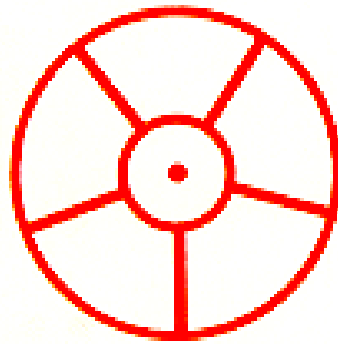


# AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

AUROVILLE



Minutes of the 59<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board



Hybrid mode

2022



12-04-2022 AT 11-00AM

## **AUROVILLE FOUNDATION, AUROVILLE**

**Minutes of the 59<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting (hybrid mode) held on**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**The following persons were present:**

1)	Shri. R. N. Ravi Governor of Tamil Nadu	Chairperson
2)	Dr Jayanti S. Ravi Secretary, Auroville Foundation	Secretary
<b><u>Joined On-line</u></b>		
3)	Smt. Darshana Dabral, JS &FA Ministry of Education, New Delhi	Member
4)	Smt. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary Ministry of Education, New Delhi	Member
5)	Shri. Aravindan Neelakandan	Member
6)	Dr Nirima Oza	Member
7)	Prof. Goutam Ghosal	Member
8)	Prof. R. S. Sarraju	Member
9)	Prof. Nandana G Basappa	Member
10)	Dr G. Seetharaman	OSD

**Leave of absence was granted to the following Member:**

1)	Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan Lt. Governor of Puducherry	Member
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Shri. R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chairman, Governing Board, Auroville Foundation, Auroville delivered the opening remarks of the 59<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board.

Dr Jayanti Ravi, Secretary, Auroville Foundation, Auroville welcomed the Chairman and the Members to the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board.

Agenda Items were taken up for discussion. The following were the items noted and decisions taken in this Meeting:

**Note:**

MoEand Integrated Finance Division (IFD), New Delhi have sent their comments on the said agenda points before commencement of meeting and the comments were considered.

<b>Item No 59.01:</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board, held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>
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The Minutes were circulated to the members. The members of Governing Board resolved to confirm the minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

<b>Item No 59.02:</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes of 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee</b>
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The members approved the minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

<b>Item No 59.03:</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes of 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee</b>
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The members approved the minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee of the Auroville Foundation was held through circulation.

<b>Item No 59.04:</b>	<b>Action taken report on the Minutes of 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board</b>
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The action-taken report on the decisions of the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board was noted by the Board.

Report of Secretary, AF

- The action points of the 58<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 have been discussed with the concerned Working Groups of Auroville and relevant office order communicating the same are being issued.

- Each Working Group has taken up one or more action items for implementation. Some Working Groups have taken the help of resource persons.
- The Working Committee, ATDC, FAMC and Entry Board have prepared presentations with the highlights of progress made thus far and the plans ahead.
- Township Development Budget for 2022-23 is approximately Rs.1196.72/- Crore. The regular meetings with officials of the Tamil Nadu Government for the acquisition of city lands & the establishment of a New Town Development Authority (for land use regulation) are in progress.
- Secretary informed the Board that Auroville Foundation has recently signed an MoU with CPWD, pursuant to discussions with Secretary, MoE in respect of GoI grants.
- Temporary recruitment will be completed by 1<sup>st</sup>May 2022 and permanent recruitment will be conducted by end of this year. Before the Permanent recruitment, AVF has to get the approval from MoE regarding the recruitment rules for the sanctioned posts.
- The FC approved the estimate of Rs. 1.98/- Crores for the preparation of the detailed development plans on the basis of the Auroville Master Plan. The agreement between ATDC and Vastushilpa Sangath LLP has been drafted and is being finalised.
- The FC approved the estimate of Rs. 30/- lakh for a comprehensive audit of trusts, units and other entities in Auroville by the CAGs office and established auditors in the private sector. This exercise may

include transaction and forensic audits, and will be helpful in the establishment and institutionalisation of appropriate systems and processes. CAG office would be carrying out a special audit too.

<b>Item No</b> <b>59.05:</b>	<b>Organisation and Governance Committee</b>
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The Board discussed the first set of observations of the *Organisation and Governance Committee* of the Governing Board, including the proposal of a review and revision of certain Standing Orders, which may be prepared and submitted to Chairman for approval.

The Board requested the Organisation and Governance Committee to review the present functioning of various working groups and come with proposals that will improve overall governance towards the realisation of the aims and objectives of Auroville. The Board notes that participation in working groups must be open to all Auroville residents and must be based on skill sets, experience and passion for the work at hand.

The Board noted that under section 18 of the Auroville Foundation Act, the Register of Residents (RoR) needs to be maintained by the Secretary, AVF, which has not been maintained annually since over fifteen years. The Board directed the Secretary to update the RoR on an annual basis starting with an update that needs to be completed by July 2022 with the assistance of the Working Committee.

The Board further directed that proper attendance records must be maintained for meetings of the Residents Assembly and that only Auroville residents whose names are included in the updated RoR shall be permitted to attend such meetings.

**Item No  
59.06:**

**Proposal to offer Honorary Aurovilian status**

The Board approved that for persons who are, or have been, associated with the original founding of Auroville in 1968 or who contribute to Auroville on a regular basis the status of *Honorary Aurovilian* and Residents of Auroville may be considered.

Board suggested that this may be done first for a few persons on a trial basis.

