



WORKING COMMITTEE
of the Residents' Assembly
AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

Abusing power and authority

TAKEOVER OF AUROVILLE'S INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

1/3 AUROVILLE DOSSIER
DECEMBER 2022



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Auroville is an **international, experimental** and **spiritual community** located in Tamil Nadu, south India. Founded in 1968 and based on the teachings of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo, Auroville is supported by the Indian Government through the Auroville Foundation, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, and by UNESCO through five resolutions of support.

What follows is a compilation of events that Auroville residents have been faced with since the appointment of Dr Jayanti Ravi as Secretary to the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. This dossier is focusing on the takeover of Auroville's organisational systems and governance **between July 2021 and December 2022**.

Two follow-up dossiers on related themes are currently being compiled, and will be released as and when available.

A Dream

“There should be somewhere on earth a place which no nation could claim as its own, where all human beings of goodwill who have a sincere aspiration could live freely as citizens of the world and obey one single authority, that of the supreme truth; a place of peace, concord and harmony where all the fighting instincts of man would be used exclusively to conquer the causes of his sufferings and miseries, to surmount his weaknesses and ignorance, to triumph over his limitations and incapacities; ...

In this place, titles and positions would be replaced by opportunities to serve and organise; the bodily needs of each one would be equally provided for, and intellectual, moral and spiritual superiority would be expressed in the general organisation not by an increase in the pleasures and powers of life but by increased duties and responsibilities.”

*Extract from “A Dream”
one of Auroville’s foundational texts
written by the Mother in 1954*

Takeover of Auroville's Internal Governance

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Introduction

Auroville was founded in 1968 by the Mother as an experimental society dedicated to manifesting Sri Aurobindo's vision of a "life divine", as part of **"an effort to create a new life-formation which will exceed the ordinary human society"** (Sri Aurobindo, *The Life Divine - II*, p. 1060). For this, the Mother expressed that "Men must become conscious of their psychic being and organise themselves spontaneously, without fixed rules and laws – that is the ideal" (*Words of the Mother - I*, 218). In 1972, four years after Auroville's founding, the Mother was asked "What political organisation do you want for Auroville?", as she had not formed any. "An amusing definition occurs to me: a divine anarchy," was her reply (*Words of the Mother - I*, 218).

Originally registered under the Sri Aurobindo Society (a not-for-profit organisation and research institute that the Mother had founded in 1960), **Auroville eventually secured the status of an autonomous Foundation registered under the Ministry of Education with autonomous arrangements for its own governance, enshrined in an Act of Parliament (Auroville Foundation Act, 1988)**. This has enabled it to experiment with and reformulate its internal structure and processes of organisation, as the Act defines Auroville's 'Residents' Assembly' (RA) – composed of all adult members of the community – as responsible for all day-to-day management, administration and decision-making of the community, and further has the authority to undertake such duties in whichever way it sees fit.

Since its early years, the Residents' Assembly has exercised a communal, consensus-based practice of decision-making. It has used the latter in gradually forming a number of administrative 'Working Groups' to take up management or coordination of various aspects of community life (such as funds and assets management, or town planning). These Working Groups remain accountable to the Residents' Assembly as a whole, and are also restructured by the Residents' Assembly when this is felt to be necessary to improve their role and functioning. Decision-making processes and formats are also regularly revisited, refined or changed.

In addition to the Residents' Assembly, the Act defines two other authorities: the Governing Board and International Advisory Council. All three are jointly responsible for the "management and further development of Auroville in accordance with its original Charter" (Preamble of the *Auroville Foundation Act, 1988*). According to the Act, the Governing Board (GB) is composed of individuals appointed by the Central Government that have (a) rendered valuable service to Auroville; (b) dedicated themselves to the ideals of life-long education synthesis of material and spiritual researches or human unity; (c) contributed significantly in activities that are being pursued or are envisaged to be promoted in Auroville, including activities relating to environment, afforestation, arts and crafts, industry, agriculture, humanities, sciences and integral yoga. The GB is vested with the "general superintendence" of the Auroville Foundation. The GB is briefed on pertinent issues by a Secretary of the Auroville Foundation (appointed by the Central Government and stationed in Auroville to conduct the legal and financial administration of the Foundation under the authority of the GB – see below), and by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly (WCom), a body constituted by the Act consisting of Aurovilians appointed by the RA to represent the interests of community members before the other official bodies of the Auroville Foundation. In keeping with The Mother's conception of Auroville as an international township, the Governing Board is further advised by the International Advisory Council (IAC), a



body typically composed of eminent international figures, who are devoted to the ideals of human unity, peace and progress, also appointed by the Central Government.

The duties of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation pertain to the legal and financial administration of the Foundation, such as endorsing visa applications for non-Indian Aurovilians, authorising the creation of entities (“Trusts”) within which Auroville’s economic activities are accounted, filing Auroville’s income tax returns, and overseeing the purchase, sale, and protection (from encroachment) of Auroville land. However, **the current Secretary of the Auroville Foundation has consistently worked to take over daily management and activities of Auroville, despite the fact that this is clearly within the purview of the Residents’ Assembly as per the Auroville Foundation Act (1988).** It is this unlawful takeover of Auroville’s internal governance, which puts into peril the very aims and ideals of Auroville, compromising its potential to be a beacon for the world, that is detailed in this dossier.

Overview of the Working Groups of the Residents’ Assembly

Auroville Working Groups recognised by the AVF Act (1988) and Rules (1997):

Working Committee (WCom): Auroville’s 7-member Working Committee (WCom) is the statutory body responsible under the Auroville Foundation Act for assisting the Residents’ Assembly and liaising with the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. It also functions as the official representative of the Residents’ Assembly to local officials, the Government of India, and other outside bodies. Members of the Auroville Residents’ Assembly are periodically appointed for the Working Committee by the Residents’ Assembly itself.

Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC): Auroville’s 9-member Funds and Assets Management Committee is the statutory body responsible for the management of the Auroville Foundation’s funds and assets, and required to advise the Governing Board on the utilisation of funds generated by and for Auroville and management of its assets, including the sale/acquisition of immovable assets, and on taxes and audits. The FAMC oversees the performance of Trusts and Units of the Auroville Foundation, approves the creation and closure of Trusts and Units and the appointment and resignation of Trustees and Executives, respectively. It evolves guidelines and policies for the management of Trusts, Units and immovable assets such as housing and other public buildings, and funds held by the Auroville Unity Fund. Since its first constitution in 1997, it has always been members of the Auroville community who have been periodically appointed for the FAMC by the Residents’ Assembly. The Secretary and Finance Secretary of the Auroville Foundation are also honorary members of the FAMC.

Town Development Council (TDC): Auroville’s 13-member Town Development Council is the official body responsible for the urban development and design of the Auroville township (i.e. defining land use, issuing building permissions etc.), resource management and infrastructure (water, soil, energy, vegetation etc.), and regional planning. 11 members are appointed for the TDC by the Residents’ Assembly from amongst itself, while one member is appointed by the WCom and another member is appointed by the Governing Board.

Other Administrative Groups formed by the Residents' Assembly and its Groups:

Auroville Council (AVC): The Auroville Council (AVC) is composed of up to 9 residents appointed by the Residents' Assembly and has an overall mandate to look after the internal affairs of Auroville, ensuring the adherence of Auroville's working groups to their individual mandates and arranging mediation and arbitration for conflict resolution amongst residents whenever necessary.

Auroville Land Board: The Land Board is appointed by an RA 'selection committee' constituted by the Auroville Council, and is responsible for land purchase and land protection in collaboration with the WCom, FAMC and the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation.

Budget Coordination Committee: The Budget Coordination Committee is appointed by the FAMC to manage the municipal budget of Auroville. This includes collecting contributions from Auroville units and individuals as well as external donors, allocating and disbursing budgets for Auroville services and administering residents' stipends, called "Maintenances".

Entry Board: The Entry Board (aka Admission Committee) is composed of 9 Aurovilians appointed by the RA to guide, oversee, and permit the admission of those interested in joining Auroville (as per community-approved processes) into the Auroville Register of Residents.

Farm Group: The Farm Group consists of representatives of Auroville farms and is responsible for the overall management of the farm sector, under the purview of the FAMC.

Forest Group: The Forest Group consists of representatives of Auroville forests and is responsible for the overall management of the forest sector, under the purview of the FAMC.

Green Group: The Green Group consists of members from the Farm Group and Forest Group, and is responsible for farm and forest group issues jointly with the TDC (Town Development Council).

Housing Board: The Housing Board is appointed by the FAMC to manage and allocate the residential assets of the Auroville Foundation (stewardship, repairs etc.).

Residents' Assembly Service: The Residents' Assembly Service is selected by the Auroville Council to coordinate the decision-making activities of the Residents' Assembly in accordance with a Residents' Assembly Decision-Making Policy. (Note: The RAS itself is not a decision-making body.)

IMPORTANT NOTE

The Office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation ('Auroville Foundation Office' - AVFO) has reconstituted many of the important working groups and committees of the Residents' Assembly, **creating parallel groups**. For the purpose of clarity, names of these parallel groups will be preceded and followed by slashes, e.g. /AVFO 'WCom'/



Takeover of the Working Committee & Disempowerment of the Residents' Assembly

Executive Summary

The current Secretary of the Auroville Foundation (AVF) has consistently worked to take over daily management and activities of Auroville, despite the fact that this is within the sole purview of the Residents' Assembly as per the Auroville Foundation Act (1988).

Auroville's daily management is carried out by several community-selected 'Working Groups' (WGs), which are mandated by and accountable to the Residents' Assembly (RA), meaning all registered residents of Auroville above the age of 18. **The Working Committee is one such group, the only statutory body mentioned in the AVF Act** that forms the bridge between the RA and the other bodies of the Auroville Foundation (Governing Board, International Advisory Council). After the events of December 2021 at the Youth Centre and Bliss Forest which some Working Committee members advocated and subsequently refused to enter in any dialogue with the residents that they were supposed to represent, **the RA voted to remove and replace four of the members.**

Despite a clear vote to remove the four Working Committee members who did not enjoy the confidence of the community, **Dr. Jayanti Ravi decided to supersede the decision of the RA** by declaring only the dismissed members and their associates as the legitimate Working Committee. She has wilfully ignored a clear vote from the Residents' Assembly to remove these members, and to this day refuses to acknowledge the Working Committee of the RA. This denial goes so far as agreeing to only sign visa recommendations approved by 'her' Working Committee. In this, she has so far been supported by the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation.

As for the other Working Groups of the Residents' Assembly, several Office Orders have been issued by **the Office of the Secretary constituting committees and groups that have taken over functions and activities of similar groups appointed by the Residents' Assembly.** This is in violation of any established process, and these arbitrary Office Orders have even been rejected through a historic vote by the RA. At the same time, members of the Working Groups of the RA have been locked out of the inboxes and archives needed to do their work, and this information has been strong-armed into the hands of the unrecognised committees constituted by the Secretary [for a more detailed account see the *Dossier: Censorship and Takeover of Internal Communication Platforms*]. Working Groups taken over in this manner include the Funds and Assets Management Committee, the Auroville Town Development Council, and most recently, the Budget Coordination Committee and the Housing Board/Service.

All this indicates a deliberate and rather violent intent to **cut the Residents' Assembly out of the governance of Auroville** altogether, instead delegating the daily management of Auroville to a small number of outsiders and to a hand-picked few residents loyal to the Secretary and the Governing Board. This reading of the situation is supported by the arguments put forth by the lawyers representing those unrecognised working groups in court, and their assertion that of the

three bodies constituting the Auroville Foundation (Residents' Assembly, International Advisory Council, and Governing Board), the Governing Board is the 'supreme authority' – a reading which **goes against the history, spirit, and meaning of the Auroville Foundation Act (1988)**. The actions of the Secretary are an extension of this erroneous understanding of the Act, and constitute a wilful disempowerment of the Residents' Assembly.

Glossary

Auroville Council (AVC): Auroville Working Group responsible for the internal affairs of Auroville.

Auroville Foundation: Autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, comprising an International Advisory Council (IAC), a Governing Board (GB), and the Residents' Assembly (RA) represented by its Working Committee (WCom).

Auroville Foundation Office (AVFO): See 'Office of the Secretary' below.

FAMC: Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Auroville Foundation

- /AVFO 'FAMC': FAMC appointed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA FAMC: FAMC appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Governing Board (GB): One of the three statutory bodies of the Auroville Foundation, consisting of seven members nominated by the Ministry of Education, Central Government of India.

International Advisory Council (IAC): One of the three statutory bodies authorities of the Auroville Foundation consisting of five members nominated by the Ministry of Education, Central Government of India.

Office of the Secretary (AVFO): Office of Dr Jayanti Ravi, Secretary to the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. Also referred to as 'Auroville Foundation Office' (AVFO).

Residents' Assembly (RA): Residents' Assembly, one of the three statutory authorities of the Auroville Foundation, composed of all Aurovilians over 18.

Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD): An official decision of the Auroville Residents' Assembly.

Residents' Assembly Service (RAS): A service that coordinates the decision-making activities of the Residents' Assembly. It is not a decision-making body.

Town Development Council (TDC): Auroville's Town Development Council.

- /AVFO 'ATDC': TDC endorsed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA TDC: TDC appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Working Committee (WCom): Representative body of the Auroville Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation.

- /AVFO 'WCom': WCom endorsed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA WCom: WCom appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Working Groups: Administrative groups and committees of the Residents' Assembly in charge of management and coordination of various aspects of community life.

Timeline of Events

Jun 4 2021	A new Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Dr Jayanti Ravi, is appointed by the Ministry of Education. The Working Committee warmly introduces Dr
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Ravi to Auroville. Many small-scale meetings are held for Dr Ravi to meet Aurovilians and discover the uniqueness of Auroville.

Jun
- Early Dec

Dr Ravi starts calling her own meetings on contentious issues, on short notice, with neither a clear agenda nor meeting minutes for transparency with the larger community. The calls for these meetings begin to adopt an authoritarian tone, and those who express doubts, questions or disagreements on her planned actions are excluded.

Oct 6

A new Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation is appointed by the Ministry of Education of the Central Government. This includes the appointment of a new Chairman, Shri R.N. Ravi, Governor of Tamil Nadu, as well as six additional members. Of the seven new members, only one has been previously connected to Auroville. This is in spite of the Auroville Foundation Act (1988) explicitly stipulating that members of the Governing Board need to have:

“(a) rendered valuable service to Auroville; (b) dedicated themselves to the ideals of life-long education synthesis of material and spiritual researches or human unity; (c) contributed significantly in activities that are being pursued or are envisaged to be promoted in Auroville, including activities relating to environment, afforestation, arts and crafts, industry, agriculture, humanities, sciences and integral yoga.”

For the first time in Auroville’s history, the Governing Board also consists of two political figures who have not previously been connected to Auroville (the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Lieutenant-Governor of Pondicherry).

→ [Appendix A-1 - Notification appointing the new GB](#)

Oct 11

A new International Advisory Council of five members is constituted by the Ministry of Education of the Central Government.

→ [Appendix A-2 - Resolution appointing the new IAC](#)

Nov 2

First meeting of the new Governing Board, without any consultation with the Residents’ Assembly in which many goals for the future of Auroville are set, despite most members rarely having even visited Auroville before. Some of these goals and objectives are controversial, such as a plan to welcome 12,000 new residents within three years, effectively multiplying the population by five and altering the unique socio-cultural fabric of Auroville.

→ [Appendix A-3 - Minutes of the 57th Governing Board Meeting](#)

Dec 4 - 10

On 4th December, JCBs arrive to clear the Crown Road area in Bliss Forest/Youth Centre, first in the daytime and then at 1am at night,



unannounced. In spite of residents' prior proposals for alternatives which would be more sustainable and adapted to the ground realities of Auroville, those working under the orders of the Secretary send JCBs to bulldoze contentious areas of the highly controversial 'Crown road'. This is stopped by the mobilisation of many Aurovilians, who refuse to have Auroville's forests and community centres bulldozed without consultation nor warning. During the following week, Aurovilians ensure a 24x7 presence on the affected sites. Few days later, the JCBs come back accompanied by a hired mob of over 50 men. Through the use of brute force and physical violence, the JCBs make their way into the Auroville International Youth Center and destroy its communal assets. Later on, the JCBs finish clearing the surrounding area of the Crown, including a portion of the Darkali forested park, cutting about 900 trees. Residents approach the National Green Tribunal and get a stay order, preventing further damage from being done.

- See *Dossier: Mismanagement of Auroville Assets & Resources*.
- [Appendix A-4 - Report by an Auroville resident on the destruction of Youth Center & Darkali](#)

Dec 4 - 9

Residents meet and discuss the violent actions with which they are faced.

Two meetings are called, one on 4th December (attended by ≈200), and a second one on 5th December (attended by ≈600). It is decided to call for a Residents' Assembly Decision-Making Process (similar to a referendum via voting) on three topics, one of which is to pause the development on the Crown; the second a vote of no confidence in the Town Development Council recently appointed by the Secretary; and the third a vote of no confidence in the Working Committee.

On 9th December, residents regroup in the Town Hall and call for the resignation of the Working Committee, as some of its members have supported the recent bulldozing and the violence that ensued. The Working Committee ignores this call, in spite of its mandate to represent the Residents' Assembly.

- [Appendix A-5 - Photos: Community meetings on 4th & 5th Dec](#)
- [Appendix A-6 - Photos: Residents regroup in Town Hall and ask the Working Committee to resign](#)

Dec 5 -
Jan 26

A Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD) on pausing all development on the Crown road work is held. Through several meetings and a final voting, in which 899 residents participate (a historical record for participation in Auroville), the Residents' Assembly decides to pause development on the Crown until further studies are made, and a common agreement can be found. **The outcome of this deliberative process is ignored by the Secretary and the Governing Board.**



On 20th December, in a Residents' Assembly Meeting on the topic, Dr Ravi arrives uninvited and requests to open the meeting with a speech. The facilitators and presenters politely request her to schedule a different meeting for this purpose. Dr Ravi insists and this creates tension, as many Aurovilians in the room are still in shock by the aggressive bulldozing that has led to the meeting. Dr Ravi's imposed presence in an otherwise internal community meeting further emphasises her authoritarian approach towards the Residents' Assembly.

- [Appendix A-7 - Outcome of the RAD process on the Crown](#)
- [Appendix A-8 - Residents' clarification on the RAD proposal](#)
- [Appendix A-9 - Graph showing the participation in RADs over the last six years](#)

Jan 18
2022

The Resident's Assembly Decision-Making Process is undermined by four Working Committee members before the Governing Board.

Four members of the Working Committee (later to be dismissed by the Residents' Assembly they represent) who support the Secretary's development agenda make a presentation to the Governing Board, suggesting the community should no longer be in charge of its own decision-making by claiming it is no longer "a representative decision-making body". Meanwhile, the RA is in the process of voting to "pause all development on the Crown until further notice".

The three WCom members who were excluded from this presentation inform the GB and International Advisory Council of this breach of protocol, and inform the community of the breach of trust within the WCom team. **From this moment onwards, the WCom is split in two: four of its members support the Secretary's recent actions, and three of them denounce the violence and heavy-handed tactics that are being used.**

- [Appendix A-10 - Presentation of 4 WCom members](#)
- [Appendix A-11 - Response by 3 WCom members](#)

March 20 - 28

A Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD) to review the membership of the Working Committee is prioritised in a community poll, and launched by the Residents' Assembly Service.

The proposed RAD, submitted by 200+ petitioners, is a "Vote of no confidence in / call for a new selection of the current Working Committee team, given their failure to 'assist' and 'represent' the Residents' Assembly as stated in their mandate". The first meeting for this RAD is held on April 4th.

Note: The RA is mandated to make this decision based on the Auroville Foundation Act (1988), which states:



“20. (3) *The manner of choosing the members of the Working Committee and their term of office shall be such as may be decided by the Residents' Assembly.*”

- [Appendix A-12 - Announcement from the Residents' Assembly Service](#)
- [Appendix A-13 - Short overview of concerns of petitioners](#)
- [Appendix A-14 - Report of 1st Resident's Assembly meeting on WCom](#) (Apr 7)

April 11 - 12

The Working Committee invites Governing Board members to spend more time in Auroville in order to increase “mutual understanding and collaboration”. In their response to the Minutes of the GB meeting, the WCom acknowledges the shortcomings raised in the Minutes regarding the internal organisation of Auroville, also making note of a seeming lack of consultation between the International Advisory Council and the GB.

Auroville residents send a collective letter to the GB to raise concerns about the current situation in Auroville, calling for attention to topics including visa issues and land matters, and **“request the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation to abandon its current methods of coercion and intimidation.”**

- [Appendix A-15 - WCom Response to minutes of 58th GB meeting](#)
- [Appendix A-16 - Letter from residents](#)
- [Appendix A-17 - 58th GB meeting minutes](#) (Jan 18)

April 23

Voting begins on the Residents' Assembly Decision regarding the Working Committee membership. The voting is open for two weeks and is conducted digitally and in-person.

- [Appendix A-18 - RAS email opening the vote](#)

April 27 - 29

The four WCom members who align with the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation attempt to dismiss the remaining three WCom members by invoking a deliberately misconstrued clause of an internal policy. The policy states “Members who are not executing their work as assigned by the group and/or turn out to be ill-matched with the team can – after all attempts of integration have failed – be asked by the Working Group to step out.” This clause was never intended to be used for dismissing dissenting voices, but is now re-interpreted to suit the agenda.

The Auroville Council, mandated to ensure adherence to internal protocols and harmonise groups, states this dismissal invalid, considering there is an ongoing Residents' Assembly Decision pending on the membership of the WCom of the RA.



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- [Appendix A-19 - Letter published on Auronet](#)
 - [Appendix A-20 - Sauro's personal response](#)
 - [Appendix A-21 - Auroville Council response](#)

May 6 - 9

The Office of the Secretary issues a letter to halt all Residents' Assembly Decisions pending the update of the Register of Residents (RoR). The RoR is a list of all residents of Auroville mandated to be maintained by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation. The closing of the vote on the Working Committee membership is three days away - the letter shows that Dr. Ravi seeks to intervene and halt the vote.

Within 36 hours, 500+ Auroville residents respond with a letter challenging the statement, and note that: "The inadequate maintenance of the RoR has no bearing on the validity and legitimacy of the decision-making processes of the Residents' Assembly" and the three WCom members not aligned with the Secretary also respond to the same, clarifying the status of the RoR.

- [Appendix A-22 - Letter by Dr G. Seetharaman](#)
- [Appendix A-23 - Response of Residents](#)
- [Appendix A-24 - Response by 3 WCom members](#)

May 10

The Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD) to reconstitute the Working Committee is published. With 864 valid votes (38% of all eligible voters and the second highest turnout for an RAD in the history of Auroville), 92% of voters agree to dismiss certain members of the WCom. As a result, the four members of the WCom supported by the Office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation are removed from office, as they had shown their unwillingness to represent the RA. **The three continuing members are Chali Grinnell, Sauro Mezzetti, and Hemant Lamba.**

The results of the RAD are communicated to the Office of the Secretary, Governing Board, and International Advisory Council by the three ongoing members of the WCom approved by the Residents' Assembly (RA WCom) and by the Auroville Council.

On the same day, the same four WCom members that were dismissed select and announce three interim members to reconstitute a parallel 'Working Committee', one that aligns with the AVFO (/AVFO 'WCom'/), blatantly disregarding the Auroville Council (AVC) and the outcome of the RAD. As per internal policy, the appointment of interim members is to be done in consultation with the AVC - however, they are not consulted. The Office of the Secretary also announces and endorses the 'new team'. The AVC immediately declares this announcement as erroneous.

- [Appendix A-25 - RAD Outcome](#)
- [Appendix A-26 - Resolution RAD/03/2022](#)
- [Appendix A-27 - Announcement of interim members](#)



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- [Appendix A-28 - Announcement by AVFO](#)
 - [Appendix A-29 - Auroville Council announcement](#)
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May 12 **The Office of the Secretary demands a handover of the keys to the Working Committee offices.**

→ [Appendix A-30 - AVFO demands handover of keys to the WCom office](#)

May 14 In keeping with the Residents' Assembly Decision, **the WCom is temporarily strengthened with three additional interim members**, announced jointly with Auroville Council.

→ [Appendix A-31 - Announcement from WCom & Auroville Council](#)

May 15 **The /AVFO 'WCom/', comprising members endorsed by the Office of the Secretary**, writes a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and other Indian officials regarding Auroville's situation and requests their intervention.

→ [Appendix A-32 - Letter to high ranking Indian officials by the /AVFO 'WCom/](#)

May 17 **The Office of the Secretary files a police complaint against six Aurovilians, including the three ongoing members of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.** The complaint states that these six Aurovilians had "illegally taken over" the WCom office and had "obstructed" the entry of the WCom members "recognised by the Auroville Foundation". This wrongfully conflates the Foundation with the Office of the Secretary: these WCom members "recognised by the Auroville Foundation" have in fact been dismissed by the Residents' Assembly following due process.

→ [Appendix A-33 - FIR details](#)

May 18 **The Office of the Secretary sends police to Town Hall to obtain the keys to the Working Committee offices** from the RA appointed WCom members. They refuse to hand them over, citing the illegitimacy of the /AVFO 'WCom/'.

→ [Appendix A-34 - Pictures of Police presence in Town Hall](#)

June 8 **The Auroville Council re-assert that the Working Committee is to be selected by the Residents' Assembly.** They note that the /AVFO 'WCom/' has rejected the authority of the RA to choose the term of WCom members, in accordance with its rights as stipulated in the Auroville Foundation Act (1988), by disregarding the official outcome of the Residents' Assembly Decision.

→ [Appendix A-35 - Communication of the AVC](#)

June 13-14 **Hemant Lamba, member of the Working Committee, files a case on behalf of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly with the Madras High Court against interference into the work of the Residents' Assembly and their duly selected representatives (the RA WCom).** The RA WCom announces the same to the community, asserting that the RA-selected Working Groups should continue to function.

→ [Appendix A-36 - RA WCom update](#)

June 14 **A joint meeting of the working groups parallelly constituted by the Office of the Secretary** now including Auroville's Funds and Assets Management Committee (/AVFO 'FAMC/') and the Auroville Town Development Council (/AVFO 'ATDC/') is held, focussing on identifying development projects for immediate implementation, notably in the areas of Housing and Land Stewardships.

In the meeting, the /AVFO 'WCom/' assert that they are also to act as the RAS (Residents' Assembly Service), effectively denying an impartial body to carry out mandated community decision-making processes.

→ [Appendix A-37 - Meeting notes of /AVFO 'ATDC'/. /AVFO 'FAMC/' and /AVFO 'WCom/' Joint Meeting](#)

June 21 **Takeover of the management of the Auroville Town Hall "ACUR"** (Auroville Centre for Urban Research) **via an Office Order of the Office of the Secretary, naming new 'executives'.**

The 'executives' are hand-picked by Dr Ravi. The old management is not informed of this change. From here on, Town Hall becomes increasingly hostile to the RA-appointed Working Groups and offices and assets are taken over one by one, without communication.

→ [Appendix A-38 - Office Order for ACUR \(Town Hall\)](#)

June 26-28 **Residents' Assembly Selection Process 2022**
The RA holds its annual, community-approved selection process, appointing new members to, amongst other groups, the Working Committee. The outcome is published, and communicated to the RA, Governing Board and International Advisory Council. The three interim members that had joined the Working Committee to strengthen it make space for the new appointed representatives. **The Working Committee now consists of: Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Maël Vidal, Sauro Mezzetti, and Valli Senthilkumar.**

→ [Appendix A-39 - Report of the Residents' Assembly Service](#)

July 2 -
ongoing

The new Town Hall management requests the Auroville Council to vacate their offices within 24 hours. The Auroville Council reply that they do not recognise the newly appointed 'executives' as legitimate. They receive a response stating that the Auroville Council is not a legal body recognised in the Auroville Foundation Act, "but only an internal body based on trust and agreement", which undermines another key Working Group of Auroville's internal organisation. The next day, one of the new 'executives' of the Town Hall building comes to the room to find presence keepers who refuse to move. She calls the police, who politely communicate their unwillingness to intervene in this internal dispute.

On July 4th, the Vigilance Officer appointed by the Office of the Secretary, Mr Madhi, comes to the room on its behalf and instructs the Auroville Council and vigil keepers to vacate the room, again threatening police intervention.

From this day onwards, members of the Auroville community have held a 24 hour presence in the room, seven days a week, to ensure that it remains available to the Auroville Council and other RA Working Groups who regularly use it. These presence-keepers have faced deterrent tactics by the Town Hall management such as cutting electrical supply to the room and locking access to bathrooms.

→ [Appendix A-40 - Reply from Council to request to vacate the Auroville Council office in Town Hall](#)

July 3

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly requests the Office of the Secretary to refrain from issuing further orders (Office Orders, Standing Orders, etc.) and withdraw those previously issued.

→ [Appendix A-41 - RA WCom communication](#)

July 8

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly publishes its observations of the minutes of the last Governing Board meeting. The meeting minutes are very ambiguous, citing 'various development plans', meetings of the Finance Committee (whose minutes are not shared with the RA), approval of an unknown budget for ATDC, mention of meetings with the Tamil Nadu govt. for land, and declaring the signing of an MoU with the CPWD as yet unseen. The RA WCom requests more information regarding the above, as well as an update on the status of the contract with Vastu Shilpa LLC for developing Detailed Development Plans for the City of Auroville, which the RA had been in favour of, along with the 'Dreamweaving' process. The RA WCom also notes the failure of the Secretary to protect



Auroville land (Pitchandikulam and Eternity) in her role as Estate Officer. They request that members of the Residents' Assembly be included in the Organisation and Governance Committee formed by the Governing Board, and request that a joint meeting be held with the three authorities of the Auroville Foundation, namely the Governing Board, the International Advisory Council and the Residents' Assembly.

No response is offered, neither by the Governing Board nor the Secretary.

→ [Appendix A-42 - WCom observations of the 59th meeting of the Governing Board](#)

July 8 - 10

Announcement from /AVFO 'WCom/' that 60th Governing Board meeting will take place without interaction with the community.

The RA WCom updates the community on mail exchanges with the GB, keeping the International Advisory Council in the loop, in which they appeal "to actively encourage a more inclusive and collaborative approach to the unfolding of the Auroville experiment on all levels." They request time to interact with the Governing Board, offering to be at the disposal of the GB to organise such meetings whenever needed. They also share reports from the RA selected Funds and Assets Management Committee and Town Development Council. No response is received from the GB.

- [Appendix A-43 - Announcement from /AVFO 'WCom/'](#)
- [Appendix A-44 - Announcement from RA WCom re: their communication with GB](#)
- [Appendix A-45 - Report from the RA FAMC](#)
- [Appendix A-46 - Letter from the RA TDC](#)

July 11 - 12

The 60th Governing Board meeting is held in Auroville, no interaction with the Residents' Assembly nor its representatives takes place. The agenda, presentations and minutes of this 60th GB meeting are not shared with the Residents' Assembly nor its representatives, which is a clear breach of protocol and does not meet any of the transparency standards expected between different authorities of the Auroville Foundation.

July 22

A "Community Support" meeting not open to the community is held by the /AVFO 'Working Groups', on special invitation only. A resident accepts the invite and writes a report afterwards, to update the rest of the RA. At the meeting, a small circle of residents who are supportive of Dr. Ravi's interventions and actions are presented with a distorted and misquoted interpretation of the Auroville Foundation Act.

→ [Appendix A-47 - Report of the Secretary's group meeting](#)



July 28 - 29

The secretary of the Auroville Council is physically aggressed by one of the new Town Hall 'management', who attempts to lock her in the Auroville Council room. Community members respond by gathering in front of the Town Hall building in solidarity and requesting an audience with Dr Ravi to address this violence on a resident, perpetrated by the executive appointed by her. Dr Ravi largely ignores the demonstration, eventually agreeing to meet the aggressed only under grossly unsympathetic conditions. No remedial action or statement is offered.

→ [Appendix A-48 - Photos of the gathering at Town Hall](#)

Aug 12

The Madras High Court reaches a judgement on the Outreach Media, Working Committee and Auroville Town Development Council cases
The judge confirms that the Governing Board and Residents' Assembly have to work in 'mutuality'. The judgement also notes that these bodies cannot interfere in one another's sphere of action, and that therefore, the AVFO's letter of May 6th attempting to put a stop on all decisions of the RA is null and void. The judge also notes that the GB has no right to intervene in the functions of the RA, thereby legitimising the June 26 Selection Process and confirming that the WCom selected by the RA is legitimate.

- [Appendix A-49 - Judgement of the Madras High Court](#)
- [Appendix A-50 - Legal implications of the judgement](#)
- [Appendix A-51 - Overview of arguments made in court by AVFO lawyers](#)

Letters are sent by RA Working Groups to parallel Working Groups requesting them to comply with the judgement.

- [Appendix A-52 - RA ATDC to /AVFO 'ATDC/'](#) (Aug 16)
- [Appendix A-53 - RA WCom to Secretary and former WCom members](#) (Aug 16)
- [Appendix A-54 - RA FAMC to /AVFO 'FAMC/'](#) (Aug 19)
- [Appendix A-55 - RA TDC to Joint Committee](#) (Aug 19)
- [Appendix A-56 - By the above Working Groups + AVC to the RA](#) (Aug 19)

Aug 13 - 16

Following the Madras High Court ruling in favour of the Residents' Assembly selected Working Groups, the Auroville Town Hall is physically locked by the new Town Hall 'management', presumably to prevent the RA Working Groups from accessing their respective offices. The offices are re-opened a few days later, but the assets are not handed back to the legitimate groups. The RA WCom writes to the Townhall 'management' requesting them to comply with the judgement.



→ [Appendix A-57 - Letter from the RA WCom to the Townhall 'management' team](#)

Aug 19 - 25

An Emergency Residents' Assembly Decision on the unilateral nature of the orders of the Office of the Secretary and the support of the Residents' Assembly selected Working Groups is called for by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.

On 20 August, the /AVFO 'WCom/' announces on Auronet, Auroville's internal communication platform, that the on-going Emergency RAD is in contempt of court, which stated that no policy decisions are to be taken until the Register of Residents is updated by the Secretary. The RA selected WCom responds on Auronet citing solicited legal counsel affirming this RAD is not a policy decision and hence not in contempt of court. Nonetheless, the clarification by the RA Wcom is removed from Auronet on 22nd August by the new Auronet administrators, who have been appointed by the AVFO (see *Dossier: Censorship & Takeover of communication platforms*).

Outcome

The proposed RAD seeks to reject the Standing Orders and arbitrary Office Orders made by the Office of the Secretary without consulting the RA, and to affirm the RA's support towards the RA-appointed Working Groups only.

Despite technical difficulties owing to takeovers of internal communication platforms and the inbox of the Residents' Assembly Service itself, 1161 Aurovilians vote - with 97% voting in favour. This constitutes 49% of all eligible voters and is the **highest voter-turnout in Auroville's history**. The Resolution of the Residents' Assembly is communicated to the Governing Board and International Advisory Council, the other two statutory bodies of the Auroville Foundation.

- [Appendix A-58 - RA Resolution RAD/4/2022](#)
- [Appendix A-59 - RAS report on the results of the Emergency RAD](#)
- [Appendix A-60 - Communication to GB and IAC regarding RA Resolution](#)

Aug 22

The Office of the Secretary appeals the 12th August judgement

In their 400+ page appeal document, the Auroville Foundation represented by its Secretary makes some startling revelations regarding its interpretation of the Auroville Foundation Act. On 12 August, Hon'ble Justice Qudhose had stated that "The relationship between the three authorities is of mutuality." The AVFO does not accept this principle of mutuality, instead asserting that the Governing Board is, in fact, the "Supreme Authority" of Auroville.



It is additionally argued in court by the AVFO that:

- The GB's requirement is to consult the RA only "in a limited sphere";
- Had the AVF Act intended to have residents as its primary benefactor, the residents of Auroville could have been asked to merely create a Residents' Welfare Association instead of creating an autonomous body vested with the central govt.
- Aurovilians are to be regarded as merely "voluntary workers as part of a Sangha, not a democratic assembly of residents claiming rights to self-rule"; and
- "The entire lands [of Auroville], properties, undertakings vest with the central government and the central government has delegated all its powers to the foundation, which in turn is managed by the Governing Board."

