

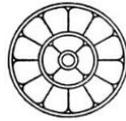
# NEWS AND NOTES

#867 A WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR RESIDENTS OF AUROVILLE 24TH APRIL 2021



24<sup>th</sup> April 1920 - The Mother's final return to Pondicherry

# HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



(continued from last week)

4 July 1970

**The Mother:** The body has itself reached that point, it finds it very difficult to feel a separate existence for itself, and (*laughing*) curiously that's only (*Mother touches her cheek*), only when it's in pain. For instance, I constantly have a toothache, here (this area as I told you [*Mother points to her mouth and throat*]), and that's it, it's the only thing that gives me the sense of being "my body" It doesn't feel separate. So I think that's the natural condition for the normal development.

You understand, the impression of "feeling" in a certain way, of "thinking" in a certain way, all that has completely vanished: you receive indications - sometimes of the way this person feels or that one reacts - but that's when a work needs to be done: it's an indication, and it's something taking place there, like this (*gesture around, some distance away*), it's not within.

No, I looked several times: I've always had the impression that things are fine (I mean for you), that the progress is quite fine. You're on the way. It's all right. And I find a great change.... There's only one corner, maybe of the speculative mind, that still has an attitude of its own - high enough in the mind, not an ordinary mind, a mind... (*gesture above*). But that's nothing. (*silence*)

But it's rather strange, I could put it this way: it's about the only part (*gesture from the cheek to the chin*) that's conscious of the way people are and of what comes from them, and which still has reactions we could call "personal." That is to say, if the atmosphere is troubled, well, there's disorder [in that part in Mother], it's subject [to the outside disorder] and that seems to be the only part. Otherwise, all the rest is... as if bathed, constantly bathed in the Divine, and automatically everything goes to the Divine. The divine Will goes through (*gesture of descent and diffusion through Mother*) and causes it to act - automatically. So then, at certain times, for some reason or other, the body calls (the mantra I told you), and as a result... (*gesture of dilation*) suddenly the cells go into a bliss - it only lasts a minute (not even a minute, a few seconds), but the simple fact of saying that, and it's bliss. Afterwards, everything starts up again (*gesture indicating the normal rhythm*). It's very interesting.

I think (the other day you told me something was wrong in your body), I think that on those spots that aren't yet on the way to transformation, there's an increase, as though a concentration of the difficulty: one feels more ill at such spots.

The only possible thing is... (*Mother opens her hands*) the peace of total surrender, like this (*absolutely flat gesture, vast, immutable*): come what may. There. Then things are fine.

I noticed that if, on the trouble spot, one can establish that peace - a total peace, you know, the peace of perfect surrender: abdicate all preoccupation, all aspiration, all, all like this (*same vast, immutable gesture*), then it helps restore order. (*Mother takes Satprem's hands*)

It's fine. It's fine.

Only, for people who don't know that, appearances are misleading: they feel more ill, they have attacks, things of that sort. So they don't understand anymore. (*long silence*)

I had, countless times, the experience that when the body can catch hold of that attitude (completely, I mean, even beyond the aspiration to union or to transformation: **THIS WAY** [*same vast gesture*]), it's almost miraculous, instantaneous. But with a wrong movement it comes back. It's not established permanently - how do you manage to do that? I don't know.... Probably there should no longer be anywhere the presence of the possibility of a wrong movement. But that's difficult....

You breathe, you eat, you... and it's the Divine.

If I were to tell in detail what goes on, it's absolutely wonderful!... For instance, while eating, when the body keeps its true attitude and the perception of the Divine presence in all things, and naturally in what it absorbs, and when it absorbs it automatically with that attitude, without any contradiction, everything takes place without any difficulty. To such a point that if the attitude "deteriorates" (whatever), things can go to... (*gesture of choking*) swallowing the wrong way, like that, in the space of a few seconds.

It's clearly a transitional period, but how long will it last? I don't know.... The harmony of the functioning is becoming... miraculous - miraculous. Only, it's not automatic, it still depends on the attitude. It's not something that imposes itself, it's a consequence.

– Volume 11. 1970: Agenda of the Supramental Action Upon Earth

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## Collective Meditation under the Banyan Tree 24th April 2021, 6 - 6:30 AM

101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Mother's Final Arrival in  
Pondicherry on 24th April 1920.

For Aurovilians, Newcomers and Aurocard Holders only.

### Entrance from the Office Gate from 5.45 AM

Strict SOP to be followed. *Bonne Fete!*

\* \* \*

*Significance of the flowering offering on this occasion:*

*The coming together upon earth  
of The Mother and Sri Aurobindo – Aditi and Avatar –  
the white and the pink lotus,  
to establish a perfect manifestation –  
the Supramental world – the square –  
with Auroville as its cradle  
and the Banyan Tree as its physical centre.*



Matrimandir and the Park of Unity is open  
**everyday from 6 to 8 am & 4:30 to 6.30 pm**  
(for Aurovilians, Newcomers and Volunteers  
holding a valid Matrimandir Pass). Volunteers'  
place of work needs to send an email to  
[mmconcentration@aurville.org.in](mailto:mmconcentration@aurville.org.in) to be considered for the pass.



*The goal of yoga is always  
hard to reach, but this one is  
more difficult than any other,  
and it is only for those  
who have the call, the capacity,  
the willingness to face everything and every risk,  
even the risk of failure, and the will to progress....*



–Sei Aurobindo  
Letters on Yoga, p.545



## ACRES FOR AUROVILLE Land Campaign –24 April 2021

### The Mother's final arrival in 1920 to join Sri Aurobindo

In March 1914, 6 days before The Mother first met Sri Aurobindo, she wrote in her diary: *"It is impossible that in every terrestrial action there should not be a good and a bad side. Even the actions which best express the most divine law of Love contain in them something of the disorder and darkness inherent in the world as it is at present. Some men, those who are called pessimists, perceive almost solely the dark side of everything. The optimists, on the contrary, see only the side of beauty and harmony. And if it is ridiculous and ignorant to be an involuntary optimist, is it not a happy conquest to be made to become a voluntary optimist? There is only one resource, it is to unite ourselves as perfectly as we can with the highest and purest light we can conceive of, to identify our consciousness as completely as possible with the absolute Consciousness, to strive to receive all inspiration from it alone, in order to facilitate as best we can its manifestation upon the earth, and, confident of its power ... do our best, striving towards a higher and higher light..."*



Then, on March 30<sup>th</sup>, the day after the Mother's first meeting with Sri Aurobindo, she wrote:

*"And we advance to an ever greater certitude.... He whom we saw yesterday is on earth. His presence is enough to prove that a day will come when darkness shall be transformed into light ..."*

On 24 April 1920, she returned to India to stay and work with Sri Aurobindo for the manifestation.

**Together let's be voluntary optimists - let's buy the land to keep on manifesting Auroville!**

Acres for Auroville is a collaboration of Auroville International & Lands for Auroville Unified

~ \* ~ \* ~



### Lands for Auroville Unified (LFAU)

Auroville Centre for Urban Research, Administrative Area,  
Auroville 605 101, Tamil Nadu, India

### "Sailing Orders" - 111 years ago

From a certain beautiful and inspiring perspective, we, humanity as a whole, constitute a crew within "Spaceship Earth". This Spaceship Earth is flying to a distant goal. What goal could that be? Over the millennia, some exceptional "crew members" tried to interpret and explain the goal. A few said: 'There is no goal. We are just flying in vacant infinite space and the best thing to do is to get out of it, be liberated from the flying machine and merge into infinity.' This discouraging and depressing perspective impacted the lives of many.

However, 111 years ago, in 1910, another exceptional crew member - a man of destiny - came to an unknown corner of Spaceship Earth called Pondicherry in South India. His name was Sri Aurobindo. He came under what he once termed as "sailing orders" received from the diviner powers that were guiding the steps of his life. Over the next four decades, he explored and explained the secrets, clues and keys that throw light on the voyage's goal. The result? A new vision, and a new hope for the crew members of Planet Earth.

In essence, he said: The journey of the Earth has a significance. It is moving forward ceaselessly with a mission, a lofty and divine goal. That goal will bring about new levels of being, with new and better forms of life. In the end, there will be a new type of crew driving on to further steps and splendid vistas. Suffering and ignorance will finally become a thing of the past. Auroville has been founded to pragmatically serve this new vision, this new approach to our lives and the meaning of humanity's trajectory. Never in the history of Spaceship Earth has such knowledge, such comprehensive vision, and such a rich source of inspiration been available to guide us on the way.

"Acres for Auroville" provides an essential ingredient for Auroville to make an impact on the collective journey, orienting the "route" of the spaceship called Earth in the right direction. We invite your collaboration with the next steps of the "human crew" - and for progress towards a luminous goal!

With trust in Auroville's bright future,

Aryadeep

Mandakini

Please specify "ACRES FOR AUROVILLE" (all Master Plan priority plots) for your donations via:

- Auroville Unity Fund (checks & bank transfers),
- Auroville Donation Gateway (credit & debit cards) <https://donations.auroville.com/>
- Auroville International [www.auroville-international.org](http://www.auroville-international.org) which provides details on donation & tax deductibility via specific AVI centers
- information, news, videos: <https://land.auroville.org/a4adonations>; <https://land.auroville.org/campaigns/acres/> <https://land.auroville.org/news/>

## COVID Updates

The Tamil Nadu government has issued a Government Order today ([see link](#)) announcing new restrictions at least until the end of this month due to the growing number of Covid cases in the state and in the country. Below we have summarised some of the key restrictions:

**Curfew: Effective from 20 April** there will be a curfew every night from 10 pm to 4 am and a full day curfew on Sundays. On Sundays only essential services are allowed to operate such as milk distribution, daily newspaper distribution, hospitals, medical laboratories, pharmacies, ambulance services, all freight vehicles, farmers' produce vehicles, fuel transport vehicles (petrol, diesel and LPG).

Meat shops, fish markets, vegetable shops, cinema theaters, shopping malls, and all other shops will not be allowed to operate on Sundays.

**Shops Groceries and Restaurants:** They can operate all days of the week except Sundays with 50% of their capacity but must close by 9 pm. On Sundays restaurants are allowed to function for delivery only, from 6 am to 10 am, 12 noon to 3 pm and from 6 pm to 9 pm.

**Transport services:** Transport services, including interstate buses or from one district to another are not allowed to operate during the curfew days/hours. However, for emergency medical needs and to go to the airport/train station, rental auto, taxi and private vehicle use will be allowed. In addition, essential services such as milk distribution, daily newspaper distribution, hospitals, medical laboratories, pharmacies and ambulance services, lorries and fuel vehicles (petrol, diesel and LPG) will be allowed during the night curfew.

**Theatres:** They must ensure standard operating procedures and all precautions are followed, such as wearing a mask, washing hands with soap or using hand sanitizer, and adhering to physical distances. Only 50% of the venue capacity is allowed.

**Marriage and Funerals:** Allowed any day, including Sundays, with a limit of 100 people for marriages & 50 people for funerals.

**Colleges and Universities:** they are required to function only on line.

Other educational activities/entities such as schools, institutes, etc, must remain closed.

### General:

Local and foreign tourists are not allowed to visit tourist destinations in the Nilgiris, Kodaikanal and Yercaud on all days.

**In all coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, on all days, the public is not allowed.**

Parks, zoos and archeological monuments, excavations and museums are not open to the public.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that the public health system in our region and in Auroville itself is under severe stress at the moment due to the spike in the number of cases. It is very important to work on prevention of contracting the virus by wearing masks, especially in public or crowded places, avoiding unnecessary travel and avoiding large gatherings. We would like to advise organisers of events in Auroville to **consider postponing them** even if the TN government guidelines allow events up to a certain number of people and/or 50% capacity of the venue. If it's not possible to postpone, then organisers must ensure that the Standard Operation Procedures and all other precautions are followed, including **wearing masks, providing means to wash or sanitize hands and ensuring physical distance within the venue** with respect to the limits.

*We realise that there is a weariness with this pandemic and the precautions and restrictions that we have all been functioning with for so long now, but we appeal to everyone to please do what is necessary, and required by law, to reduce the risk of spread of the virus, for the safety of Auroville residents and our neighbors in the surrounding villages.* Thank you for your continuing attention, understanding and patience.

