INTERIM NEWS SUMMARY

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UPDATE FROM THE LAND PROTECTION GROUP

Dear Friends,

The Land Protection Group has made a presentation to the last Governing Board on the 7th of September and expressed the need to seek a fresh Government Order before undertaking any institutional arrangement for the Master Plan Area of Auroville.

The intention behind the request of such a Govt Order is to recognize the special experimental character of Auroville, of its economy based on the principle of no private ownership and to harmonize the legislation made by an Act of Parliament that confers to the Auroville Foundation the right to prepare and approve its Master Plan with the State Legislation of Tamil Nadu.

On 10th of September 2019 there was a visit to Matrimandir and Auroville by Shri. D.S Misra, IAS, Secretary to Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India. After the visit to Matrimandir there was an informal conversation about the status of the Master Plan. Following that conversation a meeting was requested with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development of Tamil Nadu, and members of the Land Protection Group (Sauro, Prashant, Bertrand, Paul.V, Carel and Suhasini) had a meeting with him in Chennai on 9th October.

During this meeting, the Sec. HUD informed us that now the Tamil Nadu Govt is considering a new approach, based on which he advised us to to work on preparing a land use plan for the Master Plan area of Auroville along with the development regulations, planning guidelines and zonal boundaries. This document would then be put forward for a public consultation. When this document is ready, the task of how to legally enforce its provision along with the role of the Auroville Foundation as a complementary agency could be taken up.

He strongly recommended to complete this process by the end of June 2020.

This information has already been shared with the Governing Board through the Working Committee.

The Land Protection Group is a task oriented group, undertaking investigations and interactions with agencies and officials to collect, analyse and inform the community via appropriate forums the options for obtaining a statutory legal frame for Auroville to undertake its planning and development. To this end, a comprehensive status report will be published in coming weeks.

Members Land Protection Group (Bertrand, Carel, Martin Littlewood, Pashi, Paul Vincent, Prashant, Sauro, Suhasini)
FAMC WILL HOLD GENERAL MEETINGS

Dear Community,

The FAMC will hold long-overdue General Meetings to update the community on the topics that FAMC has worked on June - October 2019.

We hope that these General Meetings will bring forth a much-needed discussion on important topics, and we hope they will be widely attended. Some residents have requested the FAMC to hold a GM on some specific topics; including the structure and role of City Services and the membership and mandate of BCC; these are incorporated in our agenda and will be addressed.

Here below is the tentative agenda.

9th November 4:30-6:30 Unity Pavilion

FAMC Presentations on:

- PTPS
- Update on amendments of CoC
- GST
- Activity Guidelines
- Audits
- BCC membership
- Silver Fund
- TDS
- Consolidated database of data and assets for FAMC, L’Avenir and Land Board (ACARAT)

Followed by Q&A on above topics and on June-July report

18th of November 4:30-6:30 Unity Pavilion

- Q&A August-September report (ABC/AB, Trustees roles and responsibilities, new advisory board, City Services Organization)
- Follow-up from previous meetings
- Presentation on FAMC Annual Review meeting
- Q&A October report
- Annual report and annual work plan:
  - Review annual work plan 2019 and presentation of annual work plan 2020.
  - Follow-up from previous meetings and finalising of CoC.

FAMC REPORT JUNE-JULY 2019

The FAMC apologises for the late arrival of this summer report and hopes to get back on track with reporting henceforth. In an effort to update the community on the topics that the FAMC has been dealing with since June, the FAMC will hold 2 General Meetings in November. An announcement on the venue, time, and agenda will be made shortly.

After newly selected FAMC members joined the team in mid-April 2019, the training and adjustment period for those members period fell right in the middle of summer when members were also absent. For this reason, summer is not an ideal time for new members to join. It should also be noted that the FAMC secretariat was reduced in this period to one person with both Naren and Mousumi leaving. In the meantime, we have brought on board a full-time resource person, Balvinder, and hope to add additional resources in the near future.

1. Summary

During this period, the FAMC has striven to strike a balance between dealing with the immediate needs of the Community whilst also seeking to plan for the future. To contend with the demanding and complex workload, members agreed to meet three times per week. While work continues with understanding and exploring long term solutions for issues affecting Health Care, ageing population needs, taxation and economic restructuring, the daily work, of which the major topics summarised below, continues.
2. Economic Long Term Planning

Requests to GAES

1. Silver Fund  Earlier this year The FAMC has asked GAES (Growing Auroville’s Economy Sustainably) team to prepare an integrated proposal for a fund for old age. The GAES team has done excellent work in preparing an extensive and detailed proposal which is now under active consideration. This topic will be presented to the community together with the GAES group, as soon as it is ready.

2. Housing Mandate  GAES has been asked by the FAMC to drive the topic of Housing Policy. We will keep reporting on this.

Reviewing the roles and responsibilities of Trustees  The FAMC is looking at providing a detailed overview of the roles and responsibilities of a Trustee as well as the criteria for the selection of Trustees. This will entail a detailed consideration of Auroville Trusts, Trust Deeds and the wider rules regarding the operation of Trusts.

Amendment to the Code of Conduct (CoC)  The current code of conduct implemented in September 2017 is being looked at by the FAMC for amendment. There have been several sessions of feedback collection regarding amendments from the ABC and ABS and some motivated groups and individuals. The FAMC felt during the incorporation of feedback that there needed to be a greater understanding and acceptance of the CoC for better and effective implementation. The CoC amendments will be presented to all the Trustees with a final document presented to the RA before the amendment is proposed by the FAMC and the Working Committee to the Auroville Foundation. Until then, the current code of conduct holds good.

