News and Notes

#868  A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville  1st May 2021

Courage flower  photo: Sven
The Divine Paradox

Beyond the tombs and the centuries, so many centuries, this “Time infinite that gives birth to numberless nights and days” — to what end? — we can almost hear the great wave Sophocles was join the great rhythm Sri Aurobindo was, as the chorus join the Actor; as the end meets its beginning again, as their actions mingle, and their gaze.

O Force-compelled, Fate-driven earth-born race,
O petty adventurers in an infinite world.
And prisoners of a dwarf humanity,
How long will you tread the circling tracks of mind
Around your little self and petty things?
But not for a changeless littleness were you meant,
Not for vain repetition were you built;
Out of the Immortal’s substance you were made;
Your actions can be swift revealing steps,
Your life a changeful mould for growing gods.

Thus spoke the King in Savitri.
We seem to hear a last chorus of Sophocles sing on, beyond the Aegean Sea, on the Bay of Bengal.
They knew each other well.

Hardly seven years old, Sri Aurobindo was taken by his father to England for studies; a teenager, he entered Cambridge where he read in the original Greek Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles ... even before he knew his mother tongue, Bengali. He also read Virgil in the original, and spoke “a very good French,” as Mother told me. Those Greeks awakened or reawakened an old mystery in his heart: how could one fail to find again that ancient whisper which toiled with us on many forgotten shores and is suddenly recognized there, as if from all time? One feels as if one were all men in a single moment. And how could that lonely and poor teenager on the banks of the Thames have failed to see the old Misery everywhere? Is this the end of our story? It was the time of triumphant Science and Materialism.

It was the time of Darwin. How can one imagine a seed that does not hold a tree? Man, really?
In 1893, just twenty, he returned to India, to learn of his father’s sudden death. No, he was not a “philosopher” — “never, never, never,” he will exclaim three times, even though he had to write much philosophy to make himself understood in our mental age. He was a poet, seer, he was prescient. He began to penetrate India, that other mystery, and to look with eyes older than those of Sophocles, as if the most ancient from the womb of ages came to meet the future, our future, as if that future had always been there in a recess of the Himalayas, in the recess of another Time that slowly unfolded through our centuries and our never changing stories here or there.

Revelations swooped down on him like lightning, no one knows how in that silent heart of twenty-two years.

I perceived the Law,
The Truth, the Vast;
From which we came and which we are; I heard
The ages past
Whisper their history, and I knew the Word

Thus said Sri Aurobindo in one of his oldest poems written in India. Already he began the first outlines of Savitri, that prodigious epic of 23,813 lines which he would correct and rectify and ceaselessly broaden as his exploration led him deeper into the unknown, into the depths of the body, until the last month of his life, in 1950, when he still revised “The Book of Fate”: twelve books divided into forty-nine Cantos ... “The epic of the victory over death,” said Mother when, alone, she had to hew in her body that path through “the dark foundation of the earth of the dead.”
That path ... through death, which holds the secret of our future.
(to be continued next week)

— Satprem, The Tragedy of the Earth - from Sophocles to Sri Aurobindo
LFAU - A4A's 28th Quarterly Update focuses on two April events in which the creation of Auroville has its roots - the arrival of Sri Aurobindo to Pondicherry in 1910, and the definitive arrival of The Mother in 1920 to work by his side. We are also happy to share the good news that despite difficult times, 30.84 acres of new land were bought in the past year thanks to your donations (March 2020 - February 2021)! We invite you to read all our good news and inspiring articles in this issue: https://land.auroville.org/update-a4a-special-month-april/.

An Important announcement: For all contributions from abroad the Government of India has just instituted a banking change for donating from abroad to Auroville. Please click here for the new details. For donations from within India, there is no change.

1. A4A FLIER - To be a “voluntary optimist” is one of the founding principles of Auroville. The Mother used this phrase in her diary entry of 23th March 1914, six days before her first meeting with Sri Aurobindo. Click here for our article with its pdf in English, Version française en pdf, and பிடிஎஃப்பில் தமிழ்ப் பதிப்பு.

2. LFAU Letter - From a certain perspective, humanity as a whole constitutes a crew within a “Spaceship Earth” flying to a distant goal. 111 years ago, in 1910, an exceptional “crew member” - Sri Aurobindo - came to Pondicherry under what he once termed as “sailing orders”. Click here for our article in English, Version française en pdf, and பிடிஎஃப்பில் தமிழ்ப் பதிப்பு.

3. 19.09 acres of new lands purchased - Thanks to your Solidarity! - Since our last announcement in February 2021, Auroville has added 19.09 new consolidating acres all funded by your donations! Our sincere appreciation also goes to the landowners whose goodwill made these purchases happen in such a harmonious spirit. Here's the Link to read about this good news!

4. The Work of the Auroville Land Board - Part 1 Few people realize the enormity of the work of the Auroville Land Board - executives and teams - for managing and carrying out all of Auroville’s land protection and land purchase actions. We are dedicating a new series to this important area - our Part 1 presents the mandate as well as the achievements of the past 3 years. Click here.

5. Renu - an Auroville Pioneer since the start! Renu was one of the first Auroville children, present for the 1968 Inauguration and the Matrimandir’s consecration. As an energetic member of the Land Board, she continues to work building Auroville, holding it as close as possible to the exciting vision she grew up with. Here’s her story in this interview by Joel.

6. A Big Thank You from Art for Land 2021 & other solidarity news - Here's a happy summary by Jaya of the Unity Pavilion of the very beautiful and professional exhibition of Art for Land 2021 with its rich program of land fundraising activities. All proceeds go to Acres for Auroville which joins Jaya in sincerely thanking all the artists, the team, and the volunteers!

