

# Auroville News

No:973

January 11th, 2003

## INVITATION TO ALL - INVITATION TO ALL - INVITATION TO ALL

This year's Aurolympics will begin in a few days at the School Sports Complex in Dana and we look forward to holding the Aurolympics in this format (combined Athletics and Team). The Athletics Aurolympics will take place on 6 days and immediately followed by the Team Aurolympics on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2003 (timing: daily 3:55pm to 5:15pm).

**Athletics Aurolympics: 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. (Tuesday) to 23 Jan. (Thursday).**

**Team Aurolympics: 24<sup>th</sup> Jan (Friday) to 6<sup>th</sup> Feb (Thursday).**

**Prize-Giving Day: 7<sup>th</sup> February (Friday).**

### Events of the Athletics Aurolympics (14<sup>th</sup> Jan (Pongal Holiday 16 & 17 Jan) – 6<sup>th</sup> February):

**Juniors (Gr. V & VI) and Intermediates (Gr. III & IV) will each participate in 8 events and Seniors (Gr. I & II) will participate in 9 events (Races, Throws and Jumps).**

**Races:** Sprints, Skipping, Long Sprints, Middle Distance Running and Hurdles.

**Jumps:** High Jump, Long Jump, Standing Long Jump, Triple Jump, Standing Triple Jump and 3 Springs Jump.

**Throws:** Cricket Ball Throw, Standing Soccer Ball Throw, Javelin and Shot Put.

### Events of the Team Aurolympics (24<sup>th</sup> Jan – 6<sup>th</sup> Feb):

The children will participate in individual skill tests as well as in round robin matches for their team and ultimately for their house. Each house (Cheetahs, Panthers, Pumas & Tigers) has a junior, intermediate and senior team.

#### **JUNIOR TEAMS (Groups V & VI)**

**Individual events:** Football-Shuttle Run, Sit Soc, Basketball-Foul Shot, Basketball-Zigzag Dribbling, Gymnastics - Floor Exercises & Balance Beam.

**Team events:** Flag Game (Round Robin "RR"), English Ball (RR) and Football-Penalty Shoot Out (RR).

#### **INTERMEDIATE TEAMS (Groups III & IV)**

**Individual events:** Football-Shuttle Run, Basketball-Foul Shot, Basketball-Circuit, Volleyball-Forearm Pass, Gymnastics - Floor Exercises & Vaulting.

**Team events:** "Mini-Football (RR), Basketball (RR), Softball (RR), and Football-Penalty Shoot Out (RR).

#### **SENIOR TEAMS (Groups I & II)**

**Individual events:** Gymnastics - Floor Exercises & Parallel Bars.

**Team events:** Football (RR), Basketball (RR), Volleyball (RR), Softball (RR) and Football-Penalty Shoot Out (RR).

# HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

## *QU'EST-CE QUI SERAIT UN VRAI MIRACLE?*

Si on regarde ce goût du miracle, qui est très fort (beaucoup plus fort chez les enfants ou chez les cœurs qui sont restés enfants que chez les êtres très mentalisés), c'est la foi dans la réalisation de l'aspiration au Merveilleux, de ce qui est supérieur à tout ce que l'on peut espérer de la vie normale.

Au fond, on devrait toujours, dans l'éducation, encourager les deux tendances parallèlement : la tendance à avoir soif du Merveilleux, de ce qui paraît irréalisable, de quelque chose qui vous remplit d'un sentiment de divinité, tout en encourageant en même temps, dans la perception du monde tel qu'il est, l'observation exacte, correcte, sincère, l'abolition de toute imagination, le contrôle constant, le sens le plus pratique et le plus minutieux dans l'exactitude des détails. Il faudrait que les deux marchent parallèlement. Généralement, on tue l'un avec l'idée que c'est nécessaire pour faire croître l'autre – c'est tout à fait une erreur. Les deux peuvent être simultanés, et il y a un moment où la connaissance est suffisante pour savoir que ce sont deux aspects d'une même chose, qui est la clairvoyance, un discernement supérieur. Mais au lieu d'une clairvoyance et d'un discernement limités, étroits, le discernement devient tout à fait sincère, correct, exact – MAIS il est immense et il inclut tout un domaine qui n'appartenait pas encore à la Manifestation concrète.

Au point de vue éducatif, ce serait très important.

Voir le monde tel qu'il est, exactement, crûment, de la façon la plus terre-à-terre et concrète, et voir le monde tel qu'il peut être, avec la vision la plus libre, la plus haute, la plus pleine d'espoir et d'aspiration et d'une certitude merveilleuse, comme les deux pôles du discernement. Tout ce que nous pouvons imaginer de plus splendide, de plus merveilleux, de plus puissant, de plus expressif, de plus total, n'est rien en comparaison de ce que cela peut être, et en même temps, notre exactitude minutieuse du détail le plus minime n'est jamais suffisamment exacte. Et les deux doivent aller ensemble. Quand on sait ça (geste en bas) et qu'on connaît Ça (geste en haut), on est capable de mettre les deux ensemble.

Et c'est le meilleur usage possible du besoin de miracles. Le besoin de miracles est un geste d'ignorance : »Oh ! je voudrais que ce soit ainsi ! » C'est un geste d'ignorance et d'impuissance. Et alors ceux qui disent : »Vous vivez dans le miracle », ce sont ceux qui ne connaissent que le bout en bas (et encore ne le connaissent-ils qu'imparfaitement) et qui n'ont aucun contact avec autre chose.

Il faut changer ce besoin de miracles en une aspiration consciente vers quelque chose – qui est déjà, qui existe – et qui sera manifesté AVEC L'AIDE de toutes ces aspirations : toutes ces aspirations sont nécessaires, ou, si l'on regarde d'une façon plus vraie, sont un accompagnement – un accompagnement agréable – dans le déroulement éternel.

Au fond, les gens d'une logique très sévère vous disent : »Pourquoi prier ? Pourquoi aspirer, pourquoi demander ? Le Seigneur fait ce qu'Il veut et Il fera ce qu'Il veut. » C'est de toute évidence, il n'est pas besoin de le dire, mais cet élan : »Seigneur, manifeste Toi ! », ça donne une vibration plus intense à Sa Manifestation.

Autrement Il n'aurait jamais fait le monde comme il est – il y a une puissance spéciale, une joie spéciale, une vibration spéciale dans cette intensité d'aspiration du monde pour redevenir ce qu'il est.

# HOUSE OF MOTHER'S AGENDA

*What would a real miracle be, then?*

The taste for miracles, which is very strong (much stronger in children or in hearts that have remained childlike than in highly mentalized beings), is basically the faith that the aspiration for the Marvelous will come true, that things beyond all that we may expect of normal life will come true. In fact, for education, people should always encourage both tendencies side by side: the thirst for the Marvelous, the seemingly unrealizable, for something that fills you with a sense of divinity, while at the same time encouraging, in the perception of the world as it is, an exact, correct and sincere observation, the abolition of all imaginings, a constant control, and a most practical and meticulous feeling for exactness in details. Both tendencies should go side by side. Generally, people kill one with the idea that it's necessary in order to develop the other - which is totally erroneous.

The two can coexist, and as knowledge grows, a moment comes when you understand that they are two aspects of the same thing, namely, a clear vision, a superior discernment. But instead of the vision and discernment being limited and narrow, they become absolutely sincere, correct, exact - AND immense, embracing an entire field that's not yet part of the concrete Manifestation. This is very important from an educational point of view.

To see the world as it is, accurately, starkly, in the most practical and down-to-earth way, and to see the world as it can be, with the highest and freest vision, filled with hope and aspiration and a marvelous certainty - these are the two poles of discernment. All the most splendid, marvelous, powerful, expressive and total things we are able to imagine are nothing compared to what they can be; and at the same time, our minute observation of the smallest detail can never be sufficiently exact. Both things must go together. When you know this (*gesture below*) and you know That (*gesture above*), you are able to make the two meet.

This is the best possible use of the need for miracles. The need for miracles is a gesture of ignorance: "Oh, I wish it were that way!" It's a gesture of ignorance and impotence. On the other hand, those who tell you, "You live in a world of miracles," know only the lower end of things (and quite imperfectly at that), and they are impervious to anything else.

We should turn this need for miracles into a conscious aspiration to something - something that already is, that exists, and that will be manifested WITH THE HELP of all those aspirations: all those aspirations are necessary, or rather, looking at it in a truer way, they are an accompaniment - a pleasant accompaniment - to the eternal unfolding.

Basically, people with a very strict logic tell you, "Why pray? Why aspire, why ask? The Lord does what He wills and will always do what He wills." It's perfectly obvious, it goes without saying, but this fervor, "Lord, manifest Yourself!" gives His manifestation a more intense vibration.

Otherwise He would never have made the world as it is - there is a special power, a special joy, a special vibration in the world's intensity of aspiration to become again what it is.

