

Auroville

# NEWS & NOTES

No 974 - A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

13 May 2023

RA EDITION



## PONDERING

Our actual enemy is not any force exterior to ourselves, but our own crying weaknesses, our cowardice, our selfishness, our hypocrisy, our purblind sentimentalism.

*"New Lamps for Old". Nine articles by Sri Aurobindo in the "Indu Prakash" (a Bombay daily newspaper), August 21, 1893.*

(Continued from last week)



All consciousness is power, and the higher we ascend, the greater the power, but also the farther away we are from the earth. Thus if we wish to apply our overmental power, say, to the affairs of this world, it must be brought down from one level to another and overcome the determinisms of all the intermediary levels before it can reach the depths, Matter. Finally, there remains only a dulled and weakened overmental reflection, which must then fight against more and more heavy and rebellious determinisms. This is why the spiritualists have never been able to transform life. The Supramental is the supreme Consciousness-Force in the very heart of Matter, without any intermediary. It is the 'sun in the darkness' of the Veda, the meeting place of the highest Heights and the deepest Depths. Therefore it can change everything. As the Mother has said, 'The true change of consciousness is one that will change the physical conditions in the world and make it into an entirely new creation.'

Let us say immediately that the supramental power does not work either through miracles or violence—the very notion of miracle is absurd, as Sri Aurobindo has often repeated: *There is really no such thing as miracle, there are only phenomena whose processes we do not understand.* For one who sees, there is only an intervention by the determinism of a higher plane in the determinism of a lower plane. Perhaps the mind appears to be a miracle to the determinism of a caterpillar, yet we all know that our mental miracles do follow a certain process. The same applies to the Supermind: it does not upset any existing laws, but simply leaps over them (or within them?), to a dimension where they no longer exist, much as the caterpillar's laws no longer exist for man. Let us be more specific: the habitual repetition of certain vibrations that have coagulated, so to speak, around a person result in imparting to him an apparently stable structure; that person then claims to obey the 'law' of his nature. But this so-called law is no more inevitable than choosing a certain route to go home rather than another; it is merely a question of habits. The same holds true for the entire cosmos: all our supposedly absolute physical laws are also coagulated habits, with nothing absolute about them whatsoever, and they can all be undone provided one is willing to take another route, that is, change to a different consciousness. *An ordinary law, Sri Aurobindo wrote, merely means an equilibrium established by Nature; it means a balance of forces. It is merely a groove in which Nature is accustomed to work*

*in order to produce certain results. But if you change the consciousness, then the groove also is bound to change.* There have been a number of 'changes of grooves' in the course of our evolution, beginning with the introduction of Life into Matter, which changed the material groove, then the introduction of Mind into Life, which changed the vital and material grooves. The Supermind represents a third change of groove, which will change Mind, Life, and Matter. This change has already begun; the experience is in progress. Essentially, the supramental process works to free the consciousness contained in each element. It does not upset the universal order, nor does it violate anything; it only applies its power to cleave through the darkness so that it may radiate its own light. 'He has cloven wide away the darkness, as one that cleaves away a skin, that he may spread out our earth<sup>275</sup> under his illuminating sun,' says the Rig Veda (V.85.1). Because the same divine solar consciousness is everywhere, the world and every atom in the world are divine; the Lord of all the universe is also 'the One conscious in unconscious things' of the Rig Veda. Matter is not a crude substance incapable of change except through the assault of our hands or our heads (which have scarcely produced anything but monsters); it is a divine substance that can respond instead of resisting, and change instead of enslaving us in its old habit of gravitation and decay. But Matter is a clouded or sleeping Divinity, a 'somnambulist,' as Sri Aurobindo calls it, a 'lost, buried sun,' says the Veda. *The Inconscient is the Superconscient's sleep.... The apparent Inconscience of the material universe holds in itself darkly all that is eternally self-revealed in the luminous Superconscient.* The Supramental, then, will use its own light to awaken the corresponding light—the same light—in Matter:

*The truth above shall wake a nether truth.*

For the law is eternally the same: only like can act upon like. Only the highest power can free the nethermost power.

(to be continued next week)

**Satprem, *The Adventure of Consciousness, Chapter 15,*  
*The Supramental Consciousness***

[https://sri-aurobindo.co.in/workings/satprem/adventure\\_of\\_consciousness\\_e.htm#055](https://sri-aurobindo.co.in/workings/satprem/adventure_of_consciousness_e.htm#055)

**With love and gratitude,  
For and on behalf of Gangalakshmi (HOMA),  
Zech**

## HARD DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: **TUESDAY 3PM**

The content of News & Notes is a reflection of the growth process of this community towards its ideals of Harmony, Goodwill, 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.services**
- 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**.

## DISCLAIMER:

Please note that the opinions and views expressed on these pages are solely those of the respective authors or work groups and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editors or the larger Auroville community. The News & Notes aims to provide a platform for the publication of diverse perspectives and voices from multiple sources within Auroville.

While our editors strive to ensure the accuracy of the information presented, we cannot guarantee that all information is free from error or omission. Additionally, we cannot be held liable for any alleged misinformation provided or offence caused by the content published. In the event of any dispute, we encourage readers to consult with the Auroville Council, and we reserve the right to suspend the publication of disputed material. Our commitment to providing an open and inclusive platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas remains steadfast.

The News and Notes team  
**newsandnotes@auroville.services**

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## FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE

### ES # 180 DATED: 11-05-2023

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 Aurovillian in writing to [auroville.entryservice@gmail.com](mailto:auroville.entryservice@gmail.com). We thank you in advance.

### NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- **Chetana DEORAH (US)** staying in Maitreye I and working at Matrimandir



### NEWCOMER CONFIRMED:

- **Jeremie FOLLET (French)**

### AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:

- **Abhijit ROY (Indian)** staying in Prosperity 2 and working at Aurofilm



### AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

- **Agnes MARY (French)**
- **Pablo Andrés PACHECO DEZA (Chilean)**

### NOTE:

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

Yours,  
The Entry Board  
(Alain, Grace, Jayanthi, Lakshmanan, Matilde, Sara, Sonja and Swadha)

### Entry Service Timings:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am—12:30pm  
Tuesday & Thursday: Newcomer kits, 2:30—4:30pm  
0413 262-2707, [auroville.entryservice@gmail.com](mailto:auroville.entryservice@gmail.com)

## FROM THE AV COUNCIL

### SATHISH RESIGNATION FROM RAS

Dear Community,

This is to inform you that Sathish of the Residents Assembly Service (RAS) has sent his resignation to the Auroville Council, effective as of 1st June 2023.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for his excellent service and his dedication to the role and work of the RAS over the years. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

Sincerely,  
Auroville Council

### NEW RAS TEAM

Dear Community,

Following 2 invitations from the Auroville Council for new members to join the Residents' Assembly Service (RAS), 7 residents responded, though later 1 of them preferred to help as a resource person.

After consultation between RAS, the Working Committee and the Auroville Council, all 6 persons have been appointed as new members.

We are pleased to announce with immediate effect that the new RAS team are as follows.

### Ongoing members:

Giovanni Parrillo  
Sathish Arumugam (until 31st May 2023)  
Tatiana Sineeva

### New members:

Manas Chakrabarti  
Mandakini Skoles  
Robert Lheureux  
Sandeep Sarah  
Satprem Maini  
Véronique Jobard

We wish all the best to the new team.

Kind regards,  
Auroville Council

### AUROVILLE COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORT - APRIL 2023

#### Council's Communications to the Community

- 03/04 - [Mail sent](#) to LB to follow the due process - no reply received
- 03/04 - [Letter sent to UP](#) about the space usage, after a GM called by the TDC selected by the RA was refused
- 06/04 - [SPRTF 2023](#) and [RAS membership](#)
- 12/04 - AvC monthly [report Feb & March](#)
- 19/04 - AvC [report on N&N / timeline](#)
- 22/04 - [GM at UP](#) - AvC presentation of pending RADs
- 24/04 - [Statement](#) about RA N&N first publication
- 28/04 - [AVC resolution](#) for new managers of N&N

### Various Council Topics:

- N&N support - Council have appointed Muniandi and Dharmesh as managers of N&N and have helped bring the support group together.
- Call for a new organisation in Auroville - In Nov, the Council made a call to the community for a sub group, they are preparing a presentation to the community.
- RAS membership - Following a second call to the community on 7th April, 7 members came forward and met with the Council and Working Committee. The final appointments are to be shared after consultation with the RAS.

### Mandates and Policies

- RAS mandate - Last year, the Council constituted a sub group (Mael, Martin, Dan, Allan) to review the RAS mandate. This group has shared a draft mandate with the Council which is being reviewed.
- AvC mandate - As the RAS and AvC mandates overlap and should compliment each other, we intend to review the AvC mandate once we have a draft of the RAS mandate finalised.
- RAD & CA - AvC with the help of community members is working on a survey to get the pulse of the community on the RAD policy.
- Entry Board - The Council has arranged to meet the new Entry Board on the 12th of May to discuss various topics.

### Challenges

- Recently the Council has been facing difficulties with the attendance of members, some members have reviewed the Participatory Working Group (PWG) document which provides guidelines for the functioning of the working groups. We are in the process of addressing this issue as a team.
- Council struggles to reach out to the community including units and services due to the @auroville.services domain and certain individual email addresses being blocked by the administrators of the @auroville.org.in domain. It has come to our knowledge that some community members have not been able to reach us with their concerns.

### Council Open House - Thursdays 10 - 11 am at the Council room, Town Hall

- 2 Council members are available to receive residents to listen to any matters or topics that may be impacting them, which they may wish to bring to the Council table for discussion.

### This months' joint meetings:

- 17/04 - Council met with the RAS regarding their online meeting with the Secretary on 14th April.
- 25/04 - Council met with WCom and RAS to discuss the strengthening of RAS.
- 28/04 - Council met the residents who came forward to join the RAS team.

### Other regular meetings:

- "Wednesdays for AV" - ongoing - at least 1 Council member attends the weekly meetings.
- "Regular joint WG meetings" - ongoing, generally 3-4 members attend weekly

The Auroville Council

Ashwini, Balaji (absent), Claudine, Philippe, Rijju, Samrat, Shiva, Suryan

### Conflict Resolution Council (CRC) Subgroup

(for AVC: Ashwini, Balaji, Suryan; Other members: Svenja, Sophie (Admin/Coordination)).

We intend to involve more able and skilled members from the community. To know more please write to [avc.conflicts@gmail.com](mailto:avc.conflicts@gmail.com)

The CRC has been following up on various conflicts involving Aurovilians. When possible, a mediation has been organised in order for the parties to hear each other's grievances and to find the best possible solution together.

We have received concerns from community members in regard to some offensive posts on Auroville involving racism and defamation. Constructive criticism is an essential aspect of our own personal and communal development and must be welcomed. But when this criticism becomes offensive to the most universal human sentiments and values, as also established by the Mother and Sri Aurobindo, then this does not serve our collective aspirations towards Human Unity.

We, at the Conflict Resolution Council, request everyone to kindly self-reflect on this topic, and to focus on affecting change towards a constructive, even reconciliatory outcome rather than widening divisions.

Please note that for obvious confidentiality reasons, we are not reporting individual or community conflicts in our monthly reports.

Only finalised mediations will be mentioned anonymously. Arbitration and appeal processes however, will be announced upon start and completion, also in a general manner only.

#### Email addresses to reach out to:

Auroville Council: [avcouncil@auroville.services](mailto:avcouncil@auroville.services)

CRC subgroup: [avc.conflicts@gmail.com](mailto:avc.conflicts@gmail.com)

Facilitation & Mediation Coordination team:

[facilitators.coordination@auroville.org.in](mailto:facilitators.coordination@auroville.org.in)

Matram: [maatram@auroville.org.in](mailto:maatram@auroville.org.in)

AV Safety & Security team: [aurovillesafety@gmail.com](mailto:aurovillesafety@gmail.com)

## FROM THE WORKING COMMITTEE

### REPORT FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2023

Dear Community,

Please find [attached](#) the Working Committee report for the months of March and April 2023. This report covers the following topics (and their relevant subtopics):

- Legal Matters
- Attempted takeover of essential services
- Visas
- Register of Residents (RoR)
- Crown road 'works' and mismanagement
- Media - Internal & External Communication
- Governing Board and International Advisory Council
- Community interactions
- Miscellaneous
- Other ongoing topics

We hope you will take the time to read, despite a rather long report.

In Service,

Your RA Working Committee

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël (TOS), Sauro, Valli



**WORKING COMMITTEE**

of the Residents' Assembly

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION



Please find the WCom report at the end of this issue (online version).

Please scan QR code to access the full report (printed version).

## SECURITY

Dear community,

As you may already be aware, the Auroville Safety and Security Team's emails ([avsecurity@auroville.org.in](mailto:avsecurity@auroville.org.in), [avsecurity.office@auroville.org.in](mailto:avsecurity.office@auroville.org.in)) have been disabled, since 14.04.2023.

As of now our team has not received any explanation or justification as to why this action was taken, despite voicing concerns to the sysop team over the disabling of communication to an essential service of Auroville.

In light of this, and because we are an emergency service and wish to remain available to the community, we have created the following temporary email address: [aurovillesafetyteam@gmail.com](mailto:aurovillesafetyteam@gmail.com)

We have also not received any information or notice regarding the recently circulated Office Order issued by the Office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, which seems to include a change of executives and team members for this service. Our original team continues its work, temporarily focusing the scope of its services for the next few months on the following:

1. managing the guards currently employed, and the volunteer patrols.
2. managing the check-posts, and other entrance points and junctions.
3. managing vehicle access and requests.
4. responding to the following types of incidents and dispatching them to services or working groups: thefts, harassment, unwelcome presence.
5. administrative assistance for: birth/death certificates, police complaints, police verification reports, passport verification etc... (AVSST office: 0413 2623 400)
6. escorting external ambulances, fire department, police etc... to the locations of incidents as and when needed.

We continue to be available for the above mentioned situations via the emergency number: 9443090107.

Please find below some relevant emergency numbers:

- **Auroville Ambulance Service:** 9442224680
- **PIMS:** 0413-2656 271
- **Farewell:** 8903836246
- **Vandrevala foundation - Mental health 24/7 support:** +91 9999666555
- **Auroville Police Station:** 0413 - 2677 318
- **Kottakuppam Police Station:** 0413 - 2236 148
- **Fire Stations:**
  - **Vanur:** 0413 - 2677 368
  - **Kalapet:** 0413 - 2655 873
  - **D. Nagar (near JIPMER):** 0413 - 2272 913
  - **Sedarapet:** 0413 - 2678 101

Anandamayi, Carlos and Matthieu for AVSST



## MATRIMANDIR NEWS

*Matrimandir*  
May 2023

Please find the Matrimandir News at the end of this issue (online version). Please scan QR code to access the MM News (printed version).



## OBITUARY

### VOLKHER OF BOTANICAL GARDEN PASSED AWAY

In the evening of Thursday 11 May, German Aurovilian Volkher Eike Riech quietly left his body in his Mahalakshmi Home apartment. He would have been 82 in June and had been suffering severe rheumatoid arthritis.



Having worked as an Ocean Scientist before coming here, Volkher first arrived in Auroville in '97 and became Aurovilian two years later.

Being keenly interested in geological and environmental issues, he was drawn to Auroville's green work, and worked and lived during his first years in Darkali, Discipline and Aurogreen.

He then moved to Vikas and started working at the Botanical Gardens, where he initiated and maintained the centre's elaborate cactus gardens which he kept up until health issues interfered four years ago. However, his interest remained and pretty soon Mahalakshmi Home would have its own cacti arrangements in gardens and balcony. His smiling presence there will be missed.

Volkher's body is presently at Farewell, and can be visited from 10 am - 12noon and from 3 - 5pm. Friends who are willing to keep a silent presence during those times are most welcome and can contact smiti@ or via WA 94420 70212. Data re the funeral will be shared when available.

Our condolences go out to Volkher's son Klaus, wife and grandson, as well as to his close friend Anne.

OM~

[Please know that Farewell's visiting room at the moment is shared between Volkher and Fabrice's father Paul Montagne, who passed away on Wednesday last.]

### BERND OF HERMITAGE LEAVES HIS BODY

At around 3am in the morning of Thursday 11 May, Aurovilian Bernd Theilmann peacefully passed away in his home at Hermitage at the age of 74. Having gone through years of dialysis and further physical challenges, this last half year had been difficult and taxing for him.



Before coming to Auroville, Bernd and his partner Agnes, both from Germany, stayed in Delhi from 1983 till '89 with Bernd working as technician at the Max Mueller Bhavan there. After this, the couple came directly to Auroville where Bernd assumed stewardship of the place they called 'Hermitage', the development of which has been the love of his life ever since. In 1992 Bernd officially became Aurovilian. Aided by his strong-willed and good-natured personality, all his energies went into the planting of lakhs of trees in his endeavour to transform the place into a paradise which, indeed, gradually grew up around them.

Bernd's body will remain at Hermitage where friends are welcome to visit during the coming three days from 3 till 5pm. Info re funeral will be share as/when available.

We warmly salute and thank a dedicated green worker who so much added to Auroville's natural wealth, and our warmest condolences and love go out to Agnes and Christine Garcia who was his loving partner for many years.

OM~

## VOICES OF RESIDENTS

### REMINDER - PLEASE SIGN TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT: 2 STATEMENTS FROM THE AUROVILLE COMMUNITY

Dear Community and Well-wishers of Auroville,

As of Monday 8th May, 306 persons have signed the online Statement-1 (regarding the removal of resident from the RoR) 241 have signed online Statement-2 (regarding dismissals and appointments in the working places). These issues concern all the residents, please take the time to sign and share this message with your family and friends.

