

NEWS & NOTES

No 1053 - A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

12 December 2024



PONDERING

Even the most beautiful thoughts will not make us progress unless we have a constant will for them to be expressed in us through nobler feelings, more exact sensations and better actions.

18 November 1951, Will,
VOLUME 14, COLLECTED WORKS OF THE MOTHER
https://motherandsriaurobindo.in/The-Mother/books/words-of-the-mother-II/#will



THE MOTHER ON AUROVILLE



First Edition 1977, Reprinted 1993, 1999

Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry, India.

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CONCEPTION AND BIRTH:

NEW CONSCIOUSNESS

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*

(The Mother reads a note written from memory by a disciple)

"Auroville will be a self-supporting township.

All who live there will participate in its life and development.

This participation may be passive or active.

There will be no taxes as such but each will contribute to the collective welfare in work, kind or money.

Sections like industries which participate actively will contribute part of their income towards the development of the township.

Or if they produce something (like foodstuffs) useful for the citizens, they will contribute in kind to the township which is responsible for feeding its citizens.

No rules or laws are being framed. Things will get formulated as the underlying Truth of the township emerges and takes shape progressively. We do not anticipate."

I thought I had said more than that because I said a good deal

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about it, inwardly,—on the organisation, the food, etc. We are going to make experiments.

Some things are really interesting; first of all, for example, I would like each country to have its pavilion, and in the pavilion there will be the cooking of that country,—that is, the Japanese will be able to eat Japanese food if they want to, etc. But in the town itself there will be food for both vegetarians and non vegetarians, and there will also be some attempt to find the food of tomorrow.

The whole process of assimilation which makes you so heavy—it takes so much of a person's time and energy—that should be done *beforehand*, you should be given something which is immediately assimilable, like the things they are making now; for example they have vitamin pills and proteins which can be assimilated directly, nutritious elements which are found in one thing or another and which don't have much volume, — a huge quantity is needed to assimilate very little. Now that they are skilful enough in chemistry, it could be simplified.

The city the earth news.



People do not like this simply because they take an intense pleasure in eating; but when you no longer take pleasure in eating, you still need nourishment without wasting your time on it. An enormous amount of time is wasted,—time in eating, in digesting, and all the rest. And there, I would like an experimental kitchen, a kind of culinary laboratory for experimenting. People would go to one place or another

Petunia Xhybrida hort. Vilm.-Andr.,

according to their tastes and inclinations.

Solanaceae. Petunia

And they don't pay for their food, but they should offer their work or their produce: those who have fields, for example, should give the produce from their fields; those who have factories should give their products; or one gives one's labour in exchange for food.

That in itself eliminates much of the internal exchange of money. And for everything we could find things like this. Basically, it shouldbe a city for study, for study and research into a way of life which is

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both simplified and in which the higher qualities will have more time to develop.

It is only a small beginning.

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 <u>FORM</u> 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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WORKING GROUPS NEWS

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE

ES # 234 DATED: 09-12-2024

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

Sincerely,

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

NOT READY TO JOIN

Nirmalraj MURUGAN

NOTE:

- A Newcomer becomes an 'Aurovilian' once his/her name has been confirmed by The Admission Committee (aka the Entry Board) after following due process.
- The date of becoming 'Aurovilian' is the date of confirmation.
 An Aurovilian confirmed by the Entry Board is eligible to participate in all community decision-making processes.
- 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

BRIEF UPDATE FROM THE SUPREME COURT

Dear Community,



The appeals on the verdicts of the NGT and of the Madras High Court on the ATDC standing order were briefly discussed on Friday, 29th November.

The counsel appearing for the Foundation office argued that the protests continued in spite of the interim stay. Our counsels requested a postponement. The Supreme Court gave an order reporting the positions of both parties and fixing a date for final hearing on 8th January 2025 without any other directive. The matter is simply in these terms. The full text of the order is attached.

Any other messages that have been circulating in various forums from other parties are false.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee of the RA Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Maël (TOS), Matthieu, Prashant, Valli



REGARDING STATUS OF JAYANTI RAVI AS SECRETARY, AVF

Dear Community,

Regarding the status of Dr. Jayanti Ravi as Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, please find attached a <u>Press Note</u> (and <u>attachment</u>) that was sent out to our contacts in the regional press on 2nd December 2024. Following this, a short article appeared in The Hindu on 3rd December.

Link: https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/auroville-secretary-repatriated-to-parent-gujarat-cadre/article68941595.ece

On the 4th of December another article appeared in The Hindu stating that according to 'sources', in July 2024 she was extended for a year.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/no-change-to-one-year-extension-to-auroville-secretary-post-repatriation-to-gujarat-cadre/article68943118.ece/amp/

While it is true that there is a letter dated July 2024 stating that she was extended for one year, a subsequent letter dated August 2024 (both letters were obtained through an RTI) states that she was approved for premature repatriation from Secretary, AVF, to her parent cadre in Gujarat, with immediate effect. She assumed her position there on 1 August 2024.

The article of December 4th in The Hindu does not quote any government or public source which confirms that Dr Jayanti Ravi is holding dual charge.

We note that while her repatriation is a matter of public record, the letter extending her for one year has not been made available to the public on the Auroville Foundation website or any other forum. In addition, we have noted that no documents seem to have been signed by her as Secretary, Auroville Foundation, in recent months, including Standing Orders that have been issued lately.

We know Dr Jayanti Ravi has appeared at the 5 December 2024 Governing Board meeting, and are very concerned at the lack of transparency and communication from the part of the Governing Board around the question of her holding dual positions. This intentionally opaque way of functioning continues to be a hallmark of this particular administration, led by the Board and its Chairman.

Lastly, the Auronet announcement of the 4th December by the 'Working Committee' (endorsed by the GB), which announces the confirmation of Dr Jayanti Ravi's position as Secretary, is based only on an article in a newspaper.

In service,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Maël (TOS), Matthieu, Prashant, Valli



FROM THE AUROVILLE COUNCIL

RESIGNATION

Dear Community Members,

We would like to inform you that Ashwini has decided to step down from her role in the Auroville Council due to personal reasons. Her contribution during her tenure has been invaluable, and her dedication to the community will always be appreciated.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for her service and wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.

Warm regards,

The Auroville Council

FROM L'AVENIR D'AUROVILLE

ENSURING SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF CYCLE PATHS DURING ROADWORKS

Dear Auroville Residents,

We are reaching out to address a matter of shared concern regarding the safe use of cycle paths in the area surrounding the ongoing roadworks around the schools. It has come to



our attention that many motorists are opting to ride on cycle paths (along Kalabhumi and Future School) through the Cultural Zone rather than taking the alternative routes around the MM, or even via the Crown past YC and looping back. While this may seem convenient, it is essential to stress that this area is currently unsuitable for through-traffic due to its proximity to several schools and the associated heightened traffic.

The safety of our community, particularly its most vulnerable members, must remain a priority. Neither the GB-ATDC or the CPWD have put up clear signage, and no traffic management measures are being implemented in this area, so we would like to urge all residents to exercise caution and thoughtful decision-making. Taking the extra time to follow the detour ensures not only your safety, but also that of other road users.



We understand that the inconvenience caused by roadworks can be frustrating, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation in making our roads safer during this period of transition. However, in the interim, we kindly request your support in spreading awareness within the community. Please exercise

responsible use of the cycle paths, and communicate this message widely.

Thank you for your understanding and for working together to maintain the safety and well-being of our community.

In Service,

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

(Lucas, Martin, Ramesh, Riju, Samrat, Sathiya)



FO GROUPS NEWS

(not selected by due Residents Assembly process)

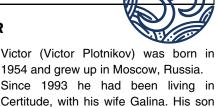
FROM THE FO N&N 1055

Please click **HERE** to read the FO groups news

COMMUNITY NEWS

OBITUARY

REMEMBERING VICTOR



Nikita was born in 1998 in Auroville and since then they lived as a family together till his last day.

He passed away on 27th November, 2024. He was 70 years old.

As a child he was very smart and

inquisitive with varied interests and he loved hiking and rafting through rocky rivers in the Ural region.

In his youth, Victor began to show great interest in Eastern practices, took up Yoga and Karate, attended thematic lectures, and became a vegetarian.

In the early 90s, friends brought Victor a clipping from the newspaper "Komsomolskaya Pravda", which told about the city-commune of Auroville. Since his friends had dreamed of building a similar city in their youth, Victor decided to go to India and see this inspiring vision for himself. From then on, a new stage in his life began.

In his thirties he visited Auroville a few times until he finally moved and settled here. He joined in 1993 and dedicated his entire life to Auroville, especially Matrimandir, which was very dear to his soul. He worked there as an engineer leading a team of workers to manifest the soul of Auroville. From 2019, he worked inside Matrimandir providing peace and guidance for people to meditate.

Victor was an adventurous soul, who kept a smile on his face through any circumstances. He was an extremely dedicated, sincere, honest person, full of passion and joy towards life. He was a good husband and a great father who supported his loved ones through thick and thin of life. He was always ready to help others and supported them with unconditional love. He will be remembered forever as a person with goodwill, good heart, and an eternal smile that radiated positivity and love.

(Compiled by Nikita (son), Galina (wife) and his Russian and Auroville family and friends.)

Victor was cremated on Sunday 1st December at the Auroville Cremation Ground.

