

25 November 2024

Auroville Foundation (Residence Criteria) Standing Order, 2024

1. In terms of the Auroville Foundation Standing Orders Regulations issued vide Notification No. AF/1/2011/Regulations Notified in the Gazette of India (Part-III-Section 4) published on 5.3.2011, the Governing Board of Auroville Foundation issues the Auroville Foundation (Residence Criteria) Standing Order, 2024 laying down the criteria to be followed by the Residents of Auroville as under.

2. Background

- (1) Auroville is entering a new stage of growth and development in order to fulfil the vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. To facilitate this process, new regulations and systems are needed. Further, regulations and systems that have largely been held implicitly will need to be made explicit.
- (2) A township of tens of thousands cannot operate in the same way that a small community of a few thousand can; to guide the development process, the best expertise within Auroville must come together in a spirit of goodwill and unity, putting aside personal preferences and desires. This exercise alone will help foster the unity envisioned by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother as the next step in human evolution. We, therefore, call upon all Aurovilians to take up this task in a sincere and collaborative manner.

3. Preamble

- (1) Whereas the Mother founded Auroville based on the life and works of Sri Aurobindo and specifically his fifth dream of “The Five Dreams of India’s Resurgence”, that states “*the final dream was a step in evolution which would raise man to a higher and larger consciousness and begin the solution of the problems which have perplexed and vexed him since he first began to think and to dream of individual perfection and a perfect society*”;
- (2) Whereas Auroville is a unique spiritual experiment to be realized as a city, based on Sri Aurobindo’s vision for a new humanity; named after him, Auroville was started by his spiritual collaborator, the Mother, who set in motion the ‘model town’, envisaged by Sri Aurobindo, as the culminating point of his Yoga of Transformation, a physical platform for humanity to aim for a higher and truer life.
- (3) Whereas the Mother had envisaged Auroville as a universal township for unending education and inner progress, dedicated to human unity and as further described by her in

“A Dream” (1954), the Auroville Charter (1968), her message “To be a True Aurovilian” (1970) and her numerous other messages and writings on Auroville;

- (4) Whereas the collective of residents in Auroville was meant by its founders to be a society of spiritual seekers, or a Sangha, or a Gnostic Society, as defined by Sri Aurobindo with reference to his works *The Life Divine and The Human Cycle and The Ideal of Human Unity*, of persons who come voluntarily to Auroville, to seek the meaning of a higher and truer life, in life and action and what it means to be “*willing servitors of the Divine Consciousness*”, as given by the Mother in the Charter of Auroville;
- (5) Whereas all the norms of collective endeavour and collective culture must adhere with the larger vision and purpose of Auroville, and all activities, individuals, groups, organizations of Auroville must converge on the tangible goals and objectives of Auroville;
- (6) Whereas a person who is drawn to Auroville is committing their life to a collective purpose; firstly to exemplify the practice of Integral Yoga, and secondly to the betterment of all of humankind; and the collective purpose is the context in which the individual’s progress is set, the disciplined adherence to the larger goals and a way of life as defined by the founders of Auroville is the starting point; therefore a guideline for life in Auroville and a code of conduct for residents need to be enumerated;
- (7) Whereas one of the bodies of the Auroville Foundation, the Residents’ Assembly’s main function, as per Section 19(1) of the Act, is to advise the Governing Board in respect of all activities relating to the residents of Auroville, and in November 2022 the Governing Board invited feedback and suggestions from all Residents on suggestions and constructive ideas regarding all matters relating to course correction in Auroville affairs, as well as criteria for residency in Auroville, and received numerous suggestions from the Residents of Auroville;
- (8) Whereas as per Section 7(1)(a) of the Act, “The general superintendence, direction, control and management of the affairs of the undertakings, the right, title and interest in relation to which have vested in the Central Government under section 3, shall, (a) where a direction has been made by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 6, vest in the Foundation”;
- (9) Whereas as per Section 11(3) of the Act, “The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Foundation shall vest in the Governing Board which may exercise all the powers and discharge all the functions which may be exercised or discharged by the Foundation”;
- (10) Whereas the Governing Board, in the course of its statutorily mandated responsibility for the internal management of the affairs of Auroville, for the well-being, continued,

undeterred and successful development of Auroville in the light of the teachings of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo, and in exercise of its powers conferred by the above mentioned sections of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 (54 of 1988), hereby makes the following Standing Order:

