News and Notes

No. 816  A Weekly Bulletin for residents of Auroville  2nd May 2020

Mother’s symbol in flowers  (photo by aurovenkatesh)
HOUSE OF MOTHER’S AGENDA

(continued from last week)

The Gita then tells us what is the spiritual knowledge or rather it tells us what are the conditions of knowledge, the marks, the signs of the man whose soul is turned towards the inner wisdom. These signs are the recognised and traditional characteristics of the sage, — his strong turning away of the heart from attachment to outward and worldly things, his inward and brooding spirit, his steady mind and calm equality, the settled fixity of his thought and will upon the greatest inmost truths, upon the things that are real and eternal. First, there comes a certain moral condition, a satvic government of the natural being. There is fixed in him a total absence of worldly pride and arrogance, a candid soul, a tolerant, long-suffering and benignant heart, purity of mind and body, tranquil firmness and steadfastness, self-control and a masterful government of the lower nature and the heart’s worship given to the Teacher, whether to the divine Teacher within or to the human Master in whom the divine Wisdom is embodied, — for that is the sense of the reverence given to the Guru. Then there is a nobler and freer attitude towards the outward world, an attitude of perfect detachment and equality, a firm removal of the natural being’s attraction to the objects of the senses and a radical freedom from the claims of that constant clamorous ego-sense, ego-idea, ego-motive which tyrannises over the normal man. There is no longer any clinging to the attachment and absorption of family and home. There is instead of these vital and animal movements an unattached will and sense and intelligence, a keen perception of the defective nature of the ordinary life of physical man with its aimless and painful subjection to birth and death and disease and age, a constant equality to all pleasant or unpleasant happenings, — for the soul is seated within and impervious to the shocks of external events, — and a meditative mind turned towards solitude and away from the vain noise of crowds and the assemblies of men. Finally, there is a strong turn within towards the things that really matter, a philosophic perception of the true sense and large principles of existence, a tranquil continuity of inner spiritual knowledge and light, the Yoga of an unwavering devotion, love of God, the heart’s deep and constant adoration of the universal and eternal Presence.

The one object to which the mind of spiritual knowledge must be turned is the Eternal by fixity in whom the soul clouded here and swathed in the mists of Nature recovers and enjoys its native and original consciousness of immortality and transcendence. To be fixed on the transient, to be limited in the phenomenon is to accept mortality; the constant truth in things that perish is that in them which is inward and immutable. The soul when it allows itself to be tyrannised over by the appearances of Nature, misses itself and goes whirling about in the cycle of the births and deaths of its bodies. There, passionately following without end the mutations of personality and its interests, it cannot draw back to the possession of its impersonal and unborn self-existence. To be able to do that is to find oneself and get back to one’s true being, that which assumes these births but does not perish with the perishing of its forms. To enjoy the eternity to which birth and life are only outward circumstances, is the soul’s true immortality and transcendence. That Eternal or that Eternity is the Brahman. Brahman is That which transcendent and That which is universal: it is the free spirit who supports in front the play of soul with nature and assures behind their imperishable oneness; it is at once the mutable and the immutable, the All that is the One. In his highest supracosmic status Brahman is a transcendent Eternity without origin or change far above the phenomenal oppositions of existence and non-existence, persistence and transience between which the outward world moves. But once seen in the substance and light of this eternity, the world also becomes other than it seems to the mind and senses; for then we see the universe no longer as a whirl of mind and life and matter or a mass of the determinations of energy and substance, but as no other than this eternal Brahman. A spirit who immeasurably fills and surrounds all this movement with himself — for indeed the movement too is himself — and who throws on all that is finite the splendour of his garment of infinity, a bodiless and million-bodied spirit whose hands of strength and feet of swiftness are on every side of us, whose heads and eyes and faces are those innumerable visages which we see wherever we turn, whose ear is everywhere listening to the silence of eternity and the music of the worlds, is the universal Being in whose embrace we live.

(to be continued next week)


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

The Ponder Corner

We sat together in silence for a few minutes, enjoying the company of our soul, and we witnessed the gates of Eternity opening wide before us.

— The Mother

Words of The Mother, Vol 14, p.150
All Things Covid-19 UPDATE  
Lockdown continues until May 3rd (or further notice).

A Public Auronet page with updated information on Covid 19 for anyone in Auroville - For those in Auroville without access to an Auronet account and who are outside our normal channels of communication, (like volunteers, pre-newcomers, guests stranded in guesthouses), there is now a public web page which will report announcements and communications of public utility in these difficult times. Please share this:  [https://www.auroville.org.in/contents/4953](https://www.auroville.org.in/contents/4953)

In order to help Aurovilians with the pandemic, Aurinoco compiled all related information, GOI advisories, Safety & Security aspects, Auroville Emergency Numbers, and Hospitals & Help Lines related to COVID-19:  [https://sites.google.com/view/covidinformation/](https://sites.google.com/view/covidinformation/). Aurinoco will update the various aspects as the situation changes (hopefully for the better, and soon!) – Aurinoco team

For the up-to-the-minute global stats junkie:  [https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/)

From the WC/CVTF:  Dear Residents,

We would like to inform everybody that the time for “business as usual” has not yet arrived. Therefore, we remind everyone of the following:

- There has been NO RELAXATION of the lockdown conditions for the state of Tamil Nadu. Please note that this is for the entire state, not only Auroville.
- The current lockdown extends through at least the 3rd of May, at which time new instructions will come from the State government. Before such instructions are received and communicated no activities or works should be restarted and movement must remain limited.
- Movement outside of your home should STRICTLY be ONLY for essential needs (grocery shopping, health and medical reasons, work for an essential service).
- Movement after 1 pm is strictly monitored by the police. In some cases people have been stopped and if found to be moving around for a non-essential purpose, their vehicles have been confiscated and held for some time. Please be aware that they are doing their jobs. Be polite and respectful.
- When outside or interacting with others, masks should be worn AT ALL TIMES, even when driving on the roads, as per Tamil Nadu Government order. This should be even more strictly followed if you or anyone around you has any symptoms of a cough or cold or other illness.
- Physical distancing of at least 1 to 2 meters MUST be maintained AT ALL TIMES when interacting with others in any circumstance outside of your family at home.
- Gatherings of more than 5 individuals is STRICTLY prohibited as Section 144 is still in force.
- Gardeners and household workers ARE NOT considered to be an essential service and should not be requested to return to work until after the lockdown has been lifted or relaxed. They themselves are expected to respect the lockdown in their homes.
- Activities and work areas that have been closed during the lockdown must remain closed at least until the 3rd of May and possibly longer.
- We are aware of the newspaper articles in which it is said that certain activities may resume, such as construction in rural areas and horticultural activities. Yesterday we had a meeting with the 2 Nodal Officers for 3 districts, including ours, in which we requested clarification about this. It was clearly stated by them (the Additional DGP and former Collector of Villupuram District) that any activities in these categories MUST get prior permission from the Collector and if permission is given it will be conditional, limited and will be monitored. This applies even to areas outside of containment zones. They also emphasized that ALL the above measures must remain in place until further notice from the Tamil Nadu government.