Following the General Meeting on the 22 April 2023 two statements were made.

Please read the statements from the links below and sign to show your support. Those who already signed the sheet at the meeting can sign on these as well.

[\\*1 - Statement regarding Removal from the Register of Residents in Auroville - for Auroville Residents and Well-wishers](#)

[\\*2 - Statement by Auroville residents regarding Office Order dated 12.04.2023 - for Auroville Residents only](#)

After the collection of the signatures the results will safely be handed over to the RA Working Committee for the record of RA's actions and views. In principle the names of the signatories won't be disclosed.

**The signature submission will be closed on Monday 15th May.**

Sincerely,

A group of concerned Aurovilians

P.S.  
Those uncomfortable with filling a google form can alternatively email: [build.auroville.together@gmail.com](mailto:build.auroville.together@gmail.com) (please copy/paste the statements and mention your name and community name)

### I COULD HAVE DONE BETTER

As I reflect on my past experiences as a member of several working groups and subgroups in Auroville, including TDC, FAMC (TDC rep), and WC, I recognise that I could have done better. Looking back, I realise I fell short of my expectations and should have reflected and questioned more. **When I was there ten years ago, these groups comprised members from both sides of the current divide.**

As members of Auroville, we are all working towards common goals, and we must hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and self-reflection. We must recognise our shortcomings and commit to doing better in the future.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere regret.

Min

### உங்கள் ஆதரவை தெரிவிக்க கையொப்பமிடுங்கள்: ஆரோவில்லிலிருந்து 2 அறிக்கைகள்

அன்புள்ள ஆரோவில் சமூகம் மற்றும் அதன் நலம் விரும்பிகளே,

ஏப்ரல் 22ஆம் தேதி, 2023ல் நடந்த பொதுக்கூட்டத்தை தொடர்ந்து, செயலாளர் அலுவலகத்தின் சமீப கால நடவடிக்கைகளை எதிர்த்து 2 அறிக்கைகள் சுமார் 100 பேரால் கையெழுத்திடப்பட்டுள்ளன.

கீழுள்ள இணைப்புகளில் இருக்கும் இரண்டு அறிக்கைகளையும் படித்து பின் உங்கள் ஆதரவை தெரிவிக்கும் வகையில் கையொப்பமிடுங்கள். ஏற்கனவே கூட்டத்தில் கையொப்பமிட்டவர்களும் இதில் கையொப்பம் இடலாம்.

இணைப்புகள்:

[1 - ஆரோவில் குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் பதிவேட்டில் இருந்து நீக்கம் செய்யப்படுவதை குறித்த அறிக்கை \(ஆரோவில் குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் மற்றும் நலம் விரும்பிகளுக்கு\)](#)

[2 - 12.04.2023 அன்று அளிக்கப்பட்ட அலுவல் ஆணையை குறித்து ஆரோவில் குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் அறிக்கை](#)

குடியிருப்பாளர் பேரவையின் செயற் குழுவிற்கு இந்த முறையை பற்றிய முழு தகவல்கள் அளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன

உண்மையுடன், அக்கறையுடன் சில ஆரோவில் குடியிருப்பாளர்கள்

பி.கு  
இந்த கூகுள் படிவத்தை நிரப்ப முடியாதவர்கள் [build.auroville.together@gmail.com](mailto:build.auroville.together@gmail.com) என்ற முகவரிக்கு மின்னஞ்சல் அனுப்பவும். (உங்கள் பெயர், வசிக்குமிடம் மற்றும் இந்த அறிக்கைகளை காபி செய்து இணைத்து அனுப்பவும்)

### IT IS NOT ABOUT BUILDING A CITY

When we talk or write about what Auroville is going through right now, many like to quote the words of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. But in this way, extrapolated from its context, their words serve our thoughts and become easily manipulated. It would seem to me more honest to express our thoughts speaking in the first person, using our own words to adapt the teaching of the 'masters' to a more contemporary note.

Anyway, just to contradict what I wrote above, I like to quote a text instead, found in the Notebooks of an Apocalypse by Satprem (vol1, pag 159). It is the interpretation of Mother's thought about the construction of the Matrimandir, written almost 50 years ago. If you read it and try to replace the word Matrimandir with the word City, it could have been written today. I guess we haven't progressed much in 50 years...

*“Those who think that the Matrimandir must be built “at all costs” and that the Goal is to build one Matrimandir or two hundred Matrimandirs are grossly mistaken. It is not a question of building the Matrimandir: it is a question of building the people of the next world by using their symbolic effort. Mother does not care about tons of cement. She cares about an ounce of sincerity, a pure little gesture, consciously made. If each of the workers’ gestures were really filled with consciousness, the Matrimandir would shine all by itself like a divine Act and those men would already no longer be men, but divine beings. It is this divine world that we want to build, it is these divine men that we want to create, or else the Matrimandir can crumble along with the dust of all the useless temples that fill the banks of the Nile.”*

An anonymous Aurovilian,  
under the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

## TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

As artists and members of the Auroville Art Service we are concerned about recent communications about the possible dismissal of the executives that have built, represented and assisted our arts cooperative since its formation 10 years ago. They have tirelessly and thanklessly helped, supported and represented us as Auroville artists with all our difficulties and issues, doing a job that is not easy and which very few people wish to do. As artists themselves they understand the unique difficulties that artists go through in being creative, sharing our creations with the world, and finding ways to survive with very little financial support, as well as embracing the ideal that art is for everyone. We are very happy with the work they have done and expect that they will be able to continue this work for the foreseeable future. As there have been no clear reasons given for dismissing the executives, we would appreciate being informed of the reasons, as this affects over 70 people and activities under this service. This kind of action also does not reflect the spirit of Auroville and ignores the collective processes which are there to help us honour the will of the Mother who asks us to find more integral and inclusive ways of solving difficulties and disagreements.

The Auroville Art Service was formed as a cooperative in order to assist artists in Auroville and for artists to support each other as a collective. As Auroville is a growing point of convergence of many cultures, races, social strata, languages and experiments, the AV Arts Service has worked to bring together different people, by fostering unity between people through artistic means as well as by nourishing individual experiments and group efforts and creating platforms for artistic research, creation and administration.

We wish to move forward together with greater harmony and goodwill, where the spirit of “unity in diversity” exists for all artistic self-expression.

We disagree with the intentions to dismiss the executives of Auroville Art Service, as well as Auroville’s other services, and request that any valid issues with them be presented openly to discuss together as a community towards a real and integral unity.

Sincerely,  
40 members of AVArtS Coop  
Auroville, 25 April 2023



## AUROVILLE POETRY

### Auroville

Auroville you are - A Dream of the Lord  
Conceived for Earth by our highest God  
Built by immortal spirits in matter’s mould

Fifty years of love sweat and tears in all weather  
Dusty men and women working for our Mother  
Toiled through sun and rain, with one another

Barren dusty plains turned green  
With little food or water to glean  
Creating incredible treasure to be seen

Matrimandir with its lustrous shimmer  
Built by Her children with hope n glimmer  
With translucent crystal, an inner chamber

These aspiring children with sunlit eyes  
Building a utopia on a plateau dry  
Searching the Divine in matter, they try

Auroville you great hope for future  
Where man and man, heal and mature  
All differences overcome in inner nature

Now my heart’s so full of sorrow  
For this city which is for tomorrow  
It’s golden heart pierced by painful arrows

The loot the plunder the unconscious rise  
It should not come to us as surprise  
Money and power and sex as prize

My heart in sadness feels the pain  
This battle seemingly with no gain  
When all ego just need be slain

This city meant for human unity  
Now seems all that was in futility  
Speech so coarse with no subtlety

That Faith I hold on forever more  
And work and pray - Mother, delay no more  
That Auroville surely will be once more

O Auroville ! you city Divine  
That freedom and joy I deeply pine  
When will you be again, Thine



An Aurovilian

## AWAKENING SPIRIT

### INTRODUCTION TO THE INTEGRAL YOGA OF SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER

Tuesday, 14th May, 9 am - 12 noon  
Focus: The Supermind

Led by Ashesh Joshi

Place: Mirabelle Education Centre, Auromodele  
Ph/Whatsapp: 9489147202 (Please register)

All are Welcome





## WORK OPPORTUNITIES

### JOB AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE DOG SHELTER

The Auroville Dog Shelter is seeking highly motivated staff workers who love dogs to join our team.

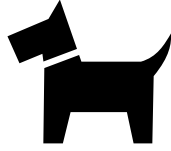
The daily tasks will include feeding our dogs, cleaning kennels, cooking food, etc. We are also a SAVI-registered unit and are looking for a volunteer who is a wizard and influencer on social media.

If you want to work hands-on with our 300 lovely residents, contact us!

Email us at [aurovilledogshelter@gmail.com](mailto:aurovilledogshelter@gmail.com) or [aurovilledogshelter@auroville.org.in](mailto:aurovilledogshelter@auroville.org.in)  
WhatsApp at 08939449413 or 08122225266.

Your

Auroville Dog Shelter Team



### HR HUB INITIATIVE

HR Hub Initiative is a service which helps individual Aurovilians and Newcomers in search for suitable work by connecting them to Auroville units and services who are looking to fill positions and in turn to find the right individuals to step in.

We invite the Auroville Services/Units to use our service; if you are in need to find someone to fill out a work position in your unit, we can help you by screening and finding suitable applicants.

We also invite Aurovilians and newcomers that are in search of a work opportunity to write to us and apply through our service so that we can connect you with the Units/Services of Auroville in need.

At the moment we do have a number of candidates in search for suitable working opportunities. If your Unit/Service is in need of people, feel free to contact us; we might be able to connect you with Aurovilians/Newcomers who are searching for work.

Please contact us for more information:  
[hr.hubauroville@gmail.com](mailto:hr.hubauroville@gmail.com)

HR Hub Team

## CLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND HEALING ARTS

### SERENDIPITY ACTIVITIES & THERAPIES

(Ex. Joy Community in front of Center GH)

Center Field, Auroville - 605101, TN, India

Mobile/Whatsapp: +91 9385623342

Email: [serendipityauroville@gmail.com](mailto:serendipityauroville@gmail.com)

<https://serendipity.auroville.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/serendipityauroville>



### Tea Meditation - Sunday 26th February @ 11am - with Jass

Tea is an ancient drink that has been hailed for its beneficial effects for ages. The story goes that centuries ago some monks threw these leaves in a pot of hot water and discovered that after drinking the infusion they could meditate much better! And so tea and meditation have always been intertwined. In this session we will explore the traditional Chinese way of serving tea, 'Gong Fu Cha', drinking quality Chinese tea in a silent and mindful manner.

For more information call: +91 73394 59425

On Donation basis

### Regular Classes

#### Mindfulness evening Circle with Jass

Thursday at 7:30pm



Mindfulness is the art of opening up to the present moment, embracing all that is alive within us and around us. It enables us to enjoy life deeply and cope with life's challenges in a skillful way.

This is a drop-in group session.

#### Traditional Sanskrit Mantras with Sonia

Friday from 5 to 6pm (Regular Students)



In the recitation of Sanskrit Mantras the sound is very important and the specific pitches and strict rules of intonation and syllabic length should be learned according with the tradition of the great masters of the past, who figured out how to use the voice to calm the mind and attune the practitioner to the more subtle levels of the "sadhana" or spiritual path. Through the harmonic rhythm, repetition and participation in the singing, the mind reaches more clarity, concentration and tranquility.

### VÉRITÉ WORKSHOP

#### Pre-registration required

Please contact Verite @  
0413 2622045, 2622606, 7867805812  
or  
[programming@verite.in](mailto:programming@verite.in), [www.verite.in](http://www.verite.in)



#### Healthy Spine with Yoga - with Rebeca Saturday, 20 May- 9:30am – 12:00pm

Yoga asana is an excellent way to maintain a healthy spine: improving posture, increasing mobility, strengthening stabilizing muscles and promoting relaxation for a more balanced state. In this workshop we will understand briefly the anatomy and movements of the spine, followed by a practical session to integrate it. Session is open to all but specially designed for yoga teachers and practitioners.

#### Freedom from Fear – with Dr. Sehdev Saturday, 20 May- 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Fear has an apocalyptic power; it can sap all energy and make everything inert and lifeless.

- Fear of Losing Face
- Fear of Loneliness
- Fear of Love & Intimacy
- Fear of Failure

How can one live with full intensity and with all ebbs and tides, without knowing what fears freeze the mighty river of one's life? Drawing from Buddhist Philosophy, existential psychotherapy and Integral Yoga, we will explore both the theoretical underpinnings of the phenomenon of fear and the practical ways of addressing it on a day-to-day basis.

### CAPOEIRA- MARTIAL ART AND MUSIC WITH GINGA SAROBA

Afro-Brazilian martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics, music and movements. More than 500 years old, Capoeira is a constantly evolving art form, come connect and express yourself. Join us for

#### Adult Classes : Monday & Thursday - 6 PM - Deepanam School

Contact: 7598446327

Submitted by Kiran for Ginga Saroba



## TAXI SHARE



### Weekly Sri Ma Trip

Share a taxi to and from Sri Ma on Wednesdays.

Leaving Auroville at **9:30 am** and returning at **2:00 pm**

Maximum 4 people, with advance notice

Beginning **Wednesday May 17th**

Contact if interested via WhatsApp to 9655534514

Stay well!

Isha

## ACTIVITIES

### INTEGRAL DOG TRAINING



**INTEGRAL DOG TRAINING**

Join us on  
**SUNDAY, MAY 14TH**  
10 AM - 12 PM

Learn the role of leadership in dog training for better behavior.  
Children welcome!

AUROVILLE DOG SHELTER

The Auroville Dog Shelter Team is excited to invite you for a first introduction to **"Integral Dog Training"**.

The session will take place next **Sunday, May 14th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

The focus of the session will be on the role of leadership in dog training for better behavior. During the session, we will walk and exercise some of our shelter dogs together and teach them basic behaviors. Bring your kids, as they will have the opportunity to play with our puppies and even teach them some basic tricks. We encourage everyone to bring snacks and small treats for our dogs, who will be happy! If you want to donate, we would appreciate it very much if you could purchase leashes for our shelter dogs, as we never have enough. This will be especially useful as we plan to prepare workshops for "Pack Walk Training" in the future.

We would like to express our gratitude for your unwavering support!

The new Auroville Dog Shelter has achieved a lot in just a month, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

We invite you to join us and our beloved residents as volunteers in this significant undertaking to establish a model dog shelter for Auroville. Your contribution can help us achieve our goal. Please donate to our **FS account: 251391**. We look forward to seeing you all next Sunday!

Your

Auroville Dog Shelter Team

### VIPASSANA

All old students of Vipassana meditation as taught by S.N. Goenka ([www.dhamma.org](http://www.dhamma.org)) having attended at least one 10 day course are welcome to attend a half-day Vipassana course at Udavi School in Auroville.

Date: **Every Sunday**

Timings: **8:30 AM – 12:30 PM** but you can also drop in and join as long as you wish.

No registration is required.

Venue: **Udavi School** (building on the left when you are at the front entrance), near Tank in Edayanchavadi (Auroville).

**Contact:** Sanjay Tumati, +91 8790982210 (available on WhatsApp), [sanjay@aurauro.com](mailto:sanjay@aurauro.com)

Vipassana

As taught by S.N. Goenka



## ECO FEMME OPEN HOUSE

### ECO FEMME OPEN HOUSE

Every Thursday morning  
from 10:30 AM



Dear friends,

Join our open house at our office in Auroshilpam every **Thursday morning at 10:30 AM till 12 AM.**

Come and learn about:

- Sustainable menstrual products (cloth pads, cups and period panties),
- Menstrual cycle awareness and,
- Our not-for-profit work.

You can also pick up discounted cloth pads, cups, period panties and cloth nappies.

See you soon!

The Eco Femme Team

## THE ARTS

### EXHIBITION IN PITANGA



### "Miranda's Glass Art Installations"

by Miranda Rumina

**5 May – 1 June at Pitanga.**

You are warmly invited to the opening this week:

**Friday, 5 May, 5 – 6.30pm**

Miranda's Glass Art Installations is a photography exhibition of glass objects and glass installations by multi-media artist Miranda Rumina. Miranda is an internationally established artist based in England and Slovenia. She came to Auroville in 2006 and keeps visiting Auroville to continue her artistic journey.

<https://mirandarumina.com>



### "From the artist:

"Glass is the purest material that is created by man in connection with mother Nature. It is also the most precious one because it lets light shine through it and its structure resembles quartz crystals. Here are glass installations by Miranda Rumina, mostly created in Slovenia over the last four years:

- Four Seasons, Valvasor Chapel 1997;
- Tri Barve / Tre Colori, Our Lady of Health Church, Piran, Slovenia, 2021;
- Symphony In Black And White, Zavarovalnica Triglav, Kranj, Slovenia, 2019;
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Layerjeva Hiša, Kranj, Slovenia, 2020."

- Miranda Rumina

**Pitanga Cultural Centre**

2622403 / WA 9443902403

[info@pitanga.in](mailto:info@pitanga.in)

## LOOKING FOR

### OLD WATER TANKS

The Auroville Dog Shelter is seeking **old water tanks** that can be repurposed as dog houses.

