

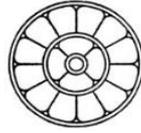
News and Notes

No-854 *A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville* 23rd January 2021



Photo:y Sven

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)

Onward she passed seeking the soul's mystic cave.
At first she stepped into a night of God.
The light was quenched that helps the labouring world,
The power that struggles and stumbles in our life;
This inefficient mind gave up its thoughts,
The striving heart its unavailing hopes.
All knowledge failed and the Idea's forms
And Wisdom screened in awe her lowly head
Feeling a Truth too great for thought or speech,
Formless, ineffable, for ever the same.
An innocent and holy Ignorance
Adored like one who worships formless God
The unseen Light she could not claim nor own.
In a simple purity of emptiness
Her mind knelt down before the unknowable.
All was abolished save her naked self
And the prostrate yearning of her surrendered heart:
There was no strength in her, no pride of force;
The lofty burning of desire had sunk
Ashamed, a vanity of separate self,
The hope of spiritual greatness fled,
Salvation she asked not nor a heavenly crown:
Humility seemed now too proud a state.
Her self was nothing, God alone was all,
Yet God she knew not but only knew he was.
A sacred darkness brooded now within,
The world was a deep darkness great and nude.
This void held more than all the teeming worlds,
This blank felt more than all that Time has borne,
This dark knew dumbly, immensely the Unknown.
But all was formless, voiceless, infinite.
As might a shadow walk in a shadowy scene,
A small nought passing through a mightier Nought,
A night of person in a bare outline
Crossing a fathomless impersonal Night,
Silent she moved, empty and absolute.
In endless Time her soul reached a wide end,
The spaceless Vast became her spirit's place.
At last a change approached, the emptiness broke;
A wave rippled within, the world had stirred;
Once more her inner self became her space.
There was felt a blissful nearness to the goal;
Heaven leaned low to kiss the sacred hill,
The air trembled with passion and delight.
A rose of splendour on a tree of dreams,
The face of Dawn out of mooned twilight grew.
Day came, priest of a sacrifice of joy
Into the worshipping silence of her world;
He carried immortal lustre as his robe,
Trailed heaven like a purple scarf and wore
As his vermilion caste-mark a red sun.

As if an old remembered dream come true,
She recognised in her prophetic mind
The imperishable lustre of that sky,
The tremulous sweetness of that happy air
And, covered from mind's view and life's approach,
The mystic cavern in the sacred hill
And knew the dwelling of her secret soul.
As if in some Elysian occult depth,
Truth's last retreat from thought's profaning touch,
As if in a rock-temple's solitude hid,
God's refuge from an ignorant worshipping world,
It lay withdrawn even from life's inner sense,
Receding from the entangled heart's desire.
A marvellous brooding twilight met the eyes
And a holy stillness held that voiceless space.
An awful dimness wrapped the great rock-doors
Carved in the massive stone of Matter's trance.
Two golden serpents round the lintel curled,
Enveloping it with their pure and dreadful strength,
Looked out with wisdom's deep and luminous eyes.
An eagle covered it with wide conquering wings:
Flames of self-lost immobile reverie,
Doves crowded the grey musing cornices
Like sculptured postures of white-bosomed peace.
Across the threshold's sleep she entered in
And found herself amid great figures of gods
Conscious in stone and living without breath,
Watching with fixed regard the soul of man,
Executive figures of the cosmic self,
World-symbols of immutable potency.
On the walls covered with significant shapes
Looked at her the life-scene of man and beast
And the high meaning of the life of gods,
The power and necessity of these numberless worlds,
And faces of beings and stretches of world-space
Spoke the succinct and inexhaustible
Hieratic message of the climbing planes.
In their immensitude signing infinity
They were the extension of the self of God
And housed, impassively receiving all,
His figures and his small and mighty acts
And his passion and his birth and life and death
And his return to immortality.
To the abiding and eternal is their climb,
To the pure existence everywhere the same,
To the sheer consciousness and the absolute force
And the unimaginable and formless bliss,
To the mirth in Time and the timeless mystery
Of the triune being who is all and one
And yet is no one but himself apart.

-Sri Aurobindo. Savitri - A Legend and a Symbol. Part 2. Book 7: The Book of Yoga. Canto 5: The Finding of the Soul. Lines 1-101

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



..the mind, if it wants to be at all useful, has only to remain very quiet, as quiet as it can, because if it meddles in it, it is sure to spoil everything.

~ The Mother



WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Covid-19 task force/Working Committee Report to the community

INTRODUCTION: The current Covid Task Force is a group that came together after a few meetings coordinated by the Working Committee with food outlets and health services, in the second week of March. After several months, when the initial emergency response had reduced in intensity, a few members stepped back, one resigning and 3 others functioning as advisors and resource persons, and new members were integrated through an open call to the community. This Task Force of the Working Committee was formed to respond to this pandemic in a timely manner and coordinate all necessary tasks. One of the primary approaches of the Task Force and WC has been working actively on **prevention** and creating **AWARENESS**. For many tasks, volunteers were required and through calls to the community, many individuals of diverse age groups came forward to help in many areas. None of the work mentioned in this report would have been possible without these dedicated volunteers who volunteered their time and energy in service to our community. Covid-19 has now been around for almost a year, and we have gained enough experience on how to keep ourselves and our communities safe by following a few simple protocols such as wearing masks in public places and when in close proximity of people, following proper hand and respiratory hygiene, keeping physical distance and avoiding large gatherings. The Covid-19 Task Force, which was intended from the beginning to be a temporary group, will now dissolve, upon integrating the tasks carried out by the group into the existing activities of Auroville, and placing the responsibility on each and every community member to continue being aware and cautious and not let our guards down. The pandemic is still very active and we have to learn to live with it, just like we have learned to live with other contagious diseases by following the relevant precautions. This report is published by the Working Committee on AuroNet in **THREE** sections:

SECTION 1 - Work done so far.

SECTION 2: Work which is handed over to existing groups/activities; and

SECTION 3 - Long-term planning recommendations.

To read the full report: <https://auroville.org.in/article/83204>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community as a whole for your continued patience and support for the efforts being made by so many to keep Auroville and our surroundings as safe as possible. We are asking the community to continue to do so. We would like to especially extend our gratitude to:

--Dr Uma, Dr Gayatri, Dr Brian, Dr Be to be on duty on rotation for all those who tested positive as well as others in need of medical advice.

- the Ambulance team for keeping cool in a crisis, their support and caring attitude. -

Alok M. with his paramedic background, for training many volunteers to help and attend the patients.

-The entire Sante team for being cooperative and open to expand their services to Covid screening center, random swab collection etc., and for now taking on more responsibilities.

-Tatiana and Muthuraman, who came forward to drive symptomatic patients for testing, both positive patients and high-risk contacts.

-Priyanka and Swadha for coming forward to be trained and monitor the health for Covid positive patients.

-Bharat Nivas team for letting us use Sharanam guest house to be set up as a Covid positive patients' quarantine facility.

-Tibetan Pavilion who came forward on their own and offered their whole facility as a back-up for Covid positive patients. (Thankfully we didn't have to use it.)

-Center Guest House for allowing us to use part of their facility for traveler's quarantine.

-Renu, Vikram, Henrike, Isa, Ankita, Anand with so many volunteers around them who came forward to support the delivery of food, groceries and other essential items.

-Auroville Art Service to offer a list of online activities and cultural links.

-Matram for offering their support for people in quarantine and others.

-FAMC / MERA / BCC for their support and making funds available for the work that was needed to keep Auroville as safe as possible.

-Shankar (Taalam) for quickly and efficiently responding to the many requests for new and updated lists that were being requested on very short notice by various government officials.

-The Block Medical Officer and his team of health inspectors who were available, patient and supportive towards Auroville's particular context and needs.

-The DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) and his officers for their efforts to enforce all the various and fast-changing guidelines in an efficient and balanced way while under great pressure due to many officers themselves succumbing to infection-Paula, AVHS health inspectors Chitra, Shanti and many Aurovilians who volunteered as a team to do the sanitization of grocery outlets, PTPS, HERS, Town Hall. As you can see so many people came forward to help us during this pandemic and we sincerely apologize if we missed mentioning anybody.

Working Committee Report

December 9th 2020 - January 18th 2021

This is the last report from the present Working Committee. The main issues dealt with in this period are:

1. **Last meeting Governing Board** - The minutes of the 56th meeting of the Governing Board held on-line on November 7th 2020 have not yet been received.

2. Auroville Foundation

- a) The appointment of the Chairman and members of the next Governing Board is still awaited.
- b) The appointment of new members of the International Advisory Council is still awaited.
- c) The appointment of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation is still awaited.

3. Panel of Advisors for AV Foundation

The Secretary of the Auroville Foundation is in the process of forming a panel of advisors to advise him on various issues relating to Auroville. For this purpose he has invited about 25 Aurovilians. While we welcome his initiative to obtain advice from any individual or a resident of Auroville, we have expressed to him our concern that a panel that is officially endorsed by the Secretary's office might become a group which would take up issues or interfere in the work which is mandated to the Working Committee, the FAMC or other working groups of the Residents' Assembly.

The Secretary has responded that the Working Committee's concerns are unfounded and explained that the Foundation Secretariat is responsible to and acts on behalf of the Governing Board of Auroville Foundation and that the Secretariat has been seeking informal but informed advice even earlier from individual residents of Auroville. The present initiative is to give a form or loose structure and to ascertain willingness to spare the person's time and advice. The Secretary stressed that the Foundation Secretariat does not foresee any overlap or intrusion in the functioning of any working group of the Residents' Assembly.

4. TDC:

- a) **Office Order.** In our previous report we informed the community about the appointment of interim members Anbu, Toby and Lakshay. The TDC members (Sreevatsa, Saravanan and the three new interim members) have asked the Working Committee for an official order, and, when we explained that there is no need to issue this, asked the Secretary Auroville Foundation to issue an office order. The Secretary also declined to do so. The TDC members object to the lack of an official order as they fear that, without an order, the TDC's actions may be considered irrelevant.
- b) **Selection process.** As we wrote in our previous report, a proper selection process for the TDC needs to be formulated and be presented to the community. This will need to be formulated by the next Working Committee and Auroville Council or a task force appointed by them for the purpose and then presented to the community for its approval.
- c) **Structure.** The TDC has taken exception to our decision to contact former Governing Board member and former

Chairman of the Town Development Council Dr B.V. Doshi, with the request to do through his organization an assessment of the present status of planning in Auroville and to propose a way forward including a suitable organizational structure. The TDC sees this as *“the Working Committee overstepping ATDC’s role and practically outsourcing ATDC’s responsibilities to an outside body. This was carried out without even consulting ATDC and the community at large. Such transgression is unnecessary, counter-productive and even detrimental to the functioning of Auroville.”*

We have responded that (1) we have informed the community about this in our previous report; (2) we have informed the new interim members about this initiative when we were interviewing them as candidates for joining the TDC; (3) we have informed the existing members of the TDC about this in earlier meetings; and (4) that there is no question of outsourcing any of ATDC’s responsibilities as the former TDC Chairman has only been asked for an assessment of the planning needs of Auroville, to make suggestions for a possible better structure and for a proposal for a way forward. In our understanding, such a proposal should be subject of community approval before it can be implemented.

