News and Notes

No.820  A Weekly Bulletin for residents of Auroville  30th May 2020

Crosspoint  painting by Crystal
The vision of the universal Purusha is one of the best known and most powerfully poetic passages in the Gita, but its place in the thought is not altogether on the surface. It is evidently intended for a poetic and revelatory symbol and we must see how it is brought in and for what purpose and discover to what it points in its significant aspects before we can capture its meaning. It is invited by Arjuna in his desire to see the living image, the visible greatness of the unseen Divine, the very embodiment of the Spirit and Power that governs the universe. He has heard the highest spiritual secret of existence, that all is from God and all is the Divine and in all things God dwells and is concealed and can be revealed in every finite appearance. The illusion which so persistently holds man’s sense and mind, the idea that things at all exist in themselves or for themselves apart from God or that anything subject to Nature can be self-moving and self-guided, has passed from him, — that was the cause of his doubt and bewilderment and refusal of action. Now he knows what is the sense of the birth and passing away of existences. He knows that the imperishable greatness of the divine conscious Soul is the secret of all these appearances. All is a Yoga of this great eternal Spirit in things and all happenings are the result and expression of that Yoga; all Nature is full of the secret Godhead and in labour to reveal him in her. But he would see too the very form and body of this Godhead, if that be possible. He has heard of his attributes and understood the steps and ways of his self-revelation; but now he asks of this Master of the Yoga to discover his very imperishable Self to the eye of Yoga. Not, evidently, the formless silence of his actionless immutability, but the Supreme from whom is all energy and action, of whom forms are the masks, who reveals his force in the Vibhuti, — the Master of works, the Master of knowledge and adoration, the Lord of Nature and all her creatures. For this greatest all-comprehending vision he is made to ask because it is so, from the Spirit revealed in the universe, that he must receive the command to his part in the world-action.

What thou hast to see, replies the Avatar, the human eye cannot grasp, — for the human eye can see only the outward appearances of things or make out of them separate symbol forms, each of them significant of only a few aspects of the eternal Mystery. But there is a divine eye, an inmost seeing, by which the supreme Godhead in his Yoga can be beheld and that eye I now give to thee. Thou shalt see, he says, my hundreds and thousands of divine forms, various in kind, various in shape and hue; thou shalt see the Adityas and the Rudras and the Maruts and the Aswins; thou shalt see many wonders that none has beheld; thou shalt see today the whole world related and unified in my body and whatever else thou wilt to behold. This then is the keynote, the central significance. It is the vision of the One in the many, the Many in the One, — and all are the One. It is this vision that to the eye of the divine Yoga liberates, justifies, explains all that is and was and shall be. Once seen and held, it lays the shining axe of God at the root of all doubts and perplexities and annihilates all denials and oppositions. It is the vision that reconciles and unifies. If the soul can arrive at unity with the Godhead in this vision, — Arjuna has not yet done that, therefore we find that he has fear when he sees — all even that is terrible in the world loses its terror. We see that it too is an aspect of the Godhead and once we have found his meaning in it, not looking at it by itself alone, we can accept the whole of existence with an all-embracing joy and a mighty courage, go forward with sure steps to the appointed work and envisage beyond it the supreme consummation. The soul admitted to the divine knowledge which beholds all things in one view, not with a divided, partial and therefore bewildered seeing, can make a new discovery of the world and all else that it wills to see, yaccāṇyad dramṣṭum icchasi; it can move on the basis of this all relating and all-unifying vision from revelation to completing revelation.

(to be continued next week)


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

The Ponder Corner

Turn your eyes more to the coming light and less to any immediate darkness.

— Sri Aurobindo
Letters On Yoga
Difficulties on the Path-IV, p.1687

News & Notes #820 – 30th March 2020
COVID-19 UPDATE

Since Sunday (24th May), online travel passes have been rejected for Villupuram district, except for medical emergency. You can contact the AV Covid-19 taskforce (covid19taskforce@auroville.org.in) to get help with travel passes. You can also apply online at https://tnepass.tnega.org/#/user/pass for medical emergency travel.

Now that some domestic flights are functioning again, the Tamil Nadu government has made strict regulations for travelers entering into Tamil Nadu. Travelers, on their arrival in a Tamil Nadu airport, shall show the details of registration at the TN e-Pass registration desk. Passengers without an entry TN ePass will not be permitted to move out without making the entry. District Collectors shall make available necessary facilities at the exit gates of airports to check and take follow-up action.

After undergoing medical screening for any symptoms of COVID-19, asymptomatic persons shall undergo home quarantine for 14 days. Travelers who register for institutional quarantine shall be sent for institutional quarantine at a Government or aid facility. Those who do not have facilities for home quarantine would be sent to institutional quarantine.

Pick up vehicles will be permitted to enter the airport with one person (in addition to the driver), at a designated place subject to social distancing norms. If the person picking up the passenger comes into physical contact with the traveler, they shall also remain under home quarantine for 14 days. Among the mandatory infrastructural requirements at entry airports are: Temperature checking with Infrared thermometer, a proper queue system to reach the desks, disinfection of all luggage by airport authorities, use of PPEs, masks and protective gear by all officials directly dealing with passengers, and public address system to inform passengers of the details.