→ [Appendix A-61 - Appeal document](#)

→ [Appendix A-62 - Extracts from the appeal document](#)

Aug 26

Interim Order of the Madras High Court (MHC) on its ruling of 12 August

An appeal bench of the MHC agrees to pass an interim order temporarily suspending the ruling of 12th August, as sought by the Office of the Secretary in its appeal on the somewhat flimsy grounds that the judgement had exceeded the purview of what was sought in the original petition.

Sep 2

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly issues a statement on illegitimate appointees

reminding the community "not to engage with or recognize" any of the illegitimate members of the parallel 'Working Groups' appointed by the Office of the Secretary, in line with the official resolution passed by the Residents' Assembly on 25th August.

→ [Appendix A-63 - Communication from RA WCom on illegitimate appointees](#)

Sep 14

Electricity to Auroville Council Meeting Room is disconnected, while this is the only remaining space accessible to Residents' Assembly appointed Working Groups, owing to the 24x7 presence maintained in the room by residents since July.

→ [Appendix A-64 - Communication from AV Council on electricity disconnection](#)

Sep 30

Residents' Assembly Working Group members are shifted to 'Bridging Maintenances' by the Accounts Officer of the Auroville Foundation.

'Bridging Maintenances' are Maintenances allocated for Aurovilians without work and are valid for 3 months. The Office of the Secretary of Auroville Foundation has no role to play in internal budget or maintenance allocations under the Auroville Foundation Act (1988) or Rules (1997) thereof.



Oct 17 **Residents' Assembly Working Groups hold a joint community meeting** to update residents on various topics of concern such as ongoing legal actions, the implications of the take-over of working groups and services by the Foundation Office, visas, land matters etc., attended by ≈300 residents.

Oct 19 **Meeting of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly with the Chairman of the Governing Board.**
Shri RN Ravi visits Auroville on 18th and 19th of October. In a marked change from the recent practice of the current Governing Board, which had so far refused to meet the Residents' Assembly or the groups appointed by it, the Chairman agrees to a 2-hour meeting with the RA WCom.

The RA WCom publishes a report on their meeting with the Chairman, during which they present the efforts Auroville has made towards developing the city and note that "for a positive way forward to be found, people need to feel secure and the current state of fear needs to come to an end." The RA WCom also states that this meeting is a hopeful first step in establishing contact with the Governing Board, through its Chairman.

For a short overview of what was presented to the Chairman, see the note and powerpoint prepared for the occasion.

- [Appendix A-65 - Report of RA WCom Meeting with the Chairman of the Governing Board](#)
- [Appendix A-66 - Note presented by RA WCom to the Chairman of the Governing Board](#)
- [Appendix A-67 - Powerpoint presented by RA WCom to the Chairman of the Governing Board](#)

Nov 2 **A "General Meeting" of the Residents' Assembly is held to discuss potential concerns and topics to bring up with the Chairman of the Governing Board.** This comes in response to the perceived shift of attitude of the Governing Board, and the news that the Governing Board Chairman may visit Auroville soon again. Concerns raised to be brought to the Chairman include visas, land exchange, bridging the gap between the RA and GB, and a call to acknowledge the sincerity and hard work of Aurovilians over the decades who are now being branded as criminals.

Nov 7 **Chairman of the Governing Board 'meets' the residents of Auroville**
The Chairman of the Governing Board and Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri RN Ravi, addresses around 600 residents at the Unity Pavilion. This is the first time that a member of the Governing Board speaks to the wider community since the actions taken in the Youth Center in December 2021. In his speech, Mr. Ravi outlines the Governing Board's views on the current situation. The key point of his address are:

-
- Auroville is a place for Sadhaks (spiritual devotees), and that currently, he sees Aurovilians as lacking in the strength of their sadhana (spiritual path).
 - Aurovilians are doing business.
 - More Aurovilians should meditate and work at Matrimandir.
 - “The ideals of Auroville are being compromised” and that “Auroville needs a shock ... to bring it to its trail”.
 - 'Power' in the relationship between the RA and the GB is only a matter of semantics as there are only 2 powers: the Constitution and laws of India and the Charter of Auroville.
 - The Master Plan is “a decision taken through the due process” and should ideally be “non-negotiable”.
 - The media efforts of residents since December 2021 “created a bad name for Auroville” and were “not in good taste”.
 - There is a lack of agreed upon norms as to who should be allowed to be in Auroville.

After his speech, the Chairman refuses to entertain any interaction and abruptly leaves, instead asking residents to write him an email with their suggestions for the development of Auroville. Residents, who had hoped for a meaningful two-way conversation, feel again silenced. The RA WCom issues a press release.

- [Appendix A-68 - Transcript of the Chairman's address to the Residents' Assembly](#)
- [Appendix A-69 - Press Release dated 10.11.2022](#)

Nov 8

Residents' Assembly Working Groups call for a collective meditation for “invoking light, peace and unity” at the Banyan tree, the geographical centre of Auroville. More than hundred residents attend, in spite of the short notice. The Chairman and Governing Board are also invited to attend, but decide not to join.

- [Appendix A-70 - Letter inviting the GB to a collective meditation](#)

On the same afternoon, the 61st Governing Board meeting is held in Auroville, with again no space given to the Residents' Assembly nor its representatives to interact. Similarly to the 60th GB meeting, the agenda, presentations and minutes of this 61st GB meeting are not shared with the Residents' Assembly nor its representatives, which is a clear breach of protocol and does not meet any of the transparency standards expected between different authorities of the Auroville Foundation.

Nov 14

A “General Meeting” is held by the residents of Auroville to respond to the speech given by the Chairman of the Governing Board. A collective letter is finalised and approved by those approx. 150 residents present on site, and



sent to the Chairman by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly. It is later additionally signed by 477 verified residents.

→ [Appendix A-71 - Collective letter to the Chairman](#)

Nov 16

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly sends to the Chairman of the Governing Board a number of letters written by individual residents of Auroville, following his speech of 7th November. The RA WCom later compiles these letters and releases them in the form of a booklet.

→ [Appendix A-72 - Email from RA WCom to GB Chairman](#)

→ [Appendix A-73 - Compilation of letters to GB Chairman](#)

UPDATED TILL 1st DECEMBER 2022



Takeover of the Funds and Assets Management Committee and its subgroups

Executive Summary

The Funds and Assets Management Committee is a statutory Working Group appointed by the Residents' Assembly that is responsible for the **overall management of financial, material, and immaterial assets of Auroville** (land, commercial, municipal, digital etc.). It defines policies and guidelines for the use of Auroville's communal funds and assets, and ensures that these are in line with Indian Government regulations. It also appoints executives, managers, stewards and administrators of Auroville's various funds and assets.

It also appoints the members of its subgroups, including the Budget Coordination Committee (BCC) and Housing Board. The BCC is responsible for administering Auroville's municipal budget. This fund provides regular budgets for Auroville services and stipends for Aurovilian adults and children, and is financed primarily by contributions from Auroville's income-generating units, as well as individual community members. BCC members are appointed for a 3-year term by the FAMC through a community-approved process.

The Housing Board administers the residential assets of Auroville, with the help of the Housing Service. This includes the allocation and maintenance of residential assets of Auroville as well as overseeing residential development projects. The Housing Board is appointed for a 3-year term by the FAMC through a community-approved process.

The Office of the Secretary (aka 'Auroville Foundation Office' - AVFO) has attempted to **replace the FAMC appointed by the Residents' Assembly** (RA FAMC) by constituting its own 'FAMC', herein referred to as the /AVFO 'FAMC'/. They have subsequently appointed similar **parallel groups** for both the BCC and Housing Board. The following timeline gives a short overview of the events since February 2022, leading to what is today **a complete takeover of the funds & material assets of Auroville**.

Glossary

Auroville Council (AVC): Auroville Working Group responsible for the internal affairs of Auroville.

Auroville Foundation: Autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, comprising an International Advisory Council (IAC), a Governing Board (GB), and the Residents' Assembly (RA) represented by its Working Committee (WCom).

Auroville Foundation Office (AVFO): See 'Office of the Secretary' below.

FAMC: Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Auroville Foundation

- /AVFO 'FAMC': FAMC appointed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA FAMC: FAMC appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Governing Board (GB): One of the three statutory bodies of the Auroville Foundation, consisting of seven members nominated by the Ministry of Education, Central Government of India.

International Advisory Council (IAC): One of the three statutory bodies authorities of the Auroville Foundation consisting of five members nominated by the Ministry of Education, Central Government of India.

Office of the Secretary (AVFO): Office of Dr Jayanti Ravi, Secretary to the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. Also referred to as 'Auroville Foundation Office' (AVFO).

Residents' Assembly (RA): Residents' Assembly, one of the three statutory authorities of the Auroville Foundation, composed of all Aurovilians over 18.

Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD): An official decision of the Auroville Residents' Assembly.

Residents' Assembly Service (RAS): A service that coordinates the decision-making activities of the Residents' Assembly. It is not a decision-making body.

Town Development Council (TDC): Auroville's Town Development Council.

- /AVFO 'ATDC': TDC endorsed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA TDC: TDC appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Working Committee (WCom): Representative body of the Auroville Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation.

- /AVFO 'WCom': WCom endorsed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA WCom: WCom appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Working Groups: Administrative groups and committees of the Residents' Assembly in charge of management and coordination of various aspects of community life.

Timeline of Events

Feb 8 **Dr. Ravi starts 'convening' the Funds and Assets Management Committee's meetings**

The FAMC in its entire history has been a body of the Residents' Assembly. However, Dr. Ravi leverages an error in the Auroville Rules and Regulations (1997) - attempted to be rectified by many Governing Boards and Secretaries over the years - to assert that the Funds and Assets Management Committee is a committee of the Governing Board. In an email to the FAMC members, the Undersecretary states: "As per the definitions in the Auroville Foundation Rules 1997, FAMC is of the Governing Board. [...] The meetings of the FAMC will be convened henceforth by the Secretary or her nominee."

→ [Appendix B-1 - Email from the Office of the Secretary](#)

June 3 **Office of the Secretary 'reconstitutes' the Funds and Assets Management Committee and the Auroville Town Development Council**

The residents of Auroville are informed through a post on AuroNet, Auroville's now taken-over internal communication platform, that both the FAMC and the ATDC have been 'reconstituted' by the AVFO. These new members are appointed directly on behalf of the Governing Board, without any consultation with the Residents' Assembly or its Working Committee, and purely on the basis of recommendations from the Secretary without disclosing the criteria for selection. The post itself is left unsigned and does not name the newly

selected members. In an attempt to legitimise these appointments, the AVFO sends out a press release, reported in the Times of India.

- [Appendix B-2 - Communication of the AVFO on Auronet](#)
- [Appendix B-3 - Newspaper article, Times of India](#)
- [Appendix B-4 - Document written by residents explaining FAMC and ATDC takeover \(errata\)](#)
- [Appendix B-5 - Office Order announcement posted on Auronet](#)
- [Appendix B-6 - Office Order 180 reconstituting ATDC](#)
- [Appendix B-7 - Office Order 182 reconstituting FAMC](#)

June 14

Funds and Assets Management Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly pressured and threatened; inbox taken over

FAMC members lose access to their @auroville.org.in inboxes, which are now administered by an unknown entity at the AVFO after a hostile takeover on May 20th (see *Dossier: Censorship & Takeover of Communication Platforms*). After continued pressure on their work from the AVFO, and visa threats on some individual members, some FAMC members are unsure whether to continue their work.

- [Appendix B-8 - Communication from Auroville Council](#)

June 14

Auroville Council and Working Committee question the appointments of the Auroville Town Development Council and the Funds and Assets Management Committee by the AVFO

The AV Council and the RA WCom communicate issues with the recent ATDC and FAMC appointment protocols to the community. The crux is that the appointments are not based on any of the established processes that have always constituted these bodies; and they infringe upon the right of the Residents' Assembly to nominate their members.

- [Appendix B-9 - Auroville Council clarifications on FAMC and ATDC](#)
- [Appendix B-10 - WCom update](#)

June 26

Residents' Assembly Selection Process 2022

The RA holds its annual, community-approved selection process, appointing new members to, amongst other groups, the Funds and Assets Management Committee. **The new members of the FAMC are: Amy Bassett, Bobby Patel, Danny Merguei, Elodie Desrousseaux, Mita Radhakrishnan, M. Palani, R. Ranjithkumar.**

- [Appendix A-39 - Report of the Residents' Assembly Service](#)



July 11	<p>A case is filed in the Madras High Court by Namrita Bindra Gautier to challenge the June 3rd 'reconstitution' of the Funds and Assets Management Committee.</p>
June 19 - ongoing	<p>The /AVFO 'FAMC/' seeks to interfere with the functioning of the Budget Coordination Committee (BCC), mandated to manage the municipal budget of Auroville and appointed by the FAMC of the Residents' Assembly. It makes repeated requests to the BCC to obtain confidential budgetary data, threatening to intervene in transfers if these requests are not complied with.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Appendix B-11 - BCC Timeline</p>
July 18 - ongoing	<p>/AVFO 'FAMC/' seeks to interfere with the functioning of the Housing Board (HB), mandated to manage the residential assets of the Auroville Foundation, under the purview of the FAMC. The /AVFO 'FAMC/' makes requests to the HB (appointed by the FAMC of the Residents' Assembly) to meet. Under pressure of replacement, the HB thereafter always complies with the requests of the /AVFO 'FAMC/', but continues to meet and update the RA FAMC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Appendix B-12 - Email setting up meetings with /AVFO 'FAMC/' and HB → Appendix B-13 - Email sharing HB data and workplan</p>
July 25 - 27	<p>AVFO issues Office Order 495 freezing City Services budget</p> <p>The Accounts Officer working with the AVFO delivers Office Order 495 to the Budget Coordination Committee (BCC), a subgroup of the FAMC responsible for Auroville's municipal budget. It accuses the BCC of withholding information, and effectively blackmails the BCC into handing over data by threatening to stop all monetary disbursements except Auroville maintenances. This would exclude workers employed in Auroville, including those in emergency services, kitchens, road service, electricity, etc. BCC eventually decides to comply, given the threat to Auroville's essential services. It is worth noting that although Office Order 495 was never withdrawn, monthly payments to workers have continued as normal following BCC's compliance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Appendix B-14 - Office Order 495 → Appendix B-15 - RA FAMC notice: disregard Office Order 495 → Appendix B-16 - Announcement from BCC to the community</p>
July 29 & 30	<p>/AVFO 'FAMC/' takes over City Services disbursements and constitutes a 'Budget Coordination Service'</p> <p>The /AVFO 'FAMC/' sends a statement that they are now in charge of all City Services disbursements, effectively micromanaging the economy of Auroville.</p>



The /AVFO 'FAMC'/ also sends out a mass mail claiming that a new team called the 'Budget Coordination Service' has been constituted by Office Order. Despite repeated requests, this Office Order has not been shared with the residents. Subsequently, the RA FAMC sends out an email advising residents to "disregard its content in light of the fact that forming such groups cannot be done over email and or without formal approval through a community process."

- [Appendix B-17 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ statement](#)
- [Appendix B-18 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ mass mail constituting the /AVFO 'BCS'/](#)
- [Appendix B-19 - RA FAMC sends out a notice to disregard the constitution of the /AVFO 'BCS'/](#)

Aug 4 - 9 **AVFO approaches individual members of the very Budget Coordination Committee it disbanded to join the new 'Budget Coordination Service'.** No BCC members agreed to do so.

Aug 6 **/AVFO 'FAMC'/ takes over the Loan Group**
/AVFO 'FAMC'/ appoints two new members to the Loan Group, which is the final authority on providing necessary loans to Aurovilians. They also appoint a member of the Housing Board selected by the RA FAMC without consulting her. She subsequently refuses.

- [Appendix B-20 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ communication](#)

Aug 12 **The Madras High Court reaches a judgement on the Outreach Media, Working Committee and Auroville Town Development Council cases**
The judge confirms that the Governing Board and Residents' Assembly have to work in 'mutuality'. The judgement also notes that these bodies cannot interfere in one another's sphere of action, and that therefore, the letter of Dr. Seetharaman attempting to put a stop on all decisions of the RA is null and void. This confirms that the WCom selected by the RA is the legitimate one.

- [Appendix A-49 - Judgement of the Madras High Court](#)
- [Appendix A-50 - Legal implications of the judgement](#)
- [Appendix A-51 - Overview of arguments made in court by AVFO lawyers](#)

Letters are sent by RA Working Groups (WCom, TDC, and FAMC) to parallel Working Groups as well as the office of the Secretary requesting them to comply with the judgement.

- [Appendix A-54 - RA FAMC to /AVFO 'FAMC'/ \(Aug 19\)](#)



Aug 19 - 25

An Emergency Residents' Assembly Decision on the unilateral nature of the orders of the Office of the Secretary and the support of the Residents' Assembly selected Working Groups is called for by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.

On 20 August, the /AVFO 'WCom/' announces on Auronet, Auroville's internal communication platform, that the on-going Emergency RAD is in contempt of court. The RA selected WCom responds on Auronet citing solicited legal counsel affirming this RAD is not a policy decision and hence not in contempt of court. Nonetheless, the announcement is removed from Auronet on 22nd August by the new Auronet administrators, who have been appointed by the AVFO (see Dossier: Censorship & Takeover of communication platforms)

Outcome

The proposed RAD seeks to reject the Standing Orders and Office Orders made by the Office of the Secretary without consulting the RA, and to affirm the RA's support towards the RA-appointed Working Groups only.

Despite technical difficulties owing to takeovers of internal communication platforms and the inbox of the Residents' Assembly Service itself, 1161 Aurovilians vote - with 97% voting in favour. This constitutes 49% of all eligible voters and is the highest voter-turnout in Auroville's history. The Resolution is communicated to the Governing Board and International Advisory Council, the other two statutory bodies of the Auroville Foundation.

- [Appendix A-58 - RA Resolution RAD/4/2022](#)
- [Appendix A-59 - RAS report on the results of the Emergency RAD](#)
- [Appendix A-60 - Communication to GB and IAC regarding RA Resolution](#)

Aug 22

The Office of the Secretary appeals the 12th August judgement

In their 400+ page appeal document, the Auroville Foundation makes some startling revelations regarding its interpretation of the Auroville Foundation Act. On 12 August, Hon'ble Justice Qudhose had stated that "The relationship between the three authorities is of mutuality". The AVFO does not accept this principle of mutuality, instead defining residents as "mere workers" of a government project and repeatedly asserting that the Governing Board is, in fact, the Supreme Authority of Auroville. It is additionally argued in court that:

- The GB's requirement is to consult the RA only "in a limited sphere";
 - Aurovilians are to be regarded as merely "voluntary workers as part of a Sangha, not a democratic assembly of residents claiming rights to self-rule";
- and



- “The entire lands [of Auroville], properties, undertakings vest with the central government and the central government has delegated all its powers to the foundation, which in turn is managed by the Governing Board.”

- [Appendix A-61 - Appeal document](#)
- [Appendix A-62 - Extracts from the appeal document](#)
- [Appendix B-21 - Interim stay passed by the MHC following an appeal by the AVFO](#)

Aug 26

/AVFO 'FAMC'/ attempts to replace the Budget Coordination Committee members.

The BCC receives an email appointing three new members and one resource person as the new BCC. From this moment onwards, the announced “Budget Coordination Service” exclusively begins using the name of the BCC it seeks to replace (hereafter called /AVFO ‘BCC’/). The RA FAMC responds that this kind of appointment cannot hold in light of the 12th August judgement of the Madras High Court, and the Emergency RAD outcome (see above). The BCC also responds asking for clarifications.

- [Appendix B-22 - Email from /AVFO ‘FAMC’/ to BCC regarding new team](#)
- [Appendix B-23 - RA FAMC response](#)
- [Appendix B-24 - BCC response](#)

Aug 29

Budget Coordination Committee is locked out of their inboxes.

All BCC @auroville.org.in email addresses are taken over by the unknown entities managing the domain (See *Dossier: Censorship & Takeover of Communication Platforms*).

- [Appendix B-25 - Communication from BCC on takeover of email inboxes](#)

Aug 31 -
Sept 3

AVFO ‘reconstitutes’ Housing

On the 31st of August, the Housing Board receives an email that the Housing Service will be reconstituted with new members. The Housing Board immediately responds asking for clarifications and reasons for this action. On the same day, they are locked out of their email inboxes. In the following days, the RA WCom and RA FAMC both send out communications condemning these actions of the /AVFO 'FAMC'/ and explaining their illegitimacy.

- [Appendix B-26 - Email from /AVFO ‘FAMC’/](#)
- [Appendix B-27 - Response from the Housing Board](#)
- [Appendix B-28 - Response from the RA WCom](#)
- [Appendix B-29 - Response from the RA FAMC](#)
- [Appendix B-30 - Update from the Housing Board](#) (Sep 16)



Sep 2	<p>Doors to offices of the Budget Coordination Committee and Housing Service are locked. AVFO sends out Office Order 436 'reconstituting' the Housing Service.</p> <p>Members of the respective groups come to work to find a padlock on the door to their office with a pasted Office Order 436, naming seven new Housing Service members. The Housing Board is not mentioned.</p> <p>→ Appendix B-31 - Office Order 436 on Housing Service → Appendix B-32 - Image of office Order #436 pasted on locked offices</p>
Sep 21	<p>Budget Coordination Committee members are shifted to “Bridging Maintenances” by the /AVFO 'BCC'. “Bridging Maintenances” are Maintenances allocated for Aurovilians without work and are valid for 3 months. This is a way to effectively dismiss the members of the BCC in complete disregard of the Residents’ Assembly and its Working Groups.</p>
Sep 30	<p>RA Working Group members are shifted to ‘Bridging Maintenances’ by the Accounts Officer of the Auroville Foundation, even though the Office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation has no role to play in internal budget or maintenance allocations under the Auroville Foundation Act (1988) or Rules (1997) thereof.</p>
Oct 11	<p>Computers and other office items are removed from the office of the Budget Coordination Committee in the early morning without warning. The equipment was paid for by Auroville’s City Services fund, totalling approx. 3 lakhs. The City Services fund of Auroville comprises monetary contributions from Aurovillian residents and commercial units, with negligible contributions from external sources.</p>
Oct 13 - ongoing	<p>Budget Coordination Committee team members lose access to the Financial Service system, thus losing their ability to administer or oversee the City Services fund. However, the BCC communicates to the community that although they are no longer able to operate as before, they remain committed to serving the community.</p> <p>→ Appendix B-33 - BCC Communication to the Community</p>
Oct 23	<p>/AVFO ‘FAMC/ announces a restructuring of the BCC. This announcement tells the old members they need no longer concern themselves with the future financial stability of Auroville as “She is definitely guiding us” (referring to the Mother, who founded Auroville in 1968 and left Her body in 1973). A lack of accountability is hence being called for, in the name of the Mother. In a separate announcement, the /AVFO ‘FAMC/ also mentions that contributions to City Services has shown a sudden drop, which indicates that the takeover of Auroville’s internal structures may have incurred a financial loss to Auroville.</p>



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- [Appendix B-34 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ on the role of BCC](#)
 - [Appendix B-35 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ on contributions to City Services](#)
-

Nov 24

The Budget Coordination Committee of the Residents' Assembly publishes an update on bridging maintenances for Aurovilians who find themselves on it without due process or any justification, informing the community that it is “coordinating support for these Aurovilians”.

- [Appendix B-36 - BCC update on bridging maintenances](#)
-

UPDATED TILL 1st DECEMBER 2022



Takeover of the Town Development Council

Executive Summary

The Auroville Town Development Council (TDC) is a “Working Group” appointed by the Residents’ Assembly that is responsible for the **urban development and design of the Auroville township as envisioned by the Mother.**

The TDC was first constituted by the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation (GB) in May 2011, via a Standing Order (No.6/201) gazetted in June 2011. It was created to ensure that there was an accountable body for dealing with financial flows relating to the development of the City.

However, its structure was not very conducive for the community and it was hence restructured in Oct 2017 after a lengthy community process. In November 2017, the then Secretary Mr. Chunkath issued Office Order #443, appointing to the ATDC the persons selected by the Residents’ Assembly of the Auroville Foundation (RA), but mistakenly referencing the Standing Order of 2011 (No.6/2011) instead of the model approved by the RA in 2017. Mr. Chunkath hence issued a new Standing Order No.1/2019 dated 4th June 2019 meant to replace the previous one to correct the error. Although the Order mentions “To be published in the Gazette of India, Part III”, it was not gazetted. Nonetheless, Standing Order No.1/2019 mentions that the TDC is to be constituted of “a maximum of 15 members nominated by the Residents’ Assembly through the Working Committee from amongst the Residents’ of Auroville”.

The Working Committee of the Residents’ Assembly informed the GB in 2020 of the lack of funds, expertise, and the necessity to harmonise the two Standing Orders and the community’s own selection process. Thus, members for an interim ATDC were selected in November 2020 by the Working Committee, and the task to come up with a new process to select future ATDCs were taken up by the appropriate working groups in the community in March 2021. However, before their work was concluded, **Dr. Jayanti Ravi took office and within 10 days of her appointment, reconstituted the ATDC with a team of Aurovilians and non-Aurovilians that the Residents’ Assembly had no part in selecting,** via the issuing of an Office Order (#491), without defining a clear mandate, followed by a gazetted Standing Order No.01/2022 dated 1st June 2022 which redefines entirely the constitution, purpose and powers of the Auroville Town Development Council. **Since then, many of the assets of Auroville, including its forests, houses and roads, are being destroyed without following any due process.** See *Dossier: Mismanagement of Auroville assets and resources.*

The constitution and validity of the new /AVFO ‘ATDC’/ is currently being contested in court.

Glossary

Auroville Council (AVC): Auroville Working Group responsible for the internal affairs of Auroville.

Auroville Foundation: Autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, comprising an International Advisory Council (IAC), a Governing Board (GB), and the Residents' Assembly (RA) represented by its Working Committee (WCom).

Auroville Foundation Office (AVFO): See 'Office of the Secretary' below.

FAMC: Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Auroville Foundation

- /AVFO 'FAMC': FAMC appointed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA FAMC: FAMC appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Governing Board (GB): One of the three statutory bodies of the Auroville Foundation, consisting of seven members nominated by the Ministry of Education, Central Government of India.

International Advisory Council (IAC): One of the three statutory bodies authorities of the Auroville Foundation consisting of five members nominated by the Ministry of Education, Central Government of India.

Office of the Secretary (AVFO): Office of Dr Jayanti Ravi, Secretary to the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. Also referred to as 'Auroville Foundation Office' (AVFO).

Residents' Assembly (RA): Residents' Assembly, one of the three statutory authorities of the Auroville Foundation, composed of all Aurovilians over 18.

Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD): An official decision of the Auroville Residents' Assembly.

Residents' Assembly Service (RAS): A service that coordinates the decision-making activities of the Residents' Assembly. It is not a decision-making body.

Town Development Council (TDC): Auroville's Town Development Council.

- /AVFO 'ATDC': TDC endorsed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA TDC: TDC appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Working Committee (WCom): Representative body of the Auroville Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation.

- /AVFO 'WCom': WCom endorsed by the Office of the Secretary.
- RA WCom: WCom appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

Working Groups: Administrative groups and committees of the Residents' Assembly in charge of management and coordination of various aspects of community life.

Timeline of Events

July 15
2021 **Dr. Jayanti Ravi issues Office Order #491 constituting the ATDC** based on the Standing Order of 2011 (and not on the revised Standing Order of 2019). The new Office Order ignores the structure of the Town Development Council as approved by the Residents' Assembly in 2017.

→ [Appendix C-1 - Office Order #491](#)

July 21 **The Working Committee objects to the content of Office Order #491** as it did not reflect the recommendations made by the Working Committee. Two members of the Working Committee later remove their names from this letter.

→ [Appendix C-2- Letter from WCom](#)



Aug 5
- Oct 25

Objections and concerns related to Office Order 491 and the newly constituted ATDC are raised by members of the Residents' Assembly and the Auroville Council, the Auroville Working Group whose role includes ensuring working groups adhere to their mandate. The Working Committee forwards these concerns to the Office of the Secretary but receives no response.

- [Appendix C-3 - A communication from the Auroville Council](#) (Sep 3)
- [Appendix C-4 - Letter from Concerned Residents to WCom](#) enumerating why this appointment is not as per policy (Sep 9)
- [Appendix C-5 - Reply from WCom](#)
- [Appendix C-6 - Letter to the Secretary enumerating why the appointment is not in compliance with the Auroville Foundation Act \(1988\)](#)

Nov 2

The new Governing Board meets and endorses Office Order 491 appointing a new ATDC team.

In section 2.13 of the minutes, it states that the Office Order is to be read with a corrigendum dated 25-10-2021. There is no record of this corrigendum.

- [Appendix C-7 - Minutes of 57th Governing Board Meeting](#)

Nov 18

A Residents' Assembly decision-making petition questioning the process of appointment of the ATDC is presented to the Residents' Assembly Service to bring before the community for a Residents' Assembly Decision. The petition questions the arbitrary appointment of permanent members to the TDC by Dr. Ravi, asserting that the selection of members to constitute the ATDC "is the exclusive right, as well as the burden of the Residents Assembly."

- [Appendix C-8 - RAD Petition on the appointment of the ATDC](#)

Dec 4 - 5

JCBs are sent by the ATDC, allegedly following orders from the Office of the Secretary, to clear the Crown Road area in Bliss Forest/Youth Centre, first in the daytime and then at 1am at night, unannounced. In spite of residents' prior proposals for alternatives which would be more sustainable and adapted to the ground realities of Auroville, the ATDC send JCBs to bulldoze contentious areas of the highly controversial 'Crown road'. This is stopped by the mobilisation of many Aurovilians, who refuse to have Auroville's forests and community centres bulldozed without consultation nor warning.

Dec 5 -
Jan 26

A Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD) on pausing all development on the Crown road work is held. Through several meetings and a final voting, in which 899 residents participate (a historical record for participation in Auroville), the Residents' Assembly decides to pause development on the



Crown until further studies are made, and a common agreement can be found. The outcome of this deliberative process is ignored by the Secretary, the Governing Board and the ATDC.

- [Appendix A-7 - Outcome of the RAD on pausing work on the Crown](#)
- [Appendix A-9 - Graph showing the participation in RADs over the last six years](#)

Dec 28

The ATDC, comprising 3 members endorsed by the Office of the Secretary, issues a statement that the Crown development work has to continue no matter the outcome of the Residents' Assembly Decision, again signalling a disregard for the authority of the Residents' Assembly, and that their intention is to ignore the the result of the Residents' Assembly decision making process even before it has been finalised.

- For more information, see *Dossier: Mismanagement of Auroville Assets and Resources*.
- [Appendix C-9 - Announcement from ATDC regarding work on the Crown](#)

Mar 15
2022

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and the AVFO is signed in Chennai. Aurovilians only learn about the MoU from Facebook posts by the CPWD. To date, no information about the nature of the MoU has been openly shared with the community.

- [Appendix C-10 - MoU signing: CPWD Facebook announcement](#)

Mar 30

Update from the ATDC announcing its own restructuring, announcing space in the Town Hall building will be appropriated for the TDC, and, amongst others, the "opening up" of the Residential zone and that no new NOCs will be signed for existing Aurovilian housing assets until there is clarity from the Master Plan. **Community concerns are raised regarding this announcement, questioning who is carrying out the restructuring, under what mandate, who the members of this 'ATDC' even are, what are their qualifications, what is their financial setup and what will be the involvement (if any) of the Residents' Assembly.** The ATDC does not respond to this or any other queries raised by community members, indicating they do not feel accountable to members of the Residents' Assembly.

- [Appendix C-11 - Update from the ATDC announcing its own restructuring](#)
- [Appendix C-12 - Response from a member of the Residents' Assembly with questions pertaining to the restructuring.](#)

May 26

The Auroville Council communicates to members of the Residents' Assembly that the upcoming selection of the TDC will be based on the Standing Order of 2011, because the 2019 Standing Order was never gazetted, meaning that it is not valid. As per the Standing Order of 2011, up to 13 members of the Residents' Assembly can be selected, additionally one member will be nominated by the Governing Board and one member by the Working Committee.

→ [Appendix C-13 - Communication from the Auroville Council](#)

June 1

A new ATDC Standing Order is issued in which the Residents' Assembly is taken out of the process of selecting members. Going against all precedents, the Standing Order states that the /AVFO 'ATDC/' would consist of ten members selected only by the Governing Board. It does not specify if those members should be Aurovilian or not, thereby contravening the ideals of both the Mother and her appointed chief architect Roger Anger, that Auroville should be built by the Aurovilians.

→ [Appendix C-14 - New Standing Order](#)
→ [Appendix C-15 - Extracts from an interview of Roger Anger, Chief Architect of Auroville \(1973\)](#)

June 3

Takeover of the FAMC and the TDC

The residents of Auroville are informed through Auronet, Auroville's internal communication platform, that both the FAMC and the TDC were 'reconstituted' by the Auroville Foundation. In complete disregard of Auroville processes, new members were appointed directly by the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation, allegedly on the recommendations of the Secretary, without any disclosure on the criteria for selection. The same is announced in a press article the very next day. The communication on the matter was left unsigned and did not give the names of the newly selected members, which remained unknown until the corresponding Office Orders were published a few days later.

→ [Appendix C-16 - Communication of the AVFO](#)
→ [Appendix B-3 - Newspaper article, Times of India](#)
→ [Appendix B-4 - Document written by residents explaining FAMC and ATDC takeover \(errata\)](#)
→ [Appendix C-17 - Request of Standing Order and Office Orders by AVC and WCom \(June 14\)](#)
→ [Appendix B-5 - Office Order announcement posted on Auronet](#)
→ [Appendix B-6 - Office Order 180 reconstituting ATDC](#)
→ [Appendix B-7- Office Order 182 reconstituting FAMC](#)



June 14 - 16 **The Auroville Council and RA Working Committee publish announcements questioning the appointments of the ATDC and FAMC by the Secretary,** outlining the issues with the recent /AVFO 'ATDC/' and /AVFO 'FAMC/' appointments. The crux of the issue is that the appointments are not based on any pre-agreed policies that have always constituted these bodies; nor do they recognise the right of the Residents' Assembly to nominate their members.

- [Appendix B-9 - Announcement from the Auroville Council](#)
- [Appendix B-10 - Announcement from the RA WCom](#)

June 26 - 28 **Residents' Assembly Selection Process 2022**
The Residents' Assembly holds its annual, community-ratified selection process, appointing new members to, amongst other groups, the TDC. The outcome of the RA Selection Process is published, and communicated to the Auroville Residents' Assembly and Governing Board. **The RA TDC now consists of: Allan Bennet, Anan Skoles, Divya Lieser, Dorle Heller, Fabian Ostner, Island Lescure, Lata Iyer, Meera Natarajan, Natasha Storey, Tom Gablier.**

- [Appendix A-39 - Report of the Residents' Assembly Service](#)

Aug 12 **MHC Judgement on Outreach Media, WCom and ATDC and letters to comply with the judgement**
Para 62: "The Auroville Town Development Council being the body, which is entrusted with the task of preparing the Master Plan for Auroville, cannot unilaterally appoint members without consultation of the Residents' Assembly. If that is allowed to happen, the interest of the residents of Auroville may get defeated."
Para 64: "Any reconstitution of the Auroville Town Development Council can be done only after consultation with the Residents' Assembly that too, by a proper resolution passed by the Residents' Assembly."

Letters are sent to by RA Working Groups to /AVFO 'Working Groups' requesting them to comply with the judgement.

- [Appendix A-52 - RA TDC to /AVFO 'ATDC/](#)
- [Appendix A-55 - RA TDC to Joint Committee](#)

Aug 26 **Interim Order of the Madras High Court (MHC) on its ruling of 12 August**
An appeal bench of the MHC agrees to pass an interim order temporarily suspending the ruling of 12th August, as sought by the Office of the Secretary in its appeal on the somewhat flimsy grounds that the judgement passed exceeded the purview of what was sought in the original petition.