5. Internal Complaints Committee: Paula has resigned as member of the Internal Complaints Committee. We thank her for her dedication and the work done. We have appointed Thera in her stead.

6. COVID-19 Task Force ends: Since there is no longer any emergency, the members of the COVID-19 Task Force constituted by the Working Committee in March 2020, have decided to hand over their work to other groups with effect from 23-01-2021. Their tasks will be taken over by the Working Committee (communication), Santé (all health-related issues) and by various food outlets (home delivery service), while individual members will remain available for providing support and advice on the implementation of existing and new Government guidelines and instructions. A report of the Task Force about the work done and the work expected to be done is published elsewhere in this News and Notes and on the Auroville. On behalf of the Auroville community we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all former and present members of the Task Force, Prashant, Tejaswini, Shivangi, Induja, Naren, Selvam and Angela, for their work, which we consider as incredibly well done.

7. Vaccination: We have been informed that in Tamil Nadu the vaccination drive of health care and frontline workers has started on January 16th. After this round, people above 80, 70, and 60 years of age with co-morbidities such as heart, respiratory, diabetic, etc. conditions will be vaccinated. This may last till June or July. Sometime later the vaccine will be made available to people who don’t come under these categories. Please note that people will be invited to be vaccinated, **Indian citizens as well as foreign nationals, and vaccination will be voluntary**, given only to people who wish to be vaccinated.

8. Solid waste pollution in Kuilapalayam: We have been interacting with the Collector, Tahsildar and Block Development Officer on the removal of the solid waste in Kuilapalayam, in particular the waste inside the tamarind tope next to the Auroville bakery and the waste around the unutilized toilet block in the area opposite the SBI, stressing environmental pollution and health hazards. So far, we have not been successful.

9. Land encroachment - In cooperation with the Land Board we have sent the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, a complete list of all lands belonging to the Auroville Foundation which are encroached upon, some of them for many years, with the request to take action so that the lands return to the possession of the Auroville Foundation.

10. GOI grant.

- a. **Limited grant this financial year.** The Secretary has informed us that in this financial year 2020-2021 a total amount of Rs 2.2 crores for general expenses has been received, and nothing for capital expenses. The Auroville Foundation had submitted a request for a total amount of Rs 16.2 crores, of which 11 crores for capital and 5.2 crores for general expenses for Auroville.
- b. **No funds for Bharat Nivas and the TDC.** Mr. Srinivasamurthy has informed us that, similar to this financial year when no GOI grant has been made available

to the TDC and only a limited grant for Bharat Nivas, the TDC and Bharat Nivas may not be allocated any GOI grant in the next financial year.

11. Entry and Exit - We have prepared the necessary documents for a Residents’ Assembly decision on (1) proposed changes in the official Auroville Foundation (Admission and termination of Persons in the Register of Residents) Regulations, 2020; (2) Proposed changes in the existing Auroville Entry Policy; and (3) a proposal to approve an Auroville Exit Policy. These documents will be submitted to the next Working Committee for follow up as it may decide.

12. Visit FRRO and RRO - On December 30th, the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer, Chennai and the Regional Registration Officer, Pondicherry, visited Auroville. Together with the Secretary we discussed all pending cases and the people who have visa extension issues were given opportunity to present their views. The meeting was very positive.

13. Issues for the next Working Committee Immediately after the selection process has been concluded, we will hand over a list of pending issues to the next Working Committee. Among these are the preparation of the 150th anniversary celebrations of Sri Aurobindo’s birth on 15-08-2022; the interaction with the Tamil Nadu officials and the police on pending topics; overseeing the creation of a centralized guest registration programme; follow up on peramboke lease and land protection issues; providing assistance to the Land Board for land purchases; follow up on various court cases; and overseeing the smooth maintenance of the Auroville Master List and the data harmonization with the Register of Residents maintained by the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, in cooperation with the Residents’ Service and Talam which has created the new programme.

We conclude our last report with a note of thanks to the many people within and outside of the community who have supported us in executing our responsibilities, which we have been trying to do to the best of our abilities and with as much dedication and sincerity as possible. As a team – and this includes our three secretaries Valli, Uma and Pavithra - we have been functioning well. In the words of one of our members, “These three years were enjoyable; there was never a day when I felt resistance going to work. Granted, there were differences of viewpoints and sometimes we had passionate discussions. But those never affected the personal relationships and the mutual respect which we all felt for each other.” Those of us whose term is at an end (6 out of 7 members) leave office with a sense of gratitude to The Mother for these years spent in the service of the community.

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

Budget Coordination Committee 6 month report: July '20 - Dec '20

The BCC would like to share with you a narrative report of issues addressed and decisions taken in the past 6 months, as a complement to our monthly report of income and expenses. We hope this can increase community-wide understanding of the economic issues affecting our community that fall within the BCC’s scope of work. We would also welcome your feedback on this kind of reporting. We aim to report every 3 months.

Corona Virus Scenario: Since the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown and the continued economic uncertainty it has caused, the BCC has been working with a month-to-month “Corona Scenario” budget, in which we do our best to project income and manage expenses accordingly, as well as the impact on and potential duration of our reserves. We adjust these monthly as actual figures come in, and present it to the FAMC, who review and approve it monthly as well. What has been the impact of Corona so far, on our income, expenses and reserves?

- **Income:** Over the period April 2020 - December 2020, income was 1310 lakhs. Over the same period last year, income was 1337 lakhs.
- **Expenses:** Over the period April 2020 - December 2020, expenses were 1297 lakhs. Over the same period last year, expenses were 1475 lakhs.
- **Reserves:** We tapped into our reserves in October and November. In the month of December, income was enough

to cover expenditure. As of the end of December we had 633 lakhs of reserves, enough to cover expenses for approximately 4 months at the current rate expenditure (with zero income).

This reflects great efforts by community services to work with reserves and control expenses, great collaboration between BCC, Finance, and income-generating units for the collection of pending contributions, continued current contributions from income-generating units during this difficult year, and great generosity with extra contributions from Auroville and beyond via MERA. However, it should be noted that the negative financial impact of Covid is most likely to affect next year's contributions to City Services from Auroville units.

Service Budgets in the Corona Scenario: In the first quarter of the financial year (April - June), the recurring budgets (all economic support except Maintenances) of all Services who had reserves that could be used to cover their running costs for 2-3 months were temporarily suspended. At the beginning of the second quarter of the financial year (July), Services were invited to submit budget requests for that quarter, based on the minimum needs required to operate and provide essential services to the community, if they were running out of reserves. This is an ongoing measure, and the reinstating of recurring budgets is assessed on a case-by-case basis. BCC members Meena and Hans are in charge of this work. The BCC has not invited any new budget requests as the economic situation is so uncertain.

Significant extra (non-recurring budget) requests:

- ACUR: Rs. 2,44,000 for UPS batteries. Approved
- AVES: Rs. 3,92,000 for a new transformer. Approved.
- JCB Repair (Road Service): Rs. 1,44,000. Approved with a request to Road Service to charge users a small extra amount to cover such repair costs in future. Road Service replied that they cannot increase the amount as other JCB rentals would then be significantly cheaper.
- La Piscine - Rs. 85,000 monthly (since Aug). La Piscine was functioning on monthly contributions by Auroville swimmers and daily amounts by guests. When the pool was closed due to the pandemic, the executives approached BCC for help as they had no more reserves. BCC agreed to temporarily support this community asset with a minimum requirement budget of Rs. 1,00,000 in June and July, reduced to Rs. 85,000 monthly from August (mostly towards electricity).
- Scholarship & Education Fund (SEF): SEF usually receives Rs. 5,50,000 yearly from City Services. This year they received an unexpected donation of Rs. 2,40,000 from AVI Netherlands, and due to Covid BCC granted half the annual usual amount, Rs. 2,75,000 (in August). In September SEF made an extra request for Rs. 2,00,000 to help meet increased applications during this time of economic instability, and also published a fundraising appeal to the Auroville community via Auronet and the News & Notes. BCC could not release the additional funds.
- Water Catchment: Rs. 17,490 was disbursed to the Road Service to undertake water catchment work organised by Glenn of the Forest Group.

Exceptional allocated Maintenance increases:

A few services have exceptionally been granted extra maintenances, given the exceptional support and extra work they have been carrying out through this time:

- 1 Half-time Maintenance for Auroville Safety & Security Team (from October).
- 1 Full-Time Maintenance for PTDC (from November)
- 1 Half-time Maintenance for Lilaloka (from November)
- 2 Full-Time Maintenances for Auroville Health Services (from October and December)
- 1 temporary Half-Time Maintenance for the Funds and Assets Management Committee (from August), allocated up to the Selection Process.
- 1 temporary Half-Time Maintenance for Auroville Council for a facilitator (Sep - Dec)

Temporary Emergency Maintenances:

- The BCC disbursed a monthly average of 50 Temporary Emergency Maintenances (TEMs), for Aurovilians working in income-generating Units and Services who could no longer finance these Maintenance due to the challenging economic situation.
- The BCC, together with the FAMC, temporarily amended the Bridging Maintenance policy for the rest of the financial year, to not exceed the amount of a Temporary Emergency Maintenance, given the challenging economic situation.

See our BCC Auronet page for the detailed TEM and TEBM guidelines.

Children's Support:

- Children's Maintenances: In November, the BCC approved the addition of Children's Maintenances to the TEMs of parents who had previously been receiving this support with the regular City Services Maintenances.
- Children's Nutrition: At the beginning of the lockdown, when schools closed, the budget which the Solar Kitchen was receiving to provide for school lunches was made available for parents in need. When the Solar Kitchen reopened for children (12 years and above), they were asked to eat their (funded) lunch at the Solar Kitchen. There were some requests to give the children's nutrition funds to other community kitchens, however since the Solar Kitchen has been in an economically challenging situation since the lockdown, and was previously receiving this budget, these requests were not approved.

