendations - S.E.W.A recommends the following salary increase this year:

- 10% - for workers earning less than or equal to Rs. 250 per day
- 8% - for workers earning more than Rs. 250 and less than or equal to Rs. 400 per day
- 5% - for workers earning more than Rs. 400 per day.

For workers earning less than Rs. 10,000 per month, S.E.W.A recommends a bonus of 8.33% of their salary/wages. In simple terms this amounts to 1 month's salary in a year. This bonus could be paid in two instalments - half for Diwali and half for Pongal or any other time at the discretion of the employer.

Accident Cover Policy - S.E.W.A recommends for all Workers to be covered under an Accident Cover Policy which will cost a minimum of Rs. 408/- to a maximum of Rs. 751/-per annum. Under this policy, Rs. 2 lakhs will be given in cash in the event of Death and 150% of the sum insured along with Bonus (if any) in case of Total or Partial disablement. In addition to this, Hospital expenses are covered depending on the nature of the accident.

FMI, don't hesitate to write to sewa@auroville.org.in. You can also schedule a meeting by calling us at 0413-2622709.

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 067 - 16/01/2021

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

NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:

- Charles ZANON (French) staying in Gaia and working at Earth Institute
- Valarmathy DAMU (Indian) staying in Kalabhumi and working at Klara's House (Auromodele)

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:

- Nadia DOWLAT ABADI FARAHANI (Italian) staying in Serenity and working at AV Radio, Pitanga & Verite
- Raju SHANMUGAM (Indian) staying in Humanscapes and working at Sacred Groves



Charles

Valarmathy

Nadia

Raju

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

- Elisabeth CAMILLE (French)
- Georgia BENNER ROSS (Canadian)
- Jean-Luc BUREAU (French)
- Neetha JOTHI (Indian)

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

- Sandhiya (Indian) Spouse of Balaanand, staying in Courage and working at C3STREAM Land Designs, Udavi and Isaiambalam



Sandhiya

NOT READY TO JOIN AUROVILLE:

The Entry Board, in consultation with the mentors concerned, has not accepted the following Newcomers joining Auroville. The reasons have been communicated to them.

- Dianna PURDUE (British)

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 Aurovilian 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 Aurovilian is official only once the individual has filled in and signed the B-Form and his/her name is entered into the RoR after he/she has met with the Secretary of the AVF with an appointment arranged by the Entry Service. These appointments are fixed by the Entry Service according to the availability of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, and 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.

Citizens' Assembly update #3



In the previous update we referred to the first two sessions of the restarted Citizens' Assembly pilot project, which brought together about thirty randomly selected Aurovilians to formulate a vision for water for Auroville along with suggestions for implementing the vision. Participants watched videos of many members of our community who are passionate about water. They were interviewed about their work with water, the challenges, their water vision for Auroville and what needs to happen for this to be implemented. This was followed by small group discussions in which participants shared ideas, then prioritized those most relevant for a water vision and its implementation.

Since then, there have been four more similar sessions. Session three involved video presentations by Tomas, Krishna, Ramalingam and Priya on water and farming. Session 4 looked at the topic of Integrated Water Management involving seven interviewees - Gilles B, Giulio, Nagappan, Bobby & Luca, Toby, John and Dave. In session 5 we showed two videos, one with Dariya, Jean-François, Bhagwandas on the spiritual qualities of water (followed by a guided visualization to encourage deeper immersion and reflection), followed by Lucas, Alok and Margarita addressing water quality. The final session in this format featured Suhasini, Mita, Renu and Sreevatsa speaking about planning and governance issues pertaining to water, and Ing-Marie, Ribhu, Tom, Meenakshi and Satprem presenting their ideas regarding education and raising awareness in the community and bioregion about the water challenge.



Thus far, participants had not had direct interaction with the presenters. However, on 22nd December a panel session was organized at which seven of the presenters, chosen by the participants, answered questions put to them directly by the participants. The panel - Margarita, Renu, Giulio, Tomas, Toby, Tency and Ribhu - answered participants' burning questions, like why is there a perceived lack of collaboration between the 'water players', and shared their ideas about how effective water management could be made a community priority. This was followed by two more sessions at which some of the presenters engaged less formally and more closely with participants. This was also an opportunity for the presenters to comment upon the vision and implementation 'mind maps', records of the ideas prioritized by the participants over the sessions and clustered by theme, to point out if anything was missing or needed modification.

The next two sessions to be held in January will be crucial ones, for they will see the participants' drawing upon the knowledge they have acquired over the past months to come up with an agreed water vision and implementation proposals, which will then be presented to the relevant groups and to the community as a whole for action.

The project has generally been appreciated and supported by our 'water players'. It has also generated a lot of enthusiasm and gratitude among the participants, as reflected in the overwhelmingly positive feedback received at the end of each session. One presenter, Dariya, has also offered to host warm water sessions at Quiet for the presenters, participants and organizers, to enable them to experience water experientially and allow them to interact with each other in a very different way. A final update will be published after the concluding sessions. We will also hold a presentation at the end of the process, and offer an opportunity for a community review. In addition, as this is a SAILER- funded research project, a research report by the project's researchers will be made available in due course.

Meanwhile, the videos shown during the sessions, in both English and Tamil versions, can be accessed at bit.ly/avcitizens. We would like to thank Outreach Media and, in particular, Serena and Venkatesh, for their work on these. Further information regarding the Citizens' Assembly project can be found at our website: <https://caexplorationauroville.wordpress.com>. Get in touch by writing to us at caexploration@auroville.org.in - The Citizens' Assembly Exploration Group, (Kathy, Suryamayi, Helen, Alan, David, Aditi, Martin, Sandhya, Nikethana, Anshul & Lesley)

INTERNAL DELIVERY FOR ONLINE PURCHASED GOODS

The Internal Delivery Service for online purchased goods has been running now for 6 months, but we are aware that many Aurovilians still don't know about it.

Internal Delivery Service (IDS) is an initiative to reduce the motorised deliveries from Amazon and other companies in Auroville, and to avoid delivery men driving through gardens and courtyards searching for the person a parcel is addressed to. The Service is located in the Service area at the premises of UTS. In the morning Krishna and Satish are present, in the afternoon Aditya is receiving and handling the parcels. If you decide to make use of the Service you need to fill in your online order accordingly:

1. Your name/community on the order,
2. Delivery Address: Internal Delivery Service (UTS office - Service Area), Auroville, 605101, Tamil Nadu, Mobile Number: 853 196 9746
3. Please email or phone/SMS Internal Delivery Service with Details of the Order: Order number/ID, Name, Community, Phone Number.

Indicate if it is for pickup at UTS or delivery at home. If delivery is wanted, please mention the community (with directions/specifications for how to reach your house/flat/door).

internaldelivery@auroville.org.in or 8531969746, 0413 2623587

Timings for pick-up: 9.30 - 5pm. Kindly phone in case you cannot make it within these timings.