**MOTHER'S AGENDA, MARCH 6, 1963**

**MOTHER**

## **FROM THE AVC AND THE ENTRY GROUP**

On December 27<sup>th</sup> the AV Council had a meeting with the Entry Group to look at the general situation facing the Entry Group. First we discussed their proposed mandate for 2003, which is published below for the feedback of the community. Then we talked about how to address many of the questions facing the Entry Group, including the need for creating more categories than Newcomer, Resident (formerly Aurovilian) and Long Term Guest, and the necessity for an Exit Policy. We feel that we need to involve as wide a section of the community as possible in determining the way we handle these matters. Therefore before calling for study groups or Task Oriented Resident Assemblies (TORAs) on the various issues, we would like to have a brainstorming session with a diverse cross section of the community to see how you feel about some of the questions, which are listed below. A full day seminar will be organized sometime in February. All are welcome to participate, especially anyone who is concerned about the current Entry Process.

### ***PROPOSED MANDATE FOR THE ENTRY GROUP 2003 for feedback***

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Entry Group on behalf of the RA processes all applications to join Auroville and oversees the entry procedures. It keeps records of foreign students, volunteers, workshop participants who come for longer than 6 months and therefore require an Entry or similar visa.

#### **ENTRY GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

The Resident's Assembly ratifies membership in the Entry Group. The term of office is three years. If a member wishes to continue after the term the Residents Assembly must again ratify him/her. The members are expected to commit to Mothers guidelines in their own lives, to regular attendance at meetings, and working as a group. Their decisions are group decisions and the group stands responsible for them, and keeps accurate records of them. All members must observe discretion about the information entrusted to them. Members of the Entry Group must have resided in Auroville for at least seven years.

#### **DUTIES OF THE ENTRY GROUP**

The function of the Entry Group is to receive and inform people who are interested in joining Auroville, and to do all the required administrative work such as correspondence, processing applications, and requesting recommendation letters from the Auroville Foundation.

The Entry Group interviews applicants and reviews all the information and feedback coming from the Contact persons, the educational program staff, the workplace and the community at large. It is they who decide on Resident of Auroville status. The Entry Group can review and settle "problem cases" or conflict situations, and be a reference body for the Newcomer and the Contact person in case of difficulties.

#### **DUTIES OF CONTACT PERSONS**

Contact persons are Residents of Auroville who have volunteered to help facilitate one or more Newcomers to integrate into the Auroville community during their Newcomer period. The Entry Group selects a Contact Person for each Newcomer based on language and affinities or needs. The task of a Contact Person is to interact with the Newcomer and provide guidance and assistance, in the light of the aims of Auroville, when and where needed. The Contact Person acts also as a link between the Entry Group and the Newcomer, providing quarterly updates on the Newcomers progress in integrating into the community and on any changes in the workplace or residence.

#### **THE NEWCOMER PROCESS**

Any person who is interested to join Auroville is requested to stay as a registered guest in Auroville for a minimum period of three months. During this time, the guest may explore the community life by observing and/or participating in various activities, projects and services.

If, during this time the guest decides to join Auroville, an interview with the Entry Group is scheduled. Thereafter, application forms may be given, along with copies of the "Joining Auroville" brochure and the Newcomer Guidelines, where all the current policies on housing, finances, and work are clearly spelled out.

A Certificate of Health is required at the time of application.

If the applicant fulfills the criteria for admission, (See below: Criteria for admission as Newcomer to Auroville) the Entry Group will recommend to the community through the Auroville News and Intranet to accept the applicant as Newcomer. The community has a period of two weeks to respond. In the case that no negative response is received the Entry Group will declare the applicant a Newcomer. In the case that reservations against the applicant are received the Entry Group will discuss these observations with the person(s) who have submitted them and with the applicant, and thereafter make its decision.

The Newcomer period lasts for two years. Newcomers are requested to take up a work that is useful to the community for at least five hours a day. The Newcomer should familiarize him/herself with all the various aspects of Auroville, to join in various collective activities, open community meetings and other gatherings. As English is the common language for collective communications in Auroville, basic communication skills in English are essential for integration. (This does not imply that perfect mastery of the language is required.) Newcomers are further urged to learn Tamil, French and Sanskrit. Starting a new undertaking during the Newcomer period – be it a service, commercial unit or an independent project – requires the permission of the Entry Group.

It is expected that the Newcomer will remain in Auroville throughout the Newcomer period. Exceptions can be made, but it is required that at least one full year is spent continuously in Auroville. (Occasional excursions up to two weeks are acceptable)

The Newcomer period can be extended up to three years only.

If a Newcomer, who has held that status for less than one year leaves Auroville for more than three months, he/she must restart the Newcomer process upon his/her return. If a Newcomer, who has held that status for more than one year, leaves Auroville for more than 3 months up to one year, he/she must remain as Newcomer for at least one full year upon his/her return to Auroville.

The participation and progress of the Newcomer will be reviewed after the first year of the Newcomer period based on the criteria. If, at that point in time, efforts have not been made to fulfill and uphold the criteria, the Newcomer period may be terminated, whereupon the Newcomer will be asked to leave. He/she may re-apply after 2 years.

At the end of the Newcomer period, the Entry Group will review feedback from the Contact People, workplace, and the community at large and interview the Newcomer. If all the criteria for acceptance are met, the Entry Group will recommend to the community through the Auroville News and Intranet to accept the Newcomer as Resident of Auroville. The community has a period of two weeks to respond. In the case that no negative response is received the Entry Group will declare the Newcomer as a member of the Residents Assembly. If the Newcomer fails to meet the criteria for admission after the two-year period, the newcomer period maybe extended by another year or he may be asked by the Entry Group to leave the community for a minimum of two years before applying again.

#### ENTRY PROCESS FOR MINORS

Children of Newcomers below the age of 18 years come as Students of Auroville. At the age of 18 or above, they may choose to apply for Resident of Auroville Status with the Entry Group.

In the case that only one of the parents wishes to join Auroville together with one or more children, an official statement from the absent parent or legal guardian stating that they have no objection that the child resides in Auroville, will be required before the child can be admitted

#### CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AS NEWCOMER TO AUROVILLE

- A fundamental understanding of the Ideals of Auroville and the Vision of Mother and Sri Aurobindo.
- Willingness to offer one's energies and talents to the development of Auroville, and the ability to sustain oneself and his/her dependants through this offering.
- Basic communication skills in English
- No involvement in crime, violence, or sectarian associations.
- Must disclose, if any, details of psychiatric illness, antisocial or criminal behavior/activity. (If it were found out later that this information was withheld, it would be grounds for dismissal from Auroville. Please note that grounds for removal would not be the previous record but lying about it.)
- Health Certificate is also required.

Due to Auroville's present housing situation, in addition to fulfilling the above criteria, a Newcomer must deposit via the Housing Group an adequate sum for securing an appropriate accommodation after the first year of the Newcomer period. Housing that is offered in relation to work is not considered as a permanent housing solution.

The participation and progress of the Newcomer will be reviewed after the first year of the Newcomer period based on the above criteria. If, at that point in time, efforts have not been made to fulfill and uphold the criteria, the Newcomer period may be terminated, whereupon the Newcomer will be asked to leave. He/she may re-apply after 2 years.

#### CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO RESIDENTS ASSEMBLY

After the Newcomer has completed the two year period of integration into Auroville, the Entry Group evaluates and assesses each case based on the following criteria:

- A sincere dedication to realize the Ideals of the Auroville Charter
- Must have actively participated in working towards the realization of Auroville in one's appropriate field, and have demonstrated the ability to sustain oneself and his/her dependants during the Newcomer period.
- Harmonious integration into the community and a spirit of collaboration
- Interest and respect for the local culture and customs, and demonstrated progress learning English
- Positive feedback from the workplace, contact persons, residential community and the community at large
- No involvement in crime, violence or sectarian associations

-Due to Auroville's present housing situation, in addition to fulfilling the above criteria, only those who have the resources to build or purchase living quarters, or who receive or share an existing dwelling on a permanent basis with the approval of the Housing Service, can join the community. Housing that is offered in relation to work is not considered as a permanent housing solution.

#### POLICY FOR RETURNING AUROVILIANS

Residents of Auroville who have been absent from Auroville for more than five years are removed from the Residents List. This implies that normally all rights and claims to living quarters are lost after the absence of five years.

Persons returning to rejoin Auroville after a period of five years or more will have an interview with the Entry Group. If he/she still fulfills the criteria for admission, the Entry Group will recommend, to the community, through the Auroville News and Intranet to accept him/her as Returning Resident.

Returning Residents are expected to re-integrate in the Auroville community within a period of six months.

Six months after having been declared 'Returning Resident', the Entry Group will recommend to the community to accept him/her as Resident of Auroville. The community has a period of two weeks to respond. In the case that no negative response is received, the Entry Group will accept the person as Resident of Auroville. In the case that negative observations against the applicant are received, the Entry Group will discuss these observations with the person(s) making them and with the applicant, and thereafter make its decision.

