

# Kaleidoscope



A look at the world around us

# CONTENTS

**1-3** Fopes  
Opinion

**4** Science  
Corner

**13** Trip To Italy

**14** Podcast

**5** Madurai

**6-7** From Peace  
group

**8-9** Visit to  
EcoService

**15** Rhino  
Extinction

**16** Reviews

**17** 15th August

**10-11** Dissapearing  
Beaches

**12** Recipe

## Editorial

This issue was was a lot easier than expected , we decided to keep it simpler and we stuck with the theme on each page and it was easy to execute. We felt that the magazine was getting a bit repetitive, so we wanted to add more different articles than just the Fopes Opinion. Overall it was very fun to make and we really hope you enjoy this issue.

**Editors: Oli and Luce**

# Fopes Opinion

What is something you  
could start doing for the  
environment?

## To make a change first look at yourself

One step I can take to positively impact the environment is by using less or not using the hot water from geysers or heating rods. The release of hot water into the water bodies or even into the ground may be very harmful. When the hot water is let out into the natural bodies or into the ground, the minerals may change and in extreme cases, some organisms may also go extinct.

In water bodies hot water is way worse. A rise in temperature makes most algae die off. While they begin to decompose, they suck up so much oxygen in the water that some areas become "dead zones," basically places where there is not enough oxygen to support any form of life. This not only affects the balance of the ecosystem but also creates impacts on the food chain and general biodiversity at a local level. Many places in India don't have thermal water treatment plants at all. By making one small change, by reducing the use of hot water from artificially created sources, I can do my bit in saving our water bodies and help in reducing the harmful effects. This slight change in everyday habits may be a very significant step toward reducing thermal pollution, preserving the ecosystem, and having one less thing to worry about. **-Aaryan**

As I reflect on my daily habits, I've come to realize that there are several simple yet impactful changes I can make to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle. To start, I've made a commitment to reduce my plastic usage by carrying a reusable water bottle with me wherever I go. I've also started composting and recycling more effectively, making sure to separate my trash and recyclables and participating in community programs to reduce waste. Additionally, I've been making a conscious effort to reduce my energy consumption by turning off lights and electronics when not in use. Finally, I'm committed to supporting sustainable brands and practices by choosing products with minimal packaging and made from environmentally responsible materials. By making these small changes, I hope to make a significant impact on the environment and contribute to a more sustainable future. **-Atisha**

According to the world health organization's estimates , Pollution Kills 7 million people each year.

Right now most of our energy comes from natural gasses, fossil fuels and coal. When fossil fuels are burned they emit greenhouse gasses that heat our atmosphere and cause global warming, natural gas plants emit nitrogen oxides which cause respiratory problems for those who live nearby. Using gas appliances at home can cause indoor pollution leading to asthma in some children.

One way we could get more sustainable energy for ourselves, could be putting up solar panels on our roofs, buying energy from a geothermal power plant and using only as much energy as required, one of the other major contributor to your energy usage is your Fans and ACs and lights by just shutting them of while leaving the house our using them at less power you could save a lot of energy.

By taking these few steps we could play our part in making the world a less polluted place. **-Raaya**

If I could change anything for the environment, I'd start by using less plastic in my house. It's a small change, but it could really help. It would also be good to teach younger kids not to litter with plastic. If they learn that early, it could not become a habit for them. Plus, I could tell my friends and family to buy less plastic stuff and buy things that are better for the environment.

Conserving energy and saving water would also help reduce the consumption of electricity and water. Planting plants and growing trees is really important too. Trees and plants help clean the air by taking in carbon dioxide and giving us oxygen, which is great for fighting climate change. Petrol is a type of fossil fuel that releases carbon dioxide, which causes global warming. Instead, we should use more electric vehicles to help the environment. **-Meet**

We drive a lot so I was wondering which vehicle is better : electric or gas?