Visitors not to be encouraged to come to Auroville – Although some domestic travel has resumed, we must remind you that we are still in a state of lockdown and there is still a danger of spread of the virus. Auroville is still not taking new guests and this situation will continue until further notice. Therefore, even if some people are now able to travel, please do not encourage any visitors to come to Auroville, including family members or friends. We will look forward to your understanding and cooperation in this, in order to continue to keep Auroville and its immediate neighbors safe. - The Working Committee and Covid-19 Task Force

Registration of All guests - Just a reminder that ALL guests, whether family or friends, Indian or foreign, must be registered with the Guest Registration Service within 24 hours of arrival in Auroville. For foreign guests a C-form will be registered and for Indian guests an arrival form is required. It is the responsibility of the hosts to ensure that this is done. We take this opportunity to remind you that Auroville is still not accepting new guests, volunteers or interns, although there are some special domestic travel options opening up for people to return to their home states. If any Aurovillian or Newcomer is planning to return to Auroville from Chennai or other parts of India, they are requested to inform us of their plans as they will be required to be in home quarantine for 14 days after arrival. The link for the Tamil Nadu Govt guidelines for people entering/returning to TN from outside of the state and outside of India is: https://stopcorona.tn.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid19-Tamilnadu-Advisory-19.05.2020-3-Pages-English-634KB.pdf

ITS, UTS and Sunrise Taxi have passes to go to Pondy for medical purposes. ITS offers this service free of charge.

Current opening times for food outlets:

- PTDC from 8 am to 1 pm, with 8 to 9 reserved for those who are 60+
- PTPS from 9 am to 4 pm
- HERS from 8:30 am to 2 pm
- Foodlink - 10.30 to 12 for pre-prepared bags of mixed vegetables and fruits; milk as well as yoghurts will be delivered to those who have regular booking; dry goods will be delivered on request. Details are posted at https://auroville.org.in/article/78629
- Solar Kitchen: tiffin on order only. Leave tiffins by 9:30. No mask; no tiffin!
- Visitors Centre cafeteria - Open 8AM for breakfast takeaways. Lunch pick up time 12.15 to 1.30; Evening pick up time.
- Solitude Farm Cafe open for take-away from 12:30 to 14:30; 9843319260; solitudepermaculture@gmail.com
- Auroville Bakery and Cafe - open for takeaway from 7:30 AM to 2 PM;
- Auroville Bakery and Cafe - 7:30 AM - 5 PM; https://auroville.org.in/article/79393
- Ganesh Bakery open for takeaway from 7:30AM to 2 PM.
- Bread & Chocolate Store: 8:30am to 5 pm, Tuesday-Sunday.
- Naturellement: takeaway (open on Mondays also), 9am-5pm. For food deliveries, please place the order before 4.30pm
- Neem Tree eatery takeaway lunch time 11 am till 2 pm, dinner time 5:00 pm till 8:00 pm;
- Dreams Cafe - open for takeaway from 8am to 1pm (closed Tuesdays);
- Le Morgan Café 8am to 5pm every day (Sunday included); https://auroville.org.in/article/79519
- GP cafe has closed due to no customers. We will inform the opening date once the situation is back to normal. 944-212-6230

News & Notes #820 – 30th March 2020
DO READ THIS!
From L’Avenir regarding the current WATER situation!

It has been brought to the notice of L’Avenir d’Auroville through various water infrastructure players and technical consultants that our groundwater levels are dropping at an alarming rate. For example:

- Matrimandir shallow well (60 meters) has dried up.
- Several wells are having problems of reduced yield: Svedam, Shakti, Sharga and Prarthna (both serving the Auroville Water Service network), Matrimandir Amphitheater well.
- Vikas well shows signs of diminishing water level in the second aquifer.
- Nine Palms well water level keeps lowering at a fast rate.
- Several wells on private plots adjacent to Auroville have been drilled recently and have been intensely running during the lockdown.

This requires immediate attention and action. It is recommended for individuals:
- to reduce garden watering to a strict minimum and if possible, use treated or recycled water for gardens.
- to fix all leaks without delay.
- to follow the water conservation tips found here: http://aurovillevater.in/water-conservation-tips-1

It is recommended for communities:
- determine whether your sewage treatment plant needs repair, and if so, take steps toward getting it fixed.
- if applicable, install a reliable flow meter on your community’s well outlet and to note the reading regularly.
- to refresh existing interconnected water supply lines that water can be shared easily in case of necessity.

Please note that L’Avenir and all water actors are available to assist you. In order to help in the best way possible, we also need your assistance in collecting information on wells, storage tanks and water supply networks. Much of the information at hand is largely outdated and a lot of time is spent in understanding the context before actions are launched. Considering the crisis facing us, collecting data is a very important task which will enable us to work out better solutions. All your support and cooperation is required at this moment.

With gratitude and kind regards, ~ L’Avenir d’Auroville

Housing Board Report - January & February 2020

10 HB Members were present during this period: Rama Narayana (Entry Board), Venkat (HRT), Mita Dg (AV Council), Ole (Housing Service), Prabhu (Community at large), Sundar K. (Housing Service), Svenja (Housing Service), Vivek (Green Group), Xavier (Community at large) and Sreevatsa (L’avenir d’Auroville on TDC related topics only).
The process to select 1 Community at large representative, to replace Sunder R., is still in progress. Six members constitutes a quorum Meetings are Wednesdays, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM at the ACUR meeting room, Town Hall.

Visits with the Housing Board:

22.01.2020 w/ the FAMC on HS accounting topics - Lyle, Dhruv, Prabhu; Stephanie and Subbu. The FAMC has previously requested a system audit from AV Foundation Accounting office for HS accounts section. The results were presented on 22.01.2020 and actions are taken to regularise all noted shortcomings.

29.01.2020 w/ the Matrimandir team: Auroville, John, Hemant S. and Nishtha. (Durai and Uma did not attend); FAMC: Daniele, Nicole; LB: Helena.
The Land exchange between Agni and a plot near MM were discussed. The matter concerns 2 outside parties, which makes land exchange possible. The Aurovilian residents in Agni have been offered relocation.

