After two years of no winter rains, the gods have blessed us with a small monsoon, turning the dry gardens everywhere green, as seen in the pictures above of the Health Centre. And adding much-needed water to the village ponds and underground aquifiers.

**Auroville Solar Kitchen .......**

The Auroville Solar Kitchen, functioning since the past twenty years, has one of the largest solar bowls installed in 2005. It was primarily funded by the Ministry for non-conventional energy sources. There are 11,000 fixed mirrors with a total diameter of 15 meters.

The mirrors reflect the solar rays on to a rotating heat-receiver made of copper coils. Water is pumped through the heated copper coils producing steam, which is piped to the kitchen where all the food is cooked. The Solar Kitchen provides food for over 2000 people daily, a variety of food-items on the menu to suit the tastes of people from numerous countries, cooked by a group of trained women. Additional energy is provided through cooking gas.
Kitchen water with all the biodegradable waste goes through four equal-sized chambers built on sloping levels underground. Gravity causes the larger waste to drop off in the chambers as the waste water continues to move down the slope.

The water is subsequently pumped up into a vertical vortex, where the spiral movement of water helps release gases, before being released into storage ponds. Aquatic plants and fish in the pond improve the oxygen status of waste water and make it odourless; an efficient way to combine wastewater treatment, and water reuse. The pond is also used for watering the gardens.
This is an environmentally sustainable, economically affordable and socially acceptable water treatment system, which works continuously throughout the year, without mechanical parts and working with gravity as much as possible. There is no use of chemicals, but the system requires a yearly manual desludging and disposal of the sludge which is turned to compost.

The Health Center is using solar power since the last two years, leading to a marked reduction in our electricity bill. Sixteen solar panels on our roof top are sufficient to power lights and fans in every room, two refrigerators and all the lab analyzer. The solar inverter provides adequate backup during long power shutdowns.

The Mahatma Gandhi National rural Employment Guarantee act for 100 days ..... 

In order to develop the economic and social infrastructure in rural areas, the Government provides paid work to unskilled manual workers all over India, mostly involving digging new ponds, renovation of existing ponds and temple tanks, desilting of channels and strengthening of bunds of irrigation tanks and preparation of new roads. In Rayaputhupakam village where we have a Sub Centre, the local women are seen working during the summer months,
to deepen and widen their existing dry pond before the expected winter monsoons. Finally, after two years, the rains have made their village green and the pond full.

**Sharan followup.......**

As a follow-up to our Kuyil of May 2017, we include a photograph of Sharan looking fit and happy after his corrective cardiac surgery. He no longer visits our subcentres with repeated respiratory infections.

**Would you like to help us?**

Any donations towards AVHC will be greatly appreciated. The easiest and simplest way to transfer money is by “SWIFT” (electronic transfer) from anywhere. You may go to your bank and give them the following information, with your donation.

**SWIFT CODE: S B I N I N B 4 7 4**

**Account with:** State Bank of India, Auroville International Township Branch, Kuilapalayam, Auroville 605 101, India Branch Code: 03160

**Name of the Account Holder:** Auroville Unity Fund

**Account No:** 1 0 2 3 7 8 7 6 5 0 8

**Purpose:** Auroville Health Centre

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**Editorial team**

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