Greetings from the Bharat Nivas team!

We are happy to introduce to you our very own newsletter, through which we hope to share with the community, news about the activities in our various sub-centers, let you know about our plans and make announcements of interest and relevance.

Bharat Nivas is in the process of undergoing many changes. First, there is much developmental work both in the completion of buildings and in the upgradation of infrastructure.

The coordination of this large campus with its many centres of concentration and variety of activities is also in the process of being rationalised.

In the next issues of the newsletter, we shall bring you many of these details. In this first issue, we have decided to introduce you to the myriad activities that have taken place in the previous year (2016-17) through the photo essay that follows.

Sri Aurobindo Auditorium

This is Auroville's largest indoor performance space with wooden flooring, excellent acoustics, lights and a seating capacity of 580.

The Madras Players interpreted Thanneer Thanneer, the famous play written by Komal Swaminathan which revolves around the shortage of water in a village, its social implications and collective resolutions. The Lt. Governor of Pondicherry was the Chief Guest. The play ended with a rich interactive dialogue between the artistes and the audience.

Sambhavami Yuge Yuge, a Dance interpreting texts from the Bhagavad Gita, produced and performed by Devasmita and group.

An Odissi Dance performance by Kanchana and her students.

Footprint, A Danish production inspired by the story of Siddhartha’s journey towards enlightenment. Choreographed by Birgitte Bauer-Nilson, and performed by contemporary dancers from India and Europe to music and movement exploring both cultures.
Kala Kendra

This circular building at the far end of the campus houses an exhibition space, Gallery Square Circle and studios for resident artists.

A four-day Textile Workshop (tie & dye and block printing) offered by Darpana Academy, Ahmedabad attended by students, teachers, Aurovilians and guests.

Litter Free Auroville, a week-long event with upcycling workshops, talks and discussions, an exhibition about waste and its management, and a trashion show, organised by Wasteless and Upcycle Studio.

Saravana, a self-taught metal sculptor from Pondicherry, as an artist-in-residence at Kala Kendra made incredible pieces of art on the theme of Seed and God. His seed sculpture installation, which he created using palm seeds collected from across the campus, won a National Award from the Lalit Kala Academy and is currently in the Delhi Museum. “I am grateful to Kala Kendra for giving me these beautiful natural surroundings, which have helped me bring out the best in me!” says Saravana.

Sri Aurobindo Centre For Studies

Sri Aurobindo Center for Studies (Bhavishyate), has a multi-purpose hall and library which houses an eclectic collection of books on Indian philosophy, arts and culture.

Screening of Indian documentaries, India Sessions on Current Affairs, and Integral Psychology study circle were weekly sessions at the Centre.

An Experiment in Integral Living / Introduction to Auroville, a two-week seminar organised for the visiting scholars of the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS), USA.
India Space

This expansive pillared hall which houses a permanent exhibition of panels and holds impromptu events is also where the Administrative Offices are located.

Contemporary Dance by Paulo on Auroville’s Birthday

Exhibition of panels on Indian Art and Culture.

Origami workshops led by Tomoko in collaboration with the Japanese Pavilion group were held one Friday afternoon a month.

Sri Aurobindo World Centre For Human Unity (SAWCHU)

This roofed circular open hall at the entrance of Bharat Nivas with tiers of seats that surround it, hosts meetings, performances, celebrations, rehearsals and regular weekly classes in music, dance and theatre.

Garba dance during Navaratri Festival in which the entire community participated.

A week-long Tango Dance Festival, with students and teachers from across the country and other parts of the world.

Tamil New Year Celebration organised by Tamil Heritage Centre

An Odissi Dance performance as part of the ‘Feminin Festival’ by Rekha Tandon and her students

Hospitality

Atithi Griha Guest House hosts visitors, students and performing artistes. Sunday special lunches from different regional Indian cuisines are offered to Aurovilians.

Annam Restaurant offers daily South Indian meals for lunch.

Swagatham Guest House hosts dignitaries and other guests.
Diwali Celebration
The whole campus was beautifully lit with diyas and serial lights, and decorated with flowers and colourful kolams. There were tasty Indian snacks and many smiles amidst the fire crackers. Aurovilians, guests and friends were greeted at the entrance gate with sweets and flowers. An evening cultural programme offered by Auroville children at SAWCHU was appreciated by all.

Vedic Chanting
sessions and classes by Yogavahini (a Yoga School in Chennai following Shri Krishnamachari tradition) organised in SAWCHU, Kala Kendra and under the Pipal Tree.

Every sixth Sunday, Bharat Nivas had the members of the larger community participate in Campus Cleaning.

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