

AUROVILLE: *City of Dawn*



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...”

The Mother

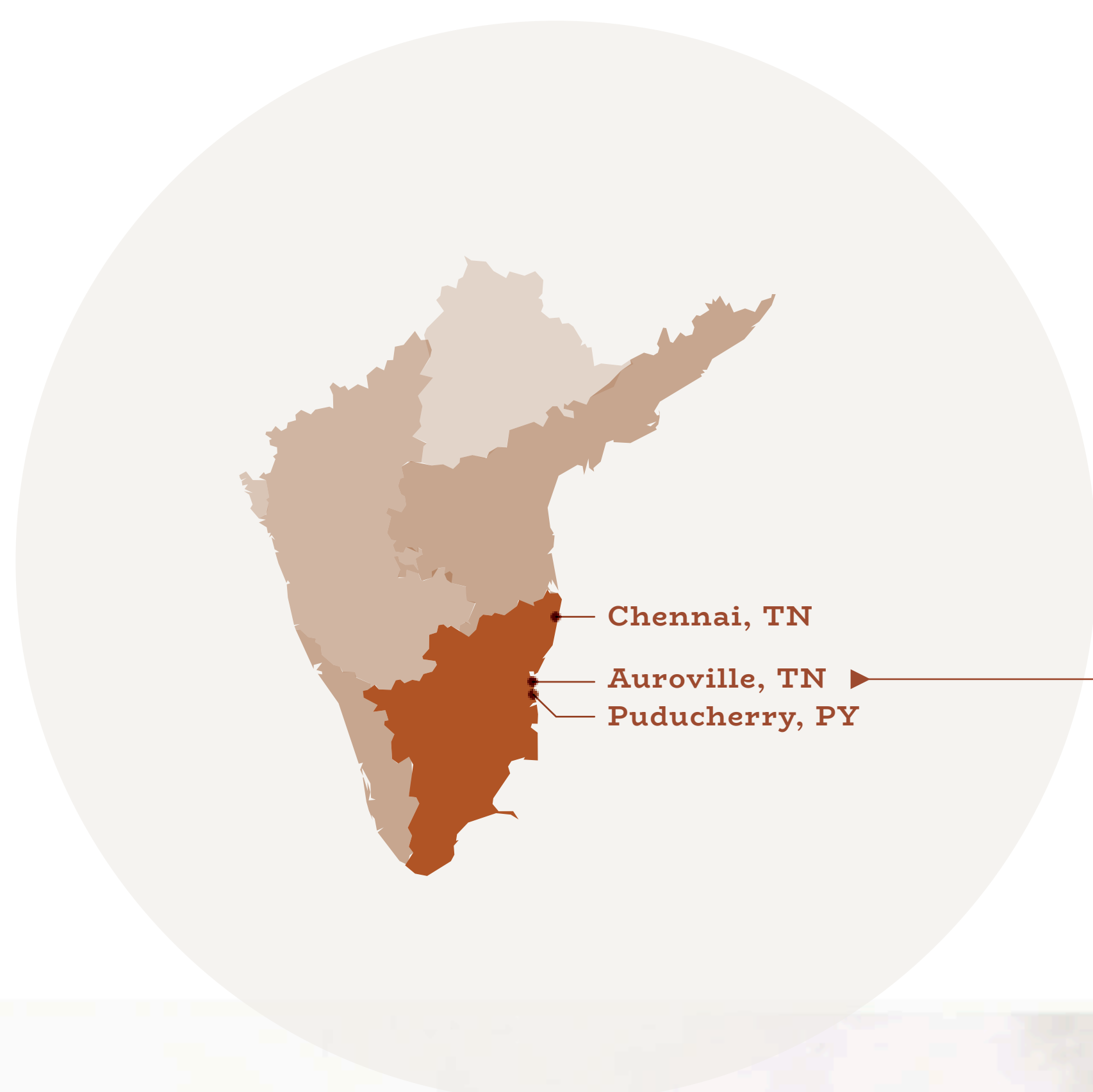


The Mother & Sri Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo's spiritual collaborator, the Mother, took on the task of creating a new world, a new humanity, a new society expressing and embodying higher consciousness.

The Auroville Charter, 1968

- ◆ Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But, to live in Auroville, one must be a 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.



The Mother chose this site in Tamil Nadu for the manifestation of this dream



MANIFESTING THE DREAM



Inauguration of the Universal Township. Youth from 124 different nations and 23 Indian states deposited a handful of their native soil into a lotus-shaped Urn as a symbol of Human Unity. This urn was later to become part of the Matrimandir compound.

The Galaxy Concept. A radial design for a breathing city - meant to support a new kind of society and the next step in human evolution. The City of the Future envisioned a radical approach to urban planning.

28 February
1968



a sacred geometry



1972



Construction of the Matrimandir begins

greening the earth



Barren beginnings. The forecomers found a desertified plateau and faced harsh living conditions. Their first priority was to regenerate the land.



Greening the Earth. Auroville's pioneers began decades of patient ecological labour—building bunds & digging check dams to restore water tables; and planting, nurturing, and protecting over a million trees. By the '90s, the local biome, Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest, was regenerating.



1980s



Innovating For Sustainability. Auroville has led renewable energy and sustainable technologies for decades, from solar power and wind energy to innovative water systems. The community has also developed wastewater treatment solutions and earth-construction techniques that demonstrate practical, low-impact ways of living.

