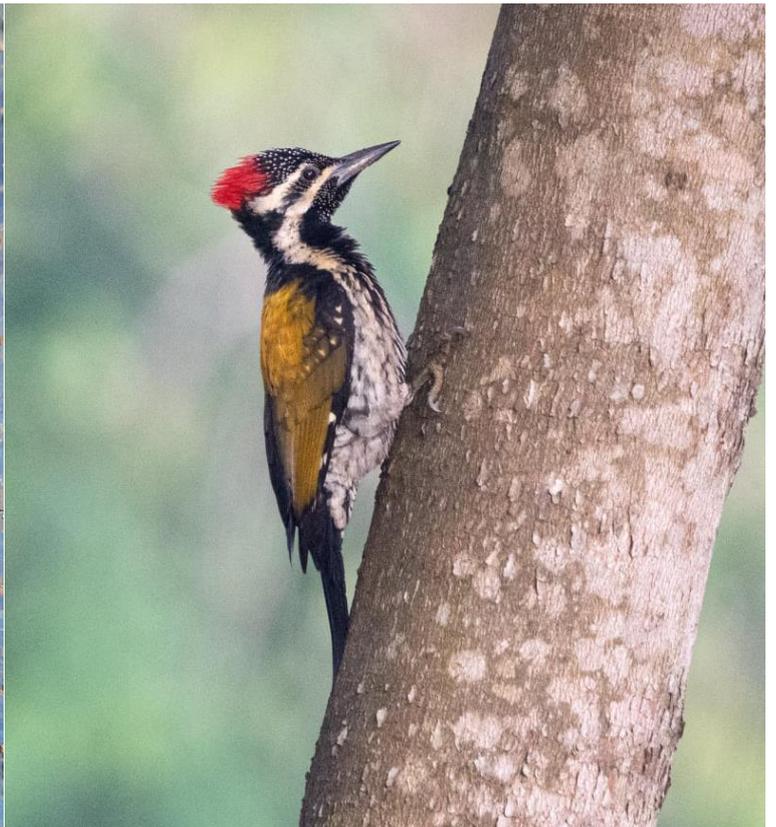


News and Notes

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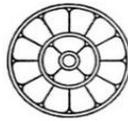
A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

15th May 2021



A few of our lovely co-inhabitants

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



The Cell

An Immensity of Energy.

But when that Energy, that awesome Energy, starts descending, it is like a cataclysm in the body. It is the same Energy that makes the stars dance, that has propelled all species. "An all-shattering Energy", said the Rishis. Instantly, it is like death for the old body shut in its routine and its millennial system – it is flung into another milieu or invaded by another ... unbearable milieu. Then we begin to understand the physical Prison we live in – as long as we are in it, we are completely unaware of what it is or what it is made of. Scientists may tell us what they like, but they know nothing, because they are inside – once you cross the Wall, it is something else, but generally people cross it only when they die. And as soon as the first drops of this fabulous torrent of Energy make bold to enter the body, that death is what instantly stares in our face, as it were, or seethes everywhere in the body as if about to burst. "It's dosed out", said Mother, thank goodness! Then, slowly, very slowly, painfully, the body must learn that it is not death: it is its own death that dies. And everything is against, everything furiously rises against! There is an onslaught of all "laws," so-called laws that organize our system, an onslaught of all the forces that have made up our prison through millennia. All the little beasts are there, the big ones too, and perfectly venomous snakes and malevolent suggestions and impulses: all that we can now see swarm on earth in broad daylight as in our own body – "that" throws everything out or roots out and expels all that lurked there, joyously guarding the exit doors. For our dark Caves are the "guardians of felicity", of the Nectar, as the Rishis knew. And *who* has dared to descend there and grapple with all those denizens and priests of the night? It is easier to escape up above. You begin to relive everything, laid bare, in the raw. You relive the whole history of species, your own paleontology, the whole birth of species – because you are another species being born ... in spite of itself, as was always the case in Evolution. But now, you are born with wide-open eyes, or you die with wide-open eyes, and you can see how it takes place. The cause of it all. ... And you become aware of the formidable Illusion, terrible Illusion, cruel Illusion that guards the closed doors – our doors of death. And above all – above all – you become aware of the formidable hypnotic power of our "science". If there is something, in the end, which can perfectly untangle reality from illusion, it is the cell. For it, all the rest of our "superstructures" is ghostly, painfully ghostly. Then you open wide eyes – perhaps innumerable eyes.

But against the onslaught and make-believe of all this Negative, there is an extraordinary Positive, a marvelous Positive. Then you un-cover everything; the mainspring, the lever, the Power that has enabled all species, despite their successive deaths, to go on and on – through ice fields and deserts and asphyxiations and the waters of the beginning. It is the cell. We do not at all know what the cell is – it is *always* clothed over, immured. There, you see it in vivo, live it in vivo, wrestling with or adapting to this "unbearable" Energy that might be like its death. But for the cell, it is a phenomenon to be assimilated, adapted, organized in its substance – there is *no* impossibility! Impossibility is what covers "that". Then you see, or you live day after day and year after year, and hour after hour (Sri Aurobindo did it for forty years) how this cell, this body of cells, "manages" under this crushing inrush of an all-powerful Energy that seemingly wants the death of all we are, but which it RECOGNIZES: it is its Wine of Delight from the beginning of time! It is what it searched for everywhere, all the time, under this or that shell, this or that devastation, this or that misery – the same old Misery. And that is what happened to all species on this planet: they RECOGNIZED. It is the *same* thing, the *same* cellular working, the same radiant obvious Fact. The body is that-which-searches-for-solutions, and that which finds them, has always found them through millions of years of adversity. Day after day, we can see it try one way, another way, a thousand ways, OBSTINATELY – that obstinacy is what is simply miraculous, as if this little cell knew its own marvelous Sun pulling it forever – where is the difficulty? There is "this" which is "that" and goes toward that!... And now, after having been in so many prisons, it goes toward "that" fully, radiantly. Some words have been so corrupted and falsified that one dare not use them any longer, but for the cell, "God" is – it is fully alive, it is its own substance! It is the Fact and the very Power dwelling in it, the same Power as that of all the galaxies and all the suns. Immortality is all *there*, it is like a Wine of Delight carrying it.

But there are all the coverings over "that".

Then, for once in all these millions of years of Evolution, there is a conscious cell shaken by the inrush of its own Sun, which searches for the solution and tries to build a new body for itself – in the face of every opposition.

In her simple and direct language, Mother said, "It is no longer the laws that keep bodies standing." And also:

"The old routine is over."

