

A PUBLICATION BY AUROVILLE MEDIA INTERFACE  
 UNIT OF AUROVILLE FOUNDATION



### **Mother Agenda, June 23, 1965**

[speaking to Satprem - excerpt:]

Have you heard of Auroville?...

For a long time, I had had a plan of the "ideal city," but that was during Sri Aurobindo's lifetime, with Sri Aurobindo living at its centre. Afterwards ... I was no longer interested. Then, we took up the idea of Auroville again (I was the one who called it "Auroville")  
 (...)

Then, towards Madras, where there is plenty of space, a stadium. And a stadium that we want to be the most modern and the most perfect possible, with the idea (an idea I've had for a long time) that twelve years (the Olympic games take place every four years), twelve years after 1968 (in 1968, the Olympiad will be held in Mexico), twelve years after, we would have the Olympic games in India, here. So we need space.

### **HOW LONG TO BUILD THE CITY IN MOTHER'S WORDS...**

**24 February 1967**

Notes written after a conversation  
 Shyam Sunders' file, Archives

[Notes written by Shri Aravind Shankar Baan, ICS, after meeting with Mother:]

8. Mother said that there would be an airport in Auroville which will be near the sea, so that sea planes can land there as well. She said that it will be possible for the biggest planes in the world to land there. The airport will be in a marshy spot which will have to be deepened for the sea planes to land. It will be possible to deepen this marsh sufficiently to make it a harbour.

9. Mother said that Auroville will be complete in 12 years if there is no help from outside. However if all the countries of the world help, Auroville should be ready in 4-5 years.

10. Mother said that Auroville is a city of transition. It is not the perfect city. Auroville will be the seed of peace in the world.

11. Mother said that the Olympic Games in 2000A.D. will be held in Auroville.

12. Mother said that Auroville will be a very beautiful city.



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## HOW LONG TO BUILD THE CITY IN MOTHER'S WORDS...

**7 September 1965**

Report in French submitted to the Mother by Roger Anger

(...)

Residential Section

On completion of each of the construction phases, one can consider that:

- a) in 5 years, the city will house 10,000 inhabitants, that is 4 inhabitants per 100sqm home, that is 4,000 homes;
- b) in 15 years, 20,000 inhabitants, that is 8,000 homes
- c) in 20 years, 50,000 inhabitants, that is 20,000 homes
- d) in 30 years, 100,000 inhabitants, that is 40,000 homes

If one considers that for collective housing, that is Ground + 3 storeys, 100 apartments per hectare, which is a very reasonable figure, we will require:

- a) for the 4,000 apartments, 40 hectares;
- b) for the 20,000 apartment, 200 hectares; and
- c) for the 40,000 apartment, 400 hectares.

If for individual housings, 50 houses per hectare is the norm, we will require double the surface of land. For 4,000 houses, 80 hectares, etc. It appears that in this case, the area of land required is considerable, and the best solution in any case, consists in finding a wide range of types of accommodations, that is to envisage a mixture of individual, and small apartment blocks as well as buildings interconnected in series with patios, terraces, etc. Only such a mixture will allow a play of volumes that will not be monotonous.

[Mother marked this entire paragraph and wrote in the margin:]

**Very good**

## 2ND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW L'AVENIR D'AUROVILLE TEAM

### STRUCTURE, POLICIES, PERMISSIONS AND MODALITIES OF FUNCTIONING



Currently, L'avenir d'Auroville / Auroville Town Development Council is being set up to reflect an institutional structure.

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### 1. ATDC institutional structure

The ATDCouncil, appointed by the Governing Board vide an Office Order based on the gazetted Standing Order 01/2022, is a direction-setting and policy-defining body that executes the various tasks. For further details of the powers and functions of the ATDC, see the Standing Order 2022 and the gazetted Master Plan.

The ATDC delegates its executorial powers and work through its 3 technical departments:

- Planning
- Implementation & Monitoring
- Administration

In the future we expect to establish other departments as and when needed and when feasible.

The technical team members will be Auroville residents or others and will be hired by a Human Resource Recruitment Committee set up by the Council, and will function on contract-basis, to be extended after the prescribed period.

The Council is tasked with setting the direction and defining the policies to ensure that the City of Auroville is developing as per the Master Plan and the projects executed are aligned with the vision and worthy of the ideals of Auroville.

### 2. Stewardships

In the spirit of moving away from the notion of de-facto ownership in Auroville, a trend that has developed over the past 20 years or more, the ATDC is looking at the concept of stewardship together with the FAMC, defining the way to transition towards a better form of management, that allows development to flow for the city as a whole. The idea behind the creation of "stewardships" was to have a system of managing the lands and assets of Auroville; in its original form it never included the notion of "stakeholders", "decision making" or "ownership".

L'Avenir d'Auroville's work is to develop the city as per the Master Plan on the lands vested in the Auroville Foundation, and the role of stewards/managers of land or assets is to care for the land or asset, and to collaborate and facilitate development as per the Master Plan.

### 3. Implementation of works

A major part of the city infrastructure development has been outsourced to CPWD, who will conduct open-tender processes as per the GoI-prescribed norms. Auroville contractors and services may also participate in these tenders.

### 4. Violations and "red" assets

Going forward, project holders who have been found to violate the permitted footprint of the building and/or deviate from approved drawings, will be dealt with on a case by case basis. It must be kept in mind that in Auroville, we are guardians of the project of the future - hence violations become even more of an irresponsible act here than elsewhere in the world.

Red assets fall in one of 4 categories:

- Assets that have been permitted to be built and placed by past teams, in direct contradiction of the Master Plan by providing an "NOC"
- Assets that have been permitted to be built and placed by past teams, in direct contradiction with the Master Plan by providing a "temporary NOC"
- Assets that have been built in violation of a rejected or refused application, or with an NOC issued in a different location and/or with a different footprint or in violation of the prescribed density or other guidelines
- Assets that have been built with no application or request for approval from L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC or its predecessors, in total disregard of Auroville's town planning, community processes and goodwill

We are going through these cases one by one and try to find the best solution for each situation, giving priority to Rights of Way, Lines of Force and other important Master Plan elements included in the first phase of development.



