

News and Notes

No 829

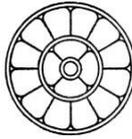
A weekly bulletin for residents of Auroville

1st August 2020



Artwork by Olesea

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA



(continued from last week)

The second portion of these passages which has here been given in substance, explains the nature of divine works, divyam karma, with the principle of which we have had to deal in the last essay; the first, which has been fully translated, explains the way of the divine birth, divyam janma, the Avatarhood. But we have to remark carefully that the upholding of Dharma in the world is not the only object of the descent of the Avatar, that great mystery of the Divine manifest in humanity; for the upholding of the Dharma is not an all-sufficient object in itself, not the supreme possible aim for the manifestation of a Christ, a Krishna, a Buddha, but is only the general condition of a higher aim and a more supreme and divine utility. For there are two aspects of the divine birth; one is a descent, the birth of God in humanity, the Godhead manifesting itself in the human form and nature, the eternal Avatar; the other is an ascent, the birth of man into the Godhead, man rising into the divine nature and consciousness, madbhāvam āgataḥ; it is the being born anew in a second birth of the soul. It is that new birth which Avatarhood and the upholding of the Dharma are intended to serve. This double aspect in the Gita's doctrine of Avatarhood is apt to be missed by the cursory reader satisfied, as most are, with catching a superficial view of its profound teachings, and it is missed too by the formal commentator petrified in the rigidity of the schools. Yet it is necessary, surely, to the whole meaning of the doctrine. Otherwise the Avatar idea would be only a dogma, a popular superstition, or an imaginative or mystic deification of historical or legendary supermen, not what the Gita makes all its teaching, a deep philosophical and religious truth and an essential part of or step to the supreme mystery of all, rahasyam uttamam.

If there were not this rising of man into the Godhead to be helped by the descent of God into humanity, Avatarhood for the sake of the Dharma would be an otiose phenomenon, since mere Right, mere justice or standards of virtue can always be upheld by the divine omnipotence through its ordinary means, by great men or great movements, by the life and work of sages and kings and religious teachers, without any actual incarnation. The Avatar comes as the manifestation of the divine nature in the human nature, the apocalypse of its Christhood, Krishnahood, Buddhahood, in order that the human nature may by moulding its principle, thought, feeling, action, being on the lines of that Christhood, Krishnahood, Buddhahood transfigure itself into the divine. The law, the Dharma which the Avatar establishes is given for that purpose chiefly; the Christ, Krishna, Buddha stands in its centre as the gate, he makes through himself the way men shall follow. That is why each Incarnation holds before men his own example and declares of himself that he is the way and the gate; he declares too the oneness of his humanity with the divine being, declares that the Son of Man and the Father above from whom he has descended are one, that Krishna in the human body, mānuṣīm tanum āśritam, and the supreme Lord and Friend of all creatures are but two revelations of the same divine Purushottama, revealed there in his own being, revealed here in the type of humanity.

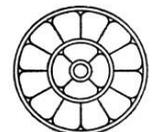
That the Gita contains as its kernel this second and real object of the Avatarhood, is evident even from this passage by itself rightly considered; but it becomes much clearer if we take it, not by itself – always the wrong way to deal with the texts of the Gita – but in its right close connection with other passages and with the whole teaching. We have to remember and take together its doctrine of the one Self in all, of the Godhead seated in the heart of every creature, its teaching about the relations between the Creator and his creation, its strongly emphasised idea of the vibhūti, –noting too the language in which the Teacher gives his own divine example of selfless works which applies equally to the human Krishna and the divine Lord of the worlds, and giving their due weight to such passages as that in the ninth chapter, “Deluded minds despise me lodged in the human body because they know not my supreme nature of being, Lord of all existences”; and we have to read in the light of these ideas this passage we find before us and its declaration that by the knowledge of his divine birth and divine works men come to the Divine and by becoming full of him and even as he and taking refuge in him they arrive at his nature and status of being, madbhāvam. For then we shall understand the divine birth and its object, not as an isolated and miraculous phenomenon, but in its proper place in the whole scheme of the world-manifestation; without that we cannot arrive at its divine mystery, but shall either scout it altogether or accept it ignorantly and, it may be, superstitiously or fall into the petty and superficial ideas of the modern mind about it by which it loses all its inner and helpful significance.

- Sri Aurobindo. Essays on the Gita. Chapter XV. The Possibility and Purpose of Avatarhood

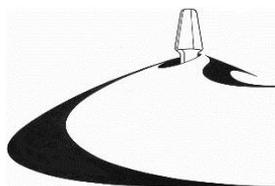
P.S. There's a HOMA page on the Auroville website: <https://www.auroville.org/contents/1085>



When you look back, all kinds of things which you did not understand when they happened to you, you realise as just the thing which was necessary in order to compel you to make the needed progress. Always, without exception. It is our blindness which prevents us from seeing it.



-The Mother
Words of the Mother, Vol 6, p. 349



AMPHITHEATRE - MATRIMANDIR
Meditation at sunset with Savitri - read by Mother to Sunil's music
Every **THURSDAY, 6 - 6.30 PM** (weather permitting)

For the time being, access is limited to Aurovilians, Newcomers and Pass holders. Enjoy the beautiful open space, the immense sunset and heavenly music in the very center of Auroville!

Reminder to all: The Park of Unity is a place for silence, meditation and inner work and is to be used only as such. We request everyone not to bring/use cameras, i-pads, cell phones, etc. Please carry your pass with you. Thank you.
- Amphitheatre Team

COVID 19 UPDATE

From the WC/CTF: We know that many of you are appreciative of our efforts and do your utmost to respect the guidelines and instructions that are communicated to everyone. *However, we are writing to you today to once again express our frustration about residents who are supposed to be in quarantine but don't respect the guidelines for quarantine and break the trust that we are offering to everyone to be self-disciplined. We feel that under the circumstances, with the number of cases in our immediate vicinity rising and having had cases within Auroville itself, we will have no choice but to make public the names of those who break quarantine, if they choose to do so.*

We would like to point out that some community members have quarantined themselves longer than they felt was necessary for the sake of the peace of mind of colleagues, neighbors and the community at large. It is reasonable to expect that we would each be ready to do the same if and when we are asked to do so. Please understand that everything that is asked of you and of us all is to do our utmost to reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others in order to keep Auroville and our neighbors as safe as possible, even if it means some inconvenience for a period of time. Our two groups/teams together are working in close coordination with the governmental authorities to understand the various processes and follow them at a micro level in the Auroville context, which in some cases and situations even means to work in more detail than it is done in the local areas around us.

We hope you take this communication and appeal to heart, and take all precautions, for your sake and the sake of those around you.

From the WC/CTF: As we have had some questions about our way of working, we have summarized the context, which may help you all to understand better the decisions we make in our efforts to reduce the risk of spreading the virus as much as possible.

INTRODUCTION

This is a very new virus that the world is seeing/dealing with for the first time. There is a lot we now know about this virus as it has been around for almost 7 months, but there is still a lot that we don't know. The science behind this virus is evolving as more data emerges and more cases are dealt with. For example, the scientific community is still learning about how this virus behaves among people of different age groups, in different geographies, under different climatic conditions, and how it affects different races. What we knew about this virus 4 months ago is very different from what we know today. Earlier kids were not seen as a vulnerable category, which is not the case now, and today the most vulnerable categories are 0-10 & 60+ age groups, and of course all people with comorbidities. In Auroville, about 25% of our population is 60+ and about 11% is 0-10 years of age. Earlier it was mentioned that masks may not help, but now most authorities and scientists say that masks, physical distancing, keeping your hands and surfaces clean, are some of the only ways to break the chain of the spread of this virus. Also, it is very important to **refrain from having large gatherings, parties, religious or other functions** as in most cases the virus has spread from these types of gatherings (e.g. Edyanchavadi case, which was spread at a post-funeral function/event and created about 15 cases in different villages). We know that 80% of the affected patients will recover after having no, or just mild, symptoms; 15% may require hospitalization for treatment; and only about 5% will need serious intervention in a hospital, with ventilators, life support, etc.

TIERED GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

The guidelines that come from the government come in a tiered way, top to bottom:

- The Central Government's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) & Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) set the national guidelines at the highest level.
- State Governments take these and put in place their State guidelines that are specific to the State and are based on the specific situation in that particular State, while keeping in mind that they can't dilute the Central Government's national guidelines.
- And finally, the District Administration has the authority to put in place local guidelines and protocols, again depending on the local conditions.
- This may further vary from block to block because the local health officials are really the ones in touch with the ground realities.

In a letter from the Home Secretary at MHA to all State Chief Secretaries on June 29th it states the following:

Remember that the Govt of India has, since the early days of the pandemic, invoked the Disaster Management Act & the Epidemic Diseases Act, both together giving the Central, State and local District Administrations authority to put systems in place to deal with the pandemic and revise them as more is learned more about this virus. With all this background, the district administration/Block Medical Officer (BMO) with the authority vested in him by the two Acts of the Parliament, can decide on these guidelines while not diluting the national and the state guidelines. For example, the TN State guideline says that if you go to Chennai for less than 48 hours you don't have to be in quarantine after you return, but the local district administration is asking for a 7 day quarantine if anyone from Villupuram district goes to Chennai even for a day trip. The district administration may revise this anytime as the situation there and/or here changes, and that could be with very short notice. Please note that not all of these instructions are communicated through press releases or printed orders, particularly at the local level, and if individuals start picking and choosing which guidelines and parts of guidelines they want to follow it causes more confusion in an already complicated situation.

