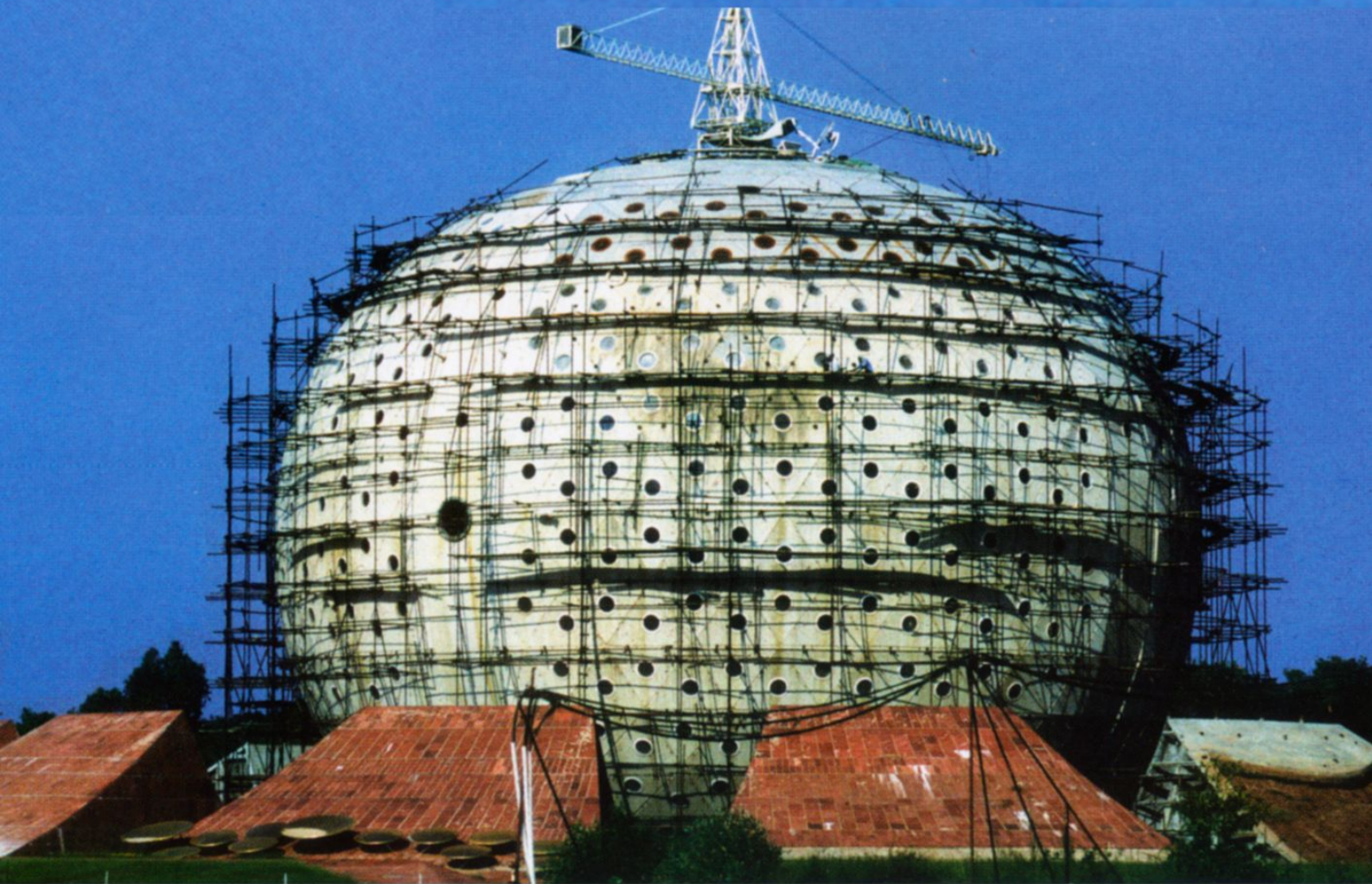


KALEIDOSCOPE

The Various Hues of Deepanam | February | Issue #60



“WHAT IS LIFE IN AUROVILLE LIKE?”

**“CELEBRATING 56
YEARS OF AUROVILLE”**

**“PROS AND CONS
OF AUROVILLE”**

“EXPERIENCES IN AUROVILLE”

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EDITORIAL - OLI

Editing this issue was pretty fun but also difficult since I was alone. I had full freedom which is very fun but requires self discipline. Doing it alone also helped me realise how important outside input is, but I'm still happy I got to experience it. Sorry it's late also, the play is making it a lot for all of us.