Gasoline cars generally have higher top speeds than electric vehicles, making them faster and more suitable for long-distance highway driving. They can travel longer distances without needing to recharge, as they can be fueled up at any gas station. Gasoline cars can travel up to 400 to 480 km on a single tank, making them suitable for road trips and long commutes.

Gasoline cars emit greenhouse gases and pollutants, contributing to climate change and air pollution. They require regular maintenance, such as oil changes and filter replacements, which can increase their overall cost of ownership. They also typically have lower fuel efficiency than electric vehicles, especially in city driving or stop-and-go traffic.

Electric cars convert about 60-70% of the electrical energy from the grid to power the wheels, while gasoline-powered cars only convert about 20% of the energy stored in gasoline to power the wheels. They require less maintenance than gasoline-powered cars, with fewer moving parts and no oil changes needed, and they can be powered by renewable energy sources like solar or wind power, reducing their overall carbon footprint.

Electric cars generally have a limited range (typically between 320 to 480 km) before needing to be recharged, making long road trips more difficult. While some electric cars can charge quickly, many require several hours to fully charge, which can be inconvenient for drivers who need to use their cars frequently. Batteries in electric cars can degrade over time, reducing their range and overall performance.

Overall I think it is better for everyone to switch to an electric vehicle, especially if they are charged on renewable Energy. **-Milo**

I see lots of waste on the way to my house and also on Pondicherry beach. People should not throw garbage on the streets. We can keep the beach clean by not throwing plastic on the beach. There are bins on the beach, but some people won't even see the bins and just throw their waste on the sand. There should be workers to clean the garbage. When people throw waste on the beach, sea animals like turtles and big fish can consume plastic, which is harmful to their health. If we throw plastic on the ground, it can convert the soil into poison. We should reuse, reduce, and recycle so we can keep our planet safe and clean. **-Moksha**

# Science corner



If plastic didn't exist, fewer animals would suffer from eating it. Here in India, where burning plastic is common due to poor disposal practices, this would definitely be a plus. But no plastic would also bring its own set of problems. For instance, this book is wrapped in plastic to keep it safe, so without it, books would get damaged more easily.

A lot of our everyday tech, like smartphones and TVs, relies on plastic to keep electrical components insulated and secure. Without plastic, we might not have these gadgets at all. The same goes for light bulbs and computers—they probably wouldn't exist in their current form. And think about car tires: they're made from 78% microplastics and 24% synthetic rubber. Without plastic, we'd be stuck with wooden tires, which wouldn't hold up on today's busy roads. With so many people on the move, wooden tires would likely fail.

Also, a lot of essential stuff like medical devices and safety gear depend on plastic. For example, plastic is key in making things like surgical tools and helmets. Without it, medical procedures could be riskier, and we wouldn't have the same level of protection.

Plastic is also important for food. It helps keep things fresh and prevents spoilage. Without it, we'd have to find other ways to preserve food, which might not be as effective and could lead to more waste.

And let's not forget about buildings and transportation. Plastic insulation helps keep buildings energy-efficient, and lighter plastic parts make cars more fuel-efficient and less polluting.

So, while a world without plastic might sound better because of the pollution issues, it would also come with its own set of problems. Plastic is everywhere and has its ups and downs, just like the alternative would.

**-Ennio and Kent**

# Madurai

Madurai is one of the best destinations with many historical sites. It is perfectly balanced between too urban and too rural, meaning it is not so ancient that modern conveniences are lacking, nor so city-like that we'll not be able to breath fresh air.

Personally, I love Madurai because of its many historical sites like Keeladi, the place where they dig the ground and find many ancient things which were in use, Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal which was built during Nayaks in 1636 CE, it is a place with lots of pillars

And, the energetic streets with many stalls selling delicious traditional food of Tamil Nadu infused with Madurai's style of cooking. In front of temples many stalls sell flowers because Madurai is also famous for jasmine flowers. A must-try is Jigarthanda, a signature cold drink made with heavily boiled milk that perfectly suits the local climate. Madurai is generally sunny, with a compulsory rainfall during the rainy season.

