

Auroville

NEWS & NOTES

No 1046 - A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

10 October 2024

RA EDITION



PONDERING

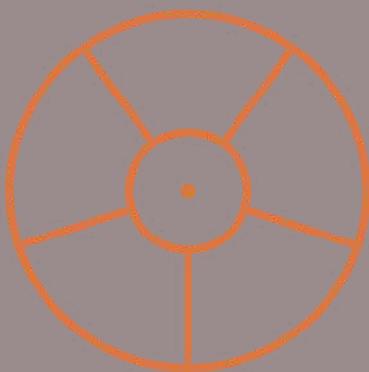
"Because men still imagine that in order to do anything useful, they must gather together in groups. It is the caricature of organization."

It will do, won't it?

World Union!... They really did imagine they were going to make humanity progress!...

But when I tell people that the creation of a city like Auroville has more weight in the earth's history than all the groups of the world, they don't believe me. They don't believe me, to them it's totally unimportant, a fancy. Once I asked Sri Aurobindo, because we had talked about Auroville a great deal, there were lots of difficulties, I asked him, because it was an idea I had – not an "idea" but a need that expressed itself some thirty years ago – more than thirty, almost forty years ago, so I asked him, and he answered me this, which I told you, I think: "It is the best chance men have to avoid a general conflict." There.

~ 25th October 1967



THE MOTHER ON AUROVILLE



First Edition 1977, Reprinted 1993, 1999
© Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust,
Pondicherry, India.
Published by Madanlal Himatsingka on
behalf of
Vak Trust, Pondicherry - 605002
Filmset and printed at All India Press,
Pondicherry - 605001

THE VISION AND THE SOUL

Earth needs

a place where men can live away from all national rivalries, social conventions, self-contradictory moralities and contending religions;

a place where human beings, freed from all slavery to the past, can devote themselves wholly to the discovery and practice of the Divine Consciousness that is seeking to manifest.

Auroville wants to be this place and offers itself to all who aspire to live the Truth of tomorrow.

20.9.1969

*

Auroville:

At last a place where one will be able to think only of the future.

At last a place where one will be able to think only of progressing and transcending oneself.

At last a place where one will be able to live in peace, without conflicts and without rivalries of nations, religions and ambitions.

At last a place where nothing will have the right to impose itself as the exclusive truth.

Jan. 1967, Feb. 1968

*

Auroville wishes to be the cradle of supermen.

*

Auroville is meant to hasten the advent of the supramental Reality upon earth.

The help of all those who find that the world is not as it ought to be is welcome.

Page 1

Each one must know if he wants to associate with an old world ready for death, or to work for a new and better world preparing to be born.

1.2.1972

*

Auroville is the shelter built for all those who want to hasten towards a future of Knowledge, Peace and Unity.

16.3.1967

*

Auroville is the ideal place for those who want to know the joy and liberation of no longer having any personal possessions.

20.9.1969

*

Auroville wants to be a universal township where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony, above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities.

The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity.

8.9.1965

*

*The city the earth
needs.*

Auroville should be at the service of Truth, beyond all social, political and religious convictions.

Auroville is the effort towards peace, in sincerity and Truth.

20.9.1966

*

Auroville is an attempt towards world peace, friendship, fraternity, unity.

20.9.1969

Page 2

The aims of Auroville

An effective human unity

Peace upon earth

*

Auroville aspires for union.

1970

*

Auroville wants to be the first realisation of human unity based on the teaching of Sri Aurobindo, where men of all countries would be at home.

Jan. 1972*

*

AUROVILLE

The city at the service of Truth

Page 3

The Matrimandir will be the soul of Auroville.

The sooner the soul is there, the better it will be for everybody and especially for the Aurovilians.

15.11.1970

*

There is only one Matrimandir, the Matrimandir of Auroville. The others must have another name.

5.10.1971*

*

The Matrimandir wants to be the symbol of the Divine's answer to man's aspiration for perfection.

Union with the Divine manifesting in a progressive human unity.

14.8.1970

*

Laying of the Matrimandir foundation stone

Let the Matrimandir be the living symbol of Auroville's aspiration for the Divine

21.2.1971*

*

Beginning of Matrimandir construction

The fraternity of collaboration.

The aspiration towards Unity in joy and Light.

14.3.1971

*

The Matrimandir is directly under the influence of the Divine and certainly He arranges things better than we could do ourselves.

4 Oct. 1971

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.

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 (RA WCom)
Funds and Assets Management Committee (RA FAMC)
Budget Coordination Committee (RA BCC)
Town Development Council / L'avenir d'Auroville (RA TDC)
Auroville Council (AVC)
Entry Service (ES)

GB groups:

Working Committee (GB WC)
Funds and Assets Management Committee (GB FAMC)
Budget Coordination Committee (GB BCC / GB BCS)
Auroville Town Development Council (GB ATDC)
Housing Service (GB HS)
Land Board (GB LB)

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 donate at this account Nr: **FS #252150**.
- Content sent through @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

Thank you for your continued support!

In community,
The RA Community Edition News and Notes Team

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FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE

ES # 229 DATED: 7-10-2024

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.entryservice@gmail.com.

We thank you in advance.

The Entry Board (Amy B., Don, Fabienne, Grace, Mirco, Sara, Sonja, Vadivel)

AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED

Tara Devi ROY BOCO (Italian) staying in Douceur and working at Little Red Feet (under Morning Star)

LEFT ON THEIR OWN

Sio Man CHANG aka Loretta (Portuguese)

NOT READY TO JOIN

The Entry Board, in consultation with the mentors concerned, has not accepted the following Newcomers joining Auroville. The reasons have been communicated to them.

Punithavathy VENGADESAN (Indian)

Vengadesan NARAYANASAMY (Indian)

NOTE:

- 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.
- The formal administrative step of entering new residents into the Register of Residents (RoR), is done by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation. For this, a B-Form is filled in and signed by the individual and a meeting with the Secretary is arranged by the Entry Secretariat. However, until such time as a new Secretary is appointed, the meetings of Confirmed Aurovilians with the Secretary will be pending.

FROM THE AUROVILLE COUNCIL

WHEN AN AUROVILIAN IS ASKED TO LEAVE A WORK-PLACE

Dear Community Members,

For some time, there has been concern about defining a fair and open process for the dismissal of Aurovilians from their workplace. It is believed that such a process should reflect the values that Auroville holds, as well as being an effective means to ensure that units continue to be functional, efficient, and serve the community.

The Auroville Council, together with previous FAMC members, has worked on guidelines for units and trusts to use when there are difficulties with individuals in the workplace that may lead to their dismissal.

We would like to share [these guidelines](#) to gather feedback from the community. The feedback will be considered by the Auroville Council and integrated as needed, after which the document will be issued as guidance. As these guidelines are issued only for guidance, no formal approval will be sought from the RA for the time being.

Please send any **feedback** to avcouncil@auroville.services by **October 18th**.

The Auroville Council
Lucas, Martin, Ramesh, Samrat, Sathiya

FROM THE WORKING COMMITTEE

CLARIFICATION RE PREVIOUS STATEMENT: 'INFORMATION RE AFSANAH'S GH AND PTPS'

Dear Community,

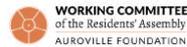
Regarding our massbulletin of 6th September titled 'Information re Afsanah's GH and PTPS', which had two documents attached, we would like to make a clarification.

In the document called 'Afsanah GH Statement' a sentence regarding a loan request being denied to a trustee for his guesthouse was included. Upon further reflection and after a meeting with the concerned trustee and others, we acknowledge there was a negative implication to that sentence being included in this document. This sentence was not relevant to the focus of our statement related to actions regarding Afsanah GH (and PTPS) and we did not offer a chance for the trustee to present their version of that particular situation. The document has now been simplified and updated ([attached](#)) by the guest house team who wrote the timeline of events.

In service,

The Working Committee of the RA

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Matthieu, Prashant (TOS), Valli



LEGAL OPINION RE WCOM STATUS AND LEGAL NOTICE TO GB 'FAMC'

Dear Community,

For your information, we would like to share with you a [legal opinion](#) regarding the current status of the Working Committee of the RA, as well as a [legal notice](#) that has been sent by our lawyer to the GB 'FAMC'.

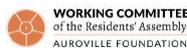
We request anyone who has direct knowledge of the GB 'FAMC' continuing to act in the same manner as before and going against or not respecting points a, b and c in Paragraph 11, to please inform us and share any relevant documentation.

If you have any questions please feel free to write to us at workingcom@auroville.services or visit us during our open house hours from 10 to 12 on Tuesdays (old Koodam office, entrance and parking opposite the Auroville Library).

In service,

The Working Committee of the RA

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Matthieu, Prashant (TOS), Valli



LETTER FROM AVI BOARD TO UNESCO

Dear community,

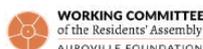
We would like to share with you [a letter](#) written by the Auroville International (AVI) Board to Mrs Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO. This letter, sent on 19th September, aims to update UNESCO on Auroville's evolving situation.

