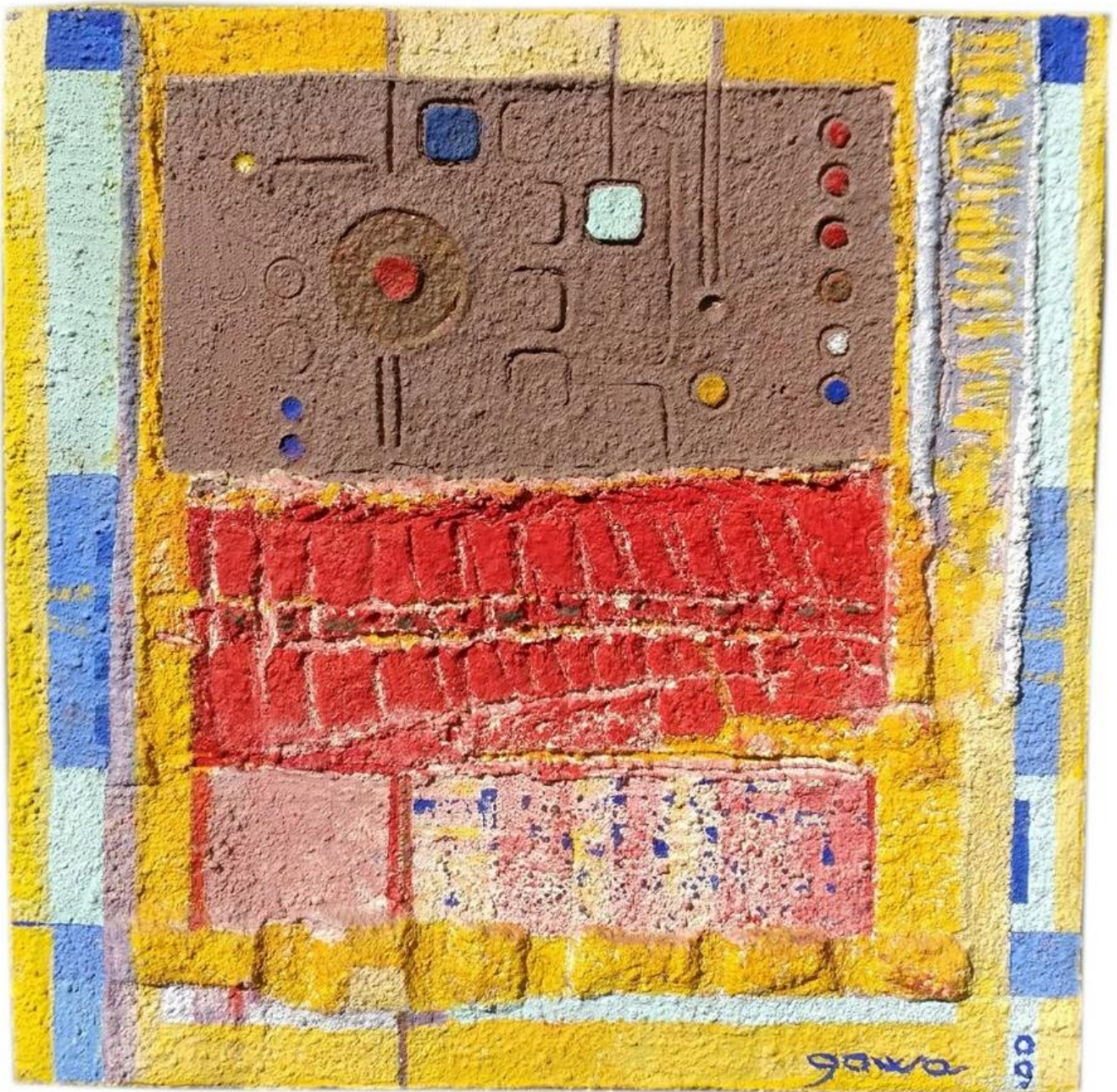


News and Notes

No 855 A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville 30th January 2021



Beauty of Band by Chantal
<https://artforland.in/>

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)

There was no step of breathing men, no sound,
Only the living nearness of the soul.
Yet all the worlds and God himself were there,
For every symbol was a reality
And brought the presence which had given it life.
All this she saw and inly felt and knew
Not by some thought of mind but by the self.
A light not born of sun or moon or fire,
A light that dwelt within and saw within
Shedding an intimate visibility
Made secrecy more revealing than the word:
Our sight and sense are a fallible gaze and touch
And only the spirit's vision is wholly true.
As thus she passed in that mysterious place
Through room and room, through door and rock-hewn door,
She felt herself made one with all she saw.
A sealed identity within her woke;
She knew herself the Beloved of the Supreme:
These Gods and Goddesses were he and she:
The Mother was she of Beauty and Delight,
The Word in Brahma's vast creating clasp,
The World-Puissance on almighty Shiva's lap, -
The Master and the Mother of all lives
Watching the worlds their twin regard had made,
And Krishna and Radha for ever entwined in bliss,
The Adorer and Adored self-lost and one.
In the last chamber on a golden seat
One sat whose shape no vision could define;
Only one felt the world's unattainable fount,
A Power of which she was a straying Force,
An invisible Beauty, goal of the world's desire,
A Sun of which all knowledge is a beam,
A Greatness without whom no life could be.
Thence all departed into silent self,
And all became formless and pure and bare.
Then through a tunnel dug in the last rock
She came out where there shone a deathless sun.
A house was there all made of flame and light
And crossing a wall of doorless living fire
There suddenly she met her secret soul.
A being stood immortal in transience,
Deathless dallying with momentary things,
In whose wide eyes of tranquil happiness
Which pity and sorrow could not abrogate
Infinity turned its gaze on finite shapes:
Observer of the silent steps of the hours,
Eternity upheld the minute's acts
And the passing scenes of the Everlasting's play.
In the mystery of its selecting will,
In the Divine Comedy a participant,

The Spirit's conscious representative,
God's delegate in our humanity,
Comrade of the universe, the Transcendent's ray,
She had come into the mortal body's room
To play at ball with Time and Circumstance.
A joy in the world her master movement here,
The passion of the game lighted her eyes:
A smile on her lips welcomed earth's bliss and grief,
A laugh was her return to pleasure and pain.
All things she saw as a masquerade of Truth
Disguised in the costumes of Ignorance,
Crossing the years to immortality;
All she could front with the strong spirit's peace.
But since she knows the toil of mind and life
As a mother feels and shares her children's lives,
She puts forth a small portion of herself,
A being no bigger than the thumb of man
Into a hidden region of the heart
To face the pang and to forget the bliss,
To share the suffering and endure earth's wounds
And labour mid the labour of the stars.
This in us laughs and weeps, suffers the stroke,
Exults in victory, struggles for the crown;
Identified with the mind and body and life,
It takes on itself their anguish and defeat,
Bleeds with Fate's whips and hangs upon the cross,
Yet is the unwounded and immortal self
Supporting the actor in the human scene.
Through this she sends us her glory and her powers,
Pushes to wisdom's heights, through misery's gulfs;
She gives us strength to do our daily task
And sympathy that partakes of others' grief
And the little strength we have to help our race,
We who must fill the role of the universe
Acting itself out in a slight human shape
And on our shoulders carry the struggling world.
This is in us the godhead small and marred;
In this human portion of divinity
She seats the greatness of the Soul in Time
To uplift from light to light, from power to power,
Till on a heavenly peak it stands, a king.
In body weak, in its heart an invincible might,
It climbs stumbling, held up by an unseen hand,
A toiling spirit in a mortal shape.
Here in this chamber of flame and light they met;
They looked upon each other, knew themselves,
The secret deity and its human part,
The calm immortal and the struggling soul.
Then with a magic transformation's speed
They rushed into each other and grew one.

- Sri Aurobindo. Savitri - A Legend and a Symbol. Part 2. Book 7: The Book of Yoga. Canto 5: The Finding of the Soul. Lines 102-201
P.S. The HOMA page on the Auroville website can be found here: <https://www.auroville.org/contents/1085>



*If you have a strong and conscious will and your will is centered around the psychic
then you can have a taste of liberty,
otherwise you are the slave of all the outside influences*



*~ The Mother
Words of the Mother, Vol. 14, p. 202*

ACRES FOR AUROVILLE in collaboration with UNITY PAVILION and AV ARTS
is very happy to announce the 2021 Edition of

ART FOR LAND - art exhibition & fundraiser for Auroville's land

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

Logos for GA, Unity, Art for Land, AVA, and AVARTS are visible at the bottom.

The 6th annual edition of **Art for Land** opens on 31st January at the Unity Pavilion. We invite you to join us as we celebrate a month of 'art with heart' by very talented artists, musicians and performers from all over. The entire month will see be devoted to our enriched art exhibition and will include concerts, performances, stimulating talks and other favorite events including the Grace Lottery and the annual Generosity Fair!