It is the routine of the earth that is over. It is the routine of evolution that is over – and everyone is shaken because there is a single world body. All the old "soiled card-houses" are collapsing under the weight of this true heaven they sought to place elsewhere, all the old structures are collapsing under the weight of their own Falsehood, everywhere the same little beasts crouching in the shadows are uprooted, driven out under the pressure of this mighty Divine Energy, and they do their dance of protest. It swarms and swarms. But it is over, our old Dungeon is in ruins. One little Solar cell is building a new world body.

(to be continued next week)

– Satprem, The Tragedy of the Earth - from Sophocles to Sri Aurobindo. The Victory Over Matter



By remaining psychically open to the Mother,
all that is necessary for work or Sadhana develops progressively,
that is one of the chief secrets, the central secret of the Sadhana.

– Sri Aurobindo
The Mother, p.121



Covid Updates

We have received several questions about which we would like to share some clarifications concerning the lockdown.

- 1) **UNITS:** Some of the Auroville units may fall under the categories of industries manufacturing essential commodities such as food industries, export units with exports commitments and export orders, manufacturers of sanitation materials, medical textile, etc. The Unit holders are advised to check the detailed list in the Government Order of Tamil Nadu number 348 of 20th April [available at this link to see](#) if they are eligible. Units that are allowed to operate are requested to follow the Standard Operation Procedure indicated in the same document. Units that can operate are requested to provide their workers with their own ID badges.
- 2) **GUEST HOUSES:** Guesthouses are not allowed to take new guests until further notice but existing guests can continue to stay. Change of guest house from one Auroville Guest House to another is discouraged but possible with the permission of the Working Committee. Guesthouses can provide their workers with their own ID badges.
- 3) **DOMESTIC WORKERS/GARDENERS:** Based on the information we have at the moment there are no restrictions on such workers, but things may change and if so we will inform. Please make sure to take all necessary health and safety precautions at home and to give paid leave if a worker or you have symptoms or if they are unable to get to work due to police checks.
- 4) **CONSTRUCTION:** According to the latest government regulations, in house and ongoing construction may continue while following all SOP's and precautions. No new workers from outside of the area should be taken on at this time.

Please note that there is an even stricter lockdown in Pondicherry until 24th May. Shops and restaurants for delivery/takeaway are open until noon only. There may be controls on the street to check on the genuine reason for movements. For the time being the border with Pondicherry is not closed but we will inform if there is any change.

Stay safe and well and keep the faith!

- With best wishes, The Working Committee
~ * ~ * ~

The Tamil Nadu government has announced during this period the following activities may continue to function in Auroville during previously announced timings: Financial Services, Working Committee, Residents' Service, Graphic Section at Town Hall, Santé and Health Center, PTPS, PTDC, HERS, eateries for delivery or takeaway only, essential utilities (waste, electricity, water, telephone, internet), ongoing construction, security, farming.

The key features and the main changes/additions to the existing restrictions are:

- Office and Industry should remain closed except for maintenance work.
- Private and government bus transport, and rental taxis and autos are prohibited within and between districts. Travelers will be allowed to travel to the hospital and for purposes such as marriage, death of a key relative, interview / employment, etc, with documents to support the reason for travel.
- E-commerce services are allowed only for supplying food, groceries, vegetables, meat and fish and not for other items.
- On the days of the lockdown, grocery shops are allowed to function until 12 pm and restaurants only for delivery from 6 am to 10 am, 12 pm to 3 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm.
- Hotels and Lodges are not allowed to operate. They will only be allowed to operate for clients staying for business reasons and for medical purposes.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to please inform santecoordination@auroville.org.in if you have been tested on your own, either due to symptoms or suspected contact with someone who tested positive or simply as a precaution. If you have symptoms of Covid 19, please isolate yourself and call Santé

during their regular opening times for a teleconsultation. that there will be further restrictions until 20th May at 4 AM.

The latest GO from TN Government is available at this [link](#), and here is the [link](#) to the Pondicherry Govt Go. A summary of the new restrictions is as follows, as extracted from the government orders:

- All government offices and private offices are allowed to operate with a maximum of 50 per cent staff.
- Only 50 per cent of seats in passenger trains, metro trains, private buses, government buses and rental taxis are allowed for the general public.
- Large shops with a floor area of 3000 sq.ft. and above (big format shops), shopping complexes & malls have already been banned from 26.04.2021. Currently, vegetable stores and grocery stores operating in shopping malls are not permitted. Apart from these, only separate grocery shops and vegetable stalls are allowed to operate till 12.00 noon without air-condition.
- Of these, only 50 per cent of customers should be allowed in at a time. Except for the aforementioned grocery and vegetable stores, all other stores are prohibited from opening. Essential functions such as pharmacies and milk supply are allowed to function as usual without any hindrance.
- Only Parcel service/Take away service will be allowed in all Restaurants/Hotels/Mess. Tea shops will be allowed to operate until 12 noon. Sitting and eating in restaurants and tea shops is not allowed. Customers staying in hotels and lodges should be served food in the rooms where they are staying. It is not allowed to sit and eat in restaurants.
- It is prohibited for community, political, sports, entertainment, educational, cultural events and other events in indoor auditoriums and in open spaces. Theaters cannot function.
- At present, only 25 persons are allowed to attend funerals and ceremonies, but now not more than 20 persons are allowed to attend funerals and related ceremonies. Not more than 50 persons are allowed to attend marriages.
- While beauty salons (Spas) are already banned from operating in the Corporation & Municipal areas, beauty salons (Spas) are now also banned from operating in all containment zones in rural areas.

The night curfews and weekend curfews are still in place as previously announced (Sat & Sun in Pondicherry, Sunday in Tamil Nadu).

Since our last bulletin, 4 Aurovilians & 1 Newcomer have tested positive and several guests in Serendipity (ex-Joy guesthouse) have also tested positive.

A point of concern is that we have received reports of some people who are on the quarantine list having been seen moving around in Auroville. We request all those who have tested positive, even if asymptomatic, and all those who are primary contacts of someone who has tested positive, to please respect the quarantine requirements. This is one of the most important measures to be taken to break the chain of spread of the virus. If any help is needed while in quarantine, whether medical or for food and other supplies, please contact santecoordination@auroville.org.in.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who responded to the call for volunteers. It has been heartening for all involved to feel this support.

- The Working Committee and Santé Coordination Team



Covid Response for our neighbouring villages

Auroville Village Action Group (AVAG) has just launched a pandemic response and prevention initiative planned to assist 20,000 families in 75 communities in the bioregion of Auroville, to reduce the spread and the impacts of the pandemic. The first round of arsenicum album homeopathic remedy has been given to 20,000 families and it will be followed by a second dose and immunity boosting siddha medicine, mask distribution, education on prevention, food distribution for Covid positive families plus the most vulnerable. This operation

is being carried out with the support of different units and schools in Auroville, community-based organizations in the villages and the government departments.