4. **General principles of life in Auroville:**

- (1) The Mother's *Charter of Auroville*, "*The Dream*" and "*To be a True Aurovilian*" is the basis of life of an Auroville resident. Residents should have read these texts and be committed to their realization.
- (2) People living in Auroville are expected to be committed fully to life in Auroville, and contribute to the collective well-being in work, kind, and money, as and when the means allow, to the best of their ability.
- (3) Auroville residents are expected to live and grow in Integral Yoga according to The Mother and Sri Aurobindo, as "*a willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness*".
- (4) As part of a collective discipline, all those residing in Auroville must attend the Auroville Spiritual and Material Refresher program, organized by the Human Resources Service, on a periodicity as may be decided by the Governing Board from time to time.
- (5) Living in Auroville is a choice and Auroville is in the building phase and needs its residents to be fully and actively engaged in its manifestation. Auroville aims to build collective prosperity for all its members, irrespective of the type of work one is engaged in. Everyone endeavors to build an economy based on generosity and sharing for the "city the earth needs".
- (6) Those living in Auroville or wishing to join Auroville agree not to use Auroville as a platform for personal gain. For example, using the name and symbol of Auroville as well as its facilities, immovable assets, and services for personal/ private or sectarian activities.
- (7) Non-ownership of immovable assets (land and buildings) in Auroville is a collective principle of life in Auroville. Inheritance of Auroville assets, as is commonly lived in a society, has no place in Auroville for Auroville residents.
- (8) Auroville is a city that is being built as per the approved and gazetted Master Plan, which is based on the Galaxy Plan, made by Mr. Roger Anger under the direct guidance and approval of the Mother. Residents are expected to participate in the building of the city.
- (9) In the spirit of a life dedicated to Auroville ideals, there shall be no servants; A "Maintenance Service" to manage and take care of all assets will be organized; meanwhile all residents must strive to take up all work as *sadhana* (*translation: devotion; practice*,

mental training; spiritual endeavour) and do it themselves, unless there is a real need for help owing to age or health condition of a resident.

- (10) *“The ideal Aurovilian, eager to become conscious of the Divine Consciousness, takes neither tobacco, nor alcohol, nor drugs” - The Mother.*

5. **Code of conduct**

A. All Residents/Newcomers/Volunteers/ Permanent Guests--

- (1) shall abide by all the applicable laws of the land, by the Auroville Foundation Act 1988, the Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders and other instructions as amended from time to time. All inhabitants shall act in strict compliance of the decisions of the statutory working groups, approved by the Governing Board.
- (2) shall abstain from the use of alcohol and tobacco, any substance abuse is met with a zero-tolerance policy. Drug use is strictly prohibited in accordance with the law and the directions of the Mother, and is met with a zero-tolerance policy and will lead to disciplinary action, up to expulsion from Auroville.
- (3) shall abstain from all forms of violence; violence is in direct contradiction to the ideals of Auroville. Any form of violence, especially physical/ sexual violence and the threat of it are grounds for summary expulsion, in addition to legal action. Violence includes any form of abuse or violence towards children, any form of sexual violence towards women or others at workplace, and defacement, vandalism, and intentional damage in any manner to properties and things belonging to Auroville or its inhabitants.
- (4) shall abstain from fostering any malign discrimination against another person, be it social, political, geographical, economic, linguistic, or racial and so forth., Auroville being a place for manifesting human unity,
- (5) shall abstain from propagating any religious or sectarian beliefs, as these are not in line with Auroville’s vision; no Auroville inhabitant may engage in any religious or sectarian propaganda.
- (6) shall abstain from any form of disrespect towards local people and their customs, traditions, and social order, Auroville being in Tamil Nadu, India. Auroville inhabitants, need to respect its cultural values.
- (7) shall not acquire any immovable assets in the Auroville Master Plan area, including the Green Belt. All immovable assets in Auroville are owned by the Auroville Foundation, which holds them in trust for humanity as a whole. Ownership of any such asset in Auroville must be declared when joining Auroville and transferred to Auroville as soon

as possible failing which such person shall be wait-listed for the status he/she is applying to secure.