Community-at-large issues:

- Cost-price food items: The BCC and FAMC approached HERS and PTPS to ask if they could temporarily reduce any items (especially basic items) to cost price during these economically difficult times. HERS and PTPS both reduced prices on several items.
- Solar Energy Pool & Average Pooled Electricity Cost: Auroville Consulting (AVC) and Auroville Electrical Service (AVES) approached the BCC regarding a Solar Smart Mini-Grid project they had received a donation for to pilot in Auroville, which they set up in the Administrative Zone. They asked the BCC to approve a budgetary costing for the energy generated from this solar installation, to be invested in the maintenance and eventual replacement of the system. BCC approved this proposal, and an agreement is in the process of being finalised. AVES & AVC made two other proposals that BCC supported, and brought to the joint BCC-FAMC meetings to take forward, as they are policy and investment topics:
 - 1) An Auroville-wide "Average Pooled Electricity Cost" policy to implement single electricity costing for every Auroville electrical service connection point, independent of the type of connection (LT or HT), and potentially of the source: TNEB, Solar, or Wind. Varuna requested and met with the BCC on this topic also.
 - 2) To use suggested part of the Auroville Foundations' financial capital to invest in additional solar energy capacity, which they project will reduce Auroville's overall electricity cost over time and increase Auroville's energy security with local renewable energy generation.
- Update on fundraising: Since March 2020, following a call from BCC, a total of - Rs. 62 lakhs have been fundraised from within Auroville and internationally, as economic emergency relief. MERA [a group composed of BCC and FAMC members: Aneeta (FAMC), Dhruv (FAMC), Mahi (BCC), Rathinam (BCC)] have been administering these funds, which have mostly gone to BCC for Temporary Emergency Maintenances and the Covid Task Force for health and sanitation measures (with smaller amounts to FoodLink, Sante, Ambulance, and Auroville Health Services). If not replenished, these funds will be utilised by February. The BCC has been invited by PCG to apply for a special relief grant, and a subgroup of the BCC (Suryamayi and Rathinam) have been collaborating with a subgroup of AVI-USA (Binah and Matthew) for a New Year's fundraiser.
- Post-Secondary Maintenances: It has come to the attention of BCC members that the Maintenance and Contribution Guidelines state that Childrens' maintenances are only

applicable up to the 18th birthday of an individual. Another category of maintenance, "Post-Secondary Maintenance", is meant for youth enrolled in College or University studies, in India only. A post-secondary Maintenance is considered a loan for any individual who does not return to Auroville. However, this has never been applied, and support is currently wrongly given as a child maintenance. From the next financial year, the Post-Secondary Maintenance will be applied. Look for a detailed announcement/explanation in the coming months.

Management of Services:

- HRT - In July, following a review of the HRT initiated in February, the BCC decided to merge its tasks (Maintenance requests, Dental Refunds, Visa Costs) with those of BCC office, as we had arrived at the conclusion that the workload of the HRT did not necessitate maintaining a separate office. We further saw a benefit to a 'one-stop' destination for all City Services related requests and administration. In August the HRT team (Jyotiprem, Venkat & Gnanavel) requested a meeting with the FAMC to reconsider this decision. A joint meeting was held with the FAMC, HRT, and members of the BCC. The FAMC endorsed the BCC's decision. Following this, Gnanavel and Venkat of the former HRT decided to appeal the FAMC decision. The appeal process is currently on-going. All HRT tasks have been taken up by members of the BCC Office (Bitna & Nilen) and a BCC Subgroup (Enrica, Inge, Mahi, Meena) in the meantime.
- Pour Tous Water - From October 2020, on request of PTW, the BCC provided administrative and accounting support to the service. During this time, the BCC became aware of employee issues related to a lack of statutory registration, payment and loan practices to be improved, and disharmony between PTW team members affecting the functioning of the service. At the end of December, the BCC published key recommendations for the next steps of this valuable service, first and foremost to register the service with accountable executives under an Auroville trust, to constitute and register a working team. For a full report, see the BCC Auronet page. The BCC subgroup members working on this have been Christine, Danny, Enrica, Inge, Jacques.
- Solar Kitchen - Since Solar Kitchen closed the dining Hall in April they have been functioning at a loss. In April, the Solar Kitchen had a reserve of Rs. 46,00,000 and in December they closed with Rs. 3,70,000. The financial situation improved slightly (smaller losses) in July with the opening of the Dining Hall and again in November with the addition of children lunches for age 12 and above. Angelika and Tushita, the Solar Kitchen executives, approached BCC in April for funding. A BCC subgroup, (Christine, Inge, Mahi) was formed to look into this, joined by Rathinam from BCC, and Aneeta and Dhruv from FAMC in August. Several meetings happened to find solutions together, exploring how to reduce the running costs. Proposals from BCC-FAMC were:
 - To put the Aurovilians on Temporary Emergency Maintenances.
 - To reduce the staff to half-time in order to reduce the labour to food cost ratio, which was significantly higher than in other Auroville eateries.
 - To use the reserves of La Terrace (Rs. 35,00,000 in April; Rs. 25,00,000 in December).

The Solar Kitchen team could not agree to these proposals. They have been counting on the schools re-opening, which will substantially increase their income. Schools have not yet re-opened and support for Solar Kitchen from BCC is an ongoing topic. The BCC is looking into the possibility of increasing the lunch scheme amount, also to increase the quality and variety of the lunches.

- ACUR management (Town Hall area): Since April a subgroup of BCC members (Inge & Mahi) has teamed up with ACUR executives and management to re-organise the financial structure of this service, which is a registered service unit under the Service Trust. The monthly running costs are Rs 1,40,000, which are partly covered by contributions from the Units/activities which are not receiving a budget (around Rs 50,000) and the balance of Rs 90,000 will be taken care of by the BCC with a direct transfer to the ACUR account. At the same time the earlier budgets allocated to services for using

parts of the collective space in the Townhall area were reduced accordingly.

The BCC has earmarked additional budgets, which will take care of:

- the yearly extra maintenance costs of Rs 2,00,000 (bonus, insurance, ACM contracts)
- the 3-5 years needed costs of Rs 2,60,000 (replacement of 30 batteries for power back up and waste water treatment cleaning)
- the gratuity amount for the employees of around Rs 2,30,000 as per now (5 ammas, 1 receptionist, and 3 watchman)

Just as an info: The running costs and income generated from the Town Hall Canteen, managed by Laxmanam, has been separated from the running costs of the Town Hall. The FAMC/BCC together with the ACUR team are exploring new ways for running a canteen.

- Streamlining of other budgets related to running the Town Hall expenses:
 - Blue Light/ Sysop backup of major email addresses: separate budgets given before to individual services are now stopped and BCC approved an extra budget of Rs 1,20,000 (due every 3 years)
 - VARUNA: Electrical bills for services supported with a City Service budget (in Town Hall) are refunded by Varuna since October.
- VC Parking: In early 2020 the BCC met with VC Parking regarding possible increase of parking ticket prices in the new financial year. This was the beginning of a possible collaboration. From April to November, when there was no income as the VC and parking was closed to outsiders, BCC worked with VC Parking to come to a minimum budget needed which was paid by the BCC (the average for the period April - Dec was Rs. 92,968). At the end of November, before the re-opening of VC and the parking to day visitors, there was again a meeting between the two groups. Ticket prices were again discussed and BCC was pleased with the online payment option that VC Parking was proposing. A subgroup of BCC was formed in order to collaborate more closely with VC and Parking/Access to MM (Christine, Danny, Mahi and Margarita). Visitors Center and VC Parking re-opened in December.
- N&N: Julie Plot was selected by the BCC as a second editor of the N&N (August).

Meetings with other groups:

- Auroville Board of Commerce (ABC) Research Group: A subgroup of the BCC (Inge & Suryamay) met with the ABC Research Group in July to discuss the economic situation of the commercial sector and income projections for the upcoming year.
- Entry Service (which includes members of the Entry Secretariat, the Entry Board and the Aspiration team): the service invited a BCC subgroup (Inge & Margarita) to look into the mandatory participation of all Newcomers in the Health Fund. The BCC confirmed the mandatory participation. This request was based on BCC's role mentioned under point 8 of the Health Fund Scheme.
- Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC): The BCC and FAMC have been holding regular meetings throughout the past 6 months (weekly through August, then reduced to every 2 - 3 weeks), given this unusually challenging and uncertain economic time.
- Farm Group Coordination Team (FGCT): In November, the BCC held a joint meeting with the new FGCT, to get to know each other and establish a basis of understanding towards a cooperative working relationship.
- Service Trust and Auroville Board of Services Core/Support Group: In December, the BCC held a joint meeting with the Service Trust and the ABS core/support group to establish a collaboration working relationship. BCC representatives also attended the first "all services" meeting called by the ABS coordinators (Dec).

Internal BCC team updates:

- Danny Merguei (Well Paper) was selected in July by the AVC Council and the FAMC as the new BCC community-at-large

representative, with a trial period of 3 months. In November he was welcomed as a permanent member.

- Jacques Rosier (Road Service) stepped down from the BCC in November, having completed a full year as a BCC member. BCC requested FAMC to appoint a new member as per the BCC mandate.
- Inge Rieck (HRT) stepped down from HRT in July. She was appointed to BCC for a 3-year term, which remains unchanged as per the BCC mandate (confirmed by FAMC).
- Charlie Salerno left BCC Finance in August on Maternity leave, and has chosen not to return. Harini stepped in to temporarily take up the BCC Finance tasks, until a suitable replacement could be found and trained. Sheida Sharifi, an Iranian Aurovillian with a tax accounting background has been in training for this role since November.
- Bitna (BCC office) informed us in December about her wish to leave the team as soon as she has trained someone to replace her (latest end of March'21).
- Meena (BCC) has informed us in December that she will resign at the end of Jan'21 for family reasons. BCC requested FAMC to appoint a new member as per the BCC mandate.
- Enrica has informed us that she will not continue to be part of the AV Council after the selection process. She was appointed to BCC for a 3-yr term, which remains unchanged as per the BCC mandate (confirmed by FAMC).
- Nilen of BCC Review conducted a study on the utilization of City Service Budgets, analysing discrepancies and identifying best practices.
- We are working towards in-house bookkeeping and accounting for City Services activities (except those under SAIIER, such as schools) within the BCC office. We believe this can improve the overall administration of City Services.
- BCC started to hold extra meetings to be able to address policy and development topics.
- On December 31st, the BCC held a team review facilitated by Elisa attended by all BCC members.

