



Dear Friends,
This season has been full of new connections in the bioregion and all over the world. The Mohanam Team is deeply to Julie and Light Omega Community in Amherst MA USA, Yoga Center Amherst in USA, Auroville International USA, Lions club Nothdorp Pijnacker from Netherlands, Philippe & Sabine from Suryasoul, Chamuelle Claudia Switzerland Nia, Marion Maertens from Germany Nia, Dianazimmermann from Germany Nia, Sacha, Agile, Jess from AUP, Marco group from Brazil, Cheron Sonia & Someswaran Georges from France, Cox&Kings and LPTI., Your support helps us to grow our mission and expand our offerings, preserving the rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu for generations to come. We wish you and all those who have supported Mohanam health, happiness, and peace - and we hope to see you again.

... An outer activity as well as an inner change is needed and it must be at once a spiritual, cultural, educational, social and economical action" - Sri Aurobindo

A relationship that is not only cordial but friendly with the inhabitants of the neighboring village is absolutely indispensable. For the realization of Auroville the first step is to establish a true human fraternity — any shortcoming in this regard is a grave mistake which can compromise the whole work. My blessings are with all sincere effort towards harmony.
The school should be an opportunity for progress for the teacher as well as for the student. Each one should have the freedom to develop freely.
- The Mother

Mohanam was opened in 2001, The name Mohanam comes from one of the most harmonious ragas of Classical Indian Music, a raga being a musical melody aimed at creating a certain mood and state of mind. The Mohanam raga evokes the power of fulfillment of our aspiration for beauty and harmony.

The Mission

To act as a bridge between Auroville and its surrounding villages and to keep alive the local rural Tamil cultural heritage.

Mohanam wants to be a youthful, vibrant community centre that helps to revitalize the rich village traditions of Tamil Nadu. We believe that in the rush towards modernization it is important to recognize and appreciate our past and its potential to function as a foundation for building a brighter future for all, one where the divine force within each one of us may unfold.

25th International Yoga festival.



On the 4th of January, the government of Puducherry organized the 25th International Yoga Festival at the Gandhi statue. Many yoga schools participated in the festival through performances, seminars and various activities. The purpose of the festival was to bring awareness in public where Mohanam team offered sound healing therapy for the participants for two days in the various area around Pondicherry. Our participation and the comments we received was a great experience for us.

The tourism department also requested Mohanam to display health-related products at the International Yoga Festival where We came up with bamboo soap, bamboo tea, and other organic products. It was a great opportunity for Mohanam to introduce Auroville's health products to the public.

Pongal Festival celebration in collaboration with French pavilion:

