

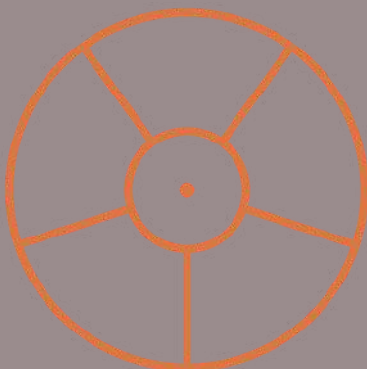
*Auroville*

# NEWS & NOTES

No 1010 - A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

18 January 2024

**RA EDITION**



## PONDERING

The children born in Auroville are naturally Aurovilians and Auroville will be responsible for them. But if the parents take the children away from Auroville with them, Auroville's responsibility comes to an end.

3.4.1971

The Mother on Auroville, Page 84

<https://motherandsriaurobindo.in/The-Mother/books/compilations/the-mother-on-auroville/>



*(continued from three weeks ago)*

## CHAPTER XXVII - THE GNOSTIC BEING

As a consequence of the total change and reversal of consciousness establishing a new relation of spirit with mind and life and matter, and a new significance and perfection in the relation, there will be a reversal, a perfecting new significance also of the relations between the spirit and the body it inhabits. In our present way of living the soul expresses itself, as best it can or as badly as it must, through the mind and the vitality, or, more often, allows the mind and the vitality to act with its support: the body is the instrument of this action. But the body, even in obeying, limits and determines the mind's and the life's self-expression by the limited possibilities and acquired character of its own physical instrumentation; it has besides a law of its own action, a movement and will or force or urge of movement of its own subconscious or half-emerged conscious power of being which they can only partially — and even in that part more by an indirect than by a direct or, if direct, then more by a subconscious than a willed and conscious action — influence or alter. But in the gnostic way of being and living the will of the spirit must directly control and determine the movements and law of the body. For the law of the body arises from the subconscious or inconscient: but in the gnostic being the subconscious will have become conscious and subject to the supramental control, penetrated with its light and action; the basis of inconscience with its obscurity and ambiguity, its obstruction or tardy responses will have been transformed into a lower or supporting superconscience by the supramental emergence. Already even in the realised higher-mind being and in the intuitive and overmind being the body will have become sufficiently conscious to respond to the influence of the Idea and the Will-Force so that the action of mind on the physical parts, which is rudimentary, chaotic and mostly involuntary in us, will have developed a considerable potency: but in the supramental being it is the consciousness with the Real-Idea in it which will govern everything. This real-idea is a truth-perception which is self-effective; for it is the idea and will of the spirit in direct action and originates a movement of the substance of being which must inevitably effectuate itself in state and act of being. It is this dynamic irresistible spiritual realism of the Truth-consciousness in the highest degree of itself that will have here grown conscient and consciously competent in the evolved gnostic being: it will not act as now, veiled in an apparent inconscience and self-limited by law of mechanism, but as the sovereign Reality in self-effectuating action. It is this that will rule the existence with an entire knowledge and power and include in its rule the functioning and action of the body. The body will be turned by the power of the spiritual consciousness into a true and fit and perfectly responsive instrument of the Spirit.

This new relation of the spirit and the body assumes — and makes possible — a free acceptance of the whole of material Nature in place of a rejection; the drawing back from her, the refusal of all identification or acceptance, which is the first normal necessity of the spiritual consciousness for its liberation, is no longer imperative. To cease to be identified with the body, to separate oneself from the body-consciousness, is a recognised and necessary step whether towards spiritual liberation or towards spiritual perfection and mastery over Nature. But, this redemption once effected, the descent of the spiritual light and force can invade and take up the body also and there can be a new liberated and sovereign acceptance of material Nature. That is possible, indeed, only if there is a changed communion of the Spirit with Matter, a control, a reversal of the present balance of interaction which allows physical Nature to veil the Spirit and affirm her own dominance. In the light of a larger knowledge Matter also can be seen to be the Brahman, a self-energy put forth by the Brahman, a form and substance of Brahman; aware of the secret consciousness within material substance, secure in this larger knowledge, the gnostic light and power can unite itself with Matter, so seen, and accept it as an instrument of a spiritual manifestation. A certain reverence, even, for Matter and a sacramental attitude in all dealings with it is possible. As in the Gita the act of the taking of food is spoken of as a material sacrament, a sacrifice, an offering of Brahman to Brahman by Brahman, so also the gnostic consciousness and sense can view all the operations of Spirit with Matter. The Spirit has made itself Matter in order to place itself there as an instrument for the well-being and joy, yogakṣema, of created beings, for a self-offering of universal physical utility and service. The gnostic being, using Matter but using it without material or vital attachment or desire, will feel that he is using the Spirit in this form of itself with its consent and sanction for its own purpose. There will be in him a certain respect for physical things, an awareness of the occult consciousness in them, of its dumb will of utility and service, a worship of the Divine, the Brahman in what he uses, a care for a perfect and faultless use of his divine material, for a true rhythm, ordered harmony, beauty in the life of Matter, in the utilisation of Matter.

*(to be continued next week)*

— Sri Aurobindo, THE LIFE DIVINE, Pages 1020-1023  
[https://sri-aurobindo.co.in/workings/sa/37\\_21\\_22/the\\_life\\_divine\\_21\\_22.pdf](https://sri-aurobindo.co.in/workings/sa/37_21_22/the_life_divine_21_22.pdf)

With love and gratitude,  
Gangalakshmi (HOMA)



# NEWS & NOTES GUIDELINES

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:**  
**TUESDAY 5PM**

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 posters should be 1 MB, JPEG format. Bigger posters will be reduced or cropped to fit.
- 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 try your best to send your announcements, reports, film schedules whenever they are ready. Any modifications of submitted News items must be sent to the editors before **Tuesday 5pm**.

## 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**

## 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)

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## NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Community,

### Here is some important information:

- You can read past issues and subscribe [HERE](#).
- If you wish to support the N&N community Edition, you can do at this account Nr: **FS #252150**.
- You now find the Tamil and French versions of the N&N to download in every weeks issue.
- Content sent through [@auroville.org.in](mailto:@auroville.org.in) mail ID, will only reach us if you use this [FORM](#) to submit your content.
- The mail ID to submit content is: [newsandnotes@auroville.services](mailto:newsandnotes@auroville.services).

Thank you for your continued support!

In community,  
The RA Community Edition News and Notes Team

## IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MESSAGE

### ⚡ CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY RAD ON WCOM SELECTION ⚡

#### - Urgent Call for a New Emergency-RAD by Concerned Residents -

Dear Aurovilians,

Yet another serious and urgent matter has been imposed upon the Residents' Assembly, through the Notification published in the Gazette of India on the 12th of January. This Notification changes the entire process by which members of the Working Committee are selected, giving all control of the process of selection as well as the future functioning of the WCom to the Governing Board.

These proposed changes require the immediate attention of every member of the Residents Assembly!

Kindly read and consider signing this petition calling for an Emergency Residents' Assembly Decision (E-RAD) from this link (<https://forms.gle/ZrpDHqtGtmghzcu5>).

We are aiming to collect a minimum of 300 required signatures to initiate an E-RAD before the 24th of January 2024.

Thank you!

With love and hope,  
Concerned Residents



## WORKING GROUPS NEWS

### FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE

#### IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM THE ENTRY BOARD

Dear Community,

On the morning of Monday 15th January 2024 the door of the Entry Service office was found with the lock changed. The Entry Service was not notified of this change and was not given any explanation.

At the moment we find ourselves unable to continue our work as usual as we can't access the office and the computers. We'll be unable to meet new applicants and conduct interviews.

We will inform the community if/when there is a change of the situation.

Best Wishes,

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

#### ES # 214 DATED: 18-01-2024

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.entryboard@gmail.com](mailto:auroville.entryboard@gmail.com) or  
[auroville.entryservice@gmail.com](mailto:auroville.entryservice@gmail.com).

We thank you in advance.

#### NEWCOMER ANNOUNCED:

- **Anita KAMALI (Iranian)** staying in Surrender (house sharing with Gundalf) and working at Marks Coffee



#### NEWCOMER CONFIRMED:

- **Kiran Kumar VENKATACHALAPATHY (Indian)**
- **Sandhiya BALA ANAND (Indian)**

#### AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:

- **Tanisha MANN (Indian)** staying in Kalabhumi and working at transition School, Project Nursery (Youth Link) and Farm Group



- **Daniel GRINGS (German)** staying in Auromode apartments and working at Sanskrit Lab



- **Ruben PORRU (Italian)** staying in Douceur (Kavitha's) Hostel and working at Dehashakti, Saiier, Abhaya and Future School



#### AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

- **Sivarajan DEVARAJAN (Indian)**

#### RETURNING AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED:

**Teresa MARTENS (German)** staying in Alchemy (Angela's) and working at Wasteless



#### 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(TOS), Sara, Sonja and Swadha)

#### Entry Service Timings:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am—12:30pm  
Tuesday & Thursday: Newcomer kits, 2:30—4:30pm

Contact: 0413 262-2707, [auroville.entryservice@gmail.com](mailto:auroville.entryservice@gmail.com)

**Note:** If you want any more information about someone, please contact the Entry Service directly for more details.

## FROM THE RA WORKING COMMITTEE

### UPDATES ABOUT LAND EXCHANGES (AUROORCHARD, PEBBLE GARDEN, AURO OCEANIC, AND MORE)

Dear community,

As you already know, AuroOrchard, one of Auroville's largest, oldest and most productive organic farms, is currently under existential threat due to a recent land exchange which was negotiated in secret by the Office of the Secretary and its appointees.

**Here we would like to share with you an important update about this and other land exchanges.**

In the past weeks, the new owner of the 10 acres of exchanged AuroOrchard land started fencing his newly acquired 'property'. This indeed included, as previously announced by us (and repeatedly denied by the Land Officers and appointees of the AVFO), the farm's main irrigation system, its borewell, the house in which two residents live, as well as the godown, cowsheds, an old and venerable Banyan tree, orchards, cultivated areas and even the entrance of AuroOrchard. We are shocked that until recently, the Secretary-appointed land officers continually made false statements that none of these vital infrastructures were on the exchanged plot of land. This has proven to be absolutely untruthful and we strongly denounce such disinformation and opacity in the 'city at the service of Truth'.

We also recently learned that 2.5 additional acres of AuroOrchard land have been exchanged, again without consultation with AuroOrchard residents and without following due process. This deal was done with the owners of Auro Oceanic, a private resort which was located within the Master Plan city center area. Although we are in favour of land consolidation, this needs to be done carefully after studying the benefits and the losses, which doesn't seem to currently be the case.

In particular, it is worth noting a few specifics:

- In 2020, the Auro Oceanic building and land parcel (0.3 acres only) had been evaluated by an empanelled Income Tax evaluator, for a total value of Rs. 3.88 Crores. On the other hand, the AuroOrchard land's market value is estimated at around 8 Crores per acre, which means Rs. 20 Crores for 2.5 acres. This means the Auroville Foundation has lost over 16 Crores in this deal. This huge value imbalance raises the question: who benefits from these deals?
- This is confirmed by the most recent actions of Satish & Co, the landowners of Auro Oceanic. After having acquired the 2.5 acres in AuroOrchard, they are now reportedly attempting to sell this land to other private investors, and are negotiating a price of Rs 3000 per square foot. This equates to about Rs. 33 Crores for the 2.5 acres. (13.2 crore is the cost for one acre, the total cost of 2.5 is 33 crores.)
- Exchanging land that has been purchased and named by the Mother herself, and without the knowledge or consent of those taking care of the land, is absolutely contrary to the principles and ethos of Auroville.
- Land exchange is being carried out using AuroOrchard and other farmland without due consideration for the present and future food security of Auroville, which is expected to be a self-supporting community.

Additionally, other areas of Auroville are under threat of land exchange, such as Djaima and Pebble Garden. In both cases, essential infrastructure (such as borewells and irrigation pipes) are located on the areas approved for exchange. In Pebble Garden, this again poses an existential threat to a world-leading example and pioneer in sustainable architecture and environmental regeneration. You can read more about Pebble Garden by clicking [here](#).

It is important to note that there are other lands outside the Master Plan area that the Residents' Assembly has previously agreed could be exchanged. Why then are these precious and productive plots being given away?

We will keep you updated as the situation unfolds.

We call for the community to collectively pray for the guidance of Mother's Force in the new year.

We strongly believe that each intention, aspiration and action can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Your RA Working Committee

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Sauro, Valli



Image of Pebble Garden Endangered Assets:



### EXPLANATORY VIDEOS IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES REGARDING THE ONGOING EMERGENCY RAD

Dear Aurovilians whose mother tongue is Tamil, French, Italian, German or English,

We would like to share with you the attached video, recorded in your language, explaining the current situation with Entry & Exit processes in our community, and the importance of your participation in the ongoing Emergency RAD (Residents' Assembly Decision). Your voice and vote are crucial.

You can watch the video in:

- [Tamil](#)
- [French](#)
- [Italian](#)
- [German](#)
- [English](#)

We face a pivotal moment that demands your immediate attention and action. The Governing Board's new changes to the Entry & Exit process of Auroville threaten the very heart of our community and may destroy all that we stand for.

For more information on the Emergency RAD, please click here: <https://mailchi.mp/auroville/emergency-rad-atr-nol-1001458>

Please come with any questions you may have at the **General Meeting TODAY, Thursday 18th January, 6-7.30pm at Kalabhumi**.

Your involvement can significantly shape the future of Auroville.

In community,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Sauro, Valli



## IMPORTANT! LATEST MOVE IN THE TAKEOVER OF AUROVILLE BY THE GB!

Dear Community,

We are sharing with you the latest set of regulations that have been published in the Gazette of India by the Secretary to the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. They are called the "Auroville Foundation (Framework for Selection of Working Committee) Regulations, 2024".

Once again the Governing Board and its Secretary are aggressively and secretly taking over one of the functions specifically given to the Residents' Assembly (RA) in the Auroville Foundation Act (Section 20) and upheld by the Hon'ble Madras High Court in its interim order of September 4th, 2023.

While the procedure for selecting the Working Committee as outlined in these new regulations may seem to give a say to the voice of the RA, in fact the Governing Board has given itself all the power since it gives final approval to the members of the 'Selection Process Committee' and the method of selection.

This is another move towards completely silencing the voice of the wider community, with the exception of a small number of sycophants, and continuing a complete takeover of every aspect of Auroville's life and development while trampling on the letter and spirit of the Act and Auroville's aspirations and ideals.

We will keep you updated as things develop.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee of the RA  
Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Sauro, Valli



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### BABY BORN



### WELCOME AMINE

Amine, our daughter, is born on the 4th of January. We are very happy and grateful, much Love to all.  
Big big thanks to Morning Star project and Team!  
Chloé and Mansur

### COMMUNITY SHARING

#### DO WE STILL HAVE A FUTURE TO DREAM ABOUT?

We need a radical shift for this unprecedented situation

**Let us call for it together**

Open to all

Call for Organisation group

**Savitri Bhavan**

27 January 2024

4:30 to 6:00pm

## EMERGENCY RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY DECISION MAKING PROCESS



**Participation open from Saturday, 13th January, to Sunday, 21st January 2024**

This Emergency Residents' Assembly Decision-making process is initiated by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.

### INTRO

We bring to your attention the gravest of developments, a real threat to Auroville's existence as an international experimental township. As sincere Aurovilians, we must continue to use our voice as members of the Residents' Assembly, one of the 3 statutory authorities of the Auroville Foundation, to speak our truth and stand for our beliefs and Auroville's values.

**Please participate, whatever your opinion or choice. Anonymity is guaranteed. That means your name and vote will be kept a secret.**

### RESOLUTION

We, the Working Committee of the Residents Assembly, (Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Sauro, Valli) call for the following Resolution of the Residents' Assembly to be ratified via an Emergency RAD:

***The Residents' Assembly resolves that the new 'Auroville Foundation (Admission and Termination of persons in the Register of Residents) Regulations, 2023' - <https://shorturl.at/w0238> - published in the Gazette of India on the 4th of January, 2024, by the Secretary of the Governing Board, is an overreach by the Governing Board and usurps the powers given to the Residents' Assembly as per the Foundation Act.***

***Further, we state that the Residents' Assembly, as one of the three statutory authorities of the Auroville Foundation, asserts its right to carry out its functions as detailed in the Auroville Foundation Act, with the purpose "to further development of Auroville in accordance with its original Charter" (first paragraph of the [Auroville Foundation Act, 1988](#) - <https://rb.gy/tflcgd>.***

### PARTICIPATE ONLINE

Use your personalized voting link sent by the Residents' Assembly Service (RAS). If you didn't receive the link, please check spam or promotions folders. If still not there, kindly visit RAS polling stations.

### PARTICIPATE IN PERSON

If you prefer to register your decision in person, please visit the RAS polling stations:

**SATURDAY (Jan. 20th) @ PTPS Aspiration: 11 am - 1 pm**

**SATURDAY (Jan. 20th) @ Solar Kitchen: 3 pm - 5 pm**

**SUNDAY (Jan. 21st) @ Solar Kitchen: 11 am - 1 pm**

### SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Governing Board has recently promulgated a new set of "[Auroville Foundation Regulations 2023](#)", which has been published in the Gazette of India by the Secretary. These regulations intend to replace the existing entry and exit processes decided by the community and to create a committee constituted by the Governing Board for this purpose called the 'Admission and Termination Scrutinizing Committee'.

It is apparent that these new regulations are inconsistent with [the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988](#), and [the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997](#) - <https://shorturl.at/bpwxl>, on multiple counts.

The Governing Board is creating a committee appointed by itself which has all the power to admit or terminate Aurovilians, Newcomers and even Volunteers. Any appeals to the decision of this committee are reviewed by an Appellate Committee consisting only of Governing Board members, and finally the Secretary can veto any of the decisions of the above committees.

This gives absolutely no weight or respect to the residents of Auroville to take part in these decisions, vis à vis entry and exit to Auroville and in direct contradiction to provisions in the Auroville Foundation Act related to this function given to the Residents' Assembly. We remind all of Mother's words: "Only those who have resolved to stay in Auroville for good have the right to intervene in its organization" (The Mother 22.1.1971).

Unlike the previous [Admission and Termination Regulations, 2020](https://rb.gy/tdeq08) - <https://rb.gy/tdeq08>, these new regulations were created and approved by the Governing Board without consultation with the Residents' Assembly. And these regulations strip away the rightful role of the Residents' Assembly to be actively involved in the development, governance and growth of Auroville, disregarding the very raison d'être of Auroville as a self regulated experiment in Human Unity based on the teachings of Mother and Sri Aurobindo.

~ Warmly,  
For the Residents' Assembly Service  
Manas, Tatiana

## [PETITION RESULTS] URGENT PETITION REGARDING UNAUTHORISED ACTIONS BY THE AVFO FAMC

Dear Community,

We extend our thanks to everyone who signed the petition disagreeing with and requesting the resignation of the members of the AVFO FAMC.

After removing duplicates and invalid submissions, the final tally stands at:

### Total Signatures: 550

Aurovilians: 531

Newcomers: 17

Auroville Youth (Under 18): 2

Collection Period: December 18, 2023 - January 8, 2024 (21 days)

We have presented the petition and results to the RA-selected Working Committee, requesting they forward it to the AVFO FAMC and other relevant parties (without disclosing the names of the 550 signatories).

We cannot overstate the importance of your participation in our community's governance at this critical juncture of our history. We also appreciate those who took the time to read the petition, even if they didn't sign.

We urge you to continue actively engaging in collective decision-making processes.

With gratitude,

Concerned Residents

## VOICES AND NOTES

### THE ORIGINAL ADMISSION FORM TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE MOTHER - 1970



I bring once more to the general attention the admission form to be submitted to the Mother for acceptance, along with complementary instructions she signed too. I have an original copy of that form; others are kept at the Auroville Archive.

Mother's town and her guidelines are indissolubly linked; besides being her architect, Roger Anger had the task to draft major policies that the Mother would integrate and sign. The excerpts below are part of the throve that Roger passed me in the eighties, as a researcher c/o the Centre of Human Unity instituted by Kireet Joshi. We believed that we would make it, flying in the sky was our normal way to be.