FAMC Weekly Bulletin: 4 - 10 January 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:

- **Housing Mandate.** The new Housing Mandate stands approved and has been posted on the AVNet.
- **GST Compliance.** As of 1 January 2021, Auroville is expected to comply with e-invoicing regulations. The FAMC and the Working Committee are requesting that an extension be given to Auroville given our unique organizational structure. Meanwhile, it is imperative that Trusts, Units, and Accountants move to collaborate closely with the FAMC to develop systems that will help us to comply with GST regulations.
- **Kavitha's and Michael's Appeal of the Roma's Kitchen Selection process.** FAMC members were invited to a session at Koodam with Kavitha and Michael to see if there was a possibility to avoid an appeal process. Kavitha and Michael will pursue their appeal.
- **FAMC Mandate Review.** The FAMC has completed its review of its mandate. It is clear that there will not be agreement with members of the Task Force who seek to change the composition of the FAMC from an RA selection process to a process whereby most members are appointed by predetermined interest groups. The FAMC supports a direct selection process. For this reason, it informed the AV Council that in accordance with the Working Committee outline for review, there will be separate proposals submitted to the Residents Assembly for an RAD.
- **Donations.** A meeting with the Auroville Foundation Lawyer, Mr. Mohan, confirmed that the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) prohibits Auroville from refunding donations of any kind.

Units and Trusts

- **Aspiration Guest House a unit under Guest House Trust.** The FAMC approved the Executive Changes of Appointment of Arockiaraj & Termination of Auro Prem

- **Auro Sun Shine, a unit under Kattida Kalai Trust.** The FAMC approved the New Proposed Executive - Sendhamarai.
- **White Ant Studio, a unit under Kattida Kalai Trust.** The FAMC approved the Resignation of Executive Elvira dated to 2021-01-07.

• New Entities Approved:

Date of Approval	Entity type	Name of Entity	Parent Entity	Name of Executive	Category
7 Jan 21	Unit	Wasteless	KATTIDA KALAI TRUST	Ribhu, Chandrajh & Maya	Education/ Environmental Education & Consulting
7-Jan-21	Unit	Auro Amirtham	ARTISANA TRUST	Periyasamy & Gomathi	Food Processing & Trading
7-Jan-21	Activity	LuMa	AVA	Luise, Mariana	Regional Development/ Consulting Services
7-Jan-21	Activity	African Pavilion Restaurant	AFA	Elene, Axum	Hospitality/ Restaurants & Kitchens
7-Jan-21	Activity	Buns & Cookies	AFA	Harsha	Food Processing & Trading



L'Avenir d'Auroville has recently had three interim members joining the Interface team. The technical teams, including the applications evaluating team however, continues to have inadequate staffing, and therefore application processing is still not up to speed. New applications are still on hold and we hope to have this situation changed soon.

We present below the application for extension of the Prosperity area facilities - a project which has been in discussion with TDC also in 2018, but due to limited funds, had not been taken forward. We request feedback from the community on the design of the following application to enable us to complete the evaluation of the same before issuing the design approval. Please take note that this is an evaluation of the design only & not a final building NOC therefore, no construction can begin before acquiring the final building NOC. **You can refer to all drawings and details uploaded on the intranet. Kindly mail any feedback before the 7th February 2021 to application-avenir@auroville.org.in.**

PTDC extension - Application for preliminary design approval

Applicant/s - Jocelyn B, Nicole C-S

Architect/ Designer - Auroville Design Consultants - Suhasini

Community/ area - On the Crown - next to Solar Kitchen

Area for which approval is sought - converting existing ground floor and adding 737sqm on first floor of existing building.

Project brief: PTDC started with 160 members in 2006 and has now over 1500, the situation with the floor space requirement to accommodate the activities has become critical. Since October'17, PTDC unfortunately has had to refuse new members due to lack of space to accommodate more users. Besides PTDC; Nandini needs to consolidate the two sections of the service which are right now split between the Prosperity area and Auroshilpam, needing to double the space they are occupying now. The Free Store is also in need of expansion, since this is an extremely needed and used service that besides providing clothing and other household items to people when they need at no cost, it also allows for reuse which is a big step in promoting sustainable lifestyle by reducing waste and needless consumption.

With the increased number of users, it is proposed to build an additional floor above the present PTDC building. Existing facilities of Nandini, Free Store and the office will shift to the first floor in a very suitable, luminous and spacious area upstairs,

while PTDC will be able to expand on the ground floor. The music & video library will also shift to the first floor from its existing location at the town hall. This rearrangement of spaces will also permit PTDC to allocate a space for a Bakery outlet, reducing the need for Aurovilians to travel larger distances for their bread and other baked goods.

Design: The structural system of the existing structure had been designed to be a ground plus one structure and has adequate capacity to accommodate the additional floor without any changes to the existing structural system. A wide area on the first floor, towards the side of the Crown, will be left for open interaction and circulation. This space will also form a connection with the Crown. The roofing proposed for the first floor extension is with sandwich panels to allow for the future - an applied research proposal underway to do a "mini-solar bowls as an integrated roofing" to generate energy for cold storage (PTDC / SK) along with an energy hub for e-vehicles. This proposal is to be a multi partner between MNRE, Dept. Science, Tech & industry with CSR. The very gradual slope in the roof would have the maximum south facing roof to maximise solar exposure to mount solar PV panels for energy generation in the future. 75% of the roof is sloped south with an angle of 12 deg; to maximise photon capturing.

This is a preliminary design stage, to which final building NOC would be required before the construction starts on the site.



**Report of Forest Group Meeting
8th January 2021 at Aurodam**

Present: Manolo, Alex, Philippe, Eric Baraka, Alyona, Enea, Island, Jonah, Fabian, Lara, Mani Samridhi, Rita, Christoph, Gijis, Natasha, Lakshmi Fertile, Kannyappan, D. Segar, Giri Thirunal, Thanajayan, T.Saga, David Aurodam, Edzard, Vinny, Sandeep Fertile, Gopal Darkali, Nahar Youth Center, Dave. Yuval Chairperson, Agnes Notes

1. The forest group agreed to endorse Glenn's letter in reply to the TDC.
 2. It was mentioned that the Acting Secretary of the Auroville Foundation is sending out invitations to 25-28 Aurovilians to form a "panel of advisors". Most Forest Group members were deeply troubled hearing this news because this might undermine the authority of the working groups of the Residents' Assembly.
 3. The outcome of the first task of the Vision & Reality Team was presented.
- Forest group purpose: The purpose of the Forest Group is to provide an integrated ecological basis for Auroville, physically and spiritually.
- Five Core values: Mutual respect - Commitment - Resilience - Humour - Courage
4. Vinny informed the meeting that the road from Hermitage to Sadhana forest is in a terrible state.
 5. From here on the meeting was about preparing for the general meeting regarding the work order for the HT cable going through Bliss Forest and the Youth Centre and the standing order for the clearing of the ROW of the radials, crown and ring road on all Auroville owned land. This issue touches the members of the forest group deeply and a lot of soul searching came through.

Many mentioned that the forest group is vastly misunderstood in Auroville. We need to create awareness with the general public.

- We are not against the Galaxy concept, we are here for collaboration and human unity.
- We are here as residents of Auroville and are willing to work together.
- We are here for Mother's dream.
- We stand behind the Auroville charter.

We would need a big map to inform people at the meeting about the ground reality.

The latest letter of the TDC to the various stakeholders and published on the AVnet (<https://auroville.org.in/article/82977>) had many inaccuracies and attempts at manipulation as pointed out in the Forest Group's response on the AVNet and the N&N (<https://auroville.org.in/article/83007>). The overall approach of the current TDC to the agreed community process has been

extremely disappointing and contributed to a further erosion of the trust the Forest Group had in the working group.

We could propose to have the meeting in a different place and make the community aware of the ground realities. Do we really want to build the city at the expense of Auroville's spiritual purpose and nature? We would like to see a change in the way the planning is implemented, stakeholders should be involved from the beginning and be part of the process the whole way. We are an open group; anyone is welcome to come to our meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auroville Bakery & Cafe will be closed on Tuesday, 26th January for Republic Day. Please pick your Tuesday order on Monday! Wish you All a Happy REPUBLIC DAY!

Tender for Eucalyptus Tree Harvest

To Whom it may concern,
The Land Board is accepting tenders for harvesting 10-years-old eucalyptus trees on 2 acres of land located behind the Animal Care Center -between Kalpavarasha and Manivasan Farm, Edayanchavadi area. Site visits are on Monday 25th January & Tuesday 26th January, 10 AM to 1 PM, departing from Town Hall (Land Board office). Enquiries to Krishnamoorthy at 0413 262 3699. Thank you.
- Land Board Team

Tibetan Medicine Consultations resuming Friday, 22nd January full day & Sat. 23rd Jan, half day Pavilion of Tibetan Culture, International Zone

Hoping that you are all taking care of yourselves well! We are now able to resume the consultations with the Tibetan Doctor. We would like to proceed cautiously and with care, therefore the January consultations are only for residents of Auroville and prior patients from Ashram and Pondicherry. For an appointment, kindly register by calling 0413 2622401 or WhatsApp 8489067332.

SAVITRI READING CIRCLE

We will resume reading Savitri in Bharat Nivas (Bhumika Hall) on Fridays at 4pm. We will begin from Friday 29th January onward. Everyone is welcome to join but this is not a class or seminar, It is a shared reading circle by turn.

"By Light we live, to the light we go . . ."

"HANGOUT" GATHERING

The next "Hangout" and game afternoon for seniors and all ages will be held at La Terrace on Saturday January 23rd, 2:30 - 5 pm. Please join us and bring your favourite game along if you wish. There will be a Carrom board plus sets of Chess, Scrabble, memory games and more. Let us enjoy connecting with each other by playing a game or simply through a good chat. All are very welcome and we look forward to seeing you and your friends.

Please note that this time we are not providing cake or cookies or drinks so any refreshments you consume from the Terrace will be for your own account.
- Don, Shivaya and Veronique

TRANSPARENCY collective exhibition
LAST CALL! 10 DAYS LEFT to submit your art work



The subject line of any submission email must be 'theme transparency'

- Attach a short artist statement for the project being submitted, that will help us understand your work. Provide contact details too.
- Send a maximum of 5 images of your artworks made for the exhibition, specifying technique and size of each work. All images should be sent as JPEG files, no more than 1 MB each.
- **The deadline for the submissions is 31st January 2021** and the

exhibition will take place from 6th to 24th March 2021.

