3rd Interim News Summary

August 19, 2019

(This News Summary is intended to bridge the period that News & Notes are not being issued. This Summary is a gathering of messages published in various places such as Auronet, massbulletin etc., and will be posted once-weekly on Auronet and on the Auroville website (www.auroville.org) on Mondays, until the News & Notes resume.)

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General meeting on the 20th, Tuesday

Follow-up GM #2: Next steps to decide the manner of choosing working group members; discuss changes in our organisation & the revival of the RA

Dear Community Members,

This is a friendly reminder about the 2nd follow-up General Meeting on update from the Task Forces formed in the General Meeting of August 3rd. The GM is going to be held on:

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20th

4 PM - 6 PM

UNITY PAVILION

NB: All units - service and commercial - and all workplaces in Auroville are hereby requested to close early to enable all members of the RA to attend this important GM. Decisions taken in this meeting might be finalised in an RA meeting called two-weeks hence. We request all those who usually don't attend meetings to attend.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Residents’ Assembly Service has received a petition signed by 93 residents, to immediately convene the Residents’ Assembly to discuss and decide the next steps for choosing the manner in which members for Auroville working groups are to be selected.

~ With love and care,

The Residents’ Assembly Service

From the Entry Service: New Aurovilians and Newcomers

ES # 003 Dated: 19-08-2019

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers and Friends of Auroville, joining Auroville. Prior to Newcomer, Aurovillian and Friend of Auroville status confirmation, for Newcomers and Friends of Auroville two weeks and for Aurovilians and Returning Aurovilians one month window for community feedback. Kindly forward your support or grievances to entryservice@auroville.org.in.
NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:

Fanny AVIER (French) Staying in Dehashakti and Working at Deepanam, Dehashakti & PTDC

Gopa KOTA (USA) Staying in Grace Community (Penny House) and Working at Deepanam School & Mattram

Nithya BALU (Indian) Staying and Working at Azhagu Bhoomi

Prakash VENKATESAN (Indian) Staying in Sailam and working at AV Art Service

Sathyanarayan BHAMBORE (Indian) Staying and Working at Bharat Nivas

Yogini GANDHI (Indian) Staying in Auromode and Working at Matrimandir & Unity Pavilion

CHILD OF NEWCOMER:

Anusha KOTA (USA) Born on 08/01/2005 (Daughter of Gopa KOTA)

Aadi Narayana KOTA (USA) Born on 02/12/2008 (Son of Gopa KOTA)

NEWCOMERS CONFIRMED:

Nandalal SHERPALI (Indian)

Marc BAUCHET (French)

Monica CARELLA (Known as Lakshmi) (Italian)

Giovanni GORGOGLIONE (Italian)

AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:

Jean Luc MALOR (French) Staying in Auromodele and Working at Upcycling Studio & AV Arts Service

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

Keerthi SUBRAMANI (Indian)

Siddharth JAIN (Indian)

ASSOCIATE OF AUROVILLE

Rakesh JAYARAMAN (Indian) Working with Palmyra Cricket Center (Aurobrindavan)

LEFT ON HIS/HER OWN:

Kassandra Helen LOMBARD (USA)

NOTE: Individuals are entered into the Register of Residents (maintained by the Auroville Foundation) shortly after filling the B-FORM and meeting with the Secretary of the AVF.

The appointment date for these is set and communicated by the Entry Service to the individual at the respective time, and NOT AT THEIR PERSONAL REQUEST.

This is the last step of the Newcomer process where the status of Newcomer Resident is switched to Aurovilian Resident.

ENTRY SERVICE OPEN TO PUBLIC TIMINGS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 09:30AM-12:30PM

* Newcomer kits will be given and received only on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm

Yours, --The Entry Service--

Pictures can be downloaded from Auronet: Pics of NC & AV ES003 Dt: 19-08-2019.pdf
Report of the Working Committee of the month of July 2019

A brief overview of the main topics dealt with in the month of July:

1) Meetings in New Delhi

On behalf of the Working Committee, Manas, Ranjith and Carel visited New Delhi in the beginning of the month. They met with Governing Board Chairman Dr. Karan Singh; the next day, Ranjith and Carel met with Governing Board member Dr. Anirban Ganguly (Manas could not be present in this meeting).

