Auroville Development Scheme 1988–95
A DREAM

There should be somewhere on earth a place which no nation could claim as its own, where all human beings of good will who have a sincere aspiration could live freely as citizens of the world and obey one single authority, that of the supreme truth; a place of peace, concord, and harmony where all the fighting instincts of man would be used exclusively to conquer the causes of his sufferings and miseries, to surmount his weaknesses and ignorance, to triumph over his limitations and incapacities; a place where the needs of the spirit and the concern for progress would take precedence over the satisfaction of desires and passions, the search for pleasure and material enjoyment.

In this place, children would be able to grow and develop integrally without losing contact with their souls; education would be given not for passing examinations or obtaining certificates and posts but to enrich existing faculties and bring forth new ones. In this place, titles and positions would be replaced by opportunities to serve and organise; the bodily needs of each one would be equally provided for, and intellectual, moral, and spiritual superiority would be expressed in the general organisation not by an increase in the pleasures and powers of life but by increased duties and responsibilities.

Beauty in all its artistic forms, painting, sculpture, music, literature, would be equally accessible to all; the ability to share in the joy it brings would be limited only by the capacities of each one and not by social or financial position. For in this ideal place money would no longer be the sovereign lord; individual worth would have a far greater importance than that of material wealth and social standing. There, work would not be a way to earn one’s living but a way to express oneself and to develop one’s capacities and possibilities while being of service to the community as a whole, which, for its own part, would provide for each individual’s subsistence and sphere of action. In short, it would be a place where human relationships which are normally based almost exclusively on competition and strife, would be replaced by relationships of emulation in doing well, of collaboration and real brotherhood.
AUROVILLE CHARTER

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.

28 February 1968
AUROVILLE is an experiment. Everything has to be discovered anew. Its purpose is to realise human unity.

Auroville will have to find new principles of action in its town planning, its organisation and its functioning. This calls for an altogether different approach to education, economics, communication and environmental responsibility in light of the ideals expressed in the Auroville Charter.

The environmental and architectural development of Auroville will be a constant search for discoveries to answer this challenge.

CONCEPT OF THE CITY

The city is planned for a maximum of 50,000 inhabitants. After having reached this range, the message of Auroville, enriched by its own experience, will find its place in other parts of the world in harmony with the character and culture of each of those countries. From the Matrimandir, the spiritual centre of the city, four main zones fan out in a galactic spiral: Residential, Cultural, International and Industrial.

The spiral layout takes into account existing environmental factors as well as considerations for the functioning of the city. At the same time, the movement of the lines of the roads and buildings radiating from and converging towards the Matrimandir and its surrounding gardens creates a living symbol of universal energy.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Auroville is situated 8 kilometres north of Pondicherry, on the south-east coast of the Indian sub-continent. Its centre is 5 kilometres from the Bay of Bengal.

The climate is sub-tropical with temperatures rising above 38 °C (100 °F) by May. The monsoon season is from October to December. Average rainfall is about 1200 mm. The prevailing wind blows from the south-east. The most moderate temperatures occur between December and March.

The site is a comparatively flat and previously barren plateau 50 metres above sea level. Now partly reclaimed and afforested, the Auroville area extends over 20 square kilometres, interspersed with local villages which are very much part of the Auroville experiment.
MATRIMANDIR AREA
1. Matrimandir
2. Amphitheatre
3. Banyan Tree
4. Gardens

CULTURAL ZONE
5. Movie Theatre
6. Institutes of Research
7. Museum
8. Halls of Culture
9. Art Studios
10. Auditorium
11. Observatories
12. Sportsgrounds
13. Gymnasiums, Swimming pool
14. Olympic Stadium
15. Student Residences
16. Health Centres
17. Studios: TV, Film, Radio, Audio-visual

INDUSTRIAL ZONE
18. Administrative Offices
19. Technical Workshops
20. Craft workshops, Studios
21. Laboratories
22. Industries (light)
23. Industries (medium)

INTERNATIONAL ZONE
24. Centre of International Research on Human Unity
25. National Pavilions
26. Bharat Nivas
27. International Hotels
28. Museum of Evolution
29. Flora and Fauna Study Centre
30. International Botanical Garden

RESIDENTIAL ZONE
31. Collective Housing
32. Individual Housing
33. Shops
34. Collective Shopping
RESIDENTIAL ZONE

"Auroville is the attempt towards collective realisation."

Mother

Auroville will manifest its group soul in the physical environment. Diversity of architectural forms will be the hallmark of the process, with a constant search for the most perfect integration of buildings with nature (gardens, parks and ponds) so as to inspire an atmosphere of beauty, simplicity and harmony.

Characteristics of the Zone:

a. High-rise buildings:

The pattern starts with high density in the south-west area, and moves progressively towards lower density in the south-east, ending with individual residences. These basic structures start from the centre of the city and rise to higher levels at the outer extremes. Composed of a succession of connecting buildings, these structures have been designed to include a variety of architectural play which opens space between walls and levels that provides ventilation as well as creating views of enclosed gardens and life on other levels of the buildings.

b. c. d. Medium height buildings:

Between the high-rise buildings and following the same pattern are clusters of low-level residences. The height of these buildings will decrease from west to east (from b. to e.) to create an attractive ensemble seeking an interrelation between high and low density, open and built-up spaces. Enhanced by the spiral ground plan, the interrelated forms and perspectives of the buildings have been conceived to evoke a sense of wonder and tranquility. According to the density of population there will be large-scale or small-scale collective distribution centres of goods and services.

e. f. Individual Housing

Individual housing will be concentrated in Zone e-f. The structures in Zone e will develop around open green spaces in clusters. These clusters form units of collective housing that have their own architectural character and which are interconnected by a play of pathways.

