

## Auroville International Township

For millennia, we have been developing outer means, outer instruments, outer techniques of living, and finally these means and techniques are crushing us. The solution is a new form of life, the Auroville, which is the understanding that inner knowledge and inner technique can change the world and matter without crushing it.

Auroville is the place where this new way of living is being worked out, it is a centre of ascension where man must begin to divine life, work it through the power of the inner spirit.

Inspired by Sri Aurobindo's vision ideals of human unity, Mrs. Alice, Sri Aurobindo's spiritual collaborator and universally revered as 'The Mother', founded Auroville as an international cultural community on 28 February 1968. In its physical manifestation as a human settlement, its founders envisioned Auroville as a living laboratory for applied research.

Auroville works to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to achieve true harmony, above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity.

The core purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity in diversity, on behalf of humanity. Today Auroville is engaged in the first and only internationally endorsed ongoing experiment in human unity and transformation of consciousness, also conceived with - and practically researching into - sustainable living and the future cultural, environmental, social and spiritual needs of mankind.

A planned town for up to 50,000 people from around the world, Auroville began in a 2-hectare (4.8-acre) plot in south-east India. Located north in the State of Tamil Nadu, close to the Coromandel Coast and some 70 km from Pondicherry and 150 km from Chennai. Over the last 50 years an unknown rural area has been transformed into a lush green Cosmo-city, acting as a magnet for men and women seeking a purpose of life.

In terms of physical development, Auroville aims at becoming a model of 'the city the earth needs'. It wants to show the world that future realizations in all fields of work will allow us to build beautiful cities where people sincerely look towards a more harmonious society.

One of the most remarkable concepts of Auroville is its master plan, laid out in lines of Calery - a galaxy in which several arms or Lines of Force seem to unwind from a central region.

At the centre of the township lies the Peace Area, comprising the Mahatma's 'Village of Auroville', the 'Village of the Future' and its gardens, the amphitheatre with the Uris of Human Unity that contains the soil of 124 nations and 23 Indian states, and the project of a lake to help create an atmosphere of serenity.

Revolving out beyond the Mahatma's Gardens are four Zones, each focusing on an important aspect of the township's life:

- Industrial Zone, a zone for 'green' industries, is focused on Auroville's efforts towards a self-supporting township. It contains small and medium-scale industries, research centres, and art studios.
- Cultural Zone is a site for applied research in education and artistic expression. Facilities for cultural, educational, art and sports activities are located in this zone.
- Residential Zone is designed to provide a well-adjusted habitat between individual and collective life, with organic, artistic and smaller built surface, thereby creating an urban density balanced by nature.
- International Zone houses the national and cultural pavilions, grouped by continents. Its central focus is to create a living demonstration of human unity in diversity through the expression of the genius and contribution of each nation to humanity.

Surrounding the city area is a Green Belt consisting of forested areas, farms and sanctuaries. The Green Belt stands as an example of successful transformation of a cleared site into a renewable, a renewable, a demonstration site for soil and water conservation, ground water recharge, and environmental restoration.

Greetings from Auroville to all men of goodwill are invited to Auroville through the 'Auroville Express' for a true first-hand message to youth of the world. In 1968, inspired young men and women came from world over in Calcutta, drawing a train, a train which belongs to nobody in particular. A train whose youth will never age. A place searching for answers to the struggles of the world.

Over the years the population has grown and today 2800 permanent residents from 54 countries have made Auroville their home. Many more foreigners come for a shorter experience and take the train back to the lands they come from. Young minds are attracted to learn from the aspiration for a new way of living and feel inspired to join Auroville.

