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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION
This publication is done by Auronet. All contents of this publication have been already published on Auronet. This is a weekly summary of important articles and messages. This News Summary is intended to bridge the period that News & Notes are not being issued. It is posted once-weekly on Auronet (www.auroville.org.in) and on the Auroville website (www.auroville.org) on Mondays, until the News & Notes resume.

NB: Regarding events, schedules etc.: As this is a temporary publication and just a summary of main news, we regret not being able to publish all events / classes/ workshops. There may be some upcoming events at the end of this Summary; for all events please see the online events calendar, https://events.auroville.org.in/. Monthly or weekly schedules are published as attachments on Auronet and also sent by email to N&N subscribers, but do not appear in printed copies.

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FUNDS AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FAMC) REPORT AUGUST 2019

1. Summary
With the exception of Nicola who is still TOS, in August, the entire team was present, allowing for the distribution of responsibilities and needed team-building. We are aware of the ongoing tardiness of our reports. This is partly because with the lack of a full secretariat team the meeting minutes were in a backlog, and the approval of minutes of all our meetings is done through a process of consensus. As announced previously, the FAMC will hold 2 General Meetings in November on Saturday 9th and on Monday 18th at 4:30 p.m. in Unity Pavilion.

2. Economic Long Term Planning
Amendments to the Code of Conduct Together with the Working Committee it was decided that the amendments to the CoC could be jointly presented to the community in a General Meeting.

Internal Audits: Apart from an internal audit of Auromitra Trust, an audit of GST filing of 3 Trusts, selected at random, will also be taken up this year as a part of FAMC’s internal audits. The audit reports will be shared with the Trusts in question and the key learnings will be shared with all the Trusts.

Trusts restructuring A meeting with all Trustees of Auroville Trusts is proposed to put before them the proposal for Trusts restructuring and involve the Trusts in coming up with proposals.

Together with Elvira as a resource person, the FAMC started to plan the content for a facilitated workshop as this will be a meeting with approximately 70 Trustees.

Activities’ guidelines; Managers and Executives’ meeting with FAMC: As reported in the June-July report, the FAMC has initiated a conversation among the stakeholders to arrive at Activity Guidelines that would be applicable to all Trusts. In August, FAMC held a meeting with the executives of umbrella units that host activities under them. Following this meeting, it was agreed that the FAMC would meet with the Trustees and ask them to constitute a Task Group to continue working on the Activity Guidelines.

Mahalakshmi Assisted Living Home project (Health and Healing Trust): FAMC called for a joint meeting with key stakeholders to ensure responsible financial management of this project, including operation and maintenance. The meeting was attended by Mechtilde (Trustee, Health and Healing Trust), Paula (Executive of Auroville Health Services) and Sonja (Member, Housing Board). 

14th Interim News Summary, 4 November 2019
project and the conditions of occupancy were reviewed at this meeting, and FAMC clarified that the Mahalakshmi Assisted Living Home needs to register as a unit under the Health and Healing Trust.

3. Liaising with the Community and other Working Groups
   1. With L’Avenir / TDC

Building Application (BA 005 RZ): Gajendran’s house extension in Prayatna was approved.

Building Application (BA 0080 RZ): Extension of Project X by Housing was approved.

Site application for EVER workshop: Meeting with Satyavan: FAMC met with Satyavan regarding his workshop in EVER. It was decided that the actual land allocation for EVER workshop needs to be made in conjunction with TDC and a decision about the space occupied by Satyavan in Abri (the old Puncture Service area) needs to be taken after consulting with the Abri Support Group.

2. With the Land Board

FAMC welcomed the newest Land Board members Antonio, Rajavelu, and Jayendra. The new members introduced themselves and issues of mutual concern including review of potential plots for purchase were discussed.

3. With the Working Committee

Working Committee joined the FAMC’s meetings to discuss: a) The Cricket Association of Pondicherry alleging that Auromitra Trust has not used donations correctly. As the Auromitra Trust is scheduled for an internal audit, this will be included in its terms of reference. and b) The request of the Land Board for opening a bank account—Upon hearing that the bank account was for Stamp Duty as the Government office from now onwards only accepts payment via card, FAMC explained that this can be done via existing Unity Fund Bank Account and thus there was no need for the Land Board to open an external bank account. Other topics discussed included Trustee appointments, Farm Fresh closure, and a review of stewardship agreements that are to be developed with agreements that are in Auroville’s best interests.