OUR WORK AND APPROACH

It is in this context that we are working and making decisions that are based on the advice and recommendations of the local health authorities, while **keeping in mind all the tiers of guidelines as well as Auroville's reality and particular needs and concerns**. Our approach up to now has been to give Auroville and its residents information and then trust individuals and the collective to act on that information in a responsible way, and in general we have had unprecedented support in this from our local health authorities and the police. At times, when there is some flexibility in the interpretation and implementation of guidelines, advice and recommendations, **we choose to be more cautious rather than less**. One example of this is the decision to keep Auroville closed to new/ outstation guests and volunteers. Since Auroville is an attractive destination for visitors and volunteers, if we 'reopen' we will quickly have a lot of people coming from all parts of India at a time when the number of cases in our district is still rising and there have now been cases in our immediate vicinity/neighboring villages as well as in Auroville itself. In addition to the added risk is the added responsibility for Auroville in case something happens with registered guests or volunteers.

Thank you for your attention to this somewhat long communication. We hope it has been helpful. With best wishes,

- The Working Committee and Covid 19 Task Force

Current GOI immigration/travel restrictions: <https://boi.gov.in/content/advisory-travel-and-visa-restrictions-related-covid-19-1>

Comprehensive Covid 19 Research Paper by the Swiss Policy Institute, available in many languages: <https://swprs.org/a-swiss-doctor-on-covid-19/>. Thanks to Ulrike B. for the link.

Some **flight info** appears on p. 6.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From BCC: Streamlining administration to a one-stop destination point

The BCC has been integrating all aspects of BCC administration into one office, shared with the FAMC, in the left top floor space of the Town Hall. This enables all members of the BCC office to work closely together, with the full-time presence of a BCC member who acts as the office coordinator (Inge Rieck). This has improved team spirit, organization, and efficiency.

The last missing piece to creating a one-stop destination for any question related to economic administration in Auroville was to incorporate the tasks which up to now had been undertaken by the HRT in a separate office: applications for maintenances and financial support for dental and visa costs. As of August 1st, these tasks will be taken care of by the strengthened BCC office, and the HRT as an entity will be dissolved. We thank the current HRT members, JyotiPrem, Venkat and Gnanavel, for their service, and have been exploring how best to transition forward with each of them.

- Your BCC members (Christine, Enrica, Hans, Inge, Jacques, Mahi, Margarita, Meena, Rathinam, Suryamayi)

Call for Proposals for Roma's Kitchen

We would like to update you on the next steps to select the best suited proposal to look after and take forward the assets of Roma's Kitchen. Our intention is to offer a fair chance to anyone who feels capable and ready to take on this opportunity, hence our announcement for an open call to the community. Please note that:

1. Proposals may be to continue Roma's Kitchen, another eatery, or other types of units;
2. The location is embedded within a residential community, Auromodele, and any proposed activity must be sensitive to noise, traffic, waste management and water needs.

The successful applicant may be required to cover the current liabilities, estimated at Rs. 6.22 lakhs as of 30th April 2020, and may have to contribute towards the value of the assets that they take over. As per a recent evaluation, the fixed assets have been determined to be Rs. 24.95 lakhs. If a contribution is necessary, the terms can be discussed after review of your proposal.

Candidates should fill in the unit application form not later than 20th August 2020. The form can be found at this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12LYZKQLZW2eMSkmgWs2vM_RAIUTuOsqX8MSBkbPQMxc/edit. It will be automatically sent to the FAMC.

We encourage applicants to present a detailed proposal and give a complete overview of the business plan so it helps the panel to evaluate the proposal objectively. Only those proposals submitted via the application form will be eligible. If you have already sent a proposal, kindly do it again by filling in the application.

A panel consisting of 2 trustees of the ABC Trust and 2 members of the FAMC or nominated by the FAMC will undertake the selection process. We look forward to receiving your proposal. Sincerely, FAMC

Chit funds, AGAIN!

The Auroville Council and Working Committee have heard that there are again Chit Funds and loan money on interest happening in Auroville. **We discourage all Chit Fund activities!** There are strict governmental regulations in India and a need register such chit funds. **It is unacceptable** that Aurovilians run Chit Funds and loan money on interest.

Update Regarding L'Avenir/TDC

The Auroville Council and the Working Committee are working that will be shared very soon with the community. Several members have resigned and at the moment there are only two members in the interface team that has been selected through the Participatory Selection Process (PWG). There is, however, a need to continue with certain urgent works of construction and development until the selection process is carried out.

The interface team is presently assisted by various technical teams, including one for building applications composed of Angelo Salerno, Karen Aalders, Shama Dalvi, Ulli Blass, Vivek and Sreevatsa.

We kindly request the community to respect the decisions of TDC and its Building Application team as long as these decisions are made in accordance with the consolidated process that includes two weeks' for the community feedback. It is understood that large planning proposals and policy decisions remain subject to a community process.

- The Auroville Council and the Working Committee

Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) Report March 2020

During the month of March, due to the Covid-19 lockdown measures, the FAMC members started to convene via Zoom.

1. Internal functioning:

FAMC membership: prior to the selection process, the RAS requested the current staggered membership and its terms. Here is the membership list::

Member	Selected On	Status	Terminates On
Prabhu	24 Dec 2017	Resigned	December 2021
Inge, Nicola	29 April 2019	Resigned	April 2022
Nicole, Daniel, Dhruv	4 Dec 2017	Active	Nov 2020
Lyle	March 2020	Active	Nov 2020
Sundar	March 2020	Active	Nov 2020
Aneeta	March 2020	Active	Nov 2020
Palani	March 2020	Active	Nov 2020
Kalia, Marc	29 April 2019	Active	April 2022

We thank Prabhu for his valuable help to the FAMC during his term, and he has offered to be a resource person for existing task forces set by the FAMC.

FAMC administration: Our secretary, Elisabeth, resigned, and the process to find a replacement for her has started. We wish all the best to Elisabeth in her new work.

2. Activities, Units and Trust issues

- **Utsav project** (opposite Yantra community), under Auromics Trust was requested to create a new unit and provide a cash flow statement. Propose executives: Mona, Martina and Kalya. Details: 16 units at the cost of 2.4 crores, financing 50% down payment, balance of funding is required. In process.
- **New School Crafts:** registration process of the following functioning entities: Avatar, Royal Elements and Cafe 73. The FAMC sent a request to Hendrik for clarifications.

- **Nandini:** following Anne's decision to step away from Nandini, the FAMC temporarily took the task of overseeing its operations. This action was communicated to the Aurosarjan Trustees in writing, particularly with Stephan as he is the person who oversees the functioning of the AuroSarjan Building. Jocelyn from Certitude came forward to help during this transition and together with Nicole and Kalya as liaison to the FAMC and Palani from Omega, looked at the situation with the staff and started a stock taking exercise to have a clear picture of the current position of Nandini's tailoring section after Anne's departure. The FAMC requested Anne to provide all of the records (book of orders, staff salaries and gratuities and books of accounts) in order to complete a report with a timeline of events. We especially thank Jocelyn for her help to keep this essential service operational.
- **PTPS:** an information GM was organised by RAS at Savitri Bhavan to present the FAMC proposal as a preparation for the RAD on the future of PTPS. Feedback was received and a final proposal will be published by RAS.
- **Joy Guest House:** FAMC approves the transfer of Joy Guest House from Guest House Trust to Hospitality Trust.
- **Colours of the Nature:** FAMC approves Tom Mo as additional executive.
- **Lumiere asset transfer:** a meeting with Ankur Trustees and Suzanne have been called for next month.
- **Varuna:** informed the FAMC that it will not be able to sustain the 100% electrical subsidy to the community. A series of meetings with Varuna and BCC was set up to look at the economic impact upon City Services and the community at large.
- **Discipline farm:** a subgroup is looking at possible solutions to bring Discipline Farm back to a smooth functioning farm.

3. BCC - Covid-19 related issues: The FAMC has been working in close collaboration with the BCC members to look at the economic challenges created by the lockdown (budgets, loans, maintenances, channelling donations, etc)

4. Policy issues

CoC amendments : prior to the RAD, the draft CoC has been shared for community feedback. A review feedback committee will be formed to work with the FAMC to prepare a final draft for ratification. The review committee will be composed of 11 members with the assistance of two facilitators. All relevant information on this topic has been published in the Avnet and News and Notes with their respective links.

