

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

AUROVILLE

Minutes of the 64th Meeting of the Governing Board

Hybrid mode

09-08-2023 at 03:00 PM

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION, AUROVILLE

**Minutes of the 64th Governing Board meeting (hybrid mode) held on
09th August 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)	Prof. R. S. Sarraju	Member
5)	Dr. Nirima Oza	Member
6)	Shri Sanjog Kapoor, JS & FA Ministry of Education, New Delhi	Member (Joined Online)
7)	Shri Sameer Bakshi, Section Officer (IFC), MoE <i>representing</i> Smt. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary Ministry of Education, New Delhi	Member (Joined Online)
8)	Dr Jayanti S. Ravi	Secretary
9)	Prof. G. Seetharaman	OSD
10)	Smt. K. Swarnambika	DS

Leave of absence was granted to the following Member

1)	Shri. Aravindan Neelakandan	Member
2)	Prof. Nandana G Basappa	Member

Dr Jayanti Ravi, Secretary, Auroville Foundation, Auroville welcomed the Chairman and the Members to the 64th 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 64th meeting of the Governing Board.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

Item No. 64.01: Confirmation of Minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Governing Board, held on 16th Feb 2023

The Minutes were circulated to the members. Members of the Governing Board resolved to confirm the minutes of the 63rd meeting of the Governing Board held on 16th Feb 2023.

Item No. 64.02: Action taken report on the decisions of the 63rd meeting of the Governing Board

The action-taken report on the decisions of the 63rd meeting of the GB was approved by the Board.

Item No. 64.03: The Secretary's Report

The Board noted the various activities carried out by the Secretary, AVF after the 63rd Governing Board meeting.

- The Governing Board appreciated the arrangement and coordination for the visit of the Honorable President of India on August 08, 2023 at Auroville to inaugurate the One Day Conclave on “Aspiring for Supermind in the City of Evolving Consciousness”.
- The Board decided that the Secretary of Auroville Foundation would take appropriate action/explanation from the Aurovilians who have not submitted their basic information to the RoR even though several reminders have been sent in various modes from time to time and the last date has been extended several times for the past one year. This clearly shows their negligent attitude towards submission of filling RoR.
- The Board asked the Secretary, Auroville Foundation to take necessary steps to streamline the Housing allotment and regulate the housing according to the Mother's perception. The Houses may be allotted to the Aurovilians based on the number of persons in their family.

APPROVAL ITEMS

Item No. 64.04: Update on the programmes done for the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo using grants received from the ministry of culture

The Governing Board noted that, the various activities carried out by the Auroville Foundation and the other Aurobindo Centres. Further, the Board approved to utilize the balance grant with the concurrence of Ministry of Culture, New Delhi.

Item No. 64.05: Discussions on the Auroville Foundation proposed regulations 2023

The Auroville Foundation informed the members of the Governing Board about the proposed regulations 2023. Representative of Ministry of Education informed the Governing Board that the regulations are being finalized and would be shared shortly. Further, the Board noted that the regulations are currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Education.

Item No. 64.06: Approval of annual accounts for the Financial Year 2022-23

The Board approved that, the Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2022-23 and for further processing.

Item No. 64.07: Approval of service rules and entitlements of staff of Auroville Foundation

The Central Government norms & procedures and service rules including entitlements are being followed for the regular employees of Auroville Foundation.

For the contractual staff, the temporary Services Rules of Government of India is being followed.

The appointment of staffs in Auroville foundation is based on the direction of the Governing Board and the approval of MoE, New Delhi.

The Board approved the said agenda.

Item No. 64.08: Status of enquiry and retirement of Shri. P.R.Srinivasamurthy, Under Secretary (under suspension)

The Board was apprised of the status of inquiry initiated against Shri P.R. Srinivasamurthy, Under Secretary (Retd.), under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965. It was informed to the Board that the charge officer has requested for change of inquiry officer for the reason that, he is a legal practitioner.

The Board is informed by the Auroville Foundation that, there is nothing irregular in the appointment of Shri P. Ulaganathan, Principal Registrar (Retd.), Central Administrative Tribunal, New Delhi as inquiry officer, since he has been appointed as inquiry officer on the basis of his being a retired Government servant. Moreover, the inquiry officer should be either a retired Government servant or a serving office person as per rules.

Hence, the Board decided to continue the services of the present inquiry officer. Further, the Board decided to withhold the retirement benefits of Shri P.R. Srinivasamurthy for the time being due to the ongoing inquiry process. Moreover, most of the disciplinary proceedings dealt with have financial implications. Based on the final report submitted and subsequent action suggested by the inquiry officer, the retirement benefits will have be given to Shri P.R.Srinivasamurthy, after the approval of the Board.

