

AV News Summary

June 7th, 2003

Auroville Council announcements

1) PREVENTION OF TYPHOID

The number of cases of typhoid in Auroville has been increasing for the last few years. The causal microbes of typhoid, cholera and dysentery are carried from the excreta of an infected person to the mouth through the agency of flies, unclean fingers, polluted water, or contaminated food.

FLIES

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's booklet "The Preservation of Personal Health in Warm Climates" says: "Among the commonest causes of ill-health in warm climates are disorders of the alimentary system originating from food infected with excremental microbes carried by house-flies. Because the house-fly is so domestic in its habits and feeds with equal impartiality on human excrement and food, it can carry the microbes of the bowel diseases, cholera, typhoid fever and dysentery. Maggots of the house-fly are to be found in manure, decaying vegetable matter, and similar material that accumulates around human and animal dwellings. In a favourable season, fly production occurs at an enormous rate, but their numbers can be kept down by the proper disposal of household refuse, animal manure etc. The control of these pests lies essentially in the practice of basic cleanliness. Food should be protected from them by screening kitchens, food stores and eating areas and by covering milk, sugar etc with nets."

UNCLEAN FINGERS People who prepare food must keep their fingernails short and always wash their hands thoroughly with soap and clean their nails with a brush after defaecation and before handling food.

POLLUTED WATER Boiling is the safest way to purify polluted water. It should be brought to a rolling boil and kept there for a few minutes. Filters containing silver not only filter water but sterilize it. However it is important to clean the candles often. Otherwise they can become a source of infection. Thirdly water can be sterilized by adding 2 drops of tincture of iodine for each litre of water.

UNCOOKED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES should be soaked for twenty minutes in a solution of iodine (two drops per litre of water). According to the above mentioned handbook dipping in a potassium permanagate solution is little more than a waste of time.

NEED FOR MORE AWARENESS

In Auroville we seem to be quite conscious of the importance of washing hands, sterilizing water and treating uncooked fruit and vegetables. **However there seems to be very little awareness about the public health hazard posed by the house-fly.**

We wish to stress that it is very important that we protect our public eating places by screening and using fly zappers. We also must become very conscientious about the disposal of kitchen garbage in places where flies normally breed, particularly those places that feed large numbers of people.

2) ENTRY GROUP

The **Entry Group** has now completed the review of its processes, which began with the Entry Group Seminars in April. They have reported the results to the AVCouncil. Their written report

Their written report will be published on AVNet as soon as it is available. Hard copies will be kept at the AVC/WC office, and sent out on request.

The Entry Group and the AVC are working actively together to find solutions to the many issues identified during the EG Seminars. Both groups ask for the community's patience while this difficult process continues.

About the News

The old Auroville News will not appear for the time being. This news summary is a temporary replacement, until a new version of the News has been worked out. Short messages and announcements are welcome, longer items will have to be shortened. In future information will be given about where to obtain hard copies of meeting reports or how to be placed on mailing lists to receive soft copies of meeting reports. For the time being messages may be sent to the same email address <avnews@auroville.org.in> or given to the News office at Aurelec. Deadline is Wednesday noon.

THE AVNEWS SURVEY – INITIAL REPORT OF RESULTS

The survey was undertaken with the **aim** of obtaining feedback about the existing content of the AVNews together with views and suggestions about future subject matter and layout.

A **self completion questionnaire** was used which was sent out with the AVNews in English, Tamil and French, and which was also available on the AVNet. A total of 123 survey forms were returned, 10 of which were from couples. The results therefore represent 142 individuals, some 14% of the total Auroville population as on the central list.

The **sample** was representative of the community in terms of gender, but under-represented the Indian population and greatly under-represented those aged under 30. Those aged 30 – 55 were somewhat over-represented.

