

Auroville News

No:947

July 13th, 2002

Thirukkural

ஆற்றின் ஒழுக்கி அறனிழுக்கா இல்வாழ்க்கை
நோற்பாரின் நோன்மை உடைத்து.

Straight in Virtue, right in living
Make men brighter than monks praying.

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ

Ces buts ont une grande importance à leur niveau, mais ils ne sont pas la chose centrale; ils ne peuvent être assurés que s'ils se fondent sur un changement de la nature intérieure de l'homme et de sa manière intérieure de vivre. En eux-mêmes, ils n'ont d'importance que s'ils aident à donner plus d'essor et de champ libre au progrès de l'homme vers ce changement intérieur et, une fois celui-ci accompli, s'ils deviennent l'expression extérieure d'une vie intérieure plus large. La liberté, l'égalité, la fraternité sont trois divinités de l'âme ; elles ne peuvent pas vraiment se réaliser par les mécanismes extérieurs de la société, ni par l'homme tant qu'il vit seulement dans l'ego individuel et dans celui de la communauté. Quand l'ego réclame la liberté, il arrive à un individualisme compétitif. Quand il revendique l'égalité, il arrive d'abord au conflit, puis il tente de fermer les yeux sur les variations de la Nature et ne connaît d'autre moyen que de bâtir une société artificielle et mécanique. Une société qui cherche la liberté comme idéal, est incapable d'arriver à l'égalité ; une société qui cherche l'égalité sera obligée de sacrifier la liberté. Et parler de fraternité à l'ego, c'est parler d'une chose contraire à sa nature. Tout ce qu'il connaît, c'est une association à la poursuite de fins égoïstes communes ; tout ce qu'il est capable de réaliser, c'est une organisation plus rigoureuse afin de répartir également le travail, la production, la consommation et les plaisirs.

Et pourtant, la fraternité est la vraie clef du triple évangile de l'idée d'humanité. L'union de la liberté et de l'égalité ne peut s'accomplir que par le pouvoir de la fraternité humaine ; elle ne peut se fonder sur rien autre. Mais la fraternité n'existe que dans l'âme et par l'âme ; elle ne peut exister par rien autre. Car cette fraternité n'est pas affaire de parenté physique ni d'association vitale ni d'accord intellectuel. Quand l'âme réclame la liberté, c'est la liberté de se développer, de développer le divin dans l'homme et dans tout son être. Quand elle réclame l'égalité, ce qu'elle veut, c'est cette même liberté également pour tous, et la reconnaissance d'une même âme, une même divinité dans tous les êtres humains. Quand elle cherche la fraternité, elle fonde cette égale liberté de développement sur un but commun, une vie commune, une unité de pensée et de sentiment, elle-même fondée sur la reconnaissance de l'unité spirituelle intérieure. En fait, cette trinité constitue la nature même de l'âme ; car la liberté, l'égalité et l'unité sont les attributs éternels de l'Esprit. Reconnaître pratiquement cette vérité, éveiller l'âme dans l'homme et tenter de le faire vivre dans son âme et non dans son ego, tel est le sens intérieur de la religion, et c'est à cela que la religion de l'humanité doit parvenir également si elle veut se réaliser dans la vie de l'espèce.

L'IDÉAL DE L'UNITÉ HUMAINE :

La religion de l'humanité. SRI AUROBINDO

HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

Liberty, Equality, Fraternity

But though these aims are of great importance in their own field, they are not the central thing; they can only be secure when founded upon a change of the inner human nature and inner way of living; they are themselves of importance only as means for giving a greater scope and a better field for man's development towards that change and, when it is once achieved, as an outward expression of the larger inward life. Freedom, equality, brotherhood are three godheads of the soul; they cannot be really achieved through the external machinery of society or by man so long as he lives only in the individual and the communal ego. When the ego claims liberty, it arrives at competitive individualism. When it asserts equality, it arrives first at strife, then at an attempt to ignore the variations of Nature, and, as the sole way of doing that successfully, it constructs an artificial and machine-made society. A society that pursues liberty as its ideal is unable to achieve equality; a society that aims at equality will be obliged to sacrifice liberty. For the ego to speak of fraternity is for it to speak of something contrary to its nature. All that it knows is association for the pursuit of common egoistic ends and the utmost that it can arrive at is a closer organisation for the equal distribution of labour, production, consumption and enjoyment.