Reminder: 3 greatly-appreciated books have been created for which the proceeds also go to Acres for Auroville: Auroville 80° - the bi-lingual photo testimonial by Nadia Loury; and “50 Poems from Auroville” and “50 More Poems from Auroville” by Vikas Vickers - all available at https://www.auroville.com/.

7. Donor creativity - the Savitri Online Encyclopedia - Gopal Ahir from Vadodara, India, an A4A donor and long-time friend of Auroville, has finished a notable and extremely helpful work - The Savitri Online Encyclopedia. Please read more about it here.

8. Inspiration from Sri Aurobindo & The Mother - Here’s a new selection of inspiring quotes from Sri Aurobindo and The Mother as beautifully presented by MirraBliss - this time focusing on encouragement and guidance for walking the spiritual path.

There are many ways to make your land donation - the details are here. And when you donate, kindly write or call us at lfau@auroville.org.in so we can better track and respond to your solidarity! Phone: +91-413-2622657. Our website: https://land.auroville.org/
Covid Updates

From the Secretary-in-charge, Auroville Foundation

In view of the serious situation arising out of the current wave of Covid spread, all meetings scheduled or unscheduled with groups or individuals will not happen until further notice. The Office of the Secretary will function with very limited staff for emergency purposes. No visitors will be allowed. You can contact us through phone or email.

All residents maybe advised to stay home safely and follow strictly all precautions of wearing a mask properly, maintain social distancing of 2 meters and hand hygiene if they have to go out for essential services.

The Working Committee may please ensure that no events or gatherings be allowed on Auroville campus or premises and absolutely no parties, especially after 10pm, which will be viewed seriously. Restrictions as per the TN government notification will have to adhered to without any relaxation or compromise.

The Working Committee may kindly inform all other relevant committees & groups for compliance. Our concerned department & section in the Ministry of Education are also marked for kind information.

As you are aware, over the past 4 weeks India has been experiencing a 2nd Wave of Covid-19. The 2nd wave has intensified very rapidly and is characterised by virus strains that have been observed to be more contagious and virulent and - according to medical professionals - also may be partially resistant to antibodies developed by symptomatic and asymptomatic infections during the 1st wave. In Auroville it has been observed that most of the cases this time do have symptoms and some have been/are very unwell, whereas in the initial wave almost all cases were asymptomatic.

Please find below the latest update about cases in Auroville:

Three of the cases in Shampa and the case in Gaia that were announced earlier have now mostly recovered and have tested negative. However, 2 more Council members (in addition to Shivaya), Suryan (living in Isaiaambalam Guest House) and Claudine (living in Inspiration) - names shared with their permission - have tested positive after experiencing symptoms. In addition, a guest staying in Isaiaambalam GH has tested positive so the guesthouse is now in self-imposed lockdown since there are shared spaces there. There are now 3 more residents of Auroville who have tested Covid positive, all 3 living in Grace community as neighbors. Two of the three are primary contacts of the guest staying in Isaiaambalam GH, announced earlier. They all have mild to moderate symptoms, are isolating at home with the support of the Santé Coordination team, the community has been informed and contact tracing has been done. This brings the total number of Covid positive cases in Auroville to 11.

Contact tracing has been done but if anyone has had direct and close contact with Shivaya, Suryan or Claudine since the 14th of this month (the time of onset of symptoms) and has not been contacted by someone from the Santé Coordination team, please write to santecoordination@auroville.org.in

Due to the rapid increase in active cases, members of the previous Covid Task Force are helping Santé Coordination in order to be able to effectively handle the work involved in contact tracing, testing, and care and support for our fellow Aurovilians who may need it.

The Ambulance Service Team are now actively supporting the Santé Coordination team. In addition, regular coordination of all health services has been re-established. For positive Covid cases, a system of round-the-clock medical care availability on a shift basis has been put in place. A plan is also under consideration to upgrade the facility of Sharanam in order to take care of more serious cases, as local hospitals in the Pondicherry region have limited or no availability of beds.

Our own internal resources for dealing with Covid-19 are very limited, both physically and medically. We simply don’t have the human and physical resources to deal with many more cases, especially if they are in a critical condition. We are already challenged by assisting cases who have tested positive and are unwell, and by tracing their contacts to limit further spread from them into the community. And we do not have the medical resources in Auroville to manage Covid-19 cases who cannot be managed at home. Varies- and the Santé Coordination team, we are concerned...If cases increase in Auroville in the coming weeks, it may prove very difficult to obtain the needed medical attention and support.

From the 23rd, there has been a full lockdown in Pondicherry from 10 PM on Fridays until 5 AM on Mondays. During the rest of the week (Monday to Friday) shops and other establishments will be open only from 5 AM to 2 PM.

Hence, we strongly recommend that maximum precautions be taken in the coming few weeks to reduce the risk of contagion. The only way to stop the surge in cases in Auroville and to stay safe, as a community and individually, is to reduce activities that are not essential plus very high-risk activities such as indoor sports facilities and sports activities with body contact, movie theatres, choir and other cultural practice and performance in groups, meetings in closed spaces, contact dance, schools, etc, with immediate effect.

Also, please wear masks, practice good hand hygiene and keep a safe distance of at least 2 metres from others as much as possible. We hope for your understanding of these new and more serious challenges that are being faced and look forward to your collaboration in a spirit of fraternity and community.

In response to feedback from a few residents, it is important to share with you that the communications we send out are not motivated by fear. It is our belief that we all must do what we can with all our human limitations, while at the same time having faith that all is in Her hands.