Towards Zone f. the buildings will gradually be more scattered within a large park.
High-rise buildings
Medium high-rise buildings
Medium-rise collective buildings
Low-rise collective buildings
Clusters of individual houses
Individual Houses
Crown
CULTURAL ZONE

"The education of a human being should begin at his very birth and continue throughout his life...."

Mother

Characteristics of the Zone:

Education is at the heart of the Auroville process. While all of Auroville is a search for a new way of life, a new culture, a new learning process, the Cultural Zone will be the place where this search is pursued in depth.

The facilities of this zone have been conceived to further intensive, detailed study, research and experimentation in all fields of interest.

Education here aims at the perfection of the physical, the mental, the vital, the spiritual and the psychic as its essential task.

The Zone will offer:

Laboratories
Academies of music, drama, fine arts
An auditorium with a grand organ
Exhibition halls
An institute of film technology, communication media
A stadium with extensive sports facilities
Study centres
Specialised libraries
The Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research
INTERNATIONAL ZONE

"...the cultures of the various parts of the world will be represented here so as to be accessible to all, not merely intellectually in ideas, theories, principles and language, but also vitally in habits and customs, art in all its forms – painting, sculpture, music, architecture, decoration – and physically too through natural scenery, dress, games, sports, industries and food. A kind of permanent world-exhibition should be organised in which all countries will be represented in a concrete and living way. The ideal would be for every nation with a well-defined culture to have a pavilion representing that culture, built in a style that is most expressive of the customs of the country, it will exhibit the nation’s most representative products, natural as well as manufactured, and also the best expression of its intellectual and artistic genius and its spiritual tendencies. Each nation would thus have a very practical and concrete interest in this cultural synthesis and could collaborate in the work by taking responsibility for the pavilion that represents it. Living accommodation, large or small according to the need, could be attached, where students of the same nationality could stay...."

Characteristics of the Zone:

Along with the national pavilions, the zone will also house the headquarters of various international organisations which will participate in the activities of the Centre of International Research for Human Unity, through which Auroville will share with the world its living experience of moving towards human unity.
INDUSTRIAL ZONE AND ADMINISTRATION

"...There would not be a way to earn one's living but a way to express oneself and to develop one's capacities and possibilities while being of service to the community as a whole, which, for its own part, would provide for each individual's subsistence and sphere of action..."

Mother

Characteristics of the Zone:

Taking into consideration that Auroville would tend to become self-supporting, the Industrial Zone has the following aims:

That the primary needs of Auroville would be satisfied.
That products manufactured would be in line with Auroville's ideals.
That the architecture here would be functional, beautiful and integrated with the environment.
That industry would not be a source of pollution.
That a new relation would emerge between workers, villagers and Aurovilians.
That a place for education would be provided in each production unit.

Sectors of Activity

Medium-scale Industries: Industries and workshops
Small-scale Industries: Industries and workshops
Transition Zone: Training centres related to agriculture and farming.
Training Units: Training units for small-scale industries, construction, and other technical skills.
High Technology and Offices
Administration
THE CROWN

The Crown is the main avenue, situated half-way between the centre and the outer limit of the city. It is intended to be a circuit of encounter, interaction and communication. Here the progress and discovery of life in the city will be reflected. It will be the pulse of Auroville. This avenue is the link between the four zones, connecting the main public areas in each. The character of the Crown will change as it passes from one zone to another.

Residential Zone:
Bookstores, recreation centres, art galleries, nature cure centres, food distribution centres, community dining rooms, post office, etc...

International Zone:
Exhibition halls, meeting rooms, international children’s centre, information centre, world news centre, post office, bank, hotels, restaurants, etc...

Cultural Zone:
Libraries, recreation centre, art galleries, cafeterias, post office, etc...
Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research: administrative office, youth hostel, guest house for teachers, Centre of Research on Indian Culture, video production centre, Centre of Research in Child Development.

Industrial Zone:
Meeting rooms, social centres, health and emergency centres, security centre, dining halls, post office, telecommunication center, bank, etc...
INFRASTRUCTURE: OVERVIEW

Roads:
The main pattern consists of roads radiating from the Matrimandir ring road to the Crown and from the Crown to the periphery of the city. These roads follow the spiral movement of the galaxy plan. The roads shown in the drawing are proposed to be constructed during the period 1988-95. More roads will be added as the city develops.

A study for a traffic system that will meet Auroville’s aspiration for environmental protection as well as provide for a rapid system of transport that serves the city and all its functions will be made with the best inputs available in the world.

Land:
The entire Auroville project will cover approximately 11,000 acres including the city area, the green belt and all other related development; 2,500 acres have already been acquired. The city area will have a 1.25 km radius, a total of 1,215 acres. Some 612 acres have already been acquired and 603 acres remain to be purchased.

