



Auroville
The City of Dawn



A BRIEF INTRODUCTION AND 54 YEARS OF REALISATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in Peace and Harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is to realise Human Unity.

Auroville, sometimes referred to as “The City of Dawn” was founded on 28th February 1968 by Mirra Alfassa, named “The Mother”.

During the Auroville inauguration in 1968, youth from 124 different nations and 23 Indian states each deposited a handful of their native soil into the Urn, a marble-clad structure in the form of a symbolic lotus bud, located in the centre of the Amphitheatre. On this occasion, the Auroville Charter written by the Mother was broadcast live in 16 languages by “All India Radio”.



Inauguration of Auroville on 28th February 1968

When the first Aurovilians settled in Auroville in 1968, they found a barren eroded plateau of lateritic soil, with nearly no trees. The indigenous “Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest” (TDEF) had been cut since generations. Thus, before thinking of building a city, the first area of work for nearly 20 years was to give life again to the land by drilling wells, planting trees, developing farms and protecting the land from erosion due to the very heavy rains of the tropical monsoon climate. Because of the need to create the base for the city, the first actual city development started only in the 1990s.



Auroville landscape in 1968, planting trees



Auroville landscape in 2022, dense forests

The UNESCO General Assembly unanimously adopted five resolutions in support of Auroville in 1966, 1968, 1970, 1983 and 2017. See the various resolutions in Section “5 Annexes”, on page 24. In 1988, the Indian Parliament unanimously passed the “Auroville Foundation Act 1988”, which established Auroville as an autonomous foundation of the Government of India, now under the supervision of its Ministry of Education. Aurovilians are very grateful to UNESCO and the Government of India (GoI) for their continuous support, especially to Mother India’s great tolerance and spiritual tradition, which have protected Auroville as an experimental space for human, environmental, architectural and technological development.

At the centre of the city is the Peace Area where the Matrimandir – the soul of Auroville – is located. At the core of the Matrimandir is a spacious meditation room where people can concentrate on the Divine. Roger Anger, the chief architect of Auroville, designed the concept plan for Auroville in the shape of a galaxy. Until now, the manifestation of the City of Dawn has proceeded slowly, the main reasons being the lack of human resources and funds, which did not allow to buy the lands required for development. Furthermore, the construction of a city up to 50,000 people should be the outcome of a collaborative process running alongside the evolution of consciousness.



The Matrimandir, the soul of Auroville



Matrimandir chamber



Galaxy Plan, concept by Roger Anger

For more information on Auroville, please visit the Auroville website: www.auroville.media

In 1954, the Mother wrote “*A dream*” which was initially addressed to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry. Fourteen years later, Auroville became the outward manifestation of this “dream” and this message therefore also applies entirely to Auroville. In 1968, the Mother wrote the Auroville Charter before its inauguration.

A DREAM

There should be somewhere on earth a place which no nation could claim as its own, where all human beings of goodwill who have a sincere aspiration could live freely as citizens of the world and obey one single authority, that of the supreme truth; a place of peace, concord and harmony where all the fighting instincts of man would be used exclusively to conquer the causes of his sufferings and miseries, to surmount his weaknesses and ignorance, to triumph over his limitations and incapacities; a place where the needs of the spirit and the concern for progress would take precedence over the satisfaction of desires and passions, the search for pleasure and material enjoyment.

In this place, children would be able to grow and develop integrally without losing contact with their souls; education would be given not for passing examinations or obtaining certificates and posts but to enrich existing faculties and bring forth new ones. In this place, titles and positions would be replaced by opportunities to serve and organise; the bodily needs of each one would be equally provided for, and intellectual, moral and spiritual superiority would be expressed in the general organisation not by an increase in the pleasures and powers of life but by increased duties and responsibilities.

Beauty in all its artistic forms, painting, sculpture, music, literature, would be equally accessible to all; the ability to share in the joy it brings would be limited only by the capacities of each one and not by social and financial position.

For in this ideal place money would no longer be the sovereign lord; individual worth would have a far greater importance than that of material wealth and social standing. There, work would not be a way to earn one's living but a way to express oneself and to develop one's capacities and possibilities while being of service to the community as a whole, which, for its own part, would provide for each individual's subsistence and sphere of action.

In short, it would be a place where human relationships, which are normally based almost exclusively on competition and strife, would be replaced by relationships of emulation in doing well, of collaboration and real brotherhood.

The earth is certainly not ready to realise such an ideal, for mankind does not yet possess sufficient knowledge to understand and adopt it nor the conscious force that is indispensable in order to execute it; that is why I call it a dream.

And yet this dream is in the course of becoming a reality; that is what we are striving for in Sri Aurobindo's Ashram, on a very small scale, in proportion to our limited means. The realisation is certainly far from perfect, but it is progressive; little by little we are advancing towards our goal which we hope we may one day be able to present to the world as a practical and effective way to emerge from the present chaos, to be born into a new life that is more harmonious and true.



The Mother

AUROVILLE CHARTER

Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville, one must be the willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.

Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages.

Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations.

Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity.

2. SPIRITUALITY IN AUROVILLE, INTEGRAL YOGA AND THE YOGA OF WORK

Auroville is not an ashram, where the Guru guides his disciples, step by step, to unite with the Spirit, in general through the renunciation of life. Traditionally, the spiritual search through yoga in India leads to the union of the individual consciousness with the Universal Consciousness, through the detachment of oneself from the material world.

The spiritual path shown by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother is totally different. The yoga of Sri Aurobindo, also known as the Integral Yoga, is a yoga of earth transformation, towards the Supramental being. The aim of this yoga is not an escape from life or a shunning of worldly existence, but a radical change in our life even while living it.

Sri Aurobindo and the Mother are no longer here, but they left numerous books and messages to guide Aurovilians. Therefore, to comprehend spirituality in Auroville, it is more appropriate to quote the Mother and Sri Aurobindo, starting with an extract from *“The Great Adventure”* written by the Mother in 1957:

“I invite you to the great adventure and in this adventure, you are not to repeat spiritually what others have done before us, because our adventure begins from beyond that stage.” 17. 7. 1957

The Mother expressed on different occasions what spirituality would be in Auroville, as mentioned hereafter.

“The more I go, the more I know that it is in work that Sri Aurobindo’s integral yoga is best done. In works, aspiration towards Perfection is true spirituality.”

“All life is yoga. Therefore, one cannot live without practising the supreme yoga. The opposition between spirituality and material life, the division between the two, has no meaning for me, for in truth life and the spirit are one and it is in and by physical work that the highest spirit must manifest.” 19. 4. 1968

“True spirituality lies in the service of the divine work.” 24. 2. 1971, page 210, Vol. 13, CWM

“It is not what you do, but the spirit in which you do it that makes karma yoga.” 05. 2. 1973

“Auroville is created to realise the ideal of Sri Aurobindo who taught us the Karma Yoga. Auroville is for those who want to do the Yoga of Work. To live in Auroville means to do the Yoga of Work. So, all Aurovilians must take up a work and do it as Yoga.” 27. 3. 1973, page 222, Vol. 13, CWM

The “Yoga of Work”, the Karma Yoga taught by Sri Aurobindo, goes beyond what Lord Krishna taught in the Bhagavad Gita about Karma Yoga, the “Path of Selfless Service”: *“You have a right to perform your prescribed duties, but you are not entitled to the fruits of your actions. Never consider yourself to be the cause of the results of your activities, nor be attached to inaction.”* Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 3 Karma Yoga, verse 47

Sri Aurobindo spoke in length about the Yoga of Works in various texts, as mentioned hereafter.

“By constant referring of all one’s will and works to the Divine, love and adoration grow, the psychic being comes forward. (...) Finally, works, bhakti and knowledge go together and self-perfection becomes possible – what we call the transformation of the nature.”

“Yoga through work is the easiest and most effective way to enter into the stream of this Sadhana.”

“Limit not sacrifice to the giving up of earthly goods or the denial of some desires and yearnings but let every thought and every work and every enjoyment be an offering to God within thee. Let thy steps walk in thy Lord, let thy sleep and waking be a sacrifice to Krishna.”

“By disinterested work is usually meant work done for the sake of the work or for the sake of others without asking for return, reward or personal fruit or recompense; but in Yoga it means desireless work done for the Divine as an offering without condition or claim – only because it is the Divine’s Will or out of love for the Divine.”

“There is a consciousness in each physical thing with which one can communicate. Everything has an individuality of a certain kind, houses, cars, furniture etc. The ancient peoples knew that and so they saw a spirit or “genius” in every physical thing.”

The words above gave the direction to Aurovilians on how to practice the Karma Yoga and live a spiritual life. Aurovilians do not speak with each other in general of their inner search and practice. Everyone does a dedicated work, with an aspiration towards perfection – Auroville products are thus acknowledged of superior quality. Some people practice meditation besides their working hours. Others never meditate crossed-legged, but consider their work as meditation, by concentrating on the task at hand. Many are the ways in Auroville to approach the Divine.

3. THE IRUMBAI LEGEND

There is an ancient legend in the Irumbai village, close to Auroville, which can be seen as the prophetic destiny of Auroville. This legend was written down by several Aurovilians, based on a tape-recorded conversation with the temple Brahmin at Irumbai. To make the legend short, it can be reported as follows:

“Once upon a time, the Irumbai region was green and fertile, with gardens, crops and water. A terrible heatwave dried the wells and the monsoon rains failed. A severe drought came upon the land, which prompted the king, Kurumba Raja, to send his ministers to discover the cause of the draught. They discovered that a saint, Kaduveli Siddha, was performing harsh penance, sitting under a peepal tree in yogic pose, without eating since so many days that an anthill was rising around him. The heat of his body was so intense that it caused the drought. No one dared disturb the yogi.

Finally, a temple dancer devoted to Lord Shiva, Valli, decided to get the attention of the yogi. She managed to get the yogi’s attention and he finally opened his eyes. Meanwhile the God of Rain was relieved and the rain fell in plenty. People were happy once again, and the king ordered a big puja to be held at Irumbai temple, followed by a classical performance in which Valli would act the cosmic dance of Lord Shiva Nataraja.

During the performance, one of her anklets fell off. Kaduveli Siddha, who saw Lord Shiva in Valli, picked up the anklet and put it back on her feet. This exposed him to the ridicule of the king and court for having touched the feet of a dancer. Furious, Kaduveli Siddha invoked Lord Shiva to prove his innocence. As a result, the lingam of the temple exploded, and wherever its fragments fell became a desert. No greenery would grow around these spots. The king, frightened, begged the pardon of the yogi. Appeased, Kaduveli said that what was done was done, but that in the future, people from far-off lands would come and make the desert land green and fertile again.”

4. DATA AND REALISATIONS

October 2022

People have come from all over the world to live the “Dream”. They strive to manifest the ideal of Auroville, create a new society and build step by step the “City at the Service of Truth”, as the Mother also called Auroville. Aurovilians attempt to build the universal township in a peaceful and harmonious way as part of a collaborative process and in a progressive harmony that can lead towards Human Unity.

