6th Interim News Summary

September 9, 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 (www.auroville.org.in) and on the Auroville website (www.auroville.org) on Mondays, until the News & Notes resume.)

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Coming up now: Performing Scenes from Savitri

Is this enough, O spirit?

9th, 10th and 11th September (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)
8:00 pm (the gate will be closed at 7:50 pm)
Duration: approximately 1 hour
Matrimandir Unity Garden

Once more we try to give some form to the Intangible...
As before, it is an attempt, an offering, a collective aspiration.
It is also a joy, a learning process.

This will be the third scenic exploration in a series of performances that we call "Sri Aurobindo's Savitri". The script was compiled from lines from Book VII, The Book of Yoga. As a subtitle for this time, we have chosen the line...Is this enough, O spirit?

Assuming that a large part of the audience already knows about Savitri, we begin at the crucial moment prior to Savitri's journey in search for her soul. From here we continue through the subtle journey during which she meets and becomes one with her soul, closing with her return to Earth where, "In her the Unseen, the Unknown waited his hour".

Giving an atmosphere that embraces, completes and enhances the whole, the Matrimandir Garden of Unity is the perfect scene for this exploration.

For better understanding, see script attached in main post on Auronet or Google drive

All are most welcome.

Amir, Anandamayi, Angela, Aravinda, Aryamani, Ashwin, Aurelio, Carla, Divya, Emmanuel, Gokul, Jean, Joy, Krishna, Megha, Melody, Mita, Nidish, Otto, Pala, Patricia, Poonam, Pranith, Regina, Srimoyi, Suresh, Vartika, Varun

With much support from the Matrimandir and Svaram Teams

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New Aurovilians and Newcomers

ES # 006 Dated: 09-09-2019

Our team is happy to recommend the following individuals as Aurovilians, Newcomers and Friends of Auroville, joining Auroville. Prior to Newcomer, Aurovilian 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 entrieservice@auroville.org.in.

NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:
Rebeca Lopez (Spanish) Staying in Terramata (Frederik’s House) and Working at Quiet Healing Center
Brigitte (Gita) MARANGANTI (KUMAR) (German) Staying in New Creation and Working at New Creation Child Development & Center Guest House
Kardash ILIAGOUEV (Australian) Staying in Creativity and Working at Matrimandir
Amutha VEERAPPAN (Indian) Staying in Mango Garden and Working at Taste of Nature

NEWCOMERS CONFIRMED:
Fanny AVIER (French)
Gopa KOTA (USA)
Nithya BALU (Indian)
Prakash VENKATESAN (Indian)
Sathyanarayan BHAMBORE (Indian)
Yogini GANDHI (Indian)

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:
Andreanne NOUYRIGAT (French)
Staying in Hermitage and Working at Botanical Garden & Hermitage
Jayanthi RAMARAJ (Indian) Staying in Sangamam and Working at Discipline farm

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:
Naimeh GHABAIE (Iranian)
Sundararaj ARIKRISHNAN (Indian)

YOUTH TURNED 18 CONFIRMED:
Akash SELVAM (Indian)
Anandhi VELU (Indian)
Bouthan VELU (Indian)
Chandru PAZHANISAMY (Indian)
Dhivyaprasath RAMAN (Indian)
Kalaiarasan GNANAVEL (Indian)
Motilal KUMAR (Indian)
Navanithakrishnan JAYAMOORTHI (Indian)
Osher Shanti ROZIN (Israeli)
Pavithran GUNASEKAR (Indian)

LEFT ON HIS/HER OWN:
Fiona FRASER JEHU (British)

Pictures of new Aurovilians and Newcomers can be found on Auronet or Google drive

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—

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Working Committee Meeting Report

General Meeting on 23.08.2019

Attendees: 40 to 50 Residents

*Manas welcomed everyone and gave an introduction. He asked everyone to hold questions until after the presentation.*

**Agenda:**

1) **Proposed agenda for discussion with the Governing Board** on September 7, 2019 - Manas informed re new format, location and live video projection in one venue proposed for GB meeting – waiting for GB decision/agreement; an additional GB meeting will take place in Delhi 26th August - Wcom will not be present.

2) **Topics on the Working Committee’s table during 2019**

3) **Open discussion**

*Please find attached (along with this Interim Newsletter) in the main post on Auronet or on Google drive, two documents: 1) the WCom presentation and 2) the Auroville Security’s presentation used in the GM.*

**Salient features of the open discussion that took place during the GM:**

Remark from Resident: After having heard Auroville Security’s presentation on the number of hours our guards work per day, one resident asked: How is it possible for people to work such long hours?

