Happy Pongal

Earth, sky, heaven,
the quarters
and the lesser quarters;
Fire, Air, Sun, Moon
and the Constellations;
Waters, herbs of healing,
trees of the forest,
ether and the Self in all;
these three
concerning
this outer creation

Taittiriya Upanishad

The Ponder Corner

But in experience we find that for us it is, normally, a quiescence that brings in the stable realisation of the eternal and the infinite: it is in silence or quietude that we feel most firmly the Something that is behind the world shown to us by our mind and senses.

The Life Divine – Reality and the Cosmic Illusion
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905 - 15 January 2022
“In fifty years the whole world, all the receptive section of humanity (I am not saying intellectual, I am saying receptive), all the receptive section of the world will be embraced – not ‘embraced’: ABSORBED in the power of Sri Aurobindo’s thought. Those who already are have the good fortune of being the first ones, that’s all.”

The Mother, Agenda 16 February 1972

A Defence of Indian Culture
(continued from last week)

“This is the sense of that spiritual liberation and perfection of which Indian thought and inner discipline have been full since the earliest Vedic times. However high and arduous this aim may be, it has always seemed to it possible and even in a way near and normal, once spiritual realisation has discovered its path. The positivist Western mind finds it difficult to give this conception the rank of a living and intelligible idea. The status of the siddha, bhāgavata, mukta appears to it a baseless chimera. It seems to its Christian associations a blasphemy against the solitary greatness of God, before whom man is only a grovelling worm, to its fierce attachment to the normal ego a negation of personality and a repellent menace, to its earthbound rationalism a dream, a self-hypnotic hallucination or a deluding mania. And yet in ancient Europe the Stoics, Platonists, Pythagoreans had made some approach to this aspiration, and even afterwards, a few rare souls have envisaged or pursued it through occult ways. And now it is again beginning to percolate into the Western imagination, but less as a dynamic life-motive than in poetry and in certain aspects of general thought or through movements like Theosophy that draw from ancient and oriental sources. Science and philosophy and religion still regard it with scorn as an illusion, with indifference as a dream or with condemnation as a heathen arrogance. It is the distinction of Indian culture to have seized on this great dynamic hope, to have kept it a living and practicable thing and to have searched out all the possible paths to this spiritual way of perfect existence. Indian thought has made this great thing the common highest aim and universal spiritual destiny of the soul that is in every human creature.

The value of the Indian conception for life must depend on the relations and gradations by which it connects this difficult and distant perfection with our normal living and present everyday nature. Put over against the latter without any connection or any gradations that lead up to it and make it possible, it would either be a high unattainable ideal or the detached remote passion of a few exceptional spirits. Or even it would discourage the springs of our natural life by the too great contrast between this spiritual being and our own poor imperfect nature. Something of the kind has happened in later times; the current Western impression about the exaggerated asceticism and otherworldliness of Indian religion and philosophy is founded on the growing gulf created by a later thought between man’s spiritual possibilities and his terrestrial status. But we must not be misled by extreme tendencies or the overemphasis put upon them in a period of decline. If we would get at the real meaning of the Indian idea of life, we must go back to its best times. And we must not look at this or that school of philosophy or at some side of it as the whole of Indian thought; the totality of the ancient philosophical thinking, religion, literature, art, society must be our ground of inquiry. The Indian conception in its early soundness made no such mistake as to imagine that this great thing can or even ought to be done by some violent, intolerant, immediate leap from one pole of existence to its opposite. Even the most extreme philosophies do not go so far. The workings of the Spirit in the universe were a reality to one side of the Indian mind, to another only a half reality, a self-descriptive Lila or illusory Maya. To the one the world was an action of the Infinite Energy, Shakti, to the other a fragment of some secondary paradoxical consciousness in the Eternal, Maya: but life as an intermediate reality was never denied by any school of Indian thinking. Indian thought recognised that the normal life of man has to be passed through with a conscientious endeavour to fulfil its purpose: its powers must be developed with knowledge; its forms must be perused, interpreted and fathomed; its values must be worked out, possessed and lived; its enjoyments must be fully taken on their own level. Only afterwards can we go on to self-existence or a supra-existence. The spiritual perfection which opens before man is the crown of a long, patient, millennial outflowering of the spirit in life and nature. This belief in a gradual spiritual progress and evolution here is indeed the secret of the almost universal Indian acceptance of the truth of reincarnation. It is only by millions of lives in inferior forms that the secret soul in the universe, conscious even in the unconscious, cetano acetanu, has arrived at humanity: it is only by hundreds or thousands, perhaps even millions of human lives that man can grow into his divine self-existence. Every life is a step which he can take backward or forward; his action in life, his will in life, his thought and knowledge by which he governs and directs his life, determine what he is yet to be from the earliest stages to the last transcendence. Yathā karma yathā śrutam.”

(to be continued next week)

Sri Aurobindo,
The Renaissance in India, pages 157-159
NIGHT CURFEWS FROM 6 JANUARY ONWARDS

Dear Community, The Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has issued a press release on 5 January 2022 announcing a Lockdown on Sunday 9 January and night curfews from 6 January onwards from 10pm to 5am and a new set of restrictions in addition to those announced on 31 December.

• During the curfew of 9 January only parcel service will be allowed in restaurants from 7:00am to 10:00pm
• Medical services such as milk distribution, daily newspaper distribution, hospitals, medical laboratories, pharmacies, ambulances and ambulance services, centers, lorries and fuel vehicles will also be allowed at night.
• Kindergarten and School from grade 1 to 9 are not permitted to operate except for crèches
• Direct class will be held for students from 10th to 12th grade
• Training and Coaching Center should not operate
• Exhibitions and book fairs are postponed
• Pongal Festivals held by govt and private are to be postponed
• The current ban on public gatherings will continue
• Places of worship are not open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

The following activities, which are already permitted, are allowed to operate subject to the following lockdown restrictions:
1. Only 50% of customers will be allowed to sit and dine in restaurants, hotels, bakeries, hostels and lodges.
2. Wedding and wedding-related events will be allowed to be held only with a maximum of 100 persons.
3. Only 50 persons will be allowed for funerals.
4. Owners of clothing stores and jewellery stores are requested to ensure that they do not exceed 50% of the customers at a time.
5. Gymnasiums, sports, restaurants in clubs will be allowed to operate with up to 50% of customers at a time.
6. Gymnasiums and yoga training centers will be allowed to operate with up to 50% of customers at a time.
7. All multiples/cinema theatres will be allowed to operate with a maximum of 50% of the audience with the total seats capacity.
8. Sports competitions will be allowed to be held in open outdoor playgrounds by following standard guidelines.
9. Training and playing sports will be allowed in indoor stadiums following by following standard guidelines.
10. Events such as seminars, music, drama, etc. held in all indoor venues will be allowed to be conducted with a maximum of 50% of the audience by following standard guidelines.
11. Beauty parlours, salons, and spas will be allowed to operate with 50% of the customers at a time.

The key points are:
• There will be a full curfew on Sunday 16th January.
• Night curfew is extended until 31st January.
• Special Buses for the Pongal festival are allowed to function with only 75 percent of the passenger capacity.
• Public is not allowed in places of worship from 14th to 18th January.
• Other activities currently prohibited and permitted during lockdown will continue.

The official Tamil text of the press release of the Honorable Chief Minister and the English translation are available at this link. We will update as and when there are new guidelines issued.

We would also like to inform everyone that there are some new cases in Auroville, especially in Mitra Hostel where 10 volunteers have tested positive. They are isolated on one floor and are being taken care of by a doctor from Sante. The local Block Medical Officer has also been informed.

We would like to request all Aurovilians, Newcomers, Volunteers and Guests who have arrived from abroad to inform santecoordination@auroville.org.in about their arrival, respect a 7-days quarantine and do a test on the 8th day in coordination with Sante, as per current government requirements. Unit holders employing volunteers, guest house managers and people who are receiving guests at their homes are kindly asked to cooperate.

Please, remember to continue applying all due precautions of wearing masks and maintaining distance when interacting with others and in public spaces/facilities, and regularly washing hands or using sanitizer.

With best wishes to all,
The Working Committee
(Anu, Arun, Chali, Hemant, Partha, Saura, Srimoyi)

CITY SERVICES CONTRIBUTIONS AND PAYMENTS
December 2021

A more detailed report is available on the Auronet

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<th>Summary</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Buffer Opening Balance (BOB)</td>
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<td>Monthly Contributions (Int. + Ext)</td>
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<td>Total Contributions (OB+Monthly Inc)</td>
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<td>Monthly loss/gain</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See full report in the Appendix, on page 21

FAMC REPORT ERRATA STATEMENT
(Report for months of Sept/Oct/Nov 2021)

Dear community, the following is the correct text concerning Handy Market, as published on the Auronet [https://auroville.org.in/article/88554]:

Handy Market, a unit under ABC Trust. Reappointment of Mrs. Revathi Iyaran, and appointment of Mr. Pradyumna Rathanam. Approved.