-
- Oct 10 **First hearing of a petition challenging the ATDC Standing Order No. 01/2022.**
The judges direct the Auroville Foundation to file a counter statement to the petition. They also issue an Interim Order, directing the Auroville Foundation to provide alternative accommodation for anybody they are displacing as the result of development work.
- [Appendix C-18 - Court Order of 10 October](#)
-
- Oct 13 **A petition challenging the Office Order appointing members to the ATDC by the Governing Board is dismissed by the Madras High Court** on grounds that the Governing Board can form committees only under section 16 of the Auroville Foundation Act. The Foundation is directed to clarify under what provision the /AVFO 'ATDC/' was constituted. Section 16 states that the Governing Board may form committees “as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions” but co-opted members (members who are not already members of the GB) do not hold voting rights. The constitution of the current /AVFO 'ATDC/' clearly does not fit the structure of a GB committee as laid out in the Act. Despite this, the AVFO’s media team hails the outcome as a victory. This is further publicised by “Manifesting Auroville”, a website and social media channel run by supporters of the Secretary.
- [Appendix C-19 - Court Order of 13 October](#)
→ [Appendix C-20 - Post from “Manifesting Auroville” on social media](#)
-
- Nov 13 **The /AVFO 'ATDC/' claims that only the Governing Board can constitute the ATDC.** This is a misrepresentation of the High Court judgement which found that the ATDC could be formed by the Governing Board but only under Section 16 of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 (AVF Act). The judgement did not restrict the Residents’ Assembly’s rights to constitute its own committees and its own TDC under Section 19(3) of the AVF Act.
- [Appendix C-21 - Announcement by /AVFO 'ATDC/'](#)
-
- Nov 19 **The RA WCom responds to the /AVFO 'ATDC/' and the supporters of the Secretary,** clarifying that “simplistic statements on legal matters are often biased interpretations, and do not do justice to the complexities at play.”
- [Appendix C-22 - Announcement by RA WCom on legal cases](#)
-

UPDATED TILL 1st DECEMBER 2022

Conclusion & community response

In the face of the takeover evidenced in the above timeline and despite threats of intimidation through FIRs, visas, public defamation through media, threats to housing and place of employment, and that everything most have given their lives and livelihoods to build is being uprooted, **members of the community have continued to assert their right to self-governance.**

RA-selected Working Groups are continuing to operate at high stakes with limited means (no budget, no office, no official communication channels, grossly limited authority, and no maintenance). Community members continue to rise to the occasion to serve Auroville through these roles as the RA Selection Process for Working Groups continues as planned.

Various **large-scale solidarity community gatherings** have been organised with the aim of upholding the sovereignty of the Residents' Assembly by diverse groups of residents, one being a group of Tamil youth. These included a large community meeting, march, community gatherings and potlucks, each attended by 500 to 1000 people in a community of 3000, which represents up to a third of the total population. Members of the community have also peacefully been maintaining presence 24x7 since July 2022 in the primary meeting room in Town Hall, a public space that has otherwise forced RA selected Working Groups to vacate the premises. This is undertaken at the **risk of personal safety**. In one case of physical violence, a young Aurovilian mother was assaulted by an 'executive' of Town Hall while she occupied the space. This was immediately followed by a large-scale demonstration condemning the incident and standing in solidarity with the aggressed community member.

Formal Residents' Assembly decision-making processes carried out in this period have seen **the highest participation turnout in the history of Auroville**. Up to 50% of the total population of Auroville has been voting in Residents' Assembly decision-making processes in the past year, which is a historical record (the average participation over the past decade having been between 10% and 20%). The outcomes of these decision-making processes have consistently demonstrated (with up to 97% majority votes) that the majority of the community stands against authoritarian impositions by the Office of the Secretary and its few supporters. These **impositions have been carried out in the false name of "development" while destroying Auroville's fabric, its achievements, and the residents' right to self-governance** which is enshrined in the Auroville Foundation Act (1988) through the Residents' Assembly and its selected representatives.

In spite of the **unprecedented mobilisation of residents**, the takeover imposed by the Office of the Secretary is still ongoing, and the situation has come to a standstill. All attempts to discuss and collaborate on an equal footing with the Office of the Secretary have been denied, while constructive actions by residents or their representatives are being undermined. Auroville's achievements are under serious threat, and the unsettling situation in **Auroville calls for the goodwill and support of all wellwishers in India and around the globe** to prevent this unique effort on building a new society, a new humanity and a new consciousness from ending in failure.



Appendices

Appendix A-1 - Notification appointing the new GB

6th October 2021

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99


भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-06102021-230197
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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, अक्तूबर 6, 2021/आश्विन 14, 1943
NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021/ASVINA 14, 1943

शिक्षा मंत्रालय

(उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग)

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 6 अक्तूबर, 2021

का.आ. 4093(अ).—केंद्र सरकार, एतद्वारा, ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम, 1988 (1988 का 54) की धारा 12 के साथ पठित धारा 11 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, निम्नलिखित व्यक्तियों को इस अधिसूचना के जारी किए जाने की तारीख से चार वर्षों की अवधि के लिए ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन के शासी बोर्ड के सदस्य नामित करती है:

1.	श्री आर.एन. रवि माननीय राज्यपाल, तमिलनाडु	(अध्यक्ष) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(1)(i) के तहत)
2.	डॉ. तमिलिसाई सुंदरराजन, उपराज्यपाल, पुडुचेरी	(सदस्य) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(1)(i) के तहत)
3.	डॉ. निरिमा ओझा, प्रोफेसर, ओरल पैथोलॉजी विभाग, महात्मा गांधी पोस्टग्रेजुएट इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ डेंटल साइंसेज, पुडुचेरी	(सदस्य) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(1)(i) के तहत)
4.	श्री अरविंदन नीलकंदन, लेखक और पत्रकार, तमिलनाडु	(सदस्य) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(1)(i) के तहत)

5657 GI/2021

(1)

5.	प्रो. गौतम घोषाल, अंग्रेजी और अन्य आधुनिक यूरोपीय भाषाएं विभाग, विश्वभारती, शांतिनिकेतन, पश्चिम बंगाल	(सदस्य) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(I)(i) के तहत)
6.	प्रो. आर.एस. सराजू पूर्व अध्यक्ष, हिंदी विभाग और वर्तमान अध्यक्ष, दलित, आदिवासी और अनुवाद अध्ययन केंद्र, हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय	(सदस्य) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(I)(i) के तहत)
7.	प्रो. नंदना गुरप्पा बसप्पा, राजनीति विज्ञान में स्नातकोत्तर अध्ययन विभाग, कर्नाटक विश्वविद्यालय, धारवाड़	(सदस्य) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(I)(i) के तहत)
8.	संयुक्त सचिव (आईसीसी), शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार	(पदेन सदस्य) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(I)(ii) के तहत)
9.	संयुक्त सचिव और वित्त सलाहकार, शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार	(पदेन सदस्य) (ऑरोविले फाउंडेशन अधिनियम की धारा 11(I)(ii) के तहत)

[फा. सं. 27-6/2020-यूयू]

नीता प्रसाद, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Department of Higher Education)
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 6th October, 2021

S.O. 4093(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 11 read with Section 12, of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 (54 of 1988), the Central Government hereby nominates the following persons as members of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation for a period of four years w.e.f the date of this notification:

1.	Shri R.N. Ravi Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu	(Chairman) (Under Section 11(I)(i) of Auroville Foundation Act)
2.	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry	(Member) (Under Section 11(I)(i) of Auroville Foundation Act)
3.	Dr. Nirima Oza, Professor, D/o Oral Pathology, Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences, Puducherry	(Member) (Under Section 11(I)(i) of Auroville Foundation Act)
4.	Shri Aravindan Neelakandan, Writer and Journalist, Tamil Nadu	(Member) (Under Section 11(I)(i) of Auroville Foundation Act)
5.	Prof. Goutam Ghosal, Department of English & Other Modern European Languages, Visva-Bharti, Santiniketan, West Bengal	(Member) (Under Section 11(I)(i) of Auroville Foundation Act)

6.	Prof. R.S. Saraju Former Head of the Department of Hindi and presently Head of Centre for Dalit, Adivasi and Translation Studies, University of Hyderabad	(Member) (Under Section 11(I)(i) of Auroville Foundation Act)
7.	Prof. Nandana Gurappa Basappa, Department of PG Studies in Political Science, Karnataka University, Dharwad	(Member) (Under Section 11(I)(i) of Auroville Foundation Act)
8.	Joint Secretary (ICC), Ministry of Education, Govt. of India	(Ex-Officio Member) (Under Section 11(I)(ii) of Auroville Foundation Act)
9.	Joint Secretary & Finance Advisor, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India	(Ex-Officio Member) (Under Section 11(I)(ii) of Auroville Foundation Act)

[F. No. 27-6/2020-UU]

NEETA PRASAD, Jt. Secy.

Appendix A-2 - Resolution appointing the new IAC

11th October 2021

रजिस्ट्री सं. बी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99


सत्यमेव जयते

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग I—खण्ड 1
PART I—Section 1

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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No. 308]

नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, अक्टूबर 11, 2021/आश्विन 19, 1943
NEW DELHI, MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021/ASVINA 19, 1943

शिक्षा मंत्रालय

(उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग)

संकल्प

नई दिल्ली, 11 अक्टूबर, 2021

सं. 27-9/2012-यूू (पार्ट.3).—1. भारत सरकार, ऑरोविले प्रतिष्ठान अधिनियम, 1988 के अध्याय III की धारा 21 की उपधारा (1) के अनुसार, ऑरोविले अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सलाहकार परिषद का निम्न प्रकार से पुनर्गठन करती है:-

1. सुश्री डेना मैरियम, संस्थापक एवं समन्वयक, ग्लोबल पीस ईनिशियटिव फॉर वुमेन
 2. सुश्री गावी गिलस्सेन, अध्यक्ष, यूरोपीय यूनियन ऑफ योगा
 3. श्री हसमुख पी. रामा, संस्थापक कुलपति, एयूआरओ विश्वविद्यालय, सूरत
 4. श्री मिशेल डेनिनो, अतिथि संकाय, आईआईटी गांधी नगर
 5. श्री डेविड फ्रेवले, अमरीकी हिन्दू विद्वान
2. परिषद के अध्यक्ष का चुनाव परिषद के सदस्यों द्वारा उन्हीं में से किया जाएगा।

5802 GI/2021

(1)

3. सदस्यों का कार्यकाल इस संकल्प की तिथि से चार वर्षों की अवधि के लिए होगा। ये सदस्य अवैतनिक क्षमता में कार्य करेंगे।
4. ऑरोविले प्रतिष्ठान के सचिव, ऑरोविले अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सलाहकार परिषद के पदेन सचिव होंगे।

नीता प्रसाद, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Department of Higher Education)
RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 11th October, 2021

No. 27-9/2012-UU (Pt.3) 1.—In terms of sub-section (1) of Section 21 of Chapter III of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, the Government of India hereby re-constitutes the Auroville International Advisory Council as follows:

1. Ms. Dena Merriam Founder & Coordinator, Global Peace Initiative for Women
 2. Ms. Gabi Gillessen, President, European Union of Yoga
 3. Mr. Has Mukh P. Rama, Founder Chancellor, AURO University, Surat
 4. Mr. Michel Danino, Guest Faculty, IIT Gandhinagar
 5. Mr. David Frawley, American Hindu scholar.
2. The Chairman of the Council shall be elected by the members of the Council from among themselves.
 3. The term of office of the members shall be for a period of four years from the date of this Resolution. The members shall serve in an honorary capacity.
 4. Secretary, Auroville Foundation would be the Ex-Officio Secretary of the Auroville International Advisory Council.

NEETA PRASAD, Jt. Secy.

Appendix A-3 - Minutes of the 57th Governing Board Meeting

2nd November 2021

Final Minutes of the 57th Governing Board Meeting held on 2nd November 2021.

Present: Shri. R. N. Ravi, Chairman, Auroville Foundation, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Shri. Aravindan Neelakandan, Prof. Goutam Ghosal, Prof. R. S. Sarraju, Members, Governing Board and Dr Jayanti S. Ravi, Secretary, AF.

Dr Nirima Oza, Smt. Darshana M. Dabral, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor and Smt. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India attended online. Prof. N.G. Basappa could not attend.

Dr Nirima Oza could not participate in the online meeting effectively due to connectivity issues.

Secretary, Auroville Foundation (AF) welcomed the Hon'ble Chairman and Governing Board members and gave a presentation, which includes a work plan outline for the period 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 focusing on the growth of Auroville as per the vision of the Mother.

Secretary informed the Board that she had prepared the presentation after studying and compiling decisions already taken in previous Governing Board meetings and her interactions with various Auroville working groups and residents.

Chairman and members of the Board appreciated the detailed and comprehensive analysis of the various issues, challenges and proposed ways forward for the integral development of Auroville. The Board took decisions and made observations as detailed below.

1. Governance

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of governance and organisation in Auroville:

- 1.1. There is a proliferation of groups and discussion forums.
- 1.2. There seems to be decision paralysis or the inability to put decisions into practice.
- 1.3. The Residents Assembly is seen by many as a decision-making body for even operational issues that are under the responsibility of working groups.
- 1.4. The absence of work plans or governance and organisation that ensures implementation of work plans.
- 1.5. Culture of "stakeholders" seems to have replaced the culture of "voluntary contributors" / "willing servitors".

Page 1 of 8

- 1.6. Working group member selection processes include conventional canvassing and voting.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to Auroville governance and organization:

- 1.1. Decision-taking in Auroville needs to be driven by the ideals given by the Mother.
- 1.2. There is a need for the preparation of work plans for each work area of Auroville by the respective working groups. These work plans must relate to the realization of the ideals of Auroville including township development, governance, economy, education and research.
- 1.3. Selection of human resources for working groups must be done with reference to the skill sets, experience, commitment and engagement needed for the implementation of the ideals of Auroville in general and work plans of working groups in particular.
- 1.4. There is a need to promote a culture of engagement, transparency, commitment, accountability and integrity.
- 1.5. The initiative to have contact persons / coordinators for residential communities to engage with residents for cultural, academic and other activities that strengthen the spirit of goodwill and harmony may be continued through periodical interactions with the contact persons / coordinators.
- 1.6. The Working Committee must assist the Governing Board with the implementation of decisions taken by the Board within a time frame.

2. Township Development

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of Auroville Township development:

- 2.1. Presently Auroville has a population of about 3,500 persons scattered over a large land area (also outside the Auroville Master Plan area).
- 2.2. There is scattered, sporadic and ad-hoc development resulting in high-cost infrastructure and lack of a cohesive social fabric.
- 2.3. Master Plan right-of-ways (the Crown, radials, outer ring and international zone loop, etc.) have not been cleared, resulting in haphazard infrastructure development at high installation and maintenance costs.

Final Minutes of the 57th Governing Board Meeting held on 2nd November 2021.

- 2.4. There is a lack of focus on the development of the township amongst the various working groups and Auroville residents.
- 2.5. The low population dispersed over a vast land area, results in scattered habitation and land protection issues.
- 2.6. Housing and other facilities to be developed to welcome more people with commitment to the ideals of Auroville.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken to accelerate the development of the Auroville Township:

- 2.1. On the occasion of Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, a fresh impetus must be given to realise the Auroville Township in accordance with the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan within a time frame.
- 2.2. The Governing Board noted and endorsed the decisions already taken by the previous Governing Board on Auroville Township Development including planning and development as per the Auroville Master Plan and engagement with the Tamil Nadu Government to obtain statutory land use regulation (New Town Development Authority) for the Auroville Master Plan area to ensure land use as envisaged in the Auroville Master Plan.
- 2.3. The ATDC (Auroville Town Development Council) needs to have a work plan, with clearly defined deliverables, time lines, a human resources plan and annual budget.
- 2.4. ATDC membership selection / nomination to be done with a focus on competence, skills, work experience, and a commitment to plan and develop the Auroville Township in accordance with the Auroville Master Plan.
- 2.5. The ATDC needs to complete the work of preparation of Detailed Development Plans (DDPs) based on the Auroville Master Plan.
- 2.6. Build the township infrastructure backbone (water, electricity, communication, sewerage, etc.) along the fully cleared RoWs to enable planned urban development.
- 2.7. A tree plantation drive may be initiated with immediate effect only in the green belt and the green corridors / network inside the city area as provided for in the Auroville Master Plan.
- 2.8. All Master Plan deviations on the land earmarked for the Crown have to be cleared so that the circular Crown Road and related infrastructure can

Page 3 of 8

be built without further delay. A similar exercise shall be implemented for the twelve radials and the outer ring road, where land ownership permits.

- 2.9. The work on the completion of the Matrimandir gardens and the lake may be accelerated.
- 2.10. Housing development to accommodate (young) Aurovilians must be undertaken.
- 2.11. New education facilities may be built, while ensuring utmost utilization of the existing ones.
- 2.12. Development of the Industrial Zone is essential to make Auroville the self-supporting township as envisaged by the Mother.
- 2.13. The Board endorses Office Order 491 dated 15th July 2021 (read with corrigendum dated 25th October 2021) issued by the Under Secretary AF with the approval of Secretary AF for the nomination of members of the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC), including a nominee by the Secretary, Auroville Foundation (AF) on behalf of the Governing Board. Secretary AF is authorized to nominate the Governing Board's nominee on the ATDC as and when required for smooth and efficient functioning of the ATDC.
- 2.14. A budget outlay of Rs. 1,000 Crores is approved by the Board for Auroville Township development for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 on the basis of the budget prepared by the ATDC. Detailed budget estimates may be prepared by the ATDC and scrutinized by the Secretary, AF for submission to the Ministry of Education. Expenditure to be incurred with an effective and transparent monitoring and reporting system.

3. Land

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of Auroville lands:

- 3.1. There are private developments (residential and commercial) both in the city area and in the greenbelt.
- 3.2. There is slow progress in city land consolidation.
- 3.3. Some lands of the Auroville Foundation have been encroached upon.
- 3.4. Some lands of the Auroville Foundation are not utilised, underutilised, or not utilised in accordance with land use as envisaged in the Auroville Master Plan.

Final Minutes of the 57th Governing Board Meeting held on 2nd November 2021.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to Auroville Foundation land:

- 3.1. The land acquisition proposal for the remaining private lands in the City Area according to the Auroville Master Plan is ratified by the Board.
- 3.2. The Board also endorses the proposal to engage with the Tamil Nadu Government for the establishment of a New Town Development Authority (NTDA) for the Auroville Master Plan area.
- 3.3. The Board advises that stewardships of Auroville lands are changed periodically.
- 3.4. Appointment of experts (on contract basis) for land consolidation.
- 3.5. Prepare a land and building assets database with details of present and potential utilisation.
- 3.6. Optimise the utilisation of all land and building assets.

4. Economy

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of the economy of Auroville:

- 4.1. The Mother had envisaged Auroville as a self-supporting township. Auroville is not yet self-supporting and is unable to meet the basic needs of all residents of Auroville.
- 4.2. It is not clear how many adult Aurovilians are contributing through work towards the realisation of the aims and objectives of Auroville.
- 4.3. Auroville's cost of living seems to be high.
- 4.4. Auroville is still a monetary transactional society.
- 4.5. There is no pan-Auroville annual budget.
- 4.6. There is no medium and long-term economy plan.
- 4.7. Human resources are not evaluated for their contribution to Auroville after the completion of the newcomer period.
- 4.8. There is a large number of trusts and units with multiple GST registrations and accounting systems.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to the economy of Auroville:

- 4.1. Preparation of an annual Auroville budget that includes all resources and all needs.
- 4.2. Preparation of a medium and long-term economy plan including financial plans of the income-generating units of Auroville.
- 4.3. Make capital available for the growth of existing income-generating units and start-up capital for new income-generating units.
- 4.4. Establish an innovation and incubation centre for the youth to be actively engaged.
- 4.5. Strengthen and support the knowledge economy.
- 4.6. All Auroville lands, buildings and other assets must be utilized to generate collective resources for Auroville as whole.
- 4.7. Use some of the outlying lands of Auroville for income generation through joint ventures or ventures in which Auroville has a passive stake.
- 4.8. Elimination of internal money exchange.
- 4.9. Ensure that all basic needs of all residents are met and that all residents contribute to the realisation of Auroville.
- 4.10. Enhance Auroville food production to meet the needs of Auroville.
- 4.11. Simplify the governance and organisation structures (trusts, units, activities and committees).
- 4.12. Integrated common accounting systems to be implemented for more effective and transparent financial management.
- 4.13. Contributions by income-generating units to be reviewed (rationale of the 33% contribution; utilisation of surpluses).
- 4.14. Reduce construction costs with innovative construction practices and effective and transparent price discovery mechanisms
- 4.15. The Mother envisaged Auroville as a self-supporting township. All Auroville residents are expected to contribute to achieving this goal and work for the collective welfare of Auroville.

5. Education and Research

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of education and research in Auroville:

- 5.1. There is a mix of conventional education systems with the envisioned ideal of integral education with a dedicated team of teachers.
- 5.2. There seem to be under-utilised facilities.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to education and research in Auroville:

- 5.1. Establishment of various Centres of Excellence in Auroville.
- 5.2. Auroville to become a hub for integral education and research.
- 5.3. The Board noted that the establishment of the Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity as an affiliating network for integral education, research, teaching, training and extension is a good and appropriate initiative to be launched during the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.
- 5.4. The Centre for International Research on Human Unity (CIRHU) may be established as planned.
- 5.5. Auroville may engage with other institutions and organisations and conduct exchange programs, thereby sharing the experience and skills of Auroville with the world at large
- 5.6. Youth hubs and innovation labs may be established in the township.
- 5.7. The students of Auroville schools may be given a broader exposure to the philosophy, teachings and vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

6. Entry Process

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to the entry of new residents into Auroville:

- 6.1. The entry process of Auroville should be more welcoming and the Auroville population should grow to 50,000 as envisaged while ensuring that newcomers understand, and subscribe to, the ideals of Auroville. A population of 15,000 by 2025 may be achieved.
- 6.2. There could be active engagement with Auroville International Centres and Sri Aurobindo Centres to facilitate the joining of volunteers and interns

while maintaining international diversity and commitment to the ideals of Auroville

- 6.3. The Board noted that the Mother had envisaged Auroville as an ideal town, and that when Auroville residents live by the ideals given by the Mother, Auroville will become a magnet that attracts people from all over the world, who also wish to contribute to the realization of the Auroville ideals.

7. Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary

- 7.1. The Board advised the Secretary AF, to pursue the proposals for events, programs and projects with Government of India and approved an initial budget for the programs, events and projects of Rs. 50 Crores.
- 7.2. The Board expresses a strong aspiration that the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo may be the beginning of a new phase of accelerated development of the Auroville Township as the City for the Future, the Ideal Town and a Laboratory of Evolution as envisaged by the Mother.

8. Meetings of the Governing Board:

- 8.1. The Board decided to meet at least once in every quarter.
- 8.2. During these meetings the Board will review progress made with reference to work plans of the various Auroville working groups and the overall progress of Auroville's development.

9. Conclusive remarks

- 9.1. Chairman and the Board appreciated the presentations made by the Working Committee, FAMC, ATDC and SAIER.
- 9.2. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the Board.

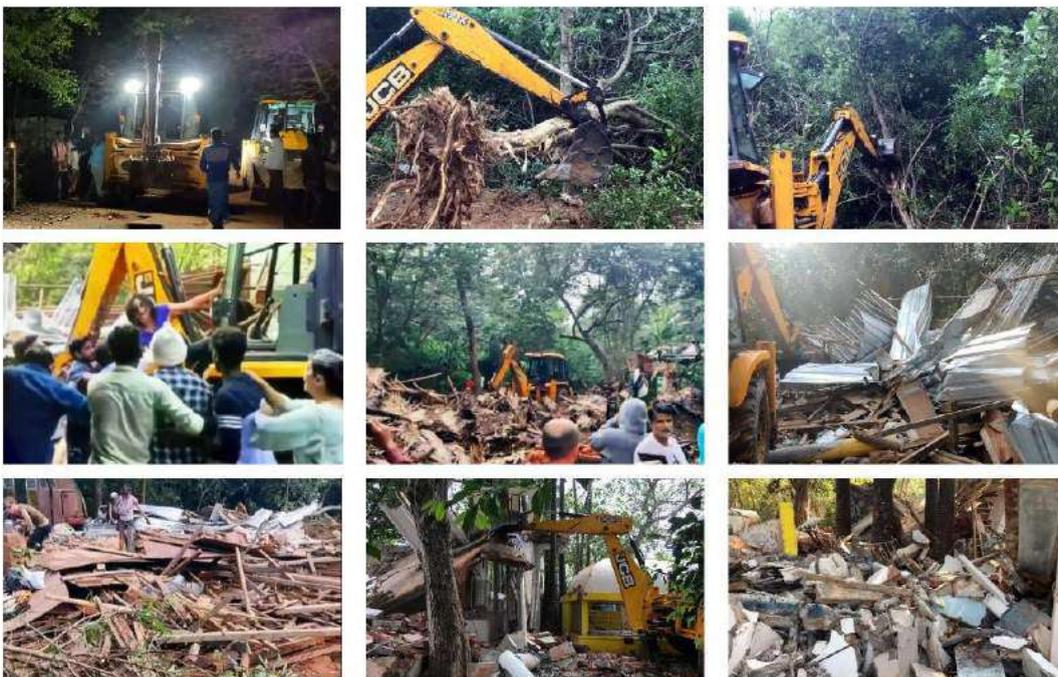
Appendix A-4 - Report by an Auroville resident on the destruction of Youth Center & Darkali

4th - 10th December 2021



AUROVILLE CROWN ROAD

DESTRUCTION OF THE YOUTH CENTRE, DARKALI FOREST AND OTHERS BY THE AUROVILLE FOUNDATION OFFICE



8th September 2022

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1. FOREWORD

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This document is an extract of the evaluation report on the construction of the Crown Road which was finalised on the 10th August 2022 at the request of Town Development Council of the Auroville Foundation, elected by the Residents' Assembly (RA TDC).

The sections which have been mentioned in this document are the annexes 7.7, 7.8 and 7.9 of the original report which are related to the destruction of the Youth Centre, Darkali forest and the house of Mita Radhakrishnan and Tapas Desrousseaux. One more section has been added to this document regarding the attempted destruction of the toilet of Elodie and Txuma's house at Centre Field.

1.2 BACKGROUND

The Crown Road (CR) is part of the Master Plan of Auroville, the International city under construction in South India. The first draft of the Master Plan was prepared in 1999. However, the second version of the Master Plan which was approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India on the 12th April 2001 was based on the document "*Auroville Universal Township Master Plan (Perspective 2025)*". Much later, the MHRD gazetted the Master Plan on the 16th August 2010.

It is important to note that the Crown Road is only the circular corridor with infrastructure, which distributes the four zones of Auroville and the radials. The entire "Crown" is a much more complex feature and is the most essential part of the Galaxy concept. Roger Anger, the architect of Auroville never spoke of the Crown Road but of the "Crown", that he wanted to be absolutely circular. However, he wished the road span on the Crown to be the narrowest possible for emergency vehicles. He imagined a convivial place where the pedestrian life would happen on the inner part of the Crown and where there would be small restaurants, bookshops and stores of various kinds as they can be found in lively cities.

In December 2021, the Auroville Foundation Office (AVFO) ordered the clearing the forest passing through Bliss and the Youth Centre (YC) and the destruction of YC buildings extending into the right of way of the CR, in order to lay a high tension (HT) cable on the side of the Crown Road.

Recently, under the push of the secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Dr Jayanti Ravi, the Central Public Work Department (CPWD) has been contracted to build 2 km of the CR. CPWD did a tender and contracted SP & Co, Karuvampalayam, Tirupur who won the bid for 9.7315 Crores Rs.

The work on the 340 m stretch of the CR passing through Bliss Forest and the YC started around the 21st June 2022.

2. DESTRUCTION OF THE YOUTH CENTRE WITHOUT PROPER NOTICE

There have been accusations from the Auroville Foundation Office that large portions of the Auroville population, particularly the youth, do not support the development of Auroville in line with the Galaxy concept, but this can be contradicted by the actions of youth in the months prior to the destruction of the Youth Centre. Young Aurovilians from the Youth Centre, in collaboration with the youth network organised a participatory planning workshop, on the 6th September 2021, long before the destruction of the Youth centre, which started on the 4th December 2021.

This workshop aimed to collect wishes, dreams project ideas and aspirations. Please follow this link for more information: [Planning workshop organised by the Youth](#). This workshop shows the goodwill and aspiration not only of the youth of Auroville, but of so many elders who attended the workshop to explore how to manifest Auroville.

The exercise done with 18 architects with the participation of many people for the Dream Weaving contradicts also the statement of the AVFO and the Auroville Development Council (ATDC) nominated by the secretary that large portions of the Auroville population do not support the development of Auroville in line with the Galaxy concept.

2.1 MAIN SEQUENCE OF EVENTS, STARTING AT THE YOUTH CENTRE

The main sequences of events reported here show the violence committed by the Foundation Office against the Youth Centre (YC), by asking police force to enforce the clearing of a forest, hiring people to threaten youth and the destruction of their living spaces without proper notice. It is important to note the date and time of the following events, which show how fast the situation evolved, or rather degenerated in the first days. It is also important to note the timeline and promises given by the secretary Dr Jayanti Ravi and her ATDC, which were never fulfilled.

The following sequence of events, photos, videos and comments made by members of the secretary's ATDC demonstrate the premeditated attempt by the AVFO and the secretary's ATDC to destroy the Youth Centre, and also the forest of Darkali. Some sentences are underlined by the author hereafter to emphasize this fact.

The violence committed by the Foundation Office traumatised many of the youth of the YC, as well as older residents. The Foundation Office has to be accountable for it and this trauma to be dealt with.

In the following link [Destruction of the YC on the 9th Dec. 2021, led by Antim](#) one can hear at 5 min 20 s. a volunteer screaming: she was sleeping in the main space when the JCB started breaking the roof while she was still inside. **Luckily, the AV Security could to drag her out, otherwise she could have been killed.**

- **2021 12 02:** The Youth Centre and Bliss Forest members receive an email from ATDC informing them that the work on clearing the 16.7 m right of way will begin 'next week' (meaning on the 9th Dec.).
- **2021 12 03:** Youth Centre responds via email, demanding a stay on this decision, given the short notice.
- **2021 12 04:** The community gathers for the funeral of Bernard Borg. Toby and Joel are seen at the gate of Lila Loka by 8:30 am. A resident asks Toby why they are there when people are heading to a previously announced honouring event, and that the ATDC has just written an email to the YC saying they would be coming to clear in a week, Toby replies: "plans changed" and cannot look in the eyes of the resident.
- **2021 12 04, 9 am:** Contrary to what ATDC has previously informed the YC and Bliss Forest stewards, bulldozers, from Auroville Road Service arrive at Bliss forest, and they start uprooting trees. No Work Order is presented by the people doing the clearing work. Bliss Forest - 4th Dec. 2021.
- **2021 12 04, 9.30 am:** Caretakers call out for help. More than a hundred Aurovilians rush to the site. The police is called by the Foundation. After being given all the facts by the residents, the police leave the site.
- **2021 12 04, Noon:** Residents reach out to the WC and the ATDC for explanation and to decide on a way forward.

-
- **2021 12 05, 1 am:** Bulldozers leave the Foundation office with ATDC members, escorted by many police officers, and head to Bliss Forest to uproot trees in the middle of the night. YC residents rush to stop their advance. Extra police officers have already erected multiple roadblocks at all access points, to stop other concerned residents from reaching YC. The police arrest some of the Aurovilian teenagers, including a girl. A few dozen Aurovilians manage to reach the site through the forest, some assaulted by the police as they do. The arrested youth are eventually released. [Youth Center - 5th Dec. 2021](#)
 - **2021 12 05, 3 pm:** Shocked community members gather at Kalabhumi amphitheatre to discuss the aggressive events. The consensus is that the events represent a kind of behaviour that cannot be accepted in Auroville. A resolution is signed to this effect, by all present at the meeting.
 - **2021 12 06, 6 pm:** Five Aurovilians meet the Secretary at Matrimandir. She verbally offers 10 Lakhs Rs. to the YC, and the possibility of relocating the buildings in the Bliss Forest if the YC and the rest of the community steps aside. They are told they must respond by 7 am the following morning.
 - **2021 12 06, 8 pm:** YC members call an emergency meeting to report the outcome of the talk with the Secretary, as they have been given only 12 hours to accept the offer. The youth accept to collaborate under some conditions: They will dismantle the buildings themselves. They decline the financial compensation. ATDC should provide the signed NOC within 48 hours to allow the construction of the new buildings in the same area. A written response is sent within the required timeframe to the Secretary and the ATDC.
 - **2021 12 07, 7 am:** No answer has been received from the Secretary's office by 7 am, the deadline given by the Secretary. The YC continues to wait for a written agreement signed by the Secretary.
 - **2021 12 07, 8 am:** A spontaneous meeting is held with the wider community at the YC. Still no answer from the Secretary's office has been received. While the meeting is undergoing, an answer from ATDC is received, but it differs from the original request, and is confirmed by the Secretary's office.
 - **2021 12 07, noon:** Outreach Media (Auroville's service that facilitates external media relations on behalf of the community) is told by the Foundation to "refrain on issuing any statements until further notice". The Foundation office appoints two official spokespersons, without seeking any approval from the Residents.
 - **2021 12 07, 3 pm:** In order to support the youth in these challenging times, a peaceful get-together is planned at YC so that the community can heal together. However, a parallel event is then announced by the newly-appointed "Auroville Spokespersons" at the same venue. Despite this tactic, the event goes ahead peacefully.
 - **2021 12 07, 3 pm:** Darkali stewards make a presentation to ATDC for their proposal to develop the land in an ecologically sensitive manner.
 - **2021 12 08:** The Residents Assembly asks the Working Committee (WC) to organise an emergency RAD. The request is refused by the majority of the WC members, with two members in favour, and four against.
 - **2021 12 09, 7 am:** More than 100 unidentified people led by Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam, Panchayat leader of Koot Road, allegedly hired by an Aurovilian under the order of the Foundation Secretariat, enter the YC with two bulldozers. The YC team and concerned citizens try to establish order and request the official Work Order. Ignoring their requests, the paid crowd and machines forcefully enter and start destroying infrastructure, bulldozing trees and buildings. Aurovilians are manhandled. Finally, residents from different communities of Auroville come together. Holding hands, they silently bear witness. [Youth Center - 9th Dec. 2021 - Part 1](#)
 - **2021 12 09, 9 am:** Within 2 hours all the buildings are down. Aurovilians watch in shock. More buildings have been taken down than had earlier been discussed.
 - **2021 12 09, 3 pm:** While some residents attend a meeting at the Unity Pavilion called by the Foundation, bulldozers, driven by people from a distant village (not direct neighbours of Auroville), make their way towards Darkali. The sudden arrival of bulldozers causes a chaotic situation as Aurovilians and concerned people try to stop them without using violence. After some confrontations, the situation evolves into a peaceful sit-down protest, as those present chanted and refuse to move.
 - **2021 12 09, 6 pm:** The community is informed that at 6 am the following morning, bulldozing will restart at Darkali. Peaceful protesters continue to camp at the site overnight.
-

- **2021 12 10, 7.30 am:** Four bulldozers, along with Auroville's Road Service and members of ATDC arrive in Darkali. They start bulldozing work, while Auroville residents protest silently.
- **2021 12 10, 2.30 pm:** A Stay Order is obtained from the National Green Tribunal, which orders that the felling of trees must stop for one week (until 17th December). All work is stopped.
- **2021 12 10:** Former International Advisory Council (IAC) members send a collective statement to the Chairman of the Governing Board (GB), sharing their deep admiration for Auroville and their equally deep concern regarding the unfolding events.
- **2021 12 11:** The present IAC expresses its concerns in writing to the GB and calls for inclusiveness and collaboration.
- **2021 12 12:** Auroville Road Service proceeds with the marking for the high tension cable and start digging.
- **2021 12 21:** The stay order is extended until the next hearing on the 3rd January 2022.
- **2021 12 22, 8 am:** In violation of the stay order prohibiting any activities in the area, the Auroville Road Service starts laying HT cable in the trench, despite some trees standing on the path.
- **2021 12 22:** The AVI board sends a second letter to Dr Jayanti Ravi, and to the members of the GB.
- **2021 12 28:** The ATDC informs the community that they will not take into account the ongoing Resident Assembly decision process by pausing development till a decision is made by the community.
- **2022 01 02:** A second meeting of the Residents' Assembly is held to organise an RAD to pause development till a decision is made by the community. [Revised RAD proposal 02. 01. 2022](#)
- **2022 01 04:** The status quo order continues. Meanwhile sessions for a collaborative and participatory planning organized by the Citizen Assembly are taking place with the participation of Vastu Shilpa consultant. [Dreamweavers walk, 4th Jan. 2022](#)

2.2 VIOLENCE AT THE YOUTH CENTRE

The following photos are of very poor quality, as they have taken in a rush with cell phones and often from print screen of a video.