Generating food for the community. 26 farms all based on permaculture or organic farming. They produce fruits, vegetables, oils, grains, pulses, eggs and milk products. Auroville's farms are based either on permaculture or organic farming.



sustainable agriculture

Regional Collaboration. Auroville's outreach initiatives have expanded access to healthcare, education, financial inclusion, ecological restoration, and sustainable livelihoods & community empowerment. Auroville's educational initiatives inspire alternative pedagogy globally.

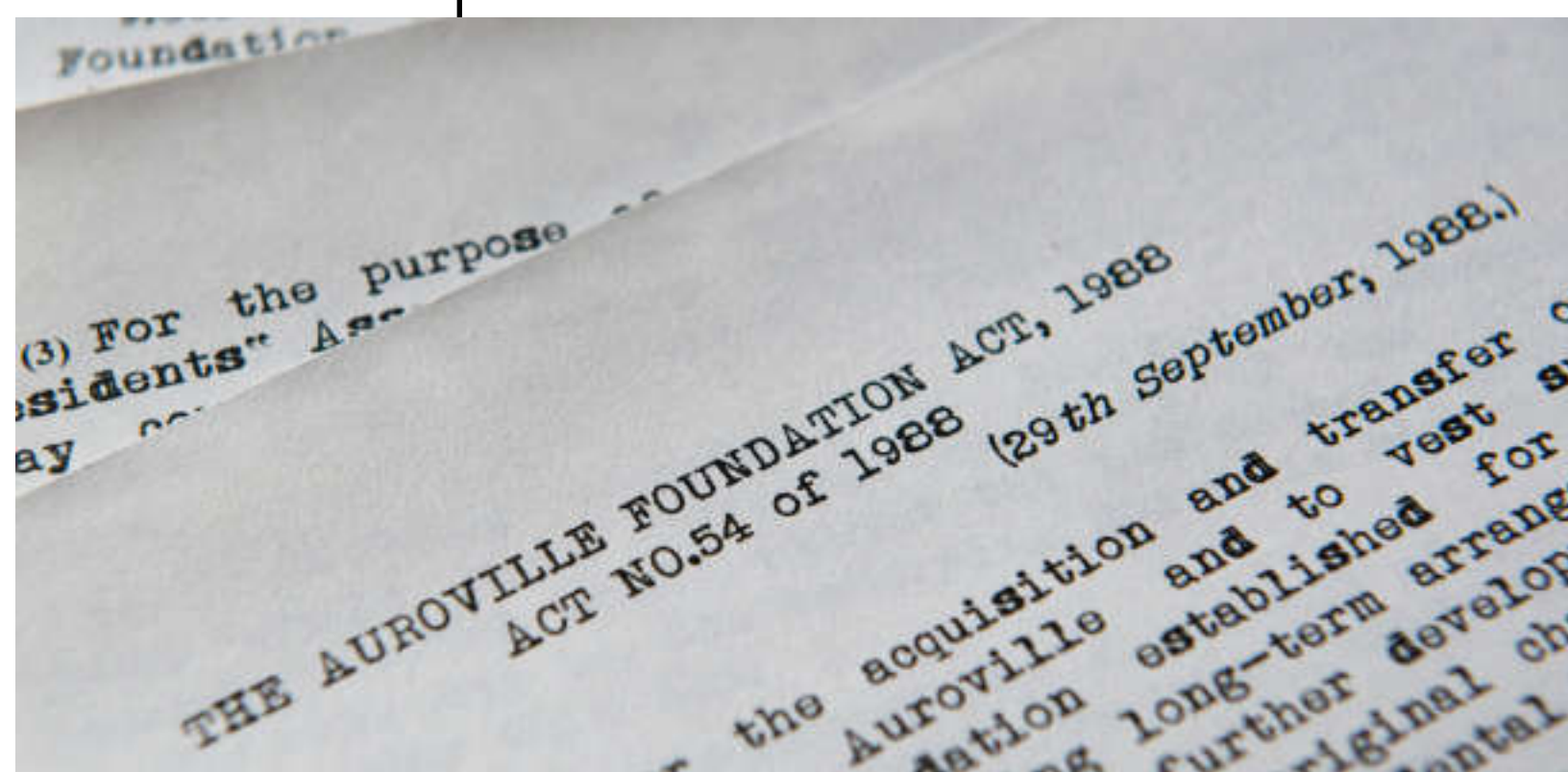


integral education

1980s

legal framework

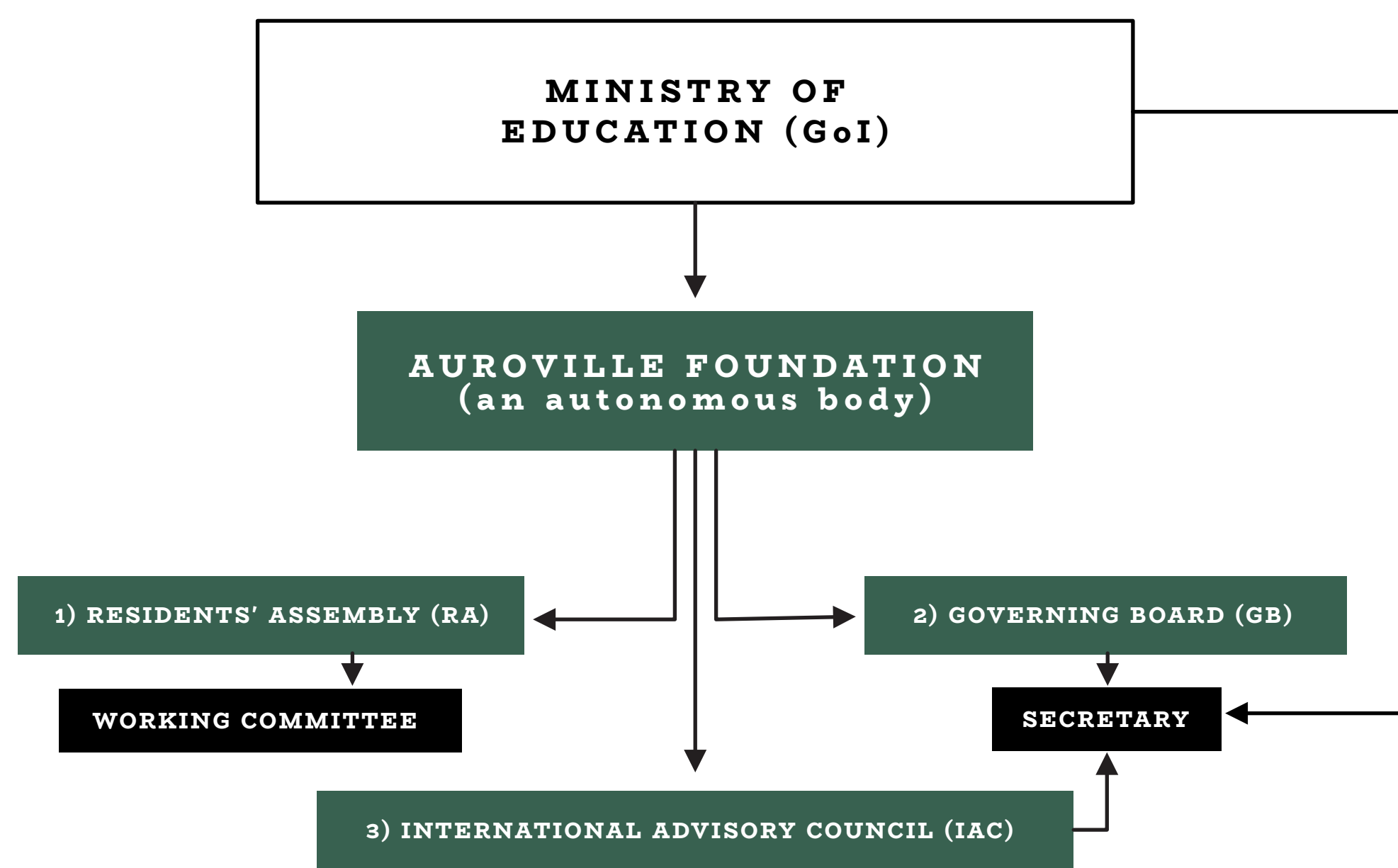
growing together



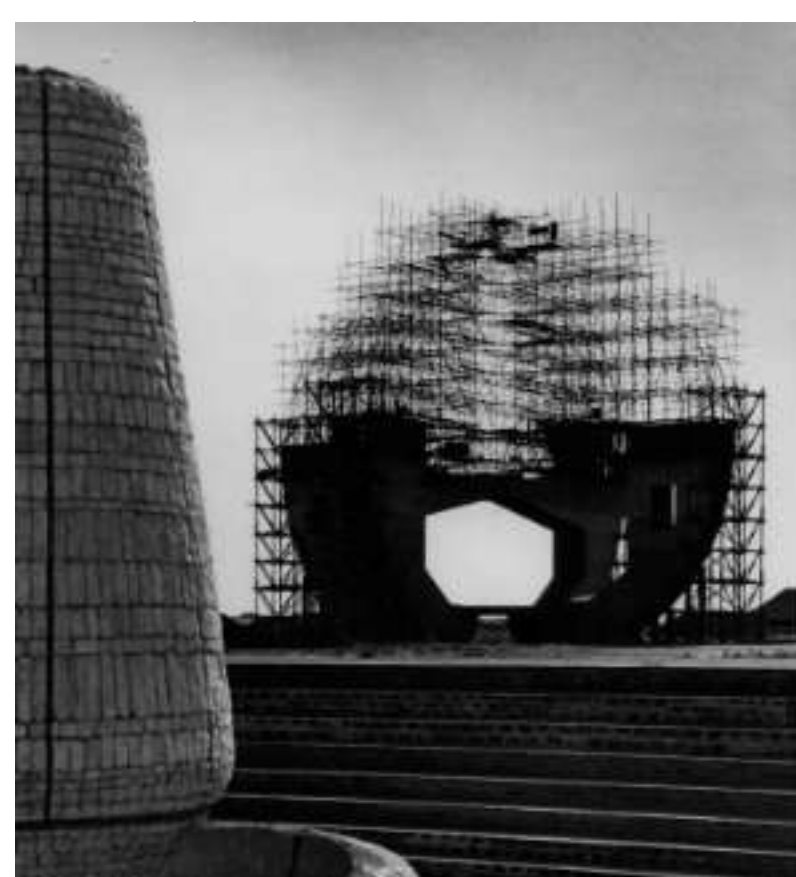
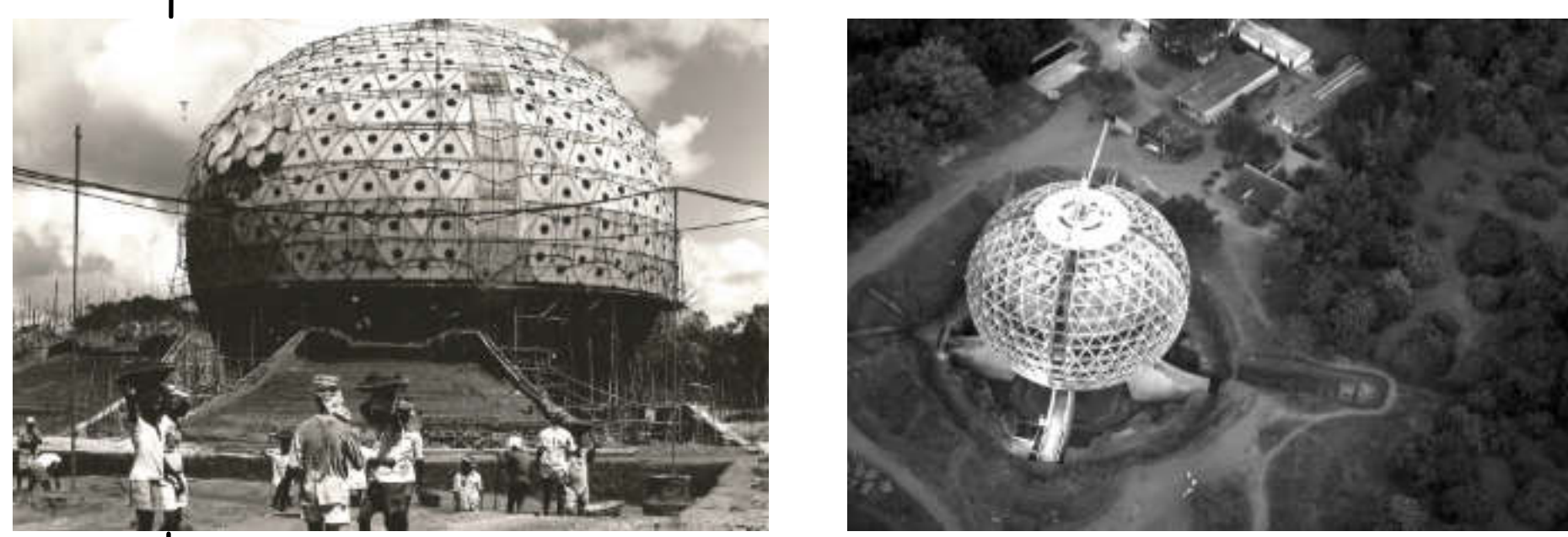
The Auroville Foundation Act of 1988. The Parliament of India unanimously voted this unique legal framework, to protect the residents of Auroville's freedom to participate in its decision-making. All bodies of the Foundation are meant to work in mutuality.



