

LIGHT FOR ALL POUR TOUS TASK FORCE
OF THE RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY OF THE AUROVILLE FOUNDATION
INTERIM REPORT
DATED 24 March 2020

The Auroville Residents' Assembly asked Light for All Pour Tous Task Force to look into Section B of the Enquiry Committee's report which summarizes the allegations made by Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan against some Aurovilians and Auroville as a whole.

This is an interim report, as requested by the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. So far, Light for All has found that a vast number of Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan's allegations are vague and unsubstantiated claims without proof attached.

A. BACKGROUND OF THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

On 29th April 2019, the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation constituted an Enquiry Committee to look into extensive and repeated allegations by an individual, Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan, against the Under-Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, the functioning of Auroville as a whole as well as numerous Aurovilians.

According to our information, three members of the Enquiry Committee met on 5th and 6th June 2019 at the Auroville Foundation. On 6th June, the Committee heard Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan. They received additional documentation from him. They reviewed with him the replies obtained from the Under-Secretary and received from him a letter stating that he had no specific charges against the Under-Secretary. The Committee never met any of the individual Aurovilians mentioned in Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan's allegations, nor did they meet with the Working Committee which is the statutory representative of Auroville or any representatives of the Auroville working groups. This was perceived by the Auroville community as a breach of natural justice and questions remain as to the procedure.

On 28th June 2019, the Enquiry Committee concluded its report, which was subsequently discussed with the Governing Board in New Delhi on 26th August 2019.

The report is divided into two main sections: Section A addressing "*Complaints against Sri. Srinivasamurty, Under Secretary*" of Auroville Foundation; and Section B addressing "*Complaints consisting of serious allegations on Auroville Foundation, Various Trusts, Groups, individual residents including on foreigners*". While the Enquiry Committee dismissed the allegations for Section A (see page 12 of their report), for Section B it recommended that *the complaint be investigated by appropriate Central Agency to be decided by Ministry of HRD* " (see pages 26 to 28 of their report).

On 3rd September 2019, Dr. G. Seetharaman, Secretary of Auroville Foundation, forwarded the Enquiry Committee's 28-page report along with its attachment of 670 pages to the Ministry of HRD.

The Auroville Working Committee requested a copy of the report but it was never shared with the Working Committee or the Residents' Assembly.

B. FORMATION OF LIGHT FOR ALL POUR TOUS TASK FORCE

On 2nd December 2019, the Residents' Assembly called an extraordinary "Pour Tous" meeting. ("Pour Tous" means "for everybody", and is a name given by the Mother referring to the collectivity of Auroville). At that Pour Tous meeting, attended by over 750 persons, the Residents' Assembly decided to constitute a "Pour Tous Task Force" with the main scope to:

- i. go into the allegations of Section B of the Enquiry Committee's report;
- ii. hear and document the responses of the Auroville groups and individuals that did not have the opportunity to be heard by the Enquiry Committee;
- iii. bring its findings to the Residents' Assembly (and eventually the Governing Board and the MHRD).

Many people with different backgrounds volunteered to join the task force. In one of the first meetings they decided to name the group "Light for All Pour Tous Task Force" to reflect the call for Light to clarify the situation.

Since its formation, Light for All has met regularly at least twice a week as well as in sub-groups and with other concerned parties.

On 23rd January 2020, the Governing Board met Light for All and welcomed its formation. Also, the Chairman of the Governing Board requested Light for All to act fast and submit an interim report as soon as possible to the Chairman for him to consider forwarding it to the MHRD.

C. DOCUMENTS EXAMINED BY LIGHT FOR ALL

Light for All has worked on the following documents:

- i. The 28-page copy of the Enquiry Committee's report dated 28th June 2019, which Light for All obtained immediately after the 2nd December 2019 Residents' Assembly.
- ii. A 427-page pdf file of documents forwarded to Light for All by the Working Committee on 23rd December 2019. A cover letter from the MHRD to Auroville Foundation (dated 22nd July 2019) identifies the document as "*the complaint dated 27 May, 2019 addressed to Chief Vigilance commission, made by Vikram Ramakrishnan, about the irregularities in the functioning of the Auroville Foundation*".

Despite several written requests from Light for All to the Auroville Foundation and the Working Committee, until today Light for All has not received the entire set of attachments to the Enquiry Committee's report which should amount to 670 pages. (The information about this number comes from MHRD letter to Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan on 22nd October 2019, which states: "*please find enclosed a copy of the 28 pages report and 670 pages of additional documents as received from the Auroville Foundation.*"). **Without the full and official documentation, the work of Light for All has been hampered and may possibly be incomplete.**

Light for All has chosen to ignore various versions of the allegations circulating privately in Auroville, since it is tasked by the Residents' Assembly to stick only with the official documents submitted by the Auroville Foundation to the MHRD.

D. PROCESS AND METHOD OF WORK OF LIGHT FOR ALL

Categorization of Allegations: Light for All first categorized the allegations; some were against specific individuals, others against Working Groups of Auroville, and others against the functioning of the community as a whole.

Division of Topics: Topics were divided according to the experience, skills and interest of the members of Light for All. Each topic was dealt with by at least two persons, to maintain diversity of views, so that no single member's views could unduly influence the whole.

No Conflict of Interest: All effort was made to eliminate any possible conflict of interest on any topic. Each member of Light for All submitted an analysis of possible areas of conflict of interest and these were discussed openly in the group.

Spreadsheet: For purposes of rigor, to maintain a record for transparency and accountability, and to keep track of the work, a spreadsheet was made (sample attached).

Communication Process: Light for All made a list of the persons and groups accused and sent them an email quoting the exact accusation and asking them to submit their clarifications in response. The sub-teams working on each topic went out and conducted interviews together, after the initial research. The interview minutes were sent to the accused person or group for review and approval. Whenever any information was missing, Light for All researched ways to complete it in cooperation with Auroville concerned working groups and individuals.

Discussion of Results: Each sub-team regularly discussed the stage they were at and their conclusions with the larger Light for All group for feedback and improvements.

Community Involvement and Checking: Light for All made two presentations to the Residents' Assembly, at the Pour Tous Meetings of 6th January 2020 and 3rd February 2020. The basic contents of this interim report were presented to the Residents' Assembly at the latter meeting. Also, Light for All requested a larger group of Aurovilians to be a "Sounding Board" to review the report before circulating it further. Finally, Light for All read a quasi-final version of these initial pages of the report to the Residents' Assembly Pour Tous Meeting of 2nd March 2020.

E. LIGHT FOR ALL'S PRELIMINARY COMMENTS AND FINDINGS

Meeting the Assigned Task

Light for All has been vigilant in its goal to provide information in an unbiased, and clarifying manner to the Auroville community. It is a complex and time-consuming task and needs to be continued with equal or greater diligence.

Finding the correct balance between informing with integrity and resisting the pressure to be an investigative body is a constant challenge. The community has been patient, cooperative and supportive.

Much progress can be achieved toward this assigned task with a true collaboration among the three statutory bodies of Auroville Foundation: The Governing Board, the Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Council.

Preliminary Results

This is an interim report, as asked by the Chairman of the Governing Board. An updated and more detailed report will follow.

Light for All found that a vast number of the allegations were vague and unsubstantiated claims based on hearsay without proof attached.

The Light of All's process of responding to Mr. Vikram Ramankrishnan's allegations had first to try to separate the mere allegations from the facts that needed to be addressed. Then, in some cases, a direct refutation could be obtained and documented easily. In others, multiple aspects needed to be considered and addressed accordingly. Responses were then assembled and documented in the reply to the allegations. Some of the responses remain in process and need more work and collaboration within the community.

Light For All specifically, and the community of Auroville as a whole, is submitting this interim report with the Aspiration that it will help the Governing Board and the MHRD to reconsider the whole matter in its true Light.

Light for All Pour Tous Task Force

Following Documents:

- i. List of the allegations as reported in Section B of the Enquiry Committee's report, with a specification of the status of Light for All's work;

- ii. Light for All's *interim* reports on the allegations where progress worth reporting have been made; and
- iii. Annexes to the cases
- iv. Sample of the spreadsheet Light for All used for track record purposes.

Interim Report Documentation

CODING for CASE WORK STATUS

- **Documentation nearing completion: 1/39**
- **Needs more follow up: 12/39**
- **No further comments at this time: 26/39**

ID.	Allegation	Case Work Status
1.	33 AV Trusts have no FCRA 80 but are raising donations	No further comment at this time
2.	FCRA registrations cancelled in 2012	No further comment at this time
3.	Auroville Foundation refused to furnish copies of Trust Deeds.	No further comment at this time
4.	Auroville International donations: routed to Trusts, Sub-Trusts and personal accounts.	No further comment at this time
5.	Working Committee and Groups do not assist the officers of CAG in audits	Needs more follow up
6.	Auroville Foundation holds International Bank accounts so then AV has offshore accounts	No further comment at this time
7.	Visa violations	No further comment at this time
8.	Unity Fund Offshore Accounts	No further comment at this time
9.	Frauds from members of Working Committee and other WGroups	Needs more follow up
10.	KEET non-AV Trust	Needs more follow up
11.	FACT non-AV Trust	No further comment at this time
12.	Luigi	Needs more follow up
13.	Michael Bonke & Varuna	Needs more follow up
14.	Frederick	Needs more follow up
15.	Daniel Emdin	Needs more follow up
16.	Pierre Elouard	Needs more follow up
17.	AV Consulting	Needs more follow up

	Section D: LAND ENCROACHMENT AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS	
18.	300 Acres encroached	No further comment at this time
19.	Auroville Foundation failed to protect	No further comment at this time

	the land	
20.	WG's purposely avoids land audit	Needs more follow up
21.	same as 681Da + gangs & Auroville Foundation	No further comment at this time
22.	Mr. Raman Natesan Pillai - taking lands from Auroville Foundation. Links with State Police	No further comment at this time
23.	Vikram Ram own case Eden of Zen	No further comment at this time
24.	Saravanan land case money - loss of money (interest) due to delay	No further comment at this time
25.	Land Board informs before AV buys	No further comment at this time
26.	encroachment (statement)	No further comment at this time
27.	GOI grants for 50th - bills inflated. Accusation of standard operating procedure.	No further comment at this time
28.	Architects' private assignments violating visa regulations	No further comment at this time
29.	Land, wood and timber mafia with Town Hall (office) of Auroville Foundation	No further comment at this time
30.	Matrimandir gold	No further comment at this time
31.	Foreigners owning private property - Paul Vincent report	No further comment at this time
32.	Request for legal action on Prevention Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)	No further comment at this time
	Section E: NATIONAL SECURITY, DRUGS AND OTHERS	
33.	No check of criminal records; Aurovilians doing business and hold private property outside	No further comment at this time
34.	FRRO, Entry and Working Committee - Against National security & black listed	No further comment at this time
35.	drug abuse by foreigners (set)	No further comment at this time
36.	drug use/selling Svedame, YC, Poney Farm, Well Cafe - Auronet... rituals freely by Auroville Foundation	Needs more follow up

37.	Tourists & Entry visa anti-government comments on social media	Needs more follow up
38.	Fabien, Satprem & activities outside without invoice	Documentation nearing completion
39.	Auroville beyond law	No further comment at this time

Note:

- Each single report below addresses a specific allegation as listed and numbered above.
- Each report starts quoting the allegation *verbatim* as reported in Section B of the Enquiry Committee’s Report.
- Generally, each “Reply” section below comes *verbatim* either from email Light for All received from the concerned parties, or from minutes of meetings Light for All had with such parties, minutes sent to and confirmed as accurate by such parties. In some cases, the replies are from the Task Force itself.
- **Since this is only an interim report, each conclusion may be revised before the final report.**

Allegations on Auroville Foundation Trusts, Groups, Individual Residents

33 TRUSTS with no FCRA /80G status

1: *“The Auroville Foundation has 33 Trusts as seen in the PDF file of the Auroville website. None of these Trusts have FCRA or 80G Registration as per reply furnished by the Office of the Foundation to the RTI Application (RTI-AFON/R/2019/50003). Despite this fact, these Trusts are raising donations and claiming exemptions which are a clear violation of law”.*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Meeting with Auroville Unity Fund (UF) responsible person: Mr. Rathinam and responsible Financial Service (FS): Mr. Otto.

Sent meeting report plus questions to be verified by Unity Fund and Financial Service

Answers received and documented - summary below:

REPLY (*quoted verbatim*):

“The Trusts under the legal umbrella of the Auroville Foundation do not receive donations or claim any exemptions individually. Donations are received and exemption receipts issued only through the recognized channel of the Auroville Foundation.

Before the Auroville Foundation was established, there were 13 Trusts that could receive donations directly. In 1988, when the Auroville Foundation Act was created, only Auroville Trust remained (the rest were consolidated under AVUnity Fund), it maintained the same registration number and it was established that only Auroville Trust would receive international donations. The other 12 Trusts continued to be operative for activities like export, such is the case of Artisana Trust.”