This participatory and need-based project was developed with the village representatives who are a part of the support team that works closely with AVAG since the beginning of the pandemic. The village & street level task forces consisting of village leaders, women's federation, youths and the members of sports associations, members of Auroville units and schools are the pillars in helping AVAG in executing the project. This project is fostering unity and harmony within the communities, by bringing together different caste groups for the village meetings, as in almost all settlements, men, women, youth leaders, and government representative's work together to control the pandemic.

Please see a full report attached. If you would like to contribute to this initiative please contact us at avagoffice@auroville.org.in or contribute directly to financial services account 0226.

- In service, Abha, Alain, Anbu, Bridget, Moris, Nadia and Subbu on behalf of the Auroville Village Action Team

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From the FAMC re: new BCC Members

This is to inform you that the following four persons have been selected as new members for the Budget Coordination Committee (BCC): Aurosugan (Kottakarai), Cristina (Centre Field), Fabien (Sharnga), and Mathan (Surrender).

As per the BCC mandate, a **2-week feedback period shall now run until the 29th of May**. If you feel there is any valid reason for which any of these persons should not join the BCC, please write to famc@auroville.org.in.

A short note about the process:

After inviting candidates to submit their profiles and a statement of interest, the FAMC received 13 submissions. These 13 candidates were each reviewed by the FAMC and checked against the criteria and present requirements and a shortlist of 7 candidates was made. This shortlist was then sent to the BCC for feedback and recommendations. Having received the input from the BCC, the FAMC then selected the members to fill the four (4) open positions.

- FAMC (Amy, Angelo, Jonas, Kalya, Lisa, Marc, Palani, Ranjith, Stephan)

Solar Kitchen Closure

We would like to inform you that regretfully, **the Solar Kitchen will be temporarily closed from the 1st of June, including tiffin service**. The reason for closure is that running the Solar Kitchen has become economically unviable under the present management, due to various pressures related to the Covid-19 crisis that started in March 2020. The number of users has dramatically reduced, due to various reasons like school closure and quality and variety of food, and consequently the income is not enough to meet running expenses. In short, since April 2020 Solar Kitchen has been running at loss at a rate of about Rs. 4.5 lakhs per month to a total of 52.5 lakhs and has thus entirely used up the existing Solar Kitchen reserves.

The BCC along with the FAMC and Working Committee will now look at the next steps for restructuring the Solar Kitchen and its management with a new vision, scope of work and broader team, so that the Solar Kitchen will continue as a central community service well into the future.

We recognize that this notice is in contradiction to recent postings and communications from the Solar Kitchen executives. While the suggestion of closing the Solar Kitchen first came from the Solar Kitchen executives themselves, we regret that we were not able to come to a common understanding and agreement about the way forward and that the executives decided unilaterally to go forward with a fundraising campaign to try to keep the Solar Kitchen afloat. We do not find that this action will really address the underlying financial and management problems and therefore we request the community not to donate any money to the Solar Kitchen until there is clarity reached about the way forward.

We will keep the community updated as the next steps become clear. Any input from residents on the future of the Solar Kitchen as a community service is welcome. Please send your feedback to bccoffice@auroville.org.in

Another communication to all the residents who are currently receiving tiffin lunch from the Solar Kitchen will be published shortly with details about lunch tiffin alternatives.

- Sincerely, Solar Kitchen joint task group of BCC, FAMC & WC

[Ed. Note: This was received last week (5PM Tues) for publication, but as per N&N policy, it was held in order to give the ACUR mgt team an opportunity to respond.]

From FAMC re: Closure of the Town Hall Canteen

As you might be aware, the FAMC has declined the new activity application of the "City Center Canteen" at the Town Hall and informed the ACUR team and the proposed project managers that the canteen in its present form should be closed. As several community members have written to the FAMC asking for an explanation, here is our response.

There have been a number of issues with regard to the canteen and its operation since its inception. An FAMC-BCC subgroup was formed some time ago to address these issues and having met with a refusal from the canteen project managers to meet further and resolve them, there was no choice but to decline the application.

As a consequence, it was observed that the canteen has no legitimate way to operate, not being a registered unit or activity and without a Financial Service account as of March 31 2021 (closed by the Financial Service due to having no formal registration). Hence our communication to the canteen managers that the canteen needs to close.

In hindsight it was seen that there are overarching issues with the ACUR management and a need for a unified vision and protocol for food service at the Town Hall and these issues need to be worked out first before any individual application can be scrutinized for approval. This needs to be taken up and worked on by all stakeholders, ie. FAMC, BCC, Service Trust and the ACUR executive team.

Needless to say, allegations that certain FAMC or BCC members have self-interest in taking over the canteen or have personally bought "Le Morgan" cafe (!) are groundless and fanciful.

Sincerely,

FAMC (Amy, Angelo, Jonas, Lisa, Marc, Ranjith, Stephan)

Comments from the ACUR team

First of all, we would have preferred to address the issues brought by FAMC through the appeal process which is now underway, and not through the News & Notes. This submission by the FAMC leaves us no choice but to respond here to the statements made, which omit a lot of background. We are hoping a way will be found so that the canteen can continue operating while larger issues are being addressed.

What is the ACUR management? - ACUR is originally an acronym for AV Centre for Urban Research (now better known as Town Hall), and the management team is a unit under Service Trust with two executives. The team is taking care of the Town Hall, looking after the maintenance of the assets, employees, water and electricity, and office spaces, and serving refreshments to Aurovilians and employees working in the Town Hall, right from the beginning.

Why was the ACUR Canteen created? - The Town Hall asset used by Cafe Le Morgan had been created originally so as to provide affordable snacks and refreshments to the people working in the Town Hall (including employees from outside Auroville), and even lunches from Solar Kitchen. However, the use of this asset was converted to a restaurant. The food was not affordable and not suitable for many people working in the Town Hall. There was a clear need for an alternative. The ACUR team did a survey among the Town Hall staff. Thus the Canteen was created. When the news broke that the Canteen had to close, almost 300 people signed in support of keeping the Canteen open. As to the surplus revenue, last year alone the Canteen contributed a total of 2.5 lakh to the Town Hall.

Why did the Canteen apply to be a separate unit? And what was the FAMC's response? - Recently, since the issue of GST came up, the ACUR team was advised by FAMC, BCC and others to register the Canteen as a separate unit, as it was said it could not function under ACUR management any longer.