Item No. 64.09: Approval of Chartered Accountants for Audit of Auroville Foundation Trust /Units for the Financial Year 2023-24

The Board approved that, the following audit firms for the smooth functioning and on time submission of accounts for the Financial Year 2023-24

1. Shri T.V. Balasubramanian from P.K.F.Sridhar & Santham LLP.
2. M/s. Shekar Associates

3. KNRSR & Associates
4. M/s. Sangaranarayanan & Co.

Item No. 64.10: Approval of Essay and Short Film Competition for School students

The Board decided to evaluate and declare the results of the short film and Essay Competition without further extension of date. This will encourage the participants who have already registered and such events could also be institutionalized for the coming years.

Item No. 64.11: Approval of annual budget of Auroville Units for the Financial Year 2023-24

The Board approved the following Annual budget for the financial year 2023-24.

Sl. No.	Grant in Aid Demands	Amount in Crores (Rs.)
1.	General OH-31	15.00
2.	Capital OH-35	425.00
3.	Salary OH-36	7.00
	Total	447.00

The following units and activities of Auroville are requesting for the General Budget for the year:

Sl. No.	Grant in Aid under General OH-31	Amount in Crores (Rs.)
1.	Working Committee	0.16
2.	Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC)	0.30
3.	SAIIR	1.20
4.	ABC Techno Labs- Environmental Clearance	0.27

5.	ATDC takes care of the project execution inside Auroville	1.00
	Total	2.93

Further Board gave an in-principle approval, subject to the approval from the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

Item No. 64.12: Approval to release grant for HUDCO projects

The Board approved the HUDCO (The Housing and Urban Development Finance Corporation) project for housing development in Auroville. The approximate budget is Rs. 132.1/- Crores. HUDCO has accepted to give the financial support of up to Rs. 100/- Crores as a loan for the following projects and the rest of the amount will be borne by the Auroville Foundation as seed money.

- Habitat (extension towards the east of the present Habitat)
- New Birth (North east corner of Residential Zone Sector 1)
- Line of Progress (Residential zone Sector 3)

Further, the Board in principle approved that, the release of seed money of Rs.32.1/- Crores from GoI grant, subject to the approval from the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

The Board noted the total amount Rs. 132.1/- Crores is envisaged to be refunded with nominal interest to be mutually agreed upon by the future residents of Auroville through their monthly maintenance scheme. Detailed presentation of the housing projects could be made in the forthcoming Governing Board meeting.

Item No. 64.13: Approval of release grant for CIRHU

The Board approved the CIRHU project, to create an international forum where seekers from all nations will carry out multi-disciplinary research & experiments for the manifestation of an actual human unity, and for finding real solutions both to our planetary challenges and the future evolution of our species.

Further, the Board gave an in-principle approval for the approximate budget of Rs. 114/-Crores subject to the approval from the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

Item No. 64.14: Approval to setup SriAurobindo Virtual Museum

The Board approved the setting up of experiential Sri Aurobindo Virtual Museum under the VEM scheme of the Ministry of Culture and suggested to identify various experts, stalwarts, poets and orators for collecting ideas for the implementation of the said project in various languages. This will attract people from India and abroad to know about the saints and spiritual beliefs of various spiritual leaders of the region, which is based on the principle of Oneness of all creation.

Further, the Board gave an in-principle approval for the approximate budget of Rs. 12/-Crores subject to the approval from the Ministry of Culture, New Delhi.

Item No. 64.15: Approval to setup Mother's Flower Garden

The Board approved that, the project proposal of setting up the Mother's Flower Garden (MFG) for promoting peace, education, research and human well-being in the society.

The estimated project cost is Rs. 12/- Crores, out of which the implementation team will try to get the funding from other sources of up to Rs. 2/- Crores. The balance amount of Rs. 10/- Crores will be sanctioned from Government grant.

Further, the Board gave an in-principle approval for the said project with the approximate budget of Rs. 10/-Crores, subject to the approval from the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

Item No. 64.16: Approval for setting up an Institute for Medical Education

The Board approved that, the possibility of setting up an Institute for Medical Education synthesizing the Indian system of Medicine with allopathy system by collaborating with Institutes of National Importance (INIs) such as ITRA and JIPMER respectively.

Further, the Board suggested to prepare a detailed proposal with financial estimates for setting up an Institute for Integral Medical Education in Auroville.

Item No. 64.17: Approval to obtain CSR Fundings for the development of Auroville.

The Board noted that, the Auroville foundation is working on centralized accounting on a real-time basis as the same is under evaluation to ensure as state of art accounting software to ensure data consistency and reduce data redundancy. Further it is expected to consolidate and centralize banking transactions and operations in respect of various units and activities required by CAG and as recommended by the systems and process audit.

