

Auroville Tomorrow

Cling to Truth

7th Edition
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UNIT OF AUROVILLE FOUNDATION



The Grace of The Mother

To walk through life armoured against all fear, peril and disaster, only two things are needed, two that go always together – the Grace of the Divine Mother and on your side an inner state made up of faith, sincerity and surrender. Let your faith be pure, candid and perfect. An egoistic faith in the mental and vital being tainted by ambition, pride, vanity, mental arrogance, vital self-will, personal demand, desire for the petty satisfactions of the lower nature is a low and smoke-obscured flame that cannot burn upwards to heaven. Regard your life as given you only for the divine work and to help in the divine manifestation. Desire nothing but the purity, force, light, wideness, calm, Ananda of the divine consciousness and its insistence to transform and perfect your mind, life and body. Ask for nothing but the divine, spiritual and supramental Truth, its realisation on earth and in you and in all who are called and chosen and the conditions needed for its creation and its victory over all opposing forces.

Let your sincerity and surrender be genuine and entire. When you give yourself, give completely, without demand, without condition, without reservation so that all in you shall belong to the Divine Mother and nothing be left to the ego or given to any other power.

The more complete your faith, sincerity and surrender, the more will grace and protection be with you. And when the grace and pro-

tection of the Divine Mother are with you, what is there that can touch you or whom need you fear? A little of it even will carry you through all difficulties, obstacles and dangers; surrounded by its full presence you can go securely on your way because it is hers, careless of all menace, unaffected by any hostility however powerful, whether from this world or from worlds invisible. Its touch can turn difficulties into opportunities, failure into success and weakness into unfaltering strength. For the grace of the Divine Mother is the sanction of the Supreme and now or tomorrow its effect is sure, a thing decreed, inevitable and irresistible.

Sri Aurobindo





Contents

1 THE GRACE OF THE MOTHER

2 AN OVERVIEW OF AUROVILLE'S UPCOMING CENTRALISED FINANCIAL SYSTEM

3 HOUSING TRANSFER MODALITIES

4 THE FUTURE OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN AUROVILLE AND THE BIOREGION

5 ROGER ANGER CENTENARY

6 ROGER ANGER FROM THE LENS OF AI

7 MOTHER'S FLOWER GARDEN

8 UNITY FARM-COMMUNITY FARM

9 REFLECTIONS ON DEMOCRACY AND AUROVILLE'S GOVERNANCE BY SRI AUROBINDO & THE MOTHER

10 AUROVILLE'S FIRST BROCHURE, FEATURING THE "NEBULA PLAN"

11 NEWS IN PHOTOS & VIDEOS

12 YOUTH20 SUMMIT

13 BOOK RECOMMENDATION, AN INTIMATE BIOGRAPHY BY M.P. PANDIT

14 ON PERSONAL PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

15 TALISMAN - AN EXHIBITION BY IT MATTERS

16 1977 & 1978 AUROVILLE BIRTHDAY BONFIRE PHOTOS



An Overview of Auroville's Upcoming Centralised Financial System

Many organisations and services in Auroville rely on their revenue for day-to-day operations, maintenance, and the expansion of services and goods they provide to the resident population and organisations outside of Auroville. To effectively manage these finances, FAMC has proposed a centralised financial system that oversees fund distribution, keeps track of expenditures, and ensures accountability and transparency in financial transactions. This system aims to support Auroville's vision of economic sustainability and enable units to fulfill their fiduciary duty to work diligently and honestly in light of our shared ideals. FAMC has outlined the structures and procedures that support those handling money in many different sectors of our economy, such as hospitality, agro-business, and industrial sectors.

Notably, a substantial number of trusts, units, or services do not complete their account consolidation in the time required for the central consolidation of Auroville-wide accounts, as has been discovered over a span of many years. This follows the annual book closing on March 31. Year after year, the Auroville Foundation sends reminders to all trustees to submit the trust's consolidated accounts. As a result, trustees continue to pester units and services in order to ensure that their financial accounts are completed in time for consolidation.

This delay in account consolidation results in incomplete financial reports and difficulties in tracking expenses and revenue across Auroville. This is a problem that has afflicted our accounting operations overall, with no resolution in sight until

now.

The number of trusts or units that fail to file their accounts for consolidation and audit is growing. When it is too late, the Auroville Foundation moves forward with those who have filed and leaves those who have not. This is an inexcusable breach of responsibility. It is essential for trusts or units to prioritise timely and accurate financial reporting to maintain credibility and accountability, and to ensure this result, executives and trustees must intervene to work with these failing units, help regulate their accounting, ensure everything is done on time, and, as a last resort, close them.

Points of Deliberation:

- Centralised Tally Accounting System
- Centralised Banking for All Units and Services, including Farms and Forests
- Expanding the trusteeship to include more executives from within the units
- Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Service
- Internal audits to help identify pending debts and/or defaults
- Central services such as SK, MM, VC, and ACUR need to be pulled into external financial accounting.
- All GOI grants worth more than Rs. 5 lakhs must include project management criteria.
- Why do Auroville services and units appear to be "overpriced"?

Tally Centralised Accounting System: In light of the central government's mandate that all businesses must file monthly GST taxes, and given the aforementioned sce-

nario, this overhead and strict filing deadlines will increasingly become an unmanageable endeavour for Trustees, ABC, ABS, and FAMC if left to their current mode of operation. It takes a

large battery of accountants to do accounts for Auroville units and services. This Auroville-wide initiative is proposed to cut costs, improve efficiency, and meet GOI requirements. A properly configured central system will allow for streamlined accounting and related services for all units and services, expediting the transition of our accounting and financial reporting structure to a professional standard.

'Tally' is recommended to be set up for any and all of the units and services to provide the necessary bills, vouchers for purchases, and expenses to the central service on a monthly or bi-weekly basis for entry and quarterly reporting.

The advantages to using the Tally accounting system:

- This system is intended to allow for transparent operational oversight. To deal with problems that have arisen in a variety of areas of work where fiscal mismanagement and misappropriation have occurred over the years if not decades.
- Instead of hiring about 50+ accountants to provide this service across Auroville, a central service can do it with a smaller pool of personnel.
- At the unit or at the central facility, a streamlined process for digitising and archiving transactional paperwork, vendor information, product specifications etc. can be uploaded, inventory and assets management may be implemented. Accounting, data sorting, analysis, and operational efficiency will improve as the operation becomes consistent across all Auroville units and services.

- The Tally server system outperforms the 'generic' software used throughout Auroville in terms of operational, reporting, auditing, and archival efficiency.
- This system enables the identification of units that may be approaching fiscal debt or experiencing operational inefficiency, as well as the possibility of intervening to provide assistance or to effect closure if necessary.
- This system allows units that have demonstrated responsible growth and require funds for expansion to receive assistance and support.
- Succession planning is also more feasible with proper information of the units.
- Finally, as per accounting requirements, up to 12 years of accounting records have to be made available on request.

Building a "functional" accounting system that is centralised, transparent, resilient, and inclusive necessitates effective coordination efforts due to the unique challenges that it will present.

Establishing a professional team for the initial system, for example, as well as providing regular follow-up on tracking fiscal requirements, meeting developmental goals, and a variety of other issues.



Coordination efforts must include ensuring that all participants have access to the same information and are working towards the same goals, as well as addressing any potential conflicts or barriers.

Furthermore, regular communication and feedback loops are required to keep an accounting system of this magnitude accessible.

For more information contact FAMC: famc@auroville.org.in

Housing Transfer modalities : STEWARDSHIP RE-DEFINED

In Auroville, everything is collective property, hence, the concept of ownership is diametrically opposed. All houses, apartments, and other immovable structures built on Auroville land are vested in the Auroville Foundation. The Auroville Foundation holds these assets in trust for humanity as a whole. And no Aurovilian or other person can claim to be the private owner of houses, apartments, or other structures in Auroville.