The main topic of discussion was the organization of the upcoming meeting of the Governing Board in September 2019. It is proposed that the meeting will be topic-oriented, instead of each working group making its presentations.

Dr. Karan Singh mentioned that he may call for a special meeting of the Governing Board in New Delhi in August, for which he is awaiting the appointment of the new Secretary.

Other topics discussed were: an update on the land problems at Acceptance and Pitchandikulam; the proper implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (see below); the report of the Governing Board appointed Enquiry Committee into the allegations voiced by Mr. Vikram Ram (this report is yet to be released).

2) Meeting with Collector.

Ranjith and Carel met with the Collector Villupuram to ask for his directions to resolve a number of long-pending issues, such as unauthorized constructions on lands within the Master Plan area; resolving the solid waste pollution in Kuilapalayam village; the application of MGEcoduties for a molasses license and a NOC to purchase molasses from sugar mills in the area; and the execution of the decisions of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, acting as Estate Officer.

3) Lessons Learnt from the Land Board Selection Process

Based on our experience with the recent Land Board selection process, and the feedback received from members of the community, we have decided that future selection processes that involve a Selection Committee (SC) have to follow the following conditions: (1) Feedback on candidates will be sought from the community before the SC starts its deliberations, not after the selection decision has been made.

(2) The SC will document the basis for its selection decisions, both in terms of the basis for rejecting a candidate as well as the basis for selecting a candidate.

(3) If a candidate requests the reasons for her/his selection or rejection, the SC will share those reasons with that candidate.

(4) All members of the SC will be required to sign-off on the final selection decision of the SC. If there are any dissenting voices, a written note of dissent must be filed for reference.

4) Auroville Foundation (Admission and Termination of Persons on the Register of Residents)

Regulations 2019: Entry

The review and improvement process of the Entry Policy 2017 is ongoing. On 26th July, 2019, the Auroville Council and the Working Committee held a General Meeting to update the community on the process and to introduce the improvements proposed. A report of this General Meeting will be published shortly.
Regulations 2019: Exit

Shortly after a General Meeting held on the topic of these Regulations on 12th April, 2019, the Working Committee updated the Governing Board about this GM, and informed the Board about a section in the Form I of the 2019 Regulations stating that “[…] Ownership of immovable assets in the Green Belt Area of the Auroville Master Plan is only allowed with the written permission of the Auroville Foundation.”

Since this clause has been inserted without prior approval of the Residents’ Assembly or the Governing Board, the Working Committee has requested the Board (via email dt May 6th, 2019) to instruct the Secretary that this 2019 Form I will not be used, and that no written permission of the Auroville Foundation will be given to any resident of Auroville (whose name has been entered in the Register of Residents) to own immovable assets in the Greenbelt Area of the Auroville Master Plan. This will be added as part of the amendments to the 2019 Regulations. Meanwhile, 523 Auroville residents have signed and submitted to us a petition objecting to the same clause, and proposed that the text be replaced, thereby suggesting an amendment to the Form I.

Meanwhile, the Exit Policy Task Force has also submitted its recommendations on some amendments proposed to the 2019 Regulations. The Working Committee intends to have all these amendments approved by the Residents’ Assembly before these are submitted to the Governing Board for further approval and action. The Working Committee has decided to call for a General Meeting on September 3rd at the Unity Pavilion, to update the community on the petition and the amendments on the Exit topic. An announcement inviting the community for the GM will be published separately.