Auroville has generally responded well to the challenges of the current situation, and we have remained Covid-free. BUT PLEASE DON’T BECOME COMPLACENT! WE MUST DO WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP IT THAT WAY! Be conscious, be disciplined, be safe, and respect the needs of others to feel safe. Thank you for your attention. We look forward to everyone’s understanding, acceptance and cooperation in this. With best wishes to all, The Working Committee and Covid-19 Task Force

This means that the following are the new timings for the outlets:

- PTDC 8 am to 1 pm, with 8-9AM preference given to our 60+ elders
- PTTS 9 am to 1 pm, with preference given to our 60+ elders from 9 to 10 AM
- HERS 8:00 am to 1 pm - no preference for elders but assistance is available if needed.

Please be aware that the doors will close at 12:30 so all shoppers can be out by 1 pm.

Food takeaways and shopping outlets timings -

Ganesh Bakery open for takeaway from 7.30am to 1pm. Please bring your own bags if possible to reduce packing material, and for orders contact us at 9443476387.  [https://auroville.org.in/article/78636](https://auroville.org.in/article/78636)

Foodlink home deliveries etc.  [https://auroville.org.in/article/78629](https://auroville.org.in/article/78629)

Naturellement takeaway (also on Mondays). For food deliveries, please place the order before 4.30pm  [https://auroville.org.in/article/78517](https://auroville.org.in/article/78517)

Neem Tree eatery takeaway lunch time 11 am till 2 pm, dinner time 5:00 pm till 8:00 pm  [https://auroville.org.in/article/78604](https://auroville.org.in/article/78604) and  [https://auroville.org.in/article/78649](https://auroville.org.in/article/78649)

Solar Kitchen: tiffin on order only. NOTE tiffin must be brought before 9:30 or they will not be filled

Visitors Centre cafeteria Lunch pick up time 12.15 to 1.30 Evening pick up time. 6.30 to 8.30  [https://auroville.org.in/article/78600](https://auroville.org.in/article/78600) (for full menu scroll down to comment)

Masks must be worn at all times inside the premises of these outlets, including while queuing. All precautions such as sanitizing hands before entering and maintaining physical distance must be respected. Be patient with the staff and volunteers who are trying to help.

Please remember that only one family member at a time should do the shopping, and children are to be left at home.

Call for volunteers! If you would like to volunteer and help please contact us. Thanks in advance for your collaboration and willingness to help. You can reach us by sending an email to covid19taskforce@auroville.org.in or WhatsApp us at +91-9047787555 (Arun).
WORKING GROUP REPORTS

From the Residents Assembly Service:

REPORT of the INTERIM SELECTION PROCESS for Auroville Council, Entry Board, FAMC & Working Committee - 14th & 15th March 2020

As you might be aware the Selection Process for the Auroville Council, Entry Board, FAMC and Working Committee took place in March 2020.

New team of the Auroville Council: (9 members - from left to right): Shivaya - ongoing member (New Lands), Riju (Courage), Enrica (Amii), Vatchala S. (Aranya), Siv (Prarthana), Balaji (Kottakarai Farm), Dan (Petite Ferme), Mouttou (Prarthana), Ganesh - ongoing member (Protection).

New team of the Entry Board (9 members - from left to right): Rajendran N. (Elements), Ramanarayana - ongoing member (Courage), Sophie - ongoing member (Invocation), Alain S. (Invocation), Dheena - ongoing member (Aspiration), Lakshmanan (Kuilapalayam). Not in the picture: Veronique J. - ongoing member (Realization), Charli - ongoing member (Courage), Matriprasad - ongoing member (Prayatna)

Note from the AVC - This is to inform you that Veronique Jobard resigned from the Entry Board with effect from April 18 for personal reasons. The Council would like to express appreciation and gratitude to Veronique for her service in the Entry Board.

She will be replaced by Palma, working in the Aspiration team, who had been selected as a back-up at the selection process of March 15th 2020. We wish both all the best.

New team of the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) (9 members - from left to right): Dhruv - ongoing member (Adventure), Daniel - ongoing member (Srī Ma); Lyle ongoing member (Fraternity), Marc - ongoing member (Madhuca), Palani M. (Auromodele), Aneeta P. (Sailam), Sundar K. (Aspiration), Kalya - ongoing member (Shakti), Nicole - ongoing member (Gaia).

From the FAMC: Policy for Auroville Activities

The Policy for Auroville Activities has been approved! This means that many of you will soon be able to apply to register an activity, which has been suspended for nearly a year.

The review and approval of the policy for Auroville Activities involved representatives of all concerned. A drafting group composed of Trustees of Trusts holding Umbrella units, Executives and Accountants of Umbrella units and FAMC members worked from October 2019 to February 2020 on this document. They then presented it to the FAMC and both the drafting group and the FAMC mutually agreed to the final document, which was passed to the Working Committee for approval. This was done to expedite the matter in consideration of the number of urgent requests to open activities, which will allow many Aurovilians to contribute meaningfully toward Auroville.

In order not to delay further the time when activities could again be registered, the FAMC and the drafting group agreed that the Activity Guidelines would be approved under the current Code of Conduct, which allows for the FAMC and Working Committee to jointly approve amendments. They may also be reviewed along with the recent draft Code of Conduct that has been presented to the community for feedback, and amended as part of this RAD process.

Aurovilians interested in applying to register an activity may request a link to the application form from applicationsfamc@auroville.org.in. Once the lockdown is over, we hope to begin processing the applications.