I don't really like that the people in Madurai still stick to their old culture and ways of living

People who visit Tamil Nadu should absolutely visit Madurai to know the traditions of Tamil Nadu. Meenakshi Amman temple is the major attraction for tourists, it is famous for its architecture (Dravidian style). The Indian famous traditional festival 'Chithirai thiruvila' is celebrated in this temple, it was built by king Kulasekara Pandiyan in 6th century.

Overall it's a fantastic place to explore and learn about Tamil culture.

## **-Harshana**



# From Peace Group

From Kalina




From Ellora

1 thing I like to watch Ellora Y2  
Sweet tooth  
 Sweet tooth it is a series on netflix and it is 13+ but I like to watch it, talks about a virus and kids being born with antlers and wings and more it is my favorite series.


Stranger things  
 A little about me


I Love cooking and swimming and a lot of things  
 I Love horror movies like the conderinghouse or caroline and lots of things and I Love Drawing



all of my favorite food

- 1, BoBa tea
- 2, Pizza
- 3, Cookies
- 4, French frijs
- 5, Bergers
- 6, mac and cheeze
- 7, magie nodells
- 8, TaCo'S
- 9, Donuts





Youth center has one of the best pizza in the world.



FROM PRATHINA Prathina 2/2  
the LOVE Fo Everything

- 1 if you were born that means that it was a baby in Love inside.

---

- 2 You are a Big Girl that means you are 7 years old she meets her Friends Every one is LOVE.

---

- 3 oh! The girl is 18 years old she go to High School the School is LOVE.

---

- 4 No! The girl was Diath Sorry Girl you are Death. But she will see you, we LOVE you.

1234

From Prathina



# Reviews

"Our Planet" is a Netflix documentary series showing off the beauty of nature and the incredible animals that live on our planet. The show is narrated by Sir David Attenborough, whose voice guides us through different habitats, from rainforests and icy polar regions to deserts and underwater worlds. Each episode shows amazing footage of wildlife and the environments they call home.

One of the really nice things about "Our Planet" is how it mixes incredible shots with important messages about environmental protection. It makes you realise how fragile our world is and how humans are affecting it. You'll see everything, from polar bears struggling to find food as ice melts, to coral reefs being damaged by climate change, and it makes you think about what we can do to help.

Overall, Our Planet isn't just a documentary, it's a reminder of how incredible and fragile the world is. **-Luce**

---

I started reading this book because I was bored during lunch break and I did want to read more books after seeing a lot of people enjoying it. I didn't know what type of genres I liked, I just went to the library, picked up one of the thick novels to look cool and just looked at the first few lines and decided I liked it. Narrated by Death, at the time of World war II, a young German girl named Liesel Meminger, who just moved in with her foster parents and her adventures in her new home. And the detail in this book is described in such a different way. For example when Death carries the soul's or dead people, he would often always describe how it felt, to him some felt like soft cold ice cream. And when he describes the scenery: The breakfast morning, or the soup colored sky, it really does make you sit and think about the colors of the scene and to use your own imagination to see the image satisfied me.

Not only does it make you imagine the scenery but I always felt like the book could control my emotions, making me anxious in some chapters, and happy in the others, it was honestly really fun. I felt excited and because of this rollercoaster of emotions it was also very page turning because of that. This book also had a lot of Bildungsroman which added a lot of suspense and suspense is what we love. I give this book a solid 4/5 the book's main genres are historical fiction and young adult literature. So if you like any of those, read this. **-Aarohi**

# Rescuing Rhinos

## Who are the northern white rhinos?

The northern white rhinos are one of two subspecies of the white rhinos. This subspecies is a grazer in grasslands and savanna woodlands. As of March 19, 2018, they are considered functionally extinct because Najin and Fatu, the only two rhinos left from this subspecies, are women.