4. With Housing Board

The Housing Board is experiencing difficult moments in the discharge of its work and reports that Housing Service members are facing intimidation and threats. We request the members of the community to approach Housing with goodwill and a fraternal spirit and they will likewise continue to do their best to discharge responsibilities to the community in the same spirit, within the mandate and policy of Housing.

Guidelines for Volunteer Housing Housing is beginning to issue contracts for housing to volunteers. FAMC, in collaboration with Housing Board, is reviewing the guidelines and contracts for the same.

5. With the BCC and BCC candidates

BCC budget The BCC budget for 2019-2020 was approved by FAMC.

BCC new membership FAMC met with the Aurovilians selected to constitute the new BCC and shared with them some of our concerns regarding the functioning of the BCC. (Based on the feedback received from the community, RAS is now asked to drive the process of selection for the “community at large member.” 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.)
The new mandate expects members to act in the best interests of Auroville as a whole and not as direct representatives acting in the interests of the groups that nominated them. Annual and bi-annual meetings with residents are expected as well as regular reporting. The FAMC presented a list of what it considers to be 10 critical issues to reflect upon. These are presented in Appendix 1: Issues for the new BCC to Consider of this report.

6. With the Auroville Council

The major topics have been:

**News & Notes** Separate announcements on this topic have been published on Auronet.

**Nandini** Jocelyn has offered to provide interim service. Separate announcements on this topic have been published on Auronet.

**Due diligence procedure for Dismissal of Aurovilians from units:** FAMC and AVC are working on guidelines to be followed when Aurovilians are asked to step down from their workplace. The ongoing difficulties at News & Notes as well as Nandini stem in part from lack of clear process and “chain of command” between Aurovilians working in units and services.

7. With the ABC and ABS

The ABC Support Group (SG) and ABS communicated to the FAMC, as well as publicly, that it has grievances related to communication, collaboration and transparency between the FAMC and the groups (ABS, ABC SG) as well as with the mandate of the FAMC (in particular regarding the selection process/the lack of working groups representatives), and the CoC (deficit of information and participation of ABS and ABC SG).

In response to the above, the FAMC planned and proposed to hold a facilitated meeting where all members of the ABC Support Group would be present. The FAMC has been asking ABC for a meeting since April end, with the condition that minimally all members of the ABC-FAMC Resource Group are present. The ABC-FAMC Resource Group was a liaison group where members of the ABC-SG and the FAMC met weekly for a year and a half. The ABC-SG unilaterally terminated this liaison group on 17th April of this year.

The FAMC also asked the ABC and the ABS to provide evidence supporting the accusations made against the FAMC regarding it being dysfunctional, so that a point by point discussion can be had. The FAMC also asked the ABC what role it thinks it has, and what relationship they would like with the FAMC vis a vis their mandate of facilitating the growth of the commercial sector. The ABC did not respond to these requests.

4. Trusts and Units

**Tanto (ABC Trust):** FAMC reviewed the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tanto, Housing, and the previous FAMC according to which Tanto, in addition to its abiding by the City Services Contribution for guesthouses was paying an additional 20% of its turnover from the houses converted into guest accommodation to Housing. As this MoU had expired, FAMC has proposed a new agreement with Tanto for a one-time contribution to Housing and another one-time contribution to the Leave Allowance Fund. A final agreement has not yet been reached between Tanto and Housing Board, at the time of this report.

**Avision (Auromics Trust)** Executive changes: FAMC issued a resolution approving the resignation of Auronevi Pingel and appointment of Jung Woo Nam as executive. The other serving executive is Alok Aurovilian. The new executives have an initial term of 3 years. The scope of the unit is “to undertake computer software and hardware development and consultancy services.”
**AV Export Trust:** Trustee appointments: FAMC and Working Committee have recommended Auroville Foundation Office to reappoint serving trustees Kathy Walkling and Jan Imhoff as well as appoint Samai Reboul as new and third Trustee of AV Export Trust.