The first Auroville pioneers came overland from Europe in several “caravans”. They left everything they had in their countries, families included, packed essential belongings and tools in their cars and buses, and drove all the way to Auroville. They came to live the “Great Adventure” and build the “City the Earth Needs”. However, instead of finding the construction site of a city, as they imagined, they found a barren eroded plateau of red soil where there was nothing: no houses, barely any trees, no water, a scorching sun, etc. For years, the Aurovilian pioneers were in survival mode, with sometimes little food, busy bringing back to life the deserts plateau which was once a lush tropical forest.

Many Aurovilians have donated most – if not all – of their personal funds to the Auroville Foundation. Unit (enterprise) executives have donated many Lakhs of Rupees (tens of thousands of Euros) to create and develop their units. Many foresters and farmers donated everything they had and years of sweat and hard labour to transform the barren plateau into a zone of dense forests with a thriving biodiversity. All the funds invested by Aurovilians to purchase land, build the city and create anything in Auroville belongs to the Auroville Foundation, not to the individuals. Aurovilians are voluntary workers and live on a small monthly allowance.

Though the township started to materialise slowly and not much of a “town” can be seen until now, Aurovilians have prepared the material basis to build Auroville: They have given life to a barren plateau, developed the entire bioregion with a lot of outreach programmes, researched many building materials and technologies, and experimented in many areas of work and life.

Through their hard work and endeavour, Aurovilians have developed many activities which have become Centres of Excellence. They conduct applied research, share knowledge and consult across India and globally in over a dozen fields. Aurovilians have contributed immensely to: Sustainable settlement planning – Sustainable and bioclimatic architecture – Earthen architecture – Appropriate building technologies – Watershed planning and water security with surface rainwater management – Land conservation and afforestation – Decentralised biological sewage treatment – Renewable energies (solar, wind and biomass) – Organic farming and food-based industry – Skill development for livelihood with entrepreneurship training – Solid waste management with upcycling & recycling centre – Equipment for wind energy and earth construction.

A city is not just about buildings and roads; it is defined as a large human settlement. Therefore, it is primarily a social, living fabric where a diversity of people can express their knowhow and skill, and manifest things according to their aspiration and aim in life. The numerous activities and areas of development mentioned hereafter show that Aurovilians have spent half a century not only restoring life on a barren plateau, but also creating the basis of a new society with a different spirit and with an emphasis on skill development, which would now allow the “City the Earth needs” to be built.

Aurovilians, despite their imperfections and blunders, have been instruments of the Divine who decreed the realisation of Auroville. The endeavour of Aurovilians is not only to develop a new society and manifest the City of Dawn, but also to do their work, with an aspiration towards perfection, and disseminate whatever has been developed and mastered here to the surrounding villages of the bioregion, as mentioned in the Sections 4.7 and 4.8 about Village Development on pages 8 and 9 but also globally, as mentioned in Section “4.21 Outreach” on page 19.

The following data, which is far from exhaustive, briefly summarises what has been realised so far in Auroville over 54 years, in the spirit of Karma Yoga. Aurovilians usually do not boast about their work and what they have done. However, the names of a few Aurovilians have been mentioned hereafter to pay tribute to their dedication and commitment, allowing Auroville to be what is it today. For many activities, which were created too long ago, there is no record of when and by whom they were started. There were also countless pioneer Aurovilians who dedicated their lives to help Auroville manifest whose names have not been recorded.

Over the years, Auroville has received support from many international organisations and the Government of India, with which numerous projects were implemented.

4.1 Auroville’s international supporters and projects undertaken with international organisations

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat)
- United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- European Commission (EC) and European Union (EU)
- Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka
- Aga Khan Foundation
- India - Canadian Environment Facility (ICEF)
- OECD/Hunger Campaign
- Swiss Aid
- Aid Australia
- Danish Aid (DANIDA)
- Commonwealth Human Ecology Council
- National Geographic Society, USA
- Threshold Foundation, USA
- CARITAS and Catholic Relief Services
- Bremen Overseas Research and Development Agency (BORDA), Germany
- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), Germany
- Consortium for Dewats Dissemination Society (CDDS), India
- Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), Germany
- Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC), India
- Biodynamic Association of India (BDAI), India
- Breuninger Foundation, Germany
- Stichting de Zaaier, Belgium
- Foundation for World Education, USA
- International Centre on Earth Construction (CRATerre), France
- Auroville International Centres (AVI centres) and Liaison Offices in 23 countries

4.2 Auroville's support by the Government of India (GoI) and projects undertaken with the GoI & Indian organisations

- Ministry of Education – Ministry of Environment – Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources – Ministry of Science and Technology – Ministry of Rural Development
- Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)
- Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR) – Building Material & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC)
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- National Wasteland Development Board (NWDB)
- District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)
- Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu Governments – INTACH Pondicherry (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage)
- Tamil Fund – Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA)
- Tamil Nadu Family Welfare Board – Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board – Tamil Nadu State Forest Department
- Indian Society of Earthquake Technology (ISET)
- International Network for Traditional Buildings, Architecture and Urbanism (INTBAU India)
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Building Advisory Service and Information Network (BASIN South Asia)
- India Habitat Forum (Network of Indian NGOs working in rural areas)

4.3 Awards and Recognition

- Aurovilians and various Auroville units have been the recipient of 67 awards, 40 national and 27 international, for outstanding works and realisations in the fields of architecture, social service, renewable energy, sustainable development, ecology, green works, cinematography, etc.
- Four of these national awards were given to the recipients by various Presidents of India.
- These awards twice included the “*Green Building Solutions awards*”, in 2016 given during COP 22 at Marrakech and in 2021 given during COP 26 at Glasgow, the “*Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy*”.
- Auroville units and Aurovilians were finalists for 22 awards and among them, these prestigious awards: “*World Habitat Award*” in 2000, twice for the “*Aga Khan Award for Architecture*” in 1992 and 2007, and “*Arc Vision Prize*” in 2015.
- Some of the people who joined Auroville were already highly acclaimed professionals before joining Auroville, and had the following recognitions:
 - Winner International Union of Architects (UIA) design competitions, Jury member of a few UIA competitions.
 - Various reputable academic honours and grants, including the *British Chevening Scholarship* and the *Aga Khan Research Travel grant*.
 - Experiences in esteemed international architectural and urban design firms, including the Takenaka corporation in Osaka, and Kengo Kuma and Associates (KCAA) in Tokyo, leading teams working on projects of various scales in different regions, including Tabao city in Hangzhou, China, while at KCAA.
- The [Auroville Earth Institute](#) is the representative of the “*UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture, Constructive Cultures and Sustainable Development*” for Asia, and is part of a global network of earth builders.
- The Auroville Centre for Scientific Research (CSR) is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO) under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- “[Aqua Dyn](#) Research & Development Centre” has been granted a patent from the Indian Government Patent Office in 2015 for its innovative technology that purifies and bio-dynamises water.
- “[Svaram](#)” has been recognised by the UN Initiative “*Music as a Global Resource*” as one of its first 50 projects worldwide.
- “[The Colours of Nature](#)” was labelled “*among 10 best development initiatives in the world*” in 2006 at the World Economic Forum, Davos, the UN-supported global agency SEED & ICEF.
- Mr. Claude Arpi was granted the “*Field Marshal KM Cariappa Chair of Excellence of the United Service Institution of India*” for four consecutive years for his research on the relation between India and Tibet between 1947 and 1962.

4.4 Population

- The Aurovillian population was 3,300 in October 2022 (2,650 adults and 650 children) from 60 nationalities.
- More than 7,350 villagers live in five villages within the Master Plan area (Edayanchavadi, Kottakarai, Bharati Puram, Irumbai and Alankuppam).
- About 17,000 people are directly connected to Auroville, economically and/or socially, through their employment social actions, education, etc.
- About 35,000 people benefit from Auroville's socio-economic and environmental development, resulting in the highest per capita income zone within the rural area of Vanur block, and with the best Human Development Index.
- In the villages around Auroville, about 2,500 residential facilities are available for guests, volunteers and interns who wish to stay in the township area and contribute to the growth of Auroville.
- Many visitors discover Auroville, from a day trip to a few months: ~392,000 people visited Auroville in 2021. Before the Covid pandemic in 2019, 816,000 people visited Auroville.

4.5 Land

- The Auroville township has a radius of 2.5 km and is composed of the “City Area” (1.25 km radius = 1,212 acres) and the “Green Belt” (1.25 km width = 3,637 acres).
- Auroville owns 88.5% (1,072 acres) of the lands in the City Area, the rest being owned by temples, the government and private owners.
- Auroville owns 30.6 % (1,114 acres) in the surrounding Green Belt, the rest being owned by temples, the government and private owners.

4.6 Land Conservation and Afforestation

- Millions of trees have been planted in Auroville and the bioregion.
- The second and third generation regrowth in Auroville is estimated at 2 million trees.
- Indigenous flora and fauna have been reintroduced or have returned naturally, covering 1,300 acres of forest.
- Comprehensive soil and water conservation practices have been introduced.
- Integrated watershed management with check dams, contour bunding, and afforestation using indigenous species.
- Tank rehabilitation and rural integrated water management programmes in the bioregion are continuously undertaken.
- Seven nurseries collect seeds, propagate and supply trees of the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF), and revive species that are listed and/or endangered.
- [Pitchandikulam Bioresource Centre](#), founded in 1972 by an Australian, Mr. Joss Brook, is an environmental organisation & community:
 - Composed of 70 acres TDEF forest, a medicinal plant conservation park, an environmental education training centre focused on the restoration of TDEF and a museum of rural Tamil life.
 - Comprises 800 species of plants (with over 350 medicinal plants), a collection of 250 different medicinal plant seeds. Pitchandikulam also documents the knowledge of local healers.
 - Has established a community environment education centre at Nadukuppam, 30 km away from Auroville.
 - Restored the costal ecosystem at Adyar Chennai and created a 358-acre “Eco-Park” there. This project was awarded.
 - Undertakes indigenous forest planting programmes; Indigenous plant nursery development; Training in local primary health care traditions; Biota and village surveys; Scientific research into ecosystems, and much more.
- [Sadhana Forest](#), founded in 2003 by an Israeli, Mr. Aviram Rozin, is a reforestation project and a sustainable living community:
 - Also focused on water conservation and has reforested 70 acres of severely eroded land.
 - Based on volunteers (~1000 per year) coming from India and around the world to work in Auroville.
 - Hosts a community powered exclusively with solar energy and uses other sustainable practices such as vegan organic nutrition, recycling and waste minimisation, biodegradable toiletries, composting toilets, etc.
 - Has developed programmes in three countries: in India, where they support local rural villages by retaining water and filling the aquifers, allowing villagers to cultivate their food and prevents exodus towards nearby city slums; in Haiti and Kenya, where they set up sister communities. See Section “4.21 Outreach”, page 19.