FOPES OPINION

One thing I like about Auroville is its environment, it has lots of trees and nature. I enjoy that Auroville is pretty small, so you don't have to travel long distances to reach your destination, which is very useful. Another thing I like about Auroville is that it's really quiet and peaceful, unlike the city. Plus, there are lots of wild animals living in the forest, such as boars, squirrels, and mongooses. Other than that Auroville also has Solar Kitchen, which provides free food to all school students. On the other hand, what I dislike about Auroville is the weather. During winter, it's not too bad, but in summer, it becomes unbearably hot. Another thing I dislike about Auroville is the mosquitoes, since auroville has a sort of tropical climate they are filled with tons of mosquitos. -**Meet**



My favorite thing about Auroville is how safe it feels. I enjoy cycling alone without worrying too much about my safety, which makes me feel free and independent. I love the variety of events, as well as the unique classes and activities available. I also like how many people from different nationalities live here and how much they bring to Auroville. It's nice that everyone seems to know each other. I really like the AV account system and how trustworthy this place is. I'm also grateful for how open adults are when we kids request to volunteer in their units. I love interning, and I'm so happy to have the opportunity. My least favorite thing about Auroville is the constant construction. It always seems like they start building one road, then stop midway to begin another, leaving many roads unfinished. Because of this, a lot of trees are being cut down, yet the road construction never seems to be completed. And it just feels like they are making Auroville into more of a commercial area than a community with the amount of unnecessary construction. -**Aarohi**

One thing that I sometimes think about is that if you experienced your childhood in Auroville, you got really lucky. You got a once in a lifetime opportunity, just because of how different and unique Auroville is.

My favourite thing about Auroville is probably that it gives you a sense of freedom, and I like that it's a rather small place. There's this feeling I got that you can be yourself around the people here, and I felt very welcome the first time I came here. It doesn't really feel like a regular city or town, because I've lived in Italy and France before, and trust me it's a whole different experience.

I really love that some of the buildings in Auroville have a very open space, and there's a lot of nature around, and that gives it a really nice atmosphere.

I feel like the schools offer more crafty and creative things, and I love that some of the school's here give you the opportunity to take your time, and go at your own pace when learning, or studying something.

My least favourite thing about Auroville has always been pretty clear to me. It's that whenever my friends and I wanna hang out, IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME 4 OR 5 PLACES THAT WE GO TO. And that's fine, but sometimes it's sad that we don't have a lot of places to go to, and I know that I said that I like that it's a small place, but sometimes I wish it was bigger so that there would be more options. Something that I love about Italy is that there's so many nice parks around, basketball and football courts, so many cute cafes, and more things like that.

Anyway, this is my opinion on Auroville, thank you:) **-Luce**

I've lived in av for seven(?) years now, and my opinion has changed a lot over the years. In it's widest term, experimental town where people from all over the world live together. That's honestly my favorite part. Like, you meet people from France, Germany, Brazil, everywhere! And even with all these different cultures and traditions, not one of them gets watered down at all, like in some other multicultural places.

Plus, Auroville cares about the planet, which I think is important. Things like composting, recycling, solar energy, etc, are not only commonplace, they're expected. Not doing little things like that gets you some strange looks.

Of course, the worst, most obviously bad thing about av right now is this whole Crown Road thing. I think the original plan was beautiful, but it could have been changed to accommodate the current structures and more importantly, the forests.

Another thing that's kinda weird is that everyone here is super serious about, like, "consciousness" and "inner peace" and all that stuff. Which is alright, I guess, but sometimes it feels a bit much. Like, you can't just be normal and have a bad day. Everyone's always trying to be all enlightened and positive. It can get a little intense.

So, yeah, Auroville is definitely a unique place. It has its ups and downs, just like anywhere else. It's cool to meet people from all over the world and learn about different cultures, and I really respect their commitment to the environment (most of the time, anyway). But the bureaucracy, the lack of job opportunities, and this whole Crown Road disaster are a real pain. And sometimes, all the "spiritual" stuff can be a little overwhelming. But I guess nowhere's perfect, right? Even with all the annoying stuff, I still think Auroville has been one of my favorite places to grow up.

-Atisha

TRAVELLOGUE

Meeting new people, experiencing new things, and trying new foods are some of the reasons I enjoy traveling to different places. There are many different types of food in Bangalore, such as Sandavam, which is a sweet dish made of rice and served with flavored coconut milk. You can find the best Masala dosa in Bangalore, and they used to serve it with Bangalore sambar, which is a sweet and spicy sambar that goes well with Masala dosa. Let me share my travel experiences. I have visited many places in TamilNadu, including Bangalore, which is crowded but a good place to experience different flavors of south Indian cuisine.



“ INDO-SARACENIC ARCHITECTURE IS A STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE THAT COMBINES ISLAMIC DESIGNS WITH INDIAN MATERIALS. IT WAS USED BY BRITISH ARCHITECTS IN INDIA IN THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES.

”

Mysore Palace-

One of my favourites is Mysore, which is the third-cleanest city in India and has a rich history. It has a large, striking building that was constructed with Indo-Saracenic architecture. In South India, most buildings are Dravidian, which was a proud indication of India's strong trade ties. Kanya Kumari, a city with a large Thiruvallur status on the Indian Ocean, is located at the end of India and is well-known for its breathtaking sunrises and sunsets.

