Inviting Suresh Hindocha and his speech at the Town hall, 24.2.2009

After working as a newcomer on top of Matrimandir, in 1986 I joined the Laboratory of Evolution/Centre for Human Unity, in the Bharat Nivas campus. Instituted by Kireet Joshi and funded by the Government of India, scope of the LOE was research on Integral Yoga – and of the CHU's, to reintroduce and share Mother's integral, undiluted vision of Auroville. For this purpose, on my side the outcome were six compilations on archival documents and Mother's statements on the town, Matrimandir, guidelines for life in Auroville and policies. Funded with grants from the Government of India, sponsoring the research on our community under Mother's direct guidance, those compilations were distributed, free, along with the News and Notes. With the support of the other two researchers, Bhaga and Helene, I displayed two exhibitions with the original photographs (including one wall-size image of the Galaxy) and the three evolutionary layouts the Mother approved for her model town, car-free. Joyous serving and simple lifestyle were the spirit of that golden age; as a reminder major documents, signed by the Mother, were regularly displayed in the premises: Admission form, Auroville Prosperity and minimal needs, Auromodel's organization, guidelines for industries and economic activities, integration instead of servants and paid labour etc.

This ever-growing awareness, lifting the three of us to a totally different dimension, reached the peak when one day, sitting behind his desk in plain executive's clothes, someone I had never met (Ulli, the Aurovilian trustee of Aurelec – a much promising computer factory – had told him about my research) handed over to me a copy of the magic folder no one in Auroville had seen; it was crowned by Mother's letter to the Ford Foundation, on 13 March 1969, with the request to help funding a feasibility study to build the Galaxy (the only plan she approved for execution) in five years via the systems engineering. The documentation leading to Mother's resolve, and how this will evolve up to the United Nations requesting in 1971 Sidney Firstman (Planning Research Corporation) to submit a plan, completed the folder.

That man was Suresh Hindocha, who played a role unique regarding Mother's vision of THAT town, beyond time and space, eternally real, and which is forever. Suresh is the nephew of Huta and the son of the late Laljibhai, the Pondy-based industrialist (Horizon Sugar Mill) whom the Mother had put in charge of Auroville's industrial zone; a reincarnation from Egyptian times, Mother said on Laljibhai. He purchased most of the land for the Matrimandir, and Huta was the one who made the Mother reminisce her old formation, in the thirties, where Sri Aurobindo would have been living at the centre of his town.

The Suresh Hindocha folder – the town the Mother approved for execution – is an *adesha*.

When Suresh Indocha gave me a copy of Mother's letter, along with the complete documentation of what transpired, and which so far no one in Auroville had seen, he was not yet ready to speak in public regarding the tragic play of forces that sabotaged Mother's submission to the Ford Foundation; he made me promise to keep top secret the names: the secretary to the Sri Aurobindo Society, Navajata – and the governor of Pondicherry, Anjani.

Twenty-two years later, cycling in Pondy's Nehru Street (Mohini Dadlani, Kireet Joshi's friend, kept my cycle at her place) I saw, from behind, a man walking on the sidewalk. Instantly knowing who was he, I jumped from the cycle, patted him on the shoulder, he turned… Suresh! Whom I had seen only once, sitting behind a desk, and who had resettled in London… Suresh was an Aurelec trustee who commuted daily from Pondy; he had lunch at the Aurelec cafeteria,

friendly interacting with all; but I had never met him and was so intimidated that day, me, inconspicuous non-entity in front of such momentous presence... yet now I greeted him as an old companion, so happy were we! In 1974, the Ashram Trust granted me the exceptional permission to live for three months with the yogini who for twenty-eight years worked in Mother's room; could I know that the youth who had moved Mother to endorse the systems engineering Galaxy lived just opposite, across the street, I may have met him countless times? In Her occult plan, everything fits together.

We merrily embraced each other and I invited Suresh to speak at the Auroville's Town Hall, surely the TDC would be delighted to host such figure. Suresh, reserved and grave when he gave me that folder accepted, immediately. He, who had asked me to keep confidential the truth on the play of forces that short-circuited Mother's submission to the Ford Foundation, came to the Auroville Town Hall, and told the full truth. For that historical occasion we also invited another iconic presence: Kailash Javeri, Mothers' secretary to UNESCO and the United Nations; she interacted, and one week later delivered a speech on the International World University and Auroville's cultural pavilions, her sphere of action.

In the speech he gave at the Town Hall on February 24, 2009, *"Planning of Auroville using systems engineering"*, Suresh Hindocha reported, tackling the economic conundrum requiring a targeted, multi-pronged strategy:

"There was already a plan, by Auroville planners, for two industrial zones. One would be an external zone for polluting industries and those industries which would donate only a minor part of their profits to Auroville. The internal industrial zone would be for non-polluting industries, which would donate 100% profits to Auroville. The external zone was to be built at land already owned by Auroville on the road towards Vanur/Mailam. An example of such an industry was Aurofoods near that zone. ...

Once surplus funds were generated, the corporation would redeem or buy back the bonds in stages. Once all the bonds were bought back, the corporation would be dissolved. Then the Mother's vision of money-less Auroville could be achieved eventually. It was meant to be a temporary tool to get Auroville going.

In fact, Dr. Firstman managed to talk to a financial institution in Paris. They became interested enough and were quite willing to underwrite these bonds. The underwriting was on condition that systems engineering techniques were to be used for planning

at Auroville. The bonus for them, I suppose, was the prestige that would be generated by being involved in such a unique international project."

