

# AUROVILLE FOUNDATION AUROVILLE

Minutes of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board

Hybrid mode

16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 @ 4:00 PM

# **AUROVILLE FOUNDATION, AUROVILLE**

Minutes of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Governing Board meeting (hybrid mode) held on16.02.2023

# The following persons were present:

1)	Honourable Shri. R. N. Ravi Governor of Tamil Nadu	Chairperson		
2)	Honourable Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan Lt. Governor of Puducherry	Member		
3)	Prof. Goutam Ghosal	Member		
4)	Dr Nirima Oza	Member		
5)	Shri. Aravindan Neelakandan	Member		
6)	Prof. R. S. Sarraju	Member (Joined Online)		
7)	Shri. Mohammed Rizwan	MoE (Joined Online)		
8)	Shri. Sudhira Kumar Samantaray	MoE (Joined Online)		
9)	Dr Jayanti S. Ravi	Secretary		
10)	Dr G. Seetharaman	OSD		

	Leave of absence was granted to the following	ng Member
1)	Prof. Nandana G Basappa	Member

Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary, Auroville Foundation, Auroville welcomed the Chairman and the Members to the 63rd meeting of the Governing Board.

Honourable Shri. R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chairman, Governing Board, Auroville Foundation, Auroville delivered the opening remarks of the 63rd meeting of the Governing Board.

Then, the Agenda Items were taken up for discussion. The following were the discussions and decisions taken in this meeting:

#### Note:

Ministry of Education, New Delhi had sent their comments on the said agenda points before commencement of the meeting and the comments were considered.

# **AGENDA ITEMS**

Item No. 63.01

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of the  $61^{st}$  &  $62^{nd}$  Governing Board

The Minutes were circulated to the members. Members of the Governing Board resolved to confirm the minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup>& 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Governing Board held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Item No. 63.02

Action taken report on the decision of the  $61^{st}$  &  $62^{nd}$  meeting of the GB

The action-taken report on the decisions of the 61st & 62nd meeting of the Governing Board was noted by the Board.

Item No. 63.03

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Board noted the various activities carried out by the Secretary, AVF after the 61st & 62nd Governing Board meeting, which are given below.

Release of Stamps & Coins on the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence & 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Sri Aurobindo as Co-memorial Function

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honour of Sri Aurobindo and addressed a programme celebrating Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary through video conferencing in Kamban Kalai Sangam, Puducherry under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 13th Dec 2022. Shri Kishan Reddy, Hon. Union Minister of Culture, Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon. Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chairman of Auroville Foundation, Dr.(Smt) Tamilisai Soundararajan, Hon. Lt. Governor of Puducherry/ Governor of Telangana and Governing Board Member of Auroville Foundation Thiru N. Rangasamy Hon. Chief Minister of Puducherry, Dr.(Smt.) Jayanti S.Ravi, Secretary of Auroville Foundation and Smt. Uma Nanduri Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture and other senior officials from Government and Senior members of Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Sri Aurobindo Society and Auroville participated in the program. event was coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and the Department of Culture, Government of Puducherry, & Auroville Foundation.

# Margazhi Utsav

During the month of December 2022 and January 2023, the Tamil month of Margazhi, Nagar Sankeerthan an auspicious traditional event was organised in the early mornings throughout this holy month, by singing the devotional songs of saints like Andal every day a team where young children and elders participated with enthusiasm and gaiety, with the involvement of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation in this event successfully. The dawn of New Year was welcomed on 1st January 2023 with a solemn program for quiet meditation around the Banyan tree of Matrimandir as is the practice every year.

# Mother's International School, Delhi, event at Bharat Nivas

On the 10th of January 2023, under the guidance of *Padma Shri* awardee, Ms Tara Jauhar of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi Branch and students of Mother's International School gave a dance-drama presentation of the program "The Adventure of Consciousness" based on Sri Aurobindo's poem 'Savitri' and his other writings, which was well received and appreciated by one and all.

# Pongal Celebrations at Raj Nivas Puducherry

A Pongal Festival Reception was hosted by the Hon. Lt. Governor of Puducherry Dr.(Smt) Tamilisai Soundararajan She invited many Auroville residents, members of Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Sri Aurobindo Society where the project of Auroville with various aspects of Education, Town Development and Economy were presented The possibilities of collaboration of all Sri Aurobindonian organisations and followers for a bright future were also briefly discussed followed by dinner- a feast of Millets.