At page 1 of the Admission Form is the text "To be a true Aurovillian": the psychic awakening. On page 2 eight points unfold:

## ADMISSION TO AUROVILLE

1. *The first condition for living in Auroville is "to be convinced of the essential unity of mankind and the will to collaborate in the material realisation of that unity."*
2. *The admission to Auroville is subject to Mother's approval.*
3. *Once approved, in the beginning the individual is taken for a probationary period of one year, which may be lengthened or shortened, during which he can see for himself how far he fits into the Auroville life. During this period he is expected to meet his own expenses, but in certain cases Auroville bears the expenses. The amount needed per month will be roughly Rs. 200/- to Rs. 300/- per person.*
4. *One is expected to work for Auroville at least 5 hours a day, including Sundays. The nature of work and other details are decided individually for each case.*
5. *When Auroville meets the individual's needs and requirements, one is expected to offer to Auroville all that he has and can in respect of material possessions.*
6. *'Drugs' are prohibited in Auroville.*
7. *Climatic conditions: Tropical near the sea.*
8. *It should be remembered that in all matters the final decision rests with The Mother."*

This prompts several considerations. One is that the Mother did not introduce newcomers' fees; in 1985, when I left the Sri Aurobindo Ashram for Auroville, this still applied. This was essential to allow young, committed idealists to join; in the Galaxy plan, which the Mother submitted to the Ford Foundation on 13.3.1969, one third of the inhabitants was foreseen to be below 20.

Another essential tenet is point n. 5, highlighting that people would be taken in charge only if they had no alternative means of subsistence: "*When Auroville meets the individual's needs and requirements, one is expected to offer to Auroville all that he has and can in respect of material possessions*": pensions, bank accounts, properties, outer incomes would be surrendered. As Satprem did: he offered his pension to the Mother, and she graciously provided for his needs. According to that form, people maintained themselves the first year; but if not even this they could afford, yet worked proficently for the community, they were taken in charge immediately. At par with those already accepted, they were granted a basic accommodation and the Auroville Prosperity, in kind, similar to that in vigour at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. Along with the meals, the Auroville Prosperity provided the simple items necessary to one's day-to-day life and some pocket money.

The applicants had to sign the admission form and submit it to the Mother, who would decide. Additional guidelines, also approved by her, completed the picture. In 1986 Roger gave me a copy of a major document, along with his first report on the town (7.9.1965); these were the first two documents I received from him, and which I translated from the French: the initiatory journey had begun.

That document concludes so:

### "RESIDENT OF AUROVILLE STATUS

*After the probationary period Auroville will support to the extent of its means all the people accepted by the Mother, and for whom an individual caution-money will be given.*

*Needless to say, from that date onward the duties of the selected people must conform to the agreement with Auroville, freely accepted by them. These agreements are sufficiently specified in all the definitions, all the teachings and goals pointed out by Mother, so as to be known by everyone and put into practice. No rule, law or constraint is necessary at Auroville, if the members of the community agree to replace these outdated methods by an active sincerity.*

### STATUS OF AUROVILLE CITIZEN

*The Mother Herself will decide when a member of the community will become an Aurovillian – which implies that he has acquired the Auroville consciousness.*

*So far, there are no Aurovilians."*

Today, as during Mother's years, this is the pledge we should sign and live: loyalty to the Mother is all we need.

Paulette

## AS A TOURIST IN AV

All you could do as a tourist in Auroville until last year was pay a visit to the Visitors Centre and its shops, and a long walk through the trees that took you to a view of the Matrimandir and its gardens. Nothing more than this. Not so much for such an important place. Now, fortunately, there are a lot of new things to see!

The route starts from the entrance to the Bharat Nivas area, and we are immediately among sellers of drinks, sandwiches, and coconuts.



A little further on, a cartoonist offers me a caricature of my face for 300 rupees. It reminds me of Montmartre, where on the way up to the famous Cathedral, there is an entire square dedicated to portraitists. Perhaps it is a kind of obligatory stop to reflect on oneself on the journey to the sacred places.



Shortly afterwards I was offered entry to the Kalakendra Art Gallery and the India Space for just 50 rupees. "Two buildings for the price of one!" - says the woman sitting at the register - and in the India Space you can enjoy an exhibition about the master plan of Auroville! I leave both alone and continue along the path.



After a series of stalls selling handicrafts and bijouterie, I arrive at a 3-meter-high sculpture of an elephant, which acts as a reminder of a museum that has appeared out of nowhere. Wildlife Museum, the sign says, 30 rupees. I want to see it inside because I remember that building. They were the spaces of the old Post Office of Auroville and the Center for Evolutionary Research, now occupied by life-size sculptures of snakes, tigers, and apes. Evolutionary Research has turned into a tribute to animal life. Even Mr. Darwin would be happy. Stupendous!



I continue my journey and finally leave Bharat Nivas, pass next to the statue of Sri Aurobindo who seems to be there watching the tourists parade, and take the same old path to the Matrimandir. I feel better now, they've finished sucking my money in the Bharat Nivas amusement park. I'm finally walking across the greenery of Auroville, even if now and then scenes of devastated forest and roads under construction appear. It's progress, baby, if we don't evolve we'll be left behind, I hear a voice behind me.

Having arrived at the sight of the Matrimandir, I am at the end of my journey. Tourists are eager to take self portraits in all poses, with the famous golden globe in the background. And they don't seem concerned to see the devastation that surrounds it. Where once a splendid belt of lush trees shone, now the Matrimandir stands among an immense field of excavated red earth, as a survivor of a world that no longer exists. Somebody decided that a huge circular lake was needed, and they knocked down everything to make room for it.

At least I hope they will make it suitable for swimming, so tourists can cool off from the summer heat, or take a boat ride or an aperitif at sunset with the Matrimandir in the background. Wonderful spot for a magnificent selfie.



At the end of the day the tourists are happy I guess. I saw them laughing and having fun and they will return home satisfied with the nice trip. They will remember this magical place and maybe they will return when the city is finally built. And buying a timeshare overlooking Crown Road wouldn't be bad to spend their holidays here for a few weeks a year. Why not?

- Experience of an Aurovilian "Tourist"



## TRANSPLANTATION, TRANSFORMATION AND TRANSITION

Due to its openness, vastness and straightforwardness, India was the perfect incubator for this international project dedicated to human unity. With its heightened sense of spirituality, this nation represented the most nurturing cradle for a project of such nature.

The seeds were planted. Research budded, discoveries burgeoned, and progress effloresced. Mother India continued to support the project through a Foundation Act and a team of 12 national and international veterans to help this community grow. For years, this project sprouted up, branched out and flourished, garnering awards, distinction, and recognition worldwide. A social fabric was woven, bridges were built, services were rendered.

Then, out of the woodwork emerged another type of Aurovillian, green with envy as well as around the gills. It seems that there has been too much of watching the grass grow, and not enough of making the cement flow. Despite signing up to protect this place through its Foundation Act and Charter, dubious and destructive actions from within and without harrowed through and threw it helter-skelter. For 2 years, a hitherto heavily scrutinised question has found answer: a tree falling in a forest certainly makes a sound. Perhaps only because we were all here to hear it, as well as the trimming, the lopping and the cropping. How much wood can a good truck chuck if a good truck could chuck wood?

From the start, the only collective and individual aspiration directed at these anti-green greens is to turn over a new leaf, to lay down the plebeian plough, clamorous clippers and sharp shears in exchange for compost and a watering can (to complete the Holy Trinity of plant growth ingredients, sunlight is needed, but there is already more than enough of that in this area, even more so now). Indeed, despite not all of us being born with a silver trowel, a bit of practice, some patience and a lot of perseverance might do the trick to cultivate one's inner green thumb!

Now more than ever, this budding project is in dire need of fertile ground, and supportive soil so that it may strike (firm, fearless and final) root and blossom out like a sprout in spring, despite the forceful pruning that it is undergoing. Perhaps it will bloom where it was planted. Perhaps it will need to go out on a limb, sprout wings and fly to better horizons.

If the contemporary goals of our mother nation are less inclined towards spirituality, if an international community has no place anymore in this affable nation, if land is deemed too scarce and therefore arises the need for it to belong to a nation in particular and not humanity as a whole, then where will we land? Community, transparency, and honesty would help in figuring out which way the scales will tip, but the past 2 years have shown that this is scarcely to be expected when dabbling in such politics.

One thing is certain: the roots of the transplant remain unscathed and they run deep, the mycelium is motivated; we continue to root for the united colours of humanity, for the unified people of human unity. We shall keep the faith, get to the root of the matter, and continue planting seeds!

- an Aurovillian

### WHAT NEXT?

The usual Western notion of existence  
Is "cogito, ergo sum",  
"I think, therefore I am".  
An insufficient perception.

The inherent Eastern realisation  
Is "I am, therefore I think".  
"I am" = Aham = Existence = Sat = Being.

The "thinking" is only an aspect of the mental consciousness or mind.

There are many types of consciousnesses in the Lila, this Divine Play of the One.

"Satchitananda" best represents the Supreme One:  
"Existence - Consciousness-Force - Bliss".  
"Consciousness-Force" as in "Chit-Shakti".

The Eternal and the Infinite,  
Purusha and Prakriti,  
Inseparably separable,  
The Paradox Divine.

Here's the Avatar Sri Aurobindo for divine illumination:  
<https://incarnateword.in/cwsa/28/sachchidananda-existence-consciousness-force-and-bliss>  
Excellent on that website the Search function.

So the answer to the question, "Is consciousness an illusion?"  
It depends on what consciousness is asking and perceiving its manifestation.

This gross phenomena, this manifestation is like an illusion.  
It is like a lightning or a bubble,  
Fleeting, impermanent,  
Coming in and out of existence every fraction of a moment.

But every unfoldment is Real, Existent, Conscious,  
Because the One Source is Real, Existent, Blissfully Conscious:

Satchitananda

And You are That

Tat Tvam Asi

Only at the evolving moment

Homo sapiens the limited,

The species mind-born,

The mental-animal,

The human being,

An expression, a manifestation

Of the false-separative consciousness

That is Mind.

The Game is still on...

Always on...

This Divine Play,

The Lila of the One

And Its infinite transformations

Unfolds on

Towards the Divine Manifestation:

The next apex species,

Expression of the Truth-Unity Consciousness:

The Supramental being.

Beyond Mind.

On this Earth coming soon

A Life Divine.

Zech, 2024.01.13

### RE: A REQUEST TO INCLINE THE CROWN

Here is a list selected from the overwhelming response:

- How come the letter, in Tamil and French, was not published in those versions of N&N? Do you need the help of a Secretary-type to make you collaborate and coordinate?
- RESPONSE: here is a link to [English version](#), to [French version](#), to [Tamil version](#).
- Why not work with India's F1 body and just make the Ring into a multi-purpose F1 course (but no cows please)?
- Why Motocross only? Cars can also zoom on the crown even if its short, but its plenty wide.
- Any plans to expand the runway and make an international airport?
- I am already sick with the noise from the current speeders on all AV roads (author adds: about 50-60kmph). Where in India can you have peace and quiet?
- What about the fence project? Can you restrict folks from using their own land?
- Learn from Sadguru – AV needs to build the walls they have built in Coimbatore.
- Nowhere in India has anyone shown restraint in speed, like Chinese people show. Is the only option putting a speedbreaker every 20 m?
- Is Smart linked to Fast? And Dumb associated with Slow? Author adds: Is Large (numbers) linked to Great Actualization and Small (numbers) linked only to Potential? Is Quantity better than Quality?

## A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR YET ANOTHER EMERGENCY

A marginally modest proposal to the RA WC and to the RA Exit Review Group (who may be playing rock-paper-scissors with the RA Entry Group):

While you are promising anonymity for voting, would it not be more stimulating to announce recording of non-voting? If people do not vote (yes or no) on this issue, then it should be noted by both the WC and the AV Exit Review Group, and kept in some records in a grey cloud.

One way, out of 11, for people to show their participation and contribution is to vote, it involves using a computer and that old finger-using voiceless and artificial stupidity (ARSY) technology. Or making the hot, arduous trip to Solar Kitchen in crowded, busy hours. One can surrender only so much.

Is there a reason why this issue should not get 2000 votes? Yes, it might cause the FRRO in Pondy to go on vacation and may cause some blood pressure issues in some high-security buildings.

But my dear gentle Aurovilian, let that not stop you from trying to unify with others in the sandwich between the ring and the crown.

Let us aim for 2024 votes this year. If we miss there may not be a next year, but do not feel any pressure about that.

Aurosature

ps: if you can produce a list of non-voters on Thursday at the General Meeting, each voter can be given the task of getting 5 people to vote. Now for gentle people, it could turn into a community-building or neighbour-connecting task. Lets not make this 2nd proposal into a wizard-hunt.

## A SUMMARY OF EVENTS HAPPENING IN AUROVILLE TODAY

### NEW ADMISSION AND TERMINATION REGULATIONS TO GIVE FULL AUTHORITY TO THE SECRETARY AND GB

New [Admission and Termination Regulations](#) were Gazetted by the AVFO on 4th January 2024. As with the newly gazetted Working Committee regulations (see below), they were made without any consultation with the RA. These regulations essentially hand absolute power to the Secretary and the Governing Board (GB) to control who lives in Auroville. According to the new Regulations, an "Admissions and Terminations Scrutinising Committee" (ATSC) will be formed, which is intended to replace the current Entry Board and the newly-formed Exit Review Group which was recently approved by the RA via an Emergency RAD. The ATSC will consist of five members, out of which only two would be residents, and the three remaining "non-resident members ... shall be persons having knowledge and expertise in the field of administration". According to the newly published Regulations, the two RA members will be "nominated by the Governing Board", essentially giving full power of approval to the GB.

Some other changes outlined are:

- The ATSC will scrutinise all applications from volunteers and newcomers and will approve in each case. However, the final power would now lie with the Secretary, who "shall either accept the decision of the Admissions and Terminations Scrutinising Committee or disagree for reasons to be recorded in writing".
- The procedure to become an Aurovilian has been revised. Applicants must first complete a period of time as a volunteer (at least 3 months). It is stated that the volunteer should meet their own expenses but in "certain cases" the Auroville Foundation may provide a maintenance.

- Several new steps are outlined in the process of becoming an Aurovilian, including the completion of a new "Auroville Orientation Programme" organised by AWARE. It is unclear what would happen to the 200+ people who have completed their Newcomer process and been confirmed as Aurovilians by the Entry Board, but haven't been entered into the Register of Residents (RoR).
- The ATSC will have powers to recommend the removal of any resident, including those who are already on the RoR, following a process outlined in the document. However the final decision would again rest with the Secretary.
- The Central Government is empowered to communicate the removal of any resident or applicant through the Secretary if they have "reasons to believe that any volunteer, newcomer, resident or any other person in Auroville is a threat to national security or possible offender under any Act administered in India".

On 6th January, the RA WCom sent out a [massbulletin](#) stating that "We have been advised by our lawyers that at first reading this seems to be in direct contradiction to provisions in the Auroville Foundation Act... We are exploring immediate steps that can be taken and will keep you informed".

The RA WCom has since launched an Emergency RAD asking the RA to reject the new Regulations. Your participation is essential. Please watch the [video](#) and check your inbox for your personalised voting link. In-person voting is also possible, and all the details are available [here](#).

### ENTRY SERVICE OFFICE LOCKED

On 15th January 2024, the office of the Entry Service had its locks changed without warning or consent. The Entry Board sent out a [massbulletin](#) the following day, stating that "At the moment we find ourselves unable to continue our work as usual as we can't access the office and the computers. We'll be unable to meet new applicants and conduct interviews". This takeover of the physical office comes nearly 1.5 years after the Entry Board & Service were locked out of their Google Workspaces.

### WORKING COMMITTEE REGULATIONS NEWLY GAZETTED BY AVFO

On 12th January 2024, [new regulations](#) for the selection of the Working Committee were gazetted by the AVFO. These regulations were made without consulting the RA, a move which appears to be in direct contravention of the Auroville Foundation Act which states that "The manner of choosing the members of the Working Committee and their term of office shall be such as may be decided by the Residents Assembly".

The Regulations announce the constitution of a 'Selection Process Committee' (SPC), which would be appointed by the Governing Board (GB) after a call to the community for nominations. The functions of the SPC would include reviewing and proposing amendments to selection processes (SP) and placing them before the RA for feedback. However, the decision of whether or not to incorporate the feedback received would remain with the SPC.

The document also outlines new criteria for membership of the Working Committee including having been on the Register of Residents for more than 5 years. It also stipulates that although the new Selection Process would be presented to the RA and the GB, its approval would lie in the hands of the GB.

### 65TH GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the 65th Governing board meeting, which was held in August 2023, have been released. You can find a copy of the meeting minutes [here](#). Follow-up comments about the minutes will be shared shortly.



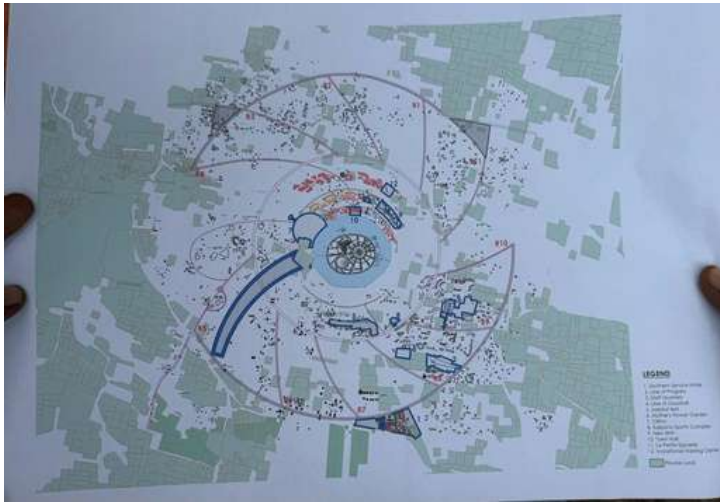
**Auroville Foundation**  
**Auroville**

Minutes of the 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Governing Board

## DESTRUCTION CONTINUES ACROSS AUROVILLE

Since the Supreme Court placed a stay on the NGT verdict on 13th December 2023, Auroville residents have witnessed unprecedented levels of destruction, in particular tree cutting and land clearances. Areas such as Centre Field, Transition, Revelation, Youth Centre & Bliss, Aurovelo, Anitya, and the Southern Service Node have been cleared of vegetation by JCBs. In Svedame, JCBs arrived and started clearing the land but residents managed to stop the work when it became apparent that the workers did not know where community infrastructure lay. In Kalabhumi, the borewell was disconnected and the residents were transferred on to the Auroville Water Service supply without discussion or consultation. Residents were informed that this was because the Crown Road will “pass over/near the Kalabhumi Borewell”; however, the necessary land next to Kalabhumi is still in private hands at the present moment.

No information has been formally shared with Aurovilians about the purpose for the widespread and sudden land clearances, although some details have been shared by CPWD workers on the ground. According to the workers, the intention is to clear all of the ‘right of ways’ for the Crown, Outer Ring Road and Radials as outlined on the map below. This is despite much of the necessary land still being in private ownership and the fact that the plans appear to deviate in many respects from the Master Plan itself. You can find a Google Map, showing an overlay of the work to be done onto the existing reality [here](#).



5th January 2024

Click [HERE](#) to see map in Full.

## SAMADHI SERVICE TREES FELLED WITHOUT WARNING

On 4th January, many of the trees lining the Crown Road between Lila Loka and Solar Kitchen were suddenly felled. No prior warning was given and no safety measures were in place. A number of people (including children) reported narrowly-missed accidents as large trees suddenly came down on roads or cycle paths. Reporters from Tamil news media such as [Dinamalar District News](#), [Sathiyam News](#) and a number of [local newspapers](#) were present on site and covered the event.

The speed and scale of the destruction shocked many people, in particular as there seemed to be no logical reason to remove these trees, which had been planted by Aurofuture, the planning group of Chief Architect Roger Anger. The Service Trees that were destroyed along the Grace - Solar Kitchen stretch were direct descendents of the Service tree at the Samadhi of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo in the Pondicherry ashram, and their planting was funded in part by a grant from the European Commission. At 5.30pm, more than five hours after the action began, [a massbulletin](#) was sent by the AVFO ‘ATDC’ informing residents that trees were being cleared “so that infrastructure cables and pipes along the Crown can be implemented”.