***QUESTIONS FACING THE ENTRY GROUP, WHICH NEED THE REFLECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AND WHICH WILL BE EXAMINED AT A SEMINAR IN FEBRUARY***

Economy

- How do we handle the pressure from an ever-growing economical crisis and more and more people wanting to join?
- How can these people sustain themselves?
- How can we avoid the draining exodus of Newcomers and Residents needing to leave every year for 3-6 months to be able to realistically maintain themselves in Auroville?
- How can we disconnect economical incentive from the Entry Process and Auroville itself?

Maintaining Cultural Balance

- How can we maintain a balance in terms of an international population spread?
- Can we consider implementing a Cultural Quota system?

Housing

- How can we solve the housing crisis without excluding those applicants who do not have the means to buy or build?
- Can we introduce a "Kind Renting" system?

Entry Process

- How to define "work relevant to the growth of Auroville"?
- How to keep the community informed about Entry Decision-Making Procedures, thus avoiding undue pressure on the Entry Group from within the community itself?
- How to prevent Residents of Auroville from pressurizing the EG to accept their friends and family members or workers, if they do not meet the criteria?
- How to tackle the same issue as above for the Newcomer or Resident who uses the public forum to spread lies?
- How to tackle the issues of elderly people coming to retire in AV?
- How to tackle the issue of people whose motivation to join is primarily based on benefits of free education for their children?
- What policy can we introduce for people who apply to join from abroad without having met the Entry Group?
- How to dismiss a Newcomer or Resident of Auroville who no longer fulfills the criteria, or sabotages organizational processes?
- How can we simplify the Entry Process?

**FAMC Report November and December 2002**

**FAMC Regular Members:**

Ananda (ABC) Auroasha (Entry Group) Bunty (SAIIR) Inge (Housing) Jeff (Green Group) Joseba (IDC) Joster (ABC) Judith (Chairperson) Otto (Auroville Maintenance Fund) Pala (Economy Group) Peter (LEM) Rathinam (AV Fund) Tency (CSR) Ulli (Working Committee)

Matrimandir currently sends no representative.

**FAMC Permanent Invitee:** Mr. Srinivasamurthy, Acting-Secretary of the Auroville Foundation.

**This report covers meetings held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>,**

**22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Issues Related to Units & Services**

**Altecs Building:** Auroville Energy Products is interested to take over the Altecs building and the details are being finalised. Matthias' apartment, which is not part of the arrangement, would have to be transferred for not less than a contribution of Rs12 lakhs. Close friends of Auroville have expressed interest in taking over the apartment. As they are not residents of Auroville, they would need to be given a special status, in consultation with the Entry Group. They would come to Auroville some time every year and in their absence would be make the apartment available to Aurovilians. This matter has to be looked into in cooperation with the Housing Service and the Entry Group. Joster was requested to coordinate between the sub-group, the Housing Service and the Entry Group. The representative of the Housing Service expressed that she would prefer to give a chance to Aurovilians first. The representative of IDC pointed out that people of the industrial zone should be given preference. The Chair requested the Housing Service to announce through the Auroville News that there is an apartment available in the Altecs building and ask for feedback within two weeks

**Interest on Altecs loan:** It was reported that Rs 50,000/- has been paid towards the interest of the SBI loan of Altecs by Inside India with the contribution for the storerooms in the old Altecs building.

**Former Auroville Water Service:** A full report of the financial situation of the Auroville Water Service was circulated by the subgroup.

Point 1: *Outstanding bills.* It was decided to publish an announcement in the AV News mentioning a deadline of 30th November before deducting the amounts directly from the relevant accounts.

Point 2: *Maintenance of space in Abri:* With regard to the request to the Central Fund for Rs 5000/- a month to maintain the place at Abri, it was decided that, as the Water Service will no longer be situated at Abri, that office should be closed. It was proposed to suggest to Ponnuswamy that he take over the place or that someone else be found. It was further suggested that the remaining materials and equipment should be liquidated. It was proposed that all the scrap should be sold off. It was also stated that the sub-group should put a message in the AV News asking people who have deposits or material with the former Auroville Water Service to come forward and claim them.

Point 3: *The transfer of the sludge unit.* It was decided that the tractor and the sludge tanker would be transferred to Auroannam. The subgroup was asked to recommend the contribution asked for the use of this equipment.

At the next meeting the subgroup reported back on certain clarifications asked by the table.

**Material of the old water service:** The Auroville Water Maintenance team have not agreed to take the materials worth approximately Rs 1.5 lakhs. So it was proposed to explore various possibilities to sell them. Approaching Buildaur and Aureka was proposed. Also the possibility to sell them to current building sites and to the original supplier in Muthialpet was mentioned. This matter is to be decided within two weeks.

**Equipment:** Auroville Electrical Service is ready to contribute for some of the equipment they would like to use. Auroville Transport Service has proposed to use the Aurosarjan van but would not be able to contribute. Russian equipment, which was never used, needs to be sold. The lathe machine, water filter and some other equipment needs to be sold or transferred against contribution to other Auroville units.

**Space:** AVES is ready to take some of the space and contribute for it. Auroville Transport Service is ready to take some of the space temporarily. The new unit, AV Water Maintenance, wants to come back to the space.

It was agreed that the materials of the Water Service have to be cleared. The subgroup was requested to go on with the sorting out of the assets and keep in mind that the Auroville Water Service has a liability of approximately Rs 4.5 lakhs with Auroville Maintenance Fund. The proposal to transfer the tractor to Auroannam without any contribution was accepted as long as the tractor, which had been donated for a particular purpose, continues to serve that purpose. The proposal to give the Aurosarjan van to be used by the AV Transport Service without any contribution has yet to be decided as the first priority is to cover as much of the liabilities as possible.

It was agreed that to allocate the space at Abri to AV Water Maintenance is not possible for legal reasons relating to the closure settlement with the former employees. It was agreed that the sub-group should inform them clearly that the allocation of the space in Abri to them is not legally possible anymore. It was agreed that part of the space could be shared between AVES and the AV Transport Service.

It was agreed that the list of individuals and units with outstanding bills with the former Auroville Water Service would be published in the Auroville News, along with the list of equipment available against contribution and the availability of space in Abri.

**Auroville Water Maintenance:** The updated report of accounts and monthly figures of the new unit have been circulated. The unit is managing to cover expenses and would appear to be able to manage without the budget and maintenances provided by the Central Fund for the last three months.

**Aqua Dyn:** The financial situation of Aquadyn is just breakeven. Maurice wants to lend the necessary funds for the renewal the license of Aquadyn at his own risk. The table agreed to go ahead on the renewal. The subgroup was requested to inform Bhagawandas on behalf of FAMC that he should not sign any new agreement.

Maurice has given a loan of Rs 5 lakhs to the unit on the understanding that he will not be compensated if things do not work out.

**Auro Global Siddhi Marketing:** A report was given regarding the marketing activities on behalf of Auroville units by a newcomer Nilesh Nissar. The table agreed that the channel of money used by Nilesh is not clear. Some activities like buying copied products around villages and selling in the name of Auroville were not acceptable.

The table decided that Nilesh should be asked to go through a proper channel. He could be even be asked to sign an agreement. Boutiques outside Auroville should be informed

that they cannot use Auroville's name. The FAMC requested Joster to contact Nilesh and convene an emergency meeting with all the units concerned.

**Export PAN number:** The authorities in Delhi have agreed to issue individual Export/ Import Code numbers to Trusts and units under the Auroville Foundation. Joster is following up and is in the process of getting confirmation of the list of all the units that need a code, as in the future it may not be possible to get new codes.

**Auroville Fund:** Closure of Dormant Units: Under the umbrella of Auroville Fund there are several activities and units that have been dormant for some time. The executives of Auroville Fund sought the approval and recommendation of the FAMC to the Auroville Foundation for the official closure of these activities and units, which have all had separate balance sheets submitted to audit in the past.

The activities without office order are:

New Creation DWK	This project was completed in 2001
Vikas	This project was completed in 2002
Organic Food Cooperative	This project was completed in 2000
Prathna	This project was completed in 1995

The units with office orders are:

Utsah  
 Vaastu-This unit has not been operational since several years  
 Housing Development Fund-This unit has not been operational since several years  
 Multi Purpose Health Centre-This unit has so few transactions that it has been agreed with the executive to run this activity as a project under Auroville Fund Main from April 2002.

The FAMC approved and recommended the official closure of these activities and units.

**ADPS Trust:** Appointment of Dominique Parizot as additional Trustee: Approved

### Land and Land Use Issues

**Banyan Nursery:** The executives were invited once more to discuss the issue. The FAMC suggested that they phase out the operation of the Banyan Nursery by the end of March 2003. It was further suggested that they advertise their stock of trees and potted plants to facilitate and speed up sales. It was proposed that the stock of the potted plants could also be offset against the loans that exist between the Kottakarai Nursery and the Banyan Nursery. It was stated that phasing out Banyan Nursery was in the best interest of Auroville, as that particular land would be used for exchange for land in the city area. It was also reiterated that LEM had requested the FAMC to ask Banyan Nursery to confine their activities to the plot that they had been allocated. However it became clear that the trees grown in the ex-fish tanks have been, since the beginning, on land that has not been allocated to the nursery.

