“Special 15.08 Edition”

Sri Aurobindo
(born Aurobindo Ghose; 15 August 1872 - 5 December 1950)
I shall say a few words today about the 15th of August. The question was one that was recently put to me and I gave a negative answer in order to remove certain mental and conventional notions on the matter.

I shall now speak about the positive side of the matter. If there were not that other side there would be no use in this celebration. I shall not refer to the personal aspect for very obvious reasons, but I shall say something in general with regard to what it can and ought to mean in regard to the Yoga, the common object we all have in view.

What that object—Yoga—is, you know in principle. It is the bringing down of a Consciousness, a Power, a Light, a Reality that is other than the consciousness which satisfies the ordinary man upon earth—a Consciousness, a Power and Light of Truth, a Divine Reality which is destined to raise the earth-consciousness and transform everything here.

That cannot take place unless there is a decision from Above. But, also, it cannot be unless the earth-consciousness itself is in some part of it, in some of those who dwell here upon these lower planes, ready to receive. Once this Consciousness, the Power descends it is there for all times and everyday for those who are willing and fit to receive it.

But we have attached a special importance to this day and it is justified if we live in the light of the Truth it symbolises. For this day we can fix a mark in the stage in the individual and general progress. It is a day which ought to be a day of consecration, of self-examination and a preparation for future advance, if possible, for the reception of a special Power which would carry on the work of advance. This can only be done in each individually if he takes up the true attitude and lives on that day under the right conditions. That was what I meant when I spoke the other day. It is we who can make it a decisive day in this sense, and it is we who can help to fulfil it.

There must be a consecration beforehand, and a looking inward on the past to see how far we have reached, what in us is ready, what in us has not yet changed and has yet to be changed, what stands behind waiting for a complete transformation; what still resists and what is still obscure. There must be the aspiration, a calling down of the Power to effect the change which we see to be necessary.

All this we cannot do if we throw ourselves out on this day, but only by an intense concentration so that the internal being is ready, and turned upwards to receive the Light. In proportion as we admit an externalising movement we disturb the higher working and waste the energy needed for the work of inner change. Whatever is done other than on ordinary days should be done either as a part of the movement itself, or as something which is held on the outskirts of the being and cannot disturb the inner movement. And all the customary circumstances of the day must be used for advance.

And if you came to me in the morning, it should not have been in fulfilment of a customary ceremony but with your souls and minds prepared to receive. If you listen to me now and if it is merely something that touches your mental interest and satisfies a mental interest I would rather remain silent. But if it touches somewhere the inner being, the soul, then only has this day a utility or a purpose. And the meditation too ought to be done under such conditions that even if nothing decisive descends there would be a certain infiltration the results of which would come afterwards.

That is the one meaning of the 15th of August from the point of view of our Yoga.

As to taking stock of the work, where you are and the work, how far it is done, etc., certain things ought to be remembered. You know them with the mind.

First, remember that what are the objects of other yogas are for us only the first stages, or first conditions. In the former ways of Yoga men were satisfied if they could feel the Brahmic Consciousness or the Cosmic Consciousness or some descent of Light and Power, some intimation of the Infinite. It was thought sufficient if the mind got certain spiritual experiences and underwent partial transformation and the vital being was in contact with it. They sought for a static condition and considered release as the final goal, the final aim.

To realise all this, to be open to the Infinite and Universal Power, to receive its intimations and to have experiences, to completely go beyond the ego, to realise the Universal Mind, Universal Soul, the Universal Spirit, that is only the first condition. We have to call down this greater Consciousness also into the vital and the physical beings, so that the supreme calm and universality will be there in all fullness from top to bottom. If this cannot be done then the first condition of transformation is not fulfilled.

The second thing we have to know and remember is that nothing is perfectly done unless all is perfectly done. It is not sufficient to open the mind and the vital being and leave the physical being to its obscurity.

