

### NEW COVID GUIDELINES DATED 02.03.2022

Dear Community Friends, the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has issued a new press release on 2 March 2022. The ban on social, cultural and political gatherings, which has been in effect so far, was lifted from 03.03.2022.

All other restrictions are also waived except for marriage that are allowed with a maximum limit of 500 people and funeral that are allowed with a maximum number of 250 people. The official Tamil text of the press release of the Honorable Chief Minister and the English translation are available at this link. We will update as and when there are new guidelines issued.

Please, remember to continue applying all due precautions of wearing masks and maintaining distance when interacting with others and in public spaces/facilities, and regularly washing hands or using sanitiser.

*With best wishes to all, The Working Committee  
(Anu, Arun, Chali, Hemant, Partha, Sauro, Srimoyi)*

### POLL TO HELP THE AUROVILLE COUNCIL AND RAS TO PRIORITIZE UPCOMING RADs

Dear Community, with a backlog of potential RADs to be held, and with the intention of empowering the entire RA, the Council would like to host a poll to determine which RADs are community-wide felt to be the most important at this moment in time.

As stated in our recent post on Jan 19th: "in the current situation where there are several proposed RADs, RAS, in consultation with Council, has to determine the order in which these are to be held because certain RADs are of greater urgency to the community..."

The poll results will not be a definitive order but instead will serve as a guide to help us navigate the order in which RADs shall be held.

To contribute to the poll please check your email for the announcement and personalized link or send a request to RAS at [raservice@auroville.org.in](mailto:raservice@auroville.org.in) in case you have not yet received it.

The poll will run until Friday, 11th March 2022.

- [Link to the Auronet post](#)

*Warm regards, For the Auroville Council  
Balaji, Claudine, Ganesh K., Meenal,  
Sai Suresh, Suryan, Shivaya, and Shiva*

## Community News

### AUROVILLE MATTERS

#### IN PASSING: BRYAN WALTON

This is to inform the community of the passing of Aurovilian Bryan Walton who was among the early pioneers and has always kept strong and live connections with Auroville and many of its old-time pioneer residents. Bryan had been coping with recurring cancer and made the transition on 8 March surrounded by his family in Wisconsin, USA. He was 80 years old.



Having worked in educational audio-visuals, Bryan left the USA in the mid-sixties for India in search for a better life and eventually came to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in June 1971. Along with his then partner Sally, he had several meetings with the Mother who approved of their idea to start a handicraft community as village development work near Kulapalayam, which she would name 'Fraternity'. Although he had no experience in either crafts or business, Bryan felt a deep 'yes', and bravely started the Fraternity project in February 1972, now fifty years ago, with many other Aurovilians and his wife-to-be Fanou joining him over the years in the work.

The original 15 acres of sand with hard red clay below it and only two palmyra trees on it, flourished in the subsequent years with gradual cultivation of the land and, helped by Poppo, the original keet sheds morphed into permanent handicraft buildings, a kindergarten for workers' and village children, and an overhead tank for fresh water. The proceeds from the production of handloom and other craft products supported the training of local village women and youth, the running water system for Kulapalayam, and the kindergarten with daily lunch, medical care and lessons in Tamil. Bryan's extensive photographic documentation of the progress and life in Auroville at the time form a precious addition to Auroville's archives.

Pressured by the challenging circumstances Auroville went through in those years, Bryan and Fanou left in 1980 with their two very young children, Auromarichi (Christian) and Aurelia, to the USA where they lived in rural Spring Green, Wisconsin. With another couple, they imported art and craft products from Auroville and other parts of Asia, and found markets through their retail store from where they could always be of generous help to Auroville. Bryan also returned to his old skills and developed a virtual treasure of colorful and highly artistic audio-visual presentations, quietly narrated by himself, based on his wide range of interest, and pieced together from his research into Sri Aurobindo's and Mother's works, integral yoga, other inspiring world views, art works, books, articles, pictures and many many hours of work. During his last year he was able to upload most of them, as a fine gift to Auroville, – a complete list with links will be available on the Auroville website.



Bryan was also an active member of the Board of AVI USA and served on the Board of the AVI Association since 2007, where his calm participation, dry humor and hands-on knowledge of life in Auroville was an esteemed commodity.

Since mid-2021 Bryan has been coping with a returned, aggressive cancer eventually resorting to two different sorts of chemotherapy. When these Plans A and B did not work for him, Bryan decided to switch to Plan M: "For me, no fear of the Great Adventure of the Spirit with Her, the Mother is with me, she's with us all. Since 22 or so coming first back from India, I was ok with the ultimate adventure."

He now has embarked on that new venture, and we salute and let go, with utmost love and gratitude for this soft-spoken, always friendly co-traveler on the path, who endeared himself in fraternity with so many of his colleagues, workers and co-Aurovilians throughout his life.

*Go and Come, dear Bryan!*

Our warmest condolences and strength go out to his wife Fanou, and their three children Christian, Aurelia and Leo, their families, and to all his friends both here and abroad.

OM

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### OPEN TENDER FOR CASHEW PLOTS

Dear All, an open tender for cashew plot lease will be held on Friday 18th of March 2022 in front of Townhall (next to new parking) from 10am to 12am.

All interested are welcome to submit bids from 10am onwards at the site where all the relevant information will be displayed. The bids will then be counted and announced after 12am.

Thank you for your participation in a fair transparent process.

- *The usual conditions for the lease are No sub-lease and No use of pesticides.*



Land Board Team