Impact of proposed TDS law on Financial Service.  The new GOI budget has proposed that a 2% tax deducted at source (TDS) will be deducted from cash withdrawals of all Auroville entities. These funds would be returned because Auroville is exempt from paying these taxes. But, it would create a cash flow problem and Auroville would lose considerable funds from lost interest. FAMC is researching how best to deal with the impact of the new rules, including whether to apply for a TDS exemption for Auroville. It is also reviewing options for restructuring Financial Service (such as creating a Non-Banking Financial Company) that would prove beneficial to Auroville in the long run.

Activity Guidelines: There has been a significant increase in the rate of applications to establish of “activities” under umbrella units and Trusts. As of end of July, there were already 299 activities. In recent months the FAMC has observed instances where activities were taking place without proper registration, activities were improperly closed (e.g., with outstanding debts and with the activities continuing to operate), FAMC was not notified of closures, contribution guidelines are not clear, and the difference between an “unit” and “activity” is not always understood. There are instances, for example, where activities have turnovers that exceed the agreed limit, and they have not been graduated to become units. The FAMC is concerned with the significant liabilities that activities can collectively create because of the lack of clarity regarding both the level of their activities and their operational guidelines. These issues had been discussed for many months and the ABC was acutely aware that the increase in applications was problematic. It was therefore decided not to accept any new activity applications in July for a period of 3 months, until Activity Guidelines that clarify operational processes are in place.

The FAMC has initiated a conversation among the stakeholders to arrive at Activity Guidelines that would be applicable to all Trusts. More information and updates will follow in the next report.

3. Liaising with the Community and other Working Groups
a. With the Auroville Council
Regularization of African Pavilion activities: Auroville Council requested FAMC to look at the recommendations of the International Zone Coordination Team (IZCT) concerning the funds and asset management of the African Pavilion. FAMC requested the IZCT to set up a structure for registering the activity, and informed that no financial transactions should be made by the African Pavilion till a proper financial structure has been set up for this project.

b. With the HOUSING Board
Meeting with Housing Board: FAMC met with Housing Board members to discuss among other topics, the following topics in detail:
   - Auromodel Orchard Project prototype building proposal;
   - The proposal for developing Felicity;
   - The Mahalakshmi Assisted Living Home;
   - The Absentee Steward Policy;
   - Co-stewarding by Housing Board;
   - Protocols for releasing funds for Housing projects;
   - Procedures for better financial reporting by the Housing Board.

c. With the TDC
Meeting with TDC members: FAMC met with some TDC members to mainly discuss fraternal contributions for TDC. It was agreed that the Fraternal contribution should be collected before the release of NOC and justifications for an increase of the contribution will have to be presented to FAMC for approval. Other joint topics include demolition permission, liaison with Green Group, as well as building violations.

Morning Star project: FAMC informed TDC that it did not support this project as presented because of lack of clarity regarding its role, concerns regarding its usefulness and its financial viability. Specifically, the project brief indicated that the facility would be built next to Sante and is for Aurovilians, but there are not enough Aurovillians who would use the facility to justify it or maintain it. It was suggested to consider moving the facility to a location outside of the Auroville City Center, where it could serve both Aurovilians and non-Aurovilians.

d. Meeting with Trustees and accountants
Guest-house Trustees and Trust Accountant: Topics discussed include contribution, GST filing, submission of balance sheets, appointment of new Trustees.

e. ABC
Following the GST restructuring, the ABC Support Group (SG) informed the FAMC that it no longer wished to work with it, and discontinued the weekly meetings that had been held between ABC-SG liaisons and FAMC liaisons (ABC-FAMC resource group).

f. Land Board
Several plots of land for proposed purchase were presented to the FAMC and the Working Committee by the Land Board, which the Land Board directly reports on, to the community.

4. Trusts and Units
Farm Fresh: The Free Flow Trust Trustees requested that the FAMC close Farm Fresh. FAMC has agreed with the Trustees that closure is the best way to proceed, because the current Executives are unable to oversee the unit and other competent executives have not been found despite a concerted effort. The Trustees next steps will be to present a nil balance sheet, and then issue a Resolution to close the unit. The FAMC will then approve the closure. (This has since happened).

AuroAnnam The Free Flow Trustees recommend the closure of Auro Annam for the following reasons: 1) Poor performance year after year; 2) Scope of work as per the office order has not been maintained; 3) It is unable to pay debts; 4) Poor product quality and lack of organic certification. The trustees were asked to provide a nil balance sheet as they have informed us that the unit is in fact not functioning at all.

WellPaper Submission of the Auroville Foundation Consolidated Balance Sheets was late because WellPaper failed to submit its balance sheet on time. This is not the first time that this has occurred. Late submission
of our balance sheets is a serious issue. Timely submission is a statutory requirement that is noted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report. WellPaper is under Auroville Exports Trust. The Trustees have been asked for a proposal on how to avoid delays in the submission of balance sheets for the future.

New Creation Guest House (Guest House Trust): Executive changes: Due to the passing away of Andre Tardeil, a new executive, Bertrand Cortet (aka Beber) was appointed to replace him. The other executive is Mary A. Tardeil (aka Babu). FAMC issued a resolution approving the same.

Auroville Activities (Kattida Kalai Trust): Executive changes: FAMC issued a resolution approving the resignation of E. Rathinam and Hendrik van Poederoijen and appointment of Elvira Klein, Sathish Arumugam, and Margarita Correa as new executives. The other serving executive is M. Palani. The new executives have an initial term of 3 years.