The executives said that as the FAMC is asking the unit to close, the unit expects that the liabilities, which are approx. Rs 6.5 lakhs, will be paid off or at least some assistance given. In reply it was stated that doing that would set a precedent for units to create debts by taking unsecured loans and then expecting the community to pay them off. The community has no obligation to units who have shown themselves not to be

financially viable and have created liabilities. After an extensive discussion, it was clear that the financial aspects needed to be worked out. The subgroup, Joster, Jeff, and Ulli (as advisor) would look into the matter in more detail with the executives and make a report within the next two weeks.

**Brihaspati – Allocation of Stewardship:** It was agreed that as a liability of Rs 3.6 lakhs approx towards Auroville Maintenance Fund is still pending, the Housing Service needs to give a report on all the financial transactions and the subgroup has to continue until the matter is resolved. With respect to the Rs 1.7 lakhs loaned by the Auroville Maintenance Fund against the value of the pump and pipes, the Housing Service representative informed the FAMC that R.E.R.S is ready to pay half of the amount but that Iyanar would normally be responsible to refund the other half, as the place has been equally divided and it was agreed that finances would be shared equally. Transactions surrounding the house in Angiras Garden need to be clarified. The subgroup was reformed with representation from the Economy Group, the Housing Service and Jeff. The sub-group was asked to follow up.

**Land at Udayan:** It was agreed that a piece of Auroville land adjacent to AdiShakti could be offered to Ms Veenapani of AdiShakti Trust who has expressed interest in purchasing it. LEM was asked to come back with a firm proposal in January.

**LEM:** The members were updated on the present situation of LEM.

Hemant has given his official resignation, which leaves LEM with only two executives: Peter and Guy. The minimum number of executives for LEM could be two to three but more involvement on a day-to-day basis is certainly needed from people, who are capable and willing to bring fresh energy.

The activities, budget and present staff situation was explained: **ACTIVITY:** Negotiating the purchase of new lands. Management of lands not (yet) taken care of by Auroville stewards. Interface with the villagers. Administration and accounting. **STAFF AT PRESENT:** Aurovilians: Prem, Ramalingam, and Raman (Gauri's husband). Salaried Staff: Lawyer part-time, Subrayan, Steven Raj (office), field supervisors and watchmen.

**BUDGET:** Used to be 4% from the Land Fund income plus annual income from cashews and casuarinas. Since a few months, the percentage has been (temporarily) raised to 10% in order to cover the present deficit. Annual income from cashews and casuarinas decreased last year.

There is a crisis situation since the day-to-day work pressure and responsibilities require active involvement of at least two executives. The present managing executive proposed to have an Advisory Board to set broad policy guidelines and strategy, which the executives would be responsible to implement without necessarily referring back for each and every decision. LEM has decided to stay at Bharat Nivas instead of moving to Centre for Urban Research, since the work is closely connected with the Secretary's Office.

The FAMC members made the following suggestions:

That LEM could split and people could focus on specific fields: land management, Land purchase, and interface with the villagers could be handled separately instead of the responsibility falling on the shoulders of one person. LEM could maybe split into two units. The WC/Council is looking into the Auroville - village relations with respect to land issues. The Green Group/Forest Group could take up more land management. More survey record and data are needed to identify strategic lands and make all information available in an easily accessible manner. A review of the staff's output and tasks is needed.

An Advisory Board could be constituted with members from the Green Group, Forest Group, Farm Group Auroville Council, IDC, and Working Committee and also with some members who are not part of any of these working groups. The table agreed that a concrete proposal from LEM's side is required to allow the members to reflect on the proposal and keep it on the FAMC agenda. Guy and Peter were requested to formulate a solid proposal defining certain working areas and the constitution of the Advisory Board.

#### Issues Related to Housing

**Sve Dam:** A full report on the Elumalai issue had not yet been submitted and many questions were not clear. It was stated that the house (Lina's, finally given to the Housing Service to manage), temporarily allocated to him, were being rented out to his guests, which was an unacceptable situation. It was agreed that FAMC would write a letter to Elumalai stating that the Housing Service has requested FAMC that the Newcomer House has to be returned to them within one week and that the Housing Service would find him temporary housing until a permanent housing solution is found. The FAMC recommends that the Auroville Council take up the matter of Elumalai's situation. An extensive report by Kripa on this issue was circulated. The housing situation in Svedam, concerning unauthorised constructions and buildings on the proposed location for the radial road, is still pending as the community has been asked to give their proposal to the IDC for further discussion.

It was stated that the letter has been sent to Elumalai informing him clearly about the FAMC's decision. It was agreed that the Auroville Council or the Housing Service and not the FAMC should now deal with the issue.

**Igor's House:** The Working Committee had a meeting with Alexander, the brother of Igor, who is expecting compensation from Auroville for all the funds he has invested through Igor in Auroville. He told the Working Committee that Igor does not want to come back to Auroville. It is FAMC policy that if and when someone leaves Auroville help can be given from the Repatriation Fund in case of real need but not compensation for the assets created.

It was proposed that people who leave voluntarily and the ones who are asked to leave should be dealt with separately. It was proposed to clarify that aspect of the issue so that there would be no more confusion between the FAMC and the Working Committee. It was agreed that Auroville needs an Exit Policy as soon as possible. The Auroville Council was requested to



formulate an Exit Policy. Under what conditions and to what extent someone can receive help from the Repatriation Fund should be decided by the Auroville Council in consultation with the FAMC. There should be absolutely no connection between the value of any assets created and the repatriation. It was reaffirmed that there can be no compensation for assets. The Auroville Council should look into the amount needed to repatriate Igor. It needs to be determined whether Igor needs to be repatriated either by buying him a ticket or providing funds to maintain him for a few months. The repatriation proposal should be made in consultation with the FAMC.

**Sadaca Project:** Rolf and Francis and a representative of Aurofuture were invited to the meeting to discuss the proposed financing of Sadaca Project with loans raised from Aurovilians and by renting out the accommodation on completion. The Chair pointed out that the purpose of the meeting was to go forward with the setting up a small group to look at the implications in depths.

At the previous discussion of the proposal the FAMC had raised the certain issues.

Firstly the Housing Policy has no provision for financing a project in such a way.

Secondly Sumark would be taking loans from Aurovilians and in turn giving them interest on the loans in the form of maintenance. There were reservations about the acceptability of Aurovilian lenders with more means making money off other Aurovilians with less means through the medium of interest. However it was also acknowledged that it would benefit Auroville if Aurovilians who have money in banks abroad would rather invest it in Auroville. For those living off the income from those investments it could be argued that it is legitimate to provide them with maintenance in lieu of interest.

Thirdly, Sumark proposes to continue renting the apartments even after the cost of the construction had been covered, thus the project would be money generating, which was felt to be contrary to the spirit of the Housing Policy. However it was stated that different possibilities for financing housing in Auroville need to be explored.

Fourthly, it had been expressed that the creation of Auroville assets needs to be transparent and channelled through an appropriate Auroville body. Sumark has been set up as a construction consultancy unit rather than a housing finance unit. It was suggested that a body such as an Auroville Development Housing Board should be created which could be an umbrella organisation for different housing schemes.

The representative of Aurofuture pointed out that there are other means of raising loans for financing housing and infrastructure but the problem is to find a way to pay them back.

Rolf made it clear that he and Francis believe in tackling the issue on a small scale rather than looking at the large-scale problem, which from that perspective becomes intractable. Rolf explained that it is not possible to find enough people to pre-finance their own apartments anymore. They are proposing to borrow funds from individual Aurovilians and then rent out the apartments until such time as people come forward to

contribute fully for them. It was asked whether it was proposed to rent out apartments indefinitely or was it more like a hire purchase arrangement. It was replied that the intention is to continue to rent the apartments. It was acknowledged that it would create a precedent.

It was agreed that a sub-group would be set up with representatives from Housing Service, IDC, Economy Group, Auroville's Future, Rolf and Francis. The mandate of the sub-group is to formulate a proposal for financing the Sadaca Project that would be acceptable to everyone. The proposal is to be presented to the FAMC for consideration on the understanding that this proposal could become a model for financing other housing projects

**Finance Committee of the Governing Board:** The Working Committee forwarded a letter from the Finance Committee of the Governing Board to the FAMC. The letter requests the following:

- (i) An executive summary of the Consolidated Budget of Auroville;
- (ii) A report on the performance of all the Trusts;
- (iii) Status of all major construction projects, which are in progress, with their proposed budgets, for exemption and current stage of implementation, etc.,

It was reported that Divya has agreed to prepare the executive summary of the Consolidated Budget. Joster agreed to coordinate the reports from the Trusts. He was requested to circulate a list of all the Trusts and the Trustees.

The status of the major construction projects should be provided by the IDC.

**FAMC Mandate:** The FAMC continued to review and update its mandate for publication and feedback from the community. The latest version arrived at it can be found elsewhere in this Auroville News.