Watch the video [HERE](#)

The RA WCom sent [a letter](#) to the Governing Board and the IAC, raising their objections to the tree felling. These concerns were also echoed by the [Auroville International \(AVI\) Board](#) in their letter dated 6th January. Two members of the International Advisory Council also shared their concerns. After AVFO spokespersons sent a Press Release regarding the tree felling, a [point by point rebuttal](#) was also sent out by the RA WCom, and was [reported](#) in the Times of India.

The RA TDC referred to the ongoing programme of demolition in an update which was shared by massbulletin on January 8th 2024. They wrote “As this text is being drafted, the sounds of JCBs, road rollers and chainsaws echo from all over Auroville... On January 4th, a particularly devastating ‘walk’ took place along the Crown, with the noise of falling trees paving the way along this path of destruction”. They shared their work over the past few months which has included “reporting, documenting and sending letters around several areas of concern with regards to tree clearing, pruning and transplantation work happening despite the NGT ruling that was still applicable then.” Links to all of the letters and reports which have been written by members of the RA TDC over the past few months are shared [here](#).

## ALL OUTSIDE LANDS THREATENED BY EXCHANGE

According to information obtained through a [Right to Information \(RTI\)](#) request, all lands outside the Auroville Master Plan may now officially be exchanged for ‘consolidating’ lands inside the Master Plan. This includes more than 900 acres of land. Outside land include (but are not limited to) Sri Ma, Quiet, Aspiration, AuroOrchard, Sadhana Forest, Auromodele, Annapurna, and many more communities and places holding significance for Auroville. Land at imminent risk are:

- **Forecomers** - According to the Land Officer of the AVFO, parts of Forecomers are sure to be exchanged for Poramboke (public lands) in the City and Matrimandir Lake area. Read more about the history of Forecomers [here](#).
- **Pebble Garden** - Clearing has started and subsequently stopped at the entrance to Pebble Garden, a world-leading example and pioneer in sustainable architecture and environmental regeneration. The plot under threat includes their storeroom, borewell, and two water tanks. You can read more about the Pebble Garden project [here](#).
- **Aranya** - Reportedly, surveyors have come to measure the Aranya forest area for exchange. You can watch a short video on Saravanan’s work reforesting this area [here](#).

In [a recent communication](#), one member of the AVFO ‘Landboard claimed that for the last year, they are no longer involved in any sale or exchange of Auroville land. This would mean that no Aurovillian is part of these momentous changes to the physical body of Auroville. This is especially concerning as the deals concern land that is valued at large amounts of money.

In [their massbulletin](#) dated 13th January 2024, the RA WCom notes the enormous discrepancies in pricing allowed in exchange, giving the example of the exchange of 2.5 acres of AuroOrchard land for the AuroOceanic private resort in the Masterplan area: “In 2020, the Auro Oceanic building and land parcel... had been evaluated... for a total value of Rs. 3.88 Crores. On the other hand, the AuroOrchard land’s market value is estimated at around 8 Crores per acre.... This means the Auroville Foundation has lost over 16 Crores (2 million USD) in this deal. This huge value imbalance raises the question: who benefits from these deals?”

## AUROORCHARD EXCHANGE OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The new owner of the plots in Hope and AuroOrchard has fenced off his area completely on 24th December, including Jasmin and Aravinda's house, the borewell, the main irrigation infrastructure, a water tank, the godown, the 100-year-old Banyan, the entire cow shed, both farm entrances apart from internet and electrical infrastructure, and crucial cultivated areas. Despite repeated [assurances from the AVFO and their 'WCom'](#) that no house would be taken and that they would re-assess the exact plots to ensure that critical infrastructure of AuroOrchard would not be included in the deal, no support has been forthcoming.

In a recent email to the Governing Board and other parties, AuroOrchard management notes that they had proposed an alternative 2 acres for the new landowner to save the infrastructure. This has now been rejected by Mr. Kannan, "saying that we are two weeks too late and that now the fencing has been put and additional paperwork is already completed." However, this issue had been brought up with Mrs Meenakshi, the AVFO Land Officer, on the 17th November, and repeated requests for help went ignored. For a full chronology of events, please [see here](#).

In the meantime, another 2.5 acres of AuroOrchard next to the road has been exchanged for Auro Oceanic, again without informing the stewards of the land. AuroOrchard supplies 60% of Auroville's fruits and vegetables, and is currently unable to execute its basic functions, which were indicated by the Mother herself. For a full update on the situation, you can find the [recent email of the AuroOrchard management here](#).

## EMERGENCY RAD RESULTS FOR EXIT GROUP

The [outcome of the Emergency RAD](#) on the constitution of the Exit Review Group (aka 'Termination Committee'), was announced by the RAS on 26th December 2023. A total of 521 valid votes were submitted online and in-person. 97% (507) participants voted in favour of 9 nominees as members of the Exit Review Group (aka 'Termination Committee'): Ashesh JOSHI, Auradha MARKUS, Buvanasundari SUDHARSEN, Ramesh Rao (Bunty) ACHANTA, Dhandapani SELAKANNU, Ganesh KALIAPPAN, Pascal François Dominique (Rakhal) VENET, Rakhee KANE, Simonette Albertine (Tineke) SMITS.

It is unclear how the Exit Review Group will now be able to function given the new Admission and Termination Regulations.

## REPORTS: DECADES OF DEDICATION IN AUROVILLE, AND DOSSIERS ABOUT THE TAKEOVER OF AUROVILLE

The RA WCom [shared](#) several detailed reports with the community on 1st January 2024. The first is called "[The Development of Auroville's Assets - Decades of Dedication by the Auroville Community](#)", outlining the material development of Auroville since its inception, including several specific case studies. Amidst repeated claims by the AVFO that Auroville has failed and Aurovilians have achieved no development in the past 50 years, this report details some of the community's many achievements.

Also shared were three dossiers which outline in detail the takeover of Auroville by the AVFO, beginning with the arrival of the Secretary in June 2021. The three documents, titled "[Takeover of Auroville's Internal Governance](#)", "[Censorship & Takeover of Communication Platforms](#)" and "[Mismanagement of Auroville Assets & Finances, Natural & Human Resources](#)" can be found via this [link](#).

## FOREST GROUP REPORT

The Forest Group released their [latest report](#) in December 2023. They expressed gratitude to all of those inside and outside of Auroville who have provided invaluable financial support for them over the past two years and shared the numerous ways that Auroville's forests have been negatively affected due to the actions of the AVFO and their 'working groups'. They stated that "it remains to be seen how the situation on the ground evolves for individual forests. For those who are unable to continue any kind of green work without economic support, from past experience, in the medium term, encroachment, refuse dumping, land speculation, tree cutting and the invasion of aggressive thorny plants and overgrazing will increase. This will in turn depreciate the richness and value of Auroville's forests, jeopardising decades of progress in creating the green and pleasant surroundings which we had previously taken for granted."

## CITY SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS - BACKDATED DEMANDS FROM AVFO 'WORKING GROUPS'

Several Auroville units have unexpectedly received [demands](#) from the AVFO 'BCC' for allegedly unpaid contributions, backdated up to 10 years. Some of the payment requests amount to several lakh rupees, due immediately. One of the units in question is AuroOrchard, which is already faced with the loss of its land. In each case, the onus is placed on the unit to prove they have made the correct contribution.

In a [massbulletin](#) sent out on 4th January 2024, the AVFO 'FAMC' announced that "all previous city services contribution waivers approved for individuals'/ services'/ units' contribution dues to the City Services by any of the BCC/s or FAMC/s of the past (before March 2023) now stand canceled". This communication appears to come several months too late, as a number of visa applicants who had waivers in place have been presented with backdated bills which they have been forced to pay in order to receive a letter of recommendation.

## MM LAKE TASK FORCE

The Matrimandir Lake Task Force which was [announced](#) by RA WCom last month, met with the community on 27th December 2023 and has shared their [presentation](#) from that meeting via [massbulletin](#). If you have any feedback that you would like to share with the MM Lake Task Force please send it to: [matrimandir\\_lake@auroville.services](mailto:matrimandir_lake@auroville.services).

## LINKS TO RECENT MEDIA & NEWS

- **AV News Podcast 10:** The 10th episode of the AV News Podcast is available on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [YouTube](#) and on [this page](#) of the Auroville Media website. A [Tamil version](#) of the episode is also available.
- **The Federal**, "[Watch: Tensions prevail in Auroville: Residents protest against infra projects](#)"
- **Times of India**, "[Residents challenge Auroville Foundation on tree felling](#)"
- **The Hindu**, "[Clearing of trees for Auroville Crown Road project resumes amid protests by a section of residents](#)"
- **BNN Breaking**, "[Auroville's Crown Road Project: Progress or Environmental Sacrifice?](#)"
- **The Hindu**, "[Auroville Governing Board provides additional power to Union govt. in admissions, terminations of residents](#)"
- **Ouest France**, "[Auroville, quelle est cette cité « modèle » qui est en train de sombrer dans l'autoritarisme ?](#)"; Article in French. You can find a translation of this article [here](#).

## AWAKENING SPIRIT

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

Tuesday, 24th January, 9 am - 12 noon  
**Focus: The Supermind**

Led by Ashesh Joshi

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

All are Welcome



### AMPHITHEATRE - MATRIMANDIR

Every THURSDAY at sunset  
 5.30 to 6 pm  
 (weather permitting)

**Meditation with Savitri,**

Sri Aurobindo's long mantric poem read by Mother to the incredible music of Sunil

Let's gather under the beautiful open space, with 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 5.15 pm and for the meditation time.**

Thank you,  
 Surya and Amphitheatre Team



### A SATSANG ON THE INTEGRAL YOGA

A sacred gathering for the study and practice of the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, founders of Auroville, the City of Dawn.

*"The first necessity is the inner discovery in order to know what one truly is behind social, moral, cultural, racial and hereditary appearances. At the centre there is a being free, vast and knowing, who awaits our discovery and who ought to become the active centre of our being and our life in Auroville."* — The Mother

We start right here, in the Eternal Now, from where we each are at this ever-progressive moment, and share our unique experiences on the path of rediscovering and embodying who we really are.

Facilitated by Zech Joya

Schedule: **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-7:00pm**

Venue: Conference Room, G/F SAIER Building, Town Hall Complex, Auroville



Please click [this link for details](#) or scan the above QR Code

## HEALTH

### SANTÉ SERVICES IN JANUARY 2024

*sante*

#### Working Hours:

Monday - Saturday 9:00 - 12:30pm & 2:00 - 4:30pm

#### Tests and Sample collection:

Mon-Fri before 12:00 pm. No sample collection on Saturday.

#### For emergencies, contact:

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

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

<b>Doctor consults with Dr.Senthil:</b> Monday to Friday	<b>Nursing Care:</b> Ezhil, Thilagam, Archana & Sandhya: Daily No appointment necessary
<b>Ayurveda with Dr.Be:</b> Tue/Wed/Fri	<b>Pregnancy Care &amp; Women's Wellness with Paula:</b> Tuesday & Wednesday
<b>Acupuncture with Andres:</b> Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat	<b>Homeopathy with Michael:</b> Mon / Wed / Sat
<b>Integrative Psychotherapy with Juan Andres:</b> Monday to Friday	<b>Physiotherapy with Arun:</b> Monday to Saturday
<b>Functional Medicine with Lize:</b> Wednesday & Friday	<b>Physiotherapy with Rebeca:</b> Mon /Wed /Fri
<b>Bio-Well Assessment</b> (Evaluation of your well-being) <b>with Helena:</b> Inquiry through email ( <a href="mailto:adminsante@auroville.org.in">adminsante@auroville.org.in</a> )	<b>Physiotherapy &amp; Massage with Galina:</b> Monday to Friday

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.**

### AUROKIYA INTEGRAL EYE CENTRE @ ARKA



#### Working Hours:

Monday - Saturday  
 (9.00 am -5.30 pm)

#### Services Provided:

- Emergency eye care services with primary-level care
- Complete eye testing facilities for eye problems
- Follow-up services for surgeries and consultation from Aravind
- Spectacles and contact lenses
- Eye medicines (Homeopathy, allopathy, and Ayurvedic Drops)
- Personal guided support to visit Aravind Eye Hospital for surgeries and procedures
- Personalized eye exercise training, eye yoga sessions, and vision therapy sessions. Both morning and evening slots are available

Contact: [aurokiya@auroville.org.in](mailto:aurokiya@auroville.org.in); [aurokiya@gmail.com](mailto:aurokiya@gmail.com)  
 WA/ Mobile: 8012305151; [www.aurokiya.com](http://www.aurokiya.com)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### PASSIONATE COOK FOR THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

TLC is looking for someone who loves to cook and use local and seasonal produce to create international cuisine. You would lead planning, cooking and service in our educational community kitchen/cafe.

Starting as soon as possible. Maintenance can be offered.

[www.tlcauroville.org](http://www.tlcauroville.org)

Send an email to [tlc@auroville.org.in](mailto:tlc@auroville.org.in) and share a little about yourself.

### FACILITATOR - THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

TLC is seeking a dedicated full-time facilitator passionate about exploring and implementing the principles of integral education within our community. The role involves working with children aged 6 to 14, facilitating diverse pedagogical projects. A period of observation and training is essential before actively engaging with the children to ensure a seamless and impactful educational experience.

[www.tlcauroville.org](http://www.tlcauroville.org)

Send us an email at [tlc@auroville.org.in](mailto:tlc@auroville.org.in) and share a little about yourself.

### FULL MAINTENANCE POSITION OFFERED!



Are you an Aurovilian or a Newcomer with a deep love for animals? Join our team at the Auroville Dog Shelter! We're seeking a compassionate individual to take on the responsibility of caring for nearly 300 dogs. This full-time role requires a commitment of five days a week from 9:00 to 17:00. Alternatively it's possible to split a maintenance between two people.

This isn't just a job; it's the real yoga of work. Understanding its demands, we offer a one-month voluntary trial period before a one-year commitment. With exciting plans for a new shelter on the horizon, become part of our vision to become the best shelter in the entire area, providing effective care and help for every animal in need.

To start this rewarding journey, WhatsApp Arthur at +918122225266.

## ART AND CULTURE

### EXHIBITION OPEN CALL -

10 DAYS LEFT TO SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT

Centre d'Art is pleased to accept submissions of cohesive art projects.

All artists are welcome to submit their projects for an exhibition in the season 2024-2025.

If you are interested please send your submission before 31/01/24 to [centredart@auroville.org.in](mailto:centredart@auroville.org.in) and write "Exhibition Submission" as the subject of the email.

The email should contain:

- Contact details
- A short biography of the artist
- The title of the art project and its explanatory text
- Images of some work in jpg or pdf (max 20 images) in low definition



The selection will be made in February and the decision will be communicated within a few weeks.

Looking forward to receiving your application.

## EXHIBITION IN CENTRE D'ART

### INKY ONKY

By Ongkie Tan  
Centre d'Art, Citadines

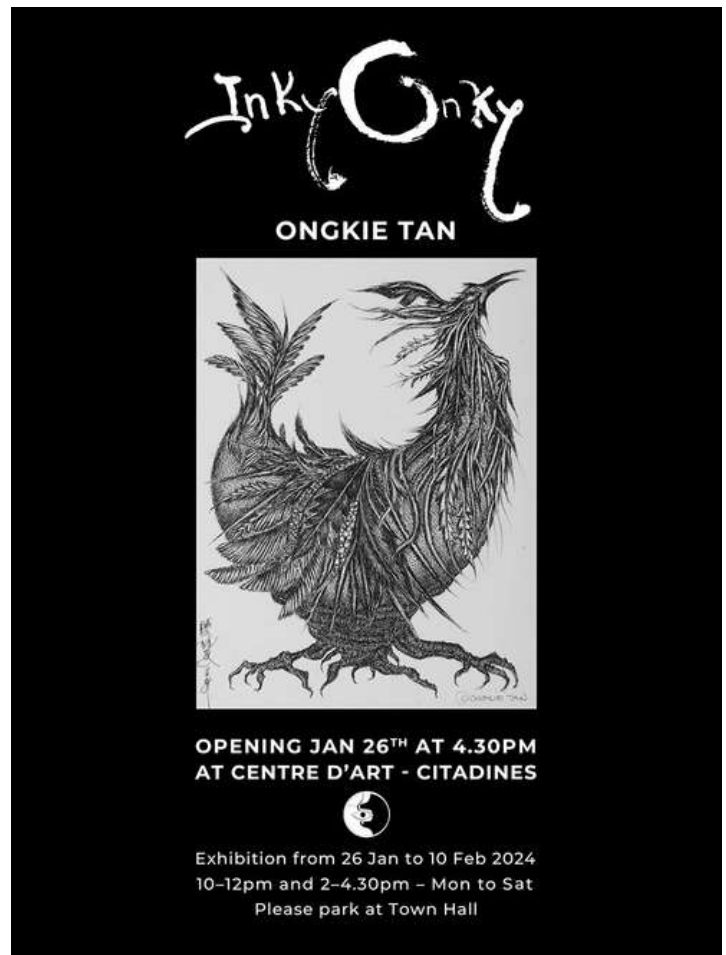
Opening on 26 Jan at 4.30pm

From 26 Jan to 10 Feb 2024

Monday to Saturday, 10–12pm and 2–4.30pm

Inky Onky is an exhibition by Ongkie Tan, showcasing a series of drawings that one can see as a time travel over different facets and stages of his life. His ink drawings reflect his wild imagination around the themes of his muses and passions: family, nature, animals, spirituality and... hair cuts. Ongkie likes to travel light: a paper and a pen are enough to embody his creativity.

In his own words he describes himself as "meticulous to the point of obsession over details that others don't see"; certainly a trait that has contributed to his art, as his fine drawings embody the detailed strokes of nature. Inspired by his early days in Indonesia, where tattoo art and life in the forest were his first source of inspiration, Ongkie's art represents the presence of light and shadow, good and bad, in each of us and in the world at large.



## EDUCATION

### SPOKEN ENGLISH AND HINDI

Hi! My name is Ashwini and I have an experience of 20 years as a Spoken **English, Hindi, Kannada and Marathi** language trainer for all levels. If you are interested in learning one of the above languages either in oral or written form please contact me on my WhatsApp 8270512606.

### TUTION GRADE 1-12

Tuition classes open for students from grade 1 to grade 12. Please contact on my WhatsApp 8270512606. Ashwini





Please remember to put your mobile phones on flight mode and switch off all wireless and Bluetooth devices before you enter the Lab. We are a wireless-free space!

### Something New: Evening Programs!

Starting from **1st February 2024**, we are launching a new experiment. The Language Lab will extend our opening hours from 5pm -7:00pm, Monday to Friday. We will offer special evening programs which will include conversational practice with native language speakers, talks, as well as self-learning and guided study in different languages with our mediatheque. Our regular day-time students could take advantage of these sessions as well. This is to revive an old idea of “language exchange” and “sharing languages”. This program will be free of cost to everyone: Aurovilians, Newcomers, Volunteers, Guests and people from around the Auroville area. The Language Lab has always been open to all and this program will be as well.

Do let us know if you would like to be part of this experiment and what you would like to receive and offer, by sending an email to [info@aurovillelanguagelab.org](mailto:info@aurovillelanguagelab.org) or a whatsapp message to +91 98430 30355.

**Our first full-length publication:** We are delighted to share that our first full-length publication, “From Resonance to Bonding” by Dirk Beckedorf & Franz Müller is now available on Amazon! The book gives an in-depth explanation of the Alfred Tomatis method, its scientific bases, how and why it works, along with detailed case studies. Links below:

- Amazon India: <https://amzn.eu/d/e4jhPpl>
- Amazon.com: <https://a.co/d/cwpVBlj>

**Looking for:** Volunteer (s) capable of reading & writing Telugu, for proof-reading a couple of short documents (that have been translated from English). The work requires 2-3 hours of commitment. We are also looking for volunteer language teachers, someone to help with fundraising, a Computer support person for the mediatheque, an administrative/executive assistant as well as assistants in the Tomatis research centre.



### Volunteering opportunities!



Do You wish to enhance your Auroville experience? Volunteering at the Language Lab can be profoundly enriching.