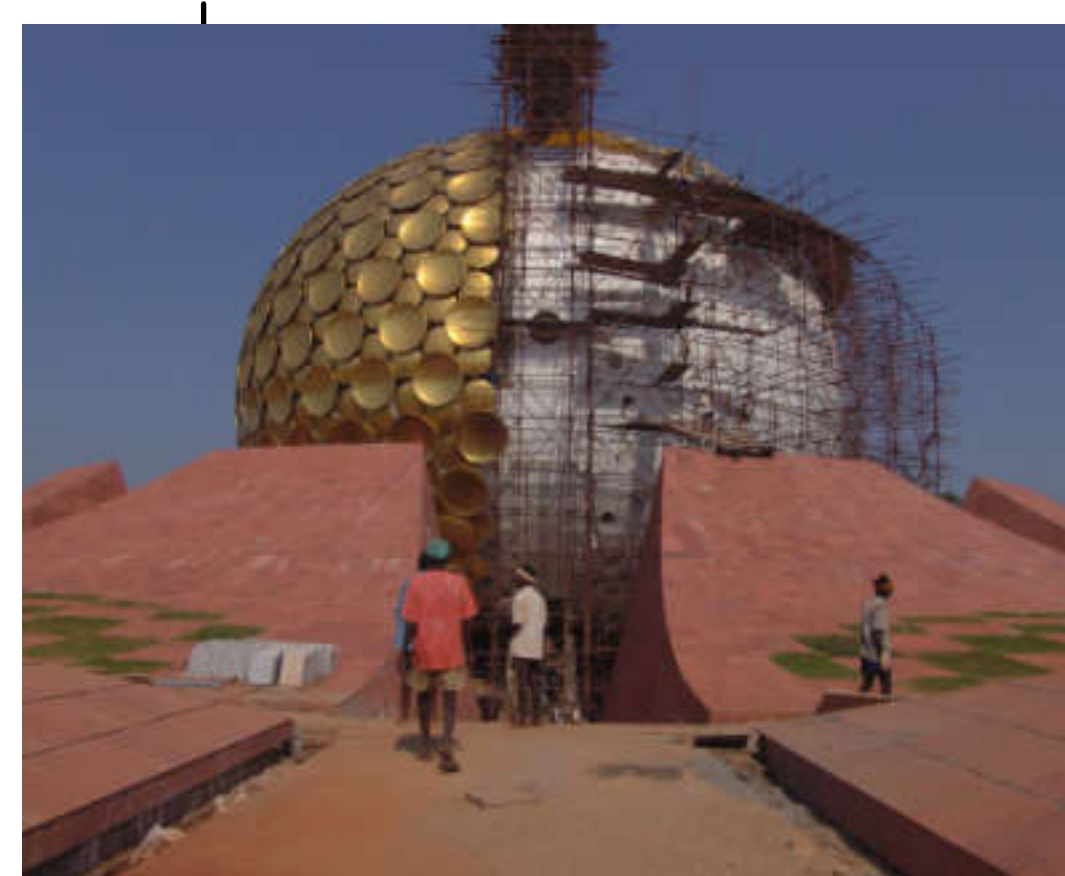
Co-creating with Residents of the Auroville Bioregion. Auroville's 700+ units and services employ numerous local villagers. They create income for the community and form the backbone of a network of mutual support systems with residents from the surrounding villages.



