

VOLUME 05
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MARCH
2025

AURO FOOTPRINTS

NEWSLETTER

March has been a month of momentum and meaningful impact at Svarnim Puducherry. From celebrating water through powerful storytelling and legal dialogue, to expanding the reach of BALA in 96 schools, our initiatives this month reflect a growing commitment to sustainability, education, and well-being. Thank you for being a part of this transformative journey.



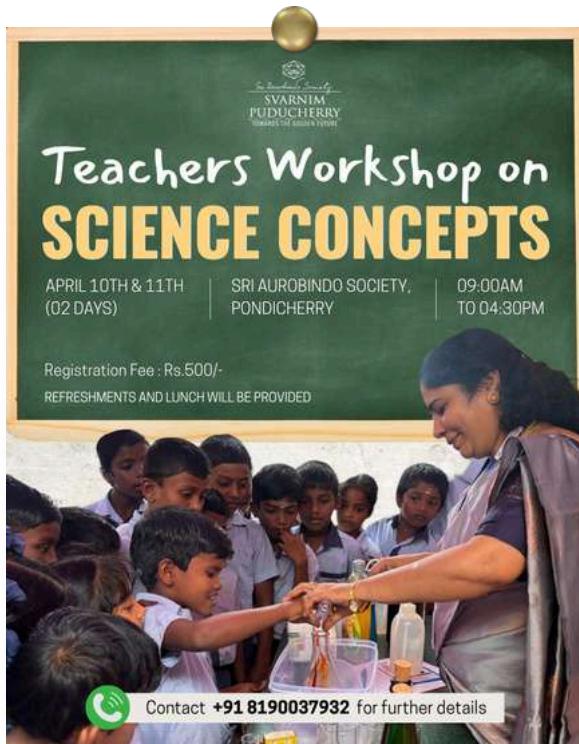


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EXPERIENTIAL STEM LEARNING

As we wrap up the academic year, it's time to compile the comprehensive academic report of our STEM program, highlighting key activities, student engagement, learning outcomes, and overall impact. Alongside this, we will begin preparing core concepts and planning resources for the upcoming academic year, ensuring that our curriculum is engaging, hands-on, and aligned with the latest educational standards.



To make science education more hands-on and engaging, a two-day Teachers Workshop on Science Concepts will be held at Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry on April 10th & 11th. Designed for primary and middle school teachers, the workshop focuses on simplifying classroom teaching through interactive experiments and activity-based learning. Sessions run from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM each day. The registration fee includes refreshments and lunch. For details and registration, contact +91 81900 37932.

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 are interested in hosting a session at your school, reach out to us and let us 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"

ROBOTICS & DEL

ROBOTICS & DEL PROJECT REACHED

6
SCHOOLS

589
STUDENTS



225
BOYS



364
GIRLS

DEL- Device Engineering Lab

KEY TOPICS COVERED

- **Balloon Powered Car & Elastic Powered Car:** Simple motion-based toys that demonstrate energy conversion and Newton's laws of motion.
- **Newton's Rings:** A light interference pattern used to explain the wave nature of light.
- **Electric Bell:** A classic model showing how electromagnets work in electrical circuits.
- **Hydraulic Lift:** A device that uses fluid pressure to lift heavy objects, illustrating Pascal's law.
- **Pit Avoider:** A basic robot that detects and avoids drop-offs using infrared sensors.
- **Light Follower:** A robot that follows a light source using photoresistors or light sensors.

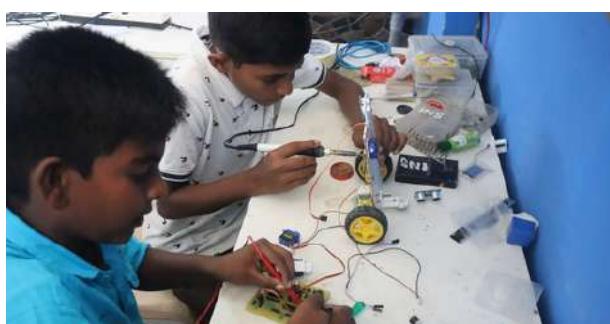


WEEKEND ROBOTICS CLUB ACTIVITY

In addition to regular sessions, we conducted weekend club activities in two batches. Participation steadily grew, showing increased interest and enthusiasm among students. The program continues to inspire young minds, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and technical knowledge, ensuring that students gain practical exposure to STEM concepts in an engaging and meaningful way.



