

Auroville

NEWS & NOTES

No 1050 - A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

14 November 2024



PONDERING

First be sure of the call and of thy soul's answer. For if the call is not true, not the touch of God's powers or the voice of his messengers, but the lure of thy ego, the end of thy endeavour will be a poor spiritual fiasco or else a deep disaster.

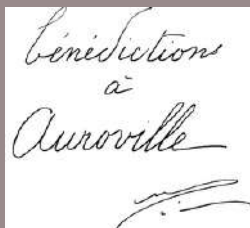
And if not the soul's fervour, but only the mind's assent or interest replies to the divine summons or only the lower life's desire clutches at some side attraction of the fruits of Yoga-power or Yoga-pleasure or only a transient emotion leaps like an unsteady flame moved by the intensity of the Voice or its sweetness or grandeur, then too there can be little surety for thee in the difficult path of Yoga.

THE WAY, ON YOGA, THE HOUR OF GOD

<https://motherandsriaurobindo.in/Sri-Aurobindo/books/sabcl/the-hour-of-god/#the-way>



THE MOTHER ON AUROVILLE



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NEW CONSCIOUSNESS

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The city will be built by what is invisible to you. The men who have to act as instruments will do so despite themselves. They are only puppets in the hands of larger Forces. Nothing depends on human beings—neither the planning nor the execution—nothing! That is why one can laugh.

+Sep. 1969

*

Q: To what extent does the building of Auroville depend on man's acceptance of spirituality?

The opposition between spirituality and material life, the division between the two, has no meaning for me, for in truth life and the spirit are one and it is in and by physical work that the highest spirit must manifest.

19.4.1968

*

Humanity is not the last rung of the terrestrial creation. Evolution continues and man will be surpassed. It is for each individual to know whether he wants to participate in the advent of this new species.

For those who are satisfied with the world as it is, Auroville obviously has no reason to exist.

Aug. 1966

*

To work for Auroville is to hasten the advent of a more harmonious Future.

27.3.1971

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Auroville
the free international city.
No army, no police,
they are replaced by
a battalion of Guards
consisting
of athletes and gymnasts

The night before last, I spent more than three hours with Sri Aurobindo and I was showing him all that was about to come down for Auroville. It was quite interesting. There were games, there was art, there was even cooking! But all that was very symbolic. And I was explaining to him as if on a table, in front of a vast landscape. I was explaining to him the principle on which physical exercises and games were going to be organised. It was very clear, very precise, I was even giving

The city the earth
needs.

him a kind of demonstration, and it was as if I were showing him in miniature, a miniature representation of what was going to be done. I was moving people and things about (*gesture, as if on a chess board*). But it was very interesting, and he was very interested; he was giving broad lines of organisation (I do not know how to explain). There was art and it was beautiful, it was good. And how to make the houses pleasant and pretty, the principle of construction. And then the cooking too, it was a lot of fun, each one bringing his invention... This lasted for more than three hours —three hours in the night, that's a lot! Very interesting.

And yet, conditions on earth seem very far away from all that...

(After some hesitation) No... It was right there; it did not seem behind things: a conscious harmony behind the exercises and games;

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a conscious harmony behind the decoration, the art; a conscious harmony behind the food...

I mean that all this seems to be at the opposite pole to what exists now on earth.

Not...

No?

I saw X... today and I was telling him that the whole organisation of the arts and sports and food and all the rest was ready in the subtle physical—ready to come down and embody itself—and I told him: "It only needs a handful of earth, (*Mother cups her hands*) a handful of earth to grow the plant... We must find a handful of earth for it to grow..."

31.5.1969

(silence)



Aspiration for Organisation

Neat and methodical, order at the expense of multiplicity. -- The Mother

Pseuderanthemum Radlk. sp.,
Acanthaceae

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.

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 RA News & Notes Team

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WORKING GROUPS NEWS

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE

ES # 233 DATED: 11-11-2024

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

- **Kaia NIGHTINGALE (Canadian)** staying in Luminosity and working at Mediclown Academy
- **Louis RADAKIR (Canadian)** staying in Luminosity and working at Auroville Language Lab, Matrimandir & ATB lead program

AUROVILIAN CONFIRMED

- **Tara Devi ROY BOCO (Italian)**

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.

If you need to contact the Entry Board, write to: auroville.entryboard@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

As you may know, the Entry Service has been functioning with reduced capacity since January 2024.

The actions taken to stop the work given to the Entry Service by the Residents' Assembly persist. However, according to the Auroville Foundation Act, the power to admit and terminate names from the register of residents is within the exclusive domain of the Residents' Assembly. The new regulations were challenged before the Madras High Court and have been stayed, but have not been finally heard and disposed.

Be that as it may, the Entry Board team has been reconstituted according to the Residents' Assembly approved process and 3 ongoing members welcomed 5 new members. The team has been meeting regularly since May 2024.

However, we have been advised not to process new applications for the time being.

We intend to use this time to take up pending work such as requesting mentor reports, and Newcomer self assessments. We plan to resume completing the Newcomer processes, some of which have been left pending for over 6 months as soon as we are advised to do so.

We apologize for the delays however it has been due to

circumstances beyond our control.

We pray for relief by the courts in due time.

Sincerely,

The Entry Service & Board

FROM THE WORKING COMMITTEE

LETTER TO GB AND MOE RE EVERGREEN LAND GRAB

Dear Community,

We are sharing with you here a letter sent to the Governing Board and International Advisory Council yesterday regarding the very disturbing situation regarding the forceful land grab at Evergreen by the 'land developer', PKS. A similar letter was also sent to the Ministry of Education.

Other actions are being taken by us, our land resource people, Evergreen residents and other concerned residents.

We believe there are strong grounds to file and win an appeal in spite of the current distressing situation on the ground so we are urging the AVFO and GB to take quick and strong legal action to regain this precious land of Auroville.

In service,

The Working Committee of the RA

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



WORKING COMMITTEE
of the Residents' Assembly
AUROVILLE FOUNDATION



Dear Respected Chairman and members of the Governing Board,

We must bring to your attention a very urgent matter that requires your intervention.

Due to the delay by the Ministry of Education in appointing a Secretary or Acting Secretary, there is a vacuum of authority within the Auroville Foundation Office (AVFO) here that is resulting in loss of land, loss of trees and a potential law and order risk.

There is a piece of land on the roadside near Evergreen community that was in the peaceful possession of Auroville for over 32 years and for which land taxes were paid, but which was forcibly taken over by one land shark named PK Subramaniam (PKS) in June 2022. Residents managed to stop him from taking complete possession by going on site repeatedly until finally at the insistence of the Residents, the Secretary at that time, Jayanti Ravi, had a case filed in the Tindivanam Court. An interim order was subsequently given in favor of the AVF. Unfortunately, the AVFO and the Land Board appointed by the (former) Secretary were negligent and did not take immediate repossession of this land despite repeated requests from the residents.

PKS recently got a ruling in his favor from the Tindivanam court and the negligence described above has helped him to now continue with his forcible possession of the disputed land without proper delineation. The survey that was submitted to the court is simply a report from the court appointed surveyor who surveyed the property Mr PKS claims as his. There is no deed document by the previous owners, Sridhar and Prabakaran (brothers), or PKS indicating where the alleged remaining land they claim is located, so it's impossible to know where, in fact, these lands are in the larger plot, and there is no proper FMB. Therefore, according to our documents there is no 'extra land' as they claim.