Also the following is the correct text concerning the activity Ilion: The trustees of Artisansa Trust submitted a Trust Resolution dismissing Sabine as a manager. The FAMC accepted the Trust Resolution and issued its own Resolution of acceptance.

With best wishes to all,
The Working Committee
(Anu, Arun, Chali, Rathinam, Pradyumna, Srama, Brinna)

To The Content
IMPORTANT NOTE ON THE NEW RAD PROPOSAL

Dear community members,

The voting phase of the Residents’ Assembly Decision-making process (RAD) has now been launched by the Residents’ Assembly Service (RAS) and will run until Sunday, 23rd January 2022. If you haven’t received it, please get in touch with the RAS at razservice@auroville.org.in

How was the proposal modified, taking feedback into account? Based on the feedback received by community members, the petitioners’ representatives and coordination team has reformulated the initial RAD proposal. The initial proposal was “to stop all development work on the Crown until further notice from the Residents’ Assembly”. The refined proposal is the following:

“To pause all clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work on the Right of Ways of Crown, Radials, and Outer Ring in order to enable the community to define a way forward for Auroville’s development, following:

- collective processes,
- the ‘Master Plan: Perspective 2025’ framework,
- and other relevant regulations.

The outcome shall be approved through a ratified Residents’ Assembly Decision-making process, before the above specified clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work resumes.”

We have presented an analysis of the feedback received, as well as the way it has been integrated and the reasons for the new proposal wording in the RA Meeting that was held on the 2nd of January, 2022. If you did not get a chance to attend this meeting, you can access the written report of the meeting and the presentation that was made.

This will help you understand which feedback has been incorporated, which not, and why. We have also recently posted an article on Auronet to answer two of the questions that were asked at this RA Meeting, in regards to (1) a time frame for the pause and (2) the specific elements of the Master Plan (Perspective 2025) framework which should be followed if the RA votes for a pause.

If you have any questions on the content of the new proposal and the way feedback was integrated, feel free to get in touch with us at dec2021rads@auroville.org.in

We wish you all a peaceful week ahead, and hope for a collaborative way forward.

Sincerely, Petitioner representatives & coordination team
(Dinagar, Elvira, Kripa, Lakshmi, Lili, Maël, Sandeep, Suryamayi)

RESIDENTS’ ASSEMBLY DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Residents’ Assembly Decision to pause all clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work on the Right of Ways of Crown, Radials...

“To pause all clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work on the Right of Ways of Crown, Radials and Outer Ring in order to enable the community to define a way forward for Auroville’s development, following:

- collective processes,
- the ‘Master Plan: Perspective 2025’ framework,
- and other relevant regulations.

The outcome shall be approved through a ratified Residents’ Assembly Decision-making process, before the above specified clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work resumes”.

Dear Residents, this Residents’ Assembly Decision making process (RAD) is for the community to approve or disapprove the above proposal.

The RAD will run until SUNDAY, 23rd January 2022

How To Participate

Use your personalized voting link sent by the RAS. Web based Gmail interface users, check the Promotions tab in case the email is not in your inbox. Good to also check your Spam / Junk folders. If you are an Aurovilian and didn’t receive this email, please write to razservice@auroville.org.in (with a possibility of also adding us in copy, in case we could give you an answer).

We are happy to help you register your decision.

In Person

If you prefer to vote in person, a printed voting slip is also available from the RAS sounding board in Town Hall. Please fill your ballot out and hand it over to the RAS members / resource persons (at the RAS office) every

- Monday 2pm – 4:30pm,
- Tuesday 10am – 12pm,
- Thursday 10am – 12pm,
- Friday 10am – 12pm.

We are happy to help you register your decision.

In-person voting will be organized at Solar Kitchen on Sunday, January 23, 11am – 2pm.

Reference Materials

- Report of the follow-up RAM
- Report of the first RA Meeting
- Recording of the first RAM
- Presentation of the ATDC (for the RAM1)
- Presentation of the petitioners (for the RAM1)
- Presentation of the petitioners (for the follow-up RAM)
- Relevant materials and Summary for navigation (provided by the petitioners’ representatives and coordination team)
Clarification: What is an RAD, RAM, RAS (in English, French and Tamil)
RAD policy (in English, French and Tamil)
Original petition

REPORT OF THE FOLLOW-UP RAM

In preparation for the RAD to stop all development work on the Crown until further notice from the RA

07 Jan 2022 / 07:51 am

Dear Residents, here is the report of the follow-up Residents’ Assembly Meeting (RAM) that happened on Sunday 2nd of January 2022.

Residents’ Assembly Meeting (follow-up RAM)

Day/Date: Sunday, 02.01.2022
Venue: Bharat Nivas Auditorium
Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm
Attendees: 320 attendees (in person at Bharat Nivas Auditorium), around 15 attendees (in person at Bhumika Hall) and more than 900 viewers joined online.

The follow up RAM was called by the Residents’ Assembly Service (RAS) to discuss the revised proposal as the next step in preparation for the decision-making

Facilitators: Fif, Niva

For the background of this RAD, please refer to our previous communication.

320 residents attended the meeting in person (Bharat Nivas Auditorium) in full compliance with the new Covid restrictions requiring only 50% occupancy. Newcomers, volunteers, youth were welcomed, as stipulated in the RAD policy, as silent observers and were accommodated at Bhumika Hall. There were more than 900 viewers online.

People started to gather and register their attendance in person from 2:00 pm on.

The RAM was formally opened at 3:10 pm by the facilitators, who set the intention, ground rules and get through the agenda.

Before entering into the subject matter of the meeting, the facilitators offered the stage to whoever wanted to voice general objections to the RAD process. Shankar (Aspiration) and Lavkamad took this space.

Suryamayi then presented a data analysis of the 207 survey responses, with feedback on the original proposal, that RAS received from the community.

Maël and Lili, on behalf of the Petitioners’ Coordination Team, presented the revised proposal they drafted, as per the RAD policy, to take into account this feedback, explaining what they did consider for the revision, what they did not, and why.

The revised proposal was read first in English, then in Tamil and finally in French, followed by a Q&A session as planned.

There was time only for a few questions to be answered – the neat flow of the meeting was disturbed by the information from the Bharat Nivas management that police were coming to check Covid-regulations compliance of the community gathering in the venue. To avoid further disruption, RAS and facilitators decided to move to the final point of the agenda. (Police did come later, with only RAS, Auroville Security and few others still at Bharat Nivas).

The facilitators explained how to express agreement or disagreement on the revised proposal to those physically present in the Auditorium (using tokens distributed at the beginning of the meeting) and those connected online (using a specific email announced during the meeting). The vast majority expressed a common agreement to accept the suggested refined proposal – for further details, please pass by the RAS office.

As per the RAD policy, the RAS will soon “disseminate an RAD announcement (along with the proposal, voting options and all relevant materials), containing a personalised voting link, through the RAS mailing system 2 weeks prior to the voting deadline. The same announcement will be published in News and Notes and Auronet”.

For a deeper exploration, please refer to the following:

- Revised proposal
- Presentation of petitioners post feedback (RAM2)
- Presentation of the petitioners (RAM1)
- Presentation of the ATDC (RAM1)
- Petition
- Clarification: What is an RAD, RAM, RAS (in English, French and Tamil)

End Of Report

Many Thanks!

We would like to thank and express our gratitude to all the people who helped with facilitating the event, preparing the room, taking care of the flowers, the music, the video and audio recording, giving “free hugs”, childminding, respectfully listening and sharing.

As well as to the Auroville Safety and Security Team, to the Silent Presence keepers, to the Auroville Traductions team and to many other groups and individuals who contributed to this RA meeting.

All our meetings are a shared community effort and we are happy so many helped us with that!

P.S.: We received a few questions we want to address below...

1. Why did RAS use hybrid system (tokens and email) for the “pulses”?

In obedience to the provisional RAD policy, RA meetings will, as much as possible, be “held using a hybrid of in person and virtual participation”, and that has never been done before.

Indeed, for this phase of the RAD (to check whether there is a “common agreement to accept suggested voting options and to bring a refined proposal out to the community for a final decision”), the amended RAD policy includes “virtual participants” and RAS had to find a way to consider their opinions.

An email address was created ad hoc for this RA meeting of January 2, to be shared only with the online attendees at the time of the pulse-taking.

And for those physically present in the room, instead of a show of hands as done in the past, we opted for a tokensystem, because we were expecting many participants and potential difficulties in gauging visually attendees’ preferences with a simple show of hands.

Therefore, we distributed the tokens at the registration table to all who entered the Bharat Nivas Auditorium (max 320, as per new Covid rules) and then we counted the tokens of those who agreed on the refined proposal and those who disagreed. The counting was supposed to happen on stage, but given the circumstances we decided to do it outside the Auditorium. As planned, the counting was anyway videotaped and witnessed by people present at the time.

For the online attendees, clear instructions on how to vote by email were added on the YouTube page during the meeting. The online attendees had a window to express their agreement or disagreement between 4:25pm and 4:45pm. We didn’t want to share the email address before, to avoid that people would express their preferences without following all the discussion in the meeting. And we set a clear and short deadline to eliminate an endless “pulse”.