**FAMC Membership:** The refining of an up-dated membership proposal was discussed. It was decided to continue the discussion in January.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please e-mail [famc@auroville.org.in](mailto:famc@auroville.org.in)

## DENTAL CENTRE with a PERIO SPECIALIST

Dr.Claude, our well known friend  
(French Dental Surgeon) who comes  
regularly every year, has arrived for 3  
months !

Welcome !

## REPORT OF RESIDENTS ASSEMBLY ON PROPOSAL FOR FOCUS MATRIMANDIR AND CORE TEAM - JANUARY 06/03

(PROPOSAL IS IN THE NEWS OF JANUARY 4/03)

**Present:** More than 100 people

**Chairpersons:** Ulli and Joy

**Notes:** Janet (the meeting was also tape-recorded)

The Chair explained that several AV Council members had met a few times with some of the authors of the Core Team Proposal of September 30/02 and the joint proposal for today's consideration had emerged. Two members of the MWT had attended the final two meetings.

The spokesperson for the Core Team Proposal expressed his thanks and gratitude to the architect (who was present) and all Aurovilians and workers who had contributed to the Matrimandir that exists today, waiting for us and almost finished. He said that it is of utmost importance that we all understand what Matrimandir really is, built for all of us and a living place that will attract us like a magnet. It is Auroville's collective task and responsibility and the proposal is a platform from where we can organize ourselves to finish the work. (Elsewhere in the news you can read the complete version of what was said here.)

The Chair explained that the proposal covered several levels. The Council had felt a group with the true confidence of the community had to be set up to coordinate the TORA (study groups) and make sure it worked. (Early version of this proposal appears in a recent News) Then the proposal tabled on September 30 was modified so that everyone was included and all the criticisms of previous meetings were incorporated.

The joint proposal was read out and then discussed:

\*how are members of Focus appointed?

**Chair:** Important that the right people are found, people working on the proposal would try to identify 3 or 4, and the TORA could add more people.

\*If everyone in the TORA agrees, does it come before the RA?

**Chair:** If the TORA arrives at a consensus, then it is put to community for feedback. There may or may not be a meeting. It could be that it is enough to announce in the News and give two weeks given for feedback.

\*The Focus people are only a secretariat and the study group are researchers, and not a decision making group

**Chair:** Agrees and adds that Focus members are also facilitators.

\*If what the TORA approves, with regard to signatories, is ratified by the RA, it does not also need approval of the FAMC.

**Chair:** The process followed will be what the community decides.

\*Focus must look at what Mother said about Matrimandir and the city, and this should not take three years.

**Chair:** Study groups, not Focus will look at what Mother said.

\*There is a term of office mentioned because necessary in such a document, not because we expect it to take three years. The Matrimandir is for the whole community and the true

meaning of Focus is to invite people to do the research. We need the concern of everybody, not only 150 people.

\*If things go wrong in the study group, it is up to AVC to inform us so the whole thing won't just fizzle out as has happened in the past.

**Chair:** The previous Design Study Group had no mandate to propose solutions. However the TORA is expected to propose solutions. These solutions did not stop in 1973. They will include present socio-economic situation and expertise, and find how opposites can be integrated in a way that goes beyond individual opinions, and for this the whole community is needed.

\*The Focus group must be loyal to the goal of finding agreement. It must be disciplined and honest and act like a good secretary.

\*The mandate must be clear in terms of what Mother has said and the purpose of the group is to find the technical solution to what she said. There can be no question about whether there is a lake, but its size must be based on what is technically possible.

\*Will ex-MCG cooperate with outcome of TORA?

**Chair:** My understanding is that they are concerned that directions are found and they are willing to come to study groups to find answers on what Mother really wants us to do. But they do not agree with the second part. They do not want to add people to the Core Group until the direction is agreed on, but they have agreed to dialogue.

\*My impression is that the two members of the MWT who participated in the meetings agree that the situation at Matrimandir is not good. There is a lack of direction and this has to change. I am also convinced that if we put our personal preferences aside, it is complex to follow what Mother has said. They have prepared a documentation of their understanding, and they are willing to study further to see what reveals itself. This would be a basis for seeking a solution. My conviction is that Mother would reveal it to that group. It's not a quick solution but it does not have to take forever.

\*I have another interpretation. At the first meeting the two members of the MWT were open when we assured them that we are willing to work with them if they are willing to work with us. But in the second meeting there was a different vibration. They don't agree with either part of the proposal. They are willing to participate in a small study group about issues but they are not interested in other part of resolution.

\*Today we are concerned with how to invite people to come together. We can't polarize because in that way we go nowhere.

\*For many of us the Matrimandir is still an enigma. We are building a better understanding among each other. I can understand how the two from the MWT would not support the proposal because they have not been part of it. We must have more meetings with them, but not stick it in a particular framework. They will sit and discuss it because they also want to complete Matrimandir.

\*Have we lost the capacity to move and act? I am tired of talking. Let's accept the proposal.

\*The fire has been diluted by too much talking. We have to finish Matrimandir as soon as possible. Talking and creating groups and subgroups is just what they want.

The Chair reminded us that we had agreed not to clap after someone spoke as many people are disturbed by this.

\*If they won't budge we don't have to convince them. They feel and do as they must. We have to stop reacting and stop bulldozing. Let's decide if we accept or reject the proposal and then proceed to act according to the outcome.

#### **Decision making process on proposal**

**Chair:** One proposal is to vote on the two parts of the proposal separately and another is to see them together.

\*Some members of the AVC don't agree that the two proposals, Focus Matrimandir and Matrimandir Coordinators' Team and Core Team, are clubbed together.

\*The two proposals were worked out together and are two sides of same coin.

People who wanted to look at the proposals separately were asked to raise their hands. As they were about 10% of those present, the chair decided to only ask who was in favour of the proposal in its entirety. Newcomers and visitors were asked to go outside to make the counting easier. The number of people left in the room was between 82 and 97. It was not possible to get an exact count as there was a lot of movement. 70 people wanted to accept the joint proposal, 1 was against and 13 people abstained. It is possible that several people did not raise their hands at all. (At least three people were in the room, who were ineligible, and the two chairpersons did not raise their hands.)

There was some discussion about whether people who did not raise their hands at all should be included in the total number of participants.

\*I voted against the whole proposal because, while the first part has the spirit of inclusion and moving ahead, I am pretty suspicious of the Core Team because I associate it with the spirit of exclusion. It is better for those people to come to the site and start working there, and then together come to a new working team. Some people on the site won't get into it if there is a Core Team. Start with Focus and let a new team emerge.

\*I object to the way the voting happened. All Aurovilians who came to this meeting are interested in being here and this needs to be recorded. The people who are opposed to voting also need to be recorded and included. It is sad that this is the best that we can do.

**Chair:** I recognize that we can't reorganize without talking together. How we choose a Core Team has to be done together. As many people had already left and it was 7:00 the meeting was closed on this note.

**Additional Note:** The Auroville Council endorses this latest version of the proposal because it is meant to include all those who are presently working on the site as well as all those who would like to join in the work there, and because it welcomes those presently holding responsibilities at Matrimandir to participate in the Coordinators Team and Core Team

**Minutes of the Support Service Group (selected in a meeting attended by above 60 persons held at SAWCHU on 14.12.2002, Sunday )**

**Meeting At Siddhartha Forest on 19.12.2002**

(This meeting was primarily called inviting the Sub Group and discuss the reality in the ongoing entry process)

#### **Participants**

Hari(Sub Group-Entry Group), Anbu, Gajendran, Durai, Balan (notes), Gnanavel, Selvam, Shankar, Kumar.

The minutes of the meeting (appeared in AV news) held at SAWCHU on 14<sup>th</sup> of December was read out in the forum. The member who represented the Sub Group in this meeting accepted that the observations made in the minutes with respect to the ongoing entry process are correct and real. Further he revealed that basically the Sub Group of the Entry Group has been constituted to advice on the entry of the individuals from the surrounding villages; the Entry Group consults the Sub group only to take convenient decisions supporting the former on certain files; not all the four types of files are dealt transparently with the Sub Group. As such there is no space for the Sub Group to monitor that their recommendations are executed.

#### **At Entry Group Office on 26.12.2002**

##### **Participants**

Shivaya, Lila, Subramanian (Entry Group), Hari, Dhanda, Jyothi (Sub Group), Shankar, Balan, Selvam, Anbu, Gajae, Durai, Kumar

The criteria for entering Auroville which is at present adopted by Entry Group was read out by one of it's members. While discussing the criteria one after another few important issues which affect the growth of Auroville at the present time emerged.

The rejected applications were kept pending for more than 15 years even without communicating the status creating bitterness among locals. Yet another reason for the hidden Auroville/villages rift is the Entry Group's improper/ignorant way of dealing with the applicants particularly coming from the surrounding villages for various criteria, has ignited the local populace to fight for their rights on the village poromboke lands which Auroville has been facing since last several months. Further the Entry Group maintains a double standard in issuing application for individuals from local and abroad which clearly indicates the division in the entry process.

