

Village Action News

Monthly news about the efforts of AVAG to bridge the gap between Auroville and the villages around it.

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First sports meet for the village youth

(An impressive display of untapped talent)

Recently AVAG hosted a volleyball tournament for village youth. It was a feast for the eyes to see the young village boys play the game in such a professional manner. The ground play as well as the smashing technique of all the players was as good as that of any state level team. Every match was a fight till the last point as all the teams were equally strong.

For most of the players it was the first tournament of their life. They all seemed very proud to represent their village and some had taken pains to get a team uniform with the name of their village printed on it.



The following Sunday was the 'Athletics Day' for the village boys. AVAG had specially invited the 'Auroville Sports Team' to conduct the event according to proper rules and regulations. The best performances recorded were: 5.80 meters in long-jump, 10.45 meters in shot-put and around 12.6 sec in 100 meters run.

The 'Auroville Sports Team' comprising 8 Aurovilians was very much impressed with the performances, knowing that the boys hadn't gone through any athletics training. Some of them volunteered to be a part of AVAG's 'Sports Training Program' for the villagers, which is going to start in the near future. They also offered the possibility of hosting some sports competitions for the village children in the well equipped 'Deha-Shakti' sports ground of Auroville.

To end the day with laughter the AVAG staff had organized some novelty games like slow-cycling, tug of war and breaking the pot blind-folded.

Encouraged by the success of these tournaments AVAG has decided to organize regular sports events for the young men and women of the region. These youth with such talent and determination would be a useful asset for their village if they were given more opportunities to develop their skills.

With the participation of Aurovilians and their discussion with the AVAG's co-coordinators it is likely that we shall soon have various sports competitions between the village and Auroville youth. It will be an interesting exposure for the village youth to confront a team comprising of boys and girls from different nationalities playing happily together without any social or cultural constraint. For the Aurovilians it will be an eye-opening experience to see the hidden talent and enthusiasm of a neighborhood which is totally deprived of all the wonderful opportunities and facilities that Auroville has in plenty. But most importantly, it will be an occasion for both the sides to meet on a common ground and make friends.