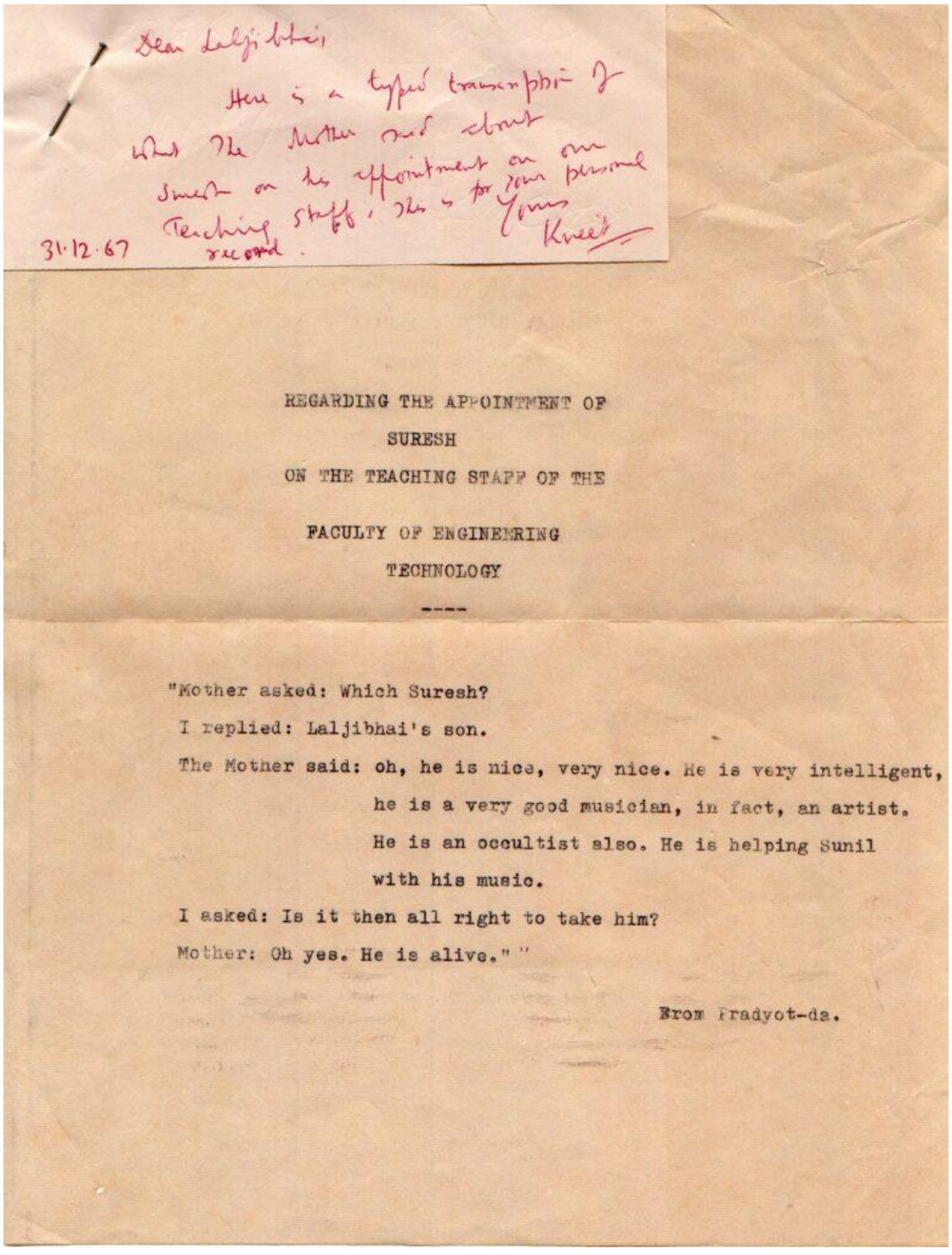
Only by putting together all elements of the tremendous work carried on under Mother's direct instructions to her chief-architect, but also to other leading figures she chose in order to materialize her town, can we get understanding of how she meant this could happen. Mother is the Shakti, dealing with all aspects and, to begin with, the technical and financial possibilities, TO BUILD an economically self-sufficient town of 50,000 inhabitants, using all knowledge available. Calling for professional excellence – as Mother's choice of the systems engineering approach shows – requires, first of all, to be constantly updated regarding architecture, engineering and town planning.

With the systems engineering approach the Galaxy was to materialize in five years, Mother was assured in 1969. Seven years, Luigi and other members of L'Avenir were told, in 2009,

by a firm associated to Suzlon. Luigi and Toine called a meeting at the Town Hall to inform the community.

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This is the newly graduated engineer who moved the Mother to endorse the systems engineering Galaxy – as Kireet Joshi recalls, reporting to his industrialist father Laljibhai Hindocha her comments on his son Suresh:



Dear Laljibhai,

Here is a typed transcription of what The Mother said about Suresh on his appointment on our Teaching staff. This is for your personal record.

Yours
Kireet

31.12.67

REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF

SURESH

ON THE TEACHING STAFF OF THE

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

TECHNOLOGY

"Mother asked: Which Suresh?

I replied: Laljibhai's son.

The Mother said: oh, he is nice, very nice. He is very intelligent, he is a very good musician, in fact, an artist. He is an occultist also. He is helping Sunil with his music.

I asked: Is it then all right to take him?

Mother: Oh yes. He is alive." "

From Pradyot-da.