Due to some miscommunication, the IT team put the email address online at the beginning of the meeting, and then immediately removed. However, we only considered the emails received within the above mentioned time limit.

Warmly, The Residents’ Assembly Service
2. Why is RAS not sharing publicly the exact number of people who participated in the “pulse”?

Because RAS felt it was not needed in this phase of the RAD.

RAS shared the results of the “pulse” through the mass bulletin and Auronet post on January 3, the day after the RA meeting, stating that: “a common agreement to accept the suggested refined proposal has been reached through a hybrid (tokens and online) system. Those who are interested to know exact numbers, please swing by the RAS office.” In previous RA meetings, the “pulse” was never taken by counting the exact number of hands raised in the air, but rather checking only visually if a majority was more or less clearly expressed in the meeting room.

So, RAS wanted to replicate that concept where only the final result – agreement or disagreement on moving forward to the next step – matters and not how many people did express such agreement or disagreement.

To remain transparent, we offered to people who still wanted to know all the details, to come to our office and inquire.

3. Who called the police and did they really come at the end?

Around 4:30pm, Mr. Soi Suresh, Bharat Nivas’ manager, approached two RAS members to inform them that he has just received a call from the police. On this call, the police told him that someone had sent photos/videos apparently proving that the event in the Auditorium was happening without following due Covid protocols. Police also told him that they would come and check the double vaccination of the participants, in addition to the well-known and followed restrictions.

Since RAS and facilitators discussed in advance different emergency scenarios, we were able to quickly address this one too. We then took together the decision to shorten the Q&A section and move to the “pulse” immediately, outside the Auditorium instead of inside as it was initially planned.

Two police officers arrived around 5:15 pm and a member of the Auroville Security who was on demand (Anandamayi) led the conversation. Finally the police left, without checking anyone in person.

We don’t know who called the police and what exactly he/she shared with the police.

In any case, the meeting had a clear and neat conclusion, also thanks to the facilitators and the cooperation and discipline of the attendees.

Much love, the Residents’ Assembly Service

VACCINATION CAMP PREPARATION

Dear Residents of Auroville, in September 2021 a vaccination camp was organised in Udavi school in collaboration with the local health authority. We are now receiving some inquiries if another camp can be organised. We would like to remind you that Aurovilians can individually get vaccinated in the government sub-health centers of Alankupam, Kalapet and Kottakkupam.

However, if there is a relevant demand, another camp can be organised in Auroville. We would like to know who is still waiting for the second dose as it has been more than 90 days. We need a minimum of 70 members to organise a camp in or near Auroville.

• A simple reply with NEED SECOND DOSE would be enough to collect the number of people.

• Those who want to take their first dose can reply with FIRST DOSE.

Please reply to this email ID: wcoffice@auroville.org.in.

With regards, The Working Committee
(Anu, Arun, Chali (TOS), Hemant, Partha, Sauro, Srimoyi)

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE – ES # 116

Dated: 15-01-2022

The following people have been recommended by the Entry Board to join our community. Please share your feedback within 2 weeks for potential Newcomers, Associates and Friends of Auroville and within 4 weeks for Potential Aurovilians, Returning Aurovilians, Youth and Spouse/Partner of an Aurovilian in writing to entryservice@auroville.org.in. We thank you in advance.

NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- Bala-ganesh
- Ramya
- Suria

- Balaganesh SIVAPRAKASAM aka Bala (Indian) staying in Serendipity and working at Aurothama (Auromode) & Creativity Guest House
- Ramya AYYANARAPPAN (Indian) staying in La Maison des Jeunes (MDJ) and working at Aurodent
- Surya RAVISHANKARAN (Indian) staying in La Maison des Jeunes (MDJ) and working at Auroville Web Services

NEWCOMER CONFIRMED:

- Aloke MAJUMDAR aka Al (USA)
- Manimozhi JAYAMOORTHY (Indian)

AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:

- Archana SEKHAR (Indian) staying in Auromodele (Yen’s house) and working at AV Today & STEM Land
- Friedrich ECKHARDT aka Karthik (German) staying in Grace (Angelika-House sharing) and working at Matrimandir

AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

- Helen Yasmin Magdalene KELLER aka Leo (British)
- Thirumavalavan ELLUMALAI (Indian)

FRIEND OF AUROVILLE CONFIRMED:

- Michel DANINO (Indian)
- Nicole DELAPORTE aka Elfi (Indian)

LEFT ON HIS/HER OWN:

- Emma MANI (British)
- Evangal Ray Mani (British) – daughter of Emma MANI
- Luca Joy MANI (British) – son of Emma MANI

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 (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.

Yours, The Entry Service
In her service, Auroville Council
NEW YEAR’S CARD IS AVAILABLE

Our new year’s card is available as a free gift for you at Town Hall, the VC Information Service & Unity Pavilion. The land fundraisers of lands for Auroville Unified, Acres for Auroville, and GreenAcres are pleased to share our beautiful new year’s card with its inspiring and relevant messages. It is available as a free gift at Town Hall, the Visitors Centre Information center, and at Unity Pavilion.

When darkness deepens strangling the earth’s breast
And man’s corporeal mind is the only lamp,
A thief’s in the night shall be the covert tread
Of one who steps unseen into his house.
A Voice ill-heard shall speak, the soul obey,
A Power into mind’s inner chamber steal,
A charm and sweetness open life’s closed doors
And Beauty conquer the resisting world,
The Truth-Light capture Nature by surprise,
A stealth of God compel the heart to bliss
And earth grow unexpectedly divine.

Sri Aurobindo (Savitri)

The true spirit of Auroville is collaboration and must be more and more so. True collaboration paves the way to divinity.

The Mother, 22 October 1972
AUROVILLE AS A PLACE OF UNENDING EDUCATION

A step towards Auroville as a place of unending education… Charter of Auroville!

We are happy to share that Auroville Institute of Applied Technology (AIAT) and C3STREAM Land Designs have taken the initiative to open up the possibility of collaboration with the University of Pondicherry (PU). An MOU that allows for collaboration with PU in higher education and R & D was signed in the presence of the Vice Chancellor and the Secretary of Auroville Foundation. This MOU is signed by the Under Secretary of Auroville Foundation, Mr. Lavkamad Chandra, Executive of AIAT and Dr. Sanjeev Ranganathan, Executive C3STREAM Land Designs. The coordinators of the MOU are Prof. Nakkeeran at PU and Mr. Lavkamad Chandra at Auroville.

This MOU allows AIAT to offer post-schooling undergraduate programs under the vocational stream of higher education leading to a three year B.Voc (Bachelor of Vocation). In addition, it allows for graduate programs of M.Voc or PhD when we choose to offer them.

B.Voc which is equivalent to a B.Sc and part of the vocational streams that have been developed by the Ministry of Education to address the gaps in the theoretical undergraduate programs that exist in India currently. Under this progressive stream we hope at Auroville to have the freedom of designing our own curriculum in line with integral development of the youth and have PU as a partner to certify it.

The initial design of the curriculum is planned for streams such as environmental technology, software programming, electronics and we invite those in Auroville who have the skill to support such programs to join us in the design and delivery of high-quality programs.

The curriculum we design with the support of PU staff needs approval under the general guidelines of University Grant Commission for skill oriented higher education by the academic council of PU. When we receive such an approval for our designed programs it will allow us to offer the programs needed by our youth, while certification will be handled by PU.

This allows youth at Auroville and the bio-region access to meaningful post-schooling education and certification in India including being able to concentrate 40% of their time to develop competence and inner-capacity including yoga, sports, meditation, leadership, communication, computer literacy, 3rd language development, Introduction to Integral Yoga and Indian culture. 60% of their time will be devoted to practical skill development in their chosen area.

Students joining a B.Voc programs will additionally undergo internship in the field either at Auroville units or with industrial partners in Pondy and elsewhere. AIAT aspires to become a centre of integral education with a focus on Environment technology.

Students who have passed +2 or equivalent (A level) will be eligible to join the program. The Institute campuses are in Aurobrindavan and Irumbai!

For more information please contact Lavkamad@auroville.org.in

Lavkamad and Sanjeev Ranganathan

SOLAR KITCHEN CLOSED FOR PONGAL

Dear Community, Solar Kitchen is closed for Pongal on 15th January, Saturday, 2022.

Thank you, Solar Kitchen Team
Harishini, Manimaran, Shakti & Vanitha

NEW COVID RESTRICTIONS IN MATRIMANDIR

Due to the resurgence of the Covid pandemic in the Auroville area the Matrimandir Access Group and the Executives have decided that Matrimandir and the Park of Unity will remain open only for Aurovilians, Newcomers and Volunteers with Passes until further notice.

• Matrimandir Chamber remains open for Aurovilians and Newcomers from 6 to 8am and 4:30 to 6pm daily
• The Park of Unity remains open for Aurovilians and Newcomers from 6am to 7pm daily

Visitors and Guests with Aurocard will not have access to Matrimandir and the Park of Unity until further notice. Aurovilians with their guests will not have access to the Park of Unity until further notice.

The regular events in the Park of Unity will not continue until further notice.