Yet is brotherhood the real key to the triple gospel of the idea of humanity. The union of liberty and equality can only be achieved by the power of human brotherhood and it cannot be founded on anything else. But brotherhood exists only in the soul and by the soul; it can exist by nothing else. For this brotherhood is not a matter either of physical kinship or of vital association or of intellectual agreement. When the soul claims freedom, it is the freedom of its self-development, the self-development of the divine in man in all his being. When it claims equality, what it is claiming is that freedom equally for all and the recognition of the same soul, the same godhead in all human beings. When it strives for brotherhood, it is founding that equal freedom of self-development on a common aim, a common life, a unity of mind and feeling founded upon the recognition of this inner spiritual unity. These three things are in fact the nature of the soul; for freedom, equality, unity are the eternal attributes of the Spirit. It is the practical recognition of this truth, it is the awakening of the soul in man and the attempt to get him to live from his soul and not from his ego which is the inner meaning of religion, and it is that to which the religion of humanity also must arrive before it can fulfil itself in the life of the race.

THE IDEAL OF HUMAN UNITY:

The Religion of Humanity SRI AUROBINDO

The Meeting of the Matrimandir Team **27th June 2002**

Present: Amar, Arjun, Divakar, Gajendran, Igor, John, Jurgen, Kusumben, Lakshmi Narayan, Manimaran, Saravanan, Selvam, Sergei, Shiva. Victor, Walter.
Chari: Jurgen

1. The Maintenance list for July was prepared.

One person was shifted from full time to half time maintenance.

One person who has stopped working will be informed that their support from Matrimandir will continue up to August 1st only.

One person, out of station, was removed temporarily from the half-time list.

2. Regarding Roadwork on the Northern side of the Peace Area.

In order to coordinate the development road access on the Northern side of the Peace Area (near the Town Hall) we decided that a few members of the Matrimandir meeting would meet the I.D.C. during the week for discussion (the meeting was held on the 9th of July).

3. Amphitheater Usage

It was decided to invite the members of the Matrimandir Access and Usage Study Group (Nicole, Peter, Tim and Amrit) and the members of the Amphitheater Group (Joy, Srimoyi, Sigrid, Carlos, Soham) to come next Thursday. We feel that as the Amphitheater is an integral part of the Matrimandir Peace area it is imperative that we find the way to all work together in harmony.

4. Inner Skin Update (presented by Jurgen)

During the last months we have done a fairly extensive test inside Matrimandir to simulate the lighting conditions of a future Inner Skin. Much has been learned about the factors influencing the colour and intensity of the test samples. The conclusion of these tests is that an even more extensive test must be done to fully simulate the future light conditions, so we can find out how precisely to colour the porthole windows.

Proposal:

- To fully cover the interior surface of the Matrimandir sphere now with fire-proofed tracing

paper so as to be able to carry out the definitive tests of colouring of the windows and grading the sand blasting Inner Skin panels.

- We should, before fixing this tracing paper, first treat the RCC and ferrocement structure with the needed corrosion inhibitor.

- We should also now rebuild the interior scaffolding to prepare for the future installation of the glass panels.

- We should order now samples of the aluminum profiles needed for framing and mounting the glass triangles.

- The Financial need for this project, including: sample castings of aluminum profiles for mounting the inner skin panels, a new drill for use in the mounting of the profiles and tracing paper, is estimated to be Rs. 1,87,000.

The meeting appreciated Jurgen's work and presentation and passed the above proposal with its cost of Rs. 1,87,000 for materials.

5. Estimate for Main Door Prototype #2

An estimate for a new prototype main door for Matrimandir was presented by Victor.

The meeting agreed to the estimate of Rs.50,000.