These are my favourite places in India. Continue traveling and discover where you are most inspired. -**Harshana**

RECIPE

Sweet Kolukattai

Ingredients:

1 cup rice flour

1/2 cup grated coconut

1/4 cup jaggery

1/4 tsp cardamom powder

1/4 tsp salt

Water, as needed



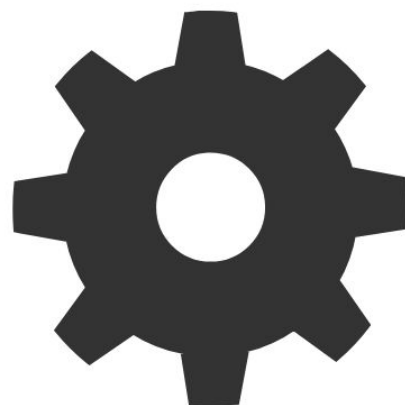
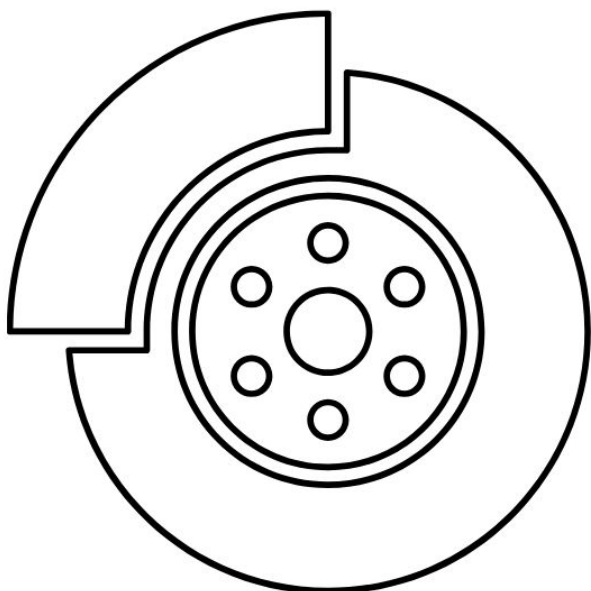
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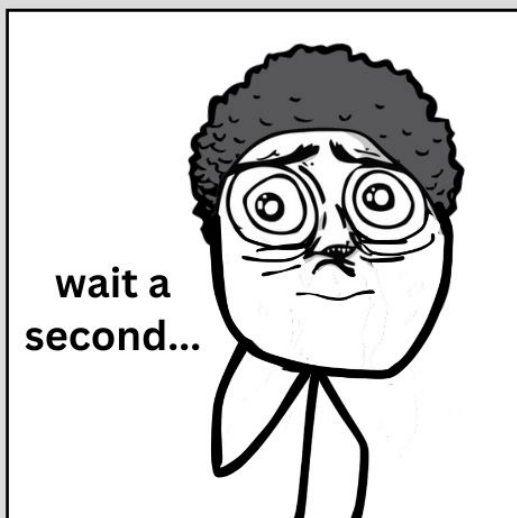
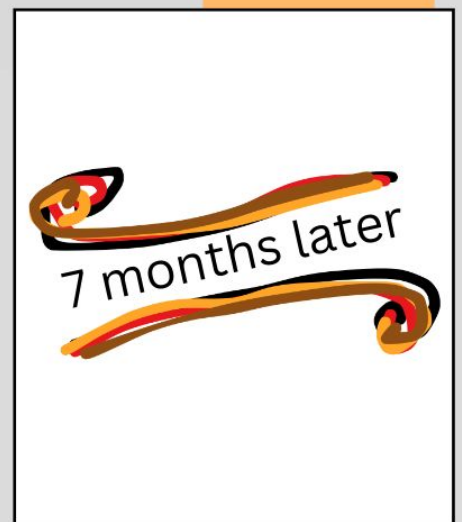
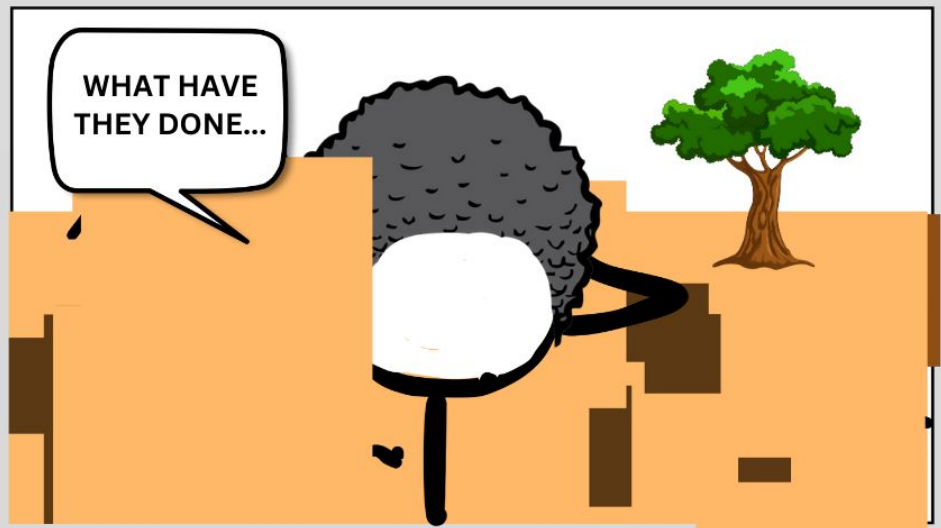
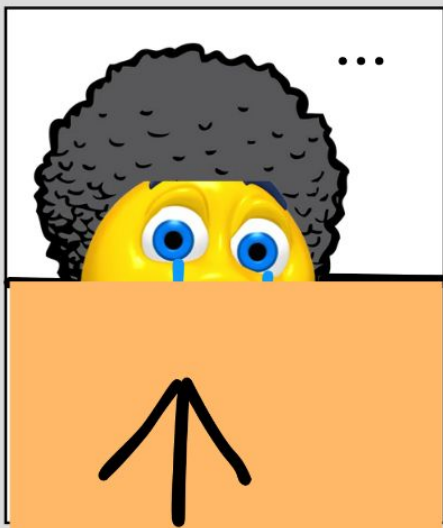
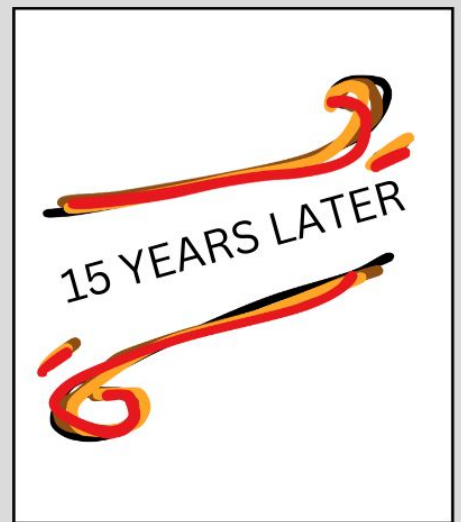
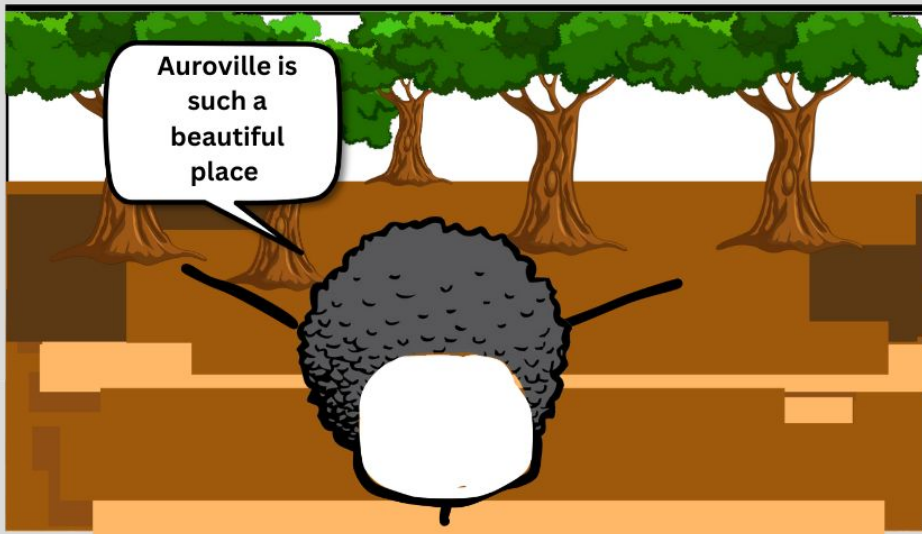
1. In a bowl, mix together the rice flour, grated coconut, jaggery, cardamom powder, and salt. (Like chapathi dough)
2. Add water little by little and mix until you get a smooth dough.
3. Heat a steamer or idli cooker.
4. Grease the steamer plates or idli moulds.
5. Take a portion of the dough and roll it into an oval shape or round.
6. Put the shaped kolukattai on the steamer plates or idli moulds.
7. Steam for 10-15 minutes, or until the kolukattai are well cooked.