5. Housing issues:

- Following an Internal review of Housing finances and accounts conducted by Stefanie and Subbu as per the request of the FAMC, the Housing Board and the FAMC continue working together to strengthen Housing's financial oversight.
- Selection of the community at large for Housing Board and new Housing Board Mandate have been discussed and still in process.
- **Srima Agreement:** an escrow account will be opened at Financial Services to make a final contribution as calculated and agreed between FAMC and Housing Board, based on the previous contributions and final evaluation. A final agreement is being prepared between FAMC and the Housing Board and Tanto.

6. L'Avenir - A joint meeting with the current members of L'Avenir (Saravanan, Srevatsa) and Hari (admin) took place on the 3 March, to address the following topics:

- The existing TDC requires more members to join and share the workload. This issue has been reported to the Auroville Council. Currently the team is focusing on implementation work and not making big decisions.
- The TDC expressed to the FAMC its concern with planning violations, and submitted a list of violations and proposed solutions. The FAMC suggested that TDC develop guidelines that will apply to all. It was agreed that fraternal contri-

butions on infrastructure development funds for non-residential projects will be 1% collected by TDC while issuing the no objection certificate (NOC).

7. Government of India Grant in Aid

- The Auroville Foundation office requested a note and estimate of the Gol Budget for youth housing for signature by Housing Service/Board before submitting it to the Finance Committee.
- The FAMC has submitted a request of Rs. 20.12 crores to the Auroville Foundation based on the requests received from all current beneficiaries of the grant (SAIIR, Housing Service, Bharat Nivas, Udhavi School, Working Committee, L'Avenir, Aurinoco, and New Era Secondary School). This will be reviewed by the Finance Committee of the HRD Ministry.

Response to Open Letter to FAMC re: Nandini

Dear Co-signatories,

Auroville has evolved processes to deal with conflicts and to provide the possibility of appeals against working groups' decisions. Some of you have been at the heart of elaborating these building blocks of common community understanding.

As some of you are aware, the very question of FAMC's "decisions" in regard to the former executive leaving Nandini is currently being looked at through an appeal process requested by said executive, in order to determine whether indeed, as you state, "FAMC's actions and decisions are arbitrary and not acceptable". It is the role of the arbiters in this appeal to look at the question in detail with all information at their disposal and to take an informed decision.

Sincerely, FAMC

Regarding newspapers reports on a case of import of narcotic substances by Indian volunteer in Auroville

Various newspapers recently reported a case of import of narcotic substances, one of which was sent from The Netherlands to an Indian volunteer in Auroville. This volunteer contacted us and we met with her. She explained that she has been wrongly accused and that the parcel has been sent misusing her name and address. Officers of the Indian customs have come to Auroville and searched her apartment and have not found any narcotic substances; she was subsequently deposited in the presence of the Superintendent of Customs, Cuddalore, denying any involvement or knowledge of the drug import and that her name and address have been abused.
- The Working Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Internal Delivery Service

Errata: please note that the email address of the Internal Delivery Service for online purchased goods is internaldelivery@auroville.org.in.

An erroneous one appeared last week in the N&N. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

We encourage Aurovilians to start using this service for their online orders and give the delivery address and details below when ordering:

Full name: Internal Delivery Service (Service Area)

Mobile Number: 8531969746

Pin code:605101 **City:** Auroville **State:** TAMIL NADU

Address details: (Pickup/Delivery: Name, Community, Phone

Details of the customer and whether it is for pickup at UTS of delivery at home.

LOST AND FOUND

Found - in Realization on Saturday, 25.07.20 - a blue dog-collar with steel-chains and brass key to fix at the belt.
ingrida@auroville.org.in

TRAVEL



Latest news from the Travel Shop/Inside India

Below flights can now be booked by us, passenger credit card not mandatory.

- Air India operates many flights to major global destinations
- Lufthansa operates special flights from major cities in India to Frankfurt with connecting flights to many destinations.
- Air France operates special flights from Bangalore/ Mumbai/Delhi to Paris with connecting flights to many destinations.
- United Airlines operates special direct flights from Delhi to Newark (USA).
- Garuda Indonesia operates special flights from Delhi to Perth via Medan, Jakarta.

As per the approval by the Director General of Civil Aviation, following persons are eligible for transportation on these Lufthansa (for example) relief flights:

- All German and EU Nationals
- All German and EU Residents
- All other Foreign Nationals transiting through a Lufthansa Hub, Frankfurt or Munich and/ or the spouse/ children of such persons whether accompanying or otherwise, e.g. US Nationals and/or Spouses/ Minor Children of US Nationals
- INDIAN Nationals holding US green cards or Canadian Permanent Residence status are only permitted on this special repatriation flight if he/she is a spouse of US/ Canadian National.

Be informed hereby that all are personally responsible to comply with the regulations and must also check transit regulations. All passengers have to comply with health and sanitation measures required by both origin & destination countries.

We prefer to handle all booking request by email / phone only. If a personal visit to our office is required, please make an appointment beforehand.

International Flight Ticket and Hotel bookings - 2622078, travelshop@auroville.org.in
Domestic Flight Tickets / Trains / Bus / Visa / Travel Insurance - 2623030, domestic@inside-india.com

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 043 - 01-08-2020

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers and Friends of Auroville. Prior to "status confirmation", there is a community feedback period. For Newcomers, Associates and Friends of Auroville, this period is two weeks, and for Aurovilians and Returning Aurovilians, one month. Kindly forward your support or grievances to entryservice@auroville.org.in.

NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:

- Avinash RAVI RAGHAVAN (Indian) staying in La Maison des Jeunes and working at Auroville Campus Initiative (ACI)
- Divya Bharathi ARUNACHALAM (Indian) staying in Djaima and working at Udavi School
- Donald MacPherson ROBERTS (USA) staying in New Creation and working at New Creation GH, Auroville Health Services, Third Age project & French Pavilion
- Induja GANDHI PRASAD (Indian) staying in Sailam and working at L'avenir d'Auroville (TDC)
- Malar SAGADEVAN (Indian) staying in Kalpana and working at Auro Amirtham
- Monique GAUTHIER (Canadian) staying in Sukhavati and working at Sante (Morning Star birth Center)
- Rupam Mishra (Indian) staying in Sunship and working at Auroville Theatre Group

AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:

- Shalini SEKHAR (Indian) staying in Pony Farm and working at AV Arts Service

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

- Castoury KRISHNAMOORTHY (Indian)
- Cristina PERETTI aka Bodhi (Italian)
- Katharina POTOCKA (German)
- Khushmita SANGHVI (Indian)
- Margherita FASSI (Italian)
- Poornima KALOYA (Indian)



Castoury



Cristina



Katharina



Khushmita



Margherita



Poornima

NOTE:

- The Newcomer probation year becomes effective only after the NC kit has been completed and returned. Be aware that the duration of the process cannot exceed 18 months from the date of confirmation.
- An Aurovilian is a resident of Auroville, aged 18 and above, whose name has been entered in the Register of Resident (RoR) as maintained by the Auroville Foundation (AVF) Office.
- The change of status from Newcomer to Aurovilian is the B-Form. An Aurovilian's name is entered into the RoR after he/she has met with the Secretary of the AVF with an appointment arranged by the Entry Secretariat. These appointments are fixed by the Entry Secretariat according to the availability of the Secretary, but not at any personal request of an individual.
- The Auroville Foundation processes issuing of ID cards only to the Aurovilians who are registered in the RoR.

APPEALS

Dear Community members,

We are looking for items for the collective kitchen of our community. We are especially looking for plates, cups, bowls and cutlery, a pressure cooker, a chopping board, a grater and a rice pot. If you have things to give away, please contact us! -Mathilde for the Joy of Impermanence - Anitya team
PS : Best to send SMS or Whatsapp message to [7094058699](tel:7094058699), or pass by our community Saturday morning (9 to 12:30). We are located next to the cricket field, after Center GH and Joy GH.

Anonymous Goodwill Conspiracy -The Art of Giving

I've been asked to explain in the News & Notes how the Anonymous Goodwill Conspiracy works. People have been using the AGC for the last six years, and it is interesting to note that it is in the Summer that there are the most transactions...Does the heat open up our hearts?

We are, of course facing extraordinary circumstances today, with the C. virus management having brought to a standstill many an income. Some of our brothers and sisters are worse affected than others, so I decided to bring the following idea to your kind attention once again...

Wealth is not distributed equally in Auroville - or for that matter anywhere in the world. But here, we can take that situation as a chance to promote 'Goodwill'. Somewhere in my being, I know that 'Goodwill' is the only reason - is our passport to Auroville - Her Auroville.

I may have a neighbor who I don't talk to much, but I'm aware of a need - let's say, a plumbing job that really needs doing, or a door or window that needs to be made/repaired etc. I may have the kind of occupation that brings in more money than my neighbor, whose work doesn't really cover extras. So for a moment, I think that I could step in and help ease the load of that need. But then, I don't have enough to do it again next time, so I drop the thought. Better not.

Well, what if there is an Anonymous Goodwill Conspiracy that is ready to channel the money anonymously between me and my neighbor or my friend, or someone I have heard about through somebody else. I feel good about giving -really, it's that simple - it makes me feel good. No strings attached...