6. Financial Requests approved:

#26. 14" Sandstone blade for petals work Rs. 4,900.00

#27. Red sandstone, 500 slabs, for the petals Rs. 64,000.00

#28. Cow Dung for the petals grass, 10 loads Rs. 6,000.00

#29. Pots for the garden shade plants, (12") Rs. 3,000.00

#30. SS pipes for Rose garden trellis, 90mts Rs. 16,100.00

IDC Meeting Report 09.07.02

Present: Jacques, Dharmesh, Joseba, Aurovici, Stuart

Secretary: Sonja Observer: Claude, Gemma
Matrimandir

After IDC received two letters of the Matrimandir Workers Team, five of the members came to IDC meeting with several request. One was the question of access to Centre for Urban Research and the second one was to shift the fence in direction to the Centre, to store more of their materials there. That means to close the existing road along the present Matrimandir fence (access road to Matrimandir Workshop and access

to Gaia) and opening an alternative road as soon as possible. The IDC heard them out and after a little discussion we explained them that IDC opposed to the shifting of the fence and the closing of the existing road for the time being. The reasons of our disagreement were given in the following letter:

To: Matrimandir Workers Team
 Matrimandir 27 June 02
 Reg: Your letters dated 30th April and 28th May 2002

Dear Matrimandir Workers Team,
 This is our reply to the points raised by you in your a.m. letters:

1. Access to Centre for Urban Research (previously called Town Hall Annex):

- We confirm that the access to the CUR is going to be provided from a service road behind the buildings, not from the side facing Matrimandir.
 - The present road will have to continue providing access to the Matrimandir workshop and to the Cultural zone for the moment.
 - The new service road is going to be elongated in phases, as the row of administrative buildings develops. This means that the present phase of the service road does not yet connect to the Matrimandir workshop area.
 - Therefore, it is not possible for the moment to close the existing road.
 - We do not see also the need or possibility to create another alternative temporary road.
- Regarding roads, please keep in mind that any closing or opening has to be approved by the Development Council.

2. Peace Area 300 m limit and fence:

- Since there is already a fence for the protection of the area, and as there is still no clarity and consensus regarding the peace area, there should not be any urgency to shift temporary roads or fences, incurring unnecessary expenses.
- Only when there will be a final agreement in the overall development of Auroville city centre and particularly in the Peace Area, it will be advisable to make the changes.

With Best Regards,
 The IDC

Need Help

The Correct Ac.no for Bala and Iyanar's legal expenses is **0187** and not 0969 as previously published. I would like to remind everybody that they are completely innocent of the charges they have been accused of. Anybody who wants to know more about the situation can contact me anytime. Santo.

POPs Treaty

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are a class of mainly synthetic toxic chemical substances that cause severe and long term effects on wildlife, ecosystem and human health. Pesticides like DDT, Industrial chemicals like PCBs and Unintentional by-products like Dioxins (Incinerators!) are examples of POPs. Their ill effects are not just local but global. They do not easily degrade with time and use but bioaccumulate and biomagnify, affecting at most those beings at the end of the food chain - HUMANS.

The international community, through the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has decided that we must eliminate POPs from our environment. To begin with, 12 particularly virulent POPs (mostly pesticides) nicknamed "The Dirty Dozen" have been prioritized for complete phase out. All POPs are intended for future phase out.

In the Stockholm Convention, May 23rd 2001, more than 70 nations signed the POPs TREATY to outlaw the "Dirty Dozen". India has announced its intention to sign the POPs TREATY, but the need of the hour is immediate ratification. To this end, the group THANAL of Kerala, who have been working on the Pesticides issue since 1998, have requested us to get signatures to a petition to the Indian Government to urgently ratify the POPs Treaty.

Significantly, one little child aged 4 in Promesse Community, led the way to collecting the first 30 signatures. Since then, volunteers from the villages are collecting signatures in Edayanchavadi, Kottakarai, Kulilapalayam, Mattur and Thuruva. Aurovilians can sign at the Library, or with Boris (Aspiration), or with Philippe (New Creation School), or with us. More volunteers for Auroville as well as the villages are welcome.

Following documents are available for reading at the Library and with the other persons already mentioned :

- News item "World set to ban dirty dozen chemicals" The Hindu 21.5.01,
- POPs factsheet prepared by GREENPEACE and THANAL,
- Investigation Report on Impact of Pesticides in Kerala by THANAL,
- The Killing Fields - Farmer deaths due to pesticides in Andhra Pradesh by Toxics Links and others,
- Putting Out the Flames (Campaigners guide to fight incinerators) by Toxics Links.

