<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th Sept 1959</td>
<td>A piece of 3 Acre Land Gifted by Shrimati Rani Bhuwaneshwari Kuer W/o Shriman Raja Bahadur Harihar Prasad Narayan Singh of Amawan, gifted, out of her devotion, love and affection, to The Mother of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry with the stipulated condition that the land cannot be alienated nor can it be used for other purposes than the propagation of the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother in Ayodhya.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959-1986</td>
<td>The land was being taken care of and maintained by Late Babaji Sri Ramkrushna Dasji, who joined the Sri Aurobindo Ashram on the 2nd of February 1945, who got the inspiration for the construction of Sri Hanuman temple and a shrine to house the sacred relics of Sri Aurobindo. (A brief note on Babaji given at the end)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29, 1989</td>
<td>Installation of Sri Aurobindo’s sacred Relics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-2013</td>
<td>Shri Shiv Kumar Khetan has been the person instrumental in carrying out the work of building the necessary structures along with a guest house to accommodate the devotees expected to come at the time of the installation of Sri Aurobindo's sacred Relics. It was from the year 1986 onwards that Sri Shiv Kumar Khetan arranged, by the Grace of the Mother, all the needed resources and supervised the actual development and management of the Ayodhya Centre till sometime in the year 2013 when the Puducherry Ashram began to look after the Centre directly. (A brief note on Shiv Kumarji Khetan is given at the end)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.10.2019</td>
<td>A letter from Manoj Dass Gupta, Managing Trustee, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust Pondicherry to the mediation committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India for the Resolution of the Land dispute at Ayodhya where the former writes that “Should it be deemed helpful, Sri Aurobindo Ashram would have no hesitation to offer this piece of land to the nation for the purpose of carrying forward the aim of resolution of the conflict, so that the spiritual destiny of India may manifest itself in its fullness.” This letter from Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust triggered an immediate reaction among the devotees of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. 24 October 2019  It is as a reaction to the above letter that this Letter Ref. No. 56/K, addressed to Shri Manoj Das Gupta, Managing Trustee, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry was written by Sri Kishore Kunal, the Secretary of 'Nikhil Bhartiya Teertha Vikas Samiti', Ayodhya that looks after the estate of the Late Rani of Amawa, expressing his strong objection against the unauthorised attempt of Ashram Trust Board to alienate the Ayodhya Ashram Property. While offering to help the Ashram, if need be, in managing the Ayodhya Centre, he reminded the Ashram management that the “gifted property” could be used only for the work of Sri Aurobindo and any attempt to alienate the said property would be legally resisted.

7. Undated  (must be of a date prior to its reply of 30 September 2022) Letter of Shri Champat Rai ji, Secretary General, Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, Ramkot, Ayodhya, (Signed by Shri Champat Rai ji and Dr. Anil Mishra) to Shri Manoj Das Gupta, Managing Trustee Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry requesting to “provide the present campus of Maharshi Aurobindo Ashram to Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra (a Trust formed by the Government of India). We will provide you with an alternative best site for building a new Ashram. The rest will be decided in consultation with you.”

8. 30 September 2022  The Most important response to the above letter by Shri Manoj Das Gupta to the Trustees, Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, Ramkot, Ayodhya. After acknowledging the fact that Mr. Purushottaman and Mr. Satya Dayanand, had a meeting with Shri Champat Rai ji along with Dr. Anil Misra ji and Shri Gopal ji at the Sadhanalaya premises on 13.09.2022, he said that there were certain considerations to be kept into mind by the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust board before making any decision. He wrote, “The land for the Sri Aurobindo Sadhanalaya in Ayodhya was donated to the Mother in 1959 with clear intentions on how it should be used specified by the donor in the gift deed. The Mother gracefully accepted the gift appreciating the sentiments of the donor. On accepting the property, the Mother assigned some sadhaks to take care of the property and they took great pains to develop it as an abode for meditation and introspection befitting the purpose of a Sadhanalaya. Recognising the efforts of the sadhaks and the growth of the Sadhanalaya (the only one in UP), the enshrinement of the Sacred Relics of Sri Aurobindo took place in 1989. Due to the presence of the Sacred Relics and the dedication of the sadhaks, a noticeable spiritual ambience has been created. As Trustees, we are only custodians of the
Trust properties. Our role is very clear in that we have to maintain the properties for the original purpose for which the properties vested with the Trust. We also have to take into consideration the feelings of the inmates and devotees while making any decision. In this regard, it would be pertinent to refer to your plans to have shrines for various Gurus and Sages within the Mandir boundaries – Sri Valmiki Swami, Sri Agastya Muni (who, incidentally, according to French researchers had established Vedapuri at what is now known as Pondicherry) and others which was mentioned. Our Sadhanalaya, being adjacent to the Mandir, may effectively be seen as another place for spiritual pursuit for devotees and does not appear to us to be contrary to the overall purpose of the Mandir and its glory in future. In these circumstances, it was felt by all of us that Sri Aurobindo Sadhanalaya and the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir can co-exist.”