Twice the ACUR team applied to the FAMC for the Canteen to be registered. The first application was in October 2020. In reply to this application, the only response from the FAMC, was this:(italics ours),

"This is a follow up email in regards to your entity application. In our discussion with the BCC we decided to start a tender process to regularise the functioning of the canteen.

The BCC has created a subgroup dedicated to this topic, and they will invite you for a meeting.

Once the tender process is completed then you will have the opportunity, like any others, to apply for it.

- Warmly, The FAMC"

"Opportunity to apply"? To be able to manage the Canteen? Started and managed by ACUR over the past 11 years? How come? The Service Trust asked for an explanation, which the FAMC did not bother to give, except for an acknowledgement that this proposal came from a subgroup, not from the FAMC as a whole. With this same "subgroup" we met shortly afterwards on very short notice. In the meeting, the same argument came up to "auction" off the Canteen, mooted by the FAMC member, Marc. That meeting was inconclusive, no notes were taken and no follow up was done.

Why did the ACUR management refuse to meet again with the "subgroup"? - When after 6 months another invitation came from the BCC to meet with the very same subgroup again, we politely declined. We had lost confidence in this subgroup as two out of 3 subgroup members seemed to have an unspoken agenda. The FAMC member who had suggested the tendering process for the Canteen is also a member of the FAMC group which decides upon applications for new units. This seemed to us like a conflict of interest. Moreover, another FAMC member has recently invested in Cafe le Morgan, so there seems to be yet another conflict of interest.

Why was the Canteen's account closed? - As we were pressured by Otto to get the Canteen "regularized" under threat of closing the account, we submitted a second application to the FAMC on March 15th, to which we received, a month later, on April 15th, an email with the decision that the Canteen should be closed. Meanwhile, as there was no reply from FAMC on the 31st March, Otto blocked the account and we have had to manage since then with personal funds.

What is the next step? - Our appeal against the decision of the FAMC to close the Canteen has now been accepted, and we shall have to dedicate some time to sorting all this out. We have requested the Council to allow the Canteen to continue during the appeal process, as closure will affect many in the Town Hall, and others who have come to rely on the affordable and healthy food offered by the Canteen.

- ACUR management team



L'avenir d'Auroville is looking forward to the future in a holistic manner. We are working in a cross-functional way and planning for balanced development. L'Avenir d'Auroville strives to connect with the collective, collate various perspectives, collaborate within and without, for the manifestation of Auroville.

Our scope of work is broadly defined with the following 10 thematic Areas -

1. Town Planning (TP)
2. Physical Infrastructure (PI)
3. Urban Design (UD)
4. Social Infrastructure (SI)
5. Applied Research (AR)
6. Green Zones (GZ)

7. Implementation & Monitoring (IM)
8. Communication & Outreach (CO)
9. Economic Development (ED)
10. Resource Mobilisation (RM)

We're looking to set up a focus group for each of these thematic areas with a full-time anchor to host the theme. The focus group will work closely with the L'avenir d'Auroville members and other thematic area focus groups to come up with the respective 1) Plans and Policies, 2) Programmes and Projects, 3) Research and Innovation opportunities, 4) Possibilities for Capacity Building, and 5) Avenues for Outreach and Partnership.

The focus group shall help L'avenir to reach its overall objectives by setting itself specific targets and design activities to achieve it. The focus group shall budget for all activities, set timeframes, and recognise talents/group to make it happen.

If any one of the above mentioned 10 functional areas is your field of expertise, please write to avenir@auroville.org.in and express your interest.

- Anbu, Lakshay, Saravanan, Sreevatsa & Toby for L'avenir d'Auroville



Due to the current situation, we are continuing our support at the best of our capacities with a few modifications to reduce contacts.

For those volunteers who are already staying here and want to extend their stay in Auroville, instead of filling the light registration form, we request the unit holders to send us an email recommending the volunteer's extension with the following details:

- 1) The current Savi registration number, 2) Aurocard number, 3) Volunteer's place of stay and 4) Duration of extension along with your signature.

Savi Team members will review the information and process the new Savi volunteer card. Volunteers can collect it from the Savi office upon receiving the confirmation email from us. We will also send a recommendation email to Financial Service for their extension of the Aurocard.

These procedures are to be followed until further notice. Feel free to write to us in study@auroville.org.in with any inquiries or clarifications. We are taking all the precautions for the welfare of everyone. Kindly cooperate with us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auroville Bakery sales counter is closed til 24th May

We will have a separate sales counter at Nandini beside PTDC from 9 AM - 1 PM where you can get your breads and croissants like last year. Bakery Café will remain open from 7 till 12 pm for 'Take Away' only. Please wear a mask, keep social distance and sanitize when you come to order. See AuroNet re what you can order. Pls bring your own containers.

HERS is open from Wednesday, 12th May, 8 AM -noon.

The Auroville Library is closed until further notice.

Aurosoya will be closed from the 17th to 24th of May for our yearly break. Please place your orders accordingly.

Warm Regards, Aurosoya Team

Free Service for your puncture

(but the PS is closed til further notice due to +Covid test)

We are glad to inform you that the BCC has increased the monthly financial support to the Auroville Puncture Service and from May onwards the Puncture Service will repair Aurovilians & Newcomers tire punctures for free! Contributions are expected only for servicing and other repair works. - Your BCC members, (Danny, Enrica, Hans, Inge, Mahi, Rathinam, Suryamayi)

New Accounting Activity

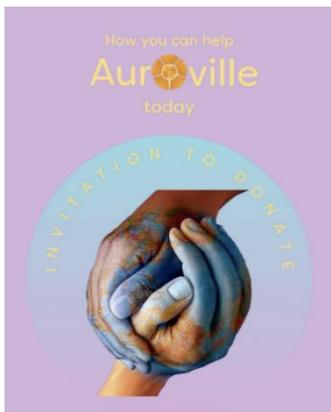
We are happy to announce the launch of our activity, "ARYA ACCOUNTING", under Kattida Kalai Trust, AVA, offering bookkeeping, accounting & consulting (internal auditing) services.

Pausing the Internal Delivery Service

Internal Delivery Service for online purchased goods located in the Service area at UTS **will pause it's work from Saturday 15th May** due to the present Covid situation. If by chance a parcel arrives that is now on the way, it will be received and the person that ordered it will be notified. There will be no delivery though. Let us stay well and healthy! 853 196 9746. For any clarifications re: parcels, you can also call 0413 2623586 or 0413 2623587 or mail internaldelivery@gmail.com.

The AuroJeeva Trust would like to extend a helping hand to Auroville projects and initiatives that need capital. Those interested may apply on www.aurojeeva.org.