The Funds and Assets Management Committee manages and allocates all of Auroville's housing assets through the Housing Service. The Housing Service is in the process of updating the asset registry for all Auroville residential properties. All housing assets will be assessed against the people who currently live there. A proper review of the current registered information will be performed, and an updated database of the occupants of the residential assets will be maintained going forward against the Register of Residents for proper utilisation of the collective properties.

Going forward, each Aurovilian or family will work only with the Housing Service for the allocation and use of the residential asset or premises for their own use. No subletting or operation of guest facilities is to be undertaken at any time. The Housing Service will be solely responsible for allocating housing assets to newcomers and volunteers. Any resident going out of town for a period longer than 8 weeks must provide the housing asset to the Housing Service for others to use via house-sitting arrangements facilitated by the Housing Service only.

No Aurovilian will hold double or more housing assets. Inheritance is not recognised in Auroville, and parents or guardians will not hold any housing assets for their minors. No Aurovilian will hold any asset on behalf of other residents or Friends of Auroville.

How does the FAMC derive costs for a proper transfer of an asset?

- Repairing of the houses to a proper, safe, clean, and ventilated dwelling based on priority of needs, urgency, transfers, etc.
- Administration costs for the housing team, maintenance, and staff.
- Panchayat taxes are to be paid for all buildings.
- Annual survey of all buildings.
- Repatriation costs.

For more information contact FAMC: famc@auroville.org.in

THE FUTURE OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN AV AND THE BIOREGION.

The future of Solid Waste Management in AV and the bioregion.

The words nature and environment conjure up images of a serene, utopian-like landscape, even separated from daily life, with spiritual values and as a refuge to escape city life. The uniqueness of Auroville is that we are not separate from our environment.

Yet, in an increasingly urbanised world, the practical implications of maintaining this life balance will necessitate invention, innovative ideas, and collaborations. As is known, environmental activities are complex and

inherently collaborative, focusing on involving contributors from many different fields who are united in the common goal of assisting in a paradigm shift in environmental innovation and improving upon existing technologies.

Currently, the issue of waste is particularly acute in the context of general urban and demographic growth as well as the rapid evolution of production and consumption methods that generate more leftovers. Waste is an aspect of urban development that cannot be overlooked when planning a 'healthy' city. The unavoidable reality is that waste management requires immediate and sustainable actions at all levels: collection, transportation, recovery, treatment, disposal, supervision, and control.

The Eco Service executives have taken it upon themselves to investigate the challenges and opportunities presented by Auroville's planned city expansion. Investigating the relationship between exponential growth and

environmental problems, identifying pollution sources, and differentiating between prevention strategies, disposal systems, and other options. With their project, they intend to construct a new Integral Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Recycling Plant for Auroville and the BioRegion, as well as to continue research into solid waste treatment and recycling as



a cost-effective and environmentally friendly tool.

At present, Auroville's Solid Waste Management Unit, Eco Service, covers and caters to approximately 80% of Auroville's internal communities and a limited number of non-Auroville establishments. Their per-day collection is about 600 kg. And their manual segregation capacity per day with four workers is about 350 kg, and with overtime, it reaches about 500 kg. The main operations are:

- a) collection of non-organic waste (paper, plastic, glass, e-waste, metal, and non-hazardous sanitary waste)
- b) segregation (into 83 different categories) and
- c) supplying vendors with materials to facilitate recycling and upcycling.

Fortunately, because of Auroville's current manageable population, lack of commercial establishments or eateries in most areas, and sizable western population (many of them have already been trained in recycling abroad), it has been possible to set up a fairly workable segregation system for solid waste disposal in Auroville's communities, making the rest of the SWM process at the Eco Service much cleaner and hygienic.

However, neither the present location nor the present setup is optimal nor adequate for the future. The following are the reasons :

- a) EcoService is just over 500 metres from Matrimandir, which is the 'heart' of Auroville. Essentially, they are collecting waste from all over the township and bringing it into the centre, which is the exact opposite of what they should be doing. It would be a more agreeable practise, if the collected waste was moved and sorted out at a facility located on the outskirts of the city.
- b) Since the present facility was established in stages owing to sporadic fundraising, it was not well planned, and the various structures are not located in a proper or structured arrangement. The facility is not weatherproof, nor is it animal or rodent-proof.
- c) Although the central part of the city is expected to be free of vehicular traffic in the near future, due to its current location, vendors' heavy vehicles pass through regularly.

A change of location will make it easier to eliminate all three of the aforementioned disadvantages.

The new EcoService unit space is envisioned to have :

1. Solid Waste and E-Waste
2. Incinerators
3. Various designated godowns
4. A big storage area
5. Garage for collection vehicles
6. Office (workspace, restrooms, locker rooms, pantry, and staff refreshment space)
7. Tools and Equipment Shed,
8. Generator and battery shed,
9. Washing tanks
10. Waste water recycling pit

The list of equipment needed

1. Automatic segregation machines
2. Metal crusher and press
3. Wood or engineered wood crusher, shredder, and press

4. Incinerator for medical, sanitary, and hazardous waste

In addition, the waste management plant would also require a dedicated high-voltage connection to facilitate the operation of the machinery.

We have the good fortune in Auroville to have all wet and organic / kitchen waste being directly composted by individual communities, which is possible largely due to the availability of space; however, the same practise is not prevalent in the bioregional village communities, resulting in a large volume of mixed waste being disposed of all around Auroville including the roadsides, canyons, waterways, greenbelt, and unoccupied open spaces.

The best course of action is to improve waste and pollution management, transforming these disadvantages into productive pathways for energy and growth. The initial phase of the project seeks to discover, demonstrate, test, and learn from various waste-to-riches techniques and collaborative approaches. In addition, to link and align with the ongoing Swachh Bharat Abhiyan's objectives.

In addition to waste separation, the proposed SWM plant includes fully automated systems that directly convert waste into raw materials for manufacturing, construction, farming, bio-gas production, and other applications. For example, consider the use of cutting-edge waste management techniques in conjunction with emerging technologies such as Trashbot.

Trashbot by Trashcon System is thought to be revolutionary.

It is effective at "segregating wet and dry components for recycling" and is regarded as the world's first fully automated segregation system.

Vision for the future

1. Auroville provides a model and example of a sustainable cooperative waste management system within 5-7 years.
2. Auroville Waste Management (AVWM) to inspire the bioregion and, in the near future (3-5 years), to include the neighbouring settlements for replication of the AWM operative model.
3. Auroville to minimise or completely eradicate the practise of landfills.
4. AVWM operations to be completely managed by residents of Auroville.
5. AVWM should focus more on ways of turning waste into reusable raw materials.
6. AVWM to be made a part of the information, assistance, policy, and resource pool of the government's civic schemes.

The mission, in short, is to make waste management the foremost step towards raising awareness and consciousness.

Another critical component of the AVWM project is that it proposes some changes to the current operational model of the Auroville Waste Management System: recommending the implementation of a regulation requiring all businesses, residences, communities, and other places of business in Auroville to utilise only the internal waste management service.

Second, each individual, service, and commercial unit in Auroville is required to pay a fixed amount to the City Service each month, such as the monthly contribution made for health insurance, which is routed directly to the Waste Management account. This change would facilitate the transition from the current 'call to pick' arrangement to a much smoother and more efficient pick-up system and routine.

Waste management is a young, dynamic, and demanding initiative that offers a variety of challenging but rewarding work opportunities. The Eco Service's AVWM project aims to inform Aurovilians about waste management careers, as well as provide firsthand information about what it takes to get these opportunities and what it means to do them, as well as to offer training and research facilitation.