Please note that earlier Ms. Meenakshi had wrongfully added PKS plots to a list of lands to be acquired, as requested by the Chairman. This mistake was pointed out to Ms. Meenakshi who acknowledged that it was a mistake and said she would rectify it. It is most unfortunate that the list wasn't, in fact, rectified and was used in court as a favorable argument that Mr. PKS owned the land.

The fact that there is no Secretary has resulted in an appeal not being filed and in the absence of this PKS came on Sunday, 3rd November, with JCBs, chainsaws and enforcers and cleared and cut trees. The police were called and the clearing was slowed down temporarily by insisting that this work must be done in the presence of a government surveyor and Auroville Land Board surveyors to ensure that the court order is respected. However, the clearing continued.

No Land Board members or AVFO officers came to the site despite repeated calls to Mrs Meenakshi (Special Officer Land) and Land Board member Krishnamurthy who alleged they were on the way but did not appear.

OSD, Mr. Seetharaman, who supposedly has 'Overall Charge' in the absence of a Secretary, is not here, which is an untenable situation. We reached out to the Deputy Secretary, Ms. Swarnambika, and she spoke directly to the police on site, requesting them to stop action until clarity is reached vis-a-vis the exact location of the boundaries.

We humbly request you to do whatever is in your power to ensure that an appeal is filed in this case at the earliest and that all proper legal processes are followed in this matter. We also ask that you convey to the relevant ministries the urgency of appointing a resident Secretary who will take strong and quick action to protect Auroville's lands. Neglecting this is causing great damage and loss to Auroville's assets and the risk of encouraging violent land speculators to take advantage of the lack of authoritative action, and possibly resulting in law and order situations.

We are ready to meet you or provide more information by email at any time.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation -

Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Maël Shanti Vidal (TOS), Matthieu Gardelle, Prashant Hedao, Valli Senthilkumar

Cc: International Advisory Council Members



FROM THE THE FOREST GROUP

NINTH REQUEST -

SILVER FUND: ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLENCE

MON 4TH NOVEMBER 2024

To BCC / FAMC & To Whom it may concern

Ninth request for obtaining the Silver Fund for 6 foresters over 70 years old.

It seems to us that it is not only our duty as a willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness. but also by virtue of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted on December 10, 1948, and as Honorary Voluntary Workers implementing a finance and an economy of gift through integral volunteering considered under all these multidimensional, multidisciplinary, multi-vector, para-symbolic, para-synthetic, para-methodical and supra-conceptual, transcendent and mystical aspects, to whisper in your ears, not that it is the hour of the unexpected, nor even the Hour of God, but the hour of Man after Man so that you become aware of your extreme violence, brutality, aggressiveness, ferocity, administrative malevolence, your lack of empathy, concern, consideration, delicacy, gentleness, indulgence, leniency towards people over 70 years of age, including you refuse, by excess of

alternative truths and supreme truths, to see their existential humanity with its minimum vital needs, which you refuse by lack of understanding of the implications of Divine Materialism in the extraordinary life of the Aurovillian banality to see, feel, understand, apprehend, intuit, discover the Genesis of the Senior Forester whose foundations you will find in the World Archives of Humanity in the process of Disappearing, where we are surprised to note that "With Time, the Old becomes New".



Against your extreme administrative violence, we can only, next to a Diospyros Melanoxylon (Coromandel Ebony), on our knees and with hands clasped, proclaim:

*Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah
Sarve Santu Niraamayaah
Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu
Maa Kashcid-Duhkha-Bhaag-Bhavet
Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih*

*Om, May All be Happy
May All be Free from Illness
May All See what is Auspicious,
May no one Suffer.*

Om Peace, Peace, Peace. (Upanishad)

Fraternally,
The Forest Group of the Resident Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

This secret Self in all beings is not apparent, but it is seen by means of the supreme reason, the subtle, by those who have the subtle vision. -Katha Upanishad.

FO GROUPS NEWS

(not selected by due Residents Assembly process)

FROM THE FO N&N 1052

Please click [HERE](#) to read the FO groups news





OBITUARY

JEAN-LUC PASSED AWAY



It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the sudden passing of Jean-Luc Buro yesterday in Dharamsala, reportedly due to heart failure.

Jean-Luc, who lately lived in Surrender, was a cherished and active member of the community.

He dedicated many years to the Auroville Film Festival and was currently working with Aurofilm. Previously, he spent years in Revelation and held a deep love for the sanctuary there.

A renowned photographer, his work captured the Spirit of Auroville and beyond.

A farewell ceremony will be organized soon, the timing is yet uncertain as the cremation will take place in Dharamsala tomorrow.

May he rest in peace.

Aum ॐ



A SUMMARY OF EVENTS HAPPENING IN AUROVILLE TODAY

LAND EXCHANGES QUESTIONED BY AVFO ALLIES

The recent exchanges of Auroville lands are now also being questioned by Aurovilians who have been previously supportive of the AVFO. Since 2022, several parcels of high value lands, many of which are located next to local highways, have been exchanged for land of a much lower value. The RA WCom have repeatedly raised the issue as an urgent topic of concern, as have the IAC. Please see below for a recent letter sent from the IAC to the GB. [One estimate](#) has calculated that the cumulative financial loss to Auroville of the land exchanges is approximately 250 crore rupees (almost 30 million US dollars).

At the end of October 2024, the AVFO Land Officer, Mrs Meenakshi, sent an [email](#) to the AVFO 'FAMC', requesting that over 9 lakh be released from the '[Acres For Auroville](#)' Foreign Ledger in order to pay for the costs associated with a new land exchange. The proposed exchange came to light when two members of the AVFO 'WCom' posted an '[Update on Land Matters](#)' on Auronet, a recent report they had sent to the GB together with other AVFO-aligned residents. The original post, which was quickly deleted, revealed a significant split within the AVFO 'Working Committee' and the AVFO 'Working Groups'. The AVFO 'FAMC', via an unsigned email, had ordered the Financial Service to release the funds to facilitate the land exchange, however members of the AVFO 'WCom' explicitly stated that they had not been consulted and that they were against the exchange. According to their calculations, the exchange represented a financial loss to Auroville of approximately 5 crores, as the seller would receive high value Auroville land located on the Tindivanam Highway in exchange for 3 small pieces of "not important" greenbelt land. They also pointed out that the GB had only given permission for outlying lands to be exchanged for Master Plan lands in the city area.

On 5th November, the same AVFO 'WCom' members shared a [second Auronet post](#) containing a detailed breakdown of land exchanges since 2022. They also reshared the report to the GB that was previously deleted. According to their calculations, the financial loss to Auroville due to the recent exchanges of AuroOrchard, Djaima and Felicity would be around 100 crore rupees. They stated "[these] Land exchanges ... were executed in total contradiction of the Governing Board decision in its 61st meeting ... In the history of Auroville, we have never suffered such a level of mismanagement". They went on: "we came to know in a conversation with Mrs. M. [Meenakshi] that she continues to meet the landowners for future land exchanges. And we also discovered that a land exchange has been approved again by the Governing Board and AVF, without any consultation with the [AVFO] Working Committee".

The AVFO 'WCom' post also revealed that a biometric lock at the Land Board office had been reconfigured so that it could only be opened by a single member of the AVFO 'Land Service', an Aurovillian named Krishnamurthy. When asked, Mrs Meenakshi claimed that the lock was necessary to protect land records relevant for a court case against Dr. Jayanti Ravi. A separate [Auronet post](#) recently made a number of detailed claims of land related corruption, supposedly carried out by an Aurovillian and 'Land Service' member with the initial 'K'.