Homemade food delivery at your doorstep

This is a warm invitation to restart our frozen economy by offering a home cooked meal (Lunch/Dinner) for home delivery only. It's a great way of demonstrating a practical, mutual support.

The purpose of this initiative is to deliver homemade food at the customer's doorstep. Women who love cooking are enrolled as chefs, and they bring home cooked food to your home, making fresh, hygienic, affordable, home cooked food available with just a phone call.

Please call/WhatsApp me for details: 809 878 2233. We will pick up your tiffin at your home, fill it up and deliver the Lunch/Dinner back to you. Veg/non-veg Indian food and salad w/ spices according to the customer's taste/needs.

Call us a day before for the preparation. We are also taking order on a monthly basis, as well as preparing food for your birthday or any special event!
- Arunkumar and Valli

An update on the skies

In Vedic Astrology, there is a certain combination of planetary positions that has generated a considerable amount of interest in recent times. It is called "Kaal Sarpa Yoga", which is formed when all planets are between the nodes of the Moon, i.e. between Rahu and Ketu, in the anti-clockwise direction. 'Kaal' refers to 'time' and 'transformation', and 'Sarpa' refers to the serpent. We are heading into a Kaal Sarpa season with all planets (including Uranus, Neptune and Pluto) coming together between the Nodes on the following dates:

Monday 11 Jan to Monday 25 Jan 2021
Sunday 7 Feb to Sunday 21 Feb 2021
Saturday 6 Mar to Sunday 21 Mar 2021

The Nodes are in Taurus & Scorpio, in their signs of exaltation, and this makes them quite strong in the transit chart. If you are interested to read more about this, see my blog at <https://www.allthingsvedic.in/post/kaal-sarpa-yoga>. You will find some tips and remedies for day-to-day life, and some do's and don't's.

Personally, I approach a chart with this combination with caution, checking and rechecking what I see, before sharing the results. If you have this Yoga in your chart, I am interested in learning how this has affected you, if there was a particular year when life took a major turn, if you have tried any remedies, your experience with them & so on. You can reach me at vikram@auroville.org.in

HANGOUT GATHERING at La Terrace

Saturday January 23rd from 2.30 - 5pm.

"Hangout"- game afternoon for seniors and all ages Please join us, bring your favorite game along if you wish. There will be sets of Chess, Scrabble, memory games and more available. Let us enjoy connecting with each other by playing a game or simply through a good chat. All are welcome. ~Julietta, Veronique, Don & Shivaya

The Travel Shop has been Closed

After we were able to get refund for all but a few flight tickets, we have settled our redundant staff and closed the Travelshop. Mr. Ganesh, who meanwhile lives in Orissa, is working for us as a consultant. You can contact him directly for issuing, rescheduling etc. for all kind of ticketing by e-mail domestic@inside-india.com or travelshop@auroville.org.in

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Graphic design professionals

At Mohanam, part time or full time. Also non-professional people with experience in graphic design are encouraged to apply. Send us your resume at mohanam@auroville.org.in. Contact: 8300949079 or 9632551408

Volunteer website builder

To help put together (and ideally, maintain) a simple website for Auroville's EMF Awareness Group. Design sensibility and ability to organise information is very welcome. Contact Kaliananda at 9787917469 or kaliananda@auroville.org.in

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.

Capable, Dynamic Supervisor - We are looking for an inspired woman with good organization and communication skills. You are inspired and interested to deal with local staff members, open, friendly, patient, able to work in a team and have fluency in English. If you speak Tamil, it is a bonus. Maintenance is provided.

And other positions (please inquire about details):

- Graphic Designer and Video Editor
- Coordinator (volunteer)
- Volunteers for Auro Orchard
- Workshop Assistance (PT, volunteer or AV Contribution only)
- Hospitality position
- Guest House Supervisor
- Experienced Social Media Curator (on project basis)

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 Germany - to transport an extremely, small, lightweight item to a dear friend of Auroville, living in Berlin. If you can help, contact: honor@auroville.org.in or 915 985 6148.

Someone going to USA - to carry 2 books weighing 1Kg each to be posted from there. We will cover the postage cost. Contact: Om, 8110823263 (WhatsApp) or thedronezone@auroville.org.in.

Someone traveling to Paris CDG - in first weeks of April from Chennai or Bangalore. Contact me to do this trip together. Jean-Claude, New Creation, barras.jc@gmail.com, 978 787 4081.

A home - I am Carmen, an Aurovillian for 5 years now. Looking for a comfortable room including basics like bedroom and kitchen inside the place starting end of January. I am responsible and will take care. Contribution available. Contact: carmen.palinckx@gmail.com; 853 101 7772.

House sitting - I'm a long-term volunteer in Sanskrit, Ayurveda, and Yoga. Meditation is a way of life for me and I like to take care of my living space with love and attention. If you have a beautiful house in a quiet area that has delicate equipment to be taken care of, and needs to be maintained/renovated while you are away, please get in touch with me. Can help with expenses, repairs. - G sattvig@gmail.com, 840 799 7970.

Steel almirah - for Unity Pavilion. Contact: Megha: 04132623576

LaserJet Printer & PC - For Youth Link, in good condition. We are trying to offer free black and white copies to school kids, students & other youth in the community. Kindly write to us on youthlink@auroville.org.in if you have any leads.

AVAILABLE

Cartridge HP 46 black - free, purchased as a spare, but printer collapsed before it could be used. Imported Oct. 2018. Contact A.G.: 94433.62217

Water filter - Aquadyn melusine, Ikea table (seats 4 to 6), glass & metal, & a 3 burner, countertop stove. Rakhil 948 848 3485.

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Reuse leftover water from cooked or steamed foods to start a nutritious soup, or pour it on your plants. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city.

watergroup@auroville.org.in / www.aurovillewater.in



YOUNG NATURALISTS

In this series -part of the Green Column - we meet with young naturalists and hear their stories on the environment and the ecology that surrounds us. This is a call to (young) students (& their parents, teachers) to take up contact with us. We'd love to share your stories on this platform !

BROADCASTINGS

India's Wildlife Conservation success stories were the reason the country was nominated to be co-chair of the Regional Forum to Conserve Wildlife Habitats (APAP) 17 countries are part of this: China, Japan, S Korea, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. India booked successes in the conservation of Elephants, Snow leopards, Gangetic Dolphins, the Great Indian Bustard, Asiatic lions (29% increase in 5 years) and especially the Tiger with a 33 % increase over 10 years. This makes India the home of 75 % of the Tigers' global population!

On Starfish. Globally though, the beloved Starfish is not faring so well: climate change warms the oceans and combined with agricultural runoff and sewage, algae bloom in nutrient rich waters, taking up all the oxygen and the starfish are drowning because of lack of it. Starfish are now bred in captivity to restock the oceans...