## Why are they getting poached?

White rhinos are illegally poached for their horns, which are used in traditional Asian medicine to treat a wide variety of illnesses ranging from reducing fevers to stopping nosebleeds and preventing strokes.

## How biologists are trying to bring them back

Biologists are trying to bring this species back by IVF. They have extracted eggs from the two remaining women of the species and using the preserved DNA from the last male rhino who has already passed away, they are using southern rhinos as surrogates to try and carry the species. So far, this has worked once with a southern white rhino named Curra, where she became pregnant with a northern male white rhino, but they both passed away due to flooding of their enclosure with introduced dormant bacteria spores. Sadly, there has not been another successful attempt to date, but we all should hold out hope for this almost extinct species. **-Megha**



# Disappearing beaches

I remember when I was younger, out in the water at Sri Ma beach and then being able to stand because of the sand-bars. I found it amazing, I could seemingly stand on the waves away from the beach.

This hasn't been the case for a few years. These sand bars have completely eroded and now they aren't there to protect the coast.

Almost half of the world's beaches will have eroded within the century, with as much as 45% of India's coastline facing erosion and 57% of Puducherry's coastline, the second-highest in the country. This is due to climate change and other man made issues, like making harbours or sea walls without doing the necessary research on how that will affect sand formations in the surrounding area.

The erosion threatens the safety and livelihood of fishermen living in villages along the shore, including the vicinity of Auroville, with over 7,000 families losing their only source of income. It makes it harder for boats to enter the waters and even some houses are succumbing to the forces of mother nature that we try so tirelessly to control. Salt water is getting into ground water and it is making agricultural land near the coast unusable.

## So how did it all begin?

In 1989 a new harbour had been built in Puducherry and unknowingly it affected the nearby coasts, greatly changing the movements of the current and where sand piled up and didn't. It caused the south to increase the amount of sand it had on its beaches and the north, where Quiet and Sri Ma beaches are, to erode. This harbour being the reason for all this change was only realised when another harbour was proposed in 2007.



Sri Ma Beach, Auroville

The people of Puducherry realised that history should not be repeated and action was taken with PONDYCAN (Citizens, Action, Network) to stop the building of this harbour and to take further action in restoring the beaches that had been destroyed and the old harbour.

One of the ways PONDYCAN helped its beaches is by building an artificial reef, almost acting as an aforementioned sand-bar, protecting the coast by absorbing the intense energy of the waves. This actually worked, but mainly for the immediate White-Town promenade area, but it still had an effect with 4 and a half kilometres of beach being restored

Compared to seawalls, near shore reefs are better for habitat creation and promoting biodiversity as they mimic natural environments. However, they're more expensive, more complex in terms of design and engineering, require specialised equipment and require more monitoring and maintenance to ensure they remain effective

Within the next year Puducherry plans to construct 25 artificial reefs and in the next 10 years they want to build 100

### **How is climate change affecting our beaches?**

Climate change is accelerating the erosion of our beaches in several significant ways. Rising sea levels, driven by melting ice and warming oceans, are pushing the ocean further inland, causing beaches to shrink and erode more quickly. This gradual encroachment means that what was once a wide stretch of sand is now being steadily worn away by each high tide and storm. The storms are getting more intense and more frequent. These intense storms bring higher waves and more powerful rainfall, which erode beaches faster than natural processes can replace the lost sand.

Auroville already does combat heavy rainfall quite effectively, with water catchments, trees and ground that is quite permeable, Puducherry is not the same story, meaning rainfall will especially affect its beaches with water run-off. Additionally, changing wind patterns and ocean currents, influenced by climate change, alter the natural movement of sand along the coast. This disruption can result in uneven sand distribution, with some areas experiencing severe erosion while others accumulate excess sand. This unpredictability complicates efforts to manage and restore beaches better.

