SWADHARMA BULLETIN

August 2021

August is a special month with a two-fold significance- we celebrate both the Indian Independence Day which marks the end of the colonial era in India and the birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo on August 15th.

To celebrate Sri Aurobindo's 150th Birth Anniversary, Auroville is starting a yearlong tribute to Sri Aurobindo: the evolutionary freedom fighter, evolutionary philosopher, poet & visionary sage.

Visit: https://sriaurobindo150.auroville.org

15TH AUGUST, 15 PROJECTS

The Swadharma Community took up 15 new projects and practices this 15th August. This edition of the newsletter highlights a few of these projects.

SRI AUROBINDO MOVIE TRAILER

I am very happy to share with you the official trailer of a very special film in the making, an animation film on Sri Aurobindo. It will be of 20-minute duration and will be launched on 15th August 2022 to celebrate the 150th birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo. Today we are launching a 2-minute trailer and beginning the fundraising work to complete the film.

The initiative for the film came from AuroYouth, the youth wing of Sri Aurobindo Society and they approached me to help them make this film and we began working on it from Dec 2020 onwards. We are expecting the film to cost around 2 crores and we are fundraising to cover the expenses.

Every frame of the film is handpainted digitally and this means many highly skilled artists who can work directly on digital media are working on it. The work has been commissioned to a leading animation film studio in Mumbai composed of highly talented youth lead by Suresh Eriyat.

SRI AUROBINDO MOVIE TRAILER

The artists are very young people and it is a great joy for me to see a film getting made by the youth of India for the youth of the world to discover Sri Aurobindo. It took us quite some research to develop the painting style used in the film.

The film will be covering a period from 1893 to 1914, a period of his life that youth can easily identify with and begin their journey of discovering him. This trailer depicts the arrival of Sri Aurobindo on Apollo Bunder on Feb 6, 1893. The moment of touching the soil of India and the spiritual experience that awaited him and the underlying political transformation of India are brought forth with cinematic intensity.

I hope you enjoy this trailer. Please do share it with your friends and if possible contribute financially to the making of the film.

Watch the trailer here: www.anewdawn.in

Thank you Suresh, Thank you Shiva, Priti, Archana, Srinivas, Rahul and Ananda.

- Manoj

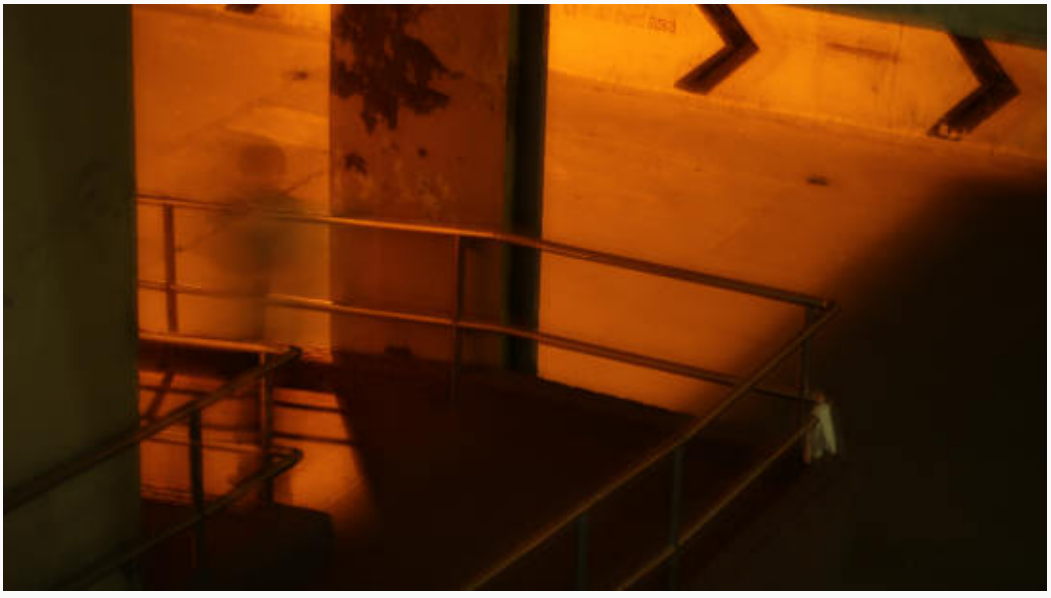
BUILDING NO. 37
BY MAHESH

Mahesh's journey to his recently concluded project 'Building No. 37' in his own words

The time I spent in Swadharma-7 gave me the much-needed space to contemplate what I truly wanted to do, work as a filmmaker. While I knew this even before attending it, it helped me to find the courage to express myself without having to self-censor. Having re-discovered this streak, I was doubly happy to know that I had won my first grant from the India Foundation of Arts just as soon as I finished Swadharma. (IFA) is an independent, nationwide, not-for-profit organization that makes grants and implements projects across research, practice, and education in the arts and culture across India. I began my work for it with full gusto for a few months until the pandemic struck and derailed most of my plans. It was no longer feasible to put an exhibition in a physical space. Since covid was in full swing, calling friends over to help me with the project didn't seem viable.