Recognising the intensity of the issues related to the Entry Group, it's members invited some of the members from the Support service Group to join the Entry Group. Responding to this the Support Group recommended Shankar (Vikas) Kumar (Fraternity) and Selvam (La Ferme) for the same. Meanwhile the Entry Group has agreed to modify the existing criteria in dialogue with the Support Group.

#### **At Wisdom Tree in Matri Mandir on 02.01.2003**

##### **Participants**

Selvam, Durai, Gajea, Kumar, Balan, Shankar, Gnanavel

The Criteria sent by the Entry Group was discussed briefly. It was opined that more discussions pertaining to modify the criteria to enter Auroville will be had in the next follow up meeting in a larger forum.

**The next follow up meeting will be held at SAWCHU building on 12.01.2003, Sunday open to all.**

**CINEMA - Bharat Nivas - AUDITORIUM**

**17 & 19 JANUARY 2003:  
"ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL"**

**FRIDAY 17 7.45 pm: -**

**THE SON'S ROOM / LA STANZA DEL FIGLIO**

By Nanni MORETTI – Duration: 1h.39'

**SUNDAY 19 6.30 pm: -**

**IGNORANT FAIRIES / LE FATE IGNORANTI**

By Fernan Ozpetek & Gianni Romoli – 1h.46'

**8.30 pm: - THE PROFESSION OF ARMS / IL MESTIERE DELLE ARMI**

By Ermanno OLMI – Duration: 1h.45'

*All 3 films in their original Italian version, with English subtitles (Not for children)*

*A program in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in India and the Auroville Italian Pavilion*

**Note:** January will be a special month for good Cinema: after this *Italian Film Festival*, we will have a four-day *Indian Film Festival* (with 2 films per evening) from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>

. Be prepared!

**Aurofilm**

**Learn Watsu / Aqua Wellness at Quiet**

**WATSU** (WATER shiatSU) is a treatment that combines stretching and relaxation in warm water together with gentle pressure on some acupuncture points in order to promote wellness and reestablish balance between body and mind. It has been called "an art of mental healing".

**AQUA WELLNESS**, also performed in warm water, combines light movement and stretching with massage and mobilization of the articulations. Breathing and energy work is also involved as is work on the surface as well as under water.

The specific movements allow the spine to move softly and the energy to flow naturally. It is a way to experience the healing qualities of water in a new way.

**Dates: Jan. 26th - Feb. 1st, 2003**

**Timings: 12:30 - 4:30 PM daily**

Trainer: Gianni De Stefani (Worldwide Aquatic Bodywork Association teacher)

**Participants: minimum 6, maximum 12**

For further information, or to register for either of these courses, please contact The Quiet Healing Centre, tel. no. 262 2329 or 262 2646.

**ARKA Project / Project for Senior Citizens / Housing Units**

The first phase of the ARKA project is already on since a year.

We are about to finish the structure of the public building in the complex and the finishing work of the same will start soon.

This public building has been largely funded by a friend of Auroville as a donation.

We are now in the process of starting the second phase of the project which involves the building of residential units for senior citizens (above 60 years)

Aurovillians, Friends of Auroville and same units which will also house guests, long term guests and same accommodations for professionals, students or voluntary service personnel of the project).

An area to house the staff of the project is also planned.

The project is located on the Crown road, near Surrender community.

As we are about to start the formalities for the starting of the construction of the housing units, on the respect of the new housing policy recently published and the community process of Auroville.

We invite every body interested, to contact the ARKA working team.

If you need information regarding the project, please do not hesitate to ask or write to us.

Maria Grazia (New Creation, phone: 2622284) e.mail: mariagrazia@auroville.org.in

## INFORMAZIONE PER TUTTI GLI ITALIANI:

il nuovo console italiano Dr Armando Barucco, visiterà Auroville e Pondicherry il 17 e il 18 gennaio e vorrebbe incontrare tutti gli italiani residenti ad Auroville ed offrire un pranzo o rinfresco, con ogni probabilità il 18 gennaio alle 13.00. Il programma esatto e il luogo saranno indicati e confermati quanto prima. Per informazioni e conferma della vostra partecipazione potete comunque contattarmi ai seguenti numeri (2622109 & 2623568) oppure chiamare Anna Maria (2622202) o Ireno (2622343). Nello stesso periodo si svolgerà anche una rassegna di film italiani al Bharat Nivas auditorium, sempre in collaborazione con l'ambasciata e il consolato italiani per i quali vi sarà un annuncio a parte.  
SAURO

### TAI CHI HALL

#### Sharnga Presents

#### THE ART OF CHI –Stevanovitch's method WINTER TAI CHI CHUAN WORKSHOP

From Monday to Saturday, 13th – 18th January, 2003.  
7.00 – 10.00 AM , beginners, chi and tai chi basics, 24 postures.

3.00 – 6.00 PM , advanced, chi and tai chi , 24 postures.

Our work is essentially directed towards:

- Mastery of the body through breathing and muscular relaxation.
- Improvement of movement through balance and coordination.
- Learning to mobilize Chi. First perceiving it, then guiding it in one's body with the use of three factors: will, imagination and muscular activity.

Information and booking : Marco Ph. 2622654 ..

#### ANNOUNCING A WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 14

A series of six consecutive workshops are being offered by Heidi Watts on Saturday mornings at the Center Kindergarten from 9:00 to 12:00. All are welcome. Topics will include:

- integrated and thematic curriculum
  - hands-on experiential math, science and language arts activities
  - classroom organization and management for respectful classrooms: the social curriculum
- For more details call Heidi at 262-2196

***"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts. "***

Bertrand Russell

## Share the Joy, the Unity, the Peace!

### Join us for Dances of Universal Peace

#### Sundays at 4 pm in the Vérité Hall

These Dances provide a joyful, multi-cultural way to touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. Being inspired by the wisdom and sacred phrases of the many spiritual traditions of humankind, they are essentially a form of celebration and meditation in sound and movement. There are no performers or audience; newcomers to the Dances and old hands form the circle together.

The Dances are easy to learn, and everything you need to know for each Dance is taught first. Even though you might feel unable to sing 'in tune', or feel you have 'two left feet', these Dances are welcoming to all.

The Dances will be led by Rabiya, a onetime resident of Auroville who is here for a two-month visit. Dates for the dance meetings are 12, 19, 26 January 2003.

### Thanks

The new video film on Auroville for the Visitors Center is now ready. For this work we have received the collaboration of a large number of Aurovilians. Some of them gave their voice or agreed to be interviewed or filmed on their place of work ; some others gave us footage that they already had. Some others have worked on the Tamil version.

As we had to make a short video, some of these contributions could not be used, or could not be used entirely for lack of space or for some technical reason. Nevertheless we are grateful TO ALL for their welcome, understanding and collaboration. This video is theirs.

Thank you to:

Abha, Adhara, André, Angelica, Ane, Anita, Anu, Angad, Aurora (and her beautiful baby), Aurosatprem, Basil, Bernard B., Brooks, Charlie (and his gentle cows), Claude, Dodo, Eric, Frederick, Gilles, Gérard, Gloria, Grace, Hervé, Holger, Jackie, Jyoti, Judith (and the famc group), Joy, Kanchana, Kelsang, Kripa, Lalit, Mary, Meenakshi, Meera, Michel, Marco, Mahalingam, Mary (and the Transition school), Nadaka, Namrita, Patrick, Otto, Pala, Ratnam, Samrat, Stephane, Serge, Shyamala, Shraddhavan, Sigrid (and Deepanam school), Suhasini, Surya, Tency, Thillai, Tina, Toshi, Shankar, Subash, Uma, Vardarajan (and the Promesse school), Vidya, Vinodini, Walter, Yves.

And thank you to Nicole and Tim from the Visitors Center, for their trust.

The video will be shown to the Aurovilians sometime beginning February.

Olivier & Christine (Outreach programme, Auroville Press)

**Aurovilians, New Comers, Friends, Visitors,**

Each every Friday morning our small children from the Free Progress Creche New Creation, have a play time to the Repos Beach. Is anybody (at least 3 or 4 adults) would like to share this time with them for their security and happiness between 10 AM and 12AM? The van is leaving by 9.30 AM from New Creation Entrance gate.

All our love.

New Creation Free Progress

**Solar Kitchen is closed on Pongal**

On Thursday 16.01.2003 and on Friday 17.01.2003 the Solar Kitchen will remain closed as all our ammas and workers need leave on these two days.

Besides Diwali, Pongal is the most important festival in Tamil Nadu and the other holidays where the Solar Kitchen will remain closed is Tamil New Year on Monday 14.04.2003 and Friday 24.10.2003.

**We wish for all a happy Pongal -**

Solar Kitchen Team

**DENTAL CENTRE with a PERIO SPECIALIST**

Dr.Claude, our well known friend (French Dental Surgeon) who comes regularly every year, has arrived for 3 months !

Welcome !