• The Viewing Point will remain open from 10am to 5:30 pm everyday.

Elumalai

DOCTOR IN AYURVEDA JOINS SANTÉ

Santé happily ushers in 2022 by welcoming our newest volunteer doctor in Ayurveda. Dr. Sonia Malik has two decades of experience as a doctor of Ayurveda, with a primary focus on women’s wellbeing and natural birthing practices.

Dr. Sonia has successfully treated migraine, and thyroid issues, diabetes, obesity, gastrointestinal and respiratory conditions, and dermatological and musculoskeletal disorders. In the past 2 years, she has used her extensive knowledge in Ayurveda to help Covid patients with mild to moderate symptoms during their home isolation and advised on immunity building and post Covid care.

By combining her training and experience in Ayurveda, along with her education in pharmacy and nursing, Dr. Sonia built a successful integrative medicine practice in Delhi. She is now with us in AV, to offer her services as an Ayurvedic doctor in Santé and we look forward to working with her.

Dr. Sonia works
• Monday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 – 12:30
• Starting from Thursday, 06/01/2022.

For appointments, please contact Santé reception on 2622803 during our working hours. (9:12:30 & 2:00-4:30, Monday – Saturday).

Santé,
Auroville Institute for Integral Health
Crown Road, Auroville

HANG OUT

Hello again, please join us at Center GH this Saturday from 2:30 till 5:30 for the next HANGOUT, an afternoon of enjoyment, games and conversation. Some refreshments will be provided as usual but it would be wonderful if everyone brings something along to share. Bring a friend or come alone, it’s totally informal and lots of Fun!!!

We hope to see you there
Love, Don and Veronique
DREAMWEAVING: INVITATION TO COLLABORATE

This is a call for participation from the wider community to share their visions, insights and suggestions with the Dreamweaving team. If you are interested in helping us create these spaces of interaction within the community or have any ideas or proposals on how to do this, please email us at dreamweaving@auroville.org.in.

Background

This Dreamweaving initiative aims to capture and illustrate Auroville’s unique character, experience and purpose (Her Dream and Charter), to inspire the future planning of the ‘city the earth needs’. We’ve just had a packed 3-day conference with rich technical inputs from different AV experts which you can watch on Auroville Radio’s youtube channel.

Many Auroville architects have come together to be part of this process of dreaming, collaboration and creating conceptual designs for the whole of the Crown (which includes the mobility corridor). The outputs of their work will be shared with the consultants who take up the Detailed Development Plan preparation for Auroville, along with the many inputs from technical experts, focus groups, the randomly selected Aurovilians and the wider community. The architects’ final woven concepts will be brought to the community for feedback, with your preferences and evaluation also shared with Balkrishna Doshi’s office.

The intense circumstances have naturally brought many hopes, concerns and positive energy into the ‘quiet eye of the storm’ which the Dreamweaving team have created to help make it a possibility. The process hopes to demonstrate Auroville’s capacity for synthesis, innovation and a healthy shared narrative – it’s a big task with a tight timescale. With the help of the Citizens Assembly team and resource people we really want to help keep the energy and conversations flowing in the community, alongside capturing inputs for the dreamweavers for the Crown.

Let’s collaborate – call for proposals

We would love to find more spaces for exploration and engagement within the community around this conceptual design process. This could be on topics of town planning & design, water security, mobility & public transport, renewable energy, urban farming, prosperity services, bio-region integration... through informal interactions, exhibitions, talks, art, music, poetry, online and in-person wherever possible.

The resources generated within the community can be a source of inspiration for the dreamweaving architects, Doshi’s office and for all of us as we take part in Auroville’s development. We look forward to collaborating with you, so please share your ideas and proposals to dreamweaving@auroville.org.in.

As a start, Mira and Maya are helping the Citizens Assembly team to collect input from children about “How I dream the future city of Auroville.” We are asking all schools/individual teachers if they are interested in helping children to have a voice on this topic: creating drawings, sketches, maps, poems, writing or other artistic expressions. We hope to have a first gathering of these by 21st January, as the next dreamweaving event is planned around that time. If you would like to be involved in this initiative please also copy miratonion@iavroville.org.in.

If you are in a position to help cover the shared technical and event-costs for the Dreamweaving project, contributions would be very welcome to the CA account 252227. Thank you for your support.

Dreamweaving team

MATRIGOLD WISHES

Dear Community, may this harvest festival diminish all your worries and fears from your life and fill your heart with calm and healthy thoughts.

The team Matrigold wishes everyone a Happy Pongal!

We are open on Friday, 14 January!

Warmly, Matrigold Team

THE ARTS

NAMAH SHRI ARAVINDAYA

Wednesday, January 26, 4:45pm, at Cripa,

On the 150th anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, artistes from Pondicherry Ashram will be offering some Invocations to Him at CRIPA on Wednesday, 26th January. Joining them will be a few singers from Auroville. The group of singers will be led by Deepshikha Reddy on vocals and harmonium and they will be accompanied by Tapan on Tabla and Bryce on Bansuri (Indian flute.) The programme will begin at 5pm and is about an hour long. Please be seated by 4:45pm.

We will follow COVID protocols. This programme is an offering by Arpanaa, currently hosted by Geeta(Kalpana) and Yogini(Kalpana). Arpanaa is a service of Auroville, funded by the City Services.

LOST AND FOUND

Miss Dog

We are missing our black and tan five year old Dachshund girl. If found please call 04132623299 or 9655969110.

Thanks Clementine
WORK OPPORTUNITIES

DENTIST ASSISTANT
Dear All, Aurodent is looking for an assistant for a dentist. For us is very important such qualities as responsibility, neatness, serious attitude to work and dedication to medicine. Who could work for 6 days a week, half time or full time basis. Volunteering is also applicable to. Please contact us, if you are interested. Phone 0413-2622063, e-mail aurodent@auroville.org.in

Thank you, Sutha

NEED A YOGA WARRIOR
We are looking for a Co-Teacher / assistant to facilitate and take up some of the ‘Yoga Warrior’ classes with kids of grouped ages (i.e. 3-5 yrs., 6-8 yrs., 9-12 yrs.). If you love to inspire and work with kids, are creative, do have some experience of Yogasana practise and are open to share and learn – you are most welcome! The announcement for the future classes follows here:

Yoga Warriors/ Yoga Krieger
Inviting all of you Kids who really want to take a ‘Time Out’ to Stretch and Strengthen as well as Relax and Rest. Lots of Yogasanas as well as Warm-up and Cool-down Games await to inspire and challenge you.

Sessions in English and German will commence in February.

Urvasi

Looking for

Long Term Housing
Dear Friends, I am Pascal (Aurovillian) Looking for a long term house sitting from the beginning of February-2022. I will be a responsible person and I am ready to take care if there is any maintenance to be followed like amma, etc..

Contact: 7867002093(Whatsapp)
Email: pascalgunzinger@gmail.com

Practice Space
I’m Shanks, a Newcomer and musician living in AV for the last six years. I practice viola several hours a week and am looking for a practice space where people in residences are not disturbed. Please mail me on chungates@gmail.com or WA 9943310229

Looking for Musicians

Looking for: bass, guitar, keyboard, flute, drums, percussion. One month rehearsal period before actor’s rehearsals. Project going into production after June. for performance Sept/Oct. Please write or call Jill or Martin for more information: Martin: 9486747342 or Jill 9486416173.

Love, Jill, www.theaurovilletheatregroup.com 91(0)9486416173

Housekeeper Looking for Work
Housekeeper from Kullapalayam is looking for Housekeeping Job. She’s good with cooking, and taking care of the house. She’s happy to work part-time or full-time or any weekday. If interested please WhatsApp or call me +91 7904210690

Giri Thirumal, Fertile East, Auroville, 8695138123

AVAILABLE

MI Wireless Power Bank 10000mAh Available
I bought a new powerbank in August 2021 (still under warranty) and am not able to use it since my new phone stays charged the whole day. It can charge smart phones with wire or wireless, both.

Dimensions: (L X W X H): 14.79 cm x 7.06 cm x 1.66 cm
Mona, Yantra

mona@auroville.org.in or WA 9443377168

Jigsaw Available
Table JAI Jigsaw brand new (not used). If interested please contact Guy Aurodam. 9626722945

Voices and Notes

AUROVILLE RADIO
Dear Aurovilians, please check the latest podcasts of your favourite radio! Stay tuned!

Here you can listen to the stream channel (playing 24/7).

Here you can see on-air schedules.