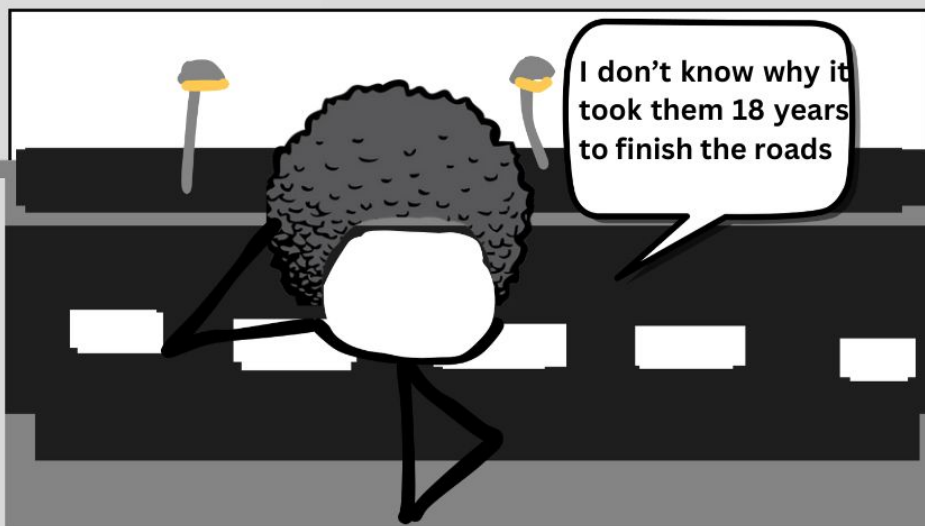
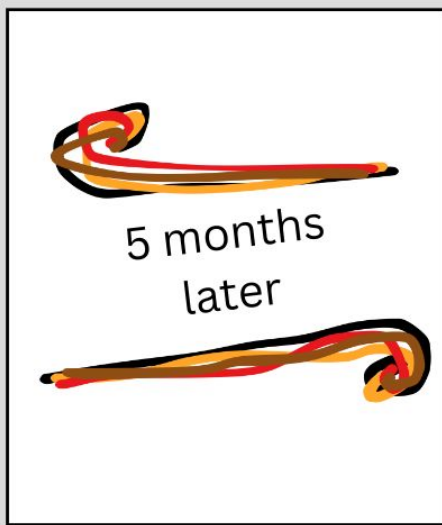
-Harshana