So in the transformation also, the mind cannot be fully transformed unless the vital also is transformed. And if the vital being is not transformed nothing can be realised; because it is the vital being that realizes. And if the mind is only partially changed and if the vital being is open and also partially changed it is still not sufficient for our purpose. Because the whole range of the vital being cannot be changed unless the physical being also is opened and changed, for the divine vital cannot realize itself in an unfitting environmental life.

And it is not enough for the inner physical being to be changed if the external man is not transformed. In this process of Yoga there is a whole totality and each depends upon the other. Therefore to stop short may be a preparation for another life, but it is not the victory. All has to be changed before anything permanently can be changed.

The third thing to remember is that if all is to be changed and done then there must be complete surrender with no reservation in any part of the being, no compromise with old customary thoughts and human ways of doing things. Wherever anything is reserved, it means the Truth is not accepted and we shall commit, again, the old mistake of partial achievement and transformation. We should leave no field for the indulgence of ignorance. For us there can be no compromise between falsehood and Truth, between the Supreme and the lower nature.

It is by remembering these things that we have to take stock of our work. To see how much is to be done, not in any spirit of pessimism because the way is long and hard and cannot be done by a miracle. It can only be accomplished by a large and thorough movement. Each step you have to take as a mark, as an encouragement, for a step towards the Beyond; on one side no lack of resolution and zeal for the victory to be won, on the other no hasty impatience or depression, but the calm certainty for the Divine Will, the calm will that “It shall be done in us” and the aspiration that “It may be done for us so that it may be done for the world.”

*Evening Talks with Sri Aurobindo, pp. 525-528*, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Publication Department, 2007.
MEDITATION ON SRI AUROBINDO’S BIRTHDAY

15th August, 5 a.m. – 6 a.m at the Matrimandir Amphitheatre

Entrance from Second Banyan Gate only, open from 4 a.m. Bonfire will be lit at 5 a.m.

Dear Aurovilians, Guests, Friends and Visitors,

As we wish the meditation to become once again precious moments of concentration and re-dedication, we are experimenting with one or two changes this year.

Please be aware that Cellphones, Cameras, Tablets and other photographic or recording devices will not be allowed in the Amphitheatre.

Everyone is requested to leave them at home or in their vehicle. Those in possession of such items will be required to deposit them at the ‘Custody Facility’ near the designated parking area outside the Park of Unity. However, Matrimandir Management will not be responsible for loss of or damage to items deposited at the “Custody Facility”.

Those who come late, after the lighting of the bonfire at 5 a.m., will be conducted to a special area close to the Amphitheatre where they can experience the bonfire but not disturb those who are already seated. They will be able to proceed to the Amphitheatre once the meditation is finished.

Visitors are requested to either carry their Aurocard or their token.

All are requested to maintain complete silence.

We would particularly like to welcome back those Aurovilians who stopped attending.

Bonne Fête and see you there!

Matrimandir Team

(We welcome feedback regarding the changes that are being made for this 15th August. Feedback can be sent to the amphitheatresupportgroup@auroville.org.in or can be expressed in person at a meeting in the Amphitheatre on Sunday, 18th August, beginning at 5.15 p.m.)

Please be aware that Cell phones, Cameras, Tablets etc. will not be allowed in the Amphitheatre.

Through your participation, you can help make the bonfires precious moments of inner experience.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation

Volunteers needed for 15th August bonfire

As we are experimenting with a different arrangement for the August bonfire, many volunteers are needed to assist in ensuring that the bonfire is an uplifting experience for all involved. Timings on 15th for volunteers would start at 4am and end at 7:30am.

A preparatory meeting for all volunteers will be held at 5 pm on 14th August in the Amphitheatre. (Those who have volunteered before also please attend as there are major changes)

Just come directly to the Amphitheatre for the orientation & register.