Now I begin to look at this very local networking, in which goodwill moves this energy called money around. This could work, if we can see that we all live in a state of Grace here, that those who have more have an option to look around without feeling threatened, and pass on a little of this Grace. Anonymity removes judgement, social status and future expectations from the equation. My friend works passionately in a job that doesn't quite cover small extras needed to make life a little easier around here. My circumstance allows me to generate money. If I have the 'freedom' to give, it becomes something that I could do gladly, naturally.

OK, down to technicalities. I'm hoping that Housing Group is still cooperative with this idea. Anonymous specified donations will be taken on and the work will be done by the HG. So any money that you want to give for any purpose concerning building/plumbing/repairing etc. will be followed through by the HG. The receiver will simply be informed that such an amount has been given for the job at hand, and if it's OK with him/her, the work will be done. This way if two donations are made for the same purpose, the giver can be informed that the need has already been covered.

If the gift is simply money with/without a specification, the donor emails me and we meet at a convenient location where I receive an envelope (provided by me). I then find a volunteer to deliver the envelope. If the offering is in the form of a transfer-I have opened an account with the FS that remains confidential. The donor gives cash to Otto or Rathinam who put it on the AGC account. Transfers will only be traceable to the Anonymous Goodwill Conspiracy account. **The AGC account No. is 252090.**

What if more than one person gives money for the same thing? Well, then the receiver finds themselves in the wonderful position to cherish the goodwill received and see what she/he can do with it. Ideally such a receiver would pass on some of it to another person in need again through the AGC. Receiving goodwill comes with the responsibility to do the right thing. There may be those who disregard this, but it is only their loss. Yes, they may have a little more money, but a chance missed to grow in the Light of Auroville.

As this networking grows, ideally every community would have volunteers who help to distribute the envelopes. Importantly, anonymity has to be respected and protected for this to work. For those who chose to give through the AGC it is important to also respect the process. Anything we want Auroville to be, is up to us, and it's the small steps that get us there!

Please note: This initiative is only meant for those who want to give. I know that there are many in need, but this is really not for them. Having been in a position of need, I can say that this doesn't need to be a permanent state. You are in Auroville - trust a little. I believe with a little goodwill a lot of things can be done. For anyone who wants to start giving anonymously, I put myself at your service as of today! -submitted by Ange

Victoir a la Douce Mere! Vande Mataram!



AVAG PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN THROUGH VILLAGE LEVEL TASK FORCES

Auroville Village Action Group has recently launched various education and prevention initiatives to support 15,000 families in 75 settlements around Auroville with the cooperation of the villagers and the guidance of the local authorities, such as the District Deputy of Police and the Block Medical Officer, to contain the spread of the pandemic. AVAG has partnered with leaders, women, youth, Panchayat secretaries, members of the education board and various government departments to ensure the success of this project. In order to follow the preventive measures, to stay informed of the updates from the government as well as nurturing continuous linkages with the local government health and police department, AVAG is establishing village and street-level task forces.

The organization supports community initiatives and promotes best hand-washing behavior, hygiene practices, physical distancing and the use of face masks. AVAG is also using a door to door leaflet distribution, posters, flyers, banners, auto-rickshaw canvassing and social media messages including colored pictures to create a better understanding. As part of the project cotton cloth masks, four per family and homeopathic immune booster Arsenicum Album, are supplied to every family in our immediate villages.

This campaign is also creating employment since we need to stitch approximately 48,000 masks. Apart from AVAG - a social enterprise by women to empower women - another 35 people, mostly women are now stitching. People, who are jobless or have part time jobs in Auroville units or outside, are getting cut pieces from AVAG and stitching at home. Everyday two to three new women approach us in need of work.

The villages we're working in value this Auroville support and care during this difficult time and cooperation is very high, particularly among the youth who are coming forward to volunteer.

AVAG is collaborating with various Auroville Units for this project and the AVAG Team is very grateful for this as well as the support from the Foundation for World Education of INR 2.3 lakh and 'Stiching de Zaaier, INR.8.5 lakh. To cover the costs of this initial campaign AVAG still needs to raise INR 6 lakh. Further donations help us to distribute more masks and keep the awareness campaigns going over the coming months. Please help us to support the villages around us. All donations, no matter how small, either in-kind (such as masks or soaps) or financial are deeply appreciated. For queries please contact avagoffice@auroville.org.in. Financial Services account 0226 [Bank transfer links](#); [AVAG web site](#).

In solidarity, Abha, Alain, Anbu, Bridget, Moris and Subbu for all at Auroville Village Action Group

Laptop Needed - I am Arun, a 24 yr old Aurovilian. I've lost a lot of my income due to the lockdown, and I need a laptop to help me develop an income generating project that has the potential to help not only my family, but provide income to handicrafters from the bioregion as well. My younger brother also very much needs access to a laptop for his studies (not asking for 2 - we will share!). Please help me help myself, my family and self-sufficiency for the bioregion. 763-981-0621 (ph/WA) or arun.s@auroville.org.in.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Quarterly Report from FOODLINK (issue no 1)

FoodLink is Auroville's central collection and distribution point for Auroville's farm produce, and thus a vital link between farms and community. From here, the Auroville grown organic farm products are supplied to Auroville's collective kitchens, restaurants, schools, food processors, PTPS & PTDC etc., as well as individuals.

We have been successfully running operations during this Covid crisis and trying to respond positively to the challenges of changing demand & supply, while at the same time maintaining the required health and safety standards. Farmers were able to increase the production during this crisis to sustain the needs of the community. Foodlink managed to distribute the production due to the support received from the community. There was a time where we had perishable items that were also given free and in the end, MERA /BCC covered the amount for farmers.

In this report we are happy to share data about the food we received during the last three months of the year 2020 (April, May & June) and to compare it to the same period last year. From now onwards we intend to share similar information with the community from time to time.

MILK SUPPLY: There was a 61% increase in the amount of milk supplied to Foodlink at the beginning of the pandemic. This was because restaurants were closed and the community kitchens were operating at reduced capacity. All the milk that was supposed to be used at those places was given to Foodlink instead. The fresh milk as well as pasteurized milk has been distributed through PTDC, HERS and home delivery by Foodlink. Foodlink started home delivery of milk from mid-March and is still continuing. In case you wish to order Auroville, Fresh milk write to us on foodlink@auroville.org.in. Annapurna is processing all their milk into dairy products that you may have enjoyed in the form of cheese, curd etc. Foodlink has also been preparing Paneer (cottage cheese) with the supply of milk.

From Apr'19 to June'19 Foodlink received 6354 Ltr Milk
From Apr'20 to June'20 Foodlink received 10277 Ltr Milk

LEADING FRUITS RECEIVED IN FOODLINK: Mango and papaya seasons were at their peak during the last three months. We received more guavas because newly developed orchards started to produce and they became our leading supplier of this fruit. The increased amount of mango was due to lease cancellation of Auro Orchard.

Fruits Received in Kg	Apr'19-June'19	Apr'20-June'20	% Growth
Banana Yellow	2501	2223	-11.09%
Chikoo	113	523	361.95%
Guava*	9	307	3267.02%
Papaya	6002	6592	9.84%
Ramphal	377	303	-19.74%
Soursop	206	250	21.61%
Limes	404	730	80.50%
Mango A	880	2898	229.19%
Mango B	559	699	24.99%
Mango C	894	218	-75.61%
Mango Green	140	169	21.05%

MAIN VEGETABLES RECEIVED BY FOODLINK: Brinjal, long beans and ladies finger were our top vegetables this month although we also had good amounts of pumpkin, cucumbers and snake gourds. The large increase in the amount of snake gourd available is the result of a farm restaurant closing because of the pandemic. The snake gourd was therefore sent to Foodlink for distribution.

Veg Received in Kg	Apr'19-June'19	Apr'20-June'20	% Growth
Beans Long	1732	1887	8.92%
Brinjal	1203	1710	42.16%
Cucumber B	719	792	10.08%

Lady Finger	1097	1419	29.30%
Pumpkin Big	148	615	315.01%
Snake Gourd	51	784	1430.00%

MAIN DRY GOODS RECEIVED BY FOODLINK: Rice and varagu are the main dry goods items that Foodlink receives. In the category of Rice this includes raw rice, boiled rice, red rice and complete rice. Varagu covers both polished and unpolished varieties. We do have many other grains in the stock which you may find in PDTC, PTPS, and HERS.

There was a slight decrease in rice consumption due to closure of restaurants, and community kitchens in the beginning of the pandemic not being fully operational. We do request the community to please procure Auroville grains, as Foodlink Granary has ample stock of different grains. If you wish us to order and find out about different grains. Please click on this link and order it online: <https://forms.gle/bUHFU2ekDvwXujHXA>

MAIN DRY GOODS in Kg	Apr'19-June'19	Apr'20-June'20	% Growth
*RICE	2697.5	2327	-13.73%
**VARAGU	950	1070	12.63%

EGGS : There were marginal differences compared to last year in the period of Apr-June. From July onwards, however, supply increased dramatically as has been announced previously in the News and Notes. As from the beginning of July we have received 4000-5000 eggs each week from Auro Orchard and this may continue for the next few weeks.