Fig. 1: Police manhandling people



Fig. 2: JCB bulldozing at night with police force

Please follow these links more information on how the AVFO and the secretary's ATDC orchestrated the destruction of this place, **where a volunteer could have been killed.**

- [Violence on the 5th & 9th Dec. 2021, led by Antim](#)
- [Photos and videos of the violence by the mob on the 9th Dec. 2021](#)
- [Photos and videos of the events of Dec. 2021](#)
- [Photos and videos of the following events in 2022](#)



Fig. 3: Antim attacking people



Fig. 4: Antim trying to punch a resident



Fig. 5: Vindictive Antim and Srimoyie saying "She (secretary Dr Jayanti Ravi) said it has to be done now"



Fig. 6: Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam, Panchayat leader Of Koot Road manhandling a resident



Fig. 7: Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam Panchayat leader Of Koot Road twisting the arm of a resident



Fig. 8: Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam snatching a resident's child

Was this kind of violence, ordered by the AVFO, necessary?

Is this kind of violence tolerable in a civilised society of the 21st century?

Is this kind of violence, tolerable in Auroville which aims at Human Unity, at the dawn of the supramental and before the 150th anniversary of Sri Aurobindo?

Why were the police deployed in force at night to bulldoze trees and buildings but were absent when this mob, probably hired by the AVFO, came to manhandle people?

Why was this panchayat leader involved and instrumental in the destruction? What political game is being played here?

Why could these people, Antim, Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam and others, operate with impunity and why weren't they put in jail?



Fig. 9: Demolition of game room without warning and with all things inside



Fig. 10: The violent mob harassing a woman resident protesting peacefully



Fig. 11: Kitchen destroyed without notice and with all things inside



Fig. 12: Savage destruction without notice

2.3 COST OF THE DESTRUCTION AT THE YOUTH CENTRE

The AVFO offered 10 Lakhs Rs. but the Youth Centre declined the offer as the estimated cost to rebuild everything was much more than that, with 16,80,500 Rs., as follows:

- Game room	= 6,50,600 Rs.	- Main space structure	= 3,52,000 Rs.
- Kitchen	= 2,41,900 Rs.	- Oven and roof	= 4,36,000 Rs.

2.4 TRAUMA CAUSED BY THE AGGRESSIVE VIOLENCE CAUSED BY THE FOUNDATION OFFICE

The violence displayed by people allegedly hired by the AVFO to destroy assets of Auroville caused serious emotional traumas and fear among many Aurovilians, such as a child waking up in the night, afraid that a JCB will come to break her house.

Beyond the psychological shock and trauma for which some people had to follow a therapy, this violence created also physical disorders and led to health issues as mentioned by the testimony of some residents who were harassed and threatened.

Note that the name of these witnesses is not mentioned, due to the fear of the foreign residents to be accused, threatened and inflicted with some retaliation by the AVFO. Some sentences are underlined by the author, as to emphasize certain critical aspects.

The destruction totally broke our hearts and affected our health. I had to call the ambulance at home as my body developed Hyperthyroid and my heart beat was accelerating uncontrollably. I am still under medication. I had to go into therapy with my family to deal with the psychological trauma these events have had and find coping mechanisms to stay healthy.

To witness the destruction of the Youth Center, the terror the youth and children of Auroville were forced to experience, was something so very painful I could have never imagined in my 44 years in Auroville. I ended up having a severe nosebleed for 4 days for which I eventually ended up in PIMS hospital. My blood pressure had gone through the roof and till date I have to take medicine to control this. As the destruction of Auroville continues, the stress levels are uncontrollable.

I was present when the original confrontation happened. I had to watch 20 year old trees that I had personally planted be wilfully uprooted and the game room which the Youth Centre kids had lovingly built destroyed before their very eyes. It was an act of vindication intended to insult and degrade the Youth. It demonized the JCB to the extent that I heard from one mother of a child waking in the night crying out in fear of a JCB.

I am an Aurovilian living here since 1980. I was not personally victim of physical violence on the Youth Centre site during the forceful destruction of the site even though I was present. But the emotional and psychological violence which I am going through even today, is probably worse than a physical violence. As the Youth Centre concerned all the generations of Auroville, and its cultural and sociological value cannot be denied, this act of violent destruction strike at the core of our collective body.

*On 9th morning, I awoke to messages citing a mob holding hands approaching YC and arrived to find **Antim holding a picture of the Mother and violently pushing a foreign Aurovilian.** I stepped in to stop it without much thinking and got thrown out of the way by **Antim.** The rest of the morning passed in a daze between weeping and salvaging whatever possible. I eventually found that my wallet had been stolen by this mob, with Rs. 7000. I distinctly remember crawling under the living room's broken roof through a hole to salvage some bigger pots and pans, passing what I could to a 13 year old Auroville child outside the hole. Her face haunted my dreams for over a month.*

*On December 9th early morning I didn't encounter personal violence with **Antim, but I observed the violence that he and his gang orchestrated at the Auroville Youth Centre.** People were trying to tell him to stop this madness but each time he violently pushed them aside, saying 'Don't touch me!' as if we were dirty people and shoving Mother's picture onto our faces. I think this was one of the most traumatic experiences I lived through in Auroville after the murder of Sydo. There were 4 JCBs on the job. People were trying to stop the destruction of buildings and trees but others along with the mob, were threatening us. Many, part of the mob, were very aggressive and drunk, others after talking to them seemed a bit lost and didn't really know what they got into. **The leaders were Antim, that politician from Koot Rd, Kaliananda and Sindhuja from the ATDC.** Joel was filming everything.*

On 4th Dec. 2021, I recorded a video of JCB action when Kalya aggressively slapped my phone out of my hand. At night, I recorded JCB action when six policemen tried to wrest the phone from my hand and eventually, they did. They kept my phone and kept me in custody by holding me by the wrist and elbow. Later, I passed a police blockage on my cycle in the night when one policeman lifted a 4 feet long stick to hit me. I crouched and the stick missed my body by inches.

I stopped at the Youth Centre as I was driving by and noticed many strangers about to go in the front gate, with a JCB in front. I started filming and got in the way but got physically shoved out of the way and then my phone was taken from me whilst I was physically manhandled by several people, forcing my arms behind my back. The phone was then passed around so that I would lose track of it. I eventually managed to recover it though the screen had been damaged and the cover was lost. I was threatened not to film again.

At 1 am in the morning I was blocked from going to YC by police barricades at Gaia. I could hear young people shouting and the sound of the JCB. I ran through the forest to find myself alone in front of the JCB. For about 10 minutes before other people came to the site, I was pushed, grabbed and shoved between 3 men (police men and the JCB owner) while I tried to stand still in front of the bulldozer. One man coaxed the JCB driver to run the machine into my body, but the driver refused. The assault ended when another women came and shouted that police are not allowed to touch women.

I managed to run through 2 different police barricades at 1 am to reach the JCBs in the forest. Three women were pleading with the police and JCB drivers to stop the work. I stepped in front of the JCB next to where my girlfriend was already standing. Two police men and 1 man wearing plain clothes immediately violently pushed me away, I lost my chappals, and they carried me to their jeep and told me I was going to jail. After 15 minutes I was able to leave from the jeep and return to the JCB, as more and more Aurovilians were coming to stop the work.

When I arrived on Saturday 4th Dec., I saw a bulldozer that had already forced its way through Bliss forest and many Aurovilians, trying to stop the destruction. One young woman was crying so I went to her and opened my arms, trying to reassure her that all this madness would stop. My heart was beating fast. I was in shock that such destruction could happen without consultation with the community nor warning, far from the ideals of consciousness and Human Unity we are here to embody. Luckily, some people managed to stop the destruction on that day, but they came back in the night, bulldozing the storeroom and the place where someone who was sleeping just managed to run out.

I arrived at the Youth Centre on the 9th December just before they tore down the game room. When I saw it being crushed I just collapsed. I physically couldn't hold myself up, my knees just buckled. It felt so violent. Happened so fast. I've never felt so powerless. We had no time to empty the buildings or process what was happening. When they started to take down the kitchen people were trying to save what they could while the building was coming down. I somehow couldn't believe they would be taken down. Everyone was in so much pain. Except for those who supported the destruction. Some of them told me they just came to see, as if it were some sort of entertainment.

I was amongst the first in YC. A mob of violent men shoving and pushing us with threats of beating us. They were a total of around 100 people and 40 of those in the frontline pushing me and the others to the side and slapping us or grabbing our phones and smashing them.

Traumatized by police women and men aggressively grabbing me and pushing me into their car along with the others with no explanation as 3 JCB's bulldozed through the trees and forest (home) in the middle of the night at 1 am till 4 am. Next 6 days barely any sleep nor ability to eat which never happens, and only managed to "rest" when I was taken home by friends and convinced to take a hot shower, eat some food and relax. Delayed and ongoing emotional processing, as the issue continues. To this day waking up to the scene of the site, the construction of the road and the sound of JCB's psychologically affects and imprints in the subconscious.

*I was assaulted on 9th December morning in Youth Centre by Mr. **Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam** and a lot more people that came with him. I was the first one to be assaulted. They kept pushing me and slapping me despite my calls and requests for them to stop. I lost one of my contact lenses as a result of one of the slaps and could not see well. The most traumatising part was that as soon as they realised that I wasn't going to fight back or be aggressive towards them they doubled all of their efforts at shouting, grabbing, pulling, pushing, slapping, shoving etc.*

I arrived to YC, early morning, about 6.30 am with my daughter, 8 year old Avigail. Of course, not knowing what was coming we assumed we were going for a peaceful protest. At about 7 am suddenly a huge crowd of aggressive men, accompanied with 2 JCB's stormed inside the compound. They cornered Kirtan (68 years old) and pushed him to the ground. Then the main aggressor, dressed in white (Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam) snatched my daughter brutally out of my hands. I immediately took her back in my hands and retreated to the back, shaken and utterly devastated. I still have difficulty explaining to my daughter the reasons behind why we were manhandled that way.

Since the events of December, I shiver every time I hear a JCB. Doctors call this post-traumatic stress. I feel like everything that has been slowly built since my parents set foot in Auroville in the early 70s is being slashed for the sake of some power driven people, neglecting all the values that made of this place an oasis in our crazy world. I am lost and scared and I don't want to see my home destroyed, the only home I have, the home which I love deeply since birth.

3. DESTRUCTION AT DARKALI

3.1 DETAILS ON THE DESTRUCTION

The following information was communicated by Agnes Gastmans.

On the 9th December at 3 pm JCB excavators arrived at the Darkali fence on the Mangalam radial. The Youth Centre had just been destroyed in the morning and Auroville residents were in too much pain, shock and utter disbelief. The same hired people, not from our local villages, who had come with the excavators to the YC were now at Darkali accompanied by people from ATDC.

Aurovilians tried to negotiate and beg them to not continue destroying Auroville in this way. Members of the then Working Committee actually begged on their knees to stop this destruction of Auroville. Eventually the situation evolved into a peaceful sit-down protest as people chanted, lit candles and refused to move. An agreement was reached to stop the work with this aggressive group of hired people. The Aurovilians were informed that the bulldozing would start the next morning. Peaceful protesters camped at the Darkali fence overnight.

On the 10th December at 7.30 am four excavators, along with Road Service and members of ATDC, arrived in Darkali. They started destroying the Darkali Forest while Aurovilians continued their silent protest.

At 11 am the JCB reached a thick cluster of old indigenous forest very close to the canyon, an important and precious water catchment area, and at this point a few dedicated Aurovilians couldn't deal anymore with their pain of having to witness this utter and senseless destruction of a beautiful place and they stopped the excavator.

At 2 pm two of the excavators stationed at the other side of Darkali received orders from ATDC members to start the clearing there. This time the stewards were begging and pleading with the members of ATDC to please not continue this senseless destruction, to make them remember the endless hours spent together working on an alternative.

However once again the sincere pleading was ignored and the JCB's started to destroy the fence and just as two big neem trees were destroyed, and the excavators were making their way to destroy the most beautiful part of Darkali with 35 year old banyans and numerous water catchments the stay order was obtained from the National Green Tribunal.

It is important to mention that the Darkali stewards started integrating a possible Crown Road through Darkali over 30 years ago. The then alignment was taken into consideration and no valuable trees were planted on that stretch which was at that time predicted to be a 5 meter wide road. It was protected and natural regeneration happened.

The Darkali stewards have always made a sincere effort to collaborate with the various development groups of Auroville and even reached an agreement with Roger Anger regarding the park boundaries.

However, in recent years it became apparent that the alignment for the Crown Road had changed and had moved into an area that had been beautifully developed as a park with big and valuable trees. It is also an area into which extensive soil and water conservation was done.

The Darkali stewards have proposed an alternative road, perfectly circular, which still falls within the 30 meter Crown parameter. This route requires very little tree removal compared to the massive clearing of dense indigenous vegetation as well as substantial areas of large mature trees that the ATDC Crown Road would require.

This road proposed by Darkali also does not impact the exhaustive rain water conservation work carried out in the area compared to the extensive damage that destroying two key water catchments would bring should the ATDC proposal be followed. Most of the road proposed by Darkali has been cleared.



Fig. 13: Peaceful presence at Darkali, to avoid bulldozing



Fig. 14: Bulldozing old trees at Darkali



Fig. 15: Bulldozing trees at Darkali

3.2 COST OF THE DESTRUCTION AT DARKALI

The cost of the destruction at Darkali cannot be evaluated in financial terms, as the JCBs have bulldozed trees and a natural ecosystem.

Environmental devastation is far more difficult to evaluate and the loss of the ecosystem of a 35 year old forest, with mostly species from the local Tropical Dry evergreen Forest and very thick undergrowth, is probably greater than the loss of buildings.

Appendix A-5 - Photos: Community meetings on 4th & 5th Dec

4th and 5th December 2021



4th December 2021, around noon, at the SAWCHU building in Bharat Nivas (Auroville).



5th December 2021 in the afternoon, at the Kalabhumi amphitheatre in Auroville.

Appendix A-6 - Photos: Residents regroup in Town Hall and ask the Working Committee to resign

9th December 2021



Residents regroup in Town Hall (Auroville) on 9th December 2021 and request the Working Committee to resign.



9th December 2021, Town Hall. The above photo shows Arun Selvam, Sauro Mezzetti and Anuradha Legrand, three members of the Working Committee. Arun Selvam and Anuradha Legrand will later be removed from office by a vote of the Residents' Assembly, while Sauro Mezzetti will be asked to continue serving as a member of the Working Committee.

Appendix A-7 - Outcome of the RAD process on the Crown

9th - 24th January 2022



RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY

DECISION

9 JAN - 24 JAN 2022

OUTCOME OF THE RA DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Here are the results of the RAD (voting): "To pause all clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work on the Right of Ways of Crown, Radials and Outer Ring in order to enable the community to define a way forward for Auroville's development, following:

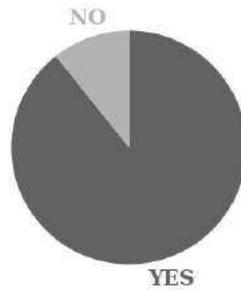
- collective processes,
- the 'Master Plan: Perspective 2025' framework,
- and other relevant regulations.

The outcome shall be approved through a ratified Residents' Assembly Decision-making process, before the above specified clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work resumes".

A total of 899 valid votes have been submitted online and in-person. The number of participants exceeded the 10 per cent quorum required to validate the decision (243 votes).*

** Based on data received from the Residents Service, the total adult population of our community eligible to participate in RADs (age - above 18, confirmed Aurovilians) is 2427 (as of the month of January 2022).*

RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY DECISION:



89% (803) Aurovilians supported the above proposal.

11% (96) Aurovilians DID NOT support it.

According to the RAD policy (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eHilx-gYANeMyKzudkG5b2lSoGcTbJle/view?usp=sharing>), “8. Responsibility for implementing decisions made through this RAD process lies with the concerned working group/s or resident/s”.

~ With gratitude,
The Residents' Assembly Service

Appendix A-8 - Residents' clarification on the RAD proposal

11th January 2022

What follows is a clarification post by a group of residents called "Be Here Now" in regards to the Residents' Assembly Decision-making process (RAD) on pausing development works along the Crown. This comes in response to another post by "Universal Township Support", another group of residents siding with the Office of the Secretary. The results of the RAD are unknown at the time this is published on Auroville's online forum, called Auronet.

The Present RAD: Clarifications & Comments

By Be Here Now, 09 Jan 2022 / 05:41 pm

Dear Friend,

This letter is to clarify and comment on statements made by Universal township support (UTS) in their recent post "Upcoming RAD" (<https://auroville.org.in/article/88572>).

1. "Seeks to block"

In their post they say that:

"The current RAD seeks to block the processes initiated by the ATDC..."

This is incorrect.

This RAD seeks nothing other than to give the residents of Auroville an opportunity to answer yes or no to this question:

Do you agree to: "pause all clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work on the Right of Ways of Crown, Radials and Outer Ring in order to enable the community to define a way forward for Auroville's development."

The process is not seeking any particular outcome other than what the residents vote for.

2. "Contrary to the objectives of Auroville"

UTS says that the process is:

"contrary to the objectives of Auroville, which is to build the township of Auroville."

This is incorrect in two ways:

- a) as the RAD process is an agreed-upon community decision-making process, it is not contrary to the objectives of Auroville. It is an expression of the community's stated wish that: "each person has the right and privilege to participate in decision making..." (according to the collectively approved decision-making policy).
- b) and while one of the objectives of Auroville is to build the township of Auroville, it is not the only objective. Auroville operates according to a set of simultaneous objectives that include human unity, building the city the Earth needs and the creation of a universal township "where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony, above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities."

3. An attempt to "nullify and supercede"

UTS further claims that: "The current RAD is an attempt by a small minority of the resident assembly to nullify and supersede the decisions of the governing board of the Auroville Foundation."

The purpose of this RAD is to establish whether the residents of Auroville would like to pause the present clearing work: "in order to enable the community to define a way forward for Auroville's development". Nowhere does it refer to a desire to "nullify and supersede". It is intended to assess the will of the community.

4. "Illegal" and likely to "attract penal provisions"

UTS argues that the RAD "is illegal and likely to attract penal provisions."

As the RAD process is the outcome of a valid decision of the Residents Assembly of Auroville (one of the three pillars of the Auroville Foundation along with the International Advisory Council and the Governing Board), it is legally valid. No previous RAD process on any issue has ever raised similar concerns.

5. Consensus processes "not...followed"

UTS claims that "The processes of discussion and arriving at a consensus have not been followed by the RAS in this case. There has been no attempt to look at the arguments advanced by those opposing the petition or even to discuss them openly and in a transparent manner."

This is also untrue.

The RAS has followed to the letter what is now an even more rigorous consensus-finding process (as of last year's decision-making policy review).

As per this new process, the RAS:

- Called a first Residents' Assembly Meeting (RAM) (attended by over 600 residents) to discuss the RAD;
- Invited feedback on the RAD question proposed at that meeting;
- Handed this feedback to the petitioners who incorporated it into a revised version of the RAD question (which for example replaced the word "stop" with "pause");
- Called a second RAM, where the feedback-revised question was presented to the meeting and overwhelmingly approved.

In fact, at this second meeting, the only opinion that was given voice on the stage was the UTS voice, where a UTS petitioner read this statement: <https://auroville.org.in/article/88458> advocating strongly against the RAD.

6. "No attempt to build consensus"

UTS argues that: "There has been no attempt to build consensus or application of the mind to any of the arguments advanced by either side, thus no sincere attempt to harmonize or reconcile them."

UTS' deep concern for consensus processes comes across as a little hypocritical especially considering:

- a) the recent incidences of JCB (and other strongarm) methods of resolving disagreements that the community has witnessed in recent weeks;

b) and the fact that they disable comments on their post.

7. An appeal that makes no sense

UTS ends their post with an odd appeal: "to all residents of Auroville to refrain from voting in the proposed RAD". It makes no sense - what they're effectively saying is that if you disagree with the RAD proposal, don't use this great opportunity to express it in a valid community decision-making event, better you just don't vote.

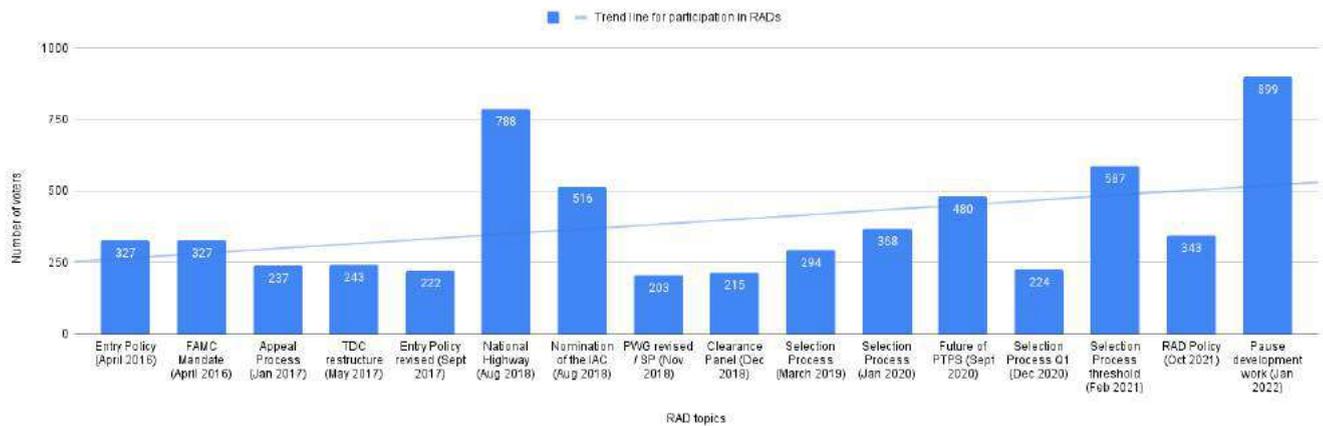
Wouldn't it be simpler and more effective (and more community-minded) to just encourage people to vote?

Much love,
Be Here Now

Appendix A-9 - Graph showing the participation in RADs over the last six years

January 2016 - January 2022

Number of voters in RAD processes (January 2016 - January 2022)



You can open this graph in high resolution [by clicking on this link](#).

Appendix A-10 - Presentation of 4 WCom members

18th January 2022

The 57th Governing Board Meeting Minutes were received on Dec 3, 2021. Events from December 4 onwards disrupted and divided the functionality of the Working Committee in certain areas. What follows is a presentation prepared by 4 of the 7 members of the then Working Committee. These 4 members were removed from office by the Residents' Assembly on 10th May 2022.

Report on Action-taken

Presentation for the Governing Board, Auroville Foundation by the Working Committee

[...]

Governance.1

Decision Making Driven by Auroville's Ideals

Status: To an extent this is followed by all Working Groups but not effectively. Decisions taken by the community via the Residents Assembly Service (RAS) has limitations as it is no longer seen as a representative decision making body.

The RAS members had earlier in 2021 requested for a thorough review of their policy to make it more transparent, effective and equitable. This has not been finalized. An interim process has been put in place. Despite objections the current RAD is run by the interim process. While this may be adequate for certain functional decisions, those that pertain to major decisions regarding the realization of Auroville and it's future, need a different approach and process.

Proposed action: 1) Each decision making group member must make a commitment to the fulfilment of the Charter and the City and relevant guidelines when they join. 2) Identify the areas that are outside the purview of an RA Decision before finalizing the new policy. 3) Review how new RAS members are added.

Completion target: Review can be initiated in the next quarter.

Governance.2

Work Plans preparation by Working Groups

Status: So far Working Committee has never presented work plans in the past. Given the incidents from Dec 4, 2021 – this has not been possible to prepare.

Proposed action: This is a process that needs to be integrated with the selection of new members of every working group. It has already been initiated with the recent Matrimandir selection in which new members have been given 4 months to settle in and come up with a work plan. Thereafter they will be confirmed as executives.

Completion target: The above process can henceforth be applied to all other groups coming up for selection and requested from the current groups in the next two quarters.

Governance.3

Selection / nomination of Working Group members

Status: This is jointly held by the Auroville Council and the Working Committee which then appoints a Selection Committee (usually volunteers from relevant groups) to handle the process, nomination guidelines and final selection – with the help of a facilitator if needed. Some groups tend to be self appointed such as Farm, Forest, Housing and RAS

Proposed action: A transparent method of selection and of the appointment of stewards with clear accountability as demanded of all other groups is recommended.

Completion target: Process to be proposed for the next quarter

Governance.4

Accountability, transparency and integrity

Status: A re-affirmation of the ideals and guidelines given by the Mother, a commitment to the building the city to realize an integral, material and spiritual human unity.

Proposed action: 1) To integrate this in our Entry Policy and Newcomer programmes. 2) To encourage hands on participation in main areas of life and development as was the case during the construction of Matrimandir. This participation needs to be encouraged specially amongst the youth, newcomers and all Aurovilians to bring people together through work and to connect with each other. Can be revived to build the city.

Completion target: With patience to bring a shift in attitudes that all work, from the highest to the lowest is noble and to be done as an offering to the Divine in which all must participate. As the population grows Aurovilians must take up all areas of work instead of hiring people. Through work, the consciousness must grow.

Governance.5

Initiatives

Status: 1: Community Connect started 2: Envisioning Exercise

Proposed action: 1) The process has been initiated but has gone through a lull given the recent events. To be revived with the help of RAS in smaller modules.

2) The Secretary's call for Envisioning Exercise has borne some results and must be continued. It is specially useful to help network different groups on any given issue and to work together. This is a positive step and must be continued.

Completion target: All working groups and members of the community have to come together and cannot be done by the Working Committee alone.

Most members of the current Working Committee are willing to assist both the GB and the RA to implement decisions that are valuable and necessary for Auroville based on the vision and objectives laid down by the Mother.

Sri Aurobindo's 150th

Report

Status: 2 members (Anu & Meenakshi) were named under Auroville Foundation at the initiative of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi Branch, in February 2021 which proposed the 150th Celebrations to the MoC. Following this, the Working Committee added 3 members (Christine, Hemant, Juergen)

proposed by the previous group and a 5 member team was announced which worked for the 15th August 2021 events. Proposals of programmes and funding were also gathered and submitted to the MoC. The release of funds is awaited to start the activities slated for Feb / March 2022.

However, in recent months 3 members have resigned and there has been a general disruption.

Proposed action: It is requested that a new core team with a larger support team be appointed to carry forward Sri Aurobindo's 150th Birth Anniversary in Auroville with the love, sincerity and gratitude it deserves.

Completion target: programmes for February / March can start if funds are released, or can be rescheduled towards an April 2022 to March 2023 timeline with a focus on 15 August 2022, also India's 75th anniversary.

Appendix A-11 - Response by 3 WCom members

20th January 2022

Statement to the RA from Chali, Hemant and Sauro

January 20, 2022, 6:50 pm

Dear Members of the Residents' Assembly,

We feel we must bring to your attention a serious breach of trust which has happened recently between the seven members of your Working Committee.

There was a Governing Board meeting scheduled with very short notice to take place in Auroville on 18th January 2022. A note answering 10 questions raised by the Governing Board on points of Governance and the management and organization of Auroville had already been prepared and sent officially to the Office of the Secretary well in advance.

The day before, on 17th January 2022, all seven members of the Working Committee met in our office with the aim of discussing what would be presented to the Governing Board. We felt it was also important to try to discuss the current disturbing environment post 5th December and 9th December, 2021, events. In our diversity of opinions we could not agree on one common statement. Anu, Srimoyi, Partha and Arun, four members of the Working Committee, informed us that they will make one joint statement representing their views of the events and what led to them. We, the other three members, had already made individual personal statements in December and informed that these would then be tabled to the Governing Board in the upcoming meeting as well.

On the morning of 18th January 2022, at 10:30 (we had been told earlier that we would have to meet the Collector at 11), a mail was sent by Anu which, in addition to their statement, had a powerpoint presentation to be presented by the four of them about Governance of Auroville, Selection of working group members and other general Auroville topics, as well as proposed action points as follow up to the last Governing Board meeting. The 3 of us had not been invited to be part of the preparation.

We were shocked at this exclusion of us as three selected members of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly. When we asked the reason for this act of exclusion and division we were told that there was no time to consult us.

As a first response we prepared a letter of objection to the Governing Board (see attached), with copy to the International Advisory Council, of our exclusion from the preparation of the presentation, and tabled it officially to the Governing Board. The Chairman then proceeded with the presentation, which in our view had errors of judgement and facts and was undermining the role of the Residents' Assembly. We then shared our views and made some corrections on the presentation with the Governing Board, including the topic of Governance, and we tabled other

topics such as the recent 'agreement' that people have been asked to sign when going for a visa recommendation letter and the complaint about a number of Aurovilians that

has gone to the RRO. Also, the question was asked: After all the achievements of Auroville and the appreciation received by many eminent persons and entities from India and the world over the 54 years of Auroville's existence, what has happened in the last six months that now the project is perceived as "a failure"?

We feel that this action from the other four members was a serious breach of trust and makes our work more challenging than ever. The current atmosphere of distrust is not healthy for the members of the Working Committee and the work it is mandated to carry out, and therefore it is not healthy for Auroville as a whole.

Chali, Hemant and Sauro

Appendix A-12 - Announcement from the Residents' Assembly Service

28th March 2022

RA MEETING TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL AND PROCEED TO A DECISION-MAKING:"VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN AND A NEW SELECTION OF THE CURRENT WORKING COMMITTEE..."

From: Residents' Assembly Service <raservice@auroville.org.in>

Date: Mon, Mar 28, 2022 at 7:01 PM

To: The Residents' Assembly

Dear Resident,

The Residents' Assembly Service invites you to a Residents' Assembly Meeting (RAM) to discuss a proposal of a group of concerned residents (petitioners) to "Vote of no confidence in / call for a new selection of the current Working Committee team, given their failure to 'assist' and 'represent' the Residents' Assembly as stated in their mandate". This proposal has been submitted in December 2021 and validated by RAS. It will be put out to the community for a decision, following the due process as envisioned by the RAD policy 2021.

The event is going to be held by RAS on

MONDAY, APRIL 4

4:00 - 6:30 PM

UNITY PAVILION

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- Welcome & Introduction
- Overview RAD Process
- Intention, Agenda and Ground rules
- Presentation of Proposals/Perspectives
- Enriching the picture/Open floor for sharing
- Next steps
- Closing
-

The meeting will be live streamed by Auroville Radio and the access links will be shared.

We look forward to seeing you there

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Clarification: What is an RAD, RAM, RAS (in English, French and Tamil)

RAD policy (in English, French and Tamil)

About the RAD on the Working Committee (by Petitioners Coordinators)
(in English, Tamil and French)

WCom short overview (by Petitioners Coordinators) (in English, French
and Tamil)

Background material (by Petitioners Coordinators) (in English, Tamil and
French)

~ Warmly,

The Residents' Assembly Service

Appendix A-13 - Short overview on the concerns of the petitioners

28th March 2022

Short overview on the concerns of the petitioners for the RAD petition “Vote of no confidence in/call for a new selection of the current Working Committee team, given their failure to ‘assist’ and ‘represent’ the Residents’ Assembly as stated in their mandate.”

The Working Committee of the Residents’ Assembly is one of the main organisational bodies of Auroville. According to its mandate, it is supposed to “Represent the Residents’ Assembly in interactions with the Governing Board, International Advisory Council and the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation [...]” However, recently some members of the Working Committee have actively rejected and denied the position of the Residents’ Assembly as a decision-making body – while they were chosen by the Residents’ Assembly to represent it.

According to the Auroville Foundation Act 1988, The Residents’ Assembly has the authority to choose members of the Working Committee, and how long they are to serve in this role. The petitioners who have asked for this RAD feel that it is especially important in the present context that the Working Committee represent the Residents’ Assembly before the Governing Board and Secretary of the Auroville Foundation.

Other key issues with the current Working Committee noted by the petitioners are:

- The Working Committee did not provide assistance to the Residents’ Assembly to come to an agreement on a divisive topic (the development of the Crown).
- The Working Committee did not adequately inform the Governing Board of the views of the Residents’ Assembly.
- The Working Committee did not adequately inform the community about the Multiversity proposal nor obtain the agreement of the Residents’ Assembly.
- The Working Committee did not deliver a proposed Residents’ Assembly selection process for the ATDC.
- Some Working Committee members, despite being present, did not try to prevent or halt violent actions on the Crown in early December 2021.

More information on each of these issues is in the extensive background document.

For these reasons, the petitioners, lacking confidence in members of the Working Committee, have called for these meetings. The Residents’ Assembly is to come together and decide on a way forward towards the constitution of a Working Committee that is able to represent the Residents’ Assembly as we work together towards realising the Mother’s Dream and the Auroville Charter.

Appendix A-14 - Report of 1st Resident's Assembly meeting on WCom

7th April 2022

RAM REPORT: "VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN AND A NEW SELECTION OF THE CURRENT WORKING COMMITTEE..." (PROPOSAL TO BE PUT OUT FOR A DECISION)

From: Residents' Assembly Service <raservice@auroville.org.in>

Date: Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 4:04PM

To: The Residents' Assembly

Dear Resident,

Here is the report of the first Residents' Assembly Meeting (RAM) to discuss a proposal to "Vote of no confidence in / call for a new selection of the current Working Committee team, given their failure to 'assist' and 'represent' the Residents' Assembly as stated in their mandate". This RAM is a part of the Residents' Assembly Decision-making process. The event took place on Monday 4th of April 2022.

First Residents' Assembly Meeting

Day / Date: Monday, 04.03.2022

Venue: Unity Pavilion

Time: 4:00pm to 6:15pm

Attendees: 230+ attendees (in person in UP) and 100+ online participants

Facilitator: Elisa

The RAM on this topic was held by the Residents' Assembly Service (RAS) to inform about and discuss the proposal in preparation for the decision-making process.

You can find the **RAM recording here:** <https://youtu.be/5dq9VkMfeeA>

More than 230 confirmed Aurovilians attended the meeting at Unity Pavilion. Newcomers, volunteers, and youth below 18 were also welcomed outside the UP as silent observers, as stipulated in the RAD policy.

1. The RAM was formally opened at 4:10 pm by the facilitator with a welcome and introduction of the topic;
2. The Residents' Assembly Service members informed the participant about the structure of the RAD process;
3. After a moment of silence, the facilitator set the intention, and the ground rules and got through the agenda;
4. Representatives of the petitioners presented their proposal, giving a timeline of the recent events, and their perspectives;
5. Members of the Working Committee (Arun, Chali, Hemant and Sauro) aired their views and spoke of formal implications of the RAD proposal;
6. The Auroville Council members (Shivaya, Suryan) presented their statement;
7. After the presentations, the attendees asked questions on the proposal and shared their inputs;
8. The RAS articulated the next steps of the decision-making procedure and checked with those physically present in the room (by a show of hands) if they had enough information on the RAD proposal;
9. The vast majority confirmed they had enough information;
10. The RA meeting was closed at 6:15 pm.

For a deeper exploration, please refer to the following:

- [Video record \(AV Radio\)](#)
- [Transcript of the meeting](#)
- [Presentation of the petitioners](#)
- [Statement by 4 WCom members](#)
- [Statement of the Auroville Council](#)
- [Steps of an RAD](#)
- Information: What is an RAD, RAM, RAS (in [English](#), [French](#) and [Tamil](#))
- RAD policy (in [English](#), [French](#) and [Tamil](#))

The RAS will invite the community to share feedback on the RAD proposal soon. As per the RAD policy, “the RAS will collect and compile the feedback received and hand it over to those who initiated the RAD and made proposal(s). It is the responsibility of those who initiated the RAD to integrate feedback and present the revised proposal at the follow-up RAM including an explanation of what feedback was integrated, what not and why.”

- - END OF REPORT - -

MANY THANKS!

We would like to thank all those who helped with facilitating the event, preparing and decorating the room with flowers, making kolam, taking care of technical arrangements, video recording, etc.