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

Language Teachers, Fundraiser  
Event Coordinator, IT Assistant  
Executive Assistant  
Tomatis Children's Assistant  
Tomatis Research Assistant

Contact or visit us to find out more and... get started!

We are open Monday to Saturday, 9:00am-12:00pm  
2:00pm -5pm

### Tomatis

#### **There are spaces available for both language & therapeutic programmes!**

Please contact 0413-3509932 or 04132622467 or email us at [tomatis@aurovillelanguagelab.org](mailto:tomatis@aurovillelanguagelab.org) to schedule your Listening Tests & Consultations.

To know more about the Tomatis Method, please have a look at the following links:

- <https://www.aurovillelanguagelab.org/tomatis-method.php>
- <https://www.aurovillelanguagelab.org/tomatis-kids.php>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnpXprTl3m0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeTiG0y-sBMlyyWZNdZcAng/videos>
- <https://www.listenwell.com/>

### Current Language Courses at ALL

Great news for Spanish learners!

Our long-time Spanish teacher, Mila is ready to start a new batch for Beginner Spanish. This three-month (24-hour) course is structured on the highly-acclaimed book, “Madrigal’s Magic Key to Spanish: A Creative & Proven Approach.” Mila has been running this course since many years. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the Spanish alphabet, phonetics, & vocabulary. The course will also delve into verb conjugations, formation of sentences, use of adverbs & adjectives, and work on the student’s listening & reading skills. You are welcome to attend an introductory session on **January 22nd** to know more about the course outline and learning outcomes.

We hope to start **January 24**. We do need to have 6-7 confirmed registrations. Classes will be held **Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30 to 3:30pm**.

#### **New: Beginner Hindi with Rupam**

A native Hindi speaker, Rupam has a passion for teaching which she has keenly pursued over the last several years here at the Lab. Her approach is to make learning easy through games, songs, poems, & other interactive activities. This three-month (24 hr) beginner course is a great introduction to the Hindi language, and intends to make learners comfortable with basic Hindi vocabulary, grammar, and everyday sentences. The course will be paced to align with each student’s comfort! The course will start as soon as we have 4-5 confirmations.

- Classes will take place **Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30am**.

#### **New: French with Jean-François**

Jean-François offers three 2-month courses:

**Beginner French:** This 16-hour course is for all those wanting to join a French course but finding themselves too busy through the week! Our Beginner French Course is deliberately planned for Saturdays! The classes are highly interactive delving into French vocabulary of everyday life and the basics of grammar. By the end of the course, you would be able to make simple sentences useful for interaction, and talk about your work, hobbies, daily life, etc. in a simple way.

This course will start **February 10**. Classes take place **Saturdays, 2:30 to 4:30pm**.

**French Conversation (Post-Beginner to Pre-Intermediate level):** This 12-hour course is for post-beginners with a basic knowledge of French who are not yet comfortable conversing in French. The course will focus on day-to-day topics and will be a good mix of grammar, and interactive verbal as well as written exercises. By the end of the course, the students will acquire a more solid foundation in French conversational skills. All students who have taken Jean-François’s Beginner Course are welcome to join!

This course will start on **February 10**. Classes take place **Saturdays, 10:30am to 12noon**.

**French Conversation (Intermediate level):** For those of you who know a bit of French, this is the perfect course to get more fluent, expand your vocabulary, and speak without inhibition in a diverse & fun group! Each lesson covers a theme of daily life (work, family, hobbies, shopping, projects, etc.) and is aimed at developing the students' ability to express themselves and interact in French. Jean-François would explore a range of topics like food, sports, travel, philosophy, news, literature, economics, social sciences, theater, and more. He will also review the grammar useful for basic conversation.

This 16-hour course will start on **February 5**. Classes take place **Mondays & Thursdays, 2:30 to 3:30pm**.

**French Conversation (Intermediate level):**

For those of you who know a bit of French, this is the perfect course to get more fluent, expand your vocabulary, and speak without inhibition in a diverse & fun group! Each lesson covers a theme of daily life (work, family, hobbies, shopping, projects, etc.) and is aimed at developing the students' ability to express themselves and interact in French. Jean-François would explore a range of topics like food, sports, travel, philosophy, news, literature, economics, social sciences, theater, and more. He will also review the grammar useful for basic conversation.

- This 16-hour course will start on **February 5**. Classes take place **Mondays & Thursdays, 2:30 to 3:30pm**.

**New: German with Ben**

Ben will resume his courses from early February. A native German speaker, Ben has been an online teacher for three years now, giving integration classes and language courses to immigrants from various backgrounds. His first in-person course at the Language Lab was a resounding success! classroom. Ben is a language enthusiast and takes interest in poetry, integral yoga and philosophy. Ben is offering two courses:

**Beginner German:** This 3-month (36-hour) course is structured around the Goethe Institute material and will employ a variety of audiovisual tools and interactive elements.

- Classes will take place **Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:30 to 11am**.

**German Conversation:** This 2-month (16-hour) course is for those who already know a bit of German and would like to further polish their speaking skills.

- Classes will take place **Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4 to 5pm**.

Both courses are open for registrations and will begin as soon as we have 4-5 registrations.

**English Conversation with Ramesh**

Ramesh's next batch will begin February. Registrations open!

**Spoken Tamil with Saravanan**

Saravanan has been running this interactive and practically-oriented course for the past seven years. The class modules are based on a booklet called "Fun with Tamil", which has been put together with a lot of research and thought. By the end of this course, you would be able to converse in Tamil on day-to-day matters, having achieved a deeper understanding of its sounds, pronouns, conjugations, etc.

- Classes will take place **Tuesdays & Fridays, 9:30am to 10:30am**. Course started on **January 23rd** comprising 24 hours of teaching over three months.

**Intermediate Spanish with Susana**

Our long-time teacher, Susana, is offering an Intermediate Spanish course for students who are already familiar with the various verbal modes in Spanish language (Infinitive, Indicative, Conditional, Subjunctive, and Imperative). The course will focus on polishing the conversational skills of the students and will also dive into the rules of grammar. This is a monthly course.

Classes take place every **Tuesday, 2:30 to 4:00pm**.

**Pre-Intermediate English with Rupam**

Rupam continues to offer morning English classes. Her classes are a mix of discussion on current topics, and grammar as necessary. You are welcome to try out a class and see if it fits your needs. However, please note that this is not a drop in/walk in class but is meant for students committed to joining the course.

Classes take place **Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 to 12:00pm**. Enquire now to join!

**If there is a language you would like to learn, and it's not on our list, please send us a query!**

**To join or enquire:**

Please fill out our form at

<http://register.aurovillelanguagelab.org/>

You may also drop us an email at

[info@aurovillelanguagelab.org](mailto:info@aurovillelanguagelab.org),

call us at **2623661** or **come visit us!**

**Please Note:**

Registration and contribution are essential before you join a course with us. Please see our team member at the front desk to ensure this is complete, thank you!

**Current Schedule of Classes**

Language	Level	Time	Day(s) Of Classes
English	Pre-Intermediate & Intermediate	11:00am - 12:00pm	Tuesday & Thursday
	Conversation February 2024	4-5pm	Tuesday & Thursday
French	Beginner To start 10 February 2024	2:30- 4:30pm	Saturday
	Conversation 1 To start 10 February 2024	10:30am – 12noon	
	Conversation 2 To start 5 February 2024	2:30- 3:30pm	Monday & Thursday
Tamil	Spoken Beginner To start 23 January 2024	9:30 – 10:30am	Tuesday & Friday
Sanskrit	Beginner To start January 2024	TBA	TBA
Hindi	Beginner January 2024	10:30am – 11:30am	Monday & Wednesday
German	A1.1 Beginner February 2024	9:30 – 11am	Monday & Wednesday
	German Conversation February 2024	4 – 5pm	Tuesday & Thursday
Spanish	Beginner To start 22 January 2024	2:30 – 3:30pm	Monday & Wednesday
	Intermediate	2:30 – 4pm	Tuesday
Japanese	Beginner To start March 2024	TBA	TBA
Italian	Beginner TBA	TBA	TBA
	Intermediate Started 14 December 2023	3 – 4pm 2:30 – 3:30pm	Monday Thursday
Persian	Beginner To start January 2023	TBA	TBA

The Language Lab is open:  
Monday – Saturday, 9am - 12pm & 2pm - 5pm

Location:  
International Zone, after Unity Pavilion & Pump House.

Contact:  
Phone: (0413) 2623 661, 2622467, +919843030355 Email:  
[info@aurovillelanguagelab.org](mailto:info@aurovillelanguagelab.org)

**POETRY**



The child's eyes  
Pure and bright  
Pull my sight  
From the adult world  
Steeped in right or might.

-Anandi Z.



## DIVINE KICK IN THE BUTT

It's a game!  
It's all a game.  
Life is the Ultimate Game  
Of Kosmic forces and elements  
Both crafty foes and creative allies  
And unwitting onlookers and escapees  
At play since the dawn of whenever.  
To transcend mortality you have to play  
Again and again.  
To play:  
You can either get off  
Or sit on  
Your evolving human butt...  
If you get my drift.  
Ready Player One?  
2018.08.14  
Another karmic consequence,  
Not a personal option  
But a result of Ignorance,  
Is a Divine Kick in the butt.  
Super painful like a lightning bolt  
But effective enough to wake you up  
Ready for the next marvellous level  
Beyond the now boring old mental:  
The Divine Consciousness-Force,  
The Supramental.

Zech, 2024.01.12

## CLASSES, WORKSHOPS & HEALING ARTS

### BODY IN LIGHT, LIFE IN LIGHT: ENERGY HEALING WORKSHOP

FEB 2, 3, 4 (9AM-5PM), IN AUROVILLE

In this 3-day workshop we explore with joy the 3 paths to ascension:

- Healing old pains, patterns and programming
- Aligning to your Divine Essence
- Tuning into mystical moments of realization by stepping into the frequency of the four powers of the Divine Mother: Wisdom, Harmony, Strength & Creation
- Dive into powerful techniques for self-healing
- Explore Fundamentals, Principles and Universal Laws of energy healing

**Location:** Bhumika Hall, Bharat Nivas, Auroville.

**Facilitators:** Sandhya, Energy Healer & Teacher since 25 years.

**Register now:** [contact@auroville-jiva.com](mailto:contact@auroville-jiva.com),

**WhatsApp:** +91 94436 19403.



## VIPASSANA MEDITATION

**Date:** Every Sunday

**Timings:** 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM but you can also drop in and join as long as you wish.

**No registration is required.**

**Venue:** Udavi School (2nd building on the left when you are at the front entrance), near Tank in Edayanchavadi (Auroville).  
Location [here](#).



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



## LETTING LOVE SPEAK: ACTIVATE YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE SHAKTI WITHIN

JAN 21, 9AM-5PM IN AUROVILLE

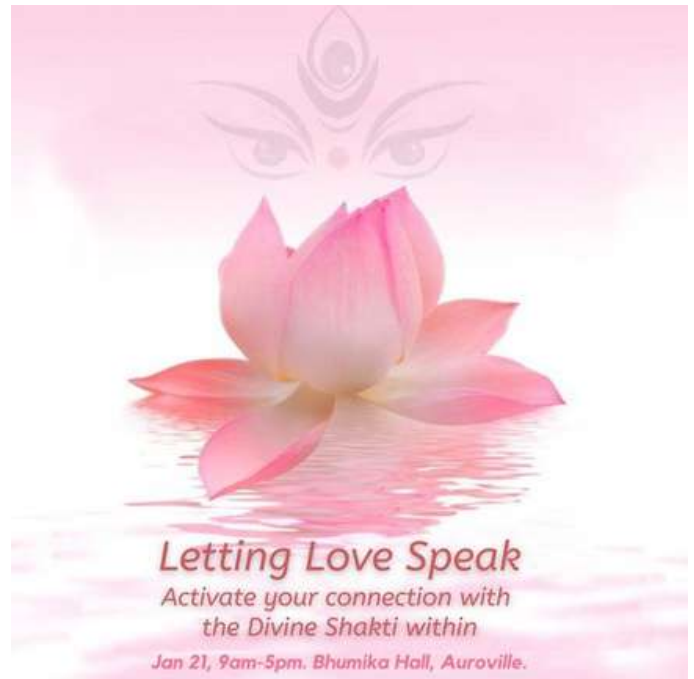
Does your heart long to anchor itself in the universal Love of the Great Mother? In this workshop, we use writing, art and movement as gateways into the Heart, to connect with the four aspects in which the Shakti makes herself known within us: Wisdom, Strength, Harmony and Creation. Discover your personal gateways into Love's infinite field. Shift from fear into the frequency of Love.

**Location:** Bhumika Hall, Bharat Nivas, Auroville.

**Facilitators:** Sandhya & Niharika.

**Register now:** [contact@auroville-jiva.com](mailto:contact@auroville-jiva.com),

**WhatsApp:** +91 94436 19403.



## INTENSIVE WORKSHOP WITH VEGA AND STEFAN AT CRIPA,

4TH TO 8TH FEB 2024, 9AM TO 1PM

Letting go, letting be, letting come.

A journey with and through our emotions



Embark on a transformative self-exploration workshop, delving into emotions and distinguishing current from past baggage. Through powerful exercises like breathing, movement, inner parts work and others, participants will experience a mix of intensities, fostering heightened self-awareness for conscious, authentic choices over impulsive reactions to fleeting emotions.

**Inquiry :** [dancingtree.smile@gmail.com](mailto:dancingtree.smile@gmail.com)

**Registration form:**

[Letting go, Letting be, Letting come - Google Forms](#)

## I JUST WANNA WRITE



**Writing from Within - An exploration of our Inner Worlds through inspiring writing techniques.**

For a session (individual or collective) contact Francesca at [ijustwannawrite.email@gmail.com](mailto:ijustwannawrite.email@gmail.com).

The sessions will take place at the European Pavilion.

Follow me on my new YouTube Channel  I Just Wanna Write



A Gate Of Dreams Initiative

## CREATIVE WRITING SESSIONS ARE BACK

Hello everyone, this is to inform you I resumed the creative writing sessions. I spent a lot of time increasing my knowledge on the subject in the last few years and now I'm ready to come back to those of you who want to develop their creative writing skills.

If you want to know what I do, please check my new brand YouTube channel I Just Wanna Write at <https://www.youtube.com/@IJustWannaWrite-ht9ql/videos> I'm using it to promote my cultural activity, following the path of never ending education.

Also I am publishing the results of some of the writing practices I do on YT in my blog <https://ijustwannawrite.com>

If you want to explore the infinite potential of writing with me, please contact me at [ijustwannawrite.email@gmail.com](mailto:ijustwannawrite.email@gmail.com) to get info and book a session. Individual or collective.

Free contribution from Aurovilians, Newcomers and Volunteers. The sessions will take place at the European Pavilion every Wednesday from 9am to 10.30am. If the timing is not suited to you, we can find another solution.

Please notice these are not meant to be classes but sessions, meaning that you are not compelled to follow a regular class.

I'm also available to give sessions in the schools.

Francesca

## TAI CHI HALL @ SHARNGA

The Tai Chi Hall in Sharnga community offers daily classes, six days a week.

### Mondays & Saturdays:

- 7:30-8:30am Chi
- 8:30-9:30am Form

### Tuesdays - Fridays:

- 7:30-8:00am Chi
- 8:00-9:00am Form

We practice three forms (24, 108 and 127) in the Yang style, as taught by the Inner Way School - Stevanovitch Method ([artduchi.com](http://artduchi.com)). All are welcome to drop in.

**Our next beginner's intensive is from February 12 to March 2, 2024.**

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

## COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP BY VEGA

27, 28TH JANUARY

## Compassionate Communication



JANUARY 27 SATURDAY 9.30 AM - 4.30PM  
& 28 SUNDAY 2PM - 5.30PM  
AT MALOKA (ANITYA COMMUNITY)

This one and half day introductory workshop will introduce the basic components of Compassionate communication, and practice how to apply them in our daily life.

We will explore our patterns and experience to connect from our hearts through different ways.



GIVING AND RECEIVING JOYFULLY



TRANSFORMING JUDGEMENT BLAMING AND CRITICISM TO RESTORE CONNECTION



EXPLORING OUR FREEDOM WHILE NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS



LEARN HOW TO HEAR THE DEEPER MESSAGE BEHIND WORDS

- You can bring a notebook/notepad and pen to journal your insights
- Please come 5min before for registration, so we can be settled before starting and share a safe space together.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED.  
ENQUIRY & BOOKING : VEGA 91 853101 2459



under LEAD, Auroville

## DEEP SOUND BATH IN CREATIVITY

### TIBETAN BOWLS

Hall of Light  
CREATIVITY community

Every Friday  
from 5 to 6:30 PM

Starting from 17th November



**There will be a LIGHT massage by the Tibetan Bowls.**

Lie down, relax, simply allow yourself to experience the ancient sound from the Tibetans bowls.

The practise produce a soothing sound believed to have a powerful effect in the body's energy system, helping to balance the chakras and promote healing.

*"If we accept that sound is vibration and we know that vibration touches every part of our physical being, then we understand that sound is heard not only through our ears but through every cell in our bodies. One reason sound heals on a physical level is because it so deeply touches and transforms us on the emotional and spiritual planes."*

Drop in the Hall, no reservation needed.  
Please arrive 10 minutes before.

Guest 600 rs  
Volunteer 300 rs  
Aurovilians and Newcomers, conscious contribution

Sathyayuga  
WA +917639761930

## PITANGA



### Program in January 2024



### DROP-IN CLASSES *Join without prior registration!*

#### Mondays

7:30am – 9am | **Asanas** with Rachel | All levels |  
8:30am – 10am | **Yoga Therapy** with Gala | All levels  
4:00pm – 5:00pm | **Deep Presence** with Mike S. | *All are welcome to join.*

#### Tuesdays

9 am – 10:30 am | **Iyengar Yoga for the Spine** | with Chloe | All levels  
4:45pm – 5:30pm | **Odissi Dance** with Rekha | Beginners  
3:30pm – 4:30pm | **Body-Music** with Anandi Z. | *All are welcome to join.*

#### Wednesdays

7:30am – 9am | **Asanas** with Rachel | All levels |  
8:30am – 10am | **Yoga Therapy** with Gala | All levels

#### Thursdays

4:30 – 5:30pm | **Aviva Exercise** with Suriya | For women |  
4:30 – 6:00pm | **Vocal Sound Healing** with Lola | All levels

#### Fridays

6:45am – 8am | **Pranayama** with François & Namrita | *For former "The Art of Living" course participants*  
7:30am – 9am | **Asanas** with Rachel | All levels |  
8:30am – 10am | **Yoga Therapy** with Gala | All levels  
3:00pm – 4pm | **Reading of Savitri** with Patricia | *All are welcome to join*  
4:30pm – 5:30pm | **Reading of the Life Divine** | with Balvinder | *All are welcome to join.*  
5:15 – 6:15pm | **Feldenkrais class** with Shari | All levels *starting on 12th January*  
5:15pm - 6-45pm | **FOR GIVING LOVE** with Marie-Claire | A weekly inner dialog to foster your own healing.

#### Saturdays

4:30pm – 5:30pm | **Body Musik** | with Anandi Z. | *All are welcome to join*

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

*These are ongoing educational programs and not intended for drop-in students. If a child is interested, parents need to talk to the teacher before bringing the child.*

**Teen Yoga** | with Lisbeth |  
**Mondays, Wednesdays** | 4pm – 5:15pm |  
**New Auroville school students, 5th grade onwards** can join (sign up with Pitanga reception with your details & contact no.)

**Yoga for children, 5 – 8 yrs.**, with Gala  
Saturdays | 9am – 10am

**Yoga for children, 7 – 9 yrs.**, with Gala  
Saturdays | 10am – 11am

**Energy games for children, 9 yrs. +**, with Gala

### Art Therapy with Gala (with registration)

**Saturdays, 11am – 12pm**

**Thursdays, 3pm – 5pm for adults**

**Friday 3pm – 5pm for families.** (children 5 years and older)

## HEALING SPACE - BY APPOINTMENT

- Acupuncture by Heidi (not from 27. January to 27. Feb.)
- Bio-Resonance (with Bi-Com machine) by Afsaneh
- Chiropractic by Afsaneh
- Thai Yoga Massage by Juan

## NEW ACTIVITIES



### Vocal Sound Healing

Practice and embody the power of the voice, your most potent healing instrument.