Water:
Auroville will undertake scientific research in several fields for appropriate water use. Water conservation and land reclamation programmes will attempt to insure with afforestation, check-dams, bunding, percolation wells, etc., the control of run-off water and recharge of the aquifer. The architecture of the city will incorporate all the necessary elements for urban water conservation.

After being pumped up from shallow and deep borewells, the water distribution system will consist of:
– Overhead tanks incorporated into buildings – Interconnected underground tanks located around the Crown
– Underground distribution pipe-lines following the road pattern of the city

Research on solar pump systems and desalination of sea water will also be undertaken.

Electricity:
The road pattern of Auroville makes it possible to design a comprehensive and effective electrical distribution system. Electrical cables to be laid along the inner and outer ring roads will serve as the main high tension feeders. Branch lines will follow the radial roads into each of the four zones. It is proposed to use several low capacity (150-300 KVA) distribution transformers rather than a few high capacity transformers in each distribution area. This will result in better voltage regulation, reduction of line losses, a modular design and ease of maintenance. This approach also makes it easier to carry out experiments with alternative sources of energy since it is possible to de-link a relatively small portion of the total load from the conventional distribution system and connect this portion to a solar plant or a windfarm. Since all buildings in Auroville will be collective property, it will be possible to integrate transformer and switchboard rooms into residential and other buildings and the construction of separate service buildings can be kept to a minimum.

Telecommunication:
With the introduction of digital switching systems and processor controlled exchange equipment, telecommunication has become one of the most progressive technologies of today. One of the major difficulties in the implementation of modern telecommunication systems is their compatibility with conventional networks. Auroville as an experimental city offers itself as a testing ground for all the latest techniques in this area. The proposed layout and road pattern of the city are ideal to carry out experiments with different methods of speech and data transmission. The telecommunication system will be developed into a multipurpose network of a modular design, which can be easily modified or upgraded in relation to the needs of the city and the result of field tests and experiments. A cable network for community radio and television will also be part of the system.

Sewage:
Sewage lines will follow the main road patterns. Waste water will be drained towards a treatment station situated outside the city. It is envisaged that all waste water, once processed through the treatment station, will be recycled for watering farms, parks and gardens. Experiments will also be made with the latest discoveries in biological treatment of waste water. The proposal includes installation of pipe-lines and the construction and outfitting of the treatment station.
AUROVILLE TODAY IN ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT

1954  Mother records her essay "A Dream".
1958-63  Mother's vision of Auroville is progressively revealed.
1964  The first land is purchased.
1965  Mother draws the basic concept of Auroville.
1966-68  Under Mother's guidance an international team of architects start to work on her concept. A series of studies and proposals evolve from the basic concept arriving at the actual plan – the galaxy – which Mother approved as the final plan of Auroville.
1968  Foundation of Auroville on 28 February 1968, the city dedicated to Sri Aurobindo's work. At the inaugural ceremony young men and women representing 124 nations and 21 Indian states placed a handful of earth from their homelands into an urn, symbolising the founding of the city dedicated to international understanding and human unity.

Today Auroville is an expanding community of 670 people, of which nearly 200 come from India and the rest from 24 countries around the world. Located in a rural area of the South Arcot district of Tamil Nadu, India, it is surrounded by 15 villages with a population of more than 30,000 inhabitants.

Auroville has grown into a community with many interests, among which are:
- Educational Research
- Village Development
- Health Care
- Environmental Regeneration
- Biological Agriculture
- Appropriate Technology
- Architecture and Engineering
- Handicrafts
- Small-scale Industries

Auroville received the unanimous endorsement of the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1966, 1968, 1970 and 1983. Governmental and non-governmental organisations in India and abroad have funded various development programmes.

Contributions have also been given by foundations in Europe and the United States, by the Auroville International Centres and private donors from all over the world.

The Government of India has participated in the growth of Auroville during the past twenty years by providing substantial financial support and has committed itself to its development by according it a special legal status.

Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister of India, has commented about Auroville: "Auroville is an exciting project for bringing about harmony among different cultures, and for understanding the environmental needs of man's spiritual growth."
MATRIMANDIR

"The Matrimandir will be the soul of Auroville."

Mother

At the centre, at the very heart of Auroville, the Matrimandir rises out of the earth, symbol of humanity's aspiration for the divine.

Surrounded by twelve gardens and a park, it will be a place of silence and concentration.

The buildings of the city will radiate from the Matrimandir and will be oriented towards it.

Begun in 1971, it is through donations from all over the world from individuals and organisations that this symbolic work has been carried on.

For Aurovilians, the completion of Matrimandir represents both an inner and outer commitment.
ELEMENTS OF AUROVILLE DEVELOPMENT

"... I want to insist on the fact that it will be an experiment, it is for making experiments – experiments, research, study..."

