On 30th March, 1914 - the day after The Mother first met Sri Aurobindo - She wrote in Her diary:

..."It matters little that there are thousands of beings plunged in the densest ignorance, He whom we saw yesterday is on earth; his presence is enough to prove that a day will come when darkness shall be transformed into light, and Thy reign shall be indeed established upon earth."... OM Shanti!
(Then Mother returns to the previous conversation about materializations, and Satprem’s note in which he asked, “But Savitri goes into death in search of Satyavan… so Mother is going to bring back Sri Aurobindo?”)

Mother: I’ve received your note … But you know that Sri Aurobindo said he wanted to come back on the earth only in a superhuman body… a supramental body. (For a long time Mother at times confused “superhuman” with “supramental,” but she clearly means the latter and not the former.) A host of problems have instantly arisen …. You see, there’s a considerable difference between human life and animal life, and there will be a considerable difference between superhuman life and human life (supramental life and human life). But then, IN WHAT SENSE?… Take wholly… practical things: Will they have houses? How will they live?… We can conceive that food will no longer be needed, that there will be another method of sustenance, but…

Satprem: No need of houses!
M: Individual life or collective life? A constructed house, or a… spontaneous house?
S: They don’t need houses, they draw back within!
M: You think they can make themselves invisible?
S: Yes, they can draw back within.
M: Ah, that’s what came to me, but I don’t…
S: They draw back, and then project themselves, like this [gesture of contraction and expansion].
(Mother approves and “looks”). That’s what came to me. (Laughing) It was even… it didn’t come as thought at all, it came as FACT - A Sri Aurobindo who becomes visible, whom you can hear... and then (Mother laughs), who disappears! That’s wonderful, mon petit! It would be wonderful. (Mother smiles and keeps looking) A number of things would have the power to be visible or invisible: to appear just when there’s a reason for them to, and to disappear when they no longer need to be there …. It opens up magnificent horizons!

S: Yes, but it’s already like that in the subtle physical.
M: Yes-yes, but…
S: Basically, it’s the screen between life and what people call “death” that must... disappear. Because when I say that those beings “draw back within,” well, to us they become “dead,” you understand? To human beings, it means they’re dead. So in fact, there would have to be a passage.
M: No, no! Because there remains a body you destroy or bury.
S: Yes, but with this supramental being, in fact no “body” remains: he interiorizes (meaning that to humans he becomes “dead”), or exteriorizes, meaning that to human beings he becomes alive, going from one state to the other at will.
M: But that’s my whole experience, that it’s not true, there isn’t “life and death.”
S: Well, yes, precisely! There’s no such thing. But there’s still a veil or a screen between the two states.
M: But it’s NOW still like that - we can foresee a time when the screen is gone.
S: Yes! So then, when it’s gone, Sri Aurobindo will be able to go from one state to the other.
M: Oh, that, he would constantly be there, he would constantly appear.
S: How to pull down the screen? M: Ah!… S: How to go from one to the other?
M: We’ll see that. It opens up… a whole field of experience. (Mother remains “looking” for a long time, then suddenly looks very amused) I’ve just had a vision… of what a life will be like in which beings of the supramental will mingle with physical life… It will be… You know, for three quarters of humanity, it will be a terrible panic! Someone appears all of a sudden (Mother laughs), and just when you want to say something to him, ploff! nobody there! You can picture that .... The brigand about to do his mischief, someone appears... and just when he wants to defend himself, poff! (Mother laughs) nobody there. A tre-men-dous means of action! So basically, later on when this life is established, it’s only the untransformable residue that will… really be death. And that will go on decreasing. We’ll SEE! (Mother laughs) I have a feeling that doors have opened. (Mother gazes at the future)

Volume 10. 1969: Agenda of the Supramental Action Upon Earth

P.S. There’s a new HOMA page on the Auroville website: https://www.auroville.org/contents/1085

The Ponder Corner

“it is this faith that you need to develop - a faith which is in accordance with reason and common sense - that if the Divine exists and has called you to the Path, (as is evident), then there must be a Divine Guidance behind and through, and in spite of all difficulties, you will arrive.”

-Sri Aurobindo
Letters on Yoga, p.520

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1. Offices of the Government of India, its Autonomous/ Subordinate Offices and Public Corporations shall remain closed. Exceptions:
   - Defence, central armed police forces, treasury, public utilities (including petroleum, CNG, LPG, PNG), disaster management, power generation and transmission units, post offices, National Informatics Centre, Early Warning Agencies

2. Offices of the State/ Union Territory Governments, their Autonomous Bodies, Corporations, etc. shall remain closed. Exceptions:
   a. Police, home guards, civil defence, fire and emergency services, disaster management, and prisons.
   b. District administration and Treasury
   c. Electricity, water, sanitation
   d. Municipal bodies—Only staff required for essential services like sanitation, personnel related to water supply etc

The above offices (SL No 1 & 2) should work with minimum number of employees. All other offices may continue to work-from-home only.

3. Hospitals and all related medical establishments, including their manufacturing and distribution units, both in public and private sector, such as dispensaries, chemist and medical equipment shops, laboratories, clinics, nursing homes, ambulance etc. will continue to remain functional. The transportation for all medical personnel, nurses, para-medical staff, other hospital support services be permitted.

4. Commercial and private establishments shall be closed down. Exceptions:
   a. Shops, including ration shops (under PDS), dealing with food, groceries, fruits and vegetables, dairy and milk booths, meat and fish, animal fodder. However, district authorities may encourage and facilitate home delivery to minimize the movement of individuals outside their homes.
   b. Banks, insurance offices, and ATMs.
   c. Print and electronic media
   d. Telecommunications, internet services, broadcasting and cable services. IT and IT enabled Services only (for essential services) and as far as possible to work from home.
   e. Delivery of all essential goods including food, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment through E-commerce.
   f. Petrol pumps, LPG, Petroleum and gas retail and storage outlets.
   g. Power generation, transmission and distribution units and services.
   h. Capital and debt market services as notified by the Securities and Exchange Board of India
   i. Cold storage and warehousing services.
   j. Private security services

All other establishments may work-from-home only.

5. Industrial Establishments will remain closed. Exceptions:
   a. Manufacturing units of essential commodities.
   b. Production units, which require continuous process, after obtaining required permission from the State Government

6. All transport services — air, rail, roadways — will remain suspended. Exceptions:
   a. Transportation for essential goods only.
   b. Fire, law and order and emergency services.

7. Hospitality Services to remain suspended Exceptions:
   a. Hotels, homestays, lodges and motels, which are accommodating tourists and persons stranded due to lockdown, medical and emergency staff, air and sea crew.
   b. Establishments used/ earmarked for quarantine facilities.

8. All educational, training, research, coaching institutions etc. shall remain closed.

9. All places of worship shall be closed for public. No religious congregations will be permitted, without any exception.

10. All social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions / gatherings shall be barred.

11. In case of funerals, congregation of not more than twenty persons will be permitted.

12. All persons who have arrived into India after 15.02.2020, and all such persons who have been directed by health care personnel to remain under strict home/ institutional quarantine for a period as decided by local Health Authorities, failing which they will be liable to legal action under Sec. 188 of the IPC.

13. Wherever exceptions to above containment measures have been allowed, the organisations/employers must ensure necessary precautions against COVID-19 virus, as well as social distance measures, as advised by the Health Department from time to time.

14. In order to implement these containment measures, the District Magistrate will deploy Executive Magistrates as Incident Commanders in the respective local jurisdictions. The Incident Commander will be responsible for the overall implementation of these measures in their respective jurisdictions. All other line department officials in the specified area will work under the directions of such incident commander. The Incident Commander will issue passes for enabling essential movements as explained.

15. All enforcing authorities to note that these strict restrictions fundamentally relate to movement of people, but not to that of essential goods.

16. The Incident Commanders will in particular ensure that all efforts for mobilisation of resources, workers and material for augmentation and expansion of hospital infrastructure shall continue without any hindrance.

17. Any person violating these containment measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Sec. 188 of the IPC.
Auroville food supply outlets (PTDC, PTPS, HERS, Foodlink) and health services are expected to remain open; eateries can only be open for takeaway and delivery. The Solar Kitchen will continue to provide tiffin service! La Terrace is fully closed.

Please respect the precautionary measures, such as social distancing of 1 meter or 3 feet. They may introduce time slots. These premises will need to be cleaned and disinfected three times a day.

Medical facilities and the pharmacy will continue to operate. Units manufacturing essential commodities are allowed to function with minimal workforce and necessary precautions.

Food production units will remain open for internal consumption. Farms will continue to function. [no longer sure about this one] The Financial Service will remain open mornings from 09.00 to 12.30.

Other shops, commercial complexes and workshops will be closed.

All construction work except essential projects will be halted. No new construction can start. Only emergency repairs can be done. Workers must be remunerated for these days.

Matrimandir inner chamber is open ONLY FOR AUROVILIANS AND NEWCOMERS from 6-7 AM & 7 - 9PM.