The voice is the only tool more powerful than the gong, especially your own voice, because you are self-generating the healing vibrations to shift energetic blocks.

The practice is about opening yourself up to a new way of exploring your voice.

Immerse yourself in this session, discover your own voice, take a step to experiment through sound, music and movement. No experience is needed.

**Every Thursday from 4:30 - 6pm with Lola**



### For Giving Love

Transmuting heavy emotions with Dr Laskow's tools

On Fridays, Marie-Claire invites you to an inner dialogue with yourself that helps you to let go of all heavy emotions and release energy patterns that could otherwise drain your energies.

Dr Laskow's tools guide you through a process of forgiveness to complete your own healing. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting or accepting what has been done. It does not mean loving others, which may or may not happen in the process. It's simply taking back the energy that you have bound up with your feelings about certain people, releasing energy patterns that might otherwise contribute to illness.

**Weekly a session is offered on Fridays from 5:15 – 6:15pm**

This is a drop-in event. No prior registration is necessary. Please arrive on time. Late arrivals cannot be accommodated in the class.



### New Class in February

**"Born Free"** A FIVE HOUR Transformative Workshop with Ange Sabine Blancheflower

"If your Answer to 3 or more of the Following Questions is a YES, Then it would be my absolute pleasure to Invite you to the 5 Sessions, in person Workshop 'BORN FREE'

1. Do you feel dissatisfied in any area in your life? Perhaps you're thinking of making changes in your life but .you have already tried many times without success.
2. Do you have dreams, great goals and ideas on how you would like to live your life but you don't know how to do it?
3. Perhaps you have achieved a lot in life, you have done great things but you feel like you would like to experience more. This feeling makes you unsatisfied and you don't understand how to get rid of it.
4. Maybe you are completely lost in life, you feel stuck in the same place and you start to lose hope that you can change anything.
5. Maybe you study self development and the power of the subconscious. Maybe you have watched "The Secret", you feel that you know a lot about it, but your results in life are unsatisfactory. You don't know how to apply the knowledge you study so thoroughly.

These Five Days could be Transformational to your Life.  
Ange Sabine Blanchflower"

**February, Monday 12th to Friday 16th, | 12:45 to 1:45pm**

If you wish to receive our program of activities by email, please write to us: [info@pitanga.in](mailto:info@pitanga.in)  
See you at Pitanga, with a smile !

Pitanga Cultural Centre  
2622403 / WA 9443902403  
[info@pitanga.in](mailto:info@pitanga.in)

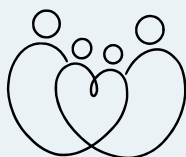
### FAMILY AND SYSTEMIC CONSTELLATION WORKSHOP

**Saturday 20th of January - 9am to 6pm**

Creativity - Hall of Light

Please contact Moghan: 9751110486.

[mehlemmoghan@gmail.com](mailto:mehlemmoghan@gmail.com)



### SELF EDUCATION PROGRAM, 2ND WAVE

Location: Anitya Community Hall

Dates: **Friday 2nd Feb to Sunday 4th Feb**

Registration Link <https://forms.gle/3UH8cGhBYb8auzHS7>, please register by 27th January!

Contact information: [selfeducationauroville@gmail.com](mailto:selfeducationauroville@gmail.com) learn more: <http://tinyurl.com/2chvmmab>

### Self Education Program - Wave 2

A Dreamweaving Initiative

Come join us for an intensive weekend to explore the concepts of 'city' and 'urban life'

We will dive into diverse topics of urban design and planning through games, site visits, art and discussions

To know more, read our [Wave 1 Report!](#)

**Details**

**Location**  
Anitya Community Hall

**Dates**  
Friday 2nd Feb to Sunday 4th Feb

**Registration Link**  
[Wave 2 Registration Form](#)  
please register by 27th January!

**Contact information**  
[selfeducationauroville@gmail.com](mailto:selfeducationauroville@gmail.com)

### CONSCIOUS NATURE IMMERSION AT MAHAKALI PARK

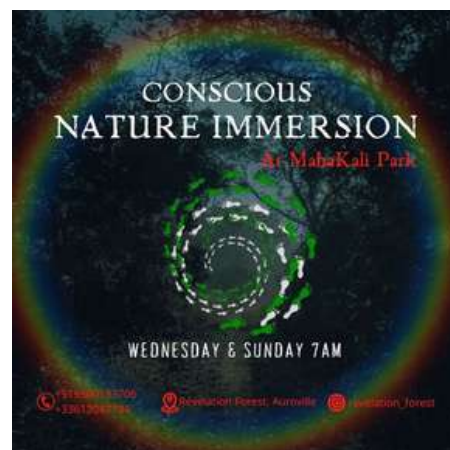
MahaKali Park is one of the 4 parks of Auroville, which is developed as a place for holistic awareness and self-development through nature. Every Wednesday and Sunday, we guide you into an educational and meditative walk in the forest. The historical experience of green spaces in the specific context of Auroville have led to a unique understanding of holistic ecology. Providing a space for a direct connection with the organic "web of life" brings, in turn, insights for our self-study and yoga of work.

**Free.** Contributions accepted for the management of the site. / **Be adequately clad to prevent mosquito bites.** You may also carry mosquito repellents.

**Venue:** Meeting point at Révélation's main gate 5/10 min before the time of the session (Search for "Revelation Forest" on Google Maps)

**Contact:** +919500183706 (Arun). Better to confirm your venue by one WA message, especially if it rains.

**We also custom programs, training and healing sessions on prior demands.** Please note that the park is not yet accessible without our supervision, thank you for your understanding!



## QUIET HEALING CENTER



Quiet Healing Center, Auroville 605 104, Tamil Nadu, India  
[www.quiethealingcenter.info](http://www.quiethealingcenter.info) / [quiet@auroville.org.in](mailto:quiet@auroville.org.in)  
Mobile & WhatsApp: +91 9488084966

### Holistic Hand & Foot Reflexology Training with Ananda Wednesday 24 - Sunday 28 January 2024 (9:30am – 6:00pm: 30 hours)

Holistic Reflexology is a deeply relaxing, healing & balancing tool for body-mind-energy. With meditative presence, loving energy & by activating and relaxing nerve endpoints, lymphatic nodes and energy points in hands and feet, we support harmonizing internal organs, blood circulation, nervous, hormonal, lymphatic systems and boost immunity.

In this training, you'll learn and practice: anatomy of physical & energy bodies and hand & foot reflexology maps; hand & foot reflexology techniques and sequences for organs, nervous, lymphatic, hormonal and energy balancing; lymphatic flush drainage sequence for detoxification; warm-up, self-healing, theory, practice, exchange sessions and integration; meditations to be open channel of presence and loving energy; effective ways to give deep healing sessions effortlessly; client reading and connection, flow, and after session support.

This training is for anyone, who wants to heal oneself, learn an effective art & science of healing and work professionally with Holistic Reflexology, share love and healing touch with family and friends, or is already into healing and aims to make the work more effective and effortless.

**No previous experience required. Certificate upon completion of the course.**

### Watsu® & Meditation with Dariya

Thursday 25 & Friday 26 January 2024 (9:00am – 6:00pm: 15 hours)

Meditation is an important tool to listen, accept and know ourselves, and to become more intuitive towards others. In our understanding, the purpose of meditation is to cultivate presence and peace of mind, which foster possibilities to connect to our unique essence and the world around us. It also encourages the development of our intuition and perception through the heart, while allowing a sharper awareness through the rational mind. This might at times support making choices from a deeper and more authentic place.

Meditation essentially helps to develop our capacity for personal expansion and is the basis for our ability to deeply listen to and be fully present with the person we float during a Watsu session.

**Prerequisites: Watsu® Basic. Certificate upon completion of the course.**

### Watsu® for Babies with Dariya

Tuesday 1 February 2024 (8:45am – 6:00pm: 8 hours)

Watsu for Babies is a beautiful and spontaneous way of experiencing the first childhood years and is open to all those, who would like to feel the joy of being in water with babies.

In this course, you'll discover that emotions arising from spontaneous movements in water open up extraordinary borders; they allow us to be in the present moment, simply listening to the breathing of the baby, while being supported by the healing powers of water.

Through some Tantsu and Ai-Chi exercises on land, you'll start listening to yourself and to the baby you hold in your arms. You'll also learn possible transitions of the Watsu sequence in order to expand it in creative ways for babies. Thanks to the collaboration with Gianni De Stefani, a senior WABA instructor, Dr. Riccardo Palumbo has been able to develop a new massage, which is introduced in this course to bring Watsu into the world of babies.

**Prerequisite: Watsu® Basic or a degree to work with babies in water. Certificate upon completion of the course.**

## Holistic Rebalancing Massage Training with Ananda

Friday 2 - Sunday 11 February 2024 (9:30am – 6:00pm: 50 hours)

This 10-day training offers an intense, effective and powerful rebalancing tool for body-mind-energy through massage and healing touch.

During Module 1, you'll learn techniques from joint release, deep tissue massage, myofascial & cranio-sacral therapy work, Tibetan pulsing, Reflexology, vital Varma points, breath work, and tools for body awareness, in addition to the anatomy of the physical & energy bodies and the five ways of touch to balance the five elements: water, fire, air, earth, and space. You'll also learn how to prepare yourself through yoga practices & meditation and offer effective, deep and professional healing sessions by applying a unique combination of tools with the right intelligence and intuition. Module 2 builds upon the foundation of Module 1, which focused on developing expertise with spine, sacrum and neck, and teaches how to work on the front of the body with sensitivity and care: chest, belly, pelvis, and specific vital internal organs. You'll also learn how to support the body for pregnant woman and physically challenged, get acquainted with more Tibetan pulsing circuits and Varma points to open and heal the energetic & nervous system, with reading various body types according to Ayurveda and choosing the flow of a session and techniques accordingly, thereby offering a nurturing space for deep healing and inner transformation.

This training is for anyone, who wants to heal oneself, learn an effective art & science of healing and work professionally with Holistic Rebalancing massage, share love and healing touch with family and friends, or is already into healing and aims to make the work more effective and effortless.

**No previous experience required. Certificate upon completion of the course.**

## MARTIAL ARTS - AUROVILLE AIKIDO NEWS



Auroville Aikido at AV Budokan (Dehashakti) is happy to share again their **Adults regular schedule for Beginners and others** (with N. Murugan and Surya) for interested people to join this beautiful and complete practice in the form of a Japanese martial art: every **Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday early morning from 6 to 7.30 am + Wednesday 5.15 to 6,30 pm.**

For **children classes** (with Surya, Philippe G. and Cristo) and **other info**, please contact us: [budokan@auroville.org.in](mailto:budokan@auroville.org.in) and 83001 89062 (Surya) - 99528 12843 (Murugan/WA) - 83006 43963 (Philippe/WA). Reasonable contributions required.

## BIO.DECODAGE WITH NADIA

Contact: [nadialabiodstein@gmail.com](mailto:nadialabiodstein@gmail.com)

### EXPERIENCE HARMONY OF SPIRIT AND BODY



Guided by  
**NADIA LABIOD**

(Certified Practitioner)

- in NUTRITION DIET
- WEIGHT LOSS  
Anti-cellulite body massage  
Anti-wrinkles, dark circles eyes massage
- PSYCHOSOMATIC - Bio.Decodage\*\*

#### For appointment

Mobile: +91 9489035457

E-mail: [nadialabiodstein@gmail.com](mailto:nadialabiodstein@gmail.com)

**Bio.decodage decodes:** symptoms of physical, vital, emotional, mental and spiritual disbalance. It reestablishes the original health and well being.



## MINDFULNESS FOR STRESS REDUCTION (MBSR)



### One Week Mindfulness Intensive - 5th-11th February

The MBSR course is considered the gold standard in mindfulness training. This secular course synthesizes the ancient Eastern wisdom on mindfulness with the Western science on stress reduction, positive psychology & neuroscience.

The course has been found to improve participants' ability to cope with the stresses of everyday life - giving space to respond to situations rather than react. It has been found to help with anxiety & depression, to help manage chronic pain & lower blood sugar levels, to improve emotional regulation; increase attention, focus & memory; and plant inner seeds of happiness, resilience, kindness & acceptance.

It is suitable for those new to meditation as well as experienced meditators looking to deepen their practice.

Course timings are **7.30-9.45am Mon 5th Feb - Sat 10th Feb (daily)** and **8.30am-12.30 pm Sunday 11th Feb**. The course will be held in-person (at Maloka, Anitya community).

Places are limited - so registration is required. Whatsapp Helen on 7094753054 for details.

### Monthly Mindfulness Practice Session - 28th January (9.30am-12.15pm)

This half-day retreat provides a chance for you to drop-in to yourself, to unplug from the stresses of everyday life, and shift from doing into being.

The focus of this session will be on 'beginners' mind' which is one of the foundational attitudes of mindfulness. Participants will be guided through a series of practices (in either seated or lying position) along with some gentle movement practices.

All are welcome (no prior experience needed), but it is in-person so places are limited.

Whatsapp Helen on 7094753054 to register.

## SACRED DRUM JOURNEY AT REVELATION FOREST/MAHAKALI PARK



**About the Drum Journey** - Sacred Drum Journey

**Experience:** -Altered states of consciousness, Deep Aura cleansing, Spiritual healing, Connect with your spirit guides and spirit animals

**Facilitator** - Kundhavi Devi

**About the Facilitator** - Kundhavi is a clairvoyant energy healer, crystal healer and Access Consciousness healing practitioner who lives in Auroville, Tamilnadu. She has received intense training in the Shamanic field with a Shaman from Northern Canada.

**Venue** - Mahakali Park / Revelation Forest

**Date** - 20 Jan 2024

**Time** - 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm

**Duration** - 1 hr

**Clothing** - Loose fitting, fully covered to prevent mosquito bites

**Contribution** - Contribution - Contributions are welcome and encouraged. Pay by cash or Gpay at +91 93600 43538

**Registration** - Registration preferred. Walk-ins are also welcome. Please register through whatsapp on Kundhavi Devi - +91 93600 43538



## VÉRITÉ WORKSHOPS AND THERAPY

### Pre-registration required

Please contact Verite @ 0413 2622045, 2622606, 9363624083 or [programming@verite.in](mailto:programming@verite.in), [www.verite.in](http://www.verite.in)



### Self-Awareness & Love with Ananda

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 19, 20 & 21 January, 9:15am – 4.45pm**

*Love and Awareness are two wings of the bird to fly in the open sky of life".*

Simple, practical daily life tools for clarity, flow, health, happiness, peace, & conscious relating.

- Experiential Inner journey retreat for Self discovery & Healing with Awareness Exercises, Meditations, Psychology & Inner Science
- Deepen Body connection, Mind observation, Emotion Exploration & Energy tuning
- Explore needs, assumptions, beliefs, projections & triggers
- Rejuvenate Inner Child, Enhance flow, Enrich presence and Reaction to Response
- Express what is unexpressed, change what is changeable, accept what is not changeable, transform, transcend & evolve with loving awareness
- Simple and practical tools to integrate in daily life for clarity, flow, health, happiness, peace, conscious relating & growth

### Face & Eye Yoga: Face your Self – Mamta

**Saturday, January 20, 2:00pm – 4:45pm**

The physical & mental state of our inner world determines how we experience our outer world. Sense organs are the tools for each experience we have. Face Yoga involves simple self massage techniques & exercises to release tension in the facial area, stimulate blood circulation & improve efficiency of our sense organs. In an era of increased screen time, our eye health may be compromised, unless we actively exercise this area. Eye Yoga uses techniques such as palming, blinking, near & far viewing & candle gazing. You will also learn tips to prevent eye damage caused by screen time.

### Yoga Therapy for Back Pain – with Bijou

**Friday, January 26, 9:15am – 12:00pm**

Stretches, holds and strengthening asanas for the back with crucial attention to right posture, breath, and individual attention to body type to rejuvenate the muscles and alignment of the back muscles and spine. Helps relieve back pains and condition the back against future injuries.

### Master Class - Mantra, Breathing & Asanas for Internal Organs – with Andres

**Saturday January 27, 9:15am – 12:00pm (theory booklet included)**

A workshop to help you understand the relationship between emotions and organs, and the effect of asanas on our internal organs through specific breathing techniques, asanas and mantras that bring equanimity to your emotions and well-being to your internal organs.

## AUROMODE YOGA SPACE

### JANUARY 2024 SCHEDULE

Registrations are a must for all the program.  
Email or WA us, to know about the fees structure and other details.

Contact – email – [balaganesh.siva@gmail.com](mailto:balaganesh.siva@gmail.com) & WA(only) +91 98926 99804



Day	Time	Description
Monday to Friday	11 00 am to 12 00 pm	Mobility with Karlakattai
Every Tuesday	5 00 pm to 6 00 pm	Bollywood Dance for Kids
Every Tuesday	6 00 pm to 7 00 pm	Bollywood Dance for Adults
Every Friday	5 30 pm to 7 00 pm	Vinyasa Flow Asanas
Every Saturday	5 30 pm to 7 00 pm	Vinyasa Flow Asanas
Every Sunday	10 00 am to 12 30 pm	Tamil culture tour & temple visit
Every Sunday	5 30 pm to 7 00 pm	Vinyasa Flow Asanas

## YOGA TTC COURSES

**Auroville Yoga 200 hr TTC schedule**

Timing – 6 30 am to 9 30 am – 3 30 pm to 7 00 pm

Daily Hatha & Vinyasa flow yoga sessions along with Pranayama, Meditation, Kriyas.

Yoga Philosophy of Patanjali and other texts.

Sequencing skills, subtle anatomy, mantra chanting

Not just Asanas, but a complete lifestyle experience in the International town of Auroville.

Discover the joy of a disciplined, sustainable & injury free self practise and gain tools to teach others.

Introduction to Kalaripayatu, Animal flow

Sound healing, Karma Yoga and more.

Internationally recognised Yoga Alliance, USA accredited Certification

**200 hours–22 days– February 1 to 22, 2024**

Contact –balaganesh.siva@gmail.com/WA + 91 98926 99804

**Advanced 300 hr Yoga TTC, Auroville**

Timing – 6 30 am to 9 30 am – 3 30 pm to 7 00 pm

Advanced Hatha & Vinyasa flow yoga sessions along with Pranayama, Meditation, Kriyas.

Yoga Philosophy of Patanjali and other texts.

Sequencing skills, subtle anatomy, mantra chanting

Not just Asanas, but a complete lifestyle experience in the International town of Auroville.

Discover the joy of a disciplined, sustainable & injury free self practise and gain tools to teach others.

Introduction to Kalaripayatu, Animal flow

Sound healing, Karma Yoga and more.

Internationally recognised Yoga Alliance, USA accredited Certification

**300 hours–29 days– March 1 to 29, 2024**

Contact –balaganesh.siva@gmail.com/WA + 91 98926 99804

## YOGA CLASS WITH WALI

**WELL-BEING - YOGA CLASS WITH WALI**

**SUNDAY JAN 21 - 9:30 TO 11 AM**

**FRIDAY JAN 26 - 4:30 TO 6PM**

**STRAIGHTEN YOUR SPINE, BALANCE YOUR MIND & EMOTIONS**

Wali, yoga teacher, is offering 2 classes in Anitya. With Asanas, Pranayamas & Yoga Nidra, you will come out more relaxed, refreshed and energized! For all levels.

Donation based. Min 300 suggested.

Contact Wali for info: 7042565206

Anitya is a community project registered under LEAD, Auroville. Location: Center Field, follow the ANITYA signs after Center gh

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

### ANNAPURNA FARM WALK & VISIT ON SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY, 2PM

Join us on a walk through Annapurna Farm; to meet our dairy herd, learn about our sustainable regenerative farming practices, know where your grains, cheese and compotes come from and the people who grow them.

Kindly write to us: [annapurnafarm@auroville.org.in](mailto:annapurnafarm@auroville.org.in) to sign up (compulsory) and to get the details. Transport will be available.

Aurovilians, newcomers, and long-term volunteers/guests will be prioritised.