12.02.2020 w/ AV Council members in regard to the role of the AvC representative on the Housing Board.

12.02.2020 w/ Dr Kumar, on the Celebration accommodation. Dr. Kumar is no longer caretaker of the Celebration Newcomer Complex. No new caretaker has yet been named.

Av Council related matters:
Guidelines on “Conflict of interest” document - Suggested annexure for the “Conflict of Interest” document has been approved by HB on 15 January 2020 and was sent to AV.

New HB members - The HB is currently missing the following members: 1 representative of AVC and 2 representatives of the Community at large.

L’avenir d’Auroville related matters:
- NOC format for projects and fraternal contribution. A proper procedure has been developed to bring more clarity and efficiency in the NOC process.
- Mango Garden - 3 plots were published on Auronet and NBN. A lot of applications were received. The site visit has been delayed.
- Edyanchavadi land - distinct AV architecture is needed.
- Stewards have to contribute to the infrastructure such as well, electricity and wastewater treatment system.

Affordable housing (former Project B) - HS discussed with L’avenir d’Auroville and submitted a new project brief.

Housing Development

Youth Housing - HB agreed to the NBN announcement to include Newcomers and SAVI-registered volunteers in the selection process for youth housing (Humancapes and Kriya), and to create waiting lists to measure current demand for housing in all categories.

YHP2 - (Youth Habitat Program) A preliminary NOC has been given, so now the detailed plans can be started.

Marcella, Kriya - request to make an exception for youth housing in Kriya. She is 37 and ending her NC period. HB denied the request to stay on in Kriya.

Kannan, Humancapes - Request to make an exception and prolong his stay in Humancapes (beyond the age of 40) until another housing possibility is found. HB denied the extension due to GOI criteria.

Camille and Cubi, Kriya - The deadline for moving out of Kriya was set at 31 January 2020, as the family does not comply with the criteria of the youth housing selection committee.

FAMC related matters:

Mahalakshmi - Stewardship is under HS and operation under Health Service. The money generated from the exchange of housing units that the future occupants of Mahalakshmi vacate, will go into the Housing Development Fund to, depending on the needs of the community, create future assisted living homes, possibly in cooperation with Silver Fund Group or other projects. No contributions need to be paid for people moving into Mahalakshmi.

Damien, Brihaspati - The FAMC agreed to issue the stewardship papers.

Leonard’s Art Studio, Luminosity - It was questioned if HS was in charge of offices and it was agreed that the Luminosity concept was different, therefore FAMC advised HS to evaluate the studio and transfer at this contribution rate to the next steward. Funds shall go to Luminosity Housing account for future repairs/renovations in the community.

Sri-Ma agreement - Proposal of FAMC collecting the Rs. 54L in an escrow account was accepted by all. FAMC will inform HB after receipt of funds. If HB has a proposal for relocating Aurovilians that would unlock the escrow account, they will submit the proposal to FAMC.
Innovation Community - the Housing Board is urged to establish a process where an assessment report is made before making any decision on carrying out demolition or major structural repairs. Housing will perform the assessment and based on the report, will make the necessary repairs. Being a GOI funded project, the Housing Board is officially responsible for the management of this asset.

Cathy Pruvot, Sanjana - sent to FAMC & awaiting a reply about the refund request. Although no reply was received, the house has been announced for transfer, as Cathy is leaving end of March 20

Housing Board/Housing Service matters:
Old Sanjay house - HB decided: to have an evaluation done & transfer the house the way it is, with preference given to couples/family.

House transfers, Stewardships and Evaluations
The HB has decided to keep the value of new constructions the same for 3 years (without devaluation) for transfer. Hamsini, Serenity - Recommendation for refund under Refund Conditions was sent to FAMC

Angira’s Garden - Janmejay and family is the new steward. Petite Ferme - Markus & Axum have been chosen by the community to be the new stewards. Turlya / Thierry & Philippe - The parties will proceed with a house exchange in April 2020

Repair and Maintenance
No grants for repair will be approved until further notice from the HB, at least until the end of the financial year. HB has decided for the future that any grant should have a MOU signed.

Ganesh, Jyothi, Aspiration - HB agreed to do roof repairs and window as decided in the arbitration.

Velu, Promesse - HB has decided to go ahead to a full grant Pathma, MM Nursery - 3.5 Lakhs family grant is agreed by HB.

Loans and Grants:
No grants will be approved until further notice from the HB, at least until the end of the financial year.

Aspiration hut, Ganesh & Dheena - HB has decided to support an interest-free loan for the contribution of Rs. 50,000 for the hut.

From the Residents Assembly Service
This is to inform you that Inge van Alphen announced her resignation from the Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) in January 2020, effective once the Interim Selection Process had taken place. The vacancy was filled as part of that process. Apologies for any inconvenience caused by this delayed update.

For the Residents’ Assembly Service,
~ Manoj K, Sathish A, Tatiana S

Entry Service - Temporary Operational Guidelines during COVID-19 conditions

General Inquiries
• No walk-in inquiries
• Send an email with your question or request to entryservice@auroville.org.in
• Entry Service will address your inquiry/request or provide an appointment if necessary.
• No new applications will be accepted until further notice
• Welcome Talk and Yucca Program suspended till further notice

Newcomer Kit Issue / Return
• NC Kit issue by Entry Service: We will send an email for registration to collect their Newcomer kit from us.
• NC Kit return by Newcomer: After completing all the procedures, the Newcomer needs to notify the Entry Service by email and request an appointment for submission of the completed kit.
• Entry Service will provide an appointment for document submission.