From Apr'20 to June'20 Foodlink received 40676 organic eggs
From Apr'19 to June'19 Foodlink received 49572 organic eggs

THE WAY FORWARD: Foodlink would like to see a new element introduced into the community economic policy to support Auroville food production. For example, a specific amount of the 'in-kind' part of the maintenance could be dedicated to Auroville Farm Products.

- There needs to be a conscious effort from both individuals and community food outlets to shift their consumption to Auroville farm products.
- Foodlink, with the cooperation of Auroville farmers, is planning to publish expected production of farm products for various seasons as they arrive.
- Foodlink is planning to organize educational programs within the community and to have periodic interaction with the community through different platforms.
- Foodlink requests the community to support Auroville farms by procuring as many AV farm products as possible. The pandemic has shown a way forward for Auroville food sustainability.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: It would not have been possible to continue our operation so efficiently in the last three months without the cooperation and contribution of a number of people, units and groups. On behalf of Foodlink and Auroville farms we sincerely thank:

- BCC and MERA to support us with the Budget and cover costs for smooth operation
- Sunlit Future
- KINSI for providing e cycles and an e bike.
- All the outlets serving Auroville farm products
- And our dedicated volunteers: Vinoth, Selvam, Leela, Archana, Xavier, Anita.

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Data published in this report is from Foodlink accounts. Anyone interested to know more can contact Foodlink. ~FOODLINK TEAM, July 2020, Foodlink@auroville.org.in

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New Home Repair Service

I am starting a small service for the community. If you need small scale repair work at your home, e.g. plumbing, carpentry, electrical work, repairs of home equipment, etc., please write me at alexey@auroville.org.in. The work will be done in two visits. First to see the work needed and assess the tools and needed spares, and second visit to complete the work.

In your email please mention your name, community, type of work, phone number, convenient time to call and/or come.

For now, the service is only for the Auroville area. The idea is especially to help those who are older, live alone, etc. It is a free service, but you will need to pay for any materials.

Thank you. -Alexey S.

News from Solitude

Lunches - Solitude Farm Cafe is serving the very best of fresh, local and seasonal farm-to-plate thalis, smoothies, salads, energy balls, juices and more! You can just drop in, but we are also operating a lunch scheme that makes the lunches very affordable, and we do tiffins and cater for groups/events etc.

Basket service - Solitude Farm runs a basket service which offers participants a diversity of local produce once or twice a week on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday. A typical basket is 5 - 7 kgs, and can include wild spinaches, salad greens, a juice kit, tapioca, plantain, bananas, papaya (green and ripe), banana stem, brinjals, cluster beans, amaranth, jackfruit and more! Ladies fingers are growing as are gourds and pumpkins, corn and radish.

For basket participants we run a weekly mini-workshop where we teach the value of the plants we offer through harvesting, cooking and eating together. The more understanding there is about the local plants, the more we are able to offer in the basket. The baskets are really a wonderful way to embrace the plants of this bio-region and discover a zero carbon footprint diet that is both tasty and super healthy. There is also a WhatsApp group for participants who share amazing recipes and photos of dishes they have made. Baskets are paid in advance for 1, 3, 6 mo. & 1 year subscriptions, becoming cheaper the longer the commitment. Participants also get a huge discount on the lunch.

Community garden projects - Since the lockdown, over 20 different communities have reached out to us to receive seeds, plants, advice or help in getting gardens going. Some communities are meeting regularly; Sincerity, Surrender, Creativity, Invocation and a few others. Many of these gardens are already advanced and have plants that are almost ready or are ready to be harvested. In Shanti, the first banana flower has come, and lines of radishes are sprouting in the Tibetan Pavilion, along with amaranth and gourds. Last week we planted the first beds at the Secretary's house, Aditi, and now that space too really looks like a garden, with all the little plants that have germinated. As I have had the great fortune to work closely with Nina Sengupta recently, I have introduced many of the local edible weeds into these gardens, following up with the participants on showing them how to cook/prepare them. This has been a huge eye opener for me, because I thought I already knew a lot, but oh!!! there is so, so much more to learn and Nina sharing her knowledge is a huge blessing for us all. You can watch her videos on "Edible weed walk" channel on Youtube. It is a wonderful education not to be missed!

In these times, uncertainty is prevalent, so food security is obviously a recurrent theme. In Tamil Nadu there are two main planting seasons. Now we have started the lunar month of Adhi, and it is in this month that we have to start planting; especially pumpkins, gourds, beans, ladies finger, etc. It is the first season. Then before the main rains in November, we get the first harvest, celebrated with Ganesh puja, after the rains, the next season starts. This is a time to start pumpkins, gourds, ladies fingers, cluster beans, long beans, cucumbers, radish, yams, corn etc. There are also many crops such as avarakai (lab bean, flat beans) and wing beans and sweet potatoes etc., that grow through the rains and are harvested in January and February, these crops must be established with the summer

rains as they benefit from the main monsoon rains. This is really the time to get going.

We have so many seeds, fruit trees, cuttings and I am sure many other farms and individuals in the community gardens do too. Botanical Gardens has a seed bank and there are others as well. It is imperative that we start to value the land we have around us to grow food. As I mentioned the secretary's house has taken that initiative and those of us who have not considered it should start to!!! It is not difficult!!! Yes, problems of peacocks and other wildlife have become more and more a problem for gardeners but solutions are there that have already been implemented in some communities, we just need to learn from each other.

I've also noticed, having been involved with so many communities, that along with a beautiful enthusiasm there was also a certain amount of resistance to having gardens created around residential areas. I think that if we just consider for a minute where does my food come from? Do I know how much of an ecological cost my food has created? What is its carbon footprint? If we go back just 30 or 40 years in this bio-region everyone ate locally, go back a little longer in Italy or many other European countries it was the same. We have deviated from the most essential relationship we have with nature and that is to know where our food comes from, if we don't embrace this, we can say what we like but money is the defining factor of our lives because we need to buy food. I request people who feel some doubts to be patient. In a short time, you will be eating food from your community garden! And this food, is a blessing from Mother Earth.

If you need help or want someone to come and have a look at a potential garden space, please reach out. I feel certain that this is something we can do and it will make a huge difference in how we see ourselves as a community and how we value our land and the local culture.

Love, Krishna, krishnamckenzie@auroville.org.in

Calling the Future

In May, the community was invited to participate in the 'Calling the Future' survey. The purpose was to find out how people responded to the lockdown and what changes people felt needed to be made, both in their individual lives and in the organization of the community. While we are continuing to seek responses from under-represented groups and the results have not been analyzed in detail, certain broad lines are emerging.

The vast majority felt there was much to be celebrated in Auroville's response to the crisis. These included the spirit of service displayed in the volunteering, the way the essential services kept running, and the dedicated work of groups like the COVID Task Force, the Working Committee and Security.

However, many felt that certain things could have been improved. These included irresponsible behavior, like people hoarding basic supplies, and rebelliousness, as in those refusing to observe social distancing. Communication was also an issue. While the updates from the COVID Task Force and Working Committee were appreciated, a few said the tone was too functional, conformist. And those who accessed Auronet felt that when it needed to be a forum for mutual support, it was often a venue for mudslinging, recrimination and paranoia.

On the personal level, the vast majority said they had positively changed habits during the lockdown. They had more time for family, for slowing down and living in the present, for regular exercise and walks in nature, and for connecting to the self and the spirit of Auroville through meditation and reading the works of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. Many became more aware about the food they were eating, and how they could make choices that would support local food production. There was also an increased sense of solidarity as people in different communities took responsibility for caring for each other and their immediate environment.

The most common negative changes were a sense of isolation and panic and a feeling that the community aspect had suffered. Others mentioned financial concerns and missing the ability to visit the Matrimandir.

Asked in which fields Auroville needs to change, an overwhelming majority listed the economy, followed closely by farming/ food distribution and water and energy supply. Social interaction/collective life and spiritual life and aspirations were also frequently mentioned as areas where we need to improve.

Some initiatives to effect change were proposed during the lockdown. The most popular was Krishna's proposal to accelerate food sovereignty for Auroville through the creation of circle gardens in communities and eating local foods. Jasmine's call to improve food security and distribution, and proposals to provide the basic necessities to all Aurovilian residents also received a lot of support. Finally, it was heartening that a majority of respondents said they were willing to participate in projects that may emerge, or be given new life, as a result of the survey, particularly those related to the economy, food production, and the environment.

- submitted by Alan, for the Calling the Future initiative

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

AV Internal Delivery Service - We are looking for an Aurovilian or Newcomer who can be present in the afternoon from 2-5 pm at the Service, receive/hand out orders, and coordinate deliveries across Auroville. Please contact Krishna, UTS, 0413-262-3587, 944-336-2218 or Shivaya, 948 960 1312, shivaya@auroville.org.in

HR Initiative is a service which helps individual Aurovilians and Newcomers who are looking for suitable work to find it, and to help Auroville units and services who are looking to fill positions to find the right individuals to step in.