APPEALS



From AVI-USA

Dear friends, we know that there are people all over the world who are asking how they can help Auroville right now in this unprecedented time, as events rapidly evolve in India. We invite you to share this link to our website, where they can donate in any currency and using credit card, Google Pay, PayPal, or bank transfer: www.aviusa.org/donate.

It's possible to donate to a specific unit using that link,

but if they select "Where Needed Most", those funds will go to the Auroville Budget Coordination Committee (BCC), which is ensuring that Auroville has the resources needed to meet emerging needs, whether they are related to health infrastructure (including efforts by Sante and Health Task Force), food security, or village outreach.

Used Android phones needed for children's education

As Thamarai has suspended service due to Covid, we are reaching out to the village children in our project to continue their education with learning calls each evening. We have moved from telephone to online platforms by phone for most children, but some are without adequate phones. We are looking for used android phones in working condition that will support our facilitators & children to be able to use online platforms, allowing for visual displays through shared screens & camera that enrich the classes.

If you have a spare android/smart phone in working condition that you could gift to Thamarai Education project we would be very happy to hear from you. Please contact: Bridget (Creativity) 9442270640, Hedia 9585975381 (Courage), or Vignesh 8610535837 (Maitreye). FMI on the project: www.thamarai.org or mail us at thamarai@auroville.org.in

OBITUARIES

In memory of Shri Soli Sorabjee

Shri Soli Sorabjee, who passed away on the 30th April, was a renowned Indian jurist, respected for his legendary defense of the freedom of expression and human rights. He also served twice as the Attorney General of India.

Though Shri Sorabjee stood against Auroville during the case in the Supreme Court, he subsequently visited Auroville and remained a friend, supportive of our growth & development and was kind enough to offer an Opinion ([see here](#)) on the Foundation Act, sought by Sanjeev for the Working Committee in 2008, later adopted by Shri Fali Narman, Auroville's lawyer in the court case. During his tenure as the Chairman of the India International Centre the Auroville Exhibition was generously invited, hosted and introduced by him in 2012. Frederick remembers Shri Soli Sorabjee as an awe-inspiring man of distinction, refinement and humanity and a close friend of Dr Karan Singh. Our gratitude as he moves to his onward journey.

- The Working Committee

(Anu, Arun, Chali, Hemant, Partha, Sauro, Srimoyi)



Kailas Jhavery

Following an exchange of letters with The Mother, with whom she had a very special, tender relationship, in 1964 Kailas Jhavery left New York, where she had been studying and working for over ten years, to become an ashramite. In 1966 the Mother appointed her as the "Secretary-in-charge, UNESCO section". Having worked two years at the United Nations' head-quarters, Kailas was

most suited for the post - having developed, on top, a life-long relationship with Dr. M. Adiseshiah, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO. With Kailas as an intermediary the latter will also come close to the Mother, and will deliver a magnificent speech on Auroville and the new world to the Ashram's students.

Kailas played a pivotal role in explaining the ideals of Auroville to representatives of UNESCO; often drafting the texts, she was behind the early UNESCO resolutions who were determinant in launching Auroville. Following her main interlocutor, Dr. M. Adiseshiah's, retirement from UNESCO in 1970, Kailas wished to withdraw as well, but the Mother asked her to continue. Besides contacting ambassadors and representatives of major institutions, Kailas' tasks ranged from public relations to submitting papers, to collaborating in drafting resolutions and organizing interviews on Auroville, in addition to planning for the celebrations for Sri Aurobindo's Centenary Year, including writing articles for the special issue of the UNESCO Courier in 1972. She also wrote at length about the University of Human Unity, a core project of the city of unending education the Mother wished; the International Cultural Pavilions were an intrinsic part of that University.

Unreservedly surrendering to the Mother and no one else, ever, accepting no intimidations, Kailash had a fiery personality who made her brave obstacles and impossibilities; her autobiography in two volumes, "I am with you" (a message she received from the Mother in support of her UNESCO battle) is a most exalted text of gurubhakti. Discussing major UNESCO initiatives that could potentially be taken on by Auroville, but turning it into an Auroville undertaking, never relinquishing the spirit of full independence and freedom, was one more of her tasks.

As Radha is the symbol of human love turned divine, Kailash was the symbol of unquestionable faith in the Mother and her true Auroville. Even during the tragic years at war with the Sri Aurobindo Society, Kailash stood with us. She always stood for Auroville, indifferent to clashes & strife, nothing could tarnish her radiant vision, one with the Mother. Her Auroville is forever: the new world's supramental sun.



WELCOME

Entry Service continues to be closed to the public.

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 081 - 15-05-2021

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers & Friends of Auroville, joining Auroville. Prior to Newcomer/Aurovillian/Friend of Auroville status confirmation, there is time provided for community feedback. For Newcomers/Associates/Friends of Auroville, 2 weeks; for Aurovilians/Returning Aurovilians, 1 month. Kindly forward your support or grievances to entryservice@auroville.org.in.

NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- Michel LOPEZ (French) staying in Auromode and working at Matrimandir

NEWCOMER CONFIRMED:

- Luca SERRI (Italian)

Michel



AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

- Angelica BERNAL MALDONALDO (Colombian)
- Archana SARAF (Indian)
- Carine POISSON (aka) Karine (French)
- Evgenia GLADKAIA (Russian)
- Julia PULLEN (German)
- Nidhin ANAND (Indian)
- Swati RAJPUT (Indian)
- Tamara Sivan BOTBOL (British)

YOUTH TURNED 18 ANNOUNCED:

- Noe PRIGENT (French) staying in Samasti and working at Youth Center

YOUTH TURNED 18 CONFIRMED:

- Aruna ARUMUGAM (Indian)
- Manisa TAIT (French)

LEFT ON HIS/HER OWN:

- Cecilie Lanken VERMA (Dutch)
- Ahana Elva Lanken VERMA (Dutch)
- Arvind Lanken VERMA (Dutch)
- Steina OHMAN (Finnish)

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 Aurovilian once his/her name has been confirmed by The Admission Committee (aka the Entry Board) after following due process.
- The date of becoming Aurovilian is the date of confirmation. An Aurovilian confirmed by the Entry Board is eligible to participate in all community decision-making processes.
- A confirmed Aurovilian 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.



Noe

Please bring your tiffin or request home delivery (extra charge)
Please book meals one day in advance. Kipaak@ 8523915031
Please note: Monthly booking is accepted just contact us.



Marc's Café update

We are open from from **8 AM to 12 noon only**
til 20th May.

Please come during this time for take away.
Orders and delivery remain the morning only.

