

Matrimandir

November 2017



For the first time ever, the Southern entrance to Matrimandir, named Maheshwari by the Mother, will be soon opened. An Aurovillian has offered the article given below, exploring the significance of this opening of the fourth entrance to the Matrimandir building.

Maheshwari entrance:

The Matrimandir sphere stands foursquare upon its four pillar entrances. To these the Mother had given the names:

North	Mahakali	N O R D	<i>Mahakali</i>
South	Maheshwari	S U D	<i>Maheshwari</i>
East	Mahalakshmi	E S T.	<i>Mahalakshmi</i>
West	Mahasaraswati	O U E S T	<i>Mahasaraswati</i>
Blessings			<i>bliss</i>

Matrimandir is a physical structure, one that Auroville has worked to bring into material manifestation from 1972. But it embodies a spiritual symbol. It is the symbol of Auroville's soul; it represents Auroville's aspiration for the divine. It wants to be, "the symbol of the Universal Mother according to Sri Aurobindo's teaching", said the Mother. She who is the Universal Creatrix and Conscious-Force acting in and upon the world through her 4 great powers.

What does a spiritual symbol signify? Sri Aurobindo notes that a symbol is a form of one plane that represents the truth of another. Matrimandir, as the centre of Auroville and its "force of cohesion" is a dynamic and formative symbol for the developing collectivity that is Auroville.

Entry into the Matrimandir structure has been, for the longest time, through the West pillar, the Mahasaraswati entrance. It is only recently that access has been possible through the East, the Mahalakshmi pillar and the North, the Mahakali entrance. Viewed symbolically it is worth noting that in response to a question, Sri Aurobindo spoke of the Maharaswati power, the Mother's power of skill in works and perfection, as being most active in the world at present. The pathway through the gardens to this entrance is the longest, it stretches the length of the oval as the Matrimandir sphere is situated east of the Banyan Tree and the Amphitheatre.

Another interesting and symbolic fact is that the Matrimandir sphere is so aligned to cause the very first rays of the rising sun to illumine the crystal in the centre of the inner room every year exactly on the 4th of April. The East entrance is dedicated to Mahalakshmi, the Universal Mother's power of harmony, sweetness and delight.

There are signs and symbols to be discovered in so many aspects of this centre of Auroville that the Mother named Peace. This is left largely to individual exploration and activation as consciousness grows within. Yet the Mother designated by name the 4 pillar entrances to Matrimandir as well as the 12 meditation rooms and the 12 gardens. These names which are also idea-forces can represent a comprehensive journey of inner discovery through the sacred geography of the Matrimandir symbol.

A most significant fact is that the only entrance

into the sphere that has never been activated for public use is the South pillar or the Maheshwari entrance. There have been many technical issues needing solution for the finalization of this mechanical doorway, - it is to slide up from beneath the sphere to close the entrance. The strong rays of the Westering sun that strike this doorway have to be factored into its design. This is now on the way to achievement, but is still going to take a little time. As there is somehow a sense of urgency to open this final doorway we will install, within the next few weeks, a simple wooden door to allow this Maheshwari entrance to be put finally into use. Maheshwari, we may remind ourselves, is the Mother's power of wisdom. She of whom Sri Aurobindo says: "She is the mighty and wise One who opens us to the supramental infinities and cosmic vastness, to the grandeur of the supreme Light, to a treasure-house of miraculous knowledge, to the measureless movement of the Mother's eternal forces. Tranquil is she and wonderful, great and calm for ever..."

It is in Sri Aurobindo that one finds a unique portrayal of this great power of the universal Mother. It is through his magical depiction that one can enter into relation with the profound truths of this mysterious force and personality, so little known and worshipped.

What can the opening of the South pillar entrance signify? Will it awaken a living contact with this great power of whom Sri Aurobindo says: "Yet has she more than any other the heart of the universal Mother"?

That it has taken so many years to solve technical issues can in itself be a symbol. May we wish, on the one hand, that the opening of this door which receives the full intensity of the sun's rays be a sign of the collectivity's growing friendship with its solar heat and light. And, on the other, may the temperament, personality and soul type over which Maheshwari presides - "...a mind open more and more to all ideas and knowledge and incomings of Truth; a hunger and passion for knowledge, for its growth in ourselves, for its communication to others, for its reign in the world, the reign of reason and right and truth and justice and on a higher level the harmony of our greater being, the reign of the spirit and its universal unity and light and love..." find wide room in the Auroville collectivity.