Republic Day Celebrations	The Republic Day of India on 26th January 2023 was celebrated with the unfurling of the National Flag by Lt. Gen (Retd) Ashoke Chatterjee at Bharat Nivas, the Pavilion of India with the singing of national anthem, national song and Sanskrit chants and cultural programs.
Team Building Events (Three Working Groups)	Aspirational Gathering for the New Year with the Working Committee, ATDC & FAMC - The Working Groups, Dr. Jayanti Ravi, and residents of Auroville gathered at Unity Pavilion to read in English, Tamil and French, The Charter of Auroville, "the Dream" of the Mother and "To be a True Aurovilian". They meditated and called Mother's Presence to bless this New Year.
12 <sup>th</sup> International Conference (InSPA)	An 12th International Conference was organised by the Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA) at Pondicherry University, 2nd October 22. The Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Dr. Jayanti Ravi, IAS, addressed the delegates and elaborated on "The Five Dreams" of Sri Aurobindo, Sri Aurobindo's yoga for humanity and his vision manifesting through Auroville.
Spiritual Summit	This Summit was organised to celebrate the 150 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo. Sri Aurobindo spoke extensively about the evolutionary needs of our time and gave practices and worked to facilitate this evolution and the divinization of human consciousness.

Auroville
Foundation
'At-Home' Event at
Secretary's Official
Residence

Secretary, Auroville Foundation had invited many of the senior residents, working group members and senior Ashram residents and staff of Auroville Foundation office and families for an informal get-together at her official residence Aditi on 7th February 2023. About 250 people including children and resident members attended.

Hon. Lt. Governor Puducherry has also graced the occasion and participated and interacted with the members.

## Visits Hosted by Auroville Foundation

Many high-level dignitaries have visited Auroville and Matrimandir during this period

# Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister

Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Hon.Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and his family visited Auroville with Governing Board member Dr. Nirima Oza, Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary of the Auroville Foundation and residents of Auroville. They visited Matrimandir, Swaram, and the City Exhibition in the Indian Space and they met with the 3 Working Groups:

Working Committee,

FAMC and ATDC.

# Consulate General of Germany

Mrs. Michaela Kucchler, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany visited Auroville and interacted with the Secretary and Residents.

# Ambassador of Romania

The Ambassador of Romania in India, Mrs. Daniela-Mariana Sezonov, and Dr Vijay Mehta, Honorary Consul General of Romania visited Auroville and met the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation and some residents.

Ambassador of
Norway along with
Norwegian
Delegates

The Ambassador of Norway and a delegation from the Ministry of Earth Sciences visited Auroville, met the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and were shown various aspects of Auroville.

## **Projects**

Building of a Hostel with 100 beds funded by Madhya Pradesh During his visit, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh offered, in principle, to fund a 100-bed hostel in Auroville for students and volunteers coming from Madhya Pradesh. This proposal has been followed up by the Auroville Foundation.

Construction of a Dormitory of 500 beds by EDCIL A proposal for Construction of 500 Bedded Student Hostel in Auroville, Pondicherry under Phase I, along with Procurement Accessories by EdCIL (India) Limited Noida UP-India a "Mini Ratna" Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Administrative Control of Ministry of Education GOI, The Infrastructure facility would be developed in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode where Auroville will provide Land to the Concessionaire (PPP) for use for a defined period under Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme of the DEA (Department of Economic Affairs), in line with National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) for Higher Education Institutions (also continued in Approval Items).

#### **Publications**

Auroville Tomorrow Publication Auroville Media Interface published its sixth issue of Auroville Tomorrow, within one year of change of management team.

# **Workshops and Mini Contact Seminars** Auroville invited collaboration from Architecture students Beyond BHKthe world over for a celebration of ideas and innovation. Students Many youngsters from all over India and the world came Presentations together to produce an in-depth outcome, with focus and true spirit of collaboration. A call to the youth of India and the World was made for Documentary Film creating greater awareness of Sri Aurobindo's contribution, Making & Essay on occasion of his 150th Birth Anniversary, and 75th year Competitions of India's Independence. The competition was open to Schools (grades 6th to 12th) & College Students, nationally and internationally. In commemoration of Sri Aurobindo's 150th Anniversary, a Bilingual Exhibition Bilingual depicting snapshots Exhibition at Aurobindo's life was inaugurated at Savitri Bhavan. The Savitri Bhavan exhibition is an immersive, first-of-its-kind experience, featuring pictures of his life journeys in both English and Tamil. This initiative has been made possible with the sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture and the kind support of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry.