- We let you know if your work is selected for the exhibition by February 10th

- The gallery will take care of the organization, setting up and communication of the event, but cannot cover the transport costs of the artworks. centredart@auroville.org.in

THANK YOU

BCC thanks AVISHA

The BCC would like to thank Nadaka, Gopika, Keshava - the RagaMantra Trio - & their special guests for offering a beautiful concert, AVISHA, held on New Year's Day in Unity Pavilion, and broadcast live around the world with the support of AVI-USA. The proceeds of this donation-basis concert were gifted to Auroville as a whole, via the communal fund administered by the BCC. We thank all those involved on behalf of Auroville!

With gratitude, Your BCC members (Christine, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Inge, Mahi, Margarita, Meena, Rathinam, Suryamay)

APPEALS

Looking for Hosts

Deepa and Calvin cycled from Delhi to Auroville over 61 days without carrying any phone or money with them. They are sharing this journey in Auroville with different communities, and so far, it's been wonderful. Now, they're here till end Feb/mid Mar or so, and keen to house hop in exchange of skills mentioned below.

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

About Calvin - He explores nature and culture through music and travel. In the process, he has worn many hats as a lawyer, restaurateur, actor, dancer, musician, composer, producer, band leader, sound vendor, poet, writer and gypsy. Read more about his work here: <https://www.wumbaya.com/>

Do reach out to them via this email: stigmatad@gmail.com.

Lots of love to you and everyone around you, Deepa

Generosity Fair at Unity Pavillion

We are again looking for gifts for the **Generosity Fair** which will take place at **Unity Pavilion on Sunday 14th February**. Things that you no more use but still care for can join this flow of generosity, generating funds for Auroville's Land. Our motto is Beautiful, Useful, Fun.

Things can be brought to Unity Pavilion or we could arrange for a collective pick up. Unity pavillion : 04132623576

TLC School are 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 9159198534 if you can help us:)

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 068 - 23/01/2021

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers and Friends of Auroville, joining Auroville. Prior to Newcomer, Aurovillian and Friend of Auroville status confirmation, there is a period for feedback from the community: For Newcomers, Associates and Friends of Auroville 2 weeks, and for Aurovilians and Returning Aurovilians, one month. Kindly forward your support or grievances to entryservice@auroville.org.in.

NEWCOMER CONFIRMED:

- Marzia LOCHIS aka Samantha (Italian)

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:

Helen EVELEIGH (British) staying in Soffio and working at Auroville Research Platform (Project under SAIER)
Stefano CESCA (Italian) staying in Serenity and working at Auroville Radio

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

- Krista MUDD (USA)
- Nithya VEERAPPAN (Indian)
- Prakash VENKATESAN (Indian)
- Rebeca LOPEZ (Spanish)

FRIEND OF AUROVILLE ANNOUNCED:

- Gaurav VIG (Indian) volunteering with Sanskrit Research Institute

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.

- Stephane LEFEBVRE (Canadian)



Helen



Stefano



Gaurav

NOTE:

- The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after the NC kit has been completed and returned. Be aware that the duration of the process cannot exceed 18 months from the date of confirmation.
- An Aurovillian is a resident of Auroville, aged 18 and above, whose name has been entered in the Register of Residents (RoR) as maintained by the Auroville Foundation (AVF) Office.
- The change of status from Newcomer to Aurovillian is official only once the individual has filled in and signed the B-Form 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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

EYE VISION CAMP for villages in Auroville bioregion 23 & 24 January (Sat & Sun) from 10 am - 5 pm

India Vision Center (charitable Trust based in Chennai), Auroville Village Action Group (AVAG), Temple Tree Group (guest house opposite Djaima) & Studio Naqshbandi (Mona, architect, Yantra), are happy to announce that we've organised FREE eye checkup & reading glasses for ~500 people in Bommiarpalayam Village. Details were announced through women's self-help groups (SHG) via AVAG. Please contact Moris from Auroville Village Action for further information. Or write to avag@auroville.org.in. If this camp is successful, we plan to organise camps in other villages in the bioregion on a regular basis.

Marc's Café is open every day till 8 pm except Monday and Tuesday that remains till 6 pm . See you in the evening!!

A joint note

from Scholarship & Educational Fund (SEF) & Disha Desk

Dear learners and students, parents of students and Auroville public in general, please note that from now on (Jan. 2021), applicants for financial support to the Scholarship & Educational Fund (SEF) are requested, before they submit applications for support, to arrange for at least one meeting with the team of Disha Info Desk & Events. The Disha team is meant to explore motivation and decision-making process behind the student's choice of studies or training, for which the SEF team does not find sufficient time. For inquiries and appointments, contact Disha: disha.info@auroville.org.in or Shraddha: 9920840796, and SEF: sef.secretary@auroville.org.in or Vennila: 9943528107.

We hope to hereby improve our services to students of Auroville & thank you for your collaboration, SEF team (executives: Auralice & Lucas) & Disha Desk (Valentine & team)

Ecoservice Raises collection fees

The Eco service has been running now with the new team for 5 years. We have expanded this service to more than just a waste collecting service. We receive a small monthly contribution from the BCC and so far have managed with lots of effort to pay our ammas well and to keep transforming and expanding without raising the collection fee for 5 years. With the increased rate of diesel and the yearly raise of sambalam, we are now forced to boost the collection fee for segregated waste from 30 Rs per bag to 40 and for non-segregated waste from 80 Rs to 100, as the budget received from the BCC is still the same (rates applicable from 1st Feb). Please understand we are really doing our very best to keep a fine balance. Thank you for your understanding, for all your support and care.

- Eco service team - Kali and Palani K.

we are ready to give our services now with updated new printers

DZINES
Graphic Design

Colour Print

- A5 to A0
- Flyers
- Brochures
- Books
- Visiting Card
- Bill Book
- Voucher Pad
- Sticker
- Label
- Photo
- Passport Photo
- ID Cards
- Flex prints

Screen Print

- Tags
- T-Shirt
- Visiting Card
- Letter Pad

Package Designing & Manufacturing

- Hard Board Box
- corrugated box
- Paper Bags
- Display Box
- office stationery
- Photo Framing

Contact:
Avtzines (graphic section)
Town Hall, Auroville - 605101
email: avdzines@auroville.org.in
gunapavi@auroville.org.in
Ph: +91 0413 2623566 / 9443469063

(can be acquired)). Half or full maintenance available, 3-month probation period.

And other positions (please inquire about details):

- ◇ Coordinator (volunteer)
- ◇ Volunteers for Auro Orchard
- ◇ Workshop Assistance (part time, volunteer, AV Contribution only)
- ◇ Experienced Social Media Curator (on project basis)

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

BCC is looking for a bookkeeper

The BCC is looking for a bookkeeper to join our office. Contact us at bccoffice@auroville.org.in if you are interested in the role detailed below, and meet the requirements. Thank you!

Job description:

- Full time work in the BCC office
- Receiving and entering to Tally system the bills from CS activities, as per the standardized chart of accounts
- Following up with the CS activities bills submissions on time.
- Checking the actual bills with the budget
- Issuing monthly reports for BCC and providing answers to inquiries related to the bookkeeping
- Accountable to accounting policies instructed the BCC office (today Bitna and Nilen)
- Documenting all bills in files in chronological order by categories and activities
- Provide service to CS activities questions related to accounting and Bookkeeping.

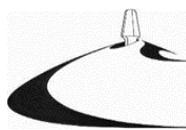
Requirements:

- Bookkeeping education.
- Minimum 3 years full time experience with Tally system
- Familiarity with Auroville administration and services. Advantage for experience working as an accountant in AV.
- Preferably Aurovillian.
- Minimum few years as bookkeeper

Looking for a volunteer to build a simple website for Auroville's EMF Awareness Group.

Contact: Kaliananda: 9787917469 or kaliananda@auroville.org.in

MATRIMANDIR



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 Aurovillians, 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 Aurovillians, Newcomers and Volunteers holding a valid Matrimandir Pass). Volunteers' place of work will need to send an email to mmconcentration@auroville.org.in to be considered for the valid pass.

- Matrimandir Executives and Access team

LOOKING FOR

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.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

HR Initiative is a service which helps individual Aurovillians 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.

Research assistance and management of online presence - A research activity is looking for a truly passionate individual with higher education, able to write content (in English, French would be a plus), willing to engage in both analytic and intuitive work, interested in symbolism, deeply interested in Sri Aurobindo's and Mother's work. Computer literacy (MS Office, SEO, WordPress

Someone going to Europe - to carry a few books to be posted from there. We will cover the postage cost. Contact: Om, 8110823263 (WhatsApp) or thedronezone@auroville.org.in.

A home - My name is Carmen, aged 38, Aurovilian. I'm in need of a place by the end of this month. A monthly Contribution can be given. Very responsible person. Contact me at 853 101 7772.

Housesitting - I'm a Friend of AV and a long-term volunteer in Sanskrit, Ayurveda, & Yoga. Meditation is a way of life for me & 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, or needs to be maintained/renovated while you are away, please get in touch with me. I can help w/expenses, repairs. G sattvig@gmail.com, 840 799 7970.

AVAILABLE

New World, Integral Wisdom, Psychological Perfection saplings available at Savitri Nursery

Good rains and sunshine, what better days to plant flowers and trees?! At Savitri Nursery, we grow plants whose flowers are given names of spiritual significance by the Mother. Right now, we have New World, Integral Wisdom, Psychological Perfection saplings available, as well as hibiscus, jasmine, Radiating Purity, etc. Voluntary contribution. You can also bring seeds and plants to donate, to be offered to others.

Radiating Purity - *Gardenia augusta*
It charms and fascinates. It makes all Nature fragrant. →



Integral Wisdom (*Albizia lebeck*)
The wisdom one obtains through union with the Divine.



New World (*Bixa Orellana*)
The result of transformation.



Psychological Perfection (*Plumeria rubra*)
There is not one psychological perfection but five. They are sincerity, faith, devotion, aspiration and surrender.

Come at our collective gardening time on **Wednesday 8-9:30 AM**, or contact one of us:

- Anandi Zhang: +91 89402 85201 (Whatsapp Only)
- B: +91 99435 32829 (phone call or Whatsapp)
- Suresh: +91 97866 26952 (phone call or Whatsapp)

With Joyful Gratitude for Her Grace, Savitri Nursery Volunteers

Electric 3 wheeled scooter - Like new, baby blue, very stable. No licenses or insurance needed. I need to sell as soon as possible, so it's a very good price. Call or WA: 9500822629.