- Working Committee & Sante Coordinaton Team

### And from a couple of days earlier:

Here is a further update to the information shared on the 14 April about new Covid cases in Auroville.

Presently there are 5 active cases in Auroville: one in Adventure, one in Gaia and three in Sharnaga (a family member of one of the existing cases has tested positive). Contact tracing is going on for the new cases.

According to information recently received from the Block Medical Officer (BMO) for our area, there are no cases in the villages immediately surrounding Auroville, but there are 4 cases in Koot Road and a couple of cases each in Pattanur, Putharai, Thailapuram (north of Kodur) and several more in Kottakuppam. The number of cases in Pondicherry is high, with more than 3000 active cases. Most of the recent cases in Auroville have either a travel history or contacts with workers from the Pondicherry region. Therefore, we strongly recommend:

- to travel only if strictly necessary;
- to take precautions when meeting/interacting with external contacts;
- to give paid leave to any employees who have symptoms and ask them to stay at home.

In addition, we ask that Auroville residents, including registered guests and volunteers, DO NOT go in person to Santé or the Health Center if symptoms are noticed. Instead, please call during normal working hours to get appropriate advice. We are in the process of reviving a 24-hour doctor-on-call system and will share those details soon.

We will continue to try our best to give regular updates on the number of cases in and around Auroville and any changes in Government orders. Please keep an eye out for Covid bulletins. **Let's all do our best** to reduce the risk of spread of the virus during this time of increasing cases.

- The Working Committee and Santé Coordination Team

### Hospitals/Centers around Auroville offering CoVid vaccines

#### Private Hospitals

1. Pondicherry Institute for Medical Science (PIMS) Ganapathichettikulam, Kalapet, (0413) 2651111  
Vaccine: COVISHIELD @ INR250
2. Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute (MGMCRI), Pillaiyarkuppam, Pondicherry, 83000 20077, [dyms@mgmcric.ac.in](mailto:dyms@mgmcric.ac.in), Vaccine: COVISHIELD @ INR250
3. East Coast Hospital, Moolakulam (0413) 2297800; [admin@eastcosthospitals.com](mailto:admin@eastcosthospitals.com)  
Vaccine: COVISHIELD @ INR250

#### Government Hospitals

1. JIPMER (Public Health Building) -  
Vaccine: COVISHIELD (No charge)
2. Kiliyanur Community Health Center, 4147 235255  
Vaccine: COVISHIELD (No charge)
3. Primary Care Center, ChinnaKalapet  
9 am to 1 pm only; Vaccine: COVISHIELD (No charge)

Individuals who choose to get vaccinated can register directly online through the following link: <https://selfregistration.cowin.gov.in/> and select the location of the facility or directly call the facility for spot registration in the case of a private hospital. We cannot predict waiting times without prior registration.

A passport or some form of Indian identification such as an Aadhar card or Indian Driver's license will need to be shown when you go for the vaccination. Also, there is an observation period of 15-30 minutes after receiving the vaccine, so this needs to be planned for. In addition, both vaccines in India, Covishield and Covaxin are 2 dose vaccines, so people should inquire about the date when they should return for the second shot.

In case of further enquiry, you can write to [Sante.Coordination@auroville.org.in](mailto:Sante.Coordination@auroville.org.in).

### Our experience with coronavirus in Auroville

We came back to Auroville from Kodikanal, Bodhi Zendo, on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>. We did the test for the coronavirus. Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, Marco, 72 years old, the day after Liliansa, 78 years old, who tested positive. We immediately informed the coordinator for AV, Aurosugan, who immediately brought us the tools to

monitor the respiratory level, blood pressure and fever temperature, with a pre-printed sheet to keep the daily data. In an email he gave us the general advice and the phone #s of the two doctors of Santè, in charge of following the patients affected by coronavirus, Dr. Igor for the day, Dr. Brian for the night.

Thursday, 15th evening & night we begin to have high fever, very strong headaches, Liliana with cough & catarrh. We called Dr Brian but his phone was off. In the morning we asked Dr Igor for some medicine, the answer was that, our body is fighting and to continue taking Paracetamol, without even telling us to take the higher dosage, 1000mg. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, same symptoms, so we inform the Health Center pharmacy, which confirmed that there are approved therapies to be given to patients but that without a medical request they cannot give us anything. During the night two more phone calls to Dr. Brian who continues to keep the phone off.

On the 17th morning, completely destroyed, without strength and without any medication, we ask Alok to take us to the hospital, where they can give us some help. Alok is activated immediately and in an hour arrives in a protective suit. (Alok as Senior Paramedic has the authority to administer several medicines in the field of Emergency Medicine. This does not require the intervention of a doctor as per the AHA guidelines which are followed in USA and in India as well.) He visits us by sending our data with walkie-talkie to the dispatcher/medico-legal adviser, taking down all vitals and noting the time as checked by the Paramedic. Alok was accompanied by a trained attendant during the intervention, who quietly waited outside our residence. Not only that, this young Aurovilian then went to the Health Centre pharmacy and procured the medicines and delivered them to us.

We were rightly not hospitalized, but after less than two hours we had a set of medicines that we immediately started taking and today we begin to feel the beneficial results. But above all, we don't feel abandoned.

It is incredible that after more than a year of a Task Force, we have not been able to set up a network of assistance for those who find themselves with the coronavirus. Luckily, we decided to call Alok, whom we know personally. How is it possible that the doctors in charge of assistance do not help you and do not activate the procedure that, thanks to Alok, was set up in Auroville? We would not want this terrible experience of being left alone for four days without medical support to happen to others in Auroville.

PS. A note in response to an email from me from Alok:

*- Our training in discipline and protocols are showing results in our cohesive swift response. - Our gratitude to Dr Ashok Prasad, and Dr (Mrs) Udita Prasad, our medical superintendents for swift responses on our queries.*

*This team-building requires commitment. Over the years we have slowly grown to an 8 member team dedicated to work at the service of Auroville, in the vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.*

*Take care and be well,  
Alok Mallick, Team Leader  
Srijita Roy, Coordination/Dispatch*

-Regards, Liliana & Marco (Sharnga)

## WORKING GROUP REPORTS

### BCC Narrative Report: Jan '21 - March '21

The BCC would like to share with you a narrative report of issues addressed and decisions taken in the past 3 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.

**Corona Scenario:** We know many of you are concerned about the economic impact that the corona lockdown has had on our community. Given that March 31st is the end of the financial year, we are able to present to you in this report the figures for this past 'corona' year (20/21) compared with the previous year (19/20), and our initial impressions for the coming year (21/22).

- **Income:** Income to City Services reduced by 2% from 19/20 to 20/21. It is very important to understand that this figure is not a reflection of the reduction of income-generation in the corona year: at least 13% of this CS income was pending contributions from previous years, and there was a 350% increase in additional (external and internal) contributions to Auroville. At BCC we are touched that so many of these pending and additional contributions were given in such an uncertain time. Income may reduce further in 21/22, so we encourage all to continue contributing according to their capacity.
- **Expenses:** Services reduced their expenses and used their reserves, resulting in an 11% decrease in CS disbursements over the course of the corona year, compared to the previous year. Expenses are likely to increase in the coming year (21/22) with increased activity and reduced reserves within Services.
- **Reserves:** Our reserve closing balance is significantly higher at the end of 20/21 (907 lakhs) than it was in 19/20 (620 lakhs). While the trend in the past years has been a building up of reserves year by year, we are astonished about this increase during the corona year, thanks to combined efforts on both the income and expenses side, demonstrating the magic of support for Auroville. At the same time the BCC are reflecting on the conservative approach we took towards expenses in this past year, given the unpredictability of income, and what adjustments can be made in the coming year (21/22).

Below is a table comparing the income, expenditure, and reserve figures of this past year (20/21) with the previous year (19/20) in lakhs. A more detailed summary is attached to this posting on the Auronet.

	19/20	20/21
Reserve Opening	513	620
Income (I)	2,089	2,052
Expenses (E)	1,982	1,766
I - E	107	286
Reserve Closing	620	907

- **Update on fundraising:**
  - MERA: BCC has continued to receive funds through MERA towards the disbursement of Temporary Emergency Maintenances (approx 4 lakhs monthly). As of March 31st, 2021 the MERA account is closed. You can now make direct extra contributions to City Services.
  - FWE: BCC applied for a Foundation for World Education emergency relief grant towards the Maintenances of all those working in Auroville and Outreach schools, and was awarded approx 27 lakhs, the equivalent of a months' worth of this total Maintenance budget.
  - AVI-USA: In collaboration with the RagaMantra Trio (Nadaka, Gopika, Keshava) and Unity Pavilion, AVI-USA held a live-stream benefit concert for Auroville and raised a total amount of 17.5 Lakhs which was transferred to City Services.
- **Update on Temporary Emergency Maintenances (TEMs):** The BCC has continued to disburse Temporary Emergency Maintenances to 46 adults (3.5 Lakhs/month) and 19 children (Rs. 70,000/month). These have been granted (and extended) based on the recommendations of the Trustees of the activities or units in which the Aurovilians are working. The Temporary Emergency Maintenance measure was to be reviewed in March 2021, and has been extended for an additional 3 months (till June 2021). BCC is still accepting new requests for TEMs. The detailed Temporary Emergency Maintenance guidelines are available on Auronet.
- **Update on Temporary Emergency Bridging Maintenance:** The Temporary Emergency Bridging Maintenance measure, a temporary replacement of the Bridging Maintenance guideline, was scheduled to be reviewed in March 2021. In view of the economic situation, the Temporary Emergency

Bridging Maintenance measure has been extended for an additional 3 months (till June 2021). The detailed Temporary Emergency Bridging Maintenance guidelines are available on Auronet.

- **Service Budgets in the Corona Scenario:** The BCC has not invited any new budget requests in this past financial year (20/21) as the economic situation is so uncertain. This is an on-going measure in 21/22.
  - The reinstating of reduced recurring budgets during the corona year (20/21) is assessed on a case-by-case basis with in-person meetings between BCC members and Service managers.
  - The BCC and FAMC agreed to create an additional 20 FT City Services Maintenances in the new financial year (21/22), to be allocated across the 120 Services under the City Services budget.

You're welcome to contact us for a meeting.

#### Maintenances & Wages

- **Wages increase:** The BCC and FAMC recommend that the wages of all employees earning less than Rs. 20,000/month be increased by 6% in accordance with government guidelines in 21/22.
- **Future Maintenance increase:** The BCC in consultation with the FAMC would like to increase the Maintenance amounts this financial year. This is typically done in September, following the receipt of unit balance sheets. BCC will await these figures in order to determine whether, and by how much, the Maintenance budget can be increased. The Maintenance budget is the largest component of the overall City Services budget (1 crore/month).
- **Newly allocated Maintenances:** As published at the time of the Selection Process, the BCC allocated 2 additional Maintenances to the existing FAMC budget (3 Maintenances, used entirely for FAMC administration), given that none of the previous FAMC members were receiving a Maintenance for their FAMC work. These have now been allocated to new members.

#### Non-recurring budget requests:

- **Fencing of new land (Jan):** Rs. 5 lakhs was disbursed to the Land Board for the fencing of newly purchased land. BCC recommended to Land Board, FAMC and Working Committee that in future the cost of fencing be included in the funding budget for purchase.
- **Auroville Electrical Service:** The BCC have been granting AVES non-recurring budgets on request for maintenance of our existing electrical infrastructure, totalling approximately 4 lakhs/year. This year AVES proposed and BCC agreed to increase their regular budget by this amount, to be used exclusively towards such maintenance expenses.
- **Selection Process (Jan):** Rs. 90,524 was disbursed to the RAS and Auroville Council to cover the expenses of the Selection Process.
- **Matrimandir events (Feb):** Rs. 36,000 was granted towards the celebrations held at Matrimandir for the Mother's Birthday (Feb 21) and Auroville's Birthday (Feb 28).
- **Youth Centre 25th anniversary (Feb):** Rs. 15,000 was granted for the community event held at Youth Centre at the occasion of its 25th anniversary, on Feb 21, 2021.
- **Performing Arts:** At the beginning of this "corona" financial year, given the lockdown restrictions and economic impact, the annual budgets usually disbursed towards performances (Rs. 3 lakh) were not disbursed. On a case-by-case basis, BCC granted Rs. 15,000 for the Genius Brothers' Show, and Rs. 15,000 was granted for the Auroville Theatre Group performance EQUUS, both in March.
- **Fencing requests:** The BCC has received a few funding requests from individuals for fencing. The BCC would like to clarify that funds for fencing are only allocated if there is encroachment, or threat of encroachment, in consultation with the Land Board, and that the Land Board should be approached first for funds towards fencing.