Amphitheatre Support Group
For Sri Aurobindo, the unification of mankind was “a necessity in the course of Nature, an inevitable movement”. Auroville was created by The Mother to create a place for the “international spirit and outlook” that Sri Aurobindo said must grow up. She said that her only goal was “to give a concrete form to Sri Aurobindo’s great teaching that: 
“all the nations are essentially one and meant to express the Divine Unity upon earth through an organised and harmonious diversity” to show that “Truth lies in union rather than in division”.

To underscore this truth of unity at the heart of its mission, the words “Auroville, the city at the service of Truth” were placed in French and in Tamil on the Banyan tree that is next to the Matrimandir at the center of Auroville:

Auroville la cite au service de la vérité

For 51 years, the City of Dawn has flowered step by step, serving and showcasing this truth of oneness of the Human Family in its rich diversity. But its designated land is still incomplete - many essential acres are still missing from the universal township’s base. We invite you to join us - to purchase the needed remaining land so Auroville can manifest, in fullness and harmony, the truth of its great vision!

Bring your support and donate for completing Auroville’s designated physical base!!

Please specify your donations ‘ACRES FOR AUROVILLE’:
- via check/bank transfers to Auroville Unity Fund;
- via your country’s AVI center www.auroville-international.org
- or online via www.auroville.com/donations/

Donating/Deductions info: https://land.auroville.org/a4adonations

Our website: https://land.auroville.org

Acres for Auroville is a collaboration of Auroville International & Lands for Auroville Unified

Photo by Manohar; Quotes from Sri Aurobindo’s message of 15/8/47 & the Mother’s 15 August 1954 declaration
**Lands for Auroville Unified**

Auroville Centre for Urban Research, Administrative Area, Auroville – 605 101, Tamil Nadu, India

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**East and West meet in Auroville**

“East and West have the same human nature, a common human destiny, the same aspiration after a greater perfection, the same seeking after something higher than itself, something towards which inwardly and even outwardly we move… There is a common hope, a common destiny, both spiritual and material, for which both are needed as co-workers. It is no longer towards division and difference that we should turn our minds, but on unity, union, even oneness necessary for the pursuit and realisation of a common ideal, the destined goal…”

Sri Aurobindo in “A Message to America, 15th August 1949

Sri Aurobindo began his 1949 message by writing: “I have been asked to send on this occasion of the fifteenth August a message to the West, but what I have to say might be delivered equally as a message to the East”. And his message is entirely relevant to Auroville, because Auroville was founded for fostering a united humanity.

People from East and West have made Auroville their home with a common aspiration, a common approach to life, a common worldview and vision of the future. That’s one reason why Auroville constitutes a laboratory on a grand scale. The experiment is not visible, not evident as in a scientific laboratory where, broadly speaking, two or more material objects are worked upon. Here, the question is not of material objects, but of matter and spirit. Even more, matter opening up and guided by the spirit with a greater and truer consciousness organizing all the activities of life that are open to it. From a certain perspective, the world itself is becoming a laboratory and Auroville has the advantage and privilege of being the first mover.

The deepest aspiration behind the Acres for Auroville campaign is to make the material base for this vision available in all its plentitude … to have a consolidated base for the laboratory of matter and spirit that is Auroville to function, to grow, to expand to the fullest breadth possible as a unique universal township.

This year, A4A will step into its sixth year. The campaign has become an integral part of the Auroville dynamism and mosaic. We gratefully acknowledge all the collaboration which has brought the journey thus far. Together we have made significant contributions to the goal – in Year 6, let’s go even further!

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Aryadeep

Mandakini

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Please specify “ACRES FOR AUROVILLE” (all Master Plan priority plots) for all donations via:
- Auroville Unity Fund (checks & bank transfers),
- Auroville Donation Gateway (credit & debit cards) [https://donations.auroville.com/](https://donations.auroville.com/)
- Auroville International [www.auroville-international.org](http://www.auroville-international.org)

Complete donation & tax deductibility information: [https://land.auroville.org/a4adonations](https://land.auroville.org/a4adonations)

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Sri Aurobindo’s Room Darshan on August 15th

SRI AUROBINDO’S ROOM DARSHAN ON 15th AUGUST 2019

Darshan timings: The tokens given by the Ashram to Aurovilians and Newcomers enables you to go for Darshan usually between 12 noon and 5.30 pm with the limit of 24 persons per slot.