With the assistance of ATDC, FAMC, and AVFO, it is possible to make this project a reality in the broadest sense, as well as to reinstate the Auroville Waste Management Service under the 'Swachh Bharat' scheme for funding for infrastructure and equipment, and to establish connections with the bioregion Panchayats to establish waste collection and segregation facilities in collaboration, with the vision of an equitable and thriving Auroville, Tomorrow.



Roger Anger's Centenary



A reflection on the legacy of the architect who came from Paris to realise the creation of Auroville as envisioned by the Mother. On the centenary of his birth, Auroville Tomorrow remembers him. We would like to mention the book by Anupama Kundoo, "Research on Beauty," which is richly illustrated with the draw-

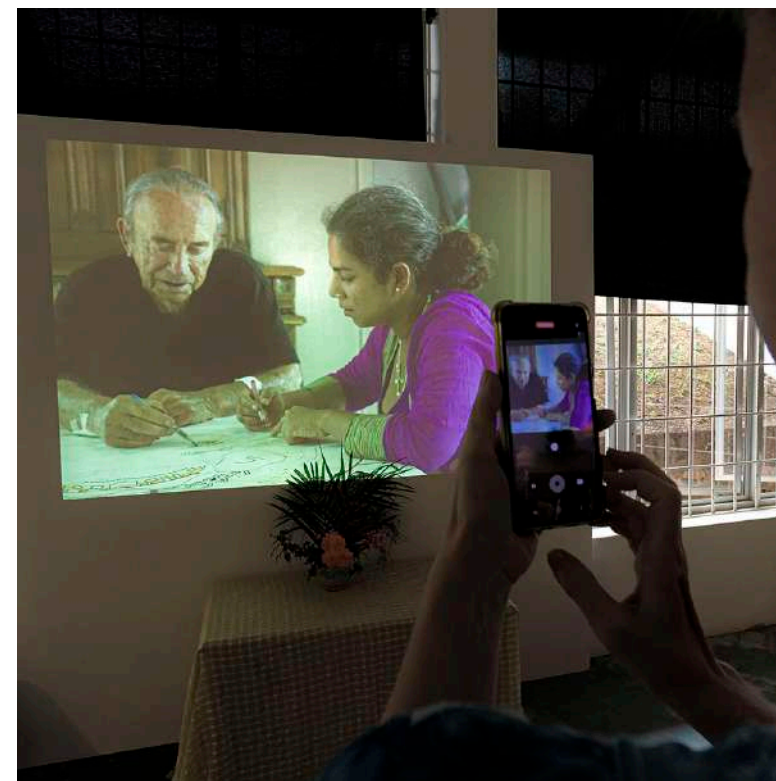
ings, sculptures, and models the pioneering artist and architect experimented with and built. The book allows readers to closely examine Anger's often-overlooked achievements in the disciplines of design and craft, futurist and utopian architecture in Auroville and in France, and his alignment with

the practise of consciousness, which embodied his work.

A leap into the future: Roger Anger became interested in urban futurism after meeting The Mother on his visit to Pondicherry. Auroville became the site of his most experimental projects in nature, which included extensive research

and experimentation. He established a creative laboratory for concrete experimentation to discover the architectural style that could be 'divined' in this ideal city. He had a single objective in mind: to see Auroville completed as a fully functional community.

Anger viewed architecture and the environment as complementary aspects



of man's relationship with the natural world. He stood at the crossroads of nature conservation, sustainable architecture, and high-density living. Inspired by the desolate landscape, the red soil, and organic forms. He used radical new materials and techniques, as well as collaborated with other architects and artists, to bring in a multiplicity of styles that he was able to blend to perfection. Today, Anger's fingerprints can be found all over Auroville, and in daily life he is referred to as 'the Architect of Auroville' or "Mother's Architect."

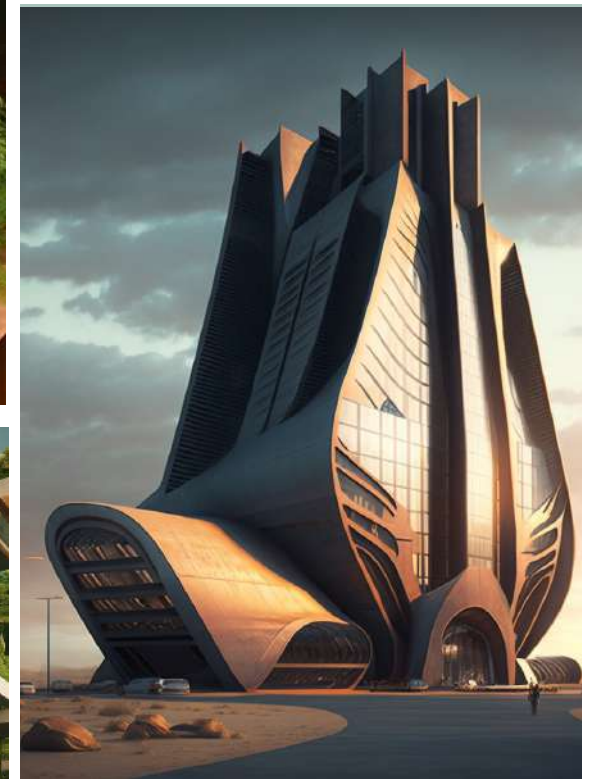
The book is available online at: <https://www.amazon.in/Roger-Anger-Research-Architecture-1953-2008/dp/3868590064/>

Photos from Roger Anger's 100th birth anniversary celebration at Bharat Nivas. March 24, 2023



Roger Anger from the lens of AI

We asked an Artificial Intelligence to imagine the future houses of Auroville drawing inspiration from Roger Anger's work.



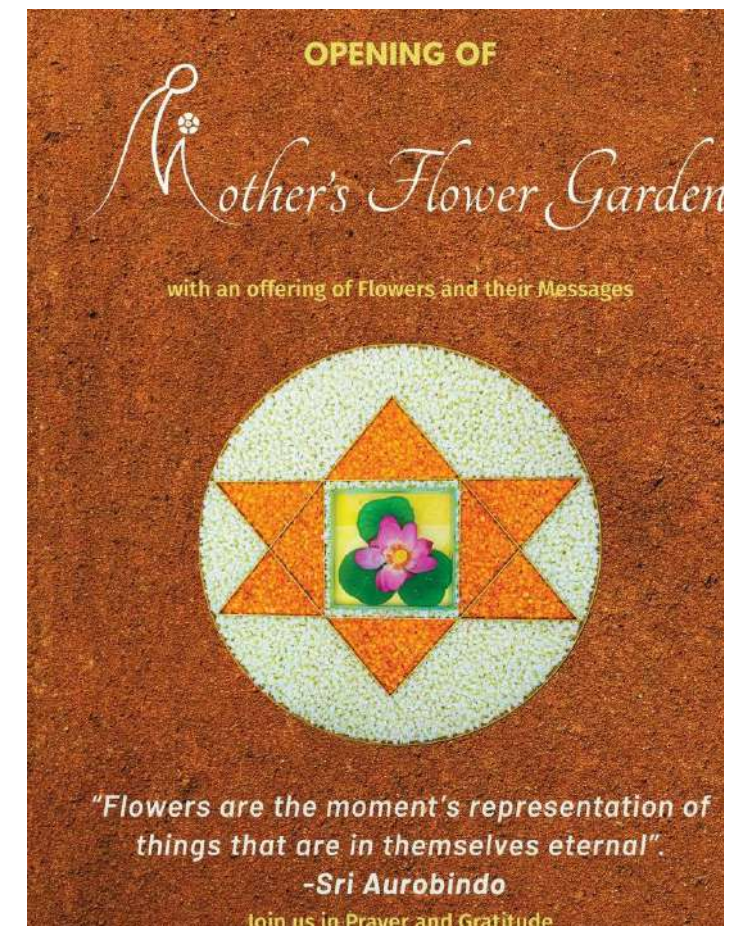


MOTHER'S FLOWER GARDEN

One important aspect of The Mother's work has been with the flowers. The primary objective of the Garden is to manifest the same in Auroville. The project brings to light the spiritual significance of flowers within the practice of Integral Yoga and as named by the Mother for their unique qualities and their corresponding spiritual benefits. The Mother used flowers as an aid in our self-development to realise the highest possibilities that await us and to create a conscious and intimate relationship with flowers that can assist us in experiencing a beautiful communion with the Divine. The flowers that the Mother gave to devotees and disciples were 'charged' with a specific consciousness or a helpful 'force' to aid their spiritual development.