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- [Botanical Gardens](#), founded in 2000 by a British, Mr. Paul Blanchflower, is a research and conservation unit doing outside consultancy to promote the use of TDEF species:
 - Conserves and preserves TDEF on 50 acres with over 1,200 different species of plants and ~10,000 mature trees and woody shrubs, plus many other ornamental plants.
 - Has a TDEF plant nursery producing 50,000 seedlings/ year to promote the re-introduction of the indigenous flora.
 - Is dedicated to bringing ecologically sustainable solutions to the commercial, private and government sectors.
 - Conducts educational programmes designed to awaken local school children’s interest in environmental issues and to nurture a “clean and green consciousness” among students through various innovative methods.
 - Collects in situ samples of the TDEF species.
 - Palmyra, founded in 1990 by two Germans, Mr. Juergen Pütz and Mrs. Sabine Suchopar, is a centre of ecological land use, water management and rural development:
 - Includes land reclamation of wasted and degraded lands. Their works was awarded for water conservation.
 - Improves the standard of education for school children and supports physical education programmes and health care activities.
 - Uses and integrates local resources and traditional knowledge for their development projects.
 - Conducts training programmes for farmers, NGOs and government officers, as well as for Forestry Service officers from all over India, funded by the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests.
 - Houses a large tree nursery, a soil and water testing laboratory, a computer centre, and a unit for video editing in support of its work.
 - Compiles detailed data-base of natural resources and socio-economic parameters for their projects.
 - Success Sanctuary, a reforestation land conservation project over 170 acres of canyon land (north of “Forecomers”)
 - Has been identified as an Auroville wildlife sanctuary area.
 - Contains hundreds of indigenous plants, trees, animals and birds, including endangered species such as the Great Horned Owl, Monitor Lizard, Indian Fox, Painted Bat, Civet Cat, Porcupine and Jackals.
 - “[Aranya Forest](#)”, founded in 1994 by an Indian, Mr. D. Saravanan, is a reforestation project of 40 acres of wasteland, west of Auroville (north-east of Ousteri Lake):
 - Has planted about 36,000 indigenous pioneer trees of the TDEF species, as well as medicinal plants.
 - Conducts workshops and training programmes, and has established “Eco-Clubs” involving school children to sensitise the younger generation to the importance of land conservation.
 - “Pebble Garden”, founded in 1994 by a Belgian, Mr. Bernard Declercq, is a living model for Regenerative Land Reclamation, demonstrating how severely eroded and gullied land can be regenerated for farming and forestry with native species. Deepika Kundaji was the recipient of a national award and Bernard was the recipient of an international award for his works:
 - Successfully regenerated 7 acres of eroded land using no external inputs of soil or compost.
 - Developed regeneration methods using pioneer species followed by successions of indigenous species.
 - Developed the “Seed Conservation Garden” with 134 hardy species ideal for home gardens.
 - Extensively trains farmers, farmer leaders, NGOs and forest officers on soil, forest and seed conservation.
 - Pioneer of the “Organic Farming and Seed Revival Movement” in Tamil Nadu and All-India, associated with Nammalvar, Vandana Shiva since 1984

4.7 Rural Development in the Bioregion with Auroville Village Action Group (AVAG)

- Founded in 1983 by an American, Ms. Bhavana Dee, AVAG includes of all marginalised sections of the society. Committed to integrated grassroots community building with the villages surrounding Auroville in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu.
- Implements programmes across the areas of community development, economic development, capacity building, and psychosocial services benefitting indirectly ~100,000 people in 78 settlements and directly ~10,000 people.
- Women's empowerment: Carry out initiatives for the holistic development of individuals and groups.
- Community organisation: Enable the communities to form around 350 women and men self-help groups (SHG) and sports groups in the villages.

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- Works for gender and caste equity and building solidarity with the collaboration of stakeholders in the bioregion.
 - Organise asset creation and community participation through programmes for financial inclusion in 80 settlements.
 - Actively participated in implementing the Auroville Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Program.
 - Assists communities to access government schemes. Links communities with government departments.
 - Initiated pandemic relief and education programme for 200,000 families with the active participation of the communities in the bioregion. Executed an 'Art Project' benefitting 2,500 children in 23 government schools.
 - AVAG is a nodal agency for Vanur under the District Disaster Management Department, Villupuram.
 - Works closely with millet growers and actively promotes millet consumption in the bioregion.

4.8 Other activities related to Village Development and the Bioregion

- [Thamarai](#), founded in 2006 by an Irish, Ms. Bridget Horkan, and an Australian, Ms. Kathy Walkling, aims to co-create an enabling environment to foster the full potential and well-being of all, especially children, youth and communities.
 - Addresses the gap in the mainstream education system by enabling a quality and holistic after school learning.
 - Supports young people to become active and responsible citizens and stewards/leaders.
 - Provides health education to all schools of the bioregion, to women circles and a deaddiction programme.
- [Eco Femme](#), founded in 2010 by an Australian, Ms. Kathy Walkling and a Dutch, Ms. Jessamijn, is a global women's empowerment initiative, aiming to create environmental and social change through revitalising menstrual practices that are healthy, environmentally sustainable, culturally responsive and empowering. As a social enterprise, they redistribute revenues from global sales to provide free or cross-subsidised cloth washable pads to women and girls throughout India. Eco femme was the recipient of an award.
- [Mohanam Cultural Centre](#), founded in 2001 by two Indians, Mr. Balasundharam Ponnusamy and Ms. Rajaveni, aims to provide village youth opportunities for extracurricular activities, which help them to find identity and connection to their own original culture, promotes the richness and diversity of the Tamil culture, and offers various activities such as:
 - Education, with a kindergarten laying a strong emphasis on a creative and child-centred approach.
 - Women empowerment: Training in various skills and learning leadership skills and self-defence.
 - Community development: Village youth doing developmental works (environment safety, health & hygiene).
 - Folk dances, traditional music, Therukoothu (theatre art of Tamil Nadu) and a Tamil martial art (Silambam).
- [Wellpaper](#), founded in 2005 by an Israeli, Mr. Danny Merguei, promotes Women Empowerment through Local Livelihood (WELL) and aims to empower local village women with skills to build, manage and maintain self-sustaining units. The women receive training, guidance and support in product development, market and team management, and personal development.
 - Wellpaper products are handmade, upcycled and eco-friendly, transforming recycled newspaper into crafts.
 - Over time, the women's groups have developed into autonomous units, making their own business decisions towards their goal of financial independence. Today, some of the WELL women are conducting the training workshops themselves to reach other local women and small business units.
- [Sustainable Livelihood Institute](#) (SLI), founded in 2014 by an Australian, a French and two Indians, is a joint venture set up in 2014 between the Auroville Foundation and the Government of Tamil Nadu. It is a unique initiative of its kind in all of South Asia, offering Sustainable Livelihood Capacity Building solutions. The Institute conceptualises, designs, organises and delivers programmes for skill, knowledge and perspective building on sustainable livelihoods to Rural Development Department officials as well as leaders of the Rural Communities. It has been developed to deliver successful, equitable and environment-friendly livelihood solutions for the state of Tamil Nadu.
- [Auroville Institute of Applied](#) (AIAT), founded in 2004 by an Indian, Mr. Lavkamad Chandra, provides vocational education to the Tamil youth of the bioregion in two domains: Industrial training Institute courses in 7 fields, and Bachelor Vocation in 4 fields of emerging and environment technologies. AIAT is affiliated to the Pondicherry University.

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- “[Aqua Dyn For The People](#)”, founded in 1995 by a French, Mr. Bhagwandas, is the social and humanitarian branch of Aqua Dyn that aims to bring pure and bio-dynamised water to remote villages. This unit was initially named “Auroville Research Centre”. It now works with AVAG to cater for the needs of local remote villages in the Auroville bioregion, starting with the village of Rayapudupakam.
 - “[Deepam School](#)”, founded in 1992 by two Italians, Ms. Franca and Ms. Marika, cares for disabled children from nearby villages. Outpatients from villages and from Auroville receive physiotherapy, speech therapy & occupational therapy. If required, the children also receive health care, nutrition and appliances. The school was initially named “Playground for disabled village children”, which later evolved into a therapy centre.
 - “[Aikiyam School](#)”, founded in 1980 by a French, Mr. André Tardeil, and an English, Mr. Roy, has a backdrop of futuristic classrooms in a garden environment, where Tamil children from low-income families learn and grow in a healthy, interactive school. Aikiyam School was previously named New Creation School.
 - “[Arulvazhi Education Centre](#)”, founded in 1982 two Indians, Mr. Varadarajan and Ms. Shyamala, offers activities to Tamil student for inner and outer growth by means of yoga, sports, adolescent girls’ education, computer training and homework support.
 - “[Dental Centre Educational Research Rural Action](#)”, founded in 1982 by a French dentist, Mr. Jaques Verre, and an Indian, Ms. Suryagandhi, has reduced oral health inequities due to lack of dental services through trained local women at 10 sub-centres and one coordinating clinic.
 - “[Ilaignarkal Education Centre](#)”, founded in 1977 by two Indians, Ms. Meenakshi and Ms. Sunitha, provides learning opportunities for Auroville Tamil workers and their wards throughout the year, anytime of the day.
 - “[Isai Ambalam School](#)”, founded in 1979 by a Dutch, Mr. Ivar, supports around 90 rural Tamil students from 10 villages around Auroville up to the 7th standard. Students learn self-awareness to sustain their future on their own.
 - “[Udavi School](#)”, founded in 1998 by Mr. Nata and Ms. Maggie of Auroshika (Sri Aurobindo Ashram), is a primary school for Tamil village children learning basics and concentration to make every activity a progress. Yearly, about 250 students follow the curriculum which also includes vocational activities like carpentry, tailoring, clay works, electronics, computers, sports, dance, music, art and theatre.
 - “Oli school” was an initiative started in 2010 by a Mexican Montessori teacher, Ms. Ana Garcia, and a French, Mr. André Tardeil. Oli means light and it became a school under SAIER in 2014. It welcomes children from 2 to 6 in a campus with creche and kindergarten in Kuilapalayam village. The teaching is focused on the principles of Integral Education given by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, and free progress of children using the Montessori methodology. Ana trained 14 Tamil women as teachers who provide support to 120 children from the bioregion.
 - “[Life Education Centre](#)”, founded in 1991 by a German, Ms. Karin Latzke, provides education and empowerment opportunities for young Tamil women without having them move away from their culture and tradition, essential for sustainable growth.
 - “[NESS School](#)”, founded in 2007 by an American, Mr. Rod Hemsell, for Tamil students, officially recognised in 2008 as a CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) higher secondary school. Approximately 10 students per year have graduated and been admitted to colleges and universities, many earning Masters’ degrees. For most, they are the first from their families and villages to follow a higher education.
 - “[New Colors](#)” is a Tamil children's centre for education and empowerment of underprivileged children.
 - “Sankalpa Art Journey”, founded in 2010 by an Indian, Ms. Krupa, empowers Tamil women by using art with intention and as a bridge between people. Provides safe spaces and resources for original self-expression and promote cross-cultural connection.
 - “[Solar Village](#)”, founded in 2018 by Auroville Consulting, promotes the installation of decentralised solar power plants in villages in rural areas of Villupuram district, through socially equitable and inclusive participatory processes.
 - “[Reach for the stars](#)”, founded in 2010 by a German, Ms. Stephanie, is a scholarship programme for underprivileged young Tamil people from the bio-region surrounding Auroville. More than 100 youth benefitted the programme since its foundation 2010.
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- “[Stewardship for New Emergence](#)”, founded in 2012 by an Indian, is a leadership programme for Tamil villagers that sources inner capacities and wisdom to manifest an equitable and sustainable future based on universal values: dignity, compassion, fairness, and courage. Aurovilians have trained people and developed tools, with more than 100 people from the villages around Auroville benefitting annually from this programme. Local youth have had the opportunity to train as practitioner coaches directly with the programme creator Monica Sharma, who is the former director of leadership and capacity development with the United Nations.
 - “Auroville Sports Resource Centre”, founded in 2008 by a German, Mr. Frederick, and two Indians, Mr. Jothi and Mr. Palani, overcomes social barriers through sports and brings young Tamil women and men together in pursuit of self-mastery and collaboration.
 - “Film festival educational outreach programme”, founded in 2009, where Tamil students engage in creative expression with the language of digital media, use of digital imagery and film making.
 - “Kuila Cultural Centre”, founded in 2003 by an Indian, Mr. Ashok, is an initiative in Kulapalayam village to manage solid waste. The results have shown tremendous benefits in health and environmental protection.