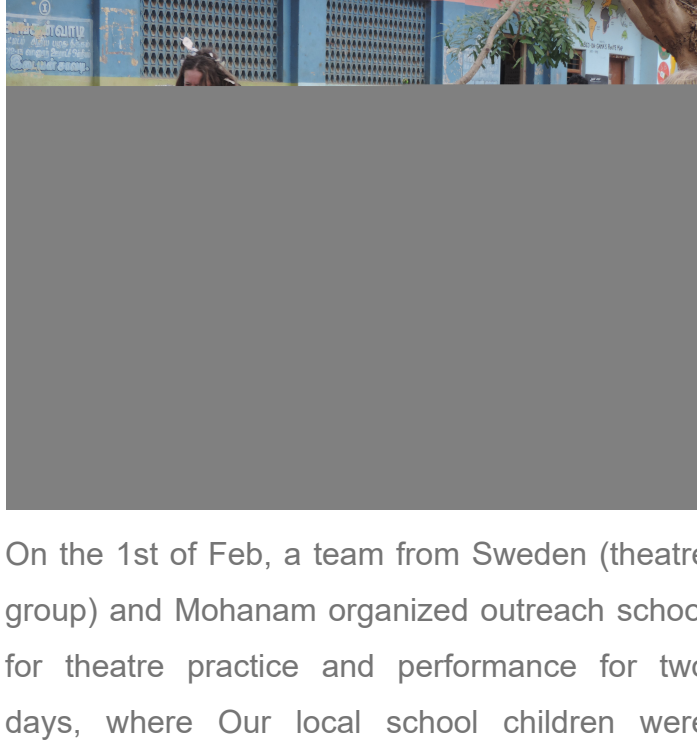


On the occasion of Pongal, the Tamil harvest is specifically celebrated. This year, it was a meeting between Tamil culture and French culture to celebrate the end of the harvesting season and Thanksgiving based upon the ancient traditions common to both cultures. This echoes an old French tradition that is still present today: the festival of the "moisson" (which means "harvest" in French). So, this year Mohanam cultural center and Ilaigaiyarkal educational center took an initiative to merge with French Pavilion to celebrate Pongal. This enabled us to realize once again that we are not so different, that our customs are getting closer, and that their differences can only be mutual and collective enrichment.

The programs were the following:

- Exhibition of Indo-French Relations,
- Educational and thought-provoking talk about Tamil-French culture by eminent scholars
- Traditional Tamil and French games
- Song and dance performances
- Food, handmade crafts, and artisan stalls
- Traditional Pongal offering with 24-spice Pongal Curry (traditionally cooked with local and seasonal veggies)

Research conducted by Mr. Arivan, French scholar and president of the Thazhi Foundation, was presented regarding the Indo-French relation. We shared information about traditional cooking, especially emphasizing 34 special local vegetables that have fallen out of popular use.

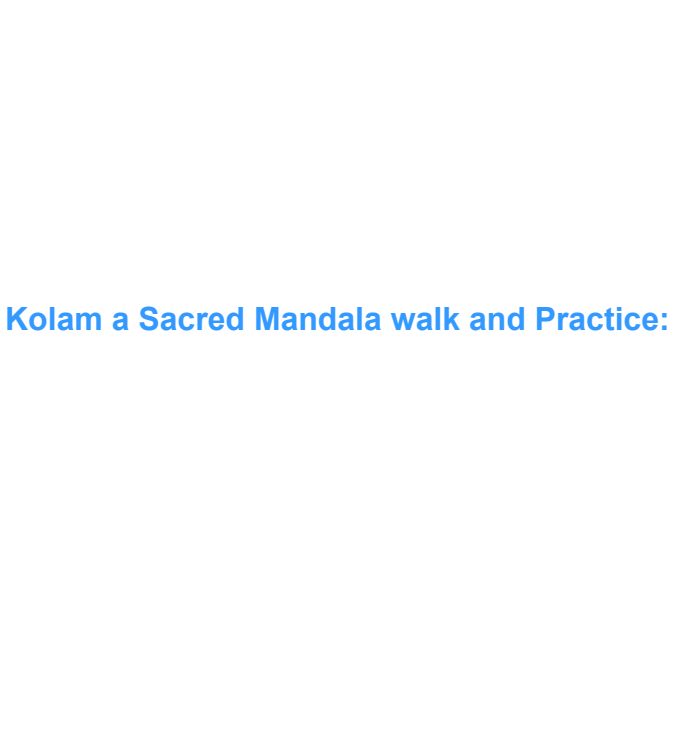


We introduced traditional food like millet, ragi, steamed food, oil food, buttermilk, curd, and sugar cane. There is traditional culture performance like kummi, kollam, kuzhichattam, thappattam and folk dance from Mohanam youth, children and women. We invited local women to do kummi dance (circle dance)

Traditional sports games indigenous to Tamil Nadu and France were played very well by youth and children.