We are deeply grateful to the AVI Board for this beautiful letter, and for their continued support to Auroville and the Aurovilians.

In community,

Your RA Working Committee

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Matthieu, Prashant (TOS), Valli



Please find [HERE](#) the French translation of the AVI letter to UNESCO

LETTER SENT TO 'THE HINDU' RE TODAY'S ARTICLE ABOUT VISIT OF THE GB

Dear Community,

Below is a letter that was sent by us to the editor of The Hindu today in response to an article that appeared in today's edition (pg 2; [article attached here](#)) that was based on a press release from unnamed sources regarding the visit of some members of the Governing Board over the last few days.

In the article it is reported that the GB members met with various 'community groups', specifically mentioning the Auroville Town Development Council, FAMC Working Committee and Land Board. It is also stated that "the visit aimed at fostering dialogue and understanding within the community." We have pointed out that there was no interaction with any legitimate representatives of the community and therefore there was no attempt at "fostering dialogue".

Please take a moment to read our full response, reproduced below.

In community,

The Working Committee of the RA
Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Matthieu, Prashant, Valli**

(**Maël has informed us that he is here on a personal visit for three weeks. During this visit, due to his current visa restrictions, he will not be an active member in our team, and his name will not be included among the signatories of the Working Committee, to avoid any misunderstanding.

We wish him a heartwarming and joyful time with his relatives and friends in Auroville.)

[Letter to The Hindu](#)

To:
Mr. Suresh Nambath,
Editor,
The Hindu, Chennai

Dear Respected Sir,
We were very surprised to read the article "Auroville Governing Board reviews ongoing projects" which was published on page 2 of The Hindu on October 2nd, 2024.

This article is based on a press release which misleads the reader into believing that the small number of residents who met the Governing Board (GB) members are representatives of the larger community. The reality is the opposite and the GB members continue to ignore this in spite of numerous reminders and court orders emphasizing the same. The community and its legitimate working groups were neither informed nor invited to this meeting.

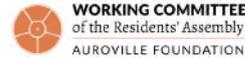
In fact, contrary to what was published, the Governing Board did not meet with the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly selected by the residents according to Section 20 of the Auroville Foundation Act, and did not extend an invitation to meet them. Neither did they meet with the Town Development Committee selected by the residents. Additionally, the current Land Board that met these four members of the Governing Board has been accused of aiding and abetting transfers of Auroville's land without the permissions required under Rule 309 of GFRs 2017, and without following established due diligence protocols. Furthermore, the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Council (2 of the 3 authorities of the Auroville Foundation) have, on several occasions, apprised the Governing Board of approximately 200 crores of loss due to the illegal transfers. The current Funds and Assets Management Committee appointed by the Governing Board was sent a legal notice from the lawyer of the residents' working groups pointing out the illegality of various decisions and actions by them. The Matrimandir lake excavation is planned, funded and forcibly implemented by a private donor, without the agreement of the Residents' Assembly.

There was no attempt at "fostering dialogue" with the Residents' Assembly, as stated in the article. The Governing Board has consistently refused to entertain any discussions with the residents and the working groups of the Residents' Assembly and the claims to move towards "understanding" are untrue.

Therefore, we were extremely surprised to read your article and we ask that in future the views of legitimate representatives of the Residents' Assembly are sought by your respected publication. We are at your disposal to provide any clarifications or more information.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation
(Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Matthieu Gardelle, Prashant Hedao, Valli Senthilkumar)



LEGAL OPINION WITH REGARDS TO AUROVILLE ADMISSION (AKA THE ENTRY BOARD)

Dear family,

We have requested a legal opinion concerning the Admission Committee (aka the Auroville Entry Service). Most readers will be aware that there is currently a case pending in the Madras High Court about a document entitled 'Auroville Foundation (Admission and Termination of Persons in the Register of Residents) Regulations, 2023' published in The Gazette of India by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation on behalf of the Governing Board. While we all await a final judgement on this matter from the High Court, it has granted a stay order. The 3-page legal opinion (which you can read [here](#)), dated 25 July 2024, summarises the matter very well in this final statement:

'Therefore it is my opinion that the Admissions Committee selected by the Residents Assembly can continue to function under the 2020 Regulations subject to any further or other orders passed by the Hon'ble Madras High Court.'

If you want to know more, you can read the above mentioned 2020 Regulations [here](#).

Essentially what this means is that the Entry Board is doing the following:

1. Contacting the current Newcomers for their self assessments, and other documentation
2. Contacting the mentors for mentor reports and final recommendations
3. Scheduling interviews; processing the current Newcomers to complete their process in one way or another
4. Scheduling clarification on Feedback

Until further notice, the Entry Board will not be accepting new applications for any status in Auroville.

If you have any questions, please contact the Entry Service at auroville.entryservice@gmail.com

Warmly,

Amy B., Don, Fabienne, Grace, Mirco, Sara, Sonja, Vadivel
The Entry Board

Ashwini, Lucas, Martin, Ramesh, Rju, Samrat, Sathiya
The Auroville Council

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Mael (TOS), Matthieu, Prashant (TOS), Valli

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

20 September 2024

CLEARANCE IN NINE PALMS FOR DUMPING OF NON-RECYCLABLE WASTE BY ECO-SERVICE

Yet another action carried out without process nor communication. This time the dumping of waste in a high water flow area. Please follow this [link](#) to read the brief report.

in Service,
L'avenir d'Auroville
Anan, Divya L, Dorle, Island, Natasha S, Tom G



REPORT ON LAND CLEARING AT NINE PALMS ON 1 OCTOBER 2024

On the morning of Thursday, 19 September, the Nine Palms Forest Stewards discovered an area that had been cleared without prior notice. The plot in question, identified as IR379/10, covers approximately half an acre. The cleared vegetation included a few teak trees but mostly work trees and planted and naturally regenerated local species of trees, shrubs and vines typical of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF) biome. The area had a tree cover density of up to 85%.

The clearing was carried out to create a waste dumping site, with a hole already excavated. This plot is situated in a highly sensitive zone, being directly above a major water catchment area.

The cleared site is located near the highest point of the Rayapudupakam watershed. The first aquifer lies about 15 meters below the surface during summer. During the monsoon season, the road passing through this plot becomes a river, filling a large dam. Once this dam overflows, the water flows into four other dams before reaching the boundaries of Nine Palms. However, overflow only occurs during particularly heavy monsoons, with most water retained within the area.

The soil in this region has high percolation due to a top layer of sand followed by red earth, a sub strata of pebbles. This particular plot has been part of Nine Palms' agricultural land for the past 25 years, it was once used to cultivate local grains and peanuts. The land has been under Nine Palms' care since the community's establishment in the early 1970s. It remains one of the few fertile plots atop the otherwise gravelly and clay-rich hill.



Figure 1 Plan to locate it on the map



Figure 2 Entrance of site



Figure 3 Overview of site



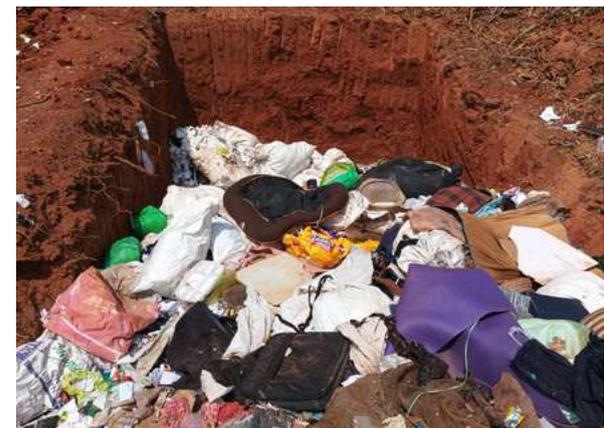
Figure 4 Extra context



Figure 5 Size of some of the vegetation removed



Figure 6 Dumping of waste in the hole



5 Figure 7 Details of waste in the hole

Site Selection

Designating a site as a landfill requires careful site assessment, including the location of the site within the watershed and also the geological strata underneath to check for suitability and to prevent contamination to groundwater and surface water bodies downstream. However, no such process has been followed in the present context.

Impact on the Surface water flow and Groundwater

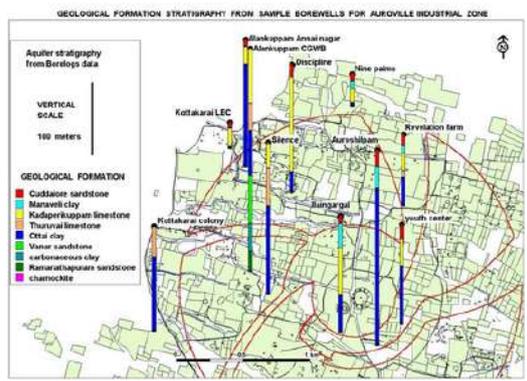
In brief, the site is located on the drainage area of Rayapudupakkam Eri, NW of Nine Palm, and sitting on the main regional aquifer of the area - Cuddalore sandstone, draining in the opposite direction, SE.