BUILDING NO. 37
BY MAHESH

So, I had to improvise. I decided to make a film and a conceptual photo book which would allow it to be easily exhibited. So, I put aside my best laid plans and started over. The process was slow, uncertain and filled me with doubts. But over time, I could piece my project together whilst managing my other job as a strategist for an advertising agency. Almost two years and several roadblocks later, am glad to announce that I have finished my first experimental documentary and photo book. Both the artifacts are titled- Tales from Building No.37. The film is based on a building in Bangalore and attempts to weave a tapestry out of everyday lives of the people working there, forgotten memories and reliable myths through the lens of a photographer. I'm currently in the process of sending it to curators and experimental film festivals., hoping that it makes the cut. I'm eager to see where I can go from here. -Mahesh.S

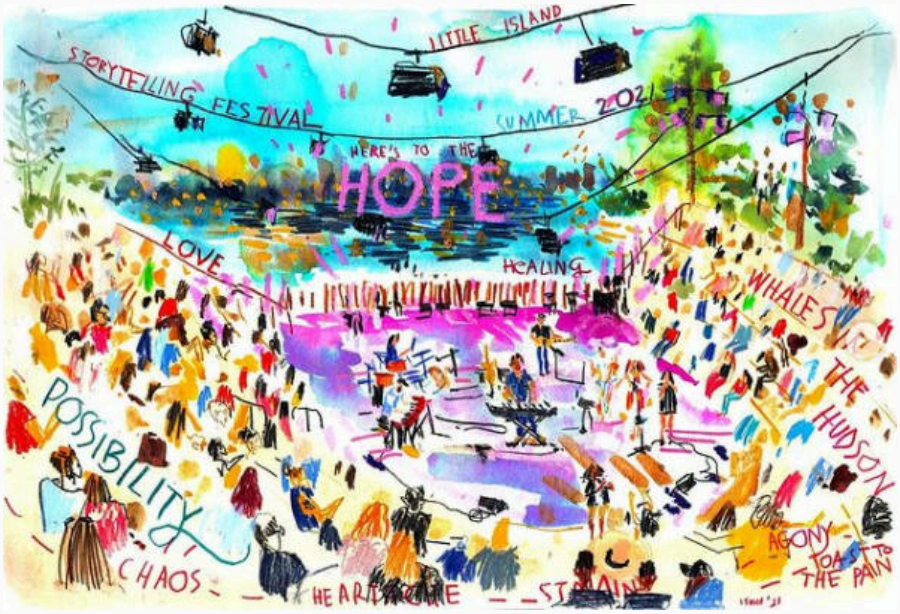


A still from one of the movie scenes.

We thank Mahesh for sharing his story and we are eagerly waiting for the official release of the movie and the photo book.

DRAWINGS FROM THE STORYTELLING FESTIVAL BY ISHITA

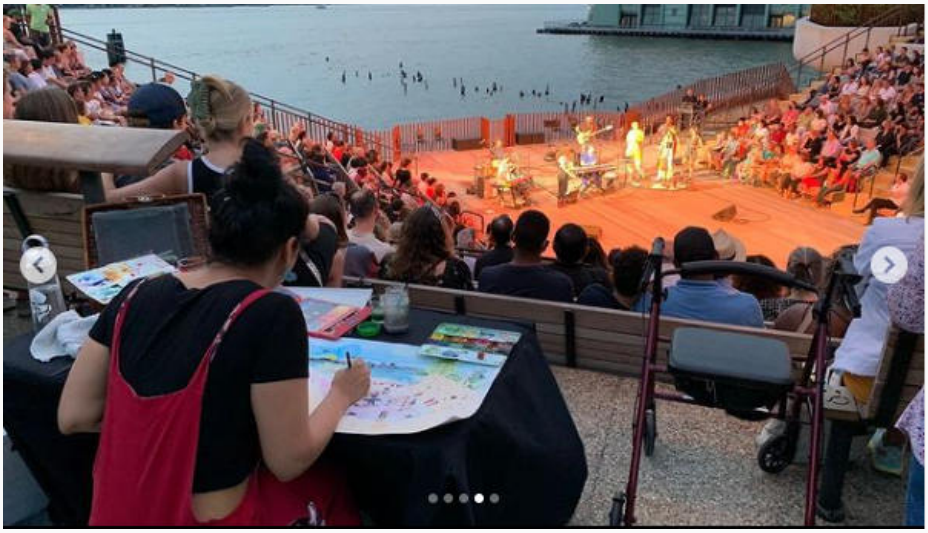
Ishita recently painted live performances at the Storytelling Festival, Little Island NYC. A few pictures from the event.