9. 5 November 2022 Letter by Ms. Kiran Gond (Vice President BJP Women’s Wing, Deoria, UP and a follower of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother) addressed to Respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, received by the PMO on 6 Dec. 2022. In the letter after giving a background of the Sri Arvind Sadhanalaya, Ramkot, Ayodhya and mentioning how thousands of visitors of Sri Ramjanmabhoomi Temple visit the relics centre and benefit by the spiritual atmosphere of the place, she mentioned that there was an attempt to alienate the property and give it to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Trust, and therefore requested for his firm action to prevent any such alienation of the holy premises of Sri Aurobindo Sadhanalaya dedicated to Sri Aurobindo.

10. 7 November 2022 Letter of Shri Champat Rai ji, Secretary General, Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, Ramkot, Ayodhya, to Shri Manoj Das Gupta, Managing Trustee Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry. Mentioning that two representatives from Sri Aurobindo Ashram Pondicherry, namely, Shri Purushottam Ji and Shri Satyanand Ji visited Aodhya and had a meeting at the Sri Aurobindo Sadhanalay, Ayodhya itself with Dr Anil Mishraji, Shri Gopalji and Shri Champat Rai ji himself, where the later is said to have requested the representatives of Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust to “RECONSIDER THE FEELINGS AND REQUIREMENTS” of the later.

11. 24 December 2022 An important Letter by Ms. Kiran Gond, to The Trust Board, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Pondicherry. Ms. Gond writes that she met Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi on 6th December 2022 and mentioned that Shree RamJanmabhoomi Trust was asking for the Sri Arvind Sadhanalaya land, to which
Modiji immediately responded that “Rajmahal and Sadhanalaya will remain as it is, you may comfortably keep offering your worship at the sadhanalaya unhindered.” Then Ms. Gond writes that she met the CM of UP Shree Yogiji on 23rd. December 2022 and showed him also all the documents, to which he assured that “He would look into the matter in his own capacity.” Then she writes in the letter about her telephonic conversation of 24th December 2022 with Shri Champatrai Ji, in which she briefed him about her meeting with PM and CM and their respective responses. Then she asked for Shri Champatrai Ji’s help also in the Sri Arvind Sadhanalaya matter, to which he assured “Ok, alright.” She concluded the letter with the request that the Trust Board of Pondicherry Ashram should see to it that the property of Sri Arvind Sadhanalaya, Ayodhya should remain as it is.

12. 27 December 2022  Letter (Subject : Advance Notice, Warning) by Ms. Kiran Gond, to The Trust Board, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Pondicherry where the points that she made were: that She had met the Prime Minister Mr. Modi and the Chief Minister of UP Shri Yogiji regarding the attempts being made to alienate the property of Sri Arvind Sadhanalaya and both the leaders listened to her and took keen interest in this matter. She mentioned that according to certain sources two persons from the Ashram Pondicherry itself were taking keen interest, with their vested interests, in the alienation of the property. She concluded by saying that any such attempt of alienation is “unbearably painful for all of us devotees of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother” and therefore requested and forewarned “not to repeat this in future otherwise any such attempt would call for legal repercussions.”

13. 23 January 2023  A letter signed by various devotees and some trustees of Sri Aurobindo Divine Life Trust at Jhunjhunu and some other trustees and devotees residing at Haridwar and Jaipur to the Members of the Trust Board, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry expressing their deep concern about the attempts being made to alienate the property housing the Relics Centre “Sri Aurobindo Sadhanalaya, Ayodhya.” After reminding the members of the Trust Board about the Spiritual significance of Sri Aurobindo’s Relics, the deep historical connection between Ayodhya and Puducherry and the Construction and Development of the Ayodhya Relics Centre, the trustees of Sri Aurobindo Divine Life Trust expressed thier experience of “shock and grief at the prospect of such a thing” to pass. The letter was sent by Indian Regd. Post ER203005705IN and the delivery was confirmed. A copy of the letter was sent to various centres of Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry and known
devotees of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother and individuals associated with the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother through digital means which then got a huge positive response expressing their willingness to join hands in expressing their sharp disapproval of any such alienation.

A short note on Shri Ramkrishna Das (Babaji Maharaj) in the words of Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan awardee Prof. Manoj Das: “He was extraordinary in several ways. Born on the 14th of August 1908, in a village named Rairpur in what is now Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa, circumstances obliged him to take up a job in the Settlement Department of the Government at the age of sixteen. But inwardly he remained engrossed in the spiritual lore right from the time he had been able to read. One day he bade goodbye to his milieu and, in search of a guide for his Sadhana, reached the holy city of Ayodhya and was accepted as a disciple by a renowned Guru. Probably it was at this time that his original name, Krushnachandra Routray, changed into Ramakrushna Das, as demanded by tradition, indicating the end of one’s old conventional identity and the beginning of a new life. …he broke away from his hermitage and came over to Pondicherry and joined the Ashram on the 2nd of February 1945. As time passed, his old admirers traced him to his new abode. Among them were the Raja and Rani of the principality of Ambawa. While Babaji Maharaj was at Ayodhya, they had offered him a precious gift of a large tract of land adjacent to the most celebrated spot in that city of unique antiquity, Ram Janmabhoomi or the sacred Birthplace of Lord Rama. Now the royal couple was keen to effectuate its resolve. Babaji advised them to offer the land to the Mother, which they happily did and the Mother graciously accepted it. (By the way, it was a conscientious gesture of the Government of India to exclude this property from its acquisition when the tumultuous developments around the Rama Janmabhoomi obliged it to take custody of the surrounding area.)”