REMEMBERING KARUNA

Karuna Periyaswamy, born in Kuilapalayam, was very young when he joined Auroville, only 14 years old. As a child, he had once met the Mother at the Ashram, as part of a school visit, offering flowers to her. His grandfather was one of the village chiefs of Kuilapalayam. He initially stayed in Fraternity,



then in Aspiration for a while, and then finally settled back in Fraternity with his family. He was partly educated in Auroville (After School), and he became a keen sportsman; kabaddi player, volleyball player and basketball player. He worked at Aurelec for some time, and later was part of the Solar Service team for a while.

He married Uma in 1991 and had two children, Vidhya and Kishore. Now he has a 4 month old grandson Vihaan, with whom he spent his last months.

At Fraternity, Karuna started a small workshop, producing handicraft items and dolls. He started with one tailor and one lady assistant, and then, in 1993, this became a unit, Discovery, a garment exporting unit with about 60 employees, offering a lot of job opportunities to the surrounding villages of Kuilapalayam, Bommayarpalayam, Edayanchavadi and Alankuppam. The unit specialised in silk hand painted garments and accessories.

Karuna was very actively involved in Auroville life.

He was the first Tamil/Indian to start a successful export unit in Auroville. Later on he expanded the business by taking over the Lotus unit (Hammocks). In recent years he was managing the guest-house. Discovery created Discovery trust and was trustee of Aurosarjan. Moreover, he used to be a member of the Entry group, one of the Working Committees, and the ABC support group. He was also helping and supporting He youngsters. financially supported a lot of sports activities like tournaments and matches. And he contributed to Auroville schools. For some time he was one of the executives of NESS school and of the maintenance service.





He will be remembered as a very organised person, straightforward, skilful, very hard working, with great will power, and he was a strong and bold person. He loved to travel the world and has experienced travelling to the USA, England, Germany, France, Switzerland.

For the past 6 years, Karuna suffered from chronic kidney disease and was in dialysis. He passed away on the 5th of December, aged 60. His cremation took place the next day, at Adventure Burial Ground.

As remembered by Karuna's daughter, and son, Vidhya and Kishore, and his wife Uma.

PROJECT COORDINATION GROUP (PCG)

CALL FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

With regard to grant proposals for possible funding by the Foundation for World Education (FWE) and Stichting de Zaaier (SDZ) in 2025, a two part-grant application and budget request form is available on request from pcg@auroville.org.in.

Please submit your filled in forms and any other documents related to this purpose as attachments to a covering email addressed to: pcg@auroville.org.in latest by Monday, 16 December.

Questions and early submissions are welcome,

Devi, Pala, Sauro, Tineke, Vani For the Project Coordination Group

COMMUNITY SHARING

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MATRIMANDIR EXECUTIVES AND MATRIMANDIR LAKE TEAM

Dear Matrimandir Executives and Lake Team,

We were surprised and deeply concerned to learn about <u>the recent</u> <u>breakage</u> of the Matrimandir lake wall.

While it is a relief that no injuries occurred, the failure of the partition 'lego' wall and imported HDPE sheet raises serious questions about engineering accountability and the use of donor contributions.

Failures in experimental projects may be opportunities for learning. However, our primary concerns extend beyond technical or aesthetic shortcomings.

Over the past few years, we have repeatedly appealed for:

- · Obtaining proper building permission from the community.
- Conducting and sharing environmental impact assessments for the lake excavation and the mountain.
- Pausing tree-cutting and excavation, supported by our <u>April</u> <u>2024 petition</u>.
- Consider integrating the <u>Alternate lake proposal</u> that addresses ecological and aesthetic values.
- Consider integrating <u>Community feedback</u> for the lake project in October 2023.
- Engaging in constructive dialogue with community volunteers and more.

Unfortunately, these concerns have been largely ignored or rejected outright.

The work continued in a hasty manner by setting an unrealistic time frame of completion.

This neglect highlights a significant failure: the disregard for participatory and collaborative processes, which are fundamental for the work on Auroville's core values.

We consider this to be the biggest failure in this project and yet to be acknowledged by the present MM executives and the lake team.

For the past three years, Matrimandir lake, gardens and related developments have proceeded amidst administrative discord, undermining the values Auroville has upheld for over 50 years. Regardless of different opinions and approaches, Aurovilians have achieved completing Matrimandir in the spirit of collaboration and mutual respect.

We must see this event as a call to manifest our unity and transparency. It is time to reassess the project entirely and for all involved to step back from the current course.

Sincerely,

Concerned Residents of the Residents' Assembly

A REBUTTAL TO THE RECENT MATRIMANDIR LAKE INCIDENT REPORT

On 5th December 2024, the MM executives shared <u>a report via</u> the Matrimandir mass bulletin, acknowledging the failure of the test lake retaining wall structure built using prefab "Lego" blocks. The report explained that the structural design did not account for the possibility of the dam experiencing the following four factors simultaneously:

- 1. Heavy rainfall over a short duration.
- 2. Existing site topography channeling water into the newly excavated section.
- 3. Standing water percolating and softening the soil.
- 4. Overflow outlet discharge rates not adequately considering the inflow rate, leading to a potential dam breach.
- It is indeed perplexing that the MM team, which includes some acclaimed international engineers (as stated in previous reports) and long-term residents of Auroville, failed to foresee such risks in Tamil Nadu—a region known for experiencing two primary monsoon seasons each year.



- According to meteorological records, Tamil Nadu has faced over 12 large cyclones comparable to the recent cyclone Fengal (max. wind speed: 90 km/h) in the past 80 years. With the impacts of climate change, the frequency of such cyclones has been increasing each decade, and patterns have become less predictable. Cyclone Nisha (2008) and cyclone Vardah (2016) brought rainfall intensities similar to Fengal (up to 500 mm per day). It is evident that the planned lake design failed to adequately consider these climatic conditions in its structural design and execution plan.
- The report claims that the financial damage is negligible as Lego blocks are not damaged (incorrect – refer to the photo) and they will be saving on the overall cost of the project as instead of building the 3rd dam wall with new material, they will reuse the Lego blocks, eliminating the need for a dam wall between the test lake and newly excavated hole.
- Instead of addressing flaws in the decision-making process, the report shifts blame onto an individual engineer's proposal, ignoring the premature implementation of a mixed and incomplete design.
- Technical and financial accountability, along with public safety and environmental impact, are critical concerns for a project of this scale. However, the report highlights a significant lack of safety awareness in the planning and execution of the lake project.

The report's tone is distressing, reflecting a clear lack of accountability.

To date, decision-making for the MM lake project—spanning funding, design, and engineering—has been vested in a single entity with no independent oversight. The structural failure of the dam exposes systemic failures in this development approach.

As per regulations, an independent third-party assessment must be conducted to evaluate the failure of the test lake wall design and engineering.

Instead, the report proposes using the structural failure as an opportunity to implement the lake without phasing.

Such an approach would make it impossible to detect and repair leaks or mitigate potential embankment breaches.

Notably, even in the first completed section of the planned lake (approx. 5% of the total project), constant water leaks have been reported over the past few years.

Sincerely,

Concerned residents of the Residents' Assembly

A SUMMARY OF EVENTS HAPPENING IN AUROVILLE TODAY

AVFO ANNOUNCES 'CODE OF CONDUCT' TO LIVE IN AUROVILLE

On 25th November 2024, the AVFO Officer on Special Duty, Dr. G. Seetharaman, issued a new <u>Standing Order</u> detailing residence criteria and a code of conduct for Auroville residents. The Standing Order comes after the recent Gazette of India notification regarding <u>Admissions and Terminations</u> regulations and for the <u>selection of the Working Committee</u>, which were published in January 2024. Both sets of regulations were subsequently <u>stayed</u> by the Madras High Court in February 2024 following legal challenges from the RA WCom.

The Standing Order establishes strict guidelines for residents, newcomers, volunteers and permanent guests. It outlines "General principles of life in Auroville" and a detailed code of conduct, presenting them as mandatory requirements rather than guidelines, with the stated threat of "termination" of status if the 'rules' are breached.

After the Standing Order was issued, the RA WCom released a massbulletin stating that the Order "has no grounds" and is "blatantly in contradiction with the Charter, the Dream and the quoted works of Sri Aurobindo." The RA WCom noted that the Order does not respect proper procedure, the spirit of Auroville, or the letter and spirit of the Auroville Foundation Act as recognized by various orders of the Madras High Court.

Some key aspects of the new code of conduct include:

Residency Requirements:

- Full-time residence in Auroville is mandatory
- Any trips must be reported to the Human Resources Service
- Absences exceeding two weeks require prior approval -Unauthorized absences beyond two weeks may result in "status termination"

Guest Accommodation Rules:

 Guests may only stay in allocated residences for a maximum of seven days

Aurovilians must acquire permission from Human Resources Service to:

- Host family members beyond seven days
- Host a spouse
- Live with elderly parents and minor children as "Permanent Guests"

Other rules:

- Only the AVFO media body can issue press releases about Auroville
- All Aurovilians have mandatory work for 6 hours per day for 6 days per week, or 5 hours per day for 7 days per week
- Pregnant women, nursing mothers, the elderly and the disabled will be offered work "suitable to their condition"
- All those residing in Auroville must attend the Auroville Spiritual and Material Refresher program, organized by the Human Resources Service
- Social gatherings can only be organized in authorized locations that are published by the Funds and Assets Management Committee.

The RA WCom indicated that they will share more information about the Standing Order in the coming days.

CYCLONE FENGAL CAUSES CHAOS

Cyclone Fengal made landfall over Puducherry late in the night of 30th November 2024, causing a large amount of damage to the forest, roads, electrical power lines and other infrastructure in and around Auroville. It took several days for the electrical supply to be fully restored, with some homes in Auroville still without power as of 9th December.