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## 5. Permissions for projects

### a. Past, Present & Future projects

Some projects have been permitted by previous planning teams in complete violation of the land-use regulations as prescribed in the Master Plan, which was approved in 1999.

Today we are faced with sprawling low density residential communities that have eaten into proposed high density areas; we have a Green Belt with more commercial buildings and residential settlements than farms on the lands vested in the Auroville Foundation; we have an Industrial Zone where guest houses take up the bulk of the zone spanning acres of land each, necessitating future industrial development to squeeze into a higher Floor Space Index for the remaining parcels. These are only a few examples that will need to be looked into. Whereas at one point, some ad-hoc development may even have been needed or justified for land protection, today, when we own 85% of the land in the city, we cannot afford to continue in this vein. While detailed development plans are getting ready, strategies for older and out-of-place settlements will be drawn up, case by case. The residents who are users of these assets will be asked to collaborate with the implementation of the Master Plan as per the designed strategy.

Going forward, L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC may revoke permissions for buildings which have been permitted in the wrong location or not in compliance with the Master Plan, and may propose alternative appropriate locations for those projects.

### b. Fencing

Fences separating communities from each other have no meaning in the Auroville City context, and will be removed. Where there is a need for an outer perimeter fence to protect areas, this will be looked into on a case by case. L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC will start the removal of internal fences in the immediate future.

### c. Neighbour feedback culture

So far, while giving permissions, it has been a practice to ask the project team to include approval from the neighbours. This has no resonance with the ideals of Auroville where we are supposed to be headed towards a life guided by no desire, no preferences and no sense of ownership. We will ignore and eventually remove this field from the application forms.

Similarly, when we publish projects for approval, we will discard all personal feedback with respect to "neighbours choosing neighbours" or "neighbours choosing development guidelines". All other feedback is welcome and will be part of the process.

### d. No-Objection Certificates

NOCs will no longer be issued to individuals or units. Approval Certificates will be filed and issued to the Auroville Foundation, mentioning the name of the project applicant/ holder/ team/unit.

### e. Communication

We will publish quarterly reports, and intermediate and special announcements will be made as and when the need arises. We also intend to hold regular special project webinars, where key projects can be presented and the floor opened for discussion. Our website is also being updated, this will become a publicly available source for all information regarding the ongoing and planned projects and the progress of the development of Auroville's City.

### f. Participation modalities

We invite and will be delighted to have the participation of the Auroville fraternity, within and without, from near and far. For Auroville's physical manifestation, all hands are needed. We are at a unique moment in time where we are looking at alignment with our ideals in all realms of life as envisioned by the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. We will come back regularly with announcements calling for resources in specific areas of work, not only within Auroville but to aspirants all over the world.

This announcement is meant to convey our broad lines of functioning. More detailed policies, frameworks and modalities of workflow for the various sub-departments will follow. With gratitude to Mother for the gift of Auroville and with the aspiration to be Her willing servitors through this work,

Dr. G. Seetharaman, Govind Ranjan, Hemant Sekhar, Jaya Berggreen-Clausen, M. Ponnusamy, Jothi Prasad Rajan, Sindhuja Jagadeesh, Toby Neuman L'Avenir d'Auroville / Auroville Town Development Council members.



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### HON'BLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT VISITS AUROVILLE

Shri. Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change visits Auroville. He meditated in Matrimandir accompanied by Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, after which he planted a tree in the gardens of Town Hall.

[Watch the video on Facebook](#)



### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT VISIT AUROVILLE

Members of Parliament: the Hon'ble Shri. P.P. Chaudhary, Chairman of the External Affairs Committee, the Hon'ble Dr. Harsh Vardhan MP, the Hon'ble Shri. E.T. Mohammed Basheer MP, the Hon'ble Shri. Brijlal MP. and other officials visit Auroville.

[Watch the video on Facebook](#)

## FESTIVAL RECAP



### DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE- FROM ILIAD TO ILION

For the occasion of Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, Claude De Warren's 'From Iliad to Ilion' was premiered at Cinema Paradiso on August 6th.

The documentary took the viewers through the journey of a seeker who tries to understand the hidden symbolisms behind Homer's Iliad and how these symbols have parallels with Sri Aurobindo's second longest poem- Ilion. While Savitri remains Sri Aurobindo's most popular poem, Ilion, a 5000-line poem is lesser known and researched.

The documentary was able to revive the interest not only in Greek Mythology and its spiritual significance, but also the parallels between eastern and western course of ideas.

[Watch from The ILIAD to ILION](#)



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**ART FOR LAND- A MEDITATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**ART FOR LAND** is an exhibition with an intention of being a land fundraiser to secure land for Auroville. The exhibit lasts from August 7th-September 4th at Unity Pavilion.

Artworks have been donated by people from Auroville, Ashram and others around India and the world. AFL was inaugurated by Auroville Foundation Secretary, Dr. Jayanti Ravi. Apart from the artwork exhibit, concerts, dance performances, films, talks and meditations are ongoing events to add flavor to the 150th birth anniversary celebration of Sri Aurobindo.

As you approached the main building of Unity Pavilion to view the exhibit, the space welcomed you with meditative music in the background. Further on, there were paintings by different artists lined up waiting to grab your attention.

[artforland.in](http://artforland.in)

**TALK BY SRI M:  
SRI AUROBINDO AND THE YOGIC CONNECTION  
14 AUGUST 2022 IN SAVITRI BHAVAN**

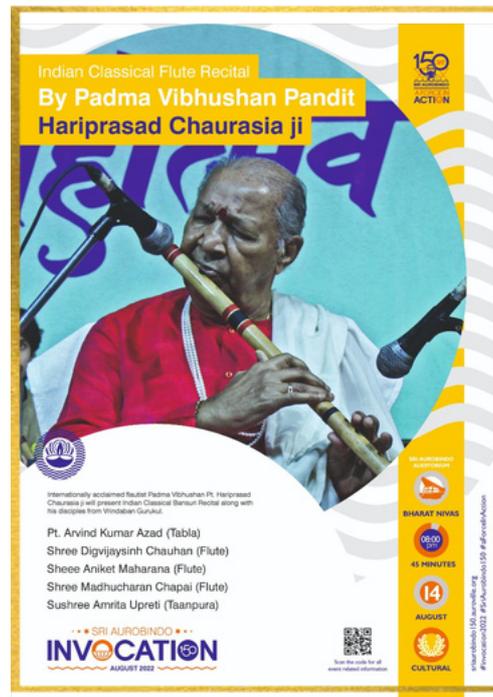
[Watch the talk of Sri M](#)



**HARIPRASAD CHAURASIA JI IN AUROVILLE**

Indian Classical Flute Recital By Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia ji in Bharat Nivas on 14th August 2022, enjoy the full concert

[Watch the concert of Hariprasad Chaurasia](#)



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### BEHIND THE SCENES WITH MANOJ PAVITRAN

Auroville Tomorrow had the chance to chat-up with Manoj Pavitrán, the researcher, director and script writer of the documentary- 'Spiritual History of India in the Light of Sri Aurobindo', which was part 4 of the Evolution Fast-forward series. The documentary premiered on the auspicious day of August 15th at Cinema Paradiso.