Art for Land has already made a significant contribution to Auroville's land consolidation and is a recognized showcase for the creativity of Auroville's artists, and artist friends from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, the AVIs, India and abroad. Each of the participating artists has generously donated works to support Auroville's land, and we sincerely thank them for their great generosity and the creative inspiration they share! In addition to the high-quality of the artworks and the Exhibition, there will be weekly events, with several broadcast live from the Unity Pavilion.

Works can be viewed and reserved at the Unity Pavilion (daily 10 AM to 4 PM) or online at artforland.in More information is available at unitypavilion@auroville.org.in and at (+ 91) 413 -2623576.

Join us for this new year this of solidarity, creativity and beauty!! **All proceeds from art purchase and donations at the events go to the Acres for Auroville land campaign for Auroville's still-missing lands.**

The schedule for the first great week is below. Three of these events are also land fundraisers, and we invite your support and generosity:

EXHIBITION OPENING
ON 31ST JAN 2021 AT 4.00 PM

UNITY PAVILION AUROVILLE

Join us for this dynamic inauguration event. Visit the beautifully-curated works of the exhibition, meet the participants, and move with the music!

MASKS COMPULSORY ON ENTRY
AUROVILLE COVID REGULATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED

Logos for GA, Unity, Art for Land, AVA, and AVARTS are visible at the bottom.

ART FOR LAND EXHIBITION

events

AT UNITY PAVILION AUROVILLE

2ND /4TH/ FEB 4 - 6 PM
MEET & GREET AFL ARTISTS
Meet & greet artists that have generously contributed to Art for Land. A sharing of their creative journeys, what motivates and inspires them as artists.

3RD/10TH/17TH/24TH FEB 5 - 6:30 PM
SOUND BATH WITH SVARAM
Join in an experiential space of deep relaxation through a basic tuning process and an exposure to the soothing waves and vibrations of pure acoustic instruments.

6TH/13TH/20TH/27TH FEB - 9 30 - 11 30 AM
ART MEDITATION
Engage in creative process that can lead the way into unraveling the beauty, mystery and the transformative power of the Arts Embark on a meditative art journey in discovering your creative self.
LED BY GOPIKA LIVE MUSIC NADAKA/KESHAVA

MASKS COMPULSORY ON ENTRY
AUROVILLE COVID REGULATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED

Logos for GA, Unity, Art for Land, AVA, and AVARTS are visible at the bottom.

JOIN US – THIS BEAUTY & CREATIVITY IS ALL FOR THE LAND!

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Housing Board Report - November & December 2020

8 HB Members are present during this period: Rama Narayana (Entry Board), Prabhu (Community at large), Vivek (Green Group), Xavier (Community at large), Sreevatsa (L'avenir d'Auroville on TDC related topics only) Riju (AVC), Venkatesh (Housing Service), Savithri (Housing Service). **The Quorum is fixed at 5 members**
Meetings: In person every Wednesday at the Town Hall Meeting Room /or virtual via Google Meet. The meeting on 25/11/20 was cancelled due to the cyclone.

Visits with the Housing Board: Alexey for Housing Service repairs attends every week / FAMC representatives attended every 2 weeks on 04/11, 18/11, 02/12, 16/12, 30/11 / Sundar for Housing Service 09/12 / Anbu for TDC 16/12/20 / Sacred Groves Team 30/12/20

AV Council related matters: None were finalised during this period.

L'avenir d'Auroville related matters:

- **TDC Housing Survey Presentation:** Sreevatsa for L'avenir presented the results of the Housing Survey that they carried out, which received around 300 community responses.

- **House Measurement Team:** L'avenir proposes to put volunteers in place to do any necessary house measurement work, as a way of saving money. For a valuer to do this usually costs 100rs/sqm for up to 100sqm building and 60rs/sqm for more than 100sqm buildings.

- **Joy of Impermanence MOU:** TDC has shared a MOU for JOI for feedback, this was given and the MOU was agreed.

- **Housing Development Priorities:** TDC have formulated a report regarding the Housing Development priorities in Residential Zones 1&2. They also gave a presentation to members of the Housing Group. The HDP is an important document that is intended to shape the direction of housing in Auroville for the next 10 years. Feedback from both Housing Board and Housing Service was given regarding the draft document.

- **New L'avenir member to the Board:** Anbu attended with Sreevatsa to introduce himself as the new L'avenir member. Sreevatsa will hand over slowly to Anbu.

FAMC related matters:

- **Anand Kumar** has decided not to complete his Newcomer process and has requested a refund for the flat he purchased in Vikas. The matter was referred to FAMC for a final decision.

- **New Housing Policy:** Balvinder for FAMC presented the draft new Housing Policy for members to check over and feedback. Relevant feedback was taken into consideration and included within the policy.

- **Project Holders MOU:** Building project holders have identified certain aspects of the MOU template that are not relevant to their project. It was agreed that changes to the template can be made, via a joint meeting between the project holders, Housing Board and FAMC.

- **Green Group Rep on HB:** The current Green Group rep is resigning from Green Group therefore from HB. It was agreed that, given the short period of time between now and the new Housing mandate implementation, it was possible for the Green Group member to fill the vacant Community member position on a temporary basis, to ensure stability and quorum till the new mandate is in effect and new members chosen as per new Housing Board mandate.

Housing Board/Housing Service matters:

- **Electricity connection in 2 youth apartments in Courage.** Auroswadha asked if Housing would pay for Charlie's share of the cost of individual meters to be installed for their flats, because Charlie is planning to leave Courage soon, and so does not want to invest in a new meter at this stage. It was agreed for Housing to pay the costs upfront, then the money will be recouped when the asset is transferred.

- **Housing Service 'Petrol' Allowance:** A thorough study was carried out of the allowance given to Housing Service members for their travel costs incurred through their work for Housing. The aim was to see if the allowance could be reduced as a way of reducing the overall costs of Housing during COVID. After some discussions it was felt it was not possible to reduce the allowance, however it was decided to instead look into the purchase of KINISI electrical bikes for the use of members instead, and see if investing in this way would, over time, save money & wear and tear of members personal vehicles.

- **Wastewater Treatment Contribution:** ACUR requested & the Board agreed, that Housing pay a contribution of 13,500 rs for the wastewater treatment at Town Hall.

- **New accountant in Housing Service:** It was agreed for a new accountant to be taken on for a period of 2 years, to replace Meena who is going on Maternity Leave. It is hoped that, after that time period, an Aurovilian will be appointed to fill the position. The new accountant, Kumar, attended on 02/12/20 to introduce himself to the Board.

- **Venkatesh & Savithri trial period:** Their 3 month trial period was completed and they were recommended to FAMC for confirmation.

- **Sundaramoorthy's House, Auromodele:** In order to move forward with the unresolved situation regarding the possessions belonging to Sundaramoorthy & family, it was agreed for the items to be shifted to a smaller section of the house, so that a house clearing can take place.

- **Financial Manual:** Housing will take up Svenja's kind offer to assist with a financial manual for housing.

- **Housing Service proposals regarding Newcomer Housing:** Sundar for Housing Service presented the Board with a series of proposals for how to manage the Newcomer housing stock, in ways that will assist the community with the housing crisis and utilise houses that are currently empty. Short term solutions included:

- I. To put certain empty newcomer houses for transfer.
- II. Allowing the newcomers to stay in the newcomer houses under certain conditions.
- III. Converting the houses of Aurovilian who have passed away into a 'house against recognized work'.

The Board broadly agreed with the solutions, however they suggested that instead of transferring the identified newcomer houses, the houses could be added to the pool of bridging houses. Furthermore, the criteria for those able to get a bridging house could be extended to those in emergency need, albeit only with a 3 month agreement. For newcomers to stay in newcomer houses beyond their newcomer period, it would require the proposal to be put to the community at large for agreement.

- **HB meetings:** HB agreed to increase the numbers of their weekly meetings (online) to complete the standing agenda points as much as possible, prior to the new mandate being implemented.

- **Kibu in kind maintenance:** Housing has requested for HB to recommend an in kind maintenance from BCC for Kibu, as he is giving his time to housing and they find him valuable. Although they do not doubt the contribution that Kibu makes, HB do not feel able to recommend a maintenance at this time, due to the financial difficulties brought about by COVID

- **Courage Electric Lines:** The Courage community has requested assistance paying for their electrical lines to be moved. The electrical lines for Courage cross over private land, and there was a verbal agreement with the previous landowner for them to stay in place. The new owner is not prepared to honour this. The cost to make good is around 2.22 lakh. This was agreed based on:

- An error was made originally in allowing the lines to be laid across private land.
- There are over 100 residents, so 2.22 lakh broken down per person is not unreasonably high.
- Courage residents have already paid for their electrical work installing individual meters.
- Community is adjacent to the service area where their service connections are shared.