If you have any old water tanks that you no longer need, or know where we could get some, we would be grateful if you could donate them to our shelter.

contact:

Email us at [aurovilledogshelter@gmail.com](mailto:aurovilledogshelter@gmail.com)

or [aurovilledogshelter@auroville.org.in](mailto:aurovilledogshelter@auroville.org.in)

WhatsApp at 08939449413 or 08122225266.

Your

Auroville Dog Shelter Team



### LOOKING FOR A USED E-BIKE WITH BIG WHEELERS OR E-CYCLE:

I'm looking for a E-bike with big wheelers or E-cycle for me. if you are not using anymore or you don't need it anymore - Please contact me 8940522975 or send email ([Grace@auroville.org.in](mailto:Grace@auroville.org.in)).

Love and Gratitude

Grace nagappan

## CHILDREN

### SUMMER PROGRAM FOR AUROVILLE KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN



Kindergarten, Nandanam and Aha teachers are offering 4 weeks of activities (crafts, games, stories, blocks, pool) to their students, age 4 to 7.

#### When?

On Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8th of May until 2d of June, from 9.00 to 12.00.

#### Where?

- at Kindergarten (Center Field) from 8th to 19th of May
- at Nandanam from 22d of May until 2d of June.

Parents, please put a towel and swimsuit in your child's bag. Snack will be served but no lunch.

Volunteers above 14 of age are welcome to help the teachers run the program!

## AV RADIO



Dear Aurovilians,

Your favourite radio is always working for you. Stay tuned!

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

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

#### Last published podcasts:

- [La Vita Divina – Ep.25\(Sri Aurobindo\)](#)
- [Marlenka's weekly Offering-Ep.90\(Literature\)](#)



Auroville Radio Tv is maintained and supported with the help of a small town budget and voluntary donations. Thanks for donating us. If you wish, make a donation to **F.A. number 0867**

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

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

Peace and love  
Regards, Wobbli

## CINEMA



Presents at **MULTI MEDIA CENTRE AUDITORIUM (MMC, Town Hall)**

*Reminder: Friday 12 "THE VELVET QUEEN" (original title: La Panthère des neiges) by Vincent Munier & Marie Amiguet, France, 2021*

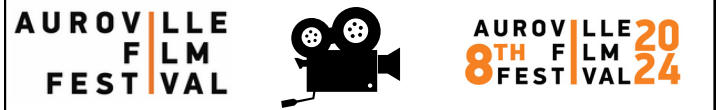
**Friday 19 MAY, 8.00 pm**  
**"ORDINARY PEOPLE"**

*Directed by Robert Redford, United States, 1976*

*With: Donald Sutherland, Mary Tyler Moore, Judd Hirsch, Timothy Hutton*

*Synopsis: The film, based on the 1976 novel of the same name by Judith Guest, follows the Jarrett family, a middle-class family settled in Lake Forest near Chicago, Illinois. After the death of the eldest son, Jordan "Buck", in a boating accident, the family falls apart. The mother, Beth, takes refuge in the pursuit of success and the safeguarding of social appearances. She is blind to the feelings and psychology of her family members. The father wants to understand and help his son... The first feature film directed by actor Robert Redford, the film is a critical and commercial success. It has received numerous awards including the Oscar for Best Picture and Best Director for Robert Redford. A film of great sensitivity.*

*Original French version with English Subtitles. Duration 2h04'*



**THE 8TH EDITION OF THE AUROVILLE FILM FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY 2024.**

**We are now open for submissions.**

Films for the three local categories:

1. Films made by Aurovilians, bioregion residents or guests of Auroville
2. Films made about Auroville / bioregion
3. Films made by students of Auroville / bioregion

are to be entered using the form on our website: <https://filmfestival.auroville.org/submissions-2024/>

Students 17yrs old and below are eligible to enter films in the students category. Films produced after August 15, 2021 are eligible for above 3 categories and the deadline for submission is September 15, 2023.

A note to prolific filmmakers: please do make a selection of the best! In this edition we have decided on screening only 30hrs of films in total (the last editions screened 50hrs!).

Entries for the international category of "Films that develop the theme of human unity" are to be submitted via <https://filmfreeway.com/AurovilleFilmFestival>

Films for this category need to be produced in January 2021 or later and the deadline for submission is July 31, 2023.

Please do submit your films to AVFF'24 and help spreading the word.



Cinema Paradiso-Multimedia Center is now in operation at 100% seating capacity. Technically Covid protocols were never taken off of cinema/theatre halls. Since mask is not a requirement anywhere else, we leave it to people's discretion. However, please come prepared. *To organize seminar/program please contact us via email.*

**We continue to have issues with our projector. It is time for us to look for a new one. If you are able to kindly donate at MMC's FS Account for this.**

**Indian – Monday 15 May, 8:00 pm:  
MISSON MANJU**

India, 2023, Dir. Shantanu Bagchi w/ Sidharth Malhotra, Rashmika Mandanna, Parmeet Sethi, and others, Drama-History, 129mins, Hindi w/English subtitles, Rated: NR (R)

This fiction is based on actual events when following the Indo-Pak 1971 war a secret news came that the latter has created nuclear weapons. A RAW field agent, Amandeep Singh, lives and works in Pakistan as a tailor called Tariq, with a mission to expose the country's covert operation. He marries a blind girl, Nasreen and starts a family with her while being undercover.

**Potpourri – Tuesday 16 May, 8:00 pm:  
12**

Russia, 2007, Dir. Nikita Mikhalkov w/ Sergey Makovetskiy, Sergey Garmash, and others, Drama-Thriller, 159 mins, Russian w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG13

12 jurors are struggling to decide the fate of a Chechen teenager who allegedly killed his Russian stepfather who took the teenager to live with him in Moscow during the Chechen War in which teenager lost his parents. The jurors: a racist taxi-driver, a suspicious doctor, a vacillating TV producer, a Holocaust survivor, a flamboyant musician, a cemetery manager, and others represent the fragmented society of modern day Russia. A stray bird (a touch of New Age cinema) is flying above the jurors' heads, alluding to tolerance.

**Interesting – Wednesday 17 May, 8:00 pm:  
WRITING WITH FIRE**

India, 2021, Dir. Sushmit Ghosh & Rintu Thomas w/ Meera Devi, Shyamkali Devi, Suneeta Prajapati, and others, Documentary, 92mins, Hindi w/English subtitles, Rated: NR (G)  
This acclaimed and inspiring film captures the story of the women journalists at Khabar Lahariya, India's only all-female-run news organization. It depicts what it means to be a woman and a journalist in the marginalized communities today amidst the millennia-old caste system, traditions, sexual violence against women and corruption. A powerhouse of a movie, clearly showcasing that there is no limit to what a woman can accomplish - what empowerment really means! *A powerful film we are re-screening on popular request.*

**German – Thursday 18 May, 8:00 pm:  
OH BOY (Oh boy)**

Germany, 2012, Dir. Jan-Ole Gerster w/ Tom Schilling, Marc Hosemann, Friederike Kempfer, and others, Comedy, 83 mins, German w/ English subtitles, Rated: G

*In collaboration with Goethe Institute/Max Mueller Bhavan.* Shot in black and white. One fateful day in the life of Berlin Hipster Niko, who lives for the moment, oblivious to his growing status as an outsider until he's forced to confront the consequences of his inaction. But all Niko wants is a decent cup of coffee...

**International – Saturday, 20 May, 8:00 pm:  
APOLLO 10 1/2: A SPACE AGE ADVENTURE**

USA, 2022, Dir. Richard Linklater w/ Milo Coy, Jack Black, and others, Animation-Adventure, 97 mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG13

The story of the first moon landing in the summer of 1969 from two interwoven perspectives. It both captures the astronaut and mission control view of the triumphant moment, and the lesser-seen bottom-up perspective of what it was like from an excited kid's perspective, living near NASA but mostly watching it on TV like hundreds of millions of others. It's ultimately both an exacting re-creation of this special moment in history and a kid's fantasy about being plucked from his average life in suburbia to secretly train for a covert mission to the moon.

**Children's Matinee - Sunday, 21 May, 4:30 pm:  
BENJI**

USA, 2018, Dir. Brandon Camp w/ Gabriel Bateman, Darby Camp, Jerod Haynes, and others, Action-Drama, 87 mins, English, Rated: PG

In this heartfelt adventure told from the dog's point of view, two school kids strike up a friendship with an orphaned puppy named Benji. When danger befalls them and they end up kidnapped by robbers, Benji and his sidekick come to the rescue. (Some action scenes can be scary)

**WOODY ALLEN @ Ciné-Club Sunday 21 May, 8:00 pm:  
HANNAH AND HER SISTERS**

USA, 1986, Dir. Woody Allen w/ Mia Farrow, Dianne Wiest, Michael Caine, and others, Drama-Comedy, 107 mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG.

The film tells the intertwined stories of an extended family over two years that begins and ends with a family Thanksgiving dinner. The first of each gathering is in a time of contentment, the second in a time of trouble, and the third showing what happens after the resolution of the troubles.

**Rating codes** we often use are from Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA): G=General Audiences, PG=Parental guidance suggested, PG-13=Parents strongly cautioned, R=Restricted (equivalent to Indian rating: A i.e. for Adults), NR=Film Not rated, Rating awaited, or Rating not available.

For scheduling programs at MMC/CP venue: please email us at [mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in](mailto:mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in). **We appreciate your continued support. Pl donate to "Cinema Paradiso" (account #105106) or set up for a monthly contribution. We need it now more than ever.**

Thanking You,  
MMC/CP Group Account# 105106,  
[mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in](mailto:mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in)

FO GROUPS

(not selected by due Residents Assembly process)

"Please note that the links in this part of the N&N do not work, due to technical complications. If you would like to publish an announcement/article/event with functional links, please send them to our new email ID: newsandnotes@auroville.services "

FROM THE FO WC

LETTER ON NEWS AND NOTES

Dear Community,

The News and Notes team has been putting out a weekly edition week after week, every month, for years. Roy has been at the editorial desk more than once. It's a lot of work each time.

So it was strange, to say the least, when the last two editions, with all their work, were literally stolen, almost as soon as they were sent out, and published dressed up under a different cover.

This was done without informing the editors, let alone asking for their permission. None of those who sent in their articles or reports to News and Notes were asked for permission for this masquerade edition.

Seriously, can human unity and inclusiveness be enforced in such a manner? We trust this will not be repeated.

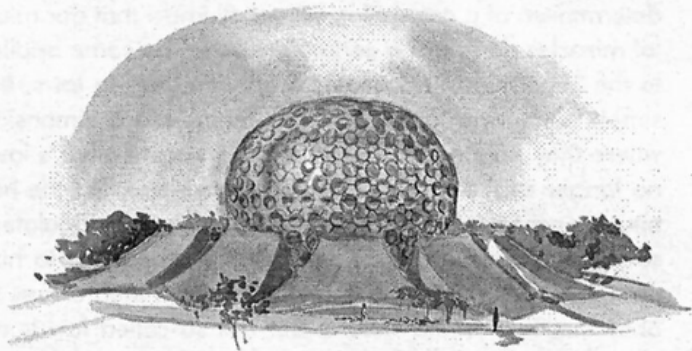
News and Notes remains open to different points of view as the editors have said. We hope it will remain above abusive accusations and false content, in the true Spirit of Auroville.

Warmly, *The Working Committee,*  
All the best and thanks from us, Anu

MATRIMANDIR NOTES

MATRIMANDIR THE SOUL OF AUROVILLE

"Greetings from Auroville to all men of goodwill." Are invited to Auroville all those who thirst for progress and aspire to a higher and truer life..." announced the Mother at Auroville's inauguration on 28 February 1968.



While she sent out an invitation to all people of goodwill who aspire to a higher life to come to Auroville, her directions for accessing the Matrimandir was not quite the same. In September 1965 She instructed the chief Architect, Roger Anger and wrote on his report:

"The park of Unity must be surrounded by some kind of an isolating zone so that it is solitary and silent. One has access to it only with permission."

Later, during his visits to the Mother's room Roger would note down in his diary her directions about accessing the Matrimandir. We reproduce here some of these notes:

• June 1971: About Matrimandir

Sri Aurobindo has shown/taught that it is in Matter that the Divine must be manifested; he has insisted on the understanding of this concept of the Mother as Creator.

Matrimandir is here to teach people that it is not by escaping from the world while ignoring it, that they will realise the Divine in life. Matrimandir must be the symbol of this Truth. I don't want it to be made into a religion; with all my force I refuse. We don't want dogmas, principles, ritual, absolutely not, absolutely not.

AV Archives; AMW, p. 390

• August 1972: About admissions to Matrimandir:

Not for the visitors in principle.

Reserved for Aurovilians but not everyone will be admitted.

The first condition for those who want to go there is to ask.

Those who have contributed to the construction will be admitted in the first place. If there are doubtful cases, they should be referred to me. All those who have a doubtful presence won't go.

If there is the slightest doubt, the case will be presented to me.

People must be known for their qualifications.

Roger's notes; facsimile at AV Archives; AMW, p. 441

We find more on the same subject in her conversation with Satprem:

"But then, people will not come for "regular meditations" or anything of the kind (the internal organization will be taken care of later): it will be a place for concentration.

Not everyone will be allowed in; there will be a time of the week or the day (I don't know) when visitors will be allowed to come, but anyway without mixture. There will be a fixed time or a fixed day to show the visitors, and the rest of the time only for those who are... serious – serious, sincere, who truly want to learn to concentrate.

[...]

Then, people will be let in in order to concentrate- [laughing] to learn to concentrate! No fixed meditations, nothing of the sort, but they will have to stay there in silence – silence and concentration.

[...]

And SILENCE. No talking inside!

So I think that is good"

Mother's Agenda, pp. 15-24;  
CWM, XIII, p. 286; AMW, p. 249

Shortly before he passed away, Roger Anger was invited by the Visitors' Reception team of Matrimandir to speak about what he recalled of the Mother's indications regarding organisation of visitors' reception to Matrimandir. The most important thing that was communicated by him to the team was his memory of the Mother telling him to be always conscious of the fact that anyone who goes, is lead, into the Inner Chamber of the Matrimandir comes into the presence of the 'Universal Mother' and therefore it should not be done just anyhow. Care must be taken to prepare all before entering the Matrimandir.

We understand from the above that while Mother welcomed all people of goodwill to participate in the project of Auroville in accordance with the Charter, when it came to the Matrimandir she wanted that it is the individual's aspiration for, their relationship with, the Divine that would determine entry into the Matrimandir, the Soul of Auroville.

The question arises, in the absence of her physical presence, how to determine who is worthy of such a privilege.

The official access policy has been created following the indications and guidelines of the Mother. It welcomes anyone who wishes to visit the Matrimandir at the hour designated to them. There are different categories of visitors including official guests, volunteers, donors and so on. Great care is taken to ensure that all have the possibility to enter the Matrimandir for their personal concentration at

the hour/s designated to them. Teams of Aurovilians are engaged in taking care of the different aspects of this work and changes and improvements are implemented as and when needed as an evolving process.

Thanks, For MM Executives, Antoine

## AUROVILLE MATTERS

# AWARE Auroville

- information about Auroville, by Aurovilians, for humanity as a whole!

[Awareauroville.com](http://Awareauroville.com) is a community-driven service unit that aims to create awareness about Auroville's values and projects to the world. We seek to engage and inspire individuals to participate in the growth and development of this unique and progressive community.

### Opportunities for Newcomers and Aurovilians

#### Programme Organiser-Community Engagement (P/T)

Our programs are proactive initiatives to take Auroville forward in its goal of creating a sustainable, holistic and spiritual community. We need individuals who are self-driven to organize community interactions—with newcomers, volunteers, bioregion, donors, youth, children—which are aimed at exchanging ideas, collaborating at tasks, mobilizing resources and advancing work toward the progress of Auroville.

#### Fundraiser (P/T)

We are seeking a motivated and driven Fundraiser to join our team and help us secure funding for our mission. You will be responsible to build and maintain strong relationships within the various groups of Auroville and also to engage with donors and supporters who are passionate about Auroville's Vision.

#### Campaign Manager (P/T)

We are seeking a talented and strategic Campaign Manager to join our team and help us develop and execute campaigns and initiatives to promote Auroville's values and projects to a global audience. The Campaign Manager will be responsible for leading campaigns across a range of channels, including digital, social media, and offline marketing.

- Reach us at: [aware@auroville.org.in](mailto:aware@auroville.org.in),
- WA 98100 52574 OR 88888 60442

Warm regards, Nilima.

## AWAKENING SPIRIT

### AMPHITHEATRE—MATRIMANDIR

Every Thursday at sunset, 6 to 6:30pm  
weather permitting

Meditation with Savitri read by Mother  
to Sunil's music

Enjoy the beautiful open space, an immense sunset, heavenly music in the very center of Auroville!



