



**AUROVILLE FOUNDATION**  
**AUROVILLE**

**Minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board**

**Hybrid mode**

08-11-2022 at 11:00 AM

**AUROVILLE FOUNDATION, AUROVILLE**

**Minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> Governing Board meeting (hybrid mode) held on  
08<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**The following persons were present:**

1)	Honourable Shri. R. N. Ravi Governor of Tamil Nadu	Chairperson
2)	Honourable Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan Lt. Governor of Puducherry	Member
3)	Prof. Goutam Ghosal	Member
4)	Dr Nirima Oza	Member
5)	Shri. Aravindan Neelakandan	Member
6)	Ms. Lina Johari JS &FA Ministry of Education, New Delhi	Member (Joined Online)
7)	Smt. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary Ministry of Education, New Delhi	Member (Joined Online)
8)	Prof. Nandana G Basappa	Member (Joined Online)
9)	Dr Jayanti S. Ravi	Secretary
10)	Dr G. Seetharaman	OSD

**Leave of absence was granted to the following Member**

1)	Prof. R. S. Sarraju	Member
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Dr Jayanti Ravi, Secretary, Auroville Foundation, Auroville welcomed the Chairman and the Members to the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Governing Board.

Honourable Shri. R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chairman, Governing Board, Auroville Foundation, Auroville delivered the opening remarks of the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Governing Board.

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

**Note:**

MoE and Integrated Finance Division (IFD), New Delhi had sent their comments on the said agenda points before commencement of the meeting and the comments were considered.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### **Item No. 61.01: Confirmation of Minutes of the 60th Meeting of the Governing Board, held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

The Minutes were circulated to the members. Members of the Governing Board resolved to confirm the minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

### **Item No. 61.02: Action taken report on the decisions of the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board**

The action-taken report on the decisions of the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board was noted by the Board.

### **Item No. 61.03: The Secretary's Report and Report on completion of 1<sup>st</sup> year of current (9<sup>th</sup>) GB of Auroville**

The Board noted the Various activities carried out by the Secretary, AVF after the 60th Governing Board meeting, which are given below.

- The 150th Birth Anniversary and the 75th Independence Day of India were celebrated with gaiety amidst many enlightening programs conducted during the whole of August 2022 and on the special day of 15th August 2022.
- During the August Gnostic festival commemorating Sri Aurobindo's 150th Birth anniversary and Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, there had been interactive sessions with spiritual leader Shri M for two days and famous artists Shri Gangai Amaran, music director and Shri Hari Prasad Chaurasia, renowned flutist performing in Auroville, along with other celebrations. "Invocation"- the Gnostic Festival, Auroville '22 -had

notable guests and speakers such as Hon'ble Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Dr. Nirima Oza, Sh Aravindan Neelakandan, Sh D R Karthikeyan, Ms Anita Rathnam, Dr Jai Singh, Dr. Anupama Kondoo (architect), Pujya Nirakar Bhai (Pandit), Soham Munim (sitar), Lopamudra Mukherjee, Aneesh Raghavan, and Sangeeta Dash (Odissi dance), Dr. R. Y. Deshpande, Dr. Mala Kapadia, Dr. Alok Pandey, Dr. Bello Mehra, and Dr Jayanti Ravi (Integral Yoga Week 5 Sept'22

- The International conference at UNESCO, Paris has been deferred by the Ministry of Culture to a later date to be announced.
- Auroville Integrated Information System and Services (AIIS) has started to collect and compile the database of all units, assets, activities and projects under various trusts.
- The Parliamentary Committee of MEA, visited Auroville on 02-09-2022. The Committee members were given a brief presentation on Auroville by members of the Working Committee and FAMC at the Unity Pavilion led by the Secretary, Auroville Foundation. They were taken to the city exhibition at Bharat Niwas and Matrimandir for meditation.
- Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education visited Auroville on 02-10-2022 and was received by Secretary Auroville Foundation and Dr Nirima Oza, Member, Governing Board. After meditation at Matrimandir the Hon'ble Minister met the main working groups, the Working Committee, FAMC & ATDC where short presentations and overviews of activities were presented. The senior officials of CPWD presented their working drawings for completion of the infrastructure corridor including the Crown Area. Minister also visited the exhibition of the City Galaxy Plan at Bharat Nivas. He assured that

the required support for completion of projects of Auroville will be provided.