From the Housing Board - About Housesitting

We would like to draw your attention to the following:

Due to current circumstances surrounding Covid-19, you might have left or are planning to leave Auroville without much notice. If this is the case, we kindly request you to contact the Housing Service at housing@auroville.org.in instead of arranging your own housesitting agreements.
As the Housing Service is responsible for all Auroville assets, it will assist you in finding a suitable house sitter for your place after the lockdown is over, while giving priority to those that are most urgently in need of housing at the present moment. The Housing Board and Housing Service should first assist Aurovilian in urgent need of housing. Thank you for your kind cooperation on this matter. - housingboard@auroville.org.in

- The Housing Board
Ole (Housing), Prabhu (Community), Rama Narayana (Entry Board), Svenja (Housing), Venkat (HRT), Vivek (Green Group), Xavier (Community)

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From the Auroville Board of Commerce -
Notes regarding, wages for April & financial planning

Dear Fellow Executives & Trustees,

In the absence of specific rules from the government with regards to payments of wages for April 2020, the ABC Research Group would like to make the following suggestions:

Most units / trusts will be able to pay wages for April 2020, but the actual question is how long the unit / trust will be able to pay wages, with minimal or no income.

Attached files:
- Notes_reg._wages_for_April_financial_planning_2020.04.27 12.23.doc (23.5 KB)
- Recommendations for Trusts and Units & planning the next 9 months.doc (29 KB)

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at: abcresearch@auroville.org.in

Your ABC Research Group,
(Ananda, Bobby, Hendrik, Martina, Stephan, Ulli)

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6. A Promising Flower of Tamil Nadu - Poovizhi was born on February 28 in Edayanchavadi. In her interview with Rakhal of the YUCCA Newcomer Program, we see the close links and AV outreach of the past 50 years. PDF and web page:
https://land.auroville.org/promising-flower-new-generation/

7. AUROVILLE’S “SOUND EXPERIENCE” AT THE RAJNIVAS ON THE GOLDEN DAY - Art for Land 2020 at the Governor’s mansion in Puducherry was inaugurated by LT. Gov. Dr. Bedi on 29th February with Svaram’s Sound Experience as the highlight! The links to the videos are in our report of the event in PDF and here on the web page:
https://land.auroville.org/aurovilles-sound-experience-rajnivas-golden-day/

8. NEW A4A VIDEO CLIP BY AUROIMAGE & OUR COMPLETE FILM LIBRARY. AUROIMAGE has created a new video clip “Solidarity for the Land of Auroville” with music by Nadaka, in English and French - another inspiring addition to our rich collection of original film about the land. The list of all our films is in PDF and here on the web page.
9. PEACOCKS, THE SYMBOL OF VICTORY… ON THE MOTHER’S TERRACE! - A pair of peacocks were seen on The Mother's Terrace recently - particularly significant at the time of March and April's historic events and the present difficult circumstances. Click here for the report and photos in PDF and here on our web page. With all these signs of the truth behind circumstances, we continue to work for consolidating Auroville’s material base to fulfill and continue the hope and positive evolution of decades of April!

ACRES FOR AUROVILLE - a collaboration of Lands for Auroville Unified & Auroville International - fundraises for the complete Master Plan area: lfaau@auroville.org.in; https://land.auroville.org/44donations/

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From the Working Committee re: Auro Oceanic

Please find below a report on the topic of AuroOceanic, for your information.

1. Auro Oceanic is an illegally constructed building in the city area of Auroville. No planning permission has ever been requested or given by the Town and Country Planning Department of the Tamil Nadu Government.

2. For the above reason, Auroville has objected to TANGEDCO giving an electricity connection through overhead lines to this building. On the basis of this consideration, the former Secretary of the Auroville Foundation has filed a writ petition against TANGEDCO in the Madras high court. The court issued 2 interim stay orders in July 2017, and the matter has been pending since then.

3. In the meantime, the owner of Auro Oceanic has put up solar photovoltaic installations, and has started to run the building as a guest house.

4. This activity has been causing large discomfort. The check post at the Visitors’ Centre cannot stop vehicles plying to Auro Oceanic. This causes unwanted traffic passing by the Matrimandir. The building also attracts unwanted guests and activities. The safety in the area has been compromised.

5. Negotiations have been ongoing to purchase the land and building, but stalled due to the difference between the asking price and the amount offered. Negotiations were scheduled to resume on the 25th of March but due to the lockdown, negotiations have temporarily stopped.

6. On Saturday April 25th, the executive engineer, TANGEDCO, came to the site and informed us that he was acting on verbal instructions of the Collector of the Villupuram district, insisting that an overhead electricity line be laid immediately between the transformer and Auro Oceanic. The Police Sub-Inspector was already present with the representatives of the owner of AuroOceanic and the Police Inspector came shortly after. The police were present at the request of TANGEDCO to ensure that the work would get done. A team of TANGEDCO and a crowd of AuroOceanic supporters gathered with a JCB demanding immediate action. There were also about 20 Auroville residents from the communities in the area present as silent witnesses, while fully respecting physical distancing.

7. Our presentations that the matter was sub-judice were not accepted.

8. We have been informed that there is strong political support for the AuroOceanic owners at the Minister level in the Tamil Nadu government, and that the Collector has received heavy pressure from this source. One argument that was presented very strongly is that Auroville is blocking and illegally preventing an essential commodity (electricity) from being given to Indian citizens, as per the Electricity Act, 2003.

9. In view of the above, and in order to avoid unnecessary confrontation and hostilities to break out, which, under the current lockdown conditions, would have resulted in violations of Section 144, a negotiation took place in which the Working Committee agreed to the laying of an underground cable instead of an overhead cable. The reasons for this are:

   • An underground cable can only be used by Auro Oceanic, and not by neighbouring private land owners who also have asked for overhead electricity connections. (It has been Auroville's practice in the last years to only allow underground electricity lines to private parties, and according to existing law and Auroville's electricity plan.)

   • The underground cable will be in line with Auroville's infrastructure plan to do away with all overhead cables and lines in the city area and follow our dedicated infrastructure corridor.

   • In case negotiations are successful, Auroville will in any case need the underground cable for the building.

10. The police, in support of the Auro Oceanic party, insisted that the agreement be drawn up and signed on Saturday 25th itself. Please find a copy of this agreement attached, which has been shared with Auroville residents of the area who were there as witnesses, and was also shared with the Police and TANGEDCO at their request. Note that it is mentioned that the works to be done will respect the lockdown conditions (section 7) and that Auroville will have the first rights to negotiate for purchase of the land and building.

11. Please note that it was not possible for Auroville to file a contempt of court petition, as our lawyer in Chennai informed us that we would not be able to address the court for this in a timely manner due to current lockdown conditions.