LEGAL UPDATES

Working Committee Quo Warranto Judgement

On 1st August 2024, the Madras High Court pronounced its judgment in the Quo Warranto case filed by the RA WCom against seven residents recognized by the Governing Board as the 'Working Committee'. The [full written judgment](#) was only uploaded on 18th October 2024.

The Quo Warranto case challenged the AVFO 'WCom's authority, namely Anu, Arun, Joseba, Partha, Selvaraj, Srimoyi and Tine, acting as members of the Working Committee. In response, the AVFO filed a perjury case against Hemant Lamba, who was then a member of the RA WCom, accusing him of deliberately giving false evidence or statements under oath by claiming to be a member and to represent the Working Committee. Both cases were dismissed by the judge, Justice Dr. Anita Sumanth.

In dismissing the Quo Warranto petition, the judge noted that the court "cannot, and is not inclined to go into the aspect of whether the respondents [the AVFO 'WCom'], or for that matter, the members of the petitioner Committee [the RA WCom], have earned any disqualification." The judgment also referenced the earlier Division Bench order of 4th September 2023, stating that the Madras High Court's earlier directions would continue to govern Auroville's functioning until new Regulations for the appointment of the Working Committee are finalized.

Different interpretations of the judgment have emerged. On 18th October, the RA WCom published a [first massbulletin](#) stating that "This order does not legitimise the group recognized by the GB as they have not been selected by the RA as per Section 20 of the AVF Act", quoting a recent [legal opinion](#) by their lawyer.

On 22nd October, Sindhuja Jagadeesh who, according to this [letter](#), was appointed "AVF Legal Coordinator" in May 2024, issued [a massbulletin](#) claiming that the judgment confirms the legitimacy of the AVFO 'WCom'. 'AVF Legal' on Auronet also shared an [FAQ document](#) seeking to reinforce this interpretation. An [article](#) posted in The Hindu on 24th October also furthered this narrative.

However, in a [second massbulletin](#) on 25th October, the RA WCom shared a letter to The Hindu in which they clarified that the order "merely states that the members cannot be disqualified through a Quo Warranto petition, indicating that the legal tool used in this case was procedurally unsuitable." They emphasized that the single bench order cannot override previous Division Bench orders, particularly the 23rd February 2024 order stating that "the Working Committee under Section 20 of the AVF Act shall not be interfered with". A single bench refers to a court proceeding presided over by one judge, while a Division Bench consists of two or more judges sitting together - in this case, the Division Bench included the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

The RA WCom maintains that since the seven respondents "do not enjoy the confidence of the Residents Assembly, they cannot represent the Residents Assembly of Auroville". The RA WCom are consulting with lawyers about next steps to secure recognition of the legitimate groups selected by the RA.



PKS/Evergreen Judgement

The appeal lodged by PKS against the previous judgment on Evergreen land, which had found the contested Evergreen land to be rightfully Auroville land, was heard on the 25th October 2024 at the Tindivanam court, and a [new judgement](#) was issued. The Additional District Judge ruled in favour of PKS, meaning that Auroville now faces the potential loss of around one acre of forested land, as well as losing the access to Evergreen community. The area is prime land that lies by the Auroville main road from Kuilapalayam.

The verdict was a surprise because the land had been uncontested since 1992, (when it was purchased) and has been in the peaceful possession of Auroville for over 30 years with Auroville paying the land tax for it during this entire duration.

According to a [massbulletin](#) issued by the RA WCom, certain moves by the AVFO 'Land Service' may have contributed to the verdict. Mrs Meenakshi had included this contested property on a list of land that Auroville needed to acquire, which was shown in court to strengthen the land grabbers ownership claim. Additionally, despite several requests, the AVFO and their 'Land Service' made no effort to take ownership of the land after the previous favorable verdict. In contrast, PKS moved quickly after the judgement and a JCB and a team of workers came to clear the area of trees from 2nd November onwards. RA WCom members and residents attempted to stop the work, requesting that a government survey be carried out beforehand. No members of the AVFO or their 'working groups' came to the site.

The previous Land Board, before the AVFO appointments, confirms that without a doubt, this land had belonged to Auroville for almost 30 years. The AVFO is being urged by community members to urgently lodge an appeal.



TDC Judgement, draft regulations appeal

Update from March 2024:

On 15th March 2024, the Madras High Court ruled in favour of the Residents' Assembly in a case related to the constitution of the TDC.

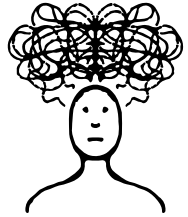
On 19th March, Natasha Storey, the Aurovilian petitioner in this TDC case, wrote a forward-looking letter to the Governing Board. She wrote: "The ruling offers a constructive path forward, allowing us to work together effectively to address the challenges and opportunities facing our community. By embracing the spirit of unity and cooperation, we can ensure that Auroville continues to thrive as a beacon of harmony and progress". As a consequence, the RA TDC and RA WCom drafted new regulations for the TDC, and did a first round of presentation to the community for feedback. However, this was interrupted on 29th March, when the TDC ruling was appealed by the AVFO at the Supreme Court. The ruling is currently stayed until further orders. To know more, read the [6th issue of Voice of Auroville](#) (pages 15 and 16).

SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE LEADS TO CONFUSION

Three months after being [officially repatriated](#) back to Gujarat in July 2024, the former Secretary Dr Jayanti Ravi continues to be present in Auroville and is still being named as the Secretary in the press. At the end of October, she was seen inside the AVF office and at the Secretaries' home, opposite Bharat Nivas. She also took part in an 'inauguration' of a new New Creation Basketball Stadium as reported in [media reports](#). This raised questions within the community since the new stadium was already inaugurated in 2019 and has been in continuous use since then. It appears that the only recent change was to install a new type of flooring in the stadium.

This is not the first instance of media reports claiming that the former Secretary is still in her post in Auroville. As mentioned in the previous Summary, a [gossip report](#) in the Times of India shared rumours that she would be taking up "dual responsibilities" as Secretary of the Auroville Foundation and Additional Chief Secretary to the Gujarat Govt Revenue Department. Additionally, a [Hindu article](#) at the beginning of October 2024 continued to name her as the Secretary. The same article also named Vanjulavalli Sridhar as the Deputy Secretary, while her tenure as OSD at the AVFO supposedly ended at the end of August 2024 when she was [reposted](#) to the Andaman Islands.

However, a [report](#) of a meeting with the Chairman of the GB which was circulated by some of the Aurovilians present, stated that the Chairman insisted on several occasions that she was no longer Secretary (please note that these are not officially approved meeting minutes). Additionally, in an [Auronet post](#) from members of the AVFO 'WCom', Dr Ravi was referred to as "the former Secretary".



LATEST DEVELOPMENT WORKS LEAD TO DIFFICULT ROAD CONDITIONS YET AGAIN

The contractors hired by the AVFO and their 'ATDC' began two new major roadworks immediately before the monsoon, leading again to difficult and potentially dangerous conditions for road users, in particular cyclists. Near [Transformation](#), most of the old road has been removed and a shallow trench for Radial 1 was dug out by the CPWD, starting at Lilaloka and ending at Revelation Forest. As always, this work was completed with no prior warning and without any signage, meaning that it is not clear how best to travel in that area and road users have been met with a confusing and dangerous set of circumstances. Some drivers are using the cycle paths instead, causing grave concern as these cycle paths are the route to several schools and used daily by children.

In the residential zone, work began on the well-used and fully-functional [Vikas Radial](#) with the removal of half of the paving stones across the width of part of the road. Access to Humanscapes, Vibrance and Invocation is affected by these actions. Work in both areas was then suddenly stopped without a known reason.