Any congregation of more than five persons in public places is prohibited.

Those who have been asked by the screening centre at Sante to self-quarantine and those who have come to Auroville after March 1st are expected to strictly adhere to the requirements of self-quarantine. These people are asked to contact the covid19 task force at covid19taskforce@auroville.org.in to register themselves. The Task Force will render assistance as required. Those who have come in contact with people who have come to Auroville after March 1st should get themselves screened at Sante in case they show symptoms. Please note that we have been informed by the government officials that those who do not follow these rules may suffer consequences.

As per recommendations by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the advisory from the Regional P.F Commission - All Units and Individuals are advised and requested to send their employees on paid leave from Tuesday the 24th of March until Tuesday the 31st of March, 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic. Any violations reported to the Department of Labour attracts a hefty fine and cancellation of license. SEWA requests all the concerned Units and Individuals to abide by the advisory and support the efforts taken by the Government on its fight against the Covid-19 Pandemic. For any further information or clarification, please contact the Central Helpline Number for Corona-virus: +91-11-23978046 - Tamil Nadu 044-29510500

Covid-19 Task Force - The Working Committee has formed a task force to help and support the community in the coming weeks. Depending on the tasks at hand, smaller subgroups may be formed in the future, for which we will be needing volunteers. Members of this team will be contacting community members with recent travel history or those in the most vulnerable age categories (e.g. 0-10; 60+ years). If you are asked to self-quarantine yourself due to recent travel history or any minor symptoms, please make sure you are strictly following the instructions. We will keep the community informed about any further developments. We are living in difficult times and things are changing on a daily basis and therefore we request your full collaboration and support. You can reach us by sending an email to covid19taskforce@auroville.org.in or WhatsApp us at +91-9047778755 (Arul). Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Auroville safe. At Her service, Covid19 Task Force, (Angela R, Arul, Induja, Prashant & Sudipta)

Call for volunteers! As you all are well aware, we are responding to an unprecedented emergency arising from the Corona Virus outbreak, and as a community, we are doing our best to deal with it. This will require that we all work as a team and therefore we are making a call for volunteers. We are aware that social distancing is currently the most effective method to arrest the spread of the Corona Virus, but we are also aware that some basic tasks need to continue to ensure that the basic needs of people are met. If you would like to volunteer and help please contact us. Thanks in advance for your collaboration and willingness to help. You can reach us by sending an email to covid19taskforce@auroville.org.in or WhatsApp us at +91-9047778755 (Arul).

Government rules and guidelines keep changing and we are all doing our best to implement them. Please click this link for further information: Santé Updates re: Coronavirus situation. This information is also accessible on Auronet and on the Santé website. At the moment, all medical services at Sante are restricted to acute cases or emergencies only. All other patients, including those with prior appointments are asked to first call Santé at (0413) 2622803 to confirm if Santé is able to receive you before leaving home.

Please don’t receive any visitors from outside the Auroville area until further notice! If you have friends or family already staying with you, please ensure that they are registered with the guest services. It is extremely important that we know of every person that is staying in Auroville, including in private residences. If they arrived from abroad or affected parts of India within the last 2 weeks, please ensure that they stay in home isolation and not move around, even within Auroville, until they have been symptom free for 14 days from the time of arrival.


From the AVHC Pharmacy: Due to the intensified purchases prompted by Covid19, the Pharmacy will close at 5pm on weekdays and 4.30pm on Saturdays for the next few weeks, in order to keep up with purchases, orders and records. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Auroville Public Bus service to Pondy is suspended until at least the 31st March. We will update you for April when we can. The printed editions of the News and Notes are suspended for the time being, as no one can pick them up in Pondy. We’ll print again once the road opens.

From the press release re: the Prime Minister’s speech on 19th March: “Prime Minister also urged the business community and higher income groups to look after the economic needs of those from lower income groups, from whom they take various services, urging them not to cut their salary on the days they are unable to render the services due to inability to come to the workplace. He stressed on the importance of humanity during such times”.

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Precautions to be taken by all food providers.
- Gloves and masks to be used by all those who are involved in food preparation.
- All restaurant serving staff to be wearing masks.
- Only clients to be served who have an Auroville account and Aurocard and volunteer card holders.
- Do not operate cell phones in the workspace.
- Pens and other public use items to be avoided or cleaned with alcohol regularly.
- Ensure additional cleaning (water and soap or alcohol) of all surface areas, utensils and equipment.
- Regular checks on the health condition of the staff.

Precautions to be taken by all Auroville residents
a. Please note that hoarding of food and household items is not necessary. There is sufficient stock for all.
b. Two weeks home isolation (self-quarantine) for those who recently returned from abroad or Covid-19 affected areas of India.
c. Clean cell phones regularly with alcohol swabs.
d. Avoid pens and other items that are used by the general public.
e. Keep the throat wet.
f. Masks: The health service providers will be publishing a separate announcement with medical precautions and instructions on the proper use of masks and when they are needed. Tailoring units are making cloth masks, which will be available at PTDC. Further updates will be posted.

6. Any deterioration in health, especially breathing difficulties, will require an immediate admission to hospital in Pondicherry. The patient should ring the AV ambulance service on the number below.
7. You may visit https://sante.auroville.org.in/additional-resources/ for more information including ways to boost immunity.

Contact Numbers: AV Health Centre: (0413) 2622803  AV Health Services: (0413)4036954  Santé: (0413) 2622803  AV Ambulance: (+91) 94422 24680  National Helpline: 011-23978046  National advice email: n cov2019@gmail.com

From AV Health Center - Covid-19 recommendation: Serious undesirable events connected to the use of non-steroidal anti-infl ammatory medicine have been reported in patients affected by COVID19, confirmed or possible cases. We remind that the treatment of a poorly tolerated fever or pain in the COVID19 context or for any other respiratory viruses, rely on Paracetamol, with a maximum of 60mg/kg/day and with a maximum of 3g/day. Anti-infl ammatory NSAID (Buprofen, Ketoprofen, Diclofenac, etc.) must be banned! On the other hand, patients taking steroids or any other immunosuppressive for chronic pathology, should not stop their medication, unless otherwise specifi ed by the doctor following their pathology.

From SANTÉ: For alternative treatments for flu-like symptoms: https://auroville.org.in/article/78231

In light of the Coronavirus situation, Santé will only be receiving Aurovilians, volunteers and registered guests (with an Aurocard). No cash transactions will be taken. All contact therapies (shiatsu, physiotherapy and massage) will be suspended till a later date. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. Our doctors are available as usual and therapies i

Joint advice from AV Health Centre Pharmacy and Sante - How to use a mask safely to protect yourself and others
Before putting on a mask, clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
1. Cover mouth and nose with mask and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.
2. Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
3. Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp and do not re-use single-use masks.
4. To remove the mask: remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin; clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

How to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus

| Do | 
|---|---|
| ✔️ | wash your hands with soap and water often - do this for at least 20 seconds |
| ✔️ | always wash your hands when you get home or into work |
| ✔️ | use hand sanitizer gel if soap and water are not available |
| ✔️ | cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze |
| ✔️ | put used tissues in a closed bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards. Treat the disposed tissues as sanitary waste. |
| ✔️ | try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell |
| Don’t | touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean |

See these links to other websites for more information. FAQ WHO; Putting things in Perspective
Tiffin Service from Visitors Centre Cafeteria - The Visitors Centre Cafeteria is offering an extended Tiffin service provided you bring your own tiffin with your name and community written on it. For people in need of home delivery, we will coordinate with Auroville Health Services. The VC Cafeteria will publish its weekly menu of items available for the Take Away Tiffin service on Auronet. Orders for this service will need to reach us daily before 10am either through email or together with the tiffins.

Auroville Bakery has a sales counter at Solar Kitchen campus next to Nandini. We are closed in the Douceur area until further notice. You can get Light Bread, Sesame Bread, Multigrain Bread, Emmer Bread and Buns & Artisan Baguette and Artisan Sourdough. Other items (including full cakes) available by ordering one day before. At PTPS you can get Light Bread & Sesame Bread. At HERS you can get Light Bread, Sesame Bread, Multigrain Bread & Emmer Bread.  
Stay safe and healthy!