12. The Auro Oceanic party is now pressuring us to start work immediately. In view of the lockdown, we have requested the Deputy Superintendent of Police of this area whether the work can be started or if a special approval is required.

13. A meeting is planned between representatives of Auro Oceanic and the existing Auroville subgroup for these negotiations, in order to try to resume the attempt to come to a price that is acceptable to all. (The subgroup consists of 2 representatives of FAMC, 2 of Working Committee, 4 from the Land Board, 2 from TDC.)

We hope this helps to bring some clarity to your view on this topic and the actions taken and in process. Attached files: Auro Oceanic electrical connection agreement.jpg

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Project Coordination Group:

Call for Proposals for SDZ Spring 2020

Earlier this month the Stichting de Zaaier Board wrote from lockdown in The Netherlands, inviting proposals to consider for funding at their upcoming Board meeting. We are grateful for this encouraging gesture.

It is IMPORTANT to note that the present call is for project proposals that are more than a conventional priority: it is for initiatives that can be seen as urgent and non-deferrable (to be done now at this time, those that cannot be delayed or postponed). It is equally important that what is being proposed can be executed within the given parameters during lockdown, following the guidelines and restrictions in force at the time of implementation.

The last date for submitting proposals for this call is Monday, 11 May 2020. Please submit earlier if possible. You are welcome to send us a draft version of your proposal for comment prior to the due date. (If you plan to submit a proposal, please carefully read this full announcement to the end!) The Project Coordination Group will check whether proposals fall within the SDZ funding criteria and forward those that do to the SDZ Board for final selection and grant allocation.

Stichting de Zaaier welcomes project proposals for:

• research studies in the fields of sociology, economy, psychology and inner development;

• exploratory (research) studies into the relations with the world outside Auroville, in particular with the villages (and villagers) surrounding Auroville, as well as proposals for initiatives that seek to contribute to strengthening these relations;

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initiatives that seek to enhance efficient co-operation of Aurovilians with the aim of making full use of the existing potential in Auroville;

- studies exploring a sustainable future for Auroville and initiatives contributing to such a future;
- initiatives requiring seed money (micro-projects) for innovative and informal education and training, women's development, outreach as well as proposals prepared by youth.

Please note that funds are generally not available for infrastructure, buildings or transport. Requests for equipment will only be considered if specifically required for the implementation of the project and are not already available in Auroville. Stichting De Zaaijer has also indicated a preference for funding projects where the maintenance of Aurovilians is either provided by Auroville or from a source other than SDZ grants.

A grant application form and budget request spreadsheet are available on request from pcg@auroville.org.in or may be downloaded from the same announcement on Auronet.

NB If you have already received funding for a project through the Project Coordination Group please send in a progress report/status update (if project is ongoing) or final report (if project has been completed or all funds have been utilized) before making an application for a new grant.

Please note that if you are submitting a project that has anything to do with Auroville or Auroville Outreach schools, or students of any individual classes, your project is to be reviewed by all concerned School Boards prior to the Project Coordination Group review. (Please contact all individual schools before submitting your proposal to the School Boards.) Therefore, it is important that all the relevant bodies (i.e. schools, teachers, school boards, etc.) are aware of your project and support it. In this way, the Project Coordination Group can more easily recommend a project for funding knowing it will have the support of schools and thereby have a greater impact on the beneficiaries of the project.

For more information or assistance please write to pcg@auroville.org.in. Last date for submitting proposals for this call is Monday, 11 May 2020. Please submit earlier if possible.

NB Stichting De Zaaijer is likely to make another invitation to receive Auroville proposals later this year.

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Timothee Fuchs - You left your bank card at the ICICI bank ATM. It's on the top of the box to the right of the ATM.

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From Monday, 27/04/2020 till further notice, Santé will be open in the mornings only between 8:45 - 12:30pm.

On Friday, 01/05/2020, Santé will remain closed for the entire day to honor our workers everywhere. Be Well!

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From the Silent Presence Keepers: Everyone is invited to a daily meditation ‘space’ for all, 7-8 am and 8-9 pm

It is for each one to decide for how long they stay in meditation, 15 minutes being a suggested minimum.

Though independent of space, meditating together in this way can be as strong as if we were all in the same room together. This is one of the ways that we in Auroville can contribute to keeping the world’s vibrations up.

It may be helpful to concentrate on the crystal in the Inner Chamber or on some other part of the Matrimandir to have something to hold onto which unites us all. For those who wish to share an experience they may have during these meditations please write to silentpresencekeepers@auroville.org.in.

Since the beginning of this meditation space on 1st April it has been interesting to see the similarities and the congruence of many different sharings.

-Iris for the Silent Presence Keepers

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OBITUARIES

Roma Hira

In the later afternoon of 25 April, our good friend and sister Roma Hira (of Roma’s Kitchen) peacefully left her body at her home in Dana due to renal failure with which she had been struggling since a while. She would have turned 73 in September this year.

Hailing from Cuttacka, Roma first visited Pondicherry in 1975. This was a seminal moment which cemented her connection and commitment to Sri Aurobindo’s world view. Thereafter, she became a very good friend of Auroville, offering support and material encouragement at a moment when Auroville was going through hard times.

In 1980, in an attempt to improve Auroville’s image in India, a multiple city tour of what was called the Auroville Today Exhibition was arranged by JRD Tata. And Roma was the point person for its Cuttacka leg, hosting many of the Aurovilians at her flat. Her Calcutta house subsequently became the pied-à-terre for Aurovilians travelling to Calcutta.

In those early years, Roma used her dynamism and her many connections in the Indian commercial and administrative world to help Auroville's fledging commercial units with their marketing and clientele. It was in the mid ’80s that Roma moved permanently to Auroville and soon after settled into her home in Dana while continuing her work with Auroville's commercial units, which activity she never stopped. In the first years she was involved in Aurelec’s purchasing department, after which she skillfully functioned as Maroma’s manager for years. She officially joined as Aurovillian in 1992.

Roma was a foodie - she was a chef par excellence - and she liked nothing better than to feed people. To start with she coordinated the food arrangements for seminars and meetings that Auroville hosted (such as the Peace Trees seminars). And people will remember the meticulous planning and rigorous hygiene standards she brought to these events.

Her dream was to have her own restaurant and this was fulfilled when she took charge of what came to be famously known as Roma’s Kitchen in Auromodèle, a place with a reputation for serving gourmet Indian food. Roma’s Kitchen has been featured in magazines and has had a well-deserved recognition for food quality. Over the years, it has hosted and catered to all the important visitors to Auroville.