General updates

The second secon	т		The second second second			- Carrier and Carr	
Government Land Information System portal (GL1S) entry & updation	and building, owned by the Ministry and its subordinate / attached offices/statutory/autonomous bodies on Government Land Information System portal (GL1S) was						
	submitted Working	d and Comn	verified by	teams of C with the c	Officers cooperat	e forms were and Auroville tion of many	
	Sl. No.	Sl. No. Description Total Nos.					
Updation of ROR Survey and	1.	On Line Forms Totally 2614 submitted			2614		
Correctness	2.	Less	Duplication	S		-152	
	3.	Bala	nce		2462		
	4.	Forms Verified and confirmed					
	5.	Temporarily out of Auroville				164	
	6.	Non-Submission of Forms 129				129	
	7.	Long term out of Auroville				301	
			10000				
VICA DETAILS S-	For the p		For 5 year to 1 year	3 month	Pendin	g Visa rejection	
VISA DETAILS for All Countries	1052 68 4 2				2		
	Door to Door Housing Survey Status  Total No. of Houses Surveyed upto 13-02-2023 960  Work in Progress (Pending) Residences 540  Total Residences 1500						

#### APPROVAL ITEMS

Item No. 63.04	Approval of Annual Budget under OH-35 for the Financial Year 2023-2024
1tcm No. 00.04	Year 2023-2024

The Board approved the budget of Auroville Foundation for the financial year 2023-24 submitted to the Ministry of Education as given below:-

Sl. No. Grant in Aid Demands		Amount in Crores (Rs.)
1.	General OH-31	15
2.	Capital OH-35	425
3.	Salary OH-36	7
	Total	447

Item No. 63.05 Appro	val to Disburse the TDS Refund for the AY 2021-22
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The Board approved the refund of Income Tax deducted at source and received by the Auroville Foundation for an amount of Rs. 91,97,310/- for the financial year 2020-21 with interest. The principle refund amount was Rs. 91,06,250/-. The balance amount is of Rs. 91,060/-.

Further, the Board approved to disburse Rs.91,06,250/- to the trusts and units of Auroville and to retain the interest amount of Rs. 91,060/-. in the Office of the Secretary's Account.

# Item No. 63.06 | Auroville Birthday week - Festival Budget

The Board approved a week-long festival of 55<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary organized by Auroville with the tentative budget of Rs.20/-lakhs and suggested to follow the GFR 2017 guidelines.

# Item No. 63.07 Construction of 500 Bedded Student Hostel

The Board approved the project proposal submitted by the EdCIL (India) Limited for the construction of 1000 bedded student hostel in two phases at Auroville. EdCIL (India) Limited is a "Mini Ratna" Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The Board recommended to develop a state-of-the-art infrastructure hostel facility for student housing in the existing premises of the city, for which an area has been earmarked. The requirement of developing a hostel of 1000 beds can be undertaken in a phased manner with capacity of 500 Beds being developed under Phase I. This could be under the PPP viability gap funding scheme of the DEA (Department of Economic Affairs).

Further the Board recommended and approved, Auroville Foundation to sign the MoU with **EdCIL** (**India**) **Limited** as per GoI norms and follow the Rule 194 of GFR 2017 for various works approved by GB and MoE. The project cost would be Rs.82.20/- Crore (approximately) for Phase -1.

Item No. 63.08	Construction of new Town Hall	

The Board approved the construction of Townhall in Auroville with the approximate budget of Rs. 50/- crore. This New town hall is one of the most prominent public buildings and is placed in the north-south axis of the Matrimandir within the administrative area of Auroville.

Item No. 63.09	Start-ups of Entrepreneurship
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The Board approved the Start-up Entrepreneurship project with the approximate budget of up to Rs. 50/- lakhs. The individual proposals would have to be scrutinised and approved, under intimation to the Governing Board. Further, the Board noted all these budget requests would include capex, opex and running costs, i.e. building equipment and 1-year running cost plus 3 months of raw materials.

Item No. 63.10	Upgradation of SAIIER Quarters	

The Board approved the upgradation of SAIIER quarters (which was built with a GoI grant) with basic facilities due to many high-level dignitaries from India and abroad frequently visiting Auroville, including Matrimandir to know more about the spirit behind the International City.

Further, the Board approved an estimated cost of Rs. 50/- lakhs (Rs. fifty lakhs) for 8 units @ Rs 6.25 lakhs each (approx.)