The soil is very porous and shows a high infiltration rate, with a visible pebble layer at 3 meters depth.

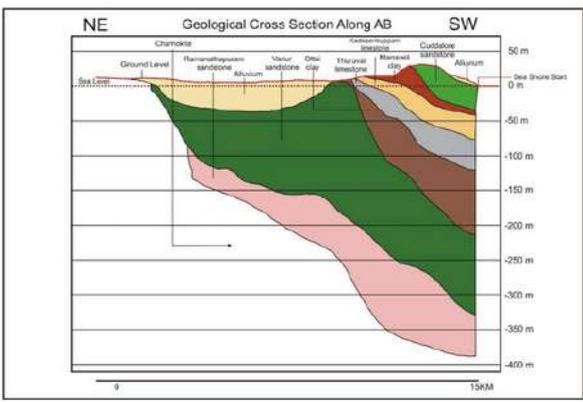
Accordingly, developing a dumping site for waste in this location raises serious concern on risk of surface and groundwater pollution.

Surface water means the potential impact on the land, on the eri and all the irrigated land (Ayacut) depending on this eri. Note that this eri is part of a chain of tank, ending in Kaliveli swamp, recognised by the Government of India as Bird Sanctuary. Disposal of waste in the selected location may pollute the entire chain of tank, Kaluvelli swamp and contaminate the water table. Measures are necessary to prevent pollution transfer through runoff and leaching.

Considering the land's characteristics, the selected site doesn't seem appropriate to host such an activity. Environment concerns will call for a more suitable location, where natural conditions will limit the impact on the water resources. Containment may still be needed but in a much lesser hence more cost-effective way.



For a better view of the maps please see full report [HERE](#)



Updates as of 01 Oct 2024

The first pit was filled with trash and covered with soil. Subsequently, a second pit has been dug adjacent to it and more trash is being piled inside it.



One can clearly see a pebble stratum at 2 to 3 meters depth. The presence of a pebble layer means that the horizontal movement of the groundwater will be very high. This could eventually lead to a groundwater contamination plume towards Revelation Borewell and also the borewell of the Schools in the cultural zone.



Projected Groundwater Contamination Plume



Conclusion

This action is yet again an example where no process is followed and no communication to the public or persons affected occurs. It is understandable that waste needs to be dealt with, but this is certainly not it.



FO GROUPS NEWS
 (not selected by due Residents Assembly process)
FROM THE FO N&N 1047
 Please click [HERE](#) to read the FO groups news

NOTE FROM ALL WG'S TO THE COMMUNITY

"RED ASSETS LIST": NOTE FROM THE RA-SELECTED WORKING GROUPS TO THE COMMUNITY

As has been explained and repeated numerous times, the ongoing road construction project bypasses Residents' Assembly consultation, and very obviously lacks adequate planning and consideration for existing homes and residents' lives, including instances of haphazard trajectory realignment, substandard quality of materials used, and a glaring lack of road construction signs. Unfortunately, this has led to unwarranted destruction that could have been avoided with more thoughtful planning to spare Auroville assets, be it buildings and man-made structures built with permission from previous planning groups, or natural resources and green spaces that should intrinsically be woven into any urban fabric.

There are feasible alternatives that would allow roads to be constructed without impacting our community's assets. We once more encourage a reassessment of the project to explore these options and prevent further damage to the homes and living spaces of all residents of Auroville, and the further degradation of Auroville's community spirit.

It is important to find a balance that respects both development goals and the preservation of the natural environment in which we all live and for which Auroville is renowned. In light of the planetary crisis, it is crucial that development avoids further environmental harm. Sustainable practices must guide urban planning to prevent worsening future challenges.

Participatory planning, involving all community voices, is key to finding solutions that reflect shared values and ensure a resilient, harmonious future for Auroville.

The residents build the city, not the other way around.

in Service

L'avenir d'Auroville (Anan, Divya L, Dorle, Island, Lata I, Natasha S, Tom G)

The Auroville Council (Lucas, Martin, Ramesh, Samrat, Sathiya) Working Committee of the RA (Aravinda, Chali, Ilayabharathy, Matthieu, Prashant, Valli)

FROM RESIDENTS ASSEMBLY SERVICE

THE 1ST RAM (RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY MEETING) REPORT ON THE REVISED MANDATE OF THE RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY SERVICE - CALL FOR FEEDBACK



Dear Residents,

Below you will find the report of the 1st Residents' Assembly Meeting (RAM) that happened on Friday 4th of October 2024.

Day / Date: Friday, 04.10.2024

Venue: Pavilion of Tibetan Culture

Time: 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Attendees: more than 75 attendees (in person), and 24 views online

Facilitator: Jesse

The 1st RAM on this topic was initiated by the Auroville Council, in collaboration with the RA Working Committee, and held by the Residents' Assembly Service (RAS) to inform about and discuss a revised RAS mandate in preparation for the feedback period as a part of the decision-making process.

Please click this link for more details:

<https://mailchi.mp/auroville/ram1-report-ras-mandate-13373582>

... and give your feedback on the RAD proposal

(<https://shorturl.at/g9fuV>): <https://shorturl.at/4SkFT>

Or, please drop by the AVC office (TH, 1st floor) on Tuesday (Oct. 15th, Oct. 22nd) between 10 am-12 pm to hand over your feedback written on paper.

The feedback process will run until 22nd October

You can find the recording of this 1st RAM here:

<https://youtube.com/live/btWt8lbGpLM?feature=share>

Many thanks!

We appreciate all the support of the Auroville Council and RA Working Committee, Auroville Radio, Pavilion of Tibetan Culture and many other groups and individuals who contributed to this RA meeting.

~ Warmly,

For the Residents' Assembly Service
Peter, Tatiana (TOS)



AUROVILLE MEDIA LIAISON SERVICE (AMLS)



INTRODUCING A NEW WAY TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT AUROVILLE



Watch the video [HERE](#)



LEGAL NOTICE SERVED: PROTECTING AUROVILLE'S AUTONOMY



Watch the Video [HERE](#)



AUROVILLE'S GREEN BELT IN DANGER: CONTROVERSIAL HILL PROJECT EXPLAINED



Watch the video [HERE](#)



COMMUNITY SHARING

AUROVILLE DOG SHELTER

RAISING 'HOPE' ONE DOG HOUSE AT A TIME:
YOUTH CENTRE AND YOUTHLINK STEP IN



We are beyond grateful to the wonderful teams at the Youth Centre and Youthlink for their incredible support in building 20 new dog houses for our shelter! With the monsoon fast approaching, and our old shelter overcrowded and in disrepair, these efforts couldn't come at a more crucial time. The situation at the old shelter has become dire, with crumbling facilities and delays in constructing the new Auroville Dog Shelter, largely due to external sabotage by certain individuals. We simply cannot let our dogs endure another rainy season under such dangerous conditions—last year's flooding turned part of the shelter into a lake, threatening the lives of our animals.



To counter this, we have transformed an unused 0.3-acre section of the old shelter, previously overgrown and prone to flooding, into a secure and vibrant space we call "HOPE." After clearing the area of thick undergrowth, we fenced it in and installed drainage systems and a water-holding pond to ensure it remains dry throughout the monsoon. While we've made significant progress, there's still work to do. We are currently working

on dividing the space into large outdoor areas for around 50 to 60 dogs and hope to raise the ground using leftover material from the Matrimandir Lake excavation. This will allow us to plant trees, bushes, and flowers, creating a beautiful and shaded dog sanctuary, where the colorful houses crafted by Auroville's best Youth will be placed.

We're inviting the AV Community to join the "Dog House Painting Workshop" this Friday, October 11th, and Saturday, 12th at Youth Centre from 9:30 a.m. Support us by add the finishing artistic touches to the dog houses!



We also need "plant donations" to bring the area to life with fast-growing trees, bushes, flowers, and plants that

Together, let's give our dogs a safe and beautiful place to call home this monsoon season—a place of "Hope."

As we are running low on funds, we appreciate any financial support. Please consider donating to **FS 251391** or visit our website at www.aurovilledogshelter.com for more ways to help.



COME CHECK ECO SERVICE TREASURES

Dear Community,

We are delighted to offer a variety of valuable items at Eco Service, like plates, PVC pipes, repair materials, mirrors, glass bottles, and much more.



We welcome all recyclers or anyone needing such items to take them anytime from **Monday to Saturday between 10:30 am - 12:30 pm and 3:00 - 4:30 pm.**

It's best to call Sumit at 63796 69034 to confirm his availability before you come by.

See you soon!

[PETITION RESULTS] ✨ PETITION: OBJECTION TO RECENT DECISIONS BY THE 'FAMC' APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD ✨

Dear Auroville Community,

Thank you to all who participated in the [recent petition](#) and also to those who didn't sign but read our communications.

Please find the petition results below:

Please note: We received a number of duplicates and those were removed during the verification process.