Mother

Auroville's development will:

- address global concerns such as energy shortage, depletion of natural resources, pollution, exploitation of man and nature, etc.
- consider the development of the villages in the immediate proximity as of primary importance for a harmonious growth of the region.
- promote material researches in all fields of alternative technology, using local skills and any new methods of construction that will protect the environment.
- respect both the human and natural environment.
- integrate topographical features into the design of the city.
- blend harmoniously with the immediate surroundings, without imposing on them, keeping a human scale.
- provide a unifying framework within which a diversity of architectural expression can take place.
- allow harmonious growth and change, whether it is gradual or rapid – the concept of the city will clearly reflect this.
- Development Plan for 1988–90
INFRASTRUCTURE: Phase I

Roads:
The roads shown in the drawing are proposed to be constructed during the period 1988-90: the Crown, which is the main ring road, and the four main access roads.

Land:
The city area will have a 1.25 km radius, a total of 1,215 acres. Some 612 acres have already been acquired and 603 acres remain to be purchased.
In order to consolidate existing Auroville land, 96 acres of land need to be purchased for the construction of roads during this phase.

Water – Electricity – Telecommunication – Sewage:
It is proposed to install these services along the roads to be constructed during this phase.

Total estimated cost: Rs 2.88 Crores
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: Phase I

An experimental complex of four buildings has been planned as a tentative step towards collective housing. During Phase I, one building with 43 apartments will be constructed. (See Housing Development Phase II for elaboration)

The objectives of Phase I will be:
1. To provide an architectural environment for an organised community life which creates the conditions for collective and individual inner progress.
2. To achieve an architectural diversity based on the repetition of a module.
3. To design standardised, prefabricated modules that could be locally made and eventually have a wider applicability throughout India.

NEWCOMER HOUSING: Phase I

Over the years, following an inner call, a growing number of newcomers have joined Auroville. Additional housing complexes are proposed to provide accommodation for them. These complexes are composed of clusters of individual units that will be built with a new low-cost technique using a combination of pressed mud bricks stabilised with cement for the walls with roofs made of ferrocement. This technique has already been experimented with, in Auroville with good results. During Phase I, 100 units will be constructed.

Estimated cost: Rs 1.30 Crore

SRI AUROBINDO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH: Phase I

Overall Programme: Educational research for international understanding and human unity.

Specific Programmes:
1. Research on the following themes in the context of the overall programme:
   - The aim of life – The ideal relationship between the teacher and the pupil – Integral development of personality – Child-centered education
   - Science and values
2. Field experiments in the evolution of methods relevant to the child-centered and value-oriented development of integral personality.
3. Formulation of a new syllabus related to the essential elements for the fulfillment of the highest aims of personality development.
4. Preparation and publication of teaching-learning materials relevant to the programmes of research and experimentation.
5. Extension work for sharing the process and results of research work with teachers and larger target groups in India and the world.

Estimated expenditures 1989-1990: Rs 1,12,03,000
• Development Plan for 1990–95
INFRASTRUCTURE: Phase II

Roads
The roads shown in the drawing are proposed to be constructed during the period 1990-95: the Matrimandir ring road and the four radial roads that connect the Matrimandir ring road to the Crown.
A service for road repair and maintenance will also be set up during this phase.

Land
During this phase, 507 acres of land will be purchased in order to consolidate existing Auroville land.
It is also proposed to enlarge the present Auroville Land Service which encompasses the following areas:
- Land survey
- Topographical studies
- Mapping
- Land purchase
- Land resource management
- Computer service

Water
It is proposed to install part of the water distribution system including interconnected underground tanks located around the Crown and the pipe-lines following the roads to be constructed during this phase.
It is also proposed to enlarge the present Auroville Water Service which maintains and repairs wells and pumps, and monitors the quality and use of water.

Electricity and Telecommunication
It is proposed to install the external electrical and telecommunication cables including all necessary transformers, distribution boards, etc., for the buildings which will be constructed in this phase.

Sewage
The building of a treatment station for the recycling of water and the installation of sewage lines following the roads to be constructed during this phase are proposed.
Experiments with biological systems for the treatment of waste water will also be carried out.

Estimated cost: Rs 1.70 Crores
Estimated cost: Rs 2.61 Crores
Estimated cost: Rs 2.06 Crores
Estimated cost: Rs 2.50 Crores
Estimated cost: Rs 2.00 Crores
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: Phase II

An experimental complex of four buildings has been planned as a tentative step towards collective housing. In Phase I, one building with 43 apartments will be constructed. During Phase II, the complex will be completed with the addition of three more buildings. This complex is experimental in both an architectural and a social sense.

The basic element of the plan is a 4 m x 4 m module which will be used repetitively in such a way as to achieve architectural diversity in contrast to the classic "box building".

The use of this module as planned will:
- allow flexibility in the size and layout of apartments.
- ensure that the need for privacy within a collective and urban environment may be met.
- give the inhabitants the possibility to adapt or transform the space within each apartment and within other areas of each building.

The design also employs the module to arrange varied orientations of the apartments and to place loggias and terraces throughout the buildings. On the ground floor inside each building will be the following collective facilities: dining room and kitchen; game room; meeting room; music room; TV and video room; baby-sitting service and play area; laundry service; building maintenance service. A special feature is a section designed so that young people may have the experience of living together and organising their lives themselves, at an early age, with the guidance of parents and other adults living in the building.

Inside each building a large courtyard garden will act as a focal point. From here, interspaced stairways provide the means of circulation between the different levels of the building. Open vertical shafts located along the periphery permit light and air to enter into the building and apartments and, conceal all service connections.

