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# **AUROVILLE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE NATIONAL EVENTS**

In the months leading up to Auroville's Golden Jubilee on 28 February 2018, Auroville residents and well-wishers world-wide have begun to plan and organize events and activities around the theme of Auroville's *raison d'être*. During and around the Auroville Birthday Week, events such as an interactive research conference, cultural and youth events, an inauguration of the temporary European Pavilion, and a symbolic ceremony are envisaged. These events aim to bring together local, national and international participants, to foster a renewed sense of connection, both within Auroville and with the world at large, as an expression of a collective aspiration for human unity. To highlight this celebration, Auroville focuses on two national events in Delhi themed as "*The Journey of Auroville: The City for Human Unity*". After these events, the traveling exhibition would move to the Ashram, where it can be displayed for some time.

The members in Delhi who are involved in the preparations and planning are our Chairman Dr. Karan Singh, Mr and Mrs Ganguly, Mr Anirban, and Ameeta Mehra. Other partners include Ms Anjalie, Ms Daljeet (Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts and Communication) as well as the Freedom Foundation, Delhi.

The Auroville Expo Team consists of Frederick, Jurgen, Inge, Nilen, and Manisha as well as from the Foundation's side, Mr Chunkath and Mr Srinivasmurthy.

At the beginning of October, both groups have come together in Delhi, visited both venues, and decided on the venue, dates, and details of both events.

## **INDIRA GHANDI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**

The event will take place from the 22nd to the 26th of November in a beautiful outside garden area under tree, a conference room, and a library room.

On the opening day at 5 pm, Chairman Dr Karan Singh will open the event with a lighting of lamp and Joy chanting of Bhopali version of Bande Matram

In the conference room, a panel discussion will take place on the day of the opening, 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The expected number of people attending the panel discussion is 100 people, while hundreds are expected to visit the exhibition during the 5 days mentioned above. The target audience is academia, students, NGOs, civil society and more, and one of the aims of this event is awareness-raising about Auroville in the Indian capital, as well as a sharing of knowledge and experience with the rest of India and the world.

The outside space will hold an Auroville Exhibition.

## **SET-UP OF EXHIBITION**

## THEMATIC AREAS

5 booths in a round circle mimicking the Auroville Symbol, with the thematic areas of:

1. Town Planning and Architecture (including Matrimandir) (Anu, Frederick)
2. International zone and Pavilions (Jurgen, Kalsang, Tehir,)
3. Sustainability and Green Practices (Hillary, Ranjith?)
4. Economy and Organisation (Inge, Toine/Carel?)
5. Education and Outreach (Manisha, Anbu, Rosa, Joy)

Each booth has posters displaying a full coverage of Auroville's activities and visions in each of the thematic areas with Aurovilians engaged in that field present to explain, engage, stimulate and represent Auroville.

A general poster giving an overview of each thematic area is placed in an overview area, to introduce the booths.

## "EXPERIENCE AUROVILLE"

Besides the 5 thematic areas, we plan several interactive activities in a designated area for "Experience Auroville" such as:

WasteLess games (Pick it Up)

Ecofemme (Stitch your Pad)

Rosa giving Awareness through the Body short 45 min/1 hour workshops on 22d and 23d

Svaram Music (display)

Live Painting (tentative)

Furthermore, Auroville food and product stalls will also be presented and help to cater the events: Coffee Ideas, Sciro Pizza, and Bread and Chocolate have shown interest to cater the events.

## OTHER EXHIBITS

In the library of IGNSA, there will be space for exhibiting Auroville materials such as publications, books, pamphlets, reports, and other material.

There will also be a timeline of Auroville from inauguration to today with photographs

-the Mother and Sri Aurobindo relevant quotes and pictures

-general panels on Auroville (Charter, Dream, Why Auroville? 4 zones, plan)

## **UNESCO CONFERENCE**

The second event will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November at UNESCO and will be a panel discussion on the theme Learning to Live Together: Translating SDG4.7 into Practice on the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Auroville. Through the learning of Auroville's 5 decades of experiments for *integral* and *unending education*, the Panel Discussion intends to trigger a

reflection on concrete ways to achieve this critical goal of the new UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The panel discussion aims to:

- Clarify the definitions of the key concepts used in SDG4 (e.g., education for sustainable development, global citizenship education, etc.)
- Qualify Integral' and 'Unending' Education as practiced in Auroville
- Present the recent international, regional, and national trends in implementing SDG4.7 and monitoring its progress
- Showcase concrete examples of practicing SDG4.7 in schools and communities of Auroville

## PROGRAMME

Mr Aoyagi, Director UNESCO, speaks as 'welcoming remark' and touch upon SDG 4.7 and the importance of Auroville for UNESCO.

Dr. Karan Singh is the keynote speaker, and Frederick will give a brief timeline of Auroville and introduce the panel speakers. There will be a short video on Auroville education, after which Ameeta Mehra, as moderator, and the panel members begin the panel discussion.

The event will be followed by high-tea and sales and exhibits of Auroville products will be available after the Panel Discussion.