Completion of the Green Room

Work is moving rapidly towards the completion of the Green Room beneath the Eastern edge of the Amphitheatre. The work must be done and complete by the end of the year so that artists can get used to the space as they prepare for the programs that they will present in the Amphitheater during 2018, Auroville's 50th anniversary year. The photo above shows activity on one corner of the Green Room, with carpenters preparing to install the false ceiling of this space. The man on the left is standing on the bench which will be used by the artists to apply their makeup, and the full wall on the left will be mounted with mirror panels and bright lights. At the far right there are toilets and changing rooms, with air-conditioning machines to be installed on the wall in front. By early November the painters will move in, to give this space its unifying white coats of paint.

Completion of the Tools Center

On the opposite side of the amphitheater, under its Western outer edge, work proceeds similarly to



complete the tools center being set up there. This large room, shown in the photo above, is a wide sweeping space with open storage on the right, for larger objects like wheel barrows and rolls of hose pipes, and with smaller storerooms on the left to keep all the manner of small gardening tools that will be needed over the next decades to take care of the Matrimandir gardens. Construction of the Tools Center is also slated to be concluded in the next few months.

Planting in Progress Garden

Progress garden took a step forwards in October as the borders of the central terraced area were planted with many young plants (Rose periwinkle)



which have been given the significance of Progress by the Mother. Soon we will plant the pink and white hibiscus with the significance given by the Mother of "Power to Progress", - the key flower she chose for this garden.

Bore Well Drilled in the New Compost Section

Matrimandir's large compost generating section will be moved in the future to a new site located about a kilometer away from the center of Auroville. This is because the current location for this activity lies within the future zone for a lake which is to surround the Matrimandir gardens oval. A significant step was taken in late October towards the establishment of the new compost section as a bore well, about 100 meters deep, was drilled there to supply water to the site.

The Water Ceremony

We take this occasion to inform you of the special event which will take place on February 28th 2018 in the Amphitheater at Matrimandir to symbolize the completion of 50 years of Auroville's growth.

Water Ceremony for Auroville's 50th Anniversary



“Water is the symbol of a state of consciousness or plane.” -- Sri Aurobindo (Letter on Yoga III)

In Her description of Sri Aurobindo's Symbol Mother explains:

“The descending triangle represents Sat-Chit-Ananda. The ascending triangle represents the aspiring answer from matter under the form of life, light and love. The junction of both - the central square - is the perfect manifestation having at its centre the Avatar of the Supreme - the lotus.”

The water - inside the square - represents the multiplicity, the creation.

An appeal for collecting water

Dear Friends,

There will be a water ceremony after the early morning meditation of 28.2.2018, in the Amphitheatre of the Matrimandir. It is proposed that water from different water bodies of the world including the seven sacred rivers of India be collected and brought to Auroville.

The bringing together of water from all over the world in a symbolic ceremony at the centre of Auroville would not only mean a prayer for unity but also a prayer for this diminishing resource for the whole world.

We need the collaboration of the peoples of the

world to make this event come true. We invite Aurovilians, Newcomers, Guests, Visitors, Friends of Auroville, the children and disciples of Mother and Sri Aurobindo from different parts of the world to help us in our endeavour.

Please bring us a little water from your place.

If you wish to participate in this attempt then this is what we propose:

1. The water must be from a lake, river, spring etc. from your part of the world.
2. The amount can be anything between 500 ml to 1000ml from each water source. Can be a smaller quantity if bringing it over poses a problem.
3. To be bottled in a leak proof bottle preferably made of glass and carried in the luggage that is checked-in. Please do not freeze or refrigerate the water.
4. Each bottle must be labeled with: 1) the name of the country 2) the source of the water 3) if possible, the GPS location of the area from where it was collected or at least the name and place of the water source.
5. Please remember to take a few pictures of the water source so that we may post them on our link.
6. The water may reach Matrimandir anytime between November 2017 and 27th February 2018.

We are open to suggestions. Please contact us at: worldwater@auroville.org.in

For up to date information you may look up:

<http://www.auroville.org/contents/4257> AV website or

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/285893768498965/> Facebook

Looking forward to a collaborative effort with all

Sincerely,

The Matrimandir Events Team

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Important information on sending your offerings: Contributions to Matrimandir are exempt under sec. 80G of the Indian Income Tax Act. You can send us by post your offering by DD/Cheque payable to “Matrimandir”. You may also give your offering in cash/cheque/DD at the Matrimandir Office during your visit for meditation.

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