On 10th November, the cycle path between Grace and Arati was expanded to become a 4-wheeler access road to these communities. A belated [announcement](#) about the Vikas Radial roadworks was also shared on Auronet by the AVFO 'ATDC'.

It is unclear where the residents of the communities that are affected by the Vikas radial roadworks are expected to park, as their main entrances and access to secure parking is now blocked.

Other recent development work includes the clearing work for the AVFO staff quarters, a project first mentioned in the [59th GB meeting minutes](#). Three new buildings are planned. These quarters will be located at different points within Auroville: one near the Realization community, another between the Sailam and Vikas communities, and the third next to the Luminosity community. In the interim, non Aurovilian AVFO staff have been given Auroville housing in several communities without consultation with the other residents, even though there are many Aurovilians and newcomers still awaiting housing allocation.

SRI MA BEACH RETURNING

After months of erosion, Sri Ma beach sands are returning. From now until March, the sand is now accumulating because the current is coming from North to South. A large number of volunteers worked tirelessly to save the land by filling sandbags which helped to protect the coastline.



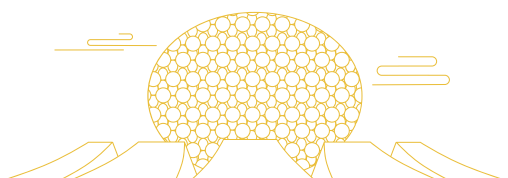
IAC LETTER TO GB

Via a RA WCom massbulletin, the IAC shared their [latest letter](#) to the GB regarding land exchanges with the community. The IAC members requested that their letter is not shared to the press or on any social media platforms.

The members note that at their last meeting with the GB in May 2024, they “conveyed [their] disappointment in the lack of transparency as regards land exchanges, resulting in a breach of trust between the Governing Board and the Auroville residents” and urged the GB to halt any further land exchanges.

PLANS TO DIVERT RAIN WATER TO MM LAKE

According to the [AVFO 'ATDC' meeting minutes](#) dated 25th July 2024, two rainwater ‘collection ponds’ have been designed to “collect the water from the stretch of the Crown which will go from Solar Kitchen to Savitri Bhavan” and divert it to the Matrimandir Lake. One of these ponds is already a natural water collection area and the other would be an artificial collection area where the water would be filtered before being pumped into the Lake. There is no mention in the meeting minutes of the potential impact to the local bioregion and the watershed, however as this rainwater usually feeds into the Irumbai pond it would lead to a negative effect for local villages’ water collection and could lead to objections to Auroville’s water management from local villagers.



YOUTH CAMP ORGANIZED BY AVFO

The AVFO organized a five-day 'youth camp' in Auroville during August 2024, hosting 100 participants from all over India with support from the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education. Despite the event taking place after she had been repatriated, the program was inaugurated virtually by Dr. Jayanti Ravi from Gujarat. The program included a range of activities such as farming sessions, yoga classes and cycling tours across Auroville. After the Youth Camp was completed, several [YouTube videos](#) were shared by 'Auroville Official' (previously Auroville Media Interface) and it was covered in [The Hindu](#).

Guest speakers at the program included [Sraddhalu Ranade](#), [Sampadananda Mishra](#), and Raghava Krishna (founder of [Brhat](#), who are soon to be holding a [3-day workshop](#) at Bharat Nivas). According to The Hindu's report, these camps are intended to become a regular feature of the AVFOs educational outreach initiatives, with plans already in development for future sessions. The organization and implementation of the camp took place without any announcements or invitations being shared with the community and very little engagement with Aurovilians within the program. Additionally, the program makes use of Auroville's spaces and resources at a time when the residents have had their access to shared spaces such as the Unity Pavilion and Bharat Nivas limited by the AVFO. The press report also directs aspiring volunteers and interns to reach out to the AVFO directly, circumventing established administrative structures like SAVI.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- Fire at new Ecoservice landfill: A resident recorded a [fire in the pit](#) at the new EcoService landfill located at Nine Palms. It is not known how or why the pit was set alight. For several days, residents across Auroville reported a strong smell of burning plastic.
- WCom rebuttal about Entry Board: The RA WCom shared a [rebuttal](#) to the AVFO 'WCom' [massbulletin](#) titled "Important Notice: Correct Process for Newcomer Admission to Auroville".
- RA WCom report for August & September 2024: The [latest report](#) from the RA WCom has been released.
- RA TDC report: The RA TDC shared a [Report on Tree Felling](#). The report catalogues the excessive clearing of trees and understory that has been carried out by the AVFO since the Supreme Court placed a stay on the NGT judgement in December 2023.
- Forest workers visited AVFO: In September 2024, a group of [forest workers](#) went to Town Hall to attempt to speak to the AVFO 'BCC' about the gratuity money owed to them. The members of the 'BCC' refused to meet with them, so the forest workers instead delivered a petition to the AVFO.
- Foresters Silver Fund requests continue to be ignored: Senior members of the Forest Group are fighting to have their claims to Silver Fund acknowledged by the AVFO 'FAMC' and 'BCC'. Please see [here](#) for the latest emails they have sent.

GATHERING

THE DAY MOTHER LEFT HER BODY

SUNDAY 17.11.2024

*“But when the hour of the Divine draws near
The Mighty Mother shall take birth in Time
And God be born into the human clay
In forms made ready by your human lives.
Then shall the Truth supreme be given to men.”*



6:30 - 7 am: Meditation under the Banyan Tree at Matrimandir.

Entrance from the Office Gate, open from 6 am.

Guests are requested to carry their Aurocard.

Last entry for Aurocard holders at 6.40 am.

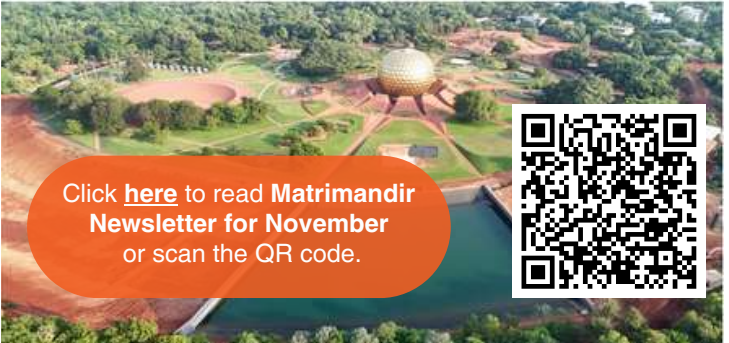


AUM

MATRIMANDIR NEWSLETTER

Matrimandir

November 2024



Click [here](#) to read **Matrimandir Newsletter for November** or scan the QR code.



FRENCH NEWS & NOTES

NOUVELLES D'AUROVILLE



Auro – Traductions

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



INNER JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION TO THE INTEGRAL YOGA OF SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER

Tuesday 19th November, 9 am - 12 noon

Focus: **Self-realisation**

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

VIPASSANA MEDITATION

Date: Every Sunday - for those who have attended at least one ten day Vipassana course as taught by SN Goenka.

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

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



Vipassana

As taught by S.N. Goenka



Contact: Sanjay Tumati,
+91 87909 82210 (available on WA)
sanjay@auraauro.com



AUROVILLE CONVERSATIONS



Submitted by an Aurovilian

RESIDENTS SPEAK

SUSPENSE ON VIKAS RADIAL

AUROCITY NEWS DESK

Saturday 9/11/2024

After more than a week of quiet, the heavy machines were back. Within minutes the bicycle path between Vikas Radial and Grace community was cleared. All the gates and cow-grills to make it bicycle and pedestrian only were cleared by the JCB. All the green zone planned by Avenir decades ago was flattened then by the heavy roller.