The placement of the buildings within the complex will define a central common place that could be compared to the plaza of a small town. Bordering the area will be shops, places to eat, space for playing games and carrying on business – a place for meeting and exchange.

Estimated cost: Rs 4.75 Crores

NEWCOMER HOUSING: Phase II

Over the years, following an inner call, a growing number of newcomers have joined Auroville. Additional housing complexes are proposed to provide accommodation for them. (See Newcomer Housing Phase I for elaboration)

During Phase II, 500 units will be constructed.

Estimated cost: Rs 2.50 Crores
COMMUNITY FACILITIES

I. Pour Tous

Pour Tous aims at providing the residents of Auroville with their basic material necessities. It strives to establish a system which will progressively eliminate the exchange of money within Auroville. This will represent a step towards an economy in line with the ideals of Auroville.

A central building is envisaged at the periphery of the city from where goods and other items will be distributed to smaller outlets within the city. This work will be organised with the help of a computerised system which is already in operation.

Aside from the purchase and distribution of basic necessities, Pour Tous includes within its scope a bakery, a food-processing unit, a laundry service and petrol station.

Estimated cost: Rs 2.14 Crores

II. Aurofuture

Aurofuture is both a centre for the conceptual formulation of Auroville as well as a technical and architectural training ground. It represents an essential element for the growth of the city as it focalises and gathers the necessary information concerning the evolving needs and aspirations of the inhabitants of the city in order to incorporate them harmoniously into the plan of Auroville.

Aurofuture encompasses some of the following areas:

- Topographical studies and research
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Town-planning
- Construction
- Environmental studies

Estimated cost: Rs 37 Lakhs
COMMUNITY FACILITIES

III. Multi-system Primary Health Care Scheme

From its inception the Auroville Health Service has given special attention to the surrounding village population. A team of dedicated and skilled practitioners in many different disciplines has formed and a Multi-System Primary Health Care Scheme has been developed which could be used as a model throughout the country.

This scheme features traditional, alternative and modern approaches to treatment and prevention of diseases. The disciplines involved range from the established systems of Ayurveda and Naturopathy to such innovative methods as homeopathic immunisation. This scheme aims to provide a more sensitive and comprehensive approach to health education.

Estimated cost: Rs 3.5 Crores

IV. Dental Clinic and Laboratory

Provision for competent dental care, backed by adequate equipment for dental health maintenance and emergencies is essential to the basic health of any community. The Auroville Dental Clinic and Laboratory will offer a high standard of dental health care, develop prosthesis of excellent quality with the help of high technology equipment, provide training and education programmes, and initiate research in the field of dentistry.

Estimated cost: Rs 1 Crore

V. Auroville Information and Reception Centre

There is an ever increasing flow of visitors to Auroville, eager to know about this unique international project. To meet the needs of visitors an information and reception centre is proposed. The building will be constructed with alternative techniques and designed as a demonstration centre for the use of earth architecture, solar energy and other methods of appropriate technology.

Estimated cost: Rs 31 Lakh
HEALTH - DENTAL CARE
1. reception - administration
2. dressing
3. first aid
4. allopathy
5. x rays - laboratory
6. room
7. acupuncture
8. homeopathy
9. naturopathy
10. ayurveda
11. massage
12. dentistry

INFORMATION - RECEPTION CENTER
1. information
2. reception
3. exhibition
4. viewing room
5. cafeteria - kitchen
6. reading
7. boutique
8. Cafe - Tea Bar - Music
ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming has been undertaken by Auroville farmers for the past twenty years as a natural complement to Auroville’s comprehensive, environmental regeneration programme through green work and reforestation.

This interest in developing ecologically sound farming and agro-forestry techniques, without using pesticides and detrimental chemicals, concurs with Mother’s explicit views on natural food. In reply to a question about the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, she said: “They are noxious. They help to yield more at first, but it is unhealthy to eat agricultural products grown by these methods.”

Moreover, this organic approach might result in valuable alternatives and initiate a revaluation of India’s indigenous agriculture, rooted in its traditional farming techniques. Extension of the existing farms will be needed in order to grow towards self-sufficiency in regard to Auroville’s food requirements. With the growth of the city, biological food and grain production on a much larger scale will become necessary.

The experience of Auroville in the field of organic agriculture will be shared with individuals, groups and organisations through a variety of educational programmes.

Estimated cost: Rs 2 Crores
VILLAGE

I. Experimental Village

This experimental village will be part of a wider programme aimed at the development of Auroville’s neighbouring villages. Taking root in the understanding and collaboration which have grown over the last twenty years between Auroville and the villages, it will bring together: Aurovilians experienced in village work and relations; long-time Auroville workers from the village; village youth who have studied in Auroville schools; and local villagers. These people will constitute the core of this unprecedented project.

The development of Auroville is, to a large extent, dependent upon the development of the villages in the surrounding area. The relationships created among people in this core have, through the years of living and working together side-by-side, prepared a cultural dynamism that could influence the villages to change and evolve. If the results are positive, this experiment could prove to be a renewable experience limited not only to Auroville.