We let her go with our heartfelt respect and appreciation, knowing that now is her time to receive well-earned sustenance of the highest order. Farewell, dear Roma. OM-

(Roma’s remains were cremated in the morning of Sunday 26 April at Auroville’s mandapam. We here particularly confirm that her passing is NOT due to Covid-19.)

Sri V Subbarayalu

In the morning of Tuesday, 28th April, Sri V Subbarayalu, father of Venkata Krishnan, peacefully passed away in his son’s home and presence. He was 82 and had been suffering renal failure. For a good year he had been living in Surrender with Venkat and daughter-in-law Uma, while undergoing treatment at JIPMER.

Our warmest condolences go out to Venkat and Uma, and their children. -OM

APPEALS

AV Today is calling for creative expressions from the lockdown from Aurovilians, Newcomers, friends, workers. A part of our June-July double issue will feature some of our homegrown responses to this time. So if you have found the muse calling during the quiet time, please let us know. Whether it’s poetry, painting, film making, music, photography, prose, dance, drama or any other inspirations, please connect with us.

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Our word limit for prose and poetry is preferably 500 words. We might need to apply some red pen in the way of edits, and we can’t guarantee to print your contributions, but we’re keen to include a diverse spread of creative endeavours. If it’s a film or a large document, please email an outline first. Our final deadline is May 2, but the sooner you can send us your piece, the better.

In creative fraternity,
- Peter, Valentina, Mariana
ptlloyd65@gmail.com; valentina.beatriz.s@gmail.com;
marianas@auroville.org.in

THANK YOU

Thanks to Her before, for coming and calling us to the Great Adventure! Thanks to Francis for invite us for a meditation today, to the Ashram that also did twice. To Savitri Bhavan for the Savitri reading … and to all of you, dearst Aurovilians and Auronetians … it was such an incredible powerful energy coming down that shows clearly that, this Planetary crisis is just part of the process that Sri Aurobindo and the Mother has told us. And is showing that we get closer. No fear, just work on Consciousness and Truth. On y va! - Anandi-a

Savitri Parayan
A profound thank you to all members of the Savitri Bhavan team, current, past and future, for organising this wonderful Savitri Parayan, once again - literally streaming the poem’s wisdoms, insights and mantric moments during 35 hours, non-stop, around the world…, read by a great diversity of participants, from different nations, different backgrounds, different souls. I find it a very unique phenomenon and hope we can keep up this ode to Sri Arawinda for years to come. Hare OM.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

From the FAMC - Varuna & the Electricity Subsidy

On 25 April, you may have received a communication from Varuna alerting you to a new electrical subsidy plan, which Varuna states was arrived at in consultation with the FAMC. While it is true that Varuna consulted with the FAMC, Varuna did not include significant recommendations made by the FAMC, including commitments by Varuna to:

1. Diversify our energy sources by investing in solar systems, and increasing the amount of wheeled energy as opposed to purchased energy.
2. Meet Auroville’s electricity requirements exclusively by Varuna Auroville and Varuna Pvt Ltd together with its subsidiaries, and should not be dependent on external sources where there are a lot of factors at play that are not under our control, or be dependent on overdraft provisions which effectively is advanced from Auroville’s common financial resources.
3. Bring down the overdraft facility extended to Varuna from 60 Lakhs to Zero over a 3 year period.
4. Provide electricity free of charge to essential Services.

We have instructed Financial Service to limit the overdraft facility as per point number 3. Varuna Pvt Ltd is a private company not owned by Auroville and the FAMC has no authority to compel it to abide by points 1 and 2. However, we had thought, in our discussions with them, that they did agree with our positions. We are disappointed that these points were not reflected in the announcement made by Varuna to the Community, or in their subsequent communication with the FAMC.

Varuna informed the FAMC that their expected income is insufficient to subsidize 100% of Auroville’s electricity demands. They therefore must reduce the subsidy. We have instructed the AV Electrical Service and Financial Service to deduct the full electrical bill from each of your accounts, and credit your accounts with the subsidy Varuna elects to give. This way you will clearly see the cost of your consumption and the subsidy provided.

Phone phishing - There seems to be some phone phishing attempts going on. If you get a call supposedly from a bank manager, asking you to confirm account info, don’t go for it! They give up easily as soon as you question them.


Dreamers Cafe at Visitors Center

We are open daily from 8 AM to 1 PM for takeaway items: croissant, bread, cakes, samosa and cutlet. We take orders at.catami@auroville.org.in or 9843808762. FT acct or Aurocard only.

From the Travel Shop/Inside India - Our clients can contact us via our emergency cell phone number: Jearaj,99944-74395 or by email: travelshop@auroville.org.in or on Whatsapp: Ganesh, insideindiphone, 8524-953783

NEEDED

Balance cycle for 2 yr old - This summer I am happily ‘stuck’ in Auroville together with my daughter who is celebrating her 2nd birthday on May 9th. I am looking for a balance cycle (2 wheels) to give to her as a birthday present. Anyone have one that I could borrow, rent or buy? I prefer second hand, but any tips are welcome. Thank you. anouke.jansen@hotmail.com or WhatsApp +31634562467

MATRIMANDIR

The 12 Gardens and the 800 Flowers
- by Pavel Bogdanovich

Perfection garden
“Perfection in the sense in which we use it in Yoga, means a growth out of a lower undivine into a higher divine nature” [Sri Aurobindo, SABCL, 21: 671]

“We are the Divine who has forgotten Himself. And our task is to re-establish the connection… It is the Perfection we must become, that’s all…” [Mother’s Agenda, 19 July 1972]

The main flower: Psychological perfection
“There is not one psychological perfection but five. They are sincerity, faith, devotion, aspiration and surrender”
Sub-gardens:

**Psychological perfection (7 flowers)**

- **Perfect psychological perfection**
  - "Psychological perfection in all parts of the being"
  - Psychological perfection on the way to fulfilment - "The state of those who take up the Yoga seriously"
  - Supramentalised psychological perfection - "A psychological perfection aspiring to be Divinised"

- **Perfect radiating psychology** - "Can be obtained by acquiring the Divine vision"