We understand that there are different views about the pandemic and the precautions to take in order to avoid infection, but we appeal to everyone to please set aside personal opinions and do what is necessary to help those around you to feel safe, including our neighbors in the surrounding villages.

With best wishes, Santé medical staff, Santé Coordination team, Auroville Ambulance team and the Working Committee

The Tamil Nadu government, through an official press release, has announced new restrictions due to the growing numbers of Covid cases in the state and in the country. The number of new daily positive cases in India is 3.49 lakh in the last 24-hr period. This is the highest daily cases any country has had since the beginning of the pandemic. In Tamil Nadu, the number of active cases has just crossed 100,000, and yesterday (Sat, 24th) there were 14,842 new cases. In our district of Villupuram there are more than 1000 active cases and yesterday (24th) 205 new cases were added. And finally, in Vanur Block we have about 80 active cases, with active positive cases in these villages: Koot Road, Therkunam, Konthamur, Pillamudalai Chavadi, Thalaiappuram, Kottakarai, Moratandai, Patrick and Kadakampattu. In Pondicherry there are 6,767 active cases and on the 24th the city added 702 new positive cases, which amount has been steadily on the rise over the last one week.

A Government Order is expected and it will be uploaded in Auronet as soon as we receive it. The main implications for Auroville are that restaurants can function only for takeaway and delivery, and gatherings in large numbers in auditoriums (such as Bharat Nivas, Cinema Paradiso) meeting halls and gymnasia is not allowed any more. For more details, please see the list of restrictions below, as announced in the official press release.

• All theaters, gymnasia, amusement parks, all recreation clubs, bars, large halls and meeting halls are not allowed where public gather in big numbers.

• Large shops, shopping malls are not allowed to operate. Grocery stores, vegetable stores and all other stores are allowed to operate as usual following the appropriate instructions. However, grocery stores and vegetable stores operating in shopping malls are also not allowed. Large stores (grocery stores) that sell groceries and vegetables, including stand-alone groceries, are allowed to operate without air-
conditioning. Of these, only 50% customers at a time should be allowed.

- Beauty parlours and salons are not allowed to operate in all Corporations and all Municipalities including Chennai.
- Only parcel service will be allowed in all restaurants and tea shops. Restaurants and tea shops are not allowed to sit and eat. Customers staying in hotels should be served food in the rooms where they are staying. It is not allowed to sit and eat in restaurants.
- All e-commerce services can operate with limited time constraints.
- Public worship is not allowed in all places of worship. However, daily pujas/prayers/ rituals are not prohibited to do by the staff of the worship places.
- In view of the increasing incidence of corona infection, religious festivals and gatherings have been banned from 10.04.2021 with the permission of the District Collector/ Commissioner of the Department of Hindu Religious Affairs concerned if the festival is to be held or if arrangements have been made to fix the date of the ‘Kudamuzhukku’ with the participation of 50 persons. At present, this practice has been changed and only temple staffs are allowed to attend the ceremony without the participation of the public. New Kudamuzhukku/Festival are not allowed.
- No more than 50 persons should participate in marriage and marriage related functions.
- No more than 25 persons attend funerals and related ceremonies.
- At least 50 per cent of employees in IT and IT service providers must work from home.
- All Sports Coaching Associations / Groups including Golf and Tennis Club are not allowed to operate. However, only training for international and national level competitions will be allowed.
- Persons coming to Tamil Nadu from all states except Pondicherry, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala will be allowed to enter Tamil Nadu only after showing the details registered (e-registration) on the website http://eregister.tnega.org.
- All travelers coming to Tamil Nadu by air/ship from abroad will be allowed only after showing the details registered (e-registration) on the website http://eregister.tnega.org when entering Tamil Nadu.
- As already ordered, in private and government buses, passengers will be allowed to travel in seats only. Standing on buses is not allowed.
- In rental and taxi vehicles only three passengers are allowed to travel except for driver and in autos only two passengers are allowed to travel except driver. Violators will be prosecuted.
- Night curfew every day and full curfew on Sundays will continue in Tamil Nadu.

Also, please remember that at Pondy there is a night curfew every day and a full curfew on Saturdays and Sundays, and that most shops are open only until 2pm on weekdays.

It is recommended that meetings happen online as much as possible, and we have informed the Town Hall that only essential topics be discussed and that the reception area remains uncrowded and your waiting period is also minimized.

In case you have a prior appointment, but are showing flu-like symptoms like a cough, cold, fever, loss of smell and/or weakness, please do not come yourself but call for a telephone consultation with the doctor. If you have medical concerns or are in doubt, call Santé on (0413) 2622803 during our working hours. (8:45 - 12:30 & 2:00 - 4:30 Mon. - Sat.)

When visiting Santé and interacting with our staff and other patients, please ensure you are wearing a mask, maintaining a safe distance and practicing good hand hygiene.

We will be reviewing the situation every week and will post an update in case of changes and when our normal services will resume.

Thank you for your patience and collaboration to preserve the wellbeing of our community and our loved ones.

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Santé Services Update - April 2021

In order to reduce recently intensified Covid infections from spreading, the following changes in Santé’s services will apply from Monday, April 26th, 2021:

- Our doctors and nurses are available as usual and therapies in Ayurveda, homeopathy, women’s wellness, midwifery and psychotherapy will continue as before.
- Contact therapies (acupuncture, shiatsu, physiotherapy, psychosomatotherapy and massage) will be suspended till a later date. We apologize for all the inconvenience this may cause.
- It is recommended to limit visiting Santé at present, except for acute or urgent cases or for emergencies. Please make appointments (instead of walk-ins), so we may ensure that the reception area remains uncrowded and your waiting period is also minimized.

