

Auroville Tomorrow

Cling to Truth

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Dedicated to the Auroville Festival Week

The Auroville Festival 2022: a new way of celebrating Auroville's birthday



Photo: Matrimandir at dawn, on February 21st

The sweetness of the lights. The lamps, hanging in the trees on the roadside. The beauty of the banners, lit by the sun or by the lamps. Something is happening in Auroville that has not happened before. Yes, Auroville has had festivities. Auroville has organised events. Auroville has seen many spectacular performances and had many renowned speakers. It's not new to Auroville to have a kolam workshop.

But this year, everything is new. It is different. The atmosphere has changed. The thrills of the newness, the freshness, the vibrations of the new dawn are more present than ever. Four years after the announcement of the new phase for Auroville, felt already at the celebrations for the half century milestone, the reality of the shift is now palpable. Visible. Liveable. It has become an experience in reality.



Photo: Divine Flowers exhibit at Savirti Bhavan



Photo: Tree plantation at Mahakali Park

For the first time, Auroville is celebrating the "Birthday Week" with a full-fledged Auroville Festival. From Mother's 144th birthday through Auroville's 54th birthday, the whole week is packed with events, several of which happen at the same time. There was so much going on that one had to choose where to go and what to miss, or what to watch later online. Almost all events were recorded, and could be enjoyed live and can still be enjoyed from home at the below link:

[Auroville Foundation YouTube Channel.](#)



Photo: Senior Aurovilian Meenakshi with tales of Irumbai

In this auspicious year of Sri Aurobindo's 150th anniversary, exactly when the Mother had predicted that so many in the world would be absorbed by Sri Aurobindo's teachings, Auroville is taking a huge leap forward, reconnecting with its Charter and its purpose: a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity. We can feel the fire of these words burning inside us with new meaning, and the organisers rightly chose this theme for the first Birthday Week Auroville Festival. Unity in our aspiration to build the Mother's Dream and Her City. Unity in our confidence that now is the new beginning. Unity in our motivation to join Auroville, the great adventure, where the victory is certain but the road unknown. Unity in our resolve to leave all personal comforts behind to gain the new tomorrow, to find our collective sadhana.



Photo: Collective peace chanting at Mahalakshmi Park

What makes it all the more special, is the short time span in which it all was organised. This is the first Birthday Week Auroville Festival, and the idea was hatched quite close to the week itself. Much nervousness went into the unpacking: was it possible to make this wonderful idea a reality in so little time?



Photo: Odisha art and craft exhibition, Kalakendra, Bharat Nivas

Yet the flame was taken up with such enthusiasm by a few Aurovilians, that it became an unstoppable wildfire that drew all persons and materials to itself in order to be manifested in no time, almost against all odds. These brilliant front-runners deserve our warmest gratitude, and all the persons who were affected by their contagious energy with them. Selflessly, a vast team of Aurovilians has come together to make this Festival a reality, the realisation of a small dream: a Celebration of Unity.



Photo: The Auroville Festival and Outreach Media team



Photo: Performance by Children of Auroville at the Inauguration Festival at Unity Pavilion

There are dance and martial arts performances, musical offerings, peace chantings, exhibitions, documentaries on Sri Aurobindo's and the Mother's lives and yoga, dinners from different cultures, free food stalls, webinars on the topics of Auroville and its foundation and founders, meditations, children's activities: so many Aurovilians are coming together to offer their talents and skills for the enjoyment and enrichment of all. Each one of them is giving himself or herself freely and it is with great humility that we thank them for their gracious service.



Photo: Dr. Jayanti Ravi at the event inviting Edayanchavadi people

For the first time, our Tamil hosts are given a prominent place in our midst. Every day, a meeting is held with the "first Aurovilians", as the Mother named them respectfully. Our brothers and sisters of the villages among which Auroville was planned, join us to share our stories, our dreams, our hopes of a closer collaboration, and to be part of our aspiration to make this new phase of Auroville's development a harmonious endeavour, uniting us all.

Their wishes, their experience, their wisdom and brotherhood are fuel to our fire. They bring us the promise that in true unity and collaboration, Auroville will be able to realise a material expression of the embrace of cultures. A place in which a deep understanding of each other's qualities will create the City The Earth Needs.