SCIENCE CORNER

Now you may have heard about some new cars or bikes having something called ABS or TCS perhaps. Now what are those? What does it mean? Abs is a safety system used in most cars and bikes. It mostly came around in the early 90s with formula 1 racing. Abs stands for anti-locking braking system. A system where basically a sensor pumps the brakes on regular intervals instead of locking the wheels up and leading the vehicle into a potential slide. It has saved countless lives and in many ways and has also shaped motorsport racing. Meanwhile TCS stands for traction control system. It also gained traction in the 90s (pun intended). Giving heavy inputs of throttle in a powerful vehicle without TCS leads to the wheels spinning which makes the car slip and send it into a barrier (if you don't save it). TCS cuts off power for less than a second (you don't realise it as much) and it prevents the wheels from spinning. Both of these systems were the backbone to many more features. Most 1000cc superbikes nowadays have 7 levels of ABS and TCS making it a staple in most vehicles.







CYCLE DIARIES

On January 12th at 5:30 we set off on this adventure to the granite mines hoping they were full of water so we could jump in, we cycled through lush greenery and forests till the Mailam road then we cycled on that road for about five kilometers, then we turned off the road into some back road which was very bumpy and soon enough we arrived at the granite mines. We were looking for one that did not have plastic, and we found one that was full of water and it was clean, so we begged to go and jump in and Eric (the person that leads the group) said YES so we took no time to jump in. It was very fresh after cycling. After like two minutes I had the brilliant idea of climbing up a cliff and jumping off it so I did just that. After half an hour Eric said that we needed to leave before it gets too hot. So we dried up and left. On our way back we stopped to have a snack and have a cup of boost. And then we headed back to Auroville which normally takes longer because many people are tired. At the end we cycled 51.65 km in 3 hours.



Dance Performance



“ THE WORD
"AVADHARAM" IN
ENGLISH IS TRANSLATED
AS "AVATAR". IT COMES
FROM THE SANSKRIT
WORD AVATĀRA, WHICH
MEANS "DESCENT".
IN HINDUISM, AN AVATAR
IS THE MANIFESTATION
OF A DEITY IN A BODILY
FORM ON EARTH. ”

I performed a program in Bharat Nivas 26th wednesday for Maha Shivatatri. On wednesday we were just in Bharat nivas the whole day for rehearsal, we started our program at 7pm and finished at 9:30pm. We started doing makeup at 4pm and we have to do self makeup our costume was black leggings, black blouse and green saree. For jewellery we have to wear nethichutti, kamal jimiki matal, ottiyanam, white stone bangle, sallangai and black chain. Totally I did 3 dance performances, and this my 5th program that I am doing in Bharat Nivas this program was special because we did Dhasha Avadharam there are 10 Avadharam and I was in 5,6,and 10 Avadharam.

-Moksha

Kathak Experience

On February 18th I did a Kathak presentation with Isha and Simran at Deepanam. This project has been going on in our class to do a small presentation for the schools around Auroville. The whole point of this is not only to show everyone a performance but that classical Indian dance tells a story and is not just for entertainment. Personally, I love the experience of doing any performance because I love working for it and getting the proud feeling afterward.

I've been doing kathak for almost four years now but I've not done many performances because of the amount of practice that is required. The whole point is to make it look simple but it takes months and years of practice to perfect it. And not only to perfect it by yourself but to also be in sync with the other dancers which I think was the hardest part of the presentation but the most important thing we worked on.



