



Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the performer, the Infinite All is the composer and audience.

--- Sri Aurobindo

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the seventeenth 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!



ROBOTICS SUMMER CAMP

From May 6 to May 31, the robotics team, led by Svarnim Puducherry, organized a robotics summer camp that drew in 85 students from both public and private institutions. The program's objectives were to impart knowledge to students about robots and programming, promote critical thinking, problem-solving, cooperation, and teamwork, and serve as an inspiration for future careers in STEM disciplines.



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The camp covered a variety of topics, including hands-on experiments and challenges, in addition to teaching fundamental concepts including robot qualities, microcontrollers, LED flashing, serial connections, and machine-learning approaches. Students also had the opportunity to create their bots and play around with movement controls. The program came to a close with enjoyable events, including the competitive robo-relay race, robo-sumo fight, robot-soccer, and robo-race temple run . All participants received certificates as a sign of their commitment and effective participation. The camp was a remarkable experience, and the campers are eager to continue fostering innovation and creativity in robotics.

RETREAT'24

In May 2024, the Svarnim Puducherry team organized a retreat to Kumily, Kerala. The key objectives of the retreat were to examine the ongoing projects and discuss the planning process for the future venture. It was quite interactive, which allowed for lively discussion and feedback.



VAIGARAI'24 - Village Festival

From May 30 to June 1, the Svarnim Puducherry team scheduled the **Vaigarai'24-village festival** in Kuruvinatham, Bahour Commune, under the auspices of the Sri Aurobindo Society. The event aims to assist livelihood endeavours and enhance the quality of life in rural communities by promoting enterprises, education, health, and the environment.



During the three days of the program, fifty students and twenty-five women were engaged in the sessions. The camp aimed to educate children and youth on physical and mental health, education, science, 3D printing, emotion management, digital detox, and environmental awareness. Women were trained to improve their livelihoods through water hyacinths and self-employment through handicrafts and palm leaf crafts. They also learned about palliative care, digital marketing, the current banking scheme, and menstrual hygiene. Mr. R. Senthil Kumar, the Bahour constituency's MLA, spoke at the ceremony about the three days of Vaigarai'24 and how handicrafts made from water hyacinth will help enterprises market products, and attendees received certificates for their effective participation during the three days of the village festival. Furthermore, the Bahour Commune resident of Kuruvinatham requested the Svarnim Puducherry team set up a further handicraft workshop for their **self-help groups (SHGs)** on water hyacinths. The three-day Vaigarai'24 festival showcased the potential of water hyacinth handicrafts.



BRIDGE EDUCATION

The bridge education centres are situated in the neighbouring Cuddalore and the Bahour commune of Puducherry. The primary objective of the initiative is to close the learning gaps for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who were not enrolled in school during the COVID-19 epidemic. The Svarnim Puducherry staff arranges a range of events with the assistance of volunteers to provide students with engaging learning experiences and regular evaluations.



In May 2024, under the direction of Svarnim Puducherry, fifty students from Bridge Education attended the sessions taught by internship students from Pondicherry University. The sessions emphasized the value of education and continuing education throughout life and enlightened students. They promoted a good learning atmosphere by offering practical strategies for academic success as well as a positive outlook on education and personal growth. Additionally, overall, 45 students engaged in the Vaigarai' 24-village festival.

AURO VANAM

The Aurovanam program aims to promote compassion for all living beings, including Earth's natural elements, and strengthen children's bond with the environment through experiential learning.

The Aurovanam organized a nature walk for the Eco Bloomer campers to learn more about environmental education with the help of Eco Bloom. Overall, **34 people** attended the nature walk, which included 22 students and 12 parents. Furthermore, a total of **65 children** from Vudhavi Karangal visited Aurovanam and explored the kitchen garden and traditional plants.



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