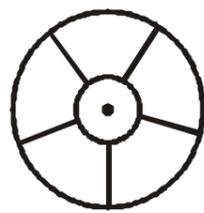


AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2004-2005



AUROVILLE
TAMIL NADU

PREFACE

Auroville was born out of Sri Aurobindo's thoughts on integral yoga and human unity and the Mother's vision of a community drawn from diverse cultures striving for human unity in an ideal city. At the inauguration of Auroville on 28th February 1968, the Mother gave it its charter. Among other things, the Charter declares, "Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole". It is a unique experiment, where rising above politics, nationalities and religions, people from around the world try to create a nucleus community that will ultimately represent a "centre of transformation", a place of accelerated evolution where human beings bring about change in the world by means of the power of the inner spirit.

"Matrimandir", placed at the centre of the developing township, is the 'soul' of Auroville. The Mother described it as "the living symbol of Auroville's aspiration for the Divine". It is well on the way to completion. The city was visualised as a habitation for 50,000 people. The efforts to obtain more land to develop the city and its infrastructure are going on. The friends of Auroville in India and abroad have been generous with their contributions. These have supplemented the income from the commercial units as well as grants from the Government to support the present population of around 1,900 people from 36 countries as also in improving and expanding its infrastructure.

Auroville's many constituent units have been active during the year and those concerned with education, the environment and health have been busy, through research and study, in developing innovative methods of rural development, environmental conservation and new education system for the new society. A number of workshops, seminars and conferences were organised that focused on varied themes including international understanding and human unity. I must make a special mention of the work done by Aurovilians to help the people who fell victim to the disastrous tsunami that struck the Tamil Nadu coast on 26th December 2004. Auroville Village Action Trust sprang into action instantaneously. Its Village Action Group provided immediate relief to the victims, surveyed the damaged caused to houses, land and water sources, and assessed the rehabilitation needs. It set up a "knowledge centre" to collate and make available information necessary for coordinated relief and rehabilitation work.

Auroville's praiseworthy work has led to it being declared a nodal centre in Villupuram district for coordinating tsunami relief and rehabilitation activities of voluntary sector.

As Chairman of Auroville Foundation, I am pleased to present the report on Auroville Foundation's activities during the period 2004-2005. I look forward to persons of goodwill around the world to support our efforts to advance the cause of Auroville.

Karan Singh

Chairman, Auroville Foundation

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