**Five perfections (5 flowers)**

- **Simple sincerity** - "The beginning of all progress"
- **Faith** - "You flame up and triumph"
- **Devotion** - "Modest and fragrant, it gives itself without seeking for anything in return"
- **Aspiration** - "Innumerable, obstinate, repeating itself tirelessly"
- **Surrender** - "To will what the Divine wills is the supreme wisdom"

**Surrender & Love (14 flowers)**

- **Mental surrender** - "Occurs when the mind has understood that it is only an instrument"
- **Loving surrender** - "A state that can be obtained by surrendering to the Divine"
- **Mental love under the psychic influence** - "The mind influenced by the psychic knows how to express its love for the Divine in magnificent terms"
- **Divine Love governing the world** - "A beautiful and happy world for which we all aspire"

**Perfect path 10 flowers)**

- **Perfect path** - "For each one it is the path that leads fastest to the Divine"
- **Perfect mental purity** - "A spotless mirror turned constantly towards the Divine"
- **Perfect obedience** - "Without reserve or hesitation, joyous obedience in every sphere to the Divine command"
- **Mahasaraswati’s perfection in works** - "It is not satisfied with makeshift"

**Realisation (4 flowers)**

- **Realisation** - "The goal of our efforts"
- **Realisation of the new creation** - "It is for this that we must prepare"
- **Beginning of realisation in Matter** - "Matter responds to the Divine influence"
- **Beginning of the Supramental Realisation** - "Of charming beauty it is the herald of victory"

**Transformation (6 flowers)**

- **Transformation**
- **Organisation of the being around the psychic**
- **Obscurity offers itself to be transformed**
- **Transformation dispels obscurity**
Transformation - “The goal of creation”
Organisation of the being around the psychic - “The first stage of transformation”
Obscurity offers itself to be transformed - “Obscurity tired of being obscure”
Transformation dispels obscurity - “Obscurity will disappear more and more as the transformation progresses”

Aims & results (10 flowers)
- Abolition of the ego “One exists only by the Divine and for the Divine”
- Mastery “Know what the Divine wants and you will have mastery”
- Supramental manifestation “It will be welcome”
- Superhumanity - “The aim of our aspirations”

Perfection
- Perfect path
  - Perfect quietness in the mind
  - Perfect vigilance
  - Perfect obedience
  - Perfect radiating purity
  - Mahasamadhi’s perfection in works
- Realisation
  - Realisation of the New creation
  - Beginning of realisation in Matter
  - Beginning of the Supramental Realisation
- Transformation
  - Organisation of the living around the psychic
  - Transformation dispels obscurity
  - Body-consciousness undergoing the supramental transformation

Aims & Results
- Liberation
- Abolition of the ego
- Mastery
- Transformed sex centre
- Perfect new creation
- Spiritual success
- New world
- Supramental manifestation
- Superhumanity

Beauty of tomorrow (5 flowers)
- Beauty of tomorrow manifesting the Divine
  - “A beauty that exists only by and for the Divine”
- Supramental beauty in the physical
- Beauty of Supramental Love (Flower of Auroville) - “It invites us to live at its height”
- Soaring - “Take your flight towards the heights”

Why are we here?
COVID-19 and the fierce Indian summer have something in common: the ability to strip us back to essentials. And this could be an opportunity to contemplate certain existential questions.

COVID-19 has been called a wake-up call for humanity. But wake-up to what? The answers offered include the necessity for better health care, for more equitable societies, and for societies that care for the environment. But the real existential questions, the meta-questions - Why are we here? What is the purpose of our existence? - are not being asked.

Auroville, we assume, is an exception in this. We assume that if somebody has joined the community they have a sense of a larger purpose to life, as well as the larger purpose of Auroville. But do we all agree upon what the larger purpose of Auroville is? For some it is to provide a concrete example of human unity, for others to be a model of sustainable development or urban living…

But the one thing Mother kept emphasising and challenging the Aurovilians to do was to break through to another mode of consciousness. For, as she put it, “The future of the earth depends on a change of consciousness”.

How can that happen? Clearly, the individual, through intensive sadhana, is the driver of that change in the larger society, and the outer form that society will take will eventually reflect, be the outflow, of individual spiritual breakthroughs. But until that stage is reached, the society in which individuals make their spiritual explorations also has a part to play. For that society can either provide an environment that encourages such explorations, or one that requires the individual to battle against many countervailing tendencies.

As Sri Aurobindo put it in The Human Cycle, “a society which was even initially spiritualized would make the revealing and finding of the divine Self in man the supreme, even the guiding aim, of all its activities, its education, its knowledge, its science, its ethics, its art, its economic and political structure.”

If we look at the present Auroville from this perspective, what do we see? Undoubtedly, there are many remarkable people here and truly innovative projects. But does our economy, our governance system, our entry policy etc. support the aim of a change of consciousness? In some aspects, yes, but in others they seem to embody old world thinking.

As for our undoubted successes in other fields, haven’t those very successes at times deflected us from the higher aim of a change in consciousness, for they have become ends in themselves rather than means to that end?

So what would Auroville look like if, once the basic necessities are available to everyone and we have achieved some kind of post-COVID stability, everything was focused upon the aim of us breaking through to another mode of consciousness? What kind of economy, governance system, schools, art, ways of personal relating, would support this?

There’s no easy answer: it is something we have to discover. It has to come from a deep psychological need rather than just a mentalised wish for things to be different and, of course, it can take many diverse forms: only the impulse would be common. But as individuals we could begin by asking ourselves, ‘Is this activity or way of functioning really helping me and/or the community raise its level of consciousness? If not, how could it be changed?’

I raise this issue because I have two concerns concerning the aftermath of this pandemic. One is that we will be tempted to resume business as usual (if such a thing is even possible) rather
than taking it as an opportunity to ask fundamental questions about what we are doing here, and why.

Secondly, that while we will make changes - and some very interesting suggestions have already been made - they will be piecemeal. For without a unifying compass point, there will be a tendency for each sector to make changes without reference to an overriding collective aim. And if we do not keep such a challenging aim before us, those changes may be simply improvements upon the present order rather than radical changes of direction.

Globally, one of the biggest potential learnings from this global pandemic is not only the need for the world to work together, but to work together on a common objective - world health. Can we in Auroville emulate this, but with an aim that is even higher: the transformation of consciousness?

- Alan

REMEMBERING ILSE ON 05.05.2020

Though it is the 14th anniversary of your departure, we still feel your presence. We miss you so much! You were our best colleague, friend, advisor, well-wisher for me and the children. We love you forever.