- **Arlet & Jose House, Petit Ferme:** There was a request via email for the transfer process for the basement space, to be reopened. It was pointed out that the space, which has no natural light, was rated at the same rate as the living space. The Board agreed that

it is not possible to reopen the transfer process, as there are already 2 offers for the house following the correct process. However, the opinion of a second valuer was sought to ensure that the correct value had been applied. This valuer stated that, because the basement area uses more materials than the residential area, actually it ought to be valued at a higher rate than the other areas. Therefore the Board agreed it was correct to keep the transfer cost at the agreed rate.

Entry Topics: None finalised during this period.

House Transfers, House Sitings, Stewardships and Valuations

- **Assets left Behind by AVL's passing away:** The Board decided on the principle that assets that have been left after the passing of an Aurovilian, ought to, where possible, be presented to the community as houses against recognised work (formerly pro-bono houses). Some exceptions will be necessary, for example where a house is very large, requires high maintenance etc. In these cases, any funds from the transfers would go into new housing developments. Initial assets identified as being suitable for this process include Roma's house & Roger's house.

- **Efrat, Antakarana:** It was agreed to extend the agreement with housing for another year.

- **Mousami, House Sitting agreement:** Mousami has a house in Serenity which she would like to give as a house sitting while she lives in her personal property in Bommayapalayam. It was agreed that it is not possible for a house sitting to be given in this way.

- **Babu, Horizon:** Babu is asking for an amount from the house sitter to cover various house related expenses. Agreed.

Repair and Maintenance

- **Fraternity Tree Cutting:** Housing Service requested an amount to pay for tree cutting in Fraternity. Approved.

- **Fraternity Water Tank:** There is no water tank in Fraternity. This infrastructure is required. Approved.

- **Efrat, Antakarana:** Fence between Efrat & Antakarana needs to be fixed. Referred to the Land Board as it falls under their jurisdiction.

- **Prabhu, Auromodele:** The soak pit at Prabhu's house requires urgent repair work. Prabhu was able to contribute around 50%. Approved, without the presence or input of Prabhu due to his Board membership.

- **Creativity/ Youth apartments:** The youth apartments at Creativity need painting and new furniture. The community has offered to pay half for the new furniture but then it must be clear that the furniture should not be taken away when the occupants leave. Agreed for housing to pay 50%, and all items to be included on a Housing Service asset register.

- **Washing machine for Humanscapes:** Humanscapes needs one more new washing machine for the people from the new building. It will cost 22000 rs. Agreed.

- **Ramesh/Acceptance roof leaking/room painting:** estimate 15300 rs. Ramesh is able to contribute half. Agreed to pay 50%.

- **Certitude Electrical works:** The community requested 50% of the costs to be covered for repair to their electrical connection. Not agreed as Housing does not contribute toward infrastructure repair.

- **Mahalakshmi Senior Home:** A small interim repair, needs to be made to the roof, prior to a larger repair being carried out to fix the structural issues. Agreed to the smaller repair and 2 quotes for the larger repair were requested.

Loans and Grants

- **Grants On hold:** All grants are on hold as per BCC's instruction.

- **Ganesh, Protection:** Ganesh requested a grant for the extension of his house. Not approved because grants are not being given at this time due to the pandemic.

- **Bohdi, Fraternal Contribution:** Bodhi requested that her fraternal contribution be waived due to her financial difficulties and because of her extended absence from Auroville due to illness and the pandemic. The Housing Board decided it was not possible to give a waiver but given her difficulties, she could be offered a zero % loan to cover the contribution, which she can pay back in instalments over an extended period.

- **Aditi, Kalpana - Fraternal Contribution:** Aditi would like to move into her flat but pay her Fraternal Contribution in 6 months-time. If assurances can be shown that prove that she can pay in 6 months, then this can be sent to the Loan Group for approval. The Stewardship papers will only be signed when the FC is paid in full.

- **Arumugam, Shakti:** Arumugam requested a loan of 1,10,000 rs for the repair of his roof. It was recommended to the Loan group.

Housing Development/Youth Housing: None finalised during this period.

From AVST: Pour Tous Purchasing Service update #5

Happy 2021! Read below our latest update since you last heard from us on 25 Dec 2020 [<https://auroville.org.in/article/82839>]

We had hoped to have started the application process to explore a new team at Pour Tous Purchasing Service by now, however with the working group selection process that has been ongoing since last month, and almost completed on 21 & 22 January, the Residents Assembly Service (RAS) has not been available to initiate it. We are grateful for the RAS support and welcome their involvement in this important community process, so for us, it's 'worth the wait' :) In the meantime, in collaboration with the PTPS transition team, we developed a **short questionnaire to be completed by each Aurovilian who feels called to serve at Pour Tous as an executive.** You will be seeing this very soon in an announcement from the RAS.

We have received the financial audit report. We are very pleased to be able to report that the audit was done in full collaboration and cooperation with the current team. The audit revealed 4 accounting errors that were quickly acknowledged and addressed. There were no other issues with the PTPS accounts. The inventory audit has just been completed. Unfortunately (but as we all know), 'life happens', and there were delays caused by unforeseen circumstances for the auditor. We now look forward to receiving the inventory audit report very soon.

You can review how product prices have been reduced since the 1st of January here: https://auroville.org.in/sites/www.auroville.org.in/files/article_attachments/2021.01%20PTPS%20initial%20product%20pricing%20changes%20to%20post.pdf. You may have noticed this already. This process of repricing products will be ongoing for some time. We need to look in more detail at 'basic needs' and 'special products' and decide the best pricing structure for those. That is a work to be done when the new executive team is in place. This is one of the more obvious steps towards PTPS functioning as a service in Auroville.

We feel it is very important to share with you our report into allegations that have been made, which can be seen here: https://auroville.org.in/sites/www.auroville.org.in/files/article_attachments/2021.01.23%20PTPS%20%20irregularities%20allegations.pdf. We ask you to please refrain from asserting unproven statements in the public in all instances, not just about Pour Tous. If you have any questions or concerns, please write them to us directly at servicetrust@auroville.org.in.

We are looking forward to initiating the process to bring new energy into Pour Tous and to meeting some of you and hearing about your aspirations for the future of this community service.

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

AUROVILLE BOARD of SERVICES - Next All Services Meeting MON, 8th Feb, 3 -5 PM, Unity Pavilion

As agreed earlier, the ABS monthly meetings now take place on the second Monday of every month, so please mark the date in your calendar for your service to come and participate. Please do confirm attendance at servicelink@auroville.org.in.

The aim of the regular monthly ABS meetings is to hear and address the concerns and needs of our services, and to build together a flourishing Services and Prosperity economy for Auroville, as envisioned by the Mother.

The last ABS meeting took place on Monday 11 January 2021 at Bhumika Hall and was attended by 45 services members in good spirit. Meeting notes are available and were sent to all the services by email. **This month, the team of L'avenir/ TDC will open the meeting by presenting about their service and current situation.**

Here are the topics to be shared with you all on the 8th of Feb:

- Overview: The ABS and the ABS Coordination team.
- Update from Kavitha on the ongoing field research
- New ABS Representative in BCC - Candidates

- BCC presents its latest report + Q&A
- City Services in the Auroville Organisation
- Update from Service Trust on PTPS

We would also like to remind you of the new ABS desk in Town Hall, 1st floor (shared with ABC for a closer collaboration), with Rama as your ABS administrative member in the afternoons. The ABS Coordination team is active and meets once a week. We welcome your suggestions at servicelink@auroville.org.in. See you all there, *the ABS coordination team volunteers*



Why we fundraise for land

Auroville's red laterite soil, impoverished in organic matter, is not a fertile soil. It is suitable for fruit orchards and cashews, but not really for more intense agriculture. The quality of the soil is arable only in Annapurna farm and the western Greenbelt where it's possible to grow vegetables, rice and field crops.

Auroville started in the 70`s with organic agriculture - today we would call it "regenerative agriculture": an approach to food and farming which aims to regenerate topsoil, increase biodiversity, improve water cycles, enhance ecosystem services, support bio sequestration, increase resilience to climate fluctuation, and strengthen the health and vitality of farm soil. Auroville's farming is a prime example of all these elements of "regenerative agriculture".

In Auroville, all 4 types of organic farming are practiced: natural farming; permaculture; biodynamic agriculture; and compost-based agriculture.

Auroville's farmers are committed to working for Auroville's goal of self-sufficiency in food. However, Auroville's financial support available for investing in land - and the associated needed infrastructure - food processing capacity, irrigation systems, solar energy, training and research etc. - is very limited.

Why is fundraising for land for Auroville's organic farming a very urgent priority for Auroville and the bioregion?

The depletion of ground water resources, rapid urbanisation and growing population are major challenges for India's future food security. Growing vegetables and grains with very little water, on depleted soil, with increased costs for labour and land is the huge challenge.

Auroville's regenerative work, research and outreach in regenerating poor soils in order to grow food, and its experience in practising agriculture with greatly reduced water use, are key elements for the future for food production for India!



Auroville's experience in growing food on red laterite soil, which is very common in the tropics, is relevant worldwide.