**Item No  
59.07:**

**Approval of CPWD estimate for the execution of projects in line with Auroville Master plan and MoU signed with the CPWD**

The Board noted and approved that an MoU with CPWD has been entered into for the execution of various township development projects.

**Item No  
59.08:**

**Detailed estimate for the programs relating to the commemorating of the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo**

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India had requested AVF for detailed estimates for the execution of various activities and renovation work that needs to be undertaken in Sri Aurobindo Bhavan, Kolkata and other centres on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo with the approximate budget of Rs 66/- Crore. The Board noted that these estimates had been prepared and sent.

<b>Item No 59.09:</b>	<b>Approval of audit bill to Chartered Accountants for auditing and consolidation of accounts</b>
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The Board approved the payment of Rs. 5.90/- lakhs to the Chartered Accountant's firm KNRSG & ASSOCIATES, Pondicherry for the completion of Annual Accounts of the Auroville Foundation for the financial year 2020-2021.

<b>Item No 59.10:</b>	<b>Approval for appointment of Administrative Officer for land-related matters</b>
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The Board approved the appointment of a retired, administrative officer with relevant experience for land-related issues of Auroville Foundation.

The consolidated pay will be fixed as per the GoI norms.

Further, the Board approved the appointment of a retired, administrative officer with relevant experience as under Secretary or above for any administrative issues of Auroville Foundation. The consolidated pay will be fixed as per the GoI norms.

<b>Item No 59.11:</b>	<b>Approval of Security and Vigilance Officer</b>
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The Board approved to appoint a retired security officer in the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police for security-related issues. The consolidated pay will be fixed as per GoI norms.

The Board directed Secretary, AVF to appoint a Central Vigilance Officer for vigilance-related issues. The Vigilance Manual of the Central Vigilance Commission may be used as a guideline for the vigilance administration of Auroville Foundation.



**Item No**  
**59.12:**

**Delegation of financial powers to Secretary and OSD**

The Board directed Secretary AVF to follow the comments given by the MoE regarding the delegation of financial powers.

It was noted that the MoE has suggested that AVF may plan the disbursement of grants-in-aid to units and activities of Auroville based on the transactions made during the past three years.

**Item No**  
**59.13:**

**Proposal for construction of staff quarters**

The Board approved the construction of 30 staff quarters for the employees working in the office of Secretary, Auroville Foundation with an estimated cost of Rs. 15/- Crore (approximately). The work will be executed by the CPWD as per GoI norms.

Further, the board approved that all Auroville Foundation staff quarters will be under the control of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation.

**Item No**  
**59.15:**

**Approval for appointment of Consultant – Project Coordinator**

The Board noted that Mr. Dev Mohanty has been working in the office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation since December 2021, and provides executive support including internal and external communications,

planning and minutes of meetings and coordination of various programs to Secretary, Auroville Foundation.

The Board suggested that his appointment as Consultant – Project Coordinator may be done in accordance with comments given by the IFD, namely to constitute a three members committee regarding the eligibility criteria and fixation of salary for three months (temporary basis) as well as disbursing of arrears from December 2021. His tenure can be extended as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary, Auroville Foundation.

<b>Item No</b> <b>59.17:</b>	<b>Approval for formation of Legal Cell</b>
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The Board approved the formation of a legal cell in the office of the Secretary, AVF to look into all legal matters related to Auroville Foundation including land purchase, land-related disputes and other litigations pertaining to any matters associated with Auroville Foundation.

Further, the Board noted that Secretary, AVF in her capacity of *Estate Officer* of the Auroville Foundation under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 is the competent authority on land matters.

**Item No**  
**59.18:**

**Approval for Extension of tenure of OSD**

The Board approved to extend the tenure of Dr G. Seetharaman, Associate Professor, IIIT Tiruchirappalli for next two years as Professor *cum* OSD at Auroville Foundation. His expertise is found extremely useful and will be further needed for the planning and development of the Auroville Township as special project and the great vision of the Mother. He is co-ordinating with CPWD and other agencies for the implementations of the Auroville Master Plan.

Further the Board approved and recommend to the Ministry of Education to issue an extension order with a revised basic pay of Rs. [Number] with pay protection for the combined responsibilities at IIIT Tiruchirappalli and Officer on Special Duty, Auroville Foundation.

The difference in the basic pay of [Number] will be paid by the AVF.

**Item No**  
**59.19:**

**Approval for completion of Tamil Heritage Center**

The Board approved the implementation of additional works in the Tamil Heritage Center such as electrical works, rest rooms, child safety railing, Landscape levelling, entrance staircase, ramps, facade – upper-level closure, roof sub-structure fixing etc. with additional cost of Rs. 75/- lakhs. These additional works are to be executed by the CPWD as per GoI norms.

## REPORTING ITEM

<b>Item No</b> <b>59.20:</b>	<b>Auroville Festival Expenses</b>
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The Board noted and approved the expenditure of Rs.19/- lakhs incurred for various programs, including cultural programs, seminars, talks, workshops, webinars and social service activities to share the ideals and purpose of Auroville with neighbouring villages for the celebration of the Mother's birthday and Auroville's birthday in the period 21st February 2022 to 28th February 2022. The approval is given subject to compliance with GoI norms.

It was decided to have the next meeting of the GB in July 2022.

The Meeting ended with thanks to the Chairman and other Members proposed by the Secretary.

Dr Jayanti S. Ravi  
Auroville Foundation, Auroville  
(Secretary)

**//APPROVED//**

Shri. R. N. Ravi  
Governor of Tamil Nadu  
(Chairperson)