Newcomer Final Process
• Entry Service will initiate an email to the Newcomer and the mentors.
• The Newcomer needs to send the completed documents by email. Soft copies (pdf or jpeg formats) are welcomed to avoid personal contacts / delays
• Mentors can send the requested details by email to Entry Service (entryservice@auroville.org.in)

Interviews with the Entry Board
• Entry Service will schedule a meeting with the Newcomer/applicant and the mentors (from 2nd week of June onwards)
• The Newcomer / Applicant / mentors needs to confirm or request for changes.

AV Secretary Meeting / B-Form signing Requests
(Newcomers / Youth)
• Entry Service will send an email to the newcomers with an appointment for signing the B-Form OR meeting the AV Secretary (please expect delays)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don’t forget to fill out your Calling the Future Community Survey, which we designed to collect all the good initia-tives that have been taken during the lockdown, as well as the new ideas and expectations that are arising, and to reflect on how they can be implemented. Here is the link to fill in the survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOTpxnB3TWX

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Some print copies are available at PTDC, PTPS and Town Hall desk for those who can’t fill it on the internet. You can return the completed print copy to the place you picked it up.

~ Warmly, Alan, Amy, Dan, Isha, Laurence, Maël

The new AV Telephone Directory is now available. Copies can be obtained from PTDC, PTSP, HERS, Prisma (Aureleac compound) or Aureleac Cafeteria. FMI: prisma@auroville.org.in or 2622296

AV Vehicle Service has reopened

Auroville Vehicle Service is open to public 9 AM to 1 PM till 31.05.2020. We are collecting documents for the following works:
• Fresh Indian driver’s license,
• Renewal of driver’s license,
• Vehicle fitness certificate renewal (vehicles above 15 years)
• Vehicle transfer of ownership,
• Vehicle Insurance for 2 & 4 wheelers (new/ renewal),
• Health insurance
• Personal Accident insurance
• Travel insurance
• Purchase of new vehicles (two & four wheelers)
• Purchase of electric vehicles (two & four wheelers)
• Bicycle rental available.

We also provide drop and pick up your vehicles for servicing at relevant authorized service centers.

Open hours for month of June will be announced after 31.05.2020.
Lost key - I lost a key on Friday May 22, somewhere on the bicycle paths between Maitreyee and the Matrimandir. It’s attached to a black string. If you find it, please email giovanniparrillo@hotmail.com. Thanks.

Looking for owner of brown/black male dog

His paw was injured due to getting into an animal trap, but he was rescued, treated and is now at Newlands. He wears a brown collar. If this is your dog, please call 948 960 1312. Thank you.

ACUR canteen at Town Hall open again
8.30 AM - 2 PM

All items are for takeaway only. Please mind the instructions for hygiene and social distancing. Thanks, – ACUR team

KALKI Shop at Visitors Center is now open full day
10.00 AM - 5.00 PM

AV Library - Summer hours
We will be shifting to summer opening hours from 1st June.
Mon - Sat: 9am - 12.30pm; Tues, Thurs, Sat: 4pm - 6.30pm

Also, since we reopened a few weeks ago we have been experiencing some technical issues with our server. This means that we have lost some data and therefore we might send you an email reminder when you've already returned your books. If this happens, please just reply stating that the books have been returned and we'll check our shelves to confirm this. Our email reminders are automated and since the lockdown, we've been trying to catch up with basically the whole community being overdue (over 1000 books). Please have patience and understanding during this time - we're doing our best!

And don't forget our e-book and movie collections! There are over 30,000 books and 3000 movies and documentaries available in various languages. Simply visit us with an empty storage device to put your selection on. Best to come during the mornings when Frederick is available to assist you.

Warmly (literally!) – the Auroville Library team

Momo Resumed at the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture

We are resuming Wednesday (only) Lhakar Momo for lunch only take away. Please book in advance (by 9PM Tues) by whatsapp at 8489967332. We will serve veg and Vegan only. Kindly specify which you would like to reserve. Come with your own tiffin/containers. Pick up is from the first entrance of the PTC, International Zone. Please follow the Covid-19 guidelines. Best Regards, Namgyal and Kalsang.

From the Auroville Artist Group - Funds for performances by Auroville Artists in Auroville should be requested now for the financial year 2020/21. Applications will be considered only until 30.06.20. Please send a mail to av.artistgroup@gmail.com – Nuria & Rolf

Simply Audrey - Please don't use Wallace Taylor anymore. My name is simply Audrey. Thank you with best wishes.

Sunglasses - Lost in the late afternoon of 25th May, somewhere on the path between Pitanga and Samriddhi. If you have found them I'd be happy to have them back. Alan Contact: 2622341 or alan@auroville.org.in

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Auroville Board of Services response to the announced (last week) reopening of Nandini can be seen here: https://auroville.org.in/article/79701.

Solitude Baskets - There is huge interest right now about local food. People are realising that food security is our responsibility. We must become familiar with local foods and learn how to cook and enjoy their superior qualities!

The Solitude Basket service, which has been running for 10 years now, is dedicated to offering this seasonal and cultural nutritional heritage to our community. At the moment you will find a variety of wild spinachs, papayas (green and fruit), cooking bananas or tapioca, brinjals, banana stem and turkey berries, chikoo, fruit bananas, soursop, custard apples, bael fruit, different chills and a juice kit with Radha's consciousness and hibiscus flowers, nanari roots and soursop leaves. Mangos are coming soon and as the season progresses, produce changes with it.