From: FoodLink: avbakery@auroville.org.in; ph: 0413 2622159, cell: 9443647530

List of Closures (partial - obvious at this point that most things are closed/postponed)
- All Schools, Auditoriums, Performance/Workshop Venues, Gyms, Pools  
- ACUR Canteen  
- Aurodent  
- Auromode Yoga Space  
- Auroville Art Service  
- AV Bakery & Café  
- AV Budakan/DehaShakti Gym  
- AV Bus Service  
- Auroville Language Lab  
- AV Radio office  
- AV Vehicle Service  
- Bread and Chocolate  
- Butterfly Barn  
- Children’s Library  
- Cinema Paradiso  
- Cripa  
- Cycle Kiosk  
- Delicious Bites restaurant  
- EcoService  
- Entry Service/Aspiration Team  
- Free Store  
- Goyo Korean Restaurant  
- Graphics section (TH)  
- Housing Service  
- La Piscine  
- Marc’s Café  
- Mattram  
- Miniature  
- Naturellement/Garden Café (except take out)  
- OrthoCare  
- Pitanga  
- PTDC lunch counter  
- Quiet  
- Rena (haircutting)  
- Residents Service  
- Sakura Sushi  
- SEWA  
- Sri Ma  
- Tai Chi Hall  
- Tanto (AV)  
- Town Hall  
- Verite  
- Well Café  
- Youth Centre

ADVISORY: TRAVEL AND VISA RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19 - [obviously outdated parts have been omitted. We will have to see what the restrictions are when and if entry into India is again allowed]

1. All passenger flights are now suspended, including domestic, until at least til the end of the month!
2. The earlier visa restrictions, as mentioned below, shall also remain in force;
   i. All existing visas issued to nationals of any country except those issued to Diplomats, Official passport holders, those in UN / International organizations, those on Employment, Project visas and those who are operating aircrew of scheduled commercial airlines, and who had not yet entered India, stand suspended w.e.f. 1200 GMT on March 13, 2020 till April 15, 2020.
   ii. Visas of all foreign nationals already in India remain valid. They may contact the nearest FRRO/FRC to travel to India for compelling reasons may contact the nearest FRRO/FRC
   iii. Visa free travel facility granted to OCI card holders who are not in India presently, has been kept in abeyance till April 15, 2020. This has come into effect from 1200 GMT on March 13, 2020 at the port of departure of any foreigner for onward journey to India.
   iv. Any foreign national (including OCI cardholder) who intends to travel to India for compelling reasons may contact the nearest Indian Mission for fresh visa.
   v. International traffic through land borders will be restricted to designated Immigration Check posts that have been notified by MHA vide O.M. No.25022/12/2017-Imm dated March 14, 2020.
   vii. All incoming international passengers returning to India should self-monitor their health and follow required do’s and don’ts as detailed by the Government.
   viii. International traffic through land borders will be restricted to designated check posts with robust screening facilities. These have been notified separately by Ministry of Home Affairs.
   ix. All international passengers entering into India are required to furnish duly filled self-declaration form in duplicate (including personal particulars i.e. phone no. and address in India) (as annexed) to Health Officials and Immigration officials and undergo Universal Health Screening at the designated health counters at all Points of Entry.
   x. For any queries related to health, people may contact Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 24*7 helpline number (+91-11-23978046) or email at noc2019@gmail.com. FAQs on new visa restrictions COVID-19 

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Collaboration with Koodam - Thanks to workshops held by Koodam, many more facilitators have been trained and are available to help with holding meetings and workshops. This is a great help for the Council. Presently we are looking together at new ways of collaboration.

Work completed or in progress:

Selection Process - After seeing that the new proposals designed by the Task Forces on the manner to select new members for Working groups were not yet complete, the WCom and Council together agreed to propose to the community an amended Selection Process with reference to the existing Participatory Working Group SP. The new proposal was shared with the community during a GM, where the feedback was noted and incorporated. The GM was followed by a call for an emergency RAD (Residents Assembly Decision Making Process) by the Working Committee. https://auroville.org.in/article/76813

RAD on the Selection Process - After the due process, the result of the RAD was to continue with the amended Selection Process. The new members will be in place until the community approves a new process for the selection of the working groups.

Clearance Panel/ Clearance Panel GM

The Community approved the creation of a Clearance Panel in 2018 with the purpose of reviewing and clearing those who had received significant negative feedback during earlier selection processes. The Intention was to review its work after one year. The Clearance Panel was established in April 2019 and the 7 members initiated their work. The members worked on basic guidelines and values, and a procedure to be followed for clearance, but discovered that even if it was possible for them to review the feedback on an individual and establish a fact-based report, they found themselves unable to officially and responsibly “clear” people in the name of the community.

A report on their experience and challenges was made by the members of the Clearance Panel and presented to the Community in a GM in December 2019. In their report and in the General Meeting, they proposed instead to function as a Review Panel to establish an official record with all the facts in regard to the situations and the individuals receiving negative feedback. This record would then be available and accessible by the community, for it to decide on any outcome (see the CP written report). The report and recommendations are under review by the Council. Here is the link to the Clearance Panel report for your reference: https://auroville.org.in/article/77031

News & Notes - The decision of FAMC to ask Sabine to step down from her position as editor of the weekly News & Notes was questioned and challenged by Sabine through an appeal process. After due process the appeal body came to the conclusion that the decision of FAMC should stand. See update to the community: https://auroville.org.in/article/77179

BCC community at large member - A meeting of all the community members who had offered to be community at large members for the BCC, with Council members and a facilitator was held on Wednesday the 11th of December 2019. Following a process whereby the competence, time commitment, understanding of the community and personality were assessed against the defined requirements, 3 people were subsequently recommended to FAMC for final selection. After due process the FAMC selected Anneeta Pathak as community at large representative for the BCC from the three names proposed to them by the Council. The Auroville Council thanks all those who put their names forward for this important work.

Housing Board - As the term of Housing Board member representing the Community at large has come to end, the AVC, with the help of the RAS, made a call to the community. The call was extended for an additional week to encourage more participation. The RAS passed the compiled list of candidates to the AVC and they were all invited for a meeting to introduce themselves and their time commitment. After a due process, similar in nature to the process for the BCC members, the AVC recommended four names to the FAMC for their final selection of two representatives of the community for the Housing Board.

Ongoing Conflicts at Matrimandir and follow up - The Auroville Council has closely followed the issues surrounding conflicts at Matrimandir, in particular concerning an incident regarding a composting shed being constructed to serve the Matrimandir Gardens. The Council noted that the issues were deep seated within the Executive team and Coordinators, and could not be quickly resolved. The Council’s first action was to initiate a Restorative Circle, with an attempt to bring the various parties together to hear each other and find a resolution. Unfortunately, the RC was not well attended, and several of those largely concerned with the incident did not attend. However, some follow up actions were agreed upon and further meetings planned, both with the Executives and Coordinators. It has proven difficult to bring the required members together to agree on a process to move forward. In the meantime two of the Executives have resigned leaving vacancies in the team. The Council and Working Committee are therefore working on a strategy to bring the team together with new members and introduce processes to work on team dynamics, both within the Executive team and along with the larger team of Coordinators. Following the recent GM, there are plans to consult further with the community on these issues. For those interested please see the following links: https://auroville.org.in/article/76069 https://auroville.org.in/article/76567

African Pavilion - The new core team, after some initial challenges, has taken up the work. They are concentrating on cultural and other events, most of them directly linked with African culture. The new hostel, financed through funds from the 50th Celebrations, is up and running. They have reviewed the accounting procedures that are now more transparent and in full compliance with Auroville’s financial guidelines. The reception and registration of the guests is properly functioning and streamlined. In order to complete all the tasks efficiently, they decided that the Safari Camp site would stay closed for this year’s guest season and only be opened when they can take full responsibility for it.

Conflicts - Ranjith - Naveen - A conflict between Ranjith and Naveen (including a group of Youth) has been resolved in a respectful manner. We thank both parties for this. https://auroville.org.in/article/76310

Appeals:

Nandini - Anne appealed the decision of the FAMC. As a first step of the appeal process, a meeting between FAMC representatives and Anne, with the presence of a support person, was facilitated by Koodam. The Council initiated a dialogue with both parties, Anne and the FAMC to better understand the scope of the Appeal. The FAMC communicated that a final decision on Nandini executives had not been reached yet. The Council repeatedly requested the FAMC to expedite the decision on Nandini in order to minimize the impact of the current unclarity on the Service and on the individuals involved. Recently the FAMC have reassured the Council that a final decision about Nandini will be taken soon. In order to deal with a delayed decision, they have considered, but it has been decided to allow the FAMC reasonable time to come to their decision despite the clear impacts on those involved. The Council has therefore decided to pause the Nandini Appeal until there is more clarity from the FAMC. We regret any inconvenience either to the community or the individuals who have been working in the service.

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TDC - The AVC has received several appeal requests against L’Avenir decisions about site applications. This is a work in progress.

Land Board - Council representatives together with the Wcom have been called to a series of three meetings. The Council is supportive of the Land Board’s efforts to establish full clarity and transparency on old land issues and slowly tackle them in an appropriate manner.

**Mandates and Policies:**

**Child Protection Services (CPS)** - The AVC initiated a sub-group of resource people to revise the Child Protection guidelines and to establish a new Child Support team. This group has been working over some months, including presentations to the Council and Wcom and the holding of child protection workshop, and are almost ready to share their outcome with the community.

**Challenging Cases**

Together with Koodam and the Wcom, the AVC is holding a series of meetings with resource people in the community on how to create a network and organise most efficiently the help needed for difficult cases. The intention is to establish something like a Social Services node. This is a work in progress.

