AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

वार्षिक रिपोर्ट
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MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
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1. PROLOGUE

THE MOTHER & AUROVILLE

The Mother, the spiritual collaborator of Sri Aurobindo, spoke in 1965 of her vision of a city of a new dawn, ‘Auroville’ that she intended to build in the proximity of Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry (now ‘Puducherry’). On 8th September 1965, she said,

“Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity.”

THE FOUNDING OF AUROVILLE

Auroville’s foundation was laid on 28th February 1968 and the ceremony took place around a lotus-shaped urn near the Banyan Tree that the Mother designated as its geographic centre. Today, that urn is the focus of a large amphitheatre. At the ceremony, the Charter that the Mother gave to Auroville was read out. It reads as follows:

CHARTER OF AUROVILLE

Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville, one must be the willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.

Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages.

Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations.

- Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity.

Today, Auroville is recognised as the only internationally endorsed living experiment in human unity and transformation of human consciousness. It is also a centre for applied research in environmentally sustainable living practices and for evolving humankind’s social, cultural and spiritual underpinnings of a new social order that the strife-torn world acutely needs.

2. AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

The Government of India, in terms of Section 6 (i) of the Auroville Foundation Act 1988, on 29 January 1991, notified the constitution of Auroville Foundation as a statutory body under the Central Government in Ministry of Human Resource Development. With this notification, all the undertakings of Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry (then
known as Pondicherry) relatable to Auroville with all its assets, etc., stood transferred to and vested in the Foundation.

The Foundation consists of three authorities namely

(a) the Governing Board;
(b) the Resident’s Assembly; and
(c) Auroville International Advisory Council.

The Act vests the Governing Board with the responsibility and the authority for general superintendence, direction and management of the Foundation’s affairs.

STATUTORY BODIES

THE GOVERNING BOARD

The Central Government, vide Ministry of Human Resource Development’s notification No.F.27-9/2008-UU dated 29 October 2008, decided to re-nominate the 9-member Governing Board including its chairman for a second term of four years with the following members:

**Dr. Karan Singh**
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) & President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations

**Shri Ajoy Bagchi**
Executive Director, The People’s Commission on Environment & Development India, New Delhi

**Ms. Ameeta Mehra**
Director, The Gnostic Centre, Gurgaon

**Dr. (Ms.) Aster Mira Patel**
Member, Residents’ Assembly
Auroville Foundation, Auroville

**Shri Balkrishna V. Doshi**
Founder-Director, Vastu Shilpa Foundation, Ahmedabad

**Dr. (Ms.) Malini Parthasarathy**
Executive Editor, “The Hindu “
Chennai

**Dr. (Ms.) Mallika Sarabhai**
Director, Darpana Academy of Performing Arts
Ahmedabad

**Shri S.K. Ray**
Ex-Officio Member
The Central Government conferred on Dr Karan Singh the personal rank of Cabinet Minister for the period he holds the office of Chairman. The Central Government also decided that, though the notification constituting the Governing Board was issued on 29 October 2008, Dr.Karan Singh’s term of office shall be with retrospective effect from 6 September 2008 in continuation of his previous term.

The Governing Board is required to meet a minimum of twice in a year with at least one of its meetings being held in Auroville. During the year, it met in Auroville on 26th July 2009 and 5th January 2010.

Since its inception in September 2004, the present Governing Board, under the direction and leadership of its Chairman, Dr Karan Singh, has been exploring the ways and means of enlarging, within the framework of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, the role of the Residents' Assembly, through its Working Committee, in the growth and development of Auroville. Inter alia, the Governing Board decided to entrust the Working Committee of the Residents’ Assembly with the responsibility for initiating project proposals for developing Auroville’s infrastructure that are funded by the Central Government from the funds earmarked for the Five Year Plan projects.

**INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Central Government, vide Ministry of Human Resource Development Notification No. F.27-18/2008-UU dated 19.01.2009, decided to re-nominate the 5-member International Advisory Council for a second term of four years with the following members:

- **Sir Mark Tully (UK):** Author, Journalist and Commentator on Contemporary Affairs; former head of the BBC’s India operations.
- **Dr Doudou Diène (Senegal):** Special Rapporteur to U.N. on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; Director, Intercultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue and Peace Culture, UNESCO;
- **Ms Vishakha N. Desai (US):** President, Asia Society of New York, NY
- **Dr Marc Luyckx Ghisi (Belgium):** Theologian & Researcher; Former Advisor to Presidents of the European Commission.
- **Mr Julian Lines (US):** Chairman, Auroville International Association, New York, NY
The Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, re-elected Sir Mark Tully as its chairperson. The Council also decided to hold its meetings twice a year at Auroville to coincide with the meetings of the Governing Board. During the year, the Council met at Auroville on 24th July 2009 and 4th Jan 2010.

The Council has placed on record its deep appreciation of the exceptional character of the involvement of the people and the government of India in nursing Auroville as a living crucible of an important experiment in human unity through a unique coming together of cultural and geographic diversity. It believes that Auroville’s universality and its achievements in the fields of education and sustainable lifestyles have important universal implications.

The Council has encouraged the strengthening of Auroville’s internal institutions through more effective communication, enhanced transparency and appropriate devolution of power. The Council also holds the view that decision-making at appropriate levels empowers a community and leads to its governance becoming more effective and sustainable in the long run.

THE RESIDENTS’ ASSEMBLY

The Residents’ Assembly comprises all those adults whose names are entered in the Register of Residents maintained by Secretary to the Foundation. During the year, there were 2166 adult residents on the rolls of the Foundation. The Residents’ Assembly interfaces with the Governing Board and the International Advisory Council through the 7-member “Working Committee of the Residents’ Assembly”, a statutory body, constituted by it for a term of 2 years.

THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE RESIDENTS’ ASSEMBLY

The Residents’ Assembly appointed the Working Committee that started functioning from April 1, 2007 for a period of 2 years. Its members were as follows:

**Up to June 21st 2009**
- Heidi d’Hiedt (Belgium)
- Pierangela Taccagni (Italy)
- Carel Thieme (The Netherlands)
- L. Dhanapal (India)
- Hemant Lamba (India)
- A. Kothandaraman (India)
- Sanjeev Agarwal (India)

**From June 22nd 2009 onwards**
- Chali Grinell (USA)
- Fabienne Marechal (France)
- Tineke Smits (The Netherlands)
- Chandresh Patel (India)
- Gilles Guigan (France)
- Juergen Putz (Germany)
- Ponnusamy (India)

The Working Committee was re-constituted on 22nd June 2009 for 2 years. During the year the Working Committee was active in dealing with a wide variety of issues that affected the residents and their activities. A brief detail of its activities are as follows:

The Working Committee met twice with the Governing Board and the International Advisory Council during the year in July 2009 and January 2010. Some Working
Committee members visited Delhi from time to time to hasten the process of notification of the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan (perspective 2025) in the Gazetting of India. During these visits, they also met and discussed other matters related to the Foundation’s affairs with Chairman and two Governing Board members (Shri Ajoy Bagchi and Ms Ameeta Mehra) resident in Delhi.

**Land Task Force**

The Working Committee constituted the Land Matters Task Force to expedite the process of consolidating the Foundation’s land holdings within the City Area through exchange/sale of outlying pieces of lands.

**Land, Security & Other Matters**

In order to deal with the problems relating to land, security and other matters, a meeting was held in August 2009 wherein Secretary to the Foundation, District Collector, Villupuram District, Superintendent of Police, Villupuram District, the Working Committee, L’Avenir d’Auroville, Land Resource Management Committee, and Land Consolidation Committee discussed all the local issues that impinge on the residents of Auroville as well as on the functioning of the Foundation. It was decided that: (1) joint sub-groups comprising the representatives of the District Administration and the Foundation will be set up to deal with these issues; and (2) these joint sub-groups will meet periodically to review and solve the problems.

**Problem of Beach Erosion:**

The erosion of beaches is a major country-wide ecological problem that is causing concern to the Central Government. Some of the Foundation’s settlements are on the coast and are threatened by the eroding beaches. The Working Committee together with the representative from L’Avenir d’Auroville, the members of the Quiet Healing Centre and Puducherry-based environmental NGO, “PondyCan” has been exploring, with the help of local and national experts, the possibilities of long-term initiatives to protect the Foundation’s valuable beach fronts.

