

How to support the work of ARKA

ARKA is at the moment entirely dependent on donations, and financial help from all well-wishers is most welcome. Please consider in what way you could help the Dream of ARKA to become a reality - whether by a lump-sum donation, or by commitment to a regular monthly or yearly amount.

How to send your help

If you live in India :

- Personal cheques or DDs may be made payable to "S.A.I.I.E.R." and sent to ARKA at the follow address: Maria Grazia Garilli, New Creation , Auroville 605 101, Tamil Nadu India
- Money orders may be made payable to "ARKA" and sent to the same address.

N.B. : Indian donors are now again eligible to receive 100% tax exemption under Sec. 35(1) (iii) of the IT Act on donations to ARKA.

If you live outside India :

- Cheques or Bankers' Orders payable to "S.A.I.I.E.R." may be sent directly to " ARKA" (Maria Grazia Garilli), New Creation Auroville 605 101, Tamil Nadu India.
- Money may be transferred directly by using the following code:
SWIFT Code : SBININBBAFXD
State Bank of India, Branch Code: 03160
Auroville International Township Branch
Kuilapalayam, Auroville - 605101 INDIA
Auroville Fund Foreign A/c No. 01000060095
Purpose "ARKA"
- You may send your donation through the AVI Centre in your country. In some countries, this may entitle you to tax-relief.

Please specify whether you would like your donation to be used for construction: ARKA Public-facilities or ARKA-guest facilities, on-going activities or some specified project.

For further information, please contact :

ARKA,

coordinator, Maria Grazia Garilli,
New Creation Auroville, 605 101

Telephone : 0091 (0)413 2622 284, ARKA Builder side, Phone: 2623 799

e-mail : mariagrazia@auroville.org.in

or visit www.auroville.org/society/arka.htm

ARKA,

A research project of SAIIER
Auroville, 605101, Tamil Nadu, India

ARKA, translated by Sri Aurobindo "the illumining ray", also means in Sanskrit sun, ray of light, sunflower, crystal and the number 12.

ARKA is a social and innovative project of Auroville which wants to redefine the concept of aging as described by the Mother in the following quotation:

"Before 30, the energy goes out in a spendthrift way because of the play of impulses.

After 30, there is a settling down and one is expected to have a plenitude of energy.

At 50 blossoming begins.

At 80, one becomes capable of full production"

ARKA wants to be a self-sufficient centre for seniors, who aspire to continue to lead an active integral life in spite of any possible physical challenges that may occur with age.

ARKA is dedicated to the Mother's vision and the guide lines given by Her in the second paragraph of the Auroville charter:

"Auroville wants to be a place of an unending education, of constant progress and a youth that never ages."

ARKA

will create an environment in which the seniors can dedicate themselves to the inner work pertaining to their particular stage in life, while sustaining a healthy, balanced and harmonious lifestyle.

will provide necessary centralised facilities, including dining room, restaurant, common transport service, shop for basic needs, nurse assistance 24 hours a day, therapeutic treatments and physical and cultural activities.

will provide facilities for elderly people who specifically wish to work and participate in the development of this experimental project. It will also provide services for assistance, transport etc. to elderly people living in Auroville outside of the ARKA complex.

will be a place which includes a pleasant interaction between people of different ages both inside and outside the centre. It will organise for this purpose:

- A practical educational and vocational training for the local village people who will be employed in the complex.
- A voluntary service program for Auroville's youth in which young people can involve themselves in various fields of activities: nursing, general assistance, secretarial work, arts and crafts. In this way they can also offer their practical help to elderly people living in or outside the ARKA complex.
- A recreation area for guest children to give space and encourage the unique "grandparent" relationship between the older and younger generations, which is now somehow missing in Auroville.

THE CONCEPT OF ARKA

The concept of ARKA comes from the belief that an enlightened society must provide for children and the elderly. The ARKA project will specifically address the following problems:

- In the coming years 10% of the total Aurovilian population will be above 65 of age. Auroville's health facilities are not sufficient now to cover this need.
- Currently the infrastructure in Auroville does not provide facilities for elderly people or for individuals with special needs.
- For instance, roads, transport, safety, health and building specifications for geriatrics do not exist at appropriate levels.
- There is no access to buildings and facilities for elderly people.

To provide for the aging population a strong base is needed now. The steady growth and development of the ARKA project itself will ensure a secure and progressive future, receptive to the pressing forces of the New Creation.

The following beautiful words of the Mother best express the ideals of ARKA:

“Sri Aurobindo came upon earth to announce the manifestation of the supramental world. And not only did he announce this manifestation but he also embodied in part the supramental force and gave us the example of what we must do to prepare ourselves for this manifestation. The best thing we can do is to study all he has told us, strive to follow his example and prepare ourselves for the new manifestation. This gives life its true meaning and will help us to overcome all obstacles. Let us live for the new creation and we shall grow stronger and stronger while remaining young and progressive.”

And from Sri Aurobindo:

“The beginning and end of things is a conventional term of our experience; in their true existence these terms have no reality, there is no end and no beginning.”

PROSPECTUS

ARKA, a project on an area of about 2 acres, is located on the crown road in front of Surrender community in the residential zone just bordering the Mahalakshmi Park (Peace Gardens) of Matrimandir.

Four zones are planned corresponding to the four phases of the construction work of the entire complex:

- Public zone: restaurant, shops, art-culture etc.
- Semipublic zone: therapies, beauty salon etc.
- Private zone: double and single accommodation for guests and staff.
- Semiprivate zone: workers' quarters, laundry etc.

An international quality standard for building and equipment will be followed.

ARKA – PRESENT AND FUTURE – PLANNING 2001-2007

- In the first year, 2002-2003, the structure of the public building of 1300 mq approx. has been completed.
- In the second year, 2003-2004, the first block for single and double guest facilities and the finishing of the public building are planned.
- In the third phase of work, the semipublic therapeutic area is been planned.