4.9 City Infrastructure

- The Matrimandir, designed by Roger Anger, is surrounded by 12 “Petals” and the Amphitheatre. The Matrimandir has been a collective realisation for which hundreds of Aurovilians from many different countries and Tamil villagers alike worked tirelessly for more than 40 years. Piero, an Italian engineer, has designed many technical parts of the building and has managed the work with a dedicated service over that period of time. Presently, the emerging gardens and the lake are under work.
- Bharat Nivas complex, the Indian Pavilion in the International Zone, with its 850-seat Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, art gallery, SAWCHU building, offices and various halls, two guest houses and a restaurant.
- The International Zone is one of the four zones where any country can have a pavilion representing their culture.
- The Unity Pavilion was started as a seed and catalyst for the overall development of Auroville's International Zone. Today, it consists of the Unity Hall, the Hall of Peace, an office space, a geodesic dome, an outdoor eating space, and hosts a wide variety of events.
- The Pavilion of Tibetan Culture was initiated in 1981 by a group of Aurovilians, Claude, Tashi, Lobsang, Frederic, etc. His Holiness the Dalai Lama laid the foundation stone in December 1993 and came again to inaugurate the building on 20th January 2009. The Pavilion has been a major host of Auroville’s activities under the care of Kalsang and Namgyal, like lectures, workshops, art exhibitions, cultural events, Tibetan festivals, student exchanges, vocational training and Tibetan medicine consultations, as well as an annual Light Mandala on New Year’s Eve.
- The French Pavilion was initiated by a French, Mr. Claude Arpi, in 1981 and officially inaugurated by M. JRD Tata in 1993. Since 2006, Mr. Claude Jouen manages the Pavilion. Though this Pavilion uses a temporary building, to this day, more than 380 cultural events were organised, as well as numerous publications, the reception of diplomats (ambassadors, senators, consuls) and visitors. Since 2016, the Pavilion received and accompanies 10 to 15 French students per year.
- Various national pavilions are under development study, such as the Canadian Pavilion, the Russian Pavilion and the Slovenian Pavilion.
- Visitors’ Centre, with exhibitions, video facilities, cafeteria, 3 boutiques displaying and selling Auroville products, and an information service providing leaflets, brochures and books on Auroville.
- Town Hall building adjacent to the Auroville Foundation Office and the Multimedia Centre.
- Collective “Solar Kitchen”, providing up to 1,000 meals a day, with a 15 m diameter solar collector on the roof for creating steam to cook.
- Savitri Bhavan complex to promote the study of Sri Aurobindo’s work.
- Pitanga Hall, offering facilities for dance, yoga, therapy, exhibitions and evening performances.
- Iron Age Archaeological Interpretation Centre holding 2,000-year-old artefacts found in Auroville.
- Archives building with extensive archive facility, originally founded in 1991 by an Indian, General Krishna Tewari.

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- More than 100 sub-settlements (communities), with more than 1,200 houses and apartments for Auroville's residents.
 - Network of dirt roads and cycle paths, some stretches being lit with solar-powered street lighting.
 - One third of the Crown Road paved with paver blocks, built by the Auroville Road Service with Gol funds.
 - Some 240 wells for water supply, with over 30 Auroville-designed windmills to pump water.
 - Three weather stations, plus 15 micro-stations maintained by Auroville in the surrounding villages.
 - More than 60 natural wastewater treatment plants.
 - Over 500 kW of electricity-generating photovoltaic panels.
 - 250 solar water heating collectors (some 150 houses are fully solar-powered).
 - Solar photovoltaic power plant for the Matrimandir, with 240 PV modules of 395 W plus an older system, for a total of 110 kW.

4.10 City Services and various activities

- Entry Service for people wanting to join Auroville.
- Residents' Service recording residents' data and helping with residential permit applications, etc.
- Electrical Service, founded around 1978, maintaining nearly 900 grid connections: Auroville has its own separate feeder.
- Water Service, founded in 1986 by two French, Mr. Gerard Gablier and Mr. Jacky, takes care of wells and water distribution infrastructure.
- Vehicle Service helping with licenses and registration, plus the purchase of new vehicles.
- Telephone Service serving over 1,000 landline numbers.
- Messenger Service making deliveries around Auroville 6 days a week.
- Eco Service, founded in 1992 by an Italian, Mr. Stefano, coordinates waste collection, sorting and disposal. They collect 12 to 14 tonnes of waste monthly, and micro-segregate it into 84 different categories. Only 5 to 7% percent of non-biodegradable waste is assigned to landfill. The Eco service continuously works towards finding solutions for better ways of disposal and/ or redirecting the generated waste from Auroville.
- Road Service, in charge of repairing the dirt roads and building new paved roads.
- Art Service, which regroups artists from various fields. See section "Education, Art and Culture", on page 15.
- Farewell Service supports the inner transition of people's passing by providing an atmosphere of peace and harmony, and also supports their family members and friends by attending to the material tasks that arise in the event of a death.
- Security Service, a 24/7 service for emergency response and prevention.
- A [web radio](#) and a [Media Liaison Service](#), founded by an Italian, Ms. Andrea T., facilitating visits of filmmakers and journalists.
- [WasteLess](#), founded in 2011 by two Dutch, Ms. Chandrah Nusselein and Mr. Ribhu Vohra, is a non-profit organisation that develops innovative educational programmes, materials and games about sustainable consumption and waste management targeting children aged 6 to 15.
- CSR Geomatics, founded in 2016 by an Italian, Mr. Giulio Di Anastasio, carries out very accurate topographic surveys of Auroville, using advanced equipment. It is involved in collecting water information and data in Auroville to work on an integrated Water Management System.
- "Nature Camp", offering summer camping to children from Auroville and the bioregion between 8 and 15. They offer camping and hiking experience in nature, mostly around Kodaikanal. Older youth are offered trekking in the Himalayas guided by an experienced trekker, Jean Legrand.
- "Integrated Animal Care Centre", founded in 2004 by a New Zealander, Mrs. Ann, provides humane and compassionate medical treatment to abused, abandoned, and/or neglected dogs needing emergency care who are found in the Auroville bioregion.

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- “[Aqua Dyn](#)”, founded in 1995 by a French, Mr. Bhagwandas, researches and manufactures water filters to purify and bio-dynamise water. This unit was initially named “Auroville Research Centre”. This water is offered at the Auroville Visitors’ Centre and in its premises in Kuilapalayam. The water is free and caters the needs of guests, local villagers, local schools, and Aurovilians living in the area, up to an average of 10,000 litres per day.
 - [Probiotics MG EcoDuties](#), founded in 2011 by a Colombian, Mrs. Margarita, researches and manufactures all natural, biodegradable, non-toxic cleaning and wellbeing products that are 100% eco-friendly and economical. They believe that the beauty care and home cleaning industry does not need to be harmful for our planet and our bodies, and can use the power of “Consortium Probiotics”. Probiotics MG EcoDuties was the recipient of several awards.
 - “[Upasana](#)”, founded in 1997 by an Indian, Ms. Uma Prajapati, is a fashion design studio manufacturing garments, combining creativity, Indian culture, business, social responsibility and spiritual progress. Its values are based on the principles of ethical business, slow fashion, fashion revolution, fair trade and community empowerment. Upasana was the recipient of an award.
 - “[Shradhanjali](#)”, founded in 1980 by an Indian, Mrs. Abha Tewari, is a handicraft unit making innovative handmade paper products using flowers, foliage and seeds.
 - “[Auroville Papers](#)”, founded in 1996 by six French, Mr. Serge, Mr. Olivier, Mr. Christian, Mr. Hervé, Mr. Alain, Mrs. Christine, and one Italian, Mrs. Luisa, recycles waste paper and produces stationery which is both ecologically sound and beautiful.
 - Auroville Press, founded in 1982 by a French, Mr. Claude Arpi, is a printing press with the aim of publishing all kinds of materials related to the ideals of Auroville, Sri Aurobindo’s and the Mother’s vision. Auroville Press was the recipient of an award.
 - “[Aurora’s Eye Films](#)”, founded in 2019 by an English, Ms. Serena Aurora, is a cinematographic studio making documentaries for Auroville, documenting the progress of the city and other activities, including events, promos, documentations and fiction. Aurora’s Eye Films was the recipient of several awards.
 - [Sunlit future](#), founded in 1999 by an Indian, Mr. Rishi Kapoor, is provides high-quality solar solutions using the most advanced technology, uses technology as a tool to integrate solar power in residential and commercial sectors, and brings change in the lives of rural tribal regions around the country by providing access to safe drinking water. Sunlit Future was the recipient of several awards.
 - [EcoPro](#), founded in 2007 by a German, Dr. Lucas Dengel, offers consultancy in sustainable management of natural resources focusing on water and soil; this relates to organic farming, sanitation, wastewater treatment, composting and solid waste management, and bioremediation of polluted soils and water-bodies. EcoPro is also an authorised dealer in Maple EM, Effective Microorganisms products.
 - [Auroville Consulting](#) convenes capacity-building and training programmes since 2010.
 - “Aurotraductions”, founded in 2001 by a French, Mr. Claude Jouen, translates numerous texts from English to Tamil and French, including the “Auroville News”.
 - Auroville Library is the largest and most general library in Auroville, which contains more than 50,000 volumes in ten languages – English, French, German, Tamil, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Hebrew and Korean. The books are organised by subject matter following the international standard of the Dewey Decimal Classification. A wide range of both fiction and non-fiction is covered, and there is a complete collection of Sri Aurobindo’s and Mother’s works. There is also a separate children’s room with books for young children, school-aged children and youth.
 - Guest Service, helping to arrange accommodation for those wanting to stay in Auroville.
 - Employment agency Services for Aurovilians and non-Aurovilians.
 - Computerized Financial service and network.
 - Architectural design services provided by more than 40 architects doing highly acclaimed innovative works.
 - The International Youth Centre developed and managed by the youth, where they can express their creativity and develop themselves integrally.
 - Town and Development Council.
 - “Free Store”, where second-hand and new clothing can be obtained for free.