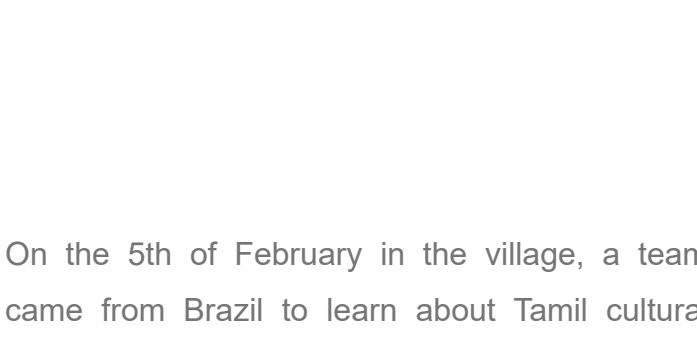


Our chief Guest Mr. Auroville Secretary and French consulate team was part of Pongal celebrations as a show of Indo-French collaboration.



We have an opportunity by the Athiyar people to showcase their dance and music. Women of that community make gift bags with waste material from tailors' shops. They also do quilting (decorative paper work). The festival included a stall displaying the tribe's beautiful and finely detailed paper decorations.

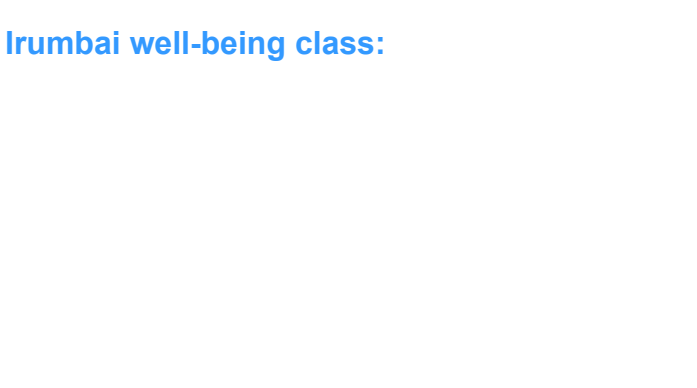
Theater Workshop and Performance offered to Bioregion schools:



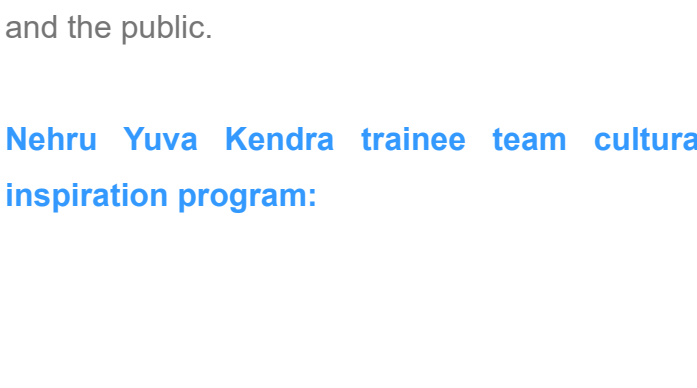
On the 1st of Feb, a team from Sweden (theatre group) and Mohanam organized outreach school for theatre practice and performance for two days. Where Our local school children were brought together to learn Swedish songs, dance, and movements. The next day was filled with performances of Tamil-Swedish songs and shows on the front open stage



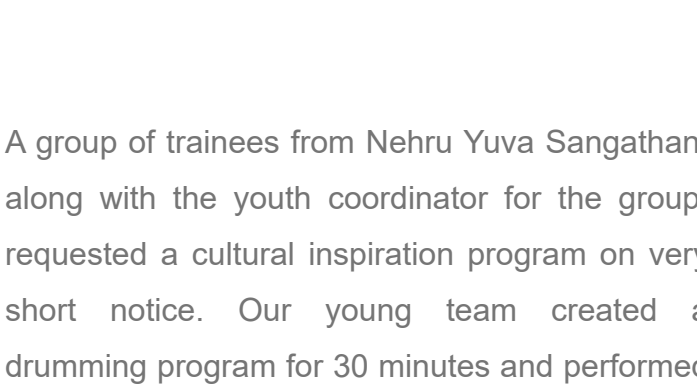
Kolam a Sacred Mandala walk and Practice:



Mohanam has promoted Tamil customs like kolam walk-through practice and holding a kolam competition every year. Kolam is an art form that is drawn by using rice flour and it is a mathematical pattern which is especially in Tamil customs. Kolam is used for blessing home or business, offering food to insects which is antibacterial.