The three branches of the Auroville Foundation

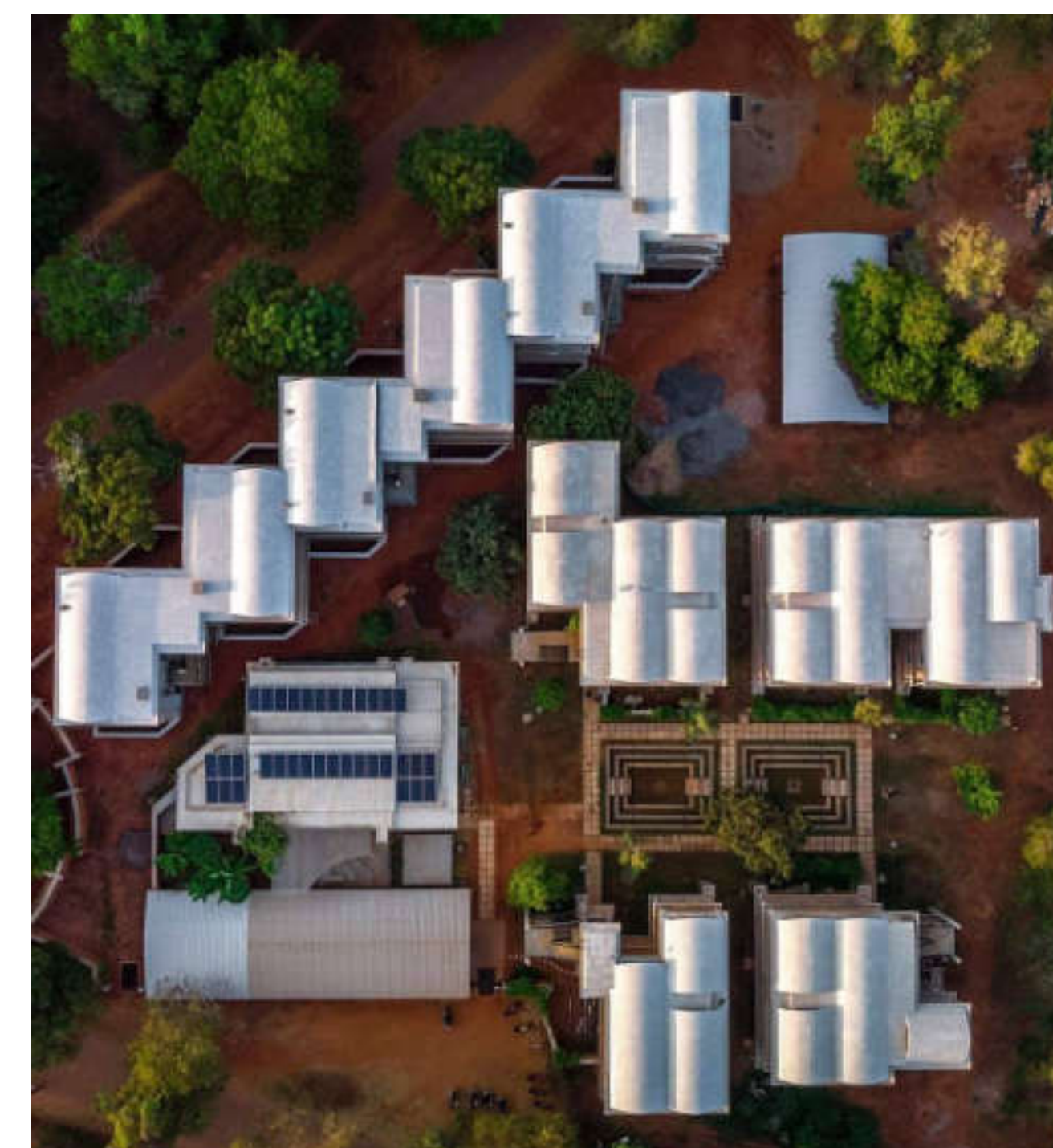


**matrimandir:
then & now**



The Soul of Auroville. Matrimandir is a radiant golden sphere with 12 petals that emerged over 37 years of collective effort and vision. Within its gold plated geodesic dome rests the world's largest optically perfect glass globe, bathed in a single sunbeam tracked across the sky. Matrimandir is a space for concentration, stillness, and self-discovery.

A living museum of architecture styles & techniques. Extensive research & education on unique earth and sustainable construction techniques: Vaults, domes, compressed bricks, rammed earth, fired houses, ferro cement houses, and more—now famous across India.



**(r)evolutionary
architecture**





arts & culture



Creative expression. For over five decades, Auroville has nurtured alternative approaches to education, creativity, and cultural exchange. From alternative schools and lifelong learning initiatives to thriving communities of artists, musicians, performers, and craftspeople – Auroville is a space where learning, expression, and cultural diversity are woven into everyday life.