Manoj was in contact with Sri Aurobindo's teachings since 1989, however, it was only in 2009 that he realized that there was a need to portray Sri Aurobindo's teachings in an audio-visual medium. He personally benefited from the teachings of the Master and the need to find a simpler, yet refined medium to convey this piece of invaluable spiritual literature and philosophy came from there. That was when he made the first part of the Evolution Fast-forward series- 'Vision and Work of Sri Aurobindo & The Mother'. Next in line were two short films- 'Secret Knowledge: The Square' and 'Secret Knowledge: The Play of Duality'. Both of these were not part of the series but simply artistic explorations. Post this, there was an increasing enquiry about Integral Yoga Psychology and Manoj himself started entering the arena of teaching.

That's when the second and third part of the series- 'Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo' and 'Parts of the Being and Planes of Consciousness' came about in 2015. Manoj worked towards the physical manifestation of Swadharma which is now Purnam Practise lab.

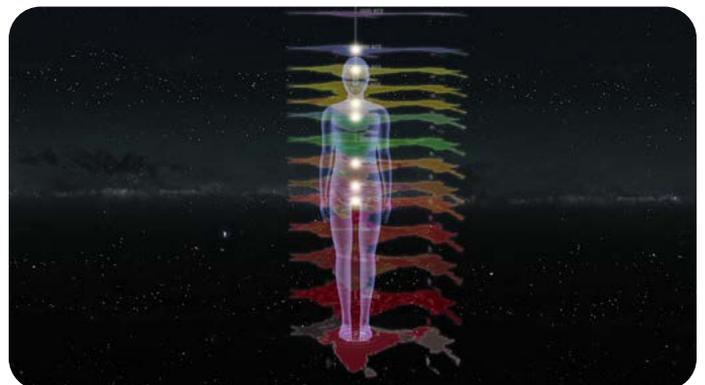
<https://purnamlabs.auroville.org/>

While Manoj continued his research in diverse fields relating to Sri Aurobindo's teachings, he stumbled upon a letter where Sri Aurobindo had briefly explained the spiritual history of India. This was his inspiration for the next part of the series. The entire team of sadhaks got to work in the spirit of devotion.

About the documentary- Manoj stated that he has seen a significant gap in the way history of India is portrayed today. We have gone to the depths of material history, for example, the stone age, bronze age, golden age etc. We have also tackled the political, rather, the mental realm of Indian history. The subtler parts of the developments of civilizations have not been documented, and nor did we have a tool to begin to talk about the spiritual history of India.

Through this documentary, which was made for the sole purpose of it being a material that can be used for further research was developed with the aim of filling this gap in literature. The documentary offers a new paradigm to view Indian history, a paradigm of spirituality, and not just any spiritual philosophy, but the Integral Yoga Psychology of Sri Aurobindo.

On asking Manoj if he has any advice for his viewers, he appeals to all the sadhaks out there to avoid watching the entire documentary at once. Watching it slowly, in bits and pieces will foster deeper understanding. On asking him if there was an intentional thread connecting the four-part series of Evolution Fast-forward, he says that there wasn't an inherently planned intentional thread, however, one can definitely identify a thread internally.



[Watch Spiritual History of India In the Light of Sri Aurobindo](#)



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## A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE- PROJECTS OF THE ATDC

Auroville is currently going through a new impulse of development in all spheres. On July 14th, 'Auroville Tomorrow webinar' conducted a 1.5-hour long webinar to discuss the new and upcoming projects of the Auroville Town Development Committee (ATDC) to acknowledge the physical manifestation of the city. The following Panelists- Prof. Dr. Anupama Kundoo, Sindhuja, Toby, Jaya and Govind brought in different flavors to the discussion.

### ATDC projects- An overview

The webinar dived into the next 3-5 years of the infrastructural plans. The vast scope of plans includes inviting and housing 12,000 new people into Auroville by the year 2025. 'With the coming of the new Governing Board, this target seems very achievable, but at the same time the ATDC needs to step up its game so that Auroville moves in a direction that we want it to move' says Sindhuja who is part of the new ATDC. Several upcoming projects that are in the pipeline- Svaram production unit, The Sprout, Handy markets and cafes, Morning star women's Health Center, Siddha Wellness Sanctuary, Kalpana Sports Complex, Calisthenics park, New Town Hall, Pour Tous Distribution Center extension, City Center Grocery, Matrimandir residential quarters, Gaia community housing, Line of Progress (smallest Line of Force), Line of Goodwill (largest Line of Force), City Center Habitat, CIRHU, Auroville Institute for Applied Technology, Institute for Dr. Kireet Joshi, Svaram research campus, Mother's Flower Garden and the Matrimandir Lake. Project cells will be set up to overlook smooth functioning of all upcoming projects.

As mentioned above, Auroville will be ready to welcome a population of 12,000 and housing plans for the same are being initiated. To tackle the current housing crisis, a 1000 bed permanent residence will be constructed and in addition to that, to support the incoming volunteers, another 1000 bed temporary residency will be constructed.

Another crucial aim of the ATDC is to retain the precious green belt of Auroville. A major chunk of the green belt has been lost to residential communities and private settlements. The situation has arisen due to mismanagement and false permissions given by previous ATDCs. By collaborating with FAMC, ATDC aims to consolidate larger portions of farm land thereby making Auroville self-sustained. De-fencing, or rather eliminating negative spaces between communities remains another pressing agenda of the ATDC.