The decline of natural coastal defenses like coral reefs and mangroves also plays a role. Coral reefs, which once helped absorb wave energy, are suffering from damage due to warmer waters and big fishing boats tearing at the ocean floor.

Climate change is creating a more dynamic and unstable coastal environment. While local restoration efforts are important, addressing the bigger issues requires global action to reverse climate impacts and protect our beaches for the future. **-Oli**

# Brownie Recipe

Today you are going to learn how to make a Brownie, (a good one because honestly, I don't remember eating a good one here).

## Ingredients

- 225g butter+a few grams for the mold
- 120g sugar
- 120g flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 150g dark chocolate
- 3 teaspoons of cocoa powder
- 120g white chocolate



## PROPS

- 1 big bowl, 1 normal bowl, and 1 oven;).

\*\*\*\*\*

First put the dark chocolate and the butter to melt in the bowl, while waiting you can preheat the oven to 180 degrees and mix the eggs and the flour well, then add little by little the mix of chocolate and butter, (don't put it all at once because it will be hot and it might cook the eggs), then add the sugar, the cocoa powder and the white chocolate mix again. Then you can butter the mold and put the dough in the mold then in the oven for between 25 to 35 minutes, depending on how thick or thin your cake is. **-Celestin**

# Trip to Italy

My trip to Italy was a blast. My first destination in Italy was Arona, a town. The last time I visited was around 6 years ago when I was seven, so it was so nice to be back again. Surprisingly, all the memories came flooding back. The best things to do there are eat food, and go on night walks. Night walks there are by far the best. I would walk by so many cosy restaurants with so many lights everywhere. My family and I would find a spot, and just watch football on a TV while having pizza and coke. Those were the best nights in Arona. Then I remembered that my grandma had her own little life here and knew all the good places to go to, and all the good shops. And I found it so cool because I feel like that with Auroville, and I would love to know Italy so well like that.



After Arona we went to Sardegna, (Sardinia in english) an Island in Italy. It was my first time going there. Sardinia was the funnest experience, I am in LOVE with the beaches there. The daily routine there would be going to the beach, having a coke and sandwich, then going home and having the BEST dinner. My brother lives there, and like I said with my grandma, I forgot that my brother had his own life in Italy. In Sardinia, it was my first time doing so many things. Going on a flamingo (fake) far out in the water, going on those speedy boat rides in the water, tasted so many new cheeses I've never had, and had the best pizzas EVER with toppings I've never tried. If you go to Italy, it would just be sad never going to the beach, because when I say they were WOW, I mean it the most I've ever meant something. There are also so many cute little stands at the beach, with such nice bracelets and necklaces, and most importantly, volleyballs. Whenever I would go to the beach, my siblings and I would just play volleyball the whole time. We would play this game called "sciacca sette", translated in english, "smash the ball on the 7th turn". Kinda like dodgeball, but volleyball.

This trip was definitely the best I've ever had. I'm so happy I got to stay for 2 months. That's my trip to Italy then, Bye bye:) **-Luce**

# Visit to Eco Service

## A talk with Sumit

### **How much trash does EcoService get every day?**

Normally we pick between 500 to 600 kilos every day. During November to January, the season time, it goes up to maybe a couple of hundred kilos more. So, yeah, we have, and we segregate aroundabout the same amount of 400 to 500 kilos every day.

### **Whats the percentage of non-recyclables, the plastics that have to go to landfill?**

80% or 90% of of what we get are degradable. They're mostly paper, cardboard, dirty plastic with and stuff. Our whole purpose of all of this waste management is to reduce landfill. We try to reduce as much as possible the toxic things that go into the landfill. Like right now, as a percentage, maybe 20%

What actually everybody in Auroville does and should continue doing, is not mix food waste with the rest of the waste. The moment food comes into the picture, then it is all a terrible situation. The cleaner we keep the waste, the more effective all the other aspects of waste management become. That is absolutely non-negotiable. No food goes into the rest of the waste. Food waste, as you all must have seen, you have it in school, you have it around in your communities.