Classics of Environmental Literature

A tour of ten environmental master pieces since the beginning of the Roman Calendar:

- Systema Naturae by Carolus Linnaeus. (1735) The Swedish scientist conceived the modern system of biological and zoological nomenclature based on Aristotle's idea of a Great Chain of Being.
- Nature by Ralph Waldo Emerson. (1838) "A nobler want of man is served by nature, namely, the love of Beauty."
- Walden by Henry David Thoreau (1854) "We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn. It is far more glorious to carve and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do. To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts."
- Man and Nature by George Perkins Marsh (1867) "Vast forests have disappeared from mountain spurs and ridges; the vegetable earth accumulated beneath the trees by the decay of leaves and fallen trunks, the soil of the alpine pastures which skirted and indented the woods, and the mould of the upland fields, are washed away; meadows, once fertilized by irrigation, are waste and unproductive, because the cisterns and reservoirs that supplied the ancient canals are broken, or the springs that fed them dried up; rivers famous in history and song have shrunk to humble brooklets..."
- The Land Ethic by Aldo Leopold (1949). "The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land."
- Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. (1962) "The history of life on earth has been a history of interaction between living things and their surroundings. To a large extent, the physical form and the habits of the earth's vegetation and its animal life have been molded by the environment. Considering the whole span of earthly time, the opposite effect, in which life actually modifies its surroundings, has been relatively slight. Only within the (...) present century has one species—man—acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world."
- Historical roots of our ecological crisis by Lynn White. (1967) "The greatest spiritual revolutionary in Western history, Saint Francis, proposed what he thought was an alternative Christian view of nature and man's relation to it; he tried to substitute the idea of the equality of all creatures, including man, for the idea of man's limitless rule of creation. He failed. Both our present science and our present technology are so tinctured with orthodox Christian arrogance toward nature that no solution for our ecologic crisis can be expected from them alone."
- Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard (1974) "Our life is a faint tracing on the surface of mystery, like the idle curved tunnels of leaf miners on the face of a leaf. We must somehow take a wider view, look at the whole landscape, really see it,

and describe what's going on here. Then we can at least wait the right question into the swaddling band of darkness, or, if it comes to that, choir the proper praise."

• The End of Nature, by Bill McKibben (1989) "Nature, we believe, takes forever. It moves with infinite slowness throughout the many periods of its history, whose names we dimly recall from high school biology—the Devonian, the Triassic, the Cretaceous, the Pleistocene."

• Science and Technology for Sustainable Well-Being, by John P. Holdren. (2008) "Science and technology have particularly important roles to play [in] meeting the basic needs of the poor; managing the competition for the land, water, and terrestrial biota of the planet; maintaining the integrity of the oceans; mastering the energy-economy -environment dilemma; and moving toward a nuclear weapon-free world."

Recommended Documentary;

Barkskins after a novel by American writer Annie Proulx. It tells the story of two immigrants to New France, René Sel and Charles Duquet, and of their descendants. It spans over 300 years and witnesses the deforestation of the New World from the arrival of Europeans into the contemporary era of global warming. Made into a National Geographic Network 8 part Documentary series .

The Green Column appears bi-monthly in the News & Notes and on Auronet. We report about Green Issues in Auroville, the Bioregion and the wider world. We'd like to hear from you!

- Lisbeth & Gijs, avgreencenter@auroville.org.in



this week you can listen to the first episode of Lunaria, a new program held by Nadia for promoting women's health & vitality and sharing in-depth information about women's cyclical wisdom and women's rites of passage, Enjoy and stay tuned! [Here](#)

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

Last published podcasts:

- [Lunaria - ep.1](#) (Women's health)
- [What do you know - ep.2](#) (Yoga & philosophy)
- [Happiness, Love and Laughter - "The Sufi way"](#) (Wellness)
- [Neo Urban Chronik - "Can we do English humor without being English"?](#) (Humour)
- [The Tamil Literary Forum - A collection of Children's Songs by Madurai Magal](#) (Tamil culture)
- [Audible Weed Walk - "Talking, Dreaming, Waiting to eat"](#) (Food education)
- [Aarohan - "Rediscovering Aftaab e Mausiqi - Ustad Faiyaz KhanSaab"](#) (Music)
- [The Academik Genius Brothers - The Making Off... ep.14](#) (Theatre)
- [Savitri, B. VII, C. VI, Part 4](#) (Integral yoga)
- [Happiness, Love and Laughter - "Three Pillars of Happiness"](#) (Wellness)

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

Interview of Shradhdhavan Responses to Questions about Auroville

by a Russian TV crew on April 3, 2013.

Monday 18th January at 4pm. Dur.: 54min at Savitri Bhavan

Shradhdhavan talks about the process of Entering Auroville in 1970 and covers a number of other topics as The City the Earth Needs, the Matrimandir, Savitri - the Supreme Revelation of Sri Aurobindo's Vision, Supermind, and stresses that "Auroville is meant to hasten the advent of the Supramental Reality upon earth."

She also reflects on Mother's saying that "Auroville wants to be the first realisation of human unity based on the teaching of Sri Aurobindo, where men of all countries would be at home."

On Earth and especially in Auroville we are asked to accelerate the personal evolution and through that contribute to the further evolution of all of humanity. And that is not something we can do

ourselves. We can only put ourselves under the influence of the higher Wisdom and the deeper Will and try to serve that.

There is the learning for us that "Above the mind there is a consciousness much wiser than the mental wisdom, and in the depths of things there is a will much more powerful than the human will."

If you would like to see the video at home, here is the link: savitr ibhavan.org/vimeo-video/interview-shradhdhavan-april-2013/

The House of Mother's Agenda
Aspiration, Auroville
Kottakuppam 605-104
Tamil Nadu, India

December 9, 1989

Dear Satprem,

Trying to reach you helps us to gather and direct our aspirations. Quietly and gently some of us here got together and re-opened the House of Mother's Agenda. There is no programme, no planned activity. It is open every day and two evenings a week. We hope that the work on the Agenda will link us within Auroville and also connect us with Their work in the world at large. There is a special call to the young to take this extraordinary opportunity to discover, with the Agenda as their compass, their own inner space and the world around them.

We are keen to keep you informed on what is happening at the House of Mother's Agenda and in Auroville. We have already taken up a few special projects: to build up the "Chronology of World Events" from 1973 onwards and to organise a permanent, evolving exhibition (see letter); to compile from the Agenda selections on various topics especially suited to youth and to the particular form of Auroville education.

We hope that you will give us your advice and guidance and that we will be open to it, in whatever form it may come.

The flow never stopped and our love and gratitude go to you.