Change of trust: Mukti Accounting: FAMC issued a resolution approving the change of trust for this unit from Auroville Service Trust to Artisana Trust.

Auroville Service Trust
1. The Auroville Service Trust Trustees, Amy, Anne, and Joseba, and Ulrich B, as an observer, met with FAMC to discuss the guidelines for units under the Trust. How, for example, is it different from Trusts that support Commercial Entities and different from activities under City Services? Some differences noted are: units under AST aim primarily to serve Auroville; do not aim to make a profit; and generally have a user fee. The Trustees had asked the FAMC for a blanket exemption from contributing to City Services. As the units are not supposed to make a profit, the FAMC explained that these units would need to justify why they made one. To date, this has never occurred. The FAMC further explained that any unit may ask for an exemption to be reviewed by the FAMC. In such cases the Trustees are expected to review the pricing to ensure that it is fair to Aurovilians, and they are expected to present a budget and plan for how the unit would utilize their profits.

2. PTPS The management of PTPS was discussed because PTPS has been making substantial profits for the last 10 years, despite being a unit under Auroville Service Trust. (More on this topic below)

3. Finally, the FAMC and Trustees discussed the handling of GST for units that are providing services exclusively to Aurovilians.

FAMC liaisons to Service Trust will continue to collaborate with the trustees on these issues.

PTPS: The FAMC met with the executives of PTPS as well as with the Trustees of Service Trust. PTPS executives would like PTPS to become an income generating unit. The FAMC attempted to come to an understanding for this to occur. Its conditions were: PTPS would have to pay the City Services contribution owed from 2012 to the present (currently no contribution has been paid); PTPS would need to contribute compensation for the assets it acquired; and PTPS would have to change its name and not include ‘Pour Tous’ or ‘PT’ in its new name. The executives refused these conditions. The FAMC is strategising a way for this topic to be dealt with at an RA level, and will hold a GM on this topic as a next step.

Varuna (For All Pour Tous Trust) executives: The money generated by the Varuna windmills is insufficient to cover the electrical subsidy provided by Varuna to the community. The difference has been paid via various donations. Because donations have been insufficient or late, Varuna requested an overdraft. The overdraft of 40 lakh was initially used as expected, to cover funds periodically. Unfortunately, donations fell and the overdraft became a standing deficit, and then it dramatically fell to 80 lakhs. The Varuna experiment was based on the fact that Varuna claimed that the income from the windmills would be sufficient to cover 100% of the electrical subsidy. This is clearly not the case. The FAMC, to date, has not intervened
in how the subsidy could be allocated. This decision has been entirely Varuna’s. However, as the experiment is not in accordance with its expressed intentions, the FAMC met with the Varuna executives and the Unity Fund executives to remedy the situation. Varuna agreed to repay the 40 lakhs immediately and was informed that by December this year no overdraft facility would be extended. Varuna was also asked to provide the FAMC with a report detailing how it intends to meet the original agreement that the income (or electricity) generated by the windmills covers 100% of the subsidy.

5. Miscellaneous

BCC budget approval The BCC submitted the 2019-2020 budget proposal in June, four months later than was expected. A series of joint weekly meetings between the BCC and the FAMC took place in which the results of the zero-budgeting exercise were discussed in detail, leading to the final approval. The BCC has presented this budget to the community on Auronet.

Farm Group
- In a meeting with the Farm Group representatives, they shared that they did not wish to bring minor issues to the FAMC table but find it difficult to run farms smoothly when one or two individuals cause problems.
- Discipline Farm The management of Discipline Farm has been having significant problems. A sub-group to run Discipline Farm was appointed by the Farm Group. The FAMC has supported the Farm Group’s decisions and management appointments. Further, the FAMC will not tolerate a splitting of Discipline Farm.
Other topics such as accounting, as well as the creation of a Farm Trust were also discussed.

Funding Auroville An acceptable vision and structure for the proposed unit ‘Funding Auroville’ is currently not in place and therefore has not been approved by the FAMC.

News & Notes FAMC regrets the situation with the News & Notes. As this affects the entire community, FAMC has sought to keep the community informed of its views on the issue through periodic posts on Auronet. For an overview report on the issue by FAMC please navigate to https://auroville.org.in/article/75785. In August, Sabine has registered an appeal against the decision of the FAMC and the BCC requiring her to step down, which the FAMC is now engaged in. More details will follow in our next reports.

Line of Goodwill tax exemption The team working on the line of goodwill has approached FAMC for a 100% tax exemption certificate in relation to the work it is proposing to undertake: a detailed development plan. The FAMC has agreed in principle to this approach on the condition that the tax exemption certificate applies strictly to an initial feasibility study.

Integral Entrepreneurship Lab (IEL) presentation: Representatives of IEL gave a presentation about the following aspects of their work:
- Unit Growth: IEL has developed a method of assessing units’ potential for growth. They have currently identified six units that they feel have the potential to grow by more than 100% in the next 1-2 years.
- Unit-centric Standardized Accounting: IEL is working with unit executives towards a unit-centric standardized chart of accounts to promote greater financial accountability, transparency, and efficiency in terms of analyzing our commercial sector.

In community, Funds and Assets Management Committee
Daniel, Dhruv, Inge, Kalya, Lyle, Marc, Nicola (TOS), Nicole, Prabhu

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MATRIMANDIR SITUATION UPDATE

Dear Auroville community,

This is an update on the present conflict among Matrimandir members. It is unfortunate that the situation requires the help from groups outside Matrimandir. We are aware that many people are affected by what is currently happening at the soul of Auroville. We request the community for patience and sending good thoughts to solve this issue at earliest.