#### Community-at-large issues:

- **Update on Solar Energy Pool & Average Pooled Electricity Cost Proposals:** A subgroup of the BCC (Mahi,

Margarita, Suryamayi) have been studying these proposals presented by Auroville Consulting and AVES in consultation with other actors in the energy field: Varuna and Sunlit Future, as well as Divya and Otto of the loan group and investment committee.

- **Auroville Board of Services (ABS):** BCC members have regularly been attending the "All Services" meetings hosted by the Auroville Board of Services to build understanding and connection with the Services sector and the new ABS core team. A follow-up meeting between BCC and ABS was postponed due to an internal ABS process. BCC feels it is very important to have a collaborative relationship with the Services and hopes an effective body and channel for this can be established. In the absence of this BCC is left to handle difficult situations involving the functioning of services which is not our purpose and responsibility as per our mandate (see following section on management of Services).

#### Management of Services:

- **PTDC welcoming new members:** In December 2020, the BCC discussed with PTDC manager Anandi the situation of exceptional demand for the service - the few hundred community members who are on a long-pending waiting list to become members (and others who may not have added themselves to the list). Anandi explained that to welcome new members required a change of operations in PTDC with a fresh afternoon delivery of fruits & vegetables and restocking of shelves, and an increase in operational hours for the service. To make this possible, she felt two additional team members would be required, and asked that the BCC commit to providing up to two additional Maintenances if needed before she began recruiting and preparing the operational changes. In January 2021, BCC communicated to PTDC that we would agree to this. As of March 2021, PTDC began to welcome new members, and has not yet requested any additional Maintenance amount.
- **Pour Tous Water** - In December 2020, the BCC published the recommendation that Pour Tous Water be registered with accountable executives under an Auroville Trust, following an assessment of the service (see previous BCC report and the BCC Auronet page for details). As of January 2021, the BCC shared the full assessment and its accompanying recommendations with Service Trust trustees, who agreed to explore registering PTW within their trust. BCC had subsequent meetings with Service Trust, potential new executives, and the existing PTW team. The Service Trust is now taking care of the registration process and the appointing of executives. Until this process is completed, the BCC is continuing to oversee the PTW accounts in collaboration with the potential new executives.
- **Solar Kitchen (ongoing topic)** - Funding for the Solar Kitchen is still an ongoing issue. SK is still running at a loss most months. The situation has improved a little bit with the official opening of high schools (Future School, Last School and NESS) which received tiffins for January to March. The subgroup of BCC-FAMC changed with the change in FAMC members. The new subgroup consists of Inge, Mahi, Rathinam (BCC) and Marc (FAMC). SK reserves are now finished. The subgroup is now focusing on long-term solutions to make SK financially viable as the world situation with Covid 19 is not likely to end soon. BCC has supported SK with funds for urgently needed infrastructure repairs.
- **Visitors Centre Parking/Access to Matrimandir:** The subgroup assigned to work with VC Parking/Access to MM in December 2020 failed to collaborate correctly with VC Parking/Access to MM team. Access to MM received a regular budget to cover wages of employees. Any additional bills incurred had to be approved by the subgroup before disbursement. There was a time-lag for this of about 2 months. In mid-March the subgroup (Mahi and Margarita) with a few additional BCC members met with the VC Parking/Access to MM team to try to come to a better understanding. BCC members felt the meeting went well, but the VC Parking/Access to MM team felt differently. An internal follow-up meeting with a new subgroup of BCC members Enrica, Rathinam, Hans, Mahi and Danny took

place, followed by a BCC representative (Danny) meeting with Peter and Nicole. Collaboration is going smoother with this new support group. The month of April will be used to collectively agree on a recurring budget for the 2021-22 financial year, and past misunderstandings will be checked in depth after May '21.

- **Savi:** BCC members Enrica and Inge met 2 times with the Savi team Sara, Manojkumar, Pranshula, Saranya, Sivakumar, and Dhanya as executive of LEAD. Sara is leaving the team from April'21 onwards. It is a need to reflect on the experience during the past year and explore the future of this very important service together. Savi is the entry door for volunteers to get in contact with Auroville. The next meeting is scheduled for mid April'21.
- **Bharat Nivas:** BCC members Enrica and Inge met with the Bharat Nivas (BN) team Deepti, Shankar, and Devasmita to look into the financial situation of BN and see how to take it forward. The City Services budget gives financial support only to the Auditorium. The Government of India has informed Auroville that no more funds will be allocated for the maintenance of the BN compound. They need to be self-sustained from the income generated through the 2 guesthouses and the hosting of activities in the assets created from Government of India funds for this purpose. We have come to some conclusions and will see how it will evolve in the next year.
- **ACARAT:** The BCC proposed to the FAMC that the funds and assets database project ACARAT, developed with GOI funds by the previous FAMC team, be registered as a City Service activity with an on-going City Services budget as this represents a valuable community resource.
- **AV Ambulance:** The Ambulance team requested that the BCC approve a separate budget from Sante for AV Ambulance for more autonomous operations, and to increase it. The request was for an additional 2 FT Maintenances and an increase of their regular budget from Rs. 11,000/month to Rs. 30,000/month. A subgroup of BCC (Rathinam & Danny) met with both teams at the end of March. Sante was in agreement with an independent budget for the ambulance, and details of working together and flow of information between the two teams with this new arrangement was also clarified. The subgroup also discussed the new budgetary requests with the Ambulance team. The separate budget request and its components were added to the BCC agenda for approval for April 1, 2021.
- **N&N:** Julie Plot, second editor of N&N, resigned in February. Thank you, Julie!

#### Meetings with other groups:

- **Farm Group:** A subgroup of the BCC (Inge, Hans, Karthic) had two follow-up meetings with the new Farm Group Coordination Team, and FoodLink, to reflect together on new ways for BCC to support the farms in providing sustenance for the community. We appreciated the building up of an inspiring, collaborative energy field!
- **Auroville Board of Services (ABS):** BCC members have regularly been attending the "All Services" meetings hosted by the Auroville Board of Services to build understanding and connection with the Services sector and the new ABS core team.
- **Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC):** The BCC has established regular joint meetings with the new FAMC, following the collaborative relationship built up with the previous FAMC, whom we thank! The main topic of discussion between the two groups has been the budget projections, how to increase income and facilitate donations. The new FAMC has also appointed two BCC liaison members (Angelo and Stephan), additionally some FAMC members regularly attend BCC budget subgroup meetings.
- **Auroville Council:** BCC members attended a joint meeting of Working Groups organised by the Auroville Council regarding Auroville's population growth and related development needs.

#### BCC Finance

- **PTPS contribution to City Services:** In March 2021, Kala & Kumar of PTPS transferred Rs. 12,259,139 (approx 1.2

crore) to City Services as outstanding contributions. For the past many years this service was functioning as a commercial unit, earning large profits every year. However, as it was supposed to be a service, no contribution schedule was generated, and it had contributed almost nothing to City Services. The amount transferred represented 33% of profits from PTPS for the years 2007 - 2020, in line with the minimum that all commercial entities are expected to contribute to the collective account.

- **In-Kind Contributions:** In March 2021, the BCC approved a new method for calculating in-kind contributions within the schedule of contributions. What are in-kind contributions? Some units have always given their products (cheese, bread, probiotics etc.) in-kind within Auroville (to schools, Solar Kitchen, community events etc.), mostly on a regular basis. This is a significant practice for making the in-kind economy of Auroville a reality. While these products are given freely to the receivers, these in-kind contributions are distinct from donations because of how they are shown in the City Services Schedule of Contributions. The cost price of these items is included in the expenses of the unit and deducted from the overall contributions due to City Services. The BCC Finance team noted that in-kind contributions were being shown as part of units' expenses, but not as part of their incomes (the cost-price amounts) in their balance sheets, and this was not correct. The new calculation rectifies this inconsistency by adding the in-kind contribution amount to the net profit before calculating the minimum of 33% of profits due. For most units contributing in-kind, this does not add anything to the overall due amount as they always give above the minimum requirement.

#### Internal BCC team updates:

- In January 2021 the Appeal Body for the HRT appeal reported that the initial decision of BCC to close and merge the HRT with BCC was valid (for details of the appeal, please contact the Auroville Council). All HRT tasks have been taken up by the existing BCC office team. They can be reached at [bcc.care@auroville.org.in](mailto:bcc.care@auroville.org.in). In February 2021, the BCC welcomed Karthic Dixit, a banker and Savi volunteer for the past two years, as a consultant to support BCC with accounting and budgeting processes (with a trial period of 3 months). Thank you Karthic!
- In February 2021, Eli (Newcomer working at Unity Fund) offered to support the BCC office ½ time to replace Bitna in generating the monthly and annual reports of City Services. Thank you Eli, and Unity Fund!
- In March 2021, the BCC invited Eli and Sheida, two accountants working in BCC office and BCC Finance, to additionally take up the role of in-house accounting for City Services (services registered directly under BCC and not a Trust). This was agreed to pending the registration of their accounting activity, AuroAccounting, under Kattida Kalai Trust.
- In March 2021, two BCC members resigned. Christine Besson resigned due to her existing workload at Financial Service. Margarita Correa resigned to serve the idea of "Prosperity" in a different way. Both offered to remain involved with BCC as Resource Persons. Thank you, Christine and Margarita, for your service!
- In March 2021, the FAMC put a call out to the community to fill the vacant BCC memberships, with input from current members regarding the profiles (skills & qualities) needed to optimally complete the team. We look forward to welcoming new members!

#### **Amended Housing Mandate now available**

The Council together with FAMC has now published the final amended version of the Housing mandate for your information. Consequently, the Housing Board will now be reconstituted based on the provisions of the amended mandate. The present Housing Board is asked to continue their work until the process work of reconstitution is complete. Please see this link to view the document: <https://auroville.org.in/article/84487>

- Best regards, The Auroville Council

We present below, the **application for Auroville Crematorium in Adventure**. 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. **Kindly mail any feedback before the 7th May 2021 to [application-avenir@auroville.org.in](mailto:application-avenir@auroville.org.in)**

Auroville Crematorium PDA 2438 - Application for preliminary design approval Applicant/s - Michael Knieps on behalf of Farewell Team; Architect/ Designer - Jyoti Community/ area - Adventure in Greenbelt Area for which approval is sought - renovate the burial ground with the same footprint.

**Project brief:** The Auroville Burial and Cremation Ground is an essential service to the community to perform farewell ceremonies for our departed brothers and sisters. This is a special place. Departure from one's physical life has to be respected and full attention has to be given to the body and the spirit which is in the process of transition. The facility needs to be simple and should avoid all visual and material obstacles for the smooth transit. It also has to offer a comfortable and quiet space for those who accompany the departed. It is important to create a peaceful atmosphere for all ages taking into consideration accessibility and comfort.

**Design:** The designer met the farewell group members a number of times and spent considerable time conducting research on appropriate structure for the crematorium. The designer interviewed with the farewell group for its functioning and experiences with the existing structure. Considering the budget, aesthetics and durability we came to a conclusion that RCC structure will be the most appropriate choice for the following reasons:

- 1) Easy to maintain since the farewell facility has no access to water and electricity
- 2) Reinforced concrete (RCC) structure is durable and strong against heat
- 3) Cost effective and strong comparing to "Natural" material such as copper roof, stone, lime plastering etc.
- 4) Durability of RCC is proven by many exercises in Auroville as well as all over the world

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

*Ed note: The following Open Letter was sent to the N&N on 13<sup>th</sup> April for publication last week. As it was addressed to 3 working groups & involved a 4<sup>th</sup>, the letter was forwarded to the relevant groups in order to give them an opportunity to submit any responses, to be published concomitantly. As none were received, the original submission from the Forest Group is published here.*

#### **Open letter to WC, AVC, FAMC - GM / TDC / A way forward?**

Dear Working Committee, Auroville Council and FAMC members, Following up on the GM and the increasingly polarizing exchange in the News & Notes, on Auronet & probably in private conversations, the Forest Group wants to check with you regarding the way forward.