**Annapurna Farm**

**Sunday 28th January, 2pm**

**walk & visit**

Join us on a walk through Annapurna Farm: to meet our dairy herd, learn about our sustainable regenerative farming practices, know where your grains, cheese and compotes come from and the people who grow them.

Kindly write to us: [annapurnafarm@auroville.org.in](mailto:annapurnafarm@auroville.org.in) to sign up (compulsory) and to get the details. Transport will be available.

Aurovilians, newcomers, and long-term volunteers/guests will be prioritised.

See you there.

## TLC FRIDAY OPEN SPACES

The Learning Community (TLC) invites all Aurovillians', New comers' and volunteers' children, age 6-14 to join Open Spaces activities, **every Friday, 13:30-15:00 at TLC Base Camp.**  
For more information, contact WhatsApp number: 9442180610 Sashka for TLC open spaces team.

**TLC welcomes all kids every Friday**

**11:00-12:30**  
Nursery  
Open Spaces  
(2-5 yrs)

**12:30-13:30**  
potluck lunch  
At TLC  
Base Camp

**13:30-15:00** Open  
Spaces for kids  
(6-14 yrs)

For more info contact 9442180610

## COME ENJOY PIZZA AT THE YOUTH CENTER!

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS!

Youth Center Auroville

Come join our  
**Pizzeria**

Savor the best pizza at Youth Center! We craft delectable Italian inspired flavours right here in Auroville.

**PIZZA NIGHT**

**FRI - SAT - SUN** **START AT** 07:00 pm - 09:00pm **YOUTH CENTER** Auroville

Friday-Saturday Open to all Sunday Aurovillians, Newcomers, Guests and volunteers

**STAY TUNED**

8428061801 Youth Center International @youthcenterauroville

## "DIVINE ANARCHY" AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN AUROVILLE: AN EXPLORATION



The Pavillon de France presents :

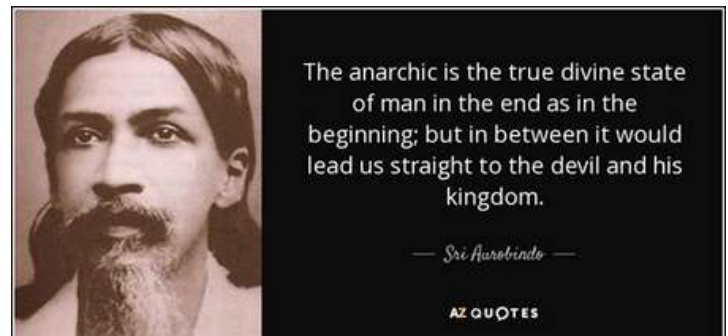
by Rémi Astruc  
Sunday 21st January, 4PM  
Pavillon de France

A series of three conferences to think about the relationship between spiritual and social life, a question which is at the heart of the Auroville experience. This will be explored through the lens of French academics who work in French research or teaching establishments, and who are regularly staying in Auroville or Pondicherry. They will be offered in French and/or in English. First conference, followed by discussion:

**IN FRENCH**  
(we will offer it again in English at a later date)

Divine Anarchy is what Mother said she wanted for Auroville. But people surely wouldn't understand, she added... Even if it's a fairly misleading formula, can we try to understand a little better what she meant? What kind of "anarchy" did she associate with Auroville? What does it have in common with the word anarchy as understood in political philosophy? Finally, how can the 55 years collective experience in the city of Dawn inform us on these points?

Rémi Astruc is a French researcher - Paris-Cergy University, UMR Héritages (CY/CNRS/Ministry of Culture) - who has carried out research on different aspects of Auroville. Last year, during a conference at the French Pavilion, He had shared his research on the aesthetics and beauty of the city ("Eco-poetics of Concrete Human Unity", 2022).



## AUROVILLE: ONE DAY & HALF DAY TOURS

Explore Auroville like never before. We will explore community life from different angles and multiple viewpoints.



We will embark on a journey to see how a community runs, in general and what makes Auroville, a spiritual community or a living Utopia and its aim to constant progress and growth. Come and spend a day with us.

Pre - Registration is required.



Contact us to know more details:

[youthlink@auroville.org.in](mailto:youthlink@auroville.org.in) or WA: +91 85248 25120

Here is the link for the itinerary, fee and other important details:

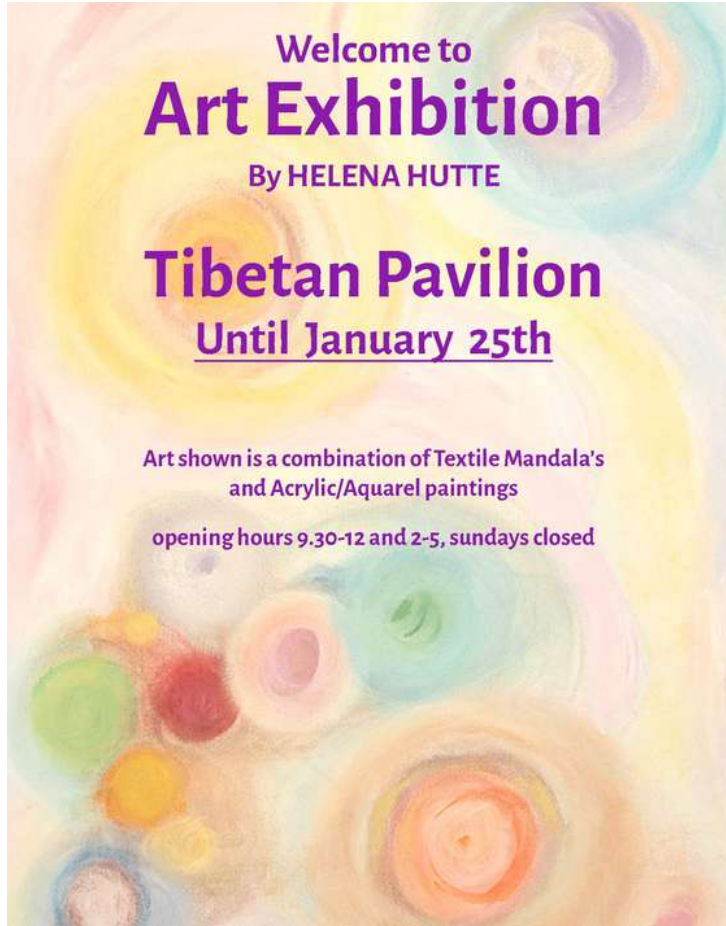
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tGQN BGltSxZKGulpnpwhQTPNaUIAJomDU?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tGQN BGltSxZKGulpnpwhQTPNaUIAJomDU?usp=drive_link) or

[usp=drive link](#) or

please scan this code to know more:



## ART EXHIBITION BY HELENA HUTTE



## RECONNECTING WITH YOUR INNER CYCLE

*Reconnecting with your Inner Cycle Understanding the world of menstruation as a gateway to connect more deeply with your body, your inner power, and to healing the Earth.*

**Eco Femme** invites you to explore...

- Women as cyclical beings
- The empowering world of menstruation
- Learn menstrual cycle tracking to nurture the power of the womb
- Embodied practices to connect with and learn from your body's wisdom (including belly dance steps)
- Eco-Sisterhood through sharing authentically.

**Date:** Jan 25th (Thursday)

**Venue:** Our office in Auroshilpam (Google map us!)

**Time:** 4 to 7 PM

**Cost:** On contribution basis, contact us to know more

**Prior registration required:** (Please email us at [info@ecofemme.org](mailto:info@ecofemme.org) or message us at 9487179556 to register/ask questions)

P.S. Everyone has a woman in their life - men, please don't shy away from joining!



## KARAOKE PIZZA NIGHT



Dear Community,

YouthLink & Youth Centre are thrilled to extend its warm invitation to you for an exciting KARAOKE PIZZA NIGHT Join us for an unforgettable evening where you can sing your heart out while relishing on delicious pizza.

Whether you believe you have the voice of a professional or you're just a shower singer, this event is tailor-made for everyone to come together, have a blast, and foster a sense of togetherness within our community. Don't forget to bring your favorite song to share with us!

Looking forward to seeing you there!



## KUILAI CREATIVE CENTRE

Contact: [kuilaicreativecentre@auroville.org.in](mailto:kuilaicreativecentre@auroville.org.in);

[kuilaicreativecentre.auroville@gmail.com](mailto:kuilaicreativecentre.auroville@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: + 91-8608473385 / 9843195290



செயல்பாடு ACTIVITY	நாள் DAY	நேரம் TIMING	குழந்தைகள் பெரியவர்கள் மற்றும் FOR CHILDREN & ADULT	வயது வரம்பு AGE GROUP ( ONLY 10 TO 20 STUDENTS PER GROUP )
ஆங்கில வகுப்பு ENGLISH CLASS	MONDAY, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY	10 AM TO 12 PM	FREE	ABOVE 18 years
தையல் செயல்பாடு TAILORING ACTIVITY	WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND MONDAY, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY	11 AM TO 1 PM AND 2 PM TO 4PM	FREE	ABOVE 18 years
எனலை இரவு வகுப்பு EVENING TUITION CLASSES	MONDAY TO SATURDAY	6 PM TO 8PM	FREE	From 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade to 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade
உடற்பயிற்சி PHYSICAL FITNESS	SATURDAY	9AM TO 10 AM	FREE	ABOVE 8 years
ஒவியம் PAINTING	SATURDAY	11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM	FREE	ABOVE 8 years
மீள் சுழற்சி UPCYCLING	SATURDAY	2 PM TO 3PM	FREE	ABOVE 8 years
ஹிப்-ஹாப் HIP-HOP	SATURDAY	3:00 PM TO 4:0 PM	FREE	ABOVE 8 years
பரத நாட்டம் BHARAT NAATYAM	SATURDAY	4:00 PM TO 5:00 PM	FREE	ABOVE 8 years
சுமன்சாமி 12 குணங்கள் பற்றிய சாலை. # EXHIBITION ON MOTHERS 12 QUALITIES	வீரலில் - SOON	வீரலில் - SOON	வீரலில் - SOON	

Please click [HERE](#) to see the program in full or scan QR code:

**Keep supporting us!** For your kind donations...

<https://aviusa.org/?form=Kuilai>

<https://auroville.org/page/donate-from-india>

From Auroville: 240051- Kuilai Creative Centre Collection Protection, Auroville, India - 605101,

Contact: +91-9843195290 / 8608473385

[kuilaicreativecentre.auroville@gmail.com](mailto:kuilaicreativecentre.auroville@gmail.com)



## SOLITUDE FARM - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

LIVELY UP YOUR EARTH 2024



Dear Friends,

With just three weeks remaining until our eagerly awaited festival at Solitude Farm, the excitement is palpable!

This event is more than just a celebration; it's a testament to our incredible community spirit. We're thrilled at the prospect of uniting with each of you, sharing in the joy and camaraderie that this festival brings.

There's a plethora of tasks to tackle, and we'd be grateful for any assistance you can offer:

- Assistance with cleaning and setup is crucial.
- We're seeking volunteers to oversee different festival zones, such as the entrance, water stations, and both the main and acoustic stages. If you have experience in stage management, your expertise would be invaluable.
- We're still open to including more stalls and interactive mini-workshops.
- Food preparation and service is a key area where help is needed on the day of the festival.

And that's not all – there are many other ways to contribute!

We're also hosting a cleanup day on January 20th, from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Join us to spruce up the venue, and enjoy a complimentary lunch as a token of our appreciation.

If you're interested in setting up a stall, conducting a mini-workshop, or if you have specific skills in areas like art or project management, we'd love to hear from you.

Please reach out to us at 9843319260.

With Love,

The LUYE 2024 Team  
Solitude farm & café  
Auroville

## AUROORCHARD

 AuroOrchard

### Volunteer and learn farming hands-on!

AuroOrchard is the oldest and one of the largest farms in Auroville, contributing significantly to the food needs of the community.

Join us to learn to work with the soil, plants and food while sharing with a diverse group of people. We offer breakfast made with farm produce.

TO JOIN US, PLEASE CONTACT US  
EMAIL: [auroorchard@auroville.org.in](mailto:auroorchard@auroville.org.in)  
WHATSAPP: 9566631079 (Nidhin)

EMAIL: [auroorchard@auroville.org.in](mailto:auroorchard@auroville.org.in) /  
WHATSAPP: +91 9566631079 (Nidhin)

## CHANTING CLASS - SERENDIPITY

### Traditional Mantras & Stotras Chanting Classes

at Serendipity Community

Thursday 9:00 AM (drop-in class)  
Friday 5:00 PM (regular class)

with Sonia Novaes



Email: [serendipityauroville@gmail.com](mailto:serendipityauroville@gmail.com) / WA: +91 8940288090

## INVITATION TO AUROVILLE'S MULTIDISCIPLINARY IMPROVISATION LAB

AV Improv Lab is a long term project of co-creation, experimentation and learning around performance and improvisation. It was first formed in April 2022.

Together we explore the different aspects of a performance and how we approach and respond to each aspect. This is a project for people who are willing to step out of labels and expertise, and are open to redefine their art while exploring new ones.

AV Improv Lab is open to Auroville residents, long-term volunteers and anyone else who can commit to attending at least one session every week. No fees are involved. The fee is your commitment. Our aim is to provide a safe space for growth and storytelling in the process of creating for performance.

WHERE: **Cripa Small Room**

WHEN: **Every Thursday from 5pm to 7pm**

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,  
Team AV Improv Lab

## THEATRE CLASS


# Theatre Class


Weekly theatre practice for aspiring actors

Improve your acting skills through collective and individual theatre games and a regular and comprehensive acting practice, including work on body, voice and text.

**WEEKLY THEATRE PRACTICE FOR ADULTS**

**FRIDAYS @CRIPA**

 **2:00PM to 3:30PM**  
for Adults

 **4:00PM to 5:30PM**  
for Kids above 9yrs & Adults

**Info & Registration:**

**Celine**  
(Celine Barbara)  
**+918098846079**  
(WhatsApp/Telegram)

## EDIBLE WEED WALKS

It's that time of the year again. Here's the announcement for 12 guided weekly Edible Weed Walks. You can join one or more. For that please plan and register early. The walk will be guided along with the Edible Weed Walk book. If you don't have a copy, you will be able to borrow one during the walk.

Pre-registration and a contribution are required.

The walk for 13th January is now fully booked. But you can register for other Saturdays listed.

RSVP: WhatsApp (only): +91 98409 36907  
or [edibleweedwalk@gmail.com](mailto:edibleweedwalk@gmail.com) to register

Registration (max 10 people) is open until Fridays 4 pm

The location will be decided after registration closes. Just so you know, registered participants will be informed and given directions and other necessary details.

Edible Weed Walk @ NinaS  
[edibleweedwalk@gmail.com](mailto:edibleweedwalk@gmail.com)



Edible Weed Walk @ NinaS

Registration open for the Edible Weed walk on 20 January!  
Let's walk

**EDIBLE WEED WALKS ON FEW SATURDAYS**

From 7:30am to 8:30am (max 8:45am) at a location in Auroville

Contribution :  
Rs. 500/person (for all).  
Rs. 350/person for Aurovilian and SAVI-registered volunteer

Contact, Contribute, and Register (max 10 people) anytime, latest by 4pm on Fridays by  
WhatsApp +91 98409 36907 or  
Email: [edibleweedwalk@gmail.com](mailto:edibleweedwalk@gmail.com)

## BANSURI FLUTE CLASSES

### The Sound of Bamboo

Various Styles of the Indian Flute



Bansuri (Flute) Group Classes With Michael Kalabhumu Music Studio

Every Friday (Beginner: 11am-12pm, Advanced: 12pm-1pm)

Drop in is possible at any time, flutes available to borrow or buy.

#### Contribution:

- Aurovilians, NCs, Volunteers & Local Villagers: Free donation
- Guests: 500 INR

More Info: [www.the-sound-of-bamboo.com](http://www.the-sound-of-bamboo.com)

To Donate: <https://pay.auroville.org/divine-arts>

Learn More About Divine Arts:

<https://auroville.org/page/divine-arts>

About Divine Arts:

<https://auroville.org/page/divine-arts>

## AUROVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN

From the 20<sup>th</sup> of December to the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2024



### Auroville Botanical Gardens

Wednesdays and Fridays - 9.30 am (about 1 1/2 hour walk)  
Be on time - Bring your water bottle and a hat - Meeting point at BG Kitchen  
Please send us an email to: [avbg tours@gmail.com](mailto:avbg tours@gmail.com) to book your walk



## TAMIL & FRENCH NEWS & NOTES

ஆரோவில் தமிழ்ச் செய்திகள்



Click [here](#) to read the Tamil News&Notes or scan the code:

NOUVELLES D'AUROVILLE



Click [here](#) to read the French News&Notes or Scan the QR code:

## TAXI SHARE



### TAXI SHARE 20TH JANUARY TO CHENNAI AIRPORT

To stay ECO ;) friendly am very willing to share a taxi from Auroville to Chennai airport on Saturday 20th January 2024.

Departure from Auroville Town Hall at 7:45 PM (19:45).

Please contact via email: [srimaa221@gmail.com](mailto:srimaa221@gmail.com) or only sms on: +917289907792. Thanksss sunny :)

## AVAILABLE

### MOTORCYCLE AVAILABLE

HONDA UNICORN MOTORCYCLE  
July/2016, Excellent condition  
Call: 9751110486 Moghan



## FO GROUPS NEWS

(not selected by due Residents Assembly process)

## FROM THE FO FAMC AND HOUSING SERVICE - FO N&N 1009

Please click [HERE](#) to read the FO Groups News

## FOODS, GOODS & SERVICES

### AUROVILLE LIBRARY TIMINGS

Auroville Library opening timings:

**Mon - Sat: 9am - 12.30pm**

**Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat: 2pm - 4.30pm**

**Tues: 4pm - 6.30pm**



Every **Saturday** between 10am -11am: **Children's storytime!**

### STUDIO BASED ART THERAPY AND COUNCELING

[tialovesart@gmail.com](mailto:tialovesart@gmail.com) / [www.createandtransform.org](http://www.createandtransform.org)

CREATE AND TRANSFORM

#### STUDIO BASED ART THERAPY AND COUNSELING

individual \* group \* family



Therapy can be creative and non-threatening for help with:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Trauma
- Life Issues

Trauma Informed Art Therapy & Counseling:

- Client Centered,
- Strength Based,
- Solution Focused,
- Incorporating CBT and a creative, eclectic tool box.



**Tia Pleiman, MA, ATR, NCC, LPC**

[tialovesart@gmail.com](mailto:tialovesart@gmail.com)

[www.createandtransform.org](http://www.createandtransform.org)

WA 7094007610

Aurelec, Kulilapalayam, Auroville

### AIRCON CLEAN OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE AIR CONDITIONER CLEANING SERVICE KNOWN AS "JET SERVICE".



The Jet Service includes not only the filter cleaning but also indoor cooling coils, blades, and blower wheels, indoor cooler drain tray cleaning and outdoor unit with AC jet pump.

After a cleaning service your air is fresh and healthy, reducing sickness and helping you live a healthier life.

Save up to 30% power usage with a regular cleaning service.

Contact **AIRCON CLEAN** now at 9786809518 or email us at [airconclean.av@gmail.com](mailto:airconclean.av@gmail.com)

Regards, Julien.

### REPAIR OF AIR CONDITIONERS, FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES AND APPLIANCES

Loganathan working at Mahasaraswati Shop (near PTPS, Aspiration area) is a long term Aurovilian that has gained a lot of knowhow through looking after and repairing all kinds of machines. He happily repairs your machines and appliances.

You may contact him via phone / SMS or whatsapp +91 94434 93025



### WE CAN HELP TO FIX ALL YOUR BROKEN ITEMS

**New Waves**, a unit registered under Kattidakali Trust located in Aurelec Premises, Prayogashala, Auroville is offering the services of **PCB Assembly, SMD soldering, de-soldering and minor repair of appliances.**

The unit can also undertake sub-contract of your production work on job work basis.

If you have any requirements, please contact Dhandapani, Executive at 0413-2622295,

Mobile 9443090082 / 8098193820 or via e-mail to [newwaves@auroville.org.in](mailto:newwaves@auroville.org.in)



### SOLITUDE FARM - 2024

#### Farm



Solitude has a small farm shop which is stocked daily with fresh seasonal produce.