Since the last announcement many of us have gone through interviews with the Restorative circle team. The team has invited nearly 35 members in Matrimandir as well as people long-time associated with Matrimandir. Jean is currently out of station abroad so this may delay the process. In parallel the process Auroville council has requested another structural engineer to analyse the Compost shed which was designed by Jean. So far no update related this topic was shared by the council.

Matrimandir executive team, together with Matrimandir coordinators are willing to hold an open discussion with the community for detailed update and clarifications. Since the above process is ongoing we are trying to find the appropriate timing for this. Meanwhile we will update the community in this forum.

With appreciation for your understanding.
Matrimandir executives

L’AVENIR D’AUROVILLE / TDC: UPDATE ON PLANNING APPROACH AND TECHNICAL TEAMS

L’avenir d’Auroville / TDC is mandated with the responsibility of planning and development of the Auroville Township and is comprised of the Interface Team (selected by the community) and Technical Teams (set-up by the Interface Team)

Current Interface Team members - Saravanan, Sreevatsa, Tejaswini
Resource members - Prashant and Ulli.
For administrative, secretarial and mapping needs - Anbu, Viji, Vinai

Technical Teams -

Apart from day-to-day operational level tasks, TDC is engaged in --

- evaluating and processing of applications for projects and built spaces;
- formulation of policies for achieving long-term development goals;
- determining development priorities;
- evaluating, managing and monitoring of infrastructure projects;
- preparing smaller Detailed Development Plans (DDPs);
- prepare planning guidelines;
- development guidelines;
- land-use planning; and
- regional planning.

The Interface Team initiates, anchors and coordinates these works through its Technical Teams, each focused on specific domains.
Update on planning approach and technical teams

In order to initiate the preparation of a Development Plan for Auroville Township, TDC is preparing brief and other important base documents -

- Planning Principles (ratified by community in April 2017)
- Planning Guidelines
- Development Priorities for next 5 years
- Existing and Proposed Land Use Map

Given that the statutory obligations of Auroville Township are being clarified and in order to continue smaller developments, TDC has been undertaking additional efforts through the preparation of documents such as

- Project level DDPs,
- Development Guidelines,
- Auroville Works Manual, which specifies the procedures to be adhered to, in the implementation of projects in Auroville.

Planning Guidelines

In order to initiate the preparation of Town Planning documents (development and implementation plans), TDC needs to prepare a brief for planners. The Planning Guidelines document focuses on the physical planning aspects. The content of this document is largely drawn from the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) of 2017 which was built through several sounding board sessions involving a large number of community members. Since the term 'TOR' has other connotations, we are splitting it into a group of documents that are specific to planning and development. These documents will be sent to the community for its feedback.

Team- Hari Vallabhi, Lata and Tejaswini

Development Priorities

The planning body needs to have an evidence based identification of development priorities and direction of growth to come up with policies, development programs and projects. This technical team is collecting and analysing data from the social sector (education, housing, food security and health), infrastructure sector (energy and water) and economic (revenue & expenditure, skill development & employment) sector to identify gaps and needs.

Work in progress- (i) Completion of data collection and analysis of three pending areas - food, health and economy. (ii) Prepare and report the needs / gaps as it emerges from the analysis. (iii) Focus Group Discussions with explicit use of interaction to generate data and insights. (iv) Based on sectors, prepare development priorities by Jan 2020 covering the next 5 years to be integrated into development program. (v) Prepare a portfolio of projects with annual budgets.

Team information- Core Team - Elvira, Manas, Suhasini, Vikram + Supporting members - Martin, Harini, Maud, Pavneet, Induja.

Budget- Currently 1 maintenance available till December, all others are working pro-bono.
Existing / Proposed Land Use
In order to understand the lands under the master plan area, TDC is undertaking the mapping of existing land use. Land use mapping will include cadastral plot-level mapping of what is presently there on the land e.g. agriculture, plantation, forest, village/residential, etc. Following this we will undertake the preparation of proposed land use plan and development guidelines for each land use class, based on our master plan zones. We will present this work to the community as we progress with this mapping exercise. This is a high priority exercise for Auroville that we are currently undertaking.

Team – Lata, Prashant and Suhasini

Project level DDPs - To address immediate needs, TDC has opened two areas for development.

· Southern Service Node- The preparation of development direction and detail development plan will help allocating sites to services in this node. This work in on-going and will be finalised by December 2019.

  Team- Michael G and Sindhuja (anchors), Induja
  Budget- Consultancy fee equivalent to 1 maintenance

· Mangalam- The tentative development directions for Mangalam area are prepared to have further discussions with Working Com / Land Board. With an outcome of this, DDP will be prepared for this area.

  Team- Ganesh Bala (anchor), Induja
  Budget- Pro-bono work by Consultant.

Development Guidelines
Interface Team has initiated a dialogue to create development guidelines for the four zones and the Green belt. This is to make sure that the developments are in alignment with the galaxy concept, TNCDBR (Tamilnadu Combined Development and Building Rules), and proposed land use.

Team- Hari and Tejaswini

Team Required- Urban Designer and Planner.

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A Detailed Technical Study of Rain Water Harvesting in the Residential Zone (Sectors 1 & 2)
This study aims to make a concerted shift towards multi-sourcing, with rainwater as the primary resource, thus moving away from Auroville’s exclusive reliance on groundwater. The “Surface Water Study for Auroville's City Area”, conducted for TDC in 2013 established that runoff offers a large potential as a resource towards this and with the development of the city, more impervious areas will be created, resulting in additional runoff.