#### Reminder to all

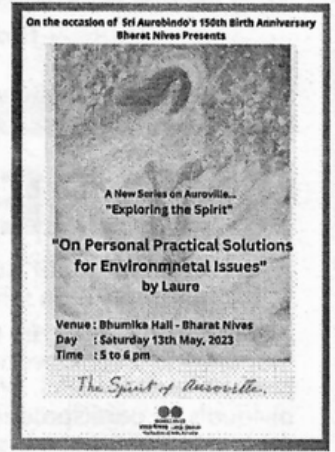
- The Park of Unity is a place for silence, meditation and inner work and is to be used only as such.
  - We request everyone: please do not use cameras, I-pads, cell phones, etc. No Photos.
  - Dear Guests, please carry your Guest Card with you. Access only for the Amphitheatre from 5.45 pm and until meditation ends.
- Surya & Velmurugan

## EXPLORING THE SPIRIT: On Personal Practical Solutions for Environmental Issues

On the occasion of Sri Aurobindo's 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary Bharat Nivas Presents a new series on Auroville Exploring the Spirit: On Personal Practical Solutions for Environmental Issues by Laure

- Venue: Bhumika Hall Bharat Nivas
- Day: Saturday, 13 May,
- Time: 5 to 6 pm

Regards, Vani,  
BN Cultural Team



### DAILY PEACE MEDITATION

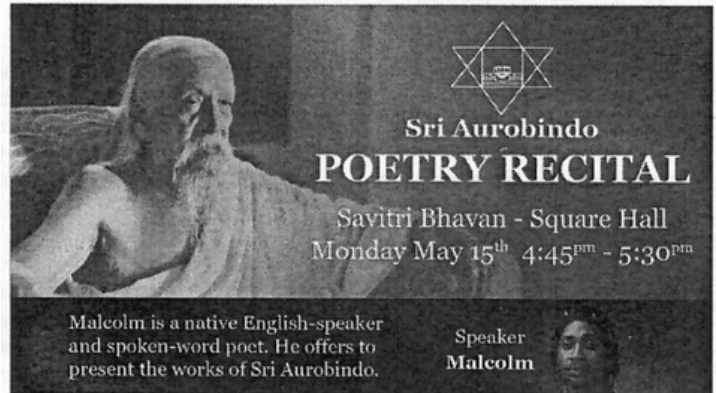
- Unity Pavilion, Peace Hall
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 6 to 6:45pm
- Thursday, 5 to 5:45pm



Submitted by Arun

### POETRY RECITAL

Monday, 15 May, 4:45—5:30pm @ Savitri Bhavan



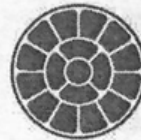
Sri Aurobindo  
**POETRY RECITAL**  
Savitri Bhavan - Square Hall  
Monday May 15<sup>th</sup> 4:45<sup>pm</sup> - 5:30<sup>pm</sup>

Malcolm is a native English-speaker and spoken-word poet. He offers to present the works of Sri Aurobindo.

Speaker  
**Malcolm**

Dear lovelies, this Monday at Savitri Bhavan, Malcolm offers to present the poetic works of Sri Aurobindo. He is a native English-speaker and spoken-word poet. The programme will be in the Square Hall from 4:45 until 5:30pm. All are welcome. Musicians who play meditative music and would like to participate are encouraged to attend. See you there.

Peace, Love & Soul, Malcolm



### BRAHMANASPATI KSHETRAM The Mother Sri Aurobindo Centre

Calendar of Regular Events  
for May 2023

- Thursdays, 6:—6:30pm: Meditation
- Tuesdays, 5:30—6:30pm:  
Reading 'The Mother's Questions & Answers—Vol. 7' in English by Rama Narayana
- 15 May, Monday: 4—5pm:  
Reading 'The Sunlit Path' in English & Tamil by Dhanalakshmi

Many thanks, Tixon  
No.3/134, Kalathu Mettu Street,  
Edayanchavadi, Auroville  
[Kshetram2014@auroville.org.in](mailto:Kshetram2014@auroville.org.in)



**एकत्व मार्ग  
A WALK TO DISCOVER AUROVILLE**

**Ekattva Maarg (एकत्व मार्ग) - A walk to Discover Auroville**

For registration of these activities, please contact Information Service Desk at the Visitor Center or write to:  
 bharatnivas@auroville.org.in  
 balur8384@yahoo.com  
 Mobile: +91 9943707570

Bharat Nivas, the India Pavilion, is excited to connect with neighboring pavilions through the revival of the Auroville Discovery Walk. Our goal is to promote human unity by creating physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual connections among people from diverse backgrounds.

The Auroville Discovery Walk includes a loop with destinations that starts at the Visitor's Center, including the Tibetan Pavilion, Unity Pavilion, Savitri Bhavan, Bharat Nivas, and the Matrimandir viewing point. As you take this walk, we invite you to indulge in the Sound bath, enjoy snacks under the Banyan tree, and take the time to individually discover and deepen your experience of Auroville.

Our docent-led, guided tours will give you insight into the history and significance of each destination along the loop, as well as introduce you to a range of current and upcoming events based on the diverse experiments and practices across disciplines in Auroville and the bio-region.

At Bharat Nivas, you can engage with Kalakendra art and multi-disciplinary exhibition hall, attend a workshop on Kolam Yoga by Grace in the Sri Aurobindo Auditorium Foyer, book a session on Sound bath and other craft based activities, watch movies on Auroville, register for various talks or explore the India Space to learn more about the city's model and design. You can register for all events and workshops at the Visitor's Center. While the Auroville Discovery Walk is free, a small contribution is requested for the craft based workshops and for the guided Tours.

Join us in experiencing Auroville through this connected pathway and discover the rich diversity and unity that defines our community.

For registration of these activities please contact

- Information Service Desk at the Visitor Center
- or write to: [bharatnivas@auroville.org.in](mailto:bharatnivas@auroville.org.in)
- [balur8384@yahoo.com](mailto:balur8384@yahoo.com)
- Mobile: +919943707570

**EKATTVA MAARG:  
Fridays and Saturdays**

**Sound Bath**

- Time: 11 & 3pm, Duration: 1 Hour
- Venue: Harmony Hall
- Contribution: required

The Sound Bath is a unique experience offered by Svaram Musical Instruments and Research. The experience offers participants a journey with sound through different soundscapes created by art-



ists and artisans using a variety of instruments aimed at promoting a deeper and harmonious connection to our own being and a relaxing experience.

**Experience Kolamyoga**

- Time: 4:30—6pm
- Duration: 1.5 hours
- Contribution: required
- Venue: Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Foyer



Welcome to experience the making of a Kolam. A two-dimensional representation drawn with your own unique physical proportions on the earth's surface with the help of sacred powders. You will be guided into an ancient pictorial language creating a personal prayer, acknowledgement of codes, symbols, pictorial or abstractions of life, its forms and shapes. You will taste the vast reservoir of Powers, Beauty, Harmony and Knowledge that resides within us all.

**Coconut Shell Craft Workshop**

- Time: 10—12:30pm & 2:30—5pm
- Duration: 2 hours
- Contribution: required
- Venue: SAWCHU/Shilpa Kendra



Experience and learn the art of designing unique crafts made from eco-friendly material (i.e.) Coconut shell which are environmentally friendly and sustainable. In this workshop you create either pendant, earring, key chain or bowls through new and unique techniques and you will carry your product with you as a souvenir.

**Incense Making**

- Time: 10am—12pm & 3—5pm
- Duration: 2 hrs
- Contribution: required
- Venue: SAWCHU/Shilpa Kendra



Experience and learn the art of making two different types of incenses (Agarbattis and cone shaped incense) Which are combustible. In this workshop you will be able to make your own best naturals incense in an easy way and you will carry your product with you as a souvenir.

**Regular Movie Screening**

- Time: 10am—12pm & 2—3pm
- Duration: 2 hrs
- Venue: India Space



They will be a regular movie screening on Auroville, Sri Aurobindo's Five Dreams & Genius of India at India Space. All are welcome.

**All about sustainable living in Auroville by Laure**

- Time: 3—4pm, Duration—1 hour
- Contribution: required
- Venue: India Space



During this interactive session with Laure, she will share her tips and tricks to live a sustainable and healthy life, what Auroville does in terms of sustainability and she will answer all your questions too. This workshop is also available on demand for a group of minimum 5 people.

**Draw Along—Art Workshop**

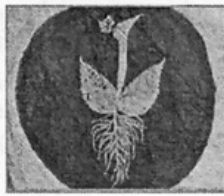
- Time: 2—4 pm, Duration—2 hours
- Contribution: required
- Venue: Sri Aurobindo Centre, Study room 1



Come along and learn how to sketch paint & draw on the spot along with the artist and carry your creation with you as a souvenir.

## Cynotype Printing

- Time: 11am—12:30pm, Duration: 1 hour
- Contribution: required
- Venue: Kala Kendra Art Studio

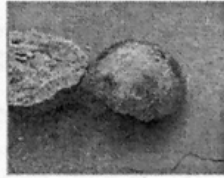


**Nature of workshop:** It is to illuminate the urgency of incorporating health, both that of mind and body in equilibrium with elements of nature, as a collective and as an individual.

Please check at the registration desk about the possible day and time for this activity.

## Japanese Mud Art Workshop

- Time: 10:30—11:30am & 3:30—4:30pm, Duration—1 hour
- Contribution: required
- Venue: Kala Kendra Art Studio



Please check at the registration desk about the possible day and time for the activity.

## Classical Mime Show By iMIMEgination Team

- Time: 11—11:30am & 11:45am—12:15pm & 2:30—3pm & 3:15—3:45pm
- Duration—1 hour
- Contribution: required
- Venue: Progress Hall



Workshop on demand is available for a minimum group of 6 people. Please check at the registration desk about the possible day and time for the activity.

Regards, Vani, BN Cultural Team

*rhyme beats here, melting our limits in the illimitable tuning the finite to infinity" Sri Aurobindo*

- Life is worth living at one condition: You have to reinvent yourself thoroughly everyday
- Lose yourself in the ineffable beauty of the stars

Soham

## YOUTH INITIATIVES

### SAFETY & BOUNDARIES AWARENESS PROGRAM REPORT

The issue of sexual harassment is prevalent across the globe, and Auroville is no exception.

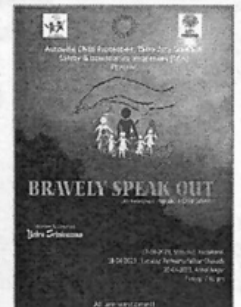
In light of this, YouthLink took the initiative to host an awareness campaign on sexual harassment in October 2022. To follow up on this campaign, we recently hosted a networking event to connect all units and services working in this field to work collaboratively towards education and awareness in the community. From this event came the (Safety & Boundaries Awareness) SBA program, which links all services within Auroville that work towards addressing issues related to sexual harassment.



SBA's goal was to increase awareness, build an emotional support network, optimise prevention, provide education within the community, and to ensure that Auroville becomes safer for all. We were excited

to offer an awareness program from 10 to 22 April, featuring a variety of events and workshops.

Among the workshops being offered were: Krav Maga, Self-defence, the anatomy and physiology of sex and STDs and a workshop on boundaries & consent. Our events included an Art Day on the theme of healing, classical dance and theatre performances by Yatra, a movie night displaying Moxie and a game show by Chrysalis.



In addition to our program, 'Bravely Speak Out,' a street theatre performance on child protection was presented in various locations in villages around Auroville throughout April. It was created by Yatra Arts Media in collaboration with Auroville Child Protection Awareness and supported by AVI Germany.

### Interaction & feedbacks

We are happy to say that we had a successful exchange with the community that sparked lively conversations and ignited a sense of inspiration amongst those involved. The program's execution was met with an influx of positive feedback, as people shared with us various initiatives they are undertaking in their personal and professional lives as a result of our program.



## ART FOR LAND

### ART FOR LAND PRESENTS

#### Blissful Rhythms of the Spirit

5 May to 31 July, 10am—12:30pm and 2—4:30pm

#### Dance with Soham

5 May to 31 July, Every Friday, 4—5:30pm

@Unity Pavilion

Art for Land Presents

*Blissful Rhythms Of The Spirit*

*"Inaudible to our deaf mortal ears the wide world rhythms wove their stupendous chant to which life strives to fit our rhyme beats here, melting our limits in the illimitable tuning the finite to infinity" - Sri Aurobindo*

**Dance with SOHAM**  
Every Friday May 5th to July 28th  
Time: 4pm - 5.30pm

*"Life is worth living at one condition: You have to reinvent yourself thoroughly everyday" - Soham*

**Exhibition Timings:**  
From May 5th to July 31st  
10am to 12:30pm and 2pm to 4.30pm  
**NOTE: Closed on Sundays & Public Holidays**

**Address:**  
unitypavilion@auroville.org.in | Unity Pavilion  
International Zone, Auroville | 0413 - 2623576

**NOTE: Closed on Sundays & Public Holidays**

*"Inaudible to our deaf mortal ears the wide world rhythms wove their stupendous chant to which life strives to fit our*



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those that collaborated with us throughout this journey, as well as to the community for being welcoming and receptive despite the complexities surrounding this topic. One of the most remarkable feedback points we received was the growing demand for us to create more educational opportunities on these issues, particularly within schools. It is our shared belief that a generation that is aware of these topics, and willing to produce change, is the only solution to progress.



Our community is a diverse tapestry of cultures, complicating the means for admissible information transfer within educational institutions. Though we have yet to find a permanent solution to this challenge, it is crucial that we initiate conversations that link us to the world at large and widen our perspectives. Our program has allowed for taboo topics to be discussed, and we all hope that each of us continues to spread awareness and bring more light to our lives and those of others.



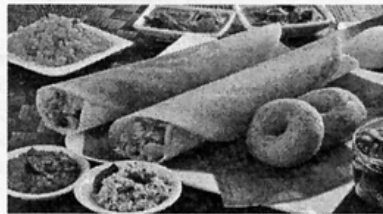
- Please note the Safety and Boundary Awareness program was an educational program only. For immediate action in case of sexual assault or harassment, contact AVSST at 9443090107 or ICC at [icc@auroville.services](mailto:icc@auroville.services) for support in registering a sexual harassment complaint.

Warm regards,  
Lucrezia & Youthlink team

### ARE YOU A FAN OF SOUTH INDIAN CUISINE?

20 May, 9:30am—1pm @ Botanical Garden

Youthlink invites you for a cooking workshop where you will learn how to prepare a full South Indian meal, including Kara kuzhumbu, poriel, dosas, chutney... and followed by lunch all together!



- This workshop is happening at the Botanical Garden on 20 May, 9:30am—1pm and taught by Shivakala.

To register email us at [youthlink@auroville.org.in](mailto:youthlink@auroville.org.in)

- or come to our office in Town hall
- between 9:30am—12pm and 2—4pm.

Thank You,  
Nivetha for YouthLink

### AUROVILLE YOUTH INITIATION PROGRAM (AVYI)

YouthLink is launching a new initiative called Auroville Youth Initiation program (AVYI) specifically for youth between 16 to 25 under the category of 'Children of Aurovilians'. This program is to give our potential youth Aurovilians the opportunity to learn more about Auroville, their peers, and themselves; so that they can make a more informed decision on joining the Auroville community as full fledged members.

It will be a four day program from the 29th May to the 1st of June (Mon-Thurs), starting at 9:00am and ending every day at 4:30pm. We have curated a program that emphasizes participation, sharing, and fun. You can find the detailed itinerary attached below, and you can sign up through [our google form](#).

Feel free to reach out to us for further information.

29 May	30 May	31 May	1 June
<b>Check in + activity 9:00am followed by an energizer</b>			
Introduction to the program	The Mother 's dream	Auroville Organisation	Theater exercise: Auroville Entry Board
Blind Babble		Presentation of your favourite place in Auroville	Auroville: Pros and Cons
Game: Spectrum of feelings	Auroville history and spirit		Auroville and me
<b>Lunch break 12:30pm—2:00 pm Followed by an energizer</b>			
Meeting with Aurovilians from different generations and backgrounds	One on one sharing 1	Auroville Finances and Economy	One on one sharing 2
	Theater exercise: Working in Auroville	Working with 5 introspective questions	Appreciation round
	How to be a true Aurovillian		Feedback and learnings
<b>Check out 4:30pm</b>			

With much love, sincerely, Namu  
For YouthLink Team  
[youthlink@auroville.org.in](mailto:youthlink@auroville.org.in)

### HEALTH CARE

#### AURODENT DENTAL CLINIC



Dental Clinic  
Auromode, Auroville.

**For Appointment please contact us**

Email: [aurodent@auroville.org.in](mailto:aurodent@auroville.org.in)

Phone: 0413-2622063 What's up: 9629199328

**Working hours**

Monday – Friday (9am – 1 pm & 2pm – 6 pm) Saturday (9am – 1pm)

Submitted by Sudha

## SANTÉ SERVICES IN MAY 2023

### Working Hours

- Monday—Saturday, 9—12:30pm & 2—4:30pm

### Tests and Sample collection

- Monday—Friday before 12pm.
- No sample collection on Saturday.

### For emergencies

- Auroville Ambulance 24/7: +(91) 9442224680
- Government Ambulance 24/7: 108

### Appointment


- Please call Santé on (0413) 2622803 during working hours for an appointment

Doctor consults with Dr. Senthil & Dr.Sana, Monday to Saturday	Nursing Care, Ezhil, Thilagam, Archana & Sandhya, Daily, No appointment necessary
Ayurveda with Dr. Sonia, Monday / Thursday / Friday	Physiotherapy with Osnat—Tuesday & Thursday
Acupuncture with Andres—Monday To Friday	Homeopathy with Michael—Monday / Wednesday / Saturday
Integrative Psychotherapy with Juan Andres, Monday To Friday	Pregnancy Care & Women's Wellness with Paula, Tuesday & Wednesday
Physiotherapy & Massage with Galina, Monday to Friday	Physiotherapy with Rebeca, Monday / Wednesday / Friday
Bio-Well Assessment (Evaluation of your well-being) with Helena, Tuesday & Saturday	

- In Santé, we value our patient's confidentiality & make every effort to ensure their privacy.
- In case of cancellation or to reschedule, it is necessary to inform us in advance.