One of several hundred fallen trees

Damage to MM Lake

In addition to the loss of several hundreds of trees, the MM lake was severely damaged. The wall of the first lake area, holding water 10m deep, cracked and spilt water into the second lake area which is currently undergoing excavation. At the other end of the lake wall, the HDPE (plastic) lining ripped. These events raise serious concerns about the construction of the lake and its ability to withstand extreme weather conditions.

An <u>open letter</u> was sent to the MM Executive Team, repeating previous calls to follow proper processes and proceed with an Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) when building the MM lake.

On the 5th December, the MM executives and the lake team shared a report via mass bulletin acknowledging the structural failure of the test lake retaining wall, built using prefab "Lego" blocks. They stated that they had not anticipated the possibility that the dam could experience the following 4 factors simultaneously:

- 1. Heavy rainfalls over a short time span
- 2. That the existing site topography would channel the water to the newly excavated section
- 3. That standing water tends to percolate and soften the soils and
- 4. Overflow outlet discharge rates need to take into account the inflow rate to prevent a dam breach.

The report states that the financial damage is negligible as the Lego blocks were not damaged (this is incorrect according to photos of the damaged wall). They also stated that they will be saving on the overall cost of the project as they will reuse the Lego blocks for the next section, eliminating the need for a dam wall between the test lake and newly excavated hole.



The decision making of the MM lake project from funding to implementation, including design and engineering has been vested in a single agent. However, instead of undertaking an independent assessment to evaluate the causes for the breaching of the test lake wall, the report states that they intend to use this as an opportunity to implement the lake without phasing. This approach would make it impossible to detect and repair leaks or mitigate an embankment breach. Even in the first completed section of the planned lake, which constitutes approximately 5% of the overall project, constant water leaks have been reported over the past few years.

As well as the damage to the MM lake, there was <u>observable</u> <u>slippage</u> of the mud hill inside the fence next to Town Hall.

Other Cyclone Damage

The cyclone affected a number of farms and forests across Auroville. Several farms reported loss of fruit trees, flooding of grains and vegetables, loss of poultry, and damage to vital infrastructure. The financial losses from the damages and the costs of repairs are expected to be borne by the farmers, despite maintenances and financial support being cut off from these vital community resources for over 1.5 years. The Alankuppam-Kottakarai kolam also overflowed, causing severe flooding to homes and farms in the neighbouring villages.

Many roads were blocked due to fallen trees in the cyclone, most of which were cleared by the tireless efforts of individual residents. The AVFO did not initiate any clearing or service to the affected community and the AVFO 'FAMC''s initial response to the cyclone was to send an <a href="mailto:email



Bridge under construction through Darkali watershed



Kalabhumi Amphitheatre

ONGOING DESTRUCTION

Revelation

The construction of Radial 1 from Lilaloka through Revelation Forest continued on 21st November 2024, with CPWD workers using JCBs to break the fence around Revelation, and clear the path of the planned road. As highlighted in this post from N&N no. 1052, the destruction of this fence means that the forest area is now vulnerable to animal grazing and wood theft. It was also entirely unnecessary, as there was access available via Revelation main gate.

The AVFO reacted strongly to the Revelation Management Team, who attempted to intervene in the destruction and requested to see the relevant paperwork authorising the works. The OSD, Dr Seetharaman, sent a <u>letter</u> to Arun of Revelation, terminating his position in the AVFO 'GreenBelt Services'. The letter stated that "the obstruction of government authorized works on government property is a criminal offense". Please see <u>here</u> for a clarification as to why Auroville land is not government property.

On the same day, the OSD also sent a letter of complaint to the Inspector of the Auroville Police Station demanding that they file FIRs against the Revelation Management Team. The letter stated that their actions were "criminal in nature" and that "the CPWD [and] by extension the AVF Authorities are ... obstructed from performing the duties with regards to the building of the Auroville city which is mandated to the Governing Board by the Auroville Foundation Act". The AVF Act states that the role of the GB is "to prepare a Master-Plan of Auroville in consultation with the Residents' Assembly and to ensure development of Auroville as so planned". The police went on to file a Community Service Register (CSR) against Arun.



Revelation radial

Vikas Radial

As mentioned previously, work began on the Vikas Radial in October 2024 without any prior notification to the residents of the nearby communities. The removal of the road pavers meant that access to homes and parking were seriously affected. The AVFO 'ATDC' claimed they would rectify the situation and open up alternative access by widening the Grace-Arati cycle path, but the pathway quickly became impassable due to the monsoon rains.

After three days of work residents from several communities emailed the AVFO 'ATDC' and convinced the contractor engineer to stop work until there was a <u>response</u>. AVFO 'ATDC' agreed to a meeting to discuss the situation. On 19th November, members of the AVFO and their 'ATDC' as well as CPWD engineers and their contractors, met with members of nearby communities. Amongst <u>several other points</u>, those at the meeting agreed that the work would not continue until after the end of the monsoon.

However, on 21st November workers using a JCB began taking apart more of the road. After a couple of residents objected in person, Sindhuja, Antim and a large group of Town Hall workers came to the site and threatened the residents with legal action. However, a few of the 'ATDC' members who had been present at the meeting two days before eventually agreed that they had promised to stop the work for the time being, and the group left. Reportedly, the same group of people from Town Hall then went to Revelation Forest to oversee the removal of the fence.

Subsequently Prashant, who is a Landscape Architect and Regional Planner as well as a member of the RA WCom, sent an email to the AVFO and their 'ATDC'. The email raised a number of pertinent questions about the current roadworks happening across Auroville, both ongoing and planned.

Solar Kitchen Parking Lot

Other recent development works include the partial destruction of the new parking lot opposite Solar Kitchen, for a radial which follows a line of force. The parking lot was built just 2 years ago using some of the paver blocks that were removed from the Crown Road.



EVERGREEN LAND GRAB UPDATE

Since PKS won his appeal, which ruled in his favour and handed him Auroville lands inside Evergreen community, he has been actively claiming the land and has cleared a large area of trees and constructed a wall. There has been no official survey carried out to mark the land, nor have the AVFO or their 'Land Service' made any moves to verify the boundaries. They have also not filed an appeal against the decision. Residents of Evergreen have made repeated pleas for assistance to the Land Board and AVFO working groups to secure the land, highlighting that they are facing harassment on a daily basis from PKS's workers, which included a rock being thrown at one resident. The workers also trespass freely through the Evergreen community, even at night.

There is no clarity as to why the AVFO and their 'Land Service' appear unconcerned about such a valuable piece of Auroville land, which has been in the possession of Auroville for over thirty years. The land lies inside the MasterPlan area and it is prime for development due to its roadside location.

UNCERTAINTY ABOUT JAYANTI RAVI'S REPATRIATION

A <u>response</u> to an RTI request has confirmed that Dr. Jayanti Ravi was repatriated back to her parent cadre in Gujarat in August 2024. Uncertainty about her repatriation had remained due to her occasional presence in Auroville as well as a number of <u>press reports</u> that named her as the Secretary.

The RA WCom sent out a press note, informing the media that her status was clarified, which led to a <u>report</u> in The Hindu on 3rd December 2024. The article stated that she had been "prematurely repatriated", a reference to her one year extension that started in July 2024 which has apparently been cancelled.

On 2nd December, questions regarding the status of Dr. Ravi were asked in the Lok Sabha by VCK MP Ravikumar. The questions referred to whether the position of the Secretary of the AVF was vacant and the reply from the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was that the "Ministry of Education has issued tenure-related orders on July 4 [2024]" (a reference to her one year extension).

On 4th December, a <u>Hindu article</u> based on information from an unnamed source claimed that Dr Ravi's repatriation had not interfered with her one year extension and she was therefore still the Secretary. The article was later <u>posted</u> on Auronet by the AVFO 'WCom', who claimed that this "confirmed" that Dr Ravi was still the Secretary.

Dr Ravi was present at the 68th GB meeting which was held in Auroville on 5th December. <u>Press reports</u> after the meeting mentioned that she was present in the Secretary role.

The RA WCom sent a massbulletin which noted that the August 2024 order was for premature repatriation from the Auroville Foundation to Gujarat, and no orders that show that she holds a dual role have been seen. They also highlight that there is no evidence that Dr. Ravi has signed any documents since the repatriation order, as visa letters of recommendation and the recent residence criteria Standing Order have all been signed by the OSD. The email continues "[We] are very concerned at the lack of transparency and communication on the part of the Governing Board around the question of her holding dual positions. This intentionally opaque way of functioning continues to be a hallmark of this particular administration, led by the Board and its Chairman".

CPWD TENDERS AND WORKS UPDATE

The CPWD has issued 55 tenders for works in Auroville over the past three years, with a combined estimated value of 60 crores, according to the government's E-Tender Portal as of July 2024. Recent tenders include for LED street lighting (1.3 crore), construction of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) from Certitude to VC parking (6.35 crore) and the installation of an elevator in the Town Hall building (55 Lakh). The necessity and the quality of some of these works have been questioned, for example the number of street lights seem to be far more than is needed. Questions have also been asked as to why the ORR is a narrow road made with paver blocks when it is intended for heavy traffic use.

Prior to 2022, development projects in Auroville were generally carried out by Auroville units. This allowed project funds to recirculate within the community's economy and drew upon decades of home-grown expertise in tropical sustainable construction. The current shift to external contractors represents a significant change in both how development funds flow and how construction expertise is sourced, with favour now being shown for unsustainable materials like cement.