In case you have a prior appointment, but are showing flu-like symptoms like a cough, cold, fever, loss of smell and/or weakness, please do not come yourself but call for a telephone consultation with the doctor. If you have medical concerns or are in doubt, call Santé on (0413) 2622803 during our working hours. (8:45 - 12:30 & 2:00 - 4:30 Mon. - Sat.)

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Covid-19: FAQs For Auroville Residents

Important phone numbers & working hours are given at the end of this post.

All major hospitals that are designated for treating Covid-19 patients in and around Auroville/Pondicherry are overloaded and are concentrating their attention and resources on handling very critical cases of Covid-19 ONLY. Our own internal resources for dealing with Covid-19 are very limited, both physically and medically. However, we are trying to help you to the best of our ability.

Q. I have Covid-19 like symptoms such as fever, cough, cold, body-ache, loss of smell, loss of taste. Please call Santé Reception during working hours & share your information with the receptionist. S/he will schedule a call back for you from the doctor on duty as soon as possible. Due to the highly contagious nature of Covid-19 and limited medical staff, a doctor or nurse will probably not be able to visit you in person, and neither should you visit Santé.

Q. I am very sick with Covid-19 - high fever above 39.0 °C (or 102.2 °F), persistent cough, breathlessness, feeling very restless, tired/exhausted, low on energy.

Please call the Ambulance Dispatch. The ambulance duty person will evaluate your symptoms and organise a priority call back from a doctor or if needed, and based on resources available, organise a priority visit to your location if stabilisation or admission is required.

Q. I don't feel well at all. Please call the Ambulance Dispatch. The ambulance duty person will evaluate your symptoms and organise a priority call back from a doctor or if needed, and based on resources available, organise a priority visit to your location if stabilisation or admission is required.

Q. I am in quarantine/isolation and I need non-medical help at home. Please call the Santé Covid-19 Coordination number. Please let the Coordinator know if you can’t isolate at home.

For groceries - here are the details for the Basket service. Check out the guidelines for delivery link

PTPS: Contact Person: Kala; ptpservice@auroville.org.in
0413-2622152, Web: https://consciously.auroville.org.in

HERS: Contact Person: Thulasi, hers@auroville.org.in
+91-7598553406, https://consciously.auroville.org.in

Delivery to be organised by family or friends till they get volunteers.

PTDC: Contact Person: Arul, ptgdbasketservice@auroville.org.in
Whatsapp: +91-9659626618, https://consciously.auroville.org.in

Q. I tested positive. Or I had close contact with a person who has tested positive.

Please call the Santé Covid-19 Coordination number. Please also let the Santé Covid-19 Coordinator know if you can’t isolate at home or need help with delivering groceries, food or other essential items.

If you have tested positive, the Santé Covid-19 Coordinator will:...
The applicant would like to rebuild a severely dilapidated house. The existing structure would not sustain the proposed roof slab, the existing structure would not sustain the proposed roof slab.

Schedule a tele consultation with a doctor
Schedule a call with a volunteer to trace any close contacts you may have had over the past 7 days
And provide you with:
- A printed copy or email/WhatsApp the guidelines on isolation, including dos and don'ts & contact numbers. These guidelines can be viewed (or downloaded) here: https://bit.ly/253LEX
- A vitals monitoring kit that includes a Pulse Oxymeter, Blood Pressure meter and thermometer along with a monitoring sheet.
- Links to online material to learn how to self-monitor your vitals and other useful information on Covid-19

Please see guidelines on testing here: https://bit.ly/2S3tLEX
Q. I want to get vaccinated
Please see information on vaccination here: https://bit.ly/3xq5pVQ

The project holder can begin construction on site after picking up the signed NOC document from the ATDC office.

From AVC/FAMC: Community members for Housing Board
In accordance with the revised Housing Mandate (https://auroville.org.in/article/84487), there are now 5 community-at-large positions on the Housing Board which need to be filled. We now invite qualified and interested candidates who would like to join the Housing Board to send in a statement of interest and a profile/ CV of their qualifications and experience to avcouncil@auroville.org.in by 8th May 2021.

Please reference the below criteria for membership of the Housing Board extracted from the mandate.

Criteria for membership of the Housing Board
To be a member of the Housing Board, an individual must:
- Be listed on the Register of Residents for a minimum of five years. In circumstances it deems exceptional, the FAMC may waive this requirement, in consultation with existing Housing Board members;
- Have a commitment to the Charter and ideals of Auroville;
- Be willing to dedicate time to the work of the Housing Board in a spirit of goodwill, collaboration & transparency. This includes the ability to work together harmoniously with the other Housing Board and Housing Service members and an acceptance of the need to attend Board meetings regularly and declare any conflicts of interest that have the capacity to cast doubt on the integrity of the Housing Board’s decision making;
- A concern for and willingness to work toward the improvement of Auroville’s housing situation;
- Display competence in areas of work covered by this mandate;
- Not be subject to any past or current inquiries, investigations or procedure that may affect the perception of the member’s credibility or the Housing Board’s reputation. Any such matters should be referred to the FAMC and the Working Committee for consideration;
- Not own any immovable property or have any undeclared proprietary interest within the Masterplan area of Auroville. This does not apply if the immovable property is family-owned as ancestral lands and the nominee’s family members are not residents of Auroville.

