



## **Journey of Auroville: Tamil Nadu Festival**

**11 to 26 March 2019**

### **Press Release**

*A tour of culturally significant places in Tamil Nadu from 11 to 26 March 2019 in honour of Auroville's 50th anniversary, with performances, workshops, and exchanges to introduce the aims and actions of Auroville*

Auroville, Tamil Nadu, 6 March 2019—Auroville, a universal township built upon the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, was founded by the Mother on 28 February 1968 to give a collective form to Sri Aurobindo's vision of the value of humanity.

With a population representing 56 nationalities brought together by a common aspiration for human unity, it is celebrating its Golden Jubilee with the Journey of Auroville: Tamil Nadu Festival, comprising performances, workshops, and exchanges from 11 to 26 March 2019.

The "Journey of Auroville" 50th anniversary national events started in November 2017 with an exhibition and conference at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and UNESCO Regional Office in Delhi. It evolved into a festival format to engage a wider audience, and the first Journey of Auroville festival took place in September 2018 in Vadodara, the city where Sri Aurobindo spent the first thirteen years after his return to India in 1893. One of the highlights of the festival in Vadodara was the Auroville exhibition at the historic Premanand Hall at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

The next venue for the Journey of Auroville festival was Kolkata, the city where Aurobindo Ghose was born and where he later had transformative experiences in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, which resulted in him becoming Sri Aurobindo. This festival took place at the end of January 2019, with lectures, theatre performances, panel discussions, and a donation of books from Auroville to the National Library of India.

Now we have the opportunity to conclude the Journey of Auroville series of festivals with a tour of culturally significant places in Tamil Nadu, the state that is the physical home of the international township of Auroville.

A brief itinerary of the Journey of Auroville: Tamil Nadu festival is given below. In each of the festival hubs, we will be presenting performances, workshops, and/or exchanges.

- 11 to 13 March: Festival team from Auroville travels to Tiruchirappalli via Chidambaram, Kumbakonam and Thanjavur
- 13 to 17 March: First hub of the festival in **Tiruchirappalli**
- 17 to 21 March: Second hub of the festival in **Madurai**
- 21 to 23 March: Third hub of the festival in **Rameswaram**
- 23 to 25 March: Fourth hub of the festival in **Tiruvannamalai**
- 26 March: Festival team returns to Auroville via Gingee

To know about the specific venues and events in the festival hubs, please write to [journeyoftamilnadu@auroville.org.in](mailto:journeyoftamilnadu@auroville.org.in)

On 25 February 2018, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, stated in his address to the Auroville community: “The world has received positive vibrations from Auroville, in many forms, over the years. Be it unending education, environment regeneration, renewable energy, organic agriculture, appropriate building technologies, water management, or waste management, Auroville has been a pioneer.”

The Journey of Auroville festival aims to take a community-to-community approach to widen the national awareness of the aims and ideals of Auroville on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

### **About Auroville**

Auroville is based on its Charter in which it clearly indicates what Auroville is: “Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But, to live in Auroville, one must be a willing servitor of the divine consciousness.” It is a place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages.

This concept based on the philosophical anthropology of ‘evolving consciousness’ was acknowledged by UNESCO even before Auroville’s formal inauguration in 1968: it was addressed in the 1st UNESCO Resolution, 1966. After that, UNESCO has made four further resolutions on Auroville (1968, 1970, 1983, 2017).

With people from more than 56 different nationalities, Auroville is a community of people beyond national borders and creed, united by their common aspiration for human unity and diversified ways of living that are in harmony with nature and spiritual values. The basic structure of the community with its participatory processes as well as the search for an economic system of prosperity outlines the overarching impact of progressive and sustainable development. Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future.