

Introduction

Auroville will be 50 years in 2018 and it is necessary to change our approach towards development to manifest the "international township" that the Mother envisaged. To be able to do this the residents of Auroville need to prepare Detailed Development Plans (DDP) with clear development priorities.

The Charter and the Vision for Auroville, as given by the Mother, form the foundation for development of Auroville. To manifest this vision, residents need to agree on the Terms of Reference (ToR) within a framework for a participatory planning methodology.

The Planning Principles integrate the Mothers Vision and the Charter with key features of the galaxy concept and requirements of the community.

The Key Features of the Galaxy

The following key features of the Galaxy concept, as identified by Roger Anger and approved by the RA in February 2007, will define a general frame for the urban planning of Auroville:

- Search for beauty,
- 50,000 Aurovilians resident population,
- Four zones: Residential, Industrial, Cultural and International,
- Matrimandir with its' twelve gardens and the lake at the centre of the city,
- The Crown and the city centre,
- The Lines of Force that give the shape of the Galaxy,
- About 50% of the city area is green,
- Detailed city planning and development based on the master plan in a spirit of experimentation and innovation.

The below planning principles focus on the city area and green belt as defined in the Master Plan and on land belonging to Auroville in the overall bio-region keeping in due consideration the needs of an integrated regional plan that facilitates co-development.

Planning Principles 1. Environment

The land use, development plans and strategies and urban planning should respond to: a)

The topographical and geo-physical features of the site.

- b) Integration of existing woodlands in the planned green corridors and parks in a manner that ensures that Auroville becomes sustainable, regenerative and self supporting township.
- c) Integration and management of water, soil, food, waste and energy.
- d) Conservation and sharing of natural resources within the bio-region.
- e) Innovation and adoption of progressive strategies of planning and development.

2. Galaxy concept

- a) Matrimandir with gardens surrounded by an environmentally sustainable water body at the geographical centre of the town.
- b) 4 zones that would each pre-dominantly allow for the following functions and activities; economic/productive, residential, international and cultural. The zones would promote and allow mixed land use to the extent that it allows the core zone activity to be vibrant and sustainable.

- c) An inner boulevard or “crown” that links the 4 zones to effectively create a pedestrian realm to allow for the development of public services and research / recreational institutions.
- d) Roads - collector, distributor and links within the zones laid as far as possible in a radial fashion from the crown. The road size, width, location and traffic regulation will be according to the function and size of population to be serviced.
- e) Access and bypass roads will integrate and respond to existing/planned development: both within the urban limits of Auroville and its regional context. The functioning of these roads will promote the uniqueness of the project without alienating other users and activities.
- f) The inner city will be developed with activities, institutions and projects that are related to the adjacent zone and the Matrimandir. These activities, institutions and projects will be promoting the unifying character of the town from the 4 zones to the Matrimandir.

3. Urban planning and design

- a) Land use and urban development plans are aimed to ensure the developmental needs for an eventual resident population of 50,000 by ensuring space for phase-wise density built-up.
- b) Development will be incremental and in relation to the projected growth of the population and in accordance with the approved DDP’s.
- c) The type, size and quality of the open spaces will be inter-related to the zone density, function, local geo-physical characteristics and environmental needs.
- d) The urban design controls of the buildings should adopt environmentally benign strategies for an ecologically responsive and energy efficient built environment.

4. Socio-economic

- a) The pace of growth of collective economic activities of Auroville should be strengthened and planned in a balanced manner among all the spheres such as residential, economic, educational, health, cultural and recreational.
- b) Development priority should be given to civic and public amenities that respond to the real needs of the residents, enhancing collective sharing and promoting activities and the development of zones, especially the industrial zone, that will help the city and its collective economy to become self-supportive.
- c) Cohesive socio-economic planning is key and beyond essential. Planning decision should take in consideration the pertinent policies related to education, economic development and social mobilization.
- d) Education, innovation and research is an integral part of the life, planning and development should consider these parameters on a priority basis.
- e) Cultural, recreational and sports activities needed for the evolving township, will be surveyed¹ and the facilities required will be assessed and developed, as and when required. Development of such facilities, will be balanced with the overall needs of a projected population over the next set number of years.

5. Bio-region

- a) The framework for regional planning needs to be developed in collaboration with the five panchayats in the AV Master Plan area along with the district authorities that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.
- b) A shared policy for infrastructure, water, mobility, energy and waste management.
- c) Auroville should engage in co-development programs with the villages that are multigenerational and gender sensitive; to build up a shared vision to promote inter-village collaboration.