Previously requested & answered in RTI

No documented proof provided of raising donations and claiming exemptions other than via Unity Fund & Auroville Foundation

Unsubstantiated statements, claims and hearsay

No further comment at this time

AV TRUSTS - FCRA/ 80G CANCELLATION

2: *"In the same reply to RTI Application, regarding cancellation of FCRA or 80G Registration, it was stated: "not applicable" but as per the details available, the FCRA of Auroville Resource Trust bearing number 075980101 was cancelled in 2012 and the FCRA of Auromitra Friends of Auroville Trust, number 07610035, was also cancelled in 2012. Similarly, FCRA of Artisana Trust was also cancelled. These cancellations were due to the violations of legal provisions of FCRA. This contradicts the RTI reply and the **Foundation deliberately provided wrong information.**"*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Meeting Unity Fund responsible person, Mr. Rathinam
Request verification to Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research (SAIIER) 's and the Center for Scientific Research (CSR)'s Trusts when the Act was established

REPLY:

The assets, rights, powers, licences, or other instruments etc. of the mentioned trusts were vested in the Central Government and subsequently in Auroville Foundation under the Auroville Foundation Act 1988.

FCRA and 80G registrations, where applicable, were accordingly transferred at that time and the trusts left empty.

Subsequently one bank account of the Auroville Foundation was registered to receive foreign donations under FCRA and any other registrations previously held in the name of the various trusts stood cancelled.

If, for some reason, the registrations of the Auroville related trusts mentioned remained in Home Ministry records, cancellation in 2012 would have been on the basis of no FCRA returns being submitted since the trusts had ceased to function in 1988.

Unity Fund confirms Foundation provided correct information in RTI
All FCRA and 80G by Auroville Foundation administration centralized in
Unity Fund
Unsubstantiated allegations

No further comment at this time

TRUST DEEDS

3: **“Auroville** *foundation refused to furnish copies of Trust Deeds on the ground that it is not a Public Trust. **This is a pretext to cover up the misdeeds of Trusts functioning in Auroville”***

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Meeting Unity Fund responsible person, Mr. Rathinam

REPLY:

It is incorrect that AF can furnish copies of Trust Deeds as the place to request them is the registration office in Vanur.

AV Foundation is not the place to request that information
Unsubstantiated allegations

No further comment at this time

AUROVILLE INTERNATIONAL- Donations

4: *“In the RTI reply (AFOUN/R/2019/50003-point no.7), the Foundation has stated that there is no uniform procedure in receiving the donations but on the other hand, “Auroville International” collects huge donations and deposits such donations into accounts of Auroville Foundation. These donations are taken in the name of Auroville for specific purpose but routed to various Trusts and in turn go into other Sub-Trusts and personal accounts and **not for the objective for which they were originally taken. This appears to be a clear case of deep-rooted network in channelizing ill-gotten wealth and money laundering.**”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Meeting Unity Fund responsible person, Mr. Rathinam

Meeting Mr. Lyle, developer of operational processes and support systems in Financial Service

REPLY:

A procedure manual has been provided, which dates from 2011. (See ANNEX BCD provided by Unity Fund on March 11th.) The operational procedure is well established and is followed. It can be summarized as follows:

All International donations collected by Auroville International are transferred to the Auroville Unity Fund bank account (there only exists one account at SBI for all donations coming from foreigners). The most common situation is that **donations are received with the list of projects / Trusts to which the donors wished to allocate the funds.** Once received the office of Unity Fund informs the projects/ Trusts but keeps the funds at the bank account until the receptor needs the money. When Unity Fund receives the request, it transfers the solicited amount to the project / Trust Auroville Pour Tous account.

Only when a donation arrives with a not-defined project, along the years the funds followed several routes, depending on the needs of that moment:

- For some years it was given directly to MM
- Later it was allocated to purchase land
- Later it was allocated to City Services
- Currently FAMC decides where to allocate the funds

Please note that the funds donated without a specific target is a very small amount (i.e. last year there were 3 instances for a total of about 2,40,000 IRP).

Every 3 months an official Report on donations is submitted to the Government of India.

Auroville has no offshore accounts as replied in Case 7 by the letter from Auroville International.

No documented proof provided

Lack of knowledge and understanding about the role Auroville International
with respect to AF

No further comment at this time

CAG AUDIT

5: *“Entire process of fundraising in Auroville is complex and makes proper auditing difficult. The officers of CAG have time and again mentioned in the Annual Reports that the Internal Audit in Auroville is inadequate. In order to cover this up, Working Groups in Auroville do not assist officers in CAG in audit every year and this can be verified in the Annual Reports from time to time.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Response requested from Unity Fund regarding donation procedures and processing (see case 4 above)

REPLY:

Response from Unity Fund: “A procedure manual has been provided, which dates from 2011. (See ANNEX BCD provided by Unity Fund on March 11th.)”

“The operational procedure is well established and is followed. Every 3 months an official Report on donations is submitted to the Government of India.”

Regarding CAG and internal audits: Finance and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) arranges assistance and support for all CAG audits, and organizes random internal audits annually.

No documented proof provided

Needs more follow up

UNITY FUND - Offshore Accounts

6: *“Forensic audit of Unity Fund (Number 10237876031) in State Bank of India, Auroville Township) for transfers inside India, as another account of Unity Fund (10237876508, State Bank of India, Auroville Township) for transfers outside India, and accounts of Auroville is necessary, And also ICICI Bank account of Auroville and Offshore accounts of Auroville International Centers also need to be investigated to find out the truth.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Meeting AV Financial Service responsible person, Mr. Otto

REPLY:

Reply 1: Auroville has no offshore accounts as replied in Case 4 by the letter from Auroville International

Reply 2: “Every 3 months an Official Report on donations is submitted to the Government of India.

Auroville Unity Fund has currently 6 bank accounts: 5 at SBI and 1 at HDFC

- SBI:
 - Account for foreigner’s donations FCRA
 - General donations
 - GOI grants
 - SSR Account (Social and Scientific Research) - Only for India’s citizens - Tax exemption
 - SR (Scientific Research account) - Only for India’s citizens - Tax exemption
- HDFC:
 - For Indian Citizen’s donations general donations”

Auroville does not have Offshore accounts

Auroville International centers hold bank accounts in their respective countries and follow all accounting and tax exemption laws in these countries.

No documented proof provided by the complainant

No further comment at this time

Auroville International - Offshores accounts

7: *"In the RTI reply (AFON/R/2018/50009) it is stated that Foundation does not hold any International Bank Account but such statement is untrue as Auroville International has offshore Accounts and it is the responsibility of Auroville Foundation to monitor these accounts as per the Auroville Foundation Act."*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Letter sent by Auroville International

REPLY:

Letter from Auroville International to Governing Board dated Dec. 16, 2019

Subject: Mendacious statements by Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan regarding Auroville International

Dear Mr. Chairman, Members of the Governing Board, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaskar, it has come to our notice that our association Auroville International has been mentioned in a paper submitted to the Governing Board by a Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan.. We would like to repudiate his claims as entirely false...

Mr. Ramakrishnan claims (page 684) that *"in the RTI reply...it is stated that Foundation does not hold any International Bank Account but such statement is untrue as Auroville International has offshore Accounts and it is the responsibility of Auroville Foundation to monitor these accounts as per the Auroville Foundation Act"* and (page 683) *"And also*

ICICI Bank account of Auroville and Offshore accounts of Auroville International Centers also need to be investigated...". This statement is false in 2 respects:

- (1) The Auroville Foundation Act has no reference to Auroville International and the Auroville Foundation has no obligation to monitor the accounts of Auroville International as per the Auroville Foundation Act. (2) Auroville International Centers do not hold offshore bank accounts.

Auroville International (AVI) is an organization independent of the Auroville Foundation. *Auroville International* has been registered in The Hague in The Netherlands in 1983, well before the Auroville Foundation Act came into being. Auroville International is the umbrella organization of a worldwide network of Auroville International Centers and Liaison offices in 37 countries. The Auroville International Centers are registered in their countries as legal entities and as such are subject to the laws of their country which include regular examination of all financial dealings.

Mr. Ramakrishnan further claims (page 683/84) that "*Auroville International collects huge donations and deposits such donations into accounts of Auroville Foundation. These donations are taken in the name of Auroville for specific purpose but routed to various Trusts and in turn go into other Sub-Trusts and personal accounts and not for the objective for which they were originally taken. This appears to be a clear case of a deep-routed network in channelizing ill-gotten wealth and money laundering.*" These statements are false as well. Auroville International painstakingly follows all rules and regulations in the field of receiving donations for Auroville in accordance with the laws of their respective countries and channel these donations to the Unity Fund of the Auroville Foundation in accordance with the laws of India. The Auroville International Centers inform the Auroville Unity Fund about the specific purpose of each donation, and the Unity Fund then transfers the donation to the specific project or unit. Funds are not directly transferred to any unit or subunit or project of the Auroville Foundation, nor are they transferred to any personal accounts.

Mr. Vikram Ramakrishnan makes accusatory statements in catchwords such as "ill-gotten wealth" and "money laundering". We take strong objection to these baseless accusations, which are void of any substance and of which he has not given any proof. We reject such unsubstantiated defamatory allegations.

As stated above Auroville International Centers are subject to regular scrutiny by the national authorities and some *Auroville International* Centers have been granted specific taxation benefits, such as exemption from inheritance tax for donations made for the benefit Auroville, and the possibility that a donor can deduct the amount of a donation to the *Auroville International Centre* in his or her country from his or her taxable income. Auroville International Germany for example receives funds for Auroville's development-oriented programs from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to transfer them to Auroville via the Unity Fund. These funds and benefits would not be granted if there were doubts about the integrity of the Centers.

In view of our integrity with the authorities that have taken note of Mr. Vikram

Ramakrishnan's unsubstantiated accusations, we would greatly appreciate it if you would communicate this information to them.

Respectfully yours,
Josee Lamers Auroville
International
Chairperson
[josee@lamers-
icmconsultancy.nl](mailto:josee@lamers-icmconsultancy.nl)

Friederike Mühlhans Auroville International Secretary [friederike](#)

Every Auroville International has an account in their country
which have no legal ties to Auroville Foundation

The allegation shows not knowing legal structure of
Foundation and Auroville International

No further comment at this time

VISA VIOLATIONS

8: “As Auroville Foundation processes the visas of the foreigners residing in Auroville, it is the responsibility of the Foundation to ensure that these foreigners follow the law of the land and principles of Auroville. There are many instances of violation of visa conditions by these foreigners and this can be verified from the records of FRRO, Chennai.”

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

The Working Committee wrote a response for case no. 34 (National Security-Militancy; see below) which applies to this allegation as well.

REPLY:

From the Working Committee letter specifically addressing case no. 34 (hence the reference to Entry Service-ES-), but still relevant here too:

“Entry Service relates only with foreigners that have passed the security controls of India Government to enter the country, wish to join Auroville. They only make a recommendation to the Foundation to provide a letter so that India’s embassy in the country of origin of the foreigner can provide his/her Visa. Entry Service does not provide the Visas.

Similarly, ES does not deal with any matter regarding Visa violations, as their relation with the foreigner ends once he has entered the country with the X-Visa. So, this allegation towards ES is incorrect.”

Incorrect statement

Repeating of allegations

No further comment at this time

PUBLIC OFFICES

9: *“Members of the Working Committee and other working groups are public offices as per Auroville Foundation Act and have deliberately and willfully encouraged the frauds for personal interests and therefore are liable to be prosecuted as per Section 29 of the Foundation Act.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

- Legal definition of “public office” required.
- Review of Section 29 of Auroville Foundation Act

REPLY:

While we still need to consult a qualified lawyer to check the definition of “public office” in the context of Auroville, this accusation is vague and not specifically proved. Besides, the reference to Section 29 of Auroville Foundation Act doesn’t make any sense. Indeed, none of the cases listed in Section 29, named “Penalties”, can apply to the situation at stake.



KEET TRUST

10: *“Kaluvēli Environmental Education Trust (KEET) is not a Trust of Auroville (as confirmed by the reply to RTI application AFON/R/2019/50001, point 1), whereas all the Trustees are Aurovilians from Pitchandikulam forest and the Chief Trustee is one Stephen Jos Brooks. KEET owns private land in Nadakuppam which is not part of Auroville. This fact is stated in Memo of State of lands prepared by an Aurovillian Paul Vincent. Copy of factual report of Paul Vincent in page 40 confirms this. Sources of funds used to purchase land of Nadakuppam need to be investigated. Pitchandikulam forest is registered as unit under Auromitra Trust and Forest Consultants registered under Sangamam/Swagarham Trust. Pitchandikulam Trust has taken up consultancy for Adyar Ponga in Chennai and currently known as “Chennai River Restoration Trust”. It is a fact that crores of Rupees received by said Trust has not come to Auroville Foundation account. The donations are received in the name of Auroville Foundation to claim FCRA and 80G exemption and then routed to KEET.”*

Initial Commentary: This is a complex allegation and it will take time to accumulate all the documentation to fully clarify the allegations. The accuser offers no proof of any aspect of his accusations. His sweeping references do not even show cognizance of the difference between trusts that are service (educational) related and those that have a legal commercial status. He does not even reference the trusts by their correct name. Clarification will be pursued in a sequential manner, beginning with allegations regarding the KEET Trust.