Petition Title: **Objection to recent decisions by the 'FAMC' appointed by the Governing Board**

Period: 28/08/2024 - 15/09/2024 (19 days)

Total valid signatures: 540

- YES, I support this petition: 539

- NO, I don't support this petition: 1

- I abstain: 0

Aurovilian: 527

Newcomer: 8

AV Youth (Below 18): 5

Your names will be kept strictly confidential by us and the Working Committee officially selected by the Residents' Assembly (Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Mael, Matthieu, Prashant, Valli) who will be given the results.

We appreciate your untiring efforts to stand for the true values of the City the Earth Needs.

Your participation is not only helping the voice of residents to be heard but also helps fellow Aurovilians who are dedicated to protecting Auroville's raison d'être on a daily basis while their presence in Auroville is being threatened in various ways.

In Community,

Concerned Residents

GREENRIDE CYCLOTHON 2024 - RACE CATEGORY



Please read [HERE](#) the Report on Green Ride Cyclothon - 2024

SACRED SCARAB

I'm sure that many Aurovilians in previous incarnations lived in ancient Egypt. They created in Auroville the pyramid building and sphinx. In Egypt there are mummies of sacred bull Apis and sacred scarab.

Scarab or scarabaeus is dung eater beetle. There are many dung eaters or coprophags in the world. For example, there is a beetle which eats only elephant dung. Coprophags play important role in ecosystems.



English men brought to Australia sheep. It gave a good profit but there was one problem: sheep ate grass but grass can't use sheep's dung. After bringing from England special coprophags for sheeps' dung the balance was returned.

In Auroville there are some coprophags. Nobody paid attention to them. Great naturalist Carl Linney told: "Natura in minimus maxime miranda" – nature in smallest is specially miraculous.

Boris

ON LAND CONSOLIDATION WITHIN THE MASTER PLAN AREA

AN APPEAL TO DIVINITY BEYOND OPINION:

The following is my personal view, which I feel compelled to share after much reflection. My intention is simply self-expression, not to seek agreement, validation, scorn, or corrections. This is not presented as a solution to an issue – it is an appeal beyond the mind, directed toward the reader's nascent sense of divinity. A call from one to the many "so that the new things may manifest and we may be ready to receive them." Feedback that comes from the reader's deeper divine place within will be received with gratitude. Any response rooted in the ego will be disregarded with empathy. Thank you for reading till the very end.

Land consolidation within the Master Plan area over the past 2 years seems to have raised eyebrows. Mine for sure. The method of operation by the office of the Secretary to the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation (AVFO) seems to have been based on aggressive acquisition tactics, often bypassing community consultation, established procedures and undue financial loss. It is safe to say, from their past actions, that they have adopted the belief that the only way to consolidate land within Auroville's Master Plan Area is for Auroville Foundation to own all the land, at any cost. This belief warrants critical examination and redirection. Three key concepts: "only way," "own" and "at any cost" —need introspection.

Only way: In one of the recent community processes that began in 2016/2017, aimed at integrating all possible ways to protect the lands of Auroville within the Master Plan (MP) Area, a task force known as the Land Protection Group was formed by the community. The Land Protection Group is a task-oriented team dedicated to investigating and interacting with agencies and officials to collect, analyse, and inform the community about options for obtaining a statutory legal framework for Auroville's planning and development.

In January 2020, the Land Protection Group shared a comprehensive status report, available on [Auronet](#) which outlined their findings and recommendations. Among at least three feasible ways forward, one notable aim was the "creation of unique statutory land regulation frameworks for Auroville, tailor-made to the uniqueness of the project."

A careful review of this report reveals the colossal work the community has been doing in consolidating the lands within the MP area, even before the current Governing Board and its related bodies came into effect.

Ownership was not the only solution being considered. The community has actively explored various strategies to protect Auroville's lands, emphasizing collaboration, legal innovation, and sustainable development, demonstrating that the path to building Auroville goes beyond mere land acquisition.

Own/Ownership: The Mother always emphasized the importance of relinquishing attachment to material possessions. She stated, "The Aurovillian must lose the proprietary sense of possession..." (refer to point 3 in "To be a True Aurovillian"). Influenced by this beacon of light, the community has cherished a collective value of non-ownership, particularly of immovable assets, such as land and buildings. Those who live on Auroville's land are considered "stewards," not "owners," responsible for caring for the land, or building, rather than possessing or owning it.

While owning all the land within the Master Plan (MP) area of Auroville would theoretically protect it from being used inconsistently with the intended usage as per the MP perspective 2025, practically speaking it is almost impossible to own all of it as nearly 600 acres within the MP Area are occupied by several village settlements and temple lands.

Even though ownership might seem to the current administration as a way to ensure synchronized development within Auroville's MP area, as we can see it is nearly impossible and is coming at a terrible cost, ignoring the fact that other options to consolidate the lands within the MP area still exist.

At Any Cost: The AVFO, with the endorsement of the Governing Board (GB), appears to have adopted a method of consolidating all land within the Master Plan (MP) area based on the belief that the end justifies the means. This approach, however, is causing unparalleled collateral damage. Is it worth it? Let's examine the implications:

A massbulletin dated 08.05.2024 from the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly (RA WCom) reports on land exchanges, stating there have been opaque land exchange processes conducted by the Auroville Foundation's Governing Board and its related bodies, which have led to significant financial and ethical discrepancies and the loss of very valuable lands on state and national highway. Some key concerns are:

1. Lack of transparency in recent land exchanges, bypassing consultation with key committees and stakeholders, especially the community with a lack of assured security for the residents who still live on the land, or may have to be relocated. Reference to the AuroOrchard, Felicity and Djaima land exchange cases.
2. Allegations of undervaluation of Auroville lands, resulting in significant (more than ₹150 Crores or US \$18 million) financial losses.
3. Disregard for established procedures, including independent valuation and government approvals. An RTI request from the RA WCom answered by the Ministry of Education, India, states, "M/o Education has not sanctioned anything related to sales/exchanges/leases/disposals of land to the AVF yet. However, this Ministry has issued Checklist/principles for Governing Board to approve land exchange or purchase proposals." This reply of the RTI was dated 5th December, 2023.
4. Failure to uphold the principles of mandatory community (Residents' Assembly) consultation and adherence to Auroville's founding ideals.



The detailed Land Report by the RA WCom in the month of May, 2024, substantiates these concerns and informs the community of the same.

This method, applied over the past 2 years by the AVFO, of land consolidation raises serious questions about its worth, considering the significant financial losses, lack of transparency, division amongst people, and departure from Auroville's founding principles.

So, now what?

It begs introspection: is there an alternative way to ensure development remains aligned with the MP perspective, even if the land is owned by private owners within the MP area? Is there not a more harmonious and transparent approach that can align with the community's founding ideals and still achieve the aspired development within the MP area?

Building Auroville: A Vision of Unity, Not Ownership at any Cost

Could there not exist another way to build Auroville, the city the earth needs, according to the Master Plan Perspective 2025, which is not necessarily through owning all the lands within the intended MP area. What guarantees Auroville will manifest as a shining example for the world by simply buying or exchanging land at any cost, or by removing private landowners or relocating thousands of people living on and using 600+ acres of village land, temple lands, and outlying Auroville lands?

Can Auroville not be built by the Auroville Foundation exemplifying human unity, uniting, and inspiring private landowners, neighbouring villages, and temple lands while building the city. Wouldn't this approach foster a community based on collaboration, mutual respect, and shared vision, ensuring with more success that Auroville remains true to its founding ideals while manifesting itself in matter?

If anything needs to be "owned," it is the Dream by the non-Aurovilians rather than the land by Auroville Foundation.

Yet, the idea of "consolidating the land by owning the Dream, not the land, regardless of one's Aurovilian status" is daunting for many. This hesitation comes from a lack of trust—a fear that if you don't officially declare allegiance to Auroville by registering as an Aurovilian, you may have vested interests or be seen as using Auroville for personal gain. While this perception understandably exists, we must rise above it. Our true work is to unite people, regardless of their Aurovilian status, through progressive harmony.

Though administrative categorization of the people may be necessary, at the level of the Dream and Human Unity, a diviner law ought to replace such divisions. Auroville is not just an asset to be managed with rules, it is primarily a vision to be realized through a diviner law.

What could be a diviner law of land consolidation?

When it comes to consolidating land in the MP area, the diviner law that ought to guide us shall be shaped by the overarching aim of human unity. Does someone's financial status, race, nationality, gender, or age matter when it comes to bringing people together? Then why should the Aurovilian status be a barrier to consolidating land? Why is a private landowner supposedly less trustworthy than a registered Aurovilian? Can a private landowner not be inspired to "own the Dream"?

To support this greater aim of unity, can we not create practical arrangements that allow private landowners to collaborate with Auroville within a framework (a resolution submitted by the united Auroville Foundation and passed by the Indian government for example), that aligns with the Dream?