We appreciate all the support of the Silent Presence Keepers, Unity Pavilion team, RAS resource persons and volunteers, Auroville Hugging team and many other groups and individuals who contributed to this RA meeting.

~ With gratitude,

The Residents' Assembly Service

Appendix A-15 - WCom Response to minutes of GB meeting

11th April 2022

Observations and questions regarding GB Minutes of 58th meeting – submitted by the Working Committee on 11.04.2022

1. It is mentioned that there was a 34th meeting of the Finance Committee on 17th January, 2022 (Item 58.2). The WCom would like to request a copy of the minutes of this meeting, as has been done in the past, including the budget that has been approved for Township development for FY 2022-23 (Item 58.5).
2. Dreamweaving (one of the points in Item 58.3):
The Dreamweaving process for the Crown, based on a brief given by TDC, has now been completed with a wide participation from within Auroville, VastuShilpa Consulting and the Secretary. The final report has been presented to the community. As this process included and synthesized many different points of view, we are confident that many aspects of the outcome and the process can be unifying and trust that the Governing Board will support the integration of the outcomes into the implementation of the project.
3. Item 58.10: We are pleased to know that VastuShilpa Consulting has been nominated and that the guidance of Dr BV Doshi will be available for this important task. We request that the draft MoU between AVF and VSC is shared with us for our records.
4. Additional items:
 - a) Systems and processes audit (financial) – We trust that the FAMC and other Auroville entities working in this field will be included in this process. It can be considered to involve professional institutions such as Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore, who specialize in management systems and processes for public entities.
 - b) Organization and Governance Committee – There are currently deliberations and efforts being made by internal task forces of Auroville residents and working groups to review and improve organization and governance in Auroville in various fields such as economy, selection methods and criteria, community decision-making, among others. The Working Committee would be happy to organize sharing sessions with such groups and teams next time the GB meets in Auroville. We believe this committee needs to be enlarged to include representatives of the 2 other authorities of the Foundation, which are the Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Council.
 - c) Chief Vigilance and Security Officer – It is hoped that this officer will work closely with the existing Auroville Safety and Security Service Team (AVSST) who has many years of experience in this field of work in Auroville and its surroundings.

d) Declaration – The Working Committee requests that a copy of the declaration that was approved by the GB is shared with us and with the Residents' Assembly.

e) Topographical survey – In the minutes it is stated that 'conducting a drone survey of master plan right-of-ways (RoWs) was approved' and that 'Crown RoW clearing and infrastructure work must proceed'. We suggest that the drone survey is carried out by a professional entity as advised by and in consultation with the Chief of Town and Country Planning Office (TCPO), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, as was discussed in the meeting with the TCPO at the Auroville Foundation Office.

5. As only minimal reference was made in the GB minutes to presentations made by working groups or meetings with residents, and none was made to specific points of concern brought up by members of the Working Committee, such as the insecurity created in many residents by the visa situation, we would appreciate if in future more details may be included.

6. It is also noted that there is no reference made to the meeting with the IAC or its recommendations and advice.

7. Lastly, in this meeting the Working Committee had extended an invitation to the Chairman and all members of the Governing Board to spend more time in Auroville in order to experience more of its activities, people and its spirit. We once again extend this invitation as we believe that a deeper mutual understanding and collaboration would result from more time spent together with all 3 authorities of the Auroville Foundation.

Appendix A-16 - Letter from residents

12th April 2022

Urgent statement to GB and IAC on behalf of hundreds of Auroville residents

From: Evolving Galaxy <evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Apr 12, 2022 at 10:40 AM

To: Governing Board & International Advisory Council members

Dear members of the Auroville Governing Board and International Advisory Council,

Greetings!

During your last visit to Auroville on 18th January for the 58th meeting of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation, some residents conveyed to you their distress at recent steps taken by the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and proposed an alternative way forward.

Since then, however, the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation has continued to act in ways contrary to the spirit and the letter of the Auroville Foundation Act, and against the Charter of Auroville. And the issues highlighted on that day have only grown in severity.

1. Misuse of power to take over Working Groups

The present Foundation administration has systematically undermined and appropriated the powers and responsibilities of the Residents' Assembly, clearly deciding to ignore its voice and decisions, and therefore closing the door to dialogue and community efforts to reach a genuine consensus. This attitude was behind the arbitrary takeover of Auroville Outreach Media, without the sanction of the Residents' Assembly, and solely on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations against a service that had efficiently served the community and the wider world for over two decades.

2. Withholding visas as a form of threat to residents

Of urgent concern, too, is the misuse by the Secretary of her power to recommend visa extensions for non-Indian residents – either restricting them to an impossibly short term or keeping them pending till the last minute. This has created a climate of fear and uncertainty, with the clear objective of intimidating those residents perceived to be at variance with the views of the current administration. The requirement of a background check on all long-term volunteers (possible future Aurovilians) from abroad has made their wait to come to Auroville extremely long, resulting in a loss of valuable volunteers and future residents.

3. Unfounded allegations that Aurovilians are opposed to the city

The above concerning actions have been justified so far with the argument given by the Foundation and its supporters that Auroville is a failure and Aurovilians are not succeeding in manifesting the city. This stance overlooks Auroville's considerable achievements over the past

five decades, which have shaped Auroville's global reputation as a world-leading example of an ideal township. You may read here our compilation of What Auroville has achieved in 50 years.

4. Disturbed balance between the three governing bodies of Auroville Foundation

Since the Auroville Foundation Act was passed by the parliament in 1988, there has always been a balance and collaboration between the three governing bodies of the Auroville Foundation. The Act clearly states that the Residents' Assembly is one of the three governing bodies which composes the Auroville Foundation. For over 30 years, the collaboration and good will between these three bodies have enabled Auroville to grow in a fruitful manner.

5. Matters awaiting attention and intervention from the Secretary

At the same time, urgent issues such as land matters are awaiting the support that the Secretary is supposed to give, as per her mandate. For example, authorization letters for land purchase have long been awaited, with detrimental effects. The Secretary's inaction regarding a recent incident at an Auroville community (Pitchandikulam) – where Auroville Foundation property was broken and residents intimidated by privately-hired enforcers – is highly regrettable. We call on you to strongly condemn this new trend of physical intimidation of Aurovilians – Indian and non-Indian – by hired enforcers and to take land matters in hand in an appropriate fashion.

Aurovilians are eager to build the city, following the right process

We are told again and again by the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and its supporters that residents who have been critical of the Secretary's unilateral decisions are "opposed" to the development of the city. *We assert once more that this is false.* Since the beginning of the present crisis, residents have strived hard to find ways to speed up the development of Auroville through participatory methods. A recent example is the Dreamweaving collaborative development process for the design of the Crown, which has brought together a large number of resident experts in the fields of urban planning, architecture, renewable energies, water optimization etc. This initiative was done in collaboration with the Vastu Shilpa Foundation (under the guidance of renowned architect Shri B V Doshi), which demonstrates the community's willingness to collaborate meaningfully with suitable outside expertise. We request the Governing Board to acknowledge the valuable outcomes of this planning and development initiative, and to study them in earnest, with good will towards sustaining an ongoing collaborative development process.

We request the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation to abandon its current methods of coercion and intimidation. Auroville can only be built through collaboration, agreement and goodwill, even though this may take some time. Auroville is based on a foundation of truth and harmony and aims towards something higher and new, based on the strength of our individual and collective unity. We believe that a 'divide and rule' approach has no place in Auroville.

We call on the Governing Board and the Office of the Secretary to collaborate meaningfully with the Residents' Assembly.

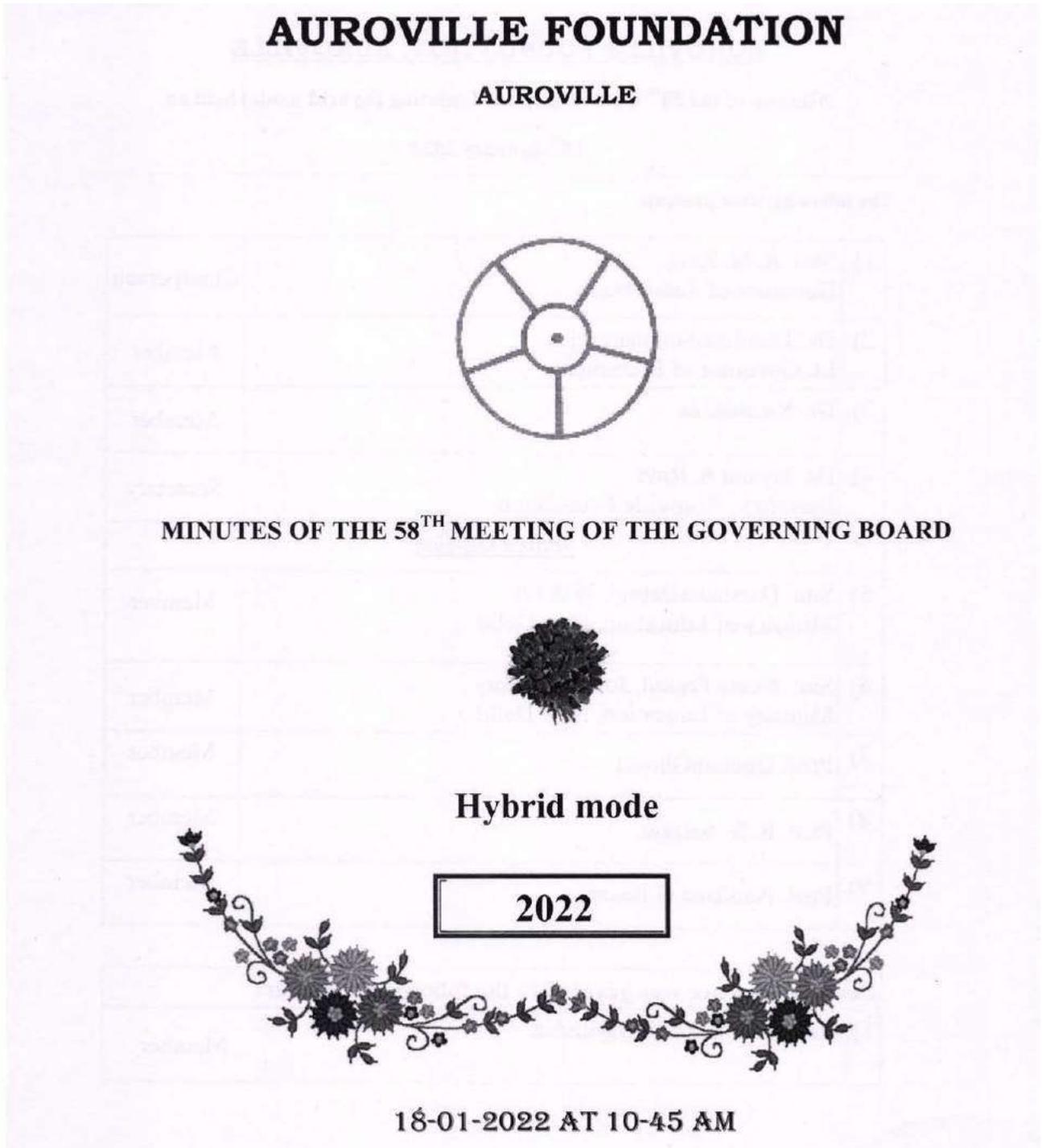
Yours sincerely,

Concerned residents of Auroville.

On behalf of 890 members of the Residents' Assembly who voted in the recent Residents' Assembly Decision-making process.

Appendix A-17 - 58th GB meeting minutes

18th January 2022



AUROVILLE FOUNDATION, AUROVILLE

Minutes of the 58th Governing Board meeting (hybrid mode) held on
18th January 2022

The following were present:

1)	Shri. R. N. Ravi Governor of Tamil Nadu	Chairperson
2)	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan Lt. Governor of Puducherry	Member
3)	Dr. Nirima Oza	Member
4)	Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi Secretary, Auroville Foundation	Secretary
<u>Joined On-line</u>		
5)	Smt. Darshana Dabral, JS & FA Ministry of Education, New Delhi	Member
6)	Smt. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary Ministry of Education, New Delhi	Member
7)	Prof. Goutam Ghosal	Member
8)	Prof. R. S. Sarraju	Member
9)	Prof. Nandana G Basappa	Member

Leave of absence was granted to the following Member:

1)	Shri. Aravindan Neelakandan	Member
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Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary, Auroville Foundation, Auroville welcomed the Chairman and the Members of the Governing Board and introduced Dr. G. Seetharaman, newly appointed OSD (Officer on Special Duty) of Auroville Foundation to the Chairman and the Board Members.

The Board was informed about the 34th Finance Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2022 where Governing Board meeting agenda items relating to budgets and financial matters were discussed. The comments on the Agenda Items from the Integrated Finance Division (IFD) of the Ministry of Education were also informed to the Board.

The Agenda Items were taken up for discussion and decisions were taken as detailed below.

Note:

MoE had sent their comments on the said agenda points before commencement of meeting and the comments were considered.

Item No 58.1:	Confirmation of the Minutes of 57th Meeting of GB held on 02nd November 2021
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The Minutes were circulated to the members. The members of the Governing Board resolved to confirm the minutes of the 57th Meeting of the Governing Board held on 02nd November 2021.

Item No 58.2:	Approval of the Minutes of 34th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 17th January 2022
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The members approved the minutes of the 34th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 17th January 2022.

Item No 58.3:	Action taken report on the Minutes of 57th meeting of the Governing Board
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The action-taken report on the decisions of the 57th meeting of the Governing Board was noted by the Board.

Report of Secretary, AF

- The action points of the 57th Governing Board meeting of 2nd November 2021 have been discussed with the concerned Working Groups of Auroville.

- Each Working Group has taken up one or more action items for implementation. Some Working Groups have taken the help of resource persons.
- The Working Committee, ATDC, FAMC and SAIER have prepared presentations with the highlights of progress made thus far and the plans ahead.
- There have been follow-up meetings with officials of the Tamil Nadu Government for the acquisition of city lands and the establishment of a New Town Development Authority (for land use regulation).
- Secretary also informed the Board that Auroville Foundation has recently signed an MoU with Pondicherry University, so that the students from the Auroville Institute of Applied Technology (AIAT) can obtain certificates for recognized courses of Bachelors of Vocational Training (B.Voc) and masters' certification also.
- Secretary informed that a collaborative urban planning tool known as "Dream Weaving" has been developed in Auroville and will be used to provide inputs for the detailed development planning of the Crown. The Governing Board welcomed and accepted this initiative with the following stipulations:
 - (i) Plans and proposals will be consistent with the Auroville Master Plan;
 - (ii) Ongoing works, including the Crown Road will remain unaffected.

- (iii) The outcome of the Dream Weaving exercise will go to the Auroville Town Development Council as an input for detailed development planning of the Crown.

Item No 58.4:	Approval of the Auroville Foundation annual report and accounts for the FY 2019-20 & FY 2020-21
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The Auroville Foundation Annual Report and Accounts for the FY 2019-20 & FY 2020-21 were approved.

Item No 58.5:	Approval of the township development budget for FY 2022-23
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The Board approved the budget as per the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Item No 58.6:	Approval of Re-constitution of the Finance Committee
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The Board approved the re-constitution of the Finance Committee with the following membership:

- Smt. DarshanaDabral, JS &FA, Ministry of Education
- Smt. Neeta Prasad, JS (ICC &Planning), Ministry of Education
- Dr. NirimaOza, Member, Governing Board
- Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary, AF and
- Dr. G. Seetharaman, OSD, AF (convenor)

Item No 58.7:	Approval of Establishment Matters
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The Board approved the following establishment matters:

1. Annual increment to the contract employees

Annual increment for the contract employees was approved based on the last year increments as per the recommendation of the Finance Committee in its 34th meeting.

2. Retaining of the interest on the TDS refund received for the units of Auroville Foundation for FY 2019-20 & FY 2020-21

Retaining of interest on the TDS refund was approved as recommended the Finance Committee in its 34th meeting.

Item No 58.8:	Approval to recruit permanent staff for various posts
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The Board approved the recruitment proposal for the posts of Finance & Admin. Officer, Assistant-cum-cashier, Driver, and Peon as per the recommendations of the 34th meeting of the Finance Committee

Item No 58.9:	Additional charge of Dr G. Seetharaman as OSD, Auroville Foundation
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The Board noted and approved that Dr G. Seetharaman has been given additional charge of OSD to Auroville Foundation.

Item No. 58.10	Approval for Nominating VastuShilpa Consulting (VSC) agency as an external consultant to prepare DDP
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The Board has approved to nominate VastuShilpa Consulting (VSC) headed by PadmaBhushanrecipient Dr. B.V.Doshi as the external consultant to prepare a DDP at approximate cost of Rs. 1.98/- Crore and signing the MoU between AVF and VSC as per GoI norms.

Additional items discussed with the approval of Chairman

1) Systems and processes audit

It was noted that a systems and processes audit can rectify anomalies and ensure transparency of the financial systems in Auroville. This exercise may include transaction and forensic audits, as required.

The Board decided that a systems and process audit will be conducted, for a complete audit of all the trusts and units and entities in Auroville by the CAGs office, which can be taken up after consulting the CAG office. Additionally, if there are established auditors in the private sector, they may also be considered for the proposed detailed audit. A budget of approximately Rs.30 lakhs may be allotted. The audit will take place under the overall supervision of Secretary, AVF who will keep the Governing Board and the Finance Committee informed about progress and findings.

2) Organisation and Governance committee

In the 57th meeting of the Governing Board on 2nd November 2021, the Board had noted that:

- there is a proliferation of groups and discussion forums.
- there is a need to simplify the governance and organisation structures (trusts, units, activities and committees) of Auroville.
- there seems to be decision paralysis or the inability to put decisions into practice.
- the Residents Assembly is seen by many as a decision-making body for even operational issues that are under the responsibility of working groups

The Board also noted that there seems to be a lack of clarity amongst some Auroville residents about the roles, responsibilities and decision-making authority of the Residents Assembly as provided for in the Auroville Foundation Act.

Secretary, AF suggested that a Governing Board committee can be formed under sections 16(1) and 16(2) of the Auroville Foundation Act with two members of the Governing Board and Secretary AF as member-convenor to look into these matters.

It was decided to establish an Organisation and Governance committee to look into organisation, governance and related matters with the following Governing Board members as committee members:

- Dr. NirimaOza
- Dr. GautamGhoshal
- Joint Secretary, (ICC & Planning), MoE
- Dr. G. Seetharaman, OSD
- Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi, Secretary

Secretary, AVF will be the member-convenor of the committee.

The committee may co-opt additional members and invite inputs from experts.

3) Chief Vigilance and Security Officer

The need for a better coordination of security in Auroville was recognised and it was decided to designate an Officer of Auroville Foundation as a Chief Vigilance and Security Officer, who will report to Secretary, AF.

4) Commitment to the values for adhering to the ideals of Auroville and to the Constitution of India by the residents of Auroville.

The need for a declaration to be given by all residents of Auroville (including newcomers, volunteers and friends of Auroville) was considered and found to be appropriate. The content of the commitment was discussed and approved.

5) Topographical survey of master plan right-of-ways

The proposal of conducting a drone survey of master plan right-of-ways (RoWs) was approved. It was noted that the topographical survey may take 2 to 3 months and that the work will be executed in two-phases. It was further decided that Crown RoW clearing and infrastructure work must proceed, while tree clearing can happen after the Stay issued by the National Green Tribunal (South Zone) in Original Application No.239 of 2021 is lifted.

6) Township development budget

During the 57th meeting of the Governing Board on 2nd November 2021, the Board had approved a budget outlay of Rs. 1,000 Crores for township development for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The abstract budget with phasing was approved in-principle.

- 7) Nomination of member of the Auroville Town Development Council
During the 57th meeting of the Governing Board on 2nd November 2021, Secretary AF was authorized to nominate the Governing Board's nominee on the ATDC as and when required for smooth and efficient functioning of the ATDC.

The Board approved the nomination of Dr. G. Seetharaman, OSD, Auroville Foundation as the Governing's Board's nominee in lieu of Mr. DebabrataSahoo, who had resigned from ATDC membership.

The Board noted that the ATDC had elected Dr. G. Seetharaman as Member-Secretary with additional charge of finance and accounts in its meeting of 10.01.2022.

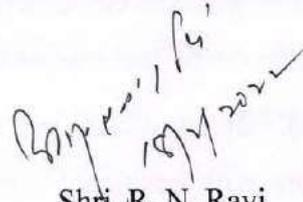
It was decided to have the next meeting of the GB in April 2022.

The Meeting ended with thanks to the Chairman and other Members proposed by the Secretary.

Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi
Auroville Foundation, Auroville

(Secretary)

//APPROVED//



Shri R. N. Ravi
Governor of Tamil Nadu

(Chairperson)

Appendix A-18 - RAS email opening the vote

23rd April 2022

RAD ON THE PROPOSAL: "I AGREE TO REMOVE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE FROM OFFICE THROUGH THIS CURRENT RA DECISION-MAKING PROCESS"

From: Residents' Assembly Service <raservice@auroville.org.in>

Date: Sat, Apr 23, 2022 at 6:04 AM

To: The Residents' Assembly

RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Dear Resident,

This Residents' Assembly Decision making process (RAD) is for the community to approve or disapprove the following proposal:

"I agree to remove individual members of the Working Committee from office through this current RA decision-making process, given their failure to 'assist' and 'represent the Residents' Assembly as stated in their mandate. If more than 50% of voters agree that a member is to be removed, the term of that member ends with immediate effect.

I agree that any remaining members of the Working Committee will continue in office and can choose to appoint interim members. They can only do so in consultation with the Auroville Council.

These interim members can only be chosen from members of previous Working Committees. The term of the interim Working Committee members shall be until the next RA-approved Selection Process has been held, and new Working Committee members have been selected.

In the unlikely event that all Working Committee members are dismissed, the three Working Committee members who have the most votes to stay on will remain, as interim members, until the next RA-approved selection process".

The RAD will run until SUNDAY, 8th of May 2022

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

ONLINE

Please click on the button below to proceed with the online form to register your decision:

VOTE ONLINE →

IN PERSON If you prefer to vote in person, a printed voting slip is also available from the RAS sounding board in Town Hall. Please fill your ballot out and hand it over in person to the RAS members / resource persons (at the RAS office)

every **Tuesday 10am - 12pm** and **Thursday 10am - 12pm**. We are happy to help you register your decision.

In-person voting will be organized **at Solar Kitchen on Sunday, May 8th, 11am - 2pm**.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- [Report of the first RAM](#)
- [Report of the Follow-up RAM](#)
- [Statement by 4 WCom members](#)
- [Statement of the Auroville Council](#)
- [Steps](#) of an RAD
- Information: What is an RAD, RAM, RAS (in [English](#), [French](#) and [Tamil](#))
- RAD policy (in [English](#), [French](#) and [Tamil](#))

Appendix A-19 - Letter published on Auronet

27th April 2022

From:

Anu, Arun, Partha & Srimoyi
Members, Working Committee

To:

Chali, Hemant, Sauro
Members, Working Committee

Date: 27th April, 2022

Given the events of the past months and the pattern on non-cooperation and a lack of transparency within the Working Committee we wish to state the following:

Mandate of the Working Committee

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly shall assist the Residents' Assembly or, as the case may be, the Governing Board, in discharging its duties under the Auroville Foundation Act.

Failure to assist the Governing Board

In the past months we have seen a divisiveness growing. Three Working Committee members (Chali, Hemant, Sauro) failed to assist the Governing Board when needed by maintaining a standoffish demeanour and showing general disagreement to most proposals instead of collaboration and to help the community to grow and develop according to Auroville's aims. This was the case with 1. The Crown-Walk, 2. attempts to lay infrastructure services along the Crown right-of-way, and 3. by not supporting nor encouraging the dialogues that the Secretary initiated with the Youth Centre and Others.

The incidents of December 4 to 9th 2021, saw you three members take an active stand against the Governing Board and the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, publicly and via the media and social media, in the name of the Working Committee, disregarding the perspective of the other members our group and without making the slightest effort to calm things and start a dialogue.

There was abuse against the Secretary at a live-streamed public meeting soon after which shocked people around the world, in the government as well as people in the community who wrote to the Working Committee – yet our suggestion to make a statement before the community to disapprove of such behaviour was brushed aside and not acted upon.

It must be noted that the Governing Board in its 57th meeting held in Auroville on 2nd November 2021 had decided that “On the occasion of Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, a fresh impetus

must be given to realise the Auroville Township in accordance with the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan within a time frame”.

The Governing Board further added that “All Master Plan deviations on the land earmarked for the Crown have to be cleared so that the circular Crown Road and related infrastructure can be built without further delay..”

In the above-mentioned meeting of the Governing Board, it also noted that “The Working Committee must assist the Governing Board with the implementation of decisions taken by the Board within a time frame”.

When the four of us Working Committee members raised these subjects in Working Committee meetings or made efforts to get these decisions or observations discussed and implemented, the three of you undermined all such requests by suggesting we were not the Working Committee of the Resident’s Assembly. In other words only some members of Auroville seem to count as RA in your eyes but not the rest and nor their aspirations for Auroville.

Most glaring has been the attempts to publicly malign the Auroville Foundation as a whole and the Secretary, in particular in the national and international media and all-over social media, by a member of this Working Committee as well as others which you chose not to condemn even once.

Visa issues are now being held up to condemn the Governing Board and the Secretary instead of helping to build bridges with the community which would help matters immensely.

Failure to assist the Residents Assembly

Many residents of Auroville would like to see the Working Committee take a balanced stand towards making Auroville advance according to its aims, laid by the Charter and help accomplish the township in accordance with the master plan.

People writing to us in support of town development, including the Crown, the ATDC, or in anguish about the Dec 4th2021 incidents, the NGT stay order and the RA process are ignored.

The 3 of you have adopted the currently populist stand of resistance, even in the public sphere and in the media. This has become detrimental for Auroville as a whole.

There was no acknowledgement of the report presented by us members on the events of 4th December 2021 and no attempt to harmonise perspectives – the 4 were seen at fault for presenting their first hand version of the morning events.

Despite questions being raised about the functioning of the RAS by several residents writing to WCom or the RAS, regarding the misuse of volunteers, by allowing them in Resident Assembly meetings and to make social media postings thereafter - there have been no attempt to address this nor take up the discussion to review the Volunteers policy which was submitted to the group almost two months ago.

Team work failures

When the new team came into office, outgoing member, Carel Thieme, told us about the system of quorum followed by the team. If four members agreed on a topic it would pass. We agreed to this, even if in some cases one or two of us were not satisfied with a decision or if our points had been ignored.

However, any suggestion or observations from our side, on issues relating to governance or the Residents Assembly have been looked upon with disdain. Nevertheless we feel these are things the Working Committee needs to look into to help improve or simplify and assist in a better functioning of the Residents Assembly in the spirit of Auroville, instead of spending hours on personal complaints and disputes.

The 58th meeting of the Governing Board, which was held on January 18th 2022, saw no effort from the three members to look at questions put before us by the Governing Board. As it happened, we four members finally decided to share some perspectives via a brief presentation to the Governing Board. This was met with fury by the three of you and personal threats from Hemant Lamba. Though we presented it to the GB as an unfinished work, to be discussed further with the rest of the team, this was called an "exclusion" and reported to the GB & IAC, in N&N and AuroNet. Our invitation more than twice to take up the presentation topics further met with no response.

The recent Governing Board meeting resulted in something similar. Instead of disagreeing or blocking what the 3 wished to present we submitted two separate reports on matters concerning us all at present. Though this was informed twice via email, it was regarded as an offence and we were not allowed to circulate them via the Working Committee email. However, this has now been shared with the community.

Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC)

One of the first impressions of working with this team was the lack of willingness to interact with the ATDC. Though we worked with the FAMC, Land Board etc, this key working group was something of a pariah and not given the support it needed while enormous effort was put to somehow to dislodge the ATDC members. It took some effort to (partially) rectify this situation and to return documents that belonged to ATDC so that they could do their work.

Writ Petition

Similarly, we had to face a Writ Petition filed by the previous Working Committee, which had been prepared and filed in secrecy, without the knowledge of the community. It included the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India (Ministry of Education) as respondents. The petition was withdrawn after a repeat recommendation from the Ministry and the intervention of the new Secretary, after she arrived.

Absence from work

Chali was away for 3 months, however work continued harmoniously in her absence. Only the reporting suffered.

Hemant was absent without any direct communication or email from 19th January 2022. Chali and Sauro told us he had Covid. On 9th February we were abruptly informed via Whatsapp that he was in Delhi with Francois Gauthier regarding visas and was meeting a Cabinet Secretary and

was slotted to meet Mr Doval and other officials as well as ex-GB chairman, Dr Karan Singh, to update them about the December events. There was no prior discussion about this in the group, nor any mail informing us about his intentions beforehand either by him or by any of you. Hemant has since been to Delhi in March and is traveling again. He does not share the programs of his visits nor what he communicates to officials and the media about Auroville

Media

We are particularly disturbed by Hemant's polarizing and grossly misleading statements in the Press about the events, the community, the Auroville Foundation and the Secretary which are highly objectionable.

In the Scroll reprint article (<https://scroll.in/article/1017895/in-auroville-a-contentious-development-plan-has-stoked-anger-and-dissension>) he makes claims in the name of the Working Committee, without even consulting us as he had earlier done in a video interview.

"Auroville Working Committee members claim that the planned right of way requires the felling of over 1,50,000 trees and shrubs of tropical dry evergreen forest species, some of which are endangered trees".

These are statements without proof, while openly maligning fellow members of the Resident's Assembly as misguided fanatics and playing divisive politics via the media as a Working Committee member.

"Auroville Working Committee member Hemant Lamba said the planned right of way requires the felling of over 1,50,000 trees and shrubs of tropical dry evergreen forest species, some of which are endangered trees. 'Politics has the power to tear the delicate fabric of our path to human unity, and for this reason, most Aurovillians shun all political activity', he remarked".

"Lamba maintains that the Aurovillian equilibrium has been stricken by some fanatical interpretations of "development" that ignore ground realities. In recent years, a few community members have developed more extreme views about the Mother's wish to build a "city of the future", believing that the execution of the Crown as a "perfect circle" is essential to hasten Auroville's spiritual development."

In the Print he states (<https://theprint.in/india/rss-bjp-take-over-attempt-or-blind-opposition-to-reform-a-road-divides-heart-of-auroville/871874/>)

"We are not opposed to the development but the manner in which the Auroville Foundation, headed by central government-appointed officials, is going about it is not in the spirit of Auroville," Hemanth Lamba, member, working committee of the residents' assembly,..." "The moment she arrived, she began polarising Auroville, exploiting the difference of opinion among residents. Divisions were created on lines of hardliners versus liberals, Indians versus foreigners, locals versus outsiders," Lamba said, alleging that Auroville's tradition of community participation in decision making was being violated."

There were no prior consultations with other Working Committee members on these press interactions and none of these statements were questioned by Chali or Sauro. Questions raised by us in February 2022 regarding Hemant's comments were ignored. When asked again, some weeks later, Hemant declared that he didn't have to answer anything or anybody.

Meanwhile, false accusations of instigating violence have been made against us, without proof, with the clear purpose of maligning us in the eyes of Auroville residents and the world at large through an RAD. This has now resulted in a section of Auroville residents attempting to get us dismissed from the Working Committee on false grounds that you seem to support.

Stepping down

The document "*Participatory Working Groups and the Selection Process of their Members*" of December 2020 describes the (pre-)qualifications of working group members and includes the following "motto": "*Motto: I offer to serve the work in a committed and impartial way in a spirit of equanimity, inclusiveness, efficiency and generosity. I cooperate and contribute to enable the best outcome of the task in alignment with the ideals of Auroville.*"

It is clear from the above that you have failed in this regard on all accounts.

We made calls to have normal and constructive dialogues with you, as a team of adults across the table which was rejected. Instead you proposed mediation where facilitators are known to be biased.

Court Cases

A few weeks ago we asked about a court case being filed against the Foundation on behalf of the old Outreach Media but received no reply. Now it has become common knowledge that such a case has indeed been filed by a resident. We again hear that several court cases are now planned against the Foundation via the channel of the Working Committee. This is most alarming to hear given the repercussions this will have on the larger Auroville who have no idea about what actions that are being taken on their behalf. Has such a major decision been agreed to by the RA? Again our questions regarding these court cases to the three of you yesterday received no reply.

We sadly conclude therefore, that all integration attempts that we made time and again have failed.

The above-mentioned document of December 2020 & April 2022 includes a provision whereby members of a working group can be asked to step down from membership by the working group itself. Under this provision we ask the three of you to step down from the Working Committee with immediate effect and hope that the realisation of the ideals of Auroville can be taken forward with new Working Committee members who live by the mandate defined by the Auroville Foundation Act.

As per the PWG requirement this is being shared with the RAS for announcement.

With deep regret that such things must come to a pass in Auroville.

Regards,

Anu Arun Partha Srimoy

Appendix A-20 - Sauro's personal response

27th April 2022

Personal response to the announcement on Wcom and PWG

April 27, 2022, 11:51 pm

Dear Community members,

please find below my immediate response that I have sent to Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoy immediately after receiving their communication that was later on posted on AuroNet.

Dear Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoy

I am reading with surprise, while I am on the way to attend a govt survey, your statement prepared without any discussion with us and after you have refused the request that three of us have made to the Council to have a facilitator in order to improve the dynamics of our groups.

Your document is full of inaccuracies, incorrect statements and lack of proper process. Therefore I don't recognise your communication as valid and I will continue to serve the community and Auroville in my capacity as member of the working Committee.

I regret that after absence of many of you from regular meetings you came out of the blue with such an abrupt proposal that show lack of respect in the manner you have chosen and reliance on the force of number which is not in the spirit on which the Participatory working groups function and therefore this proposal and request is Invalid.

I will continue anyway to attend the meetings of the working committee and my working tasks.

Regards,

Sauro

Appendix A-21 - Auroville Council response

29th April 2022

Working Committee to await the outcome of the RAD

April 29, 2022, 11:34 am

Dear Community,

In light of an announcement by 4 Working Committee members asking 3 Working Committee members to step down, referencing the Participatory Working Group (April 2022) document, while the Residents Assembly is deciding on the very same topic through a "vote of no confidence in the Working Committee", the Auroville Council on behalf of the Residents Assembly requests all Working Committee members to remain in their position and await the result of the Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD) on the 8th of May 2022.

The constellation of the Working Committee will be determined by the Residents Assembly through the provisions of the current RAD.

At Her service,

Auroville Council

Appendix A-22 - Letter by Dr G. Seetharaman

6th May 2022

Dr. G. SEETHARAMAN
Officer on Special Duty



Dear Working Committee

6 May 2022

As directed by Chairman and Governing Board, over the past several months, the Governing Board has been receiving many letters and emails from concerned residents of Auroville and devotees of Mother and Sri Aurobindo regarding the alarming situation in Auroville with regards to a complete dysfunctional state of affairs with the many committees of the Resident's Assembly; such as with the working groups of Working Committee, FAMC, Auroville Council etc, the innate complicated processes and procedures have led to a complete policy paralysis at the moment. The current system of inaccurate and non-transparent modalities of the election and selection of the members to these groups has led to ongoing logjam.

As per the Act. Section 18. (1) "The Residents Assembly shall consist of all the residents of Auroville who are for the time being entered in the register of residents maintained under this section".

Several questions were raised by the Governing Board to the Working Committee in regard to the functioning of the Residents Assembly and the Register of Residents. The response received is incomplete and not satisfactory.

In order to help overcome this dire situation the Governing Board directs the Residents Assembly to pause any decisions taken by the Resident Assembly before the updation of the Register of Residents; all current ongoing activities such as with the RAD (Residents Assembly's decision-making processes) are to be stopped with immediate effect until the Register of Residents (RoR) has been fully updated on an urgent basis. Any such decision taken before updating the Register of Residents will be invalid, null and void. Once this update is complete and verified, the Working Committee may proceed to assist the Residents Assembly to continue its community processes that rely on the attendance of its residents.

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BHAVAN, AUROVILLE - 605 101 (T.N.)
Tel : (0413) 262 2222 & 262 2414 Fax : (0413) 262 3496
E-mail: avfoundation@auroville.org.in

As it stands today, there are incongruent and incomplete information noted and available for the residents:

1. An application Agreement – (to be signed by all applicants May 18, 2020) <https://auroville.org/contents/4458>)
2. FORM-I [See regulation 9 (ii) and 10(ii)]
3. FORM-B Application for registration

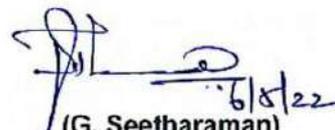
The information in the register of residents has not been updated since 2005 and thus currently contains inaccurate and unverifiable information as reference source for the attendance register leading to concerns of valid outcomes.