Ostensibly this was done to create a way for cars and motorcycles to traverse when the Vikas Radial would be untraversable.

This clearly meant that further destruction of the radial would recommence. What would happen if two cars entered the diversion from opposite sides at the same time was unclear.

However, the questions of the residents sent to that TDC two weekends ago (shared in the last N&N) were not answered. One community got an email after more than a week from their Inbox Manager (how many Aurovilians would like a job like that?) acknowledging receipt of the email.

So it seems that the team with the 5 JCBs and heavy roller and dump trucks is going to win, roll over the land, the pedestrians, the bicyclists, the motorcyclists. They do not have to answer any questions or even show their faces, their machinery and operators are enough to win. They can collect the cash prize without a ceremony.

The Supreme Court has sided with the weak and powerless. In a strongly worded statement, the court said: "Justice through bulldozers" is unknown to any civilized system of jurisprudence and simply unacceptable under the rule of law (<https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/bulldozer-justice-simply-unacceptable-civilised-system-supreme-court>). Of course, the court has always in general, in principle, sided with the meek, though that has proven unenforceable. And in specific instances the courts' judgements or stay orders align with the powerful.

And in this mess of humans against humanity, the divine appears to have walked out. Can the human spirit show up in strength enough to stop the destructive minority and prove to the divine that we are still worthy? It is a challenge for Aurovilians to take on.



INFINITE POTENTIAL

Auroville the City of Dawn is already
Serving its role as playing field exactly
Concentrating the cosmic archetypes
In a magic mirror dance of the self
Engaging in the very hastening
Of the advent of a new being
An intensified cyclic upgrading
From the false-separative ego-mind
To the Truth-Unity Supermind
The Vision-Goal of which is the eventual
Divine Manifestation of a being Supramental.

And so consciously or not We continue on
Under the Mother MahaShakti's modulation
Feeling like victims or players in our own game
Until "Voilà!" the Life Divine for all happens.

Welcome to the Marvel of Infinite Potential!
Of this Great Cosmic Play of You, the Eternal.

Cheers!

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9scqyLPmkAw> (read the description)

ॐ Zech. 2024.11.03

To access the links please scan the QR Code or visit
<https://zechjoia.blogspot.com/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING FOR

REFURBISHED FURNITURE

Hello, I recently moved into an unfurnished house and I'm looking for some refurbished furniture if anyone wants to donate or sell. I'd be needing



- Working ceiling fan
- Study/Office table & chair
- Extra mattress
- Small tables/stools or small coffee table
- Unused wall paint (white) or wall painting tools.

Please contact: +91 89797 82699.

Sasha

LAPTOP FOR STUDENT

Dear Auroville Community,
Aurovilian Devashri, studying visual communication in the third year, needs a laptop.



Fortunately she has received a donation of Rs 25,000. She needs now to fundraise the balance of **Rs 23,000**.

Devashri is very grateful for any further help towards the purchase of the computer so that she can soon buy it and start with her project work for her college studies.

Contributions can be made over Financial Service account # **251110**, Devashri study.

Any amount is much appreciated.

Thank You very much!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: JOIN OUR TAIZÉ MEDITATIVE SINGING GROUP

Do you love to sing and share in moments of peace and reflection?

I am looking to bring together a group of people who are interested in [Taizé](#) meditative songs—beautiful, simple, and repetitive chants that create a sense of serenity and community. We are planning to organize a special Taizé singing event at the **end of November**, and would love to form a small team to help with organizing this meaningful gathering. Whether you are familiar with Taizé or simply curious to learn more, your participation would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch!

Let's come together to create something beautiful for our community.

Ulrike Urvasi - 97515 13906 (messenger apps only, eg WA)
mothersworkforTheMotherswork@gmail.com



ACTIVITIES AT SERENDIPITY

SERENDIPITY ACTIVITIES & THERAPIES

(Ex. Joy Community in front of Center GH)

Center Field, Auroville - 605101, TN, India

Landline: 0091 (0)413 - 3509950

Mobile/Whatsapp: +91 93856 23342

Email: serendipityauroville@gmail.com

<https://serendipity.auroville.org>

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



REGULAR CLASSES:

Qi Gong - with Lhamo

- **Every Monday - Wednesday and Friday 7 - 8:15am**

Qigong can be described as a mind-body-spirit practice that improves one's mental and physical health by integrating posture, movement, breathing technique, self-massage, sound, and focused intent. Specifically, this form of gentle exercise is composed of movements that are repeated a number of times, often stretching the body, and building awareness of how the body moves through space. There are likely thousands of qi gong styles, schools, traditions, forms, and lineages, each with practical applications and different theories about Qi ("subtle breath" or "vital energy") and Gong ("skill cultivated through steady practice"). As Lhamo has a very extensive knowledge of many of them, she will explore different styles according to the students.

Hatha Yoga with Ramesh

- **Monday and Thursday from 5.30 - 6.30pm, and Saturday 7 - 8am, drop in class.**
- **(Restarting from Monday 4th November)**

Ramesh offers hatha yoga classes with some vinyasa flow and include pranayama, traditional sanskrit mantra chanting, and meditation. The style is gentle, adaptive and progressive where passive, gravity-assisted poses are mingled with dynamic vinyasa-style flow as needed. He places a lot of focus on breathing and body-mindfulness during the practice. It is ideal for beginners to intermediate-level practitioners. You will be exposed to authentic Sanskrit terms and their correct pronunciation. The practice will be rejuvenative and restorative. These specific classes will be on donation basis even for guests.

Traditional Sanskrit Mantras with Sonia

- **Thursday from 9 - 10am (Drop in class); and Friday from 5 - 6pm (Regular Students only).**

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

Book Reading Circle - "Be As You Are" by Sri Ramana Maharshi - with Debashish

- **Wednesday from 6 - 7 pm**

The book beautifully explores the teaching of the sage of Arunachala. For him, the realization that "there is no reality other than the Self" was not merely a philosophical concept but a profound truth that shaped his life into one of boundless joy. And in time the world recognized the power of his grace. What was the essence of his wisdom that transformed countless lives and inspired generations of modern philosophers and spiritual teachers. Let's discover it together.

THERAPIES:

Shiatsu Massage with Sara

- **On appointment only (Sara +91 94436 17308)**

Shiatsu is a manipulative therapy developed in Japan and incorporating techniques of anma (Japanese traditional massage), acupressure, stretching, and Western massage in order to maintain physical and mental well being, treat disease, or alleviate discomfort. It involves the uses of kneading, pressing, soothing, tapping, and stretching techniques and is performed without oils through light, comfortable clothing.

Cheek Acupuncture with Lhamo

- **On appointment only (+91 84380 53127)**

Cheek acupuncture works on the principle that in the face there is a holographic miniaturization system covering the whole human body. Very small needles are used solely on the face of the patient, which is a mirror of the whole being. It uses a very interesting and immediate way to assess the changes in the body.

Gua Sha (Chinese Detox Scrub) with Lhamo

- **On appointment only (+91 84380 53127)**

This is one of China's oldest treatments. The practitioner uses a tool like a flat piece of jade to scrub the skin to help release blocks, stagnant blood, energy and restore a natural flow. When the toxins in the deep layers of the body reach the surface through scraping, they get more easily released from the body. This treatment is also suitable for healthy people to detoxify, to purify and improve the metabolism of the whole body.