We must appeal to the innate goodness in people, even if past experiences may suggest otherwise. People long to be part of something larger than themselves. The real challenge is not just to consolidate land, but to consolidate humanity—to inspire all landowners within the MP area to align with Her Dream.

This is the true experiment we are called to undertake on the ground.

Rising to the Dream

While all this may understandably sound like fluff to many a practical and rational minds, the Dream still calls us to rise to the occasion, yet again, today, beyond and despite our past experiences, to **apply** human unity especially in something as tangible and challenging as land consolidation in the MP area. Instead of fighting humanity to consolidate land, let's consolidate humanity to fight "the past that seeks to endure."

Mandakini Gupta,
Eternity
mandakini.skoles@gmail.com

INNER JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION TO THE INTEGRAL YOGA OF SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER

Tuesday, 15th October, 9 am - 12 noon
Focus: Self-mastery

Led by Ashesh Joshi

Place: Mirabelle Education Centre, Auromodele
Ph/Whatsapp: 94891 47202 (Please register)

All are Welcome



SAVITRI SATSANG WITH NARAD

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 04:30 - 05:15PM

Savitri, this prophetic vision of the world's history, including the announcement of the earth's future.

We will begin with Book 1, The Book of Beginnings, Canto 1, The Symbol Dawn.

At Savitri Bhavan - Square Hall.

OM CHOIR

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 05:30 - 06:15PM

Please join us in this collective aspiration, in the form of united prayer.

No prior singing experience is required.

At Savitri Bhavan - Square Hall.

- Narad.



AMPHITHEATRE - MATRIMANDIR

Meditation at sunset with SAVITRI,
Sri Aurobindo's long mantric poem, read by Mother to Sunil's incredible music.

Every THURSDAY
5.30 to 6.00 pm

(weather permitting)



Enjoy the beautiful open space, 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 to use cameras, i-pads, cell phones, etc. No photos.

Dear Guests, please carry your Guest Card with you –Access only for the Amphitheatre from 5.45 pm and the time of the meditation. Thank you.
Surya, Velmurugan and Vinay

AUROVILLE CONVERSATIONS

AUROVILLE CONVERSATIONS



Submitted by an Aurovillian

FRENCH NEWS & NOTES

NOUVELLES D'AUROVILLE
Auro - Traductions



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

Please find [HERE](#) the French translation of the AVI letter to UNESCO

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

IF YOU REALLY THINK THE ENVIRONMENT IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE ECONOMY TRY HOLDING YOUR BREATH WHILE YOU COUNT YOUR MONEY



Drone picture of the clearing at NFA for The Hill project - October 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS



OBITUARY

BON VOYAGE SOHAM



Soham (Jacques C H Philippeau) came to Auroville in 1987, together with his former partner Djouna. He was in Auroville continuously till he passed away at his home in Transformation on 19th September, 2024, due to cancer. He was 73 years old.

Soham spent some of his younger years in Corsica, on an isolated goat farm, where it was hard to get even essential amenities. He continued this simple life in Auroville. He is known to have been a disciplined and hard worker. As a lover of flowers and nature, he worked for a long time in the Matrimandir Nursery's hibiscus garden, and tended with meticulous care to his own garden in Transformation, sharing his plants and flowers with others.

Many years ago Soham lost his voice due to cancer of the throat and began to feel isolated, and eventually fell prey to depression. He worked on overcoming the instability in parts of his being with the help of Dr. Alok Pandey. One of his carers mentioned that a recent insight of his was that his yoga was a selfish one and that he hurt people because of this. Physically he had to face many difficulties but managed to address his health problems using alternative means, and in the meantime kept his discipline and ability to smile. Soham was a gifted artist.

He showed a deep understanding of mandala symbolism and intricate design. He recently donated his mandalas and other paintings to Art for Land. His paintings can be seen online in the website of Art for Land, artforland.in.



He was immersed in the Mother's and Sri Aurobindo's writings and, at the same time, kept himself informed about what happened in Auroville and the world outside. He occasionally published long extracts from Sri Aurobindo's works in the weekly News & Notes, adding his -- equally long -- unusual comments and distinctive views about Auroville and the world to it. During his last few months, Soham volunteered and was happy to do shopping for Mahalakshmi Home.

His neighbour of many years, Hans van Baaren, wrote the following heartfelt message:

"There is a wonder to have been a witness to your life, Soham. You had many adventures and trials and tribulations. You are a great soul and a warrior to have gone through so many physical hardships. And often with a total dedication and a smile. It was amazing to have known you. Bon voyage."

Written by Annemarie, with inputs from Hans, Mauna, Guy R. and Paula.



IN MEMORIAM:

MAGGI LIDCHI-GRASSI (1930-2024)

We regret to inform the Auroville community of the passing of Maggi Lidchi-Grassi, an esteemed Friend of Auroville, who passed away on the 30th of September 2024, in the early hours of the morning at her residence behind Fertile, at the age of 94.



Maggi was born in Paris on the 9th of May 1930. She first visited the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1959 and settled there permanently in 1960. She was well-known as an author of works such as Earthman, First Wife, Great Sir and Heavenly Lady, The Great Golden Sacrifice of the Mahabharata, and The Light That Shone into the Dark Abyss. She also founded Domani, an Italian magazine where the teachings of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo were shared. Additionally, she was actively involved in the publication of World Union, the Ashram's magazine.

Beyond her literary contributions, Maggi is remembered as a homeopath and as Mother's secretary. She was responsible for taking letters from Aurovilians to the Mother, arranging appointments for those who wished to meet with Her, and maintaining the birth records for children born in Auroville after Mother's passing.

Maggi also had the honor of being one of the voices to read Auroville's Charter during the inauguration ceremony on the 28th of February 1968.

A devoted follower of the Mother, Maggi played an important role in Auroville's early developments. Together with Nata, she prepared the amphitheater for the inauguration ceremony, while Vincenzo prepared the urn. She and Nata also co-founded Auroshika, an incense-making unit in Edayanchavadi, and later, they established Udavi, initially a school for the children of the women working at Auroshika. Over the years, Udavi has grown into a well-established and recognized school in the community.

Maggi also started the very first Free-Store within the grocery shop that Nata had set up in Edayanchavadi. She later founded the Quiet Healing Center and, more recently, was working on a new project called Stillness—a retreat center she was developing with her companion and partner, Surakshita.

Guna (from Avdesign) has been an incredible loyal support acting as a son for many years.

Rajsekar (Growing Towards Foundation) has been an incredible pillar.

Her Companion Surakshita.

Her children- Rani, Ishita, Xavier, Tiffy, and Parasu.

Her grandchildren - Florian, Ayesha, Noémie, Emma and Aria.

And all of her Friends, heart and soul Family, collaborators and partners will miss her dearly but trust that she is with Mother, going on with Her work.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

HOUSEKEEPER LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK

Renuka, a great housekeeper, is looking for part-time work in the afternoons from **1-4pm**. She has extensive experience working in Auroville, is meticulous, dependable and has a wonderful personality. She is great with children and is very responsible. Please call or message her daughter Poovizhi (9047247301) or Ribhu (9488483871) for more information.



Thank you.

ECO FEMME IS LOOKING FOR VIDEO EDITOR/ CONTENT CREATOR

Eco Femme is looking for a passionate Video Editor / Content Creator to join our team part-time. If you are driven by the idea of producing impactful content that reflects our brand values of sustainability and empowerment, we'd love to hear from you.

In this role, you will be responsible for shooting and editing video content (both short and long form) for our social media channels and website, as per ideas and guidance from the Communications Team Leader.

Proven experience required:

- 1+ years of experience in film-making and editing for social media platforms
- Strong video editing skills using tools like Adobe Premier, Final Cut Pro, or mobile editing apps
- Basic understanding of graphic design principles
- Familiarity with Google Drive Suite
- Competent written and verbal English

We are based in Auroshilpam. Starting date: Immediate, this position requires the candidate to be present at our office on a daily basis.

For more detailed information and applications, please write to maha@ecofemme.org with your updated CV. Looking forward to hearing from you!

ECO FEMME IS LOOKING FOR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT MANAGER:

Eco Femme is looking for a creative individual to join our team as a Part Time Social Media Account Manager. If you're passionate about making a positive social impact, love working across a range of social media platforms and skilled in coordination and organization, this may be your ideal role!

Proven experience required:

- 1+ year experience in account management of Instagram, Facebook and YouTube
- Word press (website updates)
- Google Drive suite
- Graphic / aesthetic sensitivity
- Competent written and verbal English

We are based in Auroshilpam. Starting date: Immediate.

For more detailed information and applications, please write to maha@ecofemme.org with your updated CV. Looking forward to hearing from you!

eco•femme

"Revaluing menstruation: because Life depends on it "

AVAILABLE

2 HUGE FRAMES TO GIVE

I have 2 huge art frames to give (extra strong, but heavy).

One is **129 x 115 cm** and in a reasonable good condition and the other one converted into a fantastic looking mould picture, which is worth to get hang onto a covered terrace wall. I attached the images.