**Support network for Aurovilians with Financial issues** - The Council has held a few meetings with people in the community that volunteered to look into underlying reasons and issues that led to the tragic loss of an entire family. Accumulated debts are often linked with payment of high interest loans which is one of the root causes. In regard to unregulated Chit Funds and loans at high interest, as unfortunately despite the fact of being illegal in India, these practices are widespread in Auroville and in the bioregion. The Wcom and the AVC have issued a strong message on this issue: [https://auroville.org.in/article/77333](https://auroville.org.in/article/77333). The Council together with resource people is putting together a team that will hold presentations at various venues on debt management, on the consequences of loans with high interest, and on budgeting, and are looking into the possibility of soft loans via official channels.

**Others:**

**Ambulance Service Protocol** - After an incident involving an Aurovillian, that was followed by a complaint, the Council met with AVSST and the Ambulance Service and looked at their protocol. The AVC was fully satisfied with their follow up on the incident as well as with the established protocol and level of professionalism of the two teams.

**Water management in Auroville** - Representatives from the Wcom and the AVC attended a presentation and discussion organized by the Water Group. Giulio shared his research and findings in regard to geology, water tables, runoff during the monsoon and erosion control and water collection measures.

**Reckless riding on Auroville roads (Bike Racing)** - The AVC was informed that some young people indulge in racing on the Crown Road during the night. Resource people spoke to the different youth groups about danger and the need to respect others.

**Dangerous dogs and Dog Breeding** - The Council, with the help of facilitators, supported a community meeting in New Creation to discuss about dangerous dogs living inside the community. A General Meeting/Workshop is planned on the topic in April.

**Loud Music** - Complaints have been received from City Center residents about loud music. The source of loud music is not always clear. The Council has brought it to the attention of the various venues in the area.

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**Forest Group Meeting Notes of 6th March 2020 @ Aurodam**

**PRESENT:**

Facilitator; Elisa (chair); Ancolie (Evergreen), Agnes (Darkali) (notes); Fabian (Pitchandikulam) (notes); Sandeep (Fertile), Kumar (Adventuare), Segar, Saga (Equality), Sathya (Humanscape), Thanayanan (Sivam Forest), Mani (Samriddhi), David (Aurodam), Marti, Noe (Tree House), Gijs (Udumbu), Vinny (Hermitage), Mani, Jean (Two Banyans), Christoph (Anusuya, Bliss), Natasha (Evergreen), Deep (Youth Centre), Cecilie, Biggie (Samriddhi), Marie-Angèle, Kali (both Dana Forest), Manu (Meadow), Ambre (Nilantangam), Enea (Miracle), Be (Baraka), Quentin (Revelation), Laurence (Baraka), Glenn (Anusuya), Lara (Darkali), Eric (Baraka), Sivaraj (Martuvam), Rita (Centrefield), Island (Minati/Espace), Edzard (Discipline)

**Topics discussed:**

- **TDC meets the Forest Group** - The team of the present L’Avenir d’Auroville/TDC was invited to this month’s Forest Group meeting to discuss several pending issues that have come up over the last months. Amongst them were:
  - Sludge disposal and the experience so far
  - Housing in the Greenbelt
  - Planning mandate on paper versus proven management capabilities on the ground
  - TANGEDCO Substation and non-communication to community and steward
  - Infrastructure corridor through green areas
  - Silence Forest

Sreevatsa, Saravanan, Uli (as technical team member) and Hari (notes on behalf of the TDC) came to have a first exchange being aware that there is a need for regular communication and collaboration. The Forest Group also invited Elisa to help with facilitation.

The first topic discussed was a planned infrastructure corridor along the outline of the Crown through Bliss Forest and the Youth Centre. This infrastructure corridor would require at least the trench of around 1.0m width and a permanent access for a bobcat (another 2.5m). Some initial work on the survey for the routing has started already.

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**Figure 1: map showing a possible re-routing of the infrastructure corridor along the existing road**

The Forest Group made it clear that it stands united in its resolve to protect the existing tree cover as much as possible, even more so in times of increasing water shortages and climate crisis. It was mentioned that a re-routing of the infrastructure corridor along the existing road could easily be managed (see dark blue dotted line on attached map) without much impacting the overall concept and efficiency of a ring-shaped supply system. As such the TDC was informed by the Forest Group that it understands the Bliss area (as well as the other carefully planted areas of Auroville and the near context) as protected zone, even more so as alternative approaches can easily be found. **No infrastructure corridor**
would be accepted here. The Group also appealed to the TDC members to visit the park and understand the beauty of what has grown over the years and then follow their gut feeling instead of taking planning decisions from a somewhat removed office. The members of the Forest Group see the Crown in important afforested areas such as Bliss rather as an overarching concept than a rigidly formed circular shape. Banyan trees have been planted and highlight the Crown as a symbol. The Forest Group will write a more detailed reply on why it believes this area should be left free of infrastructure as to also provide the TDC with arguments to bring before the Governing Board.

Touching a larger issue of the overall communication, it was also stated that the urgency behind the projects was an obstacle, as we need time to look at alternatives if needed. In some cases, it is the day itself without any warning or prior consultation that the JCB and workers are there to start the work. As a community we have the power to decide to change and update our values and priorities.

As a second priority topic, the present way of dumping sewage sludge from the city area and larger commercial units in various plots in the Greenbelt was discussed. For years the unfiltered sludge - from both grey and black water - has been dumped first at the Botanical Garden (12 years), then at Mango Field (4 years) and since around the same time at an open field under stewardship of Fertile Field. It was always understood that these arrangements are temporary only. The Forest Group advised members of the TDC to actually have a look at the extremely messy pits wherein the unfiltered sludge including condoms, sanitary pads etc is filled without any care posing a risk to the integrity of the groundwater and an example of what not to do. The Forest Group does not agree that the Greenbelt is used as a dumping ground in such a way. The TDC as a response agreed to make the finding of viable solutions a priority.

Thirdly, the topic of the envisioned substation on high-value Auroville land on the North West corner of Adventure came up. Recently the land was cleared without any communication to the steward of Adventure, the Forest nor the Green Group. To the memory of the Forest Group, there also has been no community involvement in the process. Aside of the facts that Auroville has given away several acres of land (in prime location along the road) only in parts benefitting Auroville and these are also not really used as per the initial vision (the "Adventure Sports Ground" is in its entirely hardly used for sports activities) - which all would deserve a deeper reflection on how we are taking important decisions regarding land use - this seems now a closed matter with the lease deal with TANGEDCO and Auroville signed. However, it still is not clear in detail how the 110kV line will reach the future substation (see attached map) and from there on the "city area", what impact it will have on the Botanical Garden, Adventure, Aurodam etc. and how the AV Electrical Service and the TDC are planning to have a consultancy process with the different stake holders on the matter to ensure at least at this late stage something of a participative planning process. This needs to be addressed in a more participative manner than what has happened so far.

The TDC members informed that for all such issues they are planning to set up a form of an Environmental Impact Assessment group and different people have been contacted. The details of such a group and its working are yet to be worked out. The Forest Group reiterated its readiness to be consulted on all matters such as these mentioned and participate in a spirit of collaboration to solve the many topics that the planning of Auroville brings to us in these increasingly challenging times. As such a more permanent exchange between the officially mandated planning bodies of Auroville and the proven on the ground capabilities of the Forest Group members is much needed. The Forest Group would welcome a regular presence of the TDC team to the monthly meetings as well as to the by now regular “Vision & Realities” meetings as well. The Forest Group would like to express their gratitude to the TDC team to come to the meeting which might have been perceived as not easy.

- **Citizens assembly** - Island informed the group that he will give a presentation to the Citizens Assembly. His topic: “An Auroville forest's perspective and vision for water in Auroville (forests and green spaces)” with ideas to be in general agreement with most other Auroville foresters.

- **Dana Forest** - Marie-Ange, the present steward of Dana Forest, came to request our approval of shifting the stewardship to her daughter Kali. It was agreed that Kali will first become an apprentice steward for 2 years according to Forest Group guidelines. It was noted that the Dana forest is an established forest and the work mostly consist of its protection. Kali lived most of her life in the Dana forest.

- **Wood prices** - The new wood prices were discussed. The last price list was from 2018. The proposed new price list was questioned by some as being a very steep increase. However, it was explained that these are the current prices on the market. Some mentioned that this is hard on the local small-scale carpenters and Aurovilians.

- **Hermitage** - Vinny brought the topic of a building application to the meeting. The group clearly stated that a building application for a new house in Hermitage will be only considered with the approval of Bernd, the steward of Hermitage. We cannot discuss this topic without Bernd’s presence. Vinny was told that his working in Hermitage is not related to him building a house there and also that as a “Friend of Auroville” one is not allowed to build a free-standing house.

- **Udumbu** - Gijs introduced Hoe as a new member of Udumbu. Udumbu received the stewardship of a plot between them and Two Banyans. Hoe joined the community with the intent to take care of this land; fencing, erosion control and turn it into a forest. However, they were very disappointed when they learned that the Land Board belatedly remembered they had promised the lease of the cashew already to someone else. The Udumbu team was counting on the income of the cashews to pay for the fence. They hope an agreement can be made with the Land Board that the money for the lease can go towards the fence. They will make a map with the AV communities and the land in question clearly marked to highlight the need of a fence.