Transparency remains limited for these projects. While the CPWD website contains certain documents, other standard construction documentation such as detailed cost estimates, road project cross-sections, survey reports, and construction drawings have not been shown despite repeated requests from residents.

The matter of environmental clearances for these works remains under legal consideration. While the AVFO 'ATDC' maintains that such clearances are not required for Pattalands, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had previously ruled that Auroville must follow Government of India environmental regulations due to the scale of development and potential impact on the surrounding villages and agricultural lands. This NGT order was challenged by the Secretary in the Supreme Court and in December 2023 the Supreme Court placed a stay on the NGT order, after which the AVFO began large-scale land clearing.

The RA TDC have also repeatedly expressed concern about the permanent nature of tree removal while the legal status of environmental regulations remains unresolved.

ELECTRICAL FIRE IN COUNCIL ROOM

On 9th November 2024, an <u>electrical fire</u> caused by faulty wiring broke out in the Town Hall Council Room. The fire happened during the night, and was brought under control thanks to the quick actions of one of the Council Room vigil watchers, who retrieved a fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

Despite the fact that the presence of a member of the watch helped prevent serious damage, the AVFO 'FAMC' has ordered AVES not to repair the electrical connection. However, another electrician came forward and fixed a connection to the room.

For 2.5 years, a small group of residents have maintained a 24/7 presence in the Council Room. The room has strategic and symbolic significance as the only space in Town Hall still available to the residents and their working groups. More help is always needed, if you can offer any assistance please see above in the 'ongoing actions' section for contact details.

COMMERCIAL PROJECTS SIGNAL SHIFT IN AVFO DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Two new projects - one operational and one planned - indicate a growing emphasis on tourism-focused development in Auroville. Le Paradis D'Auro, recently opened, and a Southern Service Node (SSN) mobility hub planned by the AVFO 'FAMC', highlight a shift in priorities for Auroville's growth.

The <u>Southern Service Node project</u>, announced by the AVFO 'FAMC' in September 2024, outlines plans for a large commercial complex featuring seven restaurants, boutique shops, and parking facilities for 90 cars and 420 bikes. According to the project documents, the complex aims to centralize the visitor activities that are currently spread along the Kuyilpalayam road, although the vast majority of those businesses are privately-owned.

Le Paradis D'Auro, which opened recently, markets itself as an educational hub and functions primarily as a display center for various animals including 30 cows, 350 birds across 8 species, horses, guinea pigs, rabbits and other creatures. While the project claims to promote environmental awareness, concerns have been raised about the ethics of confining animals in artificial environments for visitor entertainment.

The AVFO's mobility hub proposal plans to restrict visitor and resident vehicle access beyond the facility, requiring transfer to internal transport. The project documents state that "visitors and residents will switch from fossil-fuel vehicles to e-vehicles or non-polluting modes of transport or public transport". This may not be practical for all road users, and is likely to increase traffic at other entrances

The planned restriction of the current Certitude entrance in favor of the new Southern Gate would funnel visitors through designated commercial zones before reaching other parts of Auroville. This will highlight Auroville as merely a tourist attraction. The AVFO has apparently secured funding for the SSN building construction but it is not stated from whom.

FOREST GROUP RESPONSE TO TORKIL IN AV TODAY

The Forest Group has released a <u>detailed statement</u> responding to claims made by Torkil, a member of the AVFO 'FAMC', in a recent Auroville Today interview regarding the management of Auroville's forests. The statement addresses several key points, including the AVFO 'FAMC's' refusal to release gratuity payments for 60 forest workers laid off in July 2023, and disputes Torkil's assertion that the Forest Group was unwilling to discuss changes.

The statement strongly challenges Torkil's claim that only 12-18 people are needed to manage Auroville's forests, pointing out that Auroville's afforestation project is unique in India, with no comparable government or non-government initiatives. The Forest Group emphasizes that their successful approach involves continuous planting of rare and endangered species, maintenance of extensive fence lines, and management of nurseries and seed banks. Torkil's statement suggests that the abrupt cutting of funds in July 2023 appears to be part of a larger strategy to silence the Forest Group's voice regarding ongoing development projects in forested areas, rather than purely an economic measure as suggested by Torkil.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- Issue 7 of the Voice of Auroville: RA WCom have shared the latest issue of the Voice of Auroville, available at this link. Previous issues are available here.
- Removal of News & Analysis from Auronet: The removal of a group which provided relatively unbiased updates about Auroville news demonstrates that the censorship of Auronet continues. Jothi Charles <u>shared</u> that his group "News and Analysis" had been removed in November 2024. The group was notable for occasionally sharing information that was critical of the AVFO, in particular the criticism by the Central Information
- An Offering to the Community: A short booklet, written in English, French and Tamil, has been anonymously circulated in Auroville. Called 'An Offering to the Community' it outlines "some notes and propositions to be shared,contemplated, developed so as to commit, each and all, to a more conscious and more humble process of evolution, offered to the task before us all, at the service of Truth."
- Hindu Articles: Two articles on Auroville, written by Aurovilians with differing opinions about the takeover of Auroville, appeared in The Hindu in November 2024. The first, titled "A case for the organic, harmonious growth of Auroville" was written by Francios Gaultier and the second, titled "Land consolidation for the city area is being overseen in a professional way" was written by Anu Majumdar.

POUR TOUR WATER (PTW) EMERGENCY SERVICE

Dear Residents,

Pour Tous Water is providing the following emergency services free of charge, as decided by the Resident assembly in January 2014.

The recent Cyclone Fengal inflicted damage in Auroville. Please contact us: Pipe broken, booster pump/pump; generator supply for filling up water in your tank; sludge removal/coordination due to Cyclone Fengal.

Yes, Cyclone Fengal caused power outages, and residents suffered from water shortages. Some Auroville community

members or individuals who brought diesel (In kind) to the generator have been filling water at their community water tank or individual tanks.

We were unable to attend to several urgent calls, such as "pump the water out of the flats on the ground floor that have been completely flooded and have no outlet to go." With only two or three employees, we were unable to handle all emergency calls.

Kindly send us your phone number:

Ptw@auroville.org.in Landline: 0413 2622899

Thanking you, Regards PTW team



AUROVILLE DOG SHELTER

Dear AV Community, dear friends,



Cyclone Fengal has wreaked havoc on our shelter, causing significant damage to our infrastructure and tragically leading to the loss of several dogs and injuries to others. While electricity, water, and Wi-Fi have been restored, the road to recovery is still long.

The day after the cyclone, some compassionate Aurovilians, undeterred by the devastation, walked on foot to our shelter to provide urgently needed cloth to protect puppies from hypothermia. Their courageous intervention helped save lives. We are immensely grateful for their kindness and support.

Our team has been working tirelessly to clear the debris, repair damaged enclosures and buildings, and restore essential services. However, our electrical infrastructure remains compromised, hindering our operations as only a temporary fix could be applied. The much-anticipated Rs. 2 crore funding for building the new Auroville Dog Shelter is still held back. We are hopeful that this situation can be resolved soon by working together with the Auroville Foundation.

Due to the urgent need for repairs and upgrades to our surgery and ABC facilities, we have been compelled to temporarily halt our sterilization program. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Our goal of sterilizing 1000 dogs annually remains crucial to address the ongoing puppy crisis and ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and guests.

We implore your support to help us rebuild our shelter and continue our vital work for the AV community. We urgently require supplies such as cloth, cardboard, newspaper, and pedigree dry food, as well as monetary donations. You can drop off supplies at the designated donation points: Old Pour Tous in Kuilayappalam, Free Store, and the two grocery stores near the Edyanchavadi temple.

For financial donations, please transfer to FS 251391 or visit our website: www.aurovilledogshelter.com

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has shown so much love, compassion, and support during this challenging time. Your support is a beacon of hope in our efforts to serve the AV community.

AUROVILLE INSTITUTE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY: 20TH ANNIVERSARY

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2024

Auroville Institute of Applied Technology will celebrate its 20th Anniversary at Bharat Nivas Auditorium on December 18th 2024, at 10a.m.

AIAT is the only Institute of Higher Education in Auroville that enables the region's youth to pursue graduate studies in emerging technologies affiliated with Pondicherry University. AIAT conducts three-year B.Voc. degree courses based on skill-centric integral education concepts in Software Development and Machine Learning (AI), Applied Electronics and Chip Design, Electric and Electronics Technology (Renewable energy), Mechatronics and Production Technologies. The courses are conducted at its campuses in Aurobrindavan/Palmyra, Irumbai, and Udavi (C3 Land Design).



In 2004, AIAT began vocational education at the industrial school level and continues today at the graduation level for the rural Bioregion of Auroville. To date, approximately 2000 Youths have been skilled in various professions at the ITI level (NSQF level 4), beginning with Electronics Mechanics, Computer Hardware System Management and Networking, Accounting and Secretaryship, Draughtsman Civil,

Computer Applications, Fitter, and Welder in collaboration with Auroville units and industry in Pondicherry.

Many of the AIAT alumni are working in Auroville.

AIAT invites all alumni and Aurovillians interested in promoting Applied Science-based higher education at Auroville College to benefit the region's and Auroville's youth to attend the event on 18 December 2024 at 10a.m. at Bharat Nivas Auditorium.

Lavkamad Chandra and Sanjeev Ranganathan

KINDERGARTEN - 40TH YEAR CELEBRATION

OPEN HOUSE, FRI 20TH - SAT 21ST DECEMBER



KINDERGARTEN CENTRE FIELD IS CELEBRATING ITS 40th BIRTHDAY!