Auroville's seedsavers for the past 20 years have created a seed bank for the preservation of traditional seeds for grains and vegetables in India.

A Seed Festival organised by SLI (Sustainable Livelihood Institute) since 2018 has brought together over 1000 farmers and visitors every year. SLI is reaching out with training programs to farmers in all Tamil Nadu districts.

Deepika from Pebble Garden received the highest national award for women for her work in preserving and propagating traditional vegetable seeds 2018.

Krishna McKenzie's (Solitude farm) initiative promoting "eat local foods" - the food available at your doorstep and used in traditional South Indian food, has gone viral in the media past months: A TEDX talk and several videoclips in TV and newspapers reached more than 50.000 people in Tamil Nadu and India. And Solitude Farm conducts regular training in permaculture.

The Scorres project, a smart irrigation project for organic farming - started with a successful pilot project in Auroville's Buddha Garden. **With only 20 % of the water usually used, an increased yield has been achieved.** This research project in cooperation with a university in the UK is now expanding to 20 pilot studies on farms in Auroville, the bioregion, Tamil Nadu and throughout India.

We urgently need to secure valuable farmland for Auroville as the "basecamp for regenerative agriculture". There is also an urgent need for investment in water conservation measures to secure the groundwater for consumption and agriculture in the bioregion.

And please enjoy your Auroville-grown organic food - it came to you through an intense labor of love!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANDRÉ HABABOU

Pavillon de France is happy to invite you to the release of André Hababou's book, written in collaboration with Christine Roland "De Tunis à Auroville"

André will be present to sign your copy on Saturday January 30th, at the Centre d'Art Atelier in Citadines (1st floor), from 4 to 6 PM.



Contacts: www.centredart.in - centredart@auroville.org.in - <https://www.instagram.com/centre.dart/>
Please park in Town Hall.

World Championships for Ultimate frisbee cancelled

I will not be requiring funds anymore. Thank you so much for the support you had given me. It makes me feel a lot better knowing how much support I got from the community, and financial reasons not being my barrier to playing for India. The World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) has cancelled it due to the Covid situation in the host countries and the increase in restrictions.

<https://wfd.f.org/2021/01/wfd-announces-major-changes-to-the-2021-events-schedule/>

Please do get in touch with me if you would like a refund for your donation. Otherwise I will save it for future ultimate frisbee endeavours. auroshree@auroville.org.in

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 069 - 30/01/2021

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

NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- Gayathiri SUDHAKAR (Indian) staying in Humanscapes and working at Gas Service

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:

- Iodya TOBAR (Spanish) staying in Maitreye I and working at Cynergy
- Richa HUSHING (Indian) staying in Felicity and working at Auroville Digital Archives and Auroville Film Institute (under Art Service)



Gayathiri



Iodya



Richa

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

- Jan BUDIN (Italian)
- Renuka POOT DIRK (Indian)

LEFT ON HIS/HER OWN:

- Christopher SMITH (British)
- Pankaj Arunkumar JANI (Indian)

NOTE:

- The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after the NC kit has been completed and returned. Be aware that the duration of the process cannot exceed 18 months from the date of confirmation.
- An Aurovilian is a resident of Auroville, aged 18 and above, whose name has been entered in the Register of Residents (RoR) as maintained by the Auroville Foundation (AVF) Office.
- The change of status from Newcomer to Aurovilian is official only once the individual has filled in and signed the B-Form and his/her name is entered into the RoR after he/she has met with the Secretary of the AVF with an appointment arranged by the Entry Service. These appointments are fixed by the Entry Service according to the availability of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, and not at any personal request of an individual.
- The Auroville Foundation processes issuing of ID cards only to the Aurovilians who are registered in the RoR.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Tamil intro sessions on Auroville

Every Tuesday, 4 - 5pm, from 2nd Feb onwards

Ms. Dhanalakshmi of Savitri Bhavan is once again starting her much appreciated introduction sessions, in the Tamil language, through which she familiarises Newcomers with the basics of Auroville and the Integral Yoga practised here. All are welcome, no need to apply. Basic Covid measures to be adhered to.

BARAKA FAIR / OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 31st January from 2:30-5pm

Baraka Horses is inviting all people interested in horses to come visit us this Sunday. Includes a flea market, snacks, riding demonstrations by students at Baraka Horses (3-4pm) and guided rides for children of all ages from 4-5 PM.

"HANGOUT" at Center Guesthouse

Saturday February 6th, 2.30 - 5 pm.

As usual you & your friends & family can come by any time you like and stay as long as you want, it's totally informal. Whether you want to play games, or just chat with friends or meet new people of all ages please do come on by and join in ... it's fun! We will have juices and coffee and tea. You are invited to bring some cake, sweets, snacks to share with all. The usual board games will be available. If you have a preferred game set at your home bring it along and look for partners to play. Seniors and all ages are welcome. - Veronique & Shivaya - Third age group

Let's talk (or remain silent) about Death, part VI
Saturday 6 Feb, 3-5pm at International Zone (IZ) Office,
Bharat Nivas campus (White Hall behind the Auditorium)

In 2020 we talked about Death four times in different locations. In 2021 we continue to do so and hope people from all ages will share their feelings and/or experiences about this special topic, or just attend remaining silent.

We will start at 3pm with coffee & cake, followed by the sharing, until around 5pm. Please book by email to quietusauroville@gmail.com. Once you have reserved, a confirmation will be sent to you. If you would like to give a donation to help us to cover the expense, our FS account is 106829 Quietus. Hope to see you soon, take care and stay healthy.

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



KINISI cares for
ALL electric vehicles

At KINISI, we give excellent service to all electric vehicles, regardless of where they were purchased. We have the expertise to maintain and repair your electric bicycle/scooter/motorcycle quickly and professionally. Just give us a call at 8300460679 to book a spot. - Your KINISI Team

Latest News Inside India

We're aware that there's been some misunderstanding. We, Inside India, have only stopped our front office "Travelshop" where we use to give advice and issue tickets. Our tours and local sight-seeing will continue as soon as international travellers will be allowed to enter India. Mr. Ganesh, who meanwhile lives in Orissa, is working for us as a consultant. Contact him directly for issuing, rescheduling etc. for all kind of ticketing by e-mail: domestic@inside-india.com or travelshop@auroville.org.in

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Experienced Video editor

Must know how to use Adobe premiere pro and well experienced. Please email serena_aurora@auroville.org.in

Professional Photoshop

Looking for a Mentor for a young Aurovilian who needs a little guidance while he is following an online course. Commitment 2-3 times a week, half an hour or so. The student will be working near the Town Hall in the mornings. FMI, call 948 960 1312, Shivaya.

MATRIMANDIR

COHERENCE

Celebrating the eternal Swarbhaskar
By moonlight in the ethereal theatre
Bharat Ratna - the rarest of the rare
Bhimsen, a legacy beyond compare

Twelve Hundred and Fifty Moons

Matrimandir Amphitheatre, 6 pm onwards, 29th Jan 2021

Bhimsen Joshi : Ragas Puriya and Jog
(Playback music curated by Chandra Pai)



Meditation at sunset with Savitri

read by Mother to Sunil's music.

Every Thursday, 5.30 to 6.00 PM (weather permitting)

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

LOOKING FOR

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.

House sitting - I just recently received a notice from the Entry Service that I am now at the end of my Newcomer process, prior to being announced as an Aurovilian. One of their requirements is a 12 mo minimum housing contract. If you are, or know anyone, looking for a single housesitter for your home, I am available. I am including the following personal profile link for your kind perusal and reference: <https://land.auroville.org/zech-inspiring-newcomer/>. Zech: +918300191193 / zechjoya@gmail.com

Housesitting - Two young women, long term volunteers, are looking for a house that we can care for & give love to. We will be more than happy to be of help while you're away. You can reach us at 758-818-2741 or tejaswini.waghulde@gmail.com.

A Co-traveller - w/ Deepa, for a cycling trip from Auroville- Sri Lanka. In case she doesn't get a boat to Sri Lanka, then she would cycle from Auroville - Bombay/Delhi. Creative Constraints: she would be travelling without phone, money and back up. Dates: 1st Mar 2021 or so. To know more write to: stigmatad@gmail.com

AVAILABLE



12V Ceiling Fans

AEP is clearing out stock and have 12V ceiling fans available, without regulator, small size, no warranty but it will be tested before you take it. AEP, CARE Building, Auroshilpam. Call us at 0413-262-2581, info@aep-auroville.com

Mixing Table Behringer Eurorack MX2004a & Multi-effect Lexicon MX 400. Contact : olivier.barot@gmail.com

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.

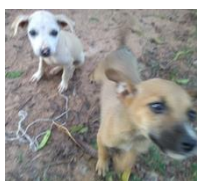
Office space & co-working space at Auromode

1. Ground floor/Co-working space of 170 sqm can be divided in 2 parts.
2. 1st floor / five office spaces, each 24 sqm
3. Ground Floor / Office space of 63 sqm

Completely new with very quiet and green surrounding atmosphere, available w/ the following facilities: generator power back-up, AquaDyn drinking water, car/bike parking, 24 hr Security service.