### **Over the years is waste collection increasing or is it stable?**

People are buying more from Amazon, so cardboard has increased. And as more people join auroville the amount of waste will obviously increase.

### **How much budget is allocated to Eco service?**

We get only 14,500 rupees from the Auroville central fund, with everything we manage with whatever we get from our vendors. We charge people for picking up, it's not a lot, but it is enough to keep the operations comfortably running.



## **Over the years is waste collection increasing or is it stable?**

People are buying more from Amazon, so cardboard has increased. And as more people join auroville the amount of waste will obviously increase.

And the PTDC must have an impact on how much waste Ecoservice gets, right?

What happens to... like, for example, I see a lot of Tetra packs in PTDC?... It's very hard to recycle.

It can easily be repurposed into many things. We are collecting Tetra packs. We have a whole bunch inside this storeroom. And the only thing is there are recyclers. There is one in, I think, Coimbatore...

But he needs a massive load. Only then we will send it. He needs at least two tons of it.

We have some German guys, they tried to make roofing out of that. Even chairs and things like that.

The clear plastic can be recycled. But the normal ones, they end up in the furnace in cement factories. They use it as fuel. So, it's not the best solution, but it is better than putting it into the landfill and having all the chemicals leak into the ground.

Our problem is we expect somebody else will do it for us. But it is not helping us. We become lazy. We don't see what our garbage looks like. It's somebody else's problem. No, it is our primary problem, it is ours.

## **What is your dream for Auroville as far as waste is concerned?**

I hope that within the next five to seven years as we grow, all operations of eco-service will be done by Aurovillians, so that we do not need to have hired labour. Maybe right now, since we are in a manual stage of segregation, not many people would want to do it. If we can have conveyor belts or a bit more mechanised operations people will probably be more interested to join us.

## **Have people shown interest? Like do they want to copy this model elsewhere?**

Some municipalities have visited us. They like the whole idea and model. But implementing it anywhere else in India is not easy. You have to change people's habits. The government has to take more responsibility, accountability. So, there are many factors. They all have to come together. And in a country like India, it is sometimes not so easy to combine five, six directional things to all synchronise.

# Podcast



Meirko, who has been living in Auroville for 20 years and worked in various roles including a teacher in Transition school, shares his journey and experiences in this podcast

Originally from Italy, Meirko was inspired to start school in Auroville to teach practical skills like woodwork and welding to children and youth. His main goal is focusing on sharing knowledge and fostering creativity in a workshop environment, rather than a conventional school setting, emphasizing hands-on learning and safety.

Meirko explains that his school is unique because it caters to both young learners and adults, promoting continuous education.

He hopes to expand the project, enhance community engagement, and create a dedicated space equipped with tools to better serve the participants.

Despite challenges such as limited funding, Meirko remains committed to his vision, driven by the joy of seeing students successfully complete their projects. **-Aaryan**



# August 15th

## Sri Aurobindo's Birthday



# Poetry

The world of joy

And love is our  
environment

A wonder of universe

Earth is heaven

And a leading light of

Creation

The sweetness of fruits

Fulfilled even the

hungry great gods

The love of nature made

The universe shocking

Of its own creation

The beautiful  
surroundings

And love is the

Crown of our home

Save the love of nature  
and

The wonderful creation of

Universe.

"Love the surrounding "

**-Harshana**

It's all amiss, I don't feel good

I see nothing in my future

Nothing in my past

My memories don't even last

When is the present and how do it get there

I need perfection, precision

But I lack the drive

Determination, self

But I'm just a bee in a hive

If I constantly chase this, then how will i get there?

I need to get lost in myself, immersed in the world,

See beauty in everything

I don't always, obviously.

Isn't that beautiful?

My perception on one thing can have so many  
sides.

Each side forming a shape, a feeling.

**-Oli**