The challenges of this project lie in achieving:
- Progress and economic development that combine self-awareness with dynamic growth
- The offering of support and assistance based on respect and understanding rather than on charity
- An identity that rediscovers the true values of a cultural heritage
- A unity that goes beyond social, economic and cultural divisions

New techniques for low-cost housing employing pre-cast ferrocement elements will be used which could have a wider applicability elsewhere in India.

II. Development of Neighbouring Villages:

AIM: The development of basic facilities in three of the larger villages neighbouring Auroville: Edavanchavadi, Kuiyapalayam and Kottakarai.

Programme:
- to improve drinking water facilities
- to set up systems for sewage and rain water drainage
- to provide sanitation facilities
- to undertake street repair

Estimated cost: Rs 1.20 Crores

Estimated cost: Rs 45 Lakhs
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

"The main challenges before humankind are three – to preserve peace, to eradicate poverty and to conserve the environment."

Rajiv Gandhi

A major component in a comprehensive strategy of environmental conservation in the future will be the application of appropriate technology and the use of renewable energies. Auroville’s delicate environment and its location in a rural area where conventional energy sources are scarce, imply the use of alternative energy based on wind, biomass and sun. Moreover, many dedicated people concerned with the ecological implications of energy consumption in Auroville have been experimenting with the use of non-conventional energy sources for the past twenty years. However, more coordinated and in-depth research on alternative energy applications needs to be implemented, especially in view of the expected city development, which will require a much higher energy supply than today. Favouring ecological, cost effective and sustainable principles, Auroville wants to fulfill its growing requirements by using renewable energy sources.

This approach will produce valuable solutions for the larger energy needs of India and create replicable models for application in the country. The Centre for Scientific Research (CSR), an institution approved in 1984 by the Government of India, Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Industrial Research, has grown into a focal point for research and development in the field of renewable energies.

I. Aurore

Auroville is a living laboratory and presents very favourable conditions for experimenting with renewable energies. Auroville Research on Renewable Energies (Aurore) is a new CSR unit that will conduct research and implement field applications in appropriate technology both for Auroville’s growing energy demands, and in order to disseminate the use of renewable energy sources in the surrounding rural areas and throughout India.

Estimated cost: Rs 2.06 Crores

II. CSR Training and Educational Project

The aim of this project is to improve the existing infrastructure of CSR and to create new facilities for considerably expanding its rural development strategy towards Auroville and its surrounding villages.

To fulfill this aim the following objectives are set:

1. Improvement of the present infrastructure of CSR.
2. Increase of the CSR training programme for local artisans by considerably enlarging the existing training facilities.
3. Manufacturing of demonstration models of various appropriate technology devices.
4. Development of educational facilities and promotional activities.
5. Improvement of office equipment.

Estimated cost: Rs 16 Lakhs

III. Alternative and Electronic Transport

Confronted with the problem of pollution due to conventional transport, Auroville will try to find appropriate and replicable solutions by research and development of alternative transportation methods. The programme is to construct a laboratory for electronic research, to initiate a pilot project to develop prototypes of electronic cars, and to provide training facilities.

Estimated cost: Rs 28 Lakhs
1. existing buildings
2. alternative transport
3. C.S.R. training center
4. aurora

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT

One of the main interests of Auroville during the last twenty years has been the reclamation and reforestation of the land on which it is developing. Due to the planting of more than two million forest trees, many acres of previously dry and severely eroded land have become lush and green. Comprehensive contour building and small check dams for water and soil conservation have significantly enhanced the life potential of the whole area.

A regional plan for the protection of the environment in an area within a +/- 8 km radius of the city centre will be studied in consultation with the Tamil Nadu government and the Pondicherry state government.

I. Green Belt

AIM: To provide a green environment that surrounds and protects the city.

Programme:
- To acquire land needed to complete ongoing projects.
- To create a Forest Research Centre.
- To increase erosion control and water conservation measures.
- To research methods of soil conservation and fertilisation for highly eroded land.

Estimated cost: Rs 79.2 Lakhs

II. Arboretum

AIM: To provide a place devoted to the cultivation and exhibition of the trees of the world.

Programme:
- To acquire land needed to complete the project.
- To set up a nursery.
- To construct the main building which will house the following: administrative office, library, research centre, computerised documentation centre, staff quarters, storerooms.

Estimated cost: Rs 24 Lakhs

III. Parks and Gardens

AIM: To provide a green environment for an urban setting.

Programme:
- To install the necessary infrastructure including an irrigation system.
- To set up a nursery.
- To construct a documentation centre.
- To landscape all areas under this category.

Estimated cost: Rs 25 Lakhs
SPORTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

"The perfection of the body, as great a perfection as we can bring about by the means at our disposal, must be the ultimate aim of physical culture. Perfection is the true aim of all culture, the spiritual and psychic, the mental, the vital and it must be the aim of our physical culture also... for the body is the material basis, the body is the instrument which we have to use."

Sri Aurobindo

Auroville aims to provide the means to discover the wonder that is the body. The programme for the next five years is to create the basic facilities for exercise, training, practice and play in a number of activities.

Gymnasium:
The gymnasium will consist of three modules, each of 100 sq m, which will accommodate a number of physical activities and related equipment: basketball and badminton courts, a roller skating rink, an area for the practice of martial arts and gymnastic apparatus. The design is such that air-conditioning may be installed at a later date.