This basket helps you understand the seasons and how to value local foods. There is a whatsup group for recipes and also workshops that the farm offers for people to learn how to eat from the field to the plate. The baskets are about 7 kgs in weight, and we have 4 basket plans: 1 month, 3 months, 6 months and 1 year. The longer you commit, the cheaper the basket, and the more involved you become, the more we are able to offer you. You can also team up with neighbors and use this basket service as an opportunity to cook together or simply share the cost and the adventure of rediscovering your local foods. Please contact solitudepermaculture@gmail.com

Yours, –Krisha

OPEN AROUND – SAT, 8:45-12:30 & 2:00-4:30  (CLOSED TUES PM)

The following services are offered:

Doctors:
Dr. Igor – Mon-Wed-Fri (9:00-12:30) & Thurs (2 - 4:30)
Dr. Brian – Mon-Wed-Fri (2:00-4:30) & Tues/Thurs (9:00 - 12:30)
Doctors alternate on Saturday (9:00 - 12:30)
Nursing care is available during open timings.

Other Therapies:
Acupuncture with Andres – Mon & Fri afternoon (2:00 - 4:30) & Thursday morning (9:00-12:30)
Ayurveda with Be – Wed & Fri (9:00 - 12:30)
Homeopathy with Michael - Mon & Wed afternoon (2:00 - 4:30)
Paula for pregnant ladies & urgent patients only:
Tues & Wed morning (9:00 - 12:30)

Lab services have resumed for basic service. Other contact therapies are suspended till further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Only account or Aurocard - no cash payments are accepted.

Aurocabs Taxi provides drop / pickup services for Aurovilians, Newcomers, guests who have been stranded here who are leaving Auroville or those returning to Auroville after the lockdown, and also for emergencies. Our cars are sanitized before the journey starts, to ensure the safety of our valuable guests and drivers. Please make sure that you are healthy for last 14 days and didn’t have any symptoms of Covid-19 before you travel. We care for our drivers and their family in this pandemic situation. Wear mask for your entire travel, while
you are in our taxi. Follow the government Covid-19 guidelines, for your own safety and for others. For more details, Contact Raju, Aurocabs Taxi Service, 0413-2623200, 2623201, +91 9443074825, aurocabs@auroville.org.in

How to block unsolicited email
- Auroville email Sysoyp

Spam is the use of electronic messaging systems to send unsolicited messages, especially advertising as well as sending messages repeatedly on the same site. We all receive spam from time to time.

Typically, you can use the unsubscribe link at the end of the email. However, if the link is missing, there is even more effective way to say goodbye to the sender.

Log in to your inbox at https://mail.google.com/ open an unsolicited email, click the three dots in the top right corner and select ‘Block’.

This way you can block the sender if the email has been sent to your personal email address. However, be careful! Sometimes an unsolicited email reaches your inbox through a group that you are a member of, for example, the community group where you live. In such case, if you apply blocking you can mistakenly unsubscribe from your group. Instead, you need to block the sender at the group level. You can contact us to get advice on every specific case.

Mohanam family response and relief work update during the Covid-19 pandemic

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown in India, people all over the country are facing hardships. Mohanam has for the last 20 years uplifted, inspired and empowered youth through art and cultural activities. Due to the challenges and hardships the people around Auroville Bioregion are currently facing during the lockdown, the Mohanam family would like to share and support in this difficult situation for different kind of services that are possible within its current running budgets.

For Nepali Migrant families: (Auro Nepali Community Centre)
Nepal is one of the least developed countries in South Asia. Due to its poor economic condition, Nepal has been supplying labor to India, making migration an increasingly important source of income. Nepali people are also called Gurkhas and there are more than 250 Nepali with family around the Auroville Bioregion who are working in the Auroville community in construction, housekeeping, gardening, carpentry, shopkeeping, etc. Nepali migrants’ families are facing challenges to fulfill their basic needs. Most of them are daily wage earners, who have no means of regular income to maintain their families.

We knew we needed to do something, so we started a COVID-19 relief effort. We aim to create and distribute survival packs (consisting of rice, moong dhal, cooking oil, etc.) to those most in need. Through the running budget of Mohanam, so far we have reached 70 families and distributed survival packs, thanks to all the volunteers who have helped us so far.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, our work is not done. India’s lockdown has been extended to 31 May and experts predict that restrictions and hardships will continue to hurt the most vulnerable communities and marginalized people for months, if not years to come. Our survival packs will help a family to eat and stay safe for around two weeks. As the lockdown continues, many of those we’ve already helped will need our help again and the number of desperate people will grow.

Providing Immunity Booster to the nearest villages:
Mohanam has provided a Siddha (medicine) immunity booster with the support of Mohanam youth to the nearest villages around Auroville like Alankuppan, Sanjeevinagar, Pudunagar and Annainagar by three weekend days to achieve our primary health support. This immunity booster is a well-known Siddha medicine that consists of a whopping 15 herbal ingredients, each of them having unique characteristics of its own. This immunity booster is extensively aimed for boosting the lungs, improving respiratory mechanism and treating infectious conditions like cold, fever and other respiratory infections. This Siddha medicine became quite well-known during the times of flu, owing to its therapeutic and curative qualities. It possesses strong anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-viral, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, antioxidant, hepato-protective, anti-pyretic, anti-asthmatic and immunomodulatory properties.

The good support and response from the village people has encouraged our young to do more social works in the villages. Here our video Link: https://youtu.be/59e05836LaM

Upcoming Activity:
Creative Responses to Covid-19 Lockdown: Pandemic as a Rite of Passage - a Special Activity for Youth, ages 12 to 18.
This activity for the children and youth will happen only after the lockdown.