The Residents are, therefore, directed to immediately update their information sheets as attached to this mail. This may be done through a hard copy or also filled on line using [this link](#).

The members of the Working Committee and the Residents Assembly Service are requested to kindly expedite this process and ensure that the data fields related to all the Residents of Auroville are entered and submitted to the Office of Secretary, Auroville Foundation at the earliest, latest by June 10th, 2022.

In its communication, the Governing Board has directed the office of the Secretary to immediately request the Working Committee of the Auroville Foundation to begin with the updation of the Register of Residents with complete information of all residents in a timely manner. It has also directed the Secretariat office to update this register annually to keep it current and available for prompt and accurate access for the Auroville Residents' Assembly and any other office of the Government.

Thanking you,



(G. Seetharaman)
OSD

The Working Committee
Town Hall,
Auroville

Copy to
The Residents Assembly
Auroville

Appendix A-23 - Response of Residents

9th May 2022

In Response: Letter sent by Dr. G Seetharaman communicating that “the Governing Board directs the Residents Assembly to pause any decisions taken by the Resident Assembly before the updation of the Register of Residents.”

May 9th, 2022

Dear Dr. G Seetharaman,

Thank you for your communication dt. 06.05.22 in which you mention that the Register of Residents (RoR) has not been updated since 2005. You also note a "complete dysfunctional state of affairs with the many committees of the Residents' Assembly (RA)".

You have informed us that in order to "help overcome this dire situation the Governing Board directs the Residents Assembly to pause any decisions taken by the Resident Assembly before the updation of the Register of Residents; all current ongoing activities such as with the RAD (Residents Assembly's decision-making processes) are to be stopped with immediate effect until the Register of Residents (RoR) has been fully updated on an urgent basis. Any such decision taken before updating the Register of Residents will be invalid, null and void."

While updating the Register of Residents is a welcome initiative, please note that maintaining the RoR is the sole responsibility of the Secretary of the Governing Board as per the Auroville Foundation Act. The inadequate maintenance of the RoR has no bearing on the validity and legitimacy of the decision-making processes of the Residents' Assembly. Any ongoing decision-making process of the RA is therefore not to be paused, revoked, or otherwise impacted pending any update. In no country, including India, is any voting process halted or nullified on the basis of a census update.

Moreover, in 2018/2019 while the Auroville Foundation Office was issuing Auroville ID cards for Aurovilians through the Working Committee, an updated list of around 900 Aurovilians was submitted to the AvF Office and the Residents' Service (RS) so that the Register of Residents (as maintained by the Secretary) and the Master List (as maintained by the RS) could be updated. It is of dire concern that the RoR has not been updated at that time.

The Residents' Assembly Service verifies that all those who vote in a RAD process are Confirmed Aurovilians, using the list of residents maintained and provided by the Auroville Residents' Service (the Master List). This is sufficient information to validate their participation, and conforms with the Residents' Assembly's current formal decision making process. This process specifies the threshold of votes required for a valid decision (quorum) to be "10% of the number of confirmed Aurovilians as registered in the Residents Service database (master-list) at the time of the RAD". As such, the matter of the Register of Residents is not of primary concern regarding RAD processes.

While in your letter you refer to the Residents' Assembly being dysfunctional, we would like to bring to your attention that the recent decision *"To pause all clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work on the Right of Ways of Crown, Radials and Outer Ring in order to enable the community to define a way forward for Auroville's development..."* was arrived at with the highest participation of Auroville residents on record.

The current RAD process, for which voting ended on May 8th 2022, seeks to address a substantiated dysfunctionality (see attached the background documentation provided as part of this RAD process) in the representatives of the Residents' Assembly, the Working Committee.

This transparent process holds high standards in terms of integrity and consistency, in which members of the Auroville Residents' Assembly will choose which of its current representatives may continue in office, given the present exceptional circumstances. According to the Auroville Foundation Act 1988, the Residents' Assembly has the sole authority to choose members of the Working Committee, and how long they are to serve in this role.

The Residents' Assembly has also recently reviewed, incorporated feedback on and agreed an updated selection process for its working groups, and is in the process of similar reviews of other important internal policies. Pausing formal decisions of the Residents' Assembly which serve to improve its functioning, pending an update of the Register of Residents, cannot be seen to "help overcome this dire situation" as claimed in your letter.

For the Residents' Assembly to exercise its authority and capacity to decide on its representation and the due process of its decision-making is crucial and shows a healthy and functional state. Furthermore, once a functional Working Committee is assured by the Residents' Assembly, the former shall be able to fulfil its role of assisting the Residents' Assembly as well as the Governing Board in supporting the development of Auroville as per its ideals. And therefore contribute to a more cohesive way forward.

Until then, decisions made by the Governing Board in its areas of responsibility cannot be considered well-informed by the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation. We would also like to highlight that the Governing Board has a separate sphere of function from that of the Residents' Assembly, and is further not authorised by the Auroville Foundation Act 1988 to make any such directions to the Residents' Assembly.

Sincerely,

Members of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

Cc'd: International Advisory Council
Governing Board
Secretary to the Governing Board
Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
Auroville Council
Residents' Assembly Service
Residents' Service

Appendix A-24 - Response by 3 WCom members

15th May 2022

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter of 6th May, 2022, regarding the Register of Residents. We are writing in our capacity as members of the Working Committee and the Residents' Assembly. We note that your letter is partly in response to a letter, comments and documentation sent to the Secretary's office by the other 4 Working Committee members. We would like to put on record that this letter contains inaccuracies in the statements made as well as the basis for the 'questions to be asked'. We were not involved in writing the letter and we do not agree with many of the observations that were made in it.

In response to your letter we have the following observations:

- It is not correct that the Register of Residents has not been updated since 2005. An exercise of updating the RoR, with the help of the then Working Committee and staff dedicated full time, was undertaken in 2018-19 and the Auroville Foundation Office issued ID cards on that basis. Information about births, deaths and new people joining Auroville is regularly sent to the Secretary's office. It is then the job of the office of the Secretary to update the RoR accordingly. As per the Auroville Foundation Act, Section 18.2, it is the responsibility of the office of the Secretary to maintain the RoR.
- Moreover, every person, on joining Auroville, signs a form that has been officially gazetted as part of the Auroville Admission and Termination Regulations, 2019. The same form should be used for updating the RoR as this is what was approved by all 3 bodies of the Auroville Foundation. If changes are made to the form or a new form is proposed, due process is needed in order to gain similar approval.
- We do not share the view that the Residents' Assembly Service is a dysfunctional body. As per section 19 (3) of the Auroville Foundation Act, the Residents' Assembly may function by establishing committees and the relevant documentation has been sent to the Auroville Foundation Office from the Working Committee in January and April 2022. No comments have been received on this matter and if there is some area of dissatisfaction regarding their performance it must be brought to their notice with a chance for self-correction.
- We refute the statement that the Residents' Assembly as whole is a dysfunctional body. After the establishment of the Auroville Foundation, the Residents' Assembly has successfully completed the construction of Matrimandir. It has created and runs schools for Auroville and for the local region and our education system is attracting growing interest and attention from experts and observers. The Health system is running, our economic units are flourishing and financially supporting the community - the income from Auroville's own units constitutes the backbone for its functioning. The environmental work undertaken in Auroville is attracting increasing attention in India and worldwide. In the last twenty years an important effort for

development has taken place with new constructions in the City Center, the starting of the Residential Zone and several public buildings in the cultural zone. A large proportion of these developments have been made through funds raised by Aurovilians and only part through grants of the Government of India. It is important to note also that all lands purchased by Auroville have been entirely procured through fund raising efforts that have encouraged and resulted in private donations from abroad, from India and sometimes Aurovilians themselves.

- During the pandemic, when even the Auroville Foundation Office was closed at times, the Auroville Community showed an extraordinary resilience in facing the challenges of the lockdown, managing its public health system in direct coordination with the local authorities, facing the economic challenges and preserving its economic resources at a time of a global challenge.
- As for the complaints received by the Governing Board, in the spirit of natural justice, proper procedure would be to create a neutral body to hear both sides and arrive at a fair evaluation. Improving and growing is part of progress. The Working Committee had suggested in previous GB meetings to appoint experts from reputed organizations to study our systems and processes and suggest possible ways and means to make improvements for the future. But it seems instead that a judgement has arrived only giving weightage to certain voices and perspectives.
- Finally, regarding Residents' Assembly Decision-making (RAD) processes, we would like to respectfully note that it is the prerogative of the members of the Residents' Assembly to decide its internal mode of function. As it was stated in the Rajya Sabha by Mr. Shiv Shankar, Minister of Human Resources Development, presenting the Auroville Foundation Bill, 1988: "As far as the day-to-day activities are concerned, they will be looked after by the residents through appropriate autonomous arrangements, which will include Residents' Assembly and its Working Committee. The idea underlying this arrangement is that the residents of Auroville should have autonomy so that activities of Auroville can grow under an atmosphere conducive to harmonious growth."

While highlighting the great amount of work and progress that has been made in Auroville's 50 years of existence, we also readily acknowledge that there is a great scope for progress and improvement and we agree that Auroville should progress faster in a direction of inner and outer growth. It is our firm belief that the best way to enable and accelerate growth and progress in a manner that is reflecting the true spirit of Auroville is through collaborative rather than authoritarian methods and Intentions.

We would be happy to provide any further clarifications that may be required.

Sincerely,

Chali, Hemant, Sauro
Members, Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Appendix A-25 - RAD Outcome

10th May 2022

Outcome of the RAD on the proposal: "I agree to remove individual members of the Working Committee from office through this current RA decision..."

From: Residents' Assembly Service <raservice@auroville.org.in>

Date: Tue, May 10, 2022 at 11:56 AM

To: The Residents' Assembly

OUTCOME OF THE RA DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Dear Resident,

Here are the results of the RAD (voting) on the following proposal:

"I agree to remove individual members of the Working Committee from office through this current RA decision-making process, given their failure to 'assist' and 'represent' the Residents' Assembly as stated in their mandate. If more than 50% of voters agree that a member is to be removed, the term of that member ends with immediate effect.

I agree that any remaining members of the Working Committee will continue in office and can choose to appoint interim members. They can only do so in consultation with the Auroville Council.

These interim members can only be chosen from members of previous Working Committees. The term of the interim Working Committee members shall be until the next RA-approved Selection Process has been held, and new Working Committee members have been selected.

In the unlikely event that all Working Committee members are dismissed, the three Working Committee members who have the most votes to stay on will remain, as interim members, until the next RA-approved selection process".

A total of 864 valid votes have been submitted online and in-person. The number of participants exceeded the 10 per cent quorum required to validate the decision (239 votes)*.

** - Based on data received from the Residents Service, the total adult population of our community eligible to participate in RADs (age - above 18, confirmed Aurovilians) is 2389 (as of the month of May 2022).*

[More details >>>](#)

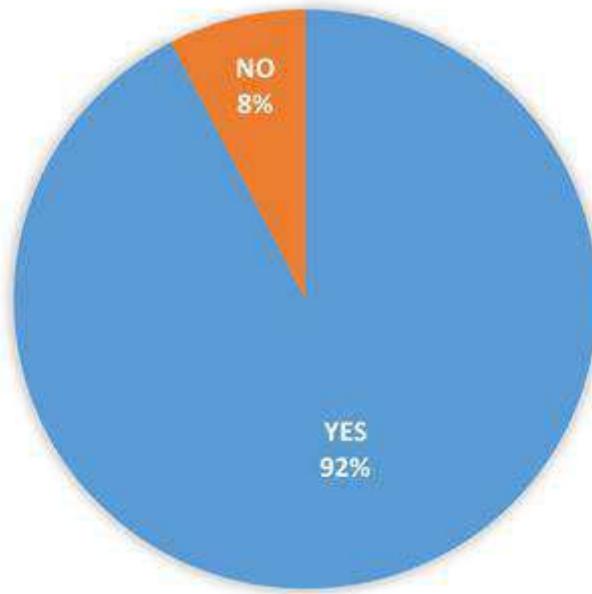
Kindly note that as per [the RAD policy](#) "Only confirmed Aurovilians can participate in decision-making.

*Those who have been announced as confirmed Aurovilians by the Entry Board are eligible to participate in all community decision-making processes **along with those** who have been entered into the Register of Residents maintained by the Secretary's Office. It does not include under 18-year-olds, newcomers and any other Auroville statuses".*

This utterance is based on the WCom unanimously signed declaration that "*the final decision of who is accepted as 'Aurovilian' should stay with the Residents' Assembly and not with the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation. Therefore, we have written to: the Residents' Assembly Service that those who have been announced as Confirmed Aurovilian by the Entry Board are eligible to participate in all community decision-making processes along with those who have been entered into the Register of Residents maintained by the Secretary's Office...*"

(<https://auroville.org.in/article/84308> / [About confirmed Aurovilian status](#) dt. 05.04.2021).

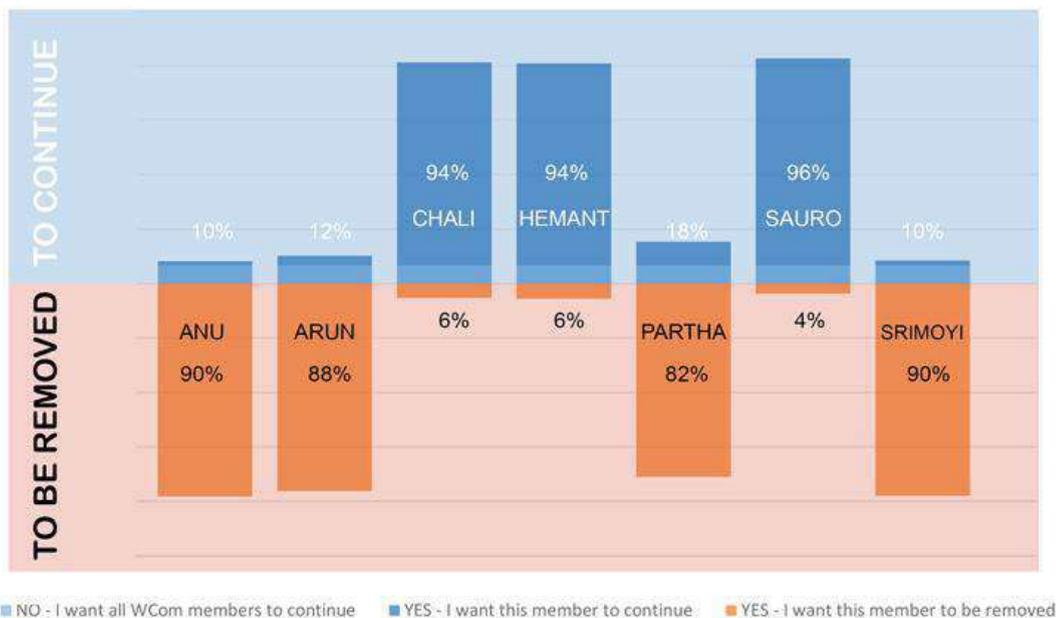
RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY DECISION:



92% (798) Aurovilians voted in favour of the above proposal.

8% (66) Aurovilians rejected it, and their votes have been counted as “no member to be dismissed”.

As the proposal states that *"... if more than 50% of voters agree that a member is to be removed, the term of that member ends with immediate effect"*, please see below details on the Working Committee composition approved by the Residents Assembly:



Anu:

782 votes - Anu to be removed;
82 votes - Anu to continue.

Arun:

762 votes - Arun to be removed;
102 votes - Arun to continue.

Chali:

52 votes - Chali to be removed;
812 votes - Chali to continue.

Hemant:

55 votes - Hemant to be removed;
809 votes - Hemant to continue.

Parthasarathy:

710 votes - Parthasarathy to be removed;
154 votes - Parthasarathy to continue.

Sauro:

37 votes - Sauro to be removed;
827 votes - Sauro to continue.

Srimoyi:

779 votes - Srimoyi to be removed;
85 votes - Srimoyi to continue.

As it is stated in the proposal: *"Remaining members of the Working Committee will continue in office and can choose to appoint interim members. They can only do so in consultation with the Auroville Council.*

These interim members can only be chosen from members of previous Working Committees. The term of the interim Working Committee members shall be until the next RA-approved Selection Process has been held, and new Working Committee members have been selected".

According to [the RAD policy](#), "8. Responsibility for implementing decisions made through this RAD process lies with the concerned working group/s or resident/s".

Many thanks to all the residents who participated in this decision-making event!

~ With gratitude,

For the Residents' Assembly Service

Dan, Giovanni P, Sathish A, Tatiana S

Appendix A-26 - Resolution RAD/03/2022

20th May 2022



AUROVILLE COUNCIL

Date தேதி: 20/05/2022

No. எண்: RAD/03/2022

Resolution via Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD)

குடியிருப்போர் அவை முடிவுமுறை வழியாக முடிவு (ஆர்ஏடி)

For all relevant authorities of the Auroville Foundation,

Whereas Ms. Anuradha Legrand, Arun S. Parthasarathy Krishnan, Srimoyi Rossegger, Hemant Lamba and Sauro Mezzetti were selected to the Working Committee by the Residents' Assembly on 14/02/2021, and Ms. Chali Grinnel was selected to the Working Committee on 21/04/2019,

Whereas as stated in the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 Section 20 (3) The manner of choosing the members of the Working Committee and their term of office shall be such as may be decided by the Residents' Assembly.

Whereas the Residents' Assembly ratified and allowed the usage of the Provisional Residents' Assembly Decision making process (RAD) on 19/10/2021 in order to fulfill its duty and authority under the Act, and to pass resolutions on the various activities, projects, and any other decisions of the Auroville Foundation within its jurisdiction,

Therefore, the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation, under the powers conferred by Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, on 10/05/2022 passed the following resolution:

1. To vacate and remove four members, namely Ms. Anuradha Legrand, Arun S. Parthasarathy Krishnan and Srimoyi Rossegger from the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly with immediate effect from the date of result of RAD (10/05/2022).
2. To allow Ms. Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba & Sauro Mezzetti, to continue in office as the Working Committee, as interim members, until the upcoming selection completion or until further directions from the Residents' Assembly unless through personal resignation of particular members.
3. To allow Ms. Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba & Sauro Mezzetti to select a maximum of four additional interim members to the Working Committee, in consultation with the Auroville Council, from among members who have been selected and served in any previous Working Committee. These members shall also continue in office with the same conditions as in point 2.

Details of the procedure and RAD passed by the Residents' Assembly may be attached to this resolution.

For the Auroville Council

Ganesh.K

AUROVILLE COUNCIL
AUR - ADMINISTRATIVE AREA
OWN HALL
AUROVILLE - 605 101
TAMIL NADU.

ACUR Auroville - 605 101 Tamil Nadu India ☎ 0413 2623655 Email: avcouncil@auroville.org.in



AUROVILLE FOUNDATION
ஆரோவில் அறக்கட்டளை

RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY
குடியிருப்போர் அவை

Date தேதி: 12/05/2022

No. எண்: RAD/03/2022

Resolution via Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD)

குடியிருப்போர் அவை முடிவுமுறை வழியாக முடிவு (ஆர்ஏடி)

Here are the results of the RAD (voting) on the following proposal:

"I agree to remove individual members of the Working Committee from office through this current RA decision-making process, given their failure to 'assist' and 'represent' the Residents' Assembly as stated in their mandate. If more than 50% of voters agree that a member is to be removed, the term of that member ends with immediate effect.

I agree that any remaining members of the Working Committee will continue in office and can choose to appoint interim members. They can only do so in consultation with the Auroville Council.

These interim members can only be chosen from members of previous Working Committees. The term of the interim Working Committee members shall be until the next RA-approved Selection Process has been held, and new Working Committee members have been selected.

In the unlikely event that all Working Committee members are dismissed, the three Working Committee members who have the most votes to stay on will remain, as interim members, until the next RA-approved selection process".

A total of 864 valid votes have been submitted online and in-person. The number of participants exceeded the 10 per cent quorum required to validate the decision (239 votes) - based on data received from the Residents Service, the total adult population of our community eligible to participate in RADs (age - above 18, confirmed Aurovilians) is 2389 (as of the month of May 2022).

92% (798) Aurovilians voted in favour of the above proposal.

8% (66) Aurovilians rejected it, and their votes have been counted as "no member to be dismissed".

As the proposal states that "... if more than 50% of voters agree that a member is to be removed, the term of that member ends with immediate effect", please see below details on the Working Committee composition approved by the Residents Assembly:

Anu to be removed - 782 votes; Anu to continue - 82 votes.

Arun to be removed - 762 votes; Arun to continue - 102 votes.

Chali to be removed - 52 votes; Chali to continue - 812 votes.

Hemant to be removed - 55 votes; Hemant to continue - 809 votes.

Parthasarathy to be removed - 710 votes; Parthasarathy to continue - 154 votes.

Sauro to be removed - 37 votes; Sauro to continue - 827 votes.

Srimoyi to be removed - 779 votes; Srimoyi to continue - 85 votes.

Details of the procedure and RAD passed by the Residents' Assembly are attached to this resolution.

Denis Capdeville (a.k.a. Dan)

Giovanni Parrillo

Murugan Arumugam (a.k.a. Sathish)

Tatiana Alexandrovna Sineeva

Residents' Assembly Service Members குடியிருப்போர் அவை உதவிக்குழு உறுப்பினர்கள்

Phone தொலைபேசி: +91 (413) 2623701

Email மின்னஞ்சல்: raservice@auroville.org.in

Website இணைய வலை: www.ras-auroville.org

குடியிருப்போர் அவை உதவிக்குழு, ஆரோவில் அறக்கட்டளை

Residents' Assembly Service, Auroville Foundation

நகராட்சிமன்றம் (அகர்), விழுப்புரம், தமிழ்நாடு, 605101 இந்தியா

Townhall (ACUR), Viluppuram, Tamil Nadu, 605101, India



Appendix A-27 - Announcement of interim members

10th May 2022

Interim Members for Working Committee

By Working Committee (WC) , 10 May 2022 / 03:40 pm
in Announcement

Dear Residents,

We hereby announce the 3 new Interim Members for Working Committee who will start functioning with immediate effect, along with the 4 current members, Anu, Arun, Partha & Srimoyi. This interim membership will continue until further notice.

Interim Members:

1. Joseba
2. Selvaraj
3. Tine

Greetings,

The Working Committee

Appendix A-28 - Announcement by AVFO

10th May 2022

Working Committee announcement via AV Foundation

May 10, 2022, 7:04 pm

The Working Committee has requested the Auroville Foundation to publish the following message:

Dear Residents,

This is to inform you that after 3 members of the Working Committee were removed through a majority vote in the Working Committee, in compliance with the PWG document, we have added 3 interim members to ensure a smooth continuity in our work until further notice.

The Interim members are: Tine, Joseba and Selvaraj.

Additionally we will be working with 3 resource persons for any special Assistance.

The resource persons are: Aryamani, Chandresh and Torkil.

Greetings,

The Working Committee

Appendix A-29 - Auroville Council announcement

10th May 2022

Erroneous publication by AV Foundation office. Please disregard.

May 10, 2022, 8:30 pm

Dear Community,

The Auroville Foundation office has again posted the same erroneous statement by Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi which was just removed by the Auroville Council. Totally 2 posts were removed by Council. In both the posts, including the latest one where the AV Foundation office is communicating on behalf of the 4 individuals, they have signed as the "Working Committee", which is inappropriate. The 4 individuals have erred on 2 occasions in regard to the process in the last days:

1. While suggesting to remove 3 Working Committee members using a clause in the PWG 2022, they have not used due process as they clearly did not "exhaust all attempts" for integration. The 4 members (Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi) refused the help of the Council and the use of a facilitator to bridge their differences, when the other 3 members (Chali, Sauro and Hemant) had reached out to the Council seeking help with this integration.
2. The Council did not see the need to clarify the previous point as it had asked all the members of the Working Committee to await the result of the RAD on the very same subject through "a vote of no confidence in and a re-selection of the Working Committee".

RADs supersede any decision by the Working Committee. Unfortunately they have chosen not to acknowledge the RAD process. Therefore please disregard the announcement by the Auroville Foundation office, communicated on behalf of Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi as erroneous.

Regards,

Auroville Council

Appendix A-30: AVFO demands handover of keys to the WCom office

12th May 2022

From: Srinivasmurty Palakodeti R <srinivasmurty@auroville.org.in>
Date: Thu, 12 May 2022, 10:25
Subject: Handover of keys
To: acur . <acur@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Secretary AV Foundation <secretaryavf@auroville.org.in>

Dear ACUR team,

You are hereby instructed to kindly hand over all the sets of keys of the 2 Working Committee rooms to the Auroville Foundation office

Thanks & regards,
Srinivasmurty

From: **avcoffice** . <avcoffice@auroville.org.in>
Date: Thu, May 12, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: Re: [avc] Fwd: Handover of keys
To: ACUR <acur@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Auroville Council <avcouncil@auroville.org.in>, Sauro Mezzetti <sauro@auroville.org.in>, Hemant Lamba <hemant@auroville.org.in>, Chali Grinnell <chali@auroville.org.in>, FAMC Administration <adminfamc@auroville.org.in>, Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in>

Dear ACUR team,

ACUR is hosting offices for the Residence Assembly.

The recognized members of the Working Committee of the Residents Assembly are Chali, Hemant and Sauro. The result of the ratified decision for the membership of the Working Committee of the Residence Assembly was published on the 10th of May 2022.

The request from Mr. Srinivasmurthy can respectfully not be honored as the names suggested for the Working Committee of the Residence Assembly by the honorable office of Mr. Srinivasmurthy are not recognized by the Residents Assembly of the Auroville Foundation. Please share any requests from the Auroville Foundation office with the Working Committee or the Auroville Council of the Residents Assembly for approval.

Kind Regards,
Auroville Council

Appendix A-31 - Announcement from WCom & Auroville Council

14th May 2022

WC/AVC: Announcing the interim members of the Working Committee

14 May 2022 / 04:18 pm

Dear Members of the Residents' Assembly,

We would like to inform the community, as agreed by the Residents' Assembly, that the members of the Working Committee (Chali, Hemant and Sauro) who were ratified in the last RAD to continue, hereby appoint Elisa (New Creation), Gilles (Samasti) and Juergen Axer (Sunship) as interim members of the Working Committee. A 4th interim member will be announced soon as we are awaiting confirmations from prospective candidates. The interim members have been selected and appointed, by the ongoing Working Committee members in consultation with the Auroville Council, as outlined in the recently concluded RAD process.

In addition, Raju (Grace) has agreed to be a resource person in the role of Police Liaison and Ranjith (Mangalam) will be a resource person in the areas of land issues and labour issues.

The term of office of the interim members will start with immediate effect from the date of announcement and will continue till the Residents' Assembly chooses full-time members through a Residents' Assembly selection process.

Many thanks and best wishes,

The Working Committee and the Auroville Council

Appendix A-32 - Letter to high ranking Indian officials by the /AVFO 'WCom'

15th May 2022

Subject: Current Emergency Situation in the Operations of Residents Assembly of Auroville

From: Working committee <workingcom.auroville@gmail.com>

Date: Sunday, 15 May 2022 at 1:23 PM

To: President of India <presidentofindia@rb.nic.in>, <pressecy@alpha.nic.in>, <pmosb@pmo.nic.in>, <amitshah.mp@sansad.nic.in>, <eam@mea.gov.in>, <minister.sm@gov.in>, <pstosm@gov.in>, <psnsa@gov.in>, <govtam@nic.in>, <lg.pon@nic.in>, <pstolg.py@gov.in>, <cmo@tn.gov.in>, <cabinet@nic.in>, <hshso@nic.in>, <psfs@mea.gov.in>, "Secretary, Department of Higher Education" <secy.dhe@nic.in>, <nirima@gmail.com>, Aravindan Neelakandan <Aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com>, <gghosal87@gmail.com>, <rssaraju@gmail.com>, <gbnandana1956@gmail.com>, <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, <jsfa.edu@gov.in>, Dena Merriam <dena.merriam@finnpartners.com>, Gabi Gillissen <yogabi@roottolight.com>, "Hasmukh P. Rama" <hp@aurohotels.com>, Michel Danino <micheldanino@gmail.com>, American Institute of Vedic Studies <vedicinstitute@gmail.com>, <secretaryavf@gmail.com>

Cc: <anu@auroville.org.in>, <srimoyi@auroville.org.in>, <arun.s@auroville.org.in>, Joseba <joseba@auroville.org.in>, Parthasarathy Krishnan <partha@auroville.org.in>, "Selvaraj D." <selva@auroville.org.in>, tine <tine@auroville.org.in>

To:

Hon'ble President of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan,

New Delhi

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,

New Delhi

Hon'ble Home Minister,

New Delhi

Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs

New Delhi

Hon'ble Minister of Education

New Delhi

Hon'ble NSA,

New Delhi

Hon'ble Governor, Tamil Nadu

Chennai

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

Chennai

Cabinet Secretary, Govt. of India

New Delhi

Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
New Delhi
Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi
Secretary, Ministry of Education, Shastri Bhavan
New Delhi
Hon'ble members: Governing Board
Auroville Foundation
Hon'ble members: International Advisory Council
Auroville Foundation
Secretary, Auroville Foundation
Auroville

Respected Sir/Madam,

We had our first joint-meeting with the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, on 11th May, 2022 following our mail informing them of the changes in membership of the Working Committee (letter attached). A meeting was convened by the Secretary thereafter on 11th May, to resume our working sessions (meeting report attached).

The new team has the 4 members from the previous group: Ms Anuradha Legrand, Mr. Arun, Mr Parthasarathy Krishnan & Ms Srimoyi Rossegger and three additional interim members: Mr Joseba Martinez Burdaspar, Mr Damotharan Selvaraj and Ms Christine Neuman. Several points were discussed, particularly the updating of the Register of Residents that is long pending and the renewal of Visas for foreign nationals that are urgent.

However, there are very strong obstructions by three of the previous Working Committee members and the Auroville Council who are doing everything to prevent us from carrying forward any official work. To explain, here is a quick recap of events that has led to this impasse:

- Following the December 4, 2021 events of clearing the Right of Way that has been pending since several years, the above mentioned members of the Working Committee were singled out for an emergency Residents Assembly Decision (RAD) to be removed as they did not agree to stop the long pending and critical work to manifest the master plan of Auroville (our letter to community attached);

- A vicious campaign was launched by the Resident Assembly Service team (RAS) with the Auroville Council's support, following an anonymous RAD petition whereby the list of petitioners was kept secret in spite of requests from us and members of the community for a transparent community process. The false and maligning campaign, complete with the use of videos in 3 languages, was spread not only within the community of Auroville, but all over the world through various social media channels to the Auroville International Centres and all other outlets. This was unprecedented, without any collective agreement to behave in such a divisive manner that puts the Auroville project in a very poor light. It also implied that anyone else could campaign in a similar way provided they had funds and social media range - throwing the very core aim of

Auroville's transparent governance and self-organization out of the window. Most people boycotted this voting process which then was orchestrated on a daily basis to bring about the result.

- In between, on April 27th, the four members decided to follow a provision indicated in the Participatory Working Group (PWG) process where acting members may remove other remaining members based on certain critical and unprecedented criteria and reasons (letter and reasons attached). The Auroville Council advised the RAS to only follow the arguments provided by the removed three members, namely Ms Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba & Sauro Mezzetti (previous working committee) and have rejected our stand which is based on an approved PWG process.
- No cognisance has been taken of the OSD's letter advising a pause to the RAD until the Register of Register has been updated completely. There was an objection raised by Ms Chali Grinnell, Mr. Hemant Lamba and Mr. Sauro Mezzetti to this. We provided our further response (attached);
- The administrators of AuroNet, an internal social bulletin board for posting important communications to the residents of Auroville, removed two posts by us to brief the Resident Assembly on the proper change of the Working Committee. This was done by the AuroNet admins at the orders of the Auroville Council.

At present we, the new team, are facing the following obstructions from carrying out our routine work.

- Since 11th May afternoon we are prevented from entering Working Committee office and secretariat to carry out the important works of Register of Residents, renewal of visas etc.;
- The 3 secretaries of the Working Committee were told not to cooperate with us or share computer passwords for us to access the necessary official files, correspondence, folders and other official documents;
- Our names were stricken off the Working Committee mailing list without any prior notice;
- The Auroville Council and Mr. Hemant Lamba, Ms Chali Grinnell and Mr Sauro Mezzetti have written to the Town hall facilities management to change the locks of the rooms (see attached) and to not allow us access to our working premises;
- Yesterday we found that there was intrusion and the locks had been changed during the night without any proper approval of the Town Hall facilities management nor the Auroville Foundation Security Officer. We also found that the working committee offices and the corridors leading to them were occupied by many Auroville residents and these people obstructed us from approaching or entering the premises to carry out our work.
- We do not have, any longer, a place to carry out the official work nor access to any of the Working Committee official materials and documents. We urgently request help so that all official materials are not tampered with or removed from the premises.

- We have no official Auroville working group email anymore and thus are unable to post updates or communicate to the community on AuroNet or on our bulletin board as the Working Committee of Auroville. We strongly condemn the way the Auroville process has been hijacked with all kinds of unacceptable and unreasonable justifications and actions. A very negative atmosphere has now resulted and there is total non-collaboration. It is now clear that no reasoning nor collaboration will be accepted by this tight grouping which does not recognize anyone else except themselves. The visa work needs to be resumed. However, misleading information and scare mongering has been spread creating further misjudgement and unfounded fear which is very unfortunate. Auroville residents are granted a special visa. To date, 595 visas have been recommended as was recommended by the Working Committee and none has been withheld. A smaller number has been given less than the time recommended and are being verified for details.

We, the undersigned, hereby assert ourselves as the Working Committee of the Residents Assembly of Auroville willing to assist both the Residents of Auroville and the Governing Board of Auroville Foundation just as the Auroville Foundation Act stipulates, to help in the harmonious growth and development needed for Auroville, specially at this period of Sri Aurobindo's 150th Birth Anniversary.

Auroville finds itself at an unprecedented crossroads. The road ahead must become what the Mother laid out for Auroville when it was founded with two things: Her envisioned city plan and the Charter with which she laid down the aims of Auroville. Both of these are enshrined in the Auroville Foundation Act and must be safeguarded for the future of Auroville and for all who are yet to come to collaborate and manifest the actual human unity that the Charter demands of us.

The previous Governing Boards repeatedly urged us to take firm steps to move forward and we are particularly very grateful for the steps the present Governing Board has taken to assure us of this fulfilment.

Kindly advise us on the next steps we can expect.

Best Regards,

Anuradha Legrand, Arun S, Joseba Martinez Burdaspar, Parthasarathy Krishnan, Selvaraj Damocharan, Srimoyi Rossegger, Chistina Neuman

Attachments:

1. Letter to Secretary about change of membership, 10 May
2. Report of meeting with Secretary AVF, 11 May
3. Letter to the community about the RAD decision imposed on 4 members
4. Letter to RAS about the PWG clause for removal of members
5. Reasons for PWG Removal
6. Further Response to OSD's letter
- 7 & 8. Letters from Hemant and Council to ACUR (Townhall management)

Appendix A-33 - FIR details

17th May 2022

What follows is the details of the FIR complaint registered by the Undersecretary Mr Srinivasamurty against six Aurovilians, including three bonafide Working Committee members, as registered on 17th May 2022.