The time slot 3.30 - 4 pm is reserved for Aurovilians taking the bus.

Transport: The bus will start from Matrimandir at 3 pm following the usual route and come back to Auroville at 6 pm. The trip is restricted to those who are going for the Darshan.

Reminder:
There are four ways to go to Sri Aurobindo’s Room or Mother’s Room without a token on Darshan days:

1. You may join the queue of devotees at 5-6 pm on the previous day, spend the night waiting on the street and enter the Ashram compound for Darshan from 9 am onwards.
2. You may go on the day itself, join the queue between 3 and 6 am.
3. You may go in the morning of the Darshan day and get your token at the Ashram. In this case you will probably need to wait or come back later at the time indicated on the token.
4. You may join the queue after 5 pm on Darshan Day. Tokens will be available on the spot near the Ashram Post Office.

Pondy Saier Bus on Darshan Days

15 August
SRI AUROBINDO’S BIRTHDAY

For those using the Auroville bus to have darshan in Sri Aurobindo’s room on August 15th, Sri Aurobindo’s birthday, the bus will leave from Matrimandir at 3 pm and return from Pondy at 6 pm. Tokens are required.

The SAIER bus is reserved for Aurovilians and newcomers going for darshan.

Paulette

15th August Celebrations at Bharat Nivas

Bharat Nivas Will be happy to have your presence to celebrate Sri Aurobindo’s Birth Anniversary and India’s Independence Day

Thursday, 15 August 2019 at 8 AM
Venue: Entrance of Kalakendra & Sri Aurobindo Auditorium

Program:
Flag Hoisting Ceremony
Singing of Vande Mataram
Chanting of Sanskrit Mantras by Aurovilians
Opening of the Photo Exhibition on the Life of The Mother at Kalakendra
Tree planting for the opening of the Pathway followed by snacks

No daily Pondy Bus Service on 15.08.2019
Auroville Accessible Bus will not function on Thursday 15.08.2019, due to Indian Independence day, (Public Holiday). The service will start on Friday as usual. (see schedule at this link)

AV Accessible Bus Team

The Solar Kitchen will be open for lunch on Thursday the 15th of August 2019

The Solar Kitchen will be open on Thursday the 15th of August 2019, for Birthday of Sri Aurobindo’s and Independence day for India.

Happy birthday and Happy Independence Day for All!

Visitors Centre Cafeteria open at 7am on August 15th
The Cafeteria at Visitors Centre will open at 7am for breakfast on August 15th.
A beautiful Darshan day to all and a joyful Independence Day! Your Cafeteria team
Acres for Auroville (A4A)
6th Year: Auroville Master Plan Priority Plots

On August 15, 2019
A4A
(Acres for Auroville)
a joint campaign of LFAU and
Auroville International is entering
the 6th year of its journey!

With gratitude to the past and hope
for the future, we invite
fellow-Aurovilians and friends to
concentrate between 10 and 10.15 a.m
IST at their respective places to wish
A4A continued success for the
emergence of a harmonious, beautiful,
peaceful, & inspiring green garden
city of Auroville summoning the sunlit
future of a united humankind.

Acres for Auroville team
Aryadeep-Mandakini-Joel-Jothi
Dear friends,

Please join us for **Samarpan** - a dance offering by Yogini, Madhumita and Devasmita. On the auspicious occasion of Sri Aurobindo’s birthday, we offer Kathak and Sri Aurobindo’s and Tagore’s poetry in dance movements.

**Thursday 15th August at 7:30pm at mini amphitheater, Matrimandir.**

Organised by:
ARPANAA Geeta (Kalpana), Mona (Yantra) - arpanaa@auroville.org.in
& Matrimandir team.