5) OutreachMedia

At the conclusion of the 50th anniversary, the maintenance for three persons working for OutreachMedia was stopped; they have since received a Bridging Fund maintenance for a few months and are no longer working for OutreachMedia. Fabienne has informed the Working Committee that she too will stop working for OutreachMedia from September onwards. We are in discussion about finding suitable persons to take up the work of OutreachMedia and to see to what extent cooperation with the Auroville.org website managers is possible.

6) Sexual harassment

A new case of sexual harassment was reported to the Working Committee. As the decision on the proper implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, is pending with the Governing Board, neither the Auroville Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) nor the Working Committee can take action. This particular case has been handled by the umbrella unit directly; the implementation of the recommendations of the ICC in three other cases is kept pending.

7) Autorikshaws in Auroville

At the request of the Visitors’ Centre and the Auroville Safety and Security Team, the Working Committee is participating in a series of meetings aiming at minimizing and regulating the presence of autorikshaws in Auroville.

8) Encroaching of a house in Sharnga

It has become necessary to initiate legal action against a non-Auroville resident
who is illegally occupying a house in Sharnaga community.

**9) Passing of Ursula Loose**

Ursula had appointed the Working Committee as the executor of her Last Will and Testament and has left all her assets to Auroville. A list of all moveable assets is being made; they will be sold in order to offset the costs of her medical treatment that was paid for by Auroville.

**10) Conflicts with outsiders**

We are in discussion with the Auroville Council and the members of Koodam how best to deal with conflicts between outsiders with residents of Auroville or Auroville units. The conflicts are often about financial loans that are not being paid back and about products supplied that are claimed to be defective. Both issues are related to the unrealistic expectation that people expect an Auroville working group to remedy such situations. We will inform about the progress in our September report.

**11) Residents’ Service database**

At the request of the Working Committee, the old RS database, which kept crashing, has been copied and moved to Auronico. It is now stable and is being used by the Residents’ Service. As the software needs to be upgraded, Talam has been commissioned to do so. The new version will support Asyncto 2.0. The Matrimandir booking service and HRT are using the old copy of the RS database for the time being. Once the RS database has been upgraded, the old copy of RS will be taken down and MM and HRT will be given appropriate access.

The Working Committee (Carel, Chali, Manas, Mandakini, Partha, Ranjith, Sauro)

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**Swadharma Open House on 24th August, Saturday**

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to welcome you to the concluding ceremony of our 7th batch of the Swadharma programme. This time we have 17 young people, 16 from India and 1 from London, who went through a 5-week long immersive learning journey. They will present their experience from what brought them to Auroville to how the programme helped them to get a sense of who they are and reflect on the insights they gained for their life path ahead. Each student will present their journey for about 7 minutes with 3 minutes for questions and answers.

The session will take place from **2.00 to 5.00 pm at the SAILER Conference Hall**

We will be very happy to welcome you all!

With gratitude for all the support we have received from a large number of Aurovilians who interacted with the students and shared their experience.

ACI team (Divyanshi, Lalit, Manoj, Sheetal, Siddharth, Valentine and Avinash)

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Call for Grant Proposals & Annual Review

Annual Review for Funding

The Project Coordination Group (PCG) will be meeting for its annual review of grant proposals for funding by Stichting De Zaaier in Winter 2019 and the Foundation for World Education in Spring 2020. All documents related to this purpose are to be submitted in the prescribed forms as attachments emailed to pcg@auroville.org.in latest by Monday, 30 September.

A revised grant application form and budget request form are available on request from pcg@auroville.org.in.

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 new grant.

Call for Grant Proposals

Following the procedure set up by the Foundation for World Education, the Project Coordination Group will review and select projects for approval and budget allocation by their Board members. In recent years, funds available with the Foundation for World Education for Auroville projects and programmes amounted to approx. USD 35,000 in total. The Foundation for World Education has indicated a preference for funding projects and activities for which the maintenance of Aurovilians is either covered by Auroville or from a source other than Foundation for World Education grants. The F W E Board welcomes grant requests for initiatives seeking the greatest good for the largest number of people.