Response from Security: All security companies are the same and it is legal as long as there is at least one break after 8 hours and extra pay given over 8 hrs per day.

Observation by Resident: An open meeting of the community with members of the Governing Board should take place, especially when there are new members the community has not yet met.

Response (WCom): Yes, it’s a good idea - the WCom will propose the same to the Governing Board.

Question from Resident: Has the report on the NTDA and other LPG proposals that were sent to the Governing Board been shared with community?

Clarification (WCom): Not yet, only reports of the Sounding Board process, which was shared with GB to ask them to wait before making a decision on NTDA so the community can come to some agreement. WCom can share reports of the Sounding Board and parts of other reports that aren’t sensitive due to pending govt discussion.

Question from Resident: Master Plan 2011 was gazetted so how did this change in the Standing Order?

Clarification (WCom): It is the SO to constitute the TDC, nothing to do with MP.

Question from Resident: Is WCom happy with the selection process and the results?

Response (WCom): This hasn’t been discussed as a group but generally we agree the process needs to be changed and improved.

Question from Resident: Should groups limit their scope of work to the Auroville Foundation Act because of lack of satisfaction with selection process?

Response (WCom): Fair question but we haven’t discussed this as a group.

Observation by Resident: There is a feeling that WCom is not assisting but acting as authority so do you feel that you are supporting the ideals and the Act? How can we change from perceived pyramidal power structure to a more ‘flat’ system? Are we ready to review our mandate to restrict function to a minimum and allow more input to others in the community?

Response (Wcom): In response to the last question, AVC initiates processes to review mandates but the original mandates are all passed by the RA.
All these questions are definitely food for thought.

Question from Resident: Statutory Land Protection has been pending for 17 years and is more urgent than ever. Community needs to make a decision and act, with or without the GB.

Clarification (WCom): There is lack of consensus/agreement in the community with a constant search for something better; a Govt Order could provide a stop-gap measure but don’t know if TN govt will agree to issue – this will be followed up immediately after GB.

Observation from Resident: Statutory protection is complicated and difficult and advice from some sources is that the best protection is to buy the land outright so land fundraising needs to be ramped up immediately.

Question from Resident: Autorickshaws are a source of pollution, exploitation, etc. Has anything been decided?

Response (WCom): An appeal has gone out to guesthouses and the public to discourage use of rickshaws; a meeting will be organized next week by DSP with head autos to clarify with them the legalities and limitations.

Comments by Resident: POSH Act...Why is the WC still persisting with centralized ICC knowing that there is unclarity.

Response (WCom): WCom has paused implementation until clarity is reached, hopefully in GB meeting. Have previously asked for clarification from legal opinions (Sri Ram and another senior lawyer) as well as HRD Ministry – legal opinions said we can be employer, HRD agreed but notification hasn’t been made by Secretary yet. For appeal there ultimately has to be a process approved by HRD. Supreme Court has stated that POSH Act and ICC is applicable for whole Supreme Court campus and anyone on any of the premises, which is similar to Auroville. At the moment there are no cases being handled by the ICC.

Remark from Resident: Expressed appreciation for the extent of the work being done by the WCom. Request maximum transparency and encourage meeting with community.

Question from Resident: Hari (Health Center): In April questioned about allegation of helping outside foreigners to buy land and build on it but clarified it was only one person as a friend. Why is this issue continuing to come up with no final conclusion by the Wcom? Wanted to meet the person who made the allegation but that person didn’t agree.

Response (WCom): As far as the Wcom is concerned there is nothing still pending and we will get back to him in writing or ask him to come and meet us.

Observation by Resident: Something missing from the list of topics – MM gold theft. Understand that steps were taken by AVC, WCom and AVF with police etc but too little too late and the person must now feel safe for having gotten away with this, which is shameful towards the donors.

Response (WCom): WCom was not involved initially, only MM and AVF and later AVC and WCom came in. Still under investigation. We will try to get an update, including what has been provided to the police by the executives.

Observation by Resident: Example of authoritarian actions: the RS database situation and decisions...disregarded the warnings and offer to help by Phillippe and then faced the expected difficulties in RS, MM booking, etc. Now ‘hired’ a commercial unit to make a new update to the database. Has the WCom consulted BCC about the budget and have technical parties been consulted for the decisions about changes to the program?