These meetings are filled with appreciation, and show the deep need and wish for a much closer collaboration. We live on the same land, share the same resources, and have the same aspirations: let us create this Dream of the Divine together.

The time is ripe. The air is filled with anticipation. The lamps are promising magic. Now has finally arrived the big moment in which Auroville will boldly spring towards its material realisation. What could be a more appropriate occasion for a splendid celebration?



Photo: Savitri Bhavan

Happy Birthday Auroville!

In gratitude and joy we bow to Thee, our Divine Mother and Master. Let us be Thy willing servitors, worthy of Thy blessings. Worthy of the grace to live in Thy City.

International Webinar, broadcast worldwide His Excellency R.N.Ravi's address

The Auroville Foundation, together with La Grace Center, USA, conducted a series of webinars on various topics around Auroville during the festival week.

Several Governing Board members and International Advisory Council members participated, together with many eminent people from India & around the world with a connection to spirituality, Mother and Sri Aurobindo.

[On the 25th of February, His Excellency Shri R.N.Ravi himself participated with a recording on the topic "Practical Manifestation of the City and the role of the Government of India and UNESCO"](#)

Remarkably, he explained to his audience the raison d'être of Auroville, the vision of its Founders, and delved into the spiritual goal of the Integral Yoga.

His speech revealed a remarkable understanding of the philosophy behind Auroville, the role of the Government of India, and a dedication to playing his role to the fullest.



Photo: His Excellency Governor R.N.Ravi

He began by acknowledging the Auroville Festival 2022:

"I would like to thank and congratulate everyone associated with this festival, especially the Secretary of Auroville Foundation, Tirumati Jayanti Ravi, who has been driving this very, very passionately."

He went on to describe the mission of Auroville: "Friends, this City of Auroville - you may call it a village of Auroville - is essentially a Dream of the Mother, is to practically realize the vision of Sri Aurobindo, the vision of creating a set of people who are committed to the service of the Divine Consciousness."

He elaborates on the term *Divine Consciousness* thus: "Is the Divine Consciousness going to temples, mosques, churches, synagogues and going through the rituals of religion? No. It is a spiritual exercise."

Explaining extensively the vision of Sri Aurobindo and the process which has led humanity thus far, he makes the following observations on Human Unity: "Rishi Arvind thought that the next destiny of human beings is to reach that level of superconsciousness (...) In the Vedic period, *Mahamānavs* were those Rishis, those sages who reached that stage. Because when you reach that stage, you see the Unity of the entire creation. (...) Then, the differences, the anarchy of ideas and ideologies dissolves. It's like a light, falling on darkness."

On the role of the Aurovilians and that of the Government of India in the furthering of Auroville, he clarified: "Unfortunately we have seen a large number of groups, factions [in Auroville]... now these are all at a very subordinate level. It is not the level which Sri Aurobindo had imagined or envisioned. We are still trapped at a very very subordinate level. It has to evolve. But this evolution cannot be done by the government. What the Government of India can do, has to do, and will do: the physical aspect of it. Because Mother had given a design of what the township should be like. To see that that design - what we call town planning - is to manifest, is to be created. That is, a physical infrastructure of a township, where the potential *Mahamānavs* will be sitting, dwelling on that issue of going up to that higher level of consciousness and setting an example for the rest of the world."

In fond memory: words from Sanjeev Agarwal



Photo: Sanjeev Agarwal from Auroville Archives

On popular demand from many Aurovilians, we will publish recent blogs of Sanjeev in this and subsequent editions. Sanjeev recently left his physical body on the 23rd of February. His blogs were on Auroville and its recent developments. His clarity and alacrity were remarkable, and he will be missed!

Sanjeev wrote, on the 7th of February 2022:

"I share with you a few random thoughts that float in and out of my mind during the last days.

1. While ruminating, about how we would go about building a township which entailed so many difficult tasks like acquiring lands, raising large amount of funds, hiring all the necessary professionals, and so many other works that need to be done – it seemed obvious to me that this can only be done with the active help of the government.