May the coffee spirit be with you. - Marc's cafe Store team

Citizens' Assembly latest update



In our previous update we mentioned that we had presented the outcome of the Citizens' Assembly (CA) - a water vision for Auroville and suggestions

about how it could be implemented - to the main water players, and that one of the things that emerged from that meeting was the need for a body to further implementation of the proposals. In this connection, various water players, representatives from the bioregion, CA participants & organisers met on 22nd March, World Water Day, to organise themselves for action steps for the implementation suggestions emerging from the CA. Many of these groups are currently actively pursuing the work (as best as they can under COVID conditions). Anyone interested to help can email avwatervision2021@gmail.com. Meanwhile, framed versions of the water vision will be appearing in public places in the near future.

We also put a call out to members of the community at large to participate in an evaluation of the Citizens' Assembly pilot, alongside participants, water players, and work group members. During the past month, presentations about the pilot have been made to the Working Committee, RAS, Entry Board, FAMC, TDC and the BCC teams (the Council, which was not able to attend a planned presentation due to sickness, hopefully will receive one in the near future). The interactions were positive. Members particularly appreciated the educational & social aspects, and suggested it could be experimented with for topics of wide community relevance which the existing groups may be struggling to deal with.

A member of the Working Committee observed, "I see the CA model/process as a useful additional tool for decision-making of certain types of topics." An RAS member wrote, "I believe this model can bring alternatives to the existing pattern of the decision-making. RAS could provide technical support in setting up the CA model as part of RA processes related to RAS."

The CA participants, the water players, as well as Aurovilians surveyed in the wider community, were also positive about the potential for the Citizens' Assembly model in Auroville. 88% of respondents in the wider community recommended that the CA model be used in Auroville again, and rated the aspects of 'Random Selection' and 'Education' as the most interesting and valuable parts of the model.

"This is a good way to build on the intuitive governance aspect and overcome the polarisation between participatory and hierarchical governance," wrote one. "The Citizens' Assembly model could be the answer to some of our structural governance problems in Auroville and help us bring out the best of all of us," another responded.

However, a number of work groups recommended that a few more pilots need to be completed "to build understanding and credibility in the community as well as for groups to gain clarity about how it can be put to best use."

It is a point that the CA organizing team is well aware of, which is why we have been discussing what we have learned from the pilot CA and considering possible future directions. These could include running another small-scale pilot on a different kind of topic (for example, one that could be implemented right away). There seem to be no shortage of topics. The most popular topics mentioned by the work groups, participants and community at large were Town planning/Master Plan/Galaxy model, the economy/maintenances, the selection process and mobility.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Integrated Transport Service can provide the following services to support the community at this difficult time.

- We can provide a driver for your travel needs in your own vehicle (any kind)
- We do all kinds of drops and pickups within Auroville
- Basket deliveries to your doorstep
- Food deliveries like Tiffin from Auroville eateries
- Courier/parcel pickup and drop

For any further inquiries please come visit us at our office opposite Solar Kitchen. We are open from **9AM to 5PM. Closed on Sunday.** Or contact us at +91 8098776644 | +91 9442566256 or its@auroville.org.in

Homemade Food Available for Takeaway

Delicious healthy meals can be ordered for take away Wed - Sat. On request dinner will also be available for take away.

Timing: **12:30 to 2 PM & 7 -8 PM advance booking only**

MENU: Wednesday - Saturday

Vegetarian: Dal Makhani, Vegetables, salad, spicy/non-spicy Ironba with Rice/ Chappati

NON VEG: Chicken/Pork/Fish curry, Vegetables, Salad, Spicy/non-spicy Ironba with rice/chappati

Menu changes might happen each day especially with the vegetarian version. I can assure you that it will be an experience!

At the moment, we are looking into how to receive suggestions / selection criteria from the wider community for future topics, in keeping with the challenges and best practices we learned from our pilot. Specifically, while a topic can be controversial, it should:

- address an issue of collective concern
- be apparent that the outcomes of the process can be acted on by Auroville itself and there is there a clear implementation pathway
- there must be enough evidence and expertise to present the topic in all its aspects

Meanwhile, we have been preparing a comprehensive report of the first pilot, which will include feedback from participants, presenters, organizers, working groups and the community at large, as well as an explanation of the Citizens' Assembly concept, its potential relevance to and utility for Auroville, and a detailed description of the pilot's process and outcomes. This will be made available for everyone to read in the near future.

We again encourage you to visit our website - caexploration.auroville.wordpress.com to go through the outcomes of the pilot assembly and learn about the water situation in Auroville from a diverse group of Aurovilians engaged with the topic. You are welcome to contact us for more information at caexploration@auroville.org.in

- The Citizens' Assembly Exploration team
(Kathy, David, Alan, Suryamayi, Helen, Anshul, Nikethana, Martin, Praveen, Aditi, Lesley)

HEALTH

Integral Health Recommendations to Maintain Well-being during CoVid

This briefing paper will look at a range of options in managing the risk of getting SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). It should be viewed as a supplement to the mass bulletins from the Working Committee. FYI, there is also a list of frequently asked questions at the end of this document re. COVID-19.

What factors can depress our immune system?

- Older age: As we age, our internal organs may become less efficient; immune-related organs like the thymus or bone marrow produce less immune cells needed to fight off infections. Aging is sometimes associated with micronutrient deficiencies, which may worsen a declining immune function.

- Environmental toxins (smoke and other particles contributing to air pollution, excessive alcohol): These substances can impair or suppress the normal activity of immune cells.

- Excess weight: Obesity is associated with low-grade chronic inflammation. Fat tissue produces adipocytokines that can promote inflammatory processes. [1] Research is early, but obesity has also been identified as an independent risk factor for the influenza virus, possibly due to the impaired function of T-cells, a type of white blood cell. [2]

- Poor diet: Malnutrition or a diet lacking in one or more nutrients can impair the production and activity of immune cells and antibodies.

- Pregnancy: Did you know pregnant women have altered immune function because their immune system is repressed in order to allow for fetal cells to grow and develop? Worldwide understanding of how pregnant women are being affected by COVID, either directly or indirectly, is mounting. There is an increase in the number of stillbirths and premature births. It's probably best to avoid hospitalisation right now, and to seek home care for pregnancy care, childbirth and breastfeeding support.

- Chronic diseases: Autoimmune and immunodeficiency disorders attack and potentially disable immune cells.

- Chronic mental stress: Stress releases hormones like cortisol that suppresses inflammation (inflammation is initially needed to activate immune cells) and the action of white blood cells.

- Lack of sleep and rest: Sleep is a time of restoration for the body, during which a type of cytokine is released that fights infection; too little sleep lowers the amount of these cytokines and other immune cells.