### Why the Crown Road?

Before diving into the why's of the much talked about Crown Road, let's take a look at the 4 zones as explained by Anupama Kundoo, the head of Urban Design at the ATDC. The 4 zones or independent transport networks, namely the red, yellow, green and blue will all be tied to the Crown thereby making intra-city network more cohesive and interactive.

**Red Zone-** This zone will include all public transport and motorized vehicles. It will also consist of a network of toy trains for kindergarten school children.

**Yellow Zone-** This zone will be completely pedestrian centric, free of any kind of transportation. It will have the characteristics of a bustling street with restaurants, shops, kiosks etc. which will allow for social intimacy. It will resemble the streets of Bologna, Lisbon or even Fatehpur Sikri in India, which are all pedestrian centric designs.

**Green Zone-** This network will enable bicycle or even skateboard commute.

**Blue Zone-** This network will be a rather meditational route that will end near the Matrimandir lake.

The full realization of the Crown Road will enable us to connect with the true spirit of a community, futuristic city and architectural marvel. By allowing motorized vehicles only in the red zone, we will successfully be able to be sensitive towards the environment. On the other hand, the interconnected pathways of the green zone will encourage environmentally friendly transportation. The yellow zone will allow for chance encounters and promote a sense of closeness within the Auroville community, while the blue zone will retain the spiritual essence of reminiscing the Divine.



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### Why a high-rise?

High-rise buildings are usually looked down upon, but during the webinar, Jaya, another member of the ATDC put forth convincing points in favor of the Line of Goodwill (LOG). According to Jaya, the idea behind the LOG is not simply to have a high-rise buildings for the sake of giving Auroville a feel of the city. Its purpose is to promote the idea of density thereby allowing nature to take its own space. Humans being adaptable species can adapt to smaller spaces. The LOG will allow us to experience all kinds of spaces in accordance with our human requirements. Everyone will have access to private spaces, semi-private spaces and collective spaces. 'Villages within a high-rise' says Jaya.

This webinar can crystalize the fact that the implementation of the master plan will make life in Auroville more accessible, comfortable, exploratory and utilitarian. This will not only help existing Aurovillians to have refined systems, but it will also allow new energy to enter Auroville thereby allowing the Divine vision to manifest in varied forms.

[Watch Future of Town Development and upcoming projects](#)

### 'LA PETITE EPICERIE'- CITY CENTER PTDC

The new impulse of the physical manifestation of the city is taking forms in different ways, some are on a large scale while some are on a rather small but impactful scale. On August 22, Auroville Tomorrow had the chance to interview Louis Cohen who has spearheaded projects around the City Center namely Citadines, Sunship and MDJ (Maison Des Jeunes) and now his latest project- La Petite Epicerie which literally translates to 'small grocery' in English.



La Petite Epicerie is a project that resembles PTDC (Pours Tous Distribution Center) inside the City Center connected to Sunship. The City Center that consists of about 150 residents from Citadines, Mitra, Inspiration, Sunship and MDJ will be able to simply walk to a PTDC for all their daily chores. La Petite Epicerie will enable decentralization of such common spaces in the City Center thereby allowing this zone to retain its community spirit. The space will give priority to the people working in the administrative zone in case it has extra capacity for the purpose of avoiding traffic in this area. The structure will consist of a ground floor where one can find everything that one finds at PTDC. This space will also allow parking only for cycles and all kinds of electric vehicles. The first floor is still an unplanned area which might be used to enlarge the needs of the residents in different shapes and forms. There will be several such triangular structures throughout the City Center habitat zone in the future.

Through this project Louis wishes to complete the City Center habitat in its most sustainable form. A space that includes rain water harvesting, waste water treatment, solar panels, community laundry service, community cafeteria and an art center all while having non-polluting transport within the space. Louis is also part of other remarkable projects like CIRHU and Line of Goodwill. Through his work, he wishes to realize the city as part of a true experiment in human unity.



During the Integral Yoga week, Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, gives a very inspiring and powerful talk on the subject, "The Future and You". She draws inspiration and quotes from Mother and Sri Aurobindo's writings: "The Mother", "The Sunlit Path" and moves the audience with her singing.

[Watch "The Future and You"](#)



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**UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN UNITY  
 -VIDEO BY MURIEL**

Here is an illustrated presentation by Muriel which deals with the concept of Human Unity according to the teaching of Sri Aurobindo & The Mother.

"It is only by the growth and establishment of the consciousness of human unity, that a true and lasting peace can be achieved upon earth. All means leading towards this goal are welcome, although the external ones have a very limited effect; however, the most important, urgent and indispensable of all, is a transformation of the human consciousness itself, an enlightenment of and conversion in its working."  
 - The Mother, 24 April 1955

"All human beings are of the same divine origin and meant to manifest upon earth the unity of this origin." - The Mother, 4 August 1949

[Watch Understanding the concept of human unity](#)

The city will be built by what is invisible to you. The men who have to act as instruments will do so despite themselves. They are only puppets in the hands of larger Forces. Nothing depends on human beings – neither the planning nor the execution – nothing! That is why one can laugh.

+Sep. 1969 - The Mother

**RHYTHMS OF THE HUMAN CYCLE APPLIED TO AUROVILLE**

**BY JOSEBA MARTINEZ (30 MAY 2006)**

The purpose of this work is to apply to Auroville the psychological methodology that Sri Aurobindo has described in his social philosophy for the investigation on the evolution of humankind, especially in his work titled "The Human Cycle." This system of analysis is a good intellectual tool to discover and try to understand what are the inner or psychological cycles that Nature follows in its process of development of human societies, what man has been in his physical and vital evolution, what can be his mental and spiritual future destiny, what is his place and what is the meaning and purpose of the entire process. Although this analysis can be applied universally to any given society, the process of the evolution of each one of the cycles, the time of manifestation and flourishing, the process of assimilation of each one of them, will differ necessarily from one society to another. This aspect, the particularity of the process followed by every different society, can be of special relevance when we take into consideration the exceptional characteristics of the society of Auroville.