Drawing of "Sing Again: A Reunion Concert by @shainataub and community"

Drawing of "Welcome Home: An evening with @peekaye and @westerliesmusic"

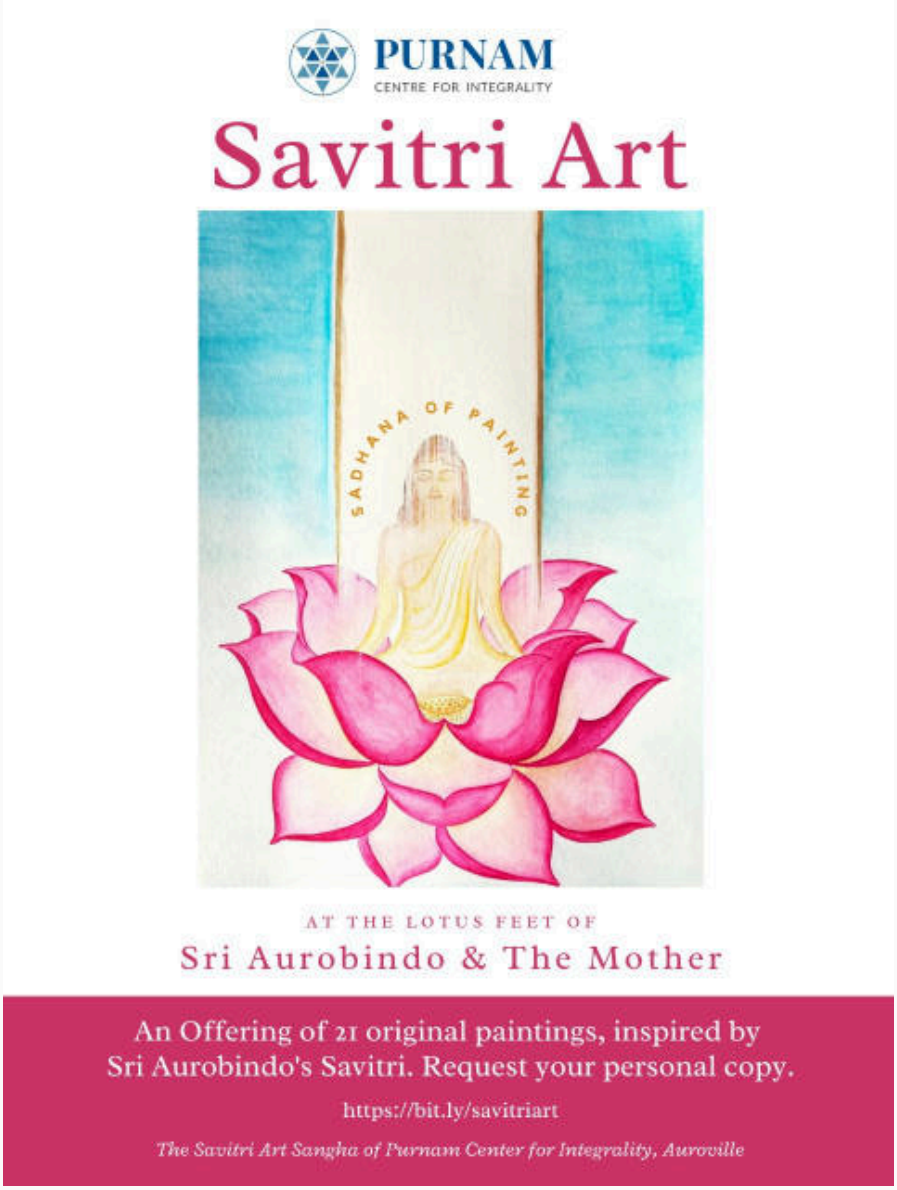
DRAWINGS FROM THE STORYTELLING FESTIVAL BY ISHITA



Ishita painting a live performance

To watch a time-lapse of this work join @ishitajain24 on Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/p/CRwUyEDp4U-/