Swimming pool:
The swimming pool will be built to Olympic standards with a special area for diving. The infrastructure will include a water filter system with pumps as well as such facilities as changing rooms, showers, toilets, etc.

Stadium:
In Phase I a 400 m synthetic track with a width of 7.32 m will be laid. The track will enclose a grass surfaced football field also to be used for field hockey and hand ball events. Part of the area enclosed by this track will be set aside for such field events as the hammer throw, discus, shot put and javelin as well as the long jump, high jump and pole vault.
In Phase II a stadium with a seating capacity of 10,000 spectators will be built. Full facilities for athletes and players (changing rooms, toilets, showers, etc.) will be incorporated in this phase.

Other facilities:
13 tennis courts are planned in several areas of Auroville. One grass court, two concrete courts and ten clay courts. Each court will have a practice wall and a hedge of shade trees.
Roofing and improvement of the two existing basketball courts are also planned.

The expansion of facilities dedicated to physical culture in Auroville would answer to an important and growing need. In Auroville today adults and children enthusiastically participate in a wide variety of physical activities that include: hatha-yoga, aerobics, jogging, walking, bicycling, martial arts, gymnastics, swimming, surfing and horse-riding.

Total estimated cost: Rs 90 Lakhs
SRI AUROBINDO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH: Phase II

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME:

I. Central building:
Administrative office, research library and documentation centre.

II. Staff Quarters:
Residential accommodation for members of research staff.

III. Hostel for teachers-in-training:
A programme of training is encouraged under which teachers can be invited from different parts of the country for orientation and training in value-education and education for international understanding. To undertake this programme facilities for accommodation are needed.

IV. Video Production Centre:
A compact and self-sufficient video-production unit comprising studios for arts, music, dance and theatre.

V. Experimental School Building:
Located in the "Last School" Campus, its aim is to invent a new system of child-centered education with:

A) Auditorium: a multipurpose room with a seating capacity of 150 persons
B) Library: to house between 20,000 to 30,000 books; with attached reading rooms
C) Classrooms and laboratories

VI. Centre for Research in Child Development:
A centre for a new understanding of child development in the light of integral psychology.

VII. Centre for Research in Indian Culture:
The aim of this centre is to encourage and facilitate cultural exchange with an emphasis on Indian culture and its meaning in the context of world history and human consciousness.
SRI AUROBINDO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH:  Phase II

VIII. Last School Campus

Sixteen years ago, several beautiful buildings were started, some of which have been completed. The Mother gave their names: Last School, Sanskrit School, After School I and After School II. At the end of the seventies, another building was added. Today, this building and the Sanskrit School are being used in research programmes for integral education.

It is intended to repair and finish the incomplete buildings and set a campus in the same area – Last School: Body expression and cultural expression. After School I: Training Centre. After School II: computer training centre. Campus: student and teacher pavilions.

IX. Educational Games Centre

Located in the "Transition" campus, its aim is to develop inner silence and concentration in children. There are four small units, each offering a different atmosphere with gradations of silence and concentration:

- Traditional board games
- The "Sand-Box" game
- "Gayatri", a new revolutionary board game conceived and designed by Aurovilians
- A "Room of Silence"

X. Village Oriented Educational Research Facilities

The proximity of 15 villages with a population of more than 30,000 people provides a special opportunity to do research in appropriate educational activities in view of village development. Several units are already involved in this task. Facilities are needed for this work, some of which will be located in proximity to the villages.

1) Youth hostel cum experimental educational unit (Ilaingnarkal)
2) Hostel for trainers cum staff quarters (Isaiambalam)
3) Experimental hostel for village youth integration (New Creation)
4) Two centres for continuing education
5) Training centre
6) Educational unit (Arul Vazhi)

XI. Rural Learning Centres

Auroville, the city of the future, recognises children as the carriers of the future, and sees the need to extend an Auroville education to village children.

Programme:

- Creation of learning centres in four villages to supplement existing schools for 3-5 year old children.
- Social and observational skills development.
- Intensification of existing programme.

Estimated cost: Rs 7.11 Crores
FLOOR PLAN LEVEL -15 ± 00

FLOOR PLAN LEVEL +15 ± 00

ELEVATION

SECTION

LAST SCHOOL

CAMPUS

AFTER SCHOOL I
AFTER SCHOOL II
LAST SCHOOL
KINDER GARTEN
HEALTH CENTRE

LIBRARY
LAB. CHEMISTRY
COMPUTER ROOM
TOILET
CRAFT STUDIO
ART STUDIO
ROOM OF SILENCE
AMPHITHEATRE
HALL OF CULTURE
LAB. PHYSICS
ADMINISTRATION
LABORATORIES
RESIDENTIAL ZONE
SANSKRIT SCHOOL
MANDALA
EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL
OTHER PROJECTS

I. Centre of Dreams and Visions for Children
Apart from educational experimental fields which will be strewn all over Auroville, the creation of innovative projects and programmes, including a permanent site for children’s parks and monuments, meant to nourish and enrich children’s dreams and visions, are also planned. It is conceived as a sanctuary for children where they can vibrate in harmony with nature and blossom like flowers, nourished by a learning environment filled with charm, peace, warmth, understanding, love, light and delight. With this long range view in mind, the first step will be to establish an initial centre open to all children of the world and dedicated, symbolically, to the everlasting care of their future.