The mould picture is a real piece of art, but I unfortunately I have no storage or wall to keep it. Its outer size is **143 x 108 cm**. If you want it for inside, you need to fix a sheet on the back.



LOOKING FOR

HOUSE SITTING 1

Hi, I'm Shola.

I've been part of the Auroville community for 8 years and am looking for a house-sitting opportunity starting at the **end of November**. I'm a clean and

responsible person who will take good care of your home. If you have a place available for short- or long-term sitting, please contact me on WA 82202 89812.



HOUSE SITTING 2

Hi my name is Mike I am a newcomer looking for a house sitting/sharing opportunity.

Kindly contact me michaelsokolin@gmail.com.

HOUSE SITTING 3

Hello dear friends,

I'm looking for long term house sitting, but I'm also open to shorter term too **from end of October**. I'm clean, tidy, responsible and I love animals.

If it resonate to you, please contact me at:

84897 64602 or lakshmiprem369@gmail.com

Love and Gratitude!

Lakshmi

SUPPORT NEEDED

NEWS FROM AUROFILM

Dear community, as we previously informed you, the monthly budget and the half-maintenances allocated to the Aurofilm team since a long time was discontinued. Thankfully we have a few contributors and 2 generous donors who are helping us, but only for some months.

The Aurofilm team believes it is a useful and necessary cultural and educational service and wishes to continue the activities of presenting carefully selected films as well as classes to school children and to adults. They are tools to expand the mind and heart to other realities and to promote research and study of the creative, artistic, educational and cultural values of Cinema/the 7th Art.

For this reason we are embarking on a new adventure to bring the world of film production closer to our community; we are preparing **Introductory Workshops on the World of Animation** by our collaborator **Abhijit Roy**. We will also offer **training workshops in different topics of cinema** through the participation of the renowned professor **Sivakumar Mohanam**. We will keep you informed!

To support us financially, we invite you to **join Aurofilm's Cinephile Club** by making a regular contribution that will help us all to continue sharing good cinema and film education.

We also take this opportunity to thank again the ones who have started to contribute monthly!

Any contribution is most welcome to our Aurofilm/SAIIR collection Acc. Number **252658**.

With sincere thanks – And see you soon!

COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED FILM THEATERS: CULTURAL AND SOCIAL HUBS

AN APPEAL FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT, MULTIMEDIA CENTER-CINEMA PARADISO

Community-supported film theaters play a vital role in enriching culture, building social connections, and boosting local economies. By offering free screenings and low-cost venues, they make quality films accessible to all, with a lasting impact on education, society, and cultural awareness. Unlike commercial cinemas, they feature independent, international, and classic films, offering unique experiences beyond mainstream entertainment. These spaces foster discussions and collaborations, strengthening the social fabric.

Even in large cities like San Francisco and Chicago—and here in Auroville—these theaters are cherished cultural spaces. They attract diverse audiences and help local businesses like restaurants and guesthouses. Funded by donations, memberships, and volunteers, these theaters focus on accessibility, inclusion, and a far-reaching impact on culture and education.

Why Community Film Theaters Deserve Support:

- 1. Education:** Offering workshops and educational programs that enrich learning in unique ways.
- 2. Community Engagement:** They foster bonds and create shared cultural experiences.
- 3. Cultural Enrichment:** Providing access to films that enhance cultural diversity.
- 4. Economic Impact:** Drawing visitors and supporting local businesses.
- 5. Versatile Event Spaces:** Ideal for hosting presentations, discussions, and community events.

A Perfect Fit for Auroville

Auroville's emphasis on human unity, education, and cultural diversity makes it an ideal setting for a community film theater like Cinema Paradiso. It aligns with Auroville's ethos, enriching the cultural landscape, supporting educational programs, and boosting the local economy.



An Open Call for Support: Let's Thrive Together

We need your support to not just survive but thrive. Here's how you can help:

- 1. Financial Contribution:** Consider contributing Rs. 1000/month or more to cover essential costs and continue our programs.
- 2. Ideas and Connections:** Share ideas, links, or resources that help us bring films we can't currently afford or upgrade our equipment.

Your support will ensure we continue offering high-quality films for free and maintain the professional space you've come to expect – even as we transition to become a Unit. To contribute, set up an automatic monthly payment at Financial Service (**FS Account # 105106**) and email us at mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in.

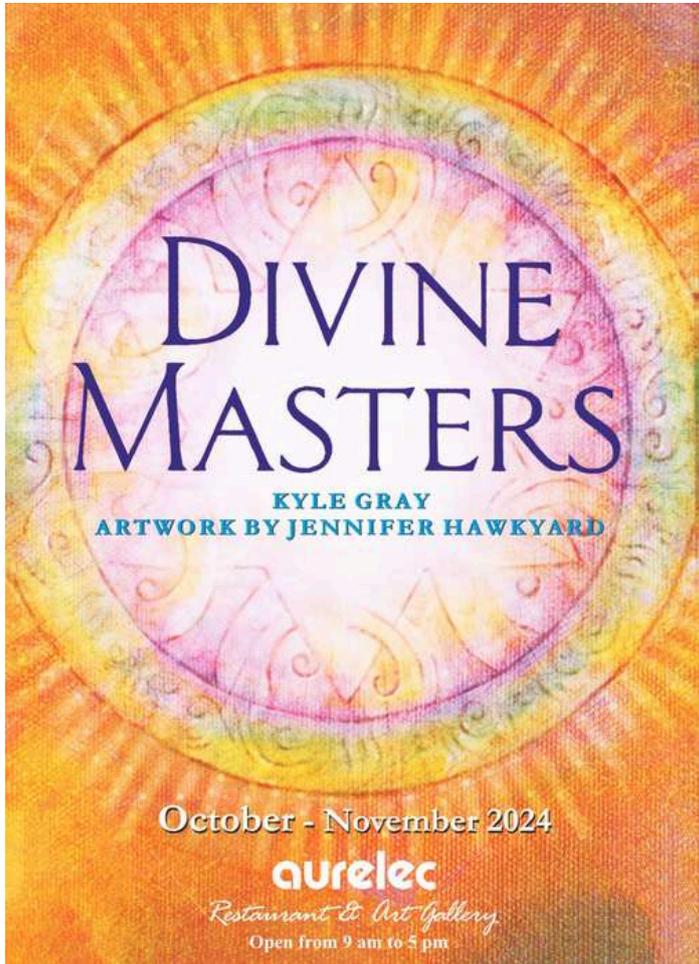
Thank you for your ongoing commitment!

Team MMC-CP



ART EXHIBITIONS

DIVINE MASTERS - KYLE GRAY
ARTWORK BY JENNIFER HAWKYARD
 OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024



The Divine Masters, also known as “ascended masters” are a congregation of enlightened beings, spiritual guides, and souls who have dedicated themselves to the healing and nurturing of the world.

These beings are universal spiritual guides operating on a multi-dimensional level, meaning that, like angels, they aren't limited by linear time and space, and therefore anyone can connect and work with them, no matter what their background or experience.

The Divine Masters have appeared in different spiritual traditions with different names but similar roles, teachings, and even locations. For example, Buddhists believe that ascended/enlightened masters reside in Shambhala (a hidden city of light in the Himalayas), while many sadhus and Udasis (the wandering holy men of India) have spoken of temples and

mysterious masters or gurus, and Christian traditions have taught that there is a Communion of Saints (a gathering of human souls and angels in heaven).

No matter what path or tradition you follow, the Divine Masters are willing to guide and support you. Most have had physical incarnations and therefore understand the complexities of being human and spiritual at the same time. Call upon these beings in challenging times and they will support you through the process of healing and transformation.

Aurelec Restaurant & Art Gallery
Open from 9 am to 5 pm

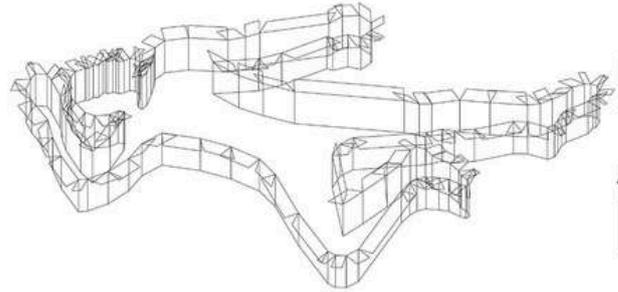
CENTRE D'ART CITADINES

SUNIL SREE - MORE THAN ONCE

OPENING ON FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER, 4.30PM

SUNIL SREE

Opening 18 October 2024 at 4.30 pm
 18 Oct - 6 Nov



CENTRE D'ART CITADINES, AUROVILLE

Tue - Fri 2 to 5.30 / Sat 10 to 12.30 - 2 to 5.30

Monday by appointment only - centredart@auroville.org.in

Please park at town hall parking



From **18 October to 6 November 2024**.