We must still continue with this Action, as there is no guarantee whatsoever that the respite from heavy spraying which we enjoyed this year is a permanently established thing. A line from Sri Aurobindo "No one is saved unless all are saved".

Thank you for your participation,
 Rita and Njal

C I N E M A - Bharat Nivas - AUDITORIUM

SATURDAY 13 JULY - 7.30 PM
(Film show starting at 7.45 sharp)

”SIBERIADE” (Part II)

Directed by Andrei Mikhalkov
KONCHALOVSKY - U.S.S.R. 1984
With: Alexander Potapov, Leonid Plesakov,
Volodjia Levitan
Setting: Second part of an epic relating the life of
two antagonist families living in a village of Siberia,
since the 1917 Russian Revolution.
English version - Duration: 1h.35' - 35mm film -
Colour

C I N E M A - Bharat Nivas - AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY 19 JULY - 7.45 PM
(Film show starting at 7.45 sharp)

MON ONCLE D'AMERIQUE
(MY AMERICAN UNCLE)

Directed by Alain RESNAIS, France, 1980
With: Gérard Depardieu, Nicole Garcia, Roger
Pierre, Marie Dubois, Pierre Arditi, Pr. Henri Laborit
Synopsis: The destinies of a director of information
for the radio, a peasant's son who has made it in the
city textile firm, and the one of a worker's daughter
who has become a clothe designer, intermingle as a
counterpoint of the theories formulated by Pr.
Laborit, biologist and analyst of behaviors... Original
French version, with English subtitles - Duration:
2h05' - Colour - 35mm film

C I N E M A - Bharat Nivas - AUDITORIUM
VENDREDI 19 JUILLET - 19h.30' (le film com-
mence à 19h.45' précises)

MON ONCLE D'AMERIQUE

Réalisé par Alain RESNAIS, France, 1980
Avec: Gérard Depardieu, Nicole Garcia, Roger
Pierre, Marie Dubois, Pierre Arditi, Pr. Henri Laborit
Synopsis : Les destins d'un directeur de l'information
d'une radio, d'un fils d'agriculteur recyclé dans
l'industrie textile et celle d'une fille d'ouvrier
devenue styliste, s'entrecroisent en contrepoint des
théories formulées par le professeur Laborit,
biologiste et analyste des comportements.
Version originale en Français, sous-titres en Anglais -
Durée: 2h05.' - Couleur- film 35mm

Video in English @ Visitor's Centre**1. HONEY HUNTERS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS**

Winner of three awards in the Environment Conservation category at CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2001, this 30 minute documentary tells the amazing story of the Kurumba tribals, the last honey hunters of the Nilgiris, and their intricate relationship with *Apis Dorsata*, the Giant Rock Bee. It includes extraordinary footage of them harvesting honey by climbing down sheer cliff faces to reach the rock bees' hives – without getting stung – and tries to capture the very essence of living with bees and the myths surrounding the honey hunters.

Brought to us by the **Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri**, distributors of **Last Forest Honey**, an ecodevelopment NGO team working with the last indigenous tribal populations of the Nilgiris.

NOT TO BE MISSED!

2. “The Five Heart Beats”

With R.Fownsent, Michael Wright
Dir: Robert Fownsent 1991/ 1h56'

(A musical comedy - drama about the rise and fall of a 1960's soul group.)

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

For all aurovilians and new comers who might still be interested - a booklet with the “Transcriptions and Translations” of the CD HYMS & SONGS IN SANSKRIT is available at the reception in Pitanga.
With Love
Joy

HEALTH FIRST

Classical homeopathy child care personal development Consultation in eng, french,german and tamil
With Sigrid, healing practitioner.

I'm back to normal timings for consultations every morning : Mon, Wed. Fri 9 to 12.30

Tue, Thu 10.30 to 12.30

At Prayatna phone 623669

An introductory session on Homeopathic First Aid will take place on 17.7. 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

All are welcome

Sigrid

Changes in Pour Tous ! **Promoting Auroville food products and improving your shopping experience**

As an initiative for the future of the existing Pour Tous service in Aspiration, a new team of Aurovillians has recently joined the Pour Tous Team in order to work on a project to support and develop the Auroville food products.