Love, Dasha

## AUROKIYA EYE CARE—FOCUS Eye Exercise & Vision Therapy 15—24 May @ Unity Pavilion

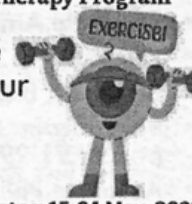


**Aurokiya Eye Care**  
(An Integrative Eye Care Model)

# FOCUS


Eye Exercise and Vision Therapy Program

Enhance your visual experience with series of eye exercises in our 10 days FOCUS program



**Register.** Dates: 15-24 May, 2023  
Place: Unity Pavilion

The seats are limited! Registration compulsory!



Scan the QR code for registration and details

**Contact**  
✉ aurokiya@auroville.org.in  
☎ +91 8012305151  
WWW. Aurokiya.com

Aurokiya Eye Care is an integrative and holistic eye care model. We are providing a 10 Day workshop, 15—24 May at Unity Pavilion, where we will guide you through a series of eye exercises and vision therapy to enhance your vision.



These sessions will be based on the School for perfect eyesight program and vision therapy exercises from Natural Eye Care, USA. For registration and details scan the QR code on the poster or [click the LINK](#)

Thanks & Best Regards, Aurosugan,  
Manager Aurokiya

## THE ARTS

### PAINTING DEMO

13 May, 10am—4pm, Kalakendra, Bharat Nivas

Pondicherry Art Akademy  
Presents  
**Painting Demo**  
Artist: Anebagane  
ALL ARE WELCOME

Date : 13th May 2023  
Time : 10 a.m to 4 p.m  
Venue : Kalakendra Art Gallery - Auroville

BHARAT NIVAS  
KALAKENDRA ART GALLERY  
The Pavilion of India, Auroville

Submitted by Krishna, AV Arts services

## ACTIVITIES

### ANALOGUE DARKROOM WORKSHOP at the Centre d'Art

Analogue Darkroom Workshop at the Centre d'Art, Auroville by Sasikanth Somu.

- Date: 18, 19 and 20 May
- Venue: Centred'Art Gallery, Citadines, Auroville



#### Program & Timings:

- Thursday, 18 May  
2—5pm, Brief look at History of Photography & Introduction to Film Camera.
- Friday 19 May  
9am—2pm, Film photo shoot (in your own time),  
2—5pm, Develop your roll of film.
- Saturday 20 May  
9am—12:30pm & 2—5pm (one can choose either of these sessions)—Printing Contact Sheets & photos in the darkroom.

The workshop fee for Guests is contribution. The workshop is free for Aurovilians, Newcomers and registered volunteers, who are residing in Auroville. Registered Volunteers are requested to provide the details of their registration with SAVI Auroville.

• **Registration Contact:** [centredart@auroville.org.in](mailto:centredart@auroville.org.in)

All the material for the workshop is provided except the analogue camera. Analogue/Film cameras are available to the participants against a contribution. Regarding the Analogue camera and any specific questions about the workshop please write directly to the teacher, Sasi [sasi@auroville.org.in](mailto:sasi@auroville.org.in).

While subscribing for the workshop please share your full name and your mobile number. Kindly write a few words about yourself and your interest in Analogue Photography.

Regards, Sergey

### ART WORKSHOPS BY SENIOR ARTIST ABHIJIT ROY

Every Thursday & Saturday, 2—4 pm

Study Room, Sri Aurobindo Centre, Bharat Nivas

Come along and learn how to sketch paint & draw under following categories of your choice.



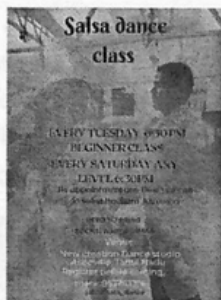
- Fundamentals of drawing (10 sessions)
- Duration: 2 hours
- Contribution required

For Registration please send an email to [bharatnivas@auroville.org.in](mailto:bharatnivas@auroville.org.in)

Regards, Vani, BN Cultural Team

### SALSA DANCE CLASS

- **Beginner Class:** Every Tuesday, 6:30pm
- **All Levels:** Every Saturday, 6:30pm
- **By appointment** any time you can do Salsa, Bachata Kizomba
- **Need To Bring:** Socks, Water, Smile
- **Venue:** New creation Dance studio
- **Register before coming:** +918637633696  
*Mani, @bakisata\_dance*



### TANGO DANCE CLASS

Every Monday, Cripa, 6:30pm

- By appointment: Any time you can do class

#### Information

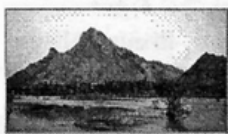
- Bring water bottle, socks
- Every month new batch beginner
- Minimum commitment 1 month
- Listen more Tango music
- Dance Tango every day by booking for couples or Individuals
- Be on time

**For bookings contact us:**

- +918637633696, [bakisatadance@gmail.com](mailto:bakisatadance@gmail.com). *Mani*



### TRIP TO THIRUVANNAMALI ORGANIZED



I am organizing a group trip to Thiruvannamali every Monday, leaving in the morning and back in the evening. If you wish to join us, please WA @ 9090819998.

Best wishes Arabinda

### FOOD FOREST TOUR

**FOOD FOREST TOUR**

I welcome you to a tour through my permaculture garden! We will take a look at local foods and you will get an idea on how to start growing your own food.

Come and connect with nature and learn about healthy and sustainable food options

This tour includes a **MINI-RAW-FOOD-WORKSHOP** where we will harvest herbs, fruits and flowers to prepare some delicious

**VEGAN ICE CREAMS** and more...

EVERY SUNDAY from 9:30 to 11:30  
at La Ferme Community (5min from AV Bakery)

Sign up and info's whats app Sarah 9047421044  
[sarah@auroville.org.in](mailto:sarah@auroville.org.in)

[www.youtube.com/myfoodforest](http://www.youtube.com/myfoodforest)

Every Sunday, 9:30—11:30,

at La Ferme Community (5min from AV Bakery)

Sign up and info's: 9047421044 WA, Sarah

[sarah@auroville.org.in](mailto:sarah@auroville.org.in), [www.youtube.com/myfoodforest](http://www.youtube.com/myfoodforest). *Sara*

### RUPAVATHI JOY ACTIVITIES

#### Bio-region Temple Tour

- Every Sunday, 9am—12noon, starting from Solar Kitchen



#### Indian cooking

- Every Saturday, 2—4pm, at Creativity.

#### Thai Massage

- Every day after 5pm

If you want to participate, please book it in advance:

- +91 8098845200, Voice and WA
- [rupavathijoy@gmail.com](mailto:rupavathijoy@gmail.com)

*Rupavathi Joy*



#### SWIMMING CLASS

- Kids 6+ & Adults
- Courses from beginners to advanced level
- To book contact Mani, +91 8637633696

Submitted by Mani

### HONORARY VOLUNTARY WORK

#### GAU SEVA AT SADHANA FOREST!



Your heartfelt service is needed at the Sadhana Forest Gaushala!

You are most welcome to join us on any day from 6am onwards, and have a vegan breakfast at 8:45am.

Breakfast is offered as a gift, and there is no need for prior booking. If you would like to contact us:

[sadhanaforest@auroville.org.in](mailto:sadhanaforest@auroville.org.in),  
8525038274WA or call 8122274924

Looking forward to welcoming you!  
The Sadhana Forest team, warmly, Shek

## AVAILABLE

### All Household Goods Available

Many items, including a Car, Refrigerator beds etc will be available from May 27, 28, 29.

- To the address below: Patrick Douminge, Maitreye 2, Third Floor, +91 7708217480

Patrick and ÉliSa



### Three Kitties



Dear All who love cats a lot. I have three small innocent kitties with rare blue eyes who are awaiting a new good home.

**Sergi,**  
Maitreye-1, staircase the first floor.  
Simply come and take.

## TAXI SHARE

### To Chennai Airport, 21 May, 9am

I am traveling by taxi to Chennai airport on 21 May from Auroville at about 9am. Happy to share it!

Marina +393273995849 WA or +919042057821 mob

Thank you! Marina

## WORK OPPORTUNITIES

### LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT MANAGER

Surya Performance Lab is a dynamic professional dance-theater group based in Auroville. It is an activity under the Auroville art service that creates shows, does tours, workshops, and artistic research.

We are now creating a new show, and we are looking for an assistant manager who can help us promote our show, communicate and take care of social media, update our website, write content, and sell our show to festivals and other structures.

- Fluency in English is required, and knowledge of Tamil and/or Hindi is appreciated but not mandatory. Skills and experience in communication are expected.
- It is a part-time job.
- Volunteers, newcomers, and aurovilians are welcome.

Surya Performance Lab can offer a contribution.

- **Contacts:** [suryaperformancelab@auroville.org.in](mailto:suryaperformancelab@auroville.org.in), 8903869078

Thierry and Philippe



## FOOD, GOODS AND SERVICES

### RED DOT CAFE

Low carb office lunch. Vegan option available. Sign up for a lunch scheme, perfect for a Group lunch meeting.

- Red dot cafe at Upasana
- +91 9962197716,  
[upasanasred.cafe@gmail.com](mailto:upasanasred.cafe@gmail.com)



Uma

### 150DPI DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

We are an activity registered under Kattida Kalai Trust. Our activity has been serving our community since 2006. We provide the following services:

- Website design and development
- Web and mobile applications
- Domain and web hosting
- Security and maintenance
- Customised GST billing solutions
- UI and UX designs
- Database Development and
- Management
- IT Training

For 150dpi, Sathish Arumugam, 8098144686  
[hello@150dpi.com](mailto:hello@150dpi.com), Surrender Community



### SOUL OF THE SOIL WEAVES

Offers its services voluntarily in gratis (Pro Bono) for the below areas only to individuals/activities who/which do not have a qualified and experienced in-house resource.

#### Focus:

- Startups: Products and Services
- Concept Note Writing, Project Proposal and Pre-defined Application Form Preparation, Financial Projections—Guidance only
- Email, Instagram, WhatsApp and LinkedIn Marketing, Business Communication and Content Writing—Guidance only

Contact Details: Surajkiran

- 98842 04918 Voice and WA, [surajkiranv@gmail.com](mailto:surajkiranv@gmail.com)

Location: Auroville

Regards, Surajkiran



### FREE STORE SUMMER HOURS

Dear Aurovilians & NewComers,

- the Free Store will be open **Monday to Saturday** in the mornings only from **9am to 12:30pm**, for the months of **May and June 2023**.

Please bring the clothes in good condition and clean. We request you to drop your things during opening hours only.

A few times we found the clothes soiled by some pets or even didn't get the dropped things at all.

Thank you for your collaboration!

With Love & Light, The Free Store Team,  
Kamala & Vijaya



### SOLAR KITCHEN WILL BE CLOSED

on Friday & Saturday, 12 & 13 May

Dear Community, Solar Kitchen will be closed on this Friday & Saturday, 12 & 13 May for both lunch & dinner.

We are taking this break for our team annual tour and the kitchen maintenance work.

Thank you for your support & understanding .

Love, Solar Kitchen Team

### AV BAKERY & CAFE WILL BE CLOSED

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 18—20 May

Dear community members, AV Bakery & Cafe will be closed from 18 to 20 May (Thursday, Friday & Saturday) for the annual tour.

- Please pick your 18.05.23 (Thursday) order on Wednesday (17.05.23).

We will reopen on Monday, the 22 May.

With regards, AV Bakery Team

## CLOSURE OF LA TERRACE

Friday, 19 May to Monday 22 May



La Terrace remains closed for annual tour and annual Clean-Up from Friday, 19 May to Monday 22 May.

- We are happy to see you again on Tuesday, 23 May!  
*Angelika for La Terrace*

## LATEST NEWS FROM INSIDE INDIA—TRAVEL SHOP

Due to the road construction you can only reach us via the Garden Entrance of Kalpana opposite Humanscapes

- Our e-mail address has changed to [travelshop@inside-india.com](mailto:travelshop@inside-india.com),  
landline 2623030

Mr. Ganesh our Travel Consultant

- Will be at our Kalpana office from 10am—4pm.
- He can also be contacted any-time: +91 9894598686, phone or WA
- or by email: [travelshop@inside-india.com](mailto:travelshop@inside-india.com)
- Indigo have partnered with Turkish Airlines to expand our network to 30+\* destinations across Europe. In addition to supporting Indigo direct services to Istanbul, this association expands the choices available to customers for journeys beyond Turkey. This codeshare between the two airlines provides customers a seamless end-to-end travel experience, from ticket booking to boarding connecting flights using one reservation. You can now start booking flights to the following countries from India and get ready for a great trip;



\* Bulgaria, Spain, Netherlands, Greece, Belgium, Hungary, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom, Malta, France, Czech Republic, Israel, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Portugal

Keep all Covid vaccination documents as some countries are again requesting to present them. This could be even the case while returning to India. Keep in mind that one Indian state has introduced wearing masks in public spaces and Kerala is recommending it too.

Joster

## POETRY

### DO NOT EXPECT ANYTHING LESS

*Time is the movement of One Consciousness-Force.*

*Space is the extension of One Consciousness-Force.*

*As only Its projection, this One Consciousness-Force is not limited by space-time.*

*Every unique being is this One Consciousness-Force, self-limited only by Its Own hierarchy of becomings.*

*You are ultimately That, Unbound, and therefore can manifest That in Your Own Play of Space-Time.*

*Life is Your Own Divine Play with infinite co-Players.*

*As only one of Its infinite projections, relative beingness is limited by space-time. For now your beingness is termed Homo sapiens. Transitional. Not final. Simply a holographic projection of a relative, limited consciousness. Although intensely felt and experienced.*

*The Goal of Your Divine Play is psychophysical union. A Yoga of you the limited self with Your Limitless Self.*

*You just have to discover how to hack your self out from the Self-limitations of Your Own Play.*

**Tip:** do not expect anything less from this Divine Play created by Your One Supreme Self. It's supposed to be challenging. Otherwise it's boring and not worth playing. Also it's karmic. You are playing with none other than the multitudinous, unique versions of your self. Dynamic. You can reposition and retransform your self anywhere within this cosmic hierarchy of space-time. You just have to discover how.

*Enjoy! Zech, 2023.05.01*

## ENDLESS

*Everything is a means towards an endless end.*

*The endless is the Vision that is also an Action.*

*Here in Auroville that Vision-in-Action is no secret.*

*It was already a Divine Revelation out in the open, Already Willed, decreed by the Absolute Supreme Through Its direct emanations the Double Avatar Our founders Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.*

*We are all simply acting the drama out on that account Modulated by larger complementary forces of The Play.*

*Complex, intensely dynamic, complete, supramental, Beyond the comprehension of mere mortals.*

*But True Aurovilians are no mere mental humans Even the guests visiting are already becoming divine Their souls bringing them here for the same ends:*

*To fully discover that they are none other Than That whom they are after:*

*The Divine.*

*Here's the Mother in Her unusual revelations The Vision-Goal for the willing servitors to ponder What to do next in this marvellous adventure Leading towards a Life Divine for all Here on Mother Earth the beautiful:*

*Notes on the Way, Volume 11, pages 307-324*

*There are only twenty-four hours per earthday, So focus on that for now to fully understand The ongoing means to an endless Divine.*

*Zech, 2023.05.07*

*'The world is not an unhappy accident, it is a marvel moving towards its expression.' Sri Aurobindo*

## VOICES AND NOTES

### THE Gnostic BEING

A supramental or gnostic race of beings would not be a race made according to a single type, molded in a single fixed pattern; for the law of the supermind is unity fulfilled in diversity, and therefore there would be an infinite diversity in the manifestation of the gnostic consciousness although that consciousness would still be one in its basis, in its constitution, in its all revealing and all-uniting order. It is evident that the triple status of the supermind would reproduce itself as a principle in this new manifestation: there would be below it and yet belonging to it the degrees of the overmind and intuitive gnosis with the souls that had realized these degrees of the ascending consciousness; there would be also at the summit, as the evolution in Knowledge proceeded, individual beings who would ascend beyond a supermind formulation and reach from the highest height of supermind to the summits of unitarian self-realization in the body which must be the last and supreme state of the epiphany of the Creation. But in the supramental race itself, in the variation of its degrees, the individuals would not be cast according to a single type of individuality; each would be different from the other, a

unique formation of the Being, although one with all the rest in foundation of self and sense of oneness and in the principle of his being. It is only this general principle of the supramental existence of which we can attempt to form an idea however diminished by the limitations of mental thought and mental language. A more living picture of the gnostic being supermind only could make; for the mind some abstract outlines of it are alone possible. The gnosis is the effective principle of the Spirit, a highest dynamis of the spiritual existence. The gnostic individual would be the consummation of the spiritual man; his whole way of being, thinking, living, acting would be governed by the power of a vast universal spirituality. All the trinities of the Spirit would be real to his self-awareness and realized in his inner life. All his existence would be fused into oneness with the transcendent and universal Self and Spirit; all his action would originate from and obey the supreme Self and Spirit's divine governance of Nature. All life would have to him the sense of the Conscious Being, the Purusha within, finding its self-expression in Nature; his life and all its thoughts, feelings, acts would be filled for him with that significance and built upon that foundation of its reality. He would feel the presence of the Divine in every center of his consciousness, in every vibration of his life-force, in every cell of his body. In all the workings of his force of Nature he would be aware of the workings of the supreme World-Mother, the Supernature; he would see his natural being as the becoming and manifestation of the power of the World-Mother. In this consciousness he would live and act in an entire transcendent freedom, a complete joy of the spirit, an entire identity with the cosmic self and a spontaneous sympathy with all in the universe. All beings would be to him his own selves, all ways and powers of consciousness would be felt as the ways and powers of

his own universality. But in that inclusive universality there would be no bondage to inferior forces, no deflection from his own highest truth: for this truth would envelop all truth of things and keep each in its own place, in a relation of diversified harmony, — it would not admit any confusion, clash, infringing of boundaries, any distortion of the different harmonies that constitute the total harmony. His own life and the world life would be to him like a perfect work of art; it would be as if the creation of a cosmic and spontaneous genius infallible in its working out of a multitudinous order. The gnostic individual would be in the world and of the world, but would also exceed it in his consciousness and live in his self of transcendence above it; he would be universal but free in the universe, individual but not limited by a separative individuality. The true Person is not an isolated entity, his individuality is universal; for he individualizes the universe: it is at the same time divinely emergent in a spiritual air of transcendental infinity, like a high cloud-surpassing summit; for he individualizes the divine Transcendence.'