**All Auroville filmmakers to your editing stations !**

We are once again hosting a festival, this time during the first week of March 2003. Riding on last years success , this year we plan to grow a bit bigger by inviting video filmmakers form other parts of India. If you have any work to be shown, please contact us soon.

All work to be sent in on mini DV format.

All work not to exceed 30 minutes.

All work to be submitted by 15th February

Contact : Auroson 2622147

**Update from the Health Fund**

The Health Fund started on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2002 and is functioning well and we are close to the first year of activity.

Around one thousand Aurovilians and newcomers are part of this experiment and quite a few already benefited.

For a better understanding we need to clarify the following points:

1. The Health Fund is covering medical expenses for treatments made in India only and not abroad.
2. Aurovilians and newcomers who participate to the Fund take the commitment to support it for one full year from the date of beginning.
3. Newcomers cannot, during their first year of being a newcomer, claim refund of medical cost for treatment of chronic disease or for psychiatric treatment.
4. Newcomers have to pay their Health Fund contribution even when they receive maintenance from Central Fund.
5. Guest or long term guest cannot be part of the health Fund.

Thanks for your collaboration and all the best for a Happy and Healty New Year,  
For information contact Samya at the Health Centre,  
phone 2622134

With love

The Health Fund Team, Samya, Hilde, Albert, Nicola

**Announcement from The Health Center.**

We, Albert, Hilde and Kaapi would like; besides the service of the Health Center; to offer a new medical service for Auroville.

In special medical cases homecare is preferable, unless hospitalization is absolutely necessary.

For this special cases, we would like to offer our service through a qualified nurse.

Before we will start homecare we would like to interview the client to see if homecare is advisable. At this moment only Kaapi, a new comer and nurse, can offer this practical care, but we hope to extend the team in future. Hilde is also willing to conduct the interviews.

In case you are interested you can contact the Health Center and ask for Kaapi or Albert.

**An Exhibition at Brand - New - Day  
Line of force Phase II**

**Monday, Jan. 13th until...**(Office.Timings)

### Other Universe

"Newton was the happiest man because the Universe is only one and Newton discovered its laws" (Langrange).

There are many laws which they discovered after Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727). This scientist was great, but his time is possible to be named anthropocentric or mancentric. Some specialists say that Earth belongs to human creatures and insects. The Beings with no legs and others with six legs live according to different laws. Their worlds are very different in many ways.

People permanently attack nature, many species of plants and animals became extinct and some others are included in the Red Book.

There are the windows from the rough greedy space of mankind with its money and ego to a gentle green space of nature with its Divine Beauty. I'm agree with the meaning of "spectators" in Dana; they saw Francois' movies about nature. Njal: "O-yo-yoi!" Rita: "O-la-la! Voila!" Priya (a teacher of science in After school, she lives in Aspiration) and her Tamil students: "It is happiness to visit a wonderful other universe. Vive la France, Auroville, Dana and Francois! Rumba nandri, merci beaucoup!"

Francois is a special person and he born in special time, Dec. 28, 1949 – between Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. In numerology his number (and Auroville's number) is nine, it means intelligence.

Boris.

### FOR SALE

STEREO SYSTEM CD + TAPE RS. 3500 PHILIPS  
WOODEN GANESH SCULPTURE RS. 2000  
CONTACT MAURIFO @ 2623664

### Usha is Looking for a cycle

She is 7 years old and lives in Annapurna.  
Tel : 98423 4 - 43001

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### HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Dear Friends,

This is to inform you that the Tibetan doctor will be giving the consultation on the 13.01.03 Monday. For your appointment please do call Kalsang @ 2623338, 2622401. Thank you.

**A tribute to Meenakshi amma (mother of Mr.Ramanathan**, Auroville Engineer in the early days of Auroville). She left her body on 30 th Dec. 2002, Monday, in Pondicherry. I remember her making beautiful flower garlands to the Ashram, which was the inspiration to my aspiration of flower language expression to the Mother. A smiling welcome and an unfailing word of comfort to everybody when needed was her attitude. She had taken part in some of our activities with village children and women in those days. Her heart lies with the symbol with inner chamber of Matrimandir. She lives in Her. —by Syamala

### Repos and Antarctic

"The mills of God grind slow but sure" (a very old proverb). Sometimes it is hot in Auroville and I dream that somebody would swim to the Antarctic and push an iceberg to Repos. Of course this dream is different for realization. There are too many hungry non vegetarian sharks in the oceans between Repos and Antarctic.

In the past, it was a different situation. The geologists say that India moves now away from Antarctic, 5-6 cm per year. A long time ago it was one huge continent "Gondwana": India, Antarctic Continent, Australia, Africa (without Sahara region), and South America, all together. In our time many species of butterflies are common for both India and Australia.

For one month in November and December 2002 Jack Campbell from Canada lived in Gaya Garden. He was born April 22, 1923, his speciality is paleobotany. I showed him some pieces of fossil wood from Aranya. He identified probably "Araucaria" tree which grew in Aranya region 60-200 million years ago. This needle plant grows now naturally in South America but people brought it to the other parts of the world (and to Auroville). Araucaria is similar to Christmas tree.

Million years ago the climates of India and Antarctic Continent (Gondwanaland) hadn't difference. There was coolness and humidity, landscape was swampy with giant mosses of 20 metres high. Repos was on the bottom of the ocean and the shore was situated near Aranya – 10 km west.

Boris

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### Dear Aurovilians/New comers/Guests!

We have 30 original **Savitri Audio Cassetts** in German language. We would like to exchange them for English ones. If anyone is willing, please contact Palani, Prarthana. Phone: 2622612. Time: After 4:30 p.m.

**MNuh-nkhopahf:fj j pl kpUe:J**

**(From Auro-Traductions)**

28.12.2002 Nj j papl l j kpor; nraj pfsy> "MNuhty; mi t> nrawFO Mfpatwypd; mwpfi f" , lk; ngwwJ. mt;twpfj fapy> "MNuhty; GwkNghf:F epyjjwF Ntyp Nghl ggl l J" vdW j twhf ntsapil Lt pl NI hk; "GwkNghf:F epyjjwF> MNuhty; Ntyp Nghl l J" vdW j aTnraJ j pUj j p thrpf:fTk; , j j twfF kd;dpf:fTk;

*MNuh-nkhopahf:fk;*

### **ODHUVAR - chanting of hymns sung in temples of South India.**

Sri Odhuvar Sankarnarayan from Madurai will offer a rendering of Tamil and Sanskrit Hymns as an invocation to bring peace on earth.

Venue: Tamil Heritage Center site (in the Bharat-Nivas Complexe) behind the Atithi Griha Guest House.

Date and time: Sunday, 6 AM and also in the evening from 4 to 6 PM.

### **ArTMA KALA ARTS FESTIVAL 2003 will be organised in Pondicherry at the PORT**

from Jan 12-19th Jan.03, by the Tourism & Transport Department, in collaboration with Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre Madras, South Zone cultural centre, Tanjavur and Aurodhan Art Gallery. Some of the most senior, serious and well known painters and sculptors from India are invited to participate in this Festival.

These Indian Painters/Sculptors would be visiting Auroville on Wednesday 15th January from 3 to 8 PM. After their visit to Matrimandir, they would be happy to present a small slide show of their works and hold a live interaction/ dialogue with Auroville artistes.

**Venue:** Sri Aurobindo World Ceter for Human Unity, Bharatnivas.

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, 15th Jan.03, from 6 to 8 PM.

**ALL THOSE ART LOVERS AND PAINTERS/SCULPTORS ARE WELCOME.**

### **Photo and Painting Exhibition at Aurodhan Art Gallery, at Pondicherry:**

At present, two American Artists are exhibiting their works for a period of two weeks from 2nd Jan.03. They are John Craig and Kathyne Myers. They were in Auroville last year and had presented their works in Auroville. All are invited to visit their exhibition.

### **Deepika and myself would like to thank Brooks and Shano for their help.**

Bernard (D) Aurobrindavan

**two huts free!!!**

**At Aspiration, we have at the moment, 2 huts available for Aurovilians, these are 2 room arrangements with a toilet, a small pantry and a garden;**

These units are for a couple or 2 individuals.

Both have recently been renovated and are in pretty-pucca shape!

In case you are interested, you are welcome to come share a meal with us and take a look around.....

Contact Arumugam, Auroprem, Sangeeta, Mark, Nicola or Adil,

Call us 2622283 at lunch (12.30 - 1pm)

or dinner (7 - 7.30 pm).

or just drop by.

From Aspiration

with love.

c yfpd; mi kj p edi ki af; fUj p **XJ thH j pU.**  
**rqfuehuaz d;** mthfshy; j kpy; rpy ki wfs; Xj ggLk;

mi dtUk; fyeJ nfhs mdGl d; mi of:fNwhk;

, lk; j kpy; kuG i kak> ghuj; ept h j > MNuhty;  
ehs; 12.1.2003> Qhapw

Neuk; fhi y 6.00 kz p kwWk; khi y 4.00 - 6.00  
kz p

### **Sonan and his Family looking for a house**

Hello! We're newcomers. We're looking for a house. House transfer or house-sitting....