For this purpose the sales section of POUR TOUS is being rearranged where Auroville products will be displayed distinctly from outside products. Extra care will be taken to use environmental friendly packaging, reducing to the minimum the use of plastics and other wasteful unconscious practices.

You will find anyone of the team at any time offering product information and entertaining customer interaction in close collaboration with the food processing units.

We would like to come back to the original concept of POUR TOUS as a sharing center with the goal of best service, good healthy quality products at the most affordable prices and with the best hygienic control possible.

While these physical changes are being settled, efforts are also put into promoting AV Food Products for the Indian market in a bigger scale, correlating to the expansion plans and capacities of the different Auroville Food Processing Units. This outside income can then help the units to give a better service inside of Auroville and eventually reduce their prices for Aurovillians.

We should not forget, by buying Auroville products you support Auroville units and Aurovillians.

We are very grateful to all those who have helped with their advice, time and financial contribution to improve and beautify Pour Tous. More information and announcements will be shared in the coming weeks.

The opening of the new section will happen on monday, 15 July with a small puja at 9 am. All are welcome.

From now on also Pour Tous will offer bakery items such as cakes, croissants etc... at the special bakery corner.
We would be happy for any constructive feedback from you, the community of Auroville !

With love
Inge Krishnaprem Liane Marc Nevi
The Food Marketing team of Soruba

Mani, Sid, Rajamani, Santo, Diksha and all the others
The Pour Tous team

Olivier from La Ferme Cheese

Dominic from Brand New Day

The units of Aurosoya, Auroville Food Processing, Aurospirul, Aquadyn, Auroville Bakery, Ganesh Bakery, New School Crafts, KOFPU, Royale, AuroAnnam, La Ferme Cheese, The Auroville Farmers and many Individuals producing and processing food.

Mahasaraswati free-store/exchange-store

The following items are available for exchange :

- Krups travel coffee maker - Small immersion heater
- Table lamps - Roller skaters & roller blades (Kid size)
- Electric oven 1500w - Universal battery charger
- clothes iron 1000w - Philips Hair dryer
- Ricoch 35mm AF camera - Rain boots size 39 (7)
- Ice cream machine - Table fan - Folk guitare
- TV video game set - BSA Lady cycle
- 2 wooden easy chairs - Wooden baby chair
- Double deck tape recorder - Videocon Mixer/grinder
- World radio receiver - Foam/coconut fiber materass
- Clay water filter - 2 way speaker box set

And many more things...

Come around and take a look on Saturdays from 3 to 5pm.

Same buiding as the Kuilapalayam Post office.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CREATE A FOREST?

In Buddha Garden, as soon as the rains come, we will start working on creating a small piece of forest on what is now barren land. The work will include bunding, choosing and planting suitable trees as well as planting a living fence. This will create a forest 'buffer' around the farming activities in Buddha Garden on land that is too poor for agriculture. This will take about three months of intermittent work to complete, starting hopefully in a few weeks time. There will be opportunities to learn all the necessary skills from experienced Auroville forest workers as well as hands on experience of all the different jobs. This would be an interesting project for a group of people wanting to learn about green work and if there are any school classes who would like to be involved this could be arranged. For full details and further discussion about possibilities please contact Priya either by email (priya@auroville.or.in) or telephone 622653/940 after 10.30am. We are also going to plant an orchard and a cashew plantation if anyone is interested in helping with this.

Please put this on the AVNet and in the news as soon as possible. Thanks
Priya

Dear Friends,

The Tibetan Doctors will be visiting Auroville for consultation on Saturday the 20 of July. For appointment please contact:
Kalsang @ 623 338 / 622 401 (Tibetan Pavilion)
Thank you,
Pavilion Team.

Viedo on Tibet - Every Tuesdays

Every one are well Come. Always at the same time
7.30 pm in Tibetan Pavilion.

Tuesday the 16th of July 2002.

Viedo in Tibetan Pavilion At 7.30 pm

Red Flag Over Tibet.

For Details please call Kalsang @ 623338.

If you are having any movies on Tibet can i please borrow it.

SOLARKITCHEN UPDATE

These Summer-Holidays were difficult for the Solar-Kitchen-Team as regularly many people did not cancel their meals although they did not take their lunch.