A general reminder for stewards to inform and ask the group when new residents are willing to join.

- **Volunteer** - Satya who works as a freelancer introduced himself. He is looking for possibilities to get involved in forest work.

- **Next meeting** - The next meeting will happen on 3rd April at Hermitage at 3.00pm.

The Forest Group thanks David for hosting the meeting and providing tea, juices and snacks.
From the RAS: The public open hours of the Residents Assembly Service at La Terrace are suspended until further notice due to the lockdown situation. As usual, we are available virtually to assist the community when needed, so feel free to email us at raservice@auroville.org.in. Please take care of yourself and stay safe during this period.

- Sathish A, Tatiana S

ECO-SERVICE IS CLOSED!

Entry Service & Aspiration Team - Closed to the Public: Our offices are closed to the public until 1st of April (may be extended as required). All Letter of Recommendation, B-Form signing & meetings with the Secretaries are on hold until further notice.

- Aurodent (dental clinic in Auromode) will be closed until the 31st of March. For any emergency (e.g., pain), please contact us @ 0413-2622063 AMs and 962-919-9328 in PMs.

MINIATURE CLOSES - From Monday 23rd March Miniature closed the workshop and for the moment the workers will work from home. After March 31, we will make the necessary decisions according to the evolution of the situation.

Tai Chi Hall - Classes are closed until further notice.

- AV Art Service - Our office is closed until further notice. We are contactable by email: aurovillearts@auroville.org.in

SEWA office is closed through the 31st March. Also, there is a delay in shifting of our Office to the Town Hall premises due the Covid-19 pandemic, so we will continue to operate from our usual premises @ Ilaigannkral School Campus till further notice. Sincere apologies for the inconvenience. For any immediate assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us - Sandhyv 9442314171; Stephen Raj, 9943361894; Maheswarl- 8531913762. You can write to us at sewa@aurowile.org.in. Nolly, Saravan & Lata for SEWA

From La ferme Cheese - To promote less known varieties from our catalog we are giving temporarily a discount on our Farm Cheese. The discounted Parmesan is available in PTPS, HERS and PTDC. This offer is valid as long as stock permits.

WELCOME

FROM THE ENTRY SERVICE - ES # 034 - 28-03-2020

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, Associates and Aurovilians, 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:
- Cristina GIL (Spanish) staying in Sharnga (Carsten’s house) and working at Wastelsses
- Giovani PARRILLO (Italian) staying in Serenity and working at Funding Auroville & Name and Symbol of Auroville Protection Group (NPG)
- Pankaj Arunkumar JANI (Indian) staying in Douceur (Semanti GH) and working at Matrimandir
- Saravana DEIVASIGAMANY (Indian) staying in Aurobrindavan and working at Palmyra

NEWCOMERS CONFIRMED:
- Ranjini BOOBALAN (Indian)
- Shilpi GUPTA (Indian)

AUROVILIANS ANNOUNCED:
- Davide ROTA (Swiss) staying at Kalpana and working at Bread & Chocolate
- Iyanar SELVARAJ (aka Radha) (Indian) staying in Douceur and working at Progress Landscape
- Subramani SAMIKKANNU (Indian) staying in Humanscape and working at Aurolile Bakery
- Vasanthan KUMARASWAMY (Indian) staying in Kotakarai and working at Kotakarai Farm

RETURNING AUROVILIAN ANNOUNCED:
- Kali JOUBERT (French) staying in Dana and working at Dana forest

AUROVILIANS CONFIRMED:
- Akilkumar CHELLADURAI (Indian)
- Geetha SHERPALLI (Indian)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Citizens’ Assembly pilot launched - Sunday, 8th March, was the first day of the Citizens’ Assembly (CA) pilot project. It involved 24 randomly selected participants of very different ages (the youngest is 18, the oldest 83) and from very different backgrounds and cultures getting to know each other and the process. There were also sessions on building skills essential for listening and working together, along with various presentations on water. Topics included the present Auroville water situation, the bioregional perspective, and the need for an overall water vision to be developed for all those working in some way with water in Auroville (around 200 people!). The talks can be accessed at https://caexplorationauroville.wordpress.com/day-1/

This is very much an experiment, which means that the organizers are still learning about what does and doesn’t work in the Auroville context. While the talks were appreciated and the feedback at the end of the day was largely positive, some participants were less enthusiastic about the group building and energizing exercises. The organizing team has discussed how to improve this aspect of the program in future.

The next sessions will involve presentations on water from various perspectives and small group discussions around these. On the final day participants will attempt to come up with a water vision for the community, along with practical proposals...
How to Stay Healthy

In addition to the wonderful guidance we have received on avoiding fear and staying positive, the hygiene and social distancing precautions, and the helpful immunity tips posted by the Sante Health center on their website, here is some useful info on staying healthy during these times:

1. When the body is fighting an infection, the body’s resources are engaged with the intruder and the digestion is weakened. At this time we must not burden the body with foods that are heavy to digest because they will create undigested toxins and mucus which will deteriorate the health further.

2. Dairy products tend to be heavier to digest and mucus-forming so during these weeks you can cut down consumption of those. Especially avoid ice-cream, cold milk and cold yogurt if you are prone to congestion.

3. Cutting down on the consumption of sweets and sugar is recommended at this time.

4. Vegetable soups with spices, light lentils like mung beans, and grain porridges that are easier to digest are optimal for meals. Animal products and heavy grains like wheat are harder to digest and can be reduced.

5. Boiled water is easier to digest than un-boiled water (even if filtered). You can put some water to boil until it reduces to the half the quantity, let it cool slightly and put it in a thermos. Sipping warm water from the thermos throughout the day is a good way to stay hydrated, to soothe the throat, and dissolve toxins.

6. You can temporarily avoid fruits that are too cooling for the body like watermelons, melons, and grapes. Papaya in moderation is okay. Apples and pears are easier to digest when cooked slightly with cloves or cinnamon.

7. Reduce consumption of oily and fried food.

8. Light exercise and stretching, exposure to the healing rays of the sun in the morning and evening, is recommended. Bhashrika prāṇāyāma especially helps clear up the lungs, but avoid doing it if you have high BP, heart disease, hernia, gastric ulcer, epilepsy, vertigo, significant nosebleeds, detached retina, glaucoma, recent abdominal surgery, or are at risk for a stroke.

9. Remember to enjoy the fresh air! Nature is alive and is constantly sanitizing itself! Even if you are quarantined, you may have a garden or terrace you can sit out in and connect with nature’s healing properties ;)

10. True self-confidence and immunity doesn’t come from being in sanitized quarantine and thinking you are away from germs. It comes from knowing your perfect true nature that is beyond the physical and able to positively affect the physical.

11. Finally, don’t forget that Laughter is the best medicine for immunity! Allow yourself to laugh at this cosmic drama of the humiliating, healing, and eventual AWAKENING of humans, and our interesting behavior through this process ;)

I had the good fortune of visiting Shivaraj from Martuvam Healing Forest and Parvathy from Sri Siddha Forest Herbs / Pitchandikulam early this week and was happy to see so many fresh healing foods and herbs from our very own Auroville forest! They can guide you as to which local foods, herbs, and practices would be good for immunity and clearing and strengthening the lungs. I will share both their contacts here, as one of them may be closer to where you are - Shivaraj (Martuvam Healing Forest, near Ritam). 9345454232, martuvam@auroville.org.in; Parvathi (Sri Siddha Forest Herbs/Pitchandikulam); 9443797573, parvathyauro@gmail.com. Good health to you all! -G
Any of your generous offerings are also very much appreciated! Our A/c No is: 102609.

Hoping for your kind cooperation,
Kulai Creative Centre, next to Auroville Bakery, Auroville Main Road
https://kulaicreativecentre.org/

LOOKING FOR

Someone going to the UK from Auroville in the near future who would be able and willing to carry a laptop. Please contact giacomo@auroville.org.in. We would all be most grateful!

Work - I am Thamu, an Aurovilian. I did civil draught AITI. I have worked and served in Auroville. I have experience as a site supervisor and kindergarten teacher as well as with AUTO CAD, Google sketchup, and sound system management. I'm looking for a permanent job. 904-766-3217 or thamu.av@gmail.com. Looking forward. Thank You! - Thamu

Long term housesitting - We are an Aurovillian family looking for long term house sitting in free standing house. We have been staying in Angiras Garden for the past 4 years and are used to maintaining a house. We love animals and would be happy to take care of them. We are committed to taking good care of the house we stay in and energize it with love. Prem Shakti, Pari (7) and Soham (2). premshakti@auroville.org.in or 948-924-4823.