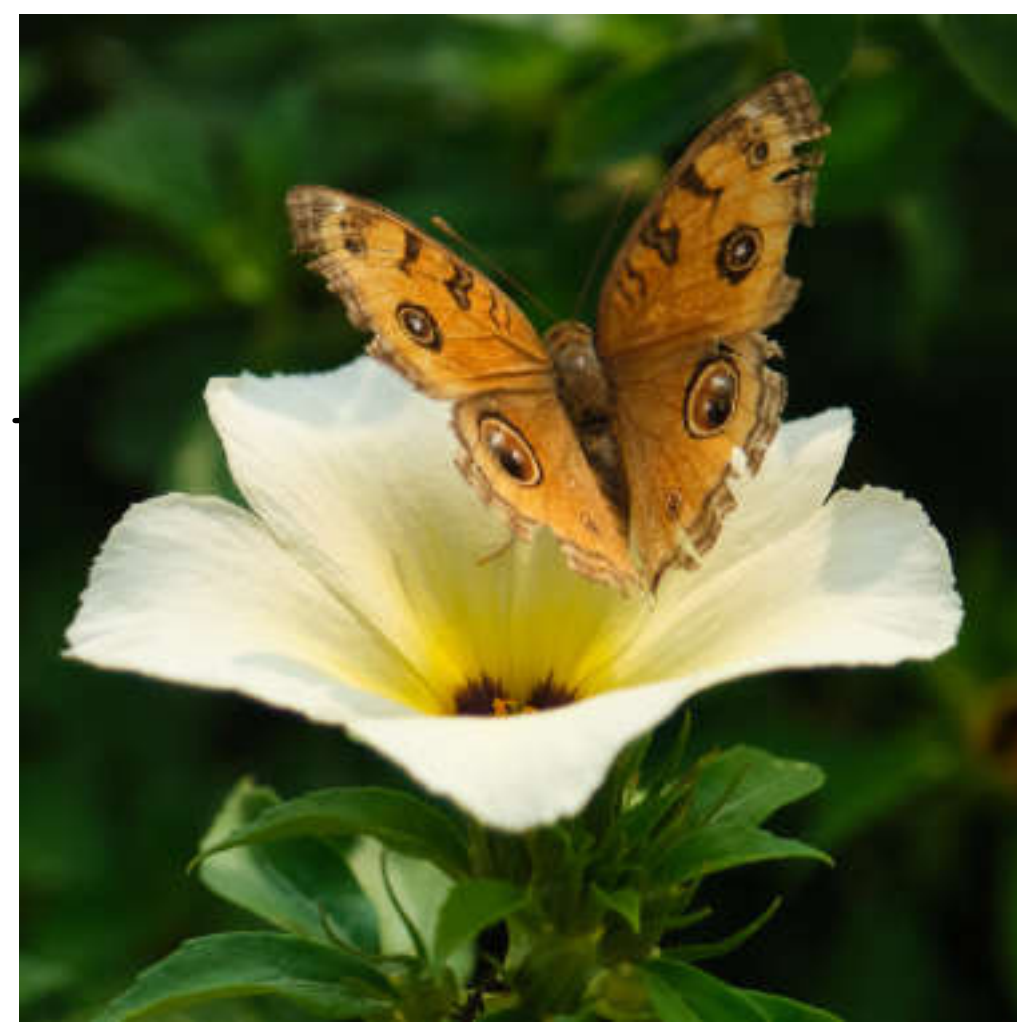


Collective Decision-making. Auroville is founded on principles of transparency and equal participation. Open information-sharing, dialogue, and community meetings used to characterise civic life in Auroville.