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

- Letter of Invitation to meet was sent to Joss Brooks and received with affirmative interest to continue.
- Team members arranged an initial meeting and interview.

REPLY:

- Trust deed for KEET Trust disproves the allegation that all Trustees are Aurovilians.
- It was stated and will be documented that KEET Trust has its own FCRA and 80G status. It was also stated and will be documented that the Chennai River Restoration Trust was established to facilitate *future* projects between the Forest Consultants Unit (a commercial unit under SwagatamTrust) and the Tamil Nadu Government.

Needs more follow up

FACT TRUST

11: “A Trust by name FACT (Foundation Against Continuing Terrorism) is registered as an Auroville Trust in office of Sub-Registrar, Vannur and Trustees are one Francois Gautier and Namrata Gautier. As per Auroville Exit and Entry Policy, one cannot collect donations in personal name, promote any philosophy or religion, cannot take up projects outside of Auroville. But FACT (the Trust) registered under Auroville Trust collects donations in personal name and this aspect needs to be investigated. The name of this Trust does not appear in the list of units in website of Auroville which **reflects the wrongdoing by internal working groups of Auroville**. Registered address of FACT is Auromodel, Auroville which means the property within the Auroville is used to register this Trust. The forensic audit of account (number 04071450000237 at HDFC Bank, Ellaipillaichavadi, and FCRA registration) of FACT needs to be conducted. And the persons (Francois Gautier and Ramesh Sarva) **responsible in collecting donations also must be investigated**. (details are available in Memo of on the state of lands prepared by Paul Vincent).”

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Requesting information from accused person Mr. Gautier
Meeting AV Unity Fund responsible person Mr. Rathinam to verify no donations have been done on the name of Mr. Gautier.

REPLY:

from Mr. Gautier:

- “A Trust by name FACT (Foundation Against Continuing Terrorism) is **an independent trust** registered in office of Sub-Registrar, Vannur and Trustees are one Namrita Gautier who is the managing trustee and an Indian Citizen and Francois Gautier an OCI card holder. Though having its registered office in the residence of Namrita and Francois Gautier in Auroville it **is not an Auroville Trust under the AV Foundation**.
- **The Trustees DO NOT collect donations on personal name** for the museum in Pune but all funds are raised in the name of FACT and come to the Trust Account. It is run on donations and entrance is Free.
- **As it is NOT a Trust Registered under the Auroville Foundation** but as specified above **is an independent trust** hence **there is no need for it to appear on the Auroville website or under its trust**.
- FACT is an NGO dedicated to spread the Culture and History of India guided by the Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo.
- The Trust was set up locally the time on its inspection as the Museum did not exist at that point of time and the Trust was only doing travelling exhibitions. Namrita Gautier

as an Indian Citizen and as its managing trustee can set up a trust legally in her place of residence. This was done in the correct manner following all the laws of the country and accounts are submitted every year as per the requirements of the law and are all in the clear.

- The Museum has its registration in Pune Maharashtra. FACT is in the process of changing its registered office to the museum address.
- We have nothing to hide and we are not concerned with allegations as everything linked with the Trust is legally correct and above board.
- As far as the question of raising funds through FACT USA – Foundations for Advancement of Cultural Ties (FACT USA) is an independent entity with its own board of directors and set up under the US laws and raises funds for other projects besides the Museum. Francois is one of its many directors.”

From Mr. Rathinam / AV Unity Fund

- “Auroville Unity Fund did not receive any donation/s for FACT (Foreign or Indian) or for the trustees of FACT.”

Incorrect information

No proof in documentation provided

Wrong conclusions about the wrong-doings of AV groups

No further comment at this time

FOREIGNERS & DONATIONS: Luigi

12: *“Luigi, an Italian, who works in Town Hall who is spearheading collection of donations and fundraising and amassed wealth disproportionate to his income”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS/ACTIONS:

- In a conversation about this issue Luigi sees it as an ‘old’ accusation which has been solved already 10 years ago. He confirmed he could document all aspects in detail if needed.
- A written reminder for the details remains unanswered so far.

REPLY:

No proof of accusation provided in documents

Needs more follow up

Michel Bonke

13: *“Michel Bonke, a German businessman in the field of diamond polishing, controls Varuna Project, a wind harnessing company. This person owns big piece of land within the Master Plan area of Auroville contravening the regulations of Auroville. He is involved in collecting donations for Varuna Project in the name of Auroville.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Requested and received detailed information from accused person Mr. Bonke, a non-Aurovilian holding an OCI **(to be double checked)**

Requested TDC (l’Avenir), FAMC, Auroville Foundation verification for the agreement for use of the land purchased by Aditi Diamonds in Industrial Zone on Jan 29th - response by TDC on Jan 31st - no response from FAMC (reminded March 11th) or Auroville Foundation

TDC provided us the NOC (no objection certificate for the solar power project on Jan 31st

Possession of ‘patta’s’ with Auroville Foundation needs to be confirmed

REPLY:

From Mr. Bonke:

- **I have never collected any donations for the Varuna Project.** The Energy-Project of Varuna Pvt. Ltd. is financed to 100% out of my own private resources and it is giving to Auroville every year donations for Auroville's electricity of around 3 crores or more. It also has donated one Wind-Generator to the AV-Foundation for a value of between 4 to 5 crores. The Project of Setting up a Desalination Plant for supplying free water to AV is still going on, and is also financed by my own private resources. So, the Allegation that I am collecting Donations for Varuna is wrong.
- The Allegation that I am holding land inside the master-plan of Auroville contravening the regulations of Auroville **also is wrong**. First of all, **I myself do not hold any land in India**. But Varuna Pvt. Ltd. is holding land in some areas like the Green Belt area, or at the beach, which we have purchased to be able to implement our Desalination Project and our water-projects for Auroville. Further Aditi Diamonds has purchased and is Holding land in the Industrial Zone. For those lands we have an Agreement with the Auroville Foundation and the TDC that these lands will be reserved to erect one line of force for Auroville, and the land--documents have already all been handed over to the Auroville-Foundation.

Awaiting receipt of agreement between/FAMC and Mr. Bonke

Needs more follow up

Frederik

14: *“Frederik, a German national and Aurovillian is a key player who holds benami private properties in Puducheri and Kodaikanal.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

E-mail request sent and reply received
Two personal meetings with Frederick

REPLY:

- Verbally as well as in a writing he stated: “I do not hold any property in my name or as a benami”

No proof of accusation provided in documents

Needs more follow up

Daniel Emdin

15: *“Daniel Emdin an Italian businessman and restaurateur is also an **economic offender**. He was steward of land of central government that was encroached by Hotel St. James Court in survey number 195/2 registered in Pillaichavadi. **He allowed encroachment in collusion with land mafia.**”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Mr. Emdin volunteered information readily

Invitation to respond officially to the allegation to Mr. Emdin, Land Board, Working Committee and Auroville Foundation on Jan 8th

Meeting with Land Board, report made, sent for approval and received back

Meeting with Land Board on this case and others

REPLY:

The Land Board answered promptly with a report listing all legal steps taken in this case. It documents numerous efforts by Mr. Emdin as an actively defending steward as well as Land Board as supportive.

Mr. Emdin also provided documentation of his numerous notifications about the encroachment alerting the Working Committee, AV Council, Land Board, and the community in general.

Working Committee completed the report of the steps taken.

Auroville Foundation commented with missing steps.

Finance and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) confirmed Mr. Emdin is the legal steward of Srima.

Housing confirmed Mr. Emdin is the legal steward of Srima houses and adhered to the conditions.

Mr. Emdin told members of Light for All Task Force that he paid personally a lawyer to start a legal case against the encroacher.

Land Board has also started a case against the encroacher: **Srima Encroachment clarification:**

An official survey was conducted with the help of the Surveyors of the Revenue Department on 03.07.2015 in which the surveyor has found that the Kitchen building of the James Court is situated in the Auroville land. Subsequent to the survey, the steward has filed FIR on the encroachment and the land board together with the foundation tried various options to solve this case including exploring a land exchange option. However, since no amicable solution could be arrived at, we have sent a legal notice on 19.01.2019, followed by steps taken to file the civil suit before the court of law.

It seems from the documentation that Land Board is basing itself on the action taken by the lawyer hired by Mr. Emdin in March 2019 who needs supporting documents from Working Committee, Land Board and Auroville Foundation to actually start a case - see annexes for case 15.

No proof of accusation provided in documents

Highly speculative allegation refuted by the documentation
LFA received
Case is currently sub judice

Needs more follow up

Pierre Elouard

16: *“Pierre Elouard, French national, runs Hridaya Trust and operates Satsanga Restaurant in Puducheri. He runs the said restaurant (not a part of Auroville) **violating principles of Auroville. As he violated visa conditions, the FRRO, Chennai tried to deport him** but owing to **pressure**, he managed to get the extension of visa.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Invitation to respond to allegation sent to Mr. Elouard on Jan 8th - no response to date
Request information to Working Committee about his Visa conditions

REPLY:

From Working Committee

- “Mr. Pierre Elouard has submitted his presentations to the FRRO and Home Ministry, which agreed to extend his visa.
- Mr. Ram should explain what he means with "pressure", who put it on who, and why the FRRO/ Home Ministry would have submitted to such "pressure" “.

No proof of accusation provided in documents

Needs more follow up

AUROVILLE CONSULTING

17: *“In addition to this, the Auroville Consulting conducts workshops across the world and collects donations. There is a need to audit the accounts of this unit.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Invitation to respond to allegation to Auroville Consulting answered March 21st.

REPLY:

“Auroville Consulting conducts regular workshops, participants are primarily students, professional and Government employees from India. So far we have never conducted a workshop outside of Auroville (in India or abroad).

We do not receive donations against our workshops, but level participation fees. GST is passed on to Government as per tax laws and the Auroville contribution for learning activities is transferred on a monthly basis to the Auroville Unity Fund.

Our accounts are annually consolidated at the trust and the Auroville Foundation level and auditing as per the processes of the Auroville Foundation takes place annually. Trial balance sheets are submitted on a quarterly basis to FAMC.”

Needs more follow-up

Allegations on Land Encroachment and Related Matters:

ENCROACHMENT & LAND DEEDS

18: *“About 300 Acres of Central Government land have been encroached in hand in glove with the Auroville working groups. The facts are provided by a Memo on state of lands prepared by an internal committee headed by an Aurovillian Mr. Paul Vincent, (Consultant & Regional Coordinator of Auroville Foundation). Despite such clear information, the Foundation has not taken any action nor reported to CAG during the audit. Said Memo also highlights the fact of missing 78 original Sale Deeds which an alarming matter.”*

Initial Commentary:

1. As already noted, the land issues are serious and complex. This allegation is still in process as it has multiple aspects. The following clarifications show once again how the accusations are inflated and unfounded.
2. This is one of several allegations in which the reference to ‘Central Government land’ or ‘GOI land’ is misused, since AV lands are vested in the Auroville Foundation, an autonomous body.
3. There is no internal committee headed by Mr. Paul Vincent.

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

- Letter of inquiry was sent to the Land Board.
- Meeting with the Land Board followed.
- Land Board replied with accurate information about encroachment
- Research into Memo on the State of the Lands as on August 2017 by Paul Vincent as cited in allegation

REPLY:

- The following is included in a letter from the Land Board to PTTF dated Jan 15, 2020:

“B. Land encroachment actual update: -

As regards encroachment, we clarify that the actual lands under encroachment admeasuring around 41.09 acres in total (5.59 in green belt area and 5.09 in city area and 30.5 outside of master plan area) which are under legal actions towards recovery of lands, as much as possible. Please note that most of these lands are with the village settlement for almost more than 30 years, which requires the government’s active support for recovery or alternate decisions. The Governing Board and the Auroville Foundation have been informed regularly for their assistance to facilitate with the Tamil Nadu Government towards an amicable solution.

Please note that these encroachments constitute 1.03 % of the total lands held by Auroville, which also includes the majority of lands kept with the village settlement. With the close collaboration of the Auroville Foundation office, facilitation with the collector's office it would be much easier to tackle these village settlement encroachments.”

- Reading of the memo by Paul Vincent, cited above, reveals no mention of 300 acres lost to encroachment. In the report, there are multiple factors used to determine what constitutes encroached land. Even so, the greatest figure is slightly over 54 acres.