All are invited to the open house at Kindergarten on:

- · Friday 20th DEC from 1pm to 3pm
- · Saturday 21st DEC from 9am to 1pm

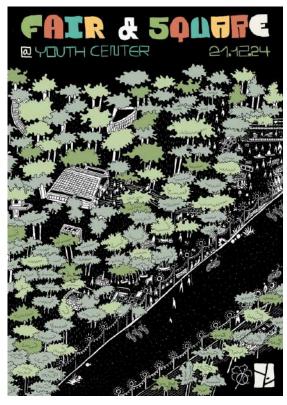
The exhibition will be displaying the work done by children this year and a photo exhibition of the past 40 years of the Kindergarten.

Ex-students (and their parents) are especially welcome to rediscover their younger self and their classmates on our yearly photo albums – and meet some of their teachers too!

FAIR AND SQUARE: REIMAGINING THE YOUTH CENTER

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Join us on the 21st of December for the annual fair at the Youth Center!



Fair and Square, this year's fair name, is inspired by the theme: Reimagining the Youth Center as a youth town 'square' on the crown road. We are attempting to transport one average day from YC 5 years in the future into today, and we invite you all to join us in defining what that would look like!

The broad outline of what we envision Youth Center to be is:

- · A vibrant social gathering space for people to connect
- A place to share knowledge and to learn
- A space which explores art and culture
- A location which allows the sharing of the joys of life
- The seed which is watered by our collective dreams

Please join us on the 21st, and the days leading up to it, to explore how you would like to connect and interact with the Youth Center in the future; whether it's by offering your services and knowledge or your crafts and skills, or by participating and enjoying yourself to the fullest!

We envision a day filled with **music**, **arts**, **games**, **food**, **and joy**—co-created together with every one of you.

Interested in co-creation? Reach out to: youthcenterinternational@gmail.com +91 94898 69490

Keep an eye out for more updates on WhatsApp groups, Instagram, and posters around town.

Otherwise, see you on the 21st, and then some!

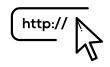
With the biggest smiles and enthusiasm,

Youth Center and YouthLink Crew

FORALL WEBSITE

Dear Friends,

We hope you're all doing well.



On the 15th of November, we noticed that the Forall website was not available. After investigating, we discovered that the DNS records responsible for translating our subdomain forall.fairuse.org to our server's IP address had been taken offline.

We found that other subdomains of fairuse.org were used for illegal activities, leading to the entire domain being blocked. These are external factors beyond our control and have no relation to Auroville.

Unfortunately, we could not do much on our end and hoped that once the illegal subdomains were removed, ours would become active again. However, we have not received any responses from the domain administrators over the past few days, so we have decided to move forward.

We are pleased to announce that the Forall website is now available at a new address: https://forall.ydns.eu/

We apologize for the downtime and appreciate your understanding. Please feel free to share this new address with other users who might be facing the same issue.

Peace

RESIDENTS SPEAK

REGARDING THE AVF RESIDENCE CRITERIA - STANDING ORDER 2024.

Quite a few Aurovilians have described this latest creation of the self-made rulers of Auroville as a bureaucratic nightmare or a bureaucratic circus.

I think they are mistaken.

This is not at all about bureaucracy or administration. It is a very deliberate political move.

Along with the huge delays in visa obtention, the extorting of money on one ground or another, the cutting of maintenances, the dismissal from jobs, the threats of FIR, etc., this latest order aims at discouraging "belligerent" Aurovilians and pushing them to leave.

It is not so easy nor feasible to expel many people from Auroville. It is also not so easy - for many reasons - to expel a lot of foreigners at one go. Yet these people know very well that as long as we are a few hundreds to resist, they will not be able to grab Auroville. Consequently it is much easier and more politically acceptable to create in the Aurovilians such a feeling of disgust that progressively they will all leave a place which bears no resemblance whatsoever to something named Auroville.

It is high time we see things as they are and call a spade a spade. After that, well, each one can decide what he /she wants to do. But at least, at least, let's open our eyes and stop deluding ourselves.

A foreign-Indian Aurovilian

OFFERING

Offering a range of sessions as **a gift to the AV community**, from whom I always receive SO much.

These range from living slowly, travelling the world, discovering a dustbin free life- befriending the body- relationship repair and more.

All are listed in this google doc with my contact info https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jFoGVktpwKjZB-OywyF39BOn5t359475Z5bqbBNVfqU/edit?tab=t.0

Thank you for reading and accepting these gifts.

Love, Deepa



HEEDING THE SILENCES OF THE MOTHER

What Mother said causes problems if generalized or extended in time. To carry her values forward we have to discern them in her words. To help us, we have to listen to her silences. There are many types of silences of Mother and listening to them will cause discomfort as we will have to drop some of her words.

Listen SILENCE

To fulfill Auroville's destiny, we have to absorb her silences. They are often far more important than her words.

That is true of the communication of all enlightened beings.

https://aandolan.medium.c om/heeding-the-silencesof-the-enlightened-ones-4992643d87b4

To read the full essay, click on the link, or scan the QR code



AUROVILLE'S BUREAUCRATIC CIRCUS: A SPIRITUAL UTOPIA TURNED ADMINISTRATIVE ZOO

In a plot twist that would make even the most seasoned cynic laugh, Auroville, the once-celebrated experiment in human unity and spiritual freedom, has become the stage for a bureaucratic circus. The latest "Standing Order" from the Auroville Foundation, under the watchful eye of Dr. G. Seetharaman, has transformed this utopian dream into a Kafkaesque nightmare.



This document reads less like an invitation to spiritual awakening and more like a manual for surviving a bureaucratic dystopia. It insists that residents pledge allegiance to texts with the passion of zealots, turning Auroville from a place of spiritual exploration into a mandatory study group for "The Dream" and "To be a True Aurovilian". Here, your enlightenment is measured by your ability to recite doctrine, not by the depth of your soul's journey.

The Code of Conduct? It's a list of commandments so rigid, you'd think they were chiseled by a bureaucrat with a personal vendetta against joy. "Avoid malign discrimination"? Sure, but without a definition, it's like playing spiritual Russian roulette. You're left guessing, hoping your interpretation matches the unseen, bureaucratic ideal.

Social life in Auroville now requires more permissions than a high-security prison. Want to host a friend for a weekend? Better hope your application gets approved. It's not community living; it's community controlling. Auroville's social fabric is now woven with red tape.

And let's not overlook the gag order on politics and media. Engaging in political discourse or shaping your own narrative about Auroville? Forbidden. It's the kind of control that would make Orwell nod in approval, where the only story told is the one approved by the powers that be.

Dr. G. Seetharaman, in his quest for order, seems to have forgotten that the essence of Auroville was about liberating the mind, not caging it in bureaucratic red tape. His approach suggests that the path to enlightenment now involves navigating through a labyrinth of administrative hurdles rather than exploring the infinite possibilities of human consciousness.

This standing order, while perhaps aiming at some form of organization, is instead a blueprint for turning Auroville into a place where the pursuit of spiritual growth is replaced by the pursuit of paperwork. It's a shift from being a "willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness" to a



willing participant in the bureaucratic process.

If Auroville is to preserve its original spirit, it needs to transcend this absurdity. It must rediscover the balance where bureaucracy serves the community's spiritual and communal aspirations, not dictates them. Otherwise, Auroville might well become known not for its dawn of human unity but for its endless night of administrative drudgery.

Guardian of the Dawn

THE GREAT AUROVILLE PURGE: THE UNCHOSEN CHOSEN

Ladies and Gentlemen of Auroville, brace yourselves for the latest episode of "Bureaucracy: The Never-ending Saga."



The Auroville Foundation, in its infinite wisdom (or lack thereof), has decided to play God with our lives by introducing the Admissions and Termination Scrutinizing Committee (ATSC). And guess who's on the guest list? Not the community's cream of the crop, but rather, a lineup of characters who make you wonder if they lost a bet.

The selected ensemble, handpicked not by us, but by an office that seems to have confused "community representation" with "who can we annoy the most today", is set to redefine our community in ways we never asked for.

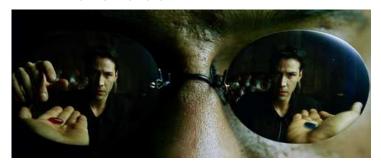
The Auroville Foundation, in this Orwellian twist, has effectively declared martial law on our speech, our rights, and our community spirit. We're now living in an era where being unpopular is the new qualification for power. This isn't just corruption; it's a circus where the clowns are running the show, and we're all forced to watch.

It's time to denounce this charade. The ATSC is not our voice; it's the echo of corruption reverberating through the halls of what should be our sanctuary of unity and freedom. Let's make it clear this isn't representation; it's persecution by proxy.

Auroville, we need to stand united against this absurdity before we all get "terminated" for not fitting into someone's twisted vision of what Auroville should be.

Guardian of the Dawn

EXPERIENCE IS A CHOICE



Experience is a Choice. Change the Consciousness Change the Experience.

స్ట్రా

With the pitiful limitations of the Mental-Animal Human Experiencer there is always not just hope but a radical solution.

The whole rationale of the Supramental Evolution is to transcend the obvious vital-mental limitations and physical mortality of the animal physiology of Homo sapiens:

"The supramental eye can see a hundred meeting and diverging motions in one glance and envelop in the largeness of its harmonising vision of Truth all that to our minds is clash and opposition and the collision and interlocked strife of numberless contending truths and powers. Truth to the supramental sight is at once single and infinite and the complexities of its play serve to bring out with an abundant ease the rich significance of the Eternal's many-sided oneness." 1—Sri Aurobindo

And from the Mother (please be mindful of the chronological order of events in the ever-hastening and intensifying unstoppable Supramental evolution now in motion):

"It's not that I don't see anything, but I don't see in the same way.