On several days more than 60 booked people did not show up at lunchtime in the Solar-Kitchen and of course there was a lot of leftover food / waste.

As the bigger part of this "Non-Cancellers" are part of the "AV Nutrition-Scheme" (where they are paying less or nothing for their lunch) the Solarkitchenteam wants to remind them that they are still responsible for the canceling of their meals.

In general the Solarkitchenteam would very much appreciate if all who have monthly booked could manage to cancel their meal if they intend to be out of station for one or two days or longer.

The best time for this is one day before you do not take your lunch. You just inform the booking station in the entrance of Solar-Kitchen (Vijaya or Ramesh) between 8.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. by phone (622197).

Concerning the dinner tiffins the Solarkitchenteam is suggesting to take the dinnertiffin as early as possible from 2.30 p.m. onwards. It is not recommendable for any kind of food to leave it in the warm afternoon air for hours inside a tiffin as it can turn sour or unedible.

Generally if you are not able to take your dinner tiffin please call us up under 622664 and ask for Sangeetha or Padma to inform them accordingly.

Also in this case we would appreciate it if you inform us one day before.

Concerning the lunch-tiffin-users we would be happy if you could inform Toshitta or Angelika (622664) if you have any questions or suggestions related to your tiffins.

We try to fill your tiffins as individually as possible - f.ex. if you don't like a certain salad let us know about this - because we continually strive to prepare the appropriate amount of food every day.

The Solarkitchenteam would also appreciate if the small handtowels of the bathrooms are remaining inside the kitchen. On several days up to 12 hand towels were missing or lost or stolen after lunch.

A French family(4 person) is looking for a home to buy or to rent.

Please Contact Christine and Herve Ph- 623 501.

Amma available from Alankuppam area. Age 30 with 4 years AV experience. She understands most English. Reliable and regular. Call Anton at 622105 before 8 AM or after 4 PM.

WHAT HOUSING CRISIS ???

We at Aspiration have four living spaces available for singles or couples, Aurovilian or newcomers. Do you have it in you to participate in community life?

Life in Aspiration - life in the "keyhole" - collective living as was conceived over thirty years ago by the Mother - where we share three meals a day, - share common spaces - the kitchen, dining hall, video room, library, recreational grounds, - participate in cooking at least one meal a week.

We are a hybrid bunch and Aspiration serves as a passage for some, a homing ground for others.

Due to recent shifts within the community, we have available, what we call "huts" (!) for people who wish to join the community. In order to maintain a cultural balance of residents, - today we prefer to invite mainly non-Indians for the huts available. (Currently, we are 54 residents, including 13 kids and 17 non-Indians / non-locals)

The spaces available are for singles or couples, but not large enough for families.

If you are interested - if not to live here, even just to "take a look around", - come by and share a meal with us.

Call us at 622283 - speak to anyone - or ask for Nicola, Prem, Aramugam, Mark, Adil.....

Dear Friends,

It is not appropriate to spread all around whenever people are asking for financial support for any activity going on in New Creation, that New creation has plenty of money. It apparently justifies SAIER not to give by telling such wrong information. Money is used for Auroville without any personal gain and this from the first day we put our feet in Auroville. This cunning distortion as regard New Creation has happened since many years, and has left us without support from the Community. But only Truth, one day, will open eyes to those who are really here to work sincerely for the Mother.

Love
Andre

For Sale: Shark star dish antenna(rotating) single LNB. 6ft. high. Gardiner digital receiver with remote and catalogue. All in very good working condition. Price negotiable. Bought for 22000/-. Selling price 9000/ only.

Please phone 622 946 after 5.30 pm or
email: tanvi@auroville.org.in

Healthy sweet news from Siddhartha farm

Get your healthy sweatner now from pour Tous. Jaggery made of organically grown and processed sugarcane in auroville.

Scientific Humour

"nature's law lay hid in night;
God said, let Newton be! and all was light"
(Alexander Pope, 1688-1744)

"We thought that lines were straight and Euclid true;
God said, let Einstein be! and all's askew"
(Cambridge students).

Without Humour, science is inhuman and dangerous. Scientists that are too serious are like religious fanatics. A man without humour is very close to Lucy or Australopithecus afarensis. She lived 3.2 million years ago.