- Raji/Arunachalam/Gothainayagi

GREEN MATTERS

Water Saving Tip of the Week!

In order to reuse the wastewater from your kitchen dishes, put a plastic bowl in the sink, slightly smaller than the sink size. Fill the bowl with water and use this for washing your dishes, with chemical-free soap. When it is time to rinse, open the tap and all of the water flowing from the tap goes into the bowl. Then discharge this smaller bucket of water into a 20-litre bucket that sits on the floor next to the dishwashing sink. When the bucket is full, water the garden plants with it. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city.

watergroup@auroville.org.in

Water, Auroville, and the Coronavirus

We hope that you are all staying safe during these unprecedented times. A number of questions have arisen around water recently so we wanted to share some information with you. This is a long read covering several topics, but we request that you please give it your time and attention. Thank you.

I am creating a kitchen garden. Can I water my fruits and vegetables with treated water?

While treated water is great for irrigation, it should not touch the skin of your fruits and vegetables, so please don't use it for your kitchen garden. Instead we recommend collecting the wastewater from your kitchen (water used to soak dal or used pasta water, for example) and using that for your kitchen garden.

Can the COVID-19 virus be transmitted through treated wastewater?

Based on our research on the topic (and we encourage you to do your own!), and according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC, USA), “The virus that causes COVID-19 has been found in untreated wastewater. Researchers do not know whether this virus can cause disease if a person is exposed to untreated wastewater or sewerage systems. There is no evidence to date that this has occurred. At this time, the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 through properly designed and maintained sewerage systems is thought to be low.” The CDC goes on to recommend that people involved in wastewater management and dealing with treated water should wear proper protective gear during use (gloves, shoes, mask, goggles/glasses). In the Auroville context, this also means washing with soap and water afterward, and leaving plants which have been watered alone. You can stay updated with the latest news on this topic at this CDC webpage, updated every few days: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html

Is there anything happening to ensure the continuous supply of our water in these times?

Yes. The COVID-19 Task Force has identified water as one of the essential services, like AVES, communications (telephone and internet), food outlets, etc. that should continue its operations during the lockdown. Along with the help of some in the water sector, they have identified many of the water distribution systems and prioritized them according to essential needs. The Task Force is reaching out to the person/people in...
charge of these systems to see if 1) they currently need any support in ensuring continuous operation and 2) checking if there is a backup plan in place, and if not, encouraging them to create one. Remember, our water distributors and repair people are continuing to work to ensure that we all have water running in our pipes - we appreciate their efforts and commitment!

If you are the operator of the water distribution system in your community, please determine for yourself: what do you need to ensure the continuous supply of water to your community? Does more than one person know how to run the pumps and get water into tanks? If not, it’s time to train others in this important task.

There are a lot of Aurovilians staying in Auroville (and washing their hands) this summer. What does that mean for our water resources? This is something that many of us in the water sector are concerned about right now. We don’t want to compound our current situation with a scarcity of water resources. Just as we are all stepping up to remain sheltered in place, we also all need to step up to be conscious of our water usage in these times. Currently, the work of the team that monitors wells has been temporarily paused. So we don’t have data to share with you on well levels.

So what can we do? We hope that everyone is being conscious of water usage when washing hands, such as turning off the tap when lathering up. (Read more on this here.) We are also concerned about other habits of Aurovillians, such as watering lawns and gardens with freshwater. This still happens and needs to stop. With gardeners and ammas no longer coming to work, this is an opportunity to take watering into our own hands and do it consciously: zero watering with freshwater, mulching plants to ensure moisture retention, watering in the early morning hours or evening hours to reduce evaporation, ensuring plants need water before giving, and only giving as much as is needed. Likewise, be smart in your household habits. You may be inclined, with the current focus on hygiene, to do a load of laundry daily. Make sure that your washing machine is full before you run a load. These and more water conservation tips can be found here: http://aurovillevwater.in/water-conservation-tips-1/?l=1.

This whole situation has underscored for me the need to ensure Auroville’s water (and food) security. Is there anything I can do right now to work toward this from the confines of my home?

Yes! If you find yourself with some extra time at home, take the opportunity learn something about where your water comes from and where it goes. Check out our questions here and begin to answer them for yourself. These days, with many eateries closed and many of us at home, you have a wonderful opportunity to monitor your water usage at home to get a more accurate understanding of how much water you use per day. Other ideas: walk around your community and look for leaky taps or underground leaks (patches of green grass and a spongy ground, especially apparent in these dry times, are good signs). Make a plan to fix these leaks when things open up again. Design a system to catch the tiny droplets from your air conditioner in a barrel for garden watering. See how you can reuse wastewater in your home in creative (but hygienic) ways. All of these actions start to increase your water literacy, which is important to our overall understanding as a collective.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact us. watergroup@auroville.org.in; www.aurovillevwater.in - Water Group
Tom, Tency, Satprem, Ing-Marie, Giulio, Evgenia, Eric Chacra

To wit:

Report on well monitoring, as of March 2020.
by CSR Geomatics

This version includes validation of readings. All readings are in the Annexures. For info and queries, please contact us at csrgeomatics@auroville.org.in


CSR GEOMATICS: REPORT OF Three-Year DST Project

We are glad to share the report of the three-year research project: “Addressing Water Security of an Urban Settlement through Multisource Modeling”, funded by a grant-in-aid from the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The project started in April 2017 and has been completed in March 2020. The report comprises several Annexures with details of many of the collected data. You can also visit the web portal gis.auroville.org.in for further data. For info and queries, please contact us at csrgeomatics@auroville.org.in

Thank you,
Giulio - on behalf of CSR Geomatics


Ecoservice Updated - In order for all of us to be updated on the way that our garbage is collected, transformed and possibly valued, Eco-Service will henceforth send an email to your community the day before we come to collect. To bring better understanding and commitment to all, we propose that a few members of your community could attend this collection (without working, only as witness), in order for them to witness what happen in your community and, eventually, share afterwards advices to all. We think that this new way would bring more knowledge and involvement from all for this essential task. Please revert to us for any inquiry.
- The Eco-service team

MOBILITY IN AUROVILLE

How can we support the social good of mobility, but end its dependence on petroleum? In what ways do vehicles, infrastructure, and operations need to change, to eliminate transportation emissions? We must answer these questions if we want to keep moving. Transportation solutions must include alternative modes of mobility such as public and pooled transport, electric vehicles, and infrastructures based on renewable energy.