SPACE AVAILABLE - A well protected 47 sqm building, opposite Aurelec, northern side, will be available from 1st Feb 2021. This space is ideal for office, workshop or show room, with generator back-up, 24 hr security, parking, provision for air-conditioners, high speed fiber internet access (BSNL/Aurinoco) and canteen facilities. Interested people may contact Mr. Siva at Aurelec, by phone at 2622293/2622294 or e-mail adps@auroville.org.in.

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Make sure that your water tanks don't overflow! Purchase and install a float valve, which will automatically stop the flow of water in the tank when it is full. There are also more technologically advanced solutions, which consist of the electronic monitoring of water levels with automatic switch off, however they are more expensive. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. watergroup@auroville.org.in / www.aurovillewater.in



We hope that you have celebrated the Pongal festival very happily with all your family and friends! Find below the list of your favourite radio programmes. 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:

- [Lectures par Gangalakshmi - 344](#) (Sri Aurobindo)
 - [Marlenka's Weekly Offering - ep.17](#) (Integral Yoga)
 - [Happiness, Love and Laughter - "The Cycle of Birth and Rebirth"](#) (Wellness)
 - [The Best of What Still Around](#) (Music)
 - [The Tamil Literary Forum - "□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□" \("Marakilai oonjal"\)](#) (Tamil culture)- A Collection of Children's Songs by Madurai Magal (Poetess R.Meenakshi)
 - [Neo Urban Chronik - "The Wacky Questionnaire"](#) (Humour)
 - [Audible Weed Walk - "Foraging as a child"](#) (Food education)
 - [Aarohan - "Musical Matriarchs of Maihar"](#) (Music)
 - [Savitri, B. VII, C. VI, Part 5](#) (Integral yoga)
 - [Happiness, Love and Laughter - "The Joy of Breathe pt 1"](#) (Wellness)
 - [Lunaria - ep.2](#) (Women's health)
 - [What do you know - ep.3](#) (Yoga & philosophy)
-and more! on www.aurovillerradio.org. For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in. Peace and Love

From the Exploring Prosperity group:

Thanks for the support extended in response to our request for a review of the functioning of FAMC by the Resident Assembly.

We have received 82 signatures so far. Please find attached the [proposal here](#) for reference. That means that we could have requested the RA a review of the functioning of this group.

In view of the upcoming "Selection Process 2021" and that the majority of the present members of the FAMC have decided not to present themselves for continued membership, Exploring Prosperity has decided to give an opportunity to this process and see if the community can select a new group that can correct the past malfunctioning of this group.

At Her service, Exploring Prosperity Group
Joseba, Pashi, Praveen, Satprem, Sivakumar, Umberto, Venkatesh

Exploring a life without undergarments Saturday - 5 to 7 pm @ Neem Tree

I have been experimenting with a life without undergarments for many years and feel like sharing my journey. I would also love to hear about your relationship with your underclothes. Looking forward to seeing you. Love, Deepa

P.S. event is open for all genders 😊



PIONEERS OF THE NEW WORLD: LA JOIE DE VIVRE

To the Town Hall exhibition "[Sadhaks of Integral Yoga](#)" I added archive photographs of the Auroville pioneers.

What struck me at the Ashram where hieratic figures in white robes; in their eyes I saw the Infinite. Auroville could not be more opposite: healthy bodies fit for physical work, often red stained, toiling in the fields and at the Matrimandir construction site; joined by brave women -- and during the uninterrupted concretes, 3-4 days and nights long, children and teenagers.

Cycling from Pondy, in 1977 I started joining this big collective feast; leaving my things in a friend's room at the Camp I slept in the hollow of the Urn, until dew and mosquitoes pushed me back to the Camp.

Life at the Ashram run smoothly; thanks to the Mother's organization of the smallest details the sadhaks concentrated on work as service to the Divine and the inner quest. But in Auroville even a drop of water was a conquest; when a choice was to be made between watering newly planted vegetables and trees versus human needs, often the trees and vegetables won. The place was a desert scorched by the sun, flooded during the monsoon; facilities were scanty; there was no infrastructure; hardships were faced with youthful resilience. Those doing useful work for the community were taken care on the basis of minimum material needs: free food, toiletries, basic clothing (shorts, T-shirts, chappals), day-to-day necessities, pocket money. Mother's message for the recipients of the 'Auroville Prosperity' system (similar to the Ashram's), was: "*Auroville is not meant for the satisfaction of desires but for the growth of the true consciousness.*" And "*One does not live in Auroville to be comfortable but to grow in consciousness and to serve the Divine.*"

Mother had given the key: "*Money would no longer be the sovereign lord; individual worth would have a far greater importance than that of material wealth and social standing. There, work would not be a way to earn one's living but a way to express oneself and to develop one's capacities and possibilities while being of service to the community as a whole, which, for its own part, would provide for each individual's subsistence and sphere of action.*"

The early years an Ashram bus carried sadhaks to work at the Matrimandir construction. Champaklal was one, and in the nineties he will return for the download of the crystal in the Chamber. A major sadhak working at the Press, Birendra, walked to Matrimandir until very old. In 2003 Kireet Joshi, chairman of the Auroville Foundation, asked me to display an exhibition featuring the history of Matrimandir; when I took it to the Ashram Exhibition Hall I was moved listening to the sadhaks' love-story with Matrimandir where they worked in their youth. Nirodbaran - Savitri's scribe - was the first one visiting that exhibition; he made me read, aloud, in French and in English, Mother's letter to Roger, writing him that she always knew that he would be the architect of her ideal town.

Those sadhaks were my models and inspirers; witnessing in Auroville tireless self-giving by young people living with grace in basic conditions to serve and build Her Dream, I took it as an *adesha* to move there; healing through love and service the rift with the Ashram following the Sri Aurobindo Society war.

Auroville's sadhana is the sociology of the group-soul. Auroville's specificity is that, in addition to individual aspiration, a collective aspiration leads to a collective realization whose crown is the manifestation, in space and time, of what in 1930 the Mother designated as 'the Avatar's model town'. Starting point is the psychic emergence. The authentic hierarchy is spiritual, the Mother told Satprem: those at the top have the least material needs. Radiating from within, progress and unending research attain an inner dimension. Beauty, harmony, art, culture become an integral part of one's daily life, as permanent education and

self-education towards Auroville's new consciousness. Exceeding their tiny selves, humans become universal.

Auroville is beyond experiments in community living, beyond achievements and failures. But a long-term associate observed, "*[Auroville's] true origins are in the future as well as in the past, for it exists eternally in the Consciousness that embraces time and space. To this eternal dimension, to this vast potential for a transforming action 'in the invisible' we have as yet no access; we have not found the way.*"

This is the task awaiting us. Where Eternity touches Eternal Time, there Auroville is, forever. A spark in the single Vastness. Ocean Oneness.
~ Paulette

Breatharianism, Pongal Tale & Evolution at Work

Already in the 19th century, scientists stated that the body's cells are not nourished by physical food ("Man's Higher Consciousness" H. Hotema). If the cells do not need food, why do we eat? I'm aware that this question may sound absurd, but with this article I wish to share my inspiration with those, already "fighting" their way to freedom.

I got to know about the possibility of a pranic lifestyle in 2001. (see also: "The Supramental manifestation upon Earth" p. 32). My latest "realisation" has been that food is a world-wide addiction. I've been trying all my life to control, change, fight, make compromises with an addiction, still allowing the daily "fix". It is like with any drug - there is no state in between; there's only either ... or...

That food is an addiction one understands clearly when one tries to change one's eating habits. Ever tried to eat a saltless-raw diet? It's hard! But easy to drop and never to regret! But just try to drop salty, fried foods!

It was Jericho Sunfire, who moved me to the depths lately (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPOjJtNB5Sc>). Just changing the diet (15 years fruitarian) became a spiritual initiation, clearing simultaneously all mental and emotional issues. Eating is a form of escapism or "self-medication". And once we stop using food for that purpose, there is no way around initiating deep cleanse at all levels. How holistic is the work with our being! One can start anywhere. Jericho was amazed to experience that new "connected" state, in comparison to the dumbed-down senses he experienced while on cooked food. I was wondering if our meditations are actually reaching their full potential, when one part of the being is suffering an intoxication and is constantly involved in elimination processes. It is like with fossils fuel and solar energy. Both give energy, but one has lots of waste.

More and more people are able to lead a no (or very little) food lifestyle; and they are not on the defensive any longer. Interestingly enough, the Indian culture is permeated with hints of this possibility. My friend just told me an old story in connection to Pongal festival. "Shiva told the bull: "You go to earth and tell people this: "They should take an oil bath every day and eat on one day of the month." But the bull mixed it up and told the opposite. Shiva got upset: "Oh no, you told everything wrong! Now people will have to grow more plants and engage in agriculture, as they will eat more. Go and help them."

I got to know and recently connect with five people leading this lifestyle. As now more people are able to "cross" this barrier, it appears to be part of the evolutionary process, working in and WITH us, with its mind-blowing future possibilities. Hopefully the importance of such a practice for the Integral Yoga will become not only visible; but it will motivate us to engage our personal efforts. Possibly to be continued...

For more information: ara@auroville.org.in ~submitted by Egle

My story of the last six months

I want to share a story that everyone knows about, but perhaps no one is paying attention to it as much as I am.

Six months ago I saw two male calves tied up on very short ropes on public land very close to my office. They were starving. In a short while, a third female calf joined them. Their owners live across the road from this land. These calves are used to start the milk flow of their mothers and then tied up separated from their

mothers to starve. I usually don't do anything much when I see this, since it is visible almost everywhere, but since these calves were on public land, and were little skeletons, I started feeding them. Over time I continued feeding them a snack every day. When I stopped on the road they always perked up. We were always happy to see each other. There is no way that I cannot feed them because they are waiting for it. I'd speak to the owner's teenage grandson who speaks a little English. He too was sympathetic.

Then one day one of the male calves was gone. I was told by the grandson that he and his mother were sent to his aunt in Cuddalore because his grandfather could no longer manage all the animals. He really believed that, and he told me that they would be back after three months. The other two calves developed diarrhea, they looked anxious and depressed. They fell, they could not stand. They needed water to prevent dehydration, but the owner told me that the water was the cause of the diarrhea because whenever they drank they passed stools. When they called the vet, I made it a point to go there to ask him to explain to them. The vet told me that this is happening everywhere and if he were to say something to the owners, then they would not call him the next time. He said that there are plenty of vets. The male calf is ten months old, six months older than the female but they look the same size. The female is being fed, the male starved since he will never produce milk.