This month, our young innovators explored the Concepts of Conditioning Statements, laying the foundation for smarter robotic behavior and programming logic.



COMING UP: ROBOTICS SUMMER CAMP!



Get ready for an exciting summer! Starting 6th May, we're launching our Robotics and Machine Learning Camp for students. With 4 dynamic batches, hands-on sessions, and a certification at the end, it's the perfect way to dive into the future of tech. Stay tuned for registration details!

ROBOTICS & DEL PROJECT REACHED

2
BATCHES

78
STUDENTS

 **67**
BOYS

 **11**
GIRLS

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN

The ORC team worked across multiple schools and institutions to collect essential data, conduct life skill training, participate in awareness programs, and engage with communities on crucial topics. The ORC team visited various schools to collect basic details of students for program implementation and collect IKMSS Cards to ensure proper documentation and support tracking.

Conducted **Life Skill Training sessions** for nursing students, (East Coast Institute of Medical Sciences) equipping them with essential interpersonal and problem-solving skills.

Facilitated **PRA Sessions** (Participatory Rapid Appraisal) for social work students, helping them understand adolescent challenges and intervention strategies.



**85
STUDENTS**

BENEFITED FROM
LIFE SKILL TRAINING
AND PRA SESSION



Substance Use Awareness Program

ORC participated in the Substance Use Awareness Program organized by the Social Work Department at the Pondicherry University. The session focused on educating students about the risks of substance abuse, preventive measures, and strategies for early intervention.



Community Awareness Programs

ORC expanded its outreach through Community Awareness Initiatives, addressing Menstrual Hygiene Awareness, Educating adolescent girls and women on menstrual health, hygiene management, and breaking social taboos.

Parental Engagement & Counseling

Supporting parents in understanding adolescent behavior and fostering positive family communication.

Karayambuthur - Family of 1 female student

AURO INNOVATION CENTRE

The Auro Innovation Centre continues to explore and implement sustainable solutions! This month, we successfully installed a rain gauge at Jaychandran's house to monitor local rainfall patterns, contributing to better water management strategies.

Additionally, we tested a portable biogas collection system, an innovative step towards harnessing renewable energy from organic waste. These efforts align with our mission to develop practical, eco-friendly technologies that promote sustainability and self-sufficiency.

WATER QUALITY MAPPING

Water quality analysis from 200 sampling locations across the Puducherry region—including lakes, ponds, rivers, wells, and coastal lagoons—reveals significant spatial variation in key parameters such as dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS), and salinity. Most freshwater sites exhibit near-neutral pH (~7), with DO levels ranging from 0 to above 8 mg/L. Several inland ponds and open wells indicate low DO and elevated salinity, suggestive of stagnation or contamination. Sites near lagoons, especially near Nallavadu, Thavalakuppam, and adjoining estuarine areas, show high TDS and salinity, pointing to potential seawater intrusion. These findings emphasize the critical need for continuous monitoring and localized water management strategies to ensure the sustainability of aquatic resources and ecosystem health in Puducherry.



A total of 109 groundwater samples were collected from diverse soil types across the Puducherry region to assess physicochemical characteristics. Key parameters analyzed included pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS), and salinity. pH values ranged from 7.00 to 7.35, indicating neutral to slightly alkaline water. TDS levels showed wide variation, with several locations exceeding 1500 mg/L, suggesting high salinity and potential concerns for potable use. Low DO and negative ORP values in many sites reflected oxygen-deficient and reducing conditions. These findings highlight the need for site-specific groundwater quality management strategies.



ROOF TOP RAIN WATER HARVESTING



Water conservation is a crucial step toward ensuring a sustainable future, and our efforts in this direction have yielded significant progress. We are proud to announce the successful completion of Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) for Groundwater Recharge installations in 112 sites, providing a long-term solution for water sustainability in educational institutions. These systems will help schools offset their water consumption and move towards zero waste.

ROOF TOP RAIN WATER
HARVESTING INSTALLED IN
109
SCHOOLS
3
COMMUNITIES

They also create awareness about conservation among students.

In addition to schools, we have extended this initiative to three community centres, ensuring that more people benefit from reliable and sustainable water sources. These installations will help reduce dependence on external water supplies and promote self-sufficiency, particularly in areas facing water shortages.

Through these efforts, we continue to work towards building a water-resilient society, one step at a time.

BUILDING AS LEARNING AID (BALA)

The Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) initiative continues to make strides in transforming school environments into interactive learning spaces! In March, BaLA was successfully implemented in 96 schools, integrating engaging visual tools to enhance student learning.