Last published podcasts
- Soul Tracks – Se.3, Ep. 7 “Summertime Funk & Bands That Sound Remarkably Like Queen” (Music)
- PAPY THE BOOMER – Ep. 05 Petition (Humour)
- Aarohan – ep.37 “The grace of her Gurus – Vidushi Padma Talwalkar” (Music)
- The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, read by Lili – Ep. 3 (Literature)
- Tamil Epics- ep.16 “சிளப்பதிகாரம்” (Tamil culture)
- Happiness, Love and Laughter – ep.124 “Unlocking the Anatomy of Peace” (Wellness)
- Marlenka’s Weekly Offering – ep.39 (Integral Yoga)
- Une série hebdomadaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi (Literature)
- The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, read by Lili – Ep.3 (Tamil)
- நாந்திய வேல்வாயர் எப்.38 (Literature)
- The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, read by Lili – Ep.3 (Tamil)
- PAPY THE BOOMER – Ep.05 Petition (Humour)
- Aarohan – ep.37 “The grace of her Gurus – Vidushi Padma Talwalkar” (Music)
- The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, read by Lili – Ep.3 (Literature)
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- Happiness, Love and Laughter – ep.124 “Unlocking the Anatomy of Peace” (Wellness)
- Marlenka’s Weekly Offering – ep.39 (Integral Yoga)
- Une série hebdomadaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi – 380 (Integral Yoga)

Last Youtube live videos
- DREAMWEAVING – Session 1, morning
- DREAMWEAVING – Session 1, morning part 2
- DREAMWEAVING – Session 1, afternoon
- DREAMWEAVING – Session 2, morning
- DREAMWEAVING – Session 2, afternoon
- DREAMWEAVING – Session 3, morning
- DREAMWEAVING – Session 3, afternoon
- COMMUNITY BUDGETING PROCESS – 1st Session
...and more! on www.aurovilleradio.org

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

Peace and Love

Errata: Through some technical error Bhagavandas’s name appeared below the Auroville Radio announcement not once, but on three separate occasions. We have no logical explanation as to how this has happened. We will diligently prevent this from happening for a fourth time
AN OPEN LETTER TO AUROVILLE AND OTHERS

We, the Aurovillians, those who left behind their land to join Auroville, and those who belong to this land and have given their ancestral land to join Auroville, labour, good-will and infrastructure to realize the Mother’s dream of a universal township, condemn the call to STOP all developments of Auroville by some Auroville residents with vested interests. We voiced our opposition even during the last Residents’ Assembly Meeting and were sidelined and shunned by mob-like behaviour. We know that the majority of Auroville is silent and actually wants the work to proceed. Many Aurovillians from diverse backgrounds and nationalities support the development of the Crown Road and the Galaxy, and are against the ‘Call to Stop’.

We are tired of the manipulation and distraction by a select few with a bourgeois mentality in the last few decades, who try to hold large and lavish properties and protect theirs in the name of Eco-Activism and Community Processes. It was stated during the previous Residents’ Assembly Meeting that 52-something meetings were held, we wish to see the minutes of the meeting from the protester’s side. We want to know what was asked of them, by the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) and Auroville Foundation, and why opposing parties did not publish their opinions/reservations in the N&N or Auronet. We wish to know the reasons why they won’t collaborate and help clear the place as per the plan. We as stewards are supposed to facilitate the collective process, not merely STOP it.

We also want to condemn the action of two people, who on their own dragged Auroville to court, without the consent of the larger community, and most importantly, against the directives under the Auroville Foundation Act. We believe this was a serious breach of trust and brought Auroville to a stand-still. We urge the petitioners to withdraw the illegal, immoral and unethical case filed in National Green Tribunal, immediately. We know that eventually more than 80% of Auroville will be green with beautiful flora and fauna and we also know that no area under Auroville was ever meant to be a ‘forest’ or ‘deemed forest’. This was again an arbitrary and unilateral decision by individual stewards, and no forest has any community or government approval.

In regard to ‘crown’, it was always part of the galaxy plan and has evolved over time after various studies. The circular road of 6.7m width, with the Matrimandir Banyan as a centre and 690m radius, has long been part of the plan. The main infrastructure of the township runs on both sides alongside the crown road. Put together, it is called Crown Road of Way (RoW) which is 16.7m in width. As a community, we all know about this and are using many amenities which were placed along the Crown RoW, like Solar Kitchen, Library, Arkar Mahalakshmi, Unity Pavilion, Savitri Bhavan, Language Lab, etc. for a long time.

The Crown has been made into a controversy. And it is not new for us. The same people created a ruckus in the past over other issues. Some of the Aurovillians thrive in social anarchy and the recent actions are another manifestation of the same thrill. We’ve experienced over the years that some trouble-makers create trouble purposefully and run away from India when things go out of hand. This time, we don’t want history to repeat. We want the Crown to go as per plan and we know that the first work order to make the crown was given in 2009. So, ATDC is finishing the 12year old pending work and we fully support it. We demand the Master plan and we know that the first work order to make the crown was given in 2009. So, ATDC is finishing the 12year old pending work and we fully support it. We demand the reasons for 12 years of stagnation - if the Master plan was created in 2001 - why the protesting residents did not do anything till the work starts on the ground now.

The topic of community process is being used loosely to put forth their skewed point of view, for the consumption of external audiences. We must understand, we are not the citizens of the ‘Republic of Auroville’. We are not stakeholders but merely willing servants to the cause envisaged by the Mother. Residents are welcome to take responsibility, but asserting ‘rights’ and ‘claims’ are misplaced. We all have come to participate voluntarily in building the city the earth needs, not to engage in community politics. It is to be noted that 53 years have passed and we’re still talking about the main arterial road. The same people want to stop the work and talk more. We sternly say enough is enough, let’s act now.

Moreover, the lavish use of local, national and international media to spread their propaganda is another matter of concern. The matter of internal concerns is being ‘leaked’ out to the media to build a false narrative. Many residents, newcomers, volunteers and even guests are giving interviews based on rumours and misinformation. At times, blatant lies are spread unhindered and it is creating havoc in our local community and bio-region. Many Aurovillians belonging to the local areas have family connections in the bioregion. Repeatedly calling our young brothers from nearby villages are GOONS and GOONDAS is painful and disrespectful. We want this to be stopped at once.

Finally, we want to declare that we disown and denounce the tactic of conspiracy theory used by some Aurovillians to divide & rule our community. We don’t see any particular political party’s conspiracy in the recent works. Auroville is not a place for playing dirty politics. The Galaxy Plan has been in existence since the 1968 inauguration. Following the Auroville Foundation Act of 1988, successive central governments have appointed Governing Board members on their own. Previously, Dr Karan Singh was Auroville Foundation’s Chairman for most of the time. We never cried about any political interference then. We’ve read the GB meeting minutes (which is a collection of minutes from 2001, and nothing new has been added by this governing board) and we appreciate their understanding of Auroville and thank them for bringing the most important issues of Auroville as their focal point.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Government of India for taking notice of Auroville and bringing Sri Aurobindo to the forefront of our countrymen’s attention. We want to also congratulate and support Madam Secretary Dr. Jayanti Ravi for the courageous and righteous steps, she has taken towards manifesting the Mother’s dream. We request the Government of India to kindly continue the support to facilitate many more willing servants to join Auroville and study the works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

With this, we wish the best to ATDC, Road Service, Electrical Services, Aurinoco and Water Services, and want the Crown, Radials and outer Ring to be finished as soon as possible.

On the occasion of Sri Aurobindo’s 150th anniversary year, we wish a very happy new year to everyone, and may your long term dreams come true.

To the architects and engineers:

You are not here to discuss the project
You are here to build the city’

The Mother

Thank you, AV Support Group (Kathir, Ramalingam, Balu Kopparsumy, Selvaraj, Venkedesh, Selvam, Guna, Gino, Tine, Satyakam, Jannmejaya, Kalia, Padmanaban, Partha, Iyyaran, Raja, Muthuraman, Boomi, Balamurugan, Karthik, Krishna, Sudhir, Balaguru, Baskar, Prakash, Prasad, Vidyalakshmi, Toby, Sanjay Kusale, Divya,...)

OVERHEARD

— Are you going to the meeting?
— No
— Why?
— You know, although I am interested in the subject and follow up, I am not an expert in this matter. So what valuable things could I really contribute? And you?
— Me too. I have no knowledge in this matter, but being a member of the community, I have the right to be heard, so I will go to communicate my opinion and feelings.
— …????????

Eva of Citadine

905 - 15 January 2022
NEW DOCUMENT NEEDED
To Secure Recommendation Letter Issued

Date: __________

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

Sub: Declaration / Statement

I hereby declare that as an applicant for the Entry Visa granted on the
Recommendation of the Auroville Foundation, and / or as an aspiring member
Of the Resident assembly, I fully understand that I am required to:

1. Abide by the Charter of Auroville, The Dream and A True Aurovillian.
2. Abide by the Laws and Constitution of India.
3. Abide by the Auroville Foundation Act 1988
4. Abide by the Master Plan of Auroville based on the
Galaxy Plan, Conceived by the Mother and Gazetted by Government of India, based on which the Auroville City will be developed and built.

I hereby state that I will in no way or form, obstruct or hinder its manifestation.

In the event of breaching this agreement of understanding the Auroville Foundation can take any action as may be deemed necessary.

PLURIVERSE – A WAY OUT OF STAGNATION?

“Many words are walked in the world. Many worlds are made. Many worlds make us. There are words and worlds that are lies and injustices. There are words and worlds that are truthful and true. In the world of the powerful there is room only for the big and their helpers. In the world we want, everybody fits. The world we want is a world in which many worlds fit.”