Questions about existing content showed that:

- ✍ 82% wanted a **quotation from Mother or Sri Aurobindo** with 47% wanting to continue as normal and 35% wanting a short quotation only. It was thought these quotations raised the level of vibrations/aspirations and were often relevant to what was going on in Auroville.
- ✍ Opinion was divided over whether **Aurotraductions** should appear in the News with equal proportions saying 'yes' and 'no' (47% and 46% respectively). There was a generally positive response to the item but questions about whether the AVNews was the correct place for it.
- ✍ It was felt that **reports** from working groups, Entry Group, IDC and Central Fund were essential components of the AVNews. They were perceived as being indispensable for understanding, transparency and to involve as many people as possible in their process. Many thought that such reports should be provided in conjunction with other ways of getting more detailed reports for those who were interested. Various suggestions were made as to how the reports (particularly those for the Central Fund) could be made more interesting and relevant.
- ✍ The **Calendar** was considered a very important item for the News, especially for Auroville events. Opinion was divided concerning the number and type of events from outside Auroville which should be included.
- ✍ Over half (55%) of the sample thought the AVNews should have any kind of **messages** although a large minority (30%) thought this should not include buy/sell ads. Asked directly about a separate page for **community advertisements** nearly half (49%) thought this was appropriate. It was thought that **advertisements for Auroville units** should also be on a separate page and many thought they should be paid for.
- ✍ When asked about **regular contributors** some interpreted this as a question about censorship rather than the quality of what was written. Boris's pieces appeared to be enjoyed the most followed by Auroculture's and Paulette's. Some people thought the pieces should be shorter and should not include accusations and personal attacks. Some questioned the role of the AVNews as a medium for these personal opinions.
- ✍ In **future issues** nearly three quarters of the sample (72%) would like to see **graphics**, 50% would like to see **poetry** and 46% would like to see **critical reviews**. In all cases it was thought that some discrimination was needed to choose material of high quality.
- ✍ Nearly half (49%) of the sample thought that there should be a **supplement** where personal opinions could be expressed, although equal proportions thought that there should be no supplement (25%) or a supplement with no editing (23%). Some 40% of the sample would use such a supplement and 62% would be willing to do so with editorial guidance.
- ✍ The **nature of editorial guidance** brought forth a considerable number of comments. It was thought important that editorial guidance did not turn into censorship based on the personal ideas of the editor. Some felt that the editorial role should be minimal and concerned only with appropriate language. Given the difficulty of the editorial role and the need for objectivity some suggested that an editorial team be set up and/or the discussion and agreement by the community of a set of guidelines.
- ✍ Although some 40% of the sample had access to a computer, 16% did not and 43% did not like reading online. If personal opinions were available only on the **AVNet** this would mean that a proportion of the community would not have access to them, although from this survey it is difficult to say how large this would be. The security of this medium was also questioned.

Priya Vincent, June 2003

N.B. The full survey report as well as a full report with appendices will be made available to the community as soon as it is ready. Eds.

News from Soham

Dear friends,

Having made all investigations available, it has been shown that nothing serious is dwelling on my delicate and precious larynx, thus I am still allowed to enjoy the subtle fragrance of the flowers. Gratitude to all, in particular to those who expressed their solidarity and love by their prayers and sympathy. *Soham*

Solar Pumps financing scheme

Aurore is happy to announce financing facility for farms, forests and communities to acquire solar pumps. These pumps are now available under an easy payment plan. The maximum time for repayment is 3 years. We are flexible to provide a payment programme matching your requirement. For more details, consult AVNet and/or contact Hemant, Jos, Arnab or Shantha at CSR. Last date of booking is 15th June '03. Our phone numbers are: 2622 749, 2622 168, 2622 277.

Email: <aurore@auroville.org.in>

With best regards from the Aurore team.

Urgent! Transition Well Repair

There is a very urgent work to be done at Transition School SAILER Well. The estimate of this work is about 170,000 Rps. Please, do help! Contribute to PT account # 793, for Transition Well Repair!

Thank You All! *Transition team*

Water Babies

The babies swimming group is running again - during the month of June we'll be meeting on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11am at the Kindergarten pool, Centre Field (please be on time!)

All babies between the ages of 6 months to two-and-a-half years are welcome with a parent. If there is demand, we will form a separate group for the smaller babies (6 months to one year).

A monthly donation of 100 Rs. should be deposited into the Kindergarten P.T. account (no. 2766).

Roma's Kitchen summer break

Roma's Kitchen has closed for summer from Monday 2nd June and will re-open on Friday 11th July '03.

Natural Medicine

Hartmut, licensed Healing Practitioner from Germany, offers:

- Herbal Medicine - Nutritional advice - Homeopathy - Foot Reflexology Massage - Back Massage. Call 26 22 868, preferably between 6.30 – 7.30pm

From Aurosoya

You will find some more tofu in Aurosoya's fridge at Pour Tous from Monday 2nd afternoon onwards.