I know there's not much hope here, but there is hope for others. The cause of their months of agony is for a moment of taste for us - the cheese, curds, milk. We could do it another way, because their pain matters too. - Dr Nandita Shah

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



"Network"
FRIDAY, 22nd JANUARY, 8 PM
MULTIMEDIA CENTRE, Town Hall

Directed by Sidney LUMET, USA, 1976

With: Faye Dunaway, William Holden, Peter Finch, Robert Duvall
Synopsis: In the 1970s, terrorist violence is the stuff of networks' nightly news programming and the corporate structure of the UBS Television Network is changing. Meanwhile, Howard Beale, the aging UBS news anchor, has lost his once strong ratings share and so the network fires him. Beale reacts in an unexpected way... "Network" is a satirical black comedy-drama with an efficient script and brilliant performances. It is surely part of the "New Hollywood" movement of the 70 in the USA. Short introduction by Philippe M. before the screening. *Original English version with English subtitles - Duration: 2h*

Please follow the current sanitary SOP

EARTHBOUND

A CERAMIC EXHIBITION
With Auroville International Potters Market 2021



Visitors Center, Auroville
January 24th, 25th and 26th
11 am to 5 pm

CURATED BY SUPRIYA MENON MENEGHETTI & MIMI CHAKRABARTI



AV Art Service - basket of the week

1. PAVILLION OF TIBETAN CULTURE EXHIBITION - Points & Lines, Qi Gong on Canvas, by Andres Lokuta. On show until Tuesday the 2nd of February.
- 2.. AUROVILLE TIMELINES AND AUROVILLE FILM INSTITUTE ONLINE COURSE - Study Lynch's Mulholland Drive, shot by shot, with Kamal Swaroop on 23-24 and 30-31 January from 2-6.30pm IST. Voluntary contribution for Aurovilians. For details and registration visit <https://filminstitute.auroville.org/2021/01/12/mulholland-drive-with-kamal-swaroop/>
3. AUROFILM AND AUROVILLE FILM INSTITUTE PRESENT - Free Cine-Master Class coming up on Jan 30th, 5pm, at Kalabhumi. To attend, contact aurofilm@auroville.org.in
4. SRI AUROBINDO INTEGRAL LIFE CENTER OFFERS - Online talk by Sraddhalu Ranade on New Perspectives: Widening of Consciousness on January 23th at 19.30 IST. Register on https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_syrMRMYMR7yLSH5UBKHreA
5. INTEGRAL INSPIRATIONS OFFERS FREE ONLINE FILM - Watch award-winning documentary film 'Conscious: Fulfilling our Higher Evolutionary Potential', inspired by the work of Sri Aurobindo and Mirra Alfassa. Use promo code EVOLVE, valid until Jan 31 for free viewing, on integralinspirations.vhx.tv/
6. AURODHAN ART GALLERY PONDICHERY PRESENTS Save The Tiger and maybe also the Rudra Veena..., a talk-interaction with Padmashree Dr. Kiran Seth on blending culture, art, music, and science for a luminous life. Sunday, 24th Jan, 11am, at Krtashraya Gardens. Ph: 2222795/2222449, email manager@aurodhan.com
7. FREE SHORT FILMS ON MYFRENCHFILMFESTIVAL.COM - Jan 15 - Feb 15 watch 10 short French films for free. There is a fee for feature length films.
8. MASALA CHAI MEANDERINGS - If words are your thing/ if squiggly things/ Dancing on pages/ Make your heart race/ If pauses and silences/ Give you a heartbreak/ Then you need to be/ Here/. Join Zoom Meeting from 3.30pm on Jan 20, the event starts at 4pm Meeting ID: 854 6403 9501 Passcode: 648469 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85464039501?pwd=bEpYbnR3NEo4V0hDSGgwU1c4UjJPdz09>

Karma Yoga - Talk by Vladimir Yatsenko at the Integral Yoga Retreat, US in 2019

Mon 25th Jan, 4pm. Duration: 67min. AT SAVITRI BHAVAN

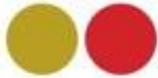
Karma Yoga is a profound topic which is difficult to understand, although all of us have enough experience of work. Karma Yoga means that one is active and perceptive at the same time. The problem is that when we act with our body, we lose the inner poise and perception. It is quite an achievement to be active and to keep the inner conscious awareness at the same time. It is Vladimir Yatsenko's assumption that Sri Aurobindo worked on this when he walked daily for many hours year after year in his room in Pondicherry Ashram. We can experience the benefit of his Karma Yoga when we walk consciously and regularly. It can become a blissful experience.

The Mother's last message to Auroville on 27 March 1973 is about dedicated conscious work:

"Auroville is created to realise the ideal of Sri Aurobindo who taught us the Karma Yoga. Auroville is for those who want to do the Yoga of work. To live in Auroville means to do the Yoga of work. So all Aurovilians must take up a work and do it as Yoga."

Activities become a means of practicing yoga and attaining union with the Divine and that is both a challenge and a blessing. We need to act, but being free of desire and attachments, as in the Gita: 1. Free from results; 2. Free from modalities of actions; 3. Free from the idea of being the agent, keeping in mind that it is the Divine that is acting through us. Besides the aspiration to live and work from within in the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo we need to become conscious of the psychic and Mother's presence and guidance. In this way, every activity will become a way to learn something about the Divine - which can be experienced as a blessing.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBWBLZ7YvBY>



Republic Day

Tue 26th January @ Bharat Nivas

Bharat Nivas Group invites all Aurovilians, Guests and Volunteers to attend the Annual program:

1. Flag Hoisting at 8.30 AM
2. Chanting by the Sanskritam Group, beginning with Janaganamana..followed by Vandemataram and some Slokas.
3. Breakfast at Annam.

We hope to see you all at the Republic Day of India Celebration



“Hidden Cities”
 open on Sunday 24th January
 For the last day, the exhibition by Claire Iono at Centre d’Art, Citadines will be exceptionally open this Sunday 24th January. See you there!

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Somatic Movement workshop w/Maggie

Online live event for Everybody!

Sat & Sun 23-24 Jan, 2.30 - 6 PM (IST) (total 7 hours)

Neuromuscular re-education (mind-body training) workshop in the tradition of Thomas Hanna. Somatic education is a system of slow, mindful movement. It improves the function of the nervous system, creating more ease and freedom within ourselves. Somatics teaches up to recognise and release holding patterns, resulting from pain, injury, stress or habituated posture. This work enhances any kind of exercise such as a yoga, dance sport or just moving through life.

Over 2 afternoon sessions you will learn how to release tension in the body and learn a daily practice in order to maintain better flexibility, coordination, balance and wellness, resulting in a decrease of aches and pains commonly attributed to stress, injury and aging. Open to all.

Please sign up by emailing maggie@auroville.org.in and I will send you full details. Should you have any questions feel free to contact me by email or call +9486623465.

Maggie presents on behalf of SoMagic, consultancy activity under LEAD, a Unit under the Auroville Foundation.



Workshops at Quiet Healing Center

www.quiethealingcenter.info / quiet@auroville.org.in
 +91 413 2622329 / +91 9488084966 (mobile)

Liquid Flow Essence w/ Dariya & Daniel.

Mon 25th-- Sun 31st Jan (9am-- 6pm)

This intense 7-day course with the main Liquid Flow sequence is for students, who wish to dive deeper into their practice. 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 with Ananda

Mon 25th-- Fri 29th Jan (9am -- 4.30pm)

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.

Somatic Movement Workshop with Maggie

Sat. 30th Jan (9.30 am -- 5pm)

See description in 1st post in this section (above). Open to all - no previous experience required.



ART FOR LAND EXHIBITION

Liminal Space

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
ACQUIRING LANDS FOR AUROVILLE

OPENING ON 31ST JAN 2021 AT 4.00 PM
31st Jan to 28th Feb 2021
All days 10am - 4pm

AT UNITY PAVILION AUROVILLE
Performances & Events through February will be announced on AuroNet and News & Notes.

MASKS COMPULSORY ON ENTRY
AUROVILLE COVID REGULATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED



2'nd of February 2021 from 5 to 7 PM
venue: African Pavilion in Auroville

“FASTING into FREEDOM – before, in between and the beyond...”

Talk, guided meditation on energy cultivation, Q&A

This talk is an opportunity for people interested in fasting, at any stage of practice, for those curious to know about the development of the human potential, to learn from an acknowledged expert of prolonged fasting, regeneration of the body, and pranic life-style, to ask questions, and to understand the process of energy cultivation and of raising the vibrations.

Shifting to waste-free energy nourishment - is an evolutionary process, happening in our own bodies! Receive the insight from a person walking this path about the advantages & unlimited opportunities of pranic life-style, which goes way beyond fasting, and awaiting the humanity.

This talk will be recorded and followed by several retreats in Auroville, India.

elitomelamin.org; facebook.com/elitom.elamin



Elitom El-amin is internationally acknowledged as the expert of prolonged fasting, living without the need for food or water, started on the path of fasting in 2000, for health reasons. He is an author of several books, courses and shares his knowledge and experience worldwide.

ARA (Awareness Research Auroville) registered activity of Auroville
 Contact: email: ara@auroville.org.in WA.: +91 - 94880 47368

We welcome you for practice sessions on:

नादयोग NAADA YOGA

Facilitated by Mandar (mandarkaranjkar.com)



Welcome to join for one/more of the following sessions.
Later we'll create a regular practice schedule.

JAN 23 & JAN 30 (SAT EVENING): 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
JAN 26 & FEB 02 (TUE MORNING): 6:30 AM - 7:30 AM
VENUE: PROGRESS HALL, BHARAT NIVAS

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

Qi Gong and Moxa for Yin of the Liver
Mon/Wed/Fri, 25th-29th January, 7 - 8:20 AM
Pavilion of Tibetan Culture, International Zone

This workout will be oriented to developing the ability to absorb and hold the energy within the body that is essential part of healthy functioning of the Liver Yin. Classes is based on incorporating Qi Gong exercise into your daily routine.

Guided by: Andres Lokuta, WhatsApp message 9655474497.



"Jiva" is a growing collaborative of experienced Auroville therapists offering Therapy, Workshops, Retreats and Courses and Classes
www.auroville-jiva.com W/A 9626006961;
contact@auroville-jiva.com

The Path of the Soul-26th January, 9:30AM - 4 PM
Sharnga Guest House 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, international faculty in integral regression therapy, Sensation method homeopathy

Holotropic Breathwork - 29- 31 January
Presentation by Fr Thomas Kuriantham on
Monday 5pm at Sharnga Guesthouse Yogahall

"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 bring about this "holotropic state" bringing on an increase in life energy. Participants are guided by experienced facilitators and work in pairs in this experiential workshop. Father Thomas Kuriantham has been offering holotropic breathwork retreats and workshops for about 1200 people since 2016. Fr Thomas represents Grof Transpersonal Training (GTT) in India and Sri Lanka.