Thank you for taking the time to read our report. Stay safe and have a good day. Please get in touch using the contact details below if you would like to get more information about our services.
0413-262-2667 or mohanam@auroville.org.in

Goyo, Taste of Korea - Menu Update
We are happy to update our takeaway menu:
Bibimbap (Mixed rice with vegetables and mushrooms),
Chapchae (sweet potato starch noodles stir fried w/ vegetables and mushrooms),
Nokdu Jeon (Mung bean vegetable pancake),
Vegan, veg, tuna Gimab (seaweed rice roll)
Doenjang guk (Mung bean vegetable pancake),
Kimchi
Honey-butter almonds

You can order here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0rfAklFKORRazoRR86m-VatU-ISOLmoyJ6NnM6XPtaNn_g/viewform
Hope to see you soon at Goyo in Luminosity!

Delicious Bites would like to let all of you know that our delicious tiramisu and seitan are now available in PTPS and Hers. Kind regards from the Delicious Bites team

News & Notes #820 – 30th March 2020 7
Naturellement FYI - First of all, a big thanks to PTSPs and HERS for their support of our “lockdown discount” on a selection of our products. Not making any money on these items during the last months has been a great gesture.

Although normality is now slowly coming back and the discount scheme is over in the shops, we still want to continue it at our outlet in Udyogam. Like before, there is a big discount (on the MRP) on peanut butter, tahini, a selection of breakfast cereals, syrups, marmalades and jams. Just added is our freshly made (from AV mangos) mango pickle. We are of course still giving our 25% discount on other products as well as for the restaurant.

We now have three different types of sauerkraut: regular, beetroot/cabbage, and a spicy mix with garlic, ginger and chilli flakes.

Please note that discounts are for Aurovillians, Newcomers and volunteers only. Please phone (262-2034) for exact details of prices and products available.

The Naturellement team

The FARMER’S MARKET happens MONDAYS & FRIDAYS at TERRSOUl from 9.30 on. A few farms will offer their FRUITS & VEGETABLES. Please bring your BAGS and EMPTY JARS, and please respect the rules (masks, distance, spray).

News from TO BE TWO

In order to keep our entire team of amazing workers, we decided to open at half capacity with a half salary and maintenance to support their basic needs. We have started our operations by adhering to all the safety precautions to keep our team safe. Our showroom is open from Monday to Wednesday 8:30am to 5:00pm.

We’ve decided to offer everyone currently in Auroville a discount of 50% on all our products, so that we may continue to support the livelihood of our team. We also offer beautiful fabric from Jaipur and Delhi that we had acquired for our next round of offerings. Come visit us at our outlet in the Auromode compound. FMI: 805-635-4355; www.tobetwo.in

(Face masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing expected.)

APPEALS

It has been come to our attention at YouthLink that some Aurovillian/Newcomer youth are seriously struggling to cover their basic needs (e.g. groceries/housing) during the Covid19 lockdown, due to having no job/income and having difficulty finding a new job. YouthLink was fortunate to have 1 anonymous donor reach out to offer to help. It is only a small amount but we have already found a handful of eligible candidates who have applied for support.

If you have an opportunity to engage any of these youth in work during this time, please do send us an email with a brief job description. If you know any donor who would be willing to add to this fund, please ask them to transfer to YouthLink #251048 description “Covid19 Lockdown Youth Support”. If additional funds are collected we will dedicate the funds to future youth projects within Auroville.

If you know any youth who are struggling to cover their basic needs, they can email us at youthlink@auroville.org.in to apply for help finding a job / covering basic costs.

Wishing you all well in these challenging times.

Big imaginary hugs from the YouthLink Team!

 Appeal from the Scholarship and Education Fund (SEF), SAIER

To all students (and their parents) who have received a loan from us: Please begin to repay your SEF loan as soon as possible. This can be done in any amount. It can be done in one-time payments or as regular account deductions. Make all payments please to account number 240001 mentioning “for SEF”.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

New Management Team for YouthLink

“YouthLink is a collective space, for youth to progress, in the Auroville spirit of service and evolution of consciousness.”

As some of you are aware, YouthLink has been talking about succession in the last year. We have managed to explore a lot of topics in these handful of years and have successfully reached a wide range of youth within Auroville, the bioregion and internationally. We have also engaged countless mentors and have started several projects; some failing, and some succeeding. YouthLink is indeed a playground that welcomes experiments, where one can dream wildly and feel creative and supported.

We have set up a flexible organisational structure to accommodate Auroville/Newcomer/Volunteer youth to work full/part time and be supported financially do to so. By joining YouthLink, each member gets to express themselves through their chosen “life project,” and simultaneously offers their skills to help manage the service unit. Therefore each member spends about half the time receiving help from the YouthLink platform, and about half their time offering to help others. It is a real joy to work in such a diverse, collaborative space!

Founded in 2015, we are now 5 years old and we feel it is a good time to hand over the service unit to a new management team. If you are interested in the work of YouthLink and interested in Management of such a unit, please do contact us. We are looking for young adults with Aurovillian status, who are deeply connected to Auroville ideals and interested in developing collective leadership skills. youthlink@auroville.org.in.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Warm greetings from the YouthLink Team.

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. Although the lockdown is still going on, we will start to work and ask Aurovillians and Newcomers who are looking for work to contact us. If you have contacted us in the past, please let us know again if you are still looking for work. Be aware that a lot of units have to scale down, but in case there is an opening, we would be able to place you. Units who have positions opening up soon, please contact us. hr_hub@auroville.org.in

~ HR Initiative (Angelo, Joel, Siv, Stephanie)

Customer Care and Website Management - You are fluent in English, have good communication skills and will take care of our customers. You update our website and you have an interest in the technical aspects of this work. Full-time, maintenance provided.

AVAILABLE

Commercial space available for transfer in Imagination campus. First floor building approx 160 sq m. Could be two units. For more details or to view, please contact Bobby 0413 2622039 or Stephan 0413 262-2526 or stephan@auroville.org.in.