“Subject: Obstruction of Working Committee members from entering office, illegitimate seizing and tampering of mail accounts by Auroville individuals - who are against Auroville Foundation and wrongfully having the keys of the Auroville Working Committee office. Since several months many Auroville residents are actively blocking the development of the city of Auroville and engaging in protests and blocking authorised development work on Crown Road. In continuation of that some residents organised an anonymous and illegal voting process to expel 4 members of the Working committee, who are in favour of Auroville Foundation office’s initiative. Despite the Auroville Foundation asking not to engage in these illegal activities, some residents have done so and have now illegally taken over the Working Committee office on the 11th of May 2022 at 11 am onwards. Now the actual working committee members as selected by the Residents’ Assembly and recognized by the Auroville Foundation are obstructed and restrained from entering the room and render their lawful duties. Additionally, using the authority of the seized email inbox we suspect that these persons are engaging in deletion of incriminating and official data. Further we understand that the actual members of the WC are unable to enter the office due to criminal intimidation and wrongful obstruction by 1) Hemant Lamba, 2) Sauro Menzetti 3) Renu (Lisa Neogy), 4 Wazo (Michel Gronoff), 5) Suryan Stettner, 6) Chali Grinell who is instigating from abroad, and a few others, thereby preventing the lawful entry of the authorised WC members. Further the office of the WC is occupied by a large number of residents who are against the Auroville Foundation. We hereby request you to take appropriate legal action against the above mentioned persons who are indulging in criminal activities against Auroville Foundation and restore the office and mailbox in the hands of the lawful WC for continuing regular duties. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority. Yours Faithfully, sd xxxx P. R. Srinivasamurty”

Appendix A-34 - Pictures of Police presence in Town Hall

18th May 2022



Appendix A-35 - Communication from the AVC

8th June 2022

Clarification on WCom and RoR

June 8, 2022, 1:24 pm

Dear Community,

In the light of the confusion surrounding the Working Committee of the Residents Assembly and the updating of the Register of Residents (RoR) by the office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation we feel the need to make this statement.

Firstly, there is only 1 Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly as per the recent RAD outcome. The confusion has arisen based on 3 unfortunate developments listed here.

1. The four ex-Working Committee members (removed by the RAD) had incorrectly used a clause in the PWG document (as confirmed by the Council) attempting to remove their fellow Working Committee members. The details of this error are 2-fold and can be shared at a later time if necessary.

For the above point, it must be understood that the Council mandate states that the Council will "oversee the observance of policies and decisions approved by the RA in collaboration with the Working Committee and will address non-compliance with established Auroville policies". As this clause is part of the Council mandate it clearly gives the presiding role of being the mandated group to oversee the observance of policies and decisions of the RA to the Council (above that of the Working Committee). But regardless of this, as the non-compliance in this case concerns the Working Committee itself, and with the obvious conflict of interest, this role falls upon Council solely.

2. Not only have the four ex-Working Committee members disregarded our internal policies but they have rejected the authority of the Residents Assembly to choose the term of Working Committee members as stipulated in the Foundation Act. While the RA was in the process (RAD) of a potential "vote of no confidence in and new selection of the current Working Committee", these four members disregarded the authority of the RA by attempting to remove the other three members of the Working Committee.

This power, as per the Foundation Act, to determine the term of Working Committee members is clearly bestowed, which means that the RA can at any time select new members at its discretion including their terms. This infers the removal of Working Committee members as well.

3. Lastly, the letter received from Mr. Seetharaman, Officer on Special Duty (OSD), asking the RA to pause all RADs and intending to annul all RADs until the RoR is updated, was an apparent overreach of the function of the OSD. In order for the RA to function as an authority of the Auroville Foundation, it must be able to make decisions and give its recommendations when

necessary. In its function the GB amongst other things may accord approval to the programs of Auroville drawn up by the RA, it cannot pause them arbitrarily. Nor can the GB infringe on the right of the RA to select the Working Committee. So far the Office of the Secretary has unfortunately not recognised the recent RAD result nor the appointment of the legitimate interim Working Committee of the Resident' Assembly.

For all of the above reasons, the selected Working Committee members (Chali, Hemant, Sauro) who were recently confirmed by the RA on the 10th May 2022, including the appointed interim members (Elisa, Gilles and Jurgen), are the members of the only and official Working Committee of the Residents Assembly of the Auroville Foundation.

We hope this clarifies, please feel free to write if you have any doubts.
We pray for the spirit of respect and collaboration to emerge between all the bodies of the Auroville Foundation and between all the individuals connected to this wondrous dream of the Mother's.

Sincerely and warm regards,

Auroville Council and Working Committee

Appendix A-36 - RA WCom update

14th June 2022

Dear friends,

We want to update you on a few on-going topics.

1. Regular meetings of AVC, FAMC and WCom continue

The Working Committee continues to meet with the Auroville Council and, when required, the Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) of the Residents' Assembly to discuss and coordinate responses to the various exceptional issues that the community is facing. The continued unilateral attempts by the Secretary to enforce her vision over the principles and functioning of Auroville and the Residents' Assembly are supported by a small number of self-appointed residents, and this is understandably causing confusion and disquiet for many residents. We see the need, by listening to many residents' voices, to stand for the Residents' Assembly's decisions and integrity, as well as empower it to hold its own functioning and processes which are crucial to Auroville's core purpose and evolution.

2. Disputable 'dissolution' and 'constitution' of ATDC and FAMC by Governing Board

The Office of the Secretary to the Governing Board states that the Governing Board has reconstituted the Auroville Town Development Council with a new Standing Order and appointed members to it by Office Order. Similarly, the Office of the Secretary states that the Governing Board has also reconstituted the FAMC as a committee of the Governing Board, despite this committee of the Residents' Assembly (RA) having operated for many years with an approved RA mandate constituting it in a formal decision in 2016. The FAMC of the Residents' Assembly has a unique history arising from the Rules and Regulations. It has always been a working group constituted by the Residents' Assembly and it has been formally recognised by all previous Governing Boards. The Standing Order and Office Orders which are claimed to be in place have not been shared with us or to the wider community, which are questionable practices.

Selection of members of the Residents' Assembly for the Working Committee, FAMC, Entry Board / Admission Committee, Exit / Termination Committee, TDC, Auroville Council or any other group or committee constituted under section 19.3 of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, is the prerogative of the Residents' Assembly. If any of the other two authorities, namely the Governing Board or the International Advisory Council, would like to propose membership for any such groups or committees, then the right authority to collaborate with would be the Residents' Assembly through its duly-selected Working Committee. The selection process to choose residents for such groups and committees is well laid out and respected, although still evolving as we learn and adapt it to the community's needs. The Residents' Assembly has not delegated its right to select its group and committee members to any other body of the Auroville Foundation.

As some additional background, please note that the Working Committee raised at an early stage the issue of the Governing Board's Organization and Governance Committee not engaging with

the Residents' Assembly. In its response to the 58th Governing Board Minutes of Meeting, the Working Committee stated: "There are currently efforts being made by Auroville residents and working groups to review and improve organization and governance in Auroville. We believe this committee needs to be enlarged to include representatives of the 2 other authorities of the Foundation, which are the Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Council."

The Organization and Governance Committee did not consult the Residents' Assembly nor its Working Committee before formulating its recommendations to the Governing Board.

3. Upcoming Selection Process for working groups

We strongly support all the residents of Auroville who will participate in the upcoming Selection Process during which new members will be selected for the Auroville Council, ATDC, Entry Board, FAMC and Working Committee. As previously stipulated, these are committees of the Residents' Assembly and therefore must be appointed by our collectively agreed-upon processes. It is truly uplifting to see how many people nominated and put themselves forward for the working groups in these intense times. We are equally grateful to those randomly selected residents who will make up the selection committees.

4. Case filed at the Madras High Court in Chennai

A case was filed by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly represented by Hemant Lamba on Monday 13th June 2022 at the Madras High Court in Chennai. The request made to the honourable High Court is to ask the Auroville Foundation represented by its Secretary to abstain from interfering with the work of the Residents' Assembly and their lawful Working Committee. The lawyer standing for the Auroville Foundation represented by the Secretary assured the court that no steps will be taken by the Auroville Foundation till the next hearing on Monday 20th June 2022 when the case will be further heard.

5. FIR anticipatory bail granted

In May 2022, the Under Secretary filed an FIR (First Investigation Report) against six Aurovilians, including three members of the Working Committee. The first hearing took place on 25th May and the second hearing on Friday June 10th, in which anticipatory bail was granted, despite attempts by the Office of the Secretary to challenge the application made by those accused. An anticipatory bail is a preventive relief to ensure that no individual is confined in any way until and unless found guilty. This means that they cannot be arrested and sent to jail unless a judgement is reached against them. The Working Committee states that the charges brought against these six residents have no substance and are an extreme attempt to intimidate the Residents' Assembly and its working groups into submitting to the decisions and actions of the Office of the Secretary. Please be assured that we will continue to do our duty to the Residents' Assembly by protecting and upholding its decisions and its Functioning.

6. Meetings of the community

The Working Committee encourages the holding of peaceful meetings and gatherings as and when needed, as it is important that the Residents' Assembly continues to communicate, be informed and function in spite of the challenging times Auroville is going through. It is important that we continue to unite our diversities, and that we address the false and divisive narrative of local Aurovilians vs. Aurovilians of foreign origin which has unfortunately been spread by a few individuals. In this regard, we are grateful to the bilingual gathering organised by a group of Tamil

Aurovilians on Monday 13th June, and other such attempts to uphold genuine initiatives of coming together as a Community.

7. Methods of communication

Since the takeover of the auroville.org.in domain, the Working Committee mailbox, the AuroNet platform and the community's massbulletin, the Working Committee and the Auroville Council have started setting up alternative methods of communication. The Working Committee can be reached at workingcom@auroville.services and a new mass mailing system has been put in place, to which you can subscribe by filling this form. Other alternative methods of communication are being explored but may take some time to be released, therefore we suggest residents create their own private spaces for discussion if that need is felt.

More soon.

In service,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
Chali, Elisa, Gilles, Hemant, Juergen, Sauro

Appendix A-37 - Meeting notes of /AVFO 'ATDC'/, /AVFO 'FAMC'/ and /AVFO 'WCom'/ Joint Meeting

14th June 2022

AUROVILLE TOWN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AUROVILLE FINANCE AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AUROVILLE WORKING COMMITTEE

Meeting:	ATDC/FAMC/WC Joint Weekly Meeting
Date/Time:	14 & 16-06-2022 / Tuesday & Thursday / 13:15 - 15:00 & 14:30 - 15:45
Venue:	Meeting Room, Foundation Bhavan, Auroville
Present:	ATDC: Mr. Govind (only Thursday) Mr. Hemant, Ms. Jaya, Mr. Prasad, Ms. Sindhuja, Mr. Toby FAMC: Mr. Chandresh, Ms. Geeta (from topic 2), Ms. Jocelyn, Ms. Ocean, Mr. Torkil WC: Ms. Anu, Mr. Arun, Mr. Joseba, Mr. Ponnusamy (only Thursday) Mr. Parthasarathy, Mr. Selvaraj Ms. Srimoyi, Ms. Tine (from topic 2)
Absent:	FO: Madam Secretary, Mr. Dev FAMC: Mr. Sathyanarayanan
Invitees:	-
Notes:	Ms. Lieve
14-06-2022 ATDC/FAMC/WC JOINT MEETING MINUTES	
This meeting focused on identifying projects that are ready for immediate implementation. For each project, a task force was created, and several attention points discussed.	
TOPIC 1	Housing
Decision	Task force members: Arun (WC), Jaya (ATDC), Jocelyn (FAMC), Joseba (WC), Partha (WC), Toby (ATDC - convener)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1,000 beds: 783 in Line of Goodwill (LoG), 302 in Habitat area; CPWD will float the tender ● Residential Zone Sectors 1 & 2: 9 pockets have been identified for immediate development, Line of Progress (LoP) is one of them and already being developed; 8 others still need project managers ● student apartments / hostels to be explored with ● farms and forests to be divided in smaller plots where temporary housing can be built quickly (Egle's proposal) ● 3D printing of houses (Venkatesh (Housing Service) proposal) ● trials for fast temporary housing can be done outside of the MP area ● leasing or buying of houses in the bio-region ● crowd funding / selling of outlying lands ● population growth needs to be looked into

TOPIC 2	Mobility
Decision	Task force members: Ms. Djeya (ATDC), Mr. Boobalan (ATDC), Mr. Prasad (ATDC - convener), Mr. Mathi (Vigilance) SSNs (Secondary Service Nodes) task force: Mr. Debo, Ms. Jaya (ATDC), Ms. Sindhuja (ATDC - convener), Ms. Srimoyi (WC)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify which entrance roads into AV can be closed • Aurinoco to be informed about CCTV installations • AVSST needs to be responsive to WC and collaborate
TOPIC 3	Stewardships
Decision	Task force members: Ms. Lieve (ATDC), Mr. Toby (ATDC), other members to be identified by FAMC (convener)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large plots "owned" by individuals can no longer be accepted • objective rules to be formulated for stewardship/management of farms and forests: productivity • land use according to the Master Plan (MP) • study of Mr. Pashi about all outlying lands • different policies for lands inside or outside the MP area • farm policy need a separate task force • all public properties (roads, parks, public buildings etc) stewarded by ATDC
TOPIC 4	Prosperity
Decision	No help is needed, the presentation is available online. The PTDC extension needs to be expedited by ATDC (Govind).
TOPIC 5	Start-ups and Incubation
Decision	Task force to be constituted by FAMC.
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StartUp Toolkit booklet by Flourish Group • startups are generally OK, acceleration and growth issues • revolving fund, but part of that will be unavoidable loss • Unity Fund has 60 crores in bank accounts; giving loans against interest; not its purpose: UF created to be available to facilitate economic activities • presently only individual initiatives for personal gratification; a shift towards Auroville-needed activities that are given to Aurovilians to manage or work with/in • units presently syphon off profits and income to buy personal property outside AV

TOPIC 6	Governance / RA
Decision	All three groups have to identify the existing working groups that are performing tasks belonging to the group, and therefore should be under the respective group. WC will send out their proposal for a new governance structure. FAMC and WC have to discuss this topic together, but as it is a very core issue, all members of the three groups are invited to participate.
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WC is intermediate between GB and RA, are representatives of the RA; therefore the ARE the RAS • no voting, voting started recently • check Shri Kireet Joshi's thoughts about the role of the RA • find all words of the Mother about governance • OGC to be consulted
TOPIC 7	Multiple executive/trusteeships held by same persons
Decision	FAMC is already dealing with the restructuring of the Trust situation.
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce all trusts into only one trust, one GST number • integral accounting system
TOPIC 8	Points from the 57th GB MoM
Decision	A very large economical review was listed in the MoM. FAMC has gone through and is taking up implementation.
TOPIC 9	Legal differences between Indian Aurovilians and foreign Aurovilians
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check what the yearly cost of visa fees is for Aurovilians
TOPIC 10	Financial situation
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • look at all activities that are generating income by Aurocilians or with Auroville assets but are not accounted for
TOPIC 11	Counteracting the lies being spread
Decision	Regular statements with facts need to be sent out and published as there are very regularly factually false statements made.
End of the minutes	

Appendix A-38 - Office Order for ACUR (Town Hall)

21th June 2022

P. R. SRINIVASAMURTY
UNDER SECRETARY

No. AF/Unit/179/519

21 June 2022

OFFICE ORDER

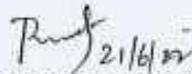
Secretary, Auroville Foundation had issued the change of Executives of ACUR, lastly vide Office Order No. 295 dated 20-03-2012.

ACUR Team has been directed to handover keys of the Working Committee office rooms on 12-05-2022. No effective action was taken nor responded to the request. In view of the inaction and non-compliance, the Office of the Secretary had to call for police presence and secure the possession.

The present executives of ACUR are hereby replaced with the following executives:

1. Mr. Balu Kuppusamy
2. Ms. Lieve Claes
3. Mr. K. Venkateswaran

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(P. R. Srinivasamurty)

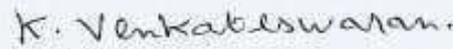
To
The Executives Concerned



Mr. Balu Kuppusamy



Ms. Lieve Claes



Mr. K. Venkateswaran

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BHAVAN, AUROVILLE - 605 101 (T.N.)
Tel : (0413) 262 2222 & 262 2414 Fax : (0413) 262 3496
E-mail: avfoundation@auroville.org.in

Appendix A-39 - Report of the Residents' Assembly Service

11th July 2022



SELECTION PROCESS 2022

PREPARATION

The Candidates

Selection Process 2022 kicked off on 19th May with a call for nominations for the following Working Groups: Auroville Council, ATDC, Entry Board, FAMC and Working Committee (<https://mailchi.mp/auroville/sp-2022-nominations-1000750>).

78 community members applied to become members of the above Working Groups although 9 of them withdrew prior to the selection day. For those being temporarily out of station, the newly approved 'Participatory Working Groups' & the Selection Process of their Members' document ([PWG 2022](#)) has a provision to participate in the selection event virtually.

The Residents' Assembly Service (RAS) invited feedback on the nominees on 10th June (<https://mailchi.mp/auroville/sp-2022-feedback-1000870>), running for 2 weeks. RAS registered 838 instances of feedback in total.

As provided in the PWG document, feedback was not made public, and the feedback givers could opt to remain anonymous (however his/her name was recorded by the RAS) or to disclose his/her name to the Selection Teams, also known as 'Selectors'.

The feedback was provided anonymously to the nominees on the eve of the selection process (24th June), to give the opportunity to respond or withdraw their nomination, as per the PWG. The feedback on the withdrawn nominees was deleted and was not provided to the Selectors.

The Selection Group

By the end of May the RAS started creating a pool of randomly chosen Selectors (<https://mailchi.mp/auroville/sp-2022-nominations-re-1000770>). The list of potential Selectors has been formed in the presence of 3 Aurovilians, who were randomly picked out at Le Morgan, Town Hall area, and video recorded. In fact, to have a sufficient number of Selectors (max 40 – min 24, according to the [PWG 2022](#)), we sent more than 400 emails in 4 successive batches, we made phone calls, and sent SMS, we made efforts to also reach those who didn't have email could be reached out. Eventually, 41 selectors accepted to be a part of the Selection Group.

The preparation/training session took place in Unity Pavilion on 18th June, where 31 selectors (out of the 41 who had accepted to be Selectors) attended presentations from present or recent members of each Working Group to understand their needs, with a question and answer session for each presentation, as well as short presentations, made by community members, to offer balanced perspectives on the needs of the Working Groups. They were reminded about the Charter of Auroville,

the Dream and To be a True Aurovillian; and also went through some aspects of the Auroville Foundation Act, working group structure and mandates. The afternoon training was focused on listening skills, recognising bias, consensus building and how to deal with community feedback.

To make the preparation session/training and selection event happen, RAS constituted an Organization Team: facilitator – Stefan, the Citizens' Assembly members (Anshul, David, Helen, Henrike, Sophie (Melodie), Suryamayi), RAS resource persons (Chloé, Ganesh G.), volunteers (Amy L., Auradha and Tanisha). It was also composed of the RAS members (Giovanni P., Sathish A., Tatiana S.)*. The Silent Presence Keepers (Iris, Helen, Karen, Pala, Patricia, Suzie) were present at all the stages of the selection process.

* Please refer to the Annex 2.

SELECTION

Day 1: Saturday, 25th June 2022.

8:00 am. Registration and opening. The Organization Team welcomed 28 Selectors* at Unity Pavilion.

* Kindly note, that the minimum number of the Selectors is 24 as it is outlined in [PWG 2022](#) (PWG, Part 3, Ch. 7: "In case any member of the Selection Group resigns or for any other reason is unable to attend the entire process, the work can continue if at least 24 selectors, 6 per group and at least 3 teams remain").

8:15 am. We opened the feedback session* for the **Auroville Council**.

* The feedback was shared only with the Candidates (anonymously), Selectors and the RAS. All participants have been asked to maintain strict confidentiality wrt the feedback received from the community.

8:30 am. Interviews for AVC (15 candidates for 4 open vacancies. Total number of members on the AVC is 9). 11 candidates attended the session online and in person.

10:00 am. 4 Selection Teams were randomly formed (please refer to Annex 1) to select members for AVC.

First round of selection*.

* To know more about the selection procedure, please refer to Part 3, ch. 7 a, b of the [PWG 2022](#).

10:30 am. The first round resulted in a unanimous decision of the 4 Selection Teams to select **Samrat** and **Svenja**.

Second round of selection.

11:00 am. Two names have been drawn randomly from a "hat" by an independent person: **Julia** and **Philippe**.

11:15 am. Announcement of the selection outcome for the **Auroville Council**: **Julia, Philippe, Samrat, Svenja**.

11:40 am. Feedback session for the **Working Committee**.

11:55 am. Interviews for WCom (14 candidates for 5 vacancies. Total number of members on the WCom is 7). 10 nominees attended the session online and in person.

2:20 pm. 4 Selection Teams were randomly formed (please refer to Annex 1) to select members for WCom.

First round of selection.

3:00 pm. The first round resulted in a unanimous decision of the 4 Selection Teams to select **Maël** and **Valli**.

Second round of selection.

3:30 pm. Three names have been drawn randomly from a "hat" by an independent person: **Aravinda**, **Bharathi** and **Chali**.

3:45 am. Announcement of the selection outcome for the Working Committee: Aravinda, Bharathi, Chali, Maël, Valli.

3:50 pm. Feedback session for the **Entry Board**.

4:05 pm. Interviews for EB (13 candidates for 1 vacancy*. Total number of members on the EB is 9). 7 nominees attended the session online and in person.

** Auroville Council informed RAS on 25th June that only 1 position was to be filled:*
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cnrZoV6wQLhtSmOqtrGEQLVHstutA_7F/view?usp=sharing

5:30 pm. 4 Selection Teams were randomly formed (please refer to Annex 1) to select a member for EB.

First round of selection.

5:45 pm. At the first round none of the candidates have been selected.

Second round of selection.

5:50 pm. One name has been drawn randomly from a "hat" by an independent person: **Aurore**.

5:55 pm. Announcement of the selection outcome for the Entry Board: Aurore.

6:00 pm. Closure.

Day 2: Sunday, 26th June 2022.

8:30 am. Registration and opening.

8:15 am. Feedback session for the **FAMC**.

8:40 am. Interviews for FAMC (14 candidates for 6 vacancies. Total number of members on the FAMC is 9). 5 nominees attended the session online and in person.

10:30 am. 4 Selection Teams were randomly formed (please refer to Annex 1) to select members for FAMC.

First round of selection.

11:15 am. The first round resulted in a unanimous decision of the 4 Selection Teams to select **Bobby P.** and **Mita**.

Second round of selection.

11:30 am. **Danny** and **Elodie** were automatically selected at the 2nd round as a result of an unanimous decision of the 4 Selection Teams.

11:45 am. Announcement of the selection outcome for the FAMC*: Bobby P., Danny, Elodie, Mita.

** "Note 1: If there are insufficient candidates chosen during this process to fill the positions available in the WG's, then these positions will remain vacant, and a new selection process for that group can be scheduled" ([PWG, Part 3, ch. 7](#)).*

12:10 pm. Feedback session for the **ATDC**.

1:30 pm. Interviews for ATDC (17 candidates for 13 vacancies. Total number of members on the ATDC is 13). 15 nominees attended the session online and in person.

3:15 pm. 4 Selection Teams were randomly formed (please refer to Annex 1) to select members for ATDC.

First round of selection.

4:15 pm. The first round resulted in a unanimous decision of the 4 Selection Teams to select **Allan, Dorle, Fabian, Island, Lata** and **Meera**.

Second round of selection.

4:45 pm. Four names have been drawn from a "hat" by an independent person: **Anan, Divya, Natasha** and **Tom**.

5:00 pm. Announcement of the selection outcome for the ATDC*: Allan, Anan, Divya, Dorle, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera, Natasha, Tom.

** "Note 1: If there are insufficient candidates chosen during this process to fill the positions available in the WG's, then these positions will remain vacant, and a new selection process for that group can be scheduled" ([PWG, Part 3, ch. 7](#)).*

5:15 pm. Closure.

--- END OF REPORT ---

N.B.: As stipulated in the last paragraph of the [PWG 2022](#), a survey has been launched to all the participants of the Selection Process (Applicants, Selectors and members of the Organisational Team), 2 days after its completion, in order to harvest their feedback. Such feedback may be integrated for future selections.



Annex 1

Selection for AVC	
Selection Team 1 1. Alexey S. 2. Divya L. 3. Giulio 4. Ulla 5. Manjula 6. Michael 7. Paul V.	Selection Team 3 1. Chris 2. Karuna 3. Lisa 4. Mousumi 5. Neha 6. Serge 7. Valli B.
Selection Team 2 1. Ashwini 2. Gaia 3. Indra G. 4. Ramu 5. Satprem 6. Selvam R. 7. Sigrid	Selection Team 4 1. Avinash 2. E. Muthu 3. Nausheen 4. Sabrina S. 5. Samata 6. Taj 7. Tenzin V.

Selection for WCom	
Selection Team 1 1. Chris 2. Lisa 3. Neha 4. Paul V. 5. Serge 6. Sigrid 7. Ulla	Selection Team 3 1. Alexey S. 2. Ashwini 3. Avinash 4. Giulio 5. Manjula 6. Selvam R. 7. Samata
Selection Team 2 1. Divya L. 2. Gaia 3. Michael 4. Nausheen 5. Ramu 6. Sabrina S. 7. Satprem	Selection Team 4 1. E. Muthu 2. Taj 3. Tenzin V. 4. Indra G. 5. Mousumi 6. Valli B. 7. Karuna

Selection for EB	
Selection Team 1 1. Ashwini 2. Avinash 3. Divya L. 4. Ramu 5. Sabrina S. 6. Selvam R. 7. Ulla	Selection Team 3 1. Karuna 2. Manjula 3. E. Muthu 4. Nausheen 5. Neha 6. Satprem
Selection Team 2 1. Alexey S. 2. Giulio 3. Lisa 4. Serge 5. Sigrid 6. Tenzin V.	Selection Team 4 1. Chris 2. Gaia 3. Indra G. 4. Michael 5. Taj 6. Valli B.

Selection for FAMC	
Selection Team 1 1. Ashwini 2. Alexey S. 3. Chris 4. Gaia 5. Valli B. 6. Serge 7. Paul V.	Selection Team 3 1. Avinash 2. Giulio 3. Indra G. 4. Mousumi 5. Neha 6. Nausheen 7. Tenzin V.
Selection Team 2 1. Divya L. 2. Michael 3. Lisa 4. Ramu 5. Taj 6. Satprem 7. Ulla	Selection Team 4 1. E. Muthu 2. Karuna 3. Manjula 4. Sabrina S. 5. Selvam R. 6. Sigrid

Annex 2

Dan could not be present during the training and selection days, as his partner had applied for a working group. Please refer to the part 3, ch. 1 of the [PWG 2022](#): "For the selection process, an organisational team will be created by the RAS comprising RAS members, silent observers, facilitators and other volunteers formed from an open call to the community, according to the skills required for the process. Members of this team shall have no direct link with the potential candidates or selectors"

Appendix A-40 - Reply from Council to request to vacate the Auroville Council office in Town Hall

2nd July 2022

Council office space

July 2, 2022, 11:32 am

Dear Balu, Lieve and Venkatesh,

The Auroville Council does not recognise your appointments as the new executives of ACUR as valid. The office order appointing you seems not to be issued by the competent authority. Typically such appointments have to be recommended by the Service Trust and obtain final endorsement by the FAMC of the Residents' Assembly.

With the turn of events in recent weeks, whereby the Office of the Secretary has suggested to appoint groups and executive positions at whim and without consultation of the Residents' Assembly, we advise you await the result of the court hearings in regard to the legitimacy of the Working Committee appointed by the Residents' Assembly.

We do not accept that anyone could ask the Auroville Council selected by the Residents' Assembly to move its office location of the past 20 years, with less than a 24 hour notice, without prior consultation with the AV Council members. The ACUR management team has never been in a position to vacate Auroville Working Groups and collective offices without proper process, instead the ACUR team's role is restricted to maintain and manage the day to day running of the Town Hall.

For your information, the ACUR building (Auroville Center of Urban Research) was built with a grant from the European Commission under the Asia-Urbs programme, and matching funds provided by Stichting da Zaiier (SDZ), through PCG and Land Estate Management (today Land Board) and Financial Services. According to the description of the layout of the physical space in the project the last floor was dedicated to town planning activities, the intermediate floor for the various Auroville management bodies (ex. Auroville Council, WCom, Land Board) and a permanent secretariat for city networking, outreach and public relations which these management bodies provide. The ground floor was intended for Financial Service and a conference room (where Housing Service and BCC are now). For your information as Auroville residents, you also might wish to check out the following link to inform yourself on the definition of ACUR: https://www.auroville.info/ACUR/templates/about_acur.htm

Sincerely,

Auroville Council

On Fri, 1 Jul 2022 at 19:20, ACUR <acur@auroville.org.in> wrote:

Dear all,

As you know, the Foundation Office has issued a new Office Order that has replaced the ACUR executives.

The new management team is looking into the best possible use of ACUR assets. These assets, when built, were originally intended for ATDC's use.

Now, ATDC is in need of more space to manifest the Master plan. Hence, we have decided to make ACUR's first floor free for ATDC's use.

Please from now on use another location for your activities.

We understand that you have one computer located on the first floor of the ACUR main building. We kindly ask you to remove this before 12 noon on Saturday, July 02, 2022.

Thank you for your understanding,

Balu, Lieve, Venkatesh
ACUR executives

Appendix A-41 - RA WCom communication

1st July 2022

Request to instruct the Office of the Secretary to refrain from issuing further office orders and and withdraw the issued office orders

From: Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.services>
Date: Fri, 1 Jul 2022 at 20:41
To: <govtam@nic.in>, <lg.pon@nic.in>, <nirima@gmail.com>, <aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com> <gghosal87@gmail.com>, <rssarraju@gmail.com>, <gbnandana1956@gmail.com>, <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, <neetaprasad@gmail.com>, <jsfa.edu@gov.in>
Cc: <info@gpiw.org>, <micheldanino@iitgn.ac.in>, <micheldanino@gmail.com>, <yogabi@roottolight.com>, <yco@aurouniversity.edu.in>, <vedicinstitute@gmail.com>, <Shambhavi.Yogini@gmail.com>, <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>, <secretaryavf@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.services>, <workingcomra@gmail.com>, TDC <tdc@auroville.services>, Auroville Council <avcouncil@auroville.services>, RAS <raserviceauroville@gmail.com>, Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.services>

To the Honorable Chairman of the Governing Board, Mr. RN Ravi,

Respected Chairman,

We would like to bring to your notice a far-reaching crisis in the management of the internal affairs of Auroville that has created a serious impasse by infringing into the sphere of functioning of the Residents' Assembly (RA) by the Office of the Secretary in the name of a not specified 'Competent Authority'. Tasks and responsibilities such as the appointment of memberships of the working groups and issuing of office orders, which fall under the purview of the Residents' Assembly or the Funds and Asset Management Committee (FAMC) have been taken over by the Office of the Secretary without justification and due consultation.

Over the past few weeks, the following orders have been issued which, as per the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, and Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997, are violations and encroachment of the autonomy of the Residents' Assembly and its duty to regulate its internal affairs, day-to-day activities and constitute its committees as envisaged in Section 19 of the Auroville Foundation Act.

This was further emphasized in a RTI response from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, dated 17th February 2020, which is hereby enclosed and states that "the term of office/governance of the Working Groups shall be decided by the Residents' Assembly, according to the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988."

1. Working Committee: The Office of the Secretary has endorsed a self-proclaimed 'Working Committee of the Auroville Foundation' which includes 4 members who were removed from office by a 'vote of no confidence' which was carried out by the Residents' Assembly, as well as 3 new members who were appointed without any proper process or consultation with the RA by the Office of the Secretary. It is to be noted that according to the Auroville Foundation Act, Section 20, membership and term of office of the Working Committee is to be decided by the Residents' Assembly. The Office of the Secretary has no authority in this matter.

2. Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC): 6 residents of Auroville were appointed as a new FAMC without involvement of the Residents' Assembly, giving a pretext that the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997, have been changed.

In a recent RTI that is hereby enclosed, dated 20th June 2022, it is clearly stated by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, that no rules have been changed or are intended to be changed. Therefore, the function of appointing members to the FAMC continues to rest with the Residents' Assembly as has been the case over the past 25 years of existence of the FAMC as a group.

3. Town Development Council: A team of 8 members for the Auroville Town Development Council has been appointed, violating the processes and procedures prescribed in the relevant Standing Order (SO). As per the SO approved by the Governing Board, 13 members are to be nominated by the Residents' Assembly, 1 member by the Working Committee and 1 member by the Governing Board. The recent nominations and appointments have been made keeping the residents of Auroville in total obscurity about the process followed, without specifying any technical or professional criteria by which the persons were appointed and without any information and consultation with the Residents' Assembly as is prescribed in the Standing Order published in the Gazette of India in June 2011. As of today, the Office Order constituting the TDC has not been published even if its members have taken office and are taking questionable initiatives including demolition of assets without respecting commitments given by TDC itself a few months ago.

4. Auroville Archives: The Auroville Archives are an important repository of the history of Auroville, preserving important documents, audio, photos and videos from the past. This requires very delicate and knowledgeable hands to deal with the subject and the materials. Very capable people have handled the management of this community service for many years. The Office of the Secretary, without any previous notice or justification, issued an office order to remove executives without showing any respect and appreciation for the painstaking work done over the years. The Auroville Archives started as a project of Auroville in 1991 and originated from the vision of the late Major General Krishna Tiwari. Later on, he handed over the sensitive job to a long-term Aurovilian whom he trusted to carry on the management of the project due to his commitment and experience in studying the life of the Mother and the History of Auroville. This Aurovilian has compiled and edited a full collection of all the words of the Mother on Auroville, which was published as a two volume set and is now an important reference. He has been suddenly dismissed with an Office Order, without notice and without any explanations.

5. ACUR / Town Hall: The Auroville Centre for Urban Research (ACUR) also known as Town Hall, and the contiguous Multimedia Centre, are the hub of administrative activities of Auroville. The

ACUR management was asked to leave overnight and a new management team with no prior experience to manage such facilities were appointed. These facilities were built with a grant of the European Commission and donations from Aurovilians and Auroville units. The ACUR management is entrusted to a unit registered under the Service Trust and the appointment of executives is a prerogative of the FAMC in coordination with the Working Committee, after receiving a resolution from the Trust.

6. Land Board: The Land Board is in charge of land purchase and protection with an experienced team of people selected by the Residents' Assembly. Two members selected by the Residents' Assembly and whose term has not yet expired were asked to leave from one day to the next without giving any reasons or advance notice.

7. Sysop and Auronet: The Office of the Secretary has been taking over Sysop (the auroville.org.in system operators) and Auronet (the internal discussion platform of Aurovilians and friends of Auroville). In the last 20 years, the auroville.org.in email domain and Auronet have evolved as community managed platforms for sharing information. These platforms were suddenly taken over under the pretext of unsubstantiated concerns about anti-government and anti-national activities. The residents of Auroville are committed to and deeply respectful of the spiritual values of India and are deeply grateful to Tamil Nadu and Mother India. The residents of Auroville believe in and cherish the dream of a Spiritual India and a World Union as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo. The residents feel deep gratitude to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for delivering a message of support and brotherhood on the 50th Anniversary of Auroville. The accusations levelled to take over Sysop and Auronet are unfounded and vulgar in nature, and deeply disrespectful of the feelings and commitment of the residents towards Auroville and Mother India.

8. Outreach Media: Attempts to encroach into the internal affairs of the Residents' Assembly began on 7 December 2021 with the takeover of the media interface of the Residents' Assembly called Auroville Outreach Media. This service of the Residents' Assembly was managed a long-term Aurovillian since 2005 till she was unceremoniously asked, without giving any prior notice or reasons, to leave as an executive and forced to vacate the office in the Archives building with immediate effect. This was done by the new executives appointed by the Office of the Secretary without any consultation with the FAMC or Working Committee.

All of the above is an encroachment on the space provided to the Residents' Assembly by the Auroville Foundation Act and the Rules to manage its internal organization and affairs. It is extremely disturbing that in some cases the justification of these actions have been given with the claim of 'ownership' of the property by the Auroville Foundation, which is against the Charter of Auroville and is furthermore totally unjustified, as the Residents' Assembly and its committees are legally part of the Foundation and therefore share the responsibility of the management of its assets. A general impression has now been given that a systematic attack has been unleashed to disempower the residents and throttle the internal organisation into authoritative submission. Infringement on the internal organs and systems of functioning of the Residents' Assembly is pushing towards an increasing dysfunctionality in the day-to-day functioning of Auroville.

The atmosphere created by these actions is one of deep dismay and betrayal among the residents. It is therefore a matter of grave concern, as it may lead to an administrative and legal paralysis of Auroville because most residents feel that they are not heard and are considered irrelevant.