Narad Ji and an interdisciplinary team are working on this project to create a vibrant and diverse garden that displays The Mother's chosen flowers while also serving as a peaceful retreat.

The Mother's '898' flowers, some very rare and from different latitudes, will adorn the grounds, flowerbeds, and paths. The Mother's Flower Garden



team is meticulously curating the flowers and plants to create a constantly changing landscape that reflects the changing seasons with varying blends of colours and patterns. In addition to the floral displays, the

garden plan also features walking paths, archways, water features, and sitting areas to encourage visitors to fully immerse themselves in the peaceful atmosphere.

“We aspire to create a beautiful flower garden which will have all the 898 flowers to which The Mother has offered significance. It will be a place of learning, growing and connecting to the deeper self in us through the psychic in the vegetal world. The garden will be based on the principles of self-sustenance, organic growth, and conservation of natural resources.”

-The Flower Garden Team

Inspired by the ‘Divine Flowers’ exhibition held at Savitri Bhavan, the garden design employs symbolic geometric patterns to create forms and sculptures. The synthesis of the arts is an important part of the project: to create spaces with vibrant forms and textures, enhanced by an awareness of natural elements, to provide a sensory experience that engages all the senses by incorporating elements such as water features and sculptures and carefully incorporating natural light according to requirements for light or shade, to achieve a creative, humane environment with a balance between the built environment and the natural world.

The use of concentric circles adds a sense of interconnectedness or unity to the overall design, enhancing the intricate patterns and details. Which seems to symbolise the cyclical nature of life as well as the eternal nature of the soul. The colourful bouquets are intended to be scattered throughout the garden, where pebbles, herbs, branches, grass leaves, and moss will give the appearance of spontaneity, emphasising the role of foliage in the bouquet’s origins.

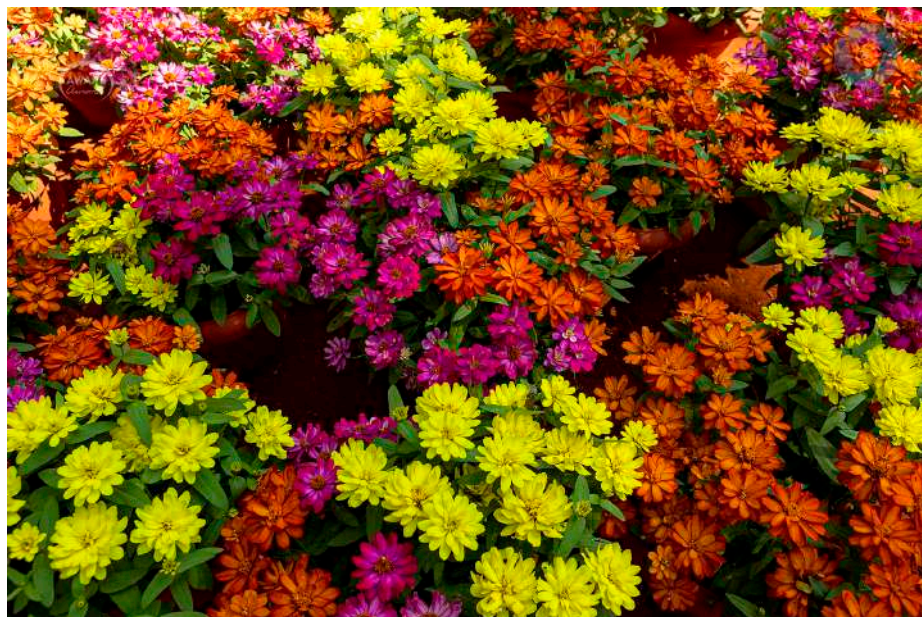
Project Brief by The Flower Garden Team

The process of growing will be nature sensitive:

- Fully organic using vermiculation
- Irrigation with harvested rainwater and distributed frugally through drip irrigation
- In-house nursery and seed bank
- Fernarium and Greenhouse for flowers with specific needs.

Poem titled ‘Garden’

Made and unmade
holding Nature’s stage
Next change of wind
some sun n some rain!
Thriving on the paths
some thorny some soft
Some dense and sparse
some sensible some lost!
Playing the rehearsed
on season’s prompt
All sameness a sign
beholders quite blind!



Alone they never bloom
a bouquet, their form
Infectious is their smile
they dance hand in hand!
A lesson in the collective
a life n death so full
The anosmic can’t feel ... Garden is The Path!

Neel - Architect of the Project
2023 03 05

The variety and the treatment of flowers and plants are an element of paramount importance to the Mother’s Flower Garden project. The art and science of conscious gardening are also in focus in this project, based on the principles of self-sustenance, organic growth, and conservation of natural flora and fauna. The successions of the garden circulate between public space and private space, between the rural and urban worlds, to blur or eliminate old divisions, creating an emblematic space where new relationships with nature and others are invented in support of sustainable development.

The garden is where studies can be done and hundreds of experiences can be had. The process of learning will be encouraged through working and experimenting with the following:

- The life cycle of flowers and plants
- Variations of the seasons
- Growing flowers that belong in a cold climate
- The environment needed for various flowers to grow and flourish
- Symbiotic connections among plants

Dr Jayanti Ravi inaugurated the garden earlier this year, and as the work continues, the vision of the garden, meant for the community and visitors alike to feel the atmosphere of the Divine Presence in nature, is coming to life. It will be a place for learning and understanding the spiritual significances very easily and simply by coming into contact with the vibration of the flower through all five senses.



Unity Farm- Community Farm



In Auroville, there has been a steady decline in production for certain farm products, an increase in consumer costs, a decrease in agricultural income, a decrease in trade, and even an increase in import dependency. Our current agricultural model is undermining our current economic and food systems. An effective agroecological transition necessitates favourable production and trading conditions, which are currently lacking.

The team behind the Unity Farm project emphasises the resurgence of the conflict between productivity and sustainability in Auroville agriculture. Thus highlighting the need for sustainable

and regenerative agricultural practises that prioritise soil health, biodiversity, and local food systems. One of the goals is to replace the usual 'buying and selling' method with a supply system derived from need-based data on food consumption patterns. To ensure that the distribution of food items is based on actual demand, reducing waste, and ensuring that everyone has access to the food they need. Additionally, this system will allow for more efficient tracking of food distribution and help identify areas where additional resources may be needed.

The collective farming project was founded in early 2022 and began operations earlier this year.

This collective farming strategy came about with the realisation that being in nuclear or limited farming structures does not serve the goals of the community as a whole. This unit serves as a model farm for all new or existing Aurovilian farming aspirants, focusing on natural regenerative agriculture in a sustainable environment. Working towards reducing pesticide use, utilising natural "ancient tonics" as fertilisers, and dedicating cultivated land to collective farming. Furthermore, adapting to new technologies without disrupting the environmental and ecological balance while revitalising India's farming model.