- Submitted by GangalKshmi

Discovering the Soul of Auroville

"Matrimandir is the center of Auroville" means that it is the Geographical center. Five developing zones originate from this center. Administrative and Habitat Area is very close to Matrimandir. Green Belt Area is far away from this center. This is the result of perception of the Terrestrial Nature of Auroville.

When the Mother says that Matrimandir is the Soul of Auroville, we should look at it from the knowledge of Spirit according to the Vedic System of Existence. There is one Spirit with two aspects, Purusha (Soul) concealed in Prakriti (Nature). Nature is Spirit in action. The presence of Soul, concealed in Nature, is indicated as Centre (Nucleus) of the Universal Consciousness. Man can recognize the Soul of the Universe. The Vedic Rishis use words like water and light to convey the movement of consciousness. The Soul can attach or detach itself from Nature by its own will. It governs all the movements of consciousness. The Terrestrial Nature of Auroville is only a fringe of the spiritual, perspective of Auroville. Seven planes of consciousness are present in Auroville similar to those of the Universe. The growth of the Terrestrial Nature of Auroville is meant for the growth and well-being of the beings in the seven planes of consciousness in Auroville, because Auroville is part of the Universe.

There is no idol worship in Matrimandir, no rituals only meditation. The Vedic Rishi's prescribed outer sacrifice for common man and insisted inner psychological sacrifice for the Sadhak of the Evolutionary Yoga of Nature through submission and surrender to the Soul of the Universe. Man is microcosm; he has seven bodies of consciousness corresponding to seven planes of consciousness in the Universe. This arrangement enables him to have relationship with seven planes of the Universe. Auroville, which is part of the Universe, has also seven planes of consciousness. Aurovilian like any other man in humanity can have relationship with the planes of consciousness of Auroville. The soul of man is Jeevathma, which is one of the multiplicities of the Supreme, enters into the foetus of the mother at the time of birth and evolves into a mental being in a living body. Being unable to cope up with the unequal play of physical, vital, and mental conscious-force, it struggles and suffers in life and eventually meets death. But it is eternal and immortal and resides in a mortal body. The Vedic Rishis say that by practicing the Evolutionary Yoga of Nature, man can deliver himself from the struggle and suffering in life.

Man begins this Yoga with the concentration of consciousness in the center between the eyes. By following the process of interiorization, he reaches the nucleus (center) of the mental consciousness and is able to distinguish between mind and soul (jeevathma). Mind is closed for the higher planes of consciousness. But soul can ascend through the higher planes of consciousness in the Samadhi state. First it ascends to the intuitive plane of consciousness with the liberated intelligence and reaches the overmental consciousness through the illumined mind. The soul of man will get help from overmental gods. But Sri Aurobindo says that overmental truth is limited, serving for true but limited creation. From overmind the Sadhak may reach the supramental consciousness and conquer and possess the supramental truth which is the creation of the Soul of the Universe which is also the Soul of Auroville. All these attempts of the Sadhak are very difficult. The Sadhak has to return to his mind which is his normal home. The ascending and descending movement of consciousness is inevitable and the Sadhak has to practice this Yoga for life-long period to achieve his goal i.e., to conquer and possess the supramental truth which is the creation of the Soul of Auroville. When the soul of Sadhak is in his mind, the mind also is aware of it and ultimately the mind has to manifest it in life.

- Submitted by Somasundaram

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

MOHANAM
Village Heritage centre
Hub for Local Arts, Crafts & Culture



Pongal Celebration

Vannakam! As you all know we at Mohanam have been celebrating the auspicious tamil festival Pongal for over 4 years with the guidance and support of our mentor Meenakshi

Akka. We are happy to inform you that on **Friday 15th of January**, we shall continue this tradition and host a proper traditional Pongal festival celebration. Due to the covid guidelines we would like to inform you that, though we would like to celebrate in the grand manner we always have, this year we shall have smaller, more intimate gathering. We would love the presence of all who wish to attend this small gathering and celebrate our tamil culture and traditions.

The schedule for the celebration is **4:30 pm to 6:30pm**, where we shall be a pooja and serving of sweets along with the traditional pongal made up of over 32 special vegetables and ingredients as done in our ancient years. We hope to see you all and share love and happiness on this auspicious occasion.

Venue: Mohanam Village Heritage Center (Near Imagination)

Contact: +91 8300949079, Mohanam@auroville.org.in



"ROMAN HOLIDAY"
FRIDAY 15 JANUARY, 8 PM
MMC Auditorium, (Town Hall)

Directed by William WYLER, USA, 1953

Stars: Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn, Eddie Albert

Synopsis: Romantic comedy about the impossible love between a princess and a journalist. Ann, a young princess, tours European capitals, subject to an immutable protocol. Arriving in Rome, she decides to run away and leaves the palace. Her doctor having administered her a sedative, she falls asleep on a bench at the Coliseum and attracts the attention of a young and attractive reporter, Joe Bradley. He installs her in his house and discovers in the morning that the young girl is none other than the Princess Ann he was to interview the same day ... The film obtains three film. Hepburn won for Best Actress; the screenplay and costume design also were awarded. In 1999, Roman Holiday was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". *An enchanting light comedy, do not miss it!*

Original English version with English subtitles - Duration: 1h.58'

Please follow the current sanitary SOP



BHARAT NIVAS TALKS - An Exploration of India's Spirit and Culture



SERIES ON PERFORMING ARTS

Staging Sri Aurobindo's Plays and Savitri

In The Renaissance in India, Sri Aurobindo mentions the importance of giving new forms to the ancient Indian spirituality. This thought is an inspiration to us to continue our research.



Presented by Aryamani



Jan 20, 2021
04:00 PM India



ZOOM ID: 992 9759 4888
Passcode: bnwebinars

If you do not have access to Zoom you are welcome to hear it live at Bhumiika Hall in Bharat Nivas. You are requested to be seated inside the hall latest by 3:45 PM

Solitude Farm Presents

FROM FLOWER POWER TO FEAR AND LOATHING

Music from the '60s and '70s

And localicious vegan dinner

Amando Bass & Vocals
Dhani Lead Guitar Vocals
Rahul Drums

LIVE At solitude farm

WED, 20th January 2021
Time: 06:30 pm onwards

Contributions Requested

WOMEN TEMPLE

Wednesday 21. Jan, 6 to 8 pm, Svedame, Butterfly Barn

Welcome into this circle of women, gathering beyond our stories, in spirit of support and sisterhood. We practice in silence, with prayer, movement, self-inquiry, deep listening and celebration. Registration is necessary to take your seat: 9786658967



AV Art Service - basket of the week

1. CENTRE D'ART CITADINES EXHIBITION - Claire Iono solo exhibition "Hidden Cities" till the 24th. Mon-Sat. 10.30am-12.30 and 3-5pm,