A Note on Shri Shivkumarji Khetan: It is very important to mention the leading role of Shri Shiv Kumarji Khetan in managing various Ashram properties.

A) Charthawal

Charthawal is a city and nagar panchayat in the district Muzaffarnagar in UP. A land was offered to the Mother by Acharya Abhaydev in 1959 for her work in the area and accepted the offering. Mother then formed a trust named Tapovan Trust for the development and management of the land. The land was being taken care of at that time by Shri Ravindraji, the disciple of Acharya Abhaydev. After the passing away of the Mother and with no one to look after the property, there came to arise
some irregularities in the management of the place, and consequently some trustees of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust Pondicherry decided to sell that property. An attempt to sell the property was done, a deal was made and the payment was taken. After having come to know of this deal, the local devotees of Charthawal moved to the court to stay any such sale on the ground that the said property was offered by Acharya Abhaydev to the Mother for a divine cause and therefore could not in any way be alienated. Thus a stay order came on that deal. Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust Board members approached Shri Shivkumarji Khetan to resolve the matter, and the later took great pains to do the same and the case was repealed and the issue resolved around 1990-91. Once having successfully handled the whole situation, Shri Shivkumarji was asked by the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust to take over the management of the place with having no say of the Ashram Trust in it in future. It is thus from 1990-91 that Shri Shivkumarji independently not only looked after, cultivated the around 125 Bigha agricultural land at Charthawal, but developed it to its present state. Later in 2015, due to his health issues, he entrusted the actual management to some locals whom he trusted who to this day are taking care of the same.

B) Sri Arvind Yoga Mandir, Jwalapur, Haridwar: This is the place where Shri Shivkumarji resides. The place was offered by Swami Omanandaji to the Mother for divine work in the area. A gift deed was executed in 1956 and the Mother was the chairman at that time. From 1956 to 1958 Swami Omanandaji himself resided there. After his passing away in 1958, the Mother sent Dr. Indra Sen to look after the place who did so till 1980. In 1980 Dr. Indra Sen approached Shri Chandra Prakashji, then residing in Haridwar itself, to take over the management of the place who declined to the request on the ground that he was planning to shift to Jhunjhunu to build a Mother’s centre in that area, although he looked after the place until in 1982 Shri Shivkumarji Khetan came in and accepted to take over and look after the Jwalapur property. Not only did he successfully handle and resolve all the various issues of the place, but has developed the place in such a wonderful way as to stamp its deep impression on anyone who visits the place.

C) Tapogiri Tapogiri, Ramgarh Talla, Dist. Nainital, Uttarakhand: There is a 5 acre land holding in Tapogiri. The land was offered by Shri Harisingh, Gram Pradhan of Ramgarh around 1945 to the Mother for her work in the area and was accepted by Her. It was managed by the Mother and in 1984, Padmanabhan Counouma, the then Managing trustee of Sri Aurobindo Ashram
Trust, Pondicherry asked Shri Shivkumarji Khetan to take the responsibility of managing and the later accepted the request and fulfilled it to the best of his ability till the year 2000. During this period all the necessary constructions, gardens and other proceeds of the property were very efficiently taken care of by Shri Khetan along with a local person Shri Taradutta Joshi (Bhrataji) who worked as the manager. After his demise, Shri Shivkumarji found it difficult, due to his other heavy responsibilities and commitments, to frequently visit and look after the day to day details of the place, and therefore withdrew himself from it.

D) The Construction and Development of the Ayodhya Relics Centre: Around 1986, late Babaji Sri Ramkrushna Dasji had the inspiration and he initiated the construction of a temple dedicated to Sri Hanumanji and a shrine to house Sri Aurobindo’s sacred relics on the Ayodhya land. Shri Shiv Kumar Khetan was instrumental in carrying out this work and building the necessary structures along with a guest house to accommodate the devotees expected to come at the time of the installation of Sri Aurobindo’s sacred Relics on March 29, 1989. It was from the year 1986 onwards that Sri Shiv Kumar Khetan arranged, by the Grace of the Mother, all the needed resources and supervised the actual development and management of the Ayodhya Centre till sometime in the year 2013 when the Puducherry Ashram began to look after the Ayodhya Centre directly.

E) VAK, the Spiritual Bookshop, Pondicherry: VAK, the Spiritual Bookshop was established by Madanlalji Himmatsinghka, a devotee of the Mother. Along with spiritual books and pictures of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, this Bookshop showcases numerous other items of interest to the devotees of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. After meeting all the expenses, the profit of the bookshop is then being offered to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry. Though having taken the responsibility of management officially in 1997, Shiv Kumarji was looking after the management even much before that and till date continues to do so with great efficiency and dedication, offering the profits of the same to the Ashram trust for the Mother’s work.