The project includes technical education as well as advanced research.

Unity Farm is Auroville's collective farming unit and research and training hub that actively seeks to

1) Support the structuring of community farming; understand and work with agricultural and



rural organisations.

2) Supporting collective action and managing common resources.

3) Discover procedures that will increase crop yields and livestock, improve farmland productivity.

4) Develop more efficient equipment, adopt the latest technology, and increase overall food quality and food security for the future.

New Farm Land Allocation: After interviewing and recommending an expert with a well-defined land use policy, applicants for new farmlands will be scrutinised for eligibility to receive the land based on their agricultural knowledge.

Steps for starting the farming activity:

Step 1: Training

Identifying 25 or more candidates/ farmers and providing training for the initial 3 months.

Theory: 2 hours per day

Practical : 3 - 4 hours per day

Step 2: Land Allocation

a) Groups of candidates to be created according to the availability of land in terms of location and size and can be classified as follows:

Group A: 5 people x 5 acres each = 25 acres

Group B: 3 people x 5 acres each = 15 acres

Group C: 2 people x 5 acres each = 10 acres

b) Land will be allocated individually, but there will be no stewardship. The method of farming remains collective, with the attitude of helping each other.

c) Budget for cultivation:

The budget for cultivation is to be requested by the person in charge of each group for expenses for 3 months or 1 season. This request form will be submitted to the administrative team.

The concerned person (a retired agricultural official) will examine it and recommend it to the other members for sanctioning.

Step 4: Budget for infrastructure

Budget for the infrastructure and operational needs to be decided according to the situation of the allocated land, on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the following components:

1. Fencing

2. Caretaker House / Volunteer accommodation

3. Water

4. Electricity

5. Farm Tools

6. Transport facilities - preferably electric, one van and 1/2 cycles.

7. Maintenances

For more information contact Jothi and Anitha.

Visit: <https://www.unityfarmers.org/>

<https://involveauroville.in/>



Reflections on Democracy and Auroville's Governance by Sri Aurobindo & The Mother

Dear Community, since December 2021, we, as serving members of the Working Committee have often turned to Sri Aurobindo and The Mother to understand what they had in mind for the governance or organization of Auroville, about freedom and anarchy and divine anarchy in the context of Auroville and the future it must build. We share some of them with you here.

FROM SRI AUROBINDO

Ideal of Human Unity / Forms of Government:

Or it might be something like the disguised oligarchy of an international council reposing its rule on the assent, expressed by election or otherwise, of what might be called a semi passive democracy as its first figure. For that is what the modern democracy at present is in fact; the sole democratic elements are public opinion, periodical elections and the power of the people to refuse reelection to those who have displeased it.

The Ideal of Human Unity / The Drive towards Legislative and Social Centralization & Uniformity

Certainly, democracy as it is now practised is not the last or penultimate stage; for it is often merely democratic in appearance and even at the best amounts to the rule of the majority and works by the vicious method of party government, defects the increasing perception of which enters largely into the present day dissatisfaction with parliamentary systems. Even a perfect democracy is not likely to be the last stage of social evolution, but it is still the necessary broad standing ground upon which the self consciousness of the social being can come to its own. It does not follow that a true democracy



must necessarily come into being at some time.

War and Self Determinism

Ancient liberty and democracy meant in Greece the self rule—variegated by periodical orgies of mutual throat cutting—of

a smaller number of freemen of all ranks who lived by the labour of a great mass of slaves. In recent times liberty and democracy have been, and still are, a cant assertion which veils under a skilfully moderated plutocratic system the rule of an organised successful bourgeoisie over a proletariat at first submissive, afterwards increasingly dissatisfied and combined for recalcitrant self assertion.

Another illusion was that the growth of democracy would mean the growth of pacifism and the end of war...

Man refuses to learn from that history of whose lessons the wise prate to us; otherwise the story of old democracies ought to have been enough to prevent this particular illusion.

War and Self Determinism

The future does not belong to that hybrid thing, a middleclass democracy infected with the old theory of international relations, however modified by concessions to a new broader spirit of idealism.

The future destined to replace this present is evident enough in some of its main outward tendencies, in society away from plutocracy and middleclass democracy to some completeness of socialism and attempt at a broad and equal commonalty of social living, in the relations of the peoples away from aggressive nationalism and balances of power to some closer international comity.

The Idea of Human Unity / The Peril of the World State

Democracy is by no means a sure preservative of liberty: on the contrary, we see today a democratic system of government march steadily towards an organised annihilation of individual liberty as could not have been dreamed of in the old aristocratic or monarchical system... it revives now only in periods of revolution and excitement often in the form of mob tyranny or a savage reactionary or revolutionary repression...

• Sri Aurobindo / Evening Talks, 1926 / Purani

I am at present speaking against democracy. That does not mean there is no truth behind it – and I know it, yet I speak against democracy because that mentality is against the Truth that is trying to come down.

On thoughts & Aphorisms 341 -343 (Karma)

Democracy was the protest of the human soul against the allied despotisms of autocrat, priest and noble; Socialism is the protest of the human soul against the despotism of a plutocratic democracy; Anarchism is likely to be the protest of the human soul against the tyranny of a bureaucratic Socialism. It is chimerical to enquire which is the better system; it would be difficult to decide which is the worse. A turbulent and eager march from illusion to illusion and from failure to failure is the image of European progress.

FROM THE MOTHER

Agenda 10 April 1968

If there is no representative of the supreme Consciousness (which can happen, of course), if there isn't any, we could perhaps (this would be worth trying) replace him with the government by a small number—we would have to choose between four and eight, something like that: four, seven or eight—a small number having an INTUITIVE intelligence.



All the intermediaries have proved incompetent: theocracy, aristocracy, democracy, plutocracy—all that is a complete failure.

Agenda, August 16, 1969

In an undated note, Mother once wrote: Democracy was necessary and useful a hundred years ago, but now we must go beyond it if we want to take a step forward towards a new creation.

Agenda 27 July, 1968 (conversation)

Satprem: The Press is asking for a few texts to fill blanks in the forthcoming Bulletin.

The Mother: Take from Sri Aurobindo, not from me! Everything from Sri Aurobindo

Satprem proposes the following text:

Sri Aurobindo: Overmind is obliged to respect the freedom of the individual....

Oh, that's a revelation! I didn't know that.

Sri Aurobindo: ...including his freedom to be perverse, stupid, recalcitrant and slow. Supermind is not merely a step higher than Overmind—it is beyond the line, that is a different consciousness and power beyond the mental limit.”

Do you imply that the Supermind will not be obliged to respect the freedom of the individual?

Sri Aurobindo: Of course I do! It will respect only the Truth of the Divine and the truth of things.

The Mother / On Auroville's Organization

We want an organization which is the expression of a higher consciousness working to manifest the truth of the future.

Mother's Agenda, 1966

Scores of people have come for Auroville.... Instead of working, they spend their time talking... They've already begun discussing what the city's political situation will be ...And one of them wrote to me yesterday, saying he couldn't take part in something that wasn't purely 'democratic'... So I answered him this: Auroville must be at the service of the Truth, beyond all social, political and religious convictions... but above all...it would be better to build the city first!

Mother's Agenda, 7 Feb, 1970

The anarchic state is the self government of each individual, and it will be the perfect government only when each one becomes conscious of the inner Divine and will obey only Him and Him alone...

Someone from Auroville wrote to me that he had come here to obey only himself and he found there were rules and laws. And he said: I won't do it! I am free, I refuse to do it... so I wrote to him..

“One is only free when one is conscious of the Divine...”