From water distribution diagrams to interactive climate charts, these tools are helping children understand essential concepts like water conservation, sustainability, and environmental responsibility in a hands-on way. By making learning a visual and immersive experience, BaLA is nurturing curiosity, creativity, and a deeper connection to real-world applications.



96 SCHOOLS
IMPLEMENTED BALA



AUROVANAM



151 VISITORS



We hosted 56 students from Valamangalam Vidyalayam, 62 from East Coast Institute of Medical Sciences, and 18 visitors from Puducherry Senior Agro Technologists' Association (PUSSA). Students from Chettinad Sarvalokaa, Chennai, explored our Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest, planted seeds in our garden, and were wowed by our biogas demo—turning biomass waste into clean fuel!

They also discovered through play way method, our seed bank—where instead of saving money, we are saving native seeds like little green treasures. When nature is the teacher, every visit becomes unforgettable.

"It is really nice to visit this place, the surrounding is really peaceful. We learnt many things about medicinal plants and got some knowledge about many new trees. The hospitality of the staff in Audivanam is so nice and pleasant. Overall, it was really a great experience, and thank you for this opportunity."

-Teacher, East Coast Institute of Medical Sciences

WATERFEST 2025

WaterFest 2025 unfolded across Pondicherry from 2nd February to 22nd March 2025, marking a powerful convergence of art, community, and environmental stewardship. The street theatre performance **Kalajatha** – *Ooruniappan* started on the World Women's day – **8th March** – traveled to 15 locations, retelling the moving story of Ayee, a woman who gave up all she had to create a pond that once nourished Pondicherry.

A Livelihood Workshop on Water Hyacinth also ran from 27th February to 22nd March, exploring sustainable ways to manage this invasive aquatic plant and create income-generating opportunities for local communities. Women from Pondicherry Bioregion participated, learned and certified in making crafts from Water Hyacinth. Some of these women were also trained as master trainers to train more women from their villages and spread the art.

Another highlight was the special session on "**Water and Heritage**" on 12th March at Sri Aurobindo Society and "**Water and Happiness: Stewardship for Water and Biodiversity**", held on Friday, 14th March at Alliance Française Auditorium. These events featured experts who deliberated upon the various aspects of water, culture, ecology and society.

Together, these events highlighted the urgency of water conservation and the power of culture, science, and community in shaping a water-safe future.



VALEDICTORY PROGRAM

The grand finale of WaterFest '25 took place on March 22, 2025, at Gandhi Thidal, Puducherry, marking the culmination of an inspiring 49-day journey dedicated to water, heritage, and sustainability. The valedictory program brought together key stakeholders, environmentalists, policymakers, and community members to reflect on the festival's impact and reaffirm the collective commitment to water conservation.

The evening commenced with the Tamizh Thai Vaazhthu, followed by a Water Pledge and Music, setting the tone for a meaningful and engaging discussion. Dr. PR Vinothkumar from Svarnim Puducherry, Sri Aurobindo Society, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the festival's significance. Thiru. Probir Banerjee, Convenor, Alliance for Good Governance, provided an overview of WaterFest '25, showcasing key initiatives, discussions, and community-driven actions that unfolded over the past months.

The event was graced by Thiru. A. Kulothungan, I.A.S., District Collector and Chairman, DRDA, Govt of Puducherry, as the Chief Guest. He delivered the valedictory address emphasizing the urgent need for community engagement and sustainable water management practices.





The program also honored distinguished guests, including Er.K.Kalamegam and Dr. N. Ramesh from DSTE, Mr.S.Ganesan and Dr.Gopi (playwright and producer of the Kalajatha) who were felicitated for their contributions to environmental conservation.

A major highlight of the evening was the announcement of the Champion of Wetlands, recognizing Thiru V. Chandrasekar, President of the Bangaru Vaickal Neeradhara Koottamaippu for his lifelong contribution in protecting and championing for the wetlands of the bioregion. The programme ended with a special performance of Kalajatha – Ooruniappan, a story on the Legendary Aayi Kulam, bringing to life the story of Ayee and her sacrifice for water conservation through music, movement, and dialogue.

WaterFest '25 was more than just an event—it was a movement, a call to action urging us all to rethink our relationship with water and work towards a more sustainable and water-secure future.



JOIN US IN CREATING A LASTING IMPACT!

At Svarnima 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!

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