The following applications have been reviewed and approved by L’avenir d’Auroville. Those applications have gone through the full review process and will be issued the final building NOC. Any concerns or queries regarding the below building NOC’s can be sent to application-avenir@auroville.org.in with feedback period ending on 15th of May 2021.

Arumugam - Shakti - BA B - 2480 - rebuild family residence
Architect/designer/contractor - Saminadhan
Community/Area - Shakti/Outside Master Plan
Area for which final NOC is sought - 74 sq.m.

Project brief: The applicant would like to rebuild a severely damaged family residence to provide a safe home to five members. Since he would like to replace a keet roof with RCC slab, the existing structure would not sustain the proposed roof, the ATDC decided that he needs to rebuild the dilapidated residence by Auroville standards and architectural design ethics. Design was made by IMC cell of ATDC, worth 13.651.16 rupees, which would be partially funded by Housing Service loan and partly by private funds.

The project holder can begin construction on site after picking up the signed NOC document from the ATDC office.

Odile - Jean Marc’s room - BA B - 2490
Architect/designer/contractor - Mohamed Hussain
Community/Area - Pony Farm/Industrial Zone
Area for which final NOC is sought - 44 sq.m.

Project brief: The applicant would like to build a self-standing room next to her house to provide space to aging Jean Marc, who is not able to live alone anymore. Design for a simple bedroom with attached bathroom was made by Mohamed Hussain. Estimated cost: 7 lakhs, funded privately by the applicant. ATDC will condition the issued final building NOC time wise - for the start with 5 years, with possible extensions by 1 year, but not more than 10 years; after when the room will have to be demolished. If the occasion arise to develop the area before the due time, ATDC will inform the applicant on time. The project holder can begin construction on site after picking up the signed NOC document from the ATDC office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Financial Service is open only AMs, 9 - 12:30 and will be closed Saturday, May 1st for Labor Day
From the Residents Assembly Service

In light of the Covid-19 situation and basing on the recommendations of the Working Committee & Santé, we’ve decided to cancel our public open hours to meet residents on Thursdays until further notice.

We’ll also have our regular internal meetings online until the situation stabilizes. We are happy to have meetings with residents on Thursdays from 10 AM – noon via Zoom meetings. To schedule one, please email us at raservice@auroville.org.in

Thank you for your understanding and stay safe.

Nandini Distribution and Tailoring will be closed on Saturday, 1st May, for the Labor Day holiday.

Solar Kitchen food arrangements
From Wednesday 28th of April onwards the Dining Hall will be closed and only tiffin service will be available. Please email to solarkitchen@auroville.org.in, if you want to shift to tiffin or cancel your lunch. Stay safe! ~ Solar Kitchen team

Eco Service halts pickups till further notice
Our driver has suddenly found another job and left the Eco service. We will not be able to do any pickups till further notice. Very sorry for the inconvenience and another reason for you to reduce the waste consumption. Thank you. ~ Ecoservice Team

The Farmer’s Market scheduled for this Saturday, 1st May is postponed.

ALL AUROVILLE Eateries can ONLY provide takeaway service - no on premises dining!

See the FYI section for more details.

Due to the weekend lockdown in Pondicherry state, the Accessible Public Bus service is suspended on Saturdays till further notice. Also, since shops in Pondicherry must close by 2 PM, the bus will only make the morning trip from Monday to Friday.

Land Board open hours - Following Covid precautions, the Land Board will remain open with a minimal essential staff. Our hours will be from 9.30 AM to 2 PM.

Savi office open only with prior appointment
Please be informed that the Savi office is not open to general public until further notice due to the current scenario. We can meet volunteers only through prior appointment over email or phone. All general inquires re: volunteering can be done through e-mail (study@auroville.org.in) or by calling us (0413-2622121) between 9.30am to 12.30pm. Sorry for the inconveniences if any. Stay healthy and happy.

- Savi Team (Manoj, Pranshula, Saranya and Sivakumar)

All classes & therapies at Quiet, Pitanga, Bharat Nivas, Arka, Verite, Mohanam and Kuilai Cultural Center are suspended until further notice.

Other venues, call to confirm.

Meanwhile, stay safe, strong and healthy!

OBITUARY

Parvathi Jaiswal
In the very early morning of Friday, 23rd April, Smti Parvathi Jaiswal, mother of Giridev & Hinal, passed away due to a stroke. She was 90 years old and had been living in Ami with her sons & grandchildren, who will sorely miss her. Parvathi’s remains were buried at Auroville’s burial grounds the same day.

Our warmest condolences go out to the family. OM~

Last minute: Manoj Das, one of the trustees of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and managing trustee of ‘Sri Aurobindo Udyog Trust’, passed away on 27 April at the age of 87. More next week.

APPEALS

Auroville Institute of Applied Technology seeks work orders from Auroville units
Lavkamad lavkamad@auroville.org.in

WELCOME

Please be advised that the Entry Service office is closed.

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 080, 1.5.2021

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

AUROVILIANs ANNOUNCED:

- Geetha SELVAM (Indian) staying in New Creation (Roy/Tixon Boarding) and working at Town Hall Reception
- Giovani PARRILLO (Italian) staying in Serenity and working at Funding Auroville & Auroville Name Protection Group
- Laure HUYS (Belgian) staying in Auroemode and working at Eco Femme
- Marvin Joya II PANGANIBAN (Zech) (Hong Kong) staying and working at Savitri Bhavan
- Rajnarayan ANDAGERE (Australian) staying in Udumbu and working at Upcycling Studio
- Rupan GAJANTHIRAN (Indian) staying in Creativity and working at Kinisi

AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

- Christopher Peter HARRISON (British)
- Jegan SANKARDASS (Indian)
- Valentina GAROZZO (Italian)

YOUTH TURNED 18 CONFIRMED:

- Gregorio Aurelio CORCIONE (Italian)
- India Letizia CORCIONE (Italian)
- Mahana CORDONNIER (French)
- Neha PARTHASARATHY (Indian)
- Veerle KOSTER (Dutch)

FRIEND OF AUROVILLE CONFIRMED:

- Sumit BAJORIA (Indian)

LEFT ON HIS/HER OWN:

- Emma PALMER (Swedish)
- Nils JOHANSSON (Swedish)

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.