Aurosarjan Complex, Auroshilpam - Office space available for registered units or activities:
* small office of about 23 sq mtrs
* larger office of about 38 sq mtrs

If interested, please make an appointment with Stephan at stephan@auroville.org.in

I have an LG 19” monitor and a 26x18 cm Asus tablet, including external keyboard, to offer for a small donation. They might need some repairs. Need them to go asap. Please call @ 9385704218.

News & Notes #820 – 30th March 2020 8
A New Home for Suki and Tiger-Tim - Caring owner wanted for two 14-week-old kittens, Suki (Siamese type) and brother Tiger-Tim (pale red tabby). We're delightful, well-mannered, and completely litter-trained, and are looking for our forever home - together. Contact Dianna, 936-035-9427 (WhatsApp/phone) for photos and more details.
P.S. Happy to pay for sterilization when old enough, and any vaccinations needed.

LOOKING FOR

Help with house chores - 9 AM - 4 PM, Hindi/English speaker. Contact Pawan @ 91197 62631 or Anamika @ 93453 21570

If anyone has a kombucha or kefir culture to share, I would really appreciate to start my own! Please email me at tara@auroville.org.in.

Others to join … Hi all, Vera here. As a long-standing citizen of Auroville, myself and my partner are currently looking for a SMALL group of 3-5 other long-term AVN’s to come together with a goal of creating a completely self-sustainable community - a space of beauty that relies on as little as possible on outside resources (electricity, water and foods, etc.). This is a dream of many, but in personal experience, alone, or as a couple, it’s very hard to get access/permission for land or to build something like this in Auroville, however, a group of people with the same goal and intentions and good reputation will find it much easier if we band together. If coming together to create this space interests you and you have access to sufficient funds to build a simple house, please contact us. Any skills that you may have that can further decrease the reliance on outside products would be a fantastic addition to the idea in mind.

Currently, many of us are experiencing a hard-hitting realization - that when “it” hits the fan, it is ourselves and those close to us that we rely on - the food that we grow, the products that we make, the electricity we generate by our own means, the water we supply and purify ourselves that will sustain us. There is no better time than right now to realise this and to take action. Let’s make it happen! :)
- Vera, lovera.ra128@gmail.com, ph/whatsapp: 9751633084

PS If anyone has a current project like this that needs additional assistance, or knows of space where this would be welcome, please reach out also :) – Vera, lovera.ra128@gmail.com, ph/whatsapp: 9751633084

In these difficult times (for many even economically), I offer to an Aurovilian lady/child the opportunity to do the housework in my little apartment, working together and giving us mutual relief. Contact Janaka (Italian lady) doing a hard job in Luminosity. +919487629648 or janaka.om@auroville.org.in

Housekeeping work - I am Selvi from Apprapet. For a long time I am looking for work, full or half day as an amma. I have three children and no income and I can’t support my family. so please if anyone need for house-keeping work please contact me at 9786807071. Thank you, – Selvi

Housesitter - Still looking for the appropriate responsible housesitter for Nilatangham main house, starting July, for some months. Contact ambre@auroville.org.in

Second hand AC and batteries for a UPS - We really, really, really would appreciate your help! It is HOT! Love, Ganga, WhatsApp +91 6379 555 708 or ph +91 956 693-5374.

Wellness retreat home cohabitants - If there is anyone interested in conscious, healthy, and meditative living and is looking to share a large modern beautiful home, please feel to get in touch with me. It would be like living in a wellness retreat :) - G, sattvig@gmail.com, 840-799-7970

MATRIMANDIR

AMPHITHEATRE - MATRIMANDIR

We are happy to restart the Meditation at sunset with Savitri - read by Mother to Sunil’s music

Every THURSDAY (weather permitting) from
June 4th onward: 6:00 to 6:30 pm.

For the time being, access is limited to Aurovillians, Newcomers and Pass Holders. Enjoy the beautiful open space, the immense sunset and heavenly music in the very center of Auroville!

Reminder to all: The Park of Unity is a place for silence, meditation and inner work and is to be used only as such. We request everyone not to bring/use cameras, i-pads, cell phones, etc. Please carry your pass with you. Access only for the Amphitheatre from 5.45 pm. Please be seated by 5.55 pm. After the meditation is over, the gardens will close so everyone must return to the gate and our vehicles at that time.

Thank you. ~ Amphitheatre Team

Volunteers needed for garden weeding work

The gardens have grown a lot of weeds in the past 45 days of lockdown. Since we are working now with half the labor, it is taking a long time to weed them out so it spreads a little bit more. We could of course somehow manage to get it done but we felt it would be good for the soul to have some of you come and help. Please come weekdays between 7am and 9am via the office gate to the gardens. The main garden person will guide you to the areas to be weeded. After that you can inform garden coordinator to see if you like to come at a different time. Thank you! - Matrimandir Team

GREEN MATTERS

Water Saving Tip of the Week!

If you still have a garden that needs water, be sure to water it in the morning or evenings, ensuring that less water is lost through evaporation. With love from the Water Group, helping Auroville become a water-sensitive city. watergroup@auroville.org.in

A new documentary film: The Need to Grow, on alternative agriculture methods and ideas, and the people behind them, with commentary from various experts including Vandana Shiva, and featuring an interesting closed loop Green Energy Power Plant, is offered for free for a limited time now at: https://grow.foodrevolution.org/?ord=174172&pid=314 Enjoy! – from Noel Parent

MOBILITIVITY IN AUROVILLE

More e-cycles for KIM!