It also seems clear that the Mother has now decided to make the building of the township a priority and has therefore brought in the necessary government officials. I see a clear shift from one phase of Auroville to another. Like there was a shift from the management by the Sri Aurobindo society to management by Aurovilians themselves, now there is a 2nd shift towards focus on the building of the township with Govt. involvement. Because there is no other way that it can be done.

2. It has become clear that a few people wanted to block the implementation of the master plan of Auroville. This was done by placing the Youth Center kitchen in the way of the Crown road. It is known who these people are. Some of them have even confessed to doing so, Included in this group are the politicians who have forced the youth to retract many times from agreeing to move the Youth Center. The question that comes to my mind is whether it is all right for such people to continue to live in Auroville without so much as even an apology – at least an apology to the Mother. Not only do they continue to live in Auroville but also continue to propagate their own vision of what Auroville should be which is quite distinct from the indications given by the Mother for her project. I'm sure the Mother will do what is necessary to remedy this situation.

3. The 3rd thought that keeps running through my mind is what to do with the people who are not at all aligned with the vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. To understand this vision is not easy--I am well aware of that. Probably we need to at least ensure that the basic guidelines given by Her are followed."

Words of the Mother on India and the City of the Future

"India has become the symbolic representation of all the difficulties of modern mankind. "India will be the land of its resurrection—the resurrection to a higher and truer life."

And the clear vision: the same thing which in the history of the universe made the earth the symbolic representation of the universe so as to concentrate the work on one point, the same phenomenon is now taking place: India is the representation of all human difficulties on earth, and it is in India that the... cure will be found. And then, that is why — THAT IS WHY I was made to start Auroville.

-The Mother's Agenda, February 3rd, 1968

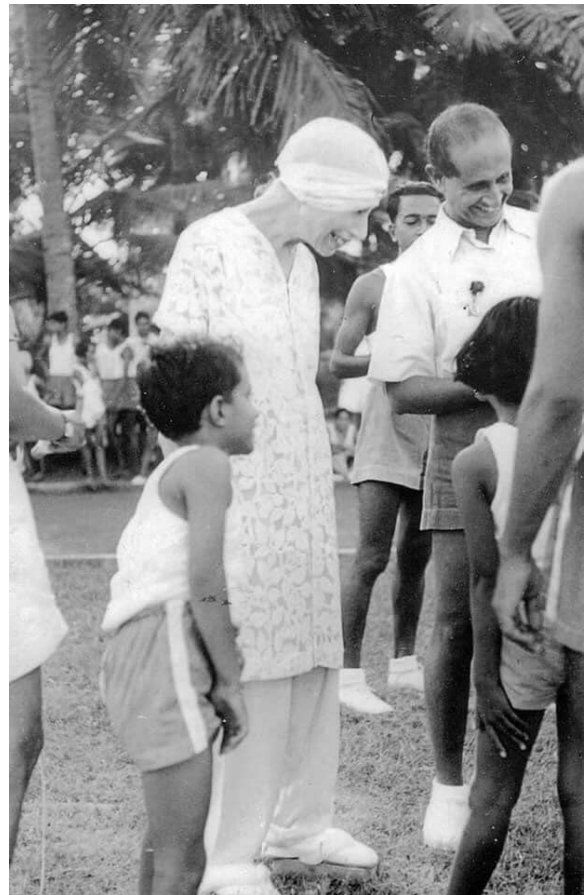
"It's sure to work, I KNOW it exists — the city [Auroville] is already there (it has been for many, many years). Interestingly, my creation was with Sri Aurobindo in the center, then when Sri Aurobindo left, I let it all rest, I didn't budge anymore. Then it suddenly started coming again, as if to say, "Now is the time, it must be done." Very well. The Muslims would say, "It's fated." It's fated, it's sure to exist. I don't know how much time it will take, but it seems to be going fast.

The city already exists.

-The Mother's Agenda, April 23rd, 1966

Since long it was the habit to govern through division and opposition. The time has come to govern through union, mutual understanding and collaboration.

-Mother, 6.10.1969, Gazette Aurovillienne



All credits for pictures of the Auroville festival in this edition goes to Aurovenkatesh, our talented Aurovillian photographer.