Estimated cost: Rs. 18 Lakhs

II. Centre for Evolutionary Studies
"Man is a transitional being. Evolution goes on and man will be surpassed."

Sri Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo and the Mother not only announced a new evolutionary step upon earth, but also started in their own bodies the research and experimentation towards the new, supramentalised species they foresaw.

In the thirteen volumes of Mother's Agenda as well as in other works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother (Savitri, The Supramental Manifestation on the Earth) invaluable hints and documentation can be found concerning their evolutionary work and the process through which man can consciously participate in the creation and advent of the new species.

The Mother wished Auroville to be not only an experiment for human unity, but also the cradle of the new species. In the city of Auroville a centre and laboratory for evolutionary studies is necessary. This centre will act as a focus and resource point for the research and experimentation done in Auroville and the world concerning the topic of evolution.

Estimated cost: Rs. 17 Lakhs

III. Centre for Audio-Visual Educational Material
This centre aims to produce a variety of material to be used in the field of education. A laboratory for film processing and a photolab are needed to carry out this work.

Estimated cost: Rs 42 Lakhs
OTHER PROJECTS

IV. Skill in Works (Technical Training Centre)

"Skilful hands, precise care, a sustained attention, and one compels Matter to obey the Spirit."

Mother

This centre is located in the Industrial Zone. Here, training will be offered to youths from Auroville and the surrounding villages for the following vocations: machine tool operator, fitter, welder, draftsman, foreman, technical assistant, support and maintenance engineer, plumber, mason, carpenter, etc.

The centre plans to become self-sufficient within three years of its inception.

Construction Programme:
- Building for training classes
- Workshops and practice rooms
- Boarding facilities for trainees
- Staff quarters

Estimated cost: Rs 2 Crores

V. Museum of Archaeology

Within the area in which the city of Auroville will be constructed is an historical site where 2000-3000 years ago Dravidians with their megalithic culture lived. These ancient people had direct contact with the Indo-Roman trading centre – Arikkamedu – 4 km South of Pondicherry, as recent excavations have brought to light.

The Auroville Museum of Archaeology, started in 1985, gives to visitors, guests and Aurovilians a glimpse of the numerous finds from several excavations into the ancient history of the place.

The completion of an unfinished building in the International Zone will permit the expansion of the existing Auroville Museum of Archaeology.

The project includes the following facilities:
- Exhibition Hall
- Laboratory and workroom
- Store-room
- Staff quarters

and is inclusive of landscaping and the purchase of furniture and tools.

Estimated cost: Rs 15 Lakhs
MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

1 megalithic exhibition
2 general exhibition
3 workshop
4 store
5 toilet
6 caretaker / livingroom
7 bedroom
BHARAT NIVAS

In 1971, India became the first country to found its national pavilion, the Bharat Nivas, in the International Zone. Here the richness and diversity of Indian culture will be represented. At present, the main structures of the restaurant and auditorium stand partially completed. The programme is to complete the Bharat Nivas in two phases.

Phase I (1990-1995)

- Completion of the auditorium and restaurant
- Construction of a hostel with accommodation for 80 guests
- Landscaping

Estimated cost of Phase I: Rs 2 Crores
CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FOR HUMAN UNITY (CIRHU)

CIRHU is located near the Matrimandir, the spiritual centre of the city. It is one of the most important projects of Auroville, intended to act as an international instrument, a cohesive force, between Auroville, India and the world. With the most advanced equipment for research in every field, CIRHU will maintain an atmosphere of perpetual search and questioning.

Its role is to be attentive to the process of researches and experiences taking place in life in Auroville and everywhere else in the world in order to retranslate them on a new level that has as its fundamental objective: human unity.

The entire project includes the following buildings and facilities:

- Conference hall for 2,500 people
- Two conference halls for 300 people
- Exhibition hall
- Five technical laboratories
- Ten specialised rooms for studies on specific topics
- Library and documentation centre
- Cafeteria
- Accommodation for 100 people
- Administrative quarters

Estimated cost, Phase I: Rs 5 Crores
C.I.R.H.U.

1. General conference hall
2. Conference hall
3. Laboratories
4. Specialised rooms for studies
5. Exhibition hall
6. Library and documentation
7. Cafeteria
8. Accommodation
9. Administration quarter
## ESTIMATED COST OF THE AUROVILLE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

### I. Plan of Development 1988-90

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure: Overview Phase I</td>
<td>Rs 2.88 Crores</td>
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<td>Housing Development: Phase I</td>
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<td>S.A.I.L.E.R.: Phase I</td>
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<td>Newcomer Housing: Phase I</td>
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<td><strong>Total for 1988-1990:</strong></td>
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### II. Plan of Development 1990-95

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<td>Housing Development: Phase II</td>
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<td>Community Facilities</td>
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<td>Organic Farming</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
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<td>Bharat Nivas: Phase I</td>
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<td>CRRHU: Phase I</td>
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<td><strong>Total for 1990-1995:</strong></td>
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**TOTAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME OF AUROVILLE: Rs 56.60 Crores**