Response (Wcom): This is not a neutral example because it is personal for you. The version of the database you worked on did not function smoothly and the recent problems you have described as the fault of others taking over have been very efficiently resolved. (The BCC was not asked or expected to cover the cost of the upgrade, and technical parties have been consulted all along.)
Suggestion by Resident: Concentrate on how to increase our own income without going to the GB for more GoI funds.

Observation by Resident: Back to autorickshaws...using pollution as a reason to block them in AV is not valid because we aren’t setting a very good example, either in AV or by routing all tourist buses through Edayanchavadi. Instead of blocking them we should try to educate them and set better examples ourselves.

Observation by Resident: Also autorickshaws... consider moving some of the most popular attractions to the VC.

Question from Resident: Vikram Ram should not be ignored. His father is a judge in the High Court, Vikram has contacted UNESCO, PM and President of India, he has many Avn supporters on FB, emails many Avns regularly, sent 350 pages to Paulette and others but has never read any of her books. She has taken up contact with him and succeeded in convincing him to remove a ‘terrible’ video on YouTube but believes that she is taking up work that the WCom should be doing so it is dereliction of duty on the part of the Wcom. We must beware because he is very nice and a sincere idealist but partly because of his family connections will be dangerous if he passes on his material to the Society. Srinivasmurty feels he doesn’t have the power to do anything in this situation. Request WCom to share the docs/files of Vikram Ram with the community. Why are we not willing to dialogue with him?

Response from WCom: Many things have been written, lots of time has been put into answering his many RTI’s.

Remark from Resident: It’s incredible how (badly) we speak to each other. Great gratitude and appreciation for the immense work the WCom takes on and handles.

Question: Is there any update on Entry/Exit Regulations process ?

Response (WCom): on 26th July an update to the community was given via a General Meeting on the improvement and review process of the Entry Policy 2017. A report of the same has been shared also. The next step is to have a Residents’ Assembly Decision in the proposed improved Entry Policy 2019.

Suggestion by Resident: Since TDC is still very short-handed, please consider starting a process to identify interim TDC members urgently. Something like NTDA can’t be decided offhand either way.

Also requests more regular GM’s by the WCom.

Observation by Resident: Concerned about weak responses to the RTI’s, such as question about how AVI’s can have bank accounts (not part of AVF); gave the impression that there were cover-ups even if there weren’t. Appreciates that we have shared the GB meeting topics in a GM. Hopefully next step will be to create the agenda with the RA rather than only presenting previously decided topics.

Points to be followed up by Wcom:

- WCom can share reports of the Sounding Board and parts of other reports that aren’t sensitive due to pending govt discussion.
- a Govt Order could provide a stop-gap measure but don’t know if TN govt will agree to issue – this will be followed up immediately after GB.
- Hari (Health Center) - we will get back to him in writing or ask him to come and meet us.
- We will try to get an update (on MM gold theft), including what has been provided to the police by the executives.
- Discuss with AV Council, and TDC, the possibility of interim members for TDC.
- Create the GB agenda with the RA.

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New work opportunities for Aurovilians & Newcomers

*Human Resource Initiative* (also called Human Resource Hub) is a service which helps individual Aurovilians and Newcomers who are looking for suitable work to find it, and to help Auroville units and services who are looking to fill positions to find the right individuals to step in.

**Customer Care / Graphic Design**
You are a graphic designer with fluent English who has good communication skills and will take care of our customers. You update our website and have interest in the technical aspects of this work. Full-time, maintenance provided.

**Personal Assistance**
You coordinate the administration and management of workshops, educational programs and events (email correspondence, registrations, event promotions). You are good at documentation and are quick and a good communicator. You speak English and Tamil and have good computer skills. Part-time, maybe full-time in future. Maintenance provided.

**Graphic Designer**
You are a graphic designer who is interested to work on the development of new educational materials and games. Part-time, currently no maintenance provided.

**Administrative apprentice**
You have good communication skills, are a self-motivated organizer, like computer work and are fluent in English. Full-time. Apprentice maintenance available.

**Farm Management Assistance / Project Management**
You connect with the values at our farm, you are willing to commit long-term, are a self-motivated and an initiator of projects, you like to work in a team and are good at working with people from rural backgrounds, if you speak Tamil, it would be an advantage. Maintenance provided after a short probation period.

**English Teacher 5th-8th grade**
You are fluent in English, have teaching experience and immediately available to replace the English teacher at a school. You should have a degree. Maintenance available.

**Volunteer Film Festival**
You watch films and fill in reports on them, you have your own computer and your own drive and you work on your own schedule. Two people needed until end of September, no maintenance.