Developing surface water management as a resource can help not just to address a major part of the water demand for the city, take care of stormwater and flood control but also of pollution mitigation and urban environment integration.

The densification and development of Sectors 1 and 2 of the Residential Zone, which currently houses approximately 40% of Auroville’s total population create an excellent context for developing Rain Water Harvesting as a resource, and a pilot project for “surface water management and rainwater harvesting as a resource in urban context”.

Team- commissioned to Gilles B. (Capability) in September 2019, Anita.
Timeline- approx 6 months.
Budget- Consultancy fee.

🌟
Completion of RZ sector 1 and 2 -
The completion of Sectors 1 and 2 of the Residential Zone development has been a focus since a few years. If we want to achieve density as per Master Plan, TDC needs to unblock the present situation of NIMBYism, land ownership, access issues, resident’s objections to densification. At present, TDC has identified some pockets for immediate development and will work on development guidelines to make sure that the present need is addressed while keeping in mind a larger vision.

Team- Induja, Sreevatsa, Tejaswini

Regional Planning
Auroville and the adjoining area are very closely connected to each other through natural resources (water, ecosystems, coastline, etc.), climate, historical links, culture, religion, language, tourism, trade/business, population and transportation. This tightly knit connection calls for a Regional Plan that would benefit this region and in turn also help Auroville grow in a sustainable way.

Presently several Auroville groups are already working in the region in various fields such as – ecological restoration, water & sanitation, education, healthcare & dental, self help groups, livelihood, building technologies. This effort needs to be coordinated and consolidated.

Long Term Focus-
(i) Collaborative and Participatory Regional Plan. (ii) Collaboration with Govt Depts e.g. rural development, agriculture, TWAD board, etc.

Team details- Anchors - Prashant and Renu, Regional planner - Lata, Liaison person for govt depts.- Balamurugan

Budget- 1 Maintenance equivalent salary, All Aurovillians are working pro-bono.

Dev. & Building Applications Team
Role/Responsibility-
(i) Receive & Process all project, site and building applications.
(ii) Review applications through liaison and consultations with technical consultants, WGs, Residents
(iii) Make recommendations for approval and issuance of NoC to the Interface team.

Team details- Anchor - Shama, Application team Secretary - Miriam, Reviewing team: Andy, Omar, Ulli, Vivek, IT application secretary - Priya

Budget- Available at present - 1 maintenance for secretary. All other Aurovillians are currently working pro-bono. Required- 2 more maintenance and budget for office expenses.

Project Management & Monitoring Team
Role/Responsibility-
(i) Oversee building (of sizeable scale) and all infrastructure projects.
(ii) Monitor projects with regards to 4 aspects: Time, Cost, Quality & Safety.
(iii) Ensure compliance from Stakeholders of the Auroville Works Manual.
(iv) Recommendations to the interface team for the issuance of Completion Certificate and validating handing over documents for infrastructure projects.

Current focus-
(i) Completion of Auroville Works Manual - The procedures outlined in this Manual range from conceptualizing a project to obtain a completion certificate, to ensure its smooth operation and maintenance, to ensure a qualitative, transparent and accountable utilization of funds in compliance with applicable norms.
(ii) Setting up tools and systems in place to oversee and monitor.
Team Details - External Project Management Consultant from Chennai (currently hired), Coordinator - Michael G., Secretary - Alexey. Field person - Boopalan

Budget:
At present - 1 Monthly consultancy fee for consultant + 1 maintenance for secretary + 1 field person
Required - Budget for two field staff to be hired having expertise in civil and mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) tasks.

Challenges -
TDC constantly faces challenges that is wearing out group members.

- Support required on secretarial and communication.
- Budget constraint to undertake the mandated work that is highly technical.
- Lack of qualified human resource with planning experience.
- All Aurovilians who offer pro-bono work cannot give full time commitment to TDC, as they have to earn their maintenance from other work.
- Constant sub-standard project and design submissions, impatient applicants and at times, abusive behaviour from applicants.
- Lack of acknowledging the authority of TDC as planning body.
- Extended time dedicated to coordination with Working Groups such as FAMC, Housing and Green group.

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WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUROVIANS & NEWCOMERS

HR Initiative 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.

Receptionist & Computer Data Entry Operator
You speak English and Tamil well; French would be a plus. You have excellent communication skills, interacting with clients and our team. You are in charge of our Customer Relationship Management. You have basic accounting knowledge and you can use MS Office with ease and are willing to learn new software. Full-time, maintenance provided.

Store Keeping
You will maintain our stockroom as well as stock records meticulously. You coordinate with production and accounting. You have prior work experience and you speak Tamil and English. Full-time, maintenance provided.

Technical Sales Coordination
You will liaise with sales representatives as well as the team, formulate reports and deliver technical information data. You are solution-oriented, have a bachelor’s degree (technical, engineering or sales) and you have a minimum of 3 years work experience with deep knowledge of business distribution culture. You speak excellent English and Tamil; Hindi and French are a plus. Full-time, maintenance provided.

Management Assistance
You are creative, you are self-motivated and flexible. You assist in all aspects of running a small unit. You speak English and French well. Part-time, maybe full-time in the future, maintenance provided.
Work with Children
You enjoy working with children (2 to 8 years) and have some experience in this field, you are working from Mo-Fr 8:30-12:30, maybe also in the afternoons and Saturdays after a while. For now no maintenance provided, but maybe simple accommodation.