- The CPWD officials who are in charge of Auroville works, have prepared the work plan for implementing the Master Plan, with help of ATDC. The CPWD Team has prepared a robuste security device with a boom- barrier at the Visitors Centre check-post and security rooms to monitor traffic of visitors which is to be installed.
- ATAL Community Innovation Centre project Director, Dr Chintan Vaishnav visited Auroville on 26th September 2022. Their team of delegates visited Auroville on 30th September to see the innovative projects being undertaken at AIAT and Udavi School's STEM lab in Auroville.
- Ms. Dena Merriam, Chairperson, Auroville International Advisory Council along with Shri. Raghu Ananthanarayan visited Auroville from 1st to 4th October, 2022 and interacted with members of the residents of Auroville and various working groups.
- Hon`ble Governor of Tamil Nadu & Chairman, AF visited Auroville from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and interacted with many residents from different working groups, units and activities individually and in groups (Annapurna, Aurobrindavan, Auroaurche, Tibetan Pavilion, Visitor's Centre, Upasana, Crown, CSR, Auroville.com and Shradhanjali).
- **Sub-station update on TNEB.** The present status is that TNEB has written to the District Collector, Villupuram requesting him to make another attempt to convince the Edayanchavadi villagers.

## Accounts & Finance

- The Board had decided in its 58<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18-01-2022 that a systems and processes audit, which may include transaction and forensic audits has been completed for 30 units and the report with findings has been submitted to the Board.
- The Board appointed an Enquiry Committee to enquire into the findings of the audit and interact with the concerned unit executives to seek explanations for the observations made. On the basis of explanations received, further action shall be taken.

The Enquiry Committee shall have the following members:

S. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr.Jayanti S. Ravi, IAS	Convenor & Secretary, AF
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr.NirimaOza</li><li>● Shri.Aravindan Neelakandan</li><li>● Shri.Goutham Ghoshal</li><li>● Prof.Sarraju</li></ul>	Any two of these GB Members
3.	Shri. Chandresh Patel	FAMC Member
4.	Shri. Sekhar F.C.A.	Chartered Accountant
5.	Rep. from CAG Office	

The committee may seek assistance from experts and others as required.

- At present there are about 44 GST registration numbers under Auroville Foundation. Steps are being taken to go for one GST number for the entire Auroville Foundation.
- Purchase of various materials and equipment funded with Government grants has been done through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal or otherwise as per General Financial Rules 2017 (GFR 2017). Financial

transactions are being updated in the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal.

- Auroville Foundation is in the process of introducing centralized accounting procedures with the help of internal auditors.

### **Visa Matters**

The Board noted the visas recommendation status as on 27.10.2022

Total Visa recommendation letters issued: 994

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Duration of Visa</b>	<b>Issued</b>	<b>Pending</b>
1	3 Months	3	2
2	1 year to 6 months	66	
3	As requested, up to 5 years	925	
4	Rejections	0	

### **Legal Issues**

The Board noted the status of pending cases in various courts (54 number) against the Auroville Foundation till September 2022.

### **Patta Transfers**

The Board noted that land patta regularization has been done in 206 cases while for 86 cases patta transfer is in progress as on date.

### **Land Board**

- The land acquisition proposals for all the privately owned lands in the city area was submitted in September 2021 have been re-submitted on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to the Taluk Office, Vanur. The acquisition of lands is being followed up closely.
- Auroville Foundation has recently acquired 6.72 acres of city lands through exchange.



- The proposal to exchange *poramboke* lands in the city and green belt area with Auroville Foundation owned lands located outside the Master Plan area have been submitted to the Collector Office, Villupuram. It must be noted that some of the *poramboke* lands have been encroached upon by village residents.
- On 28th October 2022, the District Collector along with DRO, RDO, Tahsildar, and VAOs made a visit to see the lands (to be exchanged) in Pulichapallam village and the *poramboke* lands in Auroville. These exchange proposals would help for a consolidation of our lands within the Master Plan of Auroville.
- Auroville Foundation and Land Board initiated legal action in a case of encroachment in the Abri-Evergreen area of Auroville along the Kulapalayam to Edayanchavadi road and DRO has given stay. Under the Public Premises Act, eviction proceedings were initiated, following which after the due process of notice and hearing, the toilet block obstructing the crown road was demolished by the current occupants. On similar lines the unauthorised occupations in Auroville are being listed and action being initiated against them under the PPA along with damages as per the provisions of the Act.