Another thing about Kathak is that it requires a lot of stamina and it's not something you can just take a break from and expect to be the same when dancing again. It requires almost daily practice to maintain stamina and to practice with ghungroos only added weight but you still have to maintain the sound of the foot, it cannot be blended with the sound of the bells. Going higher with the speed is also difficult but it's really fun.

As much as it's fun it's also precise and sharp. I've lost count of the number of times I've been told to turn my neck sharper or to bring my arm back sharper after a hastak (hand gesture) but it indeed looks way more beautiful like that. Overall I had a lot of fun at the performance My favorite part was when we interacted with the kids and I can say that they had a lot of fun and I was really happy to do this presentation.



“ KATHAK IS ONE OF THE NINE MAJOR FORMS OF INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE. ITS ORIGIN IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE TRAVELING BARDS IN ANCIENT NORTHERN INDIA KNOWN AS KATHAKAR ("STORYTELLER"), WHO COMMUNICATED STORIES FROM THE HINDU EPICS THROUGH DANCE, SONGS AND MUSIC.”

REVIEWS

The book *The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien, was published on 21 September 1937 in New Zealand. It's an adventure and high fantasy book. *The Hobbit* is based on European mythology and medieval traditions, but I'm pretty sure there are other traditions too. Even though there is only one book (*The Hobbit*), there are actually three movies. The first one is *The Unexpected Journey*, the second one is *The Desolation of Smaug*, and the third movie is *The Battle of the Five Armies*. However, Peter Jackson, the producer of *The Hobbit* movies, decided to change the name to *There and Back Again* in April 2014, as he thought it fit the movie better.

The plot of the movie revolves around Bilbo, who is used to his normal and boring life. He is suddenly invited on a quest to save Erebor, also known as the Lonely Mountain, where Thorin, one of the dwarves, used to rule with his grandfather. The whole quest is about killing a dragon named Smaug, who destroyed Erebor and now rules the Lonely Mountain. But the quest to kill the dragon isn't the only challenge; getting there is tough too, as there are other creatures hunting them down.

Even though I love watching the movie and have seen it a few times, I've found a few mistakes. But I still really recommend watching the movies and reading the book. One thing I really like is that there are also humans in the story, which is really cool. The humans you see in the movies live in a place called Lake-town (not the Shire), which is a town built on water. There's a leader there who doesn't have a name (he's called the Master of Lake-town) and his helper, Alfrid. In Lake-town, there's also a guy named Bard, who lives there with his two daughters and one son. He helps the dwarves in the war against the orcs. Honestly, I think this is the best movie I've ever seen, but that's just my opinion.

-Yam





Movie review : The Bourne identity



4 stars

Here is a brief introduction to the movie.

The Bourne Identity is a 2002 action-thriller film directed by Doug Liman and written by Tony Gilroy and William Blake Herron. Based on Robert Ludlum's 1980 novel of the same name, it is the first installment of the Bourne franchise, and the film stars are: Matt Damon, Franka Potente, Chris Cooper, Clive Owen and Brian Cox. In the film Jason Bourne (Damon) Suffers from psychogenic amnesia and is forced to fight to unlock his identity and his mysterious connection to the CIA.

I liked it but it went too fast

-Celestin



Experiences In Auroville

Hello, I'm **Ennio**, and this is my life in Auroville.

I grew up in Auroville from the day I was born. I moved into a community called Courage, where I lived for two years. After that, my family and I moved to another community, where I lived for another two years before moving to China. After two more years, I came back to Auroville, where I still live in that same community. A few months after returning, I came to Deepanam School, where I made friends, had fun, and learned.

Auroville is one of the best places to relax without being in a crowded area. If you're at the Visitor Center, you won't find a large crowd, unlike in some places in India, where the streets are full of people. Auroville also has some of the best places to eat, like Tanto, Café 73, La Maison Des Délices, Marks Café, etc.

My favorite place to eat or order from is La Maison Des Délices. I grew up ordering and eating there, and my favorite item on the menu is the chicken fingers—mmm.

Auroville is not only great for eating, but it also has many places to visit, like the Auroville Pavilion, the Matrimandir, and many other places.

Auroville also has great places to hang out, like the Youth Center, Kalabhumi, and the Visitor Center. Even at someone's house, it's nice because you won't hear yelling or loud noises, unlike some places where there's constant honking and shouting.

My experience here in Auroville is really special to me. I grew up here, and soon I'll be going out to experience the real world. Sometimes people need to experience the real world so they aren't blinded to what it truly is.



I wake up in Auroville, then I brush my teeth in Auroville. I go to Deepanam School in Auroville at 7:50. I play football in Auroville. I learn in Auroville. I eat in Auroville. After school, I cycle back to my house in Auroville. Then I go to Dehashakti in Auroville. I do a lot of activities in Dehashakti in Auroville. Also, I like to eat dosa in Auroville. Anyway, back to Dehashakti. After that, I cycle back to my house, which is in Auroville. Then I help my mom clean the house and do my homework. Finally, I go to sleep in Auroville. And now, guess where I live? You won't believe it when I tell you—I live in Auroville. -**Kyrill**



-**Rachel**

My New Life in Auroville, by **Ioana**

Hi, my name is Ioana, and I want to tell you about my experience in Auroville. To be honest, it is quite challenging.