Marketing and Sales position in Eco Femme
Interested to join Eco Femme as a full-time member of the sales and marketing team? The responsibilities include communication with international retailers and prospects, processing international orders, meeting with visiting groups, participating in events and analysing and presenting sales data for strategy development. A maintenance will be provided.

Social Media/Communication position in Eco Femme
Eco Femme is looking for an enthusiastic full-time member to join the team. The responsibilities include managing all social media, front-end maintenance of the website, coordination of a newsletter and other communication materials. A maintenance will be provided.

Communication Officer
You boost the image of our unit and brand, you ensure compliance with the graphic brand design on all communications and media and you follow the production of all documents (brochures, flyers etc.), including engaging the various stakeholder to create relevant content. You coordinate fairs and events, you follow the implementation of product launch campaigns (Media Plan, Advertising, PR) as well as ensure monitoring and reporting of the campaigns. You are a post-graduate in Communication, Marketing or Journalism, have minimum 3 years work experience and you have excellent writing and editorial skills in English and French. You have experience producing print media and you have knowledge of computer graphic software. You have initiative and ability to manage priorities as well as attention to details. You are a solution finder and have a good sense of service and good team spirit in a multicultural team. Full-time, maintenance provided.

Web Marketing & Community Manager
You enhance the visibility of our unit online and generate adequate traffic, you will design and implement the web marketing campaigns. You write articles in English for social media campaigns and our newsletter. You have a post graduate degree in Digital Marketing, Journalism, Commerce, Marketing or Communication as well as more than three years of professional experience. You have excellent writing and editorial ability in English (fluent) and a good foundation in French (written and spoken). You are familiar with MS Office, Adobe Suite, HTML, Photoshop and Indesign, Wordpress and have experience with social media mechanisms. You have a creative mind, strong initiative, are a solution finder and eager to join a multicultural team.

And other positions (please inquire about details):
- Stitching Oversight and Quality Control
- Maintenance and Repair Management (part-time)
- System Administrator
- Project Management
- Business Developer & Strategic Marketing Design
- Project Manager
- Customer Care / Graphic Design
- Graphic Designer
- Social Media Manager (part time)
- Production Management / Tech Support
- Young Driver
- Volunteer for Women Empowerment Project
**Excellent in Finance**
**HR Initiative Volunteer**
**Secretary (Part-time administration)**
**Gardener**

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

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**BCC MEMBERSHIP AND PROCESS OF BCC MANDATE REVISION**

**BY FAMC AND AUROVILLE COUNCIL**

**Membership**

The two-week feedback process for the announced new members of the BCC has come to an end. The FAMC received very little feedback on members themselves. However, a large amount of feedback was received on the process of selection for the “community at large member.” This selection should have been done after having collected nominations from the community. The Auroville Council, RAS and FAMC recognise that omissions and delays have led to this process of community at large membership not being followed properly.

The FAMC and AVC have asked RAS to facilitate the process for community at large member nomination. The final selection will be done by the FAMC with the RAS as observers in the process.

The newly constituted BCC is comprised of Christine, Enrica, Hans, Inge R, Jacques R, Mahi, Margarita, Meena, Rathinam, and Stephanie. Until selected, it does not have the seat of the “community at large” member, who will join the new group, after the above-mentioned process is completed. The new BCC will first convene on 24th October.

**Clarification on process of BCC mandate revision**

The BCC mandate is the responsibility of the FAMC and a revised mandate was drafted by FAMC, with inputs from the existing BCC. This was passed to the Auroville Council for community feedback and integration of that feedback.

The community-approved FAMC mandate states that the FAMC should “Constitute and oversee the functioning of the Budget Coordination Committee.”

The revised BCC mandate was communicated with the community via the RAS with a call for feedback.

As, in consideration of the new FAMC mandate and overlaps with the previous BCC mandate some of the changes reflected existing practices, it was felt at the time by FAMC and the Auroville Council taking into account the urgency for both groups to work with integrity that a full approvals process (RAD) was not needed.

The following notice was given with the call for feedback:

“The feedback will be processed by the FAMC and if no significant objections are received by the end of the feedback process, the document will be deemed accepted. In the interests of transparency, all feedback will be published via the RAS channels.” There were no significant objections to this process expressed by the community.

The feedback on the BCC mandate was processed by the FAMC with the help of the Auroville Council and the existing BCC members, and the revised mandate published.

We should note that the majority of the feedback received related not to the BCC mandate but to the FAMC mandate, and it was agreed to take this into account when the FAMC mandate was next revised. This was communicated to the community by the FAMC.
We understand that this was not a full community approval process, but not all mandates which are amended go through a full Residents Assembly Decision making process at the present time.

Sincerely, FAMC and Auroville Council

NEW AUROVILIANS AND NEWCOMERS

ES # 013 Dated: 28-10-2019

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 entryservice@auroville.org.in.