We are willing to contribute to the maintenance of the house, too. I'm sure my parents, Laura and Lauro will take care of your place well... Now we're in Bobby's place in Kottakarai (2622529).

Laura is teaching at Deepanam school.

### **FOR SALE**

**CAMERA PENTAX P30** with zoom Takumar 28/300, 3.5-4.5: Rs. 5,900 plus a long-focus **LENS SMC**

**PENTAX-A 1:4 200 mm:** Rs. 4,950.

**Pedestal FAN Mytel Breezy (green plastic): Rs. 700.**

**Gas stove "Premier" (2 fires):** Rs. 600.

**Kashmiri painted wooden lamp** (h. 94 cm. without shade): Rs. 600.

Ph. 2622138 (Paola)



## Connections

The work of Connections relies on your cooperation. In 2003, **Connections** will continue to bring together jobs/activities in the community with Aurovilians with needed skills. Please come to us if you need help or if you want to help. With your cooperation, we will work to make Auroville a smoothly operating community.

**Connections is opened on Monday, through Friday mornings from 9.00am till 12.00 am or by appointment. You can also reach us by email <connections@... >**

### ❖ Recycling Technician

Maha Saraswati Free Store is looking for an Aurovilian, Newcomer or Long Term Guest, who is skilled in minor repairs and in recycling. This is part-time volunteer work.

Please contact Olivier: 2622 212; email:

Olivier@auroville.org.in

### ❖ Where the Gourmet meet to Eat

General Manager

A personable, energetic and well-organised person is needed to manage one of the AV restaurants. Responsibilities are to maintain a warm and welcoming physical environment; maintain good relations with and among the personnel; organise and oversee the tasks needed to run the entire.

### ❖ Community Maintenance and Supervision.

Verite community and its Guest House need a supervisor who is well experienced and with some practical knowledge in maintaining the community. The person should have basic knowledge of painting, plumbing, electrical work and etc.

Please contact Danya, Aurelio or Kathryn.

Tel. 2622 045 or 2622 871

The **Connections** team

Anand, Don, Jaya, Marijke and Paulien

SAWCHU Building,

Tel.: 2623440, email: connections@auroville.org.in

### GERMAN VIDEO @ VISITOR'S CENTRE

Sonntag, 12.1.; Montag, 13.1.; Mittwoch, 15.1.

20:00 h

### "DUNE-DER WUESTENPLANET"

Science-Fiction, USA 2000,

in drei Teilen nach dem Roman von Frank Herbert,

Regie: John Harrison,

mit William Hurt, Uwe Ochsenknecht.

Arakis, der Wuestenplanet birgt trotz seiner Kargheit eine Kostbarkeit: Spice, das Lebenselixier, fuer das ganze Dynastien um Leben und Tod kaempfen. Spannend mit eindrucksvollen special effects.

**350cc 1994 Bullet for sale**, rs 20,000 ONO, low mileage, tel 2623019, please leave contact number with Ambre.

Terry

### Evening videos @ Visitors'Centre

**Jeudi 16 Janvier a 20 heures:**

" L'EMPIRE DU SOLEIL " de Stephen Spielberg

**Friday the 17th at 18.30:**

Cartoon for children

" MONSTER inc "

THE CAFETERIA, VISITORS' CENTRE, WILL BE CLOSED FOR PONGAL ON THURSDAY EVENING ( 16th) AND FRIDAY THE 17th FULL DAY. IT WILL REMAIN OPEN ON THURSDAY THE 16th TILL 4PM.

**HAPPY PONGAL TO ALL.**

### Pony and horse-show Sunday 19th January 2003

9am to 5pm

At Pony Farm

-Horse show by the children

-Rides for little kids

-Junk Sale

- lunch:

· chips,

· Salad & chips,

· Chicken & chips (only on order until Wednesday

15th jan. Contact Lea 2622620),

· Belgian waffles,

· Drinks.

We would be grateful to receive any kind of useable junk for the sale.

Thank you! The pony farm team

### The Auroville Girls basket ball team is organizing a girl's tournament

**which will be held in New Creation Court on the  
17th, 18th, and 19th of January 2003.**

Three teams from Auroville will play and four from Pondicherry basket ball association.

The tournaments will take place in the mornings from 6am to 8am and in the evenings from 4 .30pm

onwards. The fixtures will be announced in the next A V news (or you can always contact any player ).

Please come and encourage us...

See you there, AV girls Basket ball team

### Lost ...on the Cycle path ..somewhere .

I must have been sleeping .....I lost a pair of sun-glasses ..black and grey tortoise shell frames ....and a Lipstick pouch ( Yes ) .... If anyone found them and doesnt where lipstick please call me at 262660 after 9 am Or 2622370 before 8 am . I will be extrememly happy to have them back .....LOve Gillian

**NEWS FROM POUR TOUS****HOLIDAYS**

Pour Tous and Financial Service will be open full day on Thursday, 16.1.

(Matupongal).

We will be closed on Friday, 17.1.

(Karinalpongall).

**NEW PRODUCTS FROM AUROVILLE**

- Aurogreen: Starfruitjam
- La Ferme: Starfruitjam
- Lumiere: Artpostcards for children and adults
- Naturellement: Apple Delight (spiced juice)
- Simplicity Farm: Fresh Spirulina (in red fridge).

**NEW PRODUCTS FROM OUTSIDE**

- Soyaplus: soyaproteinpowder to use as drink or porridge
- Peach Halves in cans from Mother's Orchard Mountain Paradise (organic).

**SPECIAL OFFER**

The Darjeeling Second Flush-Flowery Orange Pekoe will come down from 132,- to 127,- Rs per packet. You find it in the blue shelf near veget. counter.

**BUYING IN BULK**

Whenever you are planning to buy bigger quantities of P.T.items, please inform us at least one day in advance. This refers mainly to bread (more than 3 loaves) and bottles of EM and Natural Liquid Soap (more than 5). Otherwise there will be not enough for other people. EM and N.L.Soap can also be bought in bulk at the units directly.

**BASKETSERVICE**

Please kindly return all the baskets to Pour Tous.

**Wishing you a happy Pongal,**  
your Pour Tous team.

**Friends,**

it may be a good time for a map, the 3D diorama of our plateau and canyons. Can we ask for this to be built to scale with the existing topography, roads, villages, rare trees and buildings?

This will make participation and comprehension far more practical. Jean Jaques of the Pyramids school (recently approached) was interested in leading part of the effort together with a team of volunteers, can Aurofuture help? Renu

**For Sale:**

**Royal Enfield bullet diesel with yamaha shock absorbers and disc brakes.** For more info ph:

Ries Quiet Beach 2622641

**Roma's Kitchen will Remain  
Open throughout Pongal.**

**PITANGA****Facial Massage by Samya**

Starting from Tuesday, January 14, 2003 there will be a new opportunity for facial massage at Pitanga: Samya's hands want to clean and massage your face.

This service is basically offered free of charge to Aurovilians and Newcomers but we need to ask from you a contribution of Rs. 75/- per session to cover the cost of materials required.

Appointments are available on

Tuesdays 1 - 4 pm,

Thursdays 9 - 12 pm and 2 - 4 pm

**Craniosacral Biodynamics by Veronica**

Craniosacral Biodynamics is an approach and practice of Craniosacral Therapy where we, as human beings, are seen to be an expression of the wholeness of life itself. In this concept, a vital life force is perceived as biodynamic energy within the human system. It is called the *Breath of Life* and considered to be the basic ordering and healing principle within the human body maintaining and integrating all of its life functions.

The intention of the work is to re-establish the relationship between seemingly chaotic and disordered cells and tissues and the *Breath of Life*. and to strengthen the ever-present Health, even in the most acute pathologies. This form of body-work is gentle and non-invasive which makes it suitable even for newborn babies or people with particularly painful conditions. Since this therapy aims at balancing and regulating bodily functions on a subtle level, it supports the self-healing process and can thus be applied for all medical conditions.

Veronica, an experienced Naturopath from Germany will offer this bodywork from Monday, 13 January onwards until Friday, 31 January for Aurovilians and Newcomers in Pitanga and on Thursday afternoons for guests at Quiet Healing Centre.

**Pitanga remains closed for PONGAL  
Friday, 17/01/2003.**

Pitanga Ph. 262 2561, mail:pitanga@auroville.org.in

**A BIG THANKS TO THE EXCELLENT AND PROMPT SERVICE OF THE AV-HEALTH-CENTER-AMBULANCE-VAN!!!!**

in case this van is out, or additional transport is needed, you can call PIMS- finally, after much difficulties at recent incidents at the beach, we got the right number to call the (hired) AMBULANCE-VAN from PIMS, Kalapet directly, which has 2 beds, but no carrier, it is **2655055**. You have to give your name and address as precise as possible and help the driver to find you, oxygen is available - someone should accompany the patient inside the van, also to hold him, so that he/she won't fall off the bed- this transport- service is free of charge.

with love Myriam/Repos