Contains gross inaccuracies and technical errors

No documented proof provided

No further comment at this time

LAND PROTECTION & CAG

19: *“CAG in the reply to RTI application (No.PDA/Legal/RTI/25 02(193) /2018-19/229) stated that “Auroville Foundation has failed to protect the lands of the Central Government”. Supporting document is submitted.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Checked the RTI response from CAG.

REPLY:

RTI response from CAG does not state that, “Auroville Foundation has failed to protect the lands of the Central Government”. (See exhibit 13 in documentation provided by Vikram Ramakrishnan to Enquiry Committee.)

No further comment at this time

AUDIT OF AUROVILLE LANDS

20: *“The Working Groups are avoiding the audit of lands of Auroville only because more skeletons will come out of the closet. (Ref. RTI No.AF/G/4-A/355)”*

REPLY:

The question is not clear. What kind of audit of lands is he asking about? The Land Board holds records of lands for which Auroville holds the legal ownership documents, surveyed boundaries, lands that are encroached, etc. This information has been collected through topic specific and targeted land audits. In order to carry out a full audit of land, the Auroville Foundation Office would need to have a dedicated land records and management cell, as requested by the Land Board: It is essential to appoint an in-service Tahsildar and Surveyor exclusively for processing Auroville lands.

Needs more follow up

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION & LOCAL GANGS

21: *“Over 300 acres of Central Government land causing an estimated loss of Rs. 300 Crore has been encroached in hand in glove with the Foundation and the Working Groups. The rival gangs in the area are funded and take directions from the office of the Foundation.”*

REPLY:

- See reply above regarding encroachment.
- Regarding the second allegation on rival gangs and Auroville Foundation, there is no proof given and the allegation is unfounded and baseless.

No further comment at this time

PILLAI-AV FOUNDATION-SOCIETY LAND

22: *“One Mr. Raman Natesan Pillai is a key-player at the time of taking over lands of Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS) and embezzled large tracts of land belonging to Auroville Foundation. He presently holds around 30 acres of land, makes fake documents and have links with State Police and Anti-Land Grabbing Cell. Though said Raman Natesan Pillai engineers all backdated documents, Kingpin of all land encroachments of Auroville, the Foundation replied that they have no information about him. This shows cover up and protection to this person. Said person is also chief-in-charge of lands of SAS at that point of time.”*

REPLY:

The Auroville Foundation has no official connection with the Sri Aurobindo Society, or those associated with it, and therefore cannot comment about its functioning, either now or in the past.

No documented proof

No further comment at this time

CHANDRASHEKAR CASE

23: (Vikram Ram's own case Eden of Zen- Chandrashekar case)

"The particular land of my personal case (states Vikram Ram), I brought to the notice of Foundation that about 10 acres of entire property belongs to Auroville Foundation. Initially, the Secretary of Foundation files a complaint with Anti-Land Grabbing Cell on only one piece of land in Sy .No197/6B and retracted the statement later saying same land had an EC of 1965 and therefore land does not belong to Auroville Foundation. As Section 4(2) of Auroville Foundation Act, it is clear that all properties and assets vested in the Central Government shall by force are freed from all encumbrances and by virtue of this legal provision, the EC of 1965 is null and void. The Foundation also not stated anything about the possession of remaining 9 acres of land in survey numbers 194/2 and 197/6A and other survey numbers around it. This shows that Foundation covers up and protect the land mafia. All the supportive documents of this case (referred as Chandrashekar case), RTI AF/G/4-A/300 and RTI AF/G/4-A/781, Section 4 of Act substantiate this point."

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Request to Working Committee for information about the land history.

Requested Auroville Foundation for related documents.

REPLY:

Letter from Mr. Chunkath, ex-Secretary, Auroville Foundation: 23)

Summary of Working Committee:

"As per the 'A' Register record on 12.11.1960 the subjected land is belongs to K. Krishnasamy Pillai S/o Kuppusamy from Periyamudaliarchavady. The land patta no was 211.

On 22.02.1965 Mr. Krishnasamy Pillai sold 1.66 acres out of 4.78 acres at BO.O.S.No.197/6 to Mr. Raman @ Natesapillai S/o Angamuthu pillai from Muthialpet vide document no.1111/1965.

Total land 4.78 acres

Sold land 1.66 acres

The balance was 3.12 acres.

On 19.06.1971 Mr. Krishnasamy Pillai sold entire 4.88 acres instead of 3.12 acres to Sri Aurobindo Society vide document no. 133/1971.

On 19.06.1971 Mr. Krishna Pillai also sold his other land at BO. O.S. No. 194/2 with an extent of 4.88 acres to Sri Aurobindo Society vide document No. 1333/1971. This entire land is under our enjoyment and no issue.

On 09.03.1979 Mr. Raman @ Natesapillai sold his 1.66 acres (which he bought it from Mr. Krishna Pillai on 22.02.1965) to R. Chandrasekar S/o Ramakrishan (the present land owner of Eden of Zen land) from Kuilapalayam vide document no.388/1979.”

No further comment at this time

SARAVANAN LAND TRANSACTION

24: *“The recent case of Saravanan in a land transaction, the Foundation delayed the matter for around one year, though they claimed to have recovered Rs.4 crore, this transaction caused a loss of Rs.39.80 lakh as interest at the rate of 8% per annum. One Sri Ranjit, a member of Working Committee, who was instrumental in this shady deal was given clean chit by the internal enquiry committee.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Invitation to respond allegation to Working Committee

Invitation to clarify on detailed process and members of the Departmental Enquiry Committee

REPLY:

From Working Committee

- “The Foundation did not delay the matter for a year.
- The Foundation immediately took action and, in consultation with its lawyer, filed complaints against the sellers, broker, document writer and the sub-registrar of Vanur to the various authorities, from the Inspector up to the Chief Minister Cell (see the attached complaint copy).
- Mr. Ranjith was not involved in the attempted purchase.
- Mr. Ranjith, on behalf of the Auroville Foundation, filed the complaints mentioned above.
- The Departmental Enquiry Committee investigated if there had been any wrongdoing by those who had been instrumental in the attempted purchase of this plot. It concluded that no blame could be attached to any person. We did not receive a copy of the report.
- The suggestion to accept repayment of the sum paid + registration and duty charges was made by the lawyer and approved by the Governing Board, as any court case against the sellers would last many years and have resulted in lawyers’ fees and charges manifold the amount of interest “lost”.”

Reply to verification request (See following pages)

Working Committee Action Overview on SARAVANAN Failed Land Purchase

“Dear members of the Light for All - Pour Tous Task Force,

Sub: IR. R.S.No. 426/1c2 measuring 8.175 acres.

In response to your query please find below an overview of the actions taken by the Working Committee.

- 1) 11.06.2018. The Land Board by email asked the Auroville Foundation and Working Committee to handle the issue of the 8.175 acres deal directly.

- 2) 20.06.2018. The Secretary of Auroville Foundation appointed lawyer Mr. Praveen Kumar, Additional Public Prosecutor, Pondicherry to handle the 8.17 acres case.
- 3) 29.06.2018. The Secretary of Auroville Foundation authorized Mr. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy, a member of the Working Committee, to file on behalf of the Auroville Foundation all complaints relating to the 8.17 acres deal before the necessary authorities/ judicial fora.
- 4) 29.06.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy filed a complaint formulated by the lawyer against the 10 sellers, the Broker, the document writer and the Sub-Registrar, Vanur and sent this to the below mentioned Government officials and authorities:
 - a. The Station House Officer;
 - b. Auroville Police Station;
 - c. The Chief Minister's Special Cell;
 - d. Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu;
 - e. Home Secretary Tamil Nadu;
 - f. Director General of Police;
 - g. Vigilance Commissioner;
 - h. ADGP- Anti-Corruption;
 - i. ADGP- Economic Offence Wing;
 - j. ADGP- Crime,
 - k. Deputy Inspector General of Registration Office;
 - l. The Superintendent of Police,
 - m. Anti Land Grabbing Spl. Cell.
 - n. The SP, Villupuram,
 - o. the DSP, Kottakuppam,
 - p. the Inspector of Auroville Police Station
 - q. the District Registrar.
- 5) 03.07.2018. The District Registrar writes to the Registrar Tindivanam to take a necessary action. The letter was copied to Working Committee, Auroville.
- 6) 06.07.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy received summons from the Anti Land Grabbing Cell to appear in person in its office at Villupuram on 09.07.2018 at 10 am.
- 7) 09.07.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy along with lawyer Praveenkumar and Jayendra (Auroville Foundation Lawyer) paid a visit to Anti Land Grabbing Cell, Villupuram and explained the situation requested them to initiate action at the earliest.
- 8) 09.07.2018. Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) writes to the Superintendent of Police to look into the issue and take necessary action.
- 9) 27.07.2018. As advised by lawyer Praveenkumar, a Writ Petition was filed by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy in the Chennai High Court through the Chennai High Court advocate Mr. Sukumaran to seek protection to the property.
- 10) 16.08.2018. Mail received from the Chief Minister's Cell stating that the Inspector had made an inquiry into the complaint at a session where both parties were present and both parties agreed to follow up the matter in court. However, this was a false statement provided by the local police station to the CM Cell.
- 11) 31.08.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy was summoned by the Economic Office Wing to appear on 03.09.2018 at their office for an enquiry.
- 12) 03.08.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy together with lawyer Praveenkumar visited the Economic Offence Wing, Villupuram for the enquiry.

- 13) 03.10.2018. An Affidavit was filed at Vanur Munisif Court by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy through lawyer Praveenkumar. In the affidavit the Auroville Foundation requested the magistrate to direct the Police to file a FIR on our complaint given on 29.06.2018.
- 14) 09.10.2018. A counter response given by the Working Committee to the CM Cell stating that the CM Cell was misled by the location Police station.
- 15) 16.10.2018. First hearing , attended by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy, at Vanur DMC.
- 16) 29.10.2018. Summons was served on Ranjith by the Inspector of Police, Auroville Police Station, to be present on 30.10.2018 at 10 am Auroville Police station.
- 17) 30.10.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy along with lawyer Mr. Praveenkumar went to the Auroville Police Station for an enquiry. The Inspector presented several questions. The questions were answered in writing.
- 18) 26.11.2018. Second hearing at Vanur DMC, attended by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy.
- 19) 27.11.2018. Third hearing at Vanur DMC, attended by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy.
- 20) 28.11.2018 Fourth hearing at Vanur DMC, attended by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy.
- 21) 29.11.2018 Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy is called by the Anti Land Grabbing Cell for a final Enquiry on the same day evening. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy went alone and collected the FIR copy registered against 10 sellers, broker, document writer and the Sub-registrar.
- 22) 13.02.2019 Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy receives a notice from the Anti Land Grabbing Cell stating that they are dismissing our case.
- 23) 07.03.2019. Appeal was filed against the dismissal of the case by Anti Land Grabbing Cell in the High Court by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy through advocate Sukumaran.
- 24) 26.03.2019 The High Court directs the Auroville Foundation to file a protest petition before the concerned judicial magistrate.
- 25) 27.03.2019. Agreement reached between the sellers and Sec. Auroville Foundation to cancel the purchase and repay the purchase price of Rs.4.90 cores and the sum of Rs. 53.92 lakhs paid towards stamp duty and registration charges.

The following members were in the Department Enquiry Committee.

1. Mr. Mohan Chunkath, Secretary of Auroville Foundation,
2. Mr. Srinivasamurthy, Under-Secretary.
3. Toine
4. Pashi Kapoor
5. Ashok Chatterji
6. Elisa
- 7..Angelo

Transaction was done according to standard procedure and then reversed recuperating the official taxes

Allegation has no proof

No further comment at this time

LAND BOARD & LOCAL GANGS

25: *“The members of Land Board pass information to land mafia as to which plot Auroville Foundation wishes to buy, and then before purchasing the plot, it changes hand with other buyers and auroville buys it at much higher price. This is the modus operandi of land transactions in Auroville.”*

REPLY:

No proof given or found to date.

No further comment at this time

LAND ENCROACHMENT ON AV MASTER PLAN

26: *“The encroachment of lands is so rampant and sporadic that the entire purpose of Master Plan is defeated. Many private players came in and surrounded the Master Plan area without approvals.”*

REPLY:

- Encroachment of lands has been addressed above.
- Auroville has no legal authority over development on privately owned lands, either within the Master Plan area or around it.

No further comment at this time

SUMMARY STATEMENT ON LAND

On land encroachment and the challenges faced by the Land Board in general.

Dated: January 15, 2020

Land encroachment actual update:

As regards encroachment, we clarify that the actual lands under encroachment admeasuring around 41.09 acres in total (5.59 in green belt area and 5.09 in city area and 30.5 outside of master plan area) which are under legal actions towards recovery of lands, as much as possible. Please note that most of these lands are with the village settlement for almost more than 30 years, which requires the government's active support for recovery or alternate decisions. The governing Board and the Auroville Foundation have been informed regularly for their assistance to facilitate with the government towards an amicable solution.