Tuesday - Friday 2 - 5.30, Saturday 10 - 12.30, 2 - 5.30.
 Monday by appointment only - centredart@auroville.org.in.
 Guided visits on Saturday at 10.30.

AUROVILLE LIBRARY - READING CIRCLES

BOOK READING

Monday | Children's room | 6 - 7PM

AUROVILLE LIBRARY

THE BEAUTY MYTH, BY NAOMI WOLF

How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women



Let's together explore how society's beauty standards impact women's lives, self-esteem, and well-being.
 First session: 7th October

If interested Whatsapp Sohela on
 +91 8233277556

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New book reading circle at Auroville Library

The Beauty Myth by Naomi Wolf.

Explore how society's beauty images affect women's lives, self esteem and well being.

Mondays 6 - 7pm in the **Children's Room**.

Contact Sohela for more information: +91 82332 77556

Our other reading circles:

- Mondays 6 - 7pm, main building - **The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran**, hosted by Malcolm (+91 90801 59721)
- Tuesdays 6.30 - 7.30pm, main building - **A New Earth by Eckhart Tolle**, hosted by Debashish (+91 76782 08825)
- Thursdays 6 - 7pm, main building - **When Things Fall Apart by Pema Chodron**, hosted by Helen & Serena (+91 70947 53054 / +91 84897 60966)



POETRY

A stalk of rice
Stops shooting up
And lowers its head
When it is ripe
And full-filled.

-Anandi Z.



Remembered Fields of Light 11/20/02

Was Arthur King of Brittany, the Bear,
My kin and brother in those ages past
Or was I he who wed fair Guinevere
Whose destiny with Lancelot was cast?

Why do the pains of centuries recur
In moments when my heart envisions her

Or when I listen close and hear the call
To battle from the mouths of vanished kings,
And know my armour's sound in that great hall,
Aware these are no vain imaginings,

For I am there again in other space,
On the face of time my ageless fingers trace

Crystal cities of teal and amethyst
In glistening light before my ancient eyes,
Appearing slowly from a silver mist
To burn in sovereign splendour through the skies.

I smell the earth, the forests rich with peat
And tender moss that sinks beneath my feet.

I move through these remembered fields of light
And lands where Beauty lives and love the lone
Companion through the labyrinth of night,
And glimpse the past through which my soul has grown.

-Narad

AV RADIO



AurovilleRadio
The voices of Auroville

Dear Aurovilians,

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

Here you can see on-air schedules.

Last published podcasts:

- [Lali talks about Horse Riding in Auroville.](#) (Education)
- [Marlenka's weekly Offering – Ep.120.](#) (Literature)
- [Exploring Education in Arts, Animation and Film-making – Ep. 34 “How Do The Elements And Principles Of Art Work Together?”](#) (Cinema)
- [Teens Connect Ep. 12 - Mirco](#) (Education)
- [Seeking Our Inner Being S.2, Ep.5.](#) (Spirituality)
- [Teens Connect Ep. 11.](#) (Education)
- [Seeking Our Inner Being S.2, Ep.4 - Sophie \(in French\)](#) (Spirituality)
- [Seeking Our Inner Being S.2, Ep.3. - Paul Vincent \(in French\)](#) (Spirituality)

...and more! on www.aurovillerradiotv.org.



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

[Please note, our domain has changed from aurovillerradio.org to aurovillerradiotv.org. Kindly update your bookmarks!]

Peace and love.

CINEMA



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

Reminder: Friday 11th at 8:00 pm "The Wind Will Carry Us (Persian: **باد ما را خواهد برد**, Bād mā rā khāhad bord)" by **Abbas Kiarostami**, Iran, 1999

And **Friday 18th October at 8:00 pm**

"PIERROT THE FOOL", (original title: **PIERROT LE FOU**)

Directed by Jean-Luc Godard, France, 1965

With: Jean-Paul Belmondo, Anna Karina, Raymond Devos

Synopsis: Pierrot escapes his boring society and travels from Paris to the French Riviera with his children's babysitter Marianne, a girl chased by hit-men from Algeria. They lead an unorthodox life, always on the run... The film is one of cinema's essential, perhaps because it came at the precise moment when Godard hit his all-time peak, many of his films are considered masterpieces and Pierrot is the crown jewel. A Mediterranean film, sunny and fully saturated colors thanks to the DOP Raoul Coutard!

Original French version with English subtitles. Duration: 1h50'



Note: Contributions are very welcome! - Aurofilm Collection Acc. No. 252658



Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium

Film program: 14 October 2024 - 20 October 2024

Cinema Paradiso-Multimedia Center is operating at 100% seating capacity. Seating starts about 15mins before screening and stops as the film starts. Kindly arrive in time. A reminder not to use cell phone for any reason while the program is on, and no food/beverage to be taken inside the hall.

Watch out, now some days are mixed up from the usual!

INDIAN – MONDAY 14 OCTOBER, 8:00 PM:

• MAST MEIN REHNE KA (LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST)

India, 2023, Writer-Dir. Vijay Maurya w/Jackie Shroff, Neena Gupta, Abhishek Chauhan, and others, Comedy-Drama, 127mins, Hindi w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG)

Kamath, a lonely old widower, lives in a mundane routine until a robbery disrupts his life. Found unconscious by the police the next day, they remark on his solitude. Seeking change, he attempts to befriend strangers and meets Mrs. Handa, a lively Punjabi woman. When her house is robbed, Kamath's presence raises suspicion, leading them both to the police station. Their friendship blossoms through charming escapades, like sneaking into other houses, which helps dissolve their loneliness. However, fate twists when they encounter the thief from their past in a stranger's home, intertwining their lives as they attempt to rediscover themselves. *A quirky unusual tale!*

POTPOURRI – TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER, 8:00 PM:

• TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT

UK, 1972, Dir. George Cukor w/ Maggie Smith, Alec McCown, Louis Gossett Jr, and others, Globetrotting Adventure, 108mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG

At his mother's funeral, stuffy bank clerk Henry Pulling meets his Aunt Augusta Bertram (Dame Maggie Smith), an elderly eccentric with more-than-shady dealings who pulls him along on a whirlwind adventure as she attempts to rescue an old lover. *This is a tribute to the phenomenal lead actor Maggie Smith!*

SELECTION – WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER, 8:00 PM:

• THE ROCKET

Australia-Thailand-Laos, 2013, Writer-Dir. Kim Mordaunt w/ Sitthiphon Disamoe, Loungnam Kaosainam, Suthep Pongam, and others, Drama, 96mins, Lao w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG-13)

A boy, who is believed to bring bad luck to everyone around him, leads his family and two new friends through Laos to find a new home. After a calamity-filled journey through a land scarred by the legacy of war, to prove he's not bad luck he builds a giant rocket to enter the most exciting and dangerous competition of the year: the Rocket Festival. *A film to watch!*

INTERESTING – THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER, 8:00 PM:

• US, OUR PETS AND THE WAR

Ukraine-Canada, 2024, Writer-Dir. Anton Ptushkin, Documentary-Drama, 79mins, Ukrainian w/English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG-13)

Amid violence and war, Ukrainian citizens are coming together to rescue animals that have been left behind by those forced to flee. From cats and dogs in abandoned buildings to lions and tigers in the nation's zoos, extraordinary rescue efforts are underway to bring them to safety. The film is a tribute to the very best of the human spirit despite the horrors of war. *Often forgotten covert victims of conflicts and war!*

INTERNATIONAL – SATURDAY, 19 OCTOBER, 8:00 PM:

• LAHN MAH (HOW TO MAKE MILLIONS BEFORE GRANDMA DIES)

Thailand, 2024, Writer-Dir. Pat Boonnitpat w/ Putthipong Assaratanakul, Usha Seamkhum, Sanya Kunakorn, and others, 125mins, Thai w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG-13)

In this much acclaimed heartwarming tale, Amah, is a struggling widow and street vendor selling congee. She juggles her complicated relationships with her self-absorbed but wealthy eldest son, Kiang; aimless second son, Soei; and hardworking daughter, a single mother, Sew. Sew's son, M, a 20-something aspiring game streamer who dreams of success yet remains stagnant. When Amah is diagnosed with stomach cancer, M conspires with his cousin Mui, who had earlier unexpectedly inherited the family home after taking care of elderly relative, to do the same – and become the prime beneficiary of Amah's meagre estate. Since none of Amah's children step up, M moves into Amah's tiny apartment, navigating family bonds – with unexpected results. *A must watch!*

CHILDREN'S MATINEE – SUNDAY, 20 OCTOBER, 4:00 PM:

• THE INVENTOR

USA-France-Ireland-Iran, 2023, Writer-Dir. Jim Capobianco w/Daisy Ridley, Marion Cotillard, Matt Berry, and others, Adventure-Animation, 100mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG

Curious inventor Leonardo da Vinci leaves Italy for the French court to experiment freely, creating flying contraptions and studying the human body. Joined by the adventurous Princess Marguerite, he seeks to uncover the ultimate question: "What is the meaning of it all?"