SAVITRI ART 1.0

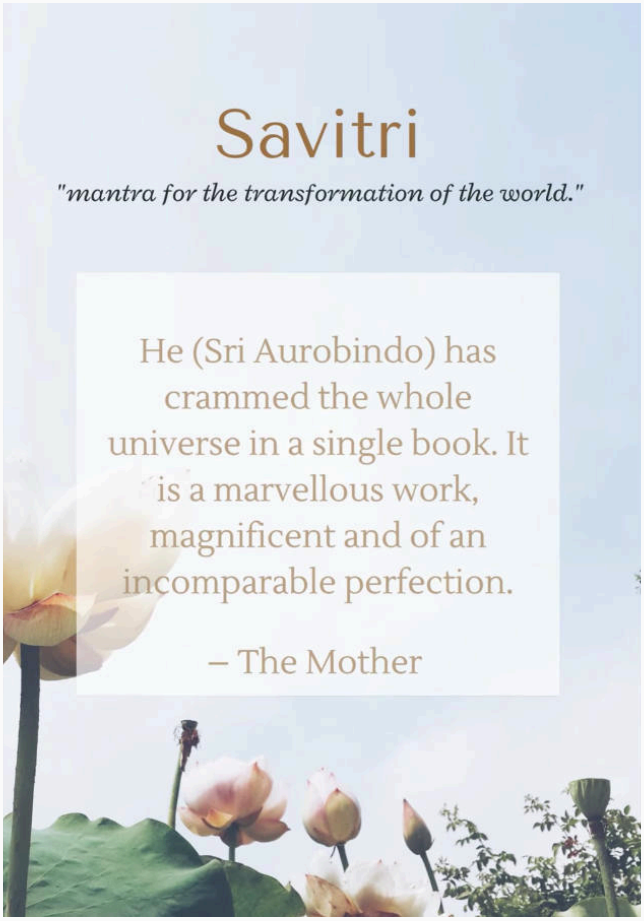


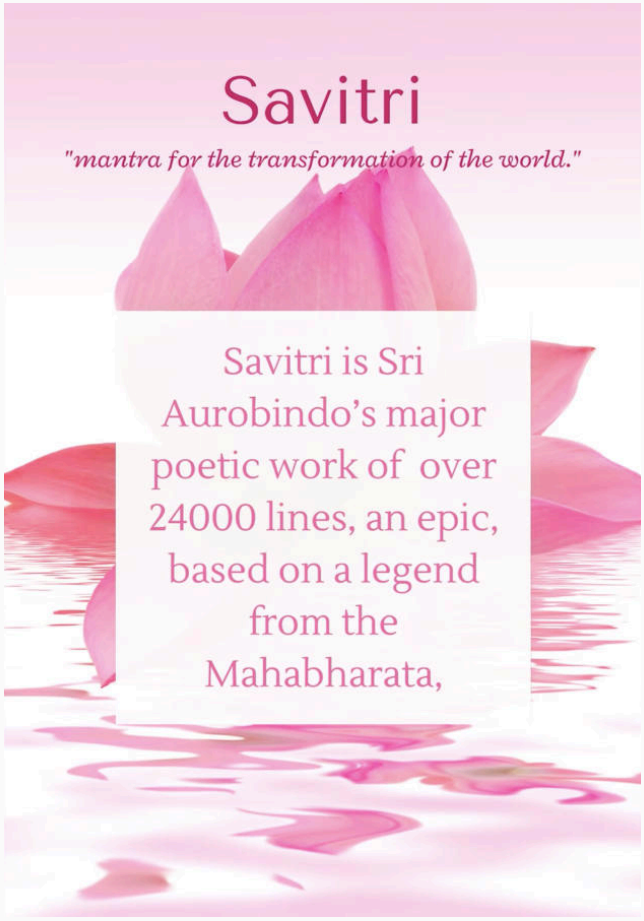
Purnam center for Integrality, Auroville, is delighted to present the journey of Savitri Art, a sadhana of painting, an offering of 21 original paintings.

Here is their humble attempt at putting them together as a video exhibition.

Visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRzrlLjuWMw

SAVITRI ART 1.0





To make a request for your Personal Soft Copy of the paintings which will be a gentle reminder of your radiant soul and offer you a deeply sacred & meditative experience in your daily life, visit: https://bit.ly/savitriart

Join the magic and joy of Savitri painting at:
https://www.aci.auroville.org/savitripainting

Make a Donation towards Savitri Art at:
https://donations.auroville.org/purnam While donating, please write Donation to Savitri Art in the description.

SAVITRI PAINTING 4.0

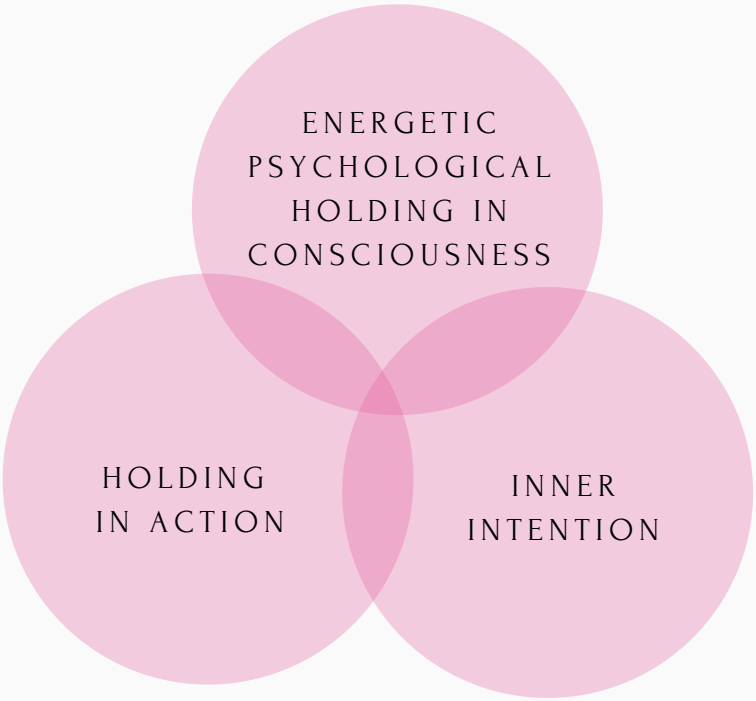
A cohort of 24 aspirants has begun their journey of painting the sacred lines in the spiritual poem **Savitri**, one of Sri Aurobindo's greatest works. It is the 4th batch of Savitri painting which began on August 15th, marking the specialty of its beginning on Sri Aurobindo's birthday. To explore Savitri in the world of colours is an adventurous one. Savitri Painting is a tool for one to begin to walk on the sunlit path, to come in touch with one's inmost essence

This exploratory journey is conducted by Purnam Center for Integrality, with Divyanshi as the main facilitator along with Savitri Painting Alumni as co-facilitators, to paint Savitri together in a creative soul space along with The Mother's music. The collective energy of the Sangha facilitates a deep transformation and creates a space where one can truly express oneself.

Visit: https://aci.auroville.org.in/savitripainting

The aspiration of each participant to begin their journey is unique in its own ways. Visit https://tinyurl.com/4tfhth34 to read the participant profiles.

KARMA YOGINS



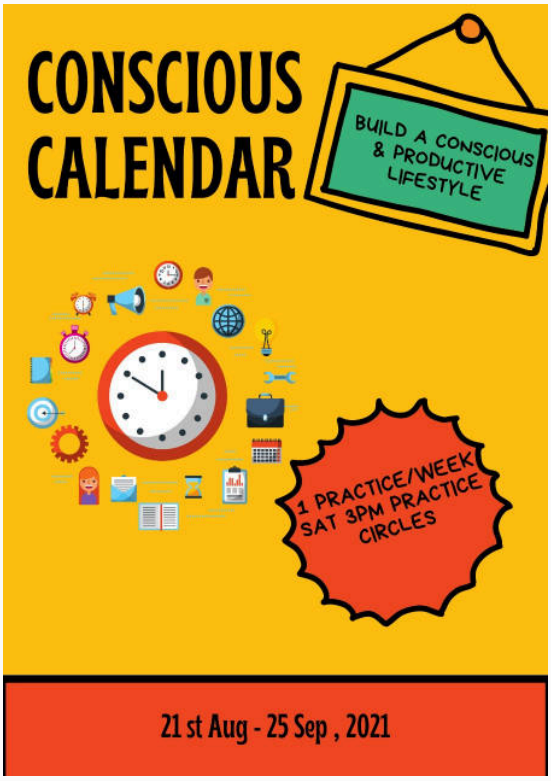
THREE ASPECTS OF A TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