Please note that these encroachments constitute 1.03 % of the total lands held by Auroville, which also includes the majority of lands kept with the village settlement. With the close collaboration of the Auroville Foundation office, facilitation with the collector's office it would be much easier to tackle these village settlement encroachments.

General challenges faced by land board that requires Auroville Foundation collaboration: -

Besides the challenges regularly dealt by the land board above, we request the Governing Board to expedite the following which has been long pending redressal.

1. Establishment of a full-fledged legal cell with effective protocols to handle the legal challenges faced in relation to the land management. The functioning of such legal cell under the foundation office would be much more effective considering the requirement of collaboration with external offices while dealing with these situations.
2. Effective liaising with the external government officials at all hierarchical levels with various departments such as Revenue, Police, etc., both at the local bodies and the state level offices to prevent land-grabbing and certain anti-social elements.
3. Constitution of full-fledged Estate Officer team for land management at all legal levels such as expediting the transfers of all the revenue documents that are pending since long time, timely surveys to earmark our land, etc.,
4. It is essential to appoint an in-service Tahsildar and Surveyor exclusively for processing Auroville lands.

5. A need for written authorization to the members of working groups and individual Aurovilians who represent Auroville in situations like encroachment, border disputes, etc., before the Police and other authorities. In the absence of such an authorization from the Auroville Foundation office, the personal individual representation for Auroville Foundation doesn't carry the same weightage and invites personalized attack or cases against the individuals/ members of the land board.

To conclude the report, we envision a close collaboration amongst the Auroville Foundation office and the working groups, to function better and effectively, in the spirit of the Auroville. Is this all a quotation???

GOI GRANTS USE

27: *“Expense sheet of grants received for the visit of the Hon’ble Prime Minister indicate that the bills were inflated and certain expenditures never incurred but shown as spent. This can be verified from RTI reply AF/G/4-A/103. This is standard operating procedure in Auroville to ensure kickbacks and inflate bill. These bills need to be sent to Forensic Audit.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

- Action Focus: GOI Grants - AV 50th Anniversary visit of Hon’ble Prime Minister
- Reference: **Exhibit 16** in the allegation documents which is a RTI reply dated 10 May 2019 providing as an enclosed statement the ‘50th Anniversary General Exp as on 31.03.2019’. Four topics are highlighted by Mr Vikram Ramakrishnan as ‘inflated’: Mobile toilets, toilet at Tibetan Pavilion, Bharat Nivas and Office Equipment.
- Written request to the ‘50th Anniversary Group’ for clarification.

REPLY:

From 50th Anniversary Group:

- **“All expenditures are documented in detail, correctly accounted for and audited by CAG. None of the items are inflated as the 3-quotation process or SAIER Purchasing Committee process was followed for purchase of all the capital equipment.**
- Tight monitoring process was held on a weekly basis by the ‘50th Anniversary Core Team’, appointed by the Working Committee consisting of senior Aurovilians.
- An additional level of decision-making and monitoring was carried out by a ‘Monitoring Committee’ with the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation as convener, and with the Under Secretary and Aurovilians from the ‘50th Anniversary Core Team’, Working Committee and FAMC as additional members.”
-

RTI answered, 50th team was monitored, GOI group answered extra questions

No proof of accusation provided in documents

No further comment at this time

AV ARCHITECTS NEED AUDITING

28: *“Income of Architects in Auroville need be audited as they take many private assignments violating visa regulations and do not report this to Foundation.”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

- We checked if a board of architects existed in AV (It does not).
- Allegation in case 38 mentions 2 architects and these cases have been documented with full cooperation from the accused.

REPLY:

This is a generic statement with no proof.

Auroville architects’ function under Auroville Foundation units or activities that are audited by CAG as all other Auroville Foundation units.

No proof of accusation provided in documents

No further comment at this time

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION AND LOCAL GROUPS WITH VESTED INTERESTS

29: *“As many acres of land is left unchecked, there is wood and timber mafia and land mafia hand in glove with the Town Hall (office) of Foundation.”*

REPLY:

All Auroville lands are stewarded and managed by individual Aurovilians or groups such as Forest Group, or leased to local individuals for cashew or other ‘usufructs’, with annual contracts.

No proof given.

No further comment at this time

GOLD THEFT AT MATRIMANDIR

30: *“There was a case of theft of precious gold valued at Rs. 9.80,183 at Matrimandir, and a complaint was filed (FIR 388/2017) stating as unknown people though only two Aurovilians had the key to the donation box. Such serious case is still not solved. (FIR No.388/2017 dt.09.06.2017)”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

- Meeting with the two persons keeping keys of the safe box: Michael and John
- Collection of all documentation: FIR filled out by John, his statements as executive, details about the handling of the keys
- Evaluation of ornaments done three years previous to the theft
- Auroville Security report made on 16/May/2019: MM Gold Theft Report with details of all events

REPLY

Summary of main points:

- The theft was discovered on 8 June 2017
- From June 8 to 13 June 2017 happened all the reporting to Police, interrogation, handling of worker names to police
- AV security, on 30/7/18 contacted the police and received the message that investigation was going on. On 30 July 2018, Srijita, in the capacity of Police Liaison for Auroville Safety and Security Service, was asked to provide advice to MM executives: to hire a lawyer.

Please see full case reply in Annex: Matrimandir Gold (See all docs in **Annex 1 & 2 of case 30**)

It has been confirmed verbally to the Matrimandir team by our area DSP, in November 2019, that the case is still under investigation by the police

Sub judice

No further comment at this time

FOREIGNERS OWNING PRIVATE PROPERTY

31: *“As per Auroville Entry Visa Rules, the foreigners cannot hold private property. But there are many foreigners who hold private properties and details are specified in the Memo on the state of Auroville Lands meticulously documented by Mr. Paul Vincent. Relevant land records, photographs are also placed on record. As all these details and undeniable facts clearly indicate unlawful transactions, the source of funds so as to know how these foreigners purchased the lands needs to be investigated thoroughly.”*

REPLY:

It is not true that foreigners cannot hold private property. Resident foreigners can purchase property as long as it is not agricultural and if the source of funds can be documented.

Extract of Working Committee report to residents:

- a) An Auroville resident should not purchase land within the Auroville Master Plan area.
- b) In case an Auroville resident owns land within the Master Plan area, ideally this land should be sold to the Auroville Foundation at the earliest. In case the land is family property, we expect the Auroville resident to make a sincere effort to convince the other family members to find a suitable arrangement with the Auroville Foundation and if sales and exchange are not immediately possible to explore other options like lease, right of first refusal to the Foundation in case of future sales, etc.
- c) There are no grounds for objecting to an Auroville resident owning immovable property (lands and/or houses) outside the Master Plan area unless there is proof that the funds for the property came from an Auroville unit or activity.
- d) As individual Auroville residents as well as Board members have raised questions about the propriety of land and/or house purchases by Auroville residents, we will ask for clarifications about the source of funding from those whose purchase of immovable property in or outside the Master Plan area has been brought to our notice.”

No further comment at this time

MONEY LAUNDERING

32: *“In the light of this documentary evidence, all the facts narrated, an investigation must be started on all the points mentioned above and prosecute all those involved under the relevant Sections of IPC, CrPC read with relevant Sections of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and Section 29 of Auroville Foundation Act. The Town Hall offices be sealed and all computers and documents be seized as there will be likely attempt to destroy all evidence and cover up.”*

REPLY:

Answered case by case above.

Money laundering can't be verified.

Generic statement

No proof of any of the points.

No further comment at this time

Issues on threat to National Security - Drug Abuse and other related matters:

NATIONAL SECURITY

33: *“Complainant has alleged that there is a serious threat to National Security as there is no mechanism in Auroville Foundation to verify criminal records and military background of Foreigners who enter Auroville to do voluntary service and live in the township. Many of the Foreigners were granted Auroville Visa to do voluntary service, take up business outside Auroville and hold private immovable assets outside Auroville area in Pondicherry, Kodaikanal, Tiruvannamalai and other areas.”*

REPLY:

- All visa applications are processed and granted or rejected by the Home Ministry of the GoI, not Auroville Foundation or Auroville
Anyone doing business outside of Auroville is required to do so under a registered activity/unit of the Auroville Foundation and undergo audits by the CAG.

No further comment at this time

NATIONAL SECURITY - MILITANCY

34. *“The Foundation does not work with FRRO for protecting National Security.*

With the militancy, IS and recent attacks in Sri Lanka, it is imperative for Auroville Entry Service (ES) to delegate their duties and responsibility for Sovereign Security of the Nation. When FRRO does his duty for security in India, the Entry Service members raise a hue and cry and recommend through the letters to bring back the blacklisted and deported foreigners back to India. FRRO has no support from Entry Service and Working Committee (WCom) on the issue of visa defaulters and over staying individuals. ES and Working Committee adopted an anarchist approach where Indian laws should not enter. This does not augur well for India and need to be curtailed.”

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

Working Committee was asked for clarification and responded.

Entry Board was asked for clarification and responded.

REPLY:

Reply from Entry Service: Entry Service relates only with foreigners that having passed the security controls of Indian Government to enter the country, wish to join Auroville. They only make a recommendation to the Foundation to provide a letter so that India’s embassy in the country of origin of the foreigner can provide his/her Visa. Entry Service does not provide the Visas.

Similarly, ES does not deal with any matter regarding Visa violations, as their relation with the foreigner ends once he has entered the country with the X-Visa. So, this allegation towards ES is incorrect.

Reply from Working Committee about overstaying and Blacklisted and deported foreigners: “We only learn about a person defaulting on his/her visa or overstaying, after the person has been arraigned by the RRO / FRRO.

The Working Committee, upon hearing of a visa violation or of an overstay, brings the matter to the notice of the relevant authorities. This is both the FRRO in Chennai as well as the Home Ministry in New Delhi.

The Working Committee is rarely involved in dealing with overstay cases; mostly, the issue can be resolved by the person paying a penalty. In one case, where the overstay was more than a year, the person was refused re-entry and was only resolved after a presentation made in New Delhi.

In the case of defaulting, reasons are never provided. The person is either served a Leave India notice, or is not allowed re-entry upon his/her return from abroad.

The FRRO, in his address to the community in March last year, promised that henceforth all cases where the FRRO has reasons to believe that a visa violation has taken place, will first be submitted to the Secretary Auroville Foundation for his views.

So far, we have had four cases where clarifications have been given by the Secretary, after interacting with the Working Committee which in turn interacted with the person concerned. Only one recent case happened where a person was refused re-entry without prior consultation with the Secretary. This case has meanwhile been cleared, after the issue was brought to the notice of the FRRO by the Working Committee with a clarification of the person concerned.

The Working Committee has, on various occasions, interacted either directly or in collaboration with the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, with the FRRO in Chennai and/or officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi requesting leniency for residents who have been made to leave India for visa violations.

The decision is with the Home Ministry. For example, after receiving the presentation of the Working Committee, which included the presentations of the persons concerned, three cases of residents who committed minor visa violations have been resolved. (two persons are awaiting their Stay Visa; one person is still abroad and awaits information on how to return to India.) Two other cases of residents who are accused of having committed more serious visa violations are kept pending. The requests for leniency for three Aurovilians who have been refused re-entry into India more than 15 years ago have been submitted to the Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs for his consideration.

The very fact that the FRRO came to Auroville and had a 2-hour interaction with the community may show that Mr. Ram's allegations are nonsensical.

Mr. Ram seems to imply that it is an insult to India to request a review of a decision. If this would be the case, the Home Ministry would not have entertained any request leave alone taken positive decisions.”

No further comment at this time

DRUG ABUSE - 1

35: *“There are many Aurovillian (Foreigners) holding private properties also involved in drug abuse and drug related activities. Names of such Foreigners include are already mentioned in earlier set of complaint.”*

REPLY:

Repetition of case 36

No further comment at this time

DRUG ABUSE - 2

36: *“Marijuana, Ayahuasca, Marijuana oil, drugs like Acid, MDMA and LSD is rampant in Auroville and the units such Svedam, Youth Centre, Pony Farm, Well Cafe are notorious for selling ...”*

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

- E-mails to the mentioned communities
- Meeting with representatives from Youth Center and Well Cafe
- Initiative from the Youth Center to communicate with the Auroville Council and the Working Committee
- Two meetings with the AV Council to discuss a change of policy and responsibility at the Youth Centre.
- Individual email responses from residents of the Pony farm
- Representative of Well Cafe wrote response that alcohol and drugs have always been banned in Well Cafe

REPLY:

- Agreement for a ‘NO TOLERANCE FOR DRUGS’ is in preparation in cooperation between management of Youth Centre and Auroville Council
- It is against the spirit and the Charter of Auroville and it is frowned upon more in AV than anywhere else. When people join Auroville they sign an agreement along these lines, and on various occasions the community has issued statements on this prohibition
- Auroville is developing a ‘NO TOLERANCE’ policy
- When rare cases of proven drug dealing have come up in the past those individuals have had their visas revoked at the recommendation of Auroville Foundation.