In a way, I think I see better. But in a particular way. If, for instance, I have to thread a needle (I have experimented with this kind of thing), well, if I try to thread the needle while looking at it, it's literally impossible. But sometimes (when I am in a certain attitude), if I have to thread a needle, it threads itself—I have nothing to do with it: I hold the needle, I hold the thread, and that's that.

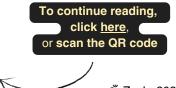
I think (in fact, it's quite simply a matter of experience), I think that if this state gets perfected one should be able to do everything in the OTHER way, the way that doesn't depend on external senses. And

then, well, it will clearly be the beginning of a supramental expression. Because it's a sort of innate knowledge which DOES things. When That comes, you know, you can act.

But you mustn't think; the minute you start thinking or wanting to use your sense organs, it vanishes completely." 2

- ${\bf 1.\ \underline{https://incarnateword.in/cwsa/13/appendix-i-the-tangle-of-karma}}\\$
- 2. https://incarnateword.in/agenda/03/october-6-1962





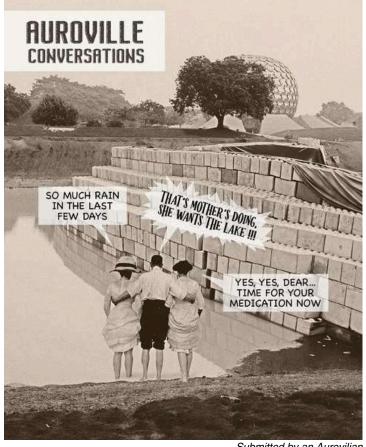
ॐ Zech, 2024.11.27 https://zechjoya.blogspot.com/

FOOD FOR THOUGHT





AUROVILLE CONVERSATIONS



Submitted by an Aurovilian

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 17th December, 9 am - 12 noon Focus: The Great Stair of Existence

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

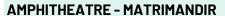
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 05:30 - 06:15PM

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.



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

VIBRATIONAL SOUND BATH

SOUL NURTURING MEDITATIVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE ORIGINAL RUSSIAN SINGING BELLS



VIPASSANA MEDITATION

Date: Every <u>Sunday</u> - 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.



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

SEEKING OUR INNER BEING

Dear Community,



We are delighted to share with you the first conversation in French and English that happened on the topic of: "Organisation from a Psychic perspective."

Please, click on this <u>link</u> to access the podcasts.

This sharing is a first of a series of 4, that happened originally in French and that has been translated into English in a second stage, in order to reach out to the more possible listeners in the Community.

Please, kindly note and bear with us that, for the English version, voices are computer generated.

During the 3 next weeks, we will release the next conversations and they will also be available on <u>Auroville Radio Website</u>.

Conversations with YouthLink on the same topic will also be released soon.

If you want to share and be further involved in these discussions, you can join an already existing group (or create your own in your mother tongue), by sending an email to us.

You can also participate Individually by sharing your personal ideas by replying to the 3 questions below that are guiding the circle conversations. The replies will be compiled and shared in a further stage to the community, with your name or anonymously, according to your preferences.

- 1. How do you personally relate to the 3 statements at the base of the creation of Auroville: the Dream, the Charter and To be a true Aurovilian?
- 2. What could be an organisation driven by a Psychic perspective?
- 3. How to hasten the shift of consciousness in the world and how could you personally and practically participate in it?

We thank you for your consideration and participation,

Dan, for the InnerBeing Team https://innerbeing.worldhttps://give.aviusa.org/page/InnerBeing



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPPORT NEEDED

LILALOKA - A PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO BLOSSOM!

FUNDRAISING SUPPORT

Children open the way to the future. To develop new educational approaches and places for all based on free choice, creativity and non-judgment, is a demand expressed by many families in many parts of the world, where such initiatives are a beginning of an answer to the major human crises of today.

Lilaloka is working towards becoming such a place.

Dear Lilaloka supporters,

We are reaching out in fundraising spirit.

Your Donations are instrumental to the manifestation of this environment in Lilaloka.

We are grateful to Auroville International USA that will Match donations in the month of December, doubling our blessings.

give.aviusa.org/page/lilaloka

ECO FEMME - OPEN HOUSE



Come and visit Eco Femme's open house

Thursday 10.30 - 11.30 am to learn about menstrual
health, cycle tracking and our social enterprise.

Organic cloth pads, nappies and cups available at special rates.



Dear Friends,

Come join our Open House **every Thursday at 10:30am**. We hold these at our office in Auroshilpam, just behind Auromode.

We'll teach you about sustainable menstrual products and our notfor-profit programs, and you can pick up discounted cloth pads, cups and period panties!

See you soon! The Eco Femme Team

AUROVILLE MARATHON

MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Community Members and Runners,

Warm greetings!



We are thrilled to announce that preparations for the 15th edition of the Auroville Marathon 2025 are in full swing.

This event has always been a celebration of togetherness, health, and the vibrant spirit of Auroville, and we look forward to another memorable year with all of you.

Mark your calendars! Auroville Marathon: 16th February 2025

- Online Registration: Opens on 9th December 2024 and closes on 25th January 2025.
- To register online, please visit: <u>https://www.aurovillemarathon.com/register/</u>
- Manual Registration: Available from 20th December 2024 to 25th January 2025.
- For manual registration, please visit Saracon between 10:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

For Auroville Community Members and Residents of the Bioregion:

The registration fee is waived, but a coupon is required to participate. To obtain a coupon, please send an email to marathon@auroville.org.in with your details, and we will provide the coupon via email. Alternatively, you can visit the Saracon Office during the specified times to collect it in person. Once you have the coupon, you can complete your registration for the Auroville Marathon 2025.

For your information: This year, we have added an option to purchase T-shirts for runners on the registration page. You can select your preferred T-shirt size while registering for the marathon. Please note that runner T-shirts are not included in the registration fee and need to be purchased separately.

Let us come together to celebrate the joy of running and the camaraderie that makes this event so special.

"RUN FOR THE JOY OF RUNNING"

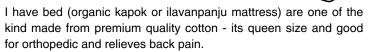
We eagerly await your participation and support to make this marathon another resounding success.

Warm regards, Prabhu & Marathon Team

AVAILABLE

FOR SALE - QUEEN SIZE MATTRESS

This is Saravanan staying in Humanscapes.



New one bought 3 months back but not used that much. Which is available for sale Rs. 20 000.

Contact at my WhatsApp number 93446 46354.

Thank you for valuable consideration.

LOOKING FOR

TAXISHARE

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER



Looking to share a taxi from Chennai Airport to Auroville. From Chennai Airport, Sunday 15 December, 2pm.

Please contact 88073 00562, Daniel.

CORTICA SANDALS -MADE AND SOLD ONLY IN INDONESIA

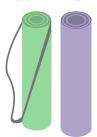
Dear ALL,

If you know someone **who's going towards INDONESIA**, I need your kindest help to get a pair of Cortica sandals, that are made and sold only in Indonesia. I'm suffering, from a severe spinal cord problem and those sandals are indeed very comfortable for just 9 USD. Please contact.

Thanking you very much in advance, Sunny.

Please WhatsApp +34685673777 or e-mail: srimaa221@gmail.com

YOGA MATS



Dear ALL,

I'm looking for **2 thick YOGA MATS** (or something similar) for my spinal cord problem. Shall give it back to you in the end of March.

If you have any spare and wish to share them, please contact.. Thanking you very much in advance, Sunny.

Please WhatsApp +34685673777 or e-mail: srimaa221@gmail.com

CYCLE BASKET

Looking for a basket for a cycle (front side). Even if it's slightly rusted/ damaged, it's welcome.

Love, Deepa <u>stigmatad@gmail.com</u> 98115 74667 (sms / call: no wa)



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

 Monday - Wednesday and Friday 7 - 8:15am, drop in class

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.

Creative Communion with Anandi Zhang

Saturday from 5 - 6:30pm (drop in class)

Creativity is universal. Living creatively is a conscious choice and needs aligned practices. Here, we explore individually and together, through breath, sounds, movement, poetry, painting, games, word play, story relay, body music, improvisation, observation and reflection... Each session has an emerging theme; the creative expressions will be diverse, and converge into creative communion.

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.

CULTURAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

AURO ARTWORLD - LECTURES



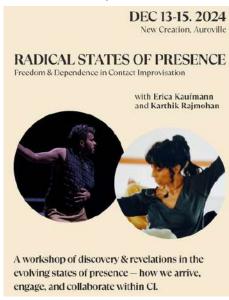
Auro Artworld is organizing a series of 6 lectures at the **Centre d'Art multimedia room** in Auroville. These lectures, conducted by Dr. Christoph Kluetsch, will explore connections between art, philosophy, and spirituality, bridging Eastern and Western traditions to illuminate the enduring questions of existence, consciousness, and creativity. The series will be offered on the **first Tuesday of every month**.

Future Lectures

- Tue Jan 7th 2025 Who is Seeing When Seeing: The Kena Upanishad and the Sensation of Logic.
- Tue Feb 4th 2025 Film is Thought: H. Bergson's Cinematograph and How J. L. Godard Shocks the Viewer into Reality.
- Tue Mar 4th 2025 Reading Deleuze in India: Plane of Immanence, Rhizome, Brahman, and Conversations with AI.

