

Matrimandir

May 2025



In the GARDENS:

In the Garden of Bliss, the modification of the central circular plaza of the garden is drawing towards completion. On April 4, the five white, marble clad fountains were turned on with fine curtains of water falling elegantly from the brass rims of each bowl.

On Mother's birthday, February 21, the Garden of Wealth was opened to the public. The seven pools are planted with seven different colors of lilies, as the Mother has given the significance of Wealth to this generously blooming flower. The long, central water body is crossed by the gently curving granite clad path, which threads through the center of this garden.

Work has now begun on the adjacent Garden of Utility. After laying out the full-scale garden design on the ground, the water bodies have been excavated and now the waterproof liner is being installed in the garden's several pools. We are using the same

HDPE material that has been used for lining the Lake; in fact, we are using left over pieces from the Lake project

The remaining three gardens, the Gardens of Youth, Harmony and Perfection are coming into focus as we gradually approach the target date for completion of February 21, 2028; Mother's 150th birth anniversary.

We are already working on the design for a wide underground room, which will be built under the outer rim of the Garden of Youth. In that concealed space, materials and machines, such as the ride on lawn mowers, needed for the daily upkeep of the Matrimandir gardens, will be kept.

Matrimandir Lake Update

As reported in our February Newsletter, Auroville was hit by the full force and tremendous rainfall brought by cyclone Fengal on November 30. Because 60 cm of rain fell in 24 hours, one of the concrete block



Garden of Wealth



Garden of Utility

end-walls of Lake Section One was overpowered and slid open, releasing the stored water into the already excavated Lake Section Two. Consequently, the main work on the Lake, has been the removal of the 4000 concrete blocks of the breached lake end-wall; a delicate task requiring precision and skill from the operators of the excavators and the tractor drivers.

As we move into the new financial year of 2025-2026, the goal ahead is to fully clean and shape Lake Section Two in preparation to receive its HDPE waterproofing lining. The HDPE has yet to be imported, but the

process is underway. A large bundle of electrical cables crosses Lake Section Two bringing power from both the transformer and the Solar Plant to the whole of the Park of Unity, including the Matrimandir itself. It has been decided to take the necessity of finding a way to get these cables under the Lake as an opportunity to modernize the electrical supply installation for the Park of Unity. In the process, the number of cables will be reduced from 26 to 7. Then distribution boards etc. will be installed at every point of connection. Thus, a large new project has been

added to the list of works to be completed this year.

In parallel, work is going on to find a way to shift the excavated earth to its final location in Auroville's Northern Green Belt, where land has been designated to build a large Hill. In Her early conversations on Auroville, The Mother described the digging of the Matrimandir Lake and using the soil to create a hill.

Once the huge piles of earth, which now lie just to the north of the Matrimandir Gardens, have been removed and transported to the Hill, work will then start on the excavation of the Lake body in this section, just to the North of the Matrimandir Gardens.

Excavation of the Lake on the Western side of Matrimandir is, for the moment, waiting for the shifting of the road, and the electrical and communication infrastructure that run along it, out of the Lake area. Work is underway to make this happen .

Excavation of the Lake on the Northeastern side of the Matrimandir Gardens has to wait for the relocation of all the existing workshops and support facilities, which all lie inside the Lake area. These facilities have been built-up over the last 50 years and today they are still very active in supporting the ongoing work in all departments at Matrimandir.



Dismantling the lego block wall

These functions will be shifted into a new building, the “Service Facility”, which is now in its final design stage and will be built just beyond the Lake border on the Northeast.

On the outer edge of the Lake, on the West, another building known as the Reception Pavilion is to be constructed. This building, envisioned by Auroville's architect Roger Anger some 55 years ago, will be the single point of entry for all who come to visit the Matrimandir and its Gardens. A bridge over the Lake, 100 meters long, will link this Pavilion to the Park of Unity. A number of architects have offered designs for this Pavilion and several of them are working together to help make the final choice of design.

Not all the land needed for this project is yet owned by Auroville, though a significant plot has recently been purchased. The balance of the land on this Western front has to be acquired to allow for the full development of the Reception Pavilion project.



Service Facility

All in all, there are multiple projects under way on the site. We have so far not mentioned two others on the Matrimandir itself that are in active development. These are the upgrading of the Heliostat, which brings the

Sunray into the Inner Chamber of Matrimandir and the development of the system to activate the 4 Golden Doors which are in the pillars of Matrimandir, and which will slide up and down between the top steps of the entrances. For these two projects Matrimandir is working with the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai to reach the best solutions.

Matrimandir is moving on many fronts towards the goal of completion in the next three years.

It is inspiring, always, to participate in the materialization of the physical embodiment of the Soul of Auroville.

The Goal

The Goal remains to complete Matrimandir, including the Park of Unity and the Lake, by Mother's 150th birth anniversary on 21 February 2028. The work at Matrimandir is forging ahead on all fronts.

We are reaching out to all The Mother's children. We all need to join hands to achieve this great endeavour. Each rupee is a drop of gold for Matrimandir and the sky is the limit.

Project Cost	Cost INR	Status
4 Golden Doors to close the Sphere	40 lakhs	41 lakhs received
Heliostat	20 lakhs	sponsored
Garden of Light	55 lakhs	
Garden of Bliss, restructuring	25 lakhs	
Garden of Wealth	42 lakhs	sponsored
Garden of Utility	35 lakhs	sponsored
Remaining 3 Gardens of Youth, Harmony, Perfection	155 lakhs	
Remaining 520 meters of the Oval Road	81 lakhs	7 lakhs per 100 meters
Next phase of the Lake, about 25% more	25 Crores	
Total cost of the Lake	100 Crores	80 crores to go
Service Compound	18 Crores	very urgent
Reception Pavilion	5 Crores	
Modernization of Electrical infrastructure	90 lakhs	very urgent
West Bridge crossing over 100 meters of the Lake	20 Crores	very urgent

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Offerings to Matrimandir

Please note that all Indian offerings must be A/c Payee to Auroville Unity Fund. Cheques and Demand Drafts need to be accompanied by a letter / email from the donor specifying the offering is for Matrimandir along with PAN, full address, phone and email. Offerings can also be made through direct Bank Transfer to Auroville Unity Fund. Please contact Matrimandir Offerings Desk over email or phone for more details regarding bank transfers, tax exemptions and foreign donations

matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in | 0413 - 2622051

Booking for Concentration in the Inner Chamber

Matrimandir Inner Chamber is open to visitors every morning except Tuesday and Sunday.

Link for booking <https://mmaccess.auroville.org.in/visitors/new>

Matrimandir Access Group mmconcentration@auroville.org.in