*Sri Aurobindo, The Life Divine pg. 1007-1008*

**Soham's comment:** Ananda is the very essence of the Brahman, it is the Supreme nature of its Omnipresent Reality!

*Soham*

### PUPPETMASTERS AND PUPPETS

The occult forces Mental and Vital Overlords, puppetmasters of their sleeping human puppets, have been at this brutal entertainment game even before modern humans evolved. That is why man is transitional, because they are in the lower position of the cosmic hierarchy of beings. Mere poor puppets.

That is also why the Double Supramental Avatar came to put an end to these undivine forces, proclaiming that most humans have an evolutionary divine psychic being that can transform beyond the limitations and slavery of the triune worlds physical-vital-mental of the falsehood and the Ignorance and therefore divine gods in the making.

Of course these pesky but very powerful undivine forces will keep at what they do best until the very last moment, even proclaiming that they will create as much chaos and mayhem as possible before they are dissolved, as what the Mother revealed when She met the Asura of Falsehood, the Lord of Nations who possessed Hitler, during World War II. But as Sri Aurobindo reveals : 'So long as the old gods are alive, the breaking or depression of the body which they animate is a small matter, for they know well how to transmigrate.' And so they continue their sinister acts with ignorant humans as disposable puppets.

Anyone can choose to be puppets of these undivine forces or as willing servitors of the Divine Consciousness. It's just a matter of consenting choice.

A Life Divine on Earth is just a matter of time now. Don't waste your precious life not being able to fully participate in this Great Cosmic Game. We are fortunate enough to have been brought to this City of Dawn, consciously or not. It's quite a concentrated battlefield though, obviously as what we are experiencing, similar to the Battle of Kurukshetra of the Bhagavad Gita wherein the Divine Warriors of Dharma eventually vanquish the fallen adharmic puppets of the undivine.

That is why it is most important to fully unveil all the revelations of our Avatar founders Sri Aurobindo and the Mother to the wider global community, foremost here in their Auroville, where so many so called Aurovilians are so ignorant of being played by these undivine forces of falsehood and the Ignorance. Some are even denying Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, and the fact that they are in Mother India Herself, the Guru of the World, that vibrates with thousands of years of occult knowledge. The purpose of Auroville is to consciously help usher in a Life Divine on Earth:

'The whole earth must prepare itself for the advent of the new species, and Auroville wants to work consciously to hasten this advent.'

To all players, what else can we say... we need the contrasts to painfully co-learn from each other.

Anyway, this unstoppable Supramental Age has started towards the full blossoming of the Golden Satya Yuga, the Divine Manifestation of the Supramental being. Very intense, but there's no stopping it now.

To anyone who's still not sure what action to take, the easiest and most joyful Sunlit Path of Surrender to the Divine awaits...

Or just go to the library, actual and virtual, to carefully read and understand and apply the guidance of our founders Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

*Om Namo Bhagavate,  
Zech, 2023.05.03*

## CLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND HEALING ARTS

### HALF-DAY VIPASSANA COURSE

**Every Sunday, 8:30am—12:30pm @ Udavi School**

All old students of Vipassana meditation as taught by S.N. Goenka ([www.dhamma.org](http://www.dhamma.org)) having attended at least one 10-day course are welcome to attend a half-day Vipassana course at Udavi School in Auroville.



- **Date:** Every Sunday
- **Timings:** 8:30am—12:30pm but you can also drop in and join as long as you wish.

No registration is required.

- **Venue:** Udavi School (building on the left when you are at the front entrance), near Tank in Edayanchavadi (Auroville).
- **Contact:** Sanjay Tumati, +91 8790982210WA, [sanjay@aurauro.com](mailto:sanjay@aurauro.com)

*Thanks, Laure  
+91 8807434864 mob.  
+33 695651135 WA*

## MOTHER'S MUDRAS

Mother's Mudras in a Tai-chi Form.

- Every Tuesday at 4:30 at Savitri Bhavan.

On Sundays, after the Savitri reading, by 12, we practice also.

Everybody Welcome. Facilitator: Anandi ayūn

*'A harmonious collective aspiration can change the course of circumstances.'* **The Mother**



## ANGAM TREE HOLISTIC WELLNESS



Angam Tree is based in Auroville, an international township supported by the United Nations. We are focused on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal: SDG 3 'Good Health and Well-being' which is a 'Global Goal achieved via action'. Our work in therapy and healing is focused on educating people to the importance of healthy living and

conscious lifestyle. To together achieve a better and sustainable future in wellness for each individual and their communities.

Traditional Bodywork based on principles of ancient Indian medicine science of Siddha Varma Kalai originating in Tamil Nādu, Southern India. It is one of the oldest systems of medicine in India. The service is focused on ensuring the continuity of the ancient and traditional arts of wellness and therapy handed down through generations. The word healing is the channeling and re-balancing the energy points in the body. Using the therapeutic use of touch, sound and movement reduce stress and anxiety.

Our activity has the following sub-centres:

- Arunachala Sound Healing Therapy
- Nattiyakkalai Movement Arts Therapy
- Siddha Varma Kalai Massage Therapy

Angam Tree Wellness Hut is reaching out to people as a member of the healing community. You can learn more about us at [www.angamtree.com](http://www.angamtree.com)

For Angam Tree, Raja Narayanasamy,  
+91 9751395939

## HEARTFULL® MEDITATION WITH AVANTIKA

- Savitri Bhavan  
May 16, 23, 30 2023, Tuesdays, 9—10am
- Arka Guest House  
May 17, 24, 31 2023, Wednesdays, 9—10am

*'Those who feel the unquenchable thirst for something different will be protected in a cocoon of Light to traverse all perils of the convulsions of the old and dying world—for in part of their being they already belong to that Light, to the New World. And all one has dreamt to be the most beautiful, the most marvelous, the most fantastic is nothing compared with what will be realized.'*

**The Mother**

- Open and connect to the Light in our own Heart Center (Heart Chakra)
- Surrender mind energy to Heart chakra to transform mental aspect of human existence
- Provide a shield of Divinity (the true us) around body

Heartfull® Meditation techniques are a proven pathway to systematically turn to the divine.

- Please contact Avantika at [avantikaLight@gmail.com](mailto:avantikaLight@gmail.com) for any questions.

**Avantika**

## PRANAYAMA AND MEDITATION CLASS

Soon, I am going to start a Pranayama and Meditation class in SAWCHU, possibly from 15 May, Tuesday morning, four days a week.

If you are interested, for more information and registration, please WA or e-mail me

9090819998 WA,  
[arabinda@auroville.org.in](mailto:arabinda@auroville.org.in)

**Aravind**



## ARKA WELLNESS CENTER & MULTIPURPOSE HALL

Regular activities, May 2023

### Classes

Classes	With Whom	When
Acro Yoga	Damien 9047722740	Monday to Saturday
Pilates	Teresa 7867998952	Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30—8:30am. Wednesday 4:15pm Friday 5:30pm, Only by Appointment.
Iyengar yoga	Olesya, 9159052743	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 6:30—8am. Monday, Thursday, Saturday, 5—6:30pm.
Heartfull Meditation	Avanthika, 6380238326	Wednesday 9—10am
Sound Chakras healing	Lakshmi, 8489764602	Only by Appointment

### Treatments

Treatment	With Whom	When
Body Logic, Soft Massage And Deep Tissue Massage.	Pepe, 9943410987, by appointment	Monday to Saturday
Cranio sacral, Lomi Lomi Kahuna massage, Barefoot body massage	Silvana, 9047654157, by appointment	Monday to Saturday
Facial, Manicure, Pedicure, Threading, Waxing, Haircuts, Haircolouring, Hennacoloring	Meha, 9443635114, by appointment,	Monday to Saturday
Chinese Fire Cupping and Moxibustion Therapy	Chun, 8098900708	Monday to Saturday
Tarot, Oracles and Akashic Records Reading	Valentina: 9791719387, +39346225804, WA	Monday to Friday (Morning)
Acupuncture, Only by Appointment	Dr. Mohammad Sahel, 9994208068	Monday to Saturday
Psychospiritual Introspective Tarot Reading, Deconditioning Self Inquiry. Also in French	Antarjyoti: 0413 2623767, <a href="mailto:antarcalli@yahoo.fr">antarcalli@yahoo.fr</a>	Monday to Sunday

**Thanks & Regards, Ramana**

## WORKSHOPS BY DR. SEHDEV

### Freedom from Fear

- Saturday, 13 May, 2—4:30pm



Fear has an apocalyptic power; it can sap all energy and make everything inert and lifeless:

*Fear of Losing Face, Fear of Loneliness, Fear of Love & Intimacy, Fear of Failure.*

How can one live with full intensity and with all ebbs and tides, without knowing what fears freeze the mighty river of one's life?

### Yoga of Forgiveness with Dr. Sehdev



- Saturday, 20 May, 2pm—4:30pm

From the Darkness of Hatred & Indifference, to the Light of Forgiveness is a momentous step. From Fear & Festering Revenge, to the Courage of Being is the True Journey of the Spirit. We must let go of what ties us to the prison bars, and dream once again of Freedom. In this freedom alone lies our true Redemption.

*Dr. Sehdev Kumar, Professor Emeritus, Canada, Author, Poet, Mediator, Author of Lotus in the Stone: Explorations in Dreams & Consciousness, Kabir: Ocean in a Drop, 7000 Million Degrees of Freedom*

*Submitted by Sehdev*

## TRADITIONAL MANTRA & STOTRA CHANTING CLASSES

### Traditional Mantra & Stotra Chanting Classes

at Serendipity Community

Friday 17:00 (Regular class)

Thursay 10:30 (Drop-in class)

with Sonia Novaes

Email: [serendipity@auroville.org.in](mailto:serendipity@auroville.org.in) | WhatsApp: +91 8940288090

## QUIET HEALING CENTER



[www.quiethealingcenter.info/quiet@auroville.org.in](http://www.quiethealingcenter.info/quiet@auroville.org.in)

+91 9488084966 mob. & WA

### Pregnant Women Classes w/Appie & Friederike

- Monday 22 & 29 May 2023, 9:30—11am

Experience the relaxing and connecting benefits of floating in warm water. You are invited to come with or without your partner or birth-attendant.

*Submitted by Guy*

### SHIATSU—AN ART OF TOUCH

Mondays, 22 and 29 May, 2—4pm @ Budokan

(continues)

A six day seminar to deepen or begin (with a small additional preparation) Your Journey in Shi-atsu'—thumb-pressure'.

Shiatsu brings with its practice stress reduction and peace, vitalisation of life force or Ki as well as a potent chance to grow strong for and with certain challenges on all levels of our being through touch. This time we will take a closer look into certain areas of the body: meridian passages along neck, shoulders and pelvis as well as study rotations and stretching possibilities

Come, experience and explore conscious and calm Perception, inner Sensing and Awareness of Touch in connection with the study of 12 Classical Meridians and 5 Elements, Health Wisdom, strengthening and harmonising exercises and ways to move for your daily practise.

- This course is part of the second of four Seminar-Series spanning over the next 2—3 years for a complete Shiatsu Practitioner training.
- Mondays, 22 and 29 May, 2—4pm @ Budokan: Introduction to Shiatsu and the Course. Open for All Interested.
- 3, 4, 5 and 7, 8, 9 June from 9am—5:30pm at Budokan Auroville on Dehashakti Sports Ground

**Shiatsu—because Health matters!**

Contribution required for ensuring future seminars. Kindly give from your heart.

Do contact Ulrike Urvasi at [mothersworkforthemother-work@gmail.com](mailto:mothersworkforthemother-work@gmail.com), 9751513906 (WA, Signal, Telegram)!

- Certificate given on Completion of the Course

*Ulrike*





**2023 EDITION OF HANDS ON DOCUMENTARY**

**Film Workshop in Ladakh**

Last call for applications for :

- 2023 Edition of Hands On Documentary Film Workshop in Ladakh !
- from 5 June to 16 July (6 weeks)



The 6 weeks workshop will be anchored around the themes of human ecology, urbanization and material culture. Based out of the old town of Leh, the sites of exploration will extend to Skurbuchan, Photoksar in western Ladakh, Ensa and Turkuk in the Nubra Valley, Puga in Changthang. The Participants will be mentored to make their own short films.

We are looking forward to drawing people from both the region and beyond, having diverse professional backgrounds and interests including: anthropology and other social sciences, film, art, architecture and design. The trans-cultural-disciplinary participation aims at a productive exchange of ideas and insights setting up a diversity and inclusive experience of collective learning.

It is an intermediate level workshop—open for participants from all over India and abroad.

Special call for young academics, cinema enthusiasts and explorers from Auroville and the bioregion!

To know more and register, please visit:

- <https://filminstitute.auroville.org/2023/02/16/hands-on-documentary-film-workshop-ladakh/>

- or call message : +91 9969879319 WA & Telegram

Warmly, Richa (Film Institute @ Auroville)

Hands on  
**DOCUMENTARY FILM  
WORKSHOP** in Ladakh

with RICHHA HIRSHING &  
ARVU LAMA From 05<sup>th</sup> JUNE  
to 16<sup>th</sup> JULY

www.filminstitute.auroville.org



**STUDY CIRCLE**



Film Institute @ Auroville is delighted to introduce an open study circle, 6 to 7:30pm at the Auroville Film Institute, India Space, Bharat Nivas.



The Study Circle is designed in concurrence with the ongoing research and academic pursuits of the Film Institute Fellows. The sessions are open for all.

**Upcoming Week's Schedule**

Monday	15 May	Screening	<b>The Society of Spectacle (Guy Debord; 1974, 88mins.)</b> You don't hate Mondays, you hate capitalism. Satirical and self-critical film adaptation of Guy Debord's theoretical masterpiece, and a frontal attack on the all-encompassing spectacle we live in.
Tuesday	16 May	Screening	<b>Introduction to the End of an Argument (Jayce Salloum, Elia Sulieman; 1990, 41 mins.)</b> This highly kinetic tableaux of up-rooted sights and sounds works most earnestly to expose the racial biases concealed in familiar images
Wednesday	17 May	Presentation	<b>'Nostalgia of the Migrant' by Debkamal Ganguly</b> A research proposal in artistic practice, where using concepts and strategies of creation and evocation of cinematic spaces, the phenomenological states of the condition of being migrant would be explored.
Thursday	18 May	Reading	<b>Gazing at The Third Apple: Decoding Prabhakar Barwe's Visual Cognition by Jesal Thacker</b> Decoding Indian painter, Barwe's practice through observation of his paintings, writings and notations against the backdrop of a psychological and philosophical context
Friday	19 May	Presentation	<b>Exploring Orientalist Ideas of Indian Spirituality</b> A query and a discussion moderated by Surya M.

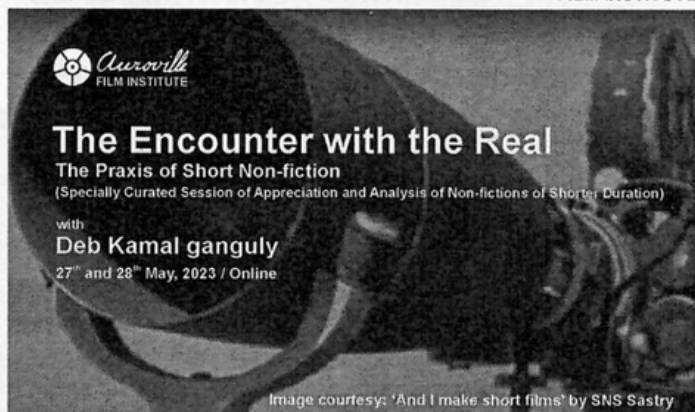
- For more information write to [support\\_filminstitute@auroville.org.in](mailto:support_filminstitute@auroville.org.in) or contact AVFI fellow Swanand: 8956126016 WA

Warmly, Richa

**THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE REAL**

27 & 28 May, 14:30—18:30 IST\_Online.

Pleased to invite you all to: an online weekend session with Film-maker and Academician, Deb Kamal Ganguly, titled: The Encounter With The Real



**The Encounter with the Real**

The Praxis of Short Non-fiction  
(Specially Curated Session of Appreciation and Analysis of Non-fictions of Shorter Duration)

with  
**Deb Kamal ganguly**

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 / Online

Image courtesy: 'And I make short films' by SNS Sastry

The session will focus on documentaries of shorter duration, which were made through a significant interaction of the maker with a space.

The examples of the films would provide some ideas about the modes of interaction with a space through image and sound capturing devices, like: creating a specific image-definition of a space; sensing the temporal rhythm of a space; getting into the inner invisible qualities of a space; creating a network of spatial compositions, characters, ob-

jects, movements, gestures emanating from a space, and, rearranging and realigning those relations to arrive at a significant audio-visual experiential form generated from that encounter.