**Visa-related Issues:**

The Working Committee created a Visa Cell to deal with all visa-related issues and helped resolve the 32 pending cases for grant of long-term visa extensions.

**Income Tax Issues:**

In the light of the fact that more than 90% of the Foundation’s working expenses are met mostly from donations from within and outside the country, the matter of exemption of income tax on the monies donated to the Foundation is a critical survival issue for it. Hence, the Working Committee created an Income Tax Cell to deal with the tax exemption matters in the face of the Central Government’s changing taxation regime.
Government of India Grants:

The Working Committee, in consultations with all potential beneficiaries of the Central Government’s Plan grants, prepared the annual Plan grant requirements for 2010-11 for projection to the Central Government through the Secretary of the Foundation. The Working Committee also worked out, in consultation with the beneficiaries, the allocation of the annual Plan grants for 2009-10 sanctioned by the Central Government.

Visit of UNESCO Delegation:

The newly elected UNESCO Director General, H E Ms. Irina Bukova, on her first visit outside Paris after her election, visited Auroville accompanied by Mr Armoogum Parsuramen, Director & UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives & Sri Lanka, and Ms Bhaswati Mukherjee, Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO. The visit was indicative of UNESCO establishment’s deep interest in the Auroville Experiment.

L’avenir d’Auroville (Planning & Development Committee):

The Working Committee, through an elaborate consultative process involving the Auroville community, the Auroville Council and the Residents’ Assembly Service, announced a new team for L’Avenir d’Auroville to replace the existing team whose two-year term expired on 21 June 2009. The new team took over on 22 June 2009.

Varuna Offer:

Varuna Energy & Water Pvt. Ltd., a private enterprise generating wind-energy, offered to donate to Auroville community a part of electricity (generated by its wind turbine(s) near Coimbatore) provided the Foundation is one of its shareholders. The Central Government informed the Foundation that, being a statutory body created by an Act of Parliament for a specific purpose, it cannot invest in the equity of a private enterprise. As a result, the enterprise decided to donate a portion of its earnings from the sale of wind-energy generated by it to the Foundation. The Working Committee, Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) and Budget Coordination Committee (BCC) are exploring the best ways of utilising this donation.

AUROVILLE’S VISITORS

Besides the regular flow of tourists that appears to be increasing every year, Auroville was privileged to receive the following distinguished visitors during the year:

- H E Mark Sofer, Ambassador of Israel in India & Mrs Sara Sofer
- Shri Ajay Maken, Minister of State for Home Affairs, India
- H E Sardar Iqbal Singh, Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Puducherry
- Shri Farook Abdullah, Minister of New & Renewable Energy Sources, India
- H E Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO
THE EVENTS AT UNESCO

The Government of India had donated a more than life-size statue of Sri Aurobindo to UNESCO for installation within its headquarter campus in Paris. Chairman, Dr Karan Singh unveiled it in a glittering ceremony on 16 September 2009. The statute, the first of its kind to be installed within UNESCO campus, was sculpted by a group of sculptors coordinated by the Puducherry-based art connoisseur, Shri Lalit Verma.

AUROVILLE’S RESIDENTS

Section 19 of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, vests the Residents' Assembly with the authority to allow admission of individuals into Auroville and get their names entered in the Register of Residents or remove the name from the said Register. However, entry in or removal from the Register of Residents of any name has to be in accordance with the regulations made by the Governing Board and approved and notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette. The regulation in this regard is under consideration of the Residents’ Assembly.

ENTRY SERVICE

The Entry Service (ES), constituted in 2006, stopped from April 1, 2009, accepting new applications for admission to Auroville. It was reconstituted in November 2009. During the year, 57 applications for membership of the Residents’ Assembly were processed. Of these 5 were the residents who after having left Auroville earlier were returning to it. 49 applications from new comers were accepted while 13 papers of departing new comers were processed. The cases of extending the term by 6 months of 11 new comers were also considered. In all there are 164 new comers in Auroville today who aspire to become regular Residents shortly. The Entry Service also handled 300 inquiries from India and abroad regarding Auroville.

RESIDENTS’ SERVICE

The task of Residents Service (RS) is to (1) register new Residents for; (2) help non-Indian residents with renewal of their visa; applications for the renewal of their visa; (3) update the list of all the residents; and (4) coordinates the compilation of necessary documents of the guest houses in Auroville for transmission to the immigration authorities. It also issues certificates of residence and provides information about Visa renewal and related matters.

AUROVILLE’S POPULATION

As on 31st March 2010, Auroville’s total population is 2166 persons from 46 Nations and the Tibetan Autonomous Region. Of these, 875 are adult males and 811 are adult females together with 480 minors (below 18 years of age).
The largest group of residents 905 are from India and constitute 41.78% of the total population with France coming second with 322 (14.86%) and Germany third with 240 (11.08%). Italy (5.78%), Netherlands (3.69%), the United States (3.55%), Russia (2.30%) and Switzerland (2.26%) follow next. Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldova, New Zealand and Thailand are represented by one resident each.

THE FOUNDATION’S ADMINISTRATION

For administering the Foundation on a day-to-day basis, the Central Government appoints an officer of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India as Secretary to the Foundation, with headquarters in Auroville, to exercise such authority and perform such functions as Chairman of the Governing Board may delegate to him from time to time. The present Secretary is Shri M. Ramaswamy, a serving Indian Administrative Service officer of 1982 batch of the Maharashtra cadre.

Secretary is assisted by Finance & Administration Officer (F&AO), who is in the grade equivalent to Group B of the Central Government’s establishment and is appointed by the Governing Board. The present F&AO is Shri P.R. Srinivasamurty. The Foundation’s other establishment comprises officials numbering 13 in grades equivalent to those of the Groups C & D in the Central Government’s establishment.

THE FOUNDATION’S FINANCES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997, provides for a Finance Committee to advise and assist the Governing Board in matters having financial implications. On the expiry of the term of the earlier Finance Committee, the Governing Board decided to re-nominate the existing Finance Committee for a second term. The re-nominated Committee with the following members started functioning with effect from on 21st January 2009:

- Chairperson: Shri S K Ray
  Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development & Ex-Officio Member, Governing Board, Auroville Foundation

- Members:
  1. Shri Ajoy Bagchi
     Member, Governing Board
     Auroville Foundation
  2. Ms. Ameeta Mehra
     Member, Governing Board
     Auroville Foundation
  3. Shri Amit Khare
     Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Human Resource Development &
Member Ex-Officio, Governing Board
Auroville Foundation

4. Shri M. Ramaswmay
Secretary, Auroville Foundation

The Finance Committee met once in New Delhi during 2009-10.

The Central Government supports the Foundation with annual grants for two purposes: (1) the “Plan Grant” for the projects under the Five Year Plan; and (2) “Non-Plan Grant” to meet the expenses relating its establishment and the running cost of its office.

THE PLAN GRANTS: During the year, the Central Government gave a grant of `620 lakhs to the following units under the Foundation for the projects approved for funding under the Five Year Plan:

SRI AUROBINDO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (SAIIE): `328 lakhs for (1) research activities; (2) equipments; (3) construction of infrastructure; and (4) establishment costs. Out of this grant, SAIER spent `224.75 lakhs on construction of buildings for Savitri Bhavan, Centre for Research in Performing Arts, The Last School, Auroville Library, Unity Pavilion, Deepanam, SAIER Office and Dehashakti. The amount of `20.68 lakhs was spent on equipment, `72.89 lakhs on research activities and maintenance of researchers and `9.69 lakhs on establishment.

BHARAT NIVAS: `51.00 lakhs for:
(1) Centre of Indian Studies Building `15.00 lakhs
(2) Construction of Tamil Heritage Centre `10.00 lakhs
(3) Activities and Research `14.95 lakhs
(4) Equipments `05.04 lakhs
(5) Establishment Costs : `06.04 lakhs.

TOWN PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE : `213.60 lakhs for:
(1) Roads: `018.70 lakhs
(2) Water Tank: `009.90 lakhs
(3) Housing: `141.00 lakhs
(4) Underground Cabling: `44.00 lakhs
CBSE SCHOOL: ` 9.75 lakhs for (1) Equipments: ` 6.40 lakhs and (2) ` 3.35 lakhs as teachers’ maintenance allowance.

PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS: ` 19.15 lakhs

[Note: 10 Lakhs = 1 Million]

THE NON-PLAN GRANTS

During the year, the Central Government gave `165.00 lakhs (165 million) as ‘Non-Plan’ and the expenses incurred under different heads are as follows:

1. Salary & Allowances ` 89.19 lakhs
2. Management & Administration ` 76.50 lakhs
3. Fixed Assets Purchase ` 08.21 lakhs
4. Maintenance of Public Buildings ` 25.00 lakhs

The sum of ` 33.90 lakhs spent in excess of the sanctioned grant was found, with the Ministry’s approval, from the unspent balance of the previous year.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

INTERNAL AUDITORS

The Governing Board, keeping in view the complexities involved in managing the Foundation’s finances, had decided in 2005 to introduce the system of “internal auditors” to help it with its finance and accounts management. Institute of Public Auditors of India (Chennai Chapter) were retained, on retainer basis, as the Foundation’s internal auditors on the Finance Committee’s recommendations. The Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI) is a non-governmental body comprising persons with considerable expertise in the matters of accounting and auditing of government accounts as they have served for long in the office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

During the year, they have vetted the Manual of Financial Practices prepared for the Auroville Unity Fund and have also assisted the Foundation in various ways in improving its financial management.

FUNDS AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The membership of the Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) comprises, besides the Financial Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development and
Secretary, Auroville Foundation, one representative each drawn from the following units:

Auroville Unity Fund
L'Avenir d'Auroville (Planning and Development Committee)
Auroville Board of Commerce
Housing Service
Land Consolidation Committee
Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research
Working Committee of the Residents’ Assembly

The FAMC’s functions include:

Units and the Trusts – Appointment/Resignation of Trustees/Executives; Creation/Closure of Units/Trusts; Monitoring of Commercial Units; Taxation Matters; Land purchasing/selling and allotment of stewardships of land; Auroville Unity Fund / Budget Coordination Committee/ Housing; Financial approval for large projects; Planning and Development.

3. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

MATRIMANDIR

The Mother envisioned a pavilion at the centre of Auroville that she named “Matrimandir”. In March 1970, she selected the design of a slightly flattened golden sphere for it, out of the five models presented to her by Auroville’s chief architect, the late Roger Anger, and called it “the soul of Auroville.... and the living symbol of Auroville's aspiration for the Divine”.

Matrimandir has its centre-piece, the Inner Chamber with its crystal globe which glows during the day, with a ray of sun trained on it by computerised heliostat synchronised with the Sun’s movement. Though Matrimandir was declared complete on 28th February 2008, yet several follow-up works remain, including the final adjustment of golden discs around the four main entrances and the commissioning of four electrically operated entry doors. Final positioning of golden discs around the main entrances proceeded during the year. One of the main doors was successfully commissioned.

The work is in progress on the first of the 12 gardens around Matrimandir. It features a large granite boulder prominently mounted in an oval field of white quartz gravels surrounded by over 1000 pink hibiscus plants chosen by the Mother. Civil works have started on the second garden named “Consciousness” that will feature colourful flowering shrubs around a large pool with water cascading down seven steps. The
Work is also started in the Garden of Unity, the 13\textsuperscript{th} large garden adjacent to the Banyan tree that marks Auroville’s geographic centre. The construction of the pathways, benches, central pool and fountains in this garden is 90\% complete.

\textbf{L'AVENIR D'AUROVILLE}

\textbf{Urban Planning, Urban Design, Socio-Economic Development}

L’Avenir d’Auroville, the planning and development body, has initiated concerted development in the Residential Zone and in the Habitat. Studies, analyses and locations for different major buildings (public and private) have been undertaken. The guidelines for future development of the area outside the Master Plan and the plan of the International Zone were also approved.

In terms of Urban Planning the following activities were further pursued:

- Status & Direction Paper on Urban Planning highlighting the present approach was finalised and approved. It includes the aims, objectives and tasks to be undertaken and the road map for future urban planning.

- Consultations were held with Shri Balkrishna V Doshi, eminent architect, town planner and Member, Governing Board, to seek planning guidance; the outcome of these consultations resulted in the holding of an exhibition and community interaction

- Residential Zone Planning Research and Scenario generation: various exploratory scenarios were generated to identify the options for further improvement and detailing.

- Auroville Integral Sustainability Platform Exercise - L’Avenir d’Auroville took a pioneering and far-sighted initiative and approved the proposal for ‘Auroville Integral Sustainability Framework Exercise’.

Three surveys for socio-economic development were undertaken, one related to student population and job perspectives, the second one related to Auroville business units and the third one to population prognosis. An estimate of the detailed development needs for the next 5 years has been prepared along with a template modelling for budgeting for the estimated growth.

During the year, 80 permits were issued for construction of dwelling units by the residents.

\textbf{REGIONAL PLANNING}

Regional Planning for Auroville includes the areas in the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry. Dialog has been initiated with both the Governments as both will have to be on-board for preparing a sustainable regional plan. In this effort, L’Avenir is working closely with PondyCAN (Puducherry Citizen’s Action Network) and is assisted by Prof. KT Ravindran of the School of Architecture & Planning, New Delhi.
and Dr. Harjit Singh Anand, former Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, at technical level and in dealing with both the Governments. Efforts are on to bring on board Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) so that an updated GIS/Remote Sensing based database is developed.

LIAISON WORK

The Liaison Team, besides liaising with the District authorities to solve the local problems, pursued with the Ministry of Human Resource Development the process of notifying the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan (Perspective 2025) in the Gazette of India. It also held consultations with the Tamil Nadu Town & Country Planning Organization and the State Revenue Department regarding the necessary steps consequent to the Master Plan’s notification.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee, in its first meeting during the year, sounded a note of urgency regarding the township’s planning, development and construction. It also stressed that the process of enhancing the capacity-building needs to be deepened. The institutional ‘structures’ need to be set-up at the higher echelons to help create the conditions conducive to developing the appropriate physical forms.

The strategic focus of L’Avenir is on urban consolidation. The aim is to shift the focus of development to compact residential settlements with residential environment integrated into green area, social services, public spaces and social interactions.

The overall objective is to increase Auroville’s population concentration in the residential zone from the existing 23% to 50% by 2013. Housing development has taken the first step in this direction and the housing program started in the previous year has continued. The projects for social amenities in residential sector and city centre have been approved or are under advanced stage of processing. Important developments have also taken place in the International Zone with the approval of the Centre for Indian Studies, the second phase of the Unity Pavilion, the fourth phase of Savitri Bhavan and the first phase of Tamil Heritage Centre.

4. THE RESOURCES

THE LAND

LAND CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Its mandate is to negotiate offers of land for purchase or exchange within the Auroville Master Plan area for consolidating the Foundation’s land holdings.

During 2009-2010, a total of 5.16 ha (12.74 acres) of land were purchased while 0.79.5 ha (1.96 acres) were secured through exchange with land outside the Master Plan area. Out of the total area secured during the year, 3.57 ha (8.83 acres) are in the Green Belt area and 1.35 ha (3.34 acres) in the City area, and 0.23 ha (0.57 acres) are
outside of the Master Plan Area. During the year, `56.88 lakhs (5.688 million) was received as donations for land purchase from the friends of Auroville and the residents

**LAND & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LRM)**

It is responsible for protecting the land within Auroville Master Plan Area from market forces and from unplanned and incongruous developments. This activity complements the attempts at appropriate development of the Auroville bio-region. Concerted efforts were also made to identify the encroachments of the Foundation’s outlying lands and to protect them

The Committee’s mandate is:
1. Managing the un-stewarded lands;
2. Looking after the produce from lands under its management;
3. Updating the maps of newly purchased or exchanged lands; and
4. Following up the complaints and disputes of land related matters.

Its main activities are: (1) creating embankments (bunds) to control soil erosion; and (2) physical fencing to prevent encroachment; and (3) ploughing to help improve soil quality. 202 acres of Auroville land were brought under the plough during the year. Its income generating activity is leasing cashew trees and sale of dead wood.

LRM survey team undertakes field surveys and the survey reports are used by LCC in purchase or exchange of land. This year such surveys were conducted in a number of areas.

**LAND RECORDS**

Land & Estates Management Committee, the precursor of the LRM, held the custody of about 1,801 land-related documents. As all the land vests in the Foundation, LCC and LRM have been instructed to hand over all land related documents to the Foundation for custody.

Till 31st March 2010, 1,559 land documents were collected, verified 1550 and kept in the Foundation’s office. The mutations were done In 194 “pattas” (land deeds) as well as in the State’s land records during the year.