Item No. 63.11	Organization Governance R		Committee	-	proposed
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The Board noted the presentation of the Organisation and Governance Committee on the need for defining rules, processes and regulations for the functioning of the Residents Assembly. The presentation also included an analysis on the main issues with the functioning of the Residents Assembly over the years, as well as a study on Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's words on organisation and governance, with respect to Sri Aurobindo's vision of gnostic communities in the context of Auroville.

Further, the Board discussed and approved the following action points proposed by the OGC.

- Auroville Foundation Regulations 2023
- Model Code of Conduct for the Units, Activities, Projects and Trusts operating under Auroville Foundation.
- Proposed organisational reforms for Auroville including re-organisation of various working groups.

## **ESTABLISHMENT MATTERS**

Item No. 63.12	Details on appointment of Contractual Staff	

The Board approved and noted the following appointments on contract (purely temporary basis).

S1. No.	Name of the Staff	Designation	Salary (Rs.)
1	Shri. B.Madhusudhan	Data Integration Engineer cum JRF (Stipend paid under AIIC Project)	40,000
2	Dr.Mollika Ganguly	Resource Person	45,000
3	Ms. Sudha Prabhu (From 01.03.2023)	Media Coordinator	40,000
4	Shri Anurag Nambiar (From 01.03.2023)	Media Consultant	40,000

#### REPORTING ITEMS

Item No. 63.13	Legal Issues Update	
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The Board noted the Court Cases details submitted by the Auroville Foundation.

Item No. 63.14	Update on Land Issues	

The Governing Board approved the following land purchase and exchange in the crown area for the effective implementation of master plan.

- Djaima community, Bommayarpalayam Village R.S.No. 194/2 4.00 acres and utilize it for future exchange for the private land in city and crown area.
- The another barren land kept vacant for years together without any usage at Auromodel.

Sl. No.	Village	Survey No.	Extent (in Acer Cent)
1		157/8	0.56
2		152/7	0.60
3		157/9	0.50
4		158/1A	0.50
5	Bommayarpalayam	157/12	0.64
6		163/1	1.69
7		155/7	1.10
8		155/9	0.65
9		155/10	0.64
10		163/1	1.69
		Total	6.93

In the above lands Sl. no. 7 to 9 an extent of 2.39 acres. Lands are kept by one Aurovillian name Mr. Padmanaban. He has constructed two houses and a guest house there.

We can leave the portion and take Serial number 1 to 6 to an extent of 2.00 acres out of the total extent 4.49 acres for future exchange to city and crown area. We can also take entire extent of 1.69 acres in IR 163/1.

Further, the Governing Board approved to take 3.69 acres totally for the future exchange.

Item No. 63.15	Spirituality and Science and Human Awakening Summit
	2023
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The Board noted and approved a three-day Spirituality, Science and Human Awakening Summit in the month of February 2023.

Ms. Dena Merriam, Chairperson of the International Advisory Committee of Auroville, along with the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and Auroville residents had worked to organise the summit on Science & Spirituality, which was dedicated to a collective effort to uplift and transform society. The need of the hour was to have spiritual science to quicken human awakening, beyond mere survival of human species and for the thriving of all life forms on earth. The august gathering explored ways to bridge the laws that govern the physical and spiritual realms, as well as the different processes at work to aid human evolution and awakening. This summit has been an effort, one among so many, to shed light on the wisdom to envision the future, a blueprint for a more conscious human society.

Item No. 63.16 Production charges for the documentary	film
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The Board approved the expenses of Rs. 6,37,200/- incurred for the preparation of a seven minutes' documentary film about Auroville for the UNESCO conference by National Film Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi.

Item No. 63.17

Update on the Grant received from the Ministry of Culture for Celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo

The Board noted that the Ministry of Culture had sanctioned Rs.14,65,00,000/-and released Rs.10/- Crore as first instalment for the celebration of 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.

Further, the Board noted the details of disbursement of grant to various Centres as per sanction letter and the need to utilize the balance grant amount i.e Rs.7,56,96,536/- by the end of next financial year.

Item No. 63.18

Reply by Under Secretary to show cause notice

The Board noted, the report was submitted by the Office of the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, Internal Audit Wing, Ministry of Education, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi on 22.06.2022 regarding various irregularities in the office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation. Based on this report, a three-member committee had been constituted, which issued a show cause notice to Shri P.R. Srinivasamurthy, Under Secretary on 14.11.2022 and asked for his reply within 48 hours. He had submitted his first reply on 16.11.2022 and was seeking extra time. Later, he submitted his final reply on 13.01.2023.