NEW GERMAN CINEMA @ CINÉ-CLUB

CINÉ-CLUB SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER, 8:00 PM:

• DER AMERIKANISCHE FREUND (THE AMERICAN FRIEND)

Germany, 1977, Dir. Wim Wenders w/ Dennis Hopper, Bruno Ganz and others, Drama, Crime, 128 mins, German w/ English subtitles, Rated: R.

American expatriate Tom Reply, who sells art forgeries, joins a murder plot for extra cash. He recruits Jonathan, a dying cancer patient desperate to leave an inheritance for his family. Reluctantly agreeing, Jonathan proves to be no gunman, and the plan swiftly unravels.

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

To organize a seminar/program at MMC kindly email us at mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in. Our projector is crawling towards the end of its life, making us to look for a new one. We request you to financially support through a one-time or recurring donation to "Cinema Paradiso" (account #105106) or set up for a monthly contribution.

Thanking You,
MMC/CP Group Account# 105106,
mmcauditorium@auroville.org.in

COMMUNITY SERVICES

HEALTH

SANTÉ SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2024



Working Hours:

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

Tests and Sample collection:

Monday - Friday : 8:30am - 12:00pm.

No sample collection on Saturday.

For emergencies, contact:

Auroville Ambulance (24/7) - Phone : +91 94422 24680

Government Ambulance (24/7) - Phone : 108

Appointment

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

Doctor Consultation with Dr.Senthil & Dr.Pavan: Monday to Saturday	Nurse Care - Thilagam, Ezhil, Archana & Sandhya: Daily: no appointment needed
Ayurveda with Dr. Be: TOS	Integrative Psychotherapy with Juan Andres: TOS
Acupuncture with Andres: TOS	Homeopathy with Michael: Monday/ Wednesday/ Saturday
Physiotherapy & Massage with Galina: Monday to Friday	Physiotherapy with Arun: Monday to Saturday (except Friday)
Women's Wellness with Paula: Tuesday & Wednesday	Soundbed Session with Sandhya/ Thilagam: Monday to Saturday
Bio-Well Assessment (Evaluation of your well-being) with Helena – inquiry through email adminsante@auroville.org.in	

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.

HEALTH CENTER KUILAPALAYAM

Contact: (0413)-3509942 / 3509943

Pharmacy:

- 8:00am-5:30pm Monday to Saturday

Doctor Consultation:

- 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday (1 to 2 pm Lunch Break)
- 8:30 am to 1 pm (Saturday)



ESSENTIAL SERVICES

AUROVILLE'S FINANCIAL SERVICES

- **Timings:** Monday – Saturday, 9am to 12:30pm, and 3pm to 4:30pm
- **Phone:** 0413 2622171
- **Email:** financialservice@auroville.org.in

AVES (AV ELECTRICAL SERVICE)

- **Timings:** Monday – Saturday, 8am to 4:30pm
- **Phone:** 0413 2622132/ 9488868747 for fault works, repair works and job works
0413 2622264 clarifications reg. electricity bills, job & repair works bills
- **Email:** aves@auroville.org.in

GAS BOTTLE SERVICE

- **Timings:** Monday – Saturday, 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm
- **Phone:** 0413 2622452
- **Email:** avgasservice@auroville.org.in

POUR TOUS DISTRIBUTION CENTRE (PTDC)

- **Timings:** Monday – Saturday, 9am to 5:30pm
- **Phone:** 0413 2622746/ 2622796
- **Email:** ptdc@auroville.org.in

POUR TOUS DISTRIBUTION SERVICE (PTPS)

- **Timings:** Monday to Saturday, 8:30 am–5:00 pm
- **Phone:** (0413) 2622152

AUROVILLE LIBRARY TIMINGS

Our timings are:

Mornings:

Monday - Saturday: 9am - 12.30pm

Afternoons:

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

Tuesdays: 4pm - 6.30pm

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



EDUCATION

AUROVILLE AIKIDO AT AV BUDOKAN (DEHASHAKTI)



Aikido is a martial art created in the 1920s by Morihei Ueshiba, a master in traditional Japanese martial arts. Aikido is a path which aspires to the unity of mankind, the unification of the self with the universe, the union of Spirit and Matter. Seen as such, and in the perspective of the integral development of the being as emphasized by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, it is no wonder that Aikido has always been greatly valued in Auroville and introduced since the very early years. Both children and adults can enjoy and benefit from its complete practice. There are no competitions in Aikido. On the self-defense aspect of it, an aggressor's attack may be stopped without harming or injuring him/her.

The AV Aikido group welcomes new practitioners, Youth and Adult students, and the ones who would like to revive an old (abandoned) practice!

Adult classes:

- Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 6 - 7:30am, early morning. Beginners are most welcome. Girls and women are especially called to join us.

Children/ young students:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4 - 5pm
- For the time being no Saturday 9 - 10am class are offered.

Contact us for more info and registration: write to budokan@auroville.org.in or WA 8300643963 Philippe G. or call 9952812843 N. Murugan.

Cristo, Surya, Murugan, Rita and Philippe for Auroville Aikido

ACCESS TO THE PARK OF UNITY AND MATRIMANDIR

The Park of Unity

The Matrimandir, the Petals, the Lotus Pond, Banyan Tree are areas of SILENCE

- The Park of Unity is open to Aurovilians and Newcomers
Daily: 6.00 AM to 7.30 PM
- Aurovilians may bring close family and friends to the Gardens
Daily: 9.00 AM to 3.30 PM
- Volunteers and Donors require a pass to enter the Park of Unity. Timings will be indicated on the pass.
- Published events in the Park of Unity are open to Aurovilians, Newcomers, Volunteers, Pass holders and Guests. Guests should bring their Aurocards.

The Inner Chamber of the Matrimandir

The Matrimandir is a place for silent individual concentration.

- The Inner Chamber is open to Aurovilians and Newcomers:
 - Monday – Saturday 6.00 AM to 8.00 AM
4.30 PM to 7.30 PM
 - Sunday 6.00 AM to 12.00 PM
4.30 PM to 7.30 PM
- The Inner Chamber is open to SAVI registered Volunteers:
 - Wednesday – Monday 8.00 AM to 8.40 AM.
Arrival at 7.45 AM at the Office Gate
- The Inner Chamber is open to Aurovilians wishing to accompany a maximum of 5 close family and friends, no more than once in two weeks, with booking 3 to 5 days in advance to mmconcentration@auroville.org.in:
 - Any day except Tuesday & Sunday: 8.00 AM to 8.35 AM
Arrival at 7.45 AM at the Office Gate
- The Inner Chamber, the Petals and the Gardens are open to the Children of Auroville and the Outreach Schools:
 - Tuesday 9.00 AM to 11.00 AM
- The Auroville units can bring their staff to the Inner Chamber with a prior booking to mmconcentration@auroville.org.in:
 - Tuesday 8.00 AM to 8.30 AM

The Petals of the Matrimandir

- The Petals are open to Aurovilians, Newcomers and Pass holders
 - Monday – Sunday 7 AM to 8 AM,
Tuesday AM closed.
 - Daily 5 PM to 6 PM

Access to Matrimandir for Visitors and Guests Matrimandir Viewing Point

The Viewing Point is open to the general public on presentation of a Pass.

Visits to the Matrimandir Viewing Point are free of cost. Free passes can be obtained at the Auroville Visitors Centre. The Viewing Point lies south of the Park of Unity and offers visitors a panoramic view of the Matrimandir and the Gardens and the Lake.

Timings starting from the Visitors Centre:
Daily: 9.00 AM to 5.30 PM

The Inner Chamber of the Matrimandir

The Inner Chamber is open to Visitors and Guests by prior booking only. Visitors and Guests seeking to concentrate in the Inner Chamber are requested to inquire at the Information Desk of the Visitors Centre after first visiting the Viewing Point. Prior booking is required to access the Inner Chamber, at least one or two days in advance. Bookings for concentration are given for the following or the first free day as per availability and are accepted only up to one week in advance. Minimum age 10 years. The Petals are open to Visitors on the morning of their Inner Chamber visit.



ACCESSIBLE AUROVILLE PUBLIC BUS

avbus@auroville.org.in / +91 94430 74825

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

- Monthly Rs. 800: Aurovilians & Newcomers, No validity
- Student Pass Rs. 1200 per month/ 24 days round trip
- Rs. 150 Round trip for Aurovilians & Newcomers
- Rs. 200 Round trip for guests

Bus passes are available at
Auroville Vehicle Service,
Town Hall, Auroville, 0413 2623302



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance (24/7):

Auroville 9442224680	PIMS 0413 2656271
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Security (24/7):

Auroville Police Station 0413 2677318	Kottakuppam Police Station 0413 2236148	Vanur Fire Station 0413 2677368
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Health:

Health Center 0413 3509942 & 3509943	Santé 0413 2622803	Farewell 8903836246
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Mental health 24/7 support:

Vandrevala Foundation +91 9999666555

India Emergency Response Service (24/7): 108