As you are aware, after the one-sided collapse of the agreed collaborative process regarding the laying of the HT Ring (please refer to the outcome of the meeting at the YC on Nov. 2nd 2020), the Forest Group and the Youth Center prepared and held the recent GM and the follow up events on the GM+ and at the YC with the clear intention to start a process of exchange leading to an increased collaboration. It also became clear that the topic shifted from a simple infrastructure issue to the larger topic of how we want to build Auroville.

While we regret that during the first GM, the time for a Q&A exchange was for several reasons not available, it was mentioned

many times that this would only be the first of several GMs to allow each side to present and ultimately discuss diverging views.

By now, the ATDC - supported by individuals who prefer to stay in the background - has maintained their stance of non-collaboration by issuing their "Notes on the presentations made during the Forest Group/Youth Centre GM of 27-03-2021". Without giving a point by point breakdown of this "report", it can be said that it is very inaccurate, misquoted, and taken out of the context of an open sharing with an aspiration to solve the problem together. This and the increasing hard stance of some senior Aurovilians on the public forum, raise serious questions on contrasting perceptions of how Auroville should grow, the ATDC's mandate, the validity of the Master Plan, the legitimacy and power of the RA and its agreed decision-making processes. By repeatedly stating their "way forward", by enforcing their decision and their perception of being in the position of power to implement this one-sided and far-reaching interpretation of the purpose of Auroville, the current ATDC members show that they presently have no intention to solve this issue in a fair and transparent way.

We seek your opinion and help as we are concerned about how this might escalate, especially in the light that there are many community members who have been outright shocked by the ATDC's inability to consider other options based on present realities, and the clear provocation towards the Youth.

It would be very helpful, if you could reiterate to the ATDC what your group sent on the 28th November to the ATDC (see <https://auroville.org.in/file-download/82468/30470>) and also make clear your stand regarding the legitimacy of agreed community processes and a commitment to plan Auroville together and give your opinion on the appropriate next steps.

- Hoping for unity, Forest Group



AVSST's duty report for February 2021 is available on Auronet in the "Reports" section



#### **Bharat Nivas Report - February to March 2021**

In February and March, Bharat Nivas saw a resurgence of programs and activities. Slowly the campus starts to take back the regular energy and vitality. The team is hopeful that the coming months bring a fresh afflatus of inspiration and new avenues of activity and progress. Here is the news from Bharat Nivas during these months:

#### **Sri Aurobindo Centre for Studies:**

1. Bhumika Hall hosted working group meetings (ABS) and meetings of the Auroville Guesthouse team, Eco Femme and the Citizens' Assembly initiative.
2. A talk on OFC Infrastructure presented by Aurinoco and Matrimandir Gaden Designer introduction presented by Matrimandir and talk on "Cycling journey without budget" presented by guest, Deepa & Kalvin
3. Events offered in the context of the International Women's Day and Celebrating the Feminine Programme" at Bhumika, Kalakendra, open air amphitheatre & Sawchu:
  - "My Body", film projected by Earthling Kaushalya.
  - "Our Cashew story" & " Citizen's Assembly" - two films projected by Serena Arora
  - "Building a Culture of Health" presented by Nandita Shah
  - "A Life Exposed", Film projection on Robyn Beeche and Hymn to the Goddess, presented by Rekha & Lesley
  - Storytelling workshop & performance offered by Fif, Paula & group. It was well attended by kids and adults.
4. Regular weekly classes were offered (March & April) by our guest resident artists: Balakrishna, Mandar & Dakshayini: on the appreciation of the Hindustani Classical & Carnatic

Music are still continuing. Weekly Savitri reading session at the resource library continues.

5. The Resource Library of Bhumiika Hall is currently open by appointment only.
6. "Mother" as an Artist, projection of Documentary Film by Rakhil, followed by Hindustani Vocal Concert offered by Reeshabh.
7. Celebrating Auroville's 53rd Birthday: Film Projection on the Inauguration of Auroville - 28 February 1968, followed by an offering of Vocal Classical music by Ms. Sampada, & Balakrishna.

#### Kalakendra:

- The month of February was dedicated to Art, Craft Exhibition & Workshop Tie/Dye & Painting workshop by Anwar Khan title-" Hand Made with Love".
- March: 8th to 31st : a month of celebration. dedicated to the celebration of the Feminine- Woman Art Exhibition: 57 Auroville Women artists exhibited their works. Alongside, many events happened during this month, such as International women's Day 8th March, films, Talks, Kummi Dance, Kolam & painting workshops. For the closing ceremony on 31st March: the BN Group had a collective potluck, Women's Choir, Women's Feminine Dance by Galit, Odishi Dance by Devasmita followed by collective community Garba.
- In the above events connection, venues of Bhumiika, Kalakendra Art Gallery, open air amphitheatre and Sawchu were utilised.

#### Sri Aurobindo Auditorium:

- A 2- Film show was held in Auditorium.
- The Bharat Nivas technical team is analyzing the scope of repair and maintenance of the building which needs to be prioritized in the summer repair work.

#### SAWCHU & Progress Hall:

- After a well-received talk organized in the month of Feb, Five day camp on practical "Nature cure" by Mr Arun Sharma held from 27th to 31st of March which was organized by the Sanskritam Auroville team.
- Regular classes are held for Aurovilians, Newcomers, volunteers and children covering activities on Ashtanga Yoga, Capoeira, Dance classes (Bharatnatyam, Odissi & Hip Hop). Nada Yoga & Kabir songs singing by Balakrishna.
- Women's choir offered by Antoine, Feminine dance fusion by Galit, Odishi dance by Devasmita & Madhumita followed by collective community Garba.
- Sanskritam Auroville team is continuing weekly class on Shrimad Bhagavad Gita.
- Nagaland Crafts & Seminar was offered by a visiting group of weavers at Sawchu for three days: 6, 7 & 8 March 2021.

**Harmony Hall:** After having the inaugural ceremony on 25 December, regular classes of Kathak, Odissi and Bharatnatyam held for Aurovillian and Newcomers. Sessions on Yoga also held regularly two times in a week.

#### Atithi Griha Guesthouse:

- Atithi Griha hosted a team of weaving artisans and related artists from Nagaland through an organization called Exotic Echo. The main purpose of their stay in Atithi Griha was to have a workshop on 'Reviving Tribal weaving Art'. The team has exhibited their research models at SAWCHU too. They also explored different weaving arts in and around Auroville.
- Atithi Griha assisted participants of "Nature cure" by providing a place to prepare three 'Satvic Food' during their entire program. This program also lasted for five days.
- Apart from these events, the guest house is also receiving its regular guests who like to explore Auroville.

**Sharanam:** Sharanam dormitory adjacent to Atithi Griha Guesthouse continued to be kept as a Covid-19 quarantine facility for Aurovilians.

**Swagatham Guest House:** New suites added before the pandemic have been opened up to receive guests from the Auroville Foundation and other visitors.

**Tamil Heritage Centre (Suryamandalam):** Construction work on the new Suryamandalam Centre is ongoing. It is slated for completion in the coming months.

#### General:

- As the campus is currently being maintained on the bare minimum of employed staff due to budget restrictions, collective cleaning sessions involving Aurovilians working on the campus along with volunteers happened regularly.
- Weekly meetings of the Bharat Nivas Trustees and team members continue for furthering activities on the campus, fixing and maintaining various buildings and facilities, and preparing the campus to become a fully engaged site and community resource for Auroville.

~ BHARAT NIVAS TEAM

For the list of regular activity and classes click here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aujv52-meSJ2MMnwgDvtRctnlZ6O4fzQ5DMmlTRKfwY/edit?usp=sharing>

Click here for contact details of our various facilities:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j3L29Y9-HTX6yV0Q80jEff3bCboMum8CpjAjnNUcps/edit?usp=sharing>

To enjoy the images from the events of Feb-March, click here

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10qqTT\\_cXQZS37QBwYMiP9r3CEmI0CAYL?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10qqTT_cXQZS37QBwYMiP9r3CEmI0CAYL?usp=sharing)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Auroville Choir Open Rehearsal

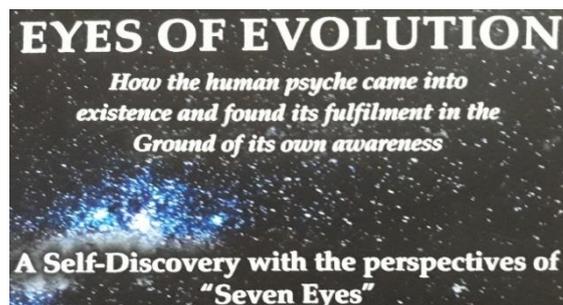
Scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

**is cancelled**

**due to the recent Covid recommendations.**

Tai Chi Hall @ Sharnga - **NO classes until May.**

[taichi@auroville.org.in](mailto:taichi@auroville.org.in)



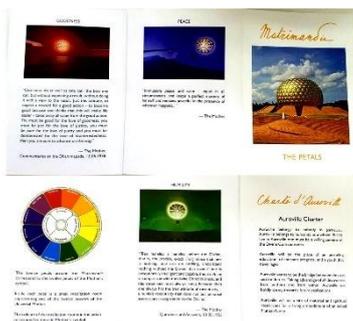
"Eyes of Evolution" is a practical and profound manual for those who really care and have a deep-rooted longing for change. It gives a deep insight into the essence of our being and offers a structure to discover how our psyche is evolving through seven levels of consciousness. As such, it is an evolutionary answer to the challenges of our time in which religions, ideologies & social structures are not anymore able to guide us. This new booklet by Jerry (Luminosity) is available by publisher Prisma and the author. ([beusengjh@gmail.com](mailto:beusengjh@gmail.com))



### Beautiful Planet CD - Songs for Children

A selection from 3 previous CDs - of original songs by Aurovilians for Auroville children - has just come out. The album contains 31 songs in English, French, Tamil and Sanskrit intended to offer teachers of different schools of Auroville an option to approach the topic of music appreciation, languages and, particularly, singing. The album, "Beautiful Planet" (one of the songs more

appreciated by the children), is being offered to the schools and can also be found at the Music Library, where it can be borrowed or copied on a memory stick (bring one). Later it will be available also at "Seagull Book Shop" at the Visitors Centre for the public in general.



We are happy to announce the release of a leaflet on the 12 petals of Matrimandir, including the color chart for the Mother's symbol given by Sri Aurobindo on March 20, 1934.

This leaflet has been realised by Shanta, who spent 15 years creating the symbols of the twelve

qualities along with their colors. Auroville Press worked on the layout of the leaflet. It exists in 5 languages: French, English, Tamil, Hindi and Sanskrit (the latter two will be available in a little while). We thank the Vitalis association which allowed the Pavillon de France to financially support the realisation of this document.

You can get it at the Visitors center and at FreeLand. For people abroad, Vani will coordinate with the AVIs. Thanks! ~ Claude J.



**Taxi share - AV to Bodhi Zendo, Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, early AM.** Peter, 780 709 4073.

## APPEALS

**Solar Panels/Pump** - Our friends of Auroville, Ezhumalai & Surya, have started a project that aims at running a small veg & fruit basket service, providing fresh local produce from their small farm in Mathur. They do not have a TNEB connection & are adamant about using solar. Does anyone have extra unused solar panels or a solar pump for them? If so, contact me at [solitudepermaculture@gmail.com](mailto:solitudepermaculture@gmail.com), or 9843319260, & I will connect. Many thanks, ~ Krishna

### Auroville Institute of Applied Technology seeks work orders from Auroville units

Due to Corona AIAT had very poor admission this academic year. In our metal workshops, equipped with lathe, milling, drilling and machines as well as varieties of Welding machines we are looking for work orders from Auroville units. We can build all types of grid incl. round window grids, furnitures, jigs and fixes or any other items as per your design either in a small quantity or as a prototype. Contact Lavkamad [lavkamad@auroville.org.in](mailto:lavkamad@auroville.org.in)

### Family Network Center

Accessible Auroville is envisioning a family support service center. "Auroville Family Network" will be a reception, support & consultancy center for all Auroville families in the educational, psycho-pedagogical, recreational & relational sectors.