CONTACT IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP

@ NEW CREATION STUDIO, DEC 13 - 15



Join Erica and Karthik in Auroville for a beautifully designed weekend! We will dive deep into the foundational principles of contact improvisation and examine how individual freedom & mutual dependence are relational. By expanding our awareness from skin to the space around us, we will explore how this dynamic fosters new discoveries and opens possibilities.

This collaborative workshop offers an opportunity to refine one's technical and compositional skills within CI.

Open to all levels of experience.

For queries and registrations, please email aurovilleartworld@gmail.com

TAIZÉ CHANTS - SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER



TAIZE CHANTS

AN EVENING OF SONG & STILLNESS

SUN 22 DEC

FROM 5:45 PM TO 7:15 PM

@ CRIPA's Little Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME

For prior Informal Practice Evening Join us on Monday, 16th of December from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM at the Hall of Light, Creativity.

Let us get-together in simplicity & harmony through shared songs.

Oyfe look forward to your sharing and presence.

Sweet family!

We invite you to a special evening of meditative and multilingual songs from the Taizé tradition. This gathering offers a space to come together in simplicity and harmony through shared songs. The multilingual songs from Taizé are simple, repetitive, and meditative, inviting stillness, reflection, and a sense of unity.

Contributions are welcome if possible from your side. It would be wonderful if you could prepare a little bit in advance: contact us for further details.

We look forward to your sharing and presence.

and team: 97515 13906.

mothersworkforTheMotherswork@gmail.com

Date: Sunday 22nd December Time: 5:45pm - 7:15pm Venue: CRIPA's Little Hall



AUROVILLE RADIO

Dear Aurovilians.

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

Last published podcasts:

- Soul Tracks S.6, Ep.3 (Music)
- <u>Une série hebdomadaire de lectures par Gangalakshmi –</u> Ep.473 (Integral Yoga)
- Exploring Education in Arts, Animation and Film-making Ep. 38 The Principles of Animation - Contd... (Arts & Culture)
- Marlenka's Weekly Offering Ep.122. (Literature)
- Teens Connect Ep. 13 Fanny (Education)
- Exploring Education in Arts, Animation and Film-making -Ep. 37 "Color Mixing Basics For Beginners" (Arts & Culture)

....and more! on www.aurovilleradiotv.org. For more information write to radio@auroville.org.in

Peace and love.

Regards, Wobbli

ART EXHIBITIONS

NATHALIE, PITANGA

29 NOVEMBER -

Nathalie 29 November - 24 December 2024

24 DECEMBER



MARCO SAROLDI'S HAPPY NEW YEAR

OPENING ON FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER, CENTRE D'ART



- 13 28 December 2024
- Tue to Fri 2 5.30pm, Sat 10am -1 2:30pm, 2 5:30pm
- Guided visits on Saturday at 10:30am.

Centre d'Art Citadines.

F₀0D

FOOD FOREST TOUR - EVERY SUNDAY





(for groups of min 4 people any other weekday is possible)

Come for a morning experience in my permaculture garden, learn about organic farmi 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



with lots of flavourful toppings from the garden and our homemade produce La Ferme Community (5min from AV Bakery



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!

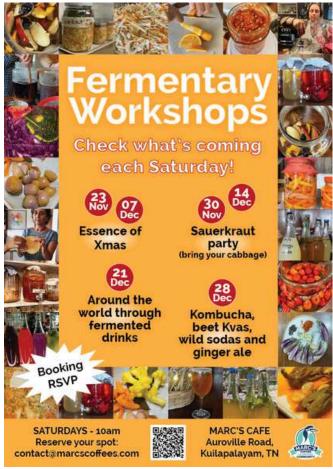
Marc's Team





FERMENTARY WORKSHOPS - MARC'S CAFE

EVERY SATURDAY



POETRY

New Tide is Coming In

Still memories are purling up in little waves
Though tide is going out.
It leaves me on a sunlit shore
Where pain nor pleasure reach me anymore.

It is my ears that hear a distant shout.
It is my ears that hear, it is not I
And that is followed by a melody.
And neither moves my being now.

That tide is going out.

And to my nostrils wafts a fragrance.

Those nostrils are not mine

For the universe they now belong.

That tide no longer sings its siren song

Though I have stroked betimes against it all night long.

New tide comes in from other shores To wash away the little stores Of dust of mind and heart and sense.

Self watches:

The world is shifting to a tender ever-present tense.

No rhyme no reason echoes here. No past disgrace provokes a tear. No phantom future rises fear. That tide has swept far out.

Afloat in Light
That feeds its strength to every limb,
There is nothing more to fight
No longer any need to swim
All is carried by Delight.

Maggi Lidchi-Grassi (1930 - 2024) from her book "Seeds"

The approaching steps of death Prompt us to open the door To a full living.

Salute it. Surprise it. Surrender to it not.

Deal with it.
Dance with it.
Dread it not.

Anandi Z

You raised your eyebrows.
Their dancing beats
Enlivened a face
O so solemn!

Both of us were happy Just for a change.

Anandi Z

City Streets

Jan. 21, 2011

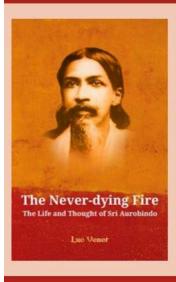
New York and the long city streets Sunk in shadow with ghostly yellow lamps Is home to me, my music and my dreams. I walk on, mile on endless mile Young and unafraid through danger and dark, The temptress night seducing mind and heart. Along the Hudson with its languid waves And on to Sutton Place I wind my way. In German town I hear the zither play And sing awhile with kindly men the songs Of Schubert, Schumann, Wölf, and often Brahms, Lieder of the poet's life and loves And lighter melodies that sweeten the night. Moving on again I turn towards home On Kenmare Street in Little Italy, Where ancient ladies at their window seats Look out on all with darting ferret eyes Missing nothing but welcoming their own. Safe I sleep though the police cars roar Deep beneath my rooms this moonless night.

FOR THE BOOKWORMS

THE NEVER-DYING FIRE BY LUC VENET

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER, TIBETAN PAVILION

Book Release



Saturday 14 December 2024

From 2:00 to 3:00 At the Tibetan Pavilion



An atypical and fertile biography of Sri Aurobindo

First published in French in 2020 Is now published in English by BluOne.Ink

The book release will be combined with the presentation of Blueone Ink publisher

AUROVILLE LIBRARY

READING CIRCLES

MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, AND THURSDAYS

Current book reading circles at the Auroville Library :

- 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)





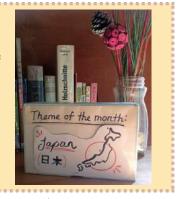
 Thursdays 6 - 7pm, main building - When Things Fall Apart by Pema Chodron, hosted by Helen & Serena (+91 70947 53054 / +91 84897 60966)

THEME OF THE MONTH

Every month, we choose a topic and set up a display of books from our collection.

> This month's theme is JAPAN

Please come by to check out our selection!







CINEMA

PAVILLON DE FRANCE PRESENTS A FILM:

LA VIE EN ROSE (2007)

The extraordinary life of Edith Piaf

Directed by Olivier Dahan, Starring Marion Cotillard

French with English Subtitles

Saturday 14th December 2024 at 4pm, Cinéma Paradiso



Skipping back and forth in time, <u>Olivier Dahan</u>'s elaborate mosaic of events delves into the hard life and times of French singer <u>Édith Piaf</u>. Her moving songs, filled with evocative lyrics about love's sorrows and joys, made her an icon:

From her childhood to her rise to fame, from her victories to her hardships, from Belleville to New York, the extraordinary journey of Édith Piaf. Through a destiny more incredible than a novel, discover the soul of an artist and the heart of a woman. Intimate, intense, fragile yet indestructible, devoted to her art to the point of sacrifice, here is the most immortal of French singers...

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpW_DwJheIM

Exceptionally we will start the film at 4pm.

It is in French with English Subtitles.

EUROPEAN HOUSE AND THE GERMAN PAVILION -

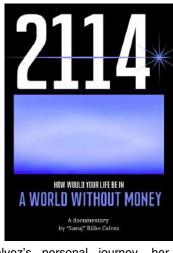
2114 - HOW WOULD YOUR LIFE BE IN A WORLD

WITHOUT MONEY

The European House and the German Pavilion invite you to join us on Monday Dec 16th, 4pm, at MMC, to reflect on what our lives would be like in a world without money.

Summary:

« 2114 » - How Would Your Life Be In A World Without Money is a documentary that captures the intellectual and artistic journey towards a vision of a world without money.



Through the lens of Bilbo Calvez's personal journey, her groundbreaking novel SARUJ –

Imagine That Money No Longer Exists, and her art project The Bear Soup, it is revealed that a money-free society is not a distant, unrealistic utopia, but a shared dream that lies deep within all of us.

This documentary is a call to action, inviting us to reflect on what could happen if trust and human connection replaced money, governments and borders as the foundation of our society.

The movie will then be followed by playful interactions with the artist herself to, as she likes to say, strengthen our utopian nerve together.

Details:

- Date: Monday 16th of December
- · Location: MMC (Multimedia Center Auditorium), Town Hall
- Language: German with English subtitles
- Movie length: 53min
- Interactions: following the movie, from 5pm to 6pm.