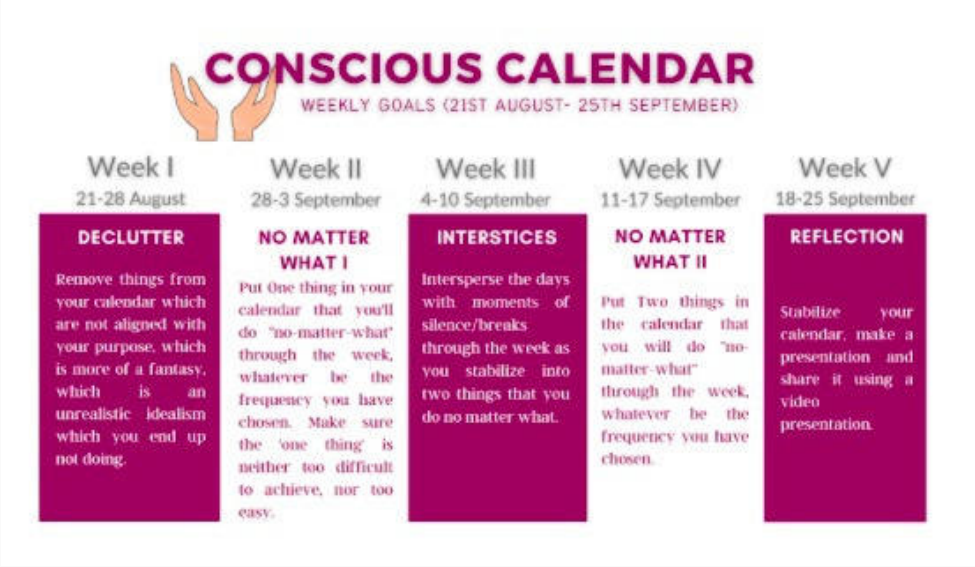
4 months ago, a group of Karma Yogins was formed with the members of the community who are serving and holding different groups, works and projects. The group went through a 8 week journey focusing on "Holding Capacity". Holding capacity is the ability to hold something (a project) in Consciousness and in Action for Growth of all Individuals and Collective Evolution.

As the eight week journey concluded, the group digested and assimilated their learning for 6 weeks, and reconvened on 15th August to move into the 2nd Cycle, wherein each member is holding a community micro-project that aligns with their deeper aspiration as well as fulfils a living need of the community.

During the sessions, the group learns to hold spaces for people, how to practice Karma Yoga more consciously in spaces where one is holding people under inner development and transformation.