**LAND MATTERS TASK FORCE**

It is a sub-group of Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) and is active in coordinating the land exchanges in the Green Belt area outside the Master Plan Area and sale of land.

During the year, the FAMC agreed to provide funds for development of infrastructure on newly purchased land from Auroville Unity Fund to those residents who may not have personal resources but have the necessary capabilities to do a meaningful job.
“LANDS FOR AUROVILLE UNIFIED” (LFAU)

This unit assists Land Consolidation Committee (LCC) and its mandate is to communicate with donors and friends of Auroville from around the world who donate for purchasing land in Auroville. It maintains an updated data bank of such donors and facilitates visits by them to Auroville. It also publishes a newsletter called “Collaboration for Auroville Area Protection” to disseminate information about Auroville’s land situation.

During the year, around 56,88 lakhs (5.688 million) were received as donations from friends and well-wishers of Auroville from around the world including Auroville.

AUROVILLE FARM GROUP

Auroville Farm Group is promoting organic farming and is collectively responsible for 300 acres of land farmed by Auroville farmers on 13 farms and steers them towards sustainable agriculture balancing the sustainability of land with the interests of the community.

Every farm is committed to producing as much healthy food for Auroville as possible while preserving soil quality and without damaging the ecology. This year the farms have produced, on an average, 2 tons/acre of vegetables and 1.5 tons/acre of grain for the community.

FOODLINK is the central distribution point for the produce of the Farm Group. It seeks to guarantee prescribed quality standards in food for direct human consumption that it distributes.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION: The Farm Group has continued to facilitate the organic certification of Auroville farms and this year three new farms joined the certification process.

The Farm Group obtained a 1 Crore (10 million) fund from the Auroville Central Fund for developing agriculture and have invested it in the existing farms, set up two new farms to replace those lost through land exchange and is formulating a Five Year Sustainable Agriculture Plan for Auroville.

AUROVILLE FOREST GROUP

The Forest Group is involved in the management, development and protection of forests and conservation of soil and water.

The Group manages approximately 1,350 acres of land in the Greenbelt and the City areas through a system of 44 stewards. Each land steward is required to protect and develop the forest area assigned to him/her. The protection work includes protection from livestock grazing, encroachment and illicit extraction of timber. The general forest maintenance involves removing dead exotic species, controlling straggler and thorn species in plantation areas, and basic mulching of young planted seedlings.
The work of re-introducing indigenous flora, designated as the 'tropical dry evergreen forest', into the Greenbelt area continued during the year. Some new timber plots were also set up. Because of resource constraint the extent of plantation work was comparatively less during the year. Even then, funded by the Forest Fund, a Forest Group collective fund created from donations from the sales of forest related products and from other sources, 18,000 seedlings of around 120 species were planted in 27 different locations.

The soil and water conservation work includes maintaining the existing contour bunding grids, earth dams and check dams. During the year new embankments were laid out in Ravena, Evergreen and Samridhi forests, and water harvesting was improved in Sadhana Forest.

**AUROVILLE GREEN GROUP**

This Group comprises the representatives from the Farm Group and Forest Group. Among other things, it advises both the Groups and others on how to integrate ecological principles in planning and development of an area. It is also charged with the Green Belt's development. A set of documents known as “Green Guidelines” has been prepared, which is now accepted and approved by all the groups concerned with planning and will be utilized in all decision-making processes. These guidelines will also form a part of the zoning regulation of the “Auroville Universal Township Master Plan”.

**HOUSING FOR RESIDENTS**

The Foundation was facing a grave housing crisis. However, because of the efforts made in the last 2 years around 9 housing projects were started, which are ongoing. Offering around 120 housing units and many are going to be completed shortly. Most of the projects are funded by contributions from individuals; the only exceptions are the Housing Service projects. During the year two such projects with 24 dwelling units were started. With funds generated by the Housing Service, 7 rooms for youth were built under a new project and 4 new newcomers units were built. 15 apartments are being finished with the Plan funds received from the Foundation.

With the contribution of around `29.62 lakhs (2.962 million) from the friends of Auroville and the residents, the Housing Service helped 13 residents with insufficient resources to either build new houses or extend the existing houses.

Housing Service has created a new activity called ‘Housing Development’ to develop housing projects. A revolving fund has been approved by the Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) to finance these activities.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

**AUROVILE’S TRUSTS & UNITS**
Auroville Foundation has about 240 units grouped under 33 trusts which are involved in various income-generating, service and research activities. There are around 155 active income-generating units under 30 trusts involved in handicrafts, clothing and fashion, weaving and dyeing, renewable energy, food processing and catering, printing and publishing, architecture and construction, computers and software, electronics and engineering, organic farming, pottery, shops and boutiques, media and entertainment, gems and jewellery, travel and tourism, etc. The ownership of all these units is vested in the Auroville Foundation. Details of the income generated by various trusts and their contribution to the actual development of the city being built and its maintenance are reflected in the Annual Accounts for 2009-2010.

**Employment Generation:** Apart from the residents, who are paid a monthly maintenance allowance, Auroville employs over 5,000 people drawn from surrounding villages, whose work covers a wide range from agriculture to engineering, cleaning, gardening, tailoring, driving, accounting, teaching, commerce and supervising.

**Work Ethics:** The work done and the goods produced in Auroville reflect high standards of quality and creativity since the units endeavour to reach material perfection. The aim of Auroville’s commercial units is to do business in a different way, which is reflected in the importance placed on the relationship with both the workers and the clients, as well as to create and produce quality products in an environmental-friendly manner.

**Coordination:** The income-generating units meet under the umbrella of Auroville Board of Commerce (ABC), which comprises the executives of all such Auroville units. A working group has been constituted to take care of the day-to-day activities and it meets regularly to evaluate and recommend the proposals for new units, handle applications for business credits, co-ordinate yearly auditing of accounts, and advise units regarding accounts, finance, marketing, management, etc.

**PROJECT COORDINATION GROUP**

The Project Coordination Group was created in response to the need for a formal working group to interact with various donor agencies including the Foundation for World Education (FWE) and Stichting De Zaaier (SDZ) that annually donate substantial funds for many of Auroville’s projects and programmes. Auroville International Association, a global body of friends of Auroville, and its centres around the world also felt the need for an officially recognised body to scrutinise and endorse the funding proposals prepared by various Auroville units.

The Group’s mandate is to stimulate Auroville’s economic development by:

- coordinating at administrative level Auroville’s activities relating to grants from diverse sources;
- interacting with the Foundation for World Education (FWE) and Stichting De Zaaier (SDZ) for their annual funding of Auroville projects; and
- providing assistance in preparing proposals seeking grants.
The Foundation for World Education, a non-governmental funding agency in the US, has been supporting Auroville’s projects and programmes for the past three decades. This year, it donated $24,762 (approximately `11.2 lakhs) for projects relating to education, human resource development, agriculture, culture, health, ecological transport, etc.

Stichting De Zaaier, a Netherlands-based private foundation, has supported projects and programmes since 1987. This year, it donated € 60,133 (approximately `37.3 lakhs) for projects on arts and culture, educational and social research, and micro-projects on informal education, women’s development and youth.

Currently, both these agencies are co-funding Auroville’s annual programme of capacity building of those involved in the management of its diverse activities. This programme financially helps those residents who, as a part of their capacity building efforts, participate in seminars, workshops, conferences, training courses, etc. relevant to their field of work. During the year, 22 individual and three groups consisting of 14 residents took advantage of this facility.

Of late, the increased flow of funds from both the donors has enabled holding of in-house capacity-building programs with a larger number of residents participating. Thus strengthening of the reservoir of skilled managers through exposures to latest developments in management science continues.

5. ART, CULTURE & EDUCATION

ART & CULTURE

CENTRE OF EAST, WEST AND HUMAN UNITY

The centre comprises two national pavilions, so far viz., the Pavilion of India (Bharat Nivas) and the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture, and one international pavilion, the Unity Pavilion.

BHARAT NIVAS (THE PAVILION OF INDIA)

It has four subunits, viz., Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Centre for Indian Studies, Kalakendra (Centre for Arts) and the Tamil Heritage Centre.

SRI AUROBINDO AUDITORIUM

It hosts a series of cultural performances at the Auditorium primarily by artistes from outside. The performances included classical Indian music and Indian instrumental music, Western music and music concert, etc.