Embracing 'All Life is Yoga', a message of Sri Aurobindo, Auroville is an answer to humanity's aspiration for a higher perfection where unity with the

Divine is not achieved by withdrawing from but by embracing all the challenges of life, and turning the difficulties of human existence into stepping stones of growth and progress. Auroville is indeed the practical expression of India's spiritual philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

Auroville is a place of unending and lifelong education, a seat for learning and continuation of our age old tradition of Gurukul, where learning is not confined to classrooms and where life is a living laboratory. Emphasis is on content and methods of a new system of education are undertaken. Emphasis is on developing all aspects of mental, emotional, physical and spiritual growth of a human being. Along with academic, sports, arts, culture and spiritual development comes an important part of learning. Additional special schools are run for local villages to provide holistic education. Mining education is a joyful learning experience. Auroville runs more than 20 educational centres and numerous courses and diverse activities to serve the learning needs of all ages.

The economy of Auroville is based on the fundamental of co-ownership of lands and enterprises. All actions are a service and offering to the Divine. Money is not meant to generate money, money should generate increased production, an improvement in the conditions of life and a progress in human consciousness.

The enterprises are run on principle of trusteering above needs of personal profit. Auroville is a market in a shared goal rather than a market with a wide range of products. Nearly 400 artisanal small enterprises employ more than 5,000 people from local villages. Apart from income from internal sales, Auroville receives grants and donations from several well-wishers from all over the world, including the Government of India.

Encouraging creativity and innovative thinking Auroville has made rapid progress in applied research in areas of health and healing, environmental technologies, organic farming, water harvesting, solar water management, electrical mobility and renewable energy. Auroville has become a centre for sustainable architecture and green practices, producing 100% of energy consumed from renewable sources like wind and solar energy.

Collaboration is the essence of Auroville's experiment. Transforming local villages around Auroville has been an important aspect of co-development. The developmental footprint of Auroville effort in rural development has had a transformative effect in the township. Through several initiatives of micro finance, micro enterprises and skill development, Auroville has brought improvement in lives of nearly 1,20,000 families in the surrounding villages.

Art and culture are integral part of life in Auroville. The exuberant vitality is visible with works of several artists and poets who made Auroville their home. Several residents have become well-known artists and writers through their works of arts, music, acting and literature.

The organization of Auroville is based on principles of equality, inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. Recognizing the importance of the Auroville experiment, the Government of India created a statutory body by enacting the Auroville Foundation Act 1983, functioning under the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

The General Assembly of UNESCO unanimously passed in 1966, 1968, 1970, 1983 and 2017 resolutions of support to Auroville, inviting 'member states and inter-national non-governmental organizations to participate in the development of Auroville as an international cultural township designed to bring together the values of different cultures and civilizations in a harmonious environment with integrated living standards which correspond to man's physical and spiritual needs'.

The support of Auroville has spread beyond its geography through several projects of its units and actions of its residents. Transformation of all the surrounding villages of Auroville is the real visible impact. Recognizing the wider impact the UNESCO resolution passed by the General Assembly in 2017 for its 50th year anniversary, the Auroville has developed into a centre of expertise in a wide range of fields, benefiting India and noting its success in sharing its experience and helping the development of its neighbouring rural populations.

Over the years Auroville has been recognized by several national and international Awards like 'Hanan Fakh Award for Architecture in 1992, Best Earth Buildings to Centre for Scientific Research, Award by UNESCO to Auroville Building Centre in 1995 and 1996, Ashoka Award for sustainable energy to Auroville (Auroville Renewable Energy) in 2004, Award of Excellence by Ministry of Health to Upasana Shukla, Life Carbon Award of the 'Green Building Solutions Awards in 2018' to Auroville Earth Institute, Rush Light Award for 2017-18 to Auroville Consulting.

Department of Posts is pleased to issue a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Auroville International Township - Golden Jubilee 1968-2018.

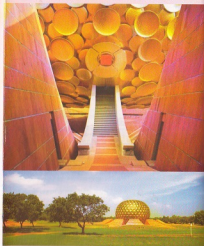
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Auroville International Township  
Golden Jubilee, 1968-2018

विवरणिका BROCHURE

