AIAT - Half-year report
June 2024

Dear friends, interested parties and supporters of Auroville Institute of Applied Technology -

College & ITI

About Auroville Institute of Applied Technology/AIAT

- AIAT was founded in 2004 with financial aid from the German Government and numerous private donors. Its purpose is to empower rural youth with skills to earn a dignity livelihood. It operates as a non-profit unit of the Auroville Foundation (more information available at aiat.in).
- AIAT, situated in one of the most backward areas of Tamil Nadu, serves a diverse group of youth from the bottom of the social and economic pyramid. 95% of our trainees depend on the availability of a stipend (BPL), with 40% belonging to the scheduled caste. This diversity is a testament to our commitment to inclusivity and social impact.
- AIAT adopts a holistic pedagogical approach that addresses the concerns of both stakeholders— the trainees and the companies involved.
- Since 2022, AIAT has been affiliated with Pondicherry University as a college of Applied Sciences offering three-year Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc) degree courses in Electric and Electronic Technologies, Information Technology and Cyber Security, Software Development and Machine Learning, Mechatronics and Production Technology, and Applied Electronics and Chip Design.
- AIAT, in its commitment to providing practical and relevant training, also provides Central Government-recognized 1-2-year industrial training programs under a dual system of training. This is made possible through our collaboration with ten regional companies, ensuring that our trainees are equipped with the industry's required skills.

Today, in the middle of June 24, we would like to keep our promise to you, the parents and students: to have our school bus by July 2024 at the latest. Here it is:

The bus is five years old, from a school for children with special needs that was closed, is in good condition, has travelled 71.000 km, has 26 seats, and we paid 12 Lakhs (approx. $14.380) for it. Including taxes, registrations for Pondicherry and Villupuram, MOT test, power steering installation and transfer to AIAT, it costs around 14 Lakhs (a new one would have cost 22 Lakhs). As we said, having a college school bus is very important in this country. Depending on how you look at it, we can now show another basic in the search for new students, and we have made a small leap in quality. *THANK YOU once again for your great help!*

On the keyword **'Admission'**: We started marketing for the new academic year in May. The admission of new students is mainly done through the government's central CENTAC portal in Pondicherry. Registration for admission to B.Voc. courses has started at CENTAC. By the end of August, we will know how many students enrol for the following B.Voc. courses in Software Development & Machine Learning, Information Technology, Electric and Electronic Technology (Sustainability & Renewable Energy), Mechatronics and Production Technology, Applied Electronics and Chip Design. We are hopeful of improving the intake in B.Voc. courses.

In the current academic year, eight students (4 girls and four boys) out of fifteen

B.Voc. in Software Development & Machine Learning are receiving a scholarship (thanks to your support—and brand new—thanks to 'Reaching for the Stars' and help from the BFL Foundation in Bangalore). We hope for further scholarship donations. In most cases, it depends on whether students enrol.

By mid-May, 12 students from the Software Development & Machine Learning class 2023 had passed their semester exams. All but one student did well. Even students with special needs pass practical exams in physics and software. The examiners from Pondicherry University were full of praise for the student's knowledge and practical and communication skills. They were said to be more advanced than the students at the university and its affiliated colleges. Of course, we are pleased about that.

The above course in Software Development & Machine Learning is currently held at three locations in Auroville, so we are moving back and forth. AIAT should gradually hold all Bachelor courses in Aurobrindavan/Palmyra so that suitable classrooms and workshops, seminar rooms, a principal office, Staffrooms, a library, and the college's administration are at one location. We are, therefore, increasingly working on fundraising applications for potential donors inside and outside India, and we hope for your loyal support.

In the Winter 2023 Annual Report, we announced that **Lavkamad** would be stepping down further in April, as Manish will now take over most of his duties. Nothing came of this. Manish went back to northern India with his family. Lavkamad spent nine weeks on holiday in Germany – a senior teacher stood in for him as best she could – and has been 'back on post'* in Auroville at +/- 36° since May (*phrase from the German Consulate, Chennai). But the possible inclusion of AIAT in SAIIER, the Education Board of Auroville, which was also announced to you, is going well. That would be a relief for Lavkamad. As you know, he has been doing his best for a long time. Like this, for example:

Left: Lavkamad with Parag Bhargava and Jorge Ayrza; Right: Farewell to Simon Hanl, volunteer

Collaboration with Min Vayu, IIT-Bombay, and AIAT in the field of sustainability: Lavkamad, Director of AIAT, Prof. Dr. Parag Bharagava, Chair of Materials Science at IIT-Bombay, and Jorge Ayrza, an Aurovilian from Ecuador and Executive of Min Vayu, have been working in the field of sustainability for years. They talked about a possible collaboration in renewable energy and cyclical economy. MinVayu is interested in collaborating with AIAT in teaching and research, and IIT-Bombay is interested in collaborating with MinVayu.