Modern Trance Healing - Hypnotherapy with Lhamo

- **On appointment only (+91 84380 53127)**

In modern hypnosis, the emphasis is put on our own relationship to our own creative unconscious. There are many different aspects and parts in our outer and inner life. And there are parts that don't have a positive appearance. In Modern Trance Healing, we can turn them into positive possibilities and let them teach us how to discover their positive meaning.

SUPPORT NEEDED

SUPPORT FOR GIUSEPPE

We are in need of financial support to continue to pay for the people that give their time and energy to look after Giuseppe.

Any smaller or bigger contribution is most welcome.

For contributions you may use FS account nr. **102518** (Giuseppe). For additional information, call or send a Whatsapp 0091 94800 31935

We would like to thank you all for your support!
Shivaya and Enrica



CULTURAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXHIBITION OPEN CALL

SEASON 2025-2026

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

The artist, through the description of the project and the images provided, should convey the inspiring idea that gave life to their work. It is important that the submission for the exhibition is coherent and represents the theme that is being explored. It is better if the project and the work are part of a research developed in recent times.

All artists are welcome to submit their projects for an exhibition in the season 2025-2026. If you are interested please send your submission before 31/01/25 to 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 **use of the space is free of cost** but transportation of the work and presence in the gallery during the exhibition time are the artist's responsibility.

The selection will be made in **February** and the decision will be communicated within a few weeks. All submissions will get an answer.

Looking forward to receiving your application.

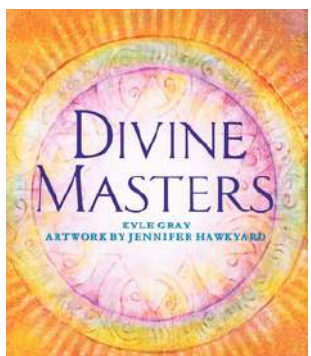
ART EXHIBITIONS

DIVINE MASTERS - KYLE GRAY

ARTWORK BY JENNIFER HAWKYARD

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024

- At Aurelec Restaurant & Art Gallery.
- Open from 9 am - 5 pm.

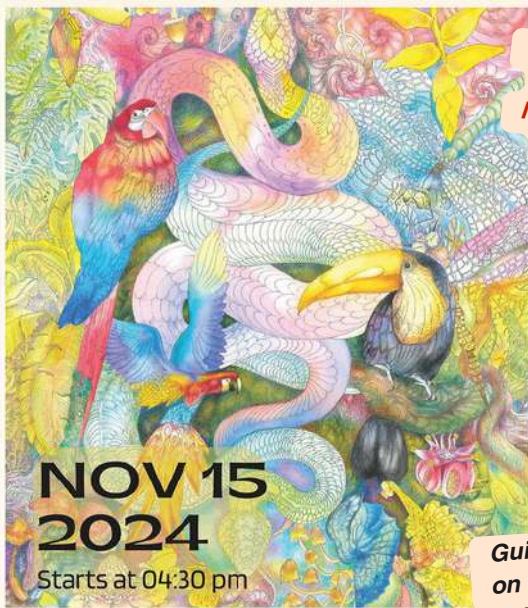


SACRED ECHOES BY PUJASREE BURMAN

15 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER, CENTRE D'ART

SACRED ECHOES

NATURE'S SPIRITUAL ESSENCE



*Opening on:
Friday 15
November at
4:30pm*

**NOV 15
2024**

Starts at 04:30 pm

*Guided visits
on Saturdays
at 10:30am*

Showcasing recent artworks of Pujasree Burman



Centre d'art Citadines, Auroville

16th Nov - 4th Dec, Tue - Sat 02:00 - 05:30 pm

Only 23rd and 30th Nov, 02:00 - 07:00 pm

Mornings by appointment only (centredart@auroville.org.in)

Please park at Town hall parking.

THE SYMBOL OF MEDITATION BY VASANDAN VIRAPPAN

15 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER, CENTRE D'ART

The Symbol of Meditation

Opening 15th Nov 2024 at 4.30pm
Drawing & Paintings Art Exhibition By

V. Vasandan Virappan

*Opening on:
Friday 15
November at
4:30pm*



*Guided visits
on Saturdays
at 10:30am*

15th Nov - 04th Dec 2024 / Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 12.30pm / 2pm - 5.30pm
Sunday & Monday Closed



CENTRE D'ART CITADINES AUROVILLE
Please park at town hall parking

LISTENING BEYOND - LUCAS POSADA

30TH OCT - 26TH NOV 2024, PITANGA

Listening Beyond

Lucas
Posada



Art
Exhibition

30 Oct - 26 Nov '24

OPENING:
Wednesday, 30 Oct
4 - 6pm

Pitanga
Cultural Centre
Auroville



Exhibition timings: Daily, except Sundays 8.30am - 12.30pm & 2.30pm - 5.30pm
Pitanga Cultural Centre, Samasti, Auroville 605 101 | info@pitanga.in | 0413 - 2522403, 9443902403
A service unit of the Auroville Foundation, Health and Healing Trust branch | GSTIN: 33AAATA0037BY3N

POETRY

Birthday

July 29, 2012

I slept in the fragrance of jasmine
And woke on the wings of the morn,
Intoxicant of beauty
In all the bodies I've worn
Through centuries of seeking,
Triumphs and defeat.
Soon age may overtake me
But this sacred life is sweet.
Before me stands the Guide,
Breaking the barrier-way
All my love now offered
As I kneel to pray
To one long known and worshipped,
What more is there to say
We are now fast becoming
Sole actors in Their play.
We cannot see the future
Yet know this earth shall last
Through all man's grave destruction
And the darkness of his past.

-- Narad

Be humble.
Don't be little.
Don't belittle.

-Anandi Z

Pride

A precarious ride
On a foamy tide
The higher the rise
The heftier the price
Of surging and straying
From the calm core
That abides

Only in moments of its fall
Can one hear Its call

-Anandi Z

CREATIVE DESIGNS

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

*A free event
open to all!*

Creative Designs

Poetic, playful, mystic



Come for feedback
& creative relay

5 to 6.30pm, Sat. 16 Nov.
Harmony Hall, Bharat Nivas

FOOD

FOOD FOREST TOUR - EVERY SUNDAY

 **FOOD FOREST TOUR** 
WITH VEGAN ICE CREAMS GREEN SMOOTHIES and more...



EVERY SUNDAY from 9:30 to 11:30
(for groups of min 4 people any other weekday is possible)

Come for a morning experience in my permaculture garden, learn about organic farming and get inspired to grow your own food.
We are going to explore the wide diversity of edible plants that grow around us and harvest fruits, greens, herbs and flowers.
After the tour we are going to create delicious and nourishing

VEGAN ICE CREAMS

with lots of flavourful toppings from the garden and our homemade produce.

La Ferme Community (5min from AV Bakery)
Sign up and info www.myfoodforest.in
whats app text Sarah 9047421044

MARC'S CAFE - EVERY TUESDAY

SPECIAL BREAKFAST AT MARC'S

Greetings from Marc's Café!

Join us every **Tuesday from 8:00 - 12:00 pm** for a special breakfast at Marc's.

Celebrate the Auroville spirit and connect with the community **over a cup of coffee, dosai, and freshly baked croissants.**

Exclusive Offer: Enjoy a 50% discount on the mentioned items for all Aurovillians, Newcomers, and SAVI Volunteers.

See you soon!

Marc's Team



AUROVILLE RADIO



Dear Aurovillians,

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

Last published podcasts:

- [Exploring Education in Arts, Animation and Film-making Ep.36 - The pre-World War II Sound Era Introduction of Sound \(Arts & Culture\)](#)
- [Une série hebdomadaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi – Ep.472. \(Integral Yoga\)](#)
- [Une série hebdomadaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi – Ep.471 \(Integral Yoga\)](#)
- [La Vita Divina Ep.45. LIBRO II - CAP. V PARTE III - L'illusione cosmica; Mente, Sogno e Allucinazione. \(Sri Aurobindo\)](#)

....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.