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- “[Auroville Library of Things](#)” is a space for sharing and accessibility of things to counter the current trend of hyper-ownership. This was created to counteract the rise in consumption and to lower our environmental impact. People bring any kind of item that other people can borrow, use and bring back when they have finished.
 - Community outlets, one of which provides a wide range of products at cost price (PTDC), 90% packaging-free, zero-waste initiative, bulk products, mostly using Auroville farms production and other organic producers.
 - Two bakeries, more than 15 restaurants and cafeterias, over 50 guest houses, 35 homestays and student/youth hostels.
 - “[Naturellement](#)”, founded in 1991 by a Swedish, Mrs. Martina Ljungquist, is a social enterprise employing around 35 village women from the bioregion, producing handcrafted natural and organic food products, such as jams, fruit syrups, nut butters, breakfast cereals, condiments etc. Avails for 10 years a restaurant in the same premises.
 - “[Svaram](#)”, founded in 2003 by a Austrian, Mr. Aurelio C. Hammer, is an integrated project of rural social development, research and development, and offers public programmes in community music and engagement, sound studies and long-term trainings and internships.
 - “[The Colours of Nature](#)”, founded in 1993 by a Spanish, Mr. Jesus Ciriza Larraona, is one of few companies in the world today developing and using 100% natural dyes only, and one of the most highly regarded. The idea was to find and spread viable solutions to water pollution in the textile industry.
 - “[Mason & CO](#)”, a chocolate factory founded in 2014 by a French, Mr. Fabien Bontems, and an Australian, Ms. Jane Mason, produces organic certified, ethically sourced bean-to-bar chocolate of the highest quality.

4.11 Scientific and Applied Research (R&D)

- The Auroville Centre for Scientific Research (CSR), founded in 1984 by a Belgian, Mr. Tency Baetens and a French, Mr. Gilles Guigan, conducts research on ferrocement technology, biogas technology, wind pumps, wind generators, solar technology, hydrogeological studies for mapping the coastal watershed and aquifers, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, rainwater harvesting and storage, water purification and dynamisation systems, solar desalination, bio-fuels and many others. CSR was the recipient of several awards.
- The [Auroville Earth Institute](#), founded in 1989 by a French, Mr. Satprem Maïni, has done a lot of R&D and transfer of technology on compressed stabilised earth block architecture – Various stabilised earth technologies, from foundations to waterproofing – Design and construction of arches, vaults and domes built without formwork – Earth resistance with hollow interlocking CSEB, etc.
- “Kinesi” develops electric cycles and many other environmentally-friendly devices.
- “[Aqua Dyn](#) Research & Development Centre” conducts research on drinking water treatment technologies, on applied design for water curators and on the impact of treated water on health and well-being.
- “[Auroville Papers](#)” has explored and experimented for 25 years different techniques in order to produce handmade paper which can be used in many ways: stationery, artwork, decoration, jewellery, objects of daily use, etc. It has developed methods for using all kinds of natural ingredients in paper: banana stem, fallen leaves, mud, rope, flowers, organic cotton, so that each sheet of paper is unique and a work of art.
- [Sunlit future](#) constantly applies new technologies in the field, test and validates their performance. Collaborates with high-tech R&D centres of manufacturers to constantly improve the efficiency and robustness of their products to be launched.
- [EcoPro](#) collaborated on research projects with: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), International Society of Organic Farming Research (ISOFAR) and Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC).
- “[Svaram](#)” is one of the leading R&D centres internationally in the field of Craft, Arts and Science of Sound. Through a collaboration with international experts, new modalities are explored for the wellbeing and music-medicine sectors, and a MoU agreement is signed with the Centre for “Salutogenesis” (yoga and music therapies) at the Mahatma Gandhi Medical College in Puducherry to further this research.

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- “[The Colours of Nature](#)” first explored fully natural indigo fermentation dyeing processes. They tried to revive this ancient Indian method by finding people still having some knowledge about it. Now, they master the entire palette, using marigold flowers, *Rubia cordifolia* and many other plants. The research focuses on using no harmful substances, colour fastness, plants, textiles (organic cotton, handloom etc.), closed-loop water saving, solar water heating, mechanisation for up-scaling, techniques such as batik and shibori, indigo growing, extraction and processing.
 - Margarita and Guidelma from [Probiotics MG EcoDuties](#) conduct a lot of research on probiotics ceramics, using the ultrasonic benefits of probiotics. “[Mason & CO](#)”, the chocolate factory, has been pioneering in the improvement of cacao processing in India. They work closely with farmers around India, training and developing cacao processing methods, and provide educational workshops and tastings.

4.12 Education, Art and Culture

- Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research ([SAIER](#)), a government-supported institute for educational research, which manages most schools in Auroville.
- Auroville avails 11 schools: 5 kindergartens and crèches, 4 primary and middle schools, 2 high schools.
- Auroville has also set up 14 schools in local villages (6 Outreach schools, 2 CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) schools, 4 skill development centres and 2 scholarship programmes).
- The [Auroville Earth Institute](#) conducts research courses on earth architecture and appropriate building technologies and training for laymen, students, architects and engineers from all over the world. These types courses are offered: short-term (1 or 2 weeks), long term (up to 1 year), internships to students, and research programmes.
- “[Bamboo Centre](#)”, founded in 2009 by an Indian, Mr. Balusundharam Ponnusamy, offers training workshops for all on bamboo construction and furniture, promotes the green credentials, cultivation, and usage of bamboo. The centre is also involved in research and development though inventing eco-friendly alternatives to housing needs, interior and furniture design, and household products. Bamboo Centre was the recipient of an award.
- “[Auroville Language Laboratory](#)” for language learning, listening training through the Alfred Tomatis Method for language assimilation and various therapeutic applications, and promotion of sustainable, healthy and conscious architecture.
- Sanskrit Research Institute ([SRI](#)), founded in 2011 by a South African, Mr. Martin Gluckman, conducts deep research into the Sanskrit language. SRI produces tools and educational resources loved and used by many Sanskrit scholars globally. Sanskrit is one of the official languages of Auroville and the preservation, research and development of Sanskrit is an integral part of Auroville's mission. SRI's work has been used and recognised by many universities, research institutes and leading scholars, such as Dr. Sampadanabda Mishra, Malhar Kulkarni, George Cardona, Ramanath Sharma, MComas Taylor to name a few.
- “Aurobhasha”, founded in 2002 by a French, Mr. Claude Jouen, is an innovative method to learn the 4 languages of Auroville, as the Mother wished – Tamil, French, English, Sanskrit (+Hindi) – through the books “Aurolang 1 and 2”, used across the world to this day.
- Centres for Indian Culture and Tamil Heritage & Culture.
- Three cinemas showing films regularly and three stages for theatre.
- Five annual Festivals of Dance, typically featuring over 100 Aurovilian performers.
- Three choirs, two with adults and one with children.
- Regular performances by several Auroville theatre groups.
- Classes in a wide range of subjects, including health therapies, dance, yoga, martial arts and music.
- Infrastructure at Kalabhumi, the Art Centre in the Cultural Zone:
 - Studios for painting, sculpture, and ceramic arts
 - Studio for music and rehearsal rooms
 - Centre for Research in Performing Arts (CRIPA for dance, theatre, music)
 - “Aurofilm” Studio
 - Open air amphitheatre for performances and social events

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- Various successful authors, musicians, singers, artists, poets, sculptors and potters, some doing work for outside organisations and individuals.
 - More than 500 books have been published on subjects ranging from poetry to novels, architecture to local snakes, educational research to Vedic knowledge, Kalaripayattu (martial art from Kerala) to Bangladesh war, etc.
 - Art trust where all kinds of artists, such as painters, sculptors, musicians, etc. can develop and conduct various activities.
 - “Aurobelle” conducts “Russian Singing Bells” meditative musical performances since 2007 and conducts “Inner-Work-Workshops” as well, introducing the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo. Another regular activity is the Vibrational Sound Bath using the Russian Singing Bells.
 - Many artists are working in different fields of art such as ceramic art, painting, sculpture, and displaying their art in Auroville, India and abroad. Some of them have been part of prestigious art events in India and abroad.
 - The Auroville Art Camp is an art camp cum residency which takes place every year in Auroville and has become a major art event in India. This art residency for professional artists selects Indian national artists and Auroville artists to work during one week on a theme related to Auroville *raison d'être*. So far, it has hosted 77 artists from all over India and Auroville.
 - “[MeDiClown Academy](#)” (MCA), founded in 2014 by two Canadians, Ms. Fif Fernandes and Mr. Hamish Boyd, creates a “happy healthy India for all”. It trains people across India to be MeDiClowns as a profession and/ or use MCA strategies in the field of healthcare, education and organisation in urban and rural India

4.13 Integral health approach in Auroville

According to Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, there is a deep though subtle connection between human behaviour and possible future disorders and diseases. Once a disease is properly examined from an integral perspective, it is possible to understand it as the consequence of a whole system which is unbalanced.

Addressing discomforts, troubles, and illnesses from a spiritual integral perspective leads practitioners and healers in Auroville to take into consideration the relationship one has with one’s “Psychic Being” (inner being or “soul”). More than 170 practitioners in Auroville provide various therapies that focus on specific characteristics of the “body-mind-soul” inner connection. For instance, addressing joy and mental comfort may lead to pacifying the emotional body, with beneficial consequences on the physical level.

Collaboration on health in Auroville is both an aim and a reality. One finds for example physiotherapy and neuro linguistic programming for balancing problems of elders, hypnosis and dentistry to address fear, diabetes mellitus II from a joined perspective of Ayurveda, allopathy, life-coaching, physiotherapy, etc.

4.14 Health care, facilities and activities

- Main Health Centre, with laboratory, X-ray unit, ambulance and pharmacy, offering allopathic and homeopathic treatment. This health centre serves around 200 patients/day (Aurovilians and villagers). The initial health centre was founded in 1969 by an Indian doctor, Dr. Sen from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, and used a very rudimentary building. The current premises were built from 1972 to 1976 by the Italian engineer, Mr. Piero Ciconesi. Dr. Kamala Tewari took charge of the health centre from 1977.
- “Santé”, the “Institute for Integral Health”, is a health care service available for the resident community of Auroville and its visitors. It provides comprehensive and holistic healthcare, trying to go beyond treating physical symptoms, but addressing the root causes of illness, and helps restore the body to a healthy balance. Santé organises “Patient Care Conferences” which aim at addressing specific cases and/or illnesses from different and complementary angles. Recently, a few practitioners have come up with the aim to address Parkinson and Autoimmune disease from a holistic perspective.
- Seven sub-health centres provide health care in surrounding villages.
- More than 30 local women health workers trained by Auroville, are active in 17 nearby villages, giving first-aid, advising on home cures and basic health education, and encouraging better nutrition by way of small family gardens in the villages.
- “Arka”, a holistic wellness centre for elder Aurovilians and other guests, which offers various therapies.
- “Mahalakshmi Home” and “Marika’s Home”, two places for assisted living, providing hospice care.