The first of these characteristics is that here most of the people are volunteers that have joined consciously in order to participate in an experiment where explicit aims and objectives are meant to accelerate the ordinary process of evolution, through a concentrated effort made at individual and collective levels in a new process of psychological transformation that Sri Aurobindo called Integral Yoga. The ultimate goal is the achievement of a new kind of society, a society spiritually transformed or a Gnostic Society.

Therefore, it can be expected that in this context these cycles will evolve and be expressed in a different manner and with a different swiftness than in any other society.

The Symbolic: This is a foundational period, predominantly religious and spiritual. A strong intuitive mind is applied to institutions, customs, ideas and other forms of culture. The other elements, psychological, ethical, economic, are there but subordinated to the spiritual and religious idea.

[To read the full article](#)



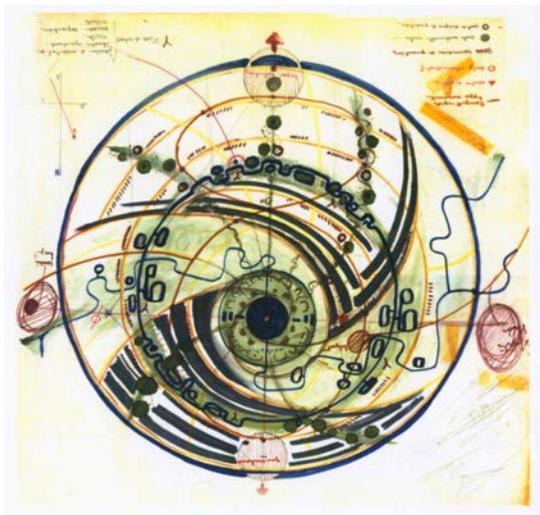
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### IMBIBING THE GALAXY

Auroville was envisioned by the Mother based on the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo. She was able to translate and transmute this piece of divine vision to the chief architect- Roger Anger. It was devotion on the part of Roger, to precisely bring this to life. Jaya, a member of the ATDC (Auroville Town Development Council) shares her intimate interpretations of the Galaxy Plan with Auroville Tomorrow. She has spent years trying to assign profound meaning to the architectural marvel that we see today.



There were quite many stages before Roger and the Mother narrowed down on the Galaxy plan. Jaya took us through the visual archive at Unity Pavilion, to give us a clearer perspective. Roger proposed two drafts- A square-shaped plan, and a circular-shaped plan. At the sight of these two options, the Mother immediately discarded the square plan. Upon multiple trials and sketch drafts, there emerged a sort of structure that had a steady center and an ever-evolving periphery. Much like the mandala that signifies the eternal Self. The Mother was certain that she wanted to inculcate and infuse all the qualities within the central space of the city (Matrimandir). She also hoped that these qualities would radiate outward into the City of Dawn.

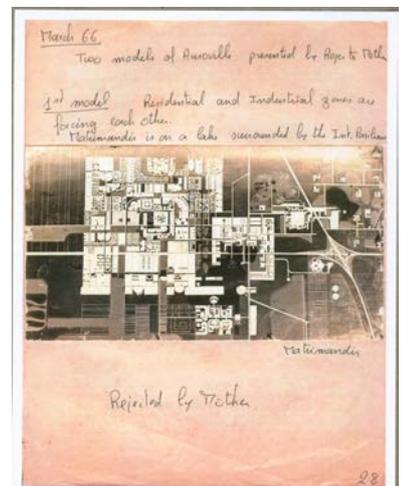
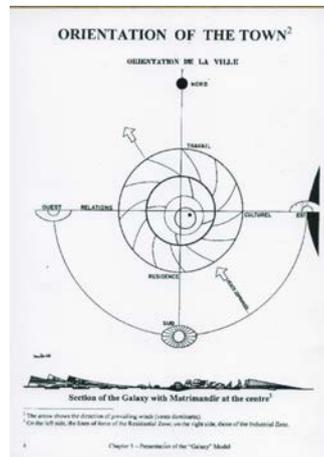


### [Watch The otherworldliness of the Galaxy Plan, Jaya](#)

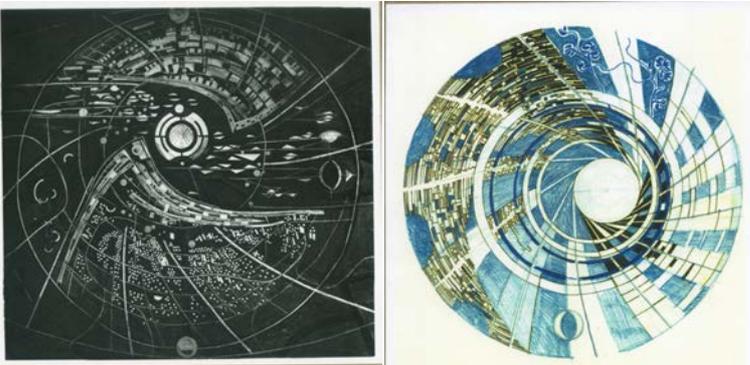
Jaya continues to collaborate her inner and outer research to understand the spiritual pathways and hidden meanings behind the arrangement of the pillars inside the inner chamber, the corresponding gardens and how they in turn reflect and connect to the zones within the city.



When we see the Galaxy plan today, we can still notice how it symbolizes constant movement, constant change and constant flux. One can get lost in the physical manifestation of the city alone, but to really connect with the true spirit of Auroville, one can traverse into the intricacies of one's own inner galaxy, noticing the constant flux that is present in each one of us and despite this flux, one can locate that which remains unchanged, untouched and pure.

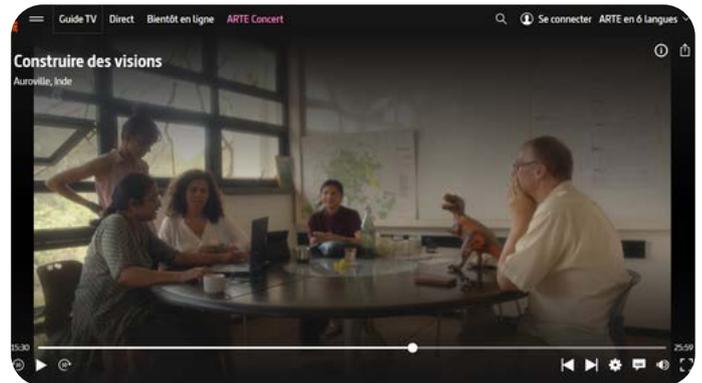


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### CONSTRUIRE DES VISIONS

Depuis sa fondation en 1968 par Mirra Alfassa, la ville d'Auroville, dans l'État indien du Tamil Nadu, attire des architectes du monde entier. Parmi eux, Anupama Kundoo, architecte et chercheuse indienne. Elle expérimente des matériaux comme des tuiles traditionnelles fabriquées dans la région pour bâtir des habitations simples, accessibles à tous et limitant les impacts sur l'environnement.