- (8) shall undertake any planting, building, demolition, including that of temporary structures such as fences only with explicit written authorization from the Auroville Town Development Council. Being entrusted with the responsibility of care-taking of any Auroville property, does not imply ownership, and may be revised at any time, in the interest of Auroville, as may be decided by the Auroville statutory working groups.
- (9) shall live in the housing/ residential asset allocated to them. Inhabitants may be asked to move to a different asset when their needs change, or if the city development requires this change of accommodation. No inhabitant shall hold on to any asset of Auroville for any reason, shall not hold multiple assets, or pass on the assets or business units to their children or relatives.
- (10) shall abstain from involvement in Indian or international party politics and from propagating any political views. Residents are also expected to refrain from doing politics within Auroville. Politics within Auroville means any attempt to campaign, promote an opinion, by an individual or group, a particular political view of Auroville affairs onto other residents, volunteers or guests.
- (11) shall abstain from spreading false propaganda to the press and media using the name of "Auroville" (or its shorter version "Auro"). Official press releases on behalf of Auroville Foundation shall be made only by the official media body of the office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and not by Auroville residents and offices, departments, units, and activities of Auroville Foundation. Disseminating negative and false images of Auroville in the media, or publicly, including social media, using the name of "Auroville" (or its shorter version "Auro") is detrimental to the interests of Auroville and hence indulging in such actions may lead to disciplinary action, including expulsion from Auroville.
- (12) shall in no way obstruct or hinder the manifestation of the township of Auroville, being built in accordance with the Master Plan, formulated and approved in accordance with Section 17(e) of the Auroville Foundation Act.
- (13) shall extend full cooperation to the Admissions and Terminations Registry for its annual survey of the persons residing in Auroville or at such periodicity in such manner as may from time to time be prescribed by the Governing Board.

B. Residents entered in the Register of Residents (RoR) /Newcomers/ Volunteers:-

- (1) shall live full time in Auroville. For any absence, information must be given to the Human Resources Service upon departure and upon return. In case of leaving Auroville for longer

than two weeks, long-term or frequent absence, such as for family, medical or educational reasons, must be applied for and approved by the Human Resources Service; if one is found to have left Auroville exceeding two weeks without approval, then his/her status is liable to be terminated, after following due process, and he/she may be asked to reapply upon return.

- (2) shall not have guests in their allocated residences for longer than seven days. Any guest of an Aurovilian staying in Auroville for longer period must stay at a registered guest house of Auroville. In case of close family member who wishes to stay longer than seven days, special permission for hosting them in the allocated accommodation shall be sought for from the Human Resources Service.
- (3) shall seek special permission from the Human Resources Service for hosting his/her spouse in the Auroville asset. Aged/ infirm parents and minor children, called "Permanent Guests" of Auroville, are permitted to live with the Resident; anyone thus hosted shall not own land within the Master Plan of Auroville and shall be strictly bound by Part III (A) of Clause 2 of this Standing Order.
- (4) shall inform the Secretary forthwith of any regulatory or legal proceedings initiated against them or their near relatives impacting the reputation of Auroville or affecting the ideals/ principles of Auroville.
- (5) shall submit an Annual Declaration as required by the Admission and Terminations Registry, in a template as prescribed by it with the due approval of the Governing Board, along with a yearly undertaking on compliance with Act, Rules, Regulations, other instructions of Competent Authority, and this Standing Order or its subsequent amendments if any.

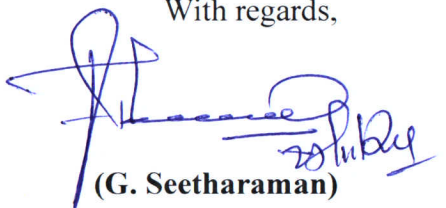
C. Residents entered in the Register of Residents (RoR) /Newcomers:-

- (1) shall be engaged in work for the collective, through an Auroville unit or service, at least 6 hours per day, 6 days per week, or, 5 hours per day, 7 days per week or as may be decided from time to time by the Funds and Assets Management Committee, in accordance with the Mother's teachings and guidelines for Auroville. Work for the collective in Auroville shall be defined as work done in furtherance of the manifestation of the city, fulfillment of the Master Plan, and maintenance and administration of the general affairs of Auroville. All residents are free to engage in any aspect of work as long as it is for the collective good and furthering of Auroville. For those who are physically unable, exemption must be sought from the Human Resources Service. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, elderly or disabled people are offered jobs suitable to their condition. Mothers with young children must fulfil an activity in accordance with their role such as baby-sitting, supervising a boarding or nursery.
- (2) shall not be engaged in work or business outside of Auroville, and may be fully committed to life in Auroville, save for exceptional circumstances where the resident is obliged to

engage in work outside for the betterment of Auroville, to be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Funds and Assets Management Committee.

- (3) shall attempt resolution first among themselves, or with the help of Auroville working groups, to resolve conflicts arising between the members of the Auroville community, in the spirit of brotherhood, with mutual respect and understanding, notwithstanding cases of violence or abuse. Residents agree to try to solve conflicts with goodwill, going beyond personal preferences first, before going to outside authorities.
 - (4) shall organize parties and other large social gatherings in authorized locations only, published by the Funds and Assets Management Committee from time to time.
6. This Standing Order is issued with the approval of the Governing Board in its 66th meeting held on 12.02.2024 (Item No.66.13) and shall come into force with immediate effect.

With regards,



(G. Seetharaman)