· Charter of Auroville / The Mother

But to live in Auroville, one must be a willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.



“The idea to establish Auroville started to coalesce around end-1964/beginning-1965, and the Mother asked prominent French architect Roger Anger to design the township for her in March 1965. While the famous model of the Galaxy Plan was ready by Auroville's inauguration day on February 28th, 1968 and displayed to the public during the ceremony, there were other earlier designs for the township prepared by Anger and his

team. One of these designs, known as the Nebula Plan and based on the Mother's symbol, was included in the first brochure for Auroville which was published sometime in 1966.

At this time, the name Matrimandir had been given to the “Pavilion of the Mother” at the center of the township, but the design of Matrimandir as we know it now had not been initiated. That would begin to happen in early-1970. The Nebula

Plan established the round form for the township with roads radiating from the center. These features would be developed further and ultimately evolve into the Galaxy Plan.”

To read the rest of the Blog post, visit: <https://avarchives.auroville.org/2022/10/12/weekly-dose-of-history-41-2022/>

The Auroville Archives team publishes a blog called “Weekly Dose of History.” The blog efficiently incorpo-

rates content from the Auroville Archives collection while also providing useful information on historical events and activities, such as early brochures depicting Auroville's early years and chronicling the evolution of the township's projected urban design.

Link for blog: <https://avarchives.auroville.org/blog/>

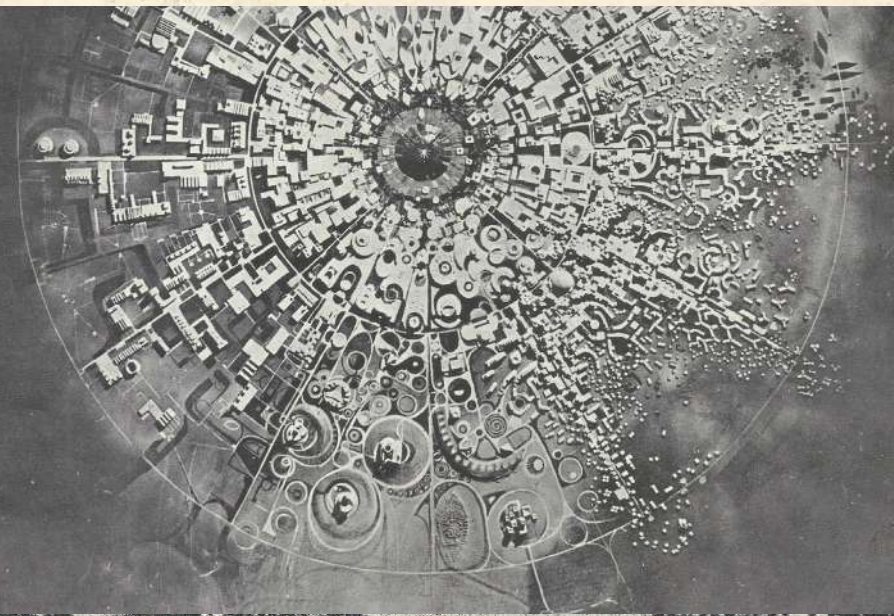
The Auroville Archives can be reached at

avarchives@auroville.org.in

THE TEACHING

Like his personality the teaching of Sri Aurobindo is multifaceted. The core of it, however, is in his perception that though Mind is the highest term yet reached in the human evolution, it is not the highest of which it is capable. There is above it a Supermind or eternal Truth-Consciousness which is in its nature self-aware and self-determining light and power of a Divine Knowledge. Mind is an ignorance seeking after Truth, but this is a self-existent Knowledge harmoniously manifesting the play of its forms and forces. It is only by the descent of this Supermind that the perfection dreamed of by all that is highest in humanity can come. It is possible by opening to a greater divine consciousness to rise to this power of light and bliss, discover one's true self, remain in constant union with the Divine and bring down the supramental force for the transformation of mind, and life and body. Not only the individual but his social existence also can be remoulded into a divine pattern. To realise this possibility has been the dynamic aim of Sri Aurobindo's Yoga.

The task of implementing Sri Aurobindo's Vision has devolved upon the Mother. The creation of a new world, a new humanity, a new society expressing and embodying the new consciousness is the labour she has undertaken. In the nature of things it is a collective ideal calling for a collective effort for its realisation in terms of an integral perfection of man. The Ashram founded and built up by the Mother has been the first step towards the fulfilment of this purpose. The project of Auroville is the next seeking to extend the base of this attempt to establish Harmony between the soul and the body, Spirit and Matter, Heaven and Earth, in the collective life of humanity.



PRINCIPLES OF TOWN PLANNING

The population has been deliberately fixed at 50,000 inhabitants.

This limit permits the adoption of a concentric plan of urbanisation, which in a town of continuous expansion would not be practicable. But in the case of Auroville the inherent advantage of a circular plan finds full justification in thereby accentuating the symbolic character of the town.

The axes of penetration towards the centre create a convergence, a densification of buildings, increasing to a point where they suddenly open out upon the gardens of Unity. In the centre of these gardens, surrounded by a lake, will be situated "The Sanctuary of Truth", and the Matrimandir, (Shrine of The Mother).

This principle of concentric urbanism also permits giving an equal place to four fundamental aspects of man's activities :

Work	.....	INDUSTRIAL	ZONE
Culture	.....	CULTURAL	ZONE
Dwelling	.....	RESIDENTIAL	ZONE
Social Relations	.....	INTERNATIONAL	ZONE

Each zone will occupy an equal position and importance in relation to the spiritual centre of the town, which will dominate the architectural ensemble and will be a constant reminder of the "raison d'être" of Auroville.

News in videos and photos



A Glimpse of the Crown

The construction of the Crown advances slowly but surely in spite of the hurdles. The work goes on on the stretch from Solar Kitchen to Arka, from Gaia to Kalabhumi, from Mahakali Park (formerly bliss tree plantation) to past Youth Center, near Naturellement and through Mahasaraswati Park (formerly Darkali Park).

https://youtu.be/Xx_Paz1814

What brings visitors to Auroville?

Auroville Media Interface met visitors at the Auroville Visitors Center and asked them a few questions.

What brought you to Auroville?

What have you heard of Auroville?

What do you think can improve your experience here?

What questions would you like to ask a resident of Auroville?

<https://youtu.be/lmXlCmn1wPY>



Matrimandir Lake

External construction challenges, as well as time and efficiency concerns, required the use of human imagination and ingenuity in order to achieve a successful design. The excavator you see in the video was already at Matrimandir. It had its normal arm, which was useful for digging. However, a 'longer' arm was required to continue the construction of the dams.

According to the construction plan, the first task is to complete the full width of both dams. The dams will then be raised to the top (ground level), which is another 5 metres above where they are now.

<https://youtu.be/kKsNY213qEQ>



Wishing everyone a happy Tamil new year, also known as Puthandu. Sacred ceremonies and festivities mark the celebration of the year 5124! The day is considered auspicious, symbolizing the beginning of the creation of the universe, and it is a time of renewal.

The city comes together to celebrate the transition to the new year with joy and good spirits.

<https://fb.watch/kZ6h0S3BH/>



STEAM Fest 2023 at Deepanam
Saturday 1st April

<https://youtube.com/shorts/Yvqlx-nxDLnA/>



The Auroville Tango Festival went on officially from 8th to the 12th of March, but it also included a 3 days weekend before kickoff at Samarpan guest house, and another couple of days at the Hall of Harmony in Bharat Nivas.

