

AURO FOOTPRINTS

NEWSLETTER

As we move forward on our journey, Svarnim Puducherry remains committed to fostering positive change through education, sustainability, and community-driven initiatives. This month has been a testament to collective action, with enriching programs, skill-building workshops, and efforts that bridge environmental responsibility with social empowerment.

From hands-on learning experiences to impactful livelihood projects, each initiative strengthens our vision of a more conscious and resilient society. Your support continues to inspire and drive this mission, and we look forward to creating meaningful transformations together.





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EXPERIENTIAL STEM LEARNING

The STEM program continues to inspire young minds through hands-on explorations in biology, chemistry, and physics. This month, students conducted engaging experiments that helped them understand core scientific principles in a practical and interactive way. From studying chemical reactions and biological processes to exploring physics through motion and energy, the sessions encouraged curiosity and critical thinking. By integrating real-world applications into learning, the program nurtures a deeper understanding of science, fostering a spirit of inquiry and discovery among students.



"The Activity-based STEM session made a lasting impact on my students. As a teacher, it made my job easier to build upon their newfound understanding."

– Science Teacher,
Calve College Government Higher Secondary School

WANT TO HOLD A STEM SESSION AT YOUR SCHOOL?

Bring the excitement of hands-on science learning to your students! Our STEM sessions offer interactive experiments in biology, chemistry, and physics, making complex concepts fun and engaging. If you're interested in hosting a session at your school, reach out to us and let's inspire the next generation of young scientists together!

Write to us with details about your school: svarnim@aurosociety.org, with the subject: "STEM Education + School name"

SRI AUROBINDO STUDY CENTRES



CHILDREN READING ENGLISH BOOKS

ENHANCING READING SKILLS

Reading has become a growing challenge in schools today, especially for students in English-medium education, where proficiency in both English and Tamil often falls short. This is a common concern across both private

and government schools. At our study centres, children are given the opportunity to strengthen their reading skills through engaging activities like story card reading and storybook sessions, fostering a love for language and literacy.

NMMS EXAM PREPARATION

The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) is a prestigious national-level competitive exam designed to support 8th-grade students from Government and Government-aided schools with financial assistance for their higher education. Our study centre students, coming from government schools, have actively applied for this scholarship and are diligently preparing for the exam. Alongside NMMS, they are also focused on their annual examinations, equipping themselves for academic success with determination and guidance.



STUDENTS PREPARING FOR NMMS EXAM

ROBOTICS & DEL

The Robotics & DEL project continues to engage students in hands-on learning, enhancing their understanding of motors, sensors, and robot movement. This month, students explored motor speed control using potentiometers and built obstacle avoidance robots, applying their skills in real-world problem-solving.

Weekend robotics classes introduced students to TinkerCAD, an interactive platform for designing and simulating circuits, helping them visualize electronic components. They also learned data reading using reset switches, a fundamental concept in system operations, and explored the serial monitor, a tool for real-time data analysis and debugging.

By integrating theory with practical applications, the program nurtures curiosity, creativity, and technical skills, equipping students with essential knowledge for the future of automation and robotics.



785
BOYS



1184
GIRLS



1969
STUDENTS

"I want to learn more about robotics and create bigger robots one day. I wish we had more time for these activities—it's much more interesting than regular classes."

– Student, Govt. School Kalapet, Puducherry

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN

This month, ORC continued its efforts to support students' mental well-being through various initiatives. A total of 16 individual counselling sessions were conducted, providing personalized guidance and support. Thirty-four students participated in a general awareness program, gaining essential life skills and knowledge. A follow-up camp was organized for 25 students, reinforcing previous learning through interactive discussions. The Parents-Teacher Meeting saw the participation of 84 individuals, fostering collaboration between families and educators. Additionally, visits were made to different schools to engage with Heads of Institutions, ensuring a stronger support system for students. ORC remains dedicated to nurturing a positive and empowering environment for young minds.

I learned to express my feelings, understand others' emotions, handle problems, and appreciate the significance of gender equality. I also realized the need to care for our sacrificing parents.

-Student at the ORC smart 40 camp



ROOF TOP RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Water conservation is not just a necessity—it's a responsibility. At Svarnim Puducherry, we are committed to making sustainable solutions accessible, and we are proud to announce the successful implementation of Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Systems in 107 schools!

This initiative is more than just infrastructure; it is a step toward water self-sufficiency and environmental education. By harvesting rainwater, these schools can reduce dependency on external sources, recharge groundwater, and ensure a reliable water supply for their daily needs. The system also plays a crucial role in mitigating water scarcity, especially in areas prone to seasonal shortages.