No proof of accusation provided in allegation

Needs more follow up

VISA

37: *“Many foreigners who come on tourist visa or auroville entry visa indulge in anti-government and openly make comments against our Prime Minister Sri Naredra Modiji. The comments in social media by foreigners can be verified in the supportive documents submitted to the Enquiry Committee.”*

REPLY:

Needs more follow up

FOREIGN ARCHITECTS AND VISA REGULATIONS

38: *“The architects namely Fabiene and Satprem as some of the foreigners who take up projects outside AV in violation to visa regulations and amassed huge personal wealth without any track. There are also many foreigners who make personal money by conducting workshops for yoga, meditation, film making, architecture and consultancy outside Auroville without raising any Auroville invoice. All these activities are in contravention of visa regulations and policies of Auroville but continues unabated.”*

Re the “First Part” of the allegation on Fabian and Satprem:

CLARIFICATION PROCESS / ACTIONS:

- E-mails to the mentioned architects Satprem and Fabian
- Both answered to be fully cooperative and provide any necessary info or figures and access to accounts
- Meeting with architects Satprem and Fabian (showing their accounts) both asking Auroville Foundation to pursue for defamation
- Email from Satprem to Chairman of the Governing Board Dr. Karan Singh asking to pursue defamation in court

REPLY:

- “This is a pure defamation, and Vikram could be and should be pursued in court for that by Auroville as a whole. In thirty and half years that I have worked in Auroville, all the projects that I undertook in India were done in the name of the Auroville Earth Institute (AVEI), all these works and funds have been integrally accounted under AVEI accounts. I never kept a single paisa for me.” (statement by Satprem)
- See ANNEX 38 below

Re the “Second Part” of the allegation (*“foreigners who make personal money by conducting workshops for yoga, meditation, film making, architecture and consultancy outside Auroville without raising any Auroville invoice”*):

This is a broad unsubstantiated allegation without any proof.

Aurovilians carry out their work according to Auroville Foundation Act, internal policies and Indian laws.

See Annex 38:

FUNDS GIVEN BY **SATPREM** TO AUROVILLE FROM 1990:

BEF C 054 Satprem Donations to Auroville from 1990.pdf

SATPREM'S INCOME FROM WORKS ABROAD - FROM 1990:

BEF C 054 Satprem Income abroad & Donations to AV from 1990.pdf

WHITE ANT STUDIO **Fabian Ostner**
A. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019
(Amounts in Rs.)

	Schedule	Current year	Previous year
Capital /Corpus Fund and Liabilities			
Capital Fund	1	71,232.54	76,699.30
Corpus Fund	1a	-	-
Reserves and Surplus	2	-	-
Earmarked/Endowment Funds	3	-	-
Loan Fund			
Secured Loans and Borrowings	4	-	-
Unsecured Loans and Borrowings	5	285,608.00	57,500.00
Deferred Credit Liabilities	6	-	-
Current Liabilities & Provisions	7		
(i) Sundry Creditors/Payable		51,750.00	214,608.00
(ii) Other Current Liabilities	-	-	-
(iii) Provisions		9,893.00	(10,627.00)
Totals		418,483.54	338,180.30
Assets			
Fixed Assets	8		
(i) Tangible Assets		125,956.15	163,670.15
(ii) Intangible Assets		-	-
(iii) Capital Work-in-progress		-	-
Investments			
Investment - Earmarked / Endowment Funds	9	-	-
Investment - Others	10	-	-
Currents Assets ,Loans & Advances	11		
(i) Sundry Debtors/Receivables		-	-
(ii) Loans and Advances		106,557.00	119,411.00
(iii) Deposits		-	-
(iv) Closing Stock		-	-
(v) Cash & Bank Balances		185,970.39	55,099.15
(vi) Other Current Assets		-	-
Misc/Deferred Revenue Exps.	12	-	-
Totals		418,483.54	338,180.30

Place : Auroville
Date : 18.06.2019
for White Ant Studio
Executive

As per my report of even date

Prabakaran P
Chartered Accountant
M. No. 207684

First Part: No proof of accusation provided in allegation

Second Part: unsubstantiated general sweeping statement

Documentation nearing completion - No further comment at
this time

GOOD GOVERNANCE

39: *“The facts narrated makes it crystal clear that many Aurovillians think that Auroville is beyond law and the laxity of officials taking action emboldened them to indulge in crimes unchecked. My humble request is to correct these anomalies, take disciplinary action on the foreigners so that good governance prevails and dream of Mother is fulfilled.”*

REPLY:

This is not an autonomous allegation per se, but rather a generic conclusive statement of Vikram Ram’s allegations

No further comment at this time

ANNEX to Case 4

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION FINANCIAL GUIDELINES FOR AUROVILLE UNITY FUND

Table of Contents

1) BACKGROUND.....	2
2) OBJECTIVE	3
3) GUIDELINES	3
Annex 1: Policy on Investments.....	8

p2

1) BACKGROUND

“Auroville Unity Fund” (Unity Fund) was created in February 2006 to establish a common pool for all the incomes of Auroville. A Unit was created through an office order no. 60 dated 31st March 2006 with an Executive Board comprising of seven Members. This fund was being operated by joint signature of any two Members so Authorized.

The Governing Board (GB), at a meeting on 30th September 2006, resolved that a draft handbook of procedures for the Unity Fund would be made by the IPAI. The Fund and Asset Management Committee (FAMC) in its meeting of 23rd February 2007 initiated the preparation of guidelines for the Unity Fund operations.

The Auroville Foundation by an office order No. 105 incorporated the Secretary, Auroville Foundation as a compulsory second/joint signatory to the operation of the account of the Unity Fund. This was later modified in September 2007, by Order No. 123, to the effect that the Finance Administrative Officer would co-sign all the cheques that were for Rs. 5 lacs and above. This practice is currently in vogue.

The current practices of managing the activities of the Auroville Foundation are based on a decentralized system of management with various trusts, units, projects, and working groups (hereafter referred to as units). Unity Fund acts only as the official channel for the funds to get routed to these units and does not have expenditure other than that directly related to its administration. Major units include:

- Ø Auromitra (Village Development)
- Ø SAIER (Education)
- Ø L'Avenir (City Planning & Development)
- Ø Matrimandir
- Ø Land
- Ø Housing
- Ø City Services
- Ø Auroville Village Action Trust (Village Development)
- Ø Center for Scientific Research (CSR)
- Ø Auroville Projects (previously Auroville Fund)
- Ø Non-surplus making services that provide Goods and Services within Auroville.
- Ø Surplus making units engaged in sale of Goods and Services both internally and externally.

Units have their own decision making bodies to guide them in their decisions related to sourcing and utilizing funds. Neither the Unity Fund nor its executives decide on strategies or methods of fund raising or earnings, nor do they decide on how the individual units utilize their income. For unspecified donations see para 3(iv).

Each unit maintains its own accounts. These accounts are then consolidated into the various Trust or Group balance sheets which are consolidated into the overall Auroville Foundation balance sheet.

Surplus generating units have a major role to play in Auroville's economy, as it is a large contributor to the fund requirements of Auroville. It needs a great deal of autonomy in decision making which is vital in today's environment.

While the units make their own decisions regarding income and expenditure, they are answerable to the Finance and Assets Management Committee (FAMC), which both ratifies budgets and approves overall financial policies. Thus the Unity Fund is directly or indirectly controlled by the actions of the FAMC and its Committees viz., the Budget Coordination Committee and is managed by the Executive Members directly or by its Committees viz., Investment Group, Grants in Aid subgroup, Reserve Management Group.

An Investment Group decides on the short term investment of funds sitting with the Unity Fund, including the nature of the instruments and the rate of return at which investments are to be made.

These decisions are guided by the guidelines applicable to the institutions exempt under section 10 (23) (c) of the Income Tax Act and as per the Investment Policy laid down in Annexure 1.

2) OBJECTIVE

The Objective of the Unity Fund is to contribute towards unity within Auroville without losing the richness that comes with its diversity. As such the Unity Fund is the channel for all grant, donation and contribution income that comes to Auroville from both external and internal sources. This will enable the Unity Fund to present a wide view of both Auroville's funding situation and the use of its available funds.

In the light of the foregoing, and also taking into consideration that the Foundation/ Unity Fund is a non profit organization, the systems/practices that are to be followed need to be simple in understanding and easy to implement without creating too much paperwork and bureaucracy.

3) GUIDELINES

The Unity Fund is the common financial pool of the Auroville Foundation. It receives all the Grants, Donations, and Contributions, and channels them to various units that implement activities.

a) PROCEDURES FOR THE RECEIPT OF FUNDS.

i. Types of Receipts

Types of receipts include donations, grants, and contributions, which may be received by Cash, Cheques, Bank Remittances, Bank Transfers and 'in-kind'. Donations and grants are defined as arising from sources outside of Auroville. They may include individuals, businesses, non-governmental organizations, multilateral institutions, governments, etc..

Contributions are defined as arising from within Auroville. They may include individuals (i.e., Aurovilians and Newcomers), surplus generating units, services, projects, etc.

Receipts can be broadly viewed by: 1) purpose (unspecified or specified); and 2) source (external or internal).

ii. Approval of Activities.

(1) The Unity Fund may only receive donations, grants, and contributions for approved activities.

- (2) Activities shall be approved by the FAMC before they become operational.
- (3) The FAMC shall inform the Unity Fund of all newly approved units and activities in writing, and shall ensure that the Unity Fund is provided with all documentation pertaining to these units' finances.

iii. Issuance of Receipts

- (1) All receipts received by the Unity Fund shall be duly receipted. In the case of donations, a copy of the receipt shall be mailed to the donors.
- (2) Receipts shall be serially numbered and signed by the designated Executive of the Unity Fund and copy will be kept by the executives of Unity Fund.

iv. Unspecified Donations. Unspecified donations are funds that have been given to Auroville for which no specific unit or activity has been designated as the recipient.

Unspecified donations shall be received in accordance with section - 3 (a) (iii) and shall be allocated by the Budget Coordination Committee subject to ratification by FAMC.

v. Specified Donations. Specified Donations are those that have been given for a specific unit or activity within Auroville. Specified donations shall be received in accordance with section - 3 (a) (iii) Additionally the following guidelines shall apply:

- (1) Specified Donations, both foreign and domestic, automatically become part of a corpus/earmarked fund
- (2) Specified Donations may only be used for purpose(s) specified by the donor(s) in written documentation (either print or electronic).
- (3) The purpose for which specified donations are given may be changed in exceptional cases only and must be done only in consultation with the donor(s), if possible, and project holder(s) and must be approved by the FAMC.

vi. External Receipts. External receipts are income or materials that come from entities that are outside of the Auroville Foundation. External receipts may arise from foreign and domestic sources.

(1) Foreign Donations.

- (a) All foreign donations, except for "in-kind" donations, shall be deposited into the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) account and must be managed in accordance with the FCR Act.
- (b) All foreign "in-kind" donations shall be managed in accordance with the FCR Act. Additionally they shall be considered as specified donations and shall be received in accordance with section – 3(a) (v)

(2) Domestic Donations. Domestic donations are received under the following categories:

- (a) Donations which are exempt u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act.
- (b) Donations which are exempt u/s 35 (1) (ii & iii) of the Income Tax Act
- (c) Donations for which no tax exemption is applicable.

Separate receipt books are to be maintained for each of the donation types.

(3) Government of India (GOI) Grants. Grants are received from the Government of India for specific projects and for funding of annual budgets. GOI funding shall be requested and received in accordance with the following process:

- (a) All accounting of Government of India funds shall be done by the recipient of the funds (e.g., SAIIER, CSR, etc). In exceptional cases, whereby there is no officially sanctioned entity, accounting shall be done by the Unity Fund office.
- (b) Requests for Government of India funds shall be coordinated by the Working

Committee, FAMC and L'Avenir. The FAMC shall forward proposals so finalized to the Foundation Office, which shall make the requests to the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Government of India.

vii. Internal Contributions

(1) Internal contributions are funds or materials received from within the Auroville Foundation. Internal contributions may arise from individuals (i.e., Aurovilians and Newcomers), surplus generating units, services, projects, income earned on investments made by Unity Fund (e.g. interest, mutual fund dividends), etc.

(2) All internal contributions shall be routed directly to the Unity Fund.

(3) Internal contribution guidelines shall be approved by the FAMC.

(4) Surplus generating units' shall transfer cash reserve balances to the Unity Fund.

