MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that Auroville is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding. Auroville is a unique and multi-dimensional project symbolising the aspirations of human unity and collaboration. Founded on February 28th 1968, Sri Aurobindo’s radiating philosophy has inspired the vision of this international cultural township and the Mother’s spiritual dynamism and energies saw it being given practical and physical shape.

In an age of rapid and many layered global restructuring and changes, Auroville stands as vibrant and unique symbol of civilisational cooperation, dialogue and synthesis, cultural assimilation and exchange, articulating humanity’s aspiration for ‘harmonious individual and collective growth.’ Auroville’s unique project of creating international pavilions that reflect the cultures of various nations and civilisations is an innovative model of how cultural assimilation and cooperation can be achieved and manifested.

It is heartening to note that in the resolution passed in its 39th session in support of Auroville’s work and aspiration, UNESCO has recognised, among other things, this interesting effort at international cultural collaboration, by acknowledging ‘that Auroville is inviting all nations of the world to participate in its development, especially of its International Zone, which is designated as an educational campus hosting cultural pavilions of all nations or groups of nations, expressing the genius of each culture...’

The space that Auroville offers for ‘expressing the genius of each culture’, makes it a special experiment that is being sustained and nurtured on the soil of India through international collaboration.

With the hope that the experiment grows from strength to strength, I extend my felicitations and best wishes to the members of Auroville and to the Auroville Foundation and wish the 50th anniversary celebrations a grand success.

(Vinay Sahasrabuddhe)