**GNP Trust:** Re-appointment of Trustees: FAMC and Working Committee have recommended Auroville Foundation Office to reappoint Jean-Francois Sebelle and Emmanuelle Scanzian. Additionally, FAMC has requested the Trust to find a third Trustee as stipulated by the Code of Conduct.

**Auromitra Trustees:** Meeting with FAMC: FAMC met with Auromitra trustees, Paul Blanchflower and Juergen Putz to discuss a number of issues, which included the delay in the submission of the Trust’s Balance Sheet, the need for properly registering Tamil Ulagam, the need for changing their Chartered Accountant every few years as per statutory requirement from the CAG, and the complaints received by the Cricket Association of Pondicherry regarding the management of Palmyra Cricket Ground. FAMC also informed the trustees about the planned internal audit of Auromitra Trust as a non-profit trust.

**Lumiere Building:** FAMC met with the Trustees of Ankur Trust as well as Fabien, executive of Conscious Living to discuss the conditions for the possible transfer of the Lumiere Building to the unit Conscious Living. It was agreed that FAMC will facilitate a building evaluation through an independent engineer.

**Nandini:** In February 2019, the FAMC was informed by the executives (present and proposed) of Nandini that they were not willing to oversee finances and operations in the Distribution Section because of workplace friction with the managers of the Distribution Section which resulted in them having no control of this side of the service. As an interim solution, the FAMC therefore appointed an interim manager and created a temporary separation between the Distribution Section and the Tailoring Section. The FAMC hoped to diffuse the situation by asking the Aurovilians involved to step back and step down and by closing Nandini Distribution for a period, to allow stock taking and needed changes to be done. An interim manager and team has been put in place to carry out repairs and maintenances work, oversee present-day operations, replenish stock, and make recommendations on how Nandini can go back to its original vision of procuring Auroville made garments wherever possible - also by linking with Auroville garment units- and providing Aurovilians with basic clothing needs. An announcement on this topic has been made on Auronet, you can find it here: [https://auroville.org.in/article/75550](https://auroville.org.in/article/75550).

5. **Miscellaneous**

**Leaving Auroville Allowance request** Matthias, Sara, and Jeremy from Prarthana community have decided to leave Auroville. Their request for support from the Leave Auroville Allowance was approved by FAMC. We wish this young family well in their life outside of Auroville.

**Procedure for claiming TDS:** Units are requested to contact the FAMC Finance Secretary, Madhan (famcfinance@auroville.org.in) for TDS refunds. FAMC will then direct Unity Fund executive, Otto to release the refund to the unit account.

In community,

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

**Appendix 1:** **Issues for the new BCC to Consider**

1. Zero Based Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation. Last year the BCC attempted zero-based budgeting. This means evaluating activities on their past performance, and proposed needs and
merits, and not simply on what they were given last year. The main problem encountered by the BCC is that few activities have monitoring and evaluation systems in place to evaluate this. An improved method for monitoring and evaluating activities should be a priority. While the flow of money and the budget amounts are well controlled, the operations of the activities under City Services are not adequately monitored or evaluated by the BCC. This can make budgeting vulnerable to highly personalized and subjective criteria or simply basing a budget on the previous year’s budget.

2. Clarify valid expenses and monitoring process for City Service Activities. City Services is booking the accounts via Abacus Accounting. However, there is yet a clear reporting format or procedure, and there is not a system in place to evaluate the validity and reasonableness of the specific expenses, and provide feedback to activities.

3. Efficiency. There is a perception that some City Service activities are inefficient. This perception largely comes from the undisciplined opening times and office hours maintained by various activities. And also, perhaps, the feeling that Aurovilians getting a City Service maintenance do not work the requisite hours according to the maintenance given. This situation needs to be seriously addressed because it undermines the willingness to contribute to City Services, and threatens City Service’s long term viability.

4. Inclusion in the Auroville Foundation Balance Sheet. City Services currently is not included in the Auroville Foundation Consolidated Balance Sheet although it accounts for 20% of the annual budget. It may need to come under a defined structure such as a Trust.