<https://youtu.be/PxUH-v0RqURo>

Auroville Festival 2023 recap of the week – 21st to 28th February 2023 and other videos

<https://youtu.be/IfzL6vaWwRc>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUaYD31CqjoWEuTWtsTwth-jZsLIDUynx0>



Spiritual Summit in Unity Pavilion from February 13th to 15th. Inauguration with speeches by Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chairman of Auroville Foundation Governing Board, and Dr. TAMILISAI Soundararajan, Lt Governor of Puducherry and Member of the Governing Board and Dena Merriam, Chair of the Auroville Foundation International Advisory Council.

<https://fb.watch/kZ70pLZD1Y/>

Watch the 3 days Spiritual Summit
<https://www.youtube.com/@unitypavilion6919/streams>

Panelists of the 2023 Auroville Spiritual Summit requested to gather in Mahasaraswati Park to seek permission, to express gratitude, and offer to the trees prayers from the Native American, Vedic and Tibetan traditions. Prayers that their sacrifice may lay the foundation for a beautiful city, a city of the future.

<https://youtu.be/rF50YDwK2BU>



Krishna Das' offering to the Universal Mother – Kirtan: 3000 people attended the Krishna Das concert in the Amphitheater of Matrimandir, Auroville in an expression of Bhakti for the Divine Mother.

<https://fb.watch/kZ77kEPAF8/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJxfgRNHhFE>



Message to the Auroville Community and invitation to the Auroville Festival by Dr. Jayanti Ravi #5

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tT1E_FHkpH8



Members of the International Advisory Council, members of AVI Board, members of the ATDC and Dr. Jayanti Ravi visited the City Exhibition at Bharat Nivas on 19th February 2023 and exchanged on the current affairs of Auroville agreeing that all should work together.

The 70-member G20 delegation (Summit Scientists delegation), accompanied by Pondicherry District Collector E. Vallavan, and led by Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary of the Auroville Foundation visited the City Exhibition: "The Vision Takes Shape" and the Matrimandir. They were welcomed by members of the Workings groups in Unity Pavilion on 31st January 2023.



The community meetings initiated in May by Dr. Jayanti Ravi continue. Inviting dialogue and cooperation, the Secretary and members of the Working Committee, the Funds and Assets Management Committee, and the Auroville Town Development Council met with residents of different Auroville communities.

These meetings are developing positively and will define the framework that will serve as the basis for broad cooperation and dialogues in areas of common interest, as well as the ways in which each of us can contribute to Auroville's development.

Auroville received the visit of the Consul Generals on the Southern Zone on March 18, 2023. The visiting Consul Generals were from Bangladesh, France, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.



Youth20 Summit

The Y20 Summit on Youth Participation was held in Auroville in early April as part of the G20 Summit with the theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future.” The event highlighted the importance of youth’s knowledge and interests in social change, democracy, and economic development to bring about progress and growth. It was a very active three-day affair with nearly 150 participants and facilitators, field trips, workshops, and meetings. The subjects discussed included everything from the plight of climate change to the methods for organising youth groups. There was also a walk around the Crown organised and a visit to Sadhana Forest. Y20 delegates visited and meditated in the gardens, the petals, and the inner chamber of the Matrimandir, then visited and had lunch at Solitude Farm. They experienced a sound bath, followed by an exchange with members of the

working groups and Dr Jayanti Ravi in the Unity Pavilion.

Y20 delegates visited the ‘city’ exhibition at Bharat Nivas. They had their dinner at Solar Kitchen and then enjoyed Gujarati “Garba ” dancing at SAWCHU. The participants came from various Indian states as well as from Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the UK, the USA, Mauritius, Malaysia, Oman, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Dubai, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Zambia to attend the summit. During the welcoming ceremony, the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation expressed gratitude to the young people and mentioned the historical significance of the day: “Over a hundred years ago on April 4th at 4 p.m., Sri Aurobindo set foot in Pondicherry; it was the setting to embark on the future.”

YOUTH 20 VIDEOS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JJVGE-D7EAG&t=5047s>

https://fb.watch/k4RR_R3FJQ/

<https://youtube.com/shorts/g3cpj9dpnge>



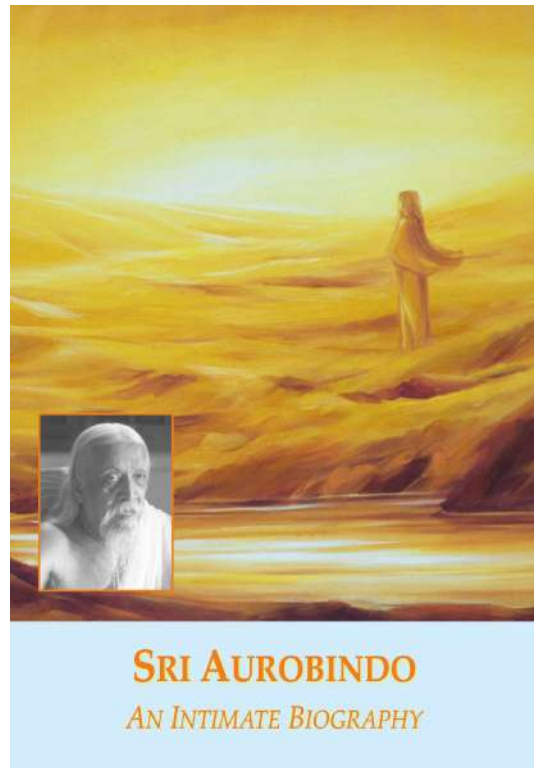
“Many things are converging at this time,” she continued, “the 75th year of India’s independence, the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, and the centenary year of the birth of Roger Anger, the architect of Auroville.” All of the distinguished speakers, including the Hon’ble Governor and Chairman of Auroville Foundation, Shri R. N. Ravi, the Hon’ble Lt Governor of Puducherry, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan; Shri Anirban Ganguly, Director of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Foundation and India’s official representative of India Youth20 (Y20), accompanied by Governing Board member Dr Nirima Oza along with Shri Falit Sijariya and Dr Ananda Reddy (SACAR), addressed the young people, encouraging them to contribute their ideas, visions, and dynamism. To foster a culture of coordination and teamwork, directing them to effective methods for forming alliances and raising awareness about global issues; connect with other courageous and motivated youth who are pushing the boundaries in their respective countries; and activate youth participation to benefit the world as a whole (but also young people).

Young people face numerous challenges; they grow up in a rapidly developing environment, and when confronted with environmental issues such as climate change, they must make sense of this changing environment while also defining their own identity. Developing partnerships with adults in all areas of life through effective coordination and advocacy activities can help them by fostering mutual understanding and solidarity and giving them the confidence to become role models among their peers.

Visits to Auroville communities introduced guests to a naturalistic way of life, community-oriented efforts, and environmentally responsible businesses. Placing the emphasis on constructive endeavours such as volunteering. By promoting education and training, Y20 can help create a generation of conscientious leaders equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to build sustainable communities and tackle environmental challenges. One of the most significant outcomes of the Y20 summit was the gathering of so many people who want to participate, learn about the scope of participation, and gain opportunities in important decision-making.



Sri Aurobindo - An Intimate Biography by M. P. Pandit



SRI AUROBINDO AN INTIMATE BIOGRAPHY

It is rare to come across one who lives to see his early dreams nearing fulfilment in his lifetime. Sri Aurobindo is unique in this respect, especially when we see that his 'dreams' are not of an individual nature but of cosmic significance. And who is Sri Aurobindo?

Sri Aurobindo is a scholar, poet, revolutionary, thinker, seer, philosopher, yogi, creator of an Age. He is, above all, a Rishi, one who sees beyond, one who has realised his identity with the Divine and wields His creative Bow.

In this intimate biography, we follow the stages of his rich and varied life and the steps of his inner and outer journey, filled with rare insights and glimpses of his extraordinary personality.