The aim of the center will be to support the social environment in Auroville, in particular for new families, including those with special needs. When a family needs help, Auroville Family Network Center will be available to accompany them on a personalized path of inclusion in Auroville.

The center will offer various accessible services by appointment. There will be a database of expert and professional Aurovilians who will offer various useful activities to promote a better adaptation into the community. In addition, we will offer a list of pre-screened babysitters & a network of Aurovillian families to provide support & solidarity. The center will organize courses of various kinds, in particular on parenting and the well-being of the family unit.

In order to realize our project, we need volunteers w/ expertise in the above-mentioned fields. If you feel you may be willing to participate, please send us your CV w/ photo, email address & mobile number to [familynetworkcentre@auroville.org.in](mailto:familynetworkcentre@auroville.org.in)  
~ The Family Network team, Alex, Mira & Susmita

## WELCOME

### FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 079, 24.4.2021

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers & Friends of Auroville. Prior to Newcomer, Aurovillian or Friend of Auroville status confirmation, for Newcomers, Associates and Friends of Auroville two weeks and for Aurovilians and Returning Aurovilians one-month window for community feedback. Kindly forward your support or grievances to [entryservice@auroville.org.in](mailto:entryservice@auroville.org.in).

#### NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- Luca SERRI (Italian) staying in Soffio and working at Terrasoul Farm and AFI

#### AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

- Anshul AGGARWAL (Indian)
- Ashwini Sreedevi TATPATI (Indian)
- Jeounghee SON aka Rose (Korean)
- Pavneet KAUR (Indian)



Luca

#### NOTE:

- The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after the NC kit has been returned and should not exceed 18 months from the date of confirmation.
- A Newcomer becomes an Aurovillian once his/her name has been confirmed by The Admission Committee (aka the Entry Board) after following due process.
- The date of becoming Aurovillian is the date of confirmation. An Aurovillian confirmed by the Entry Board is eligible to participate in all community decision-making processes.
- A confirmed Aurovillian becomes officially a Resident of Auroville once the individual has filled in and signed the B-Form and his/her name has been entered in the Register of Residents (ROR) maintained by the Auroville Foundation Office (AVF).
- A Resident of Auroville is eligible to become an executive of a Unit or Service of Auroville and to get an ID card issued by the Auroville Foundation.
- A meeting with the Secretary of the AVF will be arranged by the Entry Secretariat according to the availability of the Secretary and not at any personal request.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Reminder: Auromode HIVE Open House**  
22<sup>nd</sup> April - Puja @ 10:30 AM - Open House 11 AM - 6PM

**"HANGOUT" at Center Guesthouse**  
Saturday, April 24th, 2:30 - 6 PM

**From VC Cafeteria: Update on menus & service available**

**ATTENTION! We are temporarily fully closed on Sundays but open instead on MONDAY NIGHTS!**

Organic, fresh, conscious food is available every day (except Sun). Our regular menu for lunch and dinner offers a selection of vegetarian, vegan and non veg dishes. At lunch, we also serve organic Mini Rice Meals and organic HealthyPlates as well as some Korean dishes.

In the evenings, we offer our regular menu as well as full Korean menu on Wed/Fri/Mon (instead of Sunday due to lockdown). You are welcome to pick up your Sunday meals on Saturday till 8.30pm. On request, delivery can be arranged.

Due to Covid restrictions, we are temporarily suspending the Saturday night Veg Buffet and will serve our regular menu. Please see on Auronet, Whatsapp 89039 63137 and Facebook VC Cafeteria for menu updates. ~ In service, Cafeteria Team

#### A note from Auroville Health Services

Please be advised that our doctor, Amarnath will be out of station from 26th April until 14th June. During this time please visit one of the other Health facilities if needed. Thank you.  
~ AVHS Team



### To be mentor ..?

Sharing place: Tuesdays, 9 to 10 AM at La Terrace

or contact Ishta: 965 545 2324, ishtadevata@auroville.org.in  
Please confirm your coming

This place will be moments of exchange on the Mentor's role vis-a-vis the future Aurovilian, Friend of Auroville, etc., with the support and collaboration of the Entry Board & Service.

-What does it mean "To be Mentor ..?"

(To assist an applicant during her/his probation period, offering guidance, support, & to be a solid link to the community )

- Who can be a Mentor (an Aurovilian for 3 years minimum )
- How to be a mentor ..?
- Why to be a Mentor ..?
- What is the role of a Mentor ..?
- What is the task of a Mentor ..?

We will be happy to share these questions with you. Come join our meetings.



### SERENDIPITY PROJECT (Ex. Joy Community Guest House)

#### Vision

The Serendipity project originates from the will of Giovanni and Stefania to manifest a synergic community defined by the power of Kindness, Sincerity and Generosity. We intend to be an experiential learning sangha of proactive and spontaneous people who are eager and ready to dedicate their lives for the manifestation and spreading of Mother's Dream on Auroville and Sri Aurobindo's teachings on Integral Yoga. Therefore, we commit to joyfully work and progress together in synchronicity with the Divine work of Mother Earth while giving freedom of expression to each one's unique needs, vocation, truth and soul purpose.

#### Values

Our values are deeply rooted in Sri Aurobindo's teachings and Mother's Dream of Auroville. However, considering the focus of our project, we prioritize the following:

- Integrity and sincerity;
- Surrender to the Divine Will and Works
- Aspiring for inner discovery and never-ending progress;
- Spirit of service, karma yoga and responsible commitment;
- Community spirit and collaboration;
- Freedom of expression and creativity;
- Pragmatism and practicality;
- Eco-friendliness and sustainability;
- Beauty and Harmony.

#### Objectives (2021- 2026)

#### Administration, Finance, Reception & Booking Departments:

- We will keep a high standard of booking, administration and accounting so that we can be transparent, work efficiently and comply with Indian laws and Auroville regulations in the best way possible.
- We will keep the administration as flexible and as simple as possible, so that we can work more on other areas. In this way, we will be able to focus on tasks that foster the Auroville spirit in our project.
- We will create a joyful and knowledgeable reception team, so that guests can feel welcomed in Serendipity, attended to personal and accommodation related needs (yet keeping our values and rules) as well as guided through the complexity of Auroville.
- We will generate surplus income in order to develop infrastructure and accommodation facilities, and to support as much as possible the financial needs of the

community members according to each one's needs, responsibility and commitment.

#### House-keeping, Maintenance & Development Department:

- We will develop even further a varied option of accommodation to cater the different needs of different people, yet with an attention to youth, long-term guests, volunteers and resident members.
- We will develop even further our infrastructure and common facilities to better cater the needs of the project, trying to be as practical, sustainable and eco-friendly as possible.
- We will keep our buildings, infrastructure, furniture and house-holds well maintained, clean and organized as much as possible in order to respect the value of material things and create a comfortable and enjoyable living atmosphere.

#### Garden & Farm Departments:

- We will maintain and further develop the garden landscape using plants, art and exterior design features to enhance feelings of beauty, joy, community and harmony.
- We will develop a small educational farm (dealing with a variety of vegetables, flowers, fruits, and animals) with the purpose of sustaining our community needs and to share seeds, seedlings and extra produce with the larger community.

#### Activities, Volunteers, Communication & Kitchen Departments:

- We will gather a synergic community of proactive and spontaneous volunteers who are eager and ready to live and work together in order to realize the values and vision of our project.
- We will engage our community of like-minded people into our activities, learning, food and social programs as a means of coming together, enjoying life and fostering inner and outer growth.
- We will offer therapeutic, learning and experiential activities aimed at developing a holistic well-being and promoting the spirit of Auroville.
- We will reach out and get connected at local, national and international level with people and projects in tune with our ideals.



Come and get wonderful Auroville veggies, fruits, rice and more from Auroville farmers every 2 weeks on Saturday at the Farmers Market!

Why would you come?

- > Support Auroville farmers,
- > Support our local economy,
- > Get healthy organic items harvested the morning itself,
- > Generate a low carbon footprint as all the produce comes from Auroville's regenerative farms, on our door.

# Manifesting Mother's Dream

We invite you to our exhibition aimed at informing the community about L'avenir d'Auroville's purview of work. The idea is to inspire Aurovillians to come together and manifest something larger, as imagined by our beloved Mother.

The exhibition is arranged in five segments -  
Planning | Perspective | Practice | Progression | Participation



**Opening Saturday, 24th April at 10am**  
**Town Hall, Auroville**

Open to public, everyday between 9am to 5pm.  
Please follow COVID related SOPs.



## The Flow Game



The Flow Game invites kindred souls seeking clarity on questions that are "alive" for them within a safe and inclusive space. The game is simple and that's why it is so powerful. A potent question is not only a game changer, it could be a life changer.

Your question may be about home, community, work or life itself. The host enables players to tweak their questions and be open to receiving counsel from co-players. The game is played in small groups and takes around 3 hours. Curious to play? Reach out to [sheetal@auroville.org.in](mailto:sheetal@auroville.org.in) to set up a game for you or your team! *This is a gift offering. Heartful contributions welcome.* <http://www.flowgame.net>

### Electronics Repair

If you have electronics (laptops, MacBooks, desktops, iphones, androids etc..) that have been lying around collecting dust due to needing repair, and you want to either get rid of them or get them fixed, I will be happy to help. Om, [om@auroville.org.in](mailto:om@auroville.org.in), Whatsapp: 811 082 3263.



Due to Covid regulations, Tanto will be **closed on Sunday** and open the other six days of the week. Last order 9 PM.

## HEALTH

Have something to share but not sure who to speak to?  
Need a neutral sounding board?  
Want to be heard?



Book a conversation with  
**Auroville  
ListeningCircle**

Zero charge  
Face-to-face and 1-on-1 conversation  
Complete Privacy

Book a conversation with one of our Listeners on:  
[www.listeningcircle.online](http://www.listeningcircle.online) OR [+9181232-43007](tel:+9181232-43007)

A few of us in Auroville who are passionate about emotional wellness have come together to form a 'Listening Circle'. The Listening Circle has compassionate individuals who work as 'Listeners'. If you have something on your mind and need someone to talk to, you can book a conversation with a 'Listener'. All conversations are FREE, confidential, one-on-one and in-person! We look forward to connecting more as a community and feeling more heard :) You can see our listeners and book a conversation on [www.listeningcircle.online](http://www.listeningcircle.online) or whatsapp us on +91 81232-43007.



## MATRIMANDIR

### COHERENCE

Compositions in the canon of creation,  
In an alphabet as old as the soul,  
An unbroken transmission of  
Light, love and devotion

**Tuesday 27th April, 6:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**Matrimandir Amphitheatre**

### DHRUVAPAD

Uday Bhawalkar (Shri) . Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Dagar (Bageshri)  
(Full moon music playback curated by Chandra Pai)

~ \* ~ \* ~



**Meditation at sunset with Savitri**  
**read by Mother to Sunil's music**  
**Every THURSDAY (weather permitting)**  
**6.00 to 6.30 pm**

## WORK OPPORTUNITIES



The Farm Group is looking for someone who can assist us, the Farm Group Coordination Team (FGCT) in an administrative & secretarial role. Farm Group recently re-endorsed the FGCT to take forward the coordination of the group with some key areas of focus: Internal Administration; External Representation & Communication; Finance; Production & Distribution. We are also expected and supported by farmers to:

- act fairly & constructively towards the shared objectives of FG and Auroville.
- build collaboration, mutual respect & understanding with working groups,
- promote & advocate for farms & Farm Group,
- help develop more efficient & practical ways of engaging farmers on topics beyond monthly meetings, keep topics moving forward with easier participation.