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- At the two extremes of one's life, "Morning Star" takes care of births and pregnancy-related issues, and the "Farewell" and "Let's talk About Death" groups address the end of life from an Aurovilian perspective
 - Many alternative health therapies are offered at Quiet Healing Centre, Pitanga Hall and by other individual therapists, providing alternative therapies.
 - One dental prosthetist, three dental clinics and 11 village-based sub-clinics overseen by Auroville.
 - Active conservation and promotion of traditional health knowledge through documentation.
 - Coordinated programmes for sterilisation, treatment and anti-rabies inoculation of uncared-for village dogs.
 - During Covid time, a booklet was created by Santé therapists and AVAG, and translated in Tamil to address Covid from an integral approach in the surrounding villages (Nal Valvu).
 - 24/7 ambulance and Health fund to cover expenses for Aurovilians.

4.15 Next steps for the future of health in Auroville

- Promote better relations and communication amongst various existing and up-coming health services (Santé, Main Health Centre, village facilities), as well as between them and the population.
- Promote food as a main component of health.
- Exchange of knowledge and practices between Aurovilian practitioners and villagers.
- "Peer education" to address alcohol and drugs in youth and the surrounding villages.
- Creating an internal directory of practitioners of Auroville.
- Implementing an "Auroville certification", based on peer-review, client feedback and evaluation.
- Raising the quality of standards of practice by implementing an ethical code of conduct for practitioners and regularly organised co-vision session.

4.16 Social cohesion and conflict resolution

Auroville has, over time, developed different groups and activities that deal with communication and conflict. The common ground of these initiatives is that they all make concrete steps towards building a community that aspires to bring a higher consciousness into spaces of disagreement and conflict.

Conflict resolution initiatives are brought together under the Conflict Resolution Policy of 2015, which seeks to deal with conflict in a way that is not focused only on punishing an offender, but also on creating mutual understanding and restoring relationships. Initiatives that have taken up this work over the years include:

- "Koodam", a platform for "Alternative Dispute Resolution and Conflict Transformation", which focuses fully on enabling a shift in our attitude towards conflict: to get away from the idea of truth vs. lies and a judiciary system, towards the idea of multiple truths, conflict transformation and taking responsibility to engage with our own challenges. Koodam in its original form has since transitioned into 3 different pools of trained resource people who take care of Auroville's mediation, facilitation, and arbitration needs.
- "Restorative Auroville", a group that offers the medium of restorative circles in Auroville, where those who are impacted by a conflict come together as a community. From this discussion and a shared sense of what is alive for each individual in the room, implementable action points for conflict resolution are then proposed by participants.

Other initiatives were created to invite a higher consciousness into spaces of communication and potential disagreement:

- "Silent Presence Keepers" is a group of 10 to 20 people who, since 2017, sit in on meetings of working groups, selection processes and general meetings in a meditative state in order to optimise the atmosphere in the room and to help channelling the highest possible inspiration for the decisions and actions to be taken in the meetings. Their presence is very much appreciated as meetings are more peaceful and effective.
- "Non-violent Communication" (NVC), a method for communicating with empathy for oneself and for others developed by Marshall Rosenberg, is widely spread in Auroville with several certified trainers and NVC communities springing up over the years. Laura Joy, who brought NVC to Auroville, has trained 100+ Aurovilians in this method, who in turn have started their own practice groups, spreading the work further.

4.17 Sports and Physical Education

- The Auroville schools' main physical education programme is run under the name "[Dehashakti Sports](#)" (meaning "full power and perfection of the body") at the School Sports Complex near Dana. It aims at providing a comprehensive programme for physical development by way of activities which incorporate challenge and the development of mobility, control, health, fitness, strength, stamina and body skills. Emphasis is placed on developing team spirit, fairness in play, and good attitude during games and competitions. The aim of Dehashakti Sports is to provide an all-round educative programme to students through systematic training and planned activities.
- In addition to the Dehashakti Sports complex, there are several sports grounds around Auroville, including a 25-m swimming pool, football and cricket fields, badminton, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, running tracks, tai chi hall, dance hall, etc.
- These are some of the physical activities practised in Auroville: gymnastics, volleyball, football, badminton, basketball, cricket, tennis, table tennis, aerobics, Karate, Aikido, Kalaripayattu (Kerala martial art), Kung fu, Tai chi, Kabaddi, Hatha Yoga, Iyengar Yoga, archery, fencing, etc.
- [Awareness Through the Body](#) (ATB) is one of Auroville's major innovations in the field of integral education. An integral yoga practice developed in Auroville schools, it offers individuals the tools to explore different planes and parts of the being with consciousness, and to harmonise these around an inmost centre. The uniqueness of the programme is its blending of introspective and meditative exercises with dynamic and challenging activities, both individual and collective, as a way to train our ability to stay centred when faced with real-life situations. Today, ATB is practiced by both children and adults, through a worldwide network of trained facilitators.
- Several equestrian schools, one of which hosts a horse tournament yearly under the auspices of the South India Equestrian Association.
- Surf school and 2 shaping bays, selling surfboards all over India.
- Diving school.

4.18 Commerce, Business Activities and Social Enterprises

- Over 170 business/commercial enterprises under 25 trusts, several exporting globally.
- These enterprises are providing employment to more than 5,000 people from the neighbouring area.
- These activities are all social enterprises and provide many welfares to their employees, such as Employee Providence Fund, Employees' State Insurance, Gratuity Fund, Insurance, bonuses, etc.
- These enterprises adhere to Indian Laws and support fair trade practices.
- They contribute 33% of their profit to the Auroville City Services.
- These business activities range from renewable energy systems, wind and electric generators, sound engineering, earth construction machinery, metal workshops, to bookbinding, handmade paper, food processing, spirulina, perfumes, incense, candles, aromatherapy, etc.

4.19 Farming, Agriculture and Environment

- 20 farms growing only organic food.
- Herbarium with some 15,000 botanical specimens.
- An Environmental Monitoring Laboratory doing tests on soil and water.
- Campaigns against local spraying of chemical poisons on cashew trees.

4.20 Economics

- Auroville has activities ranging from manufacturing and service to the knowledge sector, generating an average annual turnover of ~250 Crores Rupees (~31 million Euros).
- The contributions of grants received from the govt of India amounts to 10% or less.
- Most of the 400+ units of Auroville generate low profit, as most are focused on the net value addition, with emphasis on skill up-gradation, employment generation, investment in innovation to generate conscious products and services.

4.21 Outreach

- Intermittent “Sangamam” festivals for Auroville employees and their families.
- A monthly journal “*Auroville Today*” since 1988, and various other regular periodicals in English, Tamil and French.
- A Coastal Development Centre working with local authorities and NGOs to improve the lives of the local population.
- Installation of affordable and reliable renewable energy products & services (in the form of solar panel systems) in 12 Indian States, benefiting 80,000 people.
- Programmes for the restoration of tropical dry evergreen forest in south India, associated research work, seed collection and tree nurseries. Through the works of Pitchandikulam, ~2 million trees and bushes have been planted on ~2,000 acres all over Tamil Nadu.
- Pitchandikulam has trained more than 25,000 people from 10 countries in Restoration Ecology and Tree Planting.
- Water Harvest has collaborated with local water authorities on coastal salination monitoring, groundwater recharge, and restoration of water holding infrastructure.
- Biannual International Pottery and Ceramic markets.
- Annual International Marathon.
- Programmes are regularly conducted by various units and Aurovilians for improving the standard of education in local schools, supporting local sports & healthcare activities, reforestation, and wasteland development.
- [Probiotics MG EcoDuties](#) exports globally and has been the recipient two international awards for their work.
- The Auroville Institute of Applied Technology ([AIAT](#)) has trained ~2,700 youth in various vocations (as of Sept. 2022).
- [Sadhana Forest](#) has created two other communities and programmes in 2 countries:
 - [Haiti](#): Setting up a sister community sharing the same values and commitment to human unity. About 80,000 food-bearing trees have been distributed and planted in the local communities. With the current survival rate this number of trees has the potential of feeding 70,000 people.
 - [Kenya](#): Setting up another community in Samburu County, aiming to grow food forests with the Samburu people to help promote food security in an area that is often affected by droughts and malnutrition.
- [Auroville Earth Institute](#) (AVEI) has developed earthen technologies which have been disseminated globally:
 - 13,930 people from 93 countries trained in Auroville, India and worldwide (as of 17th Sept. 2022).
 - Worked and transferred these technologies and architecture in 38 countries on all continents.
 - Construction of the 21.16 m diameter dome of the Dhyanalinga Temple near Coimbatore in only 9 weeks.
 - Construction of Al Medy Mosque of 425 m² in the heart of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in only 7 weeks.
 - Transfer of technology to various NGOs for the rehabilitations following the 2001 earthquake of Kutch in Gujarat: Training and assistance to the Catholic Relief Services to build 2,698 houses, with 2,000 people in 39 villages. About 8 million blocks were produced in a year by 60 Auram Presses 3000, designed by Satprem Maini at the Auroville Earth Institute and manufactured by Aureka.
 - The technology for disaster resistance with hollow interlocking blocks developed by AVEI has been approved in 2001 by the Government of Gujarat, India to build up to 2 floors and has been published in their standards.
 - Transfer of technology to various NGOs in Tamil Nadu for rehabilitation following the 2004 tsunami, which got rewarded with two national awards.
 - The technology for disaster resistance developed by AVEI has also been approved by Iran for rehabilitation following the 2003 earthquake of Bam, and by the government of Tamil Nadu for the rehabilitation of zones affected by the 2004 tsunami.
 - Transfer of technology to Sri Lanka, to “Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka” with funds from the European Union, to build 720 houses in zones affected by the war in the North and East of Sri Lanka. About 3 million blocks were produced with Auram, the motorised and manual machines for earth construction manufactured by Aureka, Auroville’s steel workshop.
 - The Auroville Earth Institute has been the recipient of a total 15 awards, 4 international and 11 national for its research and development, endeavour to skill development and architectural practice.