To go further:

If the topic interests you and you wish to delve further into it, you can also join us on Thursday 19th of December, at 5PM at the European House. The artist will read passages from her book « SARUJ - Stell' dir vor, es gibt kein Geld mehr », with live music playing in the background. Note this event will be in German only, as the book has not been translated yet.





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

Friday 13th December at 8:00 pm "MUSTANG"

Directed by Deniz Gamze Ergüven, France, Germany, Turkey, 2015

With: Güneş Şensoy, Doğa Doğuşlu, Elit İşcan, Tuğba Sunguroğlu, İlayda Akdoğan



Synopsis: It is the beginning of summer. In a remote village in Turkey, Lale and her four sisters come home from school playing with boys and trigger a scandal with unexpected consequences. The family home gradually turns into a prison, homemaking classes replace school and marriages begin to be arranged. The five sisters, driven by the for desire freedom, same circumvent the limits imposed on them...

Presented at the Directors' Fortnight of the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, Mustang then won a shower of awards at various prestigious festivals, including four Césars in 2016: Best Original Screenplay, Best Editing, Best Music and Best First Film.

Original Turkish version with English subtitles. Duration: 1h37'

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

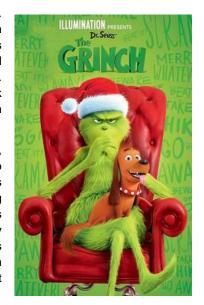
Friday 20th December at 8:00 pm SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR CHRISTMAS TIME!

"THE GRINCH"

Directed by Scott Mosier, Yarrow Cheney, United States, 2018

The Grinch, also known as Dr. Seuss' The Grinch, is an American animated Christmas film produced by Universal Pictures and Illumination. Based on the children's book by Dr. Seuss- How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

Synopsis: It follows the Grinch, a cranky, solitary creature who attempts to thwart the public's Christmas plans by stealing Christmas gifts and decorations from the homes of the nearby town of Whoville on Christmas Eve. Miraculously, the Grinch realizes that Christmas is not all about money and presents...



Funny, heartwarming, and visually stunning, it's a universal story about the spirit of Christmas and the indomitable power of optimism!

Original English version with English subtitles. Duration: 1h25' - For all ages!

Cinema Paradiso

Multimedia Center (MMC) Auditorium

Film program: 16nd - 22nd December 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.

INDIAN - MONDAY 16 DECEMBER, 8:00 PM:

• OALA

India, 2022, Writer-Dir. Anvita Dutt w/Tripti Dimri, Babil Khan, Swastika Mukherjee, and others, Drama-Music, Psychological Drama-Music, 119mins, Hindi w/English subtitles, Rated: NR

Set in the 1940s, this gripping tale unravels the tumultuous relationship between aspiring singer Qala (meaning 'art') and her domineering mother, Urmila. Haunted by visions of her stillborn brother, Qala battles her mother's harsh treatment and jealousy over the talented orphan, Jagan. With fame Qala faces betrayal, guilt, and heartbreaking tragedy. It is a compelling story of ambition, familial bonds, and the haunting shadows of the past.

Trivia: This is the debut feature of Babil, the son of Irrfan Khan. This is rescheduled after earlier cancellation due to weather

POTPOURRI - TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER, 8:00 PM:

THE IRON GIANT

USA-Czech Republic-UK, 1999, Writer-Dir. Brad Bird w/ Eli Marienthal, Harry Connick Jr. , Jennifer Aniston, and others, Handdrawn-Animation-Al, 86mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG This acclaimed film, partly inspired by the tragic loss of the director's sister Susan to gun violence, explores the question: "What if a gun had a soul and didn't want to be a gun?" Based on a book by Ted Hughes, the film is set during the Cold War in 1957. It follows a young boy named Hogarth Hughes who discovers and befriends a giant alien robot. With the help of beatnik artist Dean McCoppin, Hogarth tries to protect the Giant from the U.S. military and the paranoid federal agent, Mansley. Rescheduled after earlier cancellation due to weather.

SELECTION - WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER, 8:00 PM:

HORNBLOWER: LOYALTY

UK, 2003, Dir. Andrew Grieve w/ Ioan Gruffudd, Robert Lindsay, Paul McGann, and others, Adventure-War, 125mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR (PG-13)

In this acclaimed film, struggling Lieutenant Horatio Hornblower is promoted to Commander of HMS Hotspur. Joined by loyal shipmates, he uncovers an impending invasion and faces treachery within his crew. As he navigates these challenges, he also deals with the affections of Maria, his landlady's daughter.

This tale of bravery, betrayal, and naval adventure is a must-watch. Rescheduled after earlier cancellation due to weather.

INTERESTING - THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER, 8:00 PM:

• PLANET EARTH III (EPISODES 7 & 8)

UK, 2023-24, Dir.Abigail Lees (S1 Ep7) and Steve Greenwood (S1 Ep8) 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 7, "Humans" explores how animals adapt to human dominated environments. Episode 8, "Heros" highlights conservation heroes risking everything to save wildlife.

INTERNATIONAL - SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER, 8:00 PM:

THE NEW BOY

Australia, 2023, Dir. Warwick Thornton, w/ Aswan Reid, Wayne Blair, and others, Drama – Fantasy, 96 mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: R.

A young Aboriginal Australian orphan, brought to a Christian monastery, grapples with his faith and heritage. Unable to speak English and resistant to Western customs, he gradually gains acceptance. Throughout his journey, he reveals mysterious supernatural abilities, healing animals and humans. This emotional and physical transformation showcases his inner strength and the mystical powers he possesses.

CHILDREN'S MATINÉE - SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER, 4:00 PM: • 200% WOLF

Australia-Germany-Spain-Mexico-USA, 2024, Dir. Alexs Stadermann w/llai Swindells, Elizabeth Nabben, Jennifer Saunders, and others, Animation-Adventure, 98mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: PG

When Freddy Lupin's wayward wish transforms him into a werewolf and deposits a mischievous moon sprite on earth, Freddy must restore the cosmic order before the earth and moon collide

<u>SIDNEY LUMET CINEMA @ CINÉ-CLUB</u> CINÉ-CLUB SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER, 8:00 PM:

DOG DAY AFTERNOON

USA, 1975, Dir. Sydney Lumet, w/ Al Pacino, John Cazale and others, Drama – Thriller, 125 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: R. Three amateur robbers plan to hold up a Brooklyn bank. A nice, simple robbery: Walk in, take the money, and run. Unfortunately, the supposedly uncomplicated heist suddenly becomes a bizarre nightmare as everything that could go wrong does. Based upon a real-life incident that occurred in August 1972 in which a Chase Manhattan Bank branch in Gravesend, Brooklyn, New York, was held siege by Sonny, a Vietnam veteran turned bank robber.

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: <u>avgasservice@auroville.org.in</u>

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 - 5:00 pm

• 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

Children's Storytime! All ages welcome!

Every Saturday between 10am - 11am.







If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.

If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else.

(part of a Chinese proverb)

Confucius

EDUCATION

DEHASHAKTI NEW YEAR'S TOURNAMENT

3 - 4 JANUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Friends,

AVPEB and Dehashakti are happy to announce

Dehashakti New Year's Tournament, 3rd - 4th January 2025!

A series of fun, competitive, and inclusive sporting events aimed at promoting teamwork, sportsmanship, and healthy activity among our children. This event is open to children of Aurovillians, Newcomers and Volunteers. Parents/Trainers can come together to form teams and apply for entries in the open category for the following:

Under 13 and Under 18 Team Sports:

- Futsal, 7+3 players
- Basketball, 5+3 players
- Frisbee, 7+3 players
- Volleyball, 6+3 players (under 18 only).

Individual Athletic Events:

- Long Jump
- · Sprint 60 mtrs.

Important dates to remember:

- Final Tournament Dates: Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th January 2025
- Last Date to send entries: Friday 6th Dec 2024 at 3:00pm
- Supportive Coaching and Practice sessions from AVPEB
 Dehashakti teams: 26th 27th-28th Dec 2024

The main goal is for children to work independently toward building their teams and organising their practice routines with some support from the parents/facilitators/trainers.

From the time of receiving this mail till Dec 25th children can start working on building their teams and athletes.

AVPEB and Dehashakti team members will be in communication with one adult representative of each team in the coming months to support the children. Interested parents/coaches please write to avpeb@auroville.org.in and we will make an appointment with you to share the details.

Lijun and Saravanan for AVPEB and Dehashakti Teams



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'

HIVE COWORKING SPACE

OPEN HOUSE - EVERY FRIDAY



OPEN HOUSE HIVE COWORKING

FREE ON EVERY FRIDAY

More Info : +91 90 42 75 95 40 | www.auromode.in

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

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 <u>www.auromode.in/hive-coworking</u> for more details on our plans and facilities.
- For inquiries: <u>auromodehive@auroville.org.in</u> / +91 70921 97375 (WA) / +91 90427 59540 (WA) or drop by.

All are Welcome!!

HEALTH

SANTÉ SERVICES IN DECEMBER 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: Monday to Friday	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

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

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

Sunday

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	

Awaiting update on trip prices/monthy schemes! Thank you for your patience.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS



Ambulance (24/7):			
Auroville 94422 24680	PIMS 0413 2656271		
Security (24/7):			
Auroville Police Station 0413 2677318	Kottakuppam Police Station 0413 2236148	Vanur Fire Station 0413 2677368	
Health:			
Health Center 0413 3509942 & 3509943	Santé 0413 2622803	Farewell 89038 36246	
Mental Health 24/7 Support:			

Vandrevala Foundation +91 99996 66555

India Emergency Response Service (24/7): 108