Production management - You are interested to join our unit long-term, managing the production, sales, invoicing and preparing accounts for our products. You have basic skills in website management and graphic design. You are responsible, good at working both independently and in a team, take initiative, have good communication skills and an interest in education /games. Part-time, maintenance provided.

Customer Care and Website Management - You are fluent in English, have good communication skills and will take care of our customers. You update our website and you have an interest in the technical aspects of this work. Full-time, maintenance provided.

Please contact us for more information and if you are interested in any of these work opportunities or if you are looking for something else. hr_hub@auroville.org.in
- HR Initiative (Joel, Romel, Siv, Stephanie)

LOOKING FOR

Long-term housesitting - This is Valentina and Pablo (13 years old son) from Kriya community. We would love to take care of your home, pets (if you have any) and garden. Thanks much for considering us! Valentina and Pablo. +91 949-889-6117 or valentina@auroville.org.in

Long term housesitting - My name is Jan. I'm after long time still part of the newcomer process due to my age. I'm over 40 and I don't have a long-term agreement with the Housing service to stay in an Auroville house, which is required for the final interview for my age group. So I'm looking for a long term housesitting to step out of the blue and into the light. Thank you. yogajanbudin@gmail.com

Work - Auroville Institute of Applied Technology - 3 of our female students finished their education in COPA (Computer Operator & Programming Assistant) and are now looking for a job. If interested: office.ais@auroville.org.in, 0413 267-1758, website: www.aiat.in

House work - Sarasu, experienced in all household work, very reliable, from Edayanchavadi, is looking for part time work, 6 mornings or afternoon, near Svedam. Recommended by and to be contacted via Sigrid, sigrid@auroville.org.in; 0413 23888

Viola - I need a viola to start practice. Because of lockdown, it is difficult to order one either from a shop or online. If you have one viola which you're not using, I would like to borrow or buy it. Thank you. Alexey, alexey@auroville.org.in, What's app +795-045-89070.

A keyboard - to borrow or purchase (do not have a big budget). Whatsapp: Megha - 887-073-0567.

Camera and Pressure cooker - Photo camera with good quality picture. Budget 10 to 15 000 max. Prefer one with an integrated battery with charger. huystaure@gmail.com

Massage table and electronic keyboard, both in good condition. 262 3615, 8 AM - 8 PM or 95008 22629. Please note the category - I am LOOKING FOR these, not having them!

AVAILABLE

Rental of Construction Tools - from 8:30 to 9:30 AM at: Transformation, Pierre's entrance, (pink gate). Contact: Mr. MUNUSWAMY, 8903767434 or 8925052805 for the list and rates.

Solar fan - A superb solar fan in good condition is available for free at Soham's home in Transformation. If interested, come by in the PM (until 5) or sohamlive@auroville.org.in

Washing machine, bath tub, Samsung laptop with broken frame, 2 big beautiful paintings: 1 with galloping horse, 2 with family tree, steel garden table with 6 chairs, toddler car seat, electronic photo frame, toddlers table seat. For details contact Prem Shakti 9489244823



Child Portraits

Would you like a portrait of your child? As the time is not suitable for drawing from a live model, if you have a baby around a year age, please send me his/her photo (one side darker/in shadow) by email or whatsapp. I will send you back my drawing as a jpeg file. I will keep my original. -Ivana
Roof Studio/Auroville Art Service
ivana@auroville.org.in;
709-434-4154

Ampere 'Adya' Electric Moped - Silver, good condition. Recently serviced and upgraded by Kinisi and Govindaraj. New batteries (5X12V). New comfortable thick cushion seat for a smoother ride. Bigger wheels make mopeds more stable than scooters on AV mud roads. Quite possibly one of the best-performing (and best-looking) electric mopeds in Auroville. E-bike does not need license and is legal to take out of Auroville -G ☺; sattvig@gmail.com, 8407997970)

Garden Gate - I have a steel gate available with AV logo at centre, 105 x 141 cms, with attachments for granite pillars each side. If interested: Tim (ph.2622381 or 296; timwrey@...)

GREEN MATTERS



Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Cook food in as little water as possible. This also helps it retain more nutrients. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city.

watergroup@auroville.org.in/www.aurovillewater.in

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The Trump administration announced that Monsanto's and Bayer's Glyphosate: a powerful, toxic pesticide (known by its popular name of Round-Up) will be allowed for another 15 years till 2035 despite dangers to humans, bees and butterflies. Glyphosate's EU license is also under review again, which is why Bayer is ramping up their PR offensive. The world could be close to a final ban. What will India do?

In the US a lawsuit was filed (by The Natural Resources Defense Council and Pesticide Action Network) challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) approval of glyphosate, the most widely used herbicide in the United States and the world. They argue that approval of glyphosate is unsafe, unhealthy, and unlawful. EPA ignored warnings from scientists, environmentalists, and medical experts about the serious health and environmental harms of continued use of glyphosate.

Glyphosate poisons habitat for pollinators just as bees and butterflies are experiencing sharp population declines due to human activity. This toxic chemical is linked to human health risks including cancer. And finally, it disrupts soil microbial functions essential for plant health and disease resistance. Dr. Margaret Reeves, Pesticide Action Network's Senior Scientist: "We must hold our public agencies accountable to science. It's time to get pesticides linked to cancer like glyphosate off the market, and support farmers as they transition to agroecological approaches."

The Kerala Agriculture Department cancelled licenses for distribution and sales of glyphosate in 2019. Kerala is the fifth state in India to do so, following Punjab, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Weedicides containing glyphosate are sold under various names such as Round-Up, Glycel, Glyphos, Safal, Weedoff, etc. The Kerala government decided to act given the indiscriminate use of glyphosate, induced by dubious marketing methods. Though it was approved for use only in tea plantations and non-crop area, it has been widely used across all crops as well as courtyards, school premises, roadsides and public places. Even untreated crops can be contaminated because glyphosate moves easily through soil and water. Scientific evidence links glyphosate exposure to developmental harms including an elevated risk of birth defects, and an increased risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma cancer. Californian courts ordered Monsanto to pay million dollars of compensation to patients who suffered with cancer following glyphosate use. A San Francisco State Court found that Roundup, a glyphosate based weedicide has caused cancer to a farm worker.

The widespread use of glyphosate also kills milkweed, the only source of food for monarch caterpillars, thereby threatening their existence. More Information on Glyphosate: [EPA's Glyphosate Assessment is Unsafe, Unhealthy, Unlawful. Split Within EPA on Glyphosate Carcinogenicity](#)

Meanwhile in India, 3 environmental NGO's including the youth group Fridays For Future saw their websites blocked after a complaint by the Ministry for Environment Forest and Climate Change that too many Emails were sent with the subject "EIA 2020" referring to the Environmental Impact Assessment law. The Ministry had invited public feedback to a draft revised EIA law in which industry is given much more freedom and requirements for public consultation are greatly reduced.

Sources :The Natural Resources Defense Council (www.nrdc.org) / Daniela Arellano and [Mint newspaper](#).
- Lisbeth & Gijs AV Green Center

The Green column appears bi-monthly in the News & Notes and on Auronet and reports on green issues in Auroville, our bioregion and the wider world. We like to hear from you! avgreencenter@auroville.org.in



AUROVILLE INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRAL HEALTH

August 2020

Working Hours - Mon - Sat 8:45-12:30pm & 2:00 - 4:30pm
(Closed Tuesday afternoons for team meetings)

Given our present, ever changing environment, we request our patients to phone Santé reception (0413) 2622803 for an appointment and to confirm availability of the requested services.

- Doctor consults with Igor & Brian
- Nursing care with Ezhil, Thilagam, Archana & Magesh
- Acupuncture with Andres
- Ayurveda with Berengere
- Homeopathy with Michael
- Physiotherapy with Galina & Rebeca
- Women's Wellness & Family counselling with Paula & Monique
- Lab testing services have reopened but keep in mind, there may be a delay in processing the samples.

We are only able to offer minimal contact therapies at this time. For acupuncture and physiotherapy sessions, we kindly request you to bring your own sheets and towels. Shower facilities in Santé are presently unavailable.

General Health Considerations:

1. Please DO NOT visit the Health Centre, Santé, the pharmacy or any alternative therapists if you have flu like symptoms like a cough, fever, tiredness and/or aching muscles. Other common symptoms include loss of taste/smell, vomiting & diarrhea and difficulty breathing.
2. In case of concern, ring your usual health provider during office hours & ask the doctor to return the call as soon as he or she is free. Out of working hours, ring the Ambulance Service who will assess the situation and inform the doctor on call to guide you.
3. Stay indoors till your health provider has assessed your condition. This is both essential & responsible for the wellbeing of both you & those around you.
4. In case of difficulty in breathing or other deterioration of health, contact the AV Ambulance (+91 - 9442224680) immediately.
5. Stay safe; wear a mask, practice good hand hygiene & proper social distancing. Be well! 🍀



Therapies and Accommodation Available in August

Following the guidelines from the Auroville Covid-19 Task Force and Working Committee, Quiet Healing Center continues to offer treatments for therapeutic purposes in August to Aurovilians, Newcomers, and Auroville registered Guests or Volunteers with Aurocard.