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- [Botanical Gardens](#) has done many Eco restoration projects and conducts various types of courses, such as:
 - 4-month ecological horticultural training course
 - Intensive three-day “*species identification course*” on the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest.
 - Welcome an average of 3,000 school children and around 1,000 other visitors per year.
 - Important TDEF Forest restoration projects and Eco restoration projects to mention:
 - Plantation of 5,000 TDEF trees in the bioregion in a year.
 - Eco restoration projects for Ramco Cement on three different sites for a total of 297 acres rehabilitated.
 - Landscape masterplan development on 230 acres for Ramco Institute of Technology and Polytechnic Campus.
 - Landscape implementation for “Ashok Leyland R&D campus” on 26 acres.
 - Palmyra has undertaken many projects in the bioregion, among which:
 - Rehabilitation of Integrated Tank Management Systems in the Kalivelli Watershed. Project with a budget of 9.6 Crores Rs. (~1.2 million Euros (value Oct. 2022)), funded by the Indo Canada Environment Facility (ICEF). Twenty-nine water bodies were restored and allowed an additional storage of ~640,000 m³ of water.
 - Integrated Wasteland Development Programme funded by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi, for a budget of 2.08 Crores Rs. (~260,000 Euros (value Oct. 2022)).
 - Support to educational institutions such as the Kulilapalayam School Trust, Health Services in the villages, Sports Activities for local youth. Project funded by DIK/OIK, Germany. Bomyarpalayam School now has 530 students and the Kulilapalayam School Trust welcomes about 1,200 students.
 - [WasteLess](#) has been conducting many programmes to educate youth all over the world about waste management and plastic pollution. These include:
 - “kNOw PLASTICS”, an 8-lesson educational programme that inspires children to reduce the use of un-safe and single-use plastics.
 - “Garbology”, 13-standalone activities about waste separation, recycling and a circular economy.
 - “Sea Change”, a 5-lesson educational programme focusing on microplastics and marine plastic pollution.
 - These new educational resources have reached more than 1.2 million students in ~45,000 schools spread over 20 countries, on all continents.
 - The curriculums developed by WasteLess have been integrated into the State Curriculum textbooks in Tamil Nadu, into 5 chapters in the Science and Social Science textbooks for grades 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
 - Sustainable Livelihood Institute ([SLI](#)) has had since 2015 the following outreach:
 - Over 200 training programmes with over 7,000 beneficiaries (rural community leaders from across Tamil Nadu), in a wide variety of training courses such as skill building, knowledge enhancement and perspective building.
 - More than 300 government officials from Tamil Nadu have been oriented towards sustainable practices, from project directors of the district livelihood programme to the assistant project officer.
 - Apart from Tamil Nadu, about 400 officers and rural community leaders from several other states have also been trained, including Puducherry, Odisha and the North East of India.
 - Among the biggest impacts of SLI in the Tamil Nadu have been large scale promotion of sustainable agriculture for which capacity building has been done, emphasis on ethnoveterinary practices that have now become mainstream, herbal based and natural wellness care for women’s health issues which is one of the most popular programmes and has resulted in several new enterprises being created, afforestation efforts in various parts of the state inspired by Auroville-based foresters and green enterprises.
 - SLI has also organised an annual Seed Festival which has become a prestigious initiative attracting over 3,000 local farmers and seed savers from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
 - The Sustainable Livelihood Seminar that is organised alongside has attracted participants from far off places and has contributed significantly to the dialogue on Sustainability.
 - SLI has published two books that have received critical acclaim on conservation of traditional vegetable seeds and organic cashew cultivation. The first book is into second print now. SLI has also published several booklets as teaching aids including the first ever booklet on the SDG in Tamil (Sustainable Developmental Goals, the global agreement signed in Paris by 192 countries, in 2015).
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- “Aurobelle” has been conducting “Inner-Work-Workshops” in several AVI Centres and yoga institutes across the globe, introducing the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo, using multimedia presentations with questions & answers, concentration exercises, art expressions, interactive games, etc.
 - [Eco Femme](#) won an award for their “Contribution to Women and Society”, and had this outreach:
 - Participated in many conferences and published 17 academic research papers.
 - In a dozen years, more than 240,000 women received free sanitary pads
 - More than 240,000 pads were sold in India and more than 400,000 sold globally in 19 countries.
 - [Auroville Consulting](#) has trained so far more than 6,000 individuals, mostly students from India.
 - This unit has been supporting various States in India in developing its rooftop solar policies. These include policies in Tamil Nadu (2012, 2019), Delhi (2015), and Puducherry (2014).
 - They have been the recipient of the two “Rushlight Awards”, one for Resource Innovation and the other for Water Management. These awards were granted in partnership with Heriot-Watt's Energy Academy, Auroville Centre for Scientific Research for their Smart Control of Rural Renewable Energy & Storage (SCORRES) project.
 - Sanskrit Research Institute ([SRI](#)) is doing work which is widely acclaimed globally as witnessed by these kinds of words of appreciation from academic researchers

“I wanted to first congratulate you on two tools that are enormously useful tools.”

“Congratulations to the DLI website, by the way. Super useful”

 - SRI's digital tools which have been produced in Auroville are used by people in more than 150 countries.
 - Around 80,000 people use SRI tools per month.
 - SRI is collaborating currently with “India International Centre” and “Google Research India”.
 - 42 volunteers from 9 countries have helped build SRI tools (most of which became Aurovilians).
 - “[Aqua Dyn](#)”, since its creation in 2002, has manufactured a large range of equipment that can host its technology and deliver from 15 litres up to 3,000 litres per hour of pure and bio-dynamised water, meeting the needs of individuals, schools, companies, institutions, or villages, no matter the quality of the source water.
 - Aqua Dyn For The People has installed 50 water treatment systems in villages on the Coromandel Coast after the Tsunami, as well as in Tibetan refugee camps in Mysore, Bodhgaya, Dharamsala, and in many other places.
 - It has been estimated that at least 80,000 people benefit from the bio-dynamised water produced by the systems installed in Tamil Nadu and in Tibetan settlements.
 - In 2008, Aqua Dyn started to export its domestic models in Europe -mainly France, Italy, Switzerland- which gave rise to numerous talks, articles and conferences given by the Aqua Dyn team on the multiple dimensions of water and its impact on our well-being. A park of 2900 Aqua Dyn water curators are now installed and maintained with the support of Aqua Dyn's distribution partners.
 - In 2021, Aqua Dyn's R&D centre has conceptualised and manufactured a new domestic water curator with a unique high-end design specifically dedicated to the Indian market.
 - “[Upasana](#)”, besides manufacturing garments, does a lot of social projects, such as:
 - Following the 2001 earthquake of Kutch in Gujarat, Upasana stepped into Social Constructive Programs in that region, involving training and giving individuals access and skills that would help them make major shifts in their lifestyles, resulting in women's empowerment.
 - Started exploring the field of education in 2003, with workshops and training for students of Design.
 - Following the 2004 tsunami, Tsunamika, a small doll, was born as a symbol of hope for Tsunami victims, providing livelihood to fisherwomen. To date, more than five million Tsunamika dolls were made and sent to over 80 countries. Tsunamika has now become a symbol of hope as gifts of love and friendship.
 - Varanasi Weavers started in 2006 as an initiative with the weaving communities of Varanasi, encouraging the weavers to continue developing their skills.
 - The outreach initiative “Small Steps” was created in 2007 to form compact bags as an alternative to plastic bags, using design to solve an environmental crisis and empowering women, thus creating a social business. Kapas, an organic cotton project in 2008, tried to help the families of Madurai and other cotton communities of Tamil Nadu, by uplifting organic cotton farming.
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- “[Shradhanjali](#)”, in its 42 years of existence, has trained and employed many young women in the highly skilled craft of pressed flowers/foilage work, providing them and their families a stable income:
 - The staff comes from 11 different villages in the bioregion, and every year the unit organises an annual health and dental check-ups for all its members.
 - Regular classes by experts (or visits) are conducted for its employees on varied subjects ranging from health and nutrition to solid waste management and de-addiction.
 - Design and architect students are welcomed for projects and internships.
 - “[Auroville Papers](#)” conducts regular workshops for adults and school children in order to initiate them to the ancient art of paper-making. It often receives visits of schools and colleges, and shows them the different techniques used for making paper and cotton mâché.
 - Auroville Press has published hundreds of books and brochures on the ideals of Auroville, Sri Aurobindo’s and the Mother’s vision in many different languages. Auroville Press has had also the following outreach:
 - Creation of many exhibitions, slide-shows and movies on Sri Aurobindo in English, Hindi and Tamil, which later were brought to many schools and colleges in India.
 - Regular work with the Information Auroville Centre to devise new ways of giving clear and comprehensive information about Auroville to daily visitors.
 - Collaboration with many Aurovilians so that research made by Aurovilians (particularly on Indian culture and Indian history) are presented as printed material to the public at large.
 - Production of a regular newspaper in French, La Revue d’Auroville, which is sent to well-wishers in France.
 - Long-standing collaboration with the renowned educationist Prof. Kireet Joshi towards producing and distributing value-oriented educational material.
 - Collaboration with the Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research and other people in order to produce children’s books of quality, reflecting some of the values of Auroville.
 - “[Bamboo Centre](#)” has trained 7,500 people on the use of bamboo since 2009.
 - “[Sunlit Future](#)” has trained more than 150 engineers and volunteers with hands-on solar installations using cutting-edge technologies required for rural and commercial operations. It has won an award by Grundfos in 2021 for their excellent performance under “Private Retail Business” in the water supply category.
 - “[Naturellement](#)” contributes in-kind to Auroville outreach schools via snack programmes and supports its employees in numerous ways such as: A complimentary nutritional daily lunch is provided using local traditional millets, yearly health checks and follow ups on health issues are provided, as well as dental care, a twelve-month fully paid maternity leave, and a 100% wages compensation for longer illnesses.
 - [EcoPro](#) conducts regular lectures to students and teachers training programmes since 2011, as well as continuous professional development of Arsha Vidya Mandir (CBSE) School, Chennai, and offers the following activities:
 - Lectures and exposure visits of one or two days on farming, food processing, wastewater treatment etc. in Auroville.
 - Classes and demos on solid waste management (SWM) in schools of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry University and Chennai.
 - Lecture series for Bachelor’s and Master’s students in the recent years, mainly to students of JIPMER, Dept. of Preventive & Social Medicine.
 - Lectures at Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry, to Master’s students in PH & Entomology, and exposure visits to Auroville sites.
 - Exposure visits and demonstration classes in composting, SWM, eco-friendly sanitation hygiene for corporate mid-level management to representatives of ITC, The Ramco Cements Ltd.
 - Regular involvement in training courses in Auroville organised by Auroville Botanical Gardens, Auroville Consulting, and various other units.
 - Joint organisation and participation in various conferences.
 - Construction of “Ecosan” toilets (closed water-free systems), urine-diversion and dry toilets in various villages in Tamil Nadu.
 - Production of several educational films on SWM, sanitation, Ecosan, EM (Effective Microorganism) usage.
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- Upon request, Eco Service conducts waste management classes for town planners, engineers, NGOs and school students from all over India. It has also been approached by JIPMER hospital, “National Cadet Corps”, Puducherry Municipality and Kodaikanal International school for consultation and suggestions. Awareness classes to communities and commercial units within Auroville are also given.
 - Some architects and town planners have been teaching urban planning, regional planning and architecture in various universities and schools of architecture in Germany, Singapore, Bali, Nepal, France and India (IIT Kharagpur, and CEPT). An Aurovilian architect is a member of the academic advisory board of the School of Architecture at Ashoka University and leading on the master planning of a model township near Chandigarh, *The Wellness City*.
 - “[Svaram](#)” conducts internships and programmes in Indian Institutions, and has an international network of alumni, students and interns. It also conducts year-long in-depth training programmes in Music-Medicine and Sonorium Wellbeing Practitioners. Local youth are trained as artisans of Musical Instrument Craft and the products are sold in 35 countries, with innovations in sound installations (the largest tuned chime array in the world was mounted in the Mumbai International Airport) and Sound Gardens in various national educational institutions.
 - “[MeDiClown Academy](#)” (MCA) has developed a 600-hour certified programme in collaboration with a medical school and has shorter training programmes ranging from 2 to 10 days. MCA has had the following outreach.
 - Training of 1,919 people from 17 countries, including India: ranging from educators, healthcare professionals, social workers, police officers and paramilitary, to youth and seniors, marginalised women, prison inmates, transgendered persons, disabled people and laymen. Training is available in English, Hindi and Tamil.
 - Presence in 9 states and 3 union territories for training and outreach in educational institutions and hospitals.
 - Presentation of over 500 awareness programmes and “funshops” between 1 - 3 hours to promote healthy living, reduce stress, depression and anxiety for people from 2.5 years to 104 years old.
 - Presentation of papers at conferences in 9 countries and publication of 2 books.
 - Creation of several puppets shows, including programmes dealing with mental health and ragging environmental issues, and plays for adults exploring the inner and the outer worlds.
 - Collaboration with 44 institutions in education, healthcare, Indian police and security forces, etc.
 - Engagement impacting 10,000 beneficiaries per year.
 - Recipient of three National Awards.
 - “[The Colours of Nature](#)” has trained thousands of people over the years, ranging from local school children to global experts. It is known to be a truly eco-conscious business and has the following outreach:
 - Maintains and supports the ancient natural dyeing culture.
 - Provides sustainable livelihood to 80 families in the bioregion.
 - Has developed a client base over the years, including well-known brands such as Quiksilver, Lacoste and Levis.
 - In 2016, Levi Strauss & Co. selected Jesus as one of ten change-makers for their first global collaborative programme on water-saving.
 - Has many interns from highly acclaimed institutes, such as the National Institute of Design and the National Institute of Fashion Technology, that get trained and spread the knowledge of natural dye in India and abroad.
 - Presents papers at conferences around the world and participates to the prestigious “[Kolkata Sutra](#)”, events of the “[Indian Crafts Council](#)”, the “India International Centre-Asia Project”, and represented India at the first international congress of indigo and other natural colorants in El Salvador in 2004.
 - “[Mason & CO](#)” sources their products directly from organic farmers and farmer co-operatives in India. This direct sourcing allows them to ensure the farmers get paid more than others for their efforts with regard to their supply sources, and thus ensures an ethical sourcing and eco-conscious chocolate production.