The session would also indicate towards an artisanal and materialistic approach where the iconic-indexical nature of 'profilmic' image gathered from reality gradually may lead the creative mind of the maker towards various possibilities of churning of ideas and abstractions—as opposed to the more familiar practice, where preconceived ideas are put in operation in a given space.

- To know more and register, please visit: <https://filminstitute.auroville.org>
- or call message : +91 9969879319 WA & Telegram

Warmly, Richa (Film Institute @ Auroville)

**THE FRENCH PAVILION PRESENTS:**

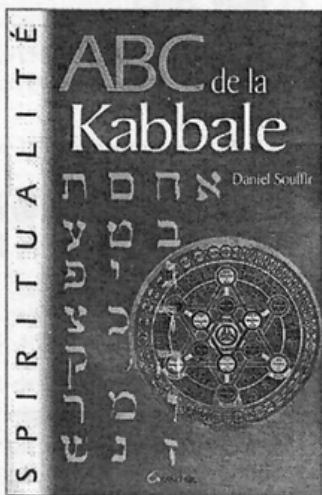
**The Kabbalah and the Language of Cells**

• Saturday, 13 May, 5pm, Town Hall—Cinema Paradiso

Filmed Conference by Daniel Souffir, Kabbalist and Energeticist: in French with English subtitles, duration: 60 min

Long distorted by centuries of ignorance and obscurantism, Kabbalah is today experiencing an unprecedented resurgence of interest. An age-old and secret science, transmitted in the past from master to disciples, Kabbalah is above all the science of RECEIVING (in Hebrew "KIBBEL": to receive; and "KAB-BALAH": received, welcome). Well understood, the Kabbalah becomes this Sacred Science which makes it possible to explain the Universe while acting on it. It thus represents not only the synthesis of the physical and metaphysical worlds, but it provides us with the instructions for use.

For an hour, Daniel Souffir talks to us about our cells with simplicity and intelligence, with the heart, and thus makes this complicated area more accessible. How to speak to our cells with awareness? "What is true for God is true for us. What is true for God and us is true for us and our cells." "We are children of the Divine and we are cells of God. We are God for our cells and they are our children."



**Which Diplomacy with the Living ?**

A series of workshops to discover some major works of recent French social sciences. A selection of excerpts from texts or interviews will be offered for reading a few days in advance, then will be read together on the day of the workshop in order to exchange and debate about these theoretical proposals. As a second step, it will be a question of drawing together the possible applications of these thoughts in the Auroville context.

**Workshop 3: Which Diplomacy with the Living ?**

- Based on the work of Baptiste Morizot
- Thursday, 18 May, 5pm, duration 1h30
- At Pavillon de France, In French

**Le café-philos**  
du Pavillon de France  
Penser Auroville à la lumière des sciences sociales françaises

**JEUDI 18 MAI 2023**

**Quelle diplomatie avec le vivant ?**  
Sur la base de textes de Baptiste Morizot

Baptiste Morizot est un philosophe français dont les recherches portent sur les relations entre l'humain et le reste du vivant. Il est habité par l'urgence de changer notre rapport et notre sensibilité au monde, à définir la possibilité et les modalités de relations entre les humains et les autres vivants qui soient écologiquement soutenables.

17 h - Pavillon de France  
Cycle ouvert à tous  
(inscription préférable)

Pour obtenir des renseignements, s'inscrire et recevoir les textes de travail en avant, contactez le +9174115 0038

This third workshop is based on the work of Baptiste Morizot. Baptiste Morizot is a French philosopher born in 1983, whose research focuses on the relationship between humans and the rest of the living. Doctor of philosophy, he is currently a lecturer at the University of Aix en Provence. Like the researchers we have discussed previously (Philippe Descola and Cynthia Fleury), he is driven by the urgency of changing our relationship and our sensitivity to the world. He explores the possibilities of communication between humans and living beings, based on attention and conflict resolution. This is what he develops in his concept of "diplomacy". He bases his work on his practice of tracking animals such as wolves, bears or panthers. At the crossroads of philosophy, anthropology and political ecology, he seeks to establish the foundations of a more sustainable relationship with the world by exploring and experimenting with the aspects of human intelligence that are at stake.

**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, 19 May**

**Last Chance to See Special—Return of the Rhino**


2007 / 59 minutes / Tim Green

The enterprising adventurers are back in this special episode! They follow the extensive efforts laid out in the journey to conserve the endangered Northern White Rhino. A reassuring episode that talks about the importance of conservation and keeping one's heart even when it seems like all hope is lost.

*Submitted by Shek*

**ACCESSIBLE AV PUBLIC BUS**

[avbus@auroville.org.in](mailto:avbus@auroville.org.in), +91 94430 74825

	Trip 1	Trip 2	Trip 3
 <b>Auroville TO PONDICHERRY</b>			
Svaram Musical Center	7:00	8:50	14:50
Veite Guest house—Junction	7:02	8:52	14:52
Town Hall—Main Parking	7:06	8:56	14:56
Solar Kitchen (Round About)	7:10	9:00	15:00
Certitude Entrance	7:12	9:02	15:02
New Creation Road	7:17	9:07	15:07
SBI Bank—Kuilapalayam	7:19	9:09	15:09
ECR Junction—Aroma Guest House	7:23	9:14	15:14
Quiet Healing Center—Junction	7:26	9:17	15:17
Lotus Hotel—S.V Patel Salai	7:36	9:30	15:30
Ashram Road Junction	7:38	9:33	15:33
Ashram Dinning Hall	7:40	9:35	15:35



## Pondicherry TO AUROVILLE

	Trip 1	Trip 2	Trip 3
Ashram Dinning Hall	8:00	12:15	18:10
Ashram Road Junction	8:02	12:17	18:12
Lotus Hotel—S.V Patel Salai	8:07	12:22	18:17
Quiet Healing Center—Junction	8:17	12:32	18:27
ECR Junction—Aroma Guest House	8:20	12:35	18:30
SBI Bank—Kuilapalayam	8:25	12:40	18:35
New Creation Road	8:27	12:42	18:37
Certitude	8:32	12:47	18:42
Solar Kitchen—Round about	8:34	12:50	18:44
Town hall Main Parking	8:38	12:54	18:48
Verite Guest House—Junction	8:42	12:58	18:52
Svaram Musical Center	8:45	13:00	18:55

- Monthly Rs.800: Aurovilians & Newcomers, No validity
- Student Pass Rs.1200 per month/ 24 days round trip.
- Rs.150 Round trip for Aurovilians & New comers
- Rs.200 Round trip for guests.
- Bus passes are available at Auroville Vehicle Service, Town Hall, Auroville, 0413 2623302

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

### 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
- Farewell—8903836246

### Mental health 24/7 support:

- Vandrevalla Foundation +91 9999666555

### India Emergency Response Service (24/7): 108



## LIST OF ACRONYMS:

**AVF** (Auroville Foundation), **AVFO/FO** (Auroville Foundation Office), **GB** (Governing Board), **RA** (Residents Assembly)

The following groups are divided in two categories: The groups selected by the Residents Assembly through Community decision making Processes and the groups put together by the GB and the FO (not recognised by the Residents Assembly).

### Working groups selected by the Residents Assembly:

Working Committee (WCom)  
 Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC)  
 Budget Coordination Committee (BCC)  
 Town Development Council / L'avenir d'Auroville (TDC)

Auroville Council (AVC)  
 Entry Service (ES)

### FO selected groups:

Working Committee (WC)  
 Funds and Assets management Committee (FAMC)  
 Budget Coordination Committee (BCC / BCS)  
 Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC)

Housing Service (HS)  
 Land Board (LB)

# Matrimandir

May 2023

When describing her early vision of the Park at the center of Auroville the Mother said: "This central point is a park I had seen when I was a little girl (perhaps the most beautiful thing in the world with regard to physical, material Nature), a park with water and trees like all parks, and flowers, but not too many (flowers in the form of creepers), palm trees and ferns (all species of palm trees), water (if possible, running water ) and, if possible, a small waterfall." [23 June 1965]

Now, more than 50 years later, almost all of the Matrimandir Gardens which have been built hold small water features, whether they are cascades, or silent lotus filled pools.

In fact, if you stand in the gardens and close your eyes you will be able to identify, with just a little practice, which garden you are in simply by listening to the sound of the water flow in that garden.



Unity Garden is easy to identify with eyes closed, for it contains the large multi jet fountain designed by Roger Anger, architect of Matrimandir. Its sound is that of the solid cascading of its multiple jets as they fall into the white stone clad pool below.

In the Garden of Progress, if you again close your eyes, you will hear the soft bubbling of the spring-like fountain that emerges from the topmost stone of a small series of granite slabs, flowing down in a

sparkling sheet to a tiny pool at its base.

In the Garden of Consciousness there is a quite different sound to the water feature there.... From its large lotus filled upper pool, water flows over a lip clad with gold tiles to move down a series of descending pools. The sound of the water flowing over the top most lip is that of a smooth sheet of water dropping just 30 centimeters into the first of the six small pools.



All of these water features attract people, who love to either stand and watch or sit quietly, sinking into contemplation aided by the water's soothing sounds.



Most recently added, in the Garden of the Unexpected, there are two water features whose sounds draw quiet listeners at all times of the day.

First, there is a small pool in the section of this garden called "Birth". A single simple jet of water shoots up, not too high, to fall back with a gentle splashing sound into a shaded living pool which features blue, white and violet lilies.

The second water feature in the Garden of the Unexpected is much more visible, – this is the 30-meter-long slender stream which flows from the shallow rectangular pool near a pagoda at the upper end, down to a "mirror pool" at its lower end where the water spreads out into an even sheet just a few millimeters deep before flowing into its recycling sump concealed below. All of the gardens, by the way, use this feature of recycling the water, whether from a concealed underground sump, or from an open pool integrated into the

garden's design. Closing one's eyes in this section of the Garden of the Unexpected, the Garden of Youthfulness, one can hear the gentle tinkling of the water as it drops over small waterfalls that link different sections of the limestone river bed.

The shaded grass nearby is often occupied by people sitting very quietly absorbed in this field of water sound. Another sound dimension is added here, for there are wind chimes fixed high up in the Neem trees which add their melodious notes to the natural water sounds. It is a pleasure indeed to close one's eyes here and drift along the subtle river of sound which flows in this garden.

On hot afternoons in summer, the sound of children splashing happily in these cooling ponds adds their laughter to the magic symphony.

In addition to these existing, developed gardens, there are new water features being developed for two more of the gardens of Matrimandir.

In the Garden of Bliss, already built some years ago, the central circular area is being remodeled to enhance the beauty and soundscape of this 18-meter-wide circle. This area will feature a series of five large bowls of various sizes which will be filled continuously with water. Overflowing from the circular rims of the bowls, the splashing curtains of falling water will create a musical sound bath. These bowls are now being clad with marble mosaic and soon will be mounted in the center of the garden and joined to its water circulation system. By the time of our next newsletter, in August, we will be able to show you the visual presence that these bowl-fountains will create. We do not yet know what the water in this garden will sound like, but it is certain that it will be distinctive and easily identified by the closed eyed listener.



Also underway is the construction of the Garden of Light, just adjacent to the Garden of Bliss.

The Garden of Light will feature two water elements: a lower, silent pool and a long central stream which will drop into this pool after flowing, arrow straight, through the full central length of the garden. This narrow stream, V- shaped and about 40 meters long, will be clad with white marble tiles to symbolize a Ray of Light within the garden. Again, there will be distinctive sounds as the water moves, – for the long stream will hold pebbles and small rocks in its central groove so that the flowing water will have

to bubble and swirl around them as it flows towards the silent pool. Here again, with closed eyes a listener will be able to say “Ah! I am in the Garden of Light”.

Water is ever-present also in the seven-meter wide rain water harvesting channel which runs, one kilometer long, encircling the whole oval of the Park of Unity, before overflowing into the first section of the Lake which has been built on the south east edge of the gardens.

This water channel is more and more filled with beautiful lilies, and lotuses too. Closing one’s eyes here, one may not hear water sounds, but the distinctive calls of the large water birds which come to feed on fish and insects living in the channel will give you a sure clue as to where you are!



Work on the Lake itself is now concentrated on reinforcing and raising its end walls made of concrete blocks, so that the walls will be high enough to contain the rainwater to be harvested from the upcoming winter monsoon. The lake now holds a vast quantity of crystal-clear water, about 3.8 meters deep, which was harvested from last year's winter monsoon. Standing at the lake shore in the evening, with eyes closed, there is very little sound, — perhaps it is this silence itself that will let you know that you are in the presence of this wide still expanse of precious water.

Its silent presence is like a promise of things to come.....

### **REGARDING OFFERINGS TO MATRIMANDIR**

Please note that all cheques/DD offered to Matrimandir should be payable to **AUROVILLE UNITY FUND**. The cheque/DD should be accompanied by a letter/ email from the donor specifying the offering for MATRIMANDIR. This letter/ email should contain full address, phone and email details and, in the case of Indian donors, PAN DETAILS.

You may also send your offerings for Matrimandir by BANK TRANSFER to **AUROVILLE UNITY FUND**. Write to [matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in](mailto:matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in) requesting **bank transfer** details.

**Matrimandir** (offerings desk): 0413-2622051

### **REGARDING BOOKING FOR MEDITATION:**

Now, Matrimandir Inner Chamber is open to visitors every morning except Tuesday and Sunday. For bookings go to <https://mmaccess.auroville.org.in/visitors/new>.

# Update & Report

## March & April 2023



**WORKING COMMITTEE**  
of the Residents' Assembly  
AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

Dear residents,

We would like to update you on topics which we dealt with in March and April 2023. We hope you will take the time to read, despite a rather long report.

Please feel free to visit or email us if you have any questions. Our Open House hours are from 10 to 12 on Tuesdays, in the former Koodam Office opposite the Auroville Library, and our email address is [workingcom@auroville.services](mailto:workingcom@auroville.services).

## Legal matters

### Working Committee cases at the Madras High Court (MHC)

#### Original Working Committee case

This case, which received such a favorable judgement on August 12th 2022 and then was appealed by the Secretary, was listed for hearing before the Appeal Bench of the MHC on 24th and 28th April; however the case was not heard due to a lack of time. We are yet to receive a new date for the next hearing.

#### Writ of Quo Warranto

As announced via two massbulletins on [26th April](#) and [28th April](#), we as the Working Committee duly selected by the Residents' Assembly also filed a new case at the MHC against the 7 persons claiming to be the 'Working Committee'. This particular type of case, called a *Quo Warranto*, obliges the respondents (Anu, Arun, Joseba, Partha, Selvaraj, Srimoyi, Tine) to prove in the Court that they are representing the RA and have valid grounds to call themselves the "Working Committee". To summarize the written court order:

1. Notices have been sent to the 8 respondents (Anu, Arun, Joseba, Partha, Selvaraj, Srimoyi, Tine and the Secretary of the AVF) and responses must be submitted by 7th of June, 2023.
2. Any policy decision taken by the 'Working Committee' is subject to the result of this Writ petition." This means that whether or not decisions made by the group calling themselves the 'Working Committee' can stand and from what date depends on the directions issued in the final judgment.
3. The judge has asked for the next hearing to be posted on the 7th of June, 2023.



## Petition to quash Office Order appointing/replacing executives

Following the attempted takeover of some of Auroville's essential services ([see below](#)), the Madras High Court was approached with a new petition to challenge the appointment/removal of executives by the Office of the Secretary, via Office Order #AF/ESTT/00/277 dated 12th April 2023. This Office Order was to replace executives, trustees and members for the Visitors' Center, SAIER Board, Bharat Nivas, Eco Service, Auroville Safety and Security Team (AVSST), Residents' Assembly Service (RAS), Arts Service, as well as a few other teams and services.

The case was given a first hearing and admitted on 28th April 2023. We will keep the community informed of the further developments and outcome of this case.

Additionally, the Working Committee has provided guidance and legal advice to the executives that were to be replaced.

## National Green Tribunal (NGT)

The appeal in the Supreme Court filed by the Office of the Secretary against the NGT ruling of April 2022 was scheduled to be heard in March 2023. However the case has been further adjourned and is expected to be heard on 9th May 2023.

Additionally, a follow-up "Miscellaneous Application" was filed before the NGT by an Auroville resident, in view of the works done by the Office of the Secretary and its 'ATDC' at Darkali, and in response to the [report](#) made about the Crown Road in Darkali by the NGT-constituted Joint Committee. The matter was heard on 14th March, and the court order can be found [here](#). The main points of this court order have been summarized by us [via massbulletin](#). More information on the recent events in Darkali can be found [here](#).

## Evergreen/Abri/Ami encroachment

The final hearing of the case of land encroachment by PKS took place at the Tindivanam Court on 13th April, and a final judgment was awaited on 26th April. However, this judgment hasn't been made public yet and we are waiting for more information.

## Important reminder

None of the judgments so far have invalidated in any way the working groups selected by the RA, including the Working Committee, the FAMC and the TDC. We will update the community as the court proceedings go further.

The RA Working Committee regularly follows-up on legal matters with the help of resource persons. We would like to remind everyone that legal processes do take time and require patience. We fully trust the work of our lawyers and we are confident that the best results will ultimately be achieved for Auroville. For more information on the reasons that brought the Working Committee to the courts, see [here](#).

## Attempted takeover of essential services

Over the past weeks, there has been an ongoing series of attempted takeovers of various services in Auroville by the Office of the Secretary. In all of these cases, there have been no notices given, no hearings, no reasons, no valid written orders - in short no due process has been followed. We published a [first massbulletin](#) about the matter on 14th April.