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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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Brand new custom offices & residences available near Verité

UTSAV (Celebration) is an under construction, mixed-use project expected to be completed by the end of this year. It is located along the Verité Radial in the Industrial Zone. As an “urban” development, Utsav will feature both commercial offices and residences developed in an aesthetic and conscious manner.

Offices are on the ground and first floors, while the residences are located on the second floor. The office spaces are ideal for Auroville services / units and startups. Ground floor units can also be utilized for retail sales. The residences can be customized to accommodate volunteers, friends of Auroville, or long-term residents. Each unit type is available in multiples of 21 sqm carpet area, at reasonable costs, with quality infrastructure, and can be configured as per need.

Some spaces are still available, including a special ground floor residence unit with a private courtyard. For inquiries please write to: utsav@auroville.org.in

UTSAV Project Holder - Bobby (Auromics), Project Architect - Mona (Yantra), Project Contractor - Baskar (Sincerity)

NATURELEMENT: Following COVID directives we will only be able to offer takeaways and home deliveries from our restaurant until further notice. The menu will be slightly limited to avoid waste. But we can make everything that’s normally on our menu if ordered one day in advance, minimum 2 portions. Please phone 2622034 for info and preorder.

Since last year we are still offering a 50% discount on an assortment of our basic products if purchased directly from Naturelement in Udyogam (jams, syrups, marmalades, peanut and sesame butter, pickles, chutneys and breakfast cereals). On the rest of our products and restaurant items we give 25% discount as always. You can also pick up frozen ravioli by weight if you bring your own container. We will start to sell our tomato sauce to go with it, a perfect solution for an instant gourmet meal! Check out also our new cookie line with gluten free options. With a smile, the Naturelement team

LA TERRACE: We will be open only from 8 AM to 4 PM and for take-away only. Please bring your containers for getting idlis, dosas, croissants, salads, cakes, juices, coffee or any item from our usual menu.

Nobody is allowed to sit in the café area. Strict social distancing is to be respected and wearing masks and sanitising your hands when entering. Take care and stay safe! -La Terrace Team

MARC’S CAFÉ STORE: will be offering take-away & home delivery only until further notice.

Mon & Tues: 8 AM to 6 PM; Wed - Sat, 8 AM - 8 PM

Mon/Wed/Fri – 9 AM to 12 noon; lunch items 12PM - 2PM; dinner items 6PM - 8PM. Open throughout the day for take-away snacks, juice, cakes, tea, coffee etc. Please bring your own containers!

Home delivery service will run twice per evening, at 6:30PM and 7:30PM. Order by 6PM: call 0413 2622248 or call/whatsapp message +91 89039 63137.

With care, your cafeteria team.

Visitors Centre Cafe open for Take-Away & Home Delivery

VC Cafeteria will continue to offer our regular menu items (including Korean dishes & dosai) for take-away, with a home delivery service in the evenings, every day except Sundays!

Breakfast items 8AM - 11AM; lunch items 12PM - 2PM; dinner items 6PM - 8PM. Open throughout the day for take-away snacks, juice, cakes, tea, coffee etc. Please bring your own containers!

Home delivery service will run twice per evening, at 6:30PM and 7:30PM. Order by 6PM: call 0413 2622248 or call/whatsapp message +91 89039 63137.

With care, your cafeteria team.

NANDINI working days/opening hours

Distribution Section: Mon - Sat 9 AM to 12 noon; Mon & Fri, 2 - 4 PM
Tailoring section: Mon/Wed/Fri 9:30 AM - 12 noon & 2 - 4 PM

HEALTH

Health in Auroville - A Survey

Friends working in the field of health in Auroville: Do you know that we are more than 230 health practitioners/healers in Auroville?

As announced on the 5th of April, a survey on health has directly reached you by email. The survey covers all aspects of our practice, including our wishes, expectations and reservations in enhancing the quality of our work. The survey also tackles possible connections between health and the other fields of activity in Auroville. Although the list of recipients contains 230 individuals and 15 centers, it may be incomplete, and you may know someone who practices and did not receive it. Please let me have any missing email address.

Please fill the survey before Sunday the 16th of May.

Depending on the replies, the possible next steps of this work could be (non-exhaustive list):

- Organizing and presenting the data on health to the community (No personal data will be shared to the community)

The award-winning documentary film Ever Slow Green tells the story of a 50-year-old young tropical forest that evolved in Auroville, through some of the diverse characters who dedicate their lives to bringing it to fruition. Now available on Cinematrepreneur: https://bit.ly/2QvV5JL
Apple's iTunes: https://apple.co/3jNeEUn

* 30% of all revenue is donated to the Auroville Forest Group

Please help spreading the word! Ever Slow Green website.

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community without your consent. The report that we publish will be at an aggregated level.)

- Creating a webpage on health in Auroville, under the www.auroville.org.in
- Creating a directory of all practitioners in Auroville
- Launching another survey for the users, to collect their expectations and/or concerns regarding Health
- Improving both safety and quality for patients and clients.