With regard to Stichting De Zaaier, the Project Coordination Group will check whether proposals fall within their funding criteria and forward those that do to the SDZ Board for final selection and grant allocation. In recent years, funds available with Stichting De Zaaier for Auroville projects and programmes were in the range of up to € 90,000 in total.

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;
- 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.
• high-impact initiatives, especially for those who are new to Auroville and for young Aurovilians who currently struggle to find mechanisms of support.

*Please note that no funds are 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 Zaaier has also indicated a preference for the funding of projects and activities for which the maintenance of Aurovilians is either covered by Auroville or from a source other than SDZ grants.

*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.

A revised grant application form and budget request form are available on request from pcg@auroville.org.in or may be downloaded here below.

For more information or assistance please write to pcg@auroville.org.in or contact the Project Coordination Group at the ACUR (Town Hall) by phoning 2622250. Last date for submitting proposals for this call is **Monday, 30 September.**

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**Auroville Film Festival 2020: last date for new submissions**

The last date for Aurovilians, residents of the bioregion and students to submit films for the Auroville Film Festival of January 2020 is on August 31.

*Submissions should be made online on this link* and the films brought to our office in Sharnga on a pen drive (please call before coming, tel. 2623187). For further info, write to aurovillefilmfestival@auroville.org.in

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**State Level Basketball Tournament at New Creation Sports Ground**

The Auroville Basketball Family is proud to announce the Pondicherry state level basketball tournament at New Creation sports ground, jointly organized by Certitude, Fraternity & New Creation basketball clubs from **19th to 25th August** from 5.00 pm till 10.00 pm. The tournament will be organized for men & women under categories of Senior, Junior & Sub Junior.

All are cordially invited to come to watch the matches and to encourage the players. Tea & biscuits are served every day! The Organizers (Certitude, Fraternity & New Creation Basketball Clubs)
Singing for the International Day of Peace, want to join?

Dear all, like every year, the Unity Pavilion will organize a celebration event for the International Day of Peace. It will take place on Sept. 21st.

For this event, the Auroville Harmonies (women’s choir) will sing a Zulu prayer for peace, named "UKUTHULA". You can listen to it here: https://youtu.be/0N4R1vsh3gM.

We will sing this song at the end of the event (time to be precised).

We invite those who are interested to join us. We are particularly seeking men, but women are also welcome. This song is quite easy to learn, but so beautiful and inspiring.

We will rehearse on Tuesdays in Citadines Centre d’Art, from 6PM to approximately 7:30.

The rehearsal dates are: Aug. 27th, Sep. 3rd, Sep 10th, Sep. 17th, plus one rehearsal in Unity Pavilion on Sep. 20th.

If you are interested, please contact me: Antoine - 8940740529 - antoine@auroville.org.in

Looking forward to sing this song with you.

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A very special bonfire on 15th August

The organizing group has received overwhelming support from the community for the decision to ban photography at the 15th August bonfire. It was felt that this resulted in a much quieter, more concentrated and dedicated atmosphere. The vast majority of visitors were also very respectful of the ban.

The ban on cameras and cell phones will remain for the bonfire on Auroville’s birthday, 28th February, 2020.

The other experiment – not locking the gate but conducting latecomers to a special area where they can experience the bonfire but not disturb those who are already in concentration – was not fully successful. However, what was widely appreciated is that nobody was ‘locked out’ from this special experience, and that the latecomers did not disturb those already in the Amphitheatre for the duration of the meditation, which included the recording of Mother’s voice and the music.

The organizing group is working to ensure that next time the latecomers are provided with comfortable facilities while they wait, including the audio of the sound track played in the Amphitheatre, and that they do not create a disturbance when they are allowed to enter the Amphitheatre after the meditation has finished.
The organizing group feels that a great step has been made towards making our bonfires very special experiences again, and they thank everybody – volunteers and participants – who helped make this one such a wonderful occasion.