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. SRI AUROBINDO INTEGRAL LIFE CENTER OFFERS Online talk by Dr. Alok Pandey on Exploring Deeper Levels of Consciousness on January 16th at 7.30pm IST. Register on https://us02.web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xa_RLNhdRJyKussS1YmouQ
4. FREE SHORT FILMS ON MYFRENCHFILMFESTIVAL.COM - Jan 15 - Feb 15 watch 10 short French films for free on myfrenchfilmfestival.com There is a fee for feature length films.
5. MUSEUM OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY - ART & CULTURE LECTURE SERIES - Art & Empowerment: How can art help empower marginalized individuals and communities? What role can it play in awareness and exposure? What are the economic advantages it can offer? V R Ferose and Vicky Roy in conversation on map-india.org/stream/art-empowerment%E2%81%A0/?pg=1



We invite you to participate in a food performance with live music. You will be blindfolded at Solitude Cafe's entrance and will be guided through a localicious, vegan, seven-course meal of locally-grown food and fusion cuisine. This is a co-created event where, together with special live music, food, and facilitators, we will open all our senses to the Blessing of mother nature's nutritional gifts. If you'd like to participate, please book in advance, indicating your account number, name, and the # of participants. If you do not have an account number, please come to the farm to make your reservations. RESERVATIONS ONLY.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

We welcome you for an experiential workshop on:

नादयोग NAADA YOGA



Facilitated by Mandar (mandarkaranjkar.com)

- What is Naada Yoga Sadhana?
- How does sound impact us?
- How can awareness of sound support in Integral Well-being?

Let us learn together through personal experiences of deep listening as well as chanting and singing. All are welcome.

ॐ

SAT-SUN, JAN 16-17, 2021
08:30 AM TO 12:00 PM
PROGRESS HALL, BHARAT NIVAS

For questions or registration, please write to: devabhasha@auroville.org.in
Warmly, Samskritam Auroville Team

DREAM MAPS - VISION BOARD

Mon 18 2-5 pm & Tues 19 Jan 10-12 am. Svedam Butterfly Barn.

New beginnings; new calendar year, new project, relationships, health resolutions, visions, dreams and intentions can be empowered through different practices and creating your Dream map can be one of these powerful tools. Combined with bringing subconscious treasures into awareness and free flow creative process, reveals wisdom living in your unique being. Welcome to explore on this journey and create a visual representation of next steps on your journey. Registration required: 9786658967



JIVA - your journey in healing & transformation

contact@auroville-jiva.com;
WA 962-600-6961; www.auroville-jiva.com;

Holistic Deep Relaxation
Fri 22nd, 2-5pm, Sat 23rd 9-to12pm

Experiment and learn a unique body-mind relaxation technique. Subtlety, energy and touch healing are the key words for this soft alternative healthy tool. Facilitator: Camille is a psychomotricity therapist, specialized in relaxation techniques with 10+ years of professional experience.

Transforming Trauma

23 & 24 Jan, 9 AM - 4.30 PM, Sharnga Guesthouse Yoga Hall

What is trauma? How to identify trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder? How to recover a person's full potential, energy and zest for life - and even integrate the wisdom of it all?

2 day workshop with theory and interactive exercises. A toolbox of techniques to apply in your therapeutic work. The workshop is designed for therapists of body and mind, psychologists, and all who work with trauma.

Facilitator: Sigrid Lindemann, integral regression therapy, sensation method homeopathy, trauma therapy, 20 yrs in AV.

The Path of the Soul

26th January, 9:30 AM - 4 PM, Sharnga Guesthouse Yoga Hall

1 day experiential workshop - Exploring the "Layers of the heart" process, as described by The Mother. After a short introduction, we journey with a guided meditation to experience our Inner Self. The content of this workshop is aligned with the Integral Yoga and The Mothers work with subtle bodies.

Facilitator: Sigrid Lindemann

Holotropic Breathwork - 29- 31 January

"When we enter a holotropic state with the intention of healing and self-discovery, it invites a kind of inner radar that scans our unconscious and brings to consciousness that material to which we most need to attend and heal." - S. Grof

Intense breathing technique brings about a "holotropic state" bringing on an increase in life energy. Participants are guided and work in pairs in this experiential workshop. Be ready for a deep, intense retreat. Limited seats!

Presenter: Fr Thomas Kuriantham, trained in the US and representing Grof Transpersonal Training (GTT) in India & Sri Lanka. Thomas Kuriantham has been offering holotropic breathwork retreats and workshops since 2016, mostly in India, but also in Sri Lanka, South Africa, Kenya and US.

We are teaming up for this retreat with Sharnga Guesthouse, with great service, international cuisine, a small pool, in a tropical garden, and horses. For registration: contact@auroville-jiva.com; whatsapp 962 600 6961.

Sophrology w/ Camille

A fusion of hypnosis, zen and yoga designed to better manage stress and pain, to increase your body consciousness and your powers and to co-create your ideal life in harmony.

Therapist Camille, certified psychomotricist, offers 1hr sessions





Quiet Healing Center, Auroville 605 104, Tamil Nadu, India
www.quiethealingcenter.info / quiet@auroville.org.in
 +91 413 2622329 / +91 9488084966 (mobile)



**Liquid Flow Essence
 w/ Dariya & Daniel
 Mon 25th - Sun 31st Jan
 9 AM - 6 PM**

This intense 7-day course with the main Liquid Flow sequence is for students, who wish to dive deeper into their practice. Inspired by different aquatic bodywork modalities,

it offers a wonderful new sequence of movement possibilities - on the surface and under water - in a graceful, continuous and easy flow. Together with a deepening presence and unconditional holding, this course improves your skills and leads towards the core of any aquatic bodywork: being deeply in touch with one's own essence, and experiencing a sense of timelessness and connection to all. Prerequisite: Watsu & OBA or Liquid Flow Basic

~ * ~ * ~ * ~

**Foot Reflexology Training w/ Ananda
 Mon 25th - Fri 29th Jan, 9 AM - 4:30 PM**

Holistic Foot Reflexology is deeply relaxing, healing & balancing tool for body-mind-energy. With meditative presence, loving energy & by activating and relaxing nerve endpoints, lymphatic nodes and energy points in hands and feet, we support harmonizing internal organs, blood circulation, nervous, hormonal, lymphatic systems and boost immunity.



You will explore and deepen your knowledge about anatomy of the physical and energy bodies in relation to yogic science, warmup, self-healing techniques and use of supportive tools, reflexology techniques & sequence for organs, nerves, hormones, specific sequence for lymphatic flush drainage & energy balancing, reading various body types and variations in approaches to apply, meditations to be open channel of sensitivity, presence and loving energy, and effective ways to give deep healing sessions effortlessly.