5. ANNEXES – UNESCO RESOLUTIONS AND SUPPORT MESSAGES

1966

1st UNESCO Resolution on Auroville

The General Conference,

Being apprised that in connection with the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of UNESCO, the [Sri Aurobindo Society](#), Puducherry, India, a non-governmental organisation affiliated to the Indian National Commission for UNESCO, proposes to set up a cultural township known as “Auroville” where people of different countries will live together in harmony in one community and engage in cultural, educational, scientific and other pursuits,

Noting that the township will have pavilions intended to represent the cultures of the world, not only intellectually but also by presenting different schools of architecture, painting, sculpture, music, etc, as part of a way of living,

Appreciating that one of the aims of “Auroville” will be to bring together in close juxtaposition the values and ideals of different civilizations and cultures,

Expresses the belief that the project will contribute to international understanding and promotion of peace and commends it to those interested in UNESCO’s ideals.

1968

2nd UNESCO Resolution on Auroville

The General Conference,

Recalling that in connection with commemoration of the 20th anniversary of UNESCO, the [Sri Aurobindo Society](#), Puducherry, India, had taken steps to establish an international cultural township known as Auroville where people of different countries will live together in one community and engage in cultural, educational and other pursuits, and that this project has been commended to all those interested in UNESCO’s ideals in resolution 4.36 passed at the fourteenth session of the General Conference,

Considering that Member States, believing in the pursuit of truth and the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, have agreed and determined to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples,

Considering also that, despite the technical advance which facilitates the development and dissemination of knowledge and ideas, ignorance of the way of life and customs of people still presents an obstacle to friendship among the nations, to peaceful cooperation, and to the progress of mankind,

Taking account of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideas of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples and the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation,

Noting that the foundation stone of Auroville has been laid on [28th February 1968](#) and that the youth of many nations participated in this solemn ceremony symbolizing the coming together of nations in a spirit of human unity,

Confident that Auroville with its many interrelated sub-projects will add a new dimension to UNESCO’s activities for the promotion of international co-operation and understanding and appreciation of cultural and human values,

Invites Member States and international non-governmental organisations to participate in the development of Auroville as an international cultural township designed to bring together the values of different cultures and civilisations in a harmonious environment with integrated living standards which correspond to man’s physical and spiritual needs.

1970
3rd UNESCO Resolution on Auroville

The General Conference,

Recalling resolutions 4.36 and 4.131 concerning Auroville which were adopted by the 11th and 15th sessions of the General Conference,

Noting that the [Charter of Auroville](#) aims inter alia at establishing “a place of unending education, of youth that never ages”, and “living embodiment of an actual human unity”,

Recognising the progress made in Auroville since the foundation stone was laid on [28th February 1968](#),

Conscious of the new responsibilities cast on UNESCO in the wake of growing unrest among youth from almost every part of the world; and which has taken the form of an open dispute with the universities and society,

Aware of the urgent need to welcome the “newly vocal young as allies in the search for a better world,” and in keeping with the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for the promotion among youth of ideas of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples, and in conformity with the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation,

Noting further that towards this end Auroville is already preparing and creating an instrument of education capable of meeting the formidable demands of our age, linking East and West in a new relationship,

Considering that UNESCO’s Major Project on the Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values gave a pioneering start, and recognising that Auroville can be an effective and integrated and follow-up to this project,

Requests the Director-General to take such steps as may be feasible within the budgetary provisions, to promote the development of Auroville as an important international cultural programme.

1983
4th UNESCO Resolution on Auroville

The General Conference,

Recalling the foundation of an international township, Auroville in South India in February 1968, when the youth of 124 Member States participated in the ceremony by depositing the soil of their countries in the foundation urn to symbolise the coming together of the nations of the world,

Noting that the [Charter of Auroville](#), announced at the [Foundation Ceremony](#), declared that Auroville belongs to nobody in particular but to humanity as a whole and enunciated the aims of unending education and youth that never ages, as also material and spiritual research for the living embodiment of an actual human unity,

Recognising that Auroville seeks to ensure international understanding, peace, innovative education, a learning society and all round material and spiritual development for harmonious individual and collective growth and that such aims contribute to the advancement of the objectives of UNESCO,

Recognising that during the last fourteen years, Auroville has been growing steadily and that the resident members of Auroville, including 125 children represent twenty four countries,

Noting that [Auroville International](#) Centres have been established in different parts of the world to work for the growth, development and promotion of the aims and objectives of Auroville,

Noting that the Government of India has taken an active interest in Auroville and has fully supported its ideals of international understanding and the unity of mankind,

Welcoming the fact that an [International Advisory Council](#) has been set up to advise the Government of India on ensuring the promotion of the ideals for which Auroville was established,

Noting that the work at Auroville aims at restoring the ecological balance of a severely deforested, eroded land by an extensive programme of [afforestation](#), erosion control and soil conservation, and also by initiating a new approach to integrated rural and educational development,

Appreciating the experimentation in Auroville in alternative sources of energy and in new methods of economic development permitting the free pooling of resources and cooperative activities,

Recalling that in 1970 the General Conference adopted a resolution inviting Member States and international non-governmental organisations to participate in the development of Auroville as an International Cultural Township, and inviting the Director-General to take such steps as might be feasible, within the budgetary provisions, to promote the development of Auroville as an important international cultural programme,

Invites the Director General to extend all possible support for the development of Auroville and to participate in its activities within the framework of the Programme and Budget for 1984-1985.

2017
5th UNESCO Resolution on Auroville

The General Conference,

Recalling the foundation of an international township, Auroville, in South India on [February 28, 1968](#), when the youth of 124 Member States participated in the ceremony by depositing the soil of their countries in the foundation urn to symbolize the coming together of the nations of the world,

Noting that the General Conference of UNESCO unanimously adopted resolutions of support to Auroville in [1966](#), [1968](#), [1970](#) and [1983](#), inviting Member States and international non-governmental organizations to participate in the development of Auroville as an international cultural township designed to bring together the values of different cultures and civilizations in a harmonious environment with integrated living standards which correspond to man's physical and spiritual needs,

Recognizing that the aims of Auroville are to promote international understanding, peace, innovative education, a learning society and all-round material and spiritual development for harmonious individual and collective growth, and that such aims contribute to the advancement of the objectives of UNESCO, especially dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, cultural diversity and culture as a factor for development,

Appreciating that the Government of India passed, in [1988](#), the [Auroville Foundation Act](#) for the purpose of protecting and encouraging the development of Auroville,

Also appreciating that [Auroville International](#) Centres have been established in many countries of the world, which are engaged in bringing youth from their countries into contact with the aims and ideals of Auroville and in facilitating internships, volunteer stays and academic research programmes,

Also recognizing that Auroville has developed into a centre of expertise in a wide range of fields, benefiting India and noting its success in sharing its experience and helping the development of its neighbouring rural population,

Acknowledging that Auroville is inviting all nations of the world to participate in its development, especially of its [International Zone](#), which is designated as an educational campus hosting cultural pavilions of all nations or groups of nations, expressing the genius of each culture,

Also noting that 28th February 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of Auroville,

Further recognizing that Auroville is a successful and unique model project, proving the capacity of an international community, after almost 50 years of existence, to continue to live up to its initial founding ideas of peace and international harmony and which are also UNESCO's own values and principles, as well as some of its major priorities,

Invites the Director-General to reinforce the association of UNESCO with Auroville and organize commemorative activities for its 50th anniversary, and to re-invite the Member States on the special occasion of Auroville's 50th anniversary to participate in Auroville's further development.

1986

Mr. A. M. M'Bow from Senegal, Director General of UNESCO

You have been able to transcend what yesterday may have been barriers, that separated you. You work together, you understand each other, and perhaps you are what I might say a summing-up of the aspiration of the world of tomorrow.

1998

Snr. Federico Mayor, Director General of UNESCO

The Auroville project situated in Tamil Nadu, South India, which has been supported by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1966, 1968, 1970 and 1983, is actively developing according to the basic principles of international understanding and human unity.

2008

Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO on 40th Anniversary of Auroville (Extract)

Indeed, Auroville's ability to survive and evolve over four decades bears witness to the strength of the founding principles and the resolve and perseverance of its citizens. In today's globalized world fraught with regional conflicts and economic instability, it is especially reassuring to witness such enduring models of solidarity and humanism.

2014

Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO (Extract)

Sri Aurobindo will also forever be associated with the founding of Auroville - a unique international township founded in 1968, as a place where people from different cultural, educational and political backgrounds can work together towards the common goal of unity through diversity. I have indeed visited this magical place. Today, his learning and vision continue to draw devotees from the world over following his profound Integral Yoga teachings.

2022

H.E. Mr. Vishal V. Sharma, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO

This year India will complete 75 years of her independence. It will also be the 150th anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, whose statue is present in UNESCO. In the words of the Mother, the founder of Auroville: "*Greetings from Auroville to all men and women of goodwill. Are invited to Auroville all those who thirst for progress and aspire to a higher and truer life.*" The link between this extraordinary community of Auroville and UNESCO is unique...