Housing - My name is Angeli and I am an "Auroville youth" without a place to live at the moment. I'm looking for house-sitting options or a flat/house share option to move into by the end of the month. I can pay a low rent if needed (note: I'm on a half maintenance) but I'm happy to do a bit of work in exchange. I'm in Auroville indefinitely and working part time while taking up other side projects. If you can offer or suggest something email me at angeliearley@gmail.com or call/whatsapp (+91) 9655-688-952. Big love to all!

Housing - Hello! We are Yuliya and Zoya (8 years old) urgently looking for any housesitting opportunity. We are going through the Newcomer process at the moment. We are interested in something for minimum 2 weeks, beginning now. We are calm and neat. I work in a botanical garden, and my daughter attends Depanam School. Yulia Majorskikh, +91 90471 05174 or yuliamajorskikh@gmail.com.

Temporary housing - I'm Meera, working in Dana community. I've just applied for Newcomer status and am searching for housing. 827-040-3560 or muthukumaravan749@gmail.com.

A Housesitter - Seeking an Aurovillian or Newcomer to housesit a small single place in Auromodele from May 2020 to beginning of February 2021. Looking for a super clean woman. Expenses will be discussed when we meet. Contact Yen @ 827-055-5836.

Housesitting Opportunity - Greetings! I am a Guest in Auroville who first came in Dec 2019 seeking opportunities as a teacher and studying martial arts. I am wondering if anybody needs a housesitter during these hard to travel times? I am practical, responsible and good with animals. Willing to contribute to upkeep, cleaning, cost etc. mcluey63@gmail.com

AVAILABLE

Housing Service: - One home is available for transfer: Kalpana community (Single). To apply, please click on the new "Houses Available" button in the very right column of the Auronet main page. You will be directed from there.

German teacher - Interested in learning German? Then you have the best opportunity to start now! My name is Ulrich, I'm a qualified German native teacher and I'd be very appreciative to meet you! If you are under 18, a motivated student, beginner or maybe advanced learner, call me: 8531032227.

18-year old young lady from Bommalalayam who has finished her 12st standard of schooling, is looking for work as an amma. Contact Pushpa ph# 78269 04622.

Tamil school teacher - I am Priya from Kottakarai. I've been looking for a school teaching position in Auroville for a long time. I have an MA Tamil and Dted degree and have very good experience for school teaching work. If interested, 962-686-6446 or ppbrabaindia@gmail.com

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

WORK OPPORTUNITY
STORE MERCHANDISER

You are creative, a self- motivated organizer and like to interact with new people. You have a flair for fragrance and an eye for detail to a body care advice.

You are good at communication (fluent and efficient in English; any other language will be additional help), have a motivating and positive attitude and enjoy to interface with both the work team as well as daily clients.

Open for Aurovilians & Newcomers. Full time work, Maintenance provided. Please contact: maroma@maroma.com or +91-413-262-2126

Job Opportunity: FAMC Finance Secretary

FAMC is looking for a finance secretary who is willing to do finance secretarial tasks, such as taking care of CAG Audit Co-ordination, support the consolidation of Auroville Foundation Balance Sheet, study the balance sheet and report back to FAMC & BCC whenever requested, and be a part of Centralized Accounting System with whole Auroville Foundation.

What we need from you:

- Be present: Monday - Saturday 9.30 - 4.30 are the office timings.
- Have clear communication skills - we expect you to inform the rest of the team in advance of any changes in your work routine. We expect a commitment of at least 1 year after a one month trial period.
- Be self motivated and driven: nobody will check your office timings, but we expect you to be proactive and get the work done.
- Ability to work in a team
- Be accountable: we expect you to organize your work transparently and report on deliverables / outcomes, and take the initiative to ask for help when you need it.

Required skills:

- Educational skills minimum under or post graduates in Finance and Accounting.
- Good computer skills (incl Tally ERP and Excel)
- Good Accounting and Financial skills (reliability and responsibility)
- Minimum Experience of 3 to 5 years
- Intermediate English

What can you expect?

- A maintenance or salary.
- The current team will train you on the tasks involved, most of which are recurring, so you will get used to them soon.
- If you need mentoring on specific tasks FAMC and/or secretariat members are available to guide you.
- Growth potential towards higher levels of responsibility

Please contact: famc@auroville.org.in with a motivation letter and a recent CV.
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.

Field Research assistant - We are looking for an English and Tamil speaking (preferably written also) male for short term with a minimum of 3 months, and possibility for longer term. Computer skills in excel and word, capacity to learn and adapt to new situations quickly, flexibility to travel for a month, and team-work are a must. If you have prior experience in conducting surveys and interviews, in research and/or in teaching it would be an advantage.

Social Media Manager (part time) - You are a social media manager who can enhance the brand and build strong online communities through various social media platforms. You will be responsible for developing and administering social media content that is designed to engage users. You are up-to-date with the latest digital technologies and social media trends. You have excellent communication skills and are able to express our unit’s views creatively. Part time, maintenance provided.

Management - You will work directly with the unit founder and a dynamic management team to implement the vision of the unit. You will have primary responsibility for Finance and Accounts, HR, Data and Management Information Systems, Audits and Compliance as well as coordinating with the leads responsible for Sales and Marketing, Production, Purchase and Design. Aside from these traditional responsibilities, you, along with the rest of the management team, will be one of the main story-tellers in our journey to bring the message of our unit and Auroville to the world.

And other positions (please inquire about details):
- System Administrator
- Project Management
- Farm Development and Support
- Teacher (Mechanical Engineering)
- Volunteer for Film Scanning
- Dental Assistant
- Administration and Production Supervision
- Production Management
- Customer Care and Website Maintenance
- Administration and Accounting
- Secretary for our Organization

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

Developing a water vision for Auroville - Presentation by Paul
Developing a water vision for Auroville - Presentation by Giulio
Developing a water vision for Auroville - Presentation by Aditi
A pilot Citizens’ Assembly began in Auroville on Sunday 8 March, to consider the topic: Developing a water vision for Auroville and ways to implement it.

Exit Policy RA General Meeting - We recorded the Residence Assembly General Meeting on the 3rd of March in Bhumiaka Hall discussing the Exit policy.

Ela Re concert at Yc - On the fifth day of Endangered Craft Mela week a nice concert was held by Shalini, Lisa, Marius & company on the main stage of Youth Center. You can listen to all of the programs and more on www.aurovilleradio.org

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A Different View of Auroville’s International Zone & Its Planning

Conflict, upheavals and war define the ongoing state of the world and run the geo-political trade and economy. Auroville was created to find a solution for all this and “change the destructive current of the world.” That is our work here. In the same conversation the Mother would say (25 Oct,1967 Agenda): “Auroville, as Sri Aurobindo said, is a practical means of creating human unity that would be strong enough to fight against war.” The International Zone (IZ), called the Zone of Union, was started in the same year as the Matrimandir. Why was the IZ so important?

Before Auroville began, the Dream reached Kennedy and Khrushchev and Nehru with the possibility of creating a small international centre. The Mother mentions this in 1964, after the passing of Kennedy and Nehru and the outer of Khrushchev. All were enthusiastic. Nehru even called the two ambassadors for a conference. In her first conversation about Auroville, in June 1965, she already mentions ambassadors being contacted for the IZ. So it was not exactly an 18th century Western geopolitical concept. The concept derives from Sri Aurobindo’s social and political works - The Human Cycle and The Ideal of Human Unity. These form the basis of the first IZ brochure, not for national pavilions but for cultural pavilions that would allow a search for the soul of a country. So clearly, it was not a zone for foisting nationalisms, but unity, as indicated in extracts from The Ideal of Human Unity presented in that brochure:

“In laying stress on culture, on the things of the mind and spirit, there need be no intention of undervaluing the outward, material side of life... the peace, well-being and order of the human world is a thing eminently to be desired as the basis of a great world culture in which humanity is united... not a uniform unity but a living unity full of healthy freedom and diversity...”

The Ideal of Humanity maps the progressive social/political phases of the world as it morphed through wars, monarchy, birth of nation states, world empire, perils of the world state, communism, democracy, bourgeoisie, capitalism - a world struggling through many upheavals towards its soul - in all its diversity to arrive at a free federation of mankind. This, Sri Aurobindo said, was only possible through sustained spiritual change and could only come about through a change in commercialism. He saw this change occur via some unexpected event pertaining to commercialism on the world stage or, by an awakening of the spiritual urge that would subordinate it.

The IZ does not offer readymade solutions, it will morph and self-perfect as fast and as willingly as we do, so the more we can concur the better. In the 1968 galaxy model, that was questioned, the IZ plan looks more like a continental cluster plan, not one of individual nations. In any case the limited space of the IZ could not allow for more. The European Union came into being much later, only in 1993, with ideas of continental clusters, and even that is already in transition. But the allegation that this has resulted in territorial demarcations and borders in the IZ planning, by the likes of Roger, Helmut

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or Andrea is misleading and needs correction so that misunderstandings don’t persist. These ‘continental’ areas in fact indicate cultural territories that have to be expressed. Walls and borders are not part of this zone but interconnecting gardens, water-ways, shared facilities or areas of common activities and so on, as last presented by Andrea.