Beyond its immediate benefits, this project serves as a hands-on learning tool for students, allowing them to understand the importance of water conservation and sustainable practices. Through interactive sessions and real-time observation, young minds are being nurtured to become responsible stewards of the environment.

With every new school that adopts this system, we move closer to a more water-secure and sustainable future. We deeply appreciate the collaboration of school authorities, educators, and community members who have played a pivotal role in making this possible. Let's continue working together to build a future where every drop counts!

ROOF TOP RAIN WATER
HARVESTING INSTALLED IN

107
SCHOOLS

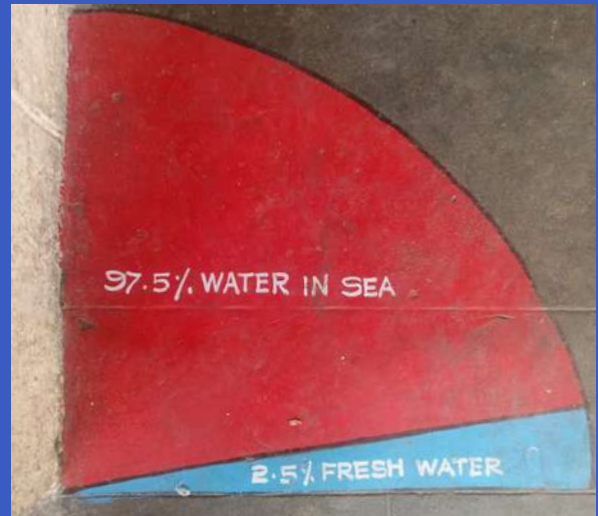


BUILDING AS LEARNING AID (BALA)

92 SCHOOLS
IMPLEMENTED BALA

The Building as Learning Aid (BALA) initiative is transforming school spaces into interactive learning hubs! This month, we introduced visual tools like a water distribution diagram and an annual rainfall chart, helping students grasp climate patterns, water conservation, and resource management.

By making learning engaging and immersive, BALA deepens understanding and fosters a strong connection to sustainability.



GREY WATER AUDIT



Understanding how we use and manage water is the first step toward sustainability. Through the Grey Water Audit, we assess water usage in schools, identifying sources of wastewater and exploring ways to reuse and recycle it efficiently.

4 SCHOOL'S
GREY WATER AUDIT COMPLETED

HARMONY OF WATERS

From February 13 to 15, 2025, Harmony of Waters brought together students, researchers, conservationists, and policymakers to explore the crucial role of wetlands in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development. The conference served as a dynamic platform for knowledge-sharing, experiential learning, and collaborative action.

Held at Sharanam Community Centre and AuroVanam Nature Education Center, with the Ousteri Wetlands Bird Sanctuary as a living classroom, participants engaged in expert-led discussions, interactive workshops, and immersive field excursions. Through these sessions, they delved into policy frameworks, innovative conservation strategies, and community-driven solutions for wetland sustainability.

Beyond academic exchanges, the event fostered a deeper connection with nature through hands-on activities, biodiversity explorations, and even moments of mindfulness like yoga in natural settings. Participants not only gained theoretical insights but also practical tools to contribute to wetland preservation in their respective fields.

DAY 1

BIOREGIONALISM

13/02/2025

The conference began with insightful sessions on bioregionalism and wetland conservation, highlighting the need for localized ecological stewardship. Experts shared case studies on wetland protection efforts in Marakanam and Cuddalore, emphasizing activist-led conservation. Workshops focused on Ramsar site management and science communication, equipping participants with practical tools for wetland advocacy.



DAY 2

FRESHWATER SYSTEMS

14/02/2025

The day started with field trips to Ousteri Wetlands and Aurovanam, offering firsthand experiences of biodiversity. Sessions delved into freshwater science, satellite data applications for wetland monitoring, and water-centric livelihoods. Student scholars presented research on migratory birds, water conservation, and wetland restoration, while a workshop on freshwater ecology deepened scientific understanding.



DAY 3

MARINE & BRACKISH SYSTEMS

15/02/2025

The final day explored marine megafauna conservation, dugong research, and marine biodiversity protection. Field excursions to urban mangroves, coastal wetlands, and Aurovanam trails showcased habitat diversity. The closing sessions addressed artificial reefs, intertidal ecosystems, and mangrove conservation, concluding with the valedictory function and recognition of wetland champions.