Proposed accounting solution is planned to be funded through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of banks that Auroville foundation is dealing with. This engagement with banks would also benefit banks with consolidation of the banking requirement / transaction and the floating amounts & deposits in the banks.

The Board noted that various meetings were convened with Head Bank officers and major bank officials of Puducherry and Tamil Nadu to explore the possibilities to obtain CSR Fundings for the development of financial systems in Auroville.

Further, the Board approved the short-listing of the following 3 banks out of 8 banks (5 are nationalized banks and 3 are private banks) which were pre-selected by having detailed assessment by a committee of Under Secretary, Chartered Accountant and FAMC representatives for supporting the said proposal with an approximate budget of Rs. 10/- Crores through their CSR funds.

- State Bank of India
- Indian Bank
- ICICI

In addition, Auroville Foundation is making a full effort to get the support for various other activities such as housing development, agriculture activities, health and Education etc. through CSR Scheme.

Item No. 64.18: Approval for land consolidation process

Auroville Foundation has purchased 11.05 acres of land at the cost of Rs.18.60/- Crores and acquired 34.48 acres of land worth of Rs. 44.29/-Crores through exchange.

The total land purchased or exchanged is 45.53 acres in the city and Master Plan area from July 2021 to till date.

The Board noted that, as against an acquisition of 34.48 acres of land by Auroville Foundation, the area of land exchanged in lieu of this is only 27.17 acres which is therefore benefit to Auroville Foundation.

The table below shows the details of the above.

Details	Land Purchase		Land Exchange received by Auroville			Auroville Foundation Patta Land Given
	Extent Acres	Value in Crores	Extent	Acres	Value in Crores	
From 07/2021 to 12/2022	1.91	3.15	5.66		0.29	For 3.14 Acres of Auroville land for it cost Rs. 16.00/- lakhs
From 01/2023 to 05/2023	2.99	4.99	8.00		12.00	For Auroville land of 6.39 acres for the value of 8.98/- Cr.
Land Committee II Meeting 20/06/2023 approved on 31/07/2023	6.15	10.46	20.82	In addition, one big resort with all facilities evaluated for 3.90/- Crore (Auro Oceanic)	32.00	For 17.64 acres of Auroville land for 22.48/- Cr.
Total	11.05	18.60	34.48		44.29	For Auroville Foundation land of 27.17 acres for the cost of Rs. 31.62/- Cr.

Further, the Board gave approval to the proposal of Exchange of Government Poramboke land of 27.91 acres with Auroville land of 28.56 acres.

The table below shows the details of the land:

Details	Government Poramboke land in acres	Auroville land proposed for exchange in acres
Matrimandir Circle	3.93	28.56

City Area	22.93	
Outer Ring Road	1.05	
	Total- 27.91	

The Board noted that, the construction of VIP Road for covering the distance of 762m of length and 10m of width. State Government has agreed to make this road and proposed to handover the land falling under the road, admiring 1.73 acres to the BDO of Vanur Panchayat. Hence, the Auroville land of 1.73 acres is being handed over to the Panchayat Department of State Government as gift, so as to make the VIP Road. Further, the Board approved that, the Auroville Foundation land of 1.73 acres is handed over to State Government as a gift deed for the purpose to make the VIP road.

REPORTING ITEM

Item No. 64.19: Extension of appointment of Prof. G. Seetharaman as OSD to Auroville Foundation

The Board noted the extension of appointment of Prof. G. Seetharaman, till 31.05.2024. Further, the Board noted that Dr. G. Seetharaman is working as OSD since December 2020 and render his service to Auroville Foundation without any financial expectations like remuneration/honorarium/Dearness Allowance/Salary.

Item No. 64.20: Appointment of Dr. R. Dhanalakshmi as additional charge as OSD to Auroville Foundation

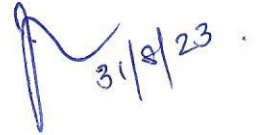
The Board noted the appointment of Dr. R Dhanalakshmi as additional charge as OSD till 31.05.2024. Further, the Board noted that, Dr. R. Dhanalakshmi is working as OSD to render her service to Auroville Foundation without any financial expectations like remuneration/honorarium/Dearness Allowance/Salary.

Item No. 64.21: Appointment of Smt. K Swarnambika, IPS (NL:2013) as Deputy Secretary on deputation to Auroville Foundation

The Board noted the appointment of Smt. K Swarnambika, IPS (NL:2013) as Deputy Secretary for a period of 3 years on deputation to Auroville Foundation. A car and housing facility, and staff as per entitlement of an AIS officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary to Government of India would be provided to her.

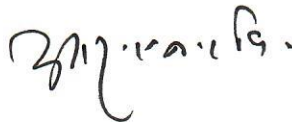
It was decided to have the next meeting of the GB in November 2023.

The Meeting ended with thanks to the Honorable Shri R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu and 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)