Farewell to Simon Hanl, a volunteer from Austria. Simon Hanl's time as a volunteer at AIAT (we introduced him in last year's annual report) ended with a small farewell ceremony and these words: "It was a pleasure to be here. I felt very welcome and gained many new experiences and insights." We wish him all the best in his studies

in Vienna and his future career, and we thank him very much for enriching AIAT with his knowledge and commitment.

That's it for today: We wish you all the best, good luck, satisfaction, and joy in your lives. *Thank you for staying with us,*

Lavkamad & Angelika

Appeal for donations

How to donate?

a) A sum intended to cover the current operating costs.

b) Scholarship details: Indian Rupees 5,000/month, totalling Rs 60,000/year or $70/month, totalling $800/year. Additionally, half scholarships are also welcome for donation purposes.

Please note that 97% of these funds benefit young individuals, while only 3% is allocated for administration costs.

Your donations are eligible for tax deductions based on our country's regulations. Moreover, our management team operates voluntarily."

Important: Please always mention in your remittance to AIAT:

'AIAT Scholarship' Donation for AIAT' to ensure that your contribution reaches us.

Important to specify:

Please include your name and address in the transfer details so we can send you the donation receipt. Kindly inform us via email so we can track your remittance and ensure you receive the donation receipt.

How do you remit your donation to AIAT?

1. For foreign donors

The most efficient method to donate to AIAT is through your local Auroville International (AVI) organisation.

They can accept your donation, issue a tax receipt, and forward the funds to

Auroville. Locate your nearest AVI Centre

at http://auroville-international.org/avi_centres/.

Important: Please specify that the donation is for AIAT in Auroville, India.

Sending Donations To Auroville

THANK YOU! Auroville is grateful for your generous support. There are several ways to send contributions to Auroville. If you have any questions about the information below, please email us at avunityfund@auroville.org.in or by phone at +914132622455.

The Government of India recently amended the Foreign Contributions (FCRA Act) law. All foreign contributions to the country must go to a single branch—the State Bank of India Main Branch, New Delhi. Accordingly, we have opened a new account in the New Delhi SBI branch. Details are as follows.

Send a Bank Transfer directly to Auroville (SWIFT)

You can also send contributions directly to Auroville using a wire transfer through your financial institution. Below is the information your bank will need to complete a SWIFT transfer. **Please ensure the beneficiary's name is listed as AUROVILLE FOUNDATION in all circumstances.**

SWIFT Code: SBININBB104

IFSC: SBIN0000691

Bank Name: State Bank of India

Branch Code: 000691

A/C Holder Name: AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

A/c Number: 40106120526

Beneficiary: AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

A/C Holder Postal Address: Auroville
Foundation
Auroville 605101

Tamil Nadu, India

Bank Postal address: FCRA Cell

State Bank of India

New Delhi Main Branch

11 Sansad Marg

New Delhi 110 001

Bank Phone No.   011-23374050

Donate through a local Auroville International Centre

Many countries have an Auroville International (AVI) organisation for foreign donors to take your donation, issue a tax receipt, and channel the funds to Auroville. You can find a list of AVI Centers here.

Donate through the donation portal: Auroville Donation Gateway

Send a Paper Cheque directly to Auroville

All cheques must be payable to AUROVILLE FOUNDATION. You can send cheques to the address below and kindly inform us by email:

Auroville Unity Fund,

Town Hall,

Auroville 605101

Tamil Nadu, India

Email: avunityfund@auroville.org.in

2. For Indian donors

INWARD REMITTANCE TO AUROVILLE UNITY FUND INDIAN ACCOUNT

Indian inward Remittance Instructions	
RTGS/NEFT	SBIN0003160
MICR code	60 500 2007
A/c with	State Bank of India
	CURRENT A/C
Branch:	Auroville International Township Branch
Address:	Kuilapalayam
	AUROVILLE 605 101
	INDIA
A/c Holder	Auroville Unity Fund Main
A/c Number	10237876031
Purpose:	Please specify that your donation is for AIAT, Auroville

Pl. inform us about your donation via e-mail: principal.aiat@auroville.org.in.

AIAT would take care that you get a receipt from the unity fund, enabling for 100% Tax deduction.

AIAT Management Team

AIAT
Auroville Institute
of Applied Technology
be part of it!