CENTRE OF INDIAN STUDIES
The annual conference was held in February 2010 on the theme – “Mutation: A Process”. It was the Centre’s seventh international conference. Guest lecturers were also organised on a variety of topics. It also played a role in organizing a series of programmes for celebrating the Centenary of Sri Aurobindo’s Arrival in Pondicherry on April 4, 1910 including a dance-drama called “Sampradayam choreographed by Ms Mallika Sarabhai, eminent danseuse and Member, Governing Board, and performed by the artistes from Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, Ahmedabad.

KALA KENDRA (CENTRE FOR ARTS)

Kala Kendra’s main objectives are to promote study and research in various forms of arts, to discover contemporary artistic expressions and to create an ambience for its growth within and around Auroville community. It provides artists/groups with space and platform for exhibiting their artistic works. It also hosts presentations, interactive sessions, workshops and seminars on Sri Aurobindo’s philosophy.

During the year, several exhibitions on art, architecture, etc., were held. Several workshops and presentations on as Japan’s tea ceremony and product designs were also organised during the year. A group of young artists from Maharaja Sayajirao University’s Fine Arts Faculty led by Shri Sukhdev Rathod spent time in Auroville as resident artists. Three scholars also spent time as resident scholar. A documentary film maker worked on a documentary on 40 years of Bharat Nivas as a resident artist.

TAMIL HERITAGE CENTRE

Tamil Heritage Centre, in collaboration with Sahitya Academy, the apex literary body of the country, held 1-day Symposium on “Future Poetry and Future of Poetry” on 19 July 2009. 150 persons attended it with a number of eminent literary figures among them. It was an attempt to build a bridge between the literary community and the ideals of Sri Aurobindo. The Tamil Heritage Centre publication in Tamil on Auroville was released at the seminar.

To celebrate the centenary of Sri Aurobindo’s arrival in Pondicherry, the Centre organised a number of special lectures on Sri Aurobindo by eminent scholars, especially to reach out to the youth of the region, from October 2009 to March 2010. Shakespeare’s play “The Tempest” translated in Tamil, to suit the native ambience by the eminent literary figure, Indra Parthasarathy, was enacted as a part of the centenary celebrations.

THE PAVILION OF TIBETAN CULTURE

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama inaugurated the Pavilion of Tibetan Culture on 20th January 2009.

The Pavilion of Tibetan Culture held two workshops during the year on: (1) Sustainable Development of Tibetan Settlements; organized by TPPRC (founded by Axer and OP
Tandon) and called "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TIBETAN SETTLEMENTS: STRENGTHENING COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES" Venue: Auroville, Pondicherry and Chennai, Tamil Nadu Date: 10-16 May 2009.

(2) "Solid Waste Management & Project Workshop" held at Auroville, Tamil Nadu from 13th to 16th July 2009 organized with the Department of Home of the Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamsala.

THE UNITY PAVILLION

Its aim is to promote unity through cultural understanding. Keeping with its aim, it encourages cultural activities from various nations represented in Auroville. During the year, a Japanese national helped create 2-month long series of events on the theme “ONE ASIA 2010” was organised with Japanese “tea ceremony” as its centre piece. The Africa House project invited 65 African students studying presently in Universities in Tamil Nadu to present a cultural program of African dance and music at the Visitor Centre. An exhibition in International Zone and the different National Cultural Pavilion is in the process.

EDUCATION

Among the major thrust areas of the Foundation’s activities is educational research and development, which is under overall direction and coordination of the Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research (SAIER). SAIER continues to further develop its educational institutions within Auroville as a living laboratory for researching and developing a new paradigm of education for a new world order that will enable the realisation of the ideal of human unity based on Integral Yoga

SRI AUROBINDO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (SAIER)

SAIER’s work forms an integral part of the Auroville experiment. The experiment itself is an attempt to give content and practical shape to the vision of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother on the future evolution of man.

Today there are 190 researchers working under the Institute’s umbrella, organised in research teams around the following themes:

- Experiments in objectives, contents and methods of a new system of education
- Experiments in fine arts
- Experiments in village extension work
- Experiments in physical education
- Research in special themes such as Indian culture, evolution and Savitri.

The Institute is composed of a number of research units, each autonomous in its functioning, and allows a democratic style of internal organization. The units are grouped into 7 centres as elaborated below:
The Future School: Future School is currently offering a high school equivalent education to primarily the students from Auroville. During the year there were 50 adolescents/young adults from 18 nationalities enrolled in the school. Each student has an individualized program designed, according to his/her choice, around core subject areas. During the year several educational field trips were offered. The students got also involved with the community through the Auroville Marathon and the Litter Free Auroville Campaign and they interacted with special guests visiting the school.

The Last School: The aim of the school is to assist the students in identifying what they truly are and want to become, and to build in them a rich multifaceted personality, through a variety of learning activities. The program of studies is defined by the students themselves. Besides literature, art, social sciences, natural sciences, philosophy, mathematics, languages (including Tamil and Sanskrit) and sport, extra-curricular activities like dance, theatre and trekking are also included in the curriculum. There were 15 full-time students during the year. In addition, courses have been offered to young residents and adults on Indian culture, Sri Aurobindo’s philosophy and Tamil. The School Art Centre is being used by 70 students from other Auroville schools.

Transition School: Its aim is to help children develop integrally so that each child may develop naturally to his/her full potential, to impart a solid academic grounding, as well as to foster human values so that they are able to become responsible individuals, dedicated to human unity. The number of students on its rolls, during the year, was 164.

Deepanam School: It offers a program for students from the age of 7 to 14 years in which they learn, in progressive stages, to realize and value the full use of the Free Progress Education. The children are kept in small groups of 8-10 for greater intensity. No stress or obligation is imposed regarding the pace of study, nor are any marks given to them on that score. 49 students were on the rolls of the school during the year.

Kindergarten: A regular weekly program of physical exercises and games was organized for 3-year old children. They took part in dance activities leading to short dance performance presented at the Christmas celebrations. Other activities included carpentry, drama, sandpit, gardening, cooking, playing with doll house, big Lego blocks, clay or beads, books, games, colouring, stitching, building with wooden blocks, painting (on easel, spray painting, printing, making crafts with recycled boxes and plastics, modelling, etc.) 72 children attended the Kindergarten during the year.

Nandanam Kindergarten: In this kindergarten children grow in freedom as much as possible but they do not have the feeling of being anchorless. There are craft centre,
drama centre, block centre, science centre, cooking and gardening centre, quiet room, reading corner, games corner and sandpit space. During the year, there were **55** children who attended this kindergarten.

**Auroville Pre-Crèche:** The children are divided into two groups. In the Toddler Group, there are more physical activities and more time with the nature. The Baby’s Group gather twice a week and get involved in various activities of daily life, including collective sharing, cleanliness, eating together, singing etc. **35** children were on its roll during the year.

**OUTREACH SCHOOLS**

SAIIER’s outreach to the surrounding villages comprises educational facilities for village children, youth and women provided through the Outreach Schools and Centres.

**Aikiyam School** *(New Creation Bilingual School):* For the past 3 years, this School has been teaching CBSE syllabus to 200 children of all ages. It serves as an appropriate platform for kindergarten, primary and intermediate education. Classroom level micro projects to explore the content in a deeper level were done as well as silent reading and free play for the youngsters, conceive and direct short films shown at the Auroville Film Festival. They also visit Sadhana Forest on weekends and planted many trees. A waste management workshop was run.

**New Era Secondary School:** During the year the New Era Secondary School Trust was officially registered as a unit of Auroville Foundation independent of SAIIER. It has a team of qualified teachers for its core offering which secondary school syllabus prescribed by the National Centre for Educational Research & Training (NCERT) adopted by the Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE). During the year it had 45 students at three levels. Out of 8 students, 7 passed the CBSE examinations and received its National Certificate. 16 appeared for the 10th standard examination during the year.

**Isai Ambalam School:** The school comprises: (1) Model School imparting education up to 10th standard level where mainly Alternative Educational Methods, incorporating the educational principles of Sri Aurobindo and Mother, are used for enabling its students to realize their educational potential to the maximum possible extent; (2) Teacher’s Training Centre where teachers are trained in the effective use of the Alternative Educational Methods; and (3) Short-term courses for practical learning of Sri Aurobindo’s Evolutionary Perspective of Human Life on Earth and the Process of Evolution.

During the year, the school prepared 126 students. A campaign was launched in January 2009 to enrich English words vocabulary of preschool and primary students and it was a considerable success.