What kind of IZ plan can handle a Free Federation of Mankind in the future? Here, the last IZ proposal by Roger which I used to find very fractal and puzzling starts to make sense. It is a paradox - that suggests free interconnexion, can spaces / buildings, none too large, neither overwhelming nor underwhelming - in fact there are no borders, no fences here. It offers the possibility of many free transitions and interconnections that will be needed to morph from where the world is now, ruled by the ego and the ‘destructive current’, to a unified, free federation. This possibility is contained in a simple, unifying but free pattern of Roger’s last IZ proposal. But even there, the Indian pavilion is retained in a wide central circle, surrounded by the arc of SAARC nations to forge the phased unity indicated in Sri Aurobindo’s Five Dreams. Of this, the final Dream points to Auroville, a project of international/universal status and evolutionary intent. So that arc of pavilions positioned around Bharat Nivas remains, regardless of what the world goes through or what we understand of it now. It is symbolic of course, but then everything about Auroville is symbolic - because it carries a myth for the future - not one about endless cycle of war and revenge carried by most ancient mythologies still playing out in the Holly-Bollywoods of the world, but a new myth of unity, concord and self evolution needed for the future which also takes care of climate change. As unity is Auroville’s purpose, making this manifest in its ‘world arena’ is the role of the IZ. So let us not be too quick and harsh with our judgments nor rubbish the sustained vision based work that has happened so far. Sooner or later, Auroville get there, with or without us; let’s see what corona virus does to hasten the process.

~ Anu

MATRIMANDIR

Resignation of Executives - This is to let you know that Jyoti Naoki Eri and Louis Cohen have resigned as Matrimandir Executives. The current Executives are: Hemant Shekhar, Vladimir, Aurosyli, and John.

The Auroville Council

Matrimandir Access - Timings

for Aurovilians and Newcomers only

Daily: 6 to 7 AM & 7 to 9 PM

GREEN MATTERS

Water Saving Tip of the Week!

Use a broom instead of a hosepipe to clean patios and sidewalks. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. watergroup@auroville.org.in

From the Water Group: The final March Water Talk, scheduled for Darkali on March 30th, has been cancelled. We thank those of you who attended the first two talks. Thank you also to our speakers who have been flexible and understanding about changes. It is our hope that we can reschedule all of our missed Water Talks in the future.

In the meantime, we would like to make another call out for rainwater harvesting information. We asked the community for this two weeks ago, and the response was surprising; more people are harvesting rainwater than we realized! We know that there are more of you out there. Please tell us about it by writing an email to watergroup@auroville.org.in and sharing details, such as your community, the storage capacity of your tank/barrel and potentially the cost per cubic meter of storage. Thanks! –Water Group

(Tom, Tency, Satprem, Ing-Marie, Giulio, Evgenia, Eric Chacr) Website: www.aurovillewater.in

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aurovilicewatergroup

Please Note: Sunday walk to Fertile Field with Jan and Jana on Sunday 29th March is cancelled. So is the next Sunday walk of April 5th to Evergreen with Natasha. There are three more walks planned for the season till the end of April: Udumbu, Windarra and Aranya. We’ll keep you informed whether these will take place or not in these uncertain times.

As we are trying to make sense of the new reality we find ourselves in (given extra time at home with nothing else to do), some findings stand out, prompting an inquiry into our way of life our world view. Which insights do you find helpful? Which ones not? Why?

Most of us start by projecting existing beliefs on what we see. If you believe that the government is in cahoots with industry to exploit the working class, then you can see the virus as part of a dark plan to tighten control and sell more drugs. If you see nature as “the other”, throwing us more and more technical challenges that we need to overcome with smarter and smarter solutions, then you can see the virus as the next step in the arms race between ours and other species. If you believe humans are overexploiting nature and thereby upset the ecological balance, you can see the virus as a penalty for arrogant economic behavior. If you see modern society as caught up in the “doing”, having no time for being, then you can see the virus as a sign to slow down and look around, reconnect with what deeply matters. If you believe society needs a crisis to wake up its dormant potential for solidarity and collaboration, then you can see the virus as an invitation to come together.

An ecological perspective might help to allow all these parts-truths to co-exist. Like a healthy, complex forest holds more life forms than we can imagine, can we see the virus as metaphor and the terms associated with it as something marvelous, to be sought after, to install. Most blithely it was there in the spontaneity of SocialMedia; people could make things go viral: seen as something marvelous, to be sought after, to emulate … Enthralled with virus as metaphor and the terms associated with it—spread, growth, reach, connectedness. (…) The computer virus and the anti-virus protection we install. Most blithely it was there in the spontaneity of SocialMedia; people could make things go viral: seen as something marvelous, to be sought after, to emulate … Enthralled with virus as metaphor and the terms associated with it—spread, growth, reach, connectedness—we ceased to be vigilant. Jetting around the world and stopped washing our hands … So it is difficult for us to see viruses as potentially dangerous, even lethal, biological phenomena.”

From “Near- and long-term implications of COVID-19 on the financial system, energy, and the overall economy” by Nate Hagens of The Post Carbon Institute (45 minute video):

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“Not only have we been in this debt to GDP bubble (GS: forcing us to grow the economy in order to pay interest inherent in all created currencies), but we are also in a bubble where we’ve replaced social capital with money and technology...This crisis is showing the bare wealth and income inequality and we might be forced to implement a Universal Basic Income... We’ve been following a model of maximizing monetary efficiency at the cost of resilience. Now if we start producing essential goods locally they might be 2-3 times more expensive than we’re used to. How do we deal with that?”

From The Guardian we hear of fish seen swimming in the clear waters of the canals in Venice again because humans stopped disturbing them with cruise ships and motor boats. From The Economic Times we hear about people being forced to slow down, to cook again, read, write, and discover other things they never had time for....

To close with we would like to share a poem that has been doing the rounds:

“A letter from the Virus” by Darinka Montico

Just stop, freeze, don't move.
It's not a request this time, it's an order.
I'm here to help you.

This breakneck rollercoaster is running off its rails.
Stop the planes, cruises, factories, shopping malls, gatherings. We are interrupting the hectic flux of ties and illusions that never let you look up at the sky, study the stars, lend an ear to the ocean, let birdsong surround you, roll down a meadow, pick an apple off a tree, smile to a creature in the wild, breathe in the mountains, take heed of common sense.

We had to interrupt.
You don’t get to play god.
Our obligations are reciprocal, like they've always been, even though you may have forgotten.
We're interrupting this broadcast, this endless cacophony of division and distractions, to bring you the latest update:

We're not OK.
None of us is, we're all suffering.
Last year, the firestorms that set the lungs of the earth on fire didn't stop you, nor did the melting glaciers, or your sinking cities, or knowing you're the one single cause of the sixth mass extinction.

You wouldn't listen.
It's hard to listen when you're so busy climbing higher and higher (up) the scaffolding of your commodities.

The foundations are crumbling, they're collapsing under the load of your feverish desires.
I'm here to help you.
I'll light the firestorms inside your body,
I'll drown your lungs,
I'll isolate you like a polar bear marooned on a lone raft of ice.

Now are you listening?
We're not OK.
I'm not your enemy.
I'm just the messenger, I'm an ally, I'm the balancing force of nature.
You have to hear this - I'm shouting for you to stop!
Just stop, hush, and listen.

Now, look up to the sky, how is it doing? There are no more planes. How clean do you need it to be, to want to breathe it? Look at the ocean, how’s it doing? Look at the rivers, how are they? Look at the earth, how is she? And look at yourselves: how are you doing?
You can't be well in a sick ecosystem. Just stop.

Many of you are afraid now.
Don't demonise your fear, don't let it control you. Let it speak to you, listen to its wisdoms.
Learn to smile with your eyes.
I'm here to help, just LISTEN.

The Green Column is published bi-weekly in the News & Notes and on Auronet. We invite your participation and comments on green issues in Auroville, the bioregion and the wider world. For the AVGreenCenter Gijs, Lisbeth and Apple avgreencenter@auroville.org.in

TRAVEL

Latest News from the Inside India -
Our clients can contact us via our emergency cell phone number: Jearaj, 99944-74395 or by email: travelshop@auroville.org.in or on Whatsapp: Ganesh, insideindiaphone, 8524-953783

Concerned about the damaging impact of your air-travel?
Your donation to Green Acres is an investment in the pioneering environmental work and research necessary for an enriched sustainable way of living in Tamil Nadu and beyond. Your donation will help to secure and regenerate greenbelt land. Auroville’s success in ecology, afforestation and organic farming is one of the most visible signs to the world of its progress, evolution, and contributions to modelling sustainable community. Today 60% of the Greenbelt surrounding the City still needs to be purchased. Your donation will help make it happen!