Contact: Pandian, General Manager, 0413-2622224 / 9943390391
pandian@auroville.org.in / auromode@auroville.org.in

Space available - A well protected 47 sqm building, opposite Aurelec, northern side available from 1st Feb. Ideal for office, workshop or show room, with generator back-up, 24H security, parking, provision for air-conditioners, high speed fiber internet access (BSNL/Aurinoco) & canteen facilities. If interested Contact Mr. Siva at 2622293/2622294, adps@auroville.org.in.



2 Puppies - absolutely adorable, healthy playful looking for a good home together. Contact Nandita nandita@sharan-india.org or 9488483286 to find out more/meet them.

GREEN MATTERS



YOUNG NATURALISTS PART V

Elay is born in England of Israeli descent, now 10 years old and a student in 4th grade. He is especially concerned about Antarctica and the plight of the penguins. He wrote the following piece which he calls *Love Nature*.

"I think we need to protect the Earth more since it's our home. The number one thing that we must worry about and tackle is Global Warming, because at some point soon we are going to



overheat our precious planet. This causes the Arctic- and Antarctic ice sheets to melt and is threatening the animals living there with extinction. Beside all the melting glaciers and ice sheets cause global sea levels to rise, endangering coastal cities. Global Warming is caused by the gasoline fumes - CO₂- that go up into the air via cars, trucks, motorbikes, factories, airplanes and trains. These trap the heat of the Sun and heat up the Earth until it's so hot that life cannot exist anymore on our beautiful planet.

Scientists have many ideas to stop Global Warming, and these are the ones I think are relevant.

- We should convert all transport vehicles to hybrids (running on part petrol, part electric) halving the amount of gasoline fumes (CO₂).

- Use as much 'alternative' natural energy as we can, like solar panels, wind turbines and energy generated by ocean waves even geo- thermal power. Leave the fossil fuels in the ground !

- My final idea is that we build basins underground and on the top we put wire mesh and the holes are so tiny that only liquid like water could trickle in, so we could preserve the water for future generations.

I believe that we need to save the Earth before it's too late, all 7 billion plus people can help by doing their bit to save our precious planet."

INDIA' S FARMERS PROTEST

Farmers – many thousands – have gathered peacefully at the doorsteps of the nation's capital, demanding that the government repeal the recently formulated agriculture-related laws. This protest should challenge us to think about why food needs to be subsidised? Why are farmers demanding price support? Are they unproductive and lazy?

The fact is that across the world – especially, in the rich world – agriculture is heavily funded by governments. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates support to this sector through what it calls producer support, as a percentage of gross farming receipts.

It finds that in rich countries like Japan, South Korea, Norway and Iceland, producer support ranged between 40 to 60 % of the gross farming receipt in 2019. In the United States it is roughly 12 % and in the EU it is 20 %. But in India it is actually negative (-5%). In other words, the farming sector, owned and managed by some of the poorest people in the world, subsidises what we eat.

In rich countries policies are gradually shifting to reward farmers not just for maximum yields, but for ecosystem services. This further puts Indian farmers at a disadvantage, because when climate change will disrupt yields, the Government will start importing food to avoid inflation.

Privatisation seems like a neutral trend towards efficiency, but it also implies a shift of power from citizens to corporations. Recent crises have shown that these are not the most reliable partners for the common good (to put it gently).

It is time we talked about the real cost of our food and about ways to support the farmers who we need to keep growing our food in ever more harsh conditions.

Source: Down to Earth

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



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city.

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

You're invited: Citizens' Assembly film showings

The Citizens' Assembly and Auroville Water Group invite you to watch some Aurovilian water players reflect on our water situation! Throughout the months of Feb/March, you will get to watch the videos, produced for Auroville's recent Citizens' Assembly on water by Outreach Media (Serena and Venkatesh), at MMC! This will include interviews with 30 Auroville water players. Mark your calendar -- the series begins this Thursday, Feb 4, and will be screened **every Thursday at 4:30pm**.

Speakers who will be featured are: Allan, Alok, Bhagwandas, Dariya, Dave, Gilles B, Giulio, Ing-Marie, Jean-François, John, Juergen, Kireet, Krishna, Luca & Bobby, Lucas, Margarita, Meenakshi, Mita R, Nagappan, Priya, Ramalingam, Renu, Ribhu, Satprem, Sreevatsa, Suhasini, Tency, Toby, Tom and Tomas.

Chapter 0 - Water Heritage (13 mins) &

Chapter 1 - Water Context (49 mins)

Thurs 4th Feb, 4.30pm, at MMC

Summary:

Chapter 0: This first video on our water heritage is a compilation that outlines the rich Tamil water heritage this land comes from and that we are part of in Auroville. Please join us on a short journey through Tamil Nadu's remarkable water history, and how this connects to the philosophy, inception and present of Auroville, as presented by Auroville community members Sreevatsa, Meenakshi, Juergen, Joss, Mita and Dave. [Link to Tamil version.](#)

Chapter 1: This video introduces various nuances of context relevant to work with water in the Auroville area: from within the community, to the larger bioregion and to global scales of climate change. Please join us in exploring the various complexities that impact water management in the Auroville area and the opportunities and dreams with community members that navigate and work in these different spaces: Allan, Juergen, Kireet and Tency. [Link to Tamil version.](#)

11th Feb: Chapter 2: Farming (43 mins), followed by Q&A with speakers

18th Feb: Chapter 3: Integrated Water Management (71 mins)

25th Feb: Chapter 4: Water Quality (39 mins) & Chapter 5: Spiritual Properties & Healing (33 mins)

4th March: Chapter 6: Water Governance & Planning (40 mins), followed by Q&A with speakers

11th March: Chapter 7: Education & Awareness (39 mins), followed by Q&A with speakers


18 March: "The Making of the Citizens' Assembly", further details to follow. See you there!

50 Years of Permaculture at Auroville

You're invited to watch this 13-min video: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcYL5Uya5MU&feature=youtu.be>).

Summary from link: Permaculture instructor Andrew Millison [USA] journeys to India to film 50 years of permaculture in the epic eco-township of Auroville. We tour a number of sites within the vast project, including the Sadhana Forest, a series of check dams in the Auroville canyons, and the biological water treatment systems prevalent throughout the community. Guided by a number of Auroville residents, we visit the work and see the effects of a region-wide reforestation and groundwater restoration project that has dramatically improved the lives, economy, ecology and stability of this visionary settlement!

Edible Weeds Exploration w/ the Coloring Book



It is important that as a basic skill for climate change adaptation, we start recognizing the naturally growing weedy herbs around us and their usage

Come and join Nina to discover and learn to recognize the fresh, edible weedy herbs that are featured in the coloring book "Edible Weeds and Naturally Growing Plants in Auroville".

Date: Saturday, 6 February 2021
Starting Time: 7:30am
Place: In Auroville. Details will be communicated after registration (max 10 on first come basis)
Duration: 1hr. Can take 1.5hrs

Contribution: Please find details at the time of registration

What to Bring: - If you have, your copy of the Edible Weeds coloring book. There will be a few copies to use during the walk. Other items: Notebook, Pen/Pencil, basic camera, comfortable clothing, and footwear, drinking water, hat, and mosquito repellent

Contact / Registration:
 Archana Saraf WhatsApp /SMS
 @ +91 8628955394

Photo: NinaS



We hope you all had an happy Republic Day!. You can hear a summary of all new episodes on Sundays starting at 9am in our stream channel. 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:

- [Savitri, B. VII, C. VII, Part 1](#) (Integral Yoga)
 - [What do you know - ep.3](#) (Yoga & philosophy)
 - [Marlenka's Weekly Offering - ep.18](#) (Sri Aurobindo)
 - [Neo Urban Chronik - "Interview of Elizabeth Greenflower on her book "I am Nothing - I am All" \(Humour\)](#)
 - [Audible Weed Walk - ep.26 "Does foraging make us different?"](#) (Food education)
 - [Aarohan - ep.15 "Night Melodies"](#) (Music)
 - [Une série hebdomadaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi - 345](#) (Integral yoga)
 - [Happiness, Love and Laughter - "Feed Happiness"](#) (Wellness)
- ...and more! on www.aurovillerradio.org. For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in. Peace and Love

An update on the skies

A planet is said to be in retrograde motion when it *appears* to be moving backward in relation to the fixed stars. Imagine you were riding in a bus and another bus passed you by, then you would say it is going faster than you. But if it slowed down and you passed it, then it would appear as though that bus was moving backward. This is what happens during a retrograde period - the planet *appears* to have changed its course as viewed from Earth. Now, **Mercury will retrograde 3 times in 2021: 31st January to 21st February; 30th May to 23rd June & 28th September to 18th October.** As you read this, Mercury would have slowed down, and possibly coming to a halt before starting to move backward till 21st Feb. So what does this mean for us as a community? What do the ancient Indian texts have to say about this? If you're interested, details are here: <https://www.allthingsvedic.in/post/mercury-retrograde>.
 -submitted by Vikram D.