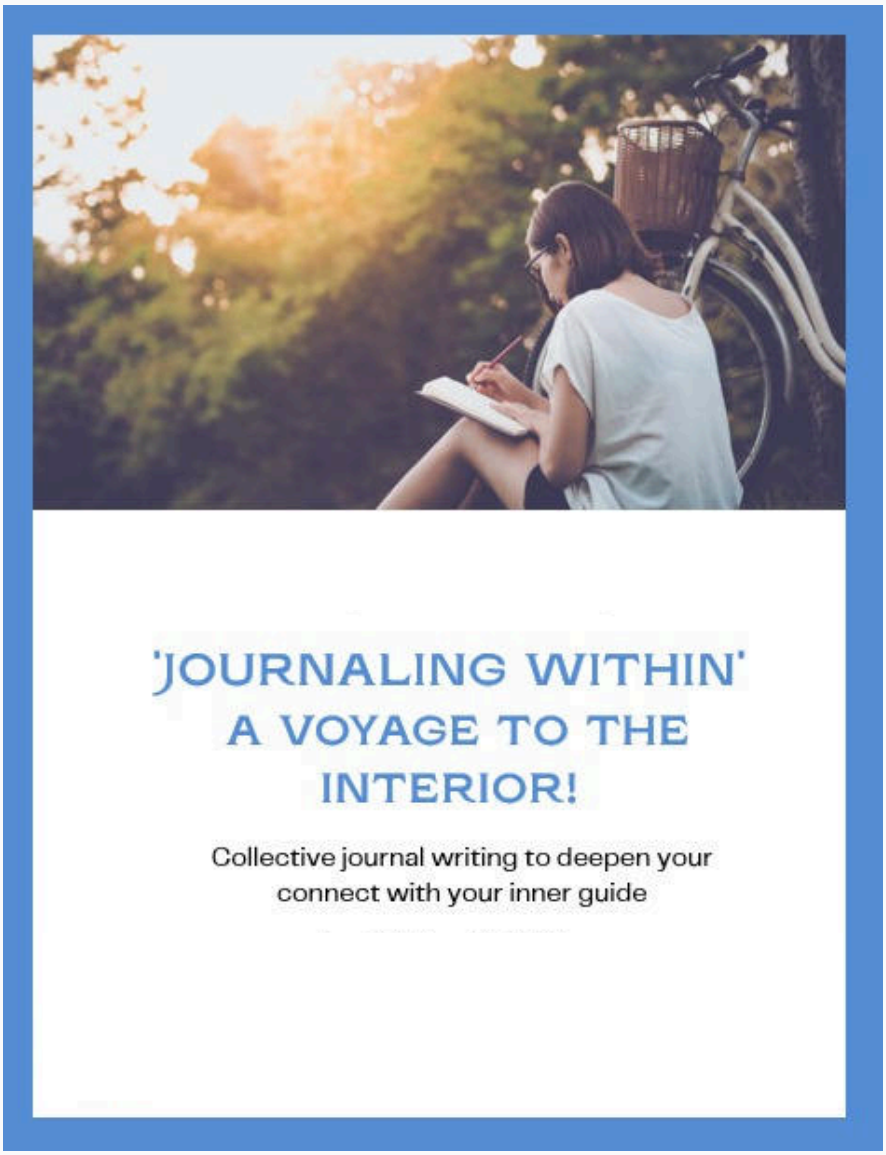
CONSCIOUS CALENDAR PRACTICE GROUP 2.0





A dedicated 5 weeks conscious calendar practice group started on August 21st. Participants integrate one practice every week building a healthy and productive lifestyle. Week 1 - Declutter concluded recently.

JOURNALLING WITHIN 2.0



In cognizance of the benefits of the 'Journaling sessions' and the immeasurable benefits therein; Adwait Pathak - a Swadharma 9 alumni along with Leela has taken an initiative further by conceiving the 'Journaling within 2.0' endeavor, which follows the tenets of the 'Journaling sessions' of Swadharma with an equal vigour.

JOURNALLING WITHIN 2.0

The details of 'Journaling within 2.0' are as follows:

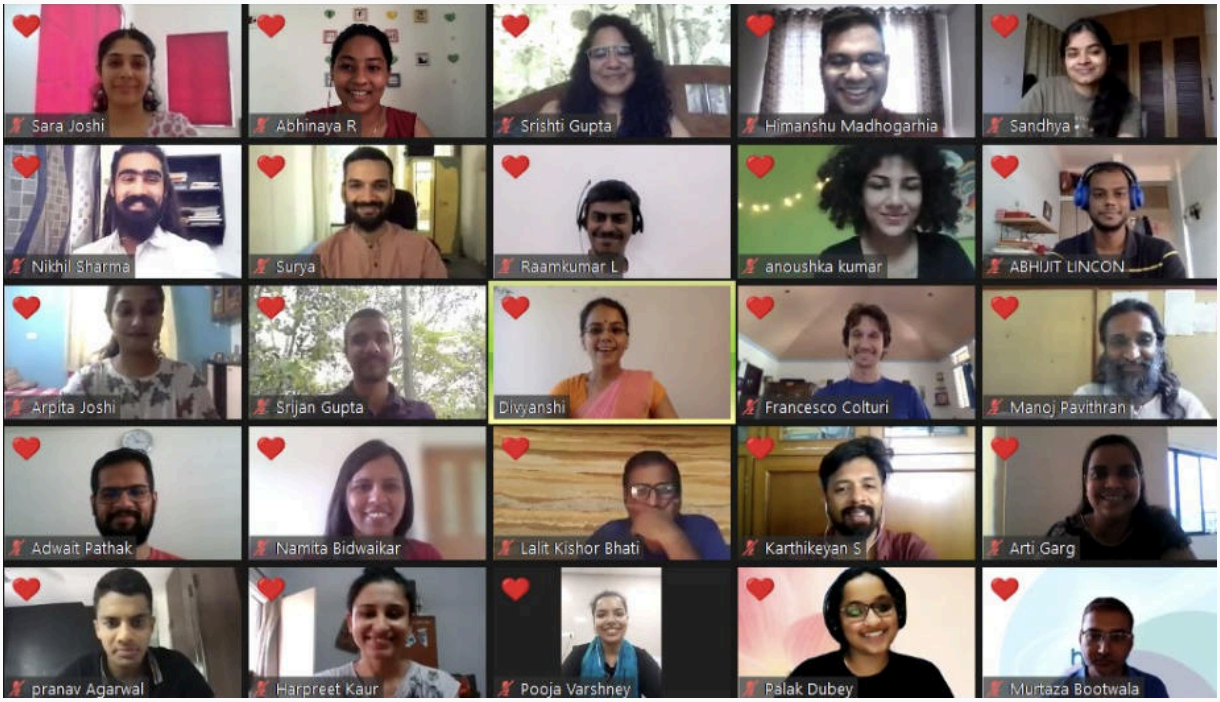
It is a 14-week Journaling journey. Wherein people come together online via zoom and deepen their connection with their inner guide and use it as a tool for self-discovery and self-growth.