On 21st April, an [Office Order](#) 'appointing' new 'executives' to a certain number of services was made public. The services concerned by this attempted takeover are the **Visitors' Center**, the **Residents' Assembly Service (RAS)**, the **Eco Service**, the **Auroville Arts Service**, the **Auroville Safety & Security Team (AVSST)**, the **SALLER Board**, the **Bharat Nivas Trust**, the **Guest House Trust** and the **Housing Service**. The Office Order also mentions the creation of new services such as a "Sports Task Force", a "Green Belt Services" [sic] and a "Farm Service".

As announced in our [second massbulletin](#) on the topic, published on 22nd April, none of these appointments seem to be valid. We have indeed received legal counsel that before such an appointment can be considered valid for units, three documents are required:

1. A resolution from the relevant trust
2. A resolution from the 'FAMC' signed by the JSFA (Joint Secretary, Finance Advisor to Ministry of Education and ex-officio member of the GB) who is listed in the Office Order appointing the 'FAMC' according to Section 16 of the AV Foundation Act.
3. An Office Order from the Office of the Secretary.

In all of these attempted appointments of new executives and attempted dismissals of current executives, it seems indeed that at least one of the three above-mentioned documents is missing. More information can be found [here](#). We invite residents to be cautious and to inform us immediately if individuals claiming to be newly appointed executives or team members appear on site and do not produce the above documents and do not accept a refusal to hand over.

## Visas

### WCom member currently abroad

After having received his 'Leave India Notice' (LIN) on 15th February 2023, one of our members, Maël, left the country on 1st March 2023. As a reminder, no reason has been officially given for this LIN, however we suspect this is because of his involvement as a member of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.

Maël is still currently abroad and we continue to explore all possibilities for him to return as soon as possible in Auroville, where he belongs, and to prevent others from receiving the same. We would like to thank all the resource persons and friends of Auroville who have helped and are still helping us address this issue with the competent authorities.

### Aurovilian denied visa application

One Aurovilian, who was also an RA-selected representative of the community in the TDC, has recently been denied his visa extension by the FRRO Chennai. Upon enquiry, it seems that this Aurovilian had his Letter of Recommendation sent directly by the Office of the Secretary to the FRRO, without receiving a copy himself. It seems that the Secretary included a negative remark in this Letter of Recommendation, which may have resulted in his visa application being denied.

We are doing all we can to help the said Aurovilian, and any other resident who would be facing a similar situation.

### Visits to the RRO/FRRO

In several cases, residents have had to submit incomplete visa applications with the FRRO, in the absence of a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) by the Office of the Secretary. For at least 10 individuals, their visa has expired without receiving a new visa, pending the said LoR. We have met several times with the FRRO in Chennai to explain why in certain cases the applications were submitted without the LoR. We have always been cordially welcomed and treated with respect.

### Offering support and advice

We continue to offer support and advice to those impacted by the visa situation, and keep doing all we can to address the visa issue. If you have any questions regarding your visa or know anyone who does, do not hesitate to contact us: [workingcom@auroville.services](mailto:workingcom@auroville.services).

## Register of Residents (RoR)

### Unauthorized removal of a resident from the RoR

The residents impersonating the Working Committee have [announced on Auronet](#) that, due to his “Leave India Notice”, Maël would be removed from the Register of Residents (RoR). This is based on [a circular](#) issued by Mr Sathyanarayan, Accounts Officer for the Auroville Foundation Office, which was made public a few days later. We have sent [a massbulletin](#) clarifying that this decision is not following any legal or established process, and is a clear case of misuse and abuse of power. This decision by the Office of the Secretary is in direct contravention to the Auroville Foundation Act (1988), the Admission & Termination Regulations (2020) and our internal guidelines and policies. We regret observing one more

case of loss of community value and lack of respect for any basic principle of human interaction. We are following-up on the matter and considering the best ways to address it.

### New procedure before entering into the RoR

We have been informed that lately, new Aurovilians who have finished their Newcomer process and need to sign their B-Form and be entered into the RoR, are asked at the Auroville Foundation Office to give quotations of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo by heart. We believe this is contrary to the guidelines and principles given to us by the Mother, and are profoundly disturbed by this new procedure, which in our view shows a lack of understanding of any genuine principles of integral yoga and an attempt to transform them into external mechanical learning. We would like to remind everyone that the Office of the Secretary has no role, as per the Auroville Foundation Act (1988) and the Admission & Termination Regulations (2020), in assessing the eligibility of those joining the community as residents. This role lies solely with the Residents' Assembly, through its duly constituted Entry Board (aka Admissions Committee).

To date, many 'Confirmed Aurovilians' are still awaiting entry by the Office of the Secretary into the RoR, some of whom have been waiting for over two years.

### 'Updating' the RoR

More than 10 months after the Office of the Secretary started to "update" the RoR, falsely claiming that it hadn't been done since 2005 (while we have proof of its update up to 2021, before Dr Jayanti Ravi's appointment), no visible results have been shown. The matter seems to be deliberately stalled, in a clear attempt to undermine the functioning of the Residents' Assembly.

## Crown Road 'works' and mismanagement

### Tree cutting in Darkali

In March 2023, reckless tree cutting took place in Darkali, on the trajectory of the projected Crown. This included the felling of trees outside of the 9.1m corridor (which was not marked beforehand on site) set by the National Green Tribunal's Joint Committee, the destruction of protected species such as Red Sanders, and several violent episodes during which people on site were endangered by the use of chainsaws by reportedly drunk men. The Working Committee closely followed the unfolding of events in Darkali and we have published a number of massbulletins and communications, posted below. We express once again our gratitude to all those who mobilized and strove to uphold the voice of the Residents' Assembly, the values of Auroville, and the need for due processes to be followed and respected.

- Massbulletin - [10.03.2023 - On recent and forthcoming events in Darkali](#)
- Massbulletin - [11.03.2023 - Follow-up on today's events in Darkali](#)
- Massbulletin - [11.03.2023 - Important update re ongoing situation at Darkali](#) (in response to [a statement](#) by those impersonating the Working Committee)
- Press Release - [11.03.2023 - Dangerous mob cuts rare tree species in Auroville](#)
- Massbulletin - [13.03.2023 - Open letter re 'obstructions' in Darkali](#) (in response to [another statement](#) by those impersonating the Working Committee)
- Massbulletin - [15.03.2023 - Brief update re Darkali](#)
- Press Release - [20.03.2023 - Violations of the National Green Tribunal...](#)

### Tree cutting next to the Youth Center

Following the events in Darkali, more tree cutting took place next to the Youth Center, on private land. We have circulated [a massbulletin](#) about this topic on 17th March.

### Suspected financial mismanagement

We received many reports from Satprem Maini regarding the way the Crown road is being implemented by the Secretary's 'ATDC' and their contractor, which emphasize that there may be financial mismanagement involved. We have therefore [written to the Chairman](#), and to authorities at different levels, to raise their awareness on this concerning matter.

One point of particular concern is the wood that was cut in Darkali, which includes rare and protected species such as Red Sanders, which was sold opaquely, without transparency.

## Media - Internal & External Communication

### Voice of Auroville - launch of a new journal

We have shared [via massbulletin](#) the [first issue](#) of 'Voice of Auroville', a journal aimed to inform well wishers and friends of Auroville across India and the globe with factual updates and crisp articles on what is unfolding in Auroville. This first issue was sent out to officials at several levels, to diplomats, and to a vast network of friends of Auroville. We encourage you to share it widely with your own contacts. You can find more information here:

<https://auroville.media/voa>

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the team that has been working with us on this project and on the first issue. Thank you for the hard work!

Although there is no set date yet for the second issue of 'Voice of Auroville', we are hoping to release a new issue every second month. We invite those who would like to offer constructive feedback on the first issue to use [this form](#) or to contact [voiceofauroville@auroville.services](mailto:voiceofauroville@auroville.services).

## Censorship in N&N, launch of Community edition

The editors/managers of the News & Notes (N&N) stopped publishing submissions from the RA-selected groups at the end of December 2022. After several exchanges between RA-selected groups and the N&N editors, the Auroville Council passed [a resolution](#) effectively dismissing and replacing the N&N editors. This was followed up by the publication of a [timeline](#), explaining step by step what led to this decision.

Since this decision hasn't been respected by the dismissed N&N editors, the Auroville Council (in consultation with other RA-selected groups, including the RA Working Committee) have been looking into alternative solutions and on 27th April a community edition of the News & Notes was launched. This publication contains contributions from both the groups selected by the RA and those endorsed by the Secretary. Please find the first issue linked [here](#). If you would like to subscribe, you can fill [this form](#).

## Auroville Media Liaison Team

One important team member of the Auroville Media Liaison Service left the team to focus on some other important work. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to this person for the work and energy they have offered. Following this change, the Auroville Media Liaison Team is currently being restructured to adapt to our reviewed media strategy, and change in human resources. Support is needed. If anyone is willing to help with content creation, please contact us or [media@auroville.services](mailto:media@auroville.services).

## Communication to 'The Hindu' and other editors

Following the [letter](#) we had addressed to the Editor of The Hindu - Chennai branch, the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) working for the Office of the Secretary sent [an email](#) on 10th March to the same editor and to many other media outlets, discrediting the voice of the Residents' Assembly and its duly appointed Working Committee. We replied the following day with [a clarification](#), responding to the fallacious arguments of the OSD.

From the start, we have only requested various media outlets to uphold journalistic standards by interviewing both sides when publishing articles related to Auroville's current situation.

## Massbulletins

A compilation of all the massbulletins sent by us can be found [here](#) for March 2023, and [here](#) for April 2023.

## Governing Board and International Advisory Council

### Governing Board meetings

The Governing Board published its [60th](#) and [61st](#) meeting minutes online, via the website of the Auroville Foundation. It is regrettable that these minutes were not made available to the Residents' Assembly through its internal communication platforms, as is usual practice. We have sent to the Governing Board an email in which we communicate to them our [observations on the 60th](#) as well as our [observations on the 61st](#) meeting minutes. We also once again requested that we move towards functioning in mutuality between the three authorities of the Auroville Foundation. We emphasized that to be true to the vision and teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, Auroville must grow through goodwill, patience, compassion and a sincere effort by all towards collective harmony. We did not receive any acknowledgement or reply from the Governing Board, nor any of its members. Additionally, we have seen [a letter](#) addressed to the Office of the Secretary by the Ministry of Education, with observations on the 61st and 62nd Governing Board meeting minutes.

We are yet to receive a copy of the 62nd and 63rd Governing Board meeting minutes. We are also not aware of a date for the next Governing Board meeting.

### International Advisory Council (IAC)

We continue to be in regular contact with the International Advisory Council via email, and continue to inform its members of the situation in Auroville.

## Community interactions

### General Meeting on 1st April

We are grateful for the General Meeting called by the RA TDC on 1st April and express our wholehearted support and encouragement to them for taking up the next step of collective, inclusive and participatory planning for Auroville. Please see [here](#) for their announcement dated 04.04.23.

We also note that the meeting was scheduled to take place at the Unity Pavilion, but needed to be shifted at the last minute to Kalabhumi, due to RA TDC being [called "illegal"](#) by the Secretary's "ATDC". We are concerned about this trend of labeling RA groups "illegal". It is essential for its good functioning that the Residents' Assembly and its various working groups meet regularly and discuss important issues pertaining to the day-to-day affairs of Auroville. It is highly objectionable that the Unity Pavilion executives have refused a meeting that was open to all residents.

## General Meeting on 22nd April

Our team was present at this meeting, and we were able to answer questions from the residents and get a pulse of where the community is at. We thank the organizers for arranging this important community meeting.

## Wednesday meetings for residents

Two of our members are present every Wednesday for these meetings, which take place at 5 pm at the Tibetan Pavilion. All residents are welcome.

## Miscellaneous

### Y-20 summit in Auroville

An event related to the G20, called the Y20 summit and related to youth, was happening from 4th to 6th April in Pondicherry and Auroville. According to the pictures published on social media, the Chairman and some Governing Board members as well as the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation were present at the inauguration in Bharat Nivas. We find it regrettable that neither the Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly, nor the wider Residents' Assembly, nor the Auroville youth were formally invited to this event. We however circulated [a massbulletin](#) to welcome the delegates, also emphasizing some of the ways in which the Office of the Secretary has systematically targeted youth in Auroville over the past year.

### Mishandling of passport data by Office of the Secretary

A circular from the Office of the Secretary, which included the passport details of an Aurovilian and French national, was publicly posted on AuroNet and in the News & Notes without getting the prior consent of the concerned resident. Passport details are sensitive information and it is against all established procedures to disclose them publicly. We have contacted the Ministry of Education, as well as the French Consulate, to inform them about this wrongdoing and raise their awareness on risks of data skimming.

### New Villupuram Collector

We met the new Collector for the Villupuram District on 10th March 2023. The interaction was friendly and we invited the Collector to visit Auroville, at his convenience.

### Tamil New Year Cultural event

It was reported to us by several attendees of a Tamil New Year Cultural event held at Bharat Nivas on 13th April, 2023, that the event was 'hijacked' by the Office of the Secretary and their 'working groups' and was held up for more than one hour by their



unannounced presentations. Audience members reported feeling upset by this enforced interaction.

### Letters from the Auroville International Board

Following their in-person visit in February 2023, the Auroville International Board and Centers have written on 6th March [a letter](#) to the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, which we have circulated at their request.

In a recent News & Notes publication (issue #970, p.6), those impersonating the Working Committee have included critical comments about Auroville International (AVI). The AVI Board Chairman clarified in [an open letter](#) how this statement was factually incorrect. We thank again the AVI Board and AVI Centers for their continued support, and for engaging actively with Auroville and its struggles.

### Aurovilians passing away

We published [a note](#) to offer advice about how to put one's affairs in order regarding belongings, financial assets and other important considerations, in order to ease the complexities and stress on family members and friends after someone passes on. We remain available to help on such matters, and to answer any questions you may have.

### Sexual harassment

Over March and April, we dealt with two situations related to sexual harassment. We published [a massbulletin](#) on 9th April, providing relevant information and ways to address it within Auroville. We encourage everyone to please ensure that these sensitive situations are held within a process that aims at integrity, confidentiality and fairness towards all involved.

### Trafficking & illegal substances

We have recently sent two massbulletins, on [27th March](#) and [11th April](#), to inform the community of a recent increase in the movement of illegal substances in the immediate surroundings of Auroville. As announced, we will not get involved in defending or supporting any situations related to illegal substances.

### Cancellation of children's play

A children's play by Miraculous Productions was canceled by the venues in which it was scheduled, allegedly under the pressure of those working with the Office of the Secretary, due to it being considered a "political satire". Several residents have contacted us to share their concern about this unprecedented level of censorship.

## Other ongoing issues

These are some of the other ongoing issues we are dealing with on a regular basis, but which do not have new developments to report:

- **Delegations to various officials:** We continue to organize and/or participate in delegations to various officials at all levels, with the help of resource persons and of our liaison officer.
- **Maintenances stopped:** Our maintenances have been discontinued as of January 2023, along with other RA-selected and RA-endorsed groups. Thanks to the support of many community members and well-wishers, we are still being supported - we are grateful for this show of solidarity. If you would like to help, please write to [bccoffice@auroville.services](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.services).
- **'Relocation' of people on "red assets":** If you received an email from the 'ATDC' appointed by the GB to this effect, please write to [famc@auroville.services](mailto:famc@auroville.services) and [tdc@auroville.services](mailto:tdc@auroville.services).
- **Contributions being requested:** If you were previously receiving a waiver because of a fragile financial situation and have received an email from the parallel 'BCC' asking you to pay for your contribution while your situation hasn't changed, please write to [famc@auroville.services](mailto:famc@auroville.services) and to [bccoffice@auroville.services](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.services).
- **Archives:** Following the takeover of the Auroville Archives, we have [announced](#) the creation of a new Archives service. Please send any new material you have to [archives@auroville.services](mailto:archives@auroville.services) so that it can be properly archived and classified.
- **Internal communication being blocked:** Communication between @auroville.org.in and @auroville.services is still being blocked.
- **Land Board:** Most of the current Land Board members have either not been selected by the RA, or have had their terms expire. We are looking into the matter with the Auroville Council and RA FAMC.
- **Conflict resolution:** We are regularly involved in helping to resolve conflictual situations, either directly or through the CRP3 (a subgroup of the Auroville Council with representatives of AVC, WCom, AVSST, Mattram and resource persons).
- **Safety and Security:** We continue to liaise with the Auroville Security and the police as and when required.
- **Housing issues:** We continue to be informed of clear cases of mismanagement involving the 'Housing Service' appointed by the Office of the Secretary. If you are impacted or know someone who is, please contact [famc@auroville.services](mailto:famc@auroville.services) and [workingcom@auroville.services](mailto:workingcom@auroville.services).
- **Interacting with visiting press:** If you are approached by or know of any visiting press, please inform us as soon as possible.

- **Administrative documents and certificates:** For any needed administrative documents please feel free to contact us for information and advice.

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In the current climate, the task of the Working Committee is arduous and sometimes discouraging, but we are resolved to stand strong, collectively. We are grateful to be a real team in which all of us complement each other and enjoy working and being together, in spite of the challenging circumstances. We thank all those who express their support, encouragement and care - this means a lot to us.

We continue to dedicate ourselves to fulfilling the mandate given to us by the Residents' Assembly, for the co-creation and manifestation of Mother's Dream.

In community,

**The Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly**

Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Maël Shanti Vidal, Sauro Mezzetti, Valli Senthilkumar