5. Auditing. The BCC balance sheet should be audited by a Statutory auditor (CA)

6. Improving HRT. The roles, responsibilities, and operations of the Human Resource Team should be reviewed and documented. Specific issues are:

   a. The interview process for obtaining a maintenance has sometimes been criticised and should be reviewed. To be continued transparent and documented guidelines need to be established and shared

   b. Should some of the responsibilities be shifted to City Services admin team and if so which ones?

   c. There is another group of people active in Human Resources, helping to match individuals with available work and service opportunities. Is it possible to merge these different perspectives?

7. Reflect on Budgeting by Sector. The new BCC should reflect on what City Services supports overall and might want to agree on broad allocation parameters by sector in terms of current and medium term future needs.

8. Review the City Services Carrying Capacity and bring in line with Projected Resources. The carrying capacity of City Services in terms of budgets and individual maintenances should be reviewed and a medium term target (over the next 3 to 5 years) for what constitutes our needs, a realistic budget, sources of income for the same and number of maintainances that City Services can count on needs to be discussed and agreed.

9. Review maintenance system. The maintenance system should be reviewed.

Review contribution guidelines with FAMC

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SUMMARY OF THE FOLLOW-UP GM #4

Topics:
- Update by task forces on review of selection process;
- review of organization and RA revival, to explore next steps to decide the manner of choosing working group members;
- discuss changes in our organization & the revival of the Residents’ Assembly.

Participants: 90+ residents of Auroville, of whom 80 signed their names. Date & Time: 4:30 - 6:30pm, 17 October 2019 (Thursday) Venue: Bhumika Hall, Bharat Nivas

(For full article and links please visit the RAS post on Auronet and audio recording of the meeting)

Proposed Next Steps:
- FAMC and ABC, etc. to meet without pre-conceptions.
- Information shared during the GM to be shared with the community.
- All three proposals go for feedback section by section, with 3rd proposal in a separate form.
- Balu K, Martin L and Sanjeev (Mir) volunteered to look at how to present the proposals in a feedback format.

*We continue to receive proposals and will keep updating them here: Proposals and voices of the community.

~ With care,

The Residents’ Assembly Service (RAS)

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WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUROVILIANS & 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.

Teacher
You are well-organized and energetic and you like to be with children aged 1 - 3. Work timings are Monday-Friday mornings till 2 pm. You will be asked to commit for this work for a minimum of 2 years. Maintenance available.

Stock 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. You have a bachelor degree and knowledge in MS Office and Tally. Full-time, maintenance provided.

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
• HR Initiative Volunteer
• Secretary (Part-time administration)
• Gardener
• Receptionist & Computer Data Entry Operator
• Stock Keeping
• Technical Sales Coordination
• Work with Children
• Marketing and Sales position in Eco Femme
• Social Media/Communication position in Eco Femme
• Communication Officer
• Web Marketing & Community 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

NEW AUROVILIANS AND NEWCOMERS

ES # 014 Dated: 04-11-2019

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:
• Balaji SUBBARAJU (USA) Staying in Udavi School and Working at AV Consulting
• Nils JOHANSSON (Swedish) Staying in Swayam (Rohini) and Working at Restorative Auroville
• Sathya KUMAR (Indian) Staying in Adventure Community and Working at Pre Creche

NEWCOMERS CONFIRMED:
• Christopher Peter HARRISON (British)
• Chloe DE LA FONTAINE (French)
• Jin Yeo KIM (Korean)
• Rupan GAJANTHIRAN (Indian)

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:
• Harsha SHARMA (Indian) Staying in Grace and Working at Neem Tree
• Michael BENNASAR (French) Staying in Maitreye II and Working at Aurovelo
AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:

- Anastassiya LEONOVA
- Dmitriy LEONOVA
- Tania VAN AERT (Belgian)

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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COMING TOGETHER AFTER A TRAGEDY

Dear Community,

It is with deep sadness that we came to know about the death of the family of Sundaramoorthy. This is a tragedy for all of us when our Aurovilian brothers and sisters suffer in such a way, especially when it involves the death of a whole family.

We understand that debt, along with other factors, is at the heart of this tragedy, and we realise that this affects many people in Auroville and throughout the world. It is an issue which Auroville needs to address, obviously with some urgency. The Auroville Council will be therefore consulting on how it may look into the issue of debt, and its effect on us all, and what Auroville can do as a community to address the issue, with counselling, with help and advice, with a view to the Mothers guidance for Auroville.