Everyone quietly journals by themselves between 7-7:30 PM. It has been previously experienced that even as we journal by ourselves, just being together and doing it in a collective space is really Powerful.

SWADHARMA 9.0 ENDS & THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

Swadharma 9.0 officially concluded on Aug 7th, 2021 with our dear seekers telling the story of their powerful journeys through the 5-weeks with the final presentations to the larger community. It has been an absolute joy to witness the birthing of this new tribe of swadharmis from the online space.

Swadharma Online was a mammoth effort behind the scenes with sessions, coursework and content covering over 30 modules with 50 videos crafted by the team, spanning diverse fields of the body, mind and soul. Not to mention, over 1000 submissions on our online learning management system with individual feedback and guidance



Our dear seekers came alive in action with their micro-projects with a scale like never before in Swadharma history by leveraging the online space - giving them a living sense of what it means to follow one's true calling. Now our new Swadharmis have begun their adventure into unchartered territories following the flame of aspiration from within - kindled by the fire of action.

SWADHARMA MINI-DOCUMENTARY

We are also thrilled to be sharing with you a mini-documentary of Swadharma 9.0. This was a collaborative effort between the Swadharma alumni and the Swadharma 9.0 participants. After witnessing 8 powerful & transformative cohorts of Swadharma in Auroville, we are proud to say Swadharma Online was a beautiful success!

This short film tells the story of the intimate & transformative journey that the participants undertook over the course of 5-weeks and showcases the power of technology & the online environment to facilitate this process.

It truly is remarkable how the online space can dissolve barriers of physical distance and create a space of closeness that we like to call the "Soul Space". The seekers transform themselves in the context of their own lives and begin to follow their true callings through grounded action while engaging intensely with life.

SWADHARMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It is with a lot of gratitude and delight that we are writing to you today to share that with your generous contributions and well-wishes, The Swadharma Scholarship Fund will now be able to offer two scholarships, and we have been able to realize our goal on the birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo as intended. Friends, each of your contributions will go a long way in supporting individuals from underprivileged backgrounds to be able to undertake the journey of their own self-discovery in future Swadharmas.

The process of reaching out for your contributions has been extremely humbling. With each address to you in the last two weeks, we became a little more certain about how our goal was now becoming a collective goal and it is that magic, of all of us coming together, that really made all the difference. Please accept our deepest thanks for your time, trust and contributions.

SWADHARMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you wish to contribute at any time in the future, we will receive with gratitude.

You can do so here: https://donations.auroville.org/purnam.

Please mention 'SSF' in your donation description.

Write to you again soon and always with love,

Divyanshi & Drishti

SWADHARMA SHARING CIRCLES

The sharing circles at Swadharma are something that one never forgets - the space to be truly ourselves, without masks - sharing authentically, vulnerably and from the heart. The healing and connection that happens from these circles is truly powerful. We are thrilled to say that we are now restarting the Swadharma Sharing Circles!

We invite all Swadharmis to Swadharma Sharing Circles being hosted by Nikhil on 23rd September from 8 pm to 9 pm. The zoom link for the virtual meet will be shared on the Swadharma google group and WhatsApp group, and you can reach out to Nikhil on nikhilofficial21@gmail.com.

SHARE YOUR JOURNEY WITH US!

Share with the tribe

We invite you to share with us **Your Learning Journey**, for the Swadharma Blog. Be it your experiences, musings, practices, or breakthroughs, we would love to feature your story. You can share, in the form of articles, poems, photographs, music, art-work, etc whatever you feel is the best way for you to express. General word limit is 500 words. **Share from your heart!**

We would also love to know about your **Initiatives** and the milestones in your journey. Whether it is a new project, website, collaborations, new experiments, ventures or an initiative, share with your tribe.

Write to: swadharmablog@auroville.org.in

Thank you! Swadharma Blog Team