Great beings come among us from time to time to open a great window of Truth in the stifling four walls of the past. And, in truth, Sri Aurobindo was one of those beings, a spirit of synthesis, who came with the sword of knowledge to transform our world.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Sri Aurobindo's birth. Throughout his varied life, he was dedicated to bringing about change in the world and remained a firm believer in India's rise beyond oppression in solidarity and integrity. He was not a pacifist, yet he chose the power of the written word to aid in the freedom struggle. Sri Aurobindo's dialectic of freedom, eminently supported by traditional wisdom, struck the masses with a sense of hope and exhilaration, inspiring many freedom fighters to action, which the British were well aware of. Thus, the British regime regarded him as one of the most dangerous men. They imprisoned him and his time in jail moved him to spiritual pursuits.

Understanding the man by his own words;

“I had no urge towards spirituality in me; I developed spirituality. I was incapable of understanding metaphysics, but I developed into a philosopher. I had no eye for painting; I developed it through yoga. I transformed my nature from what it was to what it was not. I did it in a special manner, not by a miracle, and I did it to show what could be done and how it could be done. I did not do it out of any personal necessity of my own or by a miracle without any process. I say that if it is not so, then my yoga is useless and my life was a mistake—a mere absurd freak of nature without meaning or consequence. You all seem to think it a great compliment to me to say that what I have done has no meaning for anybody except

myself—it is the most damaging criticism of my work that could be made. I also did not do it by myself, if you mean by myself, as Aurobindo did. He did it with the help of Krishna and the Divine Shakti. I had help from embodied sources also.” (Sri Aurobindo on Himself, 1935)

Sri Aurobindo published a significant amount of literary work in English.

Philosophy, poetry, translations and commentaries on the Vedas, Upanishads, and Gita, plays, literary, social, political, and historical criticism, devotional works, spiritual journals, and volumes of letters are among his completed works. Having collected the essential truths of the spiritual experiences of the past, he sought to reconcile the divergent thought systems on a comprehensive scale adding his own spiritual realisations. He called this amalgamation “Integral Yoga,” which stands for the synthesis at the level of practical spirituality.

Few individuals today have demonstrated a profound understanding of Sri

Aurobindo's foundational concepts and have successfully applied them in their daily lives. The reality at large is that many people are hesitant to read a Sri Aurobindo book because they struggle with his complex language and concepts. However, to grasp Sri Aurobindo's teachings, we must first know something of his formative years and psyche.

This intimate biography by M.P. Pandit is a spiritual treasure as well as a living, authentic story that puts into perspective the early life events of the heroic figure, who lived in a state of permanent spiritual revolution. The book provides a comprehensive understanding of Sri Aurobindo's personal and spiritual journey, as well as how his experiences shaped his philosophical beliefs.

The author brings the focus to the man, who is so strongly revered and loved, yet so little is known about his life. Shedding light on the personal side of his life, giving records of his daily life, observed incidents, reported talks and letters, descriptions of The Mother, family, friends, spouse, colleagues, and reactions to politics, public events, his incarceration, self-assessments and self-interrogation, and the periods of spiritual awakening and exploration in yoga in his later years. Sri Aurobindo's ideals and philosophy resonate throughout the book.

Since its first publication in 1983, it has touched the core of many people who are inwardly ready to receive and inwardly prepared, and it has set them on the path of seeking truth and aspiration for a new world.

The book was first published by the Government of India Publication Department, which edited it heavily to suit their guidelines. This is the first time it is published in its entirety, as it was in Panditji's original manuscript, with no editing.

The book is available online at: <https://diptipublications.com/>



Bharat Nivas presented Laure Huys' workshop, "On Personal Practical Solutions for Environmental Issues."

The Zero Waste movement is growing all over the world, actively empowering people to participate in urgently needed environmental changes. Laura, a spokesperson and guide for this initiative in Auroville seems optimistic about the evolution of this way of life. She is zealously debunking misconceptions about zero waste by offering talks and workshops, presenting her research and experience living a low-waste and sustainable lifestyle.

Demonstrating the practical side of ecology through everyday objects used cre-

atively and experiences that are easily transferable. Along with a range of useful advice for overcoming the initial challenges of transitioning to a low-waste life and tips for finding alternatives to disposable and single-use products. She also vividly depicts the critical health and environmental benefits of eliminating all toxic products from our lives, as well as the significant financial benefits of low consumption.

Content of the workshop:

- Waste problem
- Evolution of the problem
- Consumption and overconsumption
- Why reduce our waste?
- The 5 Principles of the Zero Waste Philosophy
- How my low-waste life looks today



- How you can start reducing your waste
- Identification of possible solutions and advancement of knowledge

The concept of waste and the amount consumed vary according to one's level of knowledge, imagination, awareness, and education about the issue. We can all do better if we make conscious efforts and have a genuine affection for nature. Contact Laure on Instagram and Facebook at @EcoLorette to participate in upcoming events and learn about the zero-waste approach.

A video of the workshop will soon be available on YouTube.

Watch Laure's most recent YouTube talk video, "How to reduce your waste to the minimum in 5 steps" <https://youtu.be/lQUolyg1eAA>



TALISMAN 8-29 April

An exhibition by It Matters

Artworks by Auroville artists, curated by Bhakti Mills and Sandra Bauser Poirson in partnership with the Alliance Française de Pondicherry

Talisman, much like art, is marked by existential doubt and a bizarre history; however, this ardent despair translates into an explosion of symbolism and opulent representation, resulting in art that is universal and sacred!

It Matters, in partnership with Alliance Française, presented a group exhibition that explored the concept of the talisman. Exploring the magical powers in the emblematic imagery juxtaposed with the reconstructed transcendent

forms. And curated with a penchant for mystery by the co-founders of It Matters.

"In Talisman, these pieces are brought together through tile, an emblematic medium of Tamil culture and architecture. In the Auroville and Pudu-



cherry region, one often sees tiles with a god figure in front of houses as a protective spirit: a talisman. A talisman is an object that connects the cultural and the spiritual, in ways that cannot always be explained or understood- as does the practice of art. In this exhibition, a bold association of local artists seeks to reveal new realms of interconnection, by connecting two-gether:

Connecting two artworks, connecting two artists, connecting art and craft, connecting individual and collective." -It Matters

Just as the artists allowed themselves to be seduced by the iconography and symbolism found in Tamil culture, which evoked in their works an essential spirituality, a universal and primitive intimacy, standing in front of the

printed tiles affixed to the walls, one saw a series of works with a strong emotional charge and responded emotionally. Eminently, providing the possibility of believing in its role as protector and repairer, overflowing with empathy and magical energies for those who want to consider it so. For those who are not afraid to treasure this dream and reactivate this magical and magnetic power both within and without.

The collective's use of tile as a medium allowed for a cohesive and unified aesthetic, presenting a rhythmic unity for the viewer despite the diverse backgrounds and styles of the individual artists. Ongkie Tan, Agnes Gastman, and Auroson Bystrom were part of the group, along with Birgitta Volz, Charles Zanon, Ireno Guercu, Crystal, and Henk Van Putten, all renowned as outstanding Auroville artists.



1977 & 1978 Auroville Birthday Bonfire Photos

Auroville's birthday (inauguration day) just went by on February 28th, and the Archives received a query asking when the first bonfire at the Amphitheater took place. We're still finding out the answer, but we found a photo attributed to Feb 28 1976. However, the photo is really dark, so instead of showing that photo here, we're showing two photos from the 1977 and 1978 birthday bonfires. The 1978 photo was taken by Indra Poddar. In both photos, you can see the Matrimandir under construction, and the Banyan Tree. You can also see the progress in construction between the two years – the inner chamber is in place in the second photo! The red sandstone has yet to be laid on the Amphitheater.



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