Green Acres is part of the LFAU-A4A-GA united action for Auroville’s missing land. WEBSITE: https://land.auroville.org/
Contact us: greenacres@auroville.org.in; 0413 2622657
April 2020

Exhibitions

Meditations on Savitri - The entire series of 472 paintings created by the Mother with Huta from 1961-67 is now on display in the newly extended picture gallery

Glimpses of the Mother: Photographs and texts
In the upper corridor

Films - Mondays 6:30pm
April 6: Journey to the Life Divine: Part One - This film created in the Ashram shows the lives of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother from their childhood onwards. Duration: 100min.
April 13: Journey to the Life Divine: Part Two - The second part covers the lives and work of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother from November 1926 and the life and work in Ashram. Duration: 90min.
April 27: The Mother’s Mahasamadhi and Her Work for the New Creation Dr. Alok Pandey and Narad speak about The Mother’s work that brings down to Earth the Divine Love and Ananda. Duration: 59min.

Regular Activities
Sundays 10.30-12 noon: Savitri Study Circle
Mondays 3-4pm: Inner Discovery, led by Dr. Jai Singh
Mondays 4.45-6pm: Meditations with Hymns of the Rig Veda, led by Nishtha
Tuesdays 3-4pm: Evolution of Man (in the light of Sri Aurobindo’s Yoga), led by Dr. Jai Singh
Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays 4pm: L’Agenda de Mère: listening to recordings with Gangalakshmi
Tuesdays 4.45-5.45pm: Mudra-chi, led by Anandi
Tuesdays 5-6pm: Let us learn Savitri together, led by Buvana (in Tamil)
Tuesdays 5.45-7.15pm: OM Choir (see details below)
Thursdays 4-5pm: The English of Savitri, led by Shraddhavan
Thursdays 5-6pm: Reading Agenda (in Italian), led by Janaka
Fridays 3-4pm: Reading of the Mother’s Commentaries on the Dhammapada, led by Dr. Jai Singh
Saturdays 5-6.30pm: Satsang, led by Ashesh Joshi

OM Choir
The voice that chants to the creator Fire,
The symbolled OM, the great assenting Word
(Savitri p.310)

In 1961 the Mother gave to Narad the adesh to bring down a new music. She said that one must go far above words and bring down the pure Music. Mother told us to sit in a circle and have no preconceptions as to what we would sing but to be silent and let the music descend into us. The OM Choir aspires to bring down the New Music for the New World in a collective body. We sing only OM, the creative and effectuating Word, after starting with warming-up and voice exercises given by Narad.

Exhibitions, Main Building & Office are open Mon - Sat 9-5
Library is open Monday to Friday 9-5
Digital Library can be accessed on request Mon- Sat., 9-4
Everyone is welcome

CULTURAL EVENTS

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Integral Studies Online Programme
Foundations of Integral Yoga, Psychology & Education
4th May - 28th June 2020 (*Apply by April 6*)

Whether you are interested in working on yourself, carrying burning questions in your heart about fundamentals of life, intrigued by what integrality is or willing to explore your emotions, thoughts, energy & habits deeply, we invite you to follow the call. https://svadhyaya.auroville.org

EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING
at ANY TIME:

** The News&Notes is available FOR ALL to download ** from the Auroville website at www.auroville.org/contents/4186
The N&N archives are found at www.auroville.org/contents/186
And also on Auroville Wiki
http://wiki.auroville.org.in/wiki/News_%26_Notes

Important information about News & Notes
Hard deadline for submissions or cancellations: Tuesday 5pm FOR THE ISSUE to be published that SATURDAY.(though the digital version generally goes out on Thursday)

The contents of News & Notes are a reflection of the growth process of this community towards its ideals of harmony, goodwill, discipline and truth. Editing of submissions, mainly for reasons of space and clarity, is done according to an established policy.

How to submit material: Material (no pdf files, please) may be sent (in English only) to: newsandnotes@auroville.org.in. Please do NOT send submissions and inquiries as a “Reply” to the digital subscription mail! There is NO guarantee that anyone will see communications sent this way!

Please try your best to send your announcements, reports, film schedules whenever they are ready.

Important modifications of submitted News items must be sent to the editors before Tuesday 5pm. Please do your best to submit copy that is ready for printing (i.e. Word shows you typos, extra spaces, punctuation errors, etc - don’t make us do all the work!).

We regret not being able to attend to visitors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays due to work pressure.

Articles for the Notes section should ideally be no longer than 500 words.

Visiting hours: Mondays & TH-F-SAT mornings 9-12
Disclaimer: The views expressed on these pages are those of their respective authors or work groups and do not represent the position of the editors or of the community as a whole. The News & Notes serves as a channel for the publication of material coming from trusted sources within Auroville. The editors cannot be held accountable for any alleged misinformation given or offence caused. In case of any dispute, the Auroville Council may be consulted and publishing of disputed material suspended.

PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!
Subscribe at newsandnotes-list+subscribe@auroville.org.in
or click directly on this link

Publishing the monthly Savitri Bhavan schedule as received, but obviously everything through at least 15th April is postponed/cancelled.
To all Aurovilians, Auroville restaurants and eateries,

The recent order from the State Government states that restaurants and eateries may remain open, but only for deliveries or takeaways. It would be great if all Auroville eateries can provide this service. The restaurants and eateries that have already agreed to provide the delivery or take away service are the Solar Kitchen, Visitors’ Centre, Garden Cafe and Ramalingam (Sustenance). Others that are willing to do so, please inform us so we can update the community.

The restaurants and eateries that provide this service are requested to comply with the following:

1. Not to receive cash. This is to discourage day visitors and unregistered guests.
2. Maintain a minimum of 1 m distance between waiting customers and staff.
3. Avoid crowding at all times. If necessary ask people to come back later.
4. All staff, including serving and cleaning staff, must wear a mask at all times while at work.
5. Provide hand-washing facilities or hand sanitizer at the entrance and in the work spaces.
6. Sanitize utensils, equipment and all surfaces at least three times a day with either a Lysol or bleach solution (30 gms bleaching powder to 1 liter of water).

The closing of the Solar Kitchen affects those who are part of the scheme to have lunch at the Solar Kitchen or get a tiffin.

We are working on a transfer scheme where Aurovilians can either get a simple meal from the restaurants and eateries which agree to provide a takeaway or delivery service, or have the funds transferred to their PTDC or PTPS accounts so that they can purchase the necessary food items to cook at home.

The COVID-19 Task Force is organising a system to provide food for the at risk (such as elderly) population of Auroville as well as those who are in home quarantine. This will be announced as soon as it is in place.

Let’s all work together to make sure basic needs are met and to offer support to each other in whatever form we can.

- The Working Committee

Garden Café kitchen will stay open for take-aways. Please bring your own containers, as we have a limited amount of our biodegradable packaging. You can phone beforehand to place your order. Opening hours 9 am to 5 pm.

We will keep absolute stringent hygiene measures, such as the use of gloves for salad and sandwich preparation. We will also try to make home deliveries, except for the greenbelt and areas beyond Certitude. We will give priority for people that are not able to move around. But again, our problem is the packaging, with repeated deliveries we will ask for exchange of tiffins. In that case the tiffins will be kept separate after sun exposure.

We remind you that we also have three types of frozen ravioli as well as our homemade pasta and grissinis. As always we offer a 25% discount on all our products. We will also have a range of our products available at a very discounted price in PTPS as well as HERS & our own outlet. This is an offering to the community - the shops will not put any mark-up on these products to keep the price low.

Gas Bottle Service Update: We will stay open in the mornings 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. We kindly request that everyone wait till mid-April (21 days) for refills unless your contract is for only one bottle (not two). You can give us a call before coming by (see number below) so we are ready to help in a fast and efficient way. We regret we are unable to offer home delivery at the moment, but we will be looking at finding a solution to this. Thank you for your patience & stay safe! FMI call 9626481587

Ayarpadi Farm has milk! As our main user, Solar Kitchen, is shut down, we have 40 litres of milk per day to distribute for 21 days. We are ready to deliver to your homes as far as Certitude. If you are interested, whatsapp or call 984-360-0700, 6AM - 4PM Sathiyan/Moorthy Ayarpadi farm [Please note that this will inevitably be affected by the “just in” announcement below.]

The Solar Kitchen core team has agreed to re-open the tiffin service from tomorrow Thursday 26th March onwards. The Solar Kitchen staff will only provide simple food items, such as white rice, sambar, vegetable puriel and curd. Changes may happen without announcement, as the regular delivery of vegetables is uncertain. The Solar Kitchen team will be implementing all hygiene requirements of the Government of India. For the tiffins, this means dismantling them, bathing them in chlorinated water, rinsing them with normal water and then filling them. The staff of La Terrace will help in this work.

The tiffin service will only be available for all those who usually receive their lunch by tiffin. Those who normally have a monthly booked lunch at the Solar Kitchen can also join, after sending an email to solarkitchen@auroville.org.in before Thursday 10 am. If this works out successfully, the tiffin service may be expanded to include others.

All those who bring their tiffins are requested to ensure that all boxes are meticulously clean. Bon appétit.

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