#### **Security Issues in Auroville**

- As Auroville is situated in a sparsely populated land comprising 3,000 residents living on 3,200 acres, security issues have always been a concern, both on the material and human planes.
- Thefts and aggressions do happen and inmates have been advised to lock the main doors of their houses.

- Around the clock vigilance, including a moving patrol, is being done by the safety & security team of Auroville. Visitor's Centre and Matrimandir have their own security teams.
- The assistance of the local Police is called upon for traffic management and crowd control when required.
- A full time Chief Security Officer was appointed by the Governing Board and now regular coordination with Auroville Security and local police is being gradually put in place.
- A proposal to have CCTV cameras in vital places has been initiated for surveillance.

#### **Register of Residents (RoR) update**

Seven teams of 2-3 members each, comprising Auroville residents and Foundation officials were formed to go from house to house for verification of submitted RoR updating forms from 1st October 2022 till date. Details of the verification exercise were reported to the Board as detailed below:

On-Line Submitted	1345
Off-Line	617
<b>Total Forms Submitted</b>	<b>1962</b>
Non-submission	<b>652</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2614</b>

#### **APPROVAL ITEMS**

##### **Item No. 61.04: Approval of Purchase of Ambulance for Integral Health Services**

The Board approved the purchase of an ambulance for the Auroville Integral Health Services and suggested to follow the GFR 2017 and other relevant instructions issued by Government of India.

The said agenda item has been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

**Item No. 61.05: Approval of annual accounts for the financial Year 2021-22**

The Board approved the Annual Accounts for the financial Year 2021-22 with the understanding that the preparation and presentation of Annual Accounts for the year 2021-22 have been done.

The said agenda item has been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

It was observed that Auroville Foundation should ensure that the interest earned on Government grants is deposited back to the Government account.

**Item No. 61.06: Approval of annual budget under OH-35 for the financial year 2022-23**

The Board approved the Annual budget under OH-35 for the financial year 2022-23. The said agenda item has been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Revised Budget in lakhs (Rs.)
1.	Water	804.00
2.	Electrical	845.00
3.	Solid Waste Management	504.29
4.	Data and Telecom	55.00
5.	Roads	4867.94
6.	Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC)	19.00
	Grand Total	6236.23
	Tax @ 3.25%	202.68
	Additional Tax@5.50%	354.14
	<b>Net Total</b>	<b>6995.72</b>

**Item No. 61.07: Appointment of committee for the purchase / exchange of lands in Auroville city area**

The Board appointed a committee to analyze and approve land purchase and exchange transactions including prices and exchange ratios as proposed by the Land Board for the purchase / exchange of lands needed for the Auroville city area in the year 2021-22 and henceforth. The Board suggested that for the meetings of the committee at least two Governing Board members, Secretary AVF and OSD AVF should be present. Membership of the committee was approved as follows:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi I.A.S.	Convenor & Secretary, AF
2.	Prof. Goutam Ghosal	Member, Governing Board
3.	Shri. Aravindan Neelakandan	
4.	Prof. R.S. Sarraju	
5.	Dr. G. Seetharaman	OSD, AF
6.	A representative of MoE not below rank of US	
7.	Land Expert / Valuer approved by the Government for land exchange	

**Item No. 61.08: Approval of Various consultancy services for Auroville Master Plan implementation**

The Board approved the following consultancy services by Nirvayam Engineering Private Limited, Maharashtra with an approximate budget of Rs. 17/- lakhs and suggested to follow the GFR 2017 and other relevant instructions issued by Government of India.

- *Walk Through*: Development of a presentation for an international audience to raise fund for upcoming developments;
- *Comprehensive Transportation Studies*: Surveying traffic in all entry/exit points and concept design for roads, parking and cycle tracks;
- *Hydrology and Storm water*: Studying rain fall statistics and resultant flood intensities.

