

# Matrimandir

November 2024



Matrimandir Lake section 1 looks pristine from this drone view. To the left one sees the longer excavation of Lake section 2.

## THE LAKE

Matrimandir Lake section 1 is ready for the monsoon! The concrete block walls at each end of the 100-meter-long Lake have been raised to their full height of 10.6 meters. In August, the German technician came to weld their waterproof lining of HDPE foil.

Once the expected good rains of the upcoming winter monsoon arrive, harvested rain water, flowing from the Gardens into the open water channel, will then pour into the Lake, raising it up to its full level. The water will then reach to half a meter or so below the level of the cobblestone Oval Road which surrounds the Gardens. And then finally, after only three years of collecting the rain water, we will all get a first view of the Lake as envisaged by the Mother. It will be the first glimpse of the isolating zone that She wished to be established all around Matrimandir.

So much remains to be done! Excavation of Lake section 2a, 180 meters long, is virtually complete. But the importing of the HDPE liner needed for

that section will only be done in early 2025, as stringent new import regulations have caused a delay in the process.

Creation of the foundation for the third Lego-block wall is the next challenge, as this third wall has to be in place (at 180 meters) before the HDPE liner can be installed. Production of the 2-ton concrete “Lego-blocks” needed to build the wall is well under way.

Excavation continues beyond this 180-meter-long section, up to the fence near the road, – all we can do for now.

All this excavation has created huge piles of earth scattered around, and beyond, the Matrimandir site.

Work is almost complete to create a temporary road and to clear a final dumping area for all this excavated earth in the Northern Greenbelt.

When describing and drawing Her vision of the Lake in the mid ‘60s the Mother had shown that a Hill was to be made from this excavated

earth somewhere to the North of Matrimandir. This is the famous conversation where She asked that Fir trees be planted on this Hill “because there will

be snow”. One tries to imagine this improbable, yet foreseen scenario! It is one of the deep mysteries of Auroville.



The experienced welder joins the sheets of waterproofing membrane to cover the two end walls.



The end walls, now fully sealed, wait for the influx of winter monsoon rains to fill up the few remaining meters of the lake.

## THE GARDENS

The newest garden, the Garden of Light, was completed for the occasion of August 15th.

After intense activity during the first two weeks of August, the garden was unveiled for the visitation of all.



The Garden of Light features an arrow like marble clad stream pointing towards a large piece of natural crystal at the focus of the garden.



The next garden, the Garden of Wealth has been under active construction during the summer. The Garden of Wealth features seven small pools that will

hold lilies. Lilies were given the significance “Wealth” by the Mother. The aim is to have this garden fully ready by Mother’s birthday, 21st February 2025.



Adjacent to the Garden of Wealth, close to the Amphitheatre and the inaugural Urn, is the site of the Garden of Utility.

In late September, we began to clear the ground for the construction of the Garden of Utility. In the image below shows a conceptual view of this garden as envisaged by the designers.



## SERVICE FACILITY

Looking a little further into the future, a team of architects has been actively developing the plans for the “Service Facility”, the complex intended to house all the support activities needed for the maintenance of the completed Matrimandir.

Activities such as laundry for the Inner Chamber, small workshops, accounting and administrative offices as well as facilities for the many people working there will always be needed to maintain the Matrimandir and its gardens.

The site for this complex has been allotted on the north eastern outer shore of the Lake.



The Matrimandir team gathers at the time of Saraswati Puja

## The Goal

The Goal remains to complete Matrimandir including the Park of Unity and the Lake by Mother's 150th birth anniversary February 21st 2028 and the work at Matrimandir is forging ahead full swing 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's the limit

| Project Cost                                      | Cost INR   | Status                |
|---|------------|-----------------------|
| Air Condition Inner Chamber                       | 42 lakhs   | completed             |
| 4 Golden Doors to close the Sphere                | 40 lakhs   | 26 lakhs received     |
| Heliostat   | 20 lakhs   |                       |
| Garden of Light                                   | 55 lakhs   |                       |
| Garden of Bliss                                   | 55 lakhs   | 3.41 lakhs received   |
| Garden of Wealth                                  | 35 lakhs   |                       |
| Garden of Utility                                 | 35 lakhs   | 8.15 lakhs received   |
| Remaining 3 Gardens of Youth, Harmony, Perfection | 155 lakhs  |                       |
| Remaining 520 meters of the Oval Road             | 81 lakhs   | 7 lakhs per 100 meter |
| Next phase of the Lake, about 25% more            | 25 Crores  |                       |
| Total cost of the Lake                            | 100 Crores |                       |
| Service Compound                                  | 9 Crores   | very urgent           |
| Reception Pavilion                                | 7 Crores   |                       |
| Modernization of Electrical infrastructure        | 90 lakhs   | very urgent           |
| West Bridge crossing over 100 meters of the Lake  | 20 Crores  |                       |

Any individual, any group or any Centre who would feel moved to make an offering towards this amazing birthday gift for The Mother can do so by making a onetime offering or by sponsoring a whole project or by making regular donations or by making offerings in kind. Donations in kind are always welcome; cement, steel, granite, cables and other electrical fittings are all going to be needed in large quantities.

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## Offerings to Matrimandir

Please note that all 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 feel free to reach out to the Matrimandir Offerings Desk over email and phone for bank transfer details.

[matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in](mailto: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](mailto:mmconcentration@auroville.org.in)**