There is a considerable amount of administrative & communication work to be undertaken which is not sustainable for the existing members engaged in their farms, so we hope to find a dedicated & long term resource for this. Initially we would expect this work to be half-time, potentially shifting to full time depending on the person's interest to engage more deeply in the work and a positive dynamic with FGCT & Farm Group. There is a maintenance reserved for this position and we would work actively with the administrator to make sure the needs are met on both sides for this new collaboration.

If you or someone you know would be well-placed to take up this work, please contact [farmgroup@auroville.org.in](mailto:farmgroup@auroville.org.in). For us, it is an exciting time to be engaged in providing organic & sustainable food for the community, and we look forward to building new collaborations with you all.

- Warmly, Farm Group Coordination Team  
Sathiyavanan, Manikandan, Ramanan, Suhasini & Prakash

**Citadines is looking for a handyman** with experience in repair and maintenance. Aurovilian or Newcomer. Send application to [citadines@auroville.org.in](mailto:citadines@auroville.org.in).

**HR Initiative** is a service which helps individual Aurovilians and Newcomers who are looking for suitable work to find it, and to help Auroville units and services who are looking to fill positions to find the right individuals to step in.

**Administrative Position** - You will organize the correspondence for our project, take minutes, communicate with members of working groups, trusts and units. You are able to understand regulations of the Tamil Nadu government and to read government documents. You have good computer skills, good English and Tamil communication skills and are great and independent at organizing. You are good at negotiating for win-win solutions, persistent and not easily discouraged. This position is full time at the beginning, maintenance available.

**Volunteer for a Marketing Position** - A small manufacturing and repackaging unit is looking for a volunteer interested in

marketing their products. You will be learning about local herbs. Accommodation available.

**And other positions (please inquire about details):**

- Volunteers for AuroOrchard
- Management, Promotion and Fundraising
- Digital Communication & Community Manager
- Program Management (volunteer)
- Senior PHP developer
- Electromechanical Engineer

Please contact us for more information and if you are interested in any of these work opportunities or if you are looking for something else. You can find us at [hriauroville.org](http://hriauroville.org) or [hr\\_hub@auroville.org.in](mailto:hr_hub@auroville.org.in).

## LOOKING FOR

**Vacuum cleaner.** Our daughter has a dust mite allergy and we need a vacuum cleaner that is powerful enough for dust mites. Contribution offered. Kshitij, 63748 97533, [neonite@gmail.com](mailto:neonite@gmail.com).

**Fan** - Summer is on its way and I am looking for a used super fan or a smart fan. Email me @ [Eden@auroville.org.in](mailto:Eden@auroville.org.in)

**Work** - Sudha from Bommapalayam is looking for house work. Preferably full time, but part-time is also ok. She has her own scooter. Pls call Tine, Aurogreen 890 3938 649.

**House worker** - half day, Mon - Fri. Language: Tamil. English & Hindi would be great. FMI: Tahir, Pony Farm, 934 531 5894 or 938 446 0764.

## AVAILABLE

**Bicycle** - White, BTWIN 85034B men's bicycle with a steel frame, cantilever brake, 26 in wheels. It is a used cycle. Happy to offer it at 50% of current price. I want to trade it a women's cycle w/ a step-through frame. Divyanshi at [divyanshi@auroville.org.in](mailto:divyanshi@auroville.org.in).

**Black peppercorns** (still fresh and green in color). Harvested by Baraka. Health benefits: increases digestive fire, reduces sputum production, reduces bloating, useful in intestinal worm infections. Very useful for Vata and Kapha dominant constitutions & the wet black peppercorn doesn't increase Pitta. Please contact Achilles (9159448069) or Gabi (9585340684).

**Cotton pods** ready to give away. If anyone would like to take this yearly harvest of cotton, please reach me on 2969030, preferably around 9 am. Abha, Utility.

**Moving Sale** - Against contribution: **TVS 100 Heavy Duty 1 Touch** /Petrol / Green / Reg Date 25/01/2019 /Insurance paid. Inverter 6 yrs old, good condition, 8 hours run. **Tables, fridge w/ big freezer.** Anne, WA 735 886 7414 or 887 041 3603.

**Smart TV, Thomson, 32", 5 mos. warranty w/ soundbar; decorative standard lamp (1.7 m); two decorative tables (lg/sm), a set mixer tap w/ shower head & two separate water taps; folding screen w/ hand-made print in room; 2 bathroom screens (new).** 8 940 689 101 or [maitreevich@gmail.com](mailto:maitreevich@gmail.com)

**Everest double booster for AC's** - up to 1.5 tons. Working range 100 - 300V. Excellent condition. [michaelz@auroville.org.in](mailto:michaelz@auroville.org.in), 262 2865 / 94866 50268.

**1000W inverter, water filter & modem-** available in Serendipity (pka. Joy Community). Aquaguard water filter (1 1/2 yrs old), needs repair so we can give it for free. If not for use, still good for spare parts. Inverter also needs repair. The modem is ~2 yrs old & is in perfect conditions, offered at half the original-price. Pass by Serendipity (pka. Joy Community) **Mon-Sat, 9 - 12 & 2 - 5).** Love, Serendipity team ☺

**SAMARPAN Beach Guest House** offers an Aurovilian discount for a long stay. If interested, [samarpan.gh@gmail.com](mailto:samarpan.gh@gmail.com) ph: 0413-2623515, +91 904 703 0959 or +91 948 935 9239.

**Nintendo 3Ds w/ a handful of games.** I've not used it recently - maybe someone can make better use of it! [eden@auroville.org.in](mailto:eden@auroville.org.in)

## GREEN MATTERS



Purchase a flow meter. Do not consider it as a tool to invade your privacy, but as a tool useful to develop your consciousness.

With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. [watergroup@auroville.org.in](mailto:watergroup@auroville.org.in)/[www.aurovillewater.in](http://www.aurovillewater.in)



### CYCLES

**345**

### PETROL SAVED

**59670**

LITERS

### MONEY SAVED

**46.6 Lakhs**

ON FUEL

KINISI was established in 2017 with a vision to accelerate e-mobility within Auroville by replacing conventional transport with more ecologically efficient electric vehicles. Over the last 4 years, KINISI cycles have emerged as a popular, preferred, and an efficient mode of transportation among the residents and guests of Auroville.

Since 2017, KINISI has introduced 345 cycles in Auroville, covering over 18 Lakh KMs and as a result, saving 59,670 liters of fuel as well as the corresponding 137 tons of CO2 emissions This ensures a saving of over INR 46 lakhs in fuel that did not go out of the internal economy.



Your favorite radio hopes to help you get through this new lockdown period...enjoy and stay tuned! **Here** you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7). **Here** you can see on-air schedules.

[Suryamayi's PhD on Auroville - chapt.1 "Introduction"](#)

(Research) (see below for details)

[Lunaria - ep.12 "Kamalatmika and Matangi"](#) (Women health)

[The Wazo methodology, with Auroson and Chandra - ep.4](#)

(Humour research)

[Soul Tracks - Se2 ep10 "Rock free for all"](#) (Music)

[Aarohan - ep.22 "Ustad Amir Khan - The Sound of Stillness!"](#)

(Music)

[Audible Weed Walk - ep.37 "New Year - everywhere: local,](#)

[weedy, wilds to eat"](#) (Edible weeds)

[Happiness, Love and Laughter - ep.97 "It can be easy"](#)

(Wellness)

[Neo Urban Chronik - ep.40 "Why is the majority always silent?"](#)

(Humour)

[What do you know - ep. 9 "Going back to zero - with Chandra"](#)

(Yoga and Philosophy)

[Conference Loufoque sur le Genie Francais - ep.1](#) (History/

humour)

...and more! on [www.aurovillerradio.org](http://www.aurovillerradio.org)

For more information write to [radio@auroville.org.in](mailto:radio@auroville.org.in)

Love and Peace



## Weekly broadcast of Suryamayi's PhD on Auroville

Join me for weekly chapter readings of my PhD on Auroville, on Tuesdays at 11am on Auroville Radio:

A social scientist born & raised in Auroville, Suryamayi was curious to explore whether and how we were engaging with our ideals, & what sustained this process. In her PhD thesis, "Towards a Spiritualised Society: Auroville, an Experiment in Prefigurative Utopianism" she explores how the founding spiritual ideals of Auroville are, and have been, embodied and articulated in its organisation, development, culture and practices. Listen in for theoretical, conceptual and practical insights into how this uniquely "spiritually prefigurative" utopian practice is enabled, challenged, and sustained - relevant within and beyond the Auroville experiment.

- April 20th: Introduction (Chapter 1)
- April 27th: Methodology (Chapter 2)
- May 4th: Contextualising Auroville: The Intentional Community Phenomenon (Chapter 3)
- May 11th: Understanding Auroville as a 'Utopian' Community (Chapter 4)
- May 18th: Auroville, Prefiguring a Utopian Anarchic Polity? (Chapter 5)
- May 25th: Spirituality and Prefigurative Politics in the Auroville Context (Chapter 6)
- June 1st: Auroville's Communal Economy: Ideals, Realities and (D?)Evolution (Chapter 7)
- June 8th: The Institutional Potential of Communal Experiments: Collective Accounts in Auroville (Chapter 8)
- June 15th: Conclusion (Chapter 9) + possible Q&A

Recordings will be available on the Auroville Radio website shortly after each broadcast. Thank you to Auroville Radio for making this PhD thesis more accessible! I hope some of the valuable insights that I gained on Auroville will communicate and resonate with all listeners. ~ Warmly, Suryamayi

### Consensus

There seems to be a renewed call for consensus, a longing for that elusive collective realization. By definition, consensus cannot be imposed. It can only be arrived at, through conscious progress and integration. The ever-present issue of organic development versus inspired authoritative planning and implementation is presently offered again to our awareness.

We all aspire to this liberation: to be able to act and move as one, to express and manifest in all directions the spirit of Auroville as one, in conscious solidarity. Yet we still cherish our separate views and positions, we still cultivate the conflicts of old. It is high time we rise. ~ Divakar

*Reprinted from Auronet with permission of the author. ~*

Dear Auroville Residents,

A number of us have come together alarmed by the current situation in Auroville. We find that the idea of building a township, which is the central project of the Mother for Auroville is increasingly put in question. We find that the idea that the galaxy plan needs to be revised as per the wishes of the present Auroville residents has gained ground. There is also an increasing sense of territorialism whereby the development of Auroville needs to be "negotiated" with "stewards" who seem to feel that they are free to change township plans as they wish.

Like many others in Auroville we are alarmed at the idea that lands are being encroached upon without any effective counter resistance to these encroachments. We are alarmed that there are speculators hovering around Auroville wanting to use Auroville and its neighbourhood for lucrative development projects. We are alarmed that no concrete steps have been taken to protect the land of Auroville although there were and are options for statutory land use regulation, which is the only way to ensure this protection.

We are also alarmed that the economy of Auroville increasingly develops in a direction that deviates from the economy that the Mother had envisaged for Auroville. In the Mother's vision Auroville would be a self-supporting township without exchange of money between its residents while all basic needs would be taken care of. We are far away from this ideal.

We notice that the above concerns are shared by many but that we seem to miss a critical mass of change energy to make an impact. A number of us would like to work on creating a movement of change with a focus on the realisation of the Auroville township both in terms of its physical development and the realisation of the social, economic, educational, cultural and other dimensions of the socio-economic fabric of the township in accordance with the vision and ideals given by the Mother. We welcome all Aurovilians to join hands in the pursuit of these and other objectives given by the Mother.

The group is called *Universal Township*, with email ID: [auroville-universal-township@googlegroups.com](mailto:auroville-universal-township@googlegroups.com) We welcome suggestions from everyone committed to realise the Auroville vision given by the Mother in all its dimensions. In this sense all Aurovilians are members of this group. We invite suggestions, questions, and offers of collaboration.