**Arulvazhi Education Centre:** It is a centre of experimental education for the children in the age group of 3 to 17 years of the neighbouring villages. Special yoga asana classes are conducted daily in which 42 children participate. An adolescent girls group (12 to 17 yrs) of 22 children is trained in yoga asanas, cultural expression, health education, social awareness, particularly in relation to gender problems. A summer
Camp was organized in May 2009 for 50 children on the theme “Know your village and its environment-compare and contrast with the capital city.” Children visited the Annual Science Exhibition organized in Auroville in February. Sports competitions were also held.

Ilaignarkal Education Centre: It aims at providing educational opportunities for mainly youth (15 years and above) appropriate to their needs as also facilities for vocational skills, communication skills and improve income generating capacities. It serves as a bridge between Auroville and its neighbourhood through educational programmes. Monthly Tamil newsletter ‘Auroville Grama Seydi Madal’ is published and circulated regularly. There are several other wide-ranging activities centered from around classical Tamil works to space and geometry and to folk dance and music. Heritage tours are also organised to places of interest. Twice a month, “Educare” group meets at the school to discuss health, education and social awareness programmes related to child care with particular reference to girls. The school is supporting several girl children from various villages. **During the year there were 52 students.**

Tamil Ulagam Evening Schools: These evening schools are joint collaborative projects with Secours Populaire France, Les Enfants De Pondy Patch and Auroville Outreach schools of SAILER, and is a completely village-oriented educational project. There are 11 evening schools in the villages surrounding Auroville catering to 735 children between the ages 6 to 14.

Life Education Centre (LEC): Its aim is to provide the disadvantaged village teenage girls (15+) access to value-oriented education and vocational training to improve their socio-economic conditions through capacity-building and personal empowerment. During the year 14 girls were on its rolls.

Core-quality empowerment (CQE) and Education project is meant to help the students to empower themselves using their talent to create possibilities in life. The newly-introduced Mother-Daughter program is an innovative new project designed to expand support mechanisms for LEC’s young women.

Auroville Child Development Social Research Centre: During the year, it provides boarding, lodging, integral education and vocational training to 74 under-privileged children from neighboring villages. It is also working as a welfare centre with out-reach to local communities and mainstreaming the under-privileged children.

**RESEARCH PROJECTS**

A number of research projects are being undertaken that centre round children. Their objectives are to help children develop self-knowledge, self-confidence, creativity as also to help raise their level of consciousness. For this purpose various activities including workshops are held from time to time. Among such projects are: (1) Rainbow Child Project; (2) Painting with Children Project; (3) Balamata Project, etc.

There are also other research activities aimed at: (1) promoting scientific knowledge, e.g., ASSET Science fair; (2) Unending Education focused on actualising the message.
of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo; and (3) Interactive & Exploratory Learning that seeks to experiment with and validate the emerging trends in interactive and exploratory self-paced learning methodologies

CENTRE OF STUDIES IN SRI AUROBINDO AND THE MOTHER

Savitri Bhavan: Savitri Bhavan has been created as an educational centre offering activities and materials which help to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of Sri Aurobindo’s epic poem _Savitri_. Regular weekly classes are held, exhibitions and films were shown, and lectures and orientation sessions were held, during the year for groups of guests, volunteers and newcomers. It also maintains a reading room with a specialised collection. The material donated has been carefully conserved and used as the base for the exhibitions of _Meditations on Savitri_ paintings. A series of 6 DVDs is being prepared for distribution. A number of publications were produced during the year. 8 Research projects centred round ‘Savitri” were undertaken during the year. Through all these activities an increased awareness and understanding of the vision and work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother is developing amongst the residents of Auroville, students of Outreach Schools, guests and visitors, researchers, etc.

House of Mother’s Agenda: The House of Mother’s Agenda gathers up, houses and makes available all editions, translations and recordings of the 13 volumes of the Mother’s Agenda, along with related materials and activities. The aim is to make the deep insights recorded in the Mother’s Agenda – the Mother’s own record of her sadhana after the Supramental Manifestation of February 1956 – accessible to everyone. Its activities include regular playing the recordings of the Mother’s Entretiens (Questions and Answers), talks of the Mother, value-oriented education sessions, etc.

Laboratory of Evolution: It aims at furthering and documenting experimentation in Conscious Evolution within Auroville itself and elsewhere so as to facilitate and accelerate the current new step in evolution on this planet as indicated and initiated by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

Its research library disseminates information about the Vision and Work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, and brings together the corpus of the written works of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother in all the languages and makes them available to the public.

CENTRE OF ARTS, CRAFTS AND TECHNOLOGY

AUROFILM

During the year, in its weekly film program, it screened a total of 53 films, borrowed from sources like the National Film Archive of India, Directorate of Film Festivals of India and foreign missions in India, to an average of 250/300 people per session. It also organised two film festivals, one on “Panorama of Indian Contemporary Cinema”
and the other on a medley of Spanish films. For two weeks, a Workshop on Script Writing was organized in the Kalabhoomi film studio with a well known French scriptwriter and film director, Michel Spinosa as resource person. Four short films were also produced.

**KALALBHUMI:**

**Music Studio** - In addition to providing a space for Auroville residents to practice music, both as individuals and in groups, its important function is to provide support for young people learning and developing their talent in music. This year, a number of classes on a variety of musical instruments like piano, guitar, drums, tabla, saxophone, as well as classes in singing, music composition, music recording and music appreciation were organised.

**Art Studio:** It helps students of all ages to find expression through art with guided courses in techniques. A total of 26 students, during the year, went through guided classes on technique, composition, art history and free expression.

**RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**Hindustani Classical Music:** Its goal is to enable the Indian residents of Auroville to keep in touch with Hindustani Music as also to present the opportunity for a better understanding of this art form in the multi-cultural setting of Auroville. 10 adults and 8 children attended the classes during the year. The children’s group sang for the ‘One Asia’ festival held in Auroville in February 2010.

**Auroville Theatre Group:** Its objective is to develop theatre in Auroville and enrich Auroville’s cultural life through theatre together with music, dance and the visual arts. The Group attempts to enhance the consciousness and inter-cultural understanding of the residents through theatre. It also offers workshops facilitated by theatre artists from India and abroad. A 9-member visiting theatre group from Netherlands in collaboration with children from Udavi School presented a dance-drama, “Stairway to Heaven” before a house-full audience. It also held theatre workshops in Auroville schools during the year.

Besides the cultural activities, there were other activities during the year. (1) **White Peacock**, a ceramic studio, held a variety pottery related sessions for adults and children during the year. (2) **Chakraviyuh Project** aims to bring youth and adults together through a play (“Chakraviyuh”) educating them about higher ideals of life by learning and working together. Around 28 school children from Auroville as well as Outreach school children actively participated in the project. A public presentation of the play was given on 20th March 2010. (3) **Mirra Women’s Group:** It ran basic classes for women on various art forms to develop their own creativity.

**CENTRE OF MAN, NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Auroville Botanical Garden:** The Garden’s team is engaged in environmental education programs to raise children’s awareness of the environment and to develop
their aspiration to help solve environmental problems. Educational materials are developed along with living displays and installations. Teachers are trained to be more effective in providing environmental education.

During the year 2735 students from 83 schools along with 200 teachers visited the Botanical Garden for 1-day programme on Organic Farming, Renewable Energy, etc. 18 women SHGs (self-help groups) visited the Garden to study the ways of improving their income through organic farming, vermi-composting, growing medicinal plants, etc. A “Green Teacher” training program for 49 teachers was organized. Rallies, exhibitions, clean-up-work and waste-management days and tree-planting days were also organised to generate awareness about the environment. A 4-day summer camp was organised in which 47 students of the surrounding 6 schools along with teachers participated. Two National Service Scheme camps were held this year in which 60 students and 6 teachers participated. In total, 2800 students attended Environment Education Programme and 260 teachers attended environment education awareness programme

**Aranya Forest and Sanctuary:** It is a centre of training for school children in basic and applied knowledge of soil and water conservation methods. Besides developing nursery for plantation work, it runs “eco clubs’ for students for involving them in nursery and plantation activities. During the year, 17 training-cum-exposure excursions were organised for 885 school children SHGs (self help groups).