- Mosquitoes are killing me day and night, and sometimes I kill them too, hahaha.
- I find it hard because I do not have friends yet.
- I like contemporary dance, but here I don't find dance classes for children my age.
- When it gets hot here, I get sweaty and angry.

My mom tells me, "Ioana, have patience, try to focus on the good stuff."

... So, the good stuff:

- Last week, I started horse riding. I'm looking forward to the next class.
- I am going to Craft Mela.
- I am attending school in a new country, new environment.
- I am learning English.
- At school, I enjoy Animation, ATB, clay, and math class.
- I feel quite stress-free when it comes to school, with a few exceptions.
- I like to go to Dehashakti for sports activities.

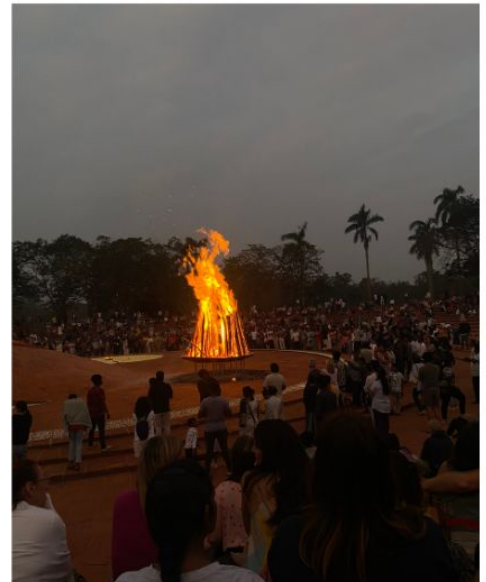
Dawnfire

This bonfire, I surprisingly didn't fall asleep, though I might have for a second while sitting down. Every other bonfire I've been to, I usually take a blanket and doze off. Normally, the morning goes by in what feels like a minute because I'm curled up, dreaming, wrapped in a fluffy blanket on the rather hard, uncomfortable ground. Then, when I wake up, I have back problems for about two days.

One thing I always get excited about when going is bringing a big, comfy hoodie. It's usually freezing cold, to the point where I try to find a spot closer to the fire, though that never actually ends up happening. But this time, that wasn't even the case. I didn't even have to bring a hoodie if I didn't want to.

Normally, I would hate waking up at 4:30 a.m, but if it's for this, it's different. There's an exciting feeling that comes with knowing I have to wake up and go to the bonfire. That's what I really love about these kinds of events, Bonfires, Craft Mela, Summer Camp, Marathons, Cyclothons, and others I can't think of right now. It's the excitement of having something to prepare for and look forward to that makes it so nice.

This time, there were so many more people, especially tourists. Outside the Matrimandir gate, as I was walking in, I noticed an unusual number of cars filled with them. It was immediately clear that this event was drawing a much larger crowd than usual. As I looked around, I realized I didn't recognize every face I saw, which felt strange because, at events like this, I normally do. It definitely changed the atmosphere a little bit, almost like it wasn't the same kind of gathering I was used to.



Once inside, I noticed that finding a place to sit was harder than usual. The tourists had taken up most of the space. Of course, there were plenty of Aurovillians as well, but it was obvious that there were more tourists. It made me wonder how different the experience would be compared to previous times. In a way, it felt like the vibe of the event had changed. And to be honest, I found that kind of sad.

Anyway, I was with my friends, so the vibe of course was still great:) **-Luce**

Auroville Wordsearch - by Aanya

F	F	F	O	G	O	T	A	C	L	L	E	T	W	V	Y	Z	X	G
E	O	L	R	B	M	D	M	N	R	D	S	F	T	D	A	M	L	Q
B	G	T	A	H	O	G	E	C	A	F	M	S	S	R	F	U	I	N
R	Q	E	X	V	T	P	A	E	U	N	D	H	K	E	K	Y	B	O
U	P	E	G	I	H	L	O	N	P	C	O	E	D	A	P	O	R	C
A	L	A	Y	D	E	H	A	S	H	A	K	T	I	M	R	H	A	H
R	B	M	S	M	R	B	M	O	V	O	N	B	R	S	C	D	R	P
Y	C	S	P	A	K	S	H	L	W	I	V	A	X	Z	D	O	Y	Y
I	Y	S	C	H	N	D	E	C	O	V	E	U	M	C	F	H	A	U
H	W	D	I	K	E	A	N	G	J	O	U	A	E	E	M	A	Q	D
D	L	O	P	A	V	I	S	I	T	O	R	S	C	E	N	T	R	E
U	A	O	R	N	O	L	D	S	H	A	M	T	K	R	O	M	I	N
K	C	S	I	N	G	I	E	I	S	A	U	R	O	V	I	L	L	E
S	R	I	A	U	R	O	B	I	N	D	O	M	E	O	F	T	S	H

MOTHER

DEEPANAM

VISITORS CENTRE

AUROVILLE

FEBRUARY

LIFE

SRI AUROBINDO

DREAMS

DEHASHAKTI

A Poem to Auroville - by Aanya

The city of dawn, where we're all equal
In the middle of the forest you blossom like a flower
You're like a star that always guides me

The freedom that you give to me
It makes me feel like I'm trusted
Like, I'm comforted

So, the only thing
I'd like to say is
Thank you, Auroville!



