



Strength in the nature, wisdom in the mind, love in the heart complete the trinity of glorious manhood.

-- Sri Aurobindo

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of Svarnim Puducherry's monthly newsletter. With the blessings of Sri Aurobindo and the mother, Svarnim tries to take on the roles of social and environmental responsibility in a way that reflects their vision of nature and social relations ought to be. In this endeavour, we would be very grateful to receive your feedback and reviews, as that would help us move forward together. Thank you for being with us!

WINGS OVER OUR WETLAND

Immersive Field Workshop on Odonates

On January 3, 2024, Svarnim Puducherry held an odonate workshop in Bahour Lake, near the Eramudi Ayyanar Temple in Aranganoor. **Dr. Pankaj Khoparde, an assistant professor at MIT-WPU, Pune**, coordinated the event, which educated participants on odonate biology and morphology, and identified various species. The workshop attracted thirty participants, including youngsters, biological educators, and Svarnim Team members. Dr. Khoparde emphasized the importance of public participation in citizen science initiatives.

Participants were divided into three groups and assigned specific tasks to complete an odonate survey at Bahour Lake. Twelve species of odonates were identified, including Common Picture Wing, Trumpet Tail, Senegal Golden Dart, Pygmy Dart, Pied Paddy Skimmer, Blue Ground Skimmer, Ruddy Marsh Skimmer, Three-Striped Blue Dart, Coromandel Marsh Dart, and Golden Dart. Dr. Pankaj shared with the participants an introduction to the iNaturalist data-collecting application. Every group shared their survey results, images, geolocation information, and species of dragonflies. The workshop suggested creating a regular survey schedule to monitor dragonfly populations and participate in WWF's national monitoring program. It also suggested incorporating other biodiversity elements like fish, birds, plants, and butterflies into the survey activities. The findings will aid conservation efforts and preserve Bahour Lake's biodiversity.



WORKSHOP ON BODY LANGUAGE



Unlock the Power of Body Language!

On January 19, 2024, Svarnim Puducherry held a one-day workshop on body language and communication methodologies at their premises. **Ms. Krishna Mukherji**, a soft skills trainer, globally certified US voice and accent coach, and coach for American culture awareness, led the course as a facilitator. Her professional experience spans over three decades, spanning roles in banking, financial counselling, education, coaching soft skills, US culture, and accent correction in India and the US.



Krishna Mukherji reviewed the ten dimensions of body language with participants, beginning with proxemics and concluding with kinesics. The workshop covered a wide range of aspects, including how to read facial expressions to determine which body language to adopt or avoid for personal development, how to be more approachable and empathetic, how to improve interpersonal skills, and how to relax using poses like power poses. Overall, thirty people gained from the workshop, facilitated by a charismatic person who engaged the participants in lively dialogue and interactive activities. To have a deeper comprehension of body language in various contexts, educational videos were also screened. As a result, the attendees deemed the workshop enjoyable and informative.



See <https://svarnim.aurosociety.org> for late updates of our activities.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THROUGH BASIC ELECTRONICS/DYNAMIC TOYS

In 15 government schools in the Puducherry district, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) of India has supported a robotics and dynamic toy project. The objective is to acquaint the children with the latest developments in robotics and electronics, opening their minds to creative ideas.

In all 15 government schools in the Puducherry region, the robotics team arranged a robotics exhibit at the school level in January 2024. The crew accomplished the completion of the exhibit in ten schools, and the remaining schools are set to follow in the following week.



ROBOTICS EXHIBITION

In January 2024, Under the auspices of Svarnim Puducherry, the robotics team orchestrated a scientific exhibition for various government school students in the puducherry region. A total of **one hundred and forty students** from ten different government schools joined the event to learn more about the advanced technological environment. Energy harvesting, firefighting, surveillance, smart traffic signals, radar, touchless washbasins, 3-way switches, milk vending machines, automated cloth protection on the terrace, and push buttons were displayed at the event. The school authorities, and the robotics educators from Svarnim Puducherry analyzed each student's innovative effort. Furthermore, ten school authorities expressed gratitude to the robotics team for allowing students to explore more about technology.