**CENTRE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND PERFECTION OF BODY**

**Dehashakti School of Physical Education:** ‘Dehashakti’ is a physical education program for 7-18 year old students. Gymnastics, athletics, team games and swimming form a part of the programme. During the year, a daily physical education class was introduced for the sub-juniors (grades-1 & 2).

**Auroville Sports Resource Centre:** The Centre encourages the youth of Auroville and its hinterland to take to sports and related activities. During the year, it organised, among other things, volley-ball coaching camps, basketball demonstration camps and badminton training camps. It also coordinated district level volley ball tournament and participated in various State and district level tournaments. Besides sports and athletics, yoga asanas, meditation and dancing classes are also on its agenda. During the year, with the completion of the Centre’s building, its infrastructural facilities increased.

A highlight of the year was the month-long basketball coaching camp held in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority in which 35 young people from the surrounding region including students from Auroville schools and the Basketball Club members participated. 500 people took part in the “sports day” at Certitude Sports Ground to celebrate Auroville’s 42nd anniversary celebrations. 151 runners participated in a marathon that had been coordinated for the same celebration.
**Pitanga:** It attempts to develop and enhance physical education and cultural activities in the context of the Integral Yoga precepts propounded by the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. Regular classes and occasional workshops are held. The other activities include health care activities offering various therapeutic facilities as well as quality medical help in Homeopathy and Physiotherapy. The regular cultural activities include appreciation of visual and performing arts with occasional activities like Japanese Art of Calligraphy; Japanese Tea Culture, etc. 65 classes per week and 14 different therapies were offered during the year. 30 Auroville residents form the core team of regular teachers and therapists.

**AUROVILLE INSTITUTE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY**

Recognized by the Central and the State Governments, it is a not-for-profit industrial training centre. It is accredited to Tamil Nadu State Council of Vocational Training. National Council of Vocational Training (a Central Government body) granted it affiliation in July 2009. Tamil Nadu Corporation for Women's Development gave it “A” grade for its Skills Training curriculum. Over 700 students from economically backward families have graduated from the institute since 2004.

Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) agreed to support 125 students at a fee of ` 6,000 per student in five courses at the institute. 88 students joined these courses, 40% of them were women. After completion of training, 60% of them found employment. In March 2010 the institute organized a regional exhibition on Green Technology in cooperation with the Pondicherry Renewable Energy Corporation and various units under Auroville Foundation. In it solar energy systems, mud bricks building, biological waste water treatment systems and about 30 other projects of its student’s were displayed. The institute’s partner school in Germany bring students and artistes to Auroville under a cultural exchange program.

**AUROVILLE LANGUAGE LABORATORY**

The Auroville Language Laboratory, along with the Tomatis Research Centre, imparts language skills. During the year, 351 students, comprising an increased number of Residents and Newcomers (136), Guests (156), Auroville workers, and local students attended Language Laboratory programmes. From 22 different countries, they attended sessions on English, French, Sanskrit, Tamil, Hindi, German, Dutch, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, and Italian languages. Besides group learning sessions, individual classes were also organized in various languages. The Laboratory offered multiple intensive two-week courses in French, German, English and Tamil.

The resources of Mediatheque form the heart of the Laboratory and allow learners to progress at their own pace and control their own study. It offers training in 26 Indian and world languages. Its capabilities were enhanced through the installation of the made-in-Kerala Orell Digital Language Lab that allows teachers to assign individual tasks to students. A specialised database to follow students and their progress more closely has been put into practice. The quality of the data used in courses was further
improved through audio editing. Further progress was made in the Tamil language research.

The Tomatis Research Centre experimented with the group class format for beginner English classes and intermediate French courses which hosted about six students simultaneously per session. Tomatis "Digital Electronic Ear Advanced" software program was further developed in collaboration with the Laboratory’s German collaborators. 60 people attended the programs at the Centre, out of which 25 people followed language programs and 35 followed therapeutic programs.

6. COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
AUROVILLE OUTREACH MEDIA

Auroville Outreach Media is a communication, information and media-related services with its members drawn from multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-media background. Outreach Media facilitates the visits of journalists from print and electronic media and filmmakers acting as a liaison between Auroville and the outside world. It tries to ensure that the ideals of Auroville are respected by the visiting media; since the Mother clearly said that there should be no promotional publicity for this unique experiment. It intends to broaden its activities to provide factual, accurate and updated information. It has collaborated in publications issued by Auroville, as well as in video productions. Currently the core team consists of seven Residents of various nationalities.

Auroville Outreach Media team has liaised with many documentary and film makers during the year. It has also participated in the Shanghai World Expo 2010. It has also helped in producing more than 50 articles on Sri Aurobindo, the Mother and Auroville in national media and about 20 such articles in international media.

VISITORS’ CENTRE AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The Visitors’ Centre and the Information Service receive visitors to Auroville and familiarises them with the aims, the ideals and the achievements of Auroville, and presents to them, in nut shell, the diversity that is Auroville. Matrimandir is the centre piece of attraction and attracts the largest number of visitors.

The Visitors Centre has information service, exhibitions, video facilities, a guest service, the Matrimandir Information (exhibitions and videos), three handicraft boutiques, a bookshop, a cafeteria and a multipurpose kiosk. It receives on an average 1,500 visitors a day.

During the year, a new exhibition and video on Matrimandir, prepared with the cooperation of the Matrimandir Access group and the Information Service, are being used to disseminate information to the visitors. In addition a new updated video, in four languages, on Matrimandir has also been produced and screened regularly.

7. RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Auroville is like an island surrounded by villages populated by families that were in the beginning mostly landless labour, largely illiterate or semi-literate and poverty-stricken. Auroville’s residents are deeply concerned over the social and economic deprivation that afflicts the people of the surrounding villages. Many units under the Foundation have undertaken various projects aimed at improving their lot. The major thrust areas of action are: (1) girl-child education and women’s empowerment; (2) agricultural development; (3) soil and water conservation; (4) provision of safe drinking water; and (5) public health and health care. The village centred activities are outlined below in brief:

**GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

- **Life Education Centre:** It provides access to value-oriented education and vocational training for the disadvantaged village teenage girls, and to improve their socio-economic conditions through capacity building and personal empowerment. It consists of a 2-year training programme for teenage girls, who are school drop-outs. They are trained in functional skills like Mathematics, English and Tamil, and vocational skills like tailoring, crochet knitting, typing and the use of computers, and social awareness and human interactive skills using group discussions, personal counselling, diary writing, study tours, and culture-related open sessions.

- **Children with Special Needs:** During the year, it extended its activities to include part-time students along with the regular ones. The girls with special needs come as part-time students for 3-4 months in between their regular school sessions.

- **Core-Quality Empowerment and Mothers & Daughters Project:** In this project, the daughters participate in group discussions about their relationship with their mothers. After group interactions, mothers and daughters meet to discuss subjects like education, home life, and such deeper topics as gender discrimination and abuse.

- **Counselling Sessions:** More than 250 individual counselling sessions were held. This year more old students had come back to the Centre for receiving counselling. Often it relates to the problem created by alcoholic husbands or other marital problems. Besides these counselling sessions, more than 40 counselling sessions were held for old students and the mothers of old students.

**THE PALMYRA CENTRE**

Palmyra Centre for Ecological Land-use, Water Management and Rural Development promotes sustainable land use as well as rural development. It is active mostly in the Kalivelli / Auroville Bioregion and networks with different sections and groups of local people including those in Auroville. It received the National Groundwater Augmentation Award for the year 2008 announced in 2009.

**AUROVILLE WATER HARVESTING (AWH)**
AWH has induced more than 200 farmers to change over to organic ways of farming (more crops, use of organic fertilizers/pesticides and less water usage). The associations of women and farmers are supporting this exercise.

Pond rehabilitation is important for harvesting rainwater and distributing it. Three ponds were rebuilt during the period under report and a few canals were constructed. An important fall-out of it is fish cultivation. Recharge ponds were constructed in areas with heavy groundwater exploitation to off-set the depletion of aquifers.

During 2009-10, AWH installed drinking water systems in two villages (Sanjeev Nagar and Kottakarai). The local women are managing both the systems and the beneficiaries are paying for the water. Solid waste management systems were set up in most of the villages around Auroville. The women’s' associations collect solid waste, separate and process it into usable substances or compost. Ecosan (ecologically sanitary) toilets have been installed for efficient water use and compost productions.

8. RESEARCH & RENEWABLE ENERGY

CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Its activities focus on applied research of sustainable technologies in the areas of design, energy and water.