Irumbai well-being class:



Our longtime vision to start wellbeing classes in the temple is getting real. The Irumbai temple is a spiritual place and is situated near Auroville. We have started an introductory yoga class run by local youth every Sunday and it is attended by 25 children. We would like to organize upcoming devotional songs classes open to local children and the public.

Nehru Yuva Kendra trainee team cultural inspiration program:



A group of trainees from Nehru Yuva Sangathan, along with the youth coordinator for the group, requested a cultural inspiration program on very short notice. Our young team created a drumming program for 30 minutes and performed it and the performance was appreciated by the audiences.

50th Anniversary Journey of Tamilnadu:

The 50th Journey of Auroville anniversary started at Dakshina Chitra the south Indian heritage Museum.

On the 10th of February, the Mohanam team performed cultural shows highlighting our traditional folk dance and music at Dakshina Chitra. The Deputy Director, Mr. Sarat Nambiyar, said that the performance given by Mohanam's young team was excellent and it created a heritage atmosphere.

Mexican ladies meets Native Ladies:

Tamil Heritage food is the most ancient food in the world. Beginning with our ancestors and continuing into modern cooking, our cooking techniques are influenced by medical knowledge from Ayurveda and Siddha medicine, more than any other food. Mohanam has promoted local and heritage value for the last 18 years so part of our program includes traditional cooking classes. A group of Mexican women requested to learn local Tamilnadu local food recipes.

On 11th, we organized a session during which 27 women came to participate. The women all learned how to drape sarees similar to Tamil women. The women were split into seven groups and each group interacted with local women and cooked one aspect of the meal (Keera adai, vadai, vegetable curry, Payasam, kuzhi Paniyaram), following our ancient style of cooking using traditional cooking instruments. Afterward, they enjoyed their meals which were an experience of sharing between the communities of Mexico and Tamil Nadu.

One Day Youth retreat program for Bioregion Youth clubs:

On the 16th Mohanam youth group and Puducherry Nehru Yuva Kendra jointly organized a one-day youth retreat learning program. The youth arrived and watched a video about Auroville, then went to Savitri Bhavan to learn more where Danalakshmi explained the history of Auroville.

We invited Nithiya and Meera from the Mohanam campus to give a welcome talk and to give a short speech on Mohanam youth space activity. Our chief guest Mr. Seenunurugobal gave a motivational talk for the youth. He mentioned tamil poet Mr.kavinganar Subramanya Bharathiar and his reforms to inspire the youth.

The program continued with an interactive session in between our local youth and Mr. Mathew, who was from Amherst's yoga center, USA and it was an excellent opportunity to learn many things from him. Then, they went to visit an organic farm at the Discipline community in Auroville. At the end of the session, we played a sound healing session and 40 people came from different villages around the Auroville region. The youth said their participation and the overall experience was wonderful.