And other positions (please inquire about details):
- Stitching Oversight and Quality Control
- Administrative Work (part-time)
- Maintenance and Repair Management (part-time)
- System Administrator
- Project Management
- Administration (part-time)
- Business Developer & Strategic Marketing Design
- Visual Communication, Graphic Design & Management
- Environment Enthusiast (part-time)
- Project Manager

Please contact us for more information and if you are interested in any of these work opportunities or if you are looking for something else. *hr_hub@auroville.org.in*
Small Help Big Impact: fundraising for our next training

Dear Community,

YouthLink has been working with a UNFPA methodology, known as Y-PEER Trainings, with a customized and localized curriculum for the Auroville Bioregional context. We are building an Auroville Peer Education Network (APEN). [http://www.y-peer.org/](http://www.y-peer.org/)

We have conducted x2 week long trainings so far, to 34 young adolescent/young adults. The courses uses theatre and other games and tools to deepen conversation about taboo topics ... Such as gender, identity, sexuality, privilege... and awareness around topics like drugs, disease, and depression.

The course empowers youth to build a peer-peer network of support, which has already proven to be incredibly affective as youth find it easier to approach their peers for help first, often before parents or teachers.

The course also provides information of when it is crucial to reach out for expert help and intervention. Thus, providing info on security, ambulance, therapy and other support structures that exist in our area.

**We are conducting our next training for ~20 more participants this 23rd-29th September. We need to raise about rs. 150/day/participant for lunch/snacks/stationary. This totals about rs.21,000 for 20 participants.**

If possible, we would prefer not to ask AV/Bioregional youth for this contribution and offer the course for free. If anyone of you can help us with a small donation we would be very grateful.

The YouthLink Service Account at Financial Service is #251048, Description #APET3. Any additional support received will be put aside for an APET 4th course.

Thank you for your support,
Juan, Sudipta, Kavitha,
as organizers of the Auroville Peer Education Trainings.

For more info [aopen@auroville.org.in](mailto:aopen@auroville.org.in) / [youthlink@auroville.org.in](mailto:youthlink@auroville.org.in)

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Book your Sunday Lunch at Solar Kitchen

Dear friends,

From now on, please book your Sunday lunch at Solar Kitchen one day in advance. This would help a lot with our daily planning, and preparation can be done properly.

To book your lunch, please see Vijaya at the Dining Hall entrance, or phone 0413 2622197 or 0413 2622106

Thank you ALL!
Solar Kitchen team

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New Early Morning Swim Schedule

Starting Tuesday, October 8th, the children's early-morning swimming classes will use the whole pool from 6.30 – 7.30am. Therefore the pool will be closed to the public every Tuesday through Friday at that time while schools are in session.

However, from 7.30 – 8.30 am, the whole pool (5 lanes) will be available for lap swimmers who might want to have a quiet swim before starting their day.

La Piscine Team

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Prop-builders & Set-makers wanted!

We need help! If you're good with your hands and have some time on your hands (or know someone who fits this description) and would be prepared to join our fun, dynamic props team, then please give us a call on 948 6623 749 or email us at indispirit@gmail.com. Work on our upcoming theatrical production of Message in a Bottle is powering towards our performances on Oct 4 & 5. Look forward to welcoming you into the team!

Much love, Jesse
Miraculous Productions

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Photo exhibition: “Twice upon a Time in Auroville”

At Citadines Centre d’Art

- A twin photos exhibition by Dominique Darr and Marco Saroldi at Centre d’Art Citadines, Auroville

Auroville in the seventies, and Auroville nowadays. Pairs of photographs dialogue one another and over time show us how the city, the territory, habits and customs have changed. With Dominique Darr’s black and white images and Marco Saroldi’s color images, we have a global vision of most significant aspects of the transformation of the city.

(More in attachment in the main post on Auronet, along with this newsletter, or on Google drive)

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Fashion show at Freestore on Sat. 14th Sept. at 4 pm

Everyone, boy...girl...man...woman...etc is invited to participate in the FASHION SHOW. Come on Thursday from 2 to 4 pm to collect fashion-items of your choice. Let’s have fun and be the winner!

Auroville Free Store team

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Attachments to this News Summary:

There are 8 attached PDF documents in all, and they can be found on Auronet along with this News Summary, or on Google drive.

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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/) or the events page (https://events.auroville.org.in/). No need to log in.

For any queries about this newsletter, contact auronet@auroville.org.in

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