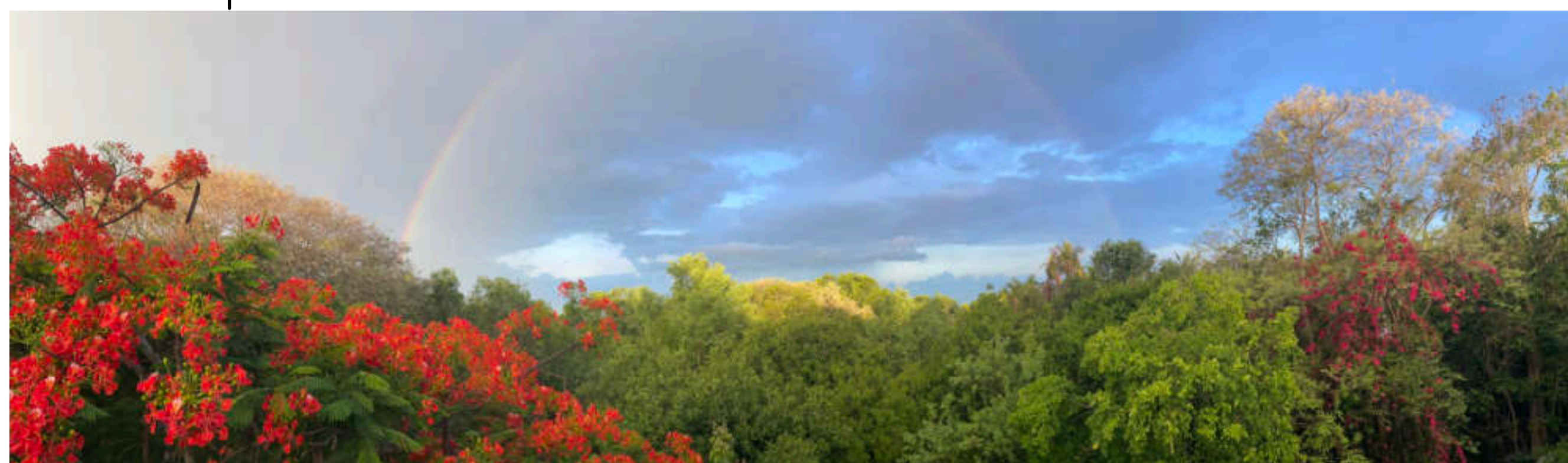
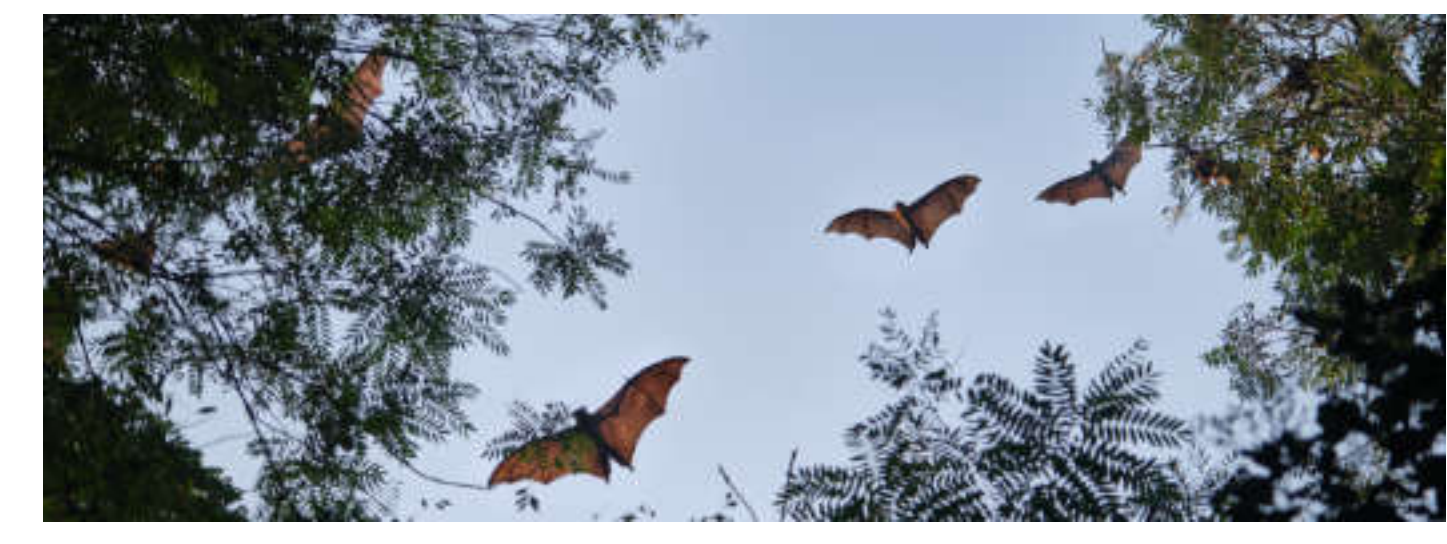


collective decision-making





● **Rejuvenating the land.** Decades of effort in restoring tree cover, soil, and the water table are paying off. Pioneer tree species begin to give way to native evergreens. Endemic species of flora and fauna regain their footholds. Increasing tree cover begins to replenish aquifers, reduce soil erosion and flooding, provide much-needed shade, and increase farm productivity



**biodiversity:
a revival**

**2021:
july**

from dream to nightmare

For over fifty years, Auroville's residents, aided by well-wishers worldwide, built all this.

In July 2021, a new Secretary to the Auroville Foundation was appointed: Dr. Jayanti Ravi. Shortly afterwards, a new Governing Board was nominated.

What began as a change in administration quickly became a rupture. Within months, the new authorities began dismantling the community's self-governing structures, overriding decisions of the Residents' Assembly, and pushing forward construction projects forcibly and without community consultations.

In June 2026, we're five years into this crisis which is destroying the essence and achievements of Auroville, and threatening its relevance for India and the world.



December 5, 2021. It began slowly. Hired goons began to lurk. Drunken aggression broke out. Those resisting were subjected to intimidation and violence. These were early signs of a takeover that would leave deep scars on a community built on openness, cooperation, trust, and shared purpose.

**2021:
december 5**

DISMANTLING THE DREAM

**in the name
of development**



Earthmovers, Chainsaws, and Cordons. The grunting of earthmovers and the whining of chainsaws began to drown out birdsong. Thousands of trees were cut down in the name of progress. Towering giants, which had transformed barren land into a thriving forest, were felled. Police stood guard at these destruction sites. A landscape of loss, heat, and heartbreak was left behind.



A January Massacre. On this day, unannounced, Auroville witnessed a merciless tree massacre. Hundreds of alley trees funded by the E.U. were felled in a matter of hours. The saplings had come from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Nursery, they were called 'service trees' by the Mother.

**2024:
January 4**

Deforestation Intensifies. Tons of wood went missing, the tree felling continued. Trucks began to arrive at Auroville's 'tree cemetery.' They left laden with the remains of trees that had survived droughts and cyclones. To many Aurovillians, this convoy was a funeral procession without mourning, without pause, without end. Each truck carried away not only wood, but shade, habitat, and memory. Thousands of truckloads of wood disappeared from Auroville.



trees = money

2022 - 2025

trees mauled

roads = money



Roads Going Nowhere. The new concrete roads were called roads of progress. In reality, they severed shaded dirt trails residents had used for decades. They made no sense in the city plan and remained mostly empty. Earthworks, barricades, trenches, and chain-link fences transformed familiar routes into dead ends, forcing long detours and isolating neighborhoods from one another. Where connection once existed, barriers emerged.