Under the umbrella of Sri Aurobindo Society, the Svarnim Puducherry team supported the School Health Action Research Project, which focused on the nutrition, physical fitness, and health of students in middle- to upper-level secondary government schools in the Puducherry region. With interesting activities, videos, and group discussions, it seeks to educate children and parents about nutritious food, exercise, and living habits. In addition, the program promotes the development of kitchen gardens in schools and neighborhoods.

ONE-DAY INTERVENTION CAMP-SHARP

The goal of the one- intervention camp was to educate students about sexual and reproductive health, personal hygiene habits, digital detox, and overall well-being through activity-based learning, and promoting a positive gender perspective. In January 2024, the Sharp Team conducted a one-day intervention session at Maraimalai Adigal GHSS, Embalam in the Puducherry region. A total of **245 government schools** benefited from the one-day intervention workshop.



KITCHEN GARDEN FOLLOW-UP

The kitchen garden follow-up was finished at four government schools in the Puducherry region, which include Kannagi GHS Villianur, GHS, Kalmandapam, and Maraimalai Adigal GHSS, Embalam, and GMS- Nallavadu.



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STEM – EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OF SCIENCE CONCEPTS

Education

The STEM Resources Center offers a field of experiential learning in science, technology, engineering, and, as well as in the arts and humanities, to middle, high, and higher secondary government schools in the Puducherry region. The science outreach program encourages children to learn more about science concepts by attracting their curiosity and using modern facilities and lab equipment. With an emphasis on the development of human values, social and environmental responsibilities, and leadership skills, the program provides opportunities for practical learning in academic disciplines. The goal is to make scientific education more interactive and hands-on for students to explore and discover science concepts.

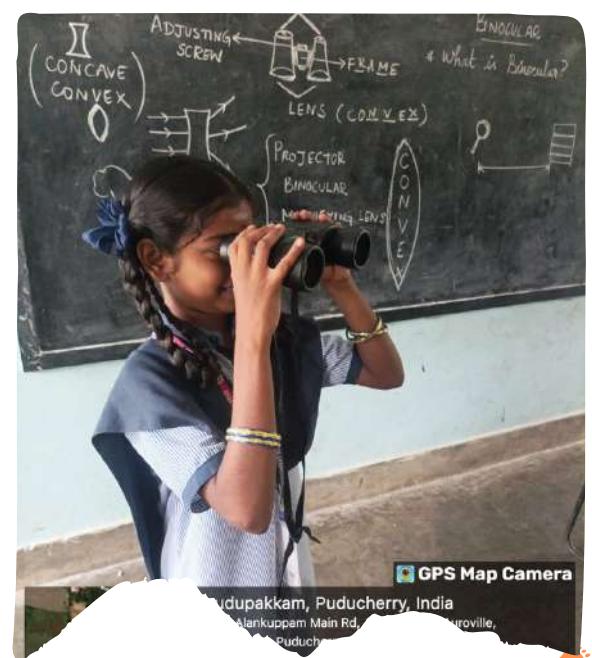
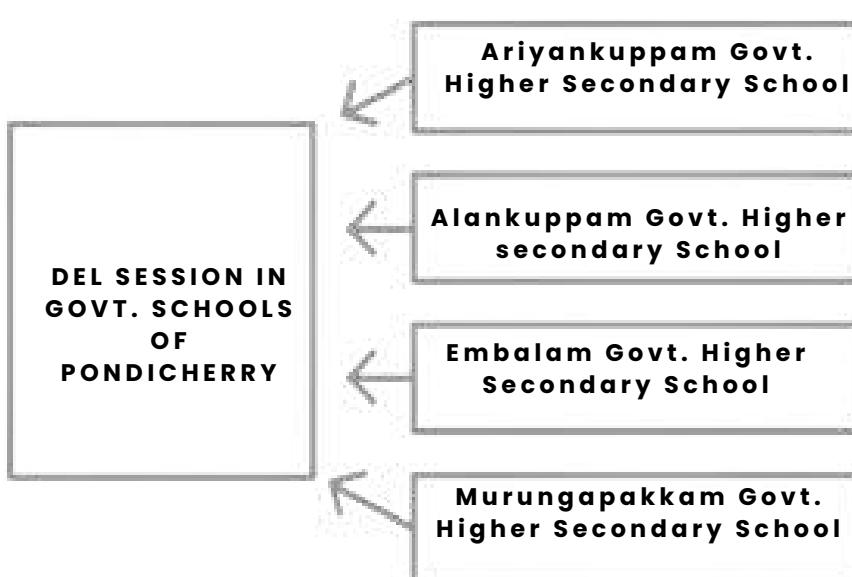


In January 2024, the STEM crew held scientific sessions for **329 students** at four government schools. According to the educational program, seven batches from 6th through 9th-grade students benefited from STEM-related learning that concentrated on the core disciplines of biology, chemistry, and physics.