Do you need a relaxing break from your daily life and regular routine? Aurovilians, Newcomers, and Auroville registered Guests or Volunteers with Aurocard are also welcome to stay with us. Vitamin-Sea is freely available! You will need to wear a mask before entering the reception and fill out an intake form. Your temperature will be screened at the reception before you are allowed to enter the therapy centre for

treatment. You are also expected to bring two sheets: a "lungi" to cover yourself and another one to cover the treatment table. In case you stay with us, you will need to bring your own bedsheets and head cushion cover as well. All bookings need to be made in advance over phone either at 9488084966 / 9488079871 or 2622329 (landline with call forwarding). www.quiethhealingcenter.info/quiet@auroville.org.in
We are taking all necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and safe environment for your treatment and/or your stay with us.
- Quiet Healing Center Staff

Re: EMFs

I would like to share some of my recent experience with people who came to me as a healer with certain symptoms which could be easily solved and which can be solved by anybody if it is known what the cause of these symptoms may be. Over the last 18 months I have seen, in an increasing number, people who have one, some or many of the following issues:

- panic attacks, anxiety, depression, suicidal tendency,
- headache, drowsiness, restlessness
- sleeping disturbances (not getting asleep, waking up in the middle of the night without getting back to sleep, agitated sleep, waking up in the morning feeling very tired or heavy),
- mood instability,
- difficulty to concentrate, to stay focused, to finish what has been started, jumping from one activity to another in a chaotic manner without getting hold of oneself).

They have been very quickly relieved by removing all wifi from their everyday life. This means switching off Wifi, Bluetooth, Mobile Data and Hotspot from their phones (this needs to be done one by one - Flight Mode only switches off Phone Mode and Mobile Data) and only switching on what is needed when downloading messages and then switching it off again. This may also mean connecting devices with much better and faster wired internet from their modem/router using Ethernet cables for laptops and with compatible OTG (On The Go) adapters for phones. Thus allowing WiFi free environment at home and at work.

If you need any scientific studies about this topic, the AV EMF Awareness group (emf-awareness@googlegroups.com) has plenty of them (EMF = electromagnetic field). As for the technical advice and installation aspects, Mira Computer has experience with it (phone : 0413 262 2747).

Please note: a person with some of the symptoms listed above may not be aware of it because of the reduced clarity/drowsiness (as in the story of the frog that gets boiled because it is not noticing the increase of temperature in the pot and did not jump out of it on time). So, help from a relative or a friend may be needed for awareness. I will not go into the details of what ill effects continuous EMF stress has on our immune system but would like to underline that this kind of electromagnetic disturbance weakens our nervous system and hence lowers our life force and our vibrations and therefore our physical health and spiritual openness.

- Iris, Surya Nivas



Hello Auroville, your favorite radio moves forward! The stream channel can be heard here: <http://aurovillerradio.org:8000/av-radio-128.mp3> (just click on it!) It broadcasts mixed music and LIVE events from our studio.

Next LIVE episodes:

- **A Cup of Joy** (wellness) with Vega & Francesco every **Monday at 2:30pm**

- **Nutritional Cultural Redemption** (food and farming) with Krishna McKenzie every **Tuesday at 10:30am**

- **The Best of What's Still Around** (music) with Dhani Muniz every **Wednesday at 2:30pm**

- **The Neo Urban Chronik** (opinion) with Froggy de Frenchy every **Friday at 10:30am**

- **Happiness, Love and Laughter** (wellness and well-being) Fif/ MediClown Academy every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** around 12am

- **Audible Weed Walk** (local food) with Nina every **Friday at 2:30pm**

- **Capriole** (music) with Luca every **Tuesday at 2:30 pm**

- **The readings by Gangalakshmi** (en francois) every **Wednesday at 10:30am**

And a new entry! **Soul Tracks** (music) w/ Jules and Matthew, can be heard here: <https://www.aurovillerradio.org/soul-tracks-ep-1/> every **Saturday @ 3PM**.

All the programs are also available as podcasts (**just click the title...**).

All the recordings can be downloaded on the AurovilleRadio website www.aurovillerradio.org. Write us if you need more information radio@auroville.org.in

Your favorite radio is constantly changing and evolving...
STAY TUNED! Please write us for your suggestions :)

Introduction to *The Process of the Integral Yoga*

A compilation by Paulette, published 2018

The path of Integral Yoga revolves essentially around three major transformations. In the first, the psychic centre takes the lead and by a process the Mother calls individualization reunifies all layers of being - mental, vital, physical, encompassing as well the subliminal (our subtle, occult being) and the subconscious, down to the inconscient. To this first transformation, psychicismation, ideally follows the second, spiritualization, although at times the two intersect. Both transformations are pre-conditions to commence the third and last one, supramentalisation.

Abolition of the ego and identification with the Divine - Self realisation - are the summit of the yogic paths and, broadly speaking, the spiritual realisation of the Integral Yoga. Along with transformation of the mind, these milestones are the outcome of the spiritual transformation, implying by this the ascent to, and descent from, the planes Sri Aurobindo calls Divine Mind up to the Mind of Light, at the edge of the Supermind. The spiritual transformation is initiated by the descent of the Higher Consciousness (the Mother's) into the lower nature; this momentous turning point opens the vistas to the supramental transformation.

Sri Aurobindo heralds the divinisation of the ordinary mind as the next stage of evolution; when the Mind of Light is reached an intermediary race of divine beings manifests, forerunning the Gnostic, supramental race that is the ultimate stage of the Integral Yoga. The whole of humanity will not follow at once, but there will be a progressive influence of the higher planes of Mind, the Mind of Light, and finally the Supermind. Gnosis or true Supermind is Knowledge by Identity, the chief attribute of the Supermind. One with the Supermind, intrinsic, Knowledge too is concealed in the deepest Inconscient out of which the human race evolves. The transition from homo sapiens to superman and, lastly, to Gnostic Being triggering a transmutation so complete as to involve the very body and its organs, is the kernel of evolution as charted by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. [reprinted with author's permission]

Aurovilian with eight legs

"There is nothing insignificant in Nature"
~Victor Hugo, "Les miserables"

When cyclone Thane uprooted thousands of trees in Auroville, the social spider *stepodiphus sarasinovin* disappeared from our city for two years. Afterwards I saw it again. Previously this creature was very rare but every year its population grew before reaching the normal density.

There is a wide variety of spiders in Auroville. So different are they! But only one species lives in the communities. For the professional eye, it is easy to see the nests of this spider on

different plants. Some spiders are the hunters without nests. Social ones create the nests, sometimes they are comparatively big.

Man received from the Lord only two legs, dogs - four, flies - six, spiders - eight. The god created fly but doesn't tell us - why? About the spiders there are not any questions: every spider is a predator. We must be grateful to spiders because they regulate number of the flies in Auroville. If any lady or gentleman arrives in Auroville and wants to become a citizen, she or he are before the long ritual. The spiders haven't passports and they don't arrive in Entry Service.

Aurovilians cared about the greening of the city, in results the eco system was born with great bio-diversity, rich flora and fauna. It is possible to meet the social spider not only in Auroville but also in the Kodaikanal region, near Auroville's Nature camp. Very funny that cyclone Thane wasn't so strong near Kodaikanal and social spider didn't disappear around the Nature camp after this storm. For some years Auroville's Nature camp disposed near Berijam Lake on level 2130 m above sea. I collected old nests of the social spider and identified the leavings of victims into them. Among the spider's victims the beetles predominated. But in the nests on slope of hill above 250 m I found mainly the small wasps.

- Boris

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



AUROVILLE ART SERVICE - 'basket' for the week

1. **CULTURES OF RESISTANCE: LATEST DOCUMENTARY** - From Trash To Treasure - turning negatives into positives: Lara Lee's new documentary about creative resistance and grassroots activism in Lesotho - rethinking, reusing, reinventing. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udLsJuTKrmo&feature=youtu.be>

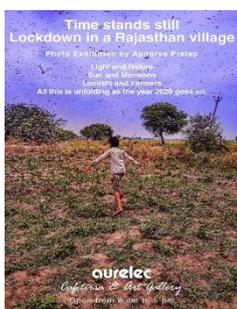
2. **SAHAPEDIA-UNESCO FELLOWSHIP 2020** - Open for post-graduates who wish to conduct documentation and research in diverse areas of cultural knowledge and practice. <https://www.sahapedia.org/sahapedia-unesco-fellowship-2020>

3. **PLATFORM FOR ARTISTS** - A podcast on "How can artists adapt a subscription-based business model?" <https://hubhopper.com/episode/how-can-artists-adapt-a-subscription-based-business-model-1594983062>

4. **MUSIC IN THE MACHAN** - An online community that meets every day to sing, breathe and be. Born in a machan (a bamboo shelter) in rural Bengal at the time of the ongoing pandemic, it welcomes anyone who would like to sing and share sacred space. It is offered as a gift and can be paid for or paid forward as you choose. Facilitated by Shruthi Veena-Vishwanath. Zoom room: 426054517, 8 am IST weekdays, 9 am IST weekends | Tues holiday