If anyone would like to help us with this task, we would be pleased to welcome them. Please write to the Council - avcouncil@auroville.org.in

The Auroville Council offers its deep condolences to the friends and relatives of Sundar, Mahesh, Kirthiga, Samichsha and wish the family well for their onward journeys.

Warmly,
Auroville Council

SHORT REPORT ON FILM FESTIVAL IN AUROVILLE

Aurofilm & Cinema Paradiso hosted the second film festival called “PIFF - Pondicherry International Film Festival” last September. Promoted by a Delhi based company, “Pickurflick - Curated Indie Cinema”. We are pleased to report and share that it was much better than last year in terms of selection of films, participation of renowned film directors including actors, who with great generosity, passion and joy shared with the audience about the making of their films and interesting
anecdotes. All responded in the same way to the questions and concerns of the spectators in the Q&A sessions held in the MMC Auditorium at Town Hall.

We hope next year can be even better and more Aurovilians can attend!

Aurofilm and Cinema Paradiso teams

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**NANDINI DISTRIBUTION SECTION OPENING**

Dear Community,

This is to announce that the Nandini Distribution Section located next to PTDC and Free Store has re-opened on Saturday, 2nd November 2019.

All are kindly invited to pass by to see the renovated location and meet the new team.

FAMC

**TRANSPORTATION DURING THE MONSOON SEASON**

We understand that moving around in Auroville during the monsoon season can be a hassle. ITS is here to help. Whether you need to get to work, drop your kids to school or pick up groceries, ITS has a safe, dry, eco-friendly solution for you. Our electric vans can seat up to 6-7 adults and is ideal for the monsoon season.

To find out how ITS can support your transportation needs in an eco-friendly way, please visit us at our office opposite Solar Kitchen. We are open from 9AM to 5PM.

You can also write to us - its@auroville.org.in or call us on any of these numbers +91 8098776644 | +91 9442566256

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**HELPANIMALS - FUNDRAISING**

We are very pleased and encouraged by the recent increase in requests to sterilize dogs and cats looked after by Aurovilians. For us this means that more and more people have understood that the dog/cat challenge can only be managed by us all working on it actively, and together.

For some people it is difficult to personally pay for the entire costs of operations and after care.

We therefore appeal to all who care and can support this cause to please contribute and donate towards sterilizing more animals in Auroville.

This can be done via FS # 252699 or AV Unity Fund, please specify for Helpanimals.

Thank you very much!

Enrica, Mita, Mirani, Mirrabelle, Eva, Susan P., Shivaya

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AUROVILLE ART CAMP 2020 – APPLICATIONS INVITED

Dear artists,
Applications for the Auroville Art Camp 2020 will be closing on November 15th. Apply now!
aurovilleartcamp@gmail.com

AUROVILLE.COM IS LOOKING FOR A NEW TEAM MEMBER

Dear Friends,
We (the Auroville Online Store team members) are on the lookout for a full-time member (45 hour work week) to our team. Are you interested in building something together with commitment and drive? Then we are the right place. The Auroville Online Store has the spirit of a start up to spread products of Auroville globally. Aurovilians, Newcomers and Volunteers (a commitment of 6 months is required) are welcome. Full maintenance available. Position available immediately. Excellent spoken and written English is a must.

If interested please contact Luise 0413-2622069 or networking@auroville.com.

Thank you!

GOYO, KOREAN SILENT RESTAURANT CLOSED NEXT WEEK (TUE/THUR/SAT)

Dear friends,

Goyo, Korean silent restaurant in Luminosity, will be closed next week (Tue/Thur/Sat). Open on November 12th (Tue), afterwards regularly Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. For booking 9489693809 by SMS and goyo@auroville.org.in a day in advance. Looking forward to accomodating you in Goyo with healthy vegetarian homemade Korean food and beautiful ambience.

Peace, Goyo team

PHOTO EXHIBITION

‘Psychiatric traditional therapy villages in Senegal’

Photos: Francine Finck / Text: Marie Odile Thomann

Centre d’Art Citadines, 2 – 22 November; daily 2.30pm-5pm. Closed on Sunday

- all are invited –
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: Online 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