Trees not just killed, but tortured. Not all the trees were felled. Hundreds were condemned more slowly in the name of preservation. Girdled and "transplanted" under conditions that made survival unlikely. Abandoned in the dry heat, and deprived of care, they were left to die. Thus perished many of the trees which Auroville's pioneers had spent decades nurturing.



Concrete Scars Across the Earth. The new roads form wide scars across the landscape. Extremely expensive, and still new, they are already cracking, sagging. They are fragmenting wildlife habitats, depleting the water table, causing flooding and erosion, and reducing farm productivity. Radiating dust and heat, these great scars cut across what was once an interconnected living forest. What took decades to grow was erased within days.



alternative road plans: rejected

Silencing Dissent. Punishing Protest. Starting with the gagging of the Media Team in early 2022, channels of communication were progressively restricted. Individuals or institutions raising concerns found themselves increasingly ignored, marginalised, or silenced. Many lost their jobs, homes, Aurovillian status, and visas. Everything they had invested in Auroville for decades was taken away punitively.

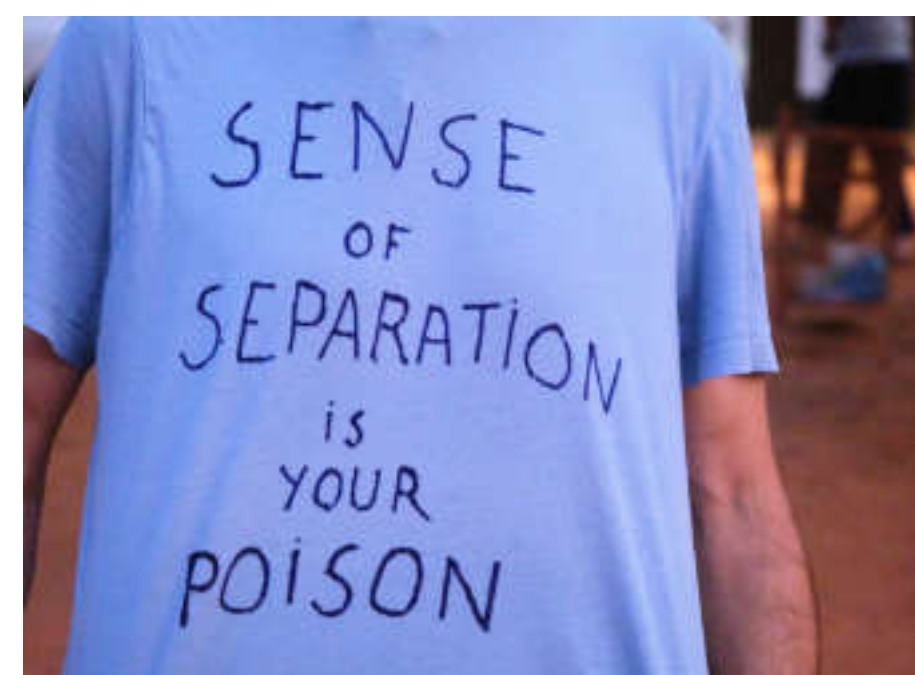


institutional takeover

silencing dissent

a masterplan misinterpreted

The Auroville Universal Township Master Plan (Perspective 2025) was never set in stone. It was intended as a living document, adapting to ground realities.



Big Brother Is Watching. Fear has changed the language of resistance. Numerous Aurovillians are terrified of losing their homes, livelihoods, or visas; fears about physical safety have also become common. What was once spoken openly is now whispered, painted, or drawn in secrecy. In a community founded on free expression and collective dialogue, even words have learned to hide. But silence is not consent.

We don't have pictures illustrating the systematic takeover of Auroville's media and channels of communication, both internal and external; the wrecking of our economy; the false narratives being circulated, and the perverting of Auroville's core values and intentions. But we do have stories.

From willing servitors of the Divine Consciousness as The Mother asked us to be, we are now expected to become blind servants of the new administration. From belonging to humanity as a whole, Auroville is now treated as the private property of the administration.

Aurovillians who have given their whole lives and savings to build the City of the Future, a place for higher ideals and the manifestation of The Divine -- are now treated as disposable.

This gangrene of destruction is endangering our livelihoods, dignity, life's work, and basic safety.



THE LOOT OF AUROVILLE

40,000+ trees cut

20,000+ protected trees cut

17,000+ people
in Auroville Bioregion adversely affected

250
residents & employees deprived
of their livelihood

200+
Aurovilians in exile

21
illicit land exchange deals

₹300+ crores
estimated loss from illicit land exchange

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

They want people to believe that Aurovilians are resisting the building of the city the Earth needs. That we are resisting the consolidation of lands required within the Master Plan area. That we are standing in the way of Auroville's future.

We are resisting. Yes!

But not the building of the city.
Not the consolidation of lands.
Not the realisation of Auroville's future.
What we resist is something else.

We resist domination.

We resist the concentration of power without meaningful participation.

We resist the gradual strangulation of the freedom necessary for a conscious community to evolve.

Because Auroville was never conceived as a population to be administered. It was conceived as a living experiment in human unity, sustained by the free participation of self-determining individuals seeking a higher collective consciousness.

A city built through coercion may produce roads, buildings, and infrastructure. But Auroville was never meant to be only a "smart city," it was conceived to be an intelligent conscious collective expressing itself in material life.

Its deeper purpose is the creation of a conscious collective life.

And such a collective cannot be manufactured through command, control and uniformity. It can only emerge through trust, participation, and the freedom to contribute meaningfully to a shared future.

Yes, we are resisting.

Not the city.

But any process that undermines the very conditions required for the soul of that city to exist.