The conference successfully united experts, students, and conservationists, fostering collaborative efforts for wetland and water conservation.





INAUGURATION OF LIVELIHOOD WORKSHOP ON WATER HYACINTH



LIVELIHOOD WORKSHOP ON WATER HYACINTH

The Livelihood Workshop on Water Hyacinth, held at Bahour, is empowering women with sustainable skills while restoring ecosystems. Participants are learning to transform invasive water hyacinth into eco-friendly handicrafts, turning an environmental challenge into an economic opportunity.

The training covers basic crafting techniques, advanced skill-building, and entrepreneurship, equipping women with the knowledge to create and market their products. Additionally, integrated pond management sessions on biogas, biochar, composting, fish feed, and paper making provide holistic environmental solutions.

This initiative, running from 27th February to 22nd March 2025, fosters economic independence while promoting ecological balance—proving that sustainability and livelihood can go hand in hand.

WATER BODIES SURVEY

A comprehensive water quality assessment was conducted across multiple waterbody types, including lagoons, lakes, ponds, rivers, and wells in Puducherry. The study measured key physicochemical parameters such as temperature, pH, oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS), and salinity.

The water temperature ranged from 27.0°C to 29.5°C, with pH values between 7.02 and 7.33, indicating neutral to slightly alkaline conditions. ORP values varied significantly, from -257 to 53, suggesting differences in oxidation and reduction conditions across sites. EC levels ranged from 9,430 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ to 26,200 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, corresponding to TDS values between 4,690 mg/L and 10,000 mg/L. Salinity levels were recorded between 0.48% and 1.12%, with salt-specific gravity ranging from 1.002 to 1.008.

Lakes and ponds exhibited relatively lower salinity and TDS levels compared to lagoons, while wells had varied EC and TDS values, possibly due to groundwater interactions. The findings highlight spatial variations in water quality, likely influenced by tidal influx, evaporation, and anthropogenic factors. Continued monitoring is necessary to assess seasonal variations and support sustainable water resource management in the region.



AUROVANAM



43 STUDENTS
VISITED

Aurovanam welcomed students and staff members from Odiampet Government Primary School for an immersive learning experience.

The visit introduced students to the diverse ecosystems, native plant species, and sustainable practices followed at Aurovanam. Exploring the nursery, herbal garden, and water bodies, students gained firsthand knowledge about biodiversity and conservation.

The interactive session encouraged curiosity, with students engaging in discussions and hands-on activities. The visit left a lasting impact, sparking interest in environmental stewardship. Their feedback reflects the joy of learning in nature's classroom, reinforcing the importance of experiential education.

"Really its an amazing experenience we learnt many unknown facts of plants, In each and every plant more varieties are here. We feel the experience of real forest trip. Mr.Sivaprakasam gave an interesting and useful information about many plants. Mr. Jeyachantan guide us and shared many information about birds and plants. Thank you so much for this beautiful experience. Students and teachers enjoyed a lot. "

– Teacher, Odiampet Government Primary School

AURO INNOVATION CENTRE



Exciting news for a greener future! Officially our biogas production for operational use has started. This initiative marks a significant step towards sustainability, reducing our reliance on traditional energy sources. The biogas will power our daily tea making and power a 1 burner stove, demonstrating our commitment to eco-friendly practices and resource efficiency. This model will work with any biodegradable biomass including kitchen/food waste as well as any leafy biomass including weeds which are edible or non-edible – and the slurry from the biogas digester is a nitrogen-rich bio-manure as well!!

A UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE AWAITS YOUR STUDENTS AT AUROVANAM!

Bring your students to explore our Nature Lab with hands-on learning about ecology and sustainability. A unique opportunity, available for a nominal fee. [Contact us for details!](#)



JOIN US IN CREATING A LASTING IMPACT!

At Svarnim Puducherry, every effort counts in building a more sustainable and inclusive future. Your support—whether through contributions, ideas, or collaboration—helps us drive meaningful change in education, environmental conservation, and community well-being.

SUPPORT OUR INITIATIVES:

Your donations directly contribute to expanding programs that empower students, protect natural resources, and uplift communities. Every contribution makes a difference.

COLLABORATE FOR CHANGE:

Have an idea or project that aligns with our mission? Let's work together to create innovative solutions that leave a lasting impact. Reach out and be a part of this journey!

**CONNECT
WITH US!**

svarnim@aurosociety.org

+91-413-2332232

www.svarnim.aurosociety.org

Puducherry, India