Diamonds in the Sky

Once a great Chinese sage slept and had a dream: he was a moth and flew from one flower to the other. Afterwards the sage awoke but he couldn't understand: maybe the moth was his dream or is he now the dream of the moth? Equally I saw myself in the space above India by night. Was it dream or reality? I don't know, but I remember that the sky was clear and it was possible to see the big cities like the giant stars but in the mist of pollution. And Auroville twinkled like a little star, a small diamond. Such new stars the astronomers name "supernovas".

I tried to see Auroville's Nature camp near Kavunji village, not far from Kodaikanal. No success. The camp has solar batteries, but at night from the space it was completely dark. Auroville looked thus in 1968. For 12 years I visited our camp, which lies ~500 km west of Auroville: it was really like the Wild West for Aurovilians. Sometimes our buses began the journey at night, and for me it was like a pilgrimage through the Milky Way. Before Kodaikanal the road transforms into a serpent, with many ascending bends. Actually this region has the name shola, it means the ecosystems where the anthropogenic influence was minimal. Thrice I visited our camp near Berijam Lake. This lake has an artificial origin, and lies 2130 meters above sea level. Sholas are very close to the lake. The new camp location near Kavunji village is at ~ 1800 meters. Near the camp are farms now, not sholas. But for star gazing this place is better than the previous one. I was happy once to see the polar (North) star and the Southern Cross constellation.

Auroville needs its own telescope or even astronomical observatory, and the camp near Kavunji would be the best place for it. I hope that someday there is a platform which becomes the starting place for travelling to the stars - diamonds of the sky! It is possible to say that Auroville is a microcosm, but that someday, Aurovilians would reach the macrocosmos. -Boris



Illuminating initiatives around food sovereignty at

LOCAL PONDY FOOD SYSTEM

Feb 3rd - Feb 9th, 2021

Hosted by: French Institute of Pondicherry

Feb 3rd (Wed):

Inauguration, photography exhibition, a training session on Vegetable diversity and Seed Saving techniques

Feb 4th (Thurs):

Farm visits and workshops on beekeeping in PS Palyam

Feb 5th (Fri):

Farm visit to Oraiyur, workshop on preservation of biodiversity in the context of climate change, and debate with SHG women groups on the impact of COVID 19 on local food

Feb 6th (Sat):

Cycle tour of food gardens, Talk on herbs for health, Kirai and Kolam training session

Feb 7th (Sun):

Farmer's market: Food fair, talks, and sessions

Venue: Arboretum, French Institute of Pondicherry

Feb 8th and 9th (Mon and Tue):

Discussions & Debates on 'Food as a commons', 'Food, health and nature', 'Food justice and democracy', and 'Rural (female) entrepreneurs'

Venue: Alliance Française

For registration and more details, contact:

9677999369 | ifs2021@ifpindia.org

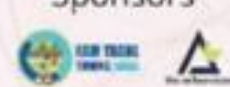
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CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Auro Talks

Fri 29th Jan, 4-6 pm, Mohanam Hall

We at Mohanam are happy to announce and invite you to Mohanam's 'Youth Voice- Auroville & Bioregion' initiative called **Auro Talks**. In association with our Youth Voice magazines

focusing on the youth in and around Auroville, we are now creating a platform to showcase inspiring stories of people amongst us. Join us in our first AuroTalks event this Friday for an evening full of ideas, visions and stories.

Speakers: Mr Raman: Founder of RC construction. Raman being 11 during the inception of Auroville has an interesting perspective on the mother's philosophy

Wellpaper: A walk through the women's empowerment initiative that incorporates upcycling into a commercially successful model.

Deepa & Calvin: Travellers breaking the barriers created in our minds about the concept of travel by cycling from Delhi to Auroville in 61 days all with no finances.



"Song of the Sea"

Fri 29th Jan, 8 PM at MMC, Town Hall

Directed by Tomm Moore, Ireland, 2014

Synopsis: Song of the Sea is an animated film co-produced in five European countries (Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, and France). The film tells the story of Ben and his little sister Saoirse - the last Seal-child - who embark on a fantastic journey across a fading world of ancient legend and magic in an attempt to return to their home by the sea... Song of the sea, takes inspiration from the mythological "Selkies" of Irish folklore, who live as seals in the sea but become humans on land. A piece of art that will delight audiences old and young and confirms that Moore is a master storyteller and a complete artist (of the same Irish studio "Cartoon Saloon" that made The Bread Winner we have screened few months ago at MMC.) English version with English subtitles - Duration: 1h31'

* * * *

"PHOTOGRAPH"

FRI 5th FEB, 8PM, MMC AUDITORIUM, Town Hall

Written, directed and co-produced by Ritesh Batra, India, 2019 With » Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Sanya Malhotra and Farrukh Jaffar

Synopsis: Under pressure to wed, down-at-heel street photographer Rafi persuades Miloni, a young woman whose photograph he took, to pose as his fiancée. As their well-meaning subterfuge grows more complex, a timid romance develops despite differences of religion, caste and means (Rafi sleeps on a crowded floor; Miloni has a servant). All the ingredients for a colourful Bollywood musical are there, but R. Batra (The Lunchbox) is more interested in the reality of modern India, setting his slow-cooked romance against the beating heart of a city so authentically drawn you can almost smell the street food... Original Hindi/English version with English subtitles - Duration: 1h48' - Please follow the current sanitary regulations.

* * * *



Aurofilm & AV Film Institute present:

CINE-Master Class, Saturday 30th Jan 5.00 - 7.30 PM at Aurofilm, Kalabhoomi

If you like to discuss, share and learn more about films and Cinema, we invite you to our Cine-Master classes! Welcome to the 6th chapter with Prof. Sehdev Kumar will present "HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR"

Directed by Alain Resnais, France, 1959, Duration 1:32'. With: Emmanuelle Riva, Eiji Okada, Stella Dassas, Pierre Barbaud
Overview: In the embrace of an unexpected and casual love, what does a forlorn heart wish to remember, or obliterate from memory, are at the heart of this 1959 film by one of the most celebrated French New Wave film directors, Alain Resnais. Set in Hiroshima, in memory of the horrifying destruction wrought by the atom bomb in August 1945, quite unexpectedly the roving mind of the lovers and the hesitant images in the film both drift like a restless tongue trying to heal an aching tooth.



In collaboration with distinguished literary figures, [Marguerite Duras](#) and [Alain Robbe-Grillet](#), this film, in its style and its exploration of the nature of memory, became a certain special signature, at once subtle and unique, of all of Alain Resnais' many other films that followed: L'Année dernière à Marienbad (1961), La Guerre est finie (1966), Mon oncle d'Amérique (1978), all exploring, in one seething image after another, the horror of forgetting and the excruciating longing for a memory beyond consolation. Perhaps in reversal of Descartes', "I Think, therefore I am", Resnais' characters seem to suggest, "I Remember, and hence I Become."

In presenting this film, Prof. Sehdev Kumar will briefly comment on the role of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in our collective civilizational trauma, and will explore the neurological basis of memory and suffering in the light of huge number of suicides being committed by American veterans returning from the war in Afghanistan. After the screening of "Hiroshima Mon Amour", all are invited to participate in an open discussion about the film. Film in its Original French version with Engl. Subtitles. Discussion will be in English.

Sehdev Kumar is a Professor Emeritus in Canada, and a long-time teacher of "International Films & The Human Condition" at the University of Toronto.

We follow the Covid-19 SOP. FYI, the Aurofilm building is half open-air. Please carry your torch light.



Odissi & Kathak

Sat 30th Jan 4 - 5 PM, Harmony Hall, Bharat Nivas

Danseuse Yogini will conduct an orientation session on Odissi and Kathak dance. This session is open for students between the ages of 6-16 yrs. who wish to pursue learning the above Indian Classical dance styles. The introductory sessions will be followed by two open house teaching sessions:

Kathak - Tuesdays 16th and 23rd Feb 4-5 PM, Harmony Hall
Odissi - Saturdays 20th and 27th Feb 4-5 PM, Harmony Hall

Regular classes will commence from March.

Film: PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS OF THE MOTHER - Introduction and Background

Monday 1st Feb, 4 PM at SAVITRI BHAVAN. Duration: 42min.

Sri Aurobindo wanted The Mother's *Prayers and Meditations* to be published, and he himself translated several of the prayers into English. In 1941, the book was printed with the following comment by the Mother: "This book comprises extracts from a diary written during years of intensive yogic discipline. It may serve as a spiritual guide to three principal categories of seekers: those who have undertaken self-mastery, those who want to find the road leading to the Divine, those who aspire to consecrate themselves more and more to the Divine Work."