Let us, as aurovilians, develop a scientific humour sense during our investigations and education. For children, science that is boring induces a hatred of school and the learning process.

A brilliant writer, scientist and environmentalist, Gerald Darrel, was born in India (Jamshedpur - Bihar) in 1923. He moved to Europe with his parents in 1928. Darrel wrote a famous book

"My family and other animals". Millions of people have read this book, laughed and received a lot of scientific knowledge from it. Author described his family, nature and his first experience in science with a great talent and remarkable humour.

- Boris

Dear friends,

We offer our gratitude to The Mother through all of you especially the pioneers, the Hinmalayan Trust, FWE, Stichting de Zaaier for Kofpu's growth.

We honour Satish, friend of Auroville for being, voluntarily instrumental in taking kofpu to the light instead of us wanting us to go out reach.

Please find kofpu being published in The Hindu on 19th June 2002.

Thank you again for your continuous support and appreciation of our work.

Love,
Anandi
for Kofpu's team

P.S: Article published in Hindu is attached!



A clean up of the sacred grove took place last Sunday-Monday (30th-1st of July) in Puthupet Temple premise.

Pitchandikulam Bio Resource Center organized the operation, together with Exnora, a local Eco-Club and students from Udavi School and neighbouring villages (Kalapet, Puthupet and Mudaliarkuppam). People from Mohanam Cultural Center came also in number. This sacred grove dedicated to Aynar is famous for being a remnant part of the TDEF (Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest), a kind of biotope that once covered the coastal plain of Tamil Nadu, from the North of Madras to the South of Pointe Calimere.

The operation was to remove the plastic wastes from the forest, and also to create awareness in the area, among the villagers, the devotees and the trustees in charge of the temple. It is also the starting point to create a Friends of Puthupet Forest Conservation Association (see below). The waste collected (weight) will be sold to a plastic recycling factory. The money will be then given to the Friends of Puthupet Association.

This grove is part of the Tamil heritage, environmental as well as religious and cultural. A lot more has to be done to clean, study and restore this one of a kind forest.

Dimanche et Lundi derniers (30 et 1^{er} juillet), une opération de nettoyage a eu lieu dans l'enceinte du temple de Puthupet.

Le centre de bio ressources de Pitchandikulam a organisé et financé cette opération, à laquelle ont participé Exnora Pondichéry, un Eco club local ainsi que des élèves de Udavi School et de villages voisins (Kalapet, Puthupet et Mudaliarkuppam). Des représentants du Centre Culturel Mohanam étaient également venus en nombre.

Ce bois sacré consacré à Aynar est bien connu pour être un des derniers endroits à abriter la Forêt Tropicale Persistante Sèche (TDEF en anglais), un biotope qui jadis recouvrait la plaine côtière du Tamil Nadu, depuis le nord de Madras jusqu'au sud de la Pointe Calimere.

L'opération visait à retirer les déchets en plastique, et aussi sensibiliser les habitants, les pèlerins et les responsables du temple à la nécessité de protéger la forêt. C'était aussi l'occasion de créer une Association des Amis de Puthupet pour la

Conservation de sa Forêt. Les déchets collectés seront vendus à une usine de recyclage de plastiques, et l'argent donné à l'association des Amis de Puthupet.

Cette forêt fait partie du patrimoine tamoul, aussi bien environnemental que religieux et culturel. Il reste beaucoup à faire pour nettoyer, étudier et protéger cette forêt unique en son genre.

Legend of Puthupet

Bhamasura, an asura went to Sukalacharia, his guru, for advice on how to gain power to protect his family from the devas. His guru suggested he should go to Shiva for help. He did penance by standing on one leg. Shiva was so impressed with Bhamasura's dedication and concentration, he granted him for one boon. With his new power, he could turn anyone to ash if he touched their head. Once he had this power, he wanted to test it and not on just anyone – but Shiva. Realizing he could not take back his boon, Shiva had no alternative but to run away from Bhamasura. Shiva then hid inside the seed of an Ivelan maram (diplocyclos palmatus). Bhamasura found out where Shiva was hidden, and turned himself into a goat to catch him. In desperation, Shiva appealed to Vishnu for help. Vishnu turned himself into a beautiful woman – Mohini. As soon as Bhamasura saw Mohini, he fell in love with her. Mohini told Bhamasura that he had to take a bath before she would meet him. As there was a drought, he couldn't find any water to bathe. Mohini told him that at least he should water his head. He searched all over for water. At one point, he thought he had found some, yet it turned out to be a mirage. Then he finally found a cow, and under its hoof a few drops of water. He took this and began to put it on his head. In his desire for Mohini, he forgot about his power and in effect turned himself into ash by touching his own head.