~ Sanjeev

*"Sri Aurobindo had to use all his divine diplomacy and initiated me in the art of dodging the government, ending eventually with a small number of sadhaks being "induced to make themselves victims on the sacred altar of Science. I could not resist my hilarity, poring over Sri Aurobindo's reasons why such and such persons should not be touched."*

(From introduction to Nirodbaran's Correspondence with Sri Aurobindo.) ~ Submitted by Veronique J

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



MOHANAM VILLAGE AND HERITAGE CENTRE PRESENTS

### THE SUMMER FRUIT FESTIVAL

Contact : +91 8300949079

Get the best and most fresh coconut produce in season made into innovative recipes and value added products



12.30 - 5 PM | 24 TH APRIL 2021

Please follow necessary covid 19 precautions

Come and unwind from the summer heat at Coconut fruit festival which is beginning from this Saturday, every Saturday from 12.30 - 5 pm while following necessary Covid -19 precautionary measures.

On 24th April Mohanam Village Heritage Centre which is a hub for bio region artisans and cultural crafts is hosting a series of summer fruit festival every Saturday. This week our carnival will take off with coconut fruit as the specialty theme giving you an opportunity to discover the complete supply chain of coconut and dive into exploring coconut made refreshments, coconut lunch plate, innovative recipes combining the indigenous and western cuisine. You can also book your special coconut lunch plate for home delivery inside of Auroville.

Also know about the health benefits and nutritional value to integrate sustainable localisation strategies for promoting good health, responsible consumption while treating your taste buds

**The Auroville Choir**  
Open rehearsal on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

**is cancelled**  
due to the recent Covid recommendations

The French Pavilion presents:  
**Wacky Conference on the French Genius, EPISODE 2**  
 presented by Chandra & Wazo  
**Thursday 29th April at 5.30 PM**  
 in French only, duration: 45 min

**ATTENTION** the venue is the French Pavilion (Int'l Zone)



Always expressing themselves with an outrageously whimsical and eccentric lyricism, our wacky speakers will discreetly take a look at the prehistory of the French Genius. An opportunity to see clearly on this myopic past overflowing with shady mysteries. A troglodyte investigation in the Neolithic caves of our Paleolithic memory. A vision already seen but never said. We will have warned you.

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS



**Vérité programs**  
 (classes, workshops & therapies) are closed  
 from Thursday, 22 April until further notice.

Due to the growing situation of Covid-19 in the country and around us. We will resume our activities once the situation is safe to open for all.

Aurinoco Webinars presents:

**3 Evening Session Pranayama w/ JV**  
**23rd - 25th April (Fri -Sun), 6:15 - 7:15 PM**

*"It is in good health that the way to transformation is found"*  
 ~The Mother

This workshop introduces you to an integrated Yoga practice consisting of:

- Easy-to-do exercises based on yoga for flexibility
- Eight simple but powerful Pranayama practices
- Yoga Nidra (Deep Relaxation) to release stress and recharge

It can be practiced by people of any age. Pranayama improves lung capacity and lung efficiency. The benefits include reduction in stress, enhanced energy level and improved wellbeing. Sustained practice reduces the breathing rate - the key to retarding the aging process and boosting immunity.

### Intended outcome

*You will gain confidence to practice on your own.  
 By practicing for about thirty minutes per day, you enjoy a new level of wellbeing.*

In the spirit of Auroville, this webinar is free and open to all. No registration is required. On the days of the webinar, please avoid eating after 2PM and avoid drinking anything after 5:45 PM

**How to join:** On computer/laptop/smart phone using Google Meet. For computer, you need Chrome browser. For smart phone, download & use the Google Meet App & click on <https://meet.google.com/hut-enpc-bwq>

**About JV Avadhanulu:** I was diagnosed with 4 incurable diseases in 1987 & was told that I would not live beyond the age of 50. I am now 74, and enjoy excellent health & wellbeing thanks to Yoga. I lived in Auroville 2007 - 2016, and have been facilitating workshops/retreats in Auroville since 2008.

Aurinoco Webinars is an initiative to leverage the internet & fiber optic network of Auroville to create a new window for making Auroville belong to the whole of Humanity through borderless participation.

**Spoken & Written Tamil Classes**  
**for Aurovilians & Newcomers, Bharat Nivas campus**  
**Twice weekly - call to fix day & time**  
**894 019 3339, 890 315 2339**



Quiet Healing Center, Auroville

[www.quiethealingcenter.info](http://www.quiethealingcenter.info) / [quiet@auroville.org.in](mailto:quiet@auroville.org.in)  
 +91 413 2622329 / +91 9488084966 (mobile)

**Heartfull® Meditation Workshop with Avantika**  
**Saturday, 24th April, 9.30 - 11.30 AM**

See last week's N&N for details.  
 Questions? Contact Avantika at [rememberlight@gmail.com](mailto:rememberlight@gmail.com)  
 \* \* \* \*

**Woga® 1 & 2 (Yoga in Water)w/ Dariya**  
**Wednesday & Thursday 5th & 6th May, 9 am - 6 pm)**

Woga is the union of two words: water and yoga. It is based on yoga poses and stretches modified for warm water. Thanks to decrease in gravity, water allows greater ease of movement, unblocks articulations, lengthens and melts muscles, and removes negative tensions, thereby preventing stress, insomnia and anxiety.

Water yoga is based on classic yoga poses and stretches, modified for standing in pool water, which is waist-to-chest high. You do not need to know how to swim. Sessions are structured like their yoga equivalents on land: breathing, warm-up exercises, a series of poses, and a relaxation period. The difference is that you are in a warm water pool! No previous experience required (also no need to know how to swim).



Aurofilm / AV Film  
 Institute present:



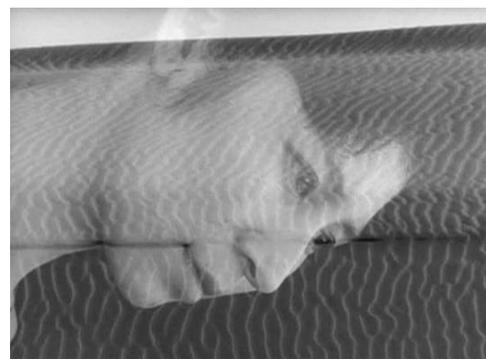
"CINE-master class"

**Saturday 1st May, 5 - 7.30 PM**  
**at Aurofilm, Kalabhoomi (next to CRIPA)**

If you like to discuss, share & learn more about films and cinema, we invite you to our Cine-Master classes! Welcome to the 11th chapter with Prof. Sehdev Kumar presenting:

**"WOMAN IN THE DUNES" (suna no onna)**  
**Directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara, Japan, 1964**  
**With: Eiji Okada and Kyōko Kishida**

Overview: One of the most existentially challenging and spiritually provocative work of art, Hiroshi Teshigahara's *Woman in the Dunes* remains forever open to myriad debates and interpretations.



Created in the foreshadow of the 'Theatre of the Absurd' and amongst daunting insights and discoveries in the sciences, and in the aftermath of brutal rise and humiliating fall of Japan, this exquisite film, based on Kobo Abe's much celebrated novel, is both at once tantalizingly realistic and allegorical. *Woman in the Dunes* resonates with many of the questions raised in the Ancient Greek mytho Sisyphus, stated afresh during the war by Albert Camus, who unlike many other existential philosophers, insisted that "one must imagine Sisyphus happy." -Sehdev Kumar

Sehdev Kumar, professor emeritus in Canada, a historian of science & cinema, and the author of "7000 Million Degrees of Freedom", presents and discusses the cultural and philosophical underpinnings of this haunting film. After the screening, all are invited to participate in an open discussion about the film. *Original Japanese version w/Engl. subtitles. Dur: 2h.17 min.- Discussion in English.*

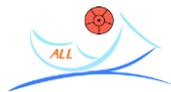
*We follow current Covid-19 SOP. FYI, the Aurofilm building is half open-air. Please carry your torch light.*

## MUDRA-CHI: "A body prayer in a Tai-chi Form"

We practice on Full Moon day, Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 5:30 PM

Mahalakshmi Park, near Neem Tree

Facilitator: Anandi Everybody Welcome



### NEWS FROM AUROVILLE LANGUAGE LAB

**Our New Video!** We would love to share our new video presenting the Language Lab's amazing features of our sustainable building. Please give it a watch! We appreciate your support!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEXGZ6YM5IQ>

### 5-Day Esperanto Intensive Course:

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 8 to 9 AM

Miko will cover the basic structure of the neutral international language Esperanto, its history, and its application as part of the manifestation of Integral Yoga, calling down the supramental by manifesting international consciousness. The students will be able to continue to progress in their use of this international language through free on-line courses and a wide array of virtual meetings and seminars. Esperanto is a useful preparation for international travel, as well as a vehicle for rich international culture.

Miko Sloper has taught Esperanto for over thirty years at various schools including the University of California at Berkeley.

If interested to join, drop in, give us a call or send us an email! See the full list of our course offerings in Regular Activities.



### JIVA - your journey in healing and transformation

[www.auroville-jiva.com/](http://www.auroville-jiva.com/) WhatsApp 9626006961  
[contact@auroville-jiva.com](mailto:contact@auroville-jiva.com)

### Integral regressiontherapy -

**Webinar & Seminar Intro Session: 1 May 10 - 1pm**

A therapy and energy work based on Sri Aurobindo and The Mothers integral Yoga, based on trauma therapy, pastlife regression therapy, inner child work, NLP, and a client centric approach. Typically, integral regression therapy addresses unexplainable pains, traumata from accidents or early childhood, questions about past lives, life purpose or restricting behaviour patterns. An in-depths training through a series of webinars the theory of this deeply healing approach is transmitted. Therapists wishing to integrate this approach in their psychotherapeutic or body- mind - healing work shall come for in person sessions, for 4, 3 day workshops to Auroville, to practice facilitating the 2hrs therapy sessions, and their own personal transformation.

Sigrid Lindemann is integrating her Sigrid is a transpersonal regressiontherapist, trainer in hypnotherapy and teacher of advanced classical homeopathy, with her background in Integral Yoga, living over 20 years in Auroville, Pondicherry.

### Face & Body Reading (5 levels)

4,5,6 May, 9.30 am - 12:30pm.

*Observation is a skill; you can develop it!*

**Topic:** Level 1 Face reading: To develop awareness and perception of the space around us, and of the signs that a person manifests in their face, which has connection with their health and psychological condition. With future interpretation of signs into the diagnostic point of view, and to create holistic principals of treatment based on the theory of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

**Technique:** Observation skill technic is rooted on traditional training for acupuncturists, Qi Gong practitioners, manual therapists and meditators in China.

**Benefits:** By practicing these exercises soon you will develop ability to perceive more stale energy of surrounding, other persons & yourself with porpoise to harmonize psychosomatic health.

**Modality:** Interactive class. Open to all audience, especially for personal development and health practitioners.

**Venue:** Pavilion of Tibetan culture.

**Facilitator:** Andres Lokuta, acupuncturist and Qi Gong master with more than 20 years of experience.

**Future levels:** Body, hand, tongue and pulse readings

## Carpentry Workshop Basics & Intermediate:

3rd - 6th May, 9 AM - 4.30 PM

This carpentry workshop is developed by Auroville Consulting by partnering with Walter at Pitchandikulam. During the 4-day event, participants will be introduced to the basic methods & techniques such as woodcarving & wood turning, as well as to interesting concepts like tensegrity & joinery. We welcome Aurovilians, Newcomers, registered guests to participate, minimum contribution required. To register: [register@agpworkshops.com](mailto:register@agpworkshops.com)



### Aikido Children's classes - planning for July 2021

We are planning for our Children's Aikido classes for the new school year starting July 2021. We therefore wish you to please share the information about these regular martial art classes with the young students -ages 8-9 to 14, so they could choose whether to include this physical activity in their curriculum.

**Classes take place at the Auroville Budokan, Dehashakti, from 4.30 - 5.30 PM, thrice a week on Mon/Wed/Fri.** Students are requested to attend a least 2 classes weekly for understanding and progress. They should arrive 10-15 minutes before the class starts in order to prepare themselves (change, drink/pee, wash their feet), therefore, kindly check with other earlier activity so they can arrive on time. Health Fund or other insurance is required.