‘Fourth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle’ (1996)
Zapatista National Liberation Army

In trying to make sense of our situation we often ask: what is common to other experiences and what is uniquely Aurovillian? If you resonate with the above quote from Mexico that indicates what we see unfolding among and around us is not relatable to other community struggles. We can imagine a world-wide network of dreamers and evolvers, exchanging insights and care. However, to distill what we are learning and offer it to our global peers requires a bridge. Perhaps this can be found in the platform called Pluriverse - also the name of a book from 2019.

Pluriverse: a post-development dictionary (2019) contains over 100 essays on transformative initiatives and alternatives to the currently dominant processes of globalized development, including its structural roots in modernity, capitalism, state domination, and masculinist values. It offers critical essays on mainstream solutions that ‘greenwash’ development, and presents radically different worldviews and practices from around the world that point to an ecologically wise and socially just world.

The book explains how unilinear development politics are causing social, economic, political, and environmental crises across the globe and offers a clear way out of our obsession with “Universal Concepts” and monocultures of the mind. It proposes the concept of pluriverse as an acceptance and welcoming of coexistence of diverse ways of knowing and living, as “a world where many worlds fit” and as an opposition to the universalist claims of largely Eurocentric modernization projects.

KOODAM WRAPS IT UP

Dear community, as you might have heard already or read in the latest report of the Auroville Council, Kooodam decided to wrap up the project after 8 years of service.

In order to enable the pools of trained and active facilitators, mediators and arbiters to continue their work for the community when needed, the AVC and Kooodam established following coordination platforms:

• Facilitators Coordination: This team consists of Elvira, Mukta and Henrike. Their responsibility is to coordinate between requests for facilitation and mediation and the respective pools, as well as to ensure continued learning and skill development for the facilitator and mediator pools. If you are looking for support of facilitators or mediators please write to: facilitators.coordination@ auroville.org.in

• Arbiters Coordination: This team consists of Niva, Thera and Mandakini. Their responsibility is to support the AVC to coordinate requests for appeal and arbitration, as well as ensure continued learning and skill development for the arbiter pool.

To contact them, please write to: arbiters.coordination@ auroville.org.in

This structure is an interim solution that will continue to take shape during the next months. The Kooodam email will be disabled as of January 14th 2022. If you have any questions, please write to us at the mail addresses given above.

Sincerely, Elvira, Niva and Mukta
Kooodam, Kailash, Auroville, 0413 2623770

The book aims to contribute to dialogues on diverse views on planetary wellbeing and support “the collective search for an ecologically wise and socially just world”, engaging researchers, politicians, and civil society actors.

The range of pluriuniversal initiatives includes:

• existing social movements, including well known and transformative movements from the global South, such as Zapatistas and Buen Vivir; as well as from global North, like degrowth;

• existing non-capitalist practices, forms of socio-economic organization, ways of living with Nature, for example Agdals, a communal resource management practice from North Africa;

• religious philosophies, like Buddhism, Christian ecotheology, Islamic ethics;

• traditional concepts, such as the South African concept of Ubuntu which translates as humanness, often referred to as “I am because we are”;

• contemporary concepts rooted in both respective social movements as well as social and natural science research, such as community economics, direct democracy, conviviality.

The book is structured as a dictionary, so each entry is short and leaves you wanting more (see a critical review at ecoinsee.org) but as a teaser to sketch out the contours of a post-development worldview it works. I never heard of mi nobimaattisiwin or kametsa aasaike, representing indigenous quests for a fulfilling and harmonious life, and I realize there is an entire language waiting to be explored and integrated. For those of you interested to zoom out a little in order to see with new eyes what is happening in Auroville and what our mission of experimental place based human unity could mean I highly recommend the Pluriverse path.

Our last Book Review: The Nutmeg’s Curse by Amitav Gosh (Green Column of 1st of January)

In our next columns we’ll discuss the UN Human Rights Council on the Environment and India’s stand; its struggle to find a balance between livelihoods and a denigrating environment, how India faces the Climate crisis and how to devise more decisive climate proofing actions as part of its economic growth.
We got some inquiries as to the continuation of the Sunday walks to Farms & Forests happening seasonally between Pongal and the end of April with Sunday morning visits and walks to Auroville Farms and Forests, where the stewards receive us with their stories and knowledge of the land they work. Sadly because of the pandemic we had to curtail the walks last season 2021 the first break in 10 years! Let’s hope the situation improves to have at least some exploratory walks before the summer …

We wish our readers a happy Pongal Harvest festival

Gijis & Lisbeth

The Green Column appears bi-monthly in the News and Notes and on Auornet and reports on green issues in Auroville, the Bioregion and the wider world. We like to hear from you! avgreencenter@auorville.org.in

HELPFUL HINTS/ADVERTISEMENTS

BULLETIN BOARD USAGE IN SERENDIPITY

(Ex Joy Community)

Dear community members, we would like to remind you that to avoid crowding (and confusion with our guests) in our bulletin board, we are not accepting any more individual fliers of regular activities, therapies, products and services in our place (not even tiny sizes). We will only keep activities schedules and combined therapies fliers of Auroville centers (maximum size is A4) and individual fliers of workshops and events with specific dates (maximum size is A5). So if you are doing an activity in Auroville, please ask the center where you are carrying it to include your information as well in their poster. Also, please bring the flier to the office and we will put it up as we will remove from the board those that are not placed by us. Thanks for understanding.

Serendipity team :-)

Serendipity (Ex Joy Guest House)
Center Field, Auroville – 605101, Tamil Nadu, India
Landline: +91 (0)413 2965693
Mobile/Whatsapp: +91 9385623342
https://serendipity.auroville.org
https://www.facebook.com/serendipityauroville

NOW THE TIME FOR DOG LOVERS

Probiotics House Tip Series #36

When Louis Pasteur uncovered the microscopic world of bacteria and their role in disease, he had yet to uncover the far-reaching microbial ecosystems, called microbiomes, that support and influence life from plant to animal to human. What we have since discovered is that not only are these microorganisms everywhere—their numbers reaching the trillions everywhere they live—but also that the vast majority are either neutral or beneficial. Factors like diet, stress, and environmental inputs can throw this system off balance and allow the harmful microbes to take over. This gives beneficial microbes, or Probiotics, the remarkable potential to balance and influence systems.

Just like us, our PET have microbiomes that can benefit from Probiotic care formulated specifically for them, our horses, cats, and dogs. Help your PET build balanced microbiomes, with healthy populations of beneficial microbes, in their guts, on their skin and coats, and in their environments with our line of probiotic care products made just for them.

We have been working in the R&D of Probiotics and PET for the last 5 years with several kennels in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The results in different breeds shows common effects of using Probiotics.

For dogs they are: 1) reduced odours, 2) reduced or the suppression of tick infection, 3) the prevention of skin disease, 4) increased healthiness, 5) having shinier hair, 6) reduced stress, 7) improvement in the breeding rate, and 8) improvement on the skin.

PET Probiotics Supplement

PET Probiotics Supplement is a concentrate obtained by a natural fermentation process. A powerful synergy of proprietary probiotics formulation. This dietary supplement with Probiotics live cultures in powder form, will help to rebuild, boost and support a healthy digestive and immune system. Assist the PET body to create its own vitamins, supporting its wellness.

Ingredients: Proprietary Consortium Probiotics formulation in powder form.

Dosage: Sprinkle in animal feed and mix for added Probiotics health benefits.

- Suggested Dose For Cats
  - Maintenance/wellbeing dose: daily ½ teaspoon

- Suggested Dose For Dogs
  - Small Dogs (up to 6kg). Maintenance/wellbeing dose: daily ¼ teaspoon
  - Medium Dogs (7kg-18kg). Maintenance/wellbeing dose: daily 1 teaspoon
  - Large Breed Dogs (19kg-40kg). Maintenance/wellbeing dose: daily 1 ½ teaspoon

- Suggested Dose For Horses
  - Please get in touch with us at mgecoduties-orders@auorville.org.in.

Expire: 24 months after manufactured date

Cautions: Do not refrigerate. Keep away of direct sunlight.

Margarita and Guidelma

For MGecoduties – Probiotics House

AURA NETWORK APP UPDATE

Just to remind you that breakfast, lunch and dinner is now available at Aithi Griha Guest House (Bharat Nivas) in exchange for Auras. All you have to do is go on the App, scroll down to the food section where Aithi Griha is offering meals and follow the instructions to book. Bon Appetit!

Aura Team, www.auranetwork.app

CLAES, WORKSHOPS & HEALING ARTS

Anatomy of the spine

Applied Anatomy program

With Onsat

January 2022

Wednesday 19th

Thursday 20th

Friday 21st

Daily

9 - 12 & 2 - 4 pm

At Pitanga

3 days course

15 hrs program

An applied Anatomy program which combines theoretical learning of the musculoskeletal system including aspects of anatomy, kinesiology and biomechanics with practice that connects the anatomy with the function.

The course designed for bodywork teachers and therapists who wish to deepen their understanding of the body-motor system.

Registration is required at Pitanga.