FOR THE BOOKWORMS

AUROVILLE LIBRARY - READING CIRCLES

MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, AND THURSDAYS



Current book reading circles at the Auroville Library :

- Mondays 6 - 7pm in the Children's Room. **The Beauty Myth by Naomi Wolf.** Explore how society's beauty images affect women's lives, self esteem, and well being. Contact Sohela for more information: +91 82332 77556
- 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)



PAVILLON DE FRANCE PRESENTS - STORY-TELLING CONFERENCE: ALONG THE THREAD OF FABLES, SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2024



The French Pavilion invites you to a unique conference led by Mireille, blending historical facts with artistic expression in an original conference format. With a background in psychology, Mireille discovered her passion for storytelling, combining human emotions with the art of narration. For 25 years, she has explored oral traditions alongside storytellers like M. Hindenoch and has shared her stories across the world:

Since ancient times, tales and fables have traveled across lands and through countless generations, carried by storytellers who shared them through the spoken word. These stories, rich in imagination and moral lessons, transcended boundaries of language and geography, finding their way into the hearts of diverse cultures. In this lecture, you're invited to walk the path of these storytellers, immersing yourself in ancient tales that reveal universal truths about the human experience. By exploring these narratives, you'll uncover timeless wisdom that continues to resonate and inspire today.

- A free event by Mireille and Sophie.
- **Saturday 23rd November 2024 at 4:30pm.**
- At French Pavilion.
- This event will be held in French with simultaneous English translation.

CINEMA



CINEMA PARADISO & AUROFILM PRESENTS

On Saturday, 16 November 2024 @ 8pm @ Multimedia Center Auditorium, Auroville, INDIA

Christiane Mordelet & Stanzin Dorjai Gya's



I Will Come Back Dancing In The Dunes

France-India, 2022, Dir. Christiane Mordelet & Stanzin Dorjai Gya w/ Luvsantseren Otgontseren, Luvstantseren Dashpansan, Luvsantseren Bolormaa, and others, Docu-Drama, 74mins, Mongolian w/English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG)

In the vast Gobi Desert, 11-year-old Otgo stands at a crossroads between tradition and aspiration. As the youngest in a family of herders, she's deeply connected to her cultural roots, tending to camels and goats while enjoying the warmth of festive songs in their yurt. However, television has ignited a new dream: becoming a dancer at the national opera in Ulaanbaatar. This unprecedented ambition fills her with excitement and uncertainty as she contemplates risking the freedom and pride of her nomadic life. This film delves into the dilemmas faced by children from nomadic cultures in a rapidly changing world.

This screening, presented in collaboration with Auro Film and Cinema Paradiso, is made possible by the generous support of the filmmakers and the Auroville Film Institute.

Director Stanzin Dorjai Gya will be joining us in person for a brief and engaging Q&A session right after the screening. Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect directly with the creative minds behind the film!



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

Saturday 16th November at 8:00 pm :

“I Will Come Back Dancing in the Dunes”

Directed by Christiane Mordelet & Stanzin Dorjai Gya, Mongolia, 2022

This screening presented in collaboration with **Cinema Paradiso**, is made possible by the generous support of the filmmakers and the **Auroville Film Institute**.

*The film director, **Stanzin Dorjai** will be present and will introduce the film!*



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

Synopsis: Otgo, the youngest in a family of herders in the Gobi Desert, is just 11 years old. Like her sister, she could follow in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents, tending to camels and goats. However, television has introduced her to a new dream: to become a dancer at the national opera in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. Her life, deeply rooted in the legends told by her father and the comfort of caring for animals, seems set on a traditional path. Even in the harsh winter, when temperatures plummet to nearly -50°C, festive songs echoing in the family yurt make life feel more bearable. Can she risk abandoning the boundless freedom that both defines her and fills her with pride... *This film explores the dilemmas faced by many children from nomadic cultures in the 21st century, as climate change, modern education, and the digital age challenge their traditional ways of life.*

Original Mongolian version with English subtitles. Duration: 1h13'

And Friday 22nd November at 8:00 pm

“R.M.N.”

Directed by **Cristian Mungiu**, Romania, 2022

With: Marin Grigore, Judith State



Overview: The highly awarded Romanian film director of "4 months, 3 weeks, 2 days" and "Graduation", sets the action of his last film in Rimetea and various other villages in Transylvania, Romania, Mungiu named the film after a Romanian acronym for nuclear magnetic resonance, as the film is "an investigation of the brain, a brain scan trying to detect things below the surface". It is based on

the 2020 Ditrău xenophobic incident!

Synopsis: A few days before Christmas, having quit his job in Germany, Matthias returns to his Transylvanian village. He wishes to involve himself more in the education of his son, Rudi. He's also preoccupied with his old father, Otto and also eager to see his ex-lover, Csilla. When a few new workers are hired at the small factory that Csilla manages, the peace of the community is disturbed. Underlying fears grip the adults, and frustrations, conflicts and passions erupt through the thin veneer of apparent understanding and calm... The film was selected in the official competition at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival.

Original version in Romanian with English subtitles. Duration: 2h05'

Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium



Film program : 18 November - 24 November 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 18 NOVEMBER, 8:00 PM:

• SRIKANTH

India, 2024, Dir. Tushar Hiranandani w/ Rajkumar Rao, Jyotika, Alaya F, and others, Biography-Drama, 134mins, Hindi w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG)

Srikanth, defying all odds, rises from rural India to become MIT's first visually impaired student. At MIT, he not only excels academically but also dreams of building a business that can change lives. Founding Bollant Industries, he faces new challenges, balancing his personal dreams with a mission to help others like him. His journey is one of triumph and sacrifice, both embraced with a smile and unwavering determination. *A beautiful film!*

POTPOURRI – TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER, 8:00 PM:

• MANDABI

Senegal-France, 1968, Writer-Dir. Ousmane Sembene w/ Makhouredia Gueye, Ynousse N'Diaye, Isseu Niang, and others, Comedy-Drama, 92mins, Wolof-French w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG)

A money order from a relative in Paris throws the life of a Senegalese family man out of order. He deals with corruption, greed, problematic family members, the locals and the change from his traditional way of living to a more modern one. *A film to watch!*

SELECTION – WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 8:00 PM:

• WHIPLASH

USA, 2014, Writer-Dir. Damien Chazelle w/ Miles Teller, J.K. Simmons, Melissa Benoist, and others, Psychological Drama-Music, 106mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: R

Andrew Neiman, an ambitious young jazz drummer, aims to rise to the top of his elite music conservatory. Terence Fletcher, an instructor with terrifying methods, discovers Andrew and moves him to the top jazz ensemble, changing his life forever. Andrew's drive for perfection spirals into obsession, as his ruthless teacher pushes him to the brink of his ability and sanity. *Much acclaimed and a must see!*

INTERESTING – THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 8:00 PM:

• PLANET EARTH III (EPISODES 1 & 2)

UK, 2023-24, Dir. Nick Easton (S1Ep1) & Wil Ridgeon (S1Ep2) w/ David Attenborough, Tom Greenhalgh, Fredi Devas, and others, Mini-Series-Documentary, 116 mins (58mins each), English, Rated: PG

David Attenborough's third natural history series uncovers unseen locations, stunning landscapes, and amazing animal behaviors. Episode 1, "Coast," explores surprising stories where land meets sea. Episode 2, "Ocean," delves into the vast open ocean, revealing its many secrets and new discoveries.