**Prana Yoga : Mastery of Life Energy3
 22nd 23rd & 24th Jan (9-5pm w/ lunch 12:30-2pm)
 Training with Ananda at Mohanam, Auroville**

Prana is the universal life energy. Yoga is tuning body-mind-spirit to wholeness. Prana Yoga is based on Hatha yoga, Pranayama, Meditations & Siddha. Through conscious postures, breathing, movement & stillness open the self-enhancing, transforming, healing, grounding & tuning the energy flow to detox, rejuvenate the body-mind-energy, build immunity, enhance sensitivity, perception, expand awareness, enrich self-healing and open to higher states of consciousness.

- In this training, welcome to Learn, Practice and Expertise ...
- Warmup, Asana Sequences for healthy body, spine & energy flow
 - Foundation & Advanced Pranayama, Awareness exercises
 - Yoga Nidra, Nada Yoga, Chakra awareness, Meditations
 - Cleansing Kriyas and Anti-viral herbs building vital Immunity
 - Modern Science of Respiratory, Nervous and Lymphatic systems
 - Inner Science of Energy: Nadi, Vayu, Chakra, Mudras, Bandhas,

Venue: Mohanam Heritage Centre near Imagination
Contact: Ananda: 9765348573, Mohanam office: 8300949079

Lhamo restarting classes in Joy Community

From 18th Jan. Qi Gong will be on Mondays from 6.30 to 7.40 AM, Tai Chi will be on Wednesdays from 4.30 to 5.30 PM and on Fridays from 6.30 to 7.40 AM. She is also offering as usual Chinese Treatments on appointment. For more info, please write to joycommunity@auroville.org.in or contact Lhamo: 9565524237

Monday
 8. 15 to 9 30 - Yogawith Bala
 17.00 to 18.15 Vedic Sadhana with Br Somesh

Tuesday - 17.00 to 18.15
 Hatha yoga with Rebeca

Wednesday
 17.00 to 18.00- Pregnant yoga with Camilla
 18.15 to 19.30- Yoga with Bala

Thursday - 17.00 to 18.15
 Hatha yoga with Rebeca

Friday
 8. 15 to 9 30 - Yoga with Bala
 17.00 to 18.15 Vedic Sadhana with Br Somesh

Saturday - 17.00 to 18.15
 Hatha yoga with Mahana

January 2021




Drop in classes - Beginners to Intermediate level
 Classes conducted in English - Private session available at request
www.auromodeyogaspace.com
 email - contact@auromodeyogaspace.com
 Phone +91 413 2622224



Verité Programs - January 18th - February 28th
 0413 2622045/ 2622606 / 7094104329
programming@verite.in / www.verite.in

Yoga & Re-creation Sessions (Drop-in)			
Days	Title of the Sessions	Timings	Presenters
Mon	An Introduction to Silent Meditation!	7 to 8.15 am	O'Siva
Mon	Hatha Vinyasa Yoga	5 to 6.15 pm	Andres
Mon	Tibetan Bowls	5 to 6 pm	Satyayuga
Tues	Hatha Vinyasa Yoga	9-10.15 am	Andres
Tues	Yoga Nidra	3 to 4 pm	Satyayuga
Tues	Guided Chakra Healing Meditation	5 to 6 pm	Tania
Tues	Transformational Yoga	5 to 6.30 pm	Lakshmi
Wed	An Introduction to Silent Meditation!	7 to 8.15 am	O'Siva
Wed	Somatic Explorations	5 to 6 pm	Maggie
Wed	Yoga Asana (starts 3 Feb)	5 to 6.15 pm	Sheida
Thurs	Guided Chakra Healing Meditation	3 to 4 pm	Tania
Thurs	Hatha Vinyasa Yoga	5 to 6.15 pm	Andres
Frid	Yoga Asana (starts 5 Feb)	7 to 8.15 am	Sheida
Fri	Sound Chakras Harmonization	5 to 6 pm	Lakshmi
Sat	An Introduction to Silent Meditation!	5 to 6.30 pm	O'Siva
Sat	Tibetan Bowls	5 to 6 pm	Satyayuga

Intensives : Pre-registration Required			
Day & Date	Title of the Intensive	Timings	Presenters
Wed 20 Jan	Pranayama and Chakras Harmonisation	9.30am to 12.30 pm	Lakshmi
Mon 25 Jan	Somatics -Introduction for Every Body!	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Maggie
Fri 29 Jan	Guided Chakra Healing Meditation - Intensive	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Tania
Sat 30 Jan	Pranayama and Chakras Harmonisation	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Lakshmi
Sat 6 Feb	Pranayama and Chakras Harmonisation	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Lakshmi
Fri 12 Feb	Guided Chakra Healing Meditation - Intensive	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Tania
Mon 15 Feb	Somatics -Introduction for Every Body!	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Maggie
Sat 20 Feb	Pranayama and Chakras Harmonisation	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Lakshmi
Tue 23 Feb	Guided Chakra Healing Meditation - Intensive	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Tania
Wed, Thu & Fri 24, 25 & 26 Feb	Ovarian Breathing Feminine Alchemy (3 day Intensive)	9 am to 4.30 pm	Nadia

Please bring your own mats and towel

PRANAYAMA AND CHAKRAS HARMONIZATION w/ LAKSHMI
Wednesday, 20 January - from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Explore ancient yogic breathing techniques (Pranayama) used to improve lung function & connect body, mind and soul to bring clarity and peace. Combining breath with chanting of Bija mantras (the seed syllables of each chakra) can help improve mental power and concentration, to release fear, anger, depression and enhance spiritual power. All are welcome!

SOMATICS - AN INTRODUCTION FOR EVERY BODY! w/ MAGGIE
Monday, 25 January - from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Somatics is a system of slow mindful movements (mind-body training) in the tradition of Thomas Hanna. A gentle, easy and effective way to gain more ease in the body, better posture, flexibility, coordination, wellness, and balance, resulting in a decrease of the aches and pains commonly attributed to stress, injury and aging.



⇒⇒⇒⇒PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!

RECEIVE THE NEWS & NOTES by EMAIL weekly!

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Auroville Emergency Contact Numbers
Save them in your phone now!

Auroville Safety and Security Team: 9443090107,
04132623400; security@auroville.org.in

Ambulance: Auroville: 9442224680

PIMS: 0413-2656271/72

Farewell: mobile number: 8903836246. reachable 24/7

Mattram: 9487746051, reachable 24/7

Emergency Service of India: 108

JIPMER hospital 2278380 / 2272389

General Hospital 2336050

Puducherry helpline: 104

TN COVID helpline: 044-29510500



Art classes scheduled for January and February 2021

WATERCOLOUR LANDSCAPE PAINTING WITH
A.SATHYA (9486145072) ON MONDAYS 5-7 PM

DRAWING WITH AUDREY(9786411419)
ON FRIDAYS 9:30-11:30 AM

FIGURATIVE LIFE DRAWING WITH LAKSHAY
(9810052574) ON SATURDAYS 9-11 AM

Your welcome to explore your art at our
"OPEN STUDIO"
Monday to Friday
9.30am - 12:30pm and 2-4:30pm
Call before you come:
0413 -2622649, 9786411419

- Confirm your presence with artist at least a day before and be on time.
- Art materials will be provided.
- Join our meeting 9:30am on every Monday to know about CREEVA.
- CREEVA studio, Creativity, Auroville.

EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING ANY TIME:

** The News&Notes is available **FOR ALL** to download
from the Auroville website at
www.auroville.org/contents/4186

The N&N archives are found at
www.auroville.org/contents/186

And also, on Auroville Wiki
http://wiki.auroville.org.in/wiki/News_%26_Notes

Important information about News & Notes

Hard deadline for submissions or cancellations: Tuesday 5pm
FOR THE ISSUE to be published that SATURDAY
(though the digital version generally goes out on Thursday)

The contents of News & Notes are a reflection of the growth process of this community towards its ideals of harmony, goodwill, discipline and truth. Editing of submissions, mainly for reasons of space and clarity, is done according to an established policy. How to submit material: Material (no pdf files, please) may be sent (in English only) to: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in.

Please do **NOT** send submissions and inquiries as a "Reply" to the digital subscription mail. There is NO guarantee that anyone will see communications sent this way!

Please try your best to send your announcements, reports, film schedules whenever they are ready. Any modifications of submitted News items must be sent to the editors before Tuesday 5pm. Please do your best to submit copy that is ready for printing (i.e. Word shows you typos, extra spaces, punctuation errors, etc - don't make us do all the work!).

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

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

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

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

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



Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium
Film program 18th to 24th January 2021

Evening and matinee films, plus programs and seminars organized by individuals or groups have now resumed at Cinema Paradiso-Multimedia Center. Following the directives, we offer 53 seats now. Mask is a must (not scarves etc.), and standard Covid19 protocols will be followed. The screenings are open currently to Aurovilians, Newcomers, long-term volunteers, or guests with Aurocards.

Indian - Monday 18 January, 8:00 pm:

- **CHAMAN BHAAR**

India, 2020, Writer-Dir. Apurva Dhar Badgaiyann w/ Jitendra Kumar, Ritika Badiani, Bhuvan Arora, and others, Comedy-Drama, 121mins, Hindi w/English subtitles, Rated:NR (G)

The film revolves around Billu, a young small town paan-shop owner who falls in love with a pretty school girl who lives in a house opposite his shop. His shop becomes a hub of all the young boys of the locality to assemble there just to get a glimpse of the girl. Meanwhile, Billu pines away in silence over his lady love and experiences the full spectrum of romance and heartbreak, without the girl ever being aware of it.

Favorite - Tuesday 19 January, 8:00 pm:

- **KINKY BOOTS**

UK-USA, 2005, Dir. Julian Jarrold, w/ Chiwetel Ejiofor, Joel Edgerton, Sara-Jane Potts and others, Comedy-Music, English w/ English Subtitles, 107 mins, Rated: PG 13,

After his father's demise, Charlie Price inherits the family business, a shoe factory in Northampton, England. He is not interested in shoes, and the factory is in such dire financial straits that he must lay off 15 employees. However a fortuitous encounter with a drag queen cabaret singer inspires Charlie to save the factory from closure by producing erotic footwear, much to the chagrin of the workers.

Interesting - Wednesday 20 January, 8:00 pm:

- **3100, RUN AND BECOME**

USA, 2018, Dir. Sanjay Rawal, Documentary, 80mins, English, Rated: NR

What if running could lead to enlightenment? The film follows an unassuming Finnish paperboy in the Self-Transcendence 3100 Miler - the world's longest race (and perhaps the world's most eco-friendly travel). His story takes the viewer around the world to the Kalahari Desert, the mountain temples of Japan and the Navajo Reservation. *A wonderful must-see film - shared with us by the director.*

French - Thursday 21 January, 8:00 pm:

- **UNE FAMILLE SYRIENNE (In Syria)**

Belgium/France, 2017, Dir. Philippe Van Leeuw, w/Hiam Abbass, Diamand Abboud and others, Drama, 86 mins, French w/English subtitles, Rated: PG

In Damascus, a mother attempts to keep her family safe as war rages and a sniper lies in wait outside her home...

International - Saturday, 23 January, 8:00 pm:

- **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS**

UK-USA, 2018, Dir. Josie Rourke, w/ Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie, Jack Lowden and others, Biography-History, English w/ English Subtitles, 124 mins, Rated: R, Queen of France at 16 and widowed at 18, Mary Stuart defies pressure to remarry. Instead, she returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her rightful throne. But Scotland and England fall under the rule of the compelling Elizabeth I. Each young Queen beholds her sister in fear and fascination. Rivals in power and in love, and female regents in a masculine world, the two must decide how to play the game of marriage versus independence.

Children's Matinee - Sunday, 24 January, 4:30 pm:

- **JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH**

USA, 2008, Dir. Eric Brevig w/ Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson, Anita Briem, and others, Adventure-Family, 93 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: PG, On a quest to find out what happened to his missing brother, a scientist, his nephew, and their mountain guide discover a fantastic and dangerous lost world in the center of the earth.

JOSEPH LOSEY FILM FESTIVAL @ Ciné-Club Sunday 24 January, 8:00 pm:

- **THE PROWLER**

USA, 1951, Dir. Joseph Losey w/Van Heflin, Evelyn Keyes, John Maxwell others, Drama-Thriller, 92 mins, English w/English Subtitles, Rated: NR.

When Susan Gilvray reports a prowler outside her house police officer Webb Garwood investigates and sparks fly. If only her husband wasn't in the way.

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

Dispatchable Air-Conditioning **Pilot Project (DAC)** at Auroville

June 2020 to Sept. 2021



DAC Project - Allow computer mediation of your AC to help avoid overloads and power cuts, save energy, integrate more solar and thus do a bit for the planet too!

As climate change is creating more troubles all over the world, we often wonder what we can do about it in our own capacity, to adapt to it and lessen its root causes, which are mostly the use of fossil fuels for transportation and electrical energy generation.

Auroville Consulting, together with partners from India, as well as **Findhorn** and **Heriot-Watt University** in Scotland, is inviting you to join a project that allows you to be a part of a solution, with very little efforts and even some direct benefits!

We are looking for homes in Auroville that have AC and are willing to voluntarily participate in this program. We are also looking for homes without AC to provide temperature and humidity data through a smart plug in the space.

The Dispatchable Air Conditioning project (DAC) (see graph) started in the spring of 2020 in Auroville. It uses “smart plugs” with sensors in air-conditioned rooms to monitor the temperature & humidity and control the AC, with the help of machine learning and some “collective behaviour” with other ACs in the neighbourhood.