NEWCOMERS ANNOUNCED:
- Anbarasan VIJAYARANGAN (Anbu) (Indian) Staying in La Ferme and Working at Isaiambalam school
- Chun Whoa LEE (Korean) Staying in Realisation and Working at PTDC & Dehashakthi

NEWCOMERS CONFIRMED:
- Amy LUCKSTED (British)
- Anupama JAGADEESH (USA)
- Saifuddin KCHARAWALA (Indian)
- Stefano CESCA (Italian)
- Tamara SIVAN BOTBOL (British)

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:
- Aditi Ramanbhai Patel (Indian) Staying in Auromode and Working at Kalakendra & Integral Health clinic
- Christel MICHIELSEN (Belgian) Staying in Kalpana and Working at Marika Home & Upcycling Studio
- Joel DE GRAAF (Dutch) Staying at Sanjana and Working at TLC, Acres for Auroville, IPK (Integral Paradigm of Knowledge)
- Margit PAL (aka Pal Ma) (Hungarian) Staying in Aspiration and Working at Aspiration programme
- Ravi MURUGESAN (Indian) Staying in Courage and Working at Auroville Research Platform
- Savithri KRISHNAMOORTHY (Indian) Staying at Kriya and Working at Housing Service

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:
- Christian GONI (Spanish)
- Sabrina SRINIVAS (Indian)
- Sakthivel EZHUMALAI (Indian)

LEFT ON HIS/HER OWN:
- Julie MOSMULLER (Dutch)

NOTE: Individuals are entered into the Register of Residents (maintained by the Auroville Foundation) shortly after filing 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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**SUNDAR, MAHESH, KIRTHIGA AND SAMICHSHA, OBITUARY**

Auroville is gradually coming to terms with the sorrow and shock of losing four of its residents.

Having come into Auroville respectively via New Creation’s and Ananda’s Fraternity Boarding, and after marriage starting out in Big Boys Boarding for some time, it was from around 2003 that Sundar and Mahesh lived as a young couple with their small children in Surya Nivas community, Auromodèle. Sundar (Sundaramoorthy Murugesan, born 1976) had originally come from Kuilyapalayam, while Mahesh (Maheshwari, born 1978) hailed from Periya Mudhaliyar Chavadi. Both felt at home in Surya Nivas, and daughters Kirthiga (born 2002) and Samichsha (born 2007) grew up with other children in the community and followed Auroville schooling with pleasure. Kirthiga had been a student at New Era Secondary School, and Samichsha attended Transition, just joining New Era in July.

Always being readily available in Surya Nivas for maintenance work, and also being an accomplished badminton player and teacher, Sundar’s main work was with Auroville’s Dental Clinic where he worked as technician, general assistant and overall handyman. While Mahesh in her younger years was an ardent basketball player, as a mother she was more reserved, meticulously taking care of her daughters’ appearance and wellbeing. For more than 20 years her day job was at Solar Kitchen, where she was one of the Aurovilians taking care of the fresh salads that needed to be prepared for the daily lunch. She is remembered as a regular, reliable worker.

Around 2011 the family built a house at the other side of Auromodèle and has been living there ever since, while continuing their lives as contributing residents and their daughters growing into lively teenagers.

Now they are no more. It was reported that there were financial problems but, whatever karma prompted their sudden demise, they will be remembered and honoured for their contribution to Auroville’s growth.

In the late afternoon of 18 October, the four bodies were buried at Auroville’s funeral grounds near Adventure with many attending. After members of their families and many close friends gave way to their grief and sorrow, a silence came down on the flower-covered graves, and prayers for our four friends could take shape and ascend with the gently flowing incense.

*Our heartfelt love and condolences go out to the parents, brothers, sisters and other family members of Sundar and Mahesh, for whom this is an unspeakable loss. May you find peace. ~OM~*
FOR THOSE WHO KNOWN SHANTA NEVILLE

Shanta Neville came to visit the Mother in December 1965 with her late husband Michael (‘Redbeard’) Neville, and two children. When Michael was given the work maintaining vehicles for the beginnings of Auroville, she used her spare time growing saplings on the terrace to plant wherever possible on the newly acquired lands. Probably none of them survived.

In 1972 Mother gave her the name Shanta, and the work of reading proofs at the Ashram press. During this time, she also dedicated her time to treating injured birds and raising abandoned fledglings, often brought to her by friends from Auroville. She also was very creative in making puppets and cloth animals.

After a long and eventful life, she passed away peacefully on the 15th of October 2019, at the age of 92.

Their daughter, Amra, takes care of the Golconde building in Pondicherry.

- submitted by Mona Doctor-Pingel

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HELPAIMALS – CLARITY ON PRICING AND SUBSIDY FOR STERILIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS

Normal pricing for sterilization by veterinaries around Auroville

The sterilization of an Indi dog costs about Rs 3000 today. This may vary a little bit from one veterinary to another. The price increases the bigger the animal is. A bigger animal needs more anesthesia, more medication, a larger cut will be needed, more stitches done etc. The sterilization of a breed dog costs between Rs 5000-6000. The operation of a male dog is simpler and thus the costs a little less than the female.

The same for the cats: Sterilization of a female cat about Rs 3000, male around Rs 2500.

On top of that, most vets charge something for home service to cover the petrol and vehicle expenditures (Rs 300 - 500).

Last year (in 2018) “Helpanimals” fundraised first in the AV community and after was able to do a good number of subsidized sterilizations on dogs/cats, often picked up strays, for Rs 1000 and less (according to circumstances). Some people also contributed more, to support us in the effort to sterilize as many animals as possible.

This year (2019) we were given a grant from FWE to sterilize dogs/cats of employees and this way we slowly extend our efforts into the surrounding villages to help to bring some stability in the cat and dog population in and around Auroville.

For sterilizations of cats and dogs (female and male) of employees there is a small registration fee of Rs 300 that contributes towards the costs of the operation and aftercare. The fee is asked before we do the actual operation in order to avoid that people call and organize the sterilization, but when the doctor comes, no one is home or the animal is not tied up and ready.