The said agenda item has been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

**Item No. 61.09: Approval of Essay and Short Film Competition for School students**

The Board suggested that wide publicity is given to ensure more participation for the Essay and Short Film Competition among the school students (6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Standard / Grade) and college level students, both nationally and internationally in Tamil and English languages to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence (Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav) and the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.

The Board approved the total prize amount of Rs.15/- lakhs and suggested to follow the GFR 2017 and other relevant instructions issued by Government of India and extend the last date of competition till 31.12.2022.

The said agenda item has been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

**ESTABLISHMENT MATTERS**

**Item No. 61.10: New Recruitment rules for various posts as advised by Internal Audit, Ministry of Education**

The Board approved the new recruitment rules for various posts as advised by Internal Audit, Ministry of Education and vacant posts, subject to the approval of Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Classification</b>
1.	Director/DS Admin. (On Deputation)	Group – A
2.	Officer on Special Duty (OSD) (On Deputation)	Group – A
3.	Deputy Secretary / Under Secretary	Group – A
4.	Section Officer	Group – B

5.	Assistant Section Officer	Group – B
6.	Assistant Accounts Officer	Group – B
7.	Accounts Officer	Group – B
8.	Upper Division Clerk	Group – C
9.	Accountant	Group – C
10.	Assistant cum Cashier	Group – C
11.	Multi-Tasking Staff (Driver & Peon)	Group – C
12.	Personal Secretary/ Private Secretary	Group – A
13.	Finance and Administrative Officer	Group – A

**Item No. 61.11: Details on appointment of Contractual Staff**

The Board approved the following contract (purely temporary basis) staff appointed by Auroville Foundation.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Salary (Rs.)
1.	Shri. Vijay Kumaran Nair	P.S. to Secretary	40,000
2.	Capt. Jaladhi S. Mehta	Administration	50,000
3.	Shri. Deenathayalan	Finance Officer	55,000
4.	Ms. Iswarya	Legal Consultant	60,000
5.	Ms. D. Rajalakshmi	Legal Consultant	25,000

**Item No. 61.12: Annual increment for the contract employees**

The Board approved to pay the increments from the Office of the Secretary's Auroville Foundation (OSAF) accounts with effect from 01.07.2022 as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Increment from 01.07.2022
1.	Shri. E.K Haridoss	Accountant	4,000

2.	Shri. N. Karthikeyan	Admin. Assistant	3,500
3.	Shri. Dominique Paul Edwin Fanovard	System Administrator	3,000
4.	Shri. K. Rajendran	Accounts Assistant	3,000
5.	Shri. R. Manimaran	Driver	3,000
6.	Shri. V. Sivakumar	Office Security Guard	3,000
7.	Shri. N. Murugan	Driver	3,000

**Item No. 61.13: Pay allowances for OSD**

The Board approved to sanction pay allowance for OSD in the basic pay of Rs. 23,300/- from his date of joining. This amount can be paid from the Office of the Secretary's Auroville Foundation (OSAF) accounts and income tax will be deducted accordingly as per the norms.

The above agenda items have been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

**Item No. 61.14: Legal Matters Update**

The Board noted the status of legal matters including cases before the NGT, Madras High Court, Supreme Court and land-related cases in the lower courts.

All the legal issues are completely tracking with senior advocates by the AVF with the help of team members. The legal fees paid from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to till date is Rs. 40/- lakh inclusive of retainer fees Rs. 7.7/- lakh (per month Rs.35,000/-).

**Item No. 61.15: Approval to create farms to produce organic fruits and vegetables**

The Board approved the proposal of creating farms in Auroville for the production of organic fruits and vegetables with an approximate budget of Rs. 9,63,500/- and suggested to follow the GFR 2017 and other relevant instructions issued by Government of India.

The said agenda item has been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

**Item No. 61.16: Approval for boom- barrier at the Visitors' Centre**

The Board approved the erection of a boom- barrier and security room at the Visitors' Centre check-post, to be executed by CPWD, to filter and monitor visitor's traffic and ensure regularization of parking charges.

**Item No. 61.17: Details of expenses incurred for 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Sri Aurobindo**

The Board noted the expenses incurred for 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebrations of Sri-Aurobindo (Rs. 34,96,093/- so far) and suggested to follow the GFR 2017 and other relevant instructions issued by Government of India. The said agenda item has been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.

