

Matrimandir

August 2021



The layered stones of the large circle in the Garden of the Unexpected glow like living gold in the evening sun.

Matrimandir is a mysterious place, — or perhaps more accurately, Matrimandir reveals a bit more of the mystery that always surrounds us in Life.

At night, under the enveloping canopy of the Banyan tree there is a deep warm silence. Matrimandir glows golden through the leaves of the low hanging branches. Between the aerial roots the Urn can be seen in the distance, — white, illuminated by a light at its base, as it calmly holds the majesty of the founding day of Auroville, 53 years ago. There is a sense of timelessness, a contained energy, an unstoppable thrust towards a Future ever moving in front of our limited view.

All is silent and calm, held in a kind of majestic suspension. The gentle sounds of the night at play as a whispering, living background..

All is still, as the site rests and gathers energy for the coming day.

When the day comes, this amazing presence draws back from immediate view as the multiform activities of the site unfold themselves in their various rhythms.

Some of the activities are massive and move forward with a great energy. The creation of the open water channel, for example, which will soon surround the gardens, creating an island. The entire perimeter of the gardens oval, measuring more than one kilometre

long has been swept back, — growths of dense brush, piles of earth and rock, several store rooms, all have been cleared and pushed back to create a 20 m wide free band of space from the edge of the gardens, changing the view dramatically: space opens, a future landscape emerges which will provide a belt of isolation. The water channel will be alive, with plants and fish and all that is needed to keep it ecologically fresh and healthy.

This channel will have another very practical function: it will gather all the rain water runoff from the 22-acre

oval and channel it towards the large lake section being excavated on the south eastern edge of the gardens. It is a massive experiment in rain water harvesting, attempting to catch this precious resource and store it for future use in the 10,000 sqm lake section now being built.

It is a grand endeavour, pushing us beyond the normal scale of works, in an attempt to leap towards one of the dreams that the Mother had very clearly articulated for the Matrimandir.



The rain water harvesting channel being built around the gardens is seen during a rainy day in July. Here it is still rough, unfinished: soon it will be waterproofed and given stone borders.

There are several other activities underway on the Matrimandir site. On the Matrimandir itself, new glass doors are being fitted in all the four concrete entrance pillars, replacing earlier, more temporary models. The entrance appearance is much improved, more quietly elegant.

The gardens too are active, — in two quite different ways.

The Garden of the Unexpected is moving to completion with work underway simultaneously in its

two large sections. In one, a giant circle formed of yellowish cuddappa stones from northern India has been recently created. (See photo on cover page.) This circle has the same diameter as the Inner Chamber of Matrimandir, 24 m.

In the adjacent section of this garden, another very interesting work is going on. Large limestone rocks are being laid one by one down the slope of the garden. The plan is that a small rivulet of water will flow in a shallow groove over the surface of these flat rocks,

all the way from a pool at the upper end, towards a second pool at the lower end. It is a painstaking task for the masons to precisely place these stones, weighing several hundred kilos each, in a carefully graded sequence of levels so the water will follow its winding course over their surfaces.

In the same garden, adjacent to the upper pool, a small “monsoon pavilion” has been constructed, held up by four polished granite pillars. The roof, built in specially treated pine wood, is now being covered by copper shingles, to protect it from the weather for a

very long time to come.

In another garden, on the opposite side of Matrimandir, in the Garden of Existence, the new set of large quartz crystals is taking shape. The main group, shown here, is in place. A secondary smaller group will soon be placed, and the area will then be surfaced with a layer of large-grained sand which will be raked in Japanese fashion to highlight the groups of crystals within it. This too is a work in progress, and promises to be another very special feature of the Matrimandir gardens.



The cluster of large quartz crystals in the Garden of Existence takes shape.

At another level of work, the planning process for the next four of the 12 main gardens of Matrimandir, — Light, Life, Power and Wealth — is nearing completion after almost two years of preparation. By mid-August we hope to be able to begin the construction of the first two of these gardens, those lying close to the central Banyan tree.

Then, in the quiet vastness of the night, the Banyan will have new companions under its outer branches, as the gardens of Life and Power lie partially beneath

its perimeter. At night, the flowers and the pool of the new gardens, sheltered under the branches of the tree, will also be held in its canopy of peace. The night owls who live in the tree will look down on the new plants, stones and flowers, and perhaps glimpse fish in the pool in the Garden of Life. The communion of the grand Banyan with the gardens around it will grow and widen, deepening the vast link that is shared by all within the life flow of Matrimandir.



During early summer a scenic presentation of Sri Aurobindo's translation of the story of "Nachiketas", was enacted at the mini amphitheater near the Banyan tree. This story about death and immortality, with questions and answers to that eternal search, is to be found in the Katha Upanishad.

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Important information on sending your offerings.

You can send us your offering by post with a DD/Cheque payable to **"Matrimandir"**.

Postal address: MATRIMANDIR – AUROVILLE 605101 – TAMIL NADU – INDIA

You may also send your offerings for Matrimandir by bank transfer to Auroville Unity Fund. To do so please follow the procedure described below:

- 1) Write to matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in requesting bank transfer details.
We will send you the appropriate account number. (Account numbers are different for offerings coming from inside or outside of India.)
- 2) Please specify that the transaction is for Matrimandir.
- 3) After the transaction, please send another email to matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in with transaction details. If you need a tax exemption receipt, please send PAN DETAILS in this email.

Phone number for accounts : 0413- 262-2228, **Email:** matrimandir@auroville.org.in