Many thanks to all who are supporting this work,

- Dan - dan@auroville.org.in

Protection from a hostile environment

In times like these, it is beneficial to tune into the essential, to center where the source of inspiration and strength is inexhaustible. In THE SCIENCE OF LIVING The Mother says, "Love, Knowledge, Power and Beauty - these four attributes of the Truth will spontaneously express themselves in our being. The Psychic will be the vehicle of true and pure love, the mind that of infallible knowledge, the vital will manifest an invincible power and strength and the body will be the expression of a perfect beauty and a perfect harmony" (link: http://sacs.org.in/texts/mother/-/ma-sciencedoliving.php)

To help us turn inwards again, Ayurveda and other traditional medicines bring guidance if we are shaken by a hostile environment, may it be outer or inner (with unconstructive or demeaning emotions - Vata nature with anxiety, fear, stress; Pitta nature with frustration, anger, being opinionated; Kapha nature with confusion, being a victim, depression).

1. Eat freshly prepared home-made foods, eat when appetite is there:
   - With pulses or grains add vegetables along with spices (eg: ginger, turmeric, black pepper, cumin, coriander, cinnamon, ajwain, basil, garlic, etc)
   - 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
2. Drink hot water with ginger and lemon or herbal or green tea (especially Tulsi - works wonder on respiratory tract)
3. Eat 1 tsp a day of Chyavanprash
4. 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)
5. Keep moving, do exercise, sweat it out even if it’s just 15 minutes per day
6. 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 soles of the feet and palms of hands with sesame oil if you can’t do a full body oleation
7. Gargle with hot water, salt and a pinch of turmeric
8. Cultivate happiness and positivity by nourishing your senses and mind with uplifting news, sounds, images, contacts
9. Clean the atmosphere with sage fumigation or holy basil vaporization
10. Wash your hands regularly, especially before preparing and eating food and before/after the use of the toilet
11. Burn incense or do aromatherapy with eucalyptus, holy basil (Tulsi), rosemary, sage, sandalwood

Feel strong, safe and protected - Be @ Santé Clinic

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

The Farm Group is looking for someone who can assist us, the Farm Group Coordination Team (FGCT), in an administrative & secretarial role. The Farm Group recently 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. 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

HR Initiative is a service that 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.

Video Editor - You edit interviews, tutorials and corporate presentations using Adobe Premiere Pro (adding branding elements, background music, graphics, using basic video transitions). This is project-based work.

2D Animation, After Effects - You edit corporate videos and white board videos using Adobe After Effects (basic animation of 2D characters & objects, text and infographics animation, adding audio track in sync with animation, subtitles etc.). This is project-based work.

And other positions (please inquire about details):
- Volunteers for Auro Orchard
- Volunteer for a Marketing Position
- Management, Promotion and Fundraising
- Digital Communication & Community Manager
- Program Management (volunteer)
- Senior PHP developer
- Electromechanical Engineer
- Administrative position

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 or 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.

Fan - Summer is on its way and I am looking for a used super fan or a smart fan. Email me Edeni@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.

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**AVAILABLE**

**Electronics Repair** - If you have electronics that need repair, and you want to either get rid of them or get them fixed, I’m your guy. Om, om@auroville.org.in. Whatsapp: 811 082 3263.

**Bicycle** - Used white BTWIN 85034B men’s bicycle with a steel frame, cantilever brake, 26 in. wheels. Happy to offer it at 50% of current price. I want to trade it for a small tree. Please come to the ga...wer the next day before 10 AM. Minimum order: 1 KG. For details to take a walk, and enjoy discovering new spots of beauty.

**Black peppercorns** (stil...jects; the wet black peppercorn doesn’t increase Pitta. Please contact Achilles (91594 48069) or Gabi (95853 40684).

**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.

**Smart TV Thomson** 32”, 5 mos. warranty w/ soundbar; decorative standard lamp (1.7 m); 2 decorative tables (lg/sm) set; mixer tap w/ shower head; folding screen w/ hand-made print in room; 2 bathroom screens (new). 89406 89101 or maitreevich@gmail.com

**ANLO FRESH**, a registered Auroville activity, delivers fresh (non-frozen) seafood, chicken, mutton, beef, pork (boneless or bone-in). Order with your name, address, community) before 10 PM on WA 70 944 37739 and receive delivery the next day before 10 AM. Minimum order: 1 KG. For enquiries call 948 636 7247.

**SAMARPAN Beach Guest House** offers an Aurovillian discount for long stays. If interested, contact 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

**Pots, Pots, Pots** - Beautiful terracotta pots in various sizes are now available at the Av Botanical Gardens. The small ones are ideal for seeds and ground plants, the medium or large size can be used for your balcony or garden where you can even use them for a small tree. Please come to the gardens to take a walk, and enjoy discovering new spots of beauty.

**Organic sun dried bananas from 9 Palms** - Available at Coffee Break, Kulpalayam main road. You can also place an order through:

WhatsApp: 76399 99317/ coffeefbreak@auroville.org.in

**GREEN MATTERS**

Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps it retain more nutrients.

With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. watergroup@auroville.org.in/www.aurovillewater.in

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**THE MAGIC BOAT**

This year we’ve been blessed - our Irumbai Lake is full of water! But on the roadside from the Visitor’s Centre towards Kottakarai there to the Ashram Farm, one can see a string of garbage piles. Even in the lake water itself there is plastic pollution.