The Amphitheatre Support Group

(Photos: taken by Manohar after the event.)

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Text played at the Dawnfire of 15.8.2019

Recorded reading by the Mother, from the book ‘The Mother’ by Sri Aurobindo, chapter 5

If you want to be a true doer of divine works, your first aim must be to be totally free from all desire and self-regarding ego. All your life must be an offering and a sacrifice to the Supreme; your only object in action shall be to serve, to receive, to fulfil, to become a manifesting instrument of the Divine Shakti in her works. You must grow in the divine consciousness till there is no difference between your will and hers, no motive except her impulsion in you, no action that is not her conscious action in you and through you.

Until you are capable of this complete dynamic identification, you have to regard yourself as a soul and body created for her service, one who does all for her sake. Even if the idea of the separate worker is strong in you and you feel that it is you who do the act, yet it must be done for her. All stress of egoistic choice, all hankering after personal profit, all stipulation of self regarding desire must be extirpated from the nature. There must be no demand for fruit and no seeking for reward; the only fruit for you is the pleasure of the Divine Mother and the fulfilment of her work, your only reward a constant progression in divine consciousness and calm and strength and bliss. The joy of service and the joy of inner growth through works is the sufficient recompense of the selfless worker.

But a time will come when you will feel more and more that you are the instrument and not the worker. For first by the force of your devotion your contact with the Divine Mother will become so intimate that at all times you will have only to concentrate and to put everything into her hands to have her present guidance, her direct command or impulse, the sure indication of the thing to be done and the way to do it and the result. And afterwards you will realise that the divine Shakti not only inspires and guides, but initiates and carries out your works; all your movements are originated by her, all your powers are hers, mind, life and body are conscious and joyful instruments of her action, means for her play, moulds for her manifestation in the physical universe. There can be no more happy condition than this union and dependence; for this step carries you back beyond the border-line from the life of stress and suffering in the ignorance into the truth of your spiritual being, into its deep peace and its intense Ananda.
While this transformation is being done it is more than ever necessary to keep yourself free from all taint of the perversions of the ego. Let no demand or insistence creep in to stain the purity of the self-giving and the sacrifice. There must be no attachment to the work or the result, no laying down of conditions, no claim to possess the Power that should possess you, no pride of the instrument, no vanity or arrogance. Nothing in the mind or in the vital or physical parts should be suffered to distort to its own use or seize for its own personal and separate satisfaction the greatness of the forces that are acting through you. Let your faith, your sincerity, your purity of aspiration be absolute and pervasive of all the planes and layers of the being; then every disturbing element and distorting influence will progressively fall away from your nature.

The last stage of this perfection will come when you are completely identified with the Divine Mother and feel yourself to be no longer another and separate being, instrument, servant or worker but truly a child and eternal portion of her consciousness and force. Always she will be in you and you in her; it will be your constant, simple and natural experience that all your thought and seeing and action, your very breathing and moving come from her and are hers. You will know and see and feel that you are a person and power formed by her out of herself, put out from her for the play and yet always safe in her, being of her being, consciousness of her consciousness, force of her force, ananda of her Ananda. When this condition is entire and her supramental energies can freely move you, then you will be perfect in divine works; knowledge, will, action will become sure, simple, luminous, spontaneous, flawless, an outflow from the Supreme, a divine movement of the Eternal.

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About the Interim News Summary:

**Disclaimer:** this Summary is very limited in scope, done voluntarily by the Auronet team to limit the inconvenience caused by the absence of News & Notes. It will stop as soon as News & Notes appear again. We hope the issues around News & Notes will be sorted out, and the publication will resume soon.

For all events, please see the login page of Auronet ([https://auroville.org.in/](https://auroville.org.in/)) or the events page ([https://events.auroville.org.in/](https://events.auroville.org.in/)). No need to log in.

For any queries, or notes/reports to be added to the next issue of this newsletter, contact [auronet@auroville.org.in](mailto:auronet@auroville.org.in)