En Inde, la population des mégapoles croît à une vitesse vertigineuse et incontrôlable. Perpétuellement en activité, les grues et les pelleteuses, utilisées pour construire des logements, déversent en même temps une énorme quantité de CO2 dans l'air déjà pollué des centres urbains.

Réalisation: Diego Breit - ARTE TV documentary in French and German

[Watch the documentary in French and German](#)

PREMIERING IN AUROVILLE, 27 AUGUST

# INIYAN

a short film by Yatra Srinivassan

*Iniyam tells the story of an elderly Tamil man who traces his lineage back to Lemuria, an ancient island civilization that sank beneath the Indian Ocean thousands of years ago. Iniyam tells Rudra that he carries secrets from the past, awaiting a time when they can be linked to the future.*

Iniyam is based on a story by Aurovillian Ruud Lohman and produced by **Yatra Arts Media** in collaboration with **Svaram**.

Concept- Aurelio & Yatra Srinivassan



27th August  
Timings: 6.30 pm  
Venue: Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Bharat Nivas



Sponsored by AVI Netherlands AND AIA

Iniyam Film premiere in Bharat Nivas auditorium on 27th August

[Watch the interview of the director](#)

[Watch the trailer](#)

India's official entry to the Oscars 2023 the "Last Film Show" was premiered in Auroville on 22 August 2022 with its director Pan Nalin present. Congratulations.



[Watch the trailer](#)



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### REPLY TO [NAME] BY MANOJ PAVITRAN

My dear [name],

Sorry for the delay in my response, I was in a retreat.

Thank you for reaching out, I do feel your pain and anger and deeply appreciate your sincere attempt to connect and understand. As a response, I will do my best to deeply reflect on the current situation and share what I see from my perspective. My perceptions may or may not be the Truth, however, they are my personal truth. It is the same inner seeing that gave me the courage to stand up against my family and friends while I was joining Auroville, and I have complete trust in that guidance and I cannot follow any other.

I am here in Auroville for the yoga of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo and therefore looking at our situation from the perspective of yoga and not from a legal, moral, emotional or political angle. In outward appearances, the GB & the Secretary have taken up the leadership role in the material and economic development of Auroville and have rejected some of our old ways of functioning and we are losing the autonomy we have enjoyed so far.

The methods used are not at all what we would naturally expect to see happening in Auroville and it is shocking to us. I know that my mind cannot fully grasp the ways and processes of the divine shaping individuals, communities and humanity toward a greater evolutionary possibility.

From Sri Aurobindo's own life we learn that the Divine had put him in jail for solitary imprisonment for a year to show him a greater possibility. Such events, outwardly cruel and violent, may appear to our tender heart's emotions to be an inappropriate process to manifest human unity or a new consciousness. The ways of Nature and the Divine are indeed beyond our human moral codes of conduct, however noble we may consider our ways to be. From the perspective of yoga, we exist in the Divine and all things are nothing but That.

Whatever these outer appearances, in my understanding and experience, the soul of Auroville is indestructible, incorruptible and mighty. So there is no trace of anxiety in me regarding the future of Auroville. Yes, there is chaos on the surface but nothing can stop the manifestation of Auroville, this is my absolute faith and certitude and nothing will shake it.

At the most what can happen is a delay and detour in the manifestation of Auroville due to a lack of receptivity in people to Her force. But such a delay and detour are not something new to us as evident in our own lamentations expressed internally over many decades regarding our internal state of affairs. Now such lamentations are coming from the GB & the Secretary and they are doing their hammer blows to change the status quo.

I keep hearing again and again from many Aurovilians that the GB, the Secretary and the IAC are outsiders. From the legal view of the present Auroville Foundation Act, brought in by our own elder Aurovilians to protect Auroville, it will be sheer ignorance to look at them to be outsiders. You may feel it to be so emotionally, but that won't help much. Please note that they will be held responsible for the success or failure of Auroville by the laws of India. They do have legal roles and responsibilities to follow in the manifestation of Auroville and as long as the Auroville Foundation Act exists, they will remain insiders at least legally.

Spiritually whether the members of GB, IAC and the Secretary are willing servitors of the divine consciousness or not is something that our little human mind can judge. How the divine Mother acts and what type of instruments She uses to accomplish Her mission is not within the scope of the human mind to grasp and judge. Such speculations are likely to reveal more of our ignorance than the Truth.

Receptivity to be a willing servitor of the divine consciousness does not depend on one's legal status as Aurovillian, nor does it depend on whether an individual is living in Auroville or not. Such formal status has only some pragmatic utility for legal purposes and should not be taken as a sign of receptivity to Mother's Force. Similarly, the number of years one has lived in Auroville can not be held as a measure of receptivity to the divine consciousness. So it is better not to delude ourselves with such notions.

#### The Context

Auroville exists in the context of India and it is important that we understand this context that is changing rapidly. What is happening on both sides of the road to Kuyilapalayam is an alarming sign of the rapid pace of changes taking place around us and there is nothing much we could do using our internal processes

[To read the full article](#)



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 UNIT OF AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

### HON'BLE UNION MINISTER FOR EDUCATION VISITS AUROVILLE



Hon'ble Union Minister For Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan was welcomed by Governing Board member Dr. Nirima Oza and Secretary of the Auroville Foundation Dr. Jayanti Ravi.

He visited Matrimandir and attended in Unity Pavilion a presentation on the development of the city organized by the main Auroville working groups. He then visited the exhibition "The city takes shape" in Bharat Nivas.