5. **CREATIVE WRITING FROM WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY** - An MOOC on the Coursera platform covering three major creative writing genres - short story, narrative essay and memoir. <https://www.coursera.org/specializations/creative-writing>

6. **AV ART SERVICE - FREE ONLINE SINGING CLASSES** - Free music lessons to Aurovilians and Newcomers. If you would like to sing, Shalini will share with you the things she has learnt about an embodied and relaxed voice. write.shalini@gmail.com



Photography Exhibition

Time Stands Still: Lockdown in a Rajasthan Village
thru 13th August
at the Aurelec Cafeteria & Gallery

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Two Zoom Sessions:

SEVEN STEPS

TOWARDS GLOBAL PEACE

Reflections on the 75th Anniversary
of Hiroshima & Nagasaki
by Dr. Sehdev Kumar



Radiation Physicist, Historian of Science, Author, Pacifist,
Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies,
University of Waterloo, Canada

- ∞ *The History of the Making of A-Bombs*
- ∞ *Aristocracy of Scientists & Internationalism*
- ∞ *Horrors of Wars & Hatred*
- ∞ *The Beginning of Atomic Age & Nuclear Warfare*
- ∞ *Voices of Scientists, Pacifists and Sages*
- ∞ *Re-Visioning History & Future of Human Civilization*
- ∞ *Reconciliation & Imperatives for Peace*
- Dawn of New Age of Enlightenment & the Fate of the Earth*

Hall of Peace, Unity Pavilion, Auroville, India
Thursday, August 6th & Sunday, August 9th 2020
Both sessions at 7:30-9:00 PM, Indian Time

To register, please write to: globalpeace222@gmail.com

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Therapy to heal and transform Yourself
& achieve higher consciousness

www.auroville-holistic.com

Ashtanga Yoga- Mysore Style Classes August 4th to 10th

Join us for an exploration of the Ashtanga yoga method and learn all the tools you need deepen & expand your practice. This 7 classes workshop will help you understand the philosophy & essential aspects, as well as focus on correcting your asanas to enable you to carry on your practice effectively.

Registration: We have limited seats for the workshop, so preregistration is required. For registration & more information: +91 9489805493 or christinep@auroville.org. Classes will start at 7:15 AM- (be in the shala 10 min before). - Beginners, intermediate or advanced students can participate. Venue: The Holistic shala



NEWS FROM AUROVILLE LANGUAGE LAB

We are happy to announce that starting in August, we will start some online courses, open to all.

ONLINE COURSES:

Learn German Online with Verena (Beginner Level)

Course Content:

- Listening, Understanding, and Speaking
- Basic Knowledge of grammar and first writing experience
- First conversation and pronunciation
- Learn to build first sentences with fun and appreciation

Tuesday and Thursday, 08:15 AM to 09:45 AM for 3 months

An hour of English a day with Asha!

There are 4 different classes:

- Communication skills
- Secretarial Communication skills
- Sales-Staff Communication skills
- Customer Service Communication Skills

These are primarily to address the needs of Tamil staff working in various Auroville service and commercial units: to enable skill-building to be able to meet the needs of Auroville units, especially in these challenging times.

Attention Unit-holders of AV

- ⇒ want your staff to answer your calls/emails/WhatsApp messages efficiently?
- ⇒ Want your staff to say the right things to your clients?
- ⇒ Want your staff to communicate on time?

Inform your staff and get them to sign up for **Communication Skills ONLINE**. This 10-hour course is unlike any other!

- ⇒ It is bilingual (Eng/Tamil): your Tamil-speaking staff can now learn from a teacher who will use a comparative approach of learning the essential phrases in English for the workplace using Tamil for easier understanding.
- ⇒ It uses the “unlearning technique”: your Tamil-speaking staff can now unlearn incorrect phrases. We will provide them the right stuff (English with Tamil paraphrasing) instead of dragging them through long and complex study material.
- ⇒ It offers an add-on module: basic telephone etiquette.

Secretarial Communication Skills: Mon-Fri, 1 hr/day, 15 days

- ⇒ Note-taking
- ⇒ Preparing MoMs (Minutes of Meetings)
- ⇒ Drafting B2B/B2C emails
- ⇒ Drawing-up simple reports
- ⇒ Presentation Skills
- ⇒ Grooming Skills

Sales-Staff communication skills: Mon-Fri, 1 hr/day, 15 days

- ⇒ Essential phrases
- ⇒ Responding to General enquiries
- ⇒ Handling Angry Customers
- ⇒ Grooming Skills and Presentability

Customer Service Communication Skills: Monday to Friday, 1 hour each, for 20 days (20 hours).

- Essential Phrases To Use On Telephone Calls
- Asking Questions With Clarity
- Saying The Right Thing Without Confusing The Client
- Responding To General Enquiries
- Handling Angry Customers
- Avoiding Common But Confusing English Mistakes

Requirements for all 4:

- basic reading and writing skills in English
- individual workstations w/ good internet connectivity

Those interested in online classes, register at:

<http://register.aurovillelanguagelab.org/online-courses/>

> We have a special discount for Aurovilians, Newcomers, Pre-Newcomers and Savi volunteers. You will have to enter a coupon code on the Payments page. To get your code, please write to info@aurovillelanguagelab.org.

GROUP CLASSES AT THE LANGUAGE LAB:

(Only for Aurovilians, Newcomers, Pre-Newcomers and Guests who have been living only in Auroville during lockdown)

- English w/ Asha every Mon and Wed from 4 - 5 PM.
- Spanish w/ Mila every Tues and Thurs, 2.30 - 3.30 PM

Also you are welcome to check out our Mediatheque, which has excellent Software, Audio, and Video that you can work with either on your own or as a guided study.

Those interested can register at:

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

We have some spaces available for the individual Tomatis programs only for people within Auroville. **0413-4036922 or tomatis@aurovillelanguagelab.org if interested.** To know more about the Tomatis programs:

<https://www.aurovillelanguagelab.org/tomatis-method.php>.

We request all those coming to the Language Lab premises to respect all the Covid-19 guidelines.

The Language Lab is open
Monday - Friday 9:00 am- 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm,
Saturday 9 am to 12 pm.
Location: International Zone, after the Unity Pavilion and Pump House.
Phone: 2623661, 4036920. Email info@aurovillelanguagelab.org



At the Auroville Budokan (Dehashakti)

The Aikido group has started Aikido Weapon's classes (only => no contact sport/martial art) on Tuesday 6 to 7 AM and Saturday 6.30 to 7.30 AM. This limited practice takes place until we can practice 'normal' Aikido classes. We welcome new students. Reasonable contribution required for the Budokan. For more information before coming, please contact Surya: tel. 83001 89062 or 0413 2623 813 or write to budokan@auroville.org.in :)

Be sure to have a look at the **Regular Activities Addendum for classes and treatments that have restarted.**

⇒⇒⇒ **PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!**

RECEIVE THE NEWS&NOTES by EMAIL weekly!

It comes 2 days sooner and is in color! Subscribe at

newsandnoteslist+subscribe@auroville.org.in

or click directly on this [link](#)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**Auroville Emergency Contact Numbers
Save them in your phone now!**

Auroville Safety and Security Team: 9443090107:

04132623400; security@auroville.org.in

Ambulance: Auroville: 9442224680

PIMS: 0413-2656271/72

Farewell: mobile number: 8903836246. reachable 24/7

Emergency Service of India: 108

JIPMER hospital 2278380 / 2272389

General Hospital 2336050

Puducherry helpline: 104

TN COVID helpline: 044-29510500

Important information about News & Notes

Hard deadline for submissions or cancellations: Tuesday 5pm FOR THE ISSUE to be published that SATURDAY (though the digital version generally goes out on Thursday)

The contents of News & Notes are a reflection of the growth process of this community towards its ideals of harmony, goodwill, discipline and truth. Editing of submissions, mainly for reasons of space and clarity, is done according to an established policy. **How to submit material:** Material (no pdf files, please) may be sent (in English only) to: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in.

Please do **NOT** send submissions and inquiries as a “Reply” to the digital subscription mail. There is **NO** guarantee that anyone will see communications sent this way!

Please try your best to send your announcements, reports, film schedules whenever they are ready. Any modifications of submitted News items must be sent to the editors before Tuesday 5pm. Please do your best to submit copy that is ready for printing (i.e. Word shows you typos, extra spaces, punctuation errors, etc - don't make us do all the work!).

We regret not being able to attend to visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thurs AM due to work pressure.

Articles for the Notes section should ideally be no longer than 500 words.

Visiting hours: Hit or Miss. Call first or email for appointment.

Disclaimer: The views expressed on these pages are those of their respective authors or work groups and do not represent the position of the editors or of the community as a whole. The News & Notes serves as a channel for the publication of material coming from trusted sources within Auroville. The editors cannot be held accountable for any alleged misinformation given or offence caused. In case of any dispute, the Auroville Council may be consulted and publishing of disputed material suspended.

News & Notes, Media Centre, Town Hall. Phone:

0413-2622133, email: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in