For further inquiry: onsat@auorville.org.in

To The Content
GENTLE HATHA YOGA WITH KHUSHMITA

7 – 8.30am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Sawchu, Bharat Nivas
Start your day with a gentle asana and pranayama practice ending with a deep guided relaxation. Suitable for all levels. Beginners are welcome.

mob. 9960643579, khushmita@auroville.org.in
Warmly, Khushmita

WEEKLY THURSDAY PAINTING CLASSES POSTPONED

Until Further Notice
Kalakendra regrets to inform that the Thursday afternoon painting classes offered by Christel are postponed until further notice. We will announce early February, new timings of painting, pottery and writing classes.

Kalakendra Team, Bharat Nivas
“Jiva” is a growing collaborative of highly experienced therapists living in Auroville. Therapy, Workshops, Retreats and Courses and Classes. We offer transformational practices addressing all issues of body, mind, emotion.

And soul, for conscious evolution, Acupuncture, Shiatsu, QiGong, Taiji Chuan, Energy work, Fasting Natural Horseman ship, Horse assisted Therapy, Medical Clowning, Yoga Nidra, Gentle Birth & pregnancy, Integral Regression therapy, trauma therapy, advanced classical homeopathy Systemic constellation & family constellation

See our newly uploaded Photos and Videos: www.auroville-jiva.com! Facebook WA 9626006961, contact@auroville-jiva.com.

NEW: regular classes in Taijiquan and QiGong

- Dynamic QiGong with Andres
  - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 7-8am, behind Kalabhumi
- Taiji Quan and Qigong with Michael & the Taiji Family
  - Qiqong: Tuesday, Thursday 4 – 4:45pm
  - Taiji Quan: Tuesday, Thursday 4.45pm – 6pm

Qigong is the “Yoga of China”, a holistic system to practice and refine the body, our life-energy, the mind and to nourish our soul.

Suitable for all ages. Bodywork and Meditation

- Taijiquan (TAI CHI)
  - Tuesday, Thursday 4. 45pm – 6pm

Learn “Chen Style Taijiquan Practical Method” from disciples of the lineage holder Master Chen Zhonghua. Authentic Chinese Martial Art.

Venue “The Learning Community” near Transition

Check our www.auroville-jiva.com Video & Photo Section to see the practices

**Integral regression therapy training**

January 2022

Intro Session: 20 January 2022, 9 – 12noon

A therapy and energy work based on Sri Aurobindo and The Mothers integral Yoga, based on trauma therapy, past life regression therapy, inner child work, NLP, and a client centric approach.

Typically, integral regression therapy addresses unexplain able pains, trauma from accidents or early childhood, questions about past lives, life purpose or restricting behavior patterns.

An in-depths training through a series of webinars the theory of this deeply healing approach is transmitted.

Therapists wishing to integrate this approach in their psychotherapeutic or body- mind- healing work shall come for presence sessions, for four 3 day workshops to Auroville, to practice facilitating the 2hrs therapy sessions, and their own personal transformation.

Sigrid Lindemann is integrating her large professional background in this focused approach to transforming deep, longstanding issues towards an evolving consciousness and purpose of life. Sigrid is a transpersonal regression therapist, trainer in hypnotherapy and teacher of advanced classical homeopathy, with her background in Integral Yoga, living over 20 years in Auroville, Pondicherry.

All info Sigrid: contact@auroville-jiva.com, WA 9626006961

**Natural Horsemanship**

Mirrabelle offers webinars, classes and workshops in “Natural Horsemanship”, individual and group sessions ongoingly

Natural Horsemanship focuses on body language of horse and human, which is universal, by effectively using intention and centered presence to communicate clearly, with purpose, and without violence. This is the key to building a vocabulary with the horse, your partner. Experience yourself beyond words! 7 horses and ponies of all sizes and temperaments are curious to know you!

Natural horsemanship improves your self confidence, your trust, your skills in nonverbal communication – and its just fun time to BE with a sensitive, naturally trained horse! Mirrabelle lives with horses since she is 3 years young. Past 10 years she fulfils her life’s dream to bring children, adults and horses together in a healing way, in Auroville, Sharnga Guesthouse.

Mirrabelle has studied human and horse psychology, and offers consultancy on all aspects of horse care – hoofs, nutrition, psychology, care, riding and therapy!

Contact: WA 9626565134, contact@auroville-jiva.com

Venue: Sharnga Guesthouse, www.sharrngaguesthouse.in

Sharnga Guesthouse is a green oasis, with a huge Ban yantree, horses, birds, a lively tropical garden, with a small pool, gym and rooms from simple to AC, single to family units. A Yoga Hall, AC lounge with big screen, and the great service and international cuisine make it a perfect spot.

YEP We do offer adventure camps with kids programs, https://www.facebook.com/YEPAV parallel with wellness and healing session for parents: forest walks, camp fire, visits to various activities in Auroville, Yoga and TaiChi, art sessions, bird watching, etc! WA 09626565134

**INTEGRAL HEALTH**

Classical homeopathy, Hypnotherapy, Child care

We are providing alternative health care for body, mind and emotion through classical homeopathy and transpersonal regressiontherapy since 2001 Homeopathy is the 2nd biggest medicine globally, practiced since 200 years, and further developed by our teacher Dr. Sankaran, Mumbai, www.theothersong.com

**Aqua Terra – Water of Unity**

We are offering Aqua Terra, a homeopathic remedy prepared from the water from 324 water sources on Auroville’s 50th Birthday. We invite all interested to meet on Saturday 15th January 11am at Integral Health, to share the research as well as potential benefits for Auroville community.

All are welcome to pick up Aqua Terra C 200 and C 1000 from our remedy box in the waiting area.

Sigrid offers consultancy since 1997, her special focus is on constitutional remedies for chronic diseases, migraine, autoimmune diseases, and women issues, and treatment of children and teenagers incl special needs children, focus in school and behavioural issues.

Malar offers consultancy in Tamil, as well as First Aid Remedies and PC remedies.

First Aid Kits with 32 remedies are available, description in English, French, German and Tamil are available. Please contact us if you would like to learn how to use homeop athy for First Aid.

Available from our dispensary remedy box in the waiting area, accessible 24-7, for free:
PC Shock Trauma, PC Allergy, PC Diabetes, PC High Blood Pressure etc. 70 more PC information remedies for trauma, as well as chronic diseases are available. Benefits are well established – no side effects.

Harmony and Samata, remedies related to Mothers and Sri Aurobindo energy.

Consultations are free for Aurovilians and Newcomers, from others donations are welcome. Consultations are generally held in English, French, German and Tamil Malar is managing the office, the FirstAidKits and PC remedies, daily Mondays to Fridays 9 – 12.30am.

Please contact us at integralhealth@auroville.org.in to enquire about the most suitable approach for your health or psychological issue.

Integral Health, Prayatna 2623669, Sigrid: sigrid@auroville.org.in, Malar: malar@auroville.org.in, 9080054843

NEWS FROM AUROVILLE LANGUAGE LAB

COVID 19:
When you access the Language Lab, please observe the following actions:
◦ Clean your hands with Sanitizer
◦ Wear a mask
◦ Maintain social distance

New Language Courses!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<td>Intermediate</td>
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<td>Conversation</td>
<td>02:00pm – 03:00pm</td>
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<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Beginner</td>
<td>10:00am – 12pm</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Beginner</td>
<td>04:00pm – 05:00pm</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Friday</td>
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The Language Lab’s Opening Hours
Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 12:00pm & 2:00pm – 5:00pm.
Saturday: 9:00am to 12:00pm.
Location: International Zone, after Unity Pavilion & Pump House.
Phone: (0413) 2623 661, 4036920/22.
Email: info@aurovillelanguagelab.org

The Tomatis Method
There are spaces available for both language & therapeutic programs!
Please contact 4036922 or email us at tomatis@aurovillelanguagelab.org to schedule your Listening Tests & Consultations
For more information about the Tomatis program, please have a look at the following links:
• https://www.aurovillelanguagelab.org/tomatis-method.php
• https://www.aurovillelanguagelab.org/tomatis-kids.php
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnpXprTI3mQ
• https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeTIG0y-sBMlyyw2NdZcAng/videos
• https://www.listenwell.com/
“Pranayama removes the veil covering the light of knowledge and heralds the dawn of Wisdom” Patanjali Yoga Sutras II.52

Apart from being an antidote to stress, Yogic breathing boosts lung capacity, lung efficiency, immunity and wellbeing. Pranayama promotes equanimity, inner-peace and focus of the mind.

### Session # 1 Yogic breathing

| Session # 2 | Pranayama with internal air retention (an-thar kumbhaka) |
| Session # 3 | Pranayama with external air retention (baha kumbhaka) |
| Session # 4 | Integrated practice of pranayama with kumbhaka |

Please join this webinar only if
- You have regularly practiced yoga for more than 6 months
- You are committed to attend all the 4 sessions and join in time

In the spirit of Auroville, this event is free and open to all.

No registration is required. Please do share this announcement with others who could be interested. On the days of the webinar, please avoid eating after 2pm and avoid drinking anything after 5:30pm. If you can sit on the ground, please use a (Yoga) mat and cushion. Otherwise, you can sit on a chair that allows you to keep your back straight.