The Mother wrote in the very first prayer, dated 2nd November 1912, about her challenges and struggles, and described how she did the inner work: "It has taken me several weeks to learn that the reason for this written meditation, its justification, lies in the very fact of addressing it daily to Thee. In this way I shall put into material shape each day a little of the conversation I have so often with Thee;...How many times a day, still, I act without my action being consecrated to Thee;...await from Thee the inspiration and strength needed to set right the error in me and around me,—two things that are one ..." We shall become compassionate with ourselves and others when we learn about the Mother's own struggles, efforts, her humility, and utmost dedication to the Divine. The world we live in is going through a similar challenging phase. Great changes are taking place and two kinds of forces are highly active at present: the forces of the new creation and the forces of extreme destruction. We are entering a new age where we will go beyond duality, experiencing Divine oneness and the Supreme wisdom working through everyone and in everything.

If you'd like to see this video-talk by Dr. Alok Pandey at home, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLehjFGTk7s>

We welcome you for a session with Dr. Arun Sharma on:

स्वाधीन स्वास्थ्य महाविद्या

Also known as **Nature Cure** or **The Divine Science of Health**



Dr Arun Sharma has guided countless beings to live a healthy life (and cure all kinds of diseases) through simple and timeless laws of nature.
- imanah.com
- akarma.life/inspiration/

"Nature is the all-round healer."
- The Mother

Every living being is endowed with self-repairing, self-maintaining, and self-improving intelligence. Faith in this intelligence (and Divine Grace) with optimal supply of 5 elements of ether, air, fire (sun), water and earth based foods is a key aspect of Nature Cure. If this is understood and applied well, you can be your own doctor with five-fold food as the only 'medicine'.

Dr Arun Sharma will share insights on Integral Health through key verses in Sanskrit (translated in English/Tamil) along with suggestions on daily practices for healthy living.

ॐ SUNDAY - 31 JANUARY, 2021
6:30 AM SUNRISE TO 11:30 AM
PROGRESS HALL, BHARAT NIVAS

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

SACRED SONG CIRCLE

Monday 1st February, 5 to 6.30 pm, Pavilion of Tibetan Culture

Bring your instruments and songs and open your heart
Please be on time to avoid disruptions. Park outside the gate



February 2021 Offerings Exhibitions

B H A V A N Meditations on Savitri - The series of 472 paintings created by the Mother with Huta from 1961-67 is now on display in the newly extended picture gallery
Glimpses of the Mother: Photographs and texts In the upper corridor

Sri Aurobindo: A life sketch in photographs In the square hall till 15.2.2021

Special Exhibition - Divine Flowers Feb.21-28 in the Square Hall and in the garden

Films, Mondays 4pm

Feb 1: Prayers and Meditations of The Mother - Introduction and Background. Dr. Alok Pandey speaks about how the book came into existence and elaborates the first Prayer dated 2nd November 1912. Duration: 42min.

Feb 8: Mother's Prayers and Meditations July 21 and 23, 1913. One prayer is about patience and how to call upon the Divine and the other expresses Mother's aspiration of Love for earth and humanity, presented by Dr. Alok Pandey. Duration: 27min.

Feb 15: Mother's Prayers and Meditations January 9, 1914: O LORD, unseizable reality. This prayer is an invitation to endless progress and evolution and Dr. Alok Pandey investigates many aspects about the totality of the Divine. Duration: 52min.

Special Films during Birthday week

Feb 23: Richard Pearson's talk on The Mother & Flowers. Duration: 77min.

Feb 24: The Teachings of Flowers-The Life and Work of The Mother of Sri Aurobindo Ashram. Duration: 121min.

Feb 26: Flowers and Their Messages - Video-talk by Narad at Savitri Bhavan on February 21, 2020. Duration 55min.

Full Moon Gathering Fri 26 Feb, 7-8pm in front of Sri Aurobindo's statue

Regular Activities

Sun 10.30-12 noon: Savitri Study Circle

Mon & Tues 3-4pm: Psychic Awakening led by Dr. Jai Singh

Tues, Fri, Sat 4-5pm: L'Agenda de Mère: listening to recordings w/ Gangalakshmi

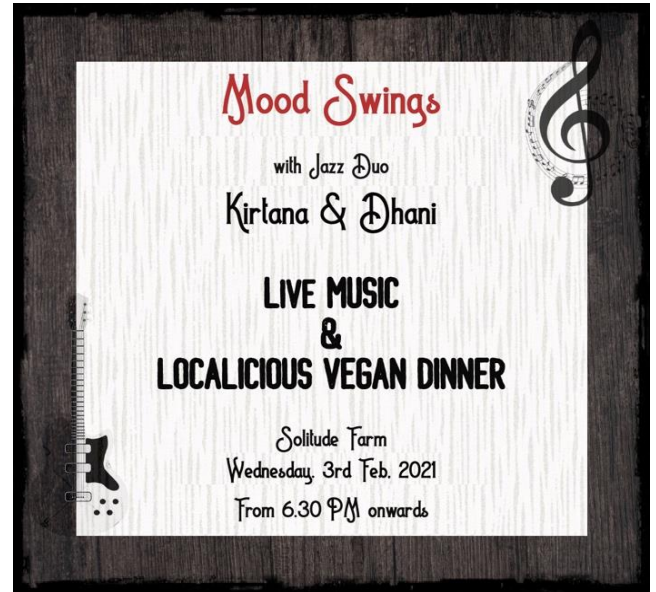
Wed 9-10am & Sat 3-4pm: Introduction to Integral Yoga, led by Ashesh Joshi

Fri 3-4pm: Reading of the Mother's Commentaries on the Dhammapada, led by Dr. Jai Singh

Sat 4-5.15pm: Satsang, led by Ashesh Joshi

Exhibitions, Main Building and Office are open Monday to Saturday 9-5, Library is open Monday to Friday 9-5, The Digital Library can be accessed on request Monday to Friday 9-4

Everyone is welcome



AV Art Service - basket of the week



1. SUZIE SHARES the beautiful and inspiring poem written for the inauguration of the President of the USA, along with an interview with the young poet. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHhut5nh18g>

2. CENTRE D'ART OFFERS A FREE WORKSHOP - The Visual Conundrum - an introductory workshop through moving images by Aravindan G P on Feb 5 and 6. Deadline for registration is 30 Jan To register and for details, email centredart@auroville.org.in

3. PAVILLION OF TIBETAN CULTURE EXHIBITION - Points & Lines, Qi Gong on Canvas, by Andres Lokuta. On show until Tues 2nd Feb.

4. AUROVILLE TIMELINES AND AUROVILLE FILM INSTITUTE ONLINE COURSE - Study Lynch's Mulholland Drive, shot by shot, with Kamal Swaroop on 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/>

5. GUUS SHARES COLORFUL VIGNETTES - "There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it", an old Aurovilian, Guus shares his musings and journeys on <https://lucidpanorama.blog/2021/01/24/there-is-always-light/>

6. 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 <https://integralinspirations.vhx.tv/>

7. FREE SHORT FILMS ON MYFRENCHFILMFESTIVAL.COM - Jan 15 - Feb 15 watch 10 short French films for free on. There is a fee for feature length films.

The Pavilion of Tibetan Culture and the German Pavilion cordially invite you for the Exhibition Project

"Temple Tree"

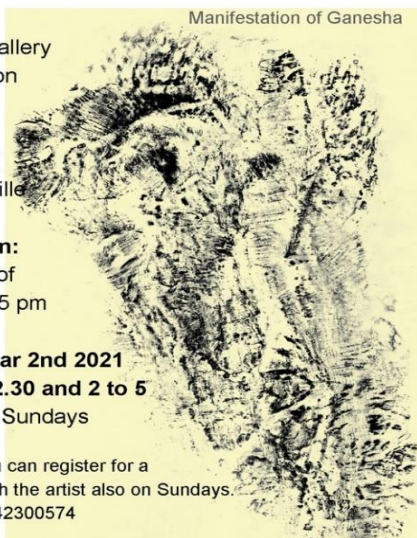
Magical Bark Prints by Birgitta Volz

Venue:
Exhibition Gallery
at the Pavilion
of Tibetan
Culture
International
Zone, Auroville

Inauguration:
Sunday, 7th of
February at 5 pm

Feb 8th – Mar 2nd 2021
from 9 to 12.30 and 2 to 5
daily except Sundays

As a group you can register for a
guided tour with the artist also on Sundays.
Please call 9442300574



Bamboo Toys/ Bamboo Musical Instruments/ Bamboo Jewelleries, Every day in the month of February w/ advance booking, 10.00 am to 12.00pm or 2pm to 4pm. The program will consist of learning inputs: theory, instruction, demonstration, and practical work.

