



## Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly

**PRESS RELEASE - 12 December 2025**

### **Parliamentary Standing Committee Calls for Collaborative Governance and Protection of Auroville's Founding Vision**

*Report emphasizes consultation, transparency, and respect for Auroville Foundation Act's three-body structure*

**Auroville, Tamil Nadu – December 12, 2025** – The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports has released its 371st Report reviewing autonomous bodies under the Department of Higher Education, including a comprehensive assessment of the Auroville Foundation. The report, presented to both houses of Parliament on December 8th, 2025, makes several significant recommendations aimed at strengthening governance and preserving Auroville's unique character as an international township dedicated to human unity.

The Parliamentary Committee's findings acknowledge Auroville's remarkable achievements since its founding in 1968 and recognize the multiple UNESCO resolutions celebrating the project's contribution to international understanding and peace. The Committee's recommendations emphasize the critical importance of collaborative governance among the three statutory bodies established under the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988: the Governing Board, the Residents' Assembly, and the International Advisory Council.

#### **Key Recommendations Include:**

**Collaborative Governance:** The Committee emphasizes that while acknowledging the Governing Board's authority, "the three institutions must work together in close coordination and harmony. The Governing Board should continue the practice of consultation and collaboration with the International Advisory Council and the Residents' Assembly before making any key decisions."

**Timely Reconstitution of Governing Board:** The Committee notes that the mandate of the incumbent Governing Board expired on October 5th, 2025, and emphasizes "the importance of reconstituting the Governing Board with immediacy." It further underscores that members must have "rendered valuable service to Auroville" and "contributed significantly in activities that are being pursued or are envisaged to be promoted in Auroville" as specified in the Auroville Foundation Act.

**Land Use and Development:** Regarding the proposed IIT Madras sustainability campus, the Committee recommends that "Annapurna farms should not be disturbed and that alternative sites nearby should be found." More broadly, the Committee states that "all land transfers in service of the Master Plan should be implemented in full transparency and consultation with all stakeholders, including the Resident's Assembly and the International Advisory Council."

**Master Plan Implementation:** The Committee recommends that the Auroville Master Plan 2025 "be implemented in close consultation with the Resident's Assembly and other stakeholders in Auroville, with changes as may be required."

**Preserving International Character:** The Committee emphasizes that "the Auroville Foundation's role in the visa process must be speedy and independent of any considerations, and that the Foundation should continue to keep the five-year visa as the norm for all residents."

**Consensual Approach to Legislative Changes:** The Committee recommends that "any amendments to the Auroville Act or the Auroville Foundation Rules 1997 should be developed through a consensual process, with the unanimous support of all three statutory bodies."

The Committee's report comes after its study visit to Auroville in August 2025, during which members engaged with various stakeholders, including a visit to Annapurna Farm. The report acknowledges Auroville's pioneering work in ecological restoration, alternative education, and sustainable living, noting its alignment with the National Education Policy 2020.

The Parliamentary Committee's recommendations reflect a deep understanding of Auroville's unique nature as an international community dedicated to human unity, and the critical importance of maintaining the collaborative spirit envisioned in the Auroville Foundation Act. The report recognizes that "the objectives of the Auroville Foundation and the ideals of human unity enshrined in the Charter of Auroville can only be pursued with such an environment of constructive engagement."

The Working Committee welcomes the Parliamentary Committee's thorough examination and its recommendations aimed at strengthening governance through collaboration and consultation. These recommendations provide a clear pathway toward restoring the spirit of mutuality that has been essential to Auroville's development over its 57-year history. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Chairperson and the Committee for the time and energy they have given to providing a fair and balanced report and recommendations regarding the Auroville Foundation.

The full Parliamentary Committee Report (371st Report) is available through the official Rajya Sabha website and provides detailed observations on the functioning of the Auroville Foundation alongside other autonomous bodies under the Department of Higher Education.

**About Auroville:** Founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa (known as "The Mother"), Auroville is an international township in Tamil Nadu, India, dedicated to human unity and sustainable living. With over 3,300 residents from 60 countries, Auroville has been endorsed by UNESCO through five resolutions since 1966. The Auroville Foundation operates under the Auroville Foundation Act, passed unanimously by the Indian Parliament in 1988.

**About the Residents' Assembly:** All residents of Auroville above the age of 18 and entered in the Register of Residents. One of the three authorities of Auroville, along with the Governing Board and International Advisory Council.

**About the Working Committee:** Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly, as per Section 20 of the Auroville Foundation Act 1988, which assists the Residents' Assembly in the discharge of its duties.

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**Note to Editors:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee's 371st Report addresses multiple autonomous educational bodies. The sections relevant to the Auroville Foundation appear on pages 36-44 of the report, including recommendations on pages 40-44. High-resolution images and additional background materials are available upon request.

**Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation**

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