So the general advice to minimise COVID is to follow these precautions: wear a mask, maintain social distance, avoid crowds, stay home if sick, avoid smoking (anything), reduce or stop drinking alcohol, lose weight, take regular exercise, give attention to your diet, ensure you have adequate sleep and consider the advice given below on taking known immune boosters.

Supplements that might help - A recent paper published in the BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health found that of 3,72,720 UK participants (1,75,652 supplement users and 1,97,068 non-users) the following supplements were found to reduce the risk of becoming infected with SARS-CoV-2.

- Probiotics - 14%
- Omega-3 fatty acids - 12%
- Multivitamins - 13%
- Vitamin D - 9%

What is already known on this topic?

□ Dietary supplements have been shown to play key roles in supporting immune function, but the extent to which specific supplements are associated with reduced risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection is not known.

What this study adds: Individuals taking multivitamins, omega-3 fatty acids, probiotics or vitamin D were less likely to be tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 in three large independent cohorts of app users. There was a significant protective association for vitamin D, omega-3 fatty acids, probiotics and multivitamins in female users across all ages and body mass index categories within the largest (UK) cohort; yet, there was no association in male users of this cohort. Vitamin C, zinc and garlic supplements had no association with risk for SARS-CoV-2 (i.e. showed no benefit)

□ There is a need for random, controlled trials of selected supplements.

Summary:

Lifestyle recommendations to maintain wellbeing during these stressful times with diet, exercise, mental health and sleep.

Diet and Exercise - Eat freshly prepared home-made foods with pulses or grains and vegetables along with spices (eg: ginger, turmeric, black pepper, cumin, coriander, cinnamon, basil, garlic etc). Fresh fruit for breakfast. Uncooked salad vegetables daily. Avoid Kapha-producing foods like dairy products and sugar/sweet food. If the digestion feels heavy, take a shot of Ginger-Turmeric-Black pepper powders after food.

□ Drink hot water with ginger and lemon or herbal teas (especially Tulsi - works wonders on the respiratory tract) or green tea.

□ Eat 1 tsp a day of Chyavanprash

□ Organic fruits or vegetables are nature's "Farm"acy, they might not look appetizing and shiny but they are full of vitamins and minerals and their seeds are "mother seeds" (they reproduce fruits or vegetables when you plant them, unlike hybrid or modified seeds that are sterile).

□ Keep moving, do exercise, sweat it out even if it's just 15 minutes per day.

□ Keep your senses lubricated: drink enough water; put 2 drops of sesame oil or Anu Tailam (ayurvedic medicated oil) in each nostril in the morning and at bedtime; massage the sole of feet and palms of hands with sesame oil if you can't do a full body oleation.

□ Gargle with hot water, salt and a pinch of turmeric.

□ Take steam inhalation for 1-2 minutes once or twice daily. Inhale through nose and exhale through mouth and repeat by inhaling through mouth and exhale through nose. Add Ajwain or Eucalyptus if preferred.

□ Cultivate happiness and positiveness by nourishing your senses and mind with uplifting news, sounds, images, contacts.

□ Clean the atmosphere with sage fumigation or holy basil vaporization.

□ Wash your hands regularly esp. before preparing/eating food & before/after using the toilet.

- Do not eat leftovers, stale or junk food or at any uncleaned premises
- Burn incense or do aromatherapy w/ eucalyptus, holy basil, rosemary, sage, sandalwood.

Action to take: Supplements, Ayurvedic preparations approved by the Indian Government (AYUSH) and sunbathing for Vitamin D, acupressure and a focus on positive energy and thoughts.

Deep Adaptation Listening and Sharing

Need a support to talk and to be listened to? Call us!

On the way to resilience, adapting to the unknown, we sometimes go through challenging emotional states. Sharing the path, the daily questions, keeping the collective alive, helps a lot walk the path smoothly. DA listening and sharing is a what's app group carrying this intention where you can share your emotions & daily issues on the path with others.

Link to join my WhatsApp Group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FhAkvKRuEAq13oAxffaBY>; phone/WApp +91 950 027 1460
<https://deepadaptation.auroville.org/deep-adaptation-listening/>
 - With love ♥, Dan, Prarthna, dan@auroville.org.in

Survey on Health in Auroville - last reminder

The deadline to fill the survey on Health is on the 16th of May, coming Sunday, and today is the last reminder. Out of the 230+ practitioners/Healers, only a very low number has filed out the survey. Today, 1 week before the end of the timeline, maybe can we reflect on an eventual outcome with regard to low participation.

- The time is not appropriate to do so, as minds and energy are fully busy with Covid related matters
- People do not like surveys, do not see the purpose, or have plenty of different other things to do, which are much more important
- The practitioners of Auroville may not feel concerned by this topic. They practice on their own, in their space, with their regular clients/patients/groups, and do not want to share their experiences, background, reservations and expectations on the topic
- They might think that the survey is too intrusive, and they may fear that their practice is not matching Auroville 'rules', such as the collective aim of Health, possible agreement to work freely with their practice
- They might not be properly registered to work
- They might fear for their "income" as they feel that it should remain confidential.
- Etc?

So far, I didn't receive any negative feedback on any of the above points. So, whatever the result of this survey will be, it will represent the current situation in the field of Health in Auroville, and will be documented as such. Many thanks to all who are supporting this work. ~ Dan - dan@auroville.org.in

LOOKING FOR

Housing: We are Kristen & Alexey, Aurovilians, 34 and 42 years old, and we need a place to live. We can offer a monthly contribution & any work that needs to be done. Kristen works at Auroville Archives & Auroville Library; Alexey at Aurodent. If you have any ideas for us, please contact kristen@auroville.org.in / 83002 88303 (Alexey WhatsApp) / 262 2466. Thank you ♥

An infrared projector - Auroville Language Lab needs one to use for the classes. Please contact us if you know of one.

A book - 'Quantum Mechanics' by Amit Goswamy. Does anyone have a copy of this or know where to borrow it? Thanks! Cristo cjm@auroville.org.in / 262 2356.

AVAILABLE

A home at AuroAnnam - One single bedroom, double bedroom w/ kitchen & attached bathroom. Wifi, backup UPS, fridge, hot water and basic kitchenette provided. Contact 852 391 5031.

Exchange living spaces?

I steward a good flat at Creativity, ground floor with mezzanine, 71 sq meters plinth. Before breaking and remodeling, I am inquiring about exchanging for a housing asset more suitable for my needs at this time. Stewards interested to exchange, please contact: 0413 262 3750 or pat@auroville.org.in -Patricia

Houseworker - Shandy from Edaynachavady is looking for part-time work. Please contact Lakshmi 8489764602.

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth. Running the tap while brushing can waste 15 litres of water. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city.