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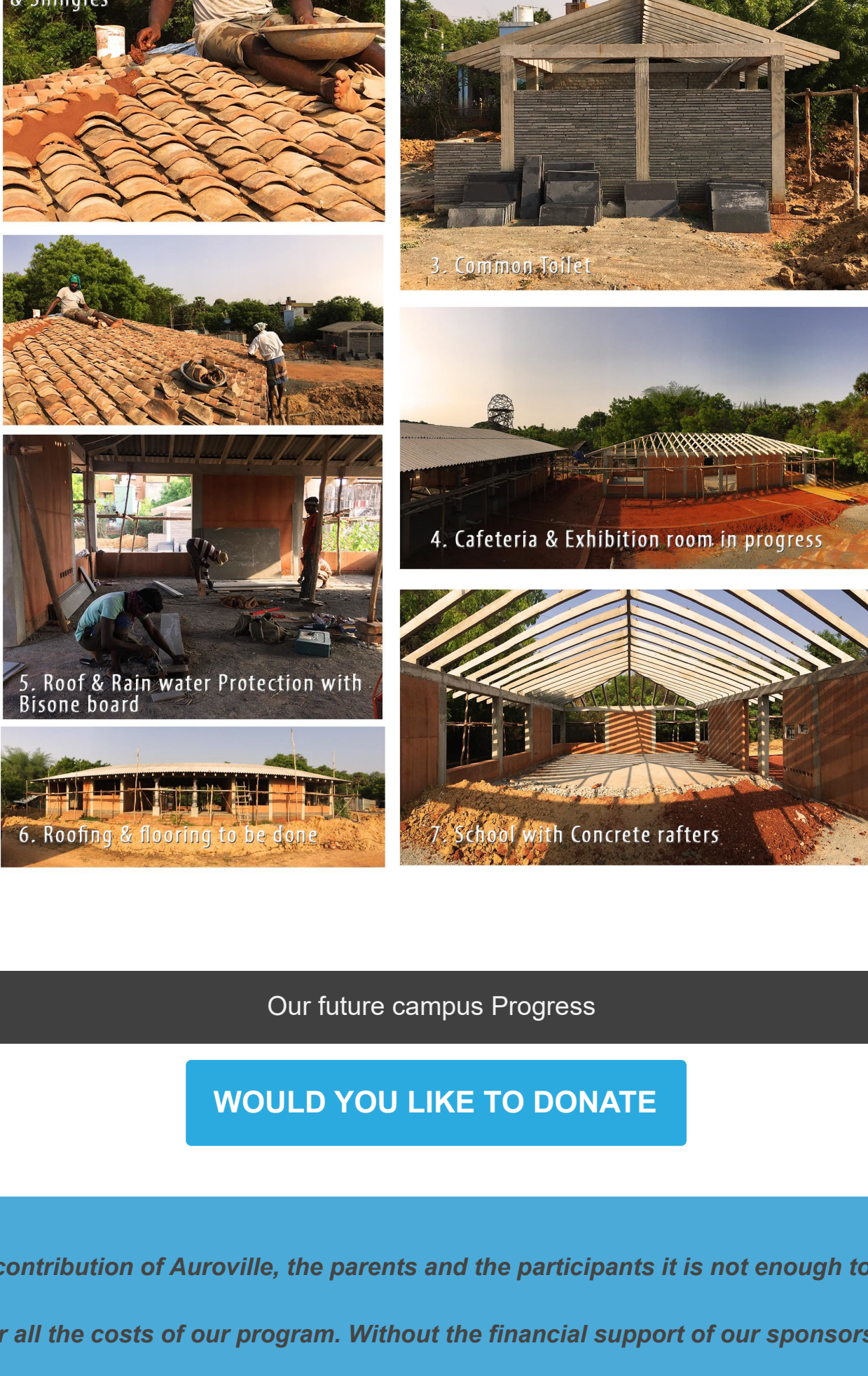
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Current Progress of Mohanam Village Heritage Centre



Our future campus Progress

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE

The contribution of Auroville, the parents and the participants it is not enough to cover all the costs of our program. Without the financial support of our sponsors we would not be able to offer this rich variety of programs.

HERE'S HOW

The easiest and simplest way to transfer money is by "SWIFT" (electronic transfer) from anywhere. Go to your bank and give them the following information, with your donation.