Now is the perfect time for Aurovillians and Newcomers to become independent from fossil fuels and to choose sustainable transport while in Auroville. After Kinisi’s last announcement on more e-cycles devoted to KIM, in just a few days we gave out 15 of them to new members. Taking advantage of this momentum, we decided to give another additional 10 e-cycles to the KIM scheme. If you are interested, you can write to us at kinisi@auroville.org.in or come to our office to register and you will get your e-cycle as soon as it is ready for you. Enjoy the advantages of ownership, without the hassles!

AND

Summer Special rates for volunteers!

In order to facilitate the adoption of sustainable transport in Auroville, we changed the minimum rental period required for volunteers to benefit from special rates. Previously, our special rates for volunteers were for a rental period of 3
months minimum. To encourage volunteers to switch to e-cycles, we have lowered this limit for this summer and will give the special rates for a rental period of one month minimum:

- INR 60/day for an e-cycle with an autonomy of 20-25 km per charge
- INR 90/day for an e-cycle with an autonomy of 30-60 km per charge

Now is the time for volunteers to become independent from petrol, as it is rather difficult to go to Pondicherry during these confinement times. With an e-cycle, no more running around to get fuel! Just plug your battery and charger to any normal outlet in the evening, and reclaim your autonomy! Sustainable Mobility for All!  

kinisi@auroville.org.in  
- Your Kinisi team

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

**AUROVILLE ART SERVICE** - ‘basket’ for the week

1. **EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL** - The Delegation of the European Union to India invites you and your contacts to register for the European Film Festival that they have recently launched. You will find all details and links on their website as well as on their social media. There is no screening fee and access is provided to a free virtual screening room once participants sign up. They hope that this digital initiative can offer some respite by bringing creative Europe home. There are 19 films available.  
https://www.festivalscope.com/all/festival/euffestival/2020

2. **FINDHORN COMMUNITY** - Shares a free documentary about climate change realized by them.  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=126&v=YIzDYhpXpAgQ&feature=emb_logo

3. **AUROVILLE TIMELINES** - If you would like to learn filmmaking and express your lockdown story, keep in touch with Auroville Timelines, which is offering a series of online courses.  
 timelines@auroville.org.in

4. **MICHÈLE DECOUST SHARES** - To my friends around the Planet - More than ever, it is urgent to SHARE! All my movies (mainly about ecology of the Earth/Body/Soul - Pioneering Communities (such as Biosphere2/Auroville- and Inspired Artists) are now in free access on You Tube. Nearly all of them are both in French and English version. Be happy to share them with no limit! To find the movies, search for Michèle Decoust Youtube Channel.

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Auroville Emergency Contact Numbers - Save them in your phone now!

Auroville Safety and Security Team: 9443090107; 041326523400; security@auroville.org.in

Ambulance: Auroville: 9442224680  
PIMS: 0413-2656271/72

Farewell: mobile number: 8903836246. reachable 24/7

Emergency Service of India: 108

JIPMER hospital: 2278380 / 2272389  
General Hospital: 2336050

Puducherry helpline: 104

TN COVID helpline: 044-29510500

**CLASSSES/WORKSHOPS**

**भगवद्गीता**

Samskritam Auroville offers  
Bhagavad Gita  
Online Study - June 2020

“Sri Aurobindo considers the message of the Gita to be the basis of the great spiritual movement which has led and will lead humanity more and more to its liberation, that is to say, to its escape from falsehood and ignorance, towards the truth. From the time of its first appearance, the Gita has had an immense spiritual action; but with the new interpretation that Sri Aurobindo has given to it, its influence has increased considerably and has become decisive.”  
- The Mother 29 June 1960 (Ref. CWTM, Vol. 10, p.88)

Sanskrit and English

Over 13 sessions of 90-minute each, we will cover all the 700 Slokas from Bhagavad Gita in Sanskrit and also read Sri Aurobindo’s interpretation (paraphrased from Essays on Gita) in English.

**Date:** June 2nd to 30th, 2020 (every Tue-Thu-Sat)  
**Time:** 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm  
**Venue:** Online via an audio/video conferencing tool  
**Facilitators:** Aravinda, Chandresh, Radhika, volunteers  
**Online Reference:** http://bhagavadgita.org.in

Register at devabhasha@auroville.org.in and we will send you more details. Like all the offerings from the Samskritam Auroville team, there is no financial contribution expected to attend this program.

**Reflections from the first (April-May) online study circle**

Our first experiment on the online study of Bhagavad Gita last month was deeply enriching. Many participants called it a ‘collective यज्ञ that gave a lot of courage and clarity. Chanting or just listening to the Sanskrit slokas of the Bhagavad Gita, even without understanding the meaning, was transformative for many, as it works at the subtle levels. Reading Sri Aurobindo’s interpretation in English added to mental clarity and inspired lot of reflections for everyday life actions.

We all ended with deep gratitude for this collective study.

The timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita continues to guide humanity. If this online study circle interests you, most welcome to join us.

Warmly,  
Aravinda, Deven, Radhika and many invisible volunteers  
Samskritam Auroville

**NEWS & NOTES #820**

**VOICES & NOTES**

**BOOK OF JUICES 1:3**

And so they decided...  
to call upon the earth loka  
to help name the juice.  
But since mortals were still  
locked up in sensory trappings  
they would have to first taste the juice for real  
to come up with anything sensible.  
A call was therefore to be made out  
to people of the four seas  
to gather for a juice tasting  
while practicing social distancing.  
And invites were prepared...  
(to be continued)
PLEASE GO PAPERLESS!

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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.
Any 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,
Wednesdays & Thurs AM due to work pressure.

Articles for the Notes section should ideally be no longer than 500
words.
Visiting hours: MON 9-4; TH PM 2-4:30; FRI & SAT mornings 9-12
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