DEL (DEVICE ENGINEERING LAB)

Education

The DEL initiative is a three-year training program for rural middle government school students in Puducherry, focusing on product mechanisms, 3D printing basics, advanced product handling, and 3D printing technology. The program aims to equip students with innovative thinking and technical knowledge for the students' future.



DEL sessions on bicycle bells, whistles, loudspeakers, and binoculars concluded in January 2024 at the government schools in Alankuppam and Ariyankuppam and commenced in GHSS Murungapakkam and GHSS Embalam.

**Do you want to hold a STEM session in your school?
Write to us with details of
your school :
svarnim@aurosociety.org
with Subject: STEM
Education.**



OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN (ORC)

Education

The ORC program is a special initiative that focuses on the mental health of students enrolled in public schools and uses an effective assessment method to find students who need assistance. As per the ORC, mental health encompasses an individual's ability to concentrate on different life skills such as making decisions, solving problems, thinking critically and creatively, communicating effectively, interacting with others, being self-aware, empathizing, and managing stress.

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING

In January 2024, the ORC team provided individual counselling to eleven government school students, resulting in benefits for 69 government school students, which included nine higher secondary students and sixty high school students. Furthermore, the group provided group counseling to ten higher secondary students, four of them were girls and six of them were boys. The entire number of **330 government school students** in the Puducherry region received assistance from individual counselling from the ORC team since March 2023.



See <https://svarnim.aurosociety.org> for latest
updates of our activities.



CAREER GUIDANCE

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In the January 2024, the orc team hosted the career guidance at GHS, Thengaithittu.

Overall, 11 high school students engaged which included 5 girls and 6 boys.

GENERAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

In January 2024, the ORC team undertook a general awareness workshop regarding mental health at East Coast Medical College, Moolakulam, in the Puducherry region. A total of **305 students** benefited, which included 203 girls and 102 boys.



BRIDGE EDUCATION

புத்தகங்களோடு புத்தாண்டு- *New book with New year*

The bridge education centers are situated in the nearby Cuddalore and the Bahour commune of Puducherry. The main objective of the endeavor is to address the learning gaps that occurred when children from disadvantaged communities were not enrolled in school during the COVID-19 pandemic. The team organizes a variety of events with the assistance of volunteers to provide children with engaging learning experiences and regular evaluations.



In January 2024, the Svarnima Puducherry Educational Centre conducted a Tamil reading session for **150 government students** and their parents to enhance their reading skills. The team provided a new Tamil book for reading practice and monitored students' reading skills through audio recordings, library books, and games. The session aimed to increase vocabulary, creative thinking, communication skills, and reading speed through interactive exercises and Tamil short stories.



PROJECT SPORTA

"TRANSFORMING GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS INTO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS"

As part of the school health project, children are encouraged to play sports and other activities through Project SPORTA, a collaborative endeavour. The Svarnim team brings in dedicated trainers from the participating government schools to identify talents among government schoolchildren. Every athletic activity requires a specific level of physical fitness. The team conducted training sessions for 10 Puducherry government schools in various sports, including football, cricket, handball, athletics, volleyball, kabaddi, badminton, and kho kho.



AURO VANAM

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Aurovanam is a programme that seeks to promote compassion for all living things and the natural components that sustain life on Earth. Through experiential learning, Aurovanam aims to establish a deeper connection between children and the environment, emphasizing its interconnectivity.

By January 2024, Aurovanam had developed 96 saplings for Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests (TDEF), and 60 herbal plants had been planted. The Aurovanam team had collected varieties of traditional seeds that were becoming endangered in the modern era. Intending to protect endangered species and traditional seeds, Aurovanam finished the kitchen garden and a sapling nursery.



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