I was Once Having a Dream... - by Alba



I was once having a dream and it was so weird. I was on a ferris wheel with four cats. I grew a big bushy tail, it was yellow. And I had a little scared cat next to me. The cat was scared because of the loud music of the fair. One of the cats jumped off the ferris wheel and landed on her feet. Then she ran off to cotton candy stand and got five cotton candies. She brought them back to the ferris wheel and all ate cotton candy on the ferris wheel.

At the Beach - by Yashwan



My friend was going to the beach. He saw a big wave. The wave washed him away. Then me and my other friends went and built a pirate ship and sailed across the sea. We finally reached my friend. We took him in our boat, and we had to go back home. Then we played in the playground and swam in the swimming pool. There was also a submarine that I built in my workshop. It can float, go in water and fly also. It is the world's biggest car - a flying car!

The Power CatCar! - by Alba & Yashwan



This is our Power CatCar. It has:

1. Robot hands
2. Rainbow Wheels
3. Cat head with whiskers
4. Power legs with fire
5. The Striped tail
6. The magical buttons

Turtles, Puppies and Rainbows - by Nirvan

Once upon a time I had two dogs. One day my Dad found a turtle outside his office. We brought it home and we waited for three days for the turtle to survive. Then it survived all three days. We bought a fish tank, fishes, rocks, plants, sand and soil. And then after many days a few fishes died. And then the rest were fine.

One Friday when we were going for pizza, we saw a puppy. It was fully black. We got scared that it will get killed. We went for our pizza, we finished it and saw the same puppy on the way back. It sat in front of our bike and then we picked it up. My mom held it and we took it home. and fed it food. Next day I played with it.

Rainbow is formed by sun and water. The sun shines on the water and then the rainbow forms.



The Girl with a lot of Animals - by Pranya



Once upon a time there was a girl having a lot of animals in her house. Her name was Pranya and she had a bird, two alligators, a big fish, a small fish and a chameleon. She was having a lot of fun with them. But one alligator died and she got so sad that she couldn't even stop crying.

This morning she found a moth and she had a lot of fun with the moth. But it died and then she didn't want any animals. She went to the store and gave them back - all the animals.

Match my pets with their names:

My Favourite Bird
Chameleon
Small Fish
Big Fish
Two Baby Alligators

Blakey & Mikey
Coco
Mochiko
Pikou
Bloovy



Podcast With Somya

This month for the podcast, we interviewed Sowmya, the founder of Hibiscus Heroes. And it has gone far more interesting than any other podcast. Sowmya has come up with amazing answers and has made us have a lot of fun during it.

Here are the ten most interesting prompts from Sowmya's journey into sustainable fashion:

Discovering Sustainable Fashion

Sowmya's gradual transition into sustainable fashion and how she observed sustainability practices in brands like Orille.

Inspiration and Research

Sowmya's research on slow fashion and sustainable practices to distinguish between genuine efforts and greenwashing.

Environmental Impact of Chemical Dyes

The significant health and environmental issues caused by chemical dyes in textile production include water pollution and soil degradation.

Shift Towards Natural Dyes

Somya's advocacy for plant-based and natural dyes and the environmental benefits they offer.

Challenges of Using Natural Dyes

The difficulties of using natural dyes, such as the slower process and the need to respect nature's purpose.



Utilizing Weeds and Ancestral Knowledge

How Sowmya uses wild plants and ancestral knowledge in her sustainable dyeing process, focusing on respecting nature.

Creating Contemporary Products with Natural Dyes

The challenges of designing beautiful, functional clothing that retains its color while using natural dyes.

Aspirations for Hibiscus Heroes

Somya's vision for Hibiscus Heroes is a platform for creating sustainable, plant-based clothing and connecting consumers emotionally with their purchases.

Benefits of Natural Dyes

The positive impact of natural dyes on people's health, the environment, and the well-being of those who work with them.

Making Big Companies Sustainable

Sowmya has experience working with large companies like Nike, Adidas, and Reebok to promote sustainability and organic practices in the fashion industry.

These topics cover Somya's journey, challenges, and insights into creating a more sustainable and respectful fashion industry. -**Aarohi**, -**Megha**



A pleasant area with numerous trees
Which is judgment-free.
Harmony is the base of learning.
Peacefulness is what I'm finding.
Considers the environment
Best place for meditation
Auroville is the location.

-Harshana

Auroville is peace
In the morning it's full of breeze
People are cutting trees
There are many flavors of ice creams
When birds make sounds it made me freeze
Under the trees there are seeds.

-Moksha