SWIFT CODE: SBININBB474

Account with State Bank of India, Auroville

International Township Branch, Kulapalayam,

Auroville – 605 101 –India

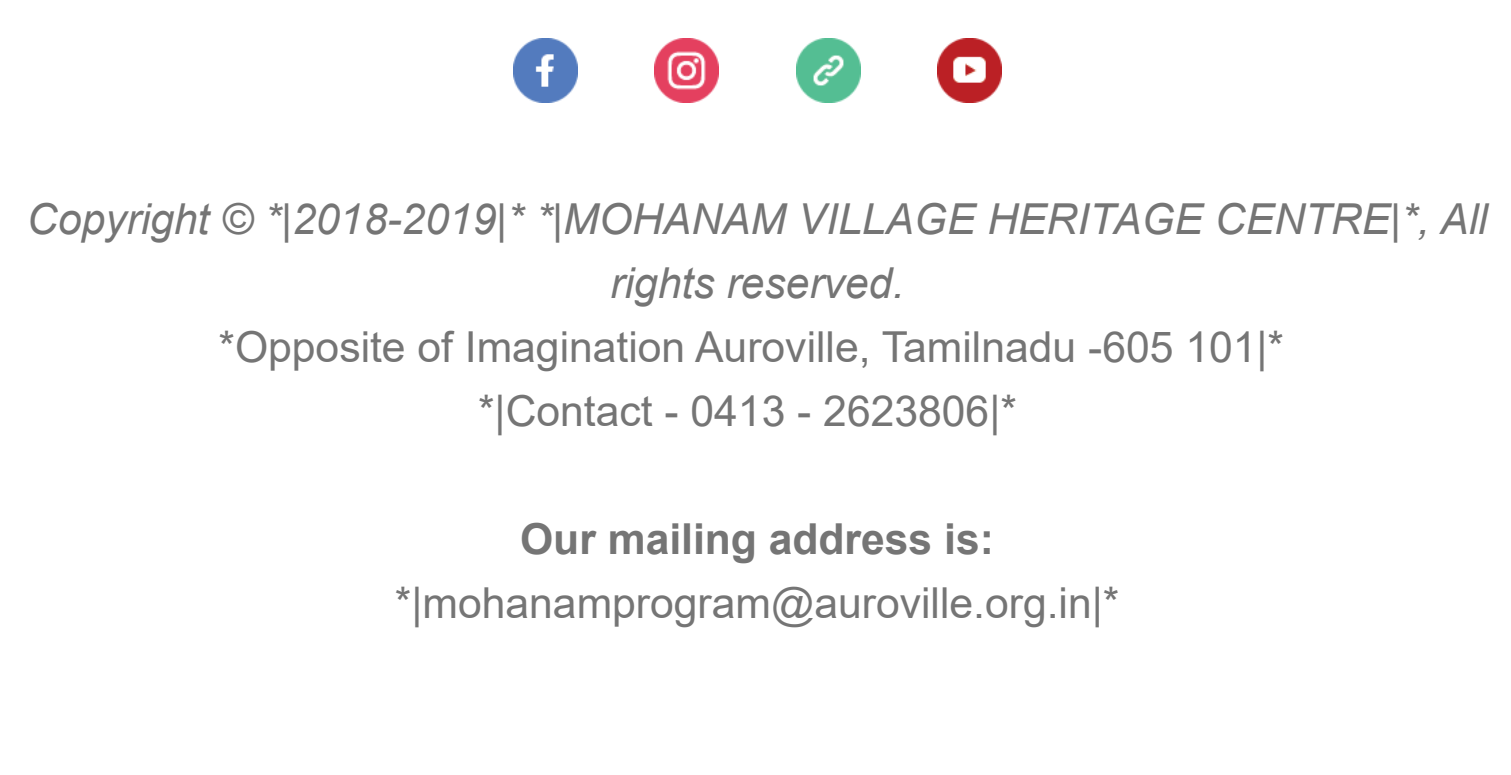
Branch code:03160

Name of the Account Holder: Auroville Unity Fund

Account No: 10237876508

Purpose: Mohanam Cultural Centre

Volunteer Needed



Take a local journey that will feed your senses and satisfy your desire to learn more about our Tamil culture.

Our mailing address is:

(mohanamprogram@auroville.org.in)

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).