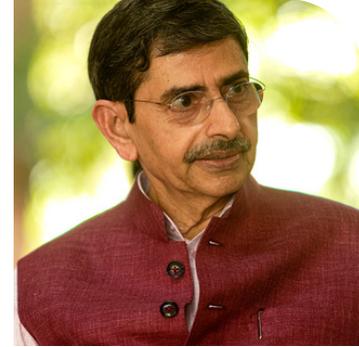
[Watch the video on Facebook](#)

Anupama Kundoo, Head of Urban Design Auroville Town Development Council, wins the "Global Award for Sustainable Architecture 2022". The theme of the award: "The territory: threat or opportunity?" Congratulations Anu!



[citedelarchitecture.fr/en/agenda/event/symposium-global-award-sustainable-architecture-2022](https://citedelarchitecture.fr/en/agenda/event/symposium-global-award-sustainable-architecture-2022)

### HONORABLE SHRI. R. N. RAVI, GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AND CHAIRMAN OF THE AUROVILLE FOUNDATION VISITS AUROVILLE



On October 18th and 19th, Honorable Shri. R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chairman of the Auroville Foundation visited Auroville with Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary, and meet with residents of Auroville in their places of work. He was welcomed both days by D. Mohan IAS., Collector of Viluppuram district and Dr. Jayanti Ravi.

The first day, he met Andre at Annapurna Farm, Juergen and other residents at Palmyra Centre for Ecological Land Use and Rural Development, Aravindra and Gerard and others at Auro Orchard. He visited the City Exhibition at Bharat Nivas and Visitors Center, met Claude Arpi at the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture and met Krishna McKenzie at Solitude Farm and then Uma at Upasana.

On the second day he visited Debo at Kinisi, Tency at CSR, Satprem at Earth Institute, Abha and Claude Arpi at Shradhanjali, Stefan at Auroville.com, Ambra at Miniature and visited Ecopro. He ended the day by a visit on the site of the Crown between the CSR road to Mahakali Park via the Youth Center. The Governor wished to understand better the ground realities of Auroville.



[Watch the videos on Youtube](#)



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 UNIT OF AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

**THE HONOURABLE GOVERNOR OF TAMILNADU AND THE CHAIRMAN, GOVERNING BOARD OF AUROVILLE FOUNDATION, IN COMMEMORATION OF 75 YEARS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE (AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV) AND THE 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI AUROBINDO, ANNOUNCES AN ESSAY AND SHORT FILM COMPETITION NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS (6TH TO 12TH STANDARD) AND COLLEGE LEVEL STUDENTS.**

"Our ideal is a new birth of humanity into the spirit; our life must be a spiritually inspired effort to create a body of action for that great new birth and creation." Sri Aurobindo.

On the occasion of celebrating 75 years of India's Independence (Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav) and the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, the Auroville Foundation is announcing Essay and Short Film Competition for School students (6th to 12th Standard/Grade) and for College level Students nationally and internationally in Tamil and English languages.

This creative competition for students is conducted as part of commemorating 75 years of India's Independence and the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo. It is a call to the Youth of India and the World for creating greater awareness of Sri Aurobindo's contribution to India's reawakening to Her greatness and the role India has to play in the New Age "opening for the whole world, for the political, social, cultural and spiritual future of humanity, ... forming the outer basis of a fairer, brighter and nobler life for all mankind." (Sri Aurobindo, Five Dreams).

1) The topics of the Essay or Short Film\* for School students in English and Tamil languages will be: "Sri Aurobindo and Auroville: Reigniting India's Greatness"

2) The topic of Essay or Short Film\* for College/University Students in English and Tamil languages will be: "Sri Aurobindo & Auroville: India's Gift for Humanity".

\* The length of essays should not exceed 10 pages (A4 size only) with 20 lines per page (about 3000 words in total) and should be submitted in pdf format. The duration of the short film should be between 5-7 minutes and in the format of .mp4, .avi or .mpeg files .The essays/ short films submission date has been extended and the materials must be submitted on or before 30th November, 2022 at 6.00 p.m. (IST) and only in digital form.

1) The essays should be sent to the below provided email addresses and include the PDF document.

2) The short films should be uploaded into the following platform:

<https://www.aurobindo150shortfilm.com/>

The submission emails of every participant must contain the following details: 1) Name, 2) Residential address, 3) Name and address of the educational institution, 4) Class/Grade/Discipline of studies, and 5) Contact mobile number and email ID.

Two Committees of eminent persons will evaluate the short films and the essays :-  
 Prof. R. Chandrasekaran, Director, Central Institute of Classical Tamil and

Dr. Sudha Seshayyan, Vice-Chancellor, The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, will chair the committees for evaluation of the essays in Tamil and English respectively.

Film director and screenwriter Thiru Vasanth. S. Sai will chair the committee for evaluation of the short films for both languages.

The Committee will recommend three winners in each category (Separately for Tamil and English).

For the College level competition, the first, second and third place winners will be felicitated with Rs.1.00 Lakh (Rupees one Lakh), Rs.75,000 (Rupees seventy-five thousand) and Rs.50,000 (Rupees fifty thousand) respectively.

For the School level Competition, the first, second and third place winners will be felicitated with Rs.75,000 (Rupees seventy-five thousand), Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) and Rs.25,000 (Rupees twenty-five thousand) respectively.

The cash prizes and certificates will be awarded in due course.

List of email ID's for submissions of essays and short films of eight categories, depending if it is an essay or a short film, a school or college student and if it is in English or in Tamil language.

I. For the materials in Tamil language:

1) Essay submissions for school students:

essay.schools.tamil@auroville.org.in

2) Essay submissions for college students:

essay.college.tamil@auroville.org.in

II. For the materials in English language:

1) Essay submissions for school students:

essay.schools.english@auroville.org.in

2) Essay submissions for college students:

essay.college.english@auroville.org.in



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Sri Aurobindo said, "The future belongs to the young. It is a young and new world which is now under process of development and it is the young who must create it. But it is also a world of truth, courage, justice, lofty aspiration and straightforward fulfilment which we seek to create....A brave, frank, clean-hearted, courageous and aspiring youth is the only foundation on which the future nation can be built...."

On the special occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo and the 75th Birthday of Free India, this is to welcome students from across India and the World to delve deeper into the thoughts, words and actions of Sri Aurobindo, assimilate them, reflect on his ideals and express their ideas, hopes and dreams through films or essays by participating in this International Contest.