INTERNATIONAL – SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 8:00 PM:

- **DANE-YE ANJIR-E MA'ABED (THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG)**

Germany-France, 2024, Writer-Dir. Mohammad Rasoulof w/ Mahsa Rostami, Setareh Meleki, Niousha Akhshi, and others, PoliticalDrama-Thriller, 168mins, Persian w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG-13

This award-winning film was shot in secret since the director faces prison terms in Iran. The stor follows a family thrust into the spotlight when Iman becomes an investigating judge in Tehran. As political unrest grows, Iman finds his job more dangerous than anticipated, leading to paranoia and distrust, even towards his wife Najmeh and daughters Sana and Rezvan. *A must see despite its length!*

CHILDREN'S MATINÉE – SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 4:00 PM:

- **THE WILD ROBOT**

USA-Japan, 2024, Writer-Dir. Chris Sanders w/Lupita Nyong'o, Pedro Pascal, Kit Connor, and others ComputerAnimation-SciFi, 102mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG

Shipwrecked on a deserted island, a robot named Roz must learn to adapt to its new surroundings. Building relationships with the native animals, Roz soon develops a parental bond with an orphaned gosling. *Highly acclaimed and beautifully made!*

SIDNEY LUMET CINEMA @ CINÉ-CLUB

CINÉ-CLUB SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 8:00 PM:

- **FAIL- SAFE**

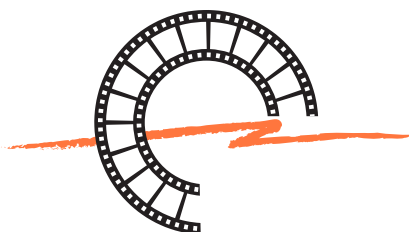
USA, 1964, Dir. Sydney Lumet, w/ Henry Fonda, Walter Matthau and others, Drama – Thriller, 112 mins, English – Russian w/ English subtitles, Rated: R.

A technical malfunction in the Pentagon's strategic control system caused an erroneous order to be sent to a B-52 squadron on a routine training mission instructing the bombers to fly beyond their fail-safe distance. At this point the flight crew are trained to cease communications and prepare to fulfill their objective by bombing Moscow. As the planes near their target, the crisis deepens and together the Americans and Soviets decide on a final, desperate solution.

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

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

AUROVILLE'S FINANCIAL SERVICES (FS)

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

ELECTRICAL SERVICE (AVES)

- **Timings:** Monday to Saturday, 8am - 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 to Saturday, 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm
- **Phone:** 0413 2622452
- **Email:** avgasservice@auroville.org.in

WATER SERVICE

- Monitors water lines and supply within AV, undertakes water-related jobs.
- **Timings:** Monday to Saturday, 8am - 12pm and 2pm - 4:30pm
- **Phone:** 0413 2622877, 89035 53246
- **Email:** avwaterservice@auroville.org.in

ECO SERVICE (WASTE COLLECTION/MANAGEMENT)

- **Timings:** Monday to Saturday, 8:30am - 12:30pm, and 1:30pm - 4:30pm
- **Phone:** 94435 35172
- **Email:** ecoservice@auroville.org.in

POUR TOUS DISTRIBUTION CENTRE (PTDC)

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

POUR TOUS DISTRIBUTION SERVICE (PTPS)

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

AUROVILLE LIBRARY TIMINGS

Our timings are:

Mornings:

Monday to 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!**





Karma Yoga:

*Let the motive be in the deed
and not in the event.*

*Be not one whose motive for
action is the hope of reward.*

Bhagavad Gita

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.
- **NEW:** we are happy to announce **an additional class on Wednesdays from 5.30 pm till 7:pm.** The first class will be on Wednesday 30 Oct. Welcome!

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

OTHER 'SERVICES'

**20% discount
for Aurovillians,
Newcomers, and
Volunteers on
subscription plans!!**

HIVE COWORKING SPACE

OPEN HOUSE - EVERY FRIDAY



Are you looking to work, study, create or simply connect with like-minded professionals in a serene place? Step into Hive and experience the Cosy workspace with super-fast Internet, Coffee - **All for FREE** on our Open House.

- Venue: Hive, Auromode
- Time: **9 am - 5 pm**
- Visit us at www.auromode.in/hive-coworking for more details on our plans and facilities.
- For inquiries: auromodehive@auroville.org.in / +91 70921 97375 (WA) / +91 90427 59540 (WA) or drop by.

All are Welcome!!!

HEALTH

SANTÉ SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 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: Monday to Friday
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)
Midwifery & GYN Care with Paula: Monday & Wednesday	Adaptive Therapy (all ages) with Asita: Wednesday & Saturday
Bio-Well Assessment (Evaluation of your well-being) with Helena – email adminsante@auroville.org.in	Soundbed Session with Sandhya / Thilagam: Monday to Saturday

In Santé, we value our patient's confidentiality & make every effort to ensure their privacy.

In case of cancellation or to reschedule, it is necessary to inform us in advance.

HEALTH CENTER - KUILAPALAYAM

Contact: (0413)-3509942 / 3509943

Pharmacy:

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

Doctor Consultation:

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



DENTAL CLINIC - KUILAPALAYAM

- **Timings:** Monday to Saturday, 9am - 5pm daily
- **Phone:** 0413 2622007/ 2622265
- **Email:** aurodentalcentre@auroville.org.in



REMINDER - RESTRUCTURING AND NEW PUBLISHING GUIDELINES

Dear Community,

As [announced on 11th September 2024](#), the RA News & Notes has been going through a restructuring over the last weeks. After one year and a half of publishing, we are now feeling a need to **focus on truly becoming a community edition of the News and Notes.**

In a nutshell, the RA News team has decided to discontinue publishing the sections:

- Activities & Events;
- Food, Goods & Services; and
- Classes, Workshops and Healing Arts. ([See attachment](#)).

We are now limiting ourselves to content that **strengthens community-building** in Auroville, showcases service-oriented (and non-profit) initiatives, and enables a diversity of perspectives to be shared safely. More specifically, we will continue to include RA Working Groups' announcements and reports, as well as a link to contents from the Foundation Office groups (in a spirit of inclusivity and giving space to all perspectives), and also residents' voices and personal sharings, some cultural events, and information from essential Services.

There are three main reasons for this decision:

1. Many residents have continued publishing their events in both News & Notes despite being told by the Auroville Council that this legitimizes the censorship applied by the Foundation Office's News & Notes.
2. This not only discourages us but also creates a situation where there is a lot of duplication of work. This duplication of work is not something we can sustain on a long-term basis.
3. Entering contents under the specific categories we are now discontinuing was taking a good part of our time while our team has very limited resources, both human and financial.

If you have questions about our new publication guidelines, and what can or cannot be included, you can read [this Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

We are aware that this new editorial policy may impact some of you and we are sorry for any inconvenience caused. This duplication of work made no more sense for us, and taking this decision was our only way to continue editing this publication, at the service of the community.

(Note: We can make exceptions to our new publication rules for contents that are submitted only to the RA News and Notes (and not to the other one), as this would not be a case of duplication of work. If this could interest you, please clearly indicate in your submission to us that you are only publishing your content in the RA News and Notes. We will treat these requests on a case-by-case basis.)

**Thank you for your understanding and support.
It means a lot to us.**

In Community,

The RA News & Notes editors

To receive the RA News & Notes and download the previous issues, follow this link: www.auroville.media/newsandnotes



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.

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