Reserves shall mean cash/bank balances not required by the unit for the next 12 months. Disbursement of these reserves shall be in accordance with section 3.b.iv, below.

b) PROCEDURES FOR DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

i. Disbursement of Unspecified Donations/Contributions. Unspecified receipts, both foreign and domestic, and income earned on investments held by the Unity Fund, shall be disbursed by its executives in accordance with budgets determined by the Budget Coordination Committee subject to ratification by the FAMC.

ii. Disbursement of Specified Donations/Contributions. Specified donations/contributions shall be disbursed in accordance with written donor instructions and/or contracts in either hardcopy or electronic formats. However in the event that donor instructions conflict with these guidelines, these guidelines shall prevail unless otherwise determined by the FAMC.

iii. Disbursement of Government of India Grants

(1) An FAMC sub-group for the Government of India Grants shall be comprised of the recipients of the grants, the FAO, and the Secretary, Auroville Foundation.

(2) The sub-group shall meet to approve an annual allocation of the funds.

(3) Recipients shall meet regularly before each government disbursement to monitor and approve reallocations, if necessary.

(4) Government of India funds, upon receipt, shall be expeditiously transferred from the Office of the Secretary to the Unity Fund to ensure the effective utilization of such funds.

(5) Funds shall be disbursed by the Unity Fund in accordance with the sub-group's decisions, and shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) Disbursement of funds may be made upon receipt of written requisitions from the unit for which the funds apply. Requisitions shall include:

(i) A summary showing the amount requisitioned, the amount of the funds already received, the amount utilized at the time of the requisition, the balance of funds available;

(ii) A summary of how the newly requisitioned funds will be used.

(b) Disbursement of funds shall be in accordance with the needs of the units to function effectively and subject to availability of funds relating to the activities for which funding is requested.

(c) The amount of funds disbursed shall not exceed a three month period for which funds are required.

iv. Disbursement of Reserves Generated by Units

(1) A Reserve Management Group, a sub-group of the FAMC, shall be established in agreement with the Auroville Board of Commerce. It shall consist of members with proven commercial and financial expertise. The Reserve Management Group shall oversee the deposit and disbursement of the reserves generated by units.

(2) Disbursements shall be made against such reserves on the basis of specific requests to the Reserve Management Group in accordance with the following guidelines:

(a) Normally 50% of the units' reserve will be kept aside to meet the units' requirements.

(i) Requests to release this portion must be made in writing by the concerned units.

(ii) Requests shall be reviewed and may be approved by the Reserve Management Group.

(iii) The Reserve Management Group will inform the FAMC of any requests and of its decisions to release these funds.

(iv) Normally requests should be processed with a minimal amount of paperwork and delays (seven business days or less).

(b) The second portion of the unit's reserves will be deposited into a "development fund", normally reserved to finance expenditure which would improve the overall economic situation of Auroville business units. However, non-business related expenditure may also be considered.

(i) Requests to release this portion must be made in writing by the concerned entity.

(ii) Requests shall be reviewed by the Reserve Management Group, which shall forward its recommendation to the FAMC for final approval.

(iii) Funding requests shall include:

1. A summary showing how the funds will be used.

2. The benefits the entity expects to derive. This should include documentation showing how the funds are expected to increase the entity's overall functioning and/or profitability.

3. The amount required.

4. Any other reasonable documentation requested by the Reserve Management Group.

c) Recordkeeping, Accounting, Auditing, and Reporting

i. All units formed with an executive order or an office order will maintain their own financial records, which shall include vouchers, books of accounts, and any other documents required by Indian law and Indian GAAP.

ii. The Unity Fund units and activities under units shall undergo an annual statutory audit as well as an annual audit by the Comptroller Auditor General's (CAG) office as per Indian Law.

iii. The FAMC may call special audits and appoint such auditors as are required from time to time to conduct the same.

iv. The FAMC may approve selection of chartered accountants for all entities under the Auroville Foundation.

v. The Unity Fund, units, and activities under units shall submit reports in accordance with the reporting policy determined by the FAMC. Activities may also be required to submit reports in accordance with policies determined by the units under which they operate.

d) Investments

i. Surplus funds with the Unity Fund, both temporary and long term, may be invested from time to time by the Investment Group in accordance with the investment policy approved by the FAMC.

ii. Members of the Investment Group shall be appointed by the FAMC.

iii. The Investment Group shall provide quarterly reports to both the Unity Fund executives and the FAMC.

Annex 1: Policy on Investments

1. Investment of Surplus funds (float) shall be guided by the guidelines applicable to the institutions exempt under section 10 (23) (c) of the Income Tax Act.

2. The decision on choice of investment shall be made by the Investment Group after analysis of options available at that point in time and keeping in mind the Safety of Capital, Liquidity of the Instrument and Return on Investment; in that order.

ANNEXES to Case 15

Report Landboard (dated Jan 15th 2020)

Dear members of Light for All Task force team,

As desired by you, we write this report pursuant to our meeting held yesterday at the land board office. For record purposes, we register here the subject matters of our discussion yesterday on Srima survey, land encroachment and the challenges faced by the Land Board in general.

Please find below the brief report for your consideration and necessary action:-

A. Srima Encroachment clarification: -

An official survey was conducted with the help of the Surveyors of the Revenue Department on 03.07.2015 in which the surveyor has found that the Kitchen building of the James Court is situated in the Auroville land. Subsequent to the survey, the steward has filed FIR on the encroachment and the land board together with the foundation tried various options to solve this case including exploring a land exchange option. However, since no amicable solution could be arrived at, we have sent a legal notice on 19.01.2019, followed by steps taken to file the civil suit before the court of law.

B. Land encroachment actual update: -

As regards encroachment, we clarify that the actual lands under encroachment admeasuring around 41.09 acres in total (5.59 in green belt area and 5.09 in city area and 30.5 outside of master plan area) which are under legal actions towards recovery of lands, as much as possible. Please note that most of these lands are with the village settlement for almost more than 30 years, which requires the government's active support for recovery or alternate decisions. The governing Board and the Auroville Foundation have been informed regularly for their assistance to facilitate with the government towards an amicable solution.

Please note that these encroachments constitute 1.03 % of the total lands held by Auroville, which also includes majority of lands kept with the village settlement. With the close collaboration of the Auroville Foundation office, facilitation with the collector's office it would be much easier to tackle these village settlement encroachments.

C. General challenges faced by land board that requires Auroville Foundation collaboration:-

Besides the challenges regularly dealt by the land board above, we request the Governing Board to expedite the following which has been long pending redressal.

1. Establishment of a full-fledged legal cell with effective protocols to handle the legal challenges faced in relation to the land management. The functioning of such legal cell under the

foundation office would be much effective considering the requirement of collaboration with external offices while dealing with these situations.

2. Effective liaising with the external government officials at all hierarchical levels with various departments such as Revenue, Police, etc., both at the local bodies and the state level offices to prevent land-grabbing and certain anti-social elements.

3. Constitution of full-fledged Estate Officer team for land management at all legal levels such as expediting the transfers of all the revenue documents that are pending since long time, timely surveys to earmark our land, etc.,

4. It is essential to appoint an in-service Tahsildar and Surveyor exclusively for processing Auroville lands.

5. A need for written authorization to the members of working groups and individual aurovilians who represent Auroville in situations like encroachment, border disputes, etc., before the Police and other authorities. In the absence of such an authorization from the Auroville Foundation office, the personal individual representation for Auroville Foundation doesn't carry the same weightage and invites personalized attack or cases against the individuals/ members of the land board.

To conclude the report, we envision a close collaboration amongst the Auroville Foundation office and the working groups, to function better and effectively, in the spirit of the Auroville.

Warm Regards,

Land Board of the Auroville Foundation

1st Floor, Town Hall, Auroville -605101 Ph: 0413 2623699

SRIMA LAND ENCROACHMENT

(REPORT by LandBoard dated Jan 30th 2020)

BRIEF HISTORY-

Auroville Foundation owns and possess land in Pillaichavady Village, Puducherry in R.S.No. 195/2, since 1970 (SriMa). St. James Court, beach resort is the property adjacent to SriMa. Since 2007, James court owned by Mr. N.Sambath has been encroaching into Auroville's land.

The details of the ongoing dispute and the proceedings on the same is provided

Below: -DATE PROCEEDING

29/10/2007 Encroachment by St. James Court Resort on Auroville Foundation (Auroville Foundation) land RS. No 195/2 was reported by Mr. Daniel to Land and Resource Management (LRM) which was promptly notified to the Secretary of Auroville Foundation.

12/11/2007 Secretary of Auroville Foundation notifies Mr. N.Sambath (Managing director) James Court, about the encroachment and requests to vacate.

04/12/2007 Mr. N.Sambath (James Court) offers to buy the encroached land from Auroville Foundation.

18/01/2008 Secretary of Auroville Foundation summoned Mr N.Sambath to discuss further on the offer to purchase the encroached land, which was not materialised.

5/12/2008 Mr Daniel informs LRM about further encroachment into AV land which was notified promptly to the Secretary of Auroville Foundation.

10/12/2008 Mr Subramanian, executive for LRM, files a complaint to S.I. Kalapet Station regarding the trespassing and encroachment.

12/12/2008 Auroville Foundation advised LRM to take legal measure against James Court encroachment.

19/12/2008 Mr Subramanian, executive for LRM, files a complaint to S.P (North) Pondicherry, under Sec 156 (3) of CrPC.

22/12/2008 Mr Chandrasekaran, Special Officer of land Auroville Foundation, files a complaint to the Inspector of Police, Muthiyalpet, against James Court for trespassing into AV property.

12/07/2011 The Special Secretary to Government-cum-collector, Revenue (North), Pondicherry, on the basis of the spot inspection conducted by tahsildar (Oulgaret Taluk), has acknowledged that 0.4.15 hectares (10.25 cents) of Auroville has been encroached by James court.

19/07/2011 Auroville Foundation requested Special Secretary to Government-cum-collector, Revenue (North), Pondicherry to reconduct the sight inspection in the presence of AV special Lands officer.

27/09/2011 An RTI was filed by Mr. Rauf Ali seeking information regarding encroachment of AV land by James Court

14/10/2011 Auroville Foundation has provided the attested copies of details with regards to the RTI query (but the documents not found in the file)

26/06/2014 Mr. N Sambath makes an offer to exchange his property (R.S.no 302/1A1 and R.S.no 304/1) around 1 acre next to Savitiri Bhavan.

01/08/2014 Auroville Foundation requested LCC to examine and review the land proposed by Mr.N. Sambath for exchange (LCC found some ongoing litigation on property)

08/05/2015 A meeting was held at Land Board office between Land Board executives and James Court represented by Mr. Sambath, Balakrishna, Narasiman, Tulasingam and agreed upon to:

-Conduct a boundary survey of the encroached land and a lease to be negotiated for the encroached land.

Mr Sambath to exchange the land with Auroville Foundation when the litigation on the land near Savitri Bhavan R.S.no 302/1A1 and R.S.No 304/1 is settled.

03/07/2015 Survey was conducted to assess the encroachment

31/07/2015 Received the survey report and it was found that there was an encroachment of 0.05.04 Hecter (12.44 cents).

18/02/2018 James court encroached further into the AV land and started constructing a compound wall in the encroached land.

19/02/2018 Land board filed a police complaint with the S.I Kalapet station.

21/02/2018 Delegation from James Court visited Land board and agreed to stop all further works on the encroached land and further start the negotiation for an exchange of land near Savitri Bhavan.

11/03/2018 Land board opined that the land for exchange is still under litigation and hence the settlement of exchange unlikely at the moment.

06/04/2018 Secretary Auroville Foundation requested Land Board to report the details of litigation on the land.

19/02/2019 Legal notice was sent to the N. Sambath (Managing director) James Court against the encroachment .

From the Working Committee date: Jan 31st 2019

Dear All,

In addition to the attached proceeding, please find below actions that had been taken by the Working Committee.

On 21.11.2011 The Working Committee wrote a letter to Mr. N. Sambath, the Chairman & Managing Direct of the St James Court, informed that the Working Committee will be fencing the property of Auroville Foundation within the next 15 day, after date of the letter.

On 14.12.2011 The Working Committee wrote to Mr. N. Sambath, the Chairman & Managing Direct of the St. James Court informed that the Working Committee will deposit the fencing materials next to encroached land to fencing it as marked by the Surveyor of the Sub-Collector's office, Pondicherry.

On 20.12.2011 Mr. Anbumani (Corporate Manager) from the St. James Court wrote a letter to the Working Committee, informed that Mr. N. Sambath, the Chairman & Managing Director of the St. James Court was abroad and he spoke to him over phone and he will negotiate with Auroville once he comes back.

On 06.12.2013 The Working Committee requested the Secretary of Auroville Foundation to file a suit against St. James Court.