**Zoom Meeting link**

Meeting ID: 998 697 7258 Passcode: wellth

**About JV**
I was diagnosed with four incurable diseases in 1987 and the medical opinion was that I may not live beyond the age of 50. I am now 75, and enjoy excellent health and wellbeing; thanks to Yoga.

I lived in Auroville from 2007 to 2016. I have been facilitating workshops and retreats in Auroville since 2008. For more, please see [www.wellth.org.in](http://www.wellth.org.in)

Aurinoco Webinars is an initiative to leverage the internet and fiber optic network of Auroville to create a new window for making Auroville belong to the whole of Humanity through borderless participation.
Awaking at dawn on the fateful day when Satyavan must die, Savitri looks back into her past and relives all that she has been and done in her life. After completing her usual daily tasks, she bows down and prays silently to the Goddess Durga. Then she accompanies Satyavan into the forest for the first time since she came to the hermitage. He happily shows her all the things he loves and calls out to the birds. Satyavan starts his work, hewing wood for the altar and kitchen fires in the hermitage, happily singing the snatches of a sage’s chant.

But as he worked, his doom upon him came…. / And he cried to her, “Savitri, a pang / Cleaves through my head and breast as if the axe / Were piercing it and not the living branch. (p.564) She takes him in her lap and tries to relieve his pain. But he cries:

“Savitri, Savitri, O Savitri, / Lean down, my soul, and kiss me while I die.” (p.565)

She presses her lips upon his, but he does not respond. She grows aware that they are no longer alone. An awful hush has fallen on the place; even birds do not call anymore.

She knew that visible Death was standing there / And Satyavan had passed from her embrace. (p.566) She does not yet stand up to face the dreadful god. Her soul leaks out over the body she loved. Then suddenly a great change comes over Savitri: she becomes aware of her high source, and a great Force descends from it into her. She is filled with heavenly strength. Calmly she lays the dead body on the ground and stands up to meet the god.

The two opposed each other with their eyes, Woman and universal god: (p.574)

When Death touches the dead body, the luminous Satyavan rises from it and stands between Savitri and the God. Luminous, he slowly moves away. Death follows him and Savitri moves behind the dark god into the perilous spaces beyond. At first, she follows them in her body, but then she flames out of her body, leaving it on the ground.

The three of them are moving forward to the gateway of dark rocks, Towards the Black Void. Reaching that borderline Satyavan turns and looks …back with his wonderful eyes at Savitri. (p.580) Death commands Savitri to turn back and return to earth. But instead, her soul stands up like a shaft of fire and light against the midnight blackness piled in front of them.

Savitri first steps into the Abyss and undertakes The Journey in the Eternal Night. The immense refusal of the eternal “No” falls on Love and Knowledge and the heart’s delight. Savitri moves blindly through the all-negating immensity. She can no longer see the figure of Death nor her luminous Satyavan. For many long hours she endures, alone in the anguish of the void and Nothingness, until she becomes aware of the faint light of her own soul. Then once more she hears the footsteps of the god and Satyavan’s form grows into a luminous shadow. Death tells Savitri that only he, Death, lasts and the inconscient Void, and even:

"I am the Illimitable, the mute Alone. / I, Death, am He; there is no other God. (p.593)"

Death orders Savitri to return to earth and abandon all hope to win Satyavan back.

But Savitri answers him:

“I bow not to thee, O huge mask of Death... / First I demand whatever Satyavan,... / Desired and had not for his beautiful life / Give if thou must, or, if thou canst, refuse.” (p.588) Death bows his head in scornful agreement and promises to restore Dyumatsena’s eyesight and his kingdom. When Death argues and urges Savitri to return to earth once more, Savitri replied, conscious of her immortality and born with an equal world-spirit:

“World-spirit, I was thy equal spirit born. / My will too is a law, my strength a god. / I am immortal in my mortality. / I tremble not before the immobile gaze / Of the unchanging marble hierarchies / That look with the stone eyes of Law and Fate. / My soul can meet them with its living fire... / Wherever thou leadst his soul I shall pursue.” (p.589,590)

And: “O Death, who reasonest, I reason not, ... / I am love, I see, I act, I will.” (p.594)

Even then Death threatens Savitri that she will cease to love:

“Know also. Knowing, thou shalt cease to love / And cease to will, delivered from thy heart....” / (p.594)

But Savitri replied for man to Death: / “When I have loved for ever, I shall know. / Love in me knows the truth all changings mask...” (p.594)

Savitri remains steadfast and turns not back. The three figures move on through the darkness.

---

**ECO FILM CLUB**

Every Friday at Sadhana Forest

**Schedule of Events:**

16:00 Free bus from Solar Kitchen to Sadhana Forest for the Tour

16:30 Tour of Sadhana Forest

18:00 Free bus from Solar Kitchen to Sadhana Forest for the Eco Film Club

18:30 Eco Film Club begins with “previews” of short Sadhana Forest films

20:00 Dinner is served

21:15 Free bus from Sadhana Forest back to Solar Kitchen

Before the movie, at exactly 16:30 you are welcome to join us for a full tour of Sadhana Forest and an update of our most recent work! After the film, you are welcome to join us for a free 100% vegan organic dinner!

The bus service is operated by Sadhana Forest. For more information about the bus service please contact Sadhana Forest at 8525038274.

**Note:** Families and children are welcome! Dinner for children will be served at 19:00:)

**Friday 21 January**

**The Cassowary: The Last Surviving Dinosaur**

2017 / 48 minutes / Edward Salteau

The Cassowary is a visually spectacular one-hour film that explores the life of the endangered southern cassowary through the eyes of matriarch Bertha, as she and her family strive to survive in the tropics of northern Queensland in the oldest rainforest on Earth. Over the course of one tumultuous season, Bertha, her partner and her chicks battle fearsome predators and formidable rains, but also play an invaluable role in sustaining life in this ecological hotspot. The The Cassowary is an intimate and rarely seen portrait of one of Australia’s last remaining southern cassowaries.
APPENDIX

CITY SERVICES CONTRIBUTIONS AND PAYMENTS
December 2021
A more detailed report is available on the Auronet

Summary

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Internal Contributions

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<td>Aurovilians, Newcomers, &amp; Friends</td>
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<td>Internal Total</td>
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External Contributions

| Government of India for SAILER              | 4,700,000   |
| Government of India for Other               | -           |
| Other Contribution                          | -           |
| Project Contributions                       | -           |
| Foreign Contributions                       | 919,740     |
| External Total                              | 5,619,740   |

City Services Payment

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<td>Health</td>
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<td>Village Education</td>
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Until one day, a sumptuous feast of unimagined delights is unexpectedly presented to them by a great and unknown culinary ‘artist’ and a political refugee, Babette, whose quintessential life is unflinchingly committed to the world. By offering her feast, Babette sets out to throw asunder their illusionary world and render a new meaning to the presence of the Divine on earth…

Based on a short story by Karen Blixen (author of ‘Out of Africa’), this most unusual and scintillating film provokes us to ask afresh, how, and if, it is possible to experience the sacred in the seemingly mundane sensory world.

The film won the 1987 Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards, and several other awards.

Introduced by Prof. Sehdev Kumar as part of the series, “International Film Classics and the Human Condition”. All are invited to a short discussion after the screening of the film.

Original Danish version, with English subtitles

Duration: 1h 43’

Covid 19, please follow the current SOP at MMC.
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## ACCESSIBLE AUROVILLE PUBLIC BUS

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<tr>
<td>Handy Market (ECR Junction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiet Healing Center – Junction</td>
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### Pondicherry TO AUROVILLE

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<th>Trip 1</th>
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### Important Information About News & Notes

- **Bus Charges**
  - Monthly Rs. 550 (Aurovilians & New comers)
  - Rs. 100 one way for Aurovilian & New comers
  - Rs. 150 one way for Guest

- **Email:** avbus@auroville.org.in
- **Phone:** +91 94430 74825

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Ambulance (24/7):**
- Auroville – 9442224680
- PIMS – 0413 2656271

**Security (24/7):**
- Auroville Safety & Security Team – 9443090107
- Auroville Police Station – 0413 2677318
- Kottakuppam Police Station – 0413 2236148
- Vanur Fire Station – 0413 2677368

**Health**
- Health Center – 0413 2622123
- Santé – 0413 2622803/0413 2623937
- Farewell – 8903836246

**Mental Health 24/7 Support:**
- Mattram – 9487746051
- India Emergency Response Service (24/7) – 108

**Hard deadline for submissions or cancellations:** Tuesday 3pm

The content of News & Notes is 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:**
- Max size of the published poster is 9cm x 9cm independently of the size you sent. The bigger posters will be reduced.
- Please **AVOID CAPS** letters
- Material (no pdf files, please) may be sent in English only to newsandnotes@auroville.org.in
- Articles for the Notes section should ideally be no longer than 500 words.
- 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 3pm.
- We regret not being able to attend to visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thurs AM due to work pressure.

**Visiting hours:** call 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*