There are also some ayurvedic powders such as giloy or guava leaf and also chilli powder, turmeric, pickles and dried flowers. Solitude also runs a C.S.A. fruits and vegetables basket service where people sign up in advance for a basket of seasonal produce.

- Papayas
- Assamese giant lemons
- Pineapple
- Plantain
- Bananas
- Wild spinach
- Wild salad greens
- Sundakkai
- Banana stem
- Banana flower

#### Cafe

The cafe runs from Monday to Saturday serving a local food vegan thali.

We also serve farm salads, smoothies, desserts, vegan coffee etc...

The cafe runs a lunch scheme.

#### Education

Solitude farm runs mini permaculture workshops during the week (Wednesdays and Fridays) and longer weekend workshops on a monthly basis. Pricing is flexible for Aurovillians.

#### Tour

Every Saturday we offer a free tour of the farm sharing the narrative and philosophy in practice of how a food forest can emerge through natural farming and permaculture.

#### Volunteers

Solitude Farm is happy to welcome volunteers.

Timings 8:00 am -12:30 pm

We offer breakfast, tea and lunch.

#### Opportunities

Solitude Farm Cafe is looking for a serious person to manage the POS and accounts, stock, excels etc for the cafe and farm. Replying to emails and calls.

Solitude Farm is looking for people to help with the educational workshops.

To find out more:

email: [solitudepermaculture@gmail.com](mailto:solitudepermaculture@gmail.com)

whatsapp: 9843319260

Solitude farm & café  
Auroville



## RAPID CARE SERVICES RCS



Dear Residents,

We are happy to announce that **Rapid Care Services** have successfully completed one year. We began operations in December 2022.

It has now been one year since we began serving the community. We take this opportunity to thank all the people who believed in us.

The support offered and shown by our customers played a big role in our growth.

For celebrating our anniversary, we would like to work on a discount basis in our service charges than we usually do for the entire month of December.

To avail this offer kindly take a look at all the work that we offer. Please reach out to us for any enquiries that need our assistance to fix your home or any infrastructure.

Look forward to your continued use of our services in the future.

### Our Services:

- Carpentry
- Masonry - renovations and remodulation
- Plumbing
- Aluminum channel work
- Electrical
- Steel Fabrication work
- Painting - Interior, Exterior, Floor Waxing, Powder coating,
- Insect Treatment
- Fencing
- Washing machine repair & installation,
- A/c repair and installation,
- Inverter repair and installation,
- Dth repair and installation and
- Furniture purchase assistance

Our Works - [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y-nz\\_nyWpX9\\_3NU--wgwcZcgS0bRqEBa](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y-nz_nyWpX9_3NU--wgwcZcgS0bRqEBa)

Best regards,  
Balaji & Arun for Rapid Care

**Contact:** + 91 8270071581 / +91 7639810621

**Email :** [rapidcare@auroville.org.in](mailto:rapidcare@auroville.org.in) ,  
[rcsrapiidcareservice@gmail.com](mailto:rcsrapiidcareservice@gmail.com)

**Instagram** - [https://instagram.com/rapidcare1?](https://instagram.com/rapidcare1?igshid=MmVIMjlkMTBhMg==)  
[igshid=MmVIMjlkMTBhMg==](https://instagram.com/rapidcare1?igshid=MmVIMjlkMTBhMg==)

## SURABHI SUPPLIES

Dear Auroville Community,

**Surabhi Supplies** is dedicated to aiding individual community members, units, and projects in **acquiring a wide range of materials and equipment**, including but not limited to construction supplies, appliances, machinery, and more.



Our service offers several advantages to the community, such as **reduced prices** achieved through **bulk purchases** and **volume-based discounts**. We have established strong partnerships with various manufacturers and dealers who share our commitment to advancing Auroville's development.

Our primary goal is to streamline the procurement process for everyone, thus saving valuable time, energy, and costs while providing a high level of service to the community.

If you have any inquiries, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at:

Email: [surabhisupplies@auroville.org.in](mailto:surabhisupplies@auroville.org.in)  
Phone: +91 98438 46458 (WhatsApp/Call)

Sincerely,  
Surabhi Supplies

ACCESSIBLE AUROVILLE PUBLIC BUS			
			
Auroville TO PONDICHERRY			
	Trip 1	Trip 2	Trip 3
Svaram Musical Center	7:00	8:50	14:50
Vérité Guest House - Junction	7:02	8:52	14:52
Town Hall - Main Parking	7:06	8:56	14:56
Solar Kitchen (Ex 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 Dining Hall	7:40	9:35	15:35
Pondicherry TO AUROVILLE			
	Trip 1	Trip 2	Trip 3
Ashram Dining 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 (Ex Round About)	8:34	12:50	18:44
Town Hall - Main Parking	8:38	12:54	18:48
Vérité Guest House - Junction	8:42	12:58	18:52
Svaram Musical Center	8:45	13:00	18:55
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Rs. 800: Aurovilians &amp; Newcomers, No validity</li> <li>• Student Pass Rs. 1200 per month/ 24 days round trip</li> <li>• Rs. 150 Round trip for Aurovilians &amp; Newcomers</li> <li>• Rs. 200 Round trip for guests</li> </ul>			
<b>Bus passes</b> are available at Auroville Vehicle Service, Town Hall, Auroville, 0413 2623302			

## CINEMA



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

**Reminder: FRIDAY 19th JANUARY, "HOME" by: Franka Potente, Germany, France, Netherlands, 2020**

**Aurofilm will not have a film show on Friday 26th January, enjoy the AV Film Festival 2024; Rendez-vous the week after!**

# AUROVILLE 2024 8TH FILM FESTIVAL

## 8TH AUROVILLE FILM FESTIVAL, 22-28 JANUARY 2024: A REFLECTIVE GATHERING IN CHALLENGING TIMES OPENING ON 22ND JANUARY 5PM AT THE TOWN HALL PLAZA

A project of Multimedia Centre/Cinema Paradiso, The Auroville Film Festival 2024 stands as a contemplative and reflective gathering, and this gathering, which we call a 'festival' in the broadest sense, is an opportunity to pause and look within, to question and understand. It's a platform to explore what human unity truly means amidst global unrest and violence. It's a time to affirm the ideals of Auroville and to actively engage in dialogues that challenge and inspire.

### Film Screenings

This year 22 films by Aurovilians, one film about Auroville, one film by a student of Auroville, and 15 films that tackle themes related to human unity will be screened. The films will be showing outdoors in front of the Town Hall and indoors at Cinema Paradiso from 19.30 daily. In case of rain, the outdoor screenings will move to SAHER Conference Room. The winning films will be re-screened on Sunday the 28th.

The full screening schedule is available in this issue of the News and Notes. It is also available on <https://filmfestival.auroville.org/2024-schedule/>

### Online Screening

All of the Auroville category films and most of the human unity category films are available to be watched for free between 22 and 28 January on Entertainment Oxygen at

<https://app.entertainmentoxygen.com/festivals/aurovillefilmfestival>

How to use the platform:

1. Go to <https://app.entertainmentoxygen.com/festivals/aurovillefilmfestival>
2. Click "Sign up/in" on top right, enter email, follow instructions for verification and return to <https://app.entertainmentoxygen.com/festivals/aurovillefilmfestival>
3. Click "Buy Tickets" and choose "All Access Pass – Free"
4. All films will only be available to watch from January 22 – 28, 2024

### Discussions with Filmmakers

We invite the audience to engage with films, not just as spectators, but as participants in a larger discourse about human unity. For this reason, the festival includes discussions with filmmakers about how cinema can reflect on the time of global challenges. We will meet the day after each screening, to reflect, discuss, analyze, inspire and empower ourselves. The discussions are scheduled for 23rd - 26th January 2024 from 17:00 - 18:00 IST, and 27th - 28th January from 15:30 - 16:30 IST at Cinema Paradiso.

<https://filmfestival.auroville.org/2024-discussions/>

### Kino Kabaret

Film aficionados will have the opportunity to make their own film statement during the Kino Kabaret which will start on Thursday 25th at 16.00 at CaféLe Morgan and end on Saturday 27th with the screening of the newly made films at 16.30 at Cinema Paradiso.

To register for the Kino Kabaret: [kinoauroville@gmail.com](mailto:kinoauroville@gmail.com)

<https://filmfestival.auroville.org/kino-kabaret-avff-2024/>

### Music Events

The Auroville musicians have always supported the Auroville Film Festival, creating the vibrant ambiance that our audiences love. We will have daily music concerts from 18.00 – 19.15.

Participating bands are Auocats, AV Trio, Beginnings, Deep Dawn, Dog Days, Jazztified, Noizegate, Sound Mirage and Ronny's Band

### Art Installations

The festival venue is proud to showcase the work of Auroville artists. The selection is curated by It Matters.

### Dinner

Dinner will be available everyday with pre-booking only. Coupons may be purchased from Thursday the 18th at the Town Hall reception between 9.00 and 17.00. Booking can also be done by emailing [laxmanan@auroville.org.in](mailto:laxmanan@auroville.org.in)

### Parking

Visitors are welcome and are requested to park at the Visitors Centre parking and use local transport options to come to the venue.

### General Information

Website: <http://filmfestival.auroville.org>

Catalogue: <https://filmfestival.auroville.org/2024-film-catalog/>

Schedule: <https://filmfestival.auroville.org/2024-schedule/>

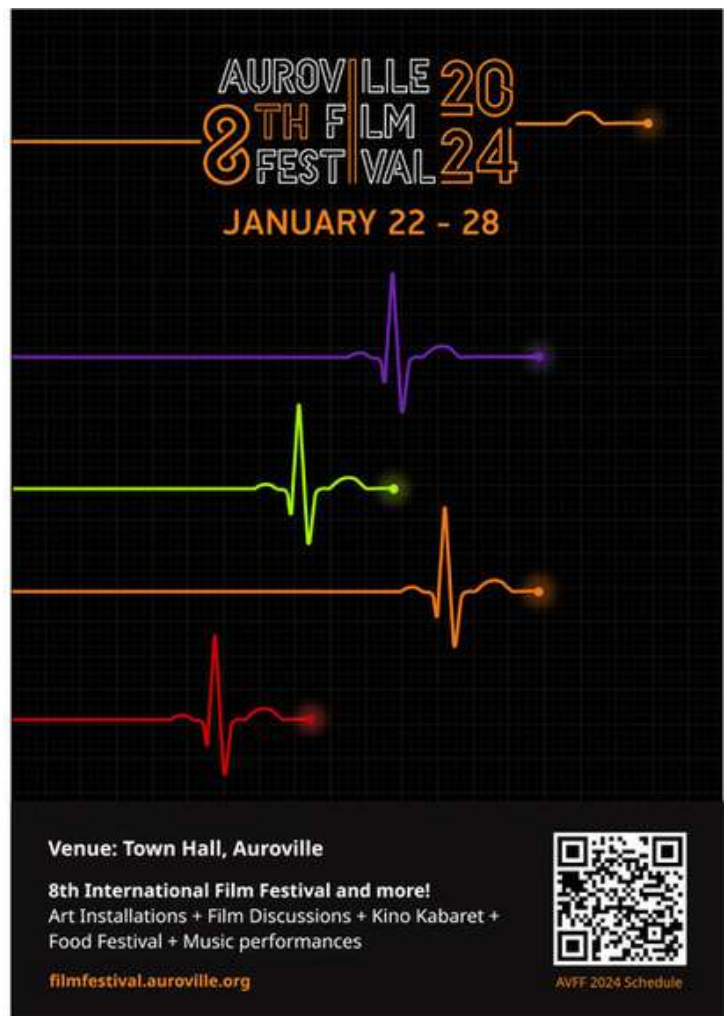
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AurovilleFilmFestival>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aurovillefilmfestival>

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

To register with the Kino Kabaret: [kinoauroville@gmail.com](mailto:kinoauroville@gmail.com)

To book dinner: [laxmanan@auroville.org.in](mailto:laxmanan@auroville.org.in)



### GAUTAM'S PICKS:

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUROVILLE FILM FESTIVAL 2024

Hey peoples!!

So, to get a feel, an "aura" even, of the myriad films in the festival, I took a gander at the Auroville Film Festival website ([filmfestival.auroville.org](http://filmfestival.auroville.org)) and looked at their synopses and trailers and where possible looked up the full films on YouTube.com. Here is my humble selection of the best that the Film Festival has to offer....

The first film that leapt off the screen and tightly grasped my attention was the charming little documentary, "Bangla Surf Girls". This is a story of three slum-dwelling Bangladeshi girls who discover surfing which turns out to be an outlet from the grid-locked rigid societal structure they live in. The film contains a counter-friction, dissent and resistance to the prevailing social mores... which goes to the point of the girls being slut-shamed for surfing.

The three protagonists—the “Bangla Surf Girls”—immediately won me over to their side as I felt an expansiveness with their “escape to the sea”. Poignantly, one of the girls says she is only happy when she is surfing, while the rest of the time she is depressed. The fact that the girls have to battle limiting social pressures is, as an overarching world-building, deftly handled by the documentarian as the central conflict of a well-wrought tale. The girls’ increasing self-confidence and growing prowess at surfing gets us to cheer on and root for these girls as the documentary evolves as a delightful, yet gritty, coming-of-age story.

“Dagh Dagh Ujala” (“This Stained Dawn”) is a timely documentary on feminism in Pakistan, centred around a multi-city Aurat March (Women’s March). The film wishes to portray the combat with patriarchy and orthodoxy, and establish feminine bodily autonomy through the slogan “My Body, My Choice.” What is alarming is the backlash by Pakistan’s extreme Far-Right, which labels the movement as “vulgarity, lewdness, irreligious and heresy.” Shockingly the March is met with counter-protesters who throw rocks at the women. The film provided for me the notion of the dire immediacy of a need for a feminist movement in Pakistan. The film also relays a strong message about the formations of political organizing, strategies and movements, just as the film “The Square” did for Arab Spring in Egypt.

Out of the Auroville entries, which are mostly short films, the movie “Adithalam” (“Basic Education”) hollered at me. It’s a charming low-budget film. The most striking feature is its believability. There seems to be nothing fake or phony about the film, it comes across as genuine and authentic, from the acting to the simple plot to the reality of education in a small backward village. The young girl who plays the protagonist Saraswathy steals the show. Saraswathy struggles with her studies—she is in the sixth standard and can’t even sign her own name. Dismissed from school by the principal, the heart-warming turning point occurs when a dedicated teacher takes a personal interest in teaching Saraswathy. The film ends with Saraswathy not only taking part in an essay-writing competition, but winning it.

“The Clean Up” starts with a whimsical and even incongruous question as a premise: is a clean-up of the mind a prerequisite for the clean-up of a room, or vice versa? This short film is done in an abstract, wordless way with a lot of dancing. The best part of the film is that most of the cleaning has to do with cigarettes!

“Galaxy & Ganesha” consists of various renderings of Milky Way Galaxy-shaped designs, reifying the vision of transforming Auroville’s shape into such a pattern. The technique starts with sketches from tree bark that are rendered Galaxy-like through computer enhanced modifications. The idea is to signify the beauty that is created by the symbiosis between humanity and nature. Pretty brilliant!

Next, we come upon a little gem called “Island Reverie”. It is about a man returning to the island of his childhood and realising that he had never left...the most precious thing for him are the people. The film is so profound with artful gravitas that it can only speak for itself. Just take this line: “The golden light shining from within... revealing the weightlessness of the world.” The takeaway: learn to trust so that you can open your heart to new experiences. A must watch!

“A Maatram” (“A Change”) is a movie in which several lives are intertwined in the course of a day. From the initial few scenes, the film throws hints and suggestions of the connections between the various plot threads, which really are sub-plot threads. Although, I must admit the various sub-plots were not well delineated. In the attempt to “not give too much away”, the filmmakers hold back on the clarity of the intertwined connections. Although the connectivity is revealed in the end, the lack of more being revealed makes the film a little confusing.

“Fallin’”, another short, is through interpretive dance a kinetic expression of what love does, stands for, and means. In the end, however short the film was (five minutes), I had to think: “Okay, that was good.”

A very scintillating documentary on the list is “Aware: Glimpses of Consciousness”. Using premises such as “What is life?”, “What is consciousness?”, “What does it mean to be aware of being aware?”

the film deepens its adventure through the research of six experts in the field. Starting with these basic questions the film unfolds as a compellingly magical entity. The main crux is that consciousness is irreducible and is fundamental, not matter. The argument is that everything, including objects arise in consciousness, and that it is not consciousness that is emergent from the brain. The documentary is an odyssey that tries to portray consciousness as an all-pervading field. It is a journey to the final frontier of science and spirituality themselves—at the confluence of neuroscience, mysticism and metaphysics.

Alrighty then, I saved the best for last: “In the Light of Aurobindo—Plays and Savitri in Auroville”. It is about theatre and the artists involved who perform with devotion in, through and from the plays and the epic poem *Savitri* of Sri Aurobindo. The film delightfully dances with the inward thoughts, feelings and perceptions of the actors as they portray Sri Aurobindo’s works and the actual output on stage. Here, Sri Aurobindo’s work expresses the possibility (and inevitability) of human evolution. One actor cites the very act of performing takes the texts from the mere intellectual to being truly understood. Another says that he had to let go and trust the text. Yet another says acting became an immersion, a stepping into a hallowed, sacred space, which I saw manifested in the clips from the plays. The whole pivot of the documentary is how Sri Aurobindo’s works are purely, beautifully and powerfully put forth transforming the actors, the audience and the very space of the theatre, into a palpable collective experience. The refrain of the “invisible” sticks with me—the ineffability of the works coming to life with the actors as mediums and agents, at the same time, where their inwardness coheres with the collective expression of the piece acted out on stage.

*Hey! My name is Gautam Emani. I moved to Auroville almost three months ago. I love the (once again, brace yourselves) “feel” of the place and find myself connecting with a lot of like-minded people, so I have decided to live here indefinitely. I hold an MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) from New Mexico State University in the US. But please do check out the films I talked about—and as many of the ones I didn’t, as you can. This Film Festival will grant you sheer delight. I promise!*

Peace n Love,  
Gautam Emani

AUROVILLE 20  
20TH FILM FESTIVAL 2024

JANUARY 22 - 28  
TOWN HALL, AUROVILLE

Dinner will be available at the film festival venue against pre-booking. Coupons are available at Town Hall reception (9am-5pm) and by emailing [laxmanan@auroville.org.in](mailto:laxmanan@auroville.org.in)

[filmfestival.auroville.org](http://filmfestival.auroville.org)



## Auroville Film Festival 2024

Cinema Paradiso is proud to organize the 8th edition of the Auroville Film Festival. This year we will screen films in two venues (CP and Outdoors) between 7.30pm and 10pm daily. There will be daily discussions with international filmmakers participating in Zoom; a Kino Kabaret; the much-touted Auroville Food Festival; and music performances every evening between 6pm and 7.30pm. All are welcome. Cinema Paradiso regular guidelines apply.

### AVFF 2024- MONDAY 22nd JANUARY

#### • 7:30PM – All That Breathes

India, 2022, Dir. Shaunak Sen, Documentary, 94 min, Hindi w/ English subtitles

In New Delhi, "All That Breathes" trails brothers Nadeem and Saud, fervently safeguarding the dwindling black kite amidst urban tumult, running an impromptu bird sanctuary. Director Shaunak Sen weaves a gripping narrative of the kites' resurgence, highlighting the brothers' unwavering commitment amidst environmental hazards and societal unrest. The documentary intricately portrays an enchanting story of interspecies harmony, illustrating the heartfelt connection between the brothers and the magnificent birds they nurture. It offers a compelling exploration of coexistence within an ever-evolving urban landscape.

#### • 9:04PM - Sea Change

India, 2023, Dir. Nefertiti Chakrabarti, Short, 3 min, English

The "Sea Change" program serves as an educational initiative delving into the most recent scientific discoveries regarding marine plastic pollution. Through interactive learning materials, including games, experiments, and stories, this program aims to empower children to become proactive change-makers in preserving the health of our oceans.

#### • 9:07PM - Adithalam (Basic Education)

India, 2023, Dir. Yatra Srinivassan, 37 min, Tamil w/ English subtitle

The film "ADITHALAM (Basic Education)" sheds light on the crucial significance of foundational education for children. It follows Saraswathi, a 6th-grade student grappling with difficulties in reading and writing in both Tamil and English. Subjected to humiliation by the headmaster, she struggles with basic literacy until Sumathi, the science teacher, intervenes. Through Sumathi's guidance, Saraswathi gains confidence, ultimately becoming the top achiever in her school.