FMI & registration, email [budokan@auroville.org.in](mailto:budokan@auroville.org.in), indicating the name of the child, his/her age and name of the school attended if applicable.

- Please note that we are teaching many girl students, as Aikido is an efficient self-defense practice that does not involve muscular strength nor violence. As such, it can be learnt and practiced by all.

-With thanks and our warm regards, Cristo and Surya

## FILMS



### Eco Film Club @ Sadhana Forest

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> April

### The Rights of Nature -Isaac Goeckeritz, Hal Crimmel & Valeria Berros (2018)

The documentary, THE RIGHTS OF NATURE: A GLOBAL MOVEMENT, shot in Ecuador, New Zealand and Santa Monica, California, focuses on a growing environmental initiative where natural areas are given legal rights that can be enforced by people, governments and communities. Duration:52 min.

Schedule of Events:

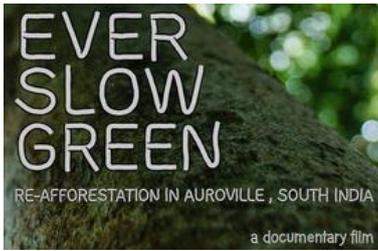
- 16:00 - Free bus from Solar Kitchen to Sadhana Forest for the Tour
- 16:30 - Tour of Sadhana Forest
- 18:00 - Free bus from Solar Kitchen to Sadhana Forest for the Eco Film Club
- 18:30 - Eco Film Club begins with "previews" of short Sadhana Forest films
- 20:00 - Dinner is served
- 20:30 Free bus from Sadhana Forest to Solar Kitchen

Before the movie, at exactly 16:30 you are welcome to join us for a full tour of Sadhana Forest and an update of our most recent work! After the film, you are welcome to join us for a free 100% vegan organic dinner! The bus service is operated by Sadhana Forest. FMI about the bus: Sadhana Forest at (0413) 267 7682. **\*\*Note: Families and children are welcome!**

### Anitya Outdoor Cinema - Sundays at 7 PM

(located past Centre guesthouse at the end of the big cricket field) Please come on time, bring a blanket, socks and anything you need to feel warm + mosquito repellent. See you soon!

**April 25- Down to Earth (2015)** Breaking away from convention, this family went on a 5 yr journey to find a new perspective on life. Their life with tribal communities around the world has led to a thought-provoking documentary cinematic experience of ancient, earthly wisdom.



AVI France will organize a live-streamed event with the screening of **Ever Slow Green** on April 24th, 10 - 12.30 AM (France local time)

To support the land restoration & afforestation work done by the Auroville Forest Group



### The last Green Column of the Season

It has been a special year. We saw wildlife taking back space in and around cities when humans retreated due to the disease that many see as a warning. A warning about untenable inequality (remember the migrant workers dying on their exodus from the urban economy?); a warning about untenable infringement on wild spaces (remember we wrote about zoonotic diseases set to increase with relentless pressure on habitat?); a warning about re-assessing what is essential (remember the farmers protesting for months demanding respect and dignity?). The year in which India decided to open up coal mining for private companies. The year when youth activists got silenced for protesting against weaker Environmental protection laws (remember the EIA campaign by Let India Breathe?). The first year in a decade in which we had to cancel the traditional farm and forest walks... And the year in which the first batch of Aurovillians ready to revive the overland travel route between India and Europe (the "Green Silk Road") was left with no other option than to break their promise and revert to flying : (

But it was also a year in which many, including urban gardeners and children found their inner connection to the more-than-human world. We presented many young naturalists and their sincere concern for the wellbeing of our living planet has touched us deeply : )

As this issue of the News and Notes goes to print it is Earth Day. That used to be a day of celebration, cleaning up garbage, printing organic T-shirts. None of that is happening, but we can keep one ritual alive and that is to recommit to the ecological role we want to play in the web of life.

### PLEDGE FOR OUR PLANET (adapted from WWF)

Our planet is facing major conservation challenges from threats like climate change, deforestation, overfishing, and illegal wildlife trade. But protecting our planet and keeping planetary warming below 1.5C might not be impossible and none of us need to do it alone. Our impact on the planet partly comes from what we eat, what we buy, how we power our homes, and how we travel from place to place. Equally important are governmental and corporate policies and behaviour which we can influence as voters and investors. Together, we can take action to create lasting solutions and protect the future of nature.

The World Wildlife Fund asks all residents of the world to Pledge to Our Planet: "I will :

- Reduce my carbon and water footprint by monitoring the energy and water I use and switching to cleaner/smarter options where available.
- Improve my commute to work or school by cycling, carpooling, or using public transport. When using electric vehicles I will keep questioning the life cycle of the batteries and the origin of elements such as lithium.
- Eat as many local ingredients as I can, reduce the food waste in my home and only purchase what I need. I will gradually phase out all plastic packaging -even if it will take many years.
- Buy products from producers that commit to Regenerative Agriculture (eg: organic), to protect forests like those with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) label, or seafood with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) label. I will avoid products with palm oil unless they have the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSP) label.

- Use my voice to speak for the planet and take time out to sign petitions, send messages to my elected officials, call my representatives, ask my bank manager about divesting from fossil fuel, and help those with power to create and support policies that recognize and respect the importance of nature.

In terms of Green News there are some happy things to mention:

- The [People's Resource Centre](https://prcindia.in/) in Delhi hosted a 3 day gathering of city dwellers from across India working to green, localise and democratise their food systems. See here the recordings of the first day: <https://prcindia.in/events/farming-the-city-day-1/>
- Scientists across the world are rising up to demand a Climate Revolution, for example by pasting academic findings on the walls of powerful institutions. See here what they are asking for: <https://scientistrebillion.com/our-positions-and-demands/>
- The Carbon Disclosure Project reported that 60 of the Top 200 Indian companies on the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) were among the 220 that disclosed through CDP in 2020. It's not shocking, but it's a start. See the report: <https://www.cdp.net/en/india>
- For those who can access Apple TV there is a beautiful documentary by David Attenborough about how animals took to the streets during lockdowns across the globe: [The Year Earth Changed](https://www.apple.com/itunes/movies/144444444)
- On May 11th there will be a special event of the [Global Tapestry of Alternatives](https://www.globaltapestryofalternatives.com/) presenting systemic alternatives from different parts of the world, including India. You can hear how they have been weaving together networks of alternatives across continents to enable collaborations, learning and critical engagement across cultures and sectors to collectively envision possible futures, and organize a critical mass for macro-change. Register [HERE](https://www.globaltapestryofalternatives.com/register).

*The Green Column appears bi weekly in the News and Notes and (erratically) on Auroville. It reports on green issues in Auroville, the Bioregion and the wider world. We like to hear from you, but for now we will travel to our native place and the Green Column will be in summer hibernation for a few months! We wish you all a great summer! Lisbeth & Gijs*

#### 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](mailto: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 26th April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

Please note - as per the new regulations we are not operating on Sundays until further notice. **Our regular program will start at 7:30 PM instead of 8 PM so that at the end of the screening there is ample time for people to return by 10pm curfew time.**

**Indian - Monday 26 April, 7:30 PM:**

- **EK BETUKE AADMI KI AFRAH RAATEIN (The Joyous Nights of a Ridiculous Man)**

India, 2019, Writer-Dir. Sharad Raj w/ Archanna Gupta, Adil Hussain, Raghav Jhingran, and others, Drama, 100mins, Bengali-Hindi w/English subtitles, Rated: NR (R)

Inspired by two short stories by Dostoevsky and one by Munshi Premchand, in this film protagonist Gulmohor leads a lack-lustier life in a small town with work, TV and porn. He has a physical relationship with Anita, a single mom, a Bangladeshi immigrant, and a sex worker. When riot breaks out in town, Gulmohor refuses to help Anita - since the attacker is Anita's lover. He regretted the decision as Anita got killed. In Lucknow, he meets Gomti and falls in love. Gomti is a girl from a lower caste waiting for her lover to return. Gulmohor plays cupid to reunite them and decides to take care of Anita's orphaned son. *The director, will be available for a brief online Q&A session at the end. He assures us that the film doesn't include graphic violence on screen except some archival (documentary) footage.*

**Potpourri - Tuesday 27 April, 7:30 PM:**

- **DYLDA (Beanpole)**

Russia, 2019, Dir. Kantemir Balagov w/ Viktoria Miroshnichenko, Vasilisa Perelygina, Andrey Bykov, and others 130 mins, Drama-War, Russian w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR

1945, Leningrad. World War II has devastated the city, demolishing its buildings, and leaving its citizens physically and mentally tattered. Although the siege - is finally over, struggle continues in the wreckage that remains. Two young women, Iya and Masha, search for meaning and hope rebuilding their lives amongst the ruins. *'Much acclaimed and powerful period drama!*

**Interesting - Wednesday 28 April, 7:30 PM:**

- **LIFE IS WAITING: REFERENDUM AND RESISTANCE IN WESTERN SAHARA**

USA-Western Sahara, 2015, Writer-Dir Iara Lee, Documentary-History, 61mins, English-other languages w/English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG)

Forty years after its people were promised freedom by departing Spanish rulers, Western Sahara remains Africa's last colony. This film chronicles the everyday violence experienced by Sahrawis living under Moroccan occupation and voices the aspirations of a desert people for whom the era of colonialist never ended. *We thank the director for her continued support. You may remember her film the Battle of Xingu that we had screened was later a part of the Auroville Film Festival where it won an award. We are planning an online Q&A with the director at the end of the screening.*

**French - Thursday 29 April, 7:30 PM:**

- **ANTOINETTE DANS LES CÉVENNES (My Donkey, My Lover & I)**

France 2020, Dir. Caroline Vignal w/Laure Calamy, Benjamin Lavernhe, Olivia Côte, and others, Comedy, 97mins, French w/English subtitles, Rated G

Antoinette, a 40-ish primary school teacher has been looking forward to a long-planned weekend with her married lover Vladimir, the father of one of her pupils. However, his wife thwarts their plan by booking a surprise hiking trip to the picturesque Cévennes mountains. Unversed in the ways of the wilderness, Antoinette decides to follow them. She gets paired with an unlikely companion; an obstinate but evidently wise grey donkey named Patrick. As you will find out in this acclaimed film, she is in for a lot more than she had bargained for.

**International - Saturday, 1 May, 7:30 PM:**

- **HERSELF**

IRELAND-UK, 2020, Dir. Phyllida Lloyd w/ Molly McCann, Clare Dunne, Ruby Rose O'Hara, and others, Drama, 97mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: R

Though the film does not follow a true story, it reflects the reality. Sandra is a single mom struggling to get by with her two young daughters. She decides to build her own with the help of a friendly community and new friends - when the housing system refuses to allocate her a home. With this new purpose, Sandra rediscovers herself; only to have her abusive ex-husband sue her for custody of the children. The story unfolds.

**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](mailto:mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in). *We appreciate your continued support. Please donate to "Cinema Paradiso" (account #105106) or set up for a monthly contribution. We need it now more than ever.*

Thanking You, MC/CP Group



**FRIDAY 30th APRIL, 7:30 PM**

MMC Auditorium, Town Hall

**"NAQOYQATSI - LIFE AS WAR"**

*Directed by Godfrey REGGIO, USA, 2002; Music by Philip GLASS*

**Synopsis:** Naqoyqatsi is a Hopi word meaning "life as war". Is also translated as "civilized violence" and "a life of killing each other". It is the third and final film in the Qatsi trilogy by the filmmaker Godfrey Reggio, who once again takes us on an emotional journey that highlights the profundities embedded in our everyday lives. In a cinematic concert, mesmerizing images are plucked from everyday reality, then visually altered with state-of-the-art digital techniques. The result is a chronicle of the shift from a world organized by the principles of nature to one dominated by technology, the synthetic and the virtual. Extremes of intimacy and spectacle, tragedy and hope fuse in a tidal wave of visuals and music, giving rise to a unique, artistic experience that reflects the vision of a brave new globalized world... As the previous Qatsi, the film is accompanied by the music of Philipp Glass! Duration: 1h29'

*Covid, please follow the current SOP.*

*Reminder: 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Powaqqatsi: Life in Transformation*