In Auroville, we at Kinisi decided to promote the most efficient alternative mode of individual mobility (after walking and bicycling): the e-cycle. In August 2017, electric bicycles were made available to guests, and in 2018 we created KIM (Kind Mobility) a novel concept of private use without ownership. Aurovillians get an e-cycle for their personal use, against a nominal monthly contribution for its maintenance. This concept is very much appreciated by the City's inhabitants, as it gives them all the advantages of ownership, without its hassles.

On Earth Day 2020, we calculated Kinisi's positive impact on reduction of CO2 emissions. We are quite happy to communicate the full results, shown below (next page).
- Marlyse (for Kinisi)
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

AUROVILLE ART SERVICE

‘basket’ for the week

1. CREEVA INVITES YOU TO A HAPPY CHALLENGE - Take any color medium in paint or draw with pastels or crayon your parents’ portraits as you wish. Everyone may participate who would like to. Please use a paper or canvas 29 x 21 cm or larger. When it is done please send only one picture of it to aurovillearts@auroville.org.in. We will share it with the community with wonder and pleasure.

2. VALENTINA BEATRIZ OFFERS - Creative Inner Discovery: A combination of different artistic exercises, applied tools, rituals and practices, designed to provide emotional support and healing to the inner child. Through the sessions you may not only discover more of your true nature but also you can learn how to enjoy yourself while you are cleansing from old patterns and conditioning. Free Individual consultation available via WhatsApp +91 6381311532. (Whole lockdown period).

3. SASI SHARES - Pinhole Photography Day - The last Sunday of April each year is the worldwide Pinhole photography day and this year it was on the 26th. There is more information on the pinhole.org site and photos taken can be uploaded on this site. In light of the difficulty the current crisis will make for film development in commercial labs and community dark rooms, the submission date to include your photograph in this year’s gallery is extended until June 30th. Pinhole photos can also be done using a digital camera, there are plenty of videos tutorials on the net. If you want to enter your photo and want help developing films and/or developing photos and scanning services please contact Sasi at sasi@auroville.org.in or 9159355809.

4. SANKALPA ART JOURNEYS - Has opened registrations for an Integral Expressive Arts Therapy Training. This is an advanced course for practicing therapists, counselors or teachers interested to develop tools and practices to further their work. https://www.sankalpajourneys.com/programs/#inquiry

5. ISLAND & MARIE OFFER - The Life of A Tree - a children’s book. This is the link for a free pdf version https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R5l7_DqDrw8bIDK-dyevALUDeasCizol/view?usp=sharing. Look for it on Amazon Kindle

FILM - Michael Moore’s new film, Planet of the Humans, was released for Earth Day last week and has been uploaded on YouTube. You can watch his interview with Stephen Colbert here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zp8qpa3fGxI, and the film here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk11vl7czE

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 - 0413-2656271/72
PIMS: 0413-2656271/72
Triage: 0413-2656271/72
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.

We regret not being able to attend to visitors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays due to work pressure.

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

Visiting hours: Mondays & TH-F-SAT mornings 9-12
Disclaimers: 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

News and Notes # 816 – 2nd May 2020 13
Some last minute (post-formatting) additions:

- Solar Kitchen, Aurelec Cafeteria, Neem Tree and Dreamers Café are open May 1st for tiffin collection. Aurelec is open daily 11:30 - 1.
- VC, PTDC, PTPS and FS are closed May 1st.
- Terra Soul Farmers Market has moved to Ganesh Bakery

Re: Varuna’s electricity subsidy - For planning purposes, Varuna will subsidize the first 250 kwh of your electricity bill. Check your monthly usage. Expect to pay ~ Rs. 7 for each kwh over 250. For those who are able to cover their whole bill themselves, please do (acct 0237). This will help Varuna to fully cover those who can’t.

--- First results of the AVI’s fundraising campaign for helping Auroville

For your information and in a spirit of transparency, here are the current results of the fundraising campaign launched by AVI a few weeks ago in order to help Auroville get through these difficult times. Donations from members of the various AVIs continue to flow in. So far, donations, already sent or about to be sent, amount to about 20 lakhs (16 lakhs for the emergency fund BCC-City Services, and about 4 lakhs for Village Support-AVAG). You will find the detailed figures (in Euros) in the following dynamic table, which is there as an indication only.

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Emergency donations for the Villages (AVAG Fund) up to 28.04.20 (in Euros)

- Germany: 870 (€500 from AVI-Germany + private donations)
- France: 400 (€200 from AVI-France + private donations)
- Canada: 700 (€200 from AVI-Canada)

Total: 4470

Grand total: 24600

OM NAMO BHAGAVATE SRI ARAVINDAYA

Heartfelt gratitude to Auroville International for this much needed effort and generosity!

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Survey of Aurovilians Abroad

Hope you are doing well in this challenging time.

We are Kavitha and Michael here. We have offered to help the Working Committee and the Covid19 Task Force.

If you are not in Auroville, please fill out this survey: https://forms.gle/melYbut3vD3VeN7

This information will help the Auroville Working Committee & Covid19 Task Force to know how many Aurovilians are abroad, and prepare accordingly for their eventual return.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to write to: covidavabroad@auroville.org.in

Thank you for your time,
- Kavitha & Michael (as Resource People for or the Covid19 Task Force in Auroville)

*Please share this message with anyone you know who is currently outside Auroville. Thank you!

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From the BCC: The Budget Request Form to apply for the new City Service budget of 20-21 was sent to all 120 services/activities that are receiving financial and/or maintenance support for the running year 19-20. They have been asked also to fill up the Narrative Report for the running Year 19-20.

The deadline has been extended till 15.05.20

In case you feel your Service/activity should be looked into and to be added into the Budget reflection of the BCC for the coming year 20-21, please send an email to bcc.office@auroville.org.in. We will send you the form and the Narrative report.

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On booked international flight tickets

Many are wondering what to do with booked international tickets. Most airlines have not updated their websites on actual available flights as they are awaiting the order of their respective governments to resume operation.

We advise you to re-book international flight tickets with a realistic travel date ONLY after its confirmed by the Indian Government and Government of Destination that one can fly to xxx country and come back.

Please check carefully the re-booking conditions. Ideally zero fare difference and no rebooking fee. We also suspect that flight tickets in the future will cost much more, its therefore advisable to use the rebooking option. Please note that cancellation refund can take a long time to arrive as airlines are in an extreme difficult financial situation.

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News and Notes # 816 – 2nd May 2020