Whenever we sense that people struggle financially but are really committed to sterilize their animals, the fee can be waived.
Mirani together with Dr. Chandru have been operating some 30 animals under this scheme in the last few months.

Simultaneously Helpanimals got quite many requests from Aurovilians to sterilize their pet animals and also animals that were picked up from the road or had been dumped near their houses.

We are very pleased to see that many Aurovilians have understood the importance of sterilization. Unfortunately we could only sterilize very few animals with the little bit of left over funds from earlier fundraising efforts. For Aurovilians that need a subsidized rate, we in general asked for Rs 1000 per animal. This actually means that another Rs 2000 were added out of the fundraised monies, and this for each sterilization.

We have asked for more from people that have big, mixed-breed dogs. To keep a big dog is a costly affair and only people with adequate means can afford to keep such dogs. There has been no subsidy given for sterilizations of breed dogs.

**NOW:** we want to start our fundraising efforts again within the Auroville community and also from friends and well wishers outside of Auroville.

**Donations can be made via FS account # 252699, or via AV Unity fund, specified for Helpanimals.**

We **HOPE** to be able to restart the subsidized sterilizations of animals looked after by Aurovilians by January 2020.

In the **MEANWHILE** the veterinary Helpanimals has been working during the last months in a very satisfactory manner. Dr. Chandru is ready to come on call, not only for sterilizations but also for any need for veterinary care. When he is called and comes on his own, he will charge according to the normal standard pricing.

Dr. Chandru, phone +91 77089 74948, call, SMS, or whatsapp.

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**FINANCE & CURRICULUM DESIGN FOR LONG-TERM LEARNING PROGRAMMES**

On Feb 26-27, 2019, a two-day long Confluence was held on Re-imagining Univers-city. The focus of it was to bring momentum to higher education in Auroville as well as accelerate the growth of long-term learning programmes coming out of Auroville.

As a follow-up to the Confluence on Re-imagining Univers-city (https://confluence.auroville.org), Auroville Campus Initiative (ACI) has been holding follow up workshops to enable Aurovilians to build long-term learning programmes for youth & adults. The first Curriculum Design Workshop by Gitanjali from Himalyan Institute of Alternatives (Ladakh) was held on May 1 & 2 and the second workshop was held on 10 & 11 July.

The third workshop will be held on 26 December 2019. It will focus on "Finances, budgeting & fundraising ". It will be held at SAIIER first floor Conference Hall in Auroville - 9-12:30am & 2 - 5pm.

You may sign up for the workshop here: https://forms.gle/Vh39tW8ZJR7R8kfS6

**Please sign up by October 31 2019.**
ORTHOCARE CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK

from 09/11/2019 until 12/01/2020

For any urgent work which needs to be done before, please contact me or make your own appointment at my Ortho-Care Webpage as soon as possible.

Phone/SMS/Telegram: 9486 533 475
E-Mail: ortho.care.av@gmail.com
Web: https://ortho-care.auroville.org/
With best wishes, Markus
for Ortho-Care

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LOE / CHU RESEARCH LIBRARY CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

Our gratitude to Bharat Nivas, which has remained our temporary home for so many years...
From Monday 28th of October you will find our Specialized Library and its team, not any more within the Bharat Nivas area, but at the big building on the left after the Town Hall (just before ‘Upasana’ and opposite ‘Sve Dame’), where Lorenzo has his ‘FOOD LABORATORY’ and other research work.
As the LOE-CHU’s own quarters are yet to be built, he has very kindly invited us to use the right part of his building, which has a separate door to it, easy to find once you are inside the compound.
Our Timings: Mornings 9h to 12h am, afternoons 2h30 to 4h30 pm, except Saturday afternoon. Closed on Sunday.
(For information about the Research Section of the LOE-CHU and its activities, please come preferably on any Tuesday afternoon).
Welcome to all...!

The LOE-CHU Team

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LOOKING FOR A MATH TUITION TEACHER

Hi, Here in New Creation - Auroville child Development, we are taking care of 45 children coming from the villages of Auroville. Several of them are going to NESS school. We are looking for a Math and Science teacher who can come and help for the homework time. It can be 3/4/5 times a week, from 5 to 7 pm. We have 2 kids, one 9th standard, the other one is in 10th who are really need help and support on those topics (math and science),

If you know someone or if you thing you can help please contact me: beber@auroville.org.in or 6385635943. We are ready to give contribution for this help.

* * *

CINEMA: “UN TRADUCTOR” (A TRANSLATOR)

MULTI MEDIA CENTRE AUDITORIUM (MMC, Town Hall)

FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER – 8:00 PM

“UN TRADUCTOR” (A TRANSLATOR)
Directed by Rodrigo Barriuso & Sebastián Barriuso – CUBA, 2018

With: Rodrigo Santoro, Maricel Álvarez, Yoandra Suárez

Synopsis: Cuba, 1989. Malin is a professor of Russian literature at the University of Havana, living a comfortable life with his art-curatorial wife, Isona, and young son Javi. One day he and other department members are mysteriously relieved of their teaching duties — because, it turns out, they’re urgently needed as translators in dealing with child victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, some of whom have been flown here to relieve Soviet medical resources overburdened by the crisis. (Based on a true story, and end title notes that this program continued as late as 2011)

Original Spanish version with English subtitles – Duration: 1h.47’

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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.

Distribution: via Auronet (www.auroville.org.in), Auroville’s public website (www.auroville.org), News & Notes subscribers list, and now also in print, distributed to those who were receiving paper copies of the News & Notes.

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