## AUROVILLE'S CALL TO JOIN THE MANIFESTATION OF THE DIVINE DREAM AND A SACRED CAUSE PART ONE

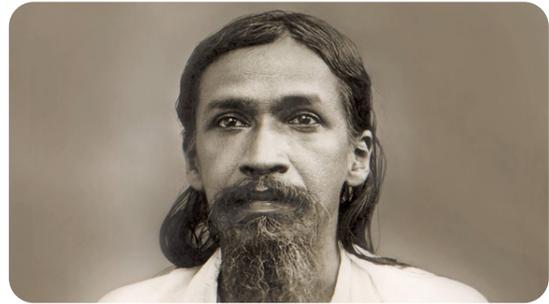
**BY EGLE BORCHARDT**

to all the gnostics, the heroes and the selfless individuals of this world  
 Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation

"A new creation beginning with a model town and ending with a perfect world." (The Mother - 1931)

### **I. The city like no other - first realisation of human unity will manifest in Auroville**

Auroville is founded on the evolutionary vision of the Indian sage and philosopher, Sri Aurobindo. His spiritual collaborator, Mirra Alfassa from France, known as the Mother, initiated the realization of Auroville: the City the Earth Needs - 'as the first realization of human unity based on Sri Aurobindo's vision where men and women of all countries would be at home.'



True human unity can only be realised on the foundation of the inner discovery and the inner identification with other beings, as indicated by Sri Aurobindo. This inner discovery is accompanied by a radical shift in human consciousness. It's our consciousness that's on a remarkable journey. While the evolution of consciousness takes place in any circumstance, a special environment can assist and nurture this process. Creating a benevolent and just society, equality of chances (not of the outcome), that enables everyone to become an optimized individual, would help everyone to discover one's unique talents and maximize them, - for the benefit of every individual, who in turn contribute to the creation of an optimized collection of all individuals (society). The world as well as Auroville cannot afford for a single person to have their talents left unused. Everyone counts. Everyone makes a difference. What is the best of all possible worlds? It's the one where every individual is enhanced, meaning that the society is also elevated.

**Read Part Two in our next issue**

The Auroville Foundation, in commemoration of 75 years of India's Independence & the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo

Announces an **Essay and Short Film Competitions** Nationally and internationally for School and College Students

#### Themes :

Creating greater awareness of Sri Aurobindo's contribution to India's reawakening and Her role in the New Age "opening for the whole world, for the political, social, cultural and spiritual future of humanity, ... forming the outer basis of a fairer, brighter and nobler life for all mankind." (Sri Aurobindo, Five Dreams).

#### Submission date:

On or before 30th Nov, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

#### For more information:

<https://aurovillefoundation.org.in/>

#### Short films upload:

<https://www.aurobindo150shortfilm.com/>

#### School and College students:

1<sup>st</sup> cash price Rs.1 Lakh

2<sup>nd</sup> cash price Rs. 75,000

3<sup>rd</sup> cash price Rs. 50,000

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[aurobindo150shortfilm.com/](https://aurobindo150shortfilm.com/)



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## AUROVILLE: TIME TO OPEN THE WAY FORWARD BY ANU MAJUMDAR

### The Context

Auroville is founded on the evolutionary vision of the Indian sage and philosopher, Sri Aurobindo. His spiritual partner, Mirra Alfassa from France, known as the Mother, initiated the realization of Auroville: the City the Earth Needs - 'as the first realization of human unity based on the vision of Sri Aurobindo where men and women of all countries would be at home.' This unity needed a decisive change of Consciousness.

Foreseeing the human crisis and the plight of cities world, wide Mother commissioned the top award winning French architect, Roger Anger from Paris, in 1965, to prepare a city plan integrating the spiritual, social, cultural, educational, economic and environmental factors, to create the conditions for the growth and manifestation of Consciousness in life and through life.

With this city plan, known as the Galaxy, and a Charter, Auroville was inaugurated on 28th February 1968. It was intended for 50,000 people for the experiment to succeed and be the model town Sri Aurobindo had aimed for.

In 1998, at the request of residents, the Auroville Foundation came into effect by an Act of Parliament following a period of conflict. A certain period of stability saw the completion of the Matrimandir, the growth of schools, communities, services and activities and a greening environment.

However, 34 years on, with a roughly 2500 adult population, a certain stagnation seems to have set in. Earlier Governing Boards had urged to get the city get started and its land protected. However, an undercurrent of resistance has continued to persist within a faction. One example of which is the Crown, Auroville's urban commons, detailed and approved by the Mother in the 1969 master plan study. We are now 2022 and it is still blocked.

### The Crisis

The new Governing Board (GB) appointed in 2021 has committed to take the city forward in honour of Sri Aurobindo's 150th year by focusing on the Crown. Since then, Auroville has been in the news for all the wrong reasons. An overwhelming assembly line of videos, articles and social media posts have decried the destruction of forests, run slanderous campaigns nationally and internationally, against the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation and fellow Aurovilians, and forcibly stopped work on the Crown by invoking a National Green Tribunal (NGT) stay order. The last months have seen all this escalating as the faction grew bolder, heaping court cases, one after another, against the work initiated, against Auroville Foundation and working group members it is determined to oust.

What lies behind the dramatic actions and accusations of the past months that threaten to destroy

Auroville, under the pretext of saving Auroville's 'forests' and thus saving the planet? This needs careful examination.

### The Crown Opposition

On the face of it, there was a clearing of trees for the Crown path, for which JCBs were used on 4th December. They were brought back again at night, after the work was prevented in the daytime.

This has been conflated dramatically with Jallianwalla Bagh and Nazi Germany - a callous disrespect

towards the terrible human tragedy faced at both moments. The Crown ring represents Auroville's collective urban life and holds together all four zones of the city circle and marks a clear transition towards a pedestrian town and a quiet, non polluting mobility. The Crown was defined in the first Master Plan study of 1969 as the development to be taken up in the city area. It will also provide the infrastructure corridors, for water, electricity, OFC and more - for the whole town.

[To read the full article](#)

Sign up to receive our monthly update and newsletter, with the latest articles, photos, and videos on the development of the city of Auroville.

[Click here to enter your email](#)