One problem with AC is that when they all start in a short period of time, for example at end of work day, they create a “**peak load**” in the electrical networks, that requires extra generation capacity, which consumes additional fuel, just to avoid power outages.

The idea is that by monitoring temperature & humidity in your room in relation to your AC settings, and taking into account external variables such as electrical demand and current weather conditions, short-term local conditions are predicted. The DAC system then “orchestrates” a smooth operation of a group of ACs, to avoid creating peak loads in electricity, while sticking to your own comfort zone in terms of temperature.

What does it involve?

1 - We install two smart plugs communicating through the I-Cloud by Wi-Fi as illustrated in the brochure, one of which switches your AC and monitors power consumption. The second measures indoor temperature and humidity levels informing a system database, which supports the machine learning controls.

2- From spring onwards active control of your AC will start - the dispatchable part of DAC. We will switch off your AC for a limited period of time (typically <30 min) to smooth the load on the local grid, which contributes to a more reliable electricity network in Auroville. The AC will continue to cool your room to within an agreed thermal comfort range. You will be able to override our control of your AC, by simply pressing a button on the smart plug.

The expected benefits of DAC include:

- net reduction of kWh consumed (by “helping” AC thermostats with artificial intelligence connected to many ACs and responding to highly accurate local weather forecasts);
- reduced peak loads and power outages and smoothing of electricity demand;
- more use of renewable energy sources (wind and solar) by distributing demand to maximise the use of renewables;
- reduced peak load on power stations, thus reducing carbon emissions.

The project is funded by the UK Government and has important potential benefits for India, where AC generally doubles domestic electricity consumption. Total AC electrical loads nationally are projected to triple by 2030.

The Heriot Watt University Consortium will run a DAC Field Trial of 30+ houses in Auroville with AC. We have already 15 houses participating, so we need 15 more.

We hope many Aurovilians, with their typical pioneer spirit, will be interested in exploring these possibilities with us, and helping this program to make real progress against the business-as-usual of “more heat → more ACs → more coal burned for ACs → more heat...”

Please work with us to deliver a successful DAC pilot project by contacting Daniel at danielr@auroville.org.in (+33 684530467 on WhatsApp) particularly if you are willing to participate in the Field Trial. We will gladly respond to questions. If you don't have AC but still wish to help, we are happy to supply you with a smart plug, which will allow us to monitor temperature and humidity.

The installation of the smart plugs will be carried out by Abhi of Auroville Consulting (Abhimanyu - abhimanyu@aurovilleconsulting.com +91 9655696982). Abhi will also be happy to answer questions and talk through technical details.

Dispatchable Air-Conditioning Pilot Project (DAC) at Auroville

June 2020 to Sept. 2021



WHAT does it mean?

The objective of the project is to quantify the air-conditioning (AC) flexibility available and value that can be derived from dispatchable air-conditioning systems (DAC) for Auroville's electrical distribution infrastructure.

DAC is a UK-Government funded research project in collaboration with UK and Indian partner organizations.

WHY participate?

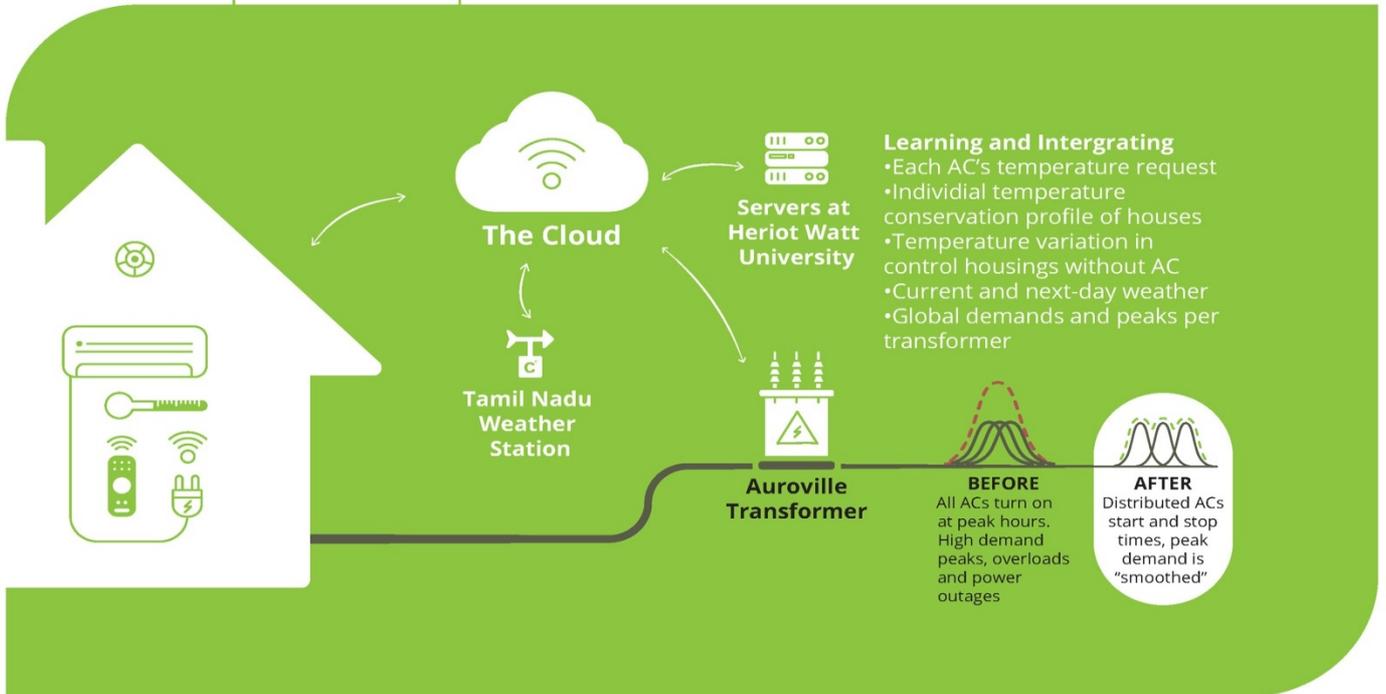
- Facilitate higher integration of renewable energy and therefore mitigate climate change
- Improve voltage at electricity distribution level and therefore contributed to appliances safety
- Avoid overload of Auroville owned distribution transformer and reduce power outages

WHO is it for?

- AC & Remote
Residents that own an AC, which will be remotely controlled by the project under agreed indoor thermal comfort constraints (temperature and humidity)
- Temperature & Humidity sensor
Residents that allow us to monitor indoor air temperature and humidity using sensors

HOW does it work?

- Households sign up to participate
- Installation of smart plugs and/or temperature and humidity sensors
- Remote control of AC unit start & stop within agreed thermal comfort



Partners



Supported by



+91 9655696982

danielr@auroville.org.in - abhimanyu@aurovilleconsulting.com