Shiva then comes out of hiding and makes love with the beautiful Mohini. From this coupling Iyanar his born. According to some people, the place of his birth has good powers for fertility. Many couples visit this spot and do a puja when they want to conceive a child. Small size cribs hang from the roof to represent the children that have been born after a visit to this sacred spot.

The water mirage that Bhamasura had seen is said to have become the Kaluvelli tank. The area where this drama took place became a bush forest. The Tamil word for bush is puthu. Therefore the name of this area became Puthupet

This story was told to PBRC staff by the Puthupet temple Poosari on May 24, 2002.

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2** THE HINDU, Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Nature in packets

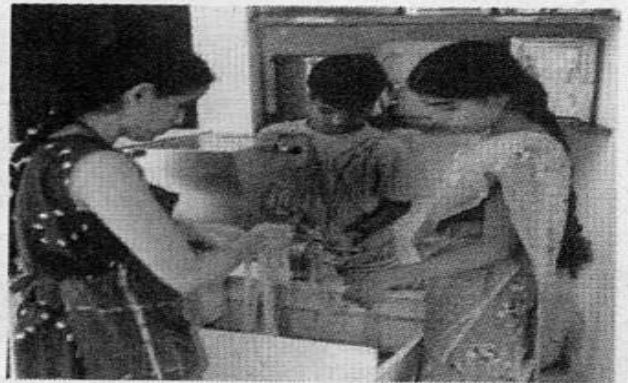
THEY SELL nature in packets. This may sound strange but true. Untouched by harmful chemicals these food products help you keep healthy. They are food products like spaghetti, tagliatelle (a flat noodle variety), bran and Kombucha (Chinese health drink) made from organically grown grains and vegetables.

All the grains used in the manufacture are procured from farms that grow them using organic manure and pesticides instead of chemicals, whereby you, the end user, can get natural products instead of some chemical concoction.

That these products do not have any artificial flavourings or colours or even preservatives is ensured by the Kottakarai Organic Food Processing Unit (KOFPU) at Kottakarai near Pondicherry, where they are manufactured and packed under the name Auroville Health Products.

The unit, which trains and employs local women from nearby areas, was started in 1995 to promote organic foods and eradicate chemicals, according to Anandi, who runs the unit. KOFPU was originally started by Sharanam, a Spanish lady under the auspices of Auroville. At that time the unit produced about three products but now they make somewhere around 25 products, which are sold locally in Auroville and at one shop in Pondicherry near the Raj Nivas and another one in Chennai.

KOFPU procures organically grown grains like ragi, kambu, wheat and millets from Auroan-nam and from other villages that grow them under the supervision of Auroville. Their main aim is to make these organically produced grains and fruits more palatable. For example, spirulina has a very odd



Making spaghetti from organic flour.

smell when cooked but through trials they have found a method by which the algae does not emit the smell, adds Ms. Anandi.

Other than Italian food products KOFPU is also striving to revive traditional Indian food-stuffs like uppuma, ragi dosai and kanji (porridge).

These products are available in mix form and can be prepared easily. The native arisi (rice) uppuma made with organically grown rice is a welcome product since it is a sort of fast food and provides enough carbohydrates.

Since the products are made with organically grown grains they taste and smell better than what we usually consume. They are also more nutritious than the conventionally grown products using chemical fertilizers. With all these plus points one wonders if we ought not to change over to organic foods.

KOFPU also make massage oils, neem powder, sesame balls among other products. Ms. Anandi says that she plans to include more products like dried fruits and museli, a breakfast cereal. The unit will also market its products through more shops within a short time, she adds.

By Deepa H. Ramakrishnan
Photo: T. Singaravelou