People having regular orders of tofu & soymilk at Pour Tous & Aurosoya, please reconfirm. Tempeh will be available in a little while.

The production of **organic tofu, soymilk & tempeh** will start **from July** onwards. This production will be parallel to the non-organic one and limited at the beginning. All organic items will have a sticker "ORG" on them.

Whether Aurosoya will produce various organic items is not only in Aurosoya's hands, but a bit in yours too. We are doing our best to give you the finest quality at the most reasonable price. If it is important for you to eat healthy food and without chemicals, then buy "organic."

Feel free to contact us if you have some questions or if you want to place orders, etc...

Bon appetit! Frederic & Catia. Phone: 262 22 73, E-mail: <fredcatia@auroville.org.in>.

News from AV Housing Service

The Auroville Housing Service has posted on the AVNet a list of houses/apartments that have become free or will be available in future. For further information, pls contact Housing Group <housing@auroville.org.in>, or pass by at their office at Bharat Nivas.

Report on Electricity Interruption

A detailed report of the work done by AVES field staff during the powercut due to cyclonic wind and rain on May 29th '03 at 4.45 pm has been posted on AVNet. The team was full time supervised by Ponnusamy and was faced with a very hectic job in the hot summer days. Ponnusamy reports that four of AVES' boys who non-stop worked on this were afterwards suffering from sun-stroke, and further writes:

"It would be very difficult to make you understand what a hectic and hard work it is. Even after putting our full energy to find fault, rectification etc., we still receive some unsatisfactory feedback from some of our Aurovilians, probably they might have not gauged the hardship of our work. Anyway, it is obligatory on my part to make you aware the work we did and the reasons for the interruptions of power supply for the past two days."

Thank you, AVES team!

THE MAHASARASWATI STORE AND REPAIR SERVICE

Repair service, knife sharpening and cane furniture repair: every morning from 9:30 to 11:30 and in-house repairs in the afternoons. For more information call Logu at 623014 before 9 a.m., lunch time or evenings, or leave a message for him to call you back. The exchange store opens only on Saturdays 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., in the same building as the Kulapalayam Post office..! A list of currently available items has been posted on AVNet.

Home pick-up: On Sunday mornings. Call Olivier at 2622212.

See you around! Logu, Celestine, Olivier

SAVITRI BHAVAN : programme for June 2003

Savitri Bhavan offers a new series of Sanskrit classes for students with some basic knowledge, focussing on The Gita and its message, led by Vladimir, Mondays and Wednesdays, 4.30 - 5.30 pm, in the shelter, starting Monday June 9th.

Regular courses continue as usual:

Sunday	morning	10.30 – 12.00	<i>Savitri Study Circle</i>
Sunday	evening	5.00 – 6.30	<i>The Ideal of Human Unity</i> , led by Prof. Kittu Reddy
Monday	evening	5.30 – 6.30	Cultivating Concentration, led by Jai Singh
Tuesday	evening	5.00 – 5.45	<i>Entretiens</i> – The Mother's Playground talks, 1956
		6.00 – 7.00	<i>The Synthesis of Yoga</i> , led by Shraddhavan
Wednesday	afternoon	3.00 – 4.00	<i>Savitri</i> reading group (<i>in the shelter</i>)
Thursday	evening	4.30 – 5.30	The English of <i>Savitri</i> , led by Shraddhavan
Friday	evening	5.00 – 6.30	<i>The Synthesis of Yoga</i> , led by Sraddhalu Ranade

Dr. Ananda Reddy's class on *The Life Divine* Wednesdays (6 – 7.30 pm) resumes from June 4th.

Exhibition this month: Paintings by Yvonne Artaud

The February and April issues of our journal *Invocation* can be picked up from Savitri Bhavan - or you can give us a call and ask to have them delivered by AV Messenger.

Office and Reading Room timings: Monday – Saturday 9 – 12 and 2 – 5.