### AVFF 2024- TUESDAY 23rd JANUARY

#### • 7:30PM - Dagh Dagh Ujala (This Stained Dawn)

Pakistan, 2021, Dir. Anam Abbas, 90 min, Urdu w/ English subtitles

"This Stained Dawn" chronicles the preparation of Pakistan's multi-city Aurat March (Women's March), showcasing the emergence of a feminist movement within the nation's urban landscapes. Through the perspective of the march's organizers, the documentary unfolds the narrative of this assertive movement for gender equality.

#### • 9:00PM - Auroville Exchange: Two Filmmakers. Two Perspectives. One Goal.

India, 2023, Dir. Serena Aurora, Documentary, 15 minutes, English

An exchange program initiated by Auroville in 2021 brought together Lobsang, an environmentalist and filmmaker from Zaskar Valley in Ladakh, and Serena Aurora, a documentary filmmaker from Auroville. This endeavour aimed to bridge diverse communities, cultures, and individuals with Aurovilians, fostering understanding and nurturing human unity. Serving as a glimpse into Auroville's culture for outsiders, it also provided Aurovilians with a chance to learn from unique communities, enriching their global community.

Director Serena Aurora unfolds this initial step towards realizing human unity through shared experiences and growth.

#### • 9:15PM - Siege in the Air

India, 2022, Dir. Muntaha Amin, Documentary, 30 min, Kashmiri w/ English subtitles

"Siege in the Air" explores the lives of women in Indian Administered Kashmir, shedding light on the persistent uncertainty and ongoing lockdowns. Specifically, it focuses on the aftermath of the 2019 communication blockade following the abrogation of Article 370. Through the narratives of these women, the documentary paints a poignant picture of life amidst such circumstances.

### AVFF 2024- WEDNESDAY 24th JANUARY

#### • 7:30PM - In the Light of Sri Aurobindo - Plays and Savitri in Auroville

Auroville, 2023, Dir. Madhusudan Agrawal, Documentary, 31 minutes, English w/ English subtitles

This film documents the spiritual quest of individuals to comprehend and embody Sri Aurobindo's teachings through artistic expressions, particularly theater. Spanning the last two decades, it traces the evolution of these plays while delving into the inner metamorphosis experienced by those involved. Director Madhusudan aims to encapsulate both the external creative process and the internal transformations, hoping to inspire others to explore the profound teachings of Sri Aurobindo through these unique artistic endeavours."

#### • 8:01PM - Fallin'

India, 2021, Dir. Valentina Beatriz, Short, 5 minutes, English

Fallin' depicts the entwined emotions of attraction and repulsion within two dancers, symbolizing the complexities of addictive attachment and codependency akin to the contemporary notion of falling in love.

#### • 8:06PM - Thirai Virutham (Curtain Poesy)

India, 2022, Dir. Sugumar Shanmugam, genre, 56 minutes, Tamil w/ English subtitles

The film explores Therukkoothu, a vibrant folk performing art prevalent in Southern India, particularly North Tamil Nadu. Sugumar Shanmugam, a research scholar hailing from a Therukkoothu family background, juxtaposes Western Acting Theories with Acting Strategies in Therukkoothu, drawing from his personal experiences and explorations.

#### • 9:02PM - The Clean Up

Auroville, 2023, Dir. Rupam Mishra and Pinar Ekinci, Short, 9 minutes

Is the clean-up of the mind the prerequisite for the clean-up of the room, or is it vice versa? It's all about moving towards the guiding light of the divine.



- **9:11PM - Crater**

India, 2023, Dir. Earthling Koushalya, Experimental, 34 min  
A performer caught in a vicious loop of a stereotype cast in the so-called real-world, comforts himself with the solace he receives from another caring soul in and out of reality, memories and imagination.

**AVFF 2024- THURSDAY 25th JANUARY**

- **7:30PM - Solidarity Crime**

Switzerland-Spain-Argentina-Italy-France-Morocco, 2022, Dir. Nicolás Braguinsky Cascini, Juan Pablo Aris Escarcena, Documentary, 55 minutes, Spanish-Italian-French-Arabic w/ English subtitles

"Solidarity Crime" reveals the punitive measures faced by civilians across Europe for providing humanitarian aid at the continent's borders. Filmed across five countries in fourteen cities, this documentary highlights the experiences of individuals dedicated to aiding refugees, shedding light on the criminalization of humanitarianism and its impact on democratic values within the EU.

- **8:25PM - Sędziowie pod presją (Judges Under Pressure)**

Poland, 2022, Dir. Kacper Lisowski, Documentary, 86 minutes Polish w/English subtitles

"They were trained to communicate solely through their rulings, maintain distance, and participate in public life with reserve. However, professional ethics demanded their resolute defense of judicial independence." Kacper Lisowski and Iwona Harris illuminate Polish judges who upheld ethical standards amid challenges to free courts. Figures like Igor Tuleya, Waldemar Zurek, and Dorota Zabłudowska emerged as judge-citizens defending independent courts, alongside prosecutors, lawyers, and civil society.

**AVFF 2024- FRIDAY 26th JANUARY**

- **7:30PM - Iniyān**

India, 2022, Dir. Yatra Srinivassan, Fiction, 38 minutes, Tamil w/ English subtitles

"Iniyān" is inspired by a legend penned by Aurovilian Ruud Lohman. The film narrates the tale of an elderly Tamil man tracing his ancestry to Lemuria, an ancient island civilization submerged beneath the Indian Ocean millennia ago. Iniyān shares with Ruud secrets from the past, foreseeing their connection to the future of humanity.

- **8:08PM - Persona [no] Humana ([Non]-Human Person)**

Spain-Argentina, 2022, Dir. Alejandro Cuéllar, Rafa G. Sánchez, Documentary, 109 minutes, Spanish w/ English subtitles

Sandra and Cecilia, two great apes enduring dire conditions in Argentine zoos, become central figures in a legal battle spearheaded by NGO Proyecto Gran Simio and a team of Argentine lawyers. The objective: to secure recognition of three fundamental rights for these apes — life, liberty, and freedom from torture. Opposing them are zoo managers linked to animal trafficking, motivated by economic interests.

Candela, a photojournalist, investigates to showcase the scientific and evolutionary similarities between humans and the apes.

**AVFF 2024- SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY**

- **16:30 - Kino Kabaret Films Screening (90 minutes)**

- **7:30PM - The Bottle's Journey**

India, 2022, Dir. Jonak Chakrabarti, Short, 4 minutes  
An educational film showcasing the trajectory of plastic waste from inland water bodies to the ocean.

- **7:34PM - Kolam**

India, 2023, Dir. Saumya Srivastava, Experimental, 28 minutes  
Kolam is an experimental art film directed by Saumya Srivastava. This film reveals the hidden pearls of Auroville, an international township which aspires to embody human unity. Prepare to be captivated by a contemplative journey, as Kolam aims to capture the quintessence of Auroville. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Auroville as you are guided to unexpected places through a captivating non-verbal narrative.

- **8:02 PM - When Goupi Met the Mother Mirra Alfassa (founder of Auroville) and Found Home**

India, 2023, Dir. Serena Aurora, English, Short, 7 minutes, English  
In this video, Goupi tells his story about how he met the Mother in the early 1960s. Mirra Alfassa, who founded Auroville in her later years, was a spiritual guru, recognized by Sri Aurobindo as the Mother and became the mother of Auroville. As a young Parisian, Goupi was in search of spirituality and yoga, which led him to the Mother's son in Paris and then ultimately to Mother in Auroville. In 1966, he came for a two-month visit to Sri Aurobindo's Ashram, and then to Auroville, and never left. He had found his spiritual home.

- **8:09PM - Island Reverie**

India, 2023, Dir. Nefertiti Chakrabarti, genre, 6 minutes, English  
After several years, a young man returns to the very islands that shaped him, only to realize that a part of him never left.

- **8:15PM - Jhini Bini Chadariya (The Brittle Thread)**

India, 2021, Dir. Ritesh Sharma, Documentary, 97 minutes, Hindi-Bhojpuri-Hebrew-English w/ English subtitles,

The ancient city of Varanasi, India, serves as home to Rani, an orchestra dancer, and Shahdab, a traditional Muslim saree weaver. Rani, a strong-willed mother to her deaf daughter, and Shahdab, a shy weaver, encounter a new world through an Israeli backpacker, Adah. Rani's complex relationship with her father, Baba, and Shahdab's unlikely friendship with the traveler, pave the way for self-discovery in cultural and political identity.

**AVFF 2024- SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY**

- **7:30PM - Winning Films**

**KINO KABARET**  
JANUARY 25 -27

**Kino Kabaret is back!**  
Are you ready to write, shoot, edit and upload a film within 48 hours?

- A non-stop 48 hours movie production open to everybody
- Subscription, and a more detailed map on 25 Jan at 4pm at Le Morgan cafe
- Starting productions on Thursday 25 Jan at 6pm
- Movies must be uploaded within 27 Jan, 4pm
- Screening at Cinema Paradiso on Saturday 27 Jan at 4.30pm

kinoauroville@gmail.com  
http://www.kinokabaret.org/

**AUROVILLE 8TH FILM FESTIVAL 2024**

## Auroville Film Festival presents

w/ Cinema Paradiso at the Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium  
Film program 22 January to 28 January 2024



### AVFF 2024- MONDAY 22nd JANUARY

• **7:30PM - Two Minutes To Midnight**

Germany-Netherlands, 2021, Dir. Yael Bartana, Fiction, 47 minutes, English w/ English subtitles

"What if women ruled the world?" Yael Bartana explores this query in her performative piece 'Two Minutes to Midnight'. In this scenario, an all-women government of a fictitious country confronts an imminent nuclear threat from a foreign nation, providing a thought-provoking perspective on an alternate reality.

• **8:17PM - The Great Indian Kitchen**

India, 2021, Dir. Jeo Baby, Feature, 101 minutes, Malayalam w/ English subtitles

Following her marriage, a woman endeavors to conform to society's conventional expectations for married women. However, she gradually realizes that this prescribed life is not the one she desires.

### AVFF 2024- TUESDAY 23rd JANUARY

• **7:30PM - Endangered Craft Mela Auroville 2023**

Auroville, 2023, Dir. Nefertiti Chakrabarti, Short, 2 minutes, English

The Endangered Craft Mela convenes local craftspeople and children from Auroville's bio-region schools, fostering creativity and cultural reconnection. This gathering encourages hands-on ingenuity, enabling children to engage with local cultural traditions.

• **7:32PM - Sri Aurobindo & The Earth's Future - PART I: From Darkness to Light**

India, 2023, Dir. Olivier Barot, Documentary, 144 minutes, English w/ English subtitles

This movie chronicles the extraordinary life of Sri Aurobindo, from his birth in 1872 until he arrived in Pondicherry in 1910. It encompasses his upbringing in Calcutta, Darjeeling, and England, his years in Baroda upon returning to India in 1893, his role as a clandestine revolutionary figure, and his full commitment to India's freedom struggle post the Bengal partition in 1905. Sri Aurobindo, an advocate for complete independence from British rule, was labeled 'the most dangerous man' in the British Empire by Lord Minto, the Viceroy of India.

### AVFF 2024- WEDNESDAY 24th JANUARY

• **7:30PM - Meat the Vegan**

Auroville, 2023, Dir. Mélusine Schellenberger, Documentary, 34 minutes, English w/ English subtitles

The film is about Veganism and explores the differences in everyone's eating preferences. The story is told through an exchange between a couple of friends meeting after a long time by means of sharing interviews conducted by a Vegan Aurovilian through her journey of adopting Veganism.

• **8:04PM - A Maattram (A Change)**

India, 2023, Dir. Yatra Srinivassan, Docu-Drama, 23 minutes, Tamil w/ English subtitles

A MAATTRAM (A Change) intricately weaves the lives of five individuals, illustrating their unintentional transformations over the course of a single day.

• **8:27PM - Bangla Surf Girls**

India, 2021, Dir. Elizabeth D. Costa, Documentary, 86 minutes, Bengali w/ English subtitles

"Bangla Surf Girls" offers an immersive portrayal of young girls from a Bangladesh slum who find solace by joining a local surf club, seeking liberation from their challenging lives.

The documentary highlights their journey, struggles, and unwavering determination, culminating in their participation in an international competition in India, showcasing the resilience of community amid the confines of poverty.

### AVFF 2024- THURSDAY 25th JANUARY

• **7:30PM - The Path of the 12 Petals: Shanta, an Initiatic Journey**

Auroville, 2023, Dir. Michèle Decoust, Documentary, 38 minutes, English

"The Path of the 12 Petals: Shanta, an Initiatic Journey" portrays Chantal Gowa's (Shanta) inner calling that led her to Auroville in 1991, originally planned for a brief visit.

Encountering Roger Anger, her paintings caught his attention, leading to her collaboration with him at the Matrimandir and the realization of the Petals. Shanta's mission in creating the twelve Petals spanned thirteen years, unveiling itself as a powerful tool for evolution and transformation. Three decades later, Shanta shares this compelling story.

• **8:08PM - Galaxy & Ganesha**

Auroville, 2023, Dir. Birgitta Volz, Short, 5 minutes, English

"Galaxy & Ganesha" serves as a compelling plea for peace and human unity within the Auroville community. Through Birgitta's evocative imagery, the film showcases the possibility of paradox by crafting the Galaxy from a tree's bark. These powerful visuals provide evidence that nature is alive and willing to collaborate with humanity, urging us to acknowledge and safeguard the planet.

• **8:13PM - Aware: Glimpses of Consciousness**

Germany, 2021, Dir. Eric Black & Frauke Sandig, Documentary, 102 minutes, English-Nepali-Spanish w/ English subtitles (for Nepali and Spanish)

"Aware: Glimpses of Consciousness" transcends its scientific origins, evolving into a contemplative and visually stunning exploration of consciousness. This cinematic meditation navigates the interconnectedness of nature, unveiling its grandeur from microorganisms to the cosmos. Through captivating imagery, it invites audiences to embrace the mystery of life, challenging existing beliefs and embarking on a profound introspective journey, urging the awareness of one's own consciousness.

### AVFF 2024- FRIDAY 26th JANUARY

• **7:30PM - The Miniaturist Of Junagadh**

India, 2022, Dir. Kaushal Oza, Drama, 40 minutes, Hindi w/ English subtitles

In 1947, the consequences of Partition led Husyn Naqqash, an elderly artist, to sell his ancestral home in Western India and move to Karachi, Pakistan. Kishorilal, the buyer, discovers Husyn's esteemed reputation as a miniature painter and a valuable collection within the house. Intent on acquiring the collection, Kishorilal uncovers a secret surrounding it, withheld not only from him but also from Husyn. Introduction by director, Kaushal Oza before the start of the film.

• **8:10PM - Do Not Feed the Pigeons**

UK, 2021, Dir. Antonin Niclass, Stop-Motion Animation, 9 minutes

Set in a desolate coach station during the late hours, "Do Not Feed the Pigeons" portrays a group of weary and isolated travellers awaiting the final coach. Amidst the cold and somber atmosphere, the resident pigeons facilitate a magical connection among these individuals, crafting a fleeting yet beautiful moment of connection and warmth.

**• 8:19PM - The Galaxy Project**

Auroville, 2023, Dir. Song-Wan Park, Short, 11 minutes, English  
The first part of Birgitta's Galaxy Project is an artistic feast of colors and sound projecting us into the universe. It is amazing to see the birth of Birgitta's bark print images, their artistic completion, and their digital evolution into a fusion with the cosmic soundtrack by Caroline Cohen. It is followed by a fascinating explanation of how those magical bark prints manifest. Birgitta's fractal deity images are quite unbelievable and suggest that nature is animated and willing to cooperate with us.

**• 8:30PM - Manikbabur Megh (The Cloud and the Man)**

India, 2021, Dir. Abhinandan Banerjee, Fiction, 96 minutes, Bengali w/ English subtitles  
Shot in artful black and white, "The Cloud and the Man" (Manikbabur Megh) embarks on a surreal and philosophical journey, delving into the life of a recently bereaved middle-aged man. Unfolding unexpectedly, the film navigates his intricate yet profoundly meaningful relationship with a cloud, weaving a tale of introspection and profound connection.

**AVFF 2024- SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY**

**• 7:30PM - The Blue Marble**

India, 2023, Dir. Jeremy Carroll, Short, 4 minutes, English  
"The Blue Marble" encapsulates the journey of a determined girl aspiring to ignite change by disseminating cutting-edge scientific insights on micro plastic pollution. Her pursuit encounters challenges, yet culminates in the revelation of education's transformative potency. Crafted expressly for the Sea Change Education Programme, an initiative by WasteLess in Auroville, partially funded by the National Geographic Society, this film resonates with a message of empowerment and environmental awareness.

**• 7:34PM - Apnea**

Italy, 2023, Dir. Stefano Poggioni, Claudia Cataldi, Elena Poggioni, Documentary, 64 minutes, Italian w/ English subtitles  
"Apnea" intricately weaves together the voices of 14 migrants embarking on a perilous journey: departing their homelands, traversing Libya, and finally arriving in Italy after a harrowing crossing of the Mediterranean Sea. Their collective narratives coalesce into a singular tale, representing the multitudes of stories submerged beneath the waves, echoing the struggles and hopes of countless others.

**• 8:38PM - The Story of Microplastic**

India, 2022, Dir. Jonak Chakrabarti, Short, 3 min, English  
"The Story of Microplastic" is an educational exploration detailing the genesis of microplastics originating from plastic waste. Through concise narration, this film sheds light on the process of microplastic formation, elucidating the journey from discarded plastic to minute particles.

**• 8:41PM - Turning Waste into Money in the Himalayas**

India, 2023, Dir. Serena Aurora, Documentary, 8 min, English  
"Turning Waste into Money in the Himalayas" presents an insightful journey alongside Rohit Joshi, exploring the transformative perspective on waste as a valuable resource. Amidst Himalayan population growth and increased tourism, the film highlights the escalating waste issue and introduces sustainable waste management solutions essential for the region. By showcasing these replicable solutions promoting recycling and profitability, the documentary advocates for a shift from a culture of disposable to one that emphasizes reuse and repair for a sustainable future.

**• 8:50PM - The Cycles of the Mind**

India, 2023, Dir. Alexander Pereverzev, Documentary, 65 min, English w/ English subtitles  
'The Cycles of the Mind' delves into the intricate interplay between cosmic forces and the evolution of human civilization. Unveiling distinct patterns in historical development, the film examines humanity's cyclical journey, determined by the dominance of separating or unifying forces at various epochs. This captivating exploration of history offers insights into our immediate future, offering thought-provoking perspectives on the direction of civilizations.

**AVFF 2024- SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY**

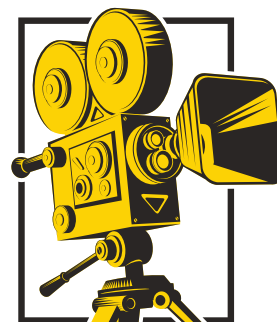
**• 7:30PM - Winning Films**

**AUROVILLE 20TH FILM FESTIVAL 24**  
JANUARY 22-28

**Concerts everyday**  
from Monday 22nd through Sunday 28th, 6 - 7:15 pm

Mon 22/1	The Trio Jazztified
Tue 23/1	Deep Dawn
Wed 24/1	Noize Gate
Thu 25/1	AuroCats
Fri 26/1	Beginnings
Sat 27/1	Dog Days
Sun 28/1	Sound Mirage Ronny's Band Collective Song

Town Hall area - Auroville



**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

**Ambulance (24/7):**

Auroville	PIMS		
9442224680	0413 2656271		

**Security (24/7):**

AV Safety & Security Team	Auroville Police Station	Kottakuppam Police Station	Vanur Fire Station
9443090107	0413 2677318	0413 2236148	0413 2677368

**Health:**

Health Center	Santé	Farewell	
0413 2622123	0413 2622803	8903836246	

**Mental health 24/7 support:**

Vandrevala Foundation +91 9999666555

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