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

Report and Reflections of the Water Group, Jan-April 2021

Water Situation: The monsoon rains received during Nov & Dec 2020 were abundant, contributing to an annual total rainfall exceeding 1,600 mm (as reported by several Aurovilians who regularly measure rainfall), and helped aquifers to recharge effectively. In fact, all Auroville wells had their water level rising several meters (in few wells it raised more than 10 meters), and thanks to the exceptional rain received in February, the water table has been consistently high, declining only from April.

We would like to encourage everyone to help the water level remain high throughout the summer, to help aquifers to recover for a longer period: remember not to use well water for irrigation and gardening, but rather use treated wastewater and/or used domestic water from your kitchen sinks and showers. Plants, trees and flowers will be happy to receive additional nutrients contained in these waters (without chemicals), you can see how they are thriving in those communities using treated wastewater for their gardens in the Residential Zone!

Special Guests: We were honored to meet with Ms. Durga Das, CEO of [AeroNero](https://www.aeronero.com) (<https://www.aeronero.com>) a Chennai-based company which is making machines to produce drinking water out of air. If you are interested in learning more about their work, contact us. If there are enough people interested, we may be able to organize a time for her to come and meet with some of us (once Covid restrictions lift).

In another inspiring meeting, we were honored to meet with both the Water Matters Mela team as well as Rashmi Gandaki (featured in February Auroville Today) and learn about all of their work in water. We thank everyone for taking the time to meet with us and share. Water Group is in full support of the upcoming Water Matters Mela in September and looks forward to further collaboration!

March Water Talks & Citizens' Assembly

Big thanks to the speakers and participants of the March Water Talks, including the event held in collaboration with the Citizens' Assembly team for water players on March 22nd, World Water Day. Thank you also to all who attended the Citizens' Assembly film showings at MMC. In total, events were attended by 200 people. We are grateful to SAIER for its financial support. To see highlights of one Water Talk, "Whole Water in Buddha Garden", click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xmgmx9mfcjU) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xmgmx9mfcjU>).

Water studies available online: In total over 150 studies on water in Auroville or the bioregion conducted by Auroville or affiliated organizations were collected and indexed into a Google Drive folder held by the Auroville Water Group. Of these, about 60 Aurovillian produced studies, articles and presentations have been uploaded to [AuroRepo's repository site](http://aurorepo.in/) (<http://aurorepo.in/>) for access by all. The others are pending due to the need to clarify copyright issues and permissions on the AuroRepo site. This work has been going on since June of last year and concluded in March.

Ongoing work: Water Group continues to offer advice and share information on water-related issues to community members over email or in-person meetings. We received multiple requests at the end of April to meet individuals wanting to improve the water situation within their community, groups starting new projects, or individuals who want to learn more. We are happy to be a resource to share what we know and learn from others, and also hope that our [website \(www.aurovillewater.in\)](http://www.aurovillewater.in) assists in this as well.

Membership of Water Group: Tom has stepped down from the Water Group, we thank him for his time and energy. Alok (Auroshilpam) & Savithri (Humanscapes) are attending meetings on a temporary basis to explore the possibility of joining.

Finances: The Water Group is made up entirely of volunteer membership & receives no financial support. There was one half-maintenance given from ATDC to support the administration/communications of the Water Group, however, it was cut at the end of Jan 2021. Water Group is currently looking for a half-maintenance to support its administrative/communication work. watergroup@auroville.org.in

- Water Group (Eric Chacra, Giulio, Ing-Marie, Tency)



Despite the closure of the radio studio we keep on producing from home! Stay tuned! [Here](#) you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7).

[Here](#) you can see on-air schedules.

Last published podcasts:

Lunaria - ep.15 "Dhumavati & Tripura Sundari" (Women's health)

Suryamayi's PhD on Auroville - chapt.4 "Understanding Auroville as a 'Utopian' Community" (Research)

Soul Tracks - Se.2 ep.12 "The Mayfly Sessions, ep.1" (Music)

Happiness, Love and Laughter - ep.103 "Say YES! To Life"

Audible Weed Walk - ep.40 "Let's start fortyfying ourselves" (Food education)

Happiness, Love and Laughter - ep.102 "Animals have feels too" What do you know - ep. 11 "Integral Education - with Shakti" (Yoga and philosophy)

....and more! on www.aurovillerradio.org

For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in

Al Bosque Mágico

To the Magic Wood

(al bosque entre Gaya y Grace)

with thanks to Peter and Glenn

Arena tibia
serpenteado camino
y un clamor de arboleda
que crece
rodeándonos
hasta volvernos
hojarasca
y no ser.

Warm sand
A winding road
And the voice of trees
that grows
embracing us
til we return
to dust
And are no more.

~Anandi -a ~ Constance (transcreation)

⇒⇒⇒PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!

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Subscribe at [newsandnotes-list+subscribe](mailto:newsandnotes-list+subscribe@auroville.org.in)

[@auroville.org.in](mailto:newsandnotes-list+subscribe@auroville.org.in) or click directly



CLASSES/WORKSHOPS



Auroville Language Lab News

We hope to re-open on May 25th, (to be confirmed), following all SOPs. We appreciate your understanding. Stay safe!

❖ Hindi - Beginner & Intermediate Groups:

Upon confirmation of re-opening, we will start new Hindi classes. *Rupam* will take Beginners and *Vatsla*, Intermediate. Please see timings of classes on our schedule & further course details on our website. Both groups have spaces available, if interested, please let us know!

❖ Tamil - Beginner & Intermediate Groups:

We are happy to announce that in addition to the morning Tamil classes taught by *Saravanan*, which will continue, a new teacher, *Murugesan*, will teach Tamil in the afternoon.

Two new batches of 3-month long Beginner & Intermediate Tamil classes will start (also upon confirmation of re-opening). The classes will start with alphabets, numbers & seasons, and then two letter words, three letter words, etc.... The difference between spoken & written Tamil will be explored through books & videos. Tamil audio songs with lyrics will be used to develop listening & reading skills. Grammar will be taught with an emphasis on practical usage. By the end of the 3 months, students will be familiar with basics of Tamil & will start reading, speaking & writing simple sentences with proper grammar.

The first meeting of the teacher with all students who want to join these classes will take place at the Lab on **Thursday, 27th May, 2 - 4:30pm** (drop-in session). Classes are expected to start on 31st May (Monday). Since the division into beginners and intermediate groups will take place on 27th May, please attend that session if you want to join these classes. For more info, contact us.

While we are closed, we welcome those who are interested in joining either Hindi or Tamil groups (or any other language inquiries) to fill out our form: <https://register.aurovillelanguagelab.org/>, or send us a mail all@auroville.org.in. We look forward to hearing from you!

Important information about News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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