From the Foundation Office: (dated Feb 4th 2020)

In the email dated 31-01-2020, the Task Force has requested the present stage on the eviction made in Srirama area by Mr. Sampath, M. D. of James Court.

The Landboard in their letter dated 04-03-2019 stated that they have issued a notice to the encroacher Mr. Sampath, M. D. of James Court and if no reply is received within 15 days it was decided to take proper legal action against him. On 22-03-2019 it was reported, that they will take criminal action, as trespass offence Under Section 441 of I.P.C. But no further report was received from Landboard on this subject yet. The Landboard is requested to expedite the action taken on this issue to Task Force under intimation to this office.

ANNEX to Case 24 SARAVANAN

Dear members of the Light for All - Pour Tous Task Force,

Sub: IR. R.S.No. 426/1c2 measuring 8.175 acres.

In response to your query please find below an overview of the actions taken by the Working Committee.

- 26) 11.06.2018. The Land Board by email asked the Auroville Foundation and Working Committee to handle the issue of the 8.175 acres deal directly.
- 27) 20.06.2018. The Secretary of Auroville Foundation appointed lawyer Mr. Praveen Kumar, Additional Public Prosecutor, Pondicherry to handle the 8.17 acres case.
- 28) 29.06.2018. The Secretary of Auroville Foundation authorized Mr. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy, a member of the Working Committee, to file on behalf of the Auroville Foundation all complaints relating to the 8.17 acres deal before the necessary authorities/ judicial fora.
- 29) 29.06.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy filed a complaint formulated by the lawyer against the 10 sellers, the Broker, the document writer and the Sub-Registrar, Vanur and sent this to the below mentioned Government officials and authorities:
 - a. The Station House Officer;
 - b. Auroville Police Station;
 - c. The Chief Minister's Special Cell;
 - d. Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu;
 - e. Home Secretary Tamil Nadu;
 - f. Director General of Police;
 - g. Vigilance Commissioner;
 - h. ADGP- Anti-Corruption;
 - i. ADGP- Economic Offence Wing;
 - j. ADGP- Crime,
 - k. Deputy Inspector General of Registration Office;
 - l. The Superintendent of Police,
 - m. Anti Land Grabbing Spl. Cell.
 - n. The SP, Villupuram,
 - o. the DSP, Kottakuppam,
 - p. the Inspector of Auroville Police Station
 - q. the District Registrar.
- 30) 03.07.2018. The District Registrar writes to the Registrar Tindivanam to take a necessary action. The letter was copied to Working Committee, Auroville.
- 31) 06.07.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy received summons from the Anti Land Grabbing Cell to appear in person in its office at Villupuram on 09.07.2018 at 10 am.
- 32) 09.07.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy along with lawyer Praveenkumar and Jayendra (Auroville Foundation Lawyer) paid a visit to Anti Land Grabbing Cell, Villupuram and explained the situation requested them to initiate action at the earliest.
- 33) 09.07.2018. Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) writes to the Superintendent of Police to look into the issue and take necessary action.

- 34) 27.07.2018. As advised by lawyer Praveenkumar, a Writ Petition was filed by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy in the Chennai High Court through the Chennai High Court advocate Mr. Sukumaran to seek protection to the property.
- 35) 16.08.2018. Mail received from the Chief Minister's Cell stating that the Inspector had made an inquiry into the complaint at a sessions where both parties were present and both parties agreed to follow up the matter in court. However, this was a false statement provided by the local police station to the CM Cell.
- 36) 31.08.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy was summoned by the Economic Office Wing to appear on 03.09.2018 at their office for an enquiry.
- 37) 03.08.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy together with lawyer Praveenkumar visited the Economic Offence Wing, Villupuram for the enquiry.
- 38) 03.10.2018. An Affidavit was filed at Vanur Munisif Court by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy through lawyer Praveenkumar. In the affidavit the Auroville Foundation requested the magistrate to direct the Police to file a FIR on our complaint given on 29.06.2018.
- 39) 09.10.2018. A counter response given by the Working Committee to the CM Cell stating that the CM Cell was misled by the location Police station.
- 40) 16.10.2018. First hearing , attended by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy, at Vanur DMC.
- 41) 29.10.2018. Summons was served on Ranjith by the Inspector of Police, Auroville Police Station, to be present on 30.10.2018 at 10 am Auroville Police station.
- 42) 30.10.2018. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy along with lawyer Mr. Praveenkumar went to the Auroville Police Station for an enquiry. The Inspector presented several questions. The questions were answered in writing.
- 43) 26.11.2018. Second hearing at Vanur DMC, attended by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy.
- 44) 27.11.2018. Third hearing at Vanur DMC, attended by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy.
- 45) 28.11.2018 Fourth hearing at Vanur DMC, attended by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy.
- 46) 29.11.2018 Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy is called by the Anti Land Grabbing Cell for a final Enquiry on the same day evening. Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy went alone and collected the FIR copy registered against 10 sellers, broker, document writer and the Sub-registrar.
- 47) 13.02.2019 Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy receives a notice from the Anti Land Grabbing Cell stating that they are dismissing our case.
- 48) 07.03.2019. Appeal was filed against the dismissal of the case by Anti Land Grabbing Cell in the High Court by Ranjithkumar Ramamurthy through advocate Sukumaran.
- 49) 26.03.2019 The High Court directs the Auroville Foundation to file a protest petition before the concerned judicial magistrate.
- 50) 27.03.2019. Agreement reached between the sellers and Sec. Auroville Foundation to cancel the purchase and repay the purchase price of Rs.4.90 cores and the sum of Rs. 53.92 lakhs paid towards stamp duty and registration charges.

The following members were in the Department Enquiry Committee.

1. Mr. Mohan Chunkanth, Secretary of Auroville Foundation,
2. Mr. Srinivasamurty, Under-Secretary.
3. Toine

4. Pashi Kapoor
5. Ashok Chatterji
6. Elisa
7. Angelo

With regards,

The Working Committee

ANNEX # 1 to Case 30 Matrimandir gold

Meeting with John from Matrimandir

Participants: John, Hemant, Raju, Mila

A detailed documentation was given by John:

- Complaint lodged by John. FIR made by AV Police Station and copy handed over to John
- His statements as MM executive handed over to AVPS on their investigation.
- Details about the handling and use of the keys
- MM Gold Theft Report made by Police Liaison of Auroville with details of all events.

John also told us that:

- Immediately following the theft MM executives met workers and aurovilians that work in MM office area. Executives talked with them collectively and also individually facilitating them to return the Jewellery or offer any information about the theft. No person came forward, accepting the mistakes.
- At the moment of the theft there were no cameras in the Matrimandir upstairs office where the safe is. The camera recorder for the gate camera was checked by police , but nothing of interest was found as the camera recorder has a limited time of data retention.
- The locker was opened 3 months before the theft was discovered, to deposit one item of silver jewellery. Everything was fine as per the register.

About 3 years before the theft, MM executives tried to sell the gold, got an evaluation for Rs. 9,80,000 but due to uncertainties at the Foundation on how to account taxes the process was stopped. The value registered by the auditor in this time, as per the balance sheet (book value) was Rs. 3,16,296. Lakhs.

[book value is lower because of lower gold value in previous years]

The jewelry, mainly small ornaments, that was stolen had been in the safe since 20 years ago. In the last years very little gold was donated.

It is acknowledged that keeping both keys together may have facilitated the theft to happen.

Since the theft, the few small silver/gold ornaments which have been received by donation or through lost and found were sold, on day to day and cash was accounted. Now the safe is empty, and there is no accumulation of jewelry.

The overall income that MM receives has not changed significantly since the theft.

On 30/7/18 police liaison advised the executives to contact a lawyer to look into the case. The executives contacted a lawyer Mr. Chandru (advocate) who informed them that the police were not following the usual course of hard core physical interrogation as Matrimandir is a place of Peace and Harmony. However, the case is under investigation. It has been confirmed verbally to the Matrimandir team by our area DSP, in November 2019, that the case is still under investigation.

We were informed that Mr. Vikram Ram had filled a RTI about a year ago. Documentation was given to Working Committee and Auroville Foundation as per their request to Matrimandir at that time.

PTTF Members requested to MM executives:

- To provide a copy of the jewels register book.
- To update the MM gold theft to the community of Auroville.

ANNEX # 2 to Case 30 Matrimandir Gold Theft Report

8 June 2017

4pm : Police Liaison received a call from John Harper, executive at Matrimandir stating that during the annual audit, a bag of gold ornaments kept in a safe in a room upstairs, in the office area, is missing. Police Liaison reached site at 4:30pm. Other executives, namely, Pierre F., Elumalai and Srimoyi were asked to come to the Matrimandir office. Discussion ensued and Hemant Lamba, Working Committee member was informed. Police Liaison consulted an advocate.

5:30pm : Srijita, (Police Liaison), John H. Shiva (Matrimandir) and Hemant L (Working Committee) met with Mr Chunkath, Secretary Auroville Foundation and Mr Srinivasmurthy, Under Secretary Auroville Foundation. The Secretary advised to file a FIR and spoke to Mr Jeyakumar, the Superintendent of Police, Villupuram. Srijita, PL, took an appointment with Inspector Pradeep Kumar at Auroville Police Station for the following day.

9 June 2017

12noon : Letter of complaint submitted at Auroville Police Station to Inspector Pradeep Kumar, by complainant, John Harper in the presence of Srijita Roy, Police Liaison of Auroville.

1pm: Mr Elangovan, Deputy Superintendent of Police Kottakuppam Sub-Division and Inspector Pradeep Kumar visited Matrimandir for preliminary investigation. Present: John Harper and Shiva (Matrimandir) and Srijita (PL).

6pm: John Harper and Shiva provided additional document on request of police. This document furnished names of all staff and Aurovilians working at Matrimandir. Sub-Inspector Jayavel received this information at Auroville Police Station.

12 June 2017

12 noon : John Harper , accompanied by Sakthivel, Police liaison assistant, collected copy of FIR 388/2017 u/s 380 IPC at Auroville Police Station.

13 June 2017

12:15-1:45pm: SI Jayavel, along with his team Mr Prathap and PC Muthukumar came to Matrimandir. John was interrogated in the presence of Srijita and Shiva. John provided a statement of facts in writing. The police team asked once again for details of staff and Aurovilians working in Matrimandir. Details were provided.

No further investigation carried out in the Matrimandir premises.

Police Liaison spoke to Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police at regular intervals regarding follow up of this case. Reply received was that investigation is under way.

30 July 2018

10:30am : Srijita, in capacity of Police Liaison was asked to provide advice to Matrimandir Executives (Aurosylle, Eric, Hemant S, Jyoti, John H, Louis and Vladimir) on the case pending.

Advice provided : To hire a lawyer to look into the status of the case.

Report prepared on request of Working Committee by - Srijita Roy, Police Liaison Auroville

16 May 2019

ANNEX to Case 38

WHITE ANT STUDIO

Fabian Ostner

A. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019

(Amounts in Rs.)

	Schedule	Current year	Previous year
Capital /Corpus Fund and Liabilities			
Capital Fund	1	71,232.54	76,699.30
Corpus Fund	1a	-	-
Reserves and Surplus	2	-	-
Earmarked/Endowment Funds	3	-	-
Loan Fund			
Secured Loans and Borrowings	4	-	-
Unsecured Loans and Borrowings	5	285,608.00	57,500.00
Deferred Credit Liabilities	6	-	-
Current Liabilities & Provisions	7		
(i) Sundry Creditors/Payable		51,750.00	214,608.00
(ii) Other Current Liabilities		-	-
(iii) Provisions		9,893.00	(10,627.00)
Totals		418,483.54	338,180.30
Assets			
Fixed Assets	8		
(i) Tangible Assets		125,956.15	163,670.15
(ii) Intangible Assets		-	-
(iii) Capital Work-in-progress		-	-
Investments			
Investment - Earmarked / Endowment Funds	9	-	-
Investment - Others	10	-	-
Currents Assets ,Loans & Advances	11		
(i) Sundry Debtors/Receivables		-	-
(ii) Loans and Advances		106,557.00	119,411.00
(iii) Deposits		-	-
(iv) Closing Stock		-	-
(v) Cash & Bank Balances		185,970.39	55,099.15
(vi) Other Current Assets		-	-
Misc/Deferred Revenue Exps.	12	-	-
Totals		418,483.54	338,180.30

Place : Auroville

As per my report of even date

Date : 18.06.2019

for White Ant Studio

Prabakaran P

Executive

Chartered Accountant

uM. No. 207684

FUNDS GIVEN BY **SATPREM** TO AUROVILLE FROM 1990

Please see: BEF C 054 Satprem Donations to Auroville from 1990.pdf

SATPREM'S INCOME FROM WORKS ABROAD - FROM 1990

see: BEF C 054 Satprem Income abroad & Donations to AV from 1990.pdf