"Explore your mind" - 3-day workshop in hypnotherapy
Fri., 5th Feb, 4 - 7 pm, 6 & 7 Feb, 9 AM- 5.30 pm
Sharnga Guesthouse Yogahall
Info meeting 3rd Feb, 5- 5.30 pm, Sharnga GH Terrace

- What is hypnosis?
- How do right and left brain function practically?
- How do conscious and subconscious interact?

Explore the depths of your mind and relax! Meditate with ease!
Expand your therapeutic toolbox! Apply Self-hypnosis.
Workshop combining experiential learning and "Theory of the Mind". Certified course from EKAA www.ekaa.co.in.
Trainer: Sigrid Lindemann



Verité Programs

Registration required for the following intensives
Contact: 0413 2622045, 2622606, 7094104329
programming@verite.in, treatments@verite.in

BRING YOUR OWN YOGA MAT AND TOWEL

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

(See description in the post above.)

GUIDED CHAKRA HEALING MEDITATION (Intensive) - w/ TANIA
Friday, 29 January - from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

This intensive will include a guided chakra healing meditation which is a journey throughout the body and its chakras. We will also go deeper into the introduced tools which promote purification, healing, balancing of the chakras and an increased awareness of the body. Furthermore, we will explore the importance of proper grounding, self-love, and more, which brings more balance and an enhanced feeling of wellbeing.

PRANAYAMA AND CHAKRAS HARMONIZATION - w/ LAKSHMI
Saturday, 30 January - from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Explore ancient yogic breathing techniques (Pranayama) used to improve lung function, and 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!



The Visual Conundrum - An Introductory workshop through moving images
by Aravindan.G.P

5th & 6th February at Centre d'Art, Citadines

Lecture / Presentations - 9.45 AM to 12.30 PM

Screening / Discussions - 1.30 to 5.30 PM

Deadline for the registration: 30th January 2021

Registration : centredart@auroville.org.in / www.centredart.in

This two-day workshop will seek to lay out the basic foundations of moving images. It will draw inspiration from both the Western as well as Eastern (particularly Indic) ideas and processes of Image making. It will explore how these ideas governed the narration/codification of the realities in different human civilizations and among other beings.

Though the sessions will be informal, it will be slightly packed. Visual materials from diverse resources will be shared and will not be restricted to photography alone. This workshop is open to anyone who is interested in Image Making. It is ideal for someone who has a concept and would like to churn/reflect upon it visually to see where it leads them, be it in narrative or non-narrative realms.

There will be screening of films, discussions around it and some basic exercises. While some important aspects of Image making will be discussed threadbare, this short workshop will also be ambitious to immerse itself from cave paintings to video games. Aravindan.G.P had his first exposure to image making through the dark room of a screen-printing unit, when he was around 13 years old. He made his first photographs through an enlarger and watched mundane stuff transform from their physical reality into alchemical reality in print and negatives. The wonder stayed imprinted within him even as he later studied law and practiced as an advocate. Later, he completed his course in Film making with specialization in Cinematography from FTII, Pune and assisted/ worked in major film making hubs in India. Some projects he collaborated were well received in many international festivals like New York Indian Film Festival, Indian Film Festival at Stuttgart, EEFF USA, Kochi muziris Biennale, Berlinale, HCC China and won recognitions. He considers his collaboration at Kyoto Film Makers Lab as a very special experience. His search for aesthetics and narrative from within the Indic knowledge systems opened another universe in which he now tries to explore and travel. He is guided by the writings of Sri Aurobindo, among other seers from the East and West who inspire him.

Music Workshop for Everyone

An introduction into the History and Theory of Western Music

Aurovilians: Contributions are welcomed

The demonstration of the different points of the workshop will be supported by videos and music samples.

Beginners Welcome!

6./7. February, Bharat Nivas

9.00–12.00 am, 2.00–5.00 pm

The workshop is given by Hartmut von Lieres, a German pianist and composer.

vonlieres@gmx.de

For more info visit vonlieres.wixsite.com/mymusic



The Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother

'It is the old methods of yoga which demand silence and solitude. The yoga of tomorrow is to find the divine in work and in relation with the world.' - The Mother

What is Integral Yoga? Introductory talks followed by Q&A, led by Ashesh Joshi. Wednesdays 9 to 10 am & Saturdays 3 to 4 pm

Satsang, a gathering for spiritual upliftment. Every Saturday 4 to 5.15 pm

At Savitri Bhavan, Contact: 9489147202, All are welcome

Regular Activities at our KUILAI Creative Centre: (For any age group)

Silambam: Sundays 11am to 12pm

Hip-Hop: Saturdays and Sundays from 3pm to 4pm

Music: Fridays 4pm to 5pm

Bharatha Naattiyam: Saturday 4pm to 5pm

Evening Tuition classes from 1st grade to 10th grade: Mondays to Fridays from 05:30pm to 07:30pm

Children's movie time: Saturdays 05:30pm to 08:00 pm

For contact: 9843195290 or kuilaicreativecentre@auroville.org.in

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



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2 WEEK COURSE
Art and Science of uniting with Self

Ayurveda | Chakras | Asana | Pranayama
Meditation | Sanskrit | Chanting | Philosophy

19th - 30th Jan 2021
Tue & Thur 5 PM, Sat 7 AM

Connect with the 5 elements and 7 main chakras within your being and learn to keep them in balance!

Contact 'G' for details
sattvig@gmail.com | 8407997970 (WhatsApp)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Auroville Emergency Contact Numbers Save them in your phone now!

Auroville Safety and Security Team (24/7): 9443090107

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

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 25 January 2020 to 31 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 (and not scarves etc.) Standard Covid19 protocols will be followed. The screenings are open currently to Aurovilians, Newcomers, Long-term volunteers, or Guests with Aurocards. This anything changes before the screening date we will try to spread the word then.

Indian - Monday 25 January, 8:00 pm:

- **KANNUM KANNUM KOLLAIYADITHAAL (Stolen glances)**
India, 2020, Writer-Dir. Desingh Periyasamy w/ Dulquer Salmaan, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Ritu Varma, and others, Romance-Thriller, 160mins, Tamil w/English subtitles, Rated: U (G)
Two young men who pretends to work as application developer and animation engineer make their living from online shopping scams and thefts. They come across two girls whom they fall in love with and decide to take their entire life savings to have a fresh start in Goa. Days after, the cops approach them to reveal that they were scammed by the girls. Having lost their life savings and cheated in love, they plan a bigger heist in Delhi.

Italian - Tuesday 26 January, 8:00 pm:

- **L'INCREDIBILE STORIA DE L'ISOLA DELLE ROSE (Rose Island)**
Italy, 2020, Dir. Sydney Sibilla, w/ Matilda De Angelis, Tom Wlaschiha, François Cluzet and others, Comedy-Adventure, 117 mins, Italian-French w/ English Subtitles, Rated: PG
In 1968, engineer Giorgio Rosa established the independent state called "The Isle of Roses" off the coast of Rimini, built on a platform outside the territorial waters, with Esperanto as the official language. The Italian authorities did not take it well because the micro nation was an expedient to not pay taxes on the revenues obtained thanks to the arrival of numerous tourists and curious people.

Interesting - Wednesday 27 January, 8:00 pm:

- **BREXITANNIA**
UK-Russia, Writer-Dir. Timothy George Kelly, w/ Federico Campagna, Noam Chomsky, Heidi Mirza, Documentary, 80 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: NR
A sociological portrait of the United Kingdom after the historic Brexit vote of 2016. A funny, sometimes terrifying, and non-judgmental look at the new populist politics sweeping western democracies.

Potpourri - Thursday 28 January, 8:00 pm:

- **RAFIKI (Friend)**
Kenya-South Africa-Germany-Netherlands-France-Norway-Lebanon-UK, 2018, Writer-Dir. Wanuri Kahiu w/ Samantha Mugatsia, Neville Misati, Nice Githinji, and others, Drama-Romance, 83mins, English-Swahili w/English subtitles, Rated:R
Kena and Ziki long for something more. Despite the political rivalry between their families, the girls resist and remain close friends, supporting each other to pursue their dreams in a conservative society. When love blossoms between them, the two girls are forced to choose between happiness and safety.

Inspired by Monica Arac de Nyeko's short story "Jambula Tree", which chronicles a story of two girls in love in Uganda. The film challenges deep rooted cynicism about same sex relationships among actors, crew, friends, and family in Kenya.

International - Saturday, 30 January, 8:00 pm:

- **TENET**
UK-USA, Writer-Dir. Christopher Nolan w/ John David Washington, Robert Pattinson, Elizabeth Debicki, and others, SciFi-Thriller, 150mins, English-Russian-Ukrainian-Estonian-Norwegian w/English subtitles, Rated: PG-13
In a twilight world of international espionage, an unnamed CIA operative, known as The Protagonist, is recruited by a mysterious organization called Tenet to participate in a global assignment that unfolds beyond real time. The mission: prevent Andrei Sator, a renegade Russian oligarch with precognition abilities, from starting World War III. The Protagonist will soon master the art of "time inversion" as a way of countering the threat that is to come.

Children's Matinee - Sunday, 31 January, 4:30 pm:

- **CHARLOTTE'S WEB**
USA-Germany, 2006, Dir: Gary Winick, w/ Dakota Fanning, Julia Roberts, Oprah Winfrey, Adventure-Comedy, 97 mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: G
Wilbur the pig is scared of the end of the season, because he knows that come that time, he will end up on the dinner table. He hatches a plan with Charlotte, a spider that lives in his pen, to ensure that this will never happen.

JOSEPH LOSEY FILM FESTIVAL @ Ciné-Club Sunday 31 January, 8:00 pm:

- **THE SERVANT**
USA, 1963, Dir. Joseph Losey w/Dirk Bogarde, Sarah Miles, Wendy Craig others, Drama, 116 mins, English w/English Subtitles, Rated: NR.
This movie takes a sharp look at British class relations via a dramatic turning of the tables between a dainty Oxbridge bachelor and his contemptuous manservant. The servant slowly realizes and exploits his expanding powers over his "master" as the bachelor steadily loses his authority and becomes enslaved to his own "employee".

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