**Question:** How can we clean up all this waste?

**Answer:** The magic pedal boat will do it!

People can enjoy a boat trip around the lake & give a donation so that wages can be paid to clean up the lake area every year. People without money can collect 1 bag of plastic in exchange for 1 hour in the boat on the lake. All together the project will create working opportunity, eco awareness and joy.

If you think this is a good idea, you can be part of its realisation. – Rs. 25,000 are required. Our acct # is 0486 - please mention Magic Boat.

FMI: 948 886 6332 or siddharthafarm@auroville.org.in.

Your favorite radio is closed again due to the rise of COVID cases in Auroville. Av Radio team hopes you stay well and safe! Here you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7).

Here you can see on-air schedules.

**Last published podcasts:**

**Suryamayi’s PhD on Auroville** - chapt. 2 “Methodology” (Research)

**Lunaria** - ep.13 “Bhuwaneshwari and Chinnamasta” (Women’s health)

**Savitri, B. X, C. I, Part 2** (Integral yoga)

**Savitri, B. X, C. I, Part 1** (Integral yoga)

**Soul Tracks - Se.2 ep.11 “BeatlesnotBeatles”** (Music)

**Aarohan - ep.23 “Dharwad Ki Dhrohar”** (Music)

**Audible Weed Walk** - ep.38 “Earth Day: Let us not be apart, but be a part of nature again” (Food education)

**Happiness, Love and Laughter** - ep.99 (part 2) (Wellness)

**Happiness, Love and Laughter** - ep.98 “Living on Love and Fresh Air... the Bretharian Way” (part 1) (Wellness)

**Neo Urban Chronik** - ep.41 “The word of silence on the radio” (Humour)

**The best of what still around** - ep.26 (Music)

**Une série hebdomaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi -355** (Integral yoga)

…..and more! on www.aurovilleradio.org

For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in Peace and Love

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**Integrate with Home** - Drawing by Audrey
Remembering Ilse on 05.05.2021 (15th Anniversary)

My dear friend,

It is very difficult to forget you, even though it is 15 years now. We had some very good moments together - never any misunderstanding. You were a good advisor, friend, well-wisher and took care of my son by dropping & picking up from Transition school. He still remembers the Gratitude flowers that you plucked for him on the way to school. Your memory remains as if sculpted in the rocky stone. We all miss you and love you forever my dearest friend. - Love, Raji, Arunachalam and Gothainayagi

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

All events at Bharat Nivas are suspended for the moment due to the current COVID situation

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

All classes, workshops & therapies at VERITE, PITANGA, ARKA, QUIET Healing Center, & Bharat Nivas, as well as at MOHANAM Village Heritage Centre, Bamboo Centre and Kulilai Cultural Centre, are suspended until further notice due to the current Covid situation. We will do our best to keep you informed as activities resume.

NEWS FROM AUROVILLE LANGUAGE LAB

❖ Lab & Tomatis Closure: The Lab and Tomatis will be closed till Sunday 9th May, as a precautionary measure, given the rising Covid cases in Auroville. We hope to re-open on May 10th, (to be confirmed), following all SOPs. We appreciate your understanding.

❖ Our New Video! - We would love to share our new video presenting many amazing features of our sustainable building. Please give it a look! Share with your friends!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEXGZ6Ym5IO

❖ 5-Day Esperanto Intensive Course - POSTPONED. Please keep an eye on our news for the rescheduled dates! Thank you for your patience.

❖ Chinese with LiFang - ON HOLD
We thank you for your inquiries, more are always welcome! Please note that we hope to start classes later this year.

❖ Hindi - Beginner & Intermediate Groups:
Upon confirmation of re-opening, we are to start Hindi classes from May. Rupam will take beginners and Vatsa, Intermediate. Both groups have spaces available, if interested, please let us know! Please see timings of classes on our schedule & further course details on our website.

Savitri Study Circle with Shraddhavan on Zoom

As Auroville is now on lockdown, we will be conducting our coming Sunday Savitri Study Circle classes on Zoom, starting at 10:30 AM, IST, 2nd May 2021, until further notice. We will continue to stream it live on our YouTube channel as usual. If you wish to join us on Zoom, please send us an email with the title "Join Savitri Bhavan Zoom Contact List" to savitribhavana@auroville@gmail.com. We will send you an email invite with the Zoom link within 30 minutes before the class starts.

Please also sign up for free, and download and install the Zoom Client for your computer or mobile phone here: https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

As you may be asked by Shraddhavan to read lines from Savitri online, we recommend you to also get good earphones/ headset w/microphone, so that you can participate in the online class under the best possible conditions.

As the participation on Zoom is limited, anyone who misses out may join us on our YouTube Channel. Please subscribe so that you can be automatically notified when the stream goes Live: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp2C9PHHLoeakbB1AoetA

Because of the COVID situation, this week’s activities:
Friday film in MMC "Naagoyatsi" & Saturday Cine-Master class "Woman in the Dunes" are cancelled.

Stay safe and be well! - Aurofilm team

JIVA - your journey in healing and transformation
www.auroville-jiva.com/
WhatsApp 9626006961

Face & Body Reading (5 levels)
4th - 6th May is CANCELLED

“Natural Horsemanship” Webinars w/ Mirabelle -you choose when!
You can join classes via Zoom as well - it works great!

Carpentry Workshop Basics & Intermediate: CANCELLED
The carpentry workshop developed by Auroville Consulting partnering with Walter at Pitchandikulam, and scheduled for 3rd - 6th May is cancelled due to the current situation.

FILMS

All film showings at Cinema Paradiso, Aurofilm Eco Film Club at Sadhana Forest and Anitya are cancelled for the coming week (at least).

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!

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: 0413-262-213

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