**Item No. 61.18: Production charges for the documentary film**

The Board approved the expenses of Rs. 6,37,200/- incurred for the preparation of a seven minutes' documentary film about Auroville for the UNESCO conference by National Film Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi. The said agenda item has been considered for approval and recommended to the Governing Board by the Integrated Finance Division, MoE, New Delhi.



**Item No. 61.19: Approval of budget for the completion of the Systems and Processes Audit**

As per the approval of the 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> GB meeting, the firm has completed the system and processes audit including transaction and forensic audits till 31 October 2022 for the review of 30 units for which an amount of Rs. 30/- lakhs.

The firm reported various observations about the units. Thereupon, Auroville Foundation needs to streamline the code of conduct, system & processes and project management of all the units with the assistance of Shri. Sekhar F.C.A., Chartered Accountant and the local entity identified by the OGC committee in support of EY forensic audit.

The Board approved the said agenda with an approximate budget of Rs. 20/- lakhs and requested Secretary, AVF to follow the GFR 2017 guidelines.

**Item No. 61.20: Presentation and Report of Organization and Governance Committee (OGC)**

The Board noted the presentation of the Organization and Governance Committee on the need for defining rules, processes and regulations for the functioning of the Residents Assembly. The presentation also included an analysis on the main issues with the functioning of the Residents Assembly over the years, as well as a study on Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's words on organization and governance, with respect to Sri Aurobindo's vision of gnostic communities in the context of Auroville.

The Board discussed and approved the following action points proposed by the OGC. These would be discussed with senior residents and scholars/practitioners of Auroville as well as the teachings and philosophy of Sri Aurobindo, before finalization by the OGC.

## **1. Review and Updating of the Auroville Foundation (Admission and termination of Persons in the register of residents) Regulations 2020**

The Board noted that the Auroville Foundation (Admission and termination of Persons in the register of residents) Regulations 2020, which were notified on 4th April 2020 need be reviewed and updated / amended and requested the Organisation and Governance Committee of the Governing Board to finalise the draft regulation in consultation with some senior residents of Auroville. While drafting the revised Auroville Foundation (Admission and Termination of Persons in the register of residents) Regulations, the OGC will pay attention to the following:

- Criteria for stay in Auroville may be clearly defined along with the criteria for admission and termination discussed including inter alia;
- A Code of Conduct for Auroville residents in line with Auroville's ideals, including the Charter of Auroville and the guidelines given by the Mother was discussed.
- No "part-time Aurovilian" status: regulations are needed for those residents who leave Auroville for lengthy periods of time, or travel multiple times or for long periods during the year.
- The Register of Residents is meant to contain the names of persons who actually reside in Auroville. Residents who are continuously absent beyond the period as decided by the OGC, will be taken out of the Register of Residents, and will have to go through the Newcomer process upon return.
- The status "Spouse/ Relative of Aurovilian" must be treated on par with a new applicant.
- A "Child of Auroville" cannot automatically become "Aurovilian" upon turning the age of 18. He/ she must make a conscious choice to join Auroville and go through the Newcomer process.

## **2. Work and Spiritual Education**

- The Board noted that all healthy and able – relied Auroville residents should be engaged in meaningful work for the collective, minimum 5 hours per day.
- The Board further noted that work in Auroville should primarily be taken up by Aurovilians, including work in farms, Matrimandir, Solar Kitchen etc., before employment is given to others.
- In addition to the program for newcomers, programs for residents may be conducted every quarter for which speakers and facilitators from within Auroville and from outside may be invited. This is to ensure that all aspects of the Integral Yoga are continually nurtured in Auroville, including Bhakti (devotion), Karma (consecrated work), and Jnana (knowledge), as part of the individual and collective discipline.
- The Board decided that there is an urgent need to design and implement a program for Auroville spiritual education after more deliberations with the senior residents and senior scholars/ practitioners of Sri Aurobindo. This must be included as a mandatory part of the Auroville entry and newcomer's process.