Water and Sanitation innovations: During the year, the main focus was on developing an integrated decentralized vortex waste water treatment system for urban settlements. The aim is to so design it that it can serve a cluster of habitats thereby reducing overall energy and ecological impact, utilizing minimum space while delivering maximum treatment output. A sizeable cutback in sewage lines, simple maintenance procedures and a reusable end product are added advantages of this system. Its compactness and ease of operation are conducive to decentralized installation and use in small areas. It meets the statutory discharge requirements with a pollution reduction factor of 90%. Presently 19 such waste water treatment systems have been manufactured and are operating in Auroville. All the systems are small-scale with limited treatment capacity and their performance is under watch.

Auroville Design Consultants: It has completed 10 designs projects; three of the projects were Auroville related, among them the Design of the exhibition / audio-visual and conference centre for the Matrimandir information centre. A master and concept plan for a Chennai-based data management company was undertaken for the client’s campus of 50 acres near Chennai.

A new project called “Integrated Communications and Information Technology Infrastructure” (ICITI) has been undertaken, during the year, to build a flexible and extensible ICT platform in Auroville and use it to interconnect with the bio-region as a ‘soft’ delivery vehicle for education, training and health care programs.
**Water Harvest activities:** were centred on a Dry land farming Development Project to increase dry-land crop productivity by optimally utilizing natural resources like land and water. Its second step is forming a Cluster Co-operative Federation (CCF) the function of which is to bring the participants together so that they could share their farming experiences and the knowledge of marketing accessibilities and thus avoid the middleman and so on.

Designing and installing drip-irrigation models were done on 60 acres in 15 villages. Community bore wells were introduced in three villages to maximise water usage and minimise bore well numbers. Income generating programs were also implemented for which revolving funds were arranged through the agencies of Tamil Nadu Government.

Under the project A4A to enhance villager’s standard of living through improved water and sanitation situation, village associations were strengthened through capacity-building exercises, training and exposure visits. Pond rehabilitation with the village community participation was done. About 8 eco-san demo toilets were constructed in selected places to create better awareness about them. **DEW Institute** aims at enhanced knowledge-sharing in Design (architecture, planning and product design), Energy (wind, biogas, solar water heating, solar PV devices, solar thermal, alternative motors and vehicles), and Water (water resources management for Auroville bioregion. It provided internships, during the year, for 26 students coming from 7 countries.

**Seminars and workshops:** CSR participated in a conference hosted in October 2009 by the international forum of Zietgenossische Architecture of Germany. During the year 3 workshops were organized for architects and designers on sustainable habitats. One workshop was organized on sustainable water resources management.

**AUROVILLE EARTH INSTITUTE**

It is researching, developing, promoting and transferring earth-based technologies, which are environment-friendly, energy-efficient and cost-effective. Its widely promoted technology is “compressed stabilised earth blocks” that it has developed after research.

It is the Asia representative of UNESCO’s Chair on “Earthen Architecture, Construction Culture and Sustainable Development”. It is also a partner of: (1) International Centre for Earth Construction; and (2) BASIN South Asia – Regional Knowledge Platform. It has an agreement with the School of Architecture, Grenoble (France) for conducting training programs for their students. The Institute has won 11 national awards and 1 international award since 1989 for its work on sustainable building materials and cost-effective construction methods.

The Institute offers: (1) post-graduate diploma course in "Specialisation in Earth Architecture" to architects and engineers; and (2) Diploma course on “Bare-foot Earth Architect” to self-employed and other entrepreneurs. (3) Awareness programme on “Earth Architecture for sustainable habitat” During the year, a total of 566 trainees
were trained, 448 in India, 7 in France, 29 in Nepal and 82 in Tanzania. It organised symposiums, seminars, lectures, consultancy and other national and international events from time to time around the country and about 2,000 persons participated in them. More than 380 persons from within the country and abroad visited the Institute during the year. Many long-term trainees from different Universities of the world are undergoing training in the Institute.

The institute runs demonstration projects and sites at Tanzania (Africa), Mane, Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, Community Centre, Kadapakkam (Tamil Nadu) and Auroville. Its workshop manufactures “Aurum” equipment for earth construction and, besides India, has sold 33 “Aurum” presses during the year to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cameroon, China, Gambia, France, Papua New Guinea, Democratic Congo, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, UK, USA, and Zimbabwe.

AuroRE: AUROVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY:

AuroRE has been working in the field of providing solutions and services related to Solar Energy. Most of the work of AuroRE is in rural belt of India to provide Solar powered pumps for drinking water in villages and Solar lighting for electrifying villages which are still not electrified. AuroRE has managed to do this work with help of local NGO’s working in the rural belts in the field of energy, drinking water, sanitation, health care and education.

During the year 2009-2010 Aurore has implemented projects in Kutch, Gujrat, Berhampur, Orissa to provide drinking water through Solar Energy Systems. An Orphanage centre in Madurai is getting solar power lighting and solar street light for the campus the project was funded by European organization.

Due to the increased awareness and also drop in the prices of solar panels the solar lighting market in urban towns like Madurai, Trichi, Vellore, Comibatore, Bangalore and Chennai have opened up for private house owners to have a reliable source of non conventional electricity in place of using a generator. AuroRE has been able to sustain and work in this field and provide services to our clients to keep the flag of Renewable energy alive in Auroville.

9. HEALTH SERVICES

AUROVILLE HEALTH SERVICES

Auroville Health Services (AVHS), with a team of 7 members, was founded with the aim to improve preventative health care and environmental conditions through increased access to holistic healthcare services for the residents and villagers in the bio-region.

AVHS aims to provide health education and preventive and community-based health services. During the year, it provided hygiene and food education/monitoring in over 40 Auroville schools, food processing units, restaurants and guest houses. It implements a primary health care program in villages through female village health worker selected from each village. Besides other activities, it has also provided: (1)
community-based health services like safe water project in the villages; (2) education about safe water; and (3) low cost water filters to women’s groups in 50 villages to prevent the spread of waterborne illnesses.

HEALTH CENTRE (AHC)

AHC started as a primary health care unit. But it has undergone considerable expansion and many changes. It has a staff of 32. The value of its buildings and all movable equipment is approximately `13 lakhs (1.3 million) Its services, during the year, included: (1) a clinic (for Auroville and its bio-region) with medical consultation available on six days a week; (2) a pharmacy providing homeopathic and Ayurvedic medicines; (3) an in-patients facility with four beds and food provided; an X-ray unit and medical laboratory; (4) an operation theatre for minor procedures; and (5) an on-call ambulance service available 24 hours. It also facilitates a primary health care program in 20 villages (population approx. 28,000), with sub-centres in another 7 villages. It also provides: (1) financial help for treatment including surgery for poor patients and handicapped children; (2) free yearly medical checkups for students of 16 governments. Primary schools in the surrounding area; and (3) health education for school children by staging dramas and video shows. It also runs a project for destitute and sick old people in villages providing them a place for rest, medication and proper nutrition.

DENTAL CENTRE

Since 2008, the dental care services within Auroville are provided through Auroville Dental Centre (ADC) and its adjunct, the Auroville Dental Centre Education Research Program-Rural Action (ADCERRA)

The dental care is based on the so-called “O Concept” for reducing the need for it in Auroville. This new concept involves manual skill based on self-awareness of the body’s balance allowing easiest movement with minimum tension and maximum effectiveness. The Dental Centre team comprising four residents and three from outside Auroville work in its dental clinic.

During 2009-10 the clinic provided prevention and basic care, treatment and prosthesis to 1,399 patients in 3,440 sessions (1,798 treatments and 212 prosthesis work). Annual checkups are done at Auroville schools on 388 children with added education on oral health and nutrition. It proposes to introduce international standards of dentistry, including specialties like orthodontics together with mainly conservative treatment and prosthesis. The clinic invites dentists and specialists to provide dental care to the people in its set-up. In the Orthodontic magazine “Mirror and Probe” on the “O Concept” the work of Auroville Dental Centre Education Research Program-Rural Action (ADCERRA) was highlighted.

10. EPILOGUE
The Governing Board, the International Advisory Council and the Residents’ Assembly of Auroville Foundation places on record their deep appreciation of the steadfast support that Auroville has received from the Government and the people of India, UNESCO and the friends of Auroville worldwide in their efforts to achieve the Charter that the Mother gave to Auroville for the greater good of humanity.