Contributions requested from guests/ Volunteers. **Flexible training dates offered to groups.** Contact: 2623806, 2623394, 8300949081, bambooworkshop@auroville.org.in
www.aurovillebamboocentre.org



JIVA - your journey in healing and transformation

www.auroville-jiva.com, WA: 9626006961.
contact@auroville-jiva.com

Mirrabelle offers "Natural Horsemanship"
FMI, See Regular Activities doc

FASTING, PRANIC LIFESTYLE & CONSCIOUS EVOLUTION 2nd February at Bharat Nivas, Progress Hall at 5 PM

Presentation, guided meditation, Q&A by Elitom Elamin, internationally acknowledged expert of prolonged fasting, living without the need for food or water.

Followed by 5 day fasting retreat at JOY guesthouse. Set your life transforming goals and join this unique retreat: 3rd - 7th of February daily 9 to 12 AM & 3 to 6 PM Fasting and the state of digestive emptiness bring automatically the SPIRIT in charge of the BEING, if done repeatedly. This state unlocks the energetic bodies and obliges the ego to withdraw momentarily. It becomes an integral part of the self-discipline necessary to embark on a journey of conscious evolution & of physical transformation.

Registration Egle WA: 9488047368, contact@auroville-jiva.com

"Holistic Deep Relaxation"

Fri 5 Feb, 2-5 PM & Sat 6 Feb, 9 AM-noon

Experiment and learn a unique body-mind relaxation technique. Subtlety, energy and touch healing are the key words for this soft alternative healthy tool. **Facilitator** : Camille is a psychomotricity therapist, and psychologist specialized in relaxation techniques, and especially working with special needs children, with +10years of professional experience (all age). Contact@auroville-jiva.com WA 9626006961



Quiet Healing Center

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

Somatic Movement Workshop w/ Maggie, Sat 30th Jan, 9.30 am -- 5.00 pm) Open to all - no previous experience required.

Watsu & OBA Basic w/ Dariya & Daniel,

Mon 8th - Sat 13th Feb, 1 - 6 pm (first day starts at 1.15 PM)

Watsu & OBA are aquatic bodywork modalities given in a warm water pool (ideally 35°C). Watsu introduces the qualities and body mechanics required to work with someone on the water surface in order to create a profound state of both physical and mental relaxation. During the OBA part the receiver is also brought under water (with nose clip), which offers a unique experience. In this course, you will practice basic techniques and qualities (grounding, presence, stillness, movement, attention) of being and moving another body in water. You will experience floating other people and being floated, on the surface and under water, thereby creating space for deep relaxation and nurturing body, mind and spirit. No previous experience required!

See all of Quiet's ongoing Regular classes in the February Regular Activities addendum!

Posture, precision and power in self-defence with Hans
3 sessions, Tuesdays 2, 9, 16 February at 4.30-6 PM @ Budokan, Dehashakti. No sparring. Open to all.



Finger Painting with Anushka at CREEVA
Tuesday 5-7pm. confirm your reservation at least a day before. WA: 852-701-6228

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Native American Flute Basics & Meditation

3-DAY WORKSHOP
for beginners and intermediates
Every Fridays to Sundays
From 10.30 am to 4 pm

You will learn:
- The scale song
- Improvisation
- Playing a simple poem
- Playing from the ♥

This amazing flute is very easy
After 3 days everyone can play
like this:
youtu.be/Nu9dDyG2XIM
in his own unique style

May our music
take us
where our souls
want to go

Sitara
tara@auroville.org.in
WhatsApp
9751798408
YouTube Channel:
Sitara Tanja Ritzheim

Private lessons available

Bamboo Centre Training Program for Feb



Auroville Bamboo Centre runs many workshops throughout the year for visitors who book and pay for the courses. We do have various conditions that we hope you understand and agree.

TRAINING AND WORKSHOP - The importance of Bamboo as an Eco-friendly raw material capable of meeting many needs and is gaining global acceptance among many people. Being a natural gift to mankind, bamboo is very popular due to its multipurpose use, fast growth, easy propagation, soil binding properties and short gestation period.

Training to individuals and groups in:

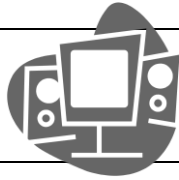
Bamboo Construction Workshop, 10th to 13th February

Bamboo Furniture Workshop, 17th to 20th February

Bamboo Joineries Workshop, 23rd to 25th February

Guided Tour (20 min) Daily except Sun, 10.30 to 12.30 & 2 to 4.30

News & Notes #855 - 30th January 2021



Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium
Film program 1 February 2021 to 7 February 2021

Cinema Paradiso-Multimedia Center are fully operational. We offer 53 seats now. Mask is a must (and not scarves etc.) Standard Covid19 protocols will be followed. The screenings are now open to ALL. If anything changes in this arrangement we will inform.

Indian - Monday 1 February, 8:00 pm:

- **SIRI (Working partner)**

India, 2020, Writer-Dir Apurva Dhar Badgaiyann w/ Jitendra Kumar, Ritika Badiani, Bhuvan Arora, and others, Documentary, 90mins, Hindi w/English subtitles, Rated: G
You have heard about farmers issues. When last did you read a story/watch a film about the farmworkers? Rarely. In this film by the National Award-winning director the protagonist is a dalit farmworker in Punjab named Chand Singh. Rough patch in his life seems never ending. He spent his savings to treat his wife but could not save her. His siri, Kitu had decided to borrow money to invest in farms with disastrous results. Misfortunes follow until he turns around and finds ally along the way. Screened in the Cannes Film Festival; this acclaimed, and crowd funded film is deemed by the critiques as a must see to understand the caste dynamics in the farming sector of Punjab. The film has been shared with us by the director who may be available online for a brief Q&A after the screening.

Favorite- Tuesday 2 February, 8:00 pm:

- **BUFFALO '66**

USA-Canada, 1998, Writer-Dir. Vincent Gallo w/Vincent Gallo, Christina Ricci, Ben Gazzara, and others, Comedy-Drama, 110 mins, English w/English Subtitles, Rated: R
Convict Billy Brown dreads going home so much upon his release from prison that he tries to get back inside. In desperation, Billy kidnaps Layla from a tap dancing class and pleads with her to impersonate his wife and to accompany him home to visit his parents, Janet and Jimmy. To Billy's dismay, Layla takes to her role enthusiastically. She breaks through to obsessive Buffalo Bills football fan Janet and the hard-edged Jimmy.

Interesting - Wednesday 3 February, 8:00 pm:

- **PLANET OF THE HUMANS**

USA, 2019, Writer-Dir. Jeff Gibbs w/Catherine Andrews, David Blood, Michael Bloomberg, and others, Documentary, 100mins, English, Rated: NR (PG-13)
The film boldly states that we humans on earth losing the battle to stop climate change on planet earth because we are following leaders who have taken us down the wrong road - selling out the green movement to business interests and corporate sector. This film is the wake-up call to the reality we are afraid to face that during a human-caused extinction event, the environmental movement's answer is to push for techno-fixes and band-aids. It's too little, too late. Have we environmentalists fallen for illusions, "green" illusions? *A must watch and much debated.*

French - Thursday 4 February, 8:00 pm:

- **PUPILLE (In safe hands)**

France-Belgium, 2018, Dir. Jeanne Herry w/Sandrine Kiberlain, Gilles Lellouche, Elodie Bouchez, and others, Drama, 115mins, French w/ English subtitles, Rated PG

Theo was born an unwanted child. The social services set out to find the perfect home for his adoption.

International - Saturday, 6 February, 8:00 pm:

- **THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7**

USA-UK-India, 2020, Writer-Dir Aaron Sorkin w/ Eddie Redmayne, Alex Sharp, Sacha Baron Cohen, and so on, History-Thriller, 129mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: R

The film is based on the infamous 1969 trial of seven defendants charged by the federal government with conspiracy and more, arising from the countercultural protests in Chicago at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The trial transfixed the nation and sparked a conversation about mayhem intended to undermine the U.S. government.

Children's Matinee - Sunday, 7 February, 4:30 pm:

- **HORRIBLE HISTORIES THE MOVIE: ROTTEN ROMANS**

UK, 2018, Dir: Dominic Brigstocke, w/ Sebastian Croft, Emilia Jones, Nick Frost and others, Comedy, 92mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG

Atti, a smart and quick-witted Roman teenager, manages to upset Emperor Nero with one of his schemes. For punishment, Atti is sent to work in a cold and wet Britain where he also meets the Celts.

JOSEPH LOSEY FILM FESTIVAL @ Ciné-Club Sunday 7 February, 8:00 pm:

- **KING & COUNTRY**

USA, 1964, Dir. Joseph Losey w/Dirk Bogarde, Tom Courtenay, Leo McKern others, Drama-War, 86 mins, English w/English Subtitles, Rated: NR.

During World War I, the British troops are entrenched at Passchendaele, Belgium. Amongst the volunteers, there is a young British soldier, Private Arthur James Hamp, who is the sole survivor of his original company having spent three years in the trenches he simply decides to leave the war behind him and walk all the way home to Britain.

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