

# Matrimandir

November 2021

## IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING OFFERINGS TO MATRIMANDIR

Please note that all cheques/DD offered to Matrimandir should be payable to **AUROVILLE UNITY FUND** hence forth. The cheque/DD should be accompanied by a letter from the donor specifying the offering for MATRIMANDIR. This letter should contain donor full address, phone and email details and PAN DETAILS.

You may also send your offerings for Matrimandir by BANK TRANSFER to Auroville Unity Fund. To do so please follow the procedure as mentioned below:

1) Write to [matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in](mailto:matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in) requesting bank transfer details.

We will send you the appropriate account number. (Account numbers are different for offerings coming from outside of India or from within India.)

2) During the transaction, please specify that it is for Matrimandir.

3) After the transaction, please send another email to [matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in](mailto:matrimandir.donations@auroville.org.in) with transaction details. If you need a tax exemption receipt, please send PAN DETAILS in this email.



Artist's view of the design for the upcoming garden of Power located between the Banyan tree and Matrimandir.

Work in the Matrimandir gardens has taken an important step forward during October with the beginning of the creation of the gardens of Life and Power, both of which touch the outer branches of the Banyan tree, close to the Matrimandir. This work is the outcome of a two year process which began with an open international call for designs for the gardens of Light, Life, Power and Wealth. Response to this call came mainly from within India, with some 110 initial applications. Passing through a series of

stages during which design proposals were received, reviewed and narrowed down, there were finally 10 fully developed concepts submitted for review by an international expert panel and then for final selection by an Auroville community panel.

As for a similar design exercise carried out two years earlier for the Garden of the Unexpected, the designers of the top two proposals were asked to integrate their concepts to achieve a synthesized design.



Pathway View in the Garden of the Unexpected



Long lasting Copper sheet tiles being fixed on the roof of the Pavilion in the Garden of the Unexpected.



Work continues on the building of the service road surrounding the Matrimandir gardens oval. The road is being surfaced with grey and red granite cobbles. About 25% of the total length of 1.1 kilometres has been built so far.



The Matrimandir construction workshops and office were initially huddled quite close to the excavation crater of Matrimandir. They remained in place there for the first 25 years or so, supporting the first phase of the massive concretings of the Matrimandir structure and completion of the Inner Chamber. In the early '90s the workshops were moved back to make way for the beginning of the outlining of the 22 acre Matrimandir gardens oval. There was another phase of shifting and reconstruction when the production of the golden discs got into full swing in the mid '90s. Now, we have made a final shifting back, pushing our Chamber laundry, metal workshop, storerooms and tea room back by about 20 meters to make way for the excavation of the seven meter wide open water channel, seen in the photo above, which now surrounds the Matrimandir gardens oval. (This channel will be waterproofed and finalized after the coming monsoon.) All of these structures, seen on the left in the photo above, will eventually shift completely out of the Matrimandir area, but, for the moment we remain in a very active phase of the completion of the Matrimandir gardens and Test Lake, and so it was felt best to keep these essential facilities close at hand for a few more years.



The large Test Lake section being excavated just outside the Matrimandir gardens will be lined with water proofing membrane in the early months of 2022. The inner and outer shores of this Test Lake will be sloped 1:3, but the ends of this Test Lake are to be made in a temporary way, so that the lake may be extended in years to come curving further around the outer edge of the gardens. Thus the engineering solution being adopted is to make these walls in large removable concrete blocks, like the one shown in this photo. About 4500 of these blocks will have to be cast over the next two years, and stacked up like Lego blocks to create the end walls of the Test Lake. A factory for block making will be created here on site.... Another big adventure thus lies ahead!!

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**Phone number** for accounts : 0413- 262-2228, **Email:** [matrimandir@auroville.org.in](mailto:matrimandir@auroville.org.in)