## **3. Proposal on the policies, programs and functioning of the Residents' Assembly (RA):**

- The Board noted that as per the Act, the Governing Board needs to review the basic policies and the programs of Auroville and give necessary directions for the future development of Auroville.
- Further the Board also needs to grant approval to the programs of Auroville drawn up by the Residents' Assembly (sections 17[b] and [c] of the Act).
- It was decided that the policies, programs and functioning of the PWG of Auroville Foundation, including the steps it must take to ensure that policies and decisions are made in accordance with the aims and objectives of Auroville would be finalised by the OGC as a draft Regulation as discussed.

#### **4. Selection of Working Committee**

- The Board noted that a system based on competitive elections has only polarized, politicized and created divisions among the residents at times to a point of paralysis and diverted it from its objectives. The Board also noted that the Mother had not desired such a system of administration for Auroville, which would inevitably lead to politics.
- [Instead of the mass campaigning and voting trend, which is relatively new but taking Auroville in the wrong direction, a new selection process may be envisaged that eliminates campaigning, voting and any form of elections based on a representative model.] “Selection not election” and service in the spirit of “willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness” should be the overarching theme of this new proposal.
- Based on the discussions and the inputs from the members of the Governing Board, the Organisation and Governance Committee should finalise the draft Regulations after consultations with the Working Committee and Auroville residents.

#### **5. Collaboration with the Governing Board**

- The Board noted that the Working Committee of the RA is the only committee of the RA for which there are specific provisions in the Act (Section 20). The Working Committee needs to assist the RA as well as the GB.
- The Board noted that if the collaboration between the Working Committee and the GB or RA remains largely antagonistic, it will be detrimental to the development of Auroville.
- To improve the potential of this collaboration, the Organization and Governance Committee (OGC) of the Governing Board may propose guidelines relating to the engagement of the Working Committee with both the GB and the RA such that collaboration and mutual support are facilitated. Section 19(3) of the Act states that the RA may set up committees to represent itself in relation to the functions performed by the Governing Board. The OGC may also explore and propose how committees of the RA set-up under section 19(3) of the Act can more effectively interact with the Governing Board.

- The Board noted that any such committee of the RA, must be selected in conformity to the vision and ideals of Auroville, and comprise of members who are clearly committed to the ideals of Auroville.

### **Item No. 61.21: Other items with the approval of the Chair**

Two members of the International Advisory Council (IAC), namely Mr. Michel Danino and Ms. Gabi Gillessen had sent a letter dated 26-10-2022 to Chairman, Governing Board. The letter *inter-alia* states that the current administration of the Auroville Foundation, including the Governing Board has failed to understand its mandate. The Board discussed the letter and concluded that it contains statements and allegations which are factually incorrect and include personal attacks.

The Governing Board notes that while the role of the IAC is to advise the Governing Board on any matter relating to the development and management of Auroville, communications in this regard need to be fact-based and must not take the form of personal attacks, which the Board considers inconsistent with the spirit of advice as expected of IAC members.

The Board also reiterated that the Secretary of Auroville Foundation and her office team are carrying out the directions of the Governing Board and they are in line with the objective of developing Auroville in accordance with the ideals given by the Mother and the approved and notified Auroville Master Plan.

The Board discussed in detail the letter of the two of the members of the International Advisory Council and finalised the reply to be sent to them with issue-wise responses.

### **Healing, Recalibration and Appreciating – an initiative to regenerate the Culture of Auroville through “Heart Weaving”**

Based on the interactions of Ms. Dena Merriam, the Chair Person of IAC and Shri.RaghuAnanthanarayan, who is accomplished scholar on Yoga including

Integral Yoga and also familiar with Auroville with different, varied cross sections of the community, a proposal has been sent by them for a 'Heart Weaving' initiative for Healing, Recalibrating and Appreciating – an initiative to regenerate the culture of Auroville.

The total cost of the process inclusive of minimal faculty fees and travel should not exceed 6/- lakhs per year.

The Board welcomed the efforts by Ms. Dena Merriam and Shri.RaghuAnanthanarayan and have agreed to go ahead with the proposal.

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

The Meeting ended with thanks to the Honourable Shri. R. N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chairman and other Members proposed by the Secretary.

Dr Jayanti S. Ravi  
Auroville Foundation, Auroville  
(Secretary)

**//APPROVED//**

Shri. R. N. Ravi  
Governor of Tamil Nadu  
(Chairperson)