The OGC has reviewed the reply submitted by Shri P.R. Srinivasamurthy, Under Secretary on 15.02.2023 and found the information inadequate. Also the committee verified the documents submitted by him, which were not appropriate and had no proper basis or approval to justify the serious irregularities. Hence, the committee recommended to the GB to consider this and take appropriate steps in this regard.

The Governing Board discussed the following:

- 1. Report of the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts (Internal Audit Wing), Ministry of Education, New Delhi
- 2. The reply submitted by Shri P.R.Srinivasamurthy, Under Secretary, Auroville Foundation, and
- 3. The seriousness of the irregularities

The Governing Board, taking the above into consideration, has decided to take necessary action under Rule 14 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965, to issue the Charge Memorandum to Shri P.R.Srinivasamurthy, Under Secretary, Auroville Foundation and place him under suspension.

Further, the Governing Board authorised the Secretary, Auroville Foundation to take suitable action and report to the Board.

# Item No. 63.19 Report on Systems and Processes Audit

The Board had decided in its 58<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18-01-2022 that a systems and processes audit conducted the audit of various units & trusts of Auroville Foundation and the report with findings has been submitted to the Board.

Further, the firm has completed the discussion with various units and informed the procedural lapses in maintaining the accounts and other procedures. It was decided to continue with the hearing for lapses observed in the system audit by having hearings for the accountant, auditors and responsible for maintaining accounts. The firm submitted a detailed presentation before the GB members about the violations of procedures in accounts and other process done by the units.

The GB noted and suggested to forward the entire report to MoE, New Delhi to take further actions in this regard.

Item No. 63.20

# Celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo

On the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo and to be in preparedness to welcome more & more people aligned with the vision and mission of Mother & Sri Aurobindo for Auroville, it was decided to approve the plan for housing provision for welcoming more volunteers, interns, fellows, as well as scholars/researchers/artists/practitioners & leaders-in-residence for up to 3 weeks. It was also decided to identify and confer "Honorary Aurovilian" status for a period of one year, as well as "Goodwill Ambassadors" for Auroville for a period of one year, from eminent personalities across different fields/sectors as well as various countries, but who are aligned to the basic vision, mission and key principles of Auroville.

For carrying out all of the above programmes the approximate expenditure would be Rs. One Crore which would be met out of the funds released for the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo by the Ministry of Culture.

These names could be further approved on a case-to-case basis as and when they are identified.

It was also decided to invite the following personalities as **Honorary Aurovillians**:

	25 040	
Sl. No.	Name	Roll/Organisation
1.	Shri. Dayanandji	Ashramite
2.	Dr. Alok Pandey	Ashramite
3.	Dr. Sampadananda Mishra	Member of the High Level Committee constituted for the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo
4.	Dr. Deshpande	Ashramite
	also decided to invite the following	personalities as
1.	Mr. Gopal Srinivasan	Chairman, TVS Capital
2.	Mrs. Mallika Srinivasan	Chairperson, TAFE

3.	Mr. N. Ravi	Chairman, The Hindu Publishing Group & Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Chennai Kendra.
4.	Mr. Nalli K. Chetty	Chairman, Nalli Silks group.
5.	Mrs. Preetha Reddy	Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Group contact Mr. Naveen, VP, Apollo Hospitals Group.

Item No. 63.21	Approval of annual accounts for the Financial Year 202
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The 61st Board approved the Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2021-22 held on 08.11.2022. Subsequently, CAG had audited and pointed, the Annual Accounts of Auroville Foundation was not prepared on the Ministry of Education Format.

Hence, Auroville Foundation prepared the Annual Accounts as per MoE Format as required by the CAG, and the same was sent through mail to all the Governing Board Members for approval.

In continuation to that, the Internal auditor, AVF has found that the excess of income over expenditure. Hence, it is in the process of preparing a reconciliation statement and the revision accounts by our Chartered Accountant. The same will be communicated to GB for approval through Circulation and then communicated to CAG to continue the audit for the year 2021-22 as per MoE Format.

Item No 63.22:

Approval of the Minutes of 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee

The Governing Board members approved the minutes of the 38th meeting of the Finance Committee of the Auroville Foundation was held through circulation. Further, the Board noted the comments received from MoE and IFD, New Delhi, in this regard.

It was decided to have the next meeting of the GB in June 2023.

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

2117. vo. ofa.

Governor of Tamil Nadu

(Chairperson)