Amphitheatre programmes

Tuesday June 10th, 6.00 pm: "Savitri", the epic poem by Sri Aurobindo read by Mother, accompanied by Sunil's music. Book VII, The Book of Yoga, Canto 6, Nirvana and the Discovery of the All-negating Absolute: "*And Savitri's life was glad, fulfilled like earth's; / She had found herself, she knew her being's aim. / Although her kingdom of marvellous change within / Remained unspoken in her secret breast / All that lived around her felt its magic's charm..*"

Thursday June 13th, 6:00 pm: Sunil's New Year Music, 1973

Come and enjoy music from celestial spheres in our special place. *Sigrd*

VISITORS CENTRE EVENING VIDEO

At the Video Room, 1st floor

THE TRIAL OF LIFE - Nature Series by David Attenborough. Part 8

Date and time: Monday June 9th, 8 pm

(Provided there is no other cultural event announced at the same time)

Cinema Italia

"I CENTO PASSI" (The Hundred Steps)

Directed by Marco Tullio Giordana, Italy, 2000.

Synopsis: This is the true story of Peppino Impastato, who revolts against his father who is involved with the Mafia, and against the culture of silence, against the world that has the appearance of normality, but does not convince him. There are hundred steps between his home and that of the Mafia boss, Badalamenti, but he will never walk those.

Original Italian version with English subtitles – Duration 2 hrs.

Date and time: Tuesday 10th June, 8 pm

C I N E M A Bharat Nivas - AUDITORIUM

TOK JHAL MISTI (LIFE IS SOUR, LIFE IS SWEET)

Directed by Basu CHATTERJI, India, 2001

With: Ferdous, Priyanka Trivedi, Arjun Chakraborty.

Synopsis: The life of two married couples will be disturbed by the moves of a new tenant in their common building... (comedy)

Original Bengali version with English subtitles - Duration: 2h. - 35mm film – Colour

Date and time: FRIDAY 13 JUNE - 7.30 PM (Film show starting at 7.45 sharp)

Programmes subject to confirmation. Please check the film posters and e-mail

From House of Mother's Agenda

The Song Celestial

Who hath nought
Of all which lives, living himself benign,
Compassionate, from arrogance exempt,
Exempt from love of self, unchangeable
By good or ill; patient, contented, firm
In faith, mastering himself, true to his word,
Seeking Me, heart and soul; vowed unto Me –
That man I love! Who troubleth not his kind,
And is not troubled by them; clear of wrath,
Living too high for gladness, grief, or fear,
That man I love! who, dwelling quiet-eyed,
Stainless, serene, well-balanced, unperplexed,
Working with Me, yet from all works detached,
That man I love! Who, fixed in faith on Me,
Dotes upon none, scorns none; rejoices not,
And grieves not, letting good or evil hap
Light when it will, and when it will depart...
Linked by no ties to earth, steadfast in Me,
That man I love!

Bhagavad Gita, XII 13-19

Edwin Arnold

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Auroville Health Centre

Present outpatient consultation of doctors / therapists at the health centre and sub-centre status **for June 2003**

Morning: 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	Thursday	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dr. Uma (HC) Dr. Kamala (HC) (9 – 12 a.m.)	Dr. Ruslan (HC) Dr. Uma (HC) Dr. Kamala (BN) Mr. Peter (HC)	Dr. Uma (HC) Dr. Kamala (HC) (9 – 12 a.m.)	Dr. Uma (HC) Dr. Kamala (BN) Mr. Peter (HC)	Dr. Ruslan (HC) Mr. Peter (HC)	Dr. Uma (HC) Dr. Kamala (HC) (9 – 12 a.m.)
Dr. Shano (EDY)	Dr. Shano (PUT)	Dr. Shano (THU)	Dr. Shano (APP)	Dr. Shano (RPP)	
		Dr. Amarnath (KK)	Dr. Ruslan (Mat)		

Lunch Break: 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Afternoon: 2:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dr. Ruslan (HC)	Dr. Amarnath (HC)	Dr. Ruslan (HC)	Dr. Amarnath (HC)	Dr. Ruslan (HC)	Dr. Amarnath (HC)

(HC) - MAIN AUROVILLE HEALTH CENTRE
(BN) - MULTI-PURPOSE HEALTH CENTRE, BHARATNIVAS
(APP) - SUB-CENTRE IN APPIRAMPATTU
(THU) - SUB-CENTRE IN THURUVAI

(PUT) - SUB-CENTRE IN PUTHURAI
(KK) - SUB-CENTRE IN KOTTAKARAI
(EDY) - SUB-CENTRE IN EDAYANCHAVADY
(RPP) - SUB-CENTRE IN RAYAPUDUPPAKKAM
(Mat) - SUB-CENTRE IN MATHUR