We request you to instruct the Office of the Secretary to refrain from issuing further office orders and withdraw the above office orders which are encroaching on the space and functions of the Residents' Assembly and its legitimate Committees. An early response and action in these matters will go a long way to re-establish the scheme and intention of the Auroville Foundation Act and restore confidence and trust amongst Aurovilians and the interface with the Government that had been built over the years.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Mael Shanti Vidal, Sauro Mezzetti, Valli Senthilkumar

Cc:

1. To Members of the Governing Board.
2. To Members of the International Advisory Council.
3. To Secretary to the Governing Board, Dr. Jayanti Ravi.
4. Working Groups and Committees of the Residents' Assembly.
5. Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation.

[2 attachments](#)

RTI query on Rules 20.06.2022.pdf

RTI queries 17.02.2020_compressed.pdf

Appendix A-42 - WCom observations of the 59th meeting of the GB

July 2022

Observations and questions regarding the Minutes of 59th meeting of the Governing Board from the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

1. It is mentioned that there was a 34th meeting of the Finance Committee on 17th January, 2022 (Item 59.0) and a 35th meeting of the Finance Committee with no date specified (Item 59.03). The Working Committee would like to request a copy of the minutes of both of these meetings, as has been done in the past.
2. Action taken report on the Minutes of the 58th meeting (Item 59.04)
 - Regarding the issuing of Office Orders, we would like to call your attention to Standing Order No. 10 dated 15.04.2015 (attached), regarding the discontinuation of Office Orders for matters related to Unit and Trust matters. This Standing Order gives the authority to the FAMC of the Residents' Assembly to create and close units, as well as appointing executives. In addition, please note that amendments to the Standing Order may be made from time to time by the Governing Board in consultation with the Working Committee and the FAMC. To our knowledge, no amendments have been proposed or approved.
 - We note with interest the budget for Township Development for 2022-23. Please share with us for our files the budget request submitted to MoE and the sanction letter for the same. Also, we request an update about the "regular meetings with officials of the Tamil Nadu Government for the acquisition of city lands and the establishment of a New Town Development Authority (for land use regulation)".
 - We request a copy of the MoU signed with the CPWD and a copy of the authorization given by the Governing Board to the Secretary.
 - Has the agreement between TDC and Vastushilpa Sangath LLP for preparing the detailed development plans on the basis of the Auroville Master Plan been finalized and signed? If so, please provide a copy of this agreement for our records and for circulation to the Residents' Assembly. If not, we would like to understand why the finalization of this agreement is being delayed.
 - Was the FAMC of the Residents' Assembly consulted or otherwise involved in the discussion regarding the comprehensive audit mentioned? Also please inform us of the specific focus of the special audit.
3. Organization and Governance Committee (Item 59.05)
 - There are currently deliberations and efforts being made by internal task forces and study groups of Auroville residents and working groups to review and improve organization and governance in Auroville in various fields such as economy, selection methods and criteria, community decision-making, among others. The Working Committee would be happy to organize sharing sessions with such groups and teams next time the GB meets in Auroville. We believe this Organization and Governance Committee needs to be enlarged

to include representatives of the 2 other authorities of the Auroville Foundation, namely the Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Council. Representatives of the Residents' Assembly would need to be chosen and selected by it through its Working Committee.

- On the 28th of June we informed you of the membership of the Working Committee, FAMC, TDC, Admissions Committee (aka Entry Board) and the Auroville Council. This follows a new selection methodology that was approved through a Residents' Assembly Decision-making process on the 19th of April 2022, which reflects the resolve of Auroville residents to learning and changing its systems through experience. (See attached letter.)
- A correction is needed regarding the Register of Residents (RoR). Several updates were carried out since 2005, the last being in 2019 with the help of the Working Committee at that time. (See attached our response to Dr. G. Seetharaman, OSD, dated 09.05.2022)
- At the entrance of any Meeting of the Residents' Assembly as part of a decision-making process, the Residents' Assembly Service (RAS) asks each attendee to list his/her name, community, and Aurovilian status. Only confirmed Aurovilians as announced to the community by the Entry Board are able to participate in such meetings and in decisions of the Residents' Assembly.

4. The task and responsibility of admitting people to Auroville in any category rests with the Admission Committee (aka Entry Board) as selected by the residents from among themselves, as stated in the Auroville Admission and Termination Regulations, 2020. This admission of people to Auroville is decided by the Residents' Assembly in accordance with Section 19(2)(a) of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988. The creation of any new status needs first to be approved by the Residents' Assembly.

5. We request the Board to share with us the "various township development projects" and the CPWD estimate for execution of the same, that are mentioned in Item 59.07.

6. We have noted the approval for the appointment of an administrative officer for land-related matters and the recent letter from Dr. G. Seetharaman, OSD, appointing 2 such officers to the Land Board. However, we must protest the dismissal of Ms. Renu Neogy and Mr. Padmanabhan Crocetti who have been duly selected by the Residents' Assembly as per an RA approved process and who have not completed their mandated term nor were given any reasons for their abrupt dismissal.

7. We would like to bring to your attention the following points as examples of failure of the Secretary to fulfill her duty as Estate Officer of the Auroville Foundation (mentioned in Item 59.17):

1. Pitchandikulam - About 2 years ago an outside party purchased a property in the eco-sensitive Pitchandikulam area and demanded to use Auroville's private access instead of negotiating a closer access through the private Auropark layout. Recently, in spite of various attempts by Auroville to assist the party in finding other solutions, the party used a JCB to destroy the Pitchandikulam gate and check post, which is on Auroville Foundation land, bringing outside enforcers to intimidate the residents on

23rd March 2022, claiming he had permission from the Secretary. The Secretary had been requested in writing by the Working Committee on the same day to file a criminal complaint for destruction, trespass and intimidation and to clarify if she gave permission for the access (as was claimed by the other party). To date no answer has been received from the Office of the Secretary.

2. Eternity - The destruction of the live fence by JCB, without prior intimation or in the presence of a Government surveyor, has occurred on one of the Auroville Foundation beach properties located in Pondicherry district in April 2022. Appeals were made to the Secretary to intervene in her capacity as an Estate Officer for the Auroville Foundation. However, no assistance was given by the Office of the Secretary. Finally, through the efforts of Working Committee members, Land Board members and other residents, the destruction was halted by the police who also requested a Government Survey to be carried out, which was done. The survey confirmed the boundaries that the stewards were maintaining.

Police complaints filed by the Land Board are limited in effect, as the Land Board does not have authority to proceed in court without further authorization. Encroaching parties are behaving with impunity and taking advantage of the present confusion and lack of effective follow up. Auroville is facing aggravated encroachments into its land and land grabbing issues. The Land Board has regularly faced such problems, however with the assistance and involvement of past Secretaries, they were able to deal with these issues effectively.

Protecting and securing the existing Auroville land must be of prime concern to the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation. Besides one case of an enforced eviction of one encroachment in AuroOrchard, the powers and authority of the Estate Officer have been unexploited in the past year.

8. As only minimal reference was made in the Governing Board's minutes to presentations made by working groups or meetings with residents, and none was made to specific points of concern brought up previously by members of the Working Committee, such as the insecurity created among many residents by the visa situation (please see attached the note submitted in the 59th Governing Board meeting by the Working Committee on this topic), we would appreciate if in future such topics and the views of the Governing Board on the same may be included.

9. It is also noted that there is no reference made to any meetings with the IAC or any recommendations and advice that they may have shared.

10. Lastly, in this meeting the Working Committee had once again extended an invitation to the Chairman and all members of the Governing Board to spend more time in Auroville in order to experience more of its activities, people and spirit. The undersigned members of the Working Committee are at your disposal to organize such visits, as well as meetings with the wider Auroville community. We believe that a deeper mutual understanding and collaboration would result from more time spent together with all 3 authorities of the Auroville Foundation. With this in mind we request that a joint meeting is held soon with the Governing Board, the International Advisory Council and the Residents' Assembly.

Appendix A-43 - Announcement from /AVFO 'WCom'/

8th July 2022

60th Governing Board Meeting

July 8, 2022, 5:27 pm

Dear Aurovilians,

The Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation will be holding its 60th meeting in Auroville on the 11th and 12th July. On Monday, 11th July, 2022, the Governing Board will meet with the main working groups, followed by a meeting with the Secretary, Auroville Foundation. On Tuesday 12th, the Governing Board will hold its own meetings and with the International Advisory Council. No meeting with the community has been scheduled this time.

This is for your information.

Best wishes,

Anu, Arun, Joseba, Partha, Selvaraj, Srimoyi, Tine
The Working Committee

Appendix A-44 - Announcement from RA WCom re: their communication with GB

10th July 2022

Reports to GB from RA selected groups

July 10, 2022, 9:41 am

Dear Residents,

Below is a communication with related attachments that has been sent to the Governing Board, copy to the IAC.

With best wishes,

Your Working Committee
Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Mael, Sauro, Valli

Sub: Next meeting of the Governing Board

To Honorable Chairman of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation
To Respected members of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation

Respected Chairman and Members of the Governing Board,

It has come to our notice that the 60th meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled for the 11th & 12th of July.

As the Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly, we are sharing with you reports and communications from the FAMC of the Residents' Assembly and the TDC as selected by the Residents' Assembly. Also attached are observations and questions related to the Minutes of the 59th Meeting of the Governing Board.

We feel we must once again express our deep concern about the existential crisis in which Auroville finds itself in the first year of your tenure. We believe that you have the potential to be instruments of positive change in the present reality. In this light, we appeal to you to actively encourage a more inclusive and collaborative approach to the unfolding of the Auroville experiment on all levels.

As a first step in this direction, we hope that in a spirit of collaboration and mutual understanding, the Residents' Assembly and the Working Groups selected by it are given time to interact with you during your upcoming programs in Auroville.

Please let us know when such interactions could take place as per your convenience. We are at your disposal to organize any meetings or visits that you would like to plan.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation
Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba, Ilyabharathy Somasundaram, Mael Shanti Vidal, Sauro Mezzetti, Valli Senthilkumar

Attachments:

FAMC report

TDC letter

Observations and questions on the Minutes of the 59th Meeting of the Governing Board and related attachments

Cc to:

The Secretary to the Auroville Foundation
Members of the International Advisory Council
Forwarded to the Residents' Assembly and its Working Groups

Appendix A-45 - Report from the RA FAMC

11th July 2022



**AUROVILLE
FOUNDATION**

FUNDS AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ACUR, Auroville 605 101
TAMIL NADU - INDIA
Phone: 0413 2623649
E-mail: famc@auroville.org.in

Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC)

11 July 2022 report to the Governing Board (60th meeting)

Action points related to finance & economy; updates from report of 12 April 2022

Residents' Assembly-approved members are: Ms. Amy Bassett, Mr. Bobby Patel, Mr. Danny Merguei, Mrs. Elodie Desrousseaux, Ms. Mita Radhakrishnan, Mr. Palani Mani, and Mr. Ranjith Kumar Ramamurthy

1. Simplify the governance and organisation structures (trusts, units, activities and committees).

Since 12 April we have not been informed of a rescheduled meeting.

2. Integrated common accounting systems to be implemented for more effective and transparent financial management.

The standard chart of accounts has been submitted and has been implemented for FY 2021-2022. There is a standardized balance sheet which was implemented for FY 2021-2022. All the Tally data is connected by the Aurinoco network. Actual centralization is in process. Cost savings and administrative costs of such a system need to be studied and evaluated.

3. Preparation of an annual Auroville budget that includes all resources and all needs.

We have not pursued this topic since 12 April.

4. Preparation of a medium and long-term economy plan including financial plans of the income-generating units of Auroville.

We have not pursued this topic since 12 April. To note however, questions about, and requests for, clarity on this topic, which was proposed by the Governing Board as per the 2 November 2021 meeting minutes (4.2), have been raised verbally with the Secretary, AVFO but were not addressed nor answered.

5. Enhance Auroville food production to meet the needs of Auroville.

The pilot project reported on 12 April was subsequently given support by the FAMC in May 2022, and is currently active.

6. Use some of the outlying lands [see number 11 too] of Auroville for income generation through joint ventures or ventures in which Auroville has a passive stake.

As reported on 12 April the FAMC needs the collaboration of the TDC on these matters. The FAMC continues to seek collaboration with the TDC on these matters.



7. Ensure that all basic needs of all residents are met and that all residents contribute to the realisation of Auroville.

The Prosperity Group gave a presentation to the FAMC in mid-May. The FAMC soon thereafter followed up in writing with the group with several observations and suggestions. FAMC expects a follow-up from the Prosperity Group participants.

8. Elimination of internal money exchange.

No update on this topic.

9. Make capital available for the growth of existing income-generating units and start-up capital for new income-generating units.

Flourish started the research work on making capital available in April by conducting preliminary/ exploratory meetings to explore the setting and to see how to take this research forward in a meaningful way (in the current scenario, in relation to what work/initiative is already ongoing in this area). In these discussions we were advised to pause the research until there is clarity on (a) potential changes to the financial structure and (b) the specific funding needs for at least one of the units we are working with.

10. Strengthen and support the knowledge economy.

- a) The proposal submitted by Lalit was reviewed with interest and appreciation. Giving focus to what is to be pursued in the short, medium-, and long-term still needs to be discussed with him;
- b) Auroville Consulting declined the invitation to submit a proposal.

11. All Auroville lands, buildings and other assets must be utilized to generate collective resources for Auroville as a whole.

- a. This is ongoing and continues to be a priority.
- b. The land-record clean-up pilot presentation was made to the Secretary on 6 May 2022; the land records clean-up project has been taken up in earnest and is a priority for the FAMC.
- c. On 7 May 2022, the Under Secretary sent an email requesting CSR Geomatics to hand over the password and the data related to the land records. As these are legal responsibilities of the AVFO, on 25 May, CSR Geomatics handed over the land records data to the Under Secretary of the AVFO, and it is no longer responsible for the keeping of the same. CSR is not involved any more in the land records keeping.
- d. The Housing Survey commenced in May 2022 and has so far visited 6 communities and recorded details of all the residential assets. The BCC provided a half-maintenance for one person to assist with the survey. The Housing Board is actively seeking another volunteer.



12. Contributions by income-generating units to be reviewed (rationale of the 33% contribution; utilisation of surpluses).

FAMC met with the Citizens' Assembly (CA) on 3 May. After due consideration it was decided to not pursue the CA method to review the contribution policy at this time. Further consideration of the Contribution Policy is to be taken up with the new team as a high priority.

13. Establish an innovation and incubation center for the youth to be actively engaged.

- a. Project Nursery updates: 1) Setting up a bigger team & review/refined internal process to submit Projects; 2) Designing a 3-Month Program to support/guide New Entrepreneurs in a collective spirit; 3) One new project in the Phase 1 stage. (Griham - Tiny Design Studio)
- b. Youth Center: repairs & maintenance; garden & forest maintenance; pottery; regular events: pizza, & movie nights; cultural events (Korean, Slavic, Portuguese, Indian); Sunday baking with kids; weekly Tamil language, & yoga classes; establishing permaculture; social media & public relations research, set-up & development
- c. No update.

14. Reduce construction costs with innovative construction practices and effective and transparent price discovery mechanisms.

No further action has been taken nor is planned by the FAMC at this time. The new team may however decide to take it up.

Appendix A-46 - Letter from the RA TDC

8th July 2022



Auroville 2022.07.08

Respected Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation,

As notified by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly, the Town Development Council (TDC) membership has been duly selected following the current Selection Process. As a 10-member Working Group of the Residents' Assembly, we are grounded in Auroville's values and hold diverse professional expertise including town planning, environmental engineering, water conservation, architecture, construction, reforestation, ecological agriculture, arboriculture, urban forestry, geographic information systems, participatory community services and communications.

Each of us are committed to the development of Auroville as an international township and laboratory for Human Unity. We strive to further the ideals of Auroville and realise more and more the Mother's Dream and the Auroville Charter. We are taking up this work as a service on behalf of the collective, acting with and guided by the Residents' Assembly, as outlined in the Auroville Universal Township Masterplan Perspective 2025 (Appendix 5).

We see that hosting this project to realise true human unity is a special gift from Tamil Nadu and India to the world, supported by the goodwill of her National and State governments and institutions. We also recognise the important role of the Governing Board as collaborators and facilitators in the creation of the 'City the Earth Needs', and its statutory functions set out in the Auroville Foundation Act.

Unfortunately, the intense drive for physical manifestation brought by the new Governing Board and Secretary of the Auroville Foundation has unnecessarily been directed with often crude and/or authoritarian means by the office of the Secretary. This has caused a significant break-down of trust, and actually hinders a true and timely unfolding of the city. We echo the [recent message of Karan Singh](#); *"Building the city is important, but technically this can be done anywhere in India by the local P.W.D. Trying to build Auroville without the cooperation of the Aurovillians is prima facie a contradiction and will go against the whole raison d'être of this unique experiment"*. This TDC team remains convinced that a higher and truer synthesis can be found in time and we are ready to be an interface for any genuine and healthy collaboration for the development of Auroville.

2022-07-08

1

At this early point in the new TDC's functioning, we want to take the opportunity to touch on a few pressing topics arising from recent Governing Board Minutes:

The TDC's work in planning and coordinating Auroville's development facilitates people of goodwill to be able to join Auroville, to have the material tools to live and offer their service here. Establishing expectations or targets for the planning, construction and demographic membership rates of the City should be reached considering factors such as population and needs growth forecasting, land use, development priorities and phasing, and the social, environmental and economic ground realities. Pending further assessment of the above, the TDC advises that the Governing Board revisits or otherwise reframes the seemingly arbitrary targets and timeframes to make them compatible with a conscious and integral manifestation of the universal township.

Since the initial drafting of the contract for Vastushilpa Sangath LLP (VSC) and the approval from Delhi for their appointment, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) judgment has reiterated that 'proper planning' must be carried out and environmental clearance secured, as required by planning and environmental law. For us, this is a very high priority to be addressed by the Residents' Assembly and Governing Board, and we recognise that significant budgets are being sought by the Governing Board for city planning and development. We firmly believe that the scope and appointment of such an organisation to produce the necessary planning documents, i.e. Detailed Development Plans, has to be taken through the Residents' Assembly. Any attempt otherwise would erode the trust and participation necessary to undertake any 'proper planning' for the City the Earth Needs.

As part of Dreamweaving the Auroville Crown, in which several of our team members were involved, there were many very positive interactions with VSC. With the insights they have gained through the Dreamweaving exercise, we feel that VSC have the capacity to prepare a DDP that does justice to the dream and vision of Auroville's aspirations, but only if they are empowered to adopt best-practice and participative approaches compatible with Auroville's unique purpose and functioning.

Similarly, the scoping of construction works and contracting of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is another major action taken forward without due exploration with the community and the appointed Working Groups. Therefore, we urge the Governing Board to ensure the finalisation and appointment of any external planning or construction organisation at this level is reached jointly with the Residents' Assembly. We also join the request, made earlier by the

Working Committee and FAMC, that the existing or draft memorandums or contracts in place for CPWD and VSC be immediately shared with the community.

Regarding Foundation Office staff quarters, we request that further details are shared with the TDC and community to ensure they are appropriately planned, consulted on and contracted through the Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Residents' Assembly.

After an initial delay to the formation of the NGT Joint Committee established to consider the Crown road, the Secretary along with a few residents backed by the Auroville Foundation Secretariat, met the Joint Committee at Swagatham guest House on 2nd July without any prior notification to the Working Committee, Town Development Council or the stewards of the areas to be visited. The Joint Committee, apparently recognising this irregular and arguably partial approach, agreed to meet with us and our resource persons, mitigating attempts made by the Secretariat to block us from engaging with the Joint Committee. A commitment was given by the Joint Committee to receive reports and evidence from 'both sides' and to review the same before penning their report.

We look forward to meeting with you in this coming meeting or at the earliest next opportunity.

In Service,

Town Development Council

Allan Bennett, Anan Skoles, Dorle Heller, Divya Lieser, Fabian Ostner, Island Lescure, Lata Iyer, Meera Natarajan, Natasha Storey, Tom Gablier.

2022-07-08

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Appendix A-47 - Report of the Secretary's groups meeting

27th July 2022

Ref. 1486 C 349 Report secretary's groups meeting 220727

Dear friends,

I attended yesterday the meeting called by the 3 secretary's groups.

I recorded the meeting with my cell phone, and you will find attached 2 parts: WC + FAMC first (1h 21 min.) and then ATDC after tea (45 min.). It was a long meeting and here is a summary of it, where I present the main points. Basically, this meeting was to inform their supporters and ask them to volunteer to help them. Note that I spent around 6 hours this morning to prepare this report, go through the recording, word by word, and see in detail the Foundation act 1988, as Anu deformed it a lot. This report is longer than I wished. However, reading these 3 pages could spare you 2 hours of listening to the recording.

In the first part of the meeting there were 60-70 people, including all members from their groups, and in the second part, after the tea break 55-60. Therefore, there were only 40-50 attendees max. You will find attached a short video that I took of the audience after tea break, when the TDC presented their work.

I did not know many people. However, from the questions asked, it is clear that they were their supporters. H. came to be informed but did not ask questions. He and I were probably the only ones not agreeing with what they were doing.

They did not allow people to directly ask questions but requested to write questions on a small piece of paper (very small: post-it style of ~8 x 8 cm). Of course, they did not give the mic to people, as they did not want discussions and arguments. As I prepared in advance 7 questions to the TDC, I could give my paper to Lakshay at the end. I could have asked many more... but this set up did not allow that.

Anu started the meeting with a general presentation of the joint meetings of the 3 groups. She went on to precise the functions of the Resident Assembly, according to the Auroville Foundation Act 1988... But she lied a lot! She read a few extracts of the functions of the RA, and then summarised it as: *"But for all these things, it comes down to this last line: That everything needs actually to pass by the approval of the Governing Board"*. She referred to the point 20 of the act, which mentions the Working Committee.

However, this is an absolute lie, as this point of the act mentions: *"There shall be a Working Committee of the Residents Assembly which shall assist the Residents' Assembly or, as the case may be, the Governing Board, in discharging its duties under this Act."*

Of course, she did not mention the point 20. (3) that *"The manner of choosing the members of the*

Working Committee and their term of office shall be such as may be decided by the Residents Assembly.”

She went on quoting the point 19. (3) of the act describing the function of the Resident Assembly. In fact, she changed the name of the Resident Assembly by “it” and modified the text as follows: “For the purpose of carrying out its function, it may establish committees. Now, Governing Board also establishes committees.”

The truth is that the point 19. (3) says: *“For the purpose of carrying out its functions, the Residents Assembly may establish such committees as it may consider necessary which shall represent it in relation to the functions to be performed by the Governing Board.”*

In fact, she mixed up the points of the act, as the point 16. (1) mentions *“The Governing Board may appoint such committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under this Act.”*

Anu quoted Sri Aurobindo about democracy: *“But I speak against democracy, because that mentality is against the truth that it trying to come down.”* According to me, she referred this quote to the Resident Assembly meetings that we have, our selection process, and all our concerns about development. This meant to say that whatever the residents are doing these days is a democratic process... and therefore against the truth which tries to manifest.

She went on with the issue of the register of resident (RoR), which has not been updated since 2005. They got 1900 people signed out with only 1634 who gave correct/ complete information, and that the secretariat is now checking and analysing.

Partha asked for the collaboration of the residents. However, I cannot believe them, as the TDC refused the service that I offered to test the pavers of the crown road and because the whole exercise of the dream weaving was rejected/ by passed.

Tine presented their “1000 beds” project, that they want to realise in the coming year, telling that we have to grow faster and welcome a lot of volunteers. They want to welcome 100 people per month in the very near future and that they want help for that. They asked people to give their name if they were willing to help.

I asked them this question: “You want to bring more volunteers, but why the secretary is blocking visas of volunteers.” The answer was “I don’t think that the secretary is blocking any visas”. When I heard that, I jumped from my seat and told loudly, as I had no mic, “This is not true, as we have a volunteer waiting for the last 7 months to get her visa”.

Joseba expressed that Auroville is very messy, chaotic, etc. He emphasized that we have to change in the next months the governance of Auroville, mentioning that in Auroville we should not vote but go for consensus, and that we should go beyond the democracy.

Thorkil presented the works of the FAMC. It was a long, boring talk, basically telling that many things are wrong in Auroville about financial management, accounting, not having standardised system of accounts, units not filing GST in time, people and units not complying with the Gol rules

and Auroville rules. They want to review all the policies, review the contribution and maintenance system, the farm and forest activities, etc.

Sindhujha presented the work of the TDC, mentioning that it was the same kind of presentation given to the Governing Board and in their webinar given on the 14th July. She presented their project of city development to plan for the infrastructure and the development priorities to welcome in the next 4 years 12,000 people. Apart from the WC project of “100 beds”, they want also to start with a housing project for 1000 people, which as she said, “can be reachable in this financial year”.

She spoke also of the detailed development plans (DDP), that they have to work on it, mentioning that first they have to elaborate the urban framework and guidelines. They started since a few months the setting of a “Project cells” for bigger public projects in Auroville, such as CIRHU, new town hall, line of forces, etc.

She spoke of the crown, telling that one survey of the crown has been completed, the alignments fixed and that they want to pave the 6.7 m everywhere on the lands belonging to Auroville, except in Darkali, as they are waiting for the report of the joint committee. They want to approach the mobility in Auroville in the coming months, aiming to make the centre of Auroville traffic free by August 2023. They want to build something in the southern service node, with a hub of E vehicles, service rental, etc.

They are working on the development of the southern service node (area of the gas service). They want to make Auroville more like a campus, which is on the list of CPWD to do for this year (?). They have a goal in construction planning that needs to be done and CPWD will be providing part of the support, with other international experts... They want to make a model for Auroville and for the world.

They want to unblock developments in the zones 1 and 2 for housing (between Gaia and Vikas). They want to do individual types of houses in Gaia, but in clusters. They want to start with the development of sector 5, near Aurodam, where will come the line of Goodwill. They are also developing portions of the habitat area in the city centre.

She emphasized that over the years, l'Avenir has authorised development and projects in areas on Auroville, which were not in line with the master plan, speaking of the green belt and settlements violating our zoning regulations, that the most productive farms are outside of the green belt. They are trying to see which projects can, even if they are in the stage of being processed, can be revoke if they do not pertain to the green belt zoning regulations.

They want to approach the development in the international and industrial zone and try to see how they can manage with the loss of land in Bharati Puram and low density in some areas.

She came back on the topic of the crown, to see how the crown could be, look like, with materials, spaces, etc.: Nothing worth to note in fact.

Jaya presented the project of the line of Goodwill, emphasizing the development of the habitat

part, for 7000 residents. They imagine that the first 4 floors could be built with earth (I was never contacted for that) and the higher floors with precast things. They want to start building it in the financial year 22-23.

At the end of the meeting Lakshay presented my 7 questions (in italic). The answers are in italic/blue below the question.

1. Why the outcome of the Dream weaving for the crown was arbitrarily rejected and why the Vastu Shilpa Consulting has been pushed away?

The answer to both questions is no: they have not been rejected and the Vastu Shilpa Consulting has not been pushed away. (...) And the TDC did not need them, as a lot of work can be done in house. However, the Vastu Shilpa Consulting continues to be part of our review panel.

The truth is that the dream weaving was kind of rejected because they wanted to cut part of the document and modify it for the Vastu Shilpa Consulting. Initially, the Vastu Shilpa Consulting was supposed to do the entire DDP of Auroville, but the TDC changed the purpose of the work and asked them to study only small things in various zones. Of course, they did not accept because it was not the way to proceed for a DDP.

2. Why are you breaking the parts of the crown roads which were well done years ago and are in perfect condition?

They are not in a perfect condition first of all. They break the pavers because they are not up to the grade that they are proposing now. Even the thickness does not match. So, we want to use better pavers. There is also an alignment issue, with 40 cm difference. The pavers will be used in areas where we want to develop parking platform, i.e. near the solar Kitchen and near Aurodam.

The argument that the thickness does not match is wrong. Both blocks (old ones that they removed and the new ones) have the same thickness, between 7.5 and 8 cm. Regarding the grade, I will ask them what they want, and I will test their new blocks and the blocks they removed. I took samples this morning. I will share the report next week.

3. Why did you move the crown road by 5 m towards the Youth Centre?

We did not.

If they did not move it, why then is the width of the clearing 22 m at that point and not 16.7 m?

4. Why did you contract the CPWD, which does a very bad work, when the Road Service does their job very well, and would have been much cheaper?

Well, I don't like the premises of this question. CPWD has been commissioned to do a lot of works right now. A MoU has been signed with the Foundation. We have had bad experience with the CPWD but that was a decade ago.

5. Which reference points are you taking, and which coordinate system are you using to mark the crown road?

I will get back to you on this question by email.

6. How do you want to deal with the 13 m level difference on the crown road?

Right now, we are following the level of the land, as they are on the crown. Crown will go up and down along with the levels.

7. Do you have proper studies and surveys which would allow you to clear the right of ways and why do you want to clear all of them by December 2022?

It is part of the development programme, which should have been done in the first 5 years after the master plan of 2001.

Appendix A-48 - Photos of the gathering at Town Hall

29th July 2022



Appendix A-49 - Judgement of the Madras High Court

12th August 2022

The judgement of the Madras High Court being an 80-page long document, it has not been added to these appendixes. One can read the judgement by clicking on the following link:

[Judgement of the Madras High Court](#)

The judgement has also been summarised in Appendix A-50.

Appendix A-50 - Legal implications of the judgement

14th August 2022

On the 12 August 2022 Madras High Court Ruling

On 12 August 2022, The Madras High Court gave its judgement in a case that examined the top down decision making of the Auroville Foundation Governing Board (GB). In particular, the Court looked at:

- 1) GB interference with the work of the Residents' Assembly (and in particular its Working Committee) pending an update to the Register of Residents that the GB said was necessary;
- 2) Whether the replacement of the Outreach Media's Executives by the GB and the replacement of those Executives with their own choices was valid; and
- 3) Whether the GB's interference with the work of the Town Development Council (TDC) by reconstituting it and imposing their own members on it was valid.

Key Points

Many important points arose in the ruling of Mr Justice Abdul Quddhose. These included:

1. Town Development Council (TDC) - GB cannot create their own TDC: The attempt by the GB, through an Office Order signed by the Under Secretary, to unilaterally reconstitute the TDC was rejected. The learned judge said: "The reconstitution of members for the Auroville Town Development Council under the Office Order dated 15.07.2021 definitely requires the consent of the Residents' Assembly...". Because that consent was lacking, it breached the Auroville Foundation Act ("violative" of the Act said the judge). The Office Order was therefore quashed (effectively meaning that it was declared invalid).

2. Membership of the Working Committee: A key part of the case dealt with the legality of the Order of 6 May 2022 by which the GB, through its "Officer on Special Duty," sought to suspend RA activities like Decision Making Processes (RADs). On 10 May, there was an RAD that addressed the membership of the Working Committee. The result was that the Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi were voted out of office. If the Order of 6 May was valid then GB would have had the right to retain these four members, enforce an interpretation of the Participatory Working Groups document that these four adopted to justify the ejection from office of Chali, Hemant and Sauro, and accept the additional members that were co-opted onto the Working Committee without RA approval. The Court quashed the 6 May Order (effectively declaring it invalid). The consequence of this is that the RAD of 10 May is valid: Aurovilians who were selected by the Residents' Assembly to serve in the Working Committee on that date are the lawful Working Committee.

3. Outreach Media – only persons directly affected should bring a case to court: The Court did not interfere with the decision of the GB to replace the Executives of Outreach

media with their own choice of Executives and Spokespeople. There were two reasons for this. First, it was for any executives who had been removed to personally challenge the GB decision. In this case, it was a fellow Aurovillian who brought the case to court. Second, a complaint about the removal of executives should correctly be addressed to the Civil Court – not the High Court. The learned judge’s ruling in relation to Outreach media is not a reflection on the merits of the real issue of whether the GB should have removed the Executives: the wrong person filed a case in the wrong court.

4. Updating the Register of Residents: There was no finding, it appears, either way regarding the claim by the GB that the Register of Residents had not been updated since 2005. The Court accepted that the Register of Residents needing updating. The rationale was not because of deficiencies in it since 2005, but in order “to put a quietus to the dispute and for achieving the noble ideals of the Mother.” The judge ordered that be done. He said that “no policy decision can be taken” by any of the three authorities of the Auroville Foundation “...till the Register of Residents is updated by the Secretary of the foundation after giving wide publicity.” No deadline was imposed by when this should be done. The consequence of the Secretary not discharging this duty to update quickly affects the GB as much as the RA as in this period the GB, as much as the RA, are prohibited from taking policy decisions.

Other important points

Apart from the key points highlighted above, it is to be noted that Mr Justice Abdul Quddhose dispassionately put to one side attempts by counsel for the Auroville Foundation to cast slurs on the

reputations of the petitioners: Allegations were raised of criminality that had “disturbed public functionaries,” and “continuously indulging in anti-Aurovillian activities by opposing every action of the Governing Board..” Instead, in addition to quashing key Orders emanating with the GB’s authority, the learned judge proceeded to give several key pointers to help with interpretation of the Auroville Foundation Act 1988 and the functioning of the Auroville Foundation. These included:

- **There is no Supreme Authority in Auroville:** The GB’s argument that it was “the Supreme authority under the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988” was rejected. The GB, the Residents’ Assembly (RA) and the International Advisory Council are the three Authorities under the 1988 Act. “The relationship between the three authorities is of mutuality” said the learned judge. While acknowledging the GB “has the power of control and supervision and to see that everything is run smoothly...” the learned judge stated that “as long as the people of Auroville want to develop Auroville in accordance with the Charter of Auroville, they have full freedom to do so. Even the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation cannot infringe upon the Residents of Auroville as long as they follow the Auroville charter...”.

- **Auroville Trusts are not Government:** In relation to the Trusts of Auroville, whether they be charged with overseeing commercial activities or “village work” “these trusts are recognised as non-governmental organisations.” The point is of significance given the repeated misunderstandings regarding the nature of the Auroville Foundation work that the GB and the Secretary have been appointed by the Government to oversee.

- **GB cannot act unilaterally:** The GB cannot unilaterally restrict the functioning of the RA because it thinks that the Register of Residents needs to be updated. It could only consider such a move after receiving a Resolution of the RA.

Appendix A-51 - Overview of arguments made in court by AVFO lawyers

12th August 2022

Madras High Court, 12th Aug 2022:

Complete document here: [Judgment of MHC, 12th August](#)

The original petition of Hemant, Krishna, and Anita is not cited in this document. Here, we only aim to contextualise the arguments made by the lawyers of the Governing Board (GB). We have also included some citations from the fairly bipartisan verdict of the Madras High Court that the Foundation Office has appealed.

Reminder that this document does not aim to summarise the verdict.

Arguments presented in court by the lawyers representing the Governing Board, on the petition filed by Hemant Lamba (WCom):

B COPY (m) The petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022 has filed this writ petition only with malafide and vindictive motive to wreak vengeance against the first respondent Foundation and this is more so evident from a bare perusal of various interim reliefs which have been sought in the petition which purely deal with the private disputes between the petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022 and the respondents 2 to 5.

From: Page 23

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that Hemant Lamba has filed this case vindictively, to “wreak vengeance” in order to “deal with private disputes” with Anu, Partha, Srimoyi and Arun.

From: Page 23

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that interference from the court is unnecessary because all they (GB) are asking for is for Aurovilians to update the Register of Residents. The process has been delayed because of “lack of cooperation of a section of belligerent residents”.

(n) The impugned communication will work itself out and does not require any interference from this Court. The impugned communication has merely asked the Register of Residents to be updated on or before 10.06.2022. However, because of the present litigation and lack of cooperation of a section of belligerent residents, the process has been delayed. In any event, this process will be completed by 31.08.2022 subject to further time extensions, if any. Thus the order will work itself out and updating the Register of Residents will only be in the larger interest of Auroville, since the Residents' Assembly will properly function and no person can be prejudiced by such an action.

(r) The petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022 has been continuously indulging in anti-Aurovillian activities by opposing every action of the Governing Board and acting against the interest of the residents of the Auroville and the Mother's charter. Development works at Auroville have been sought to be thwarted by the petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022.

(s) The petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022 has gone to an extent of criminal offences and has disturbed public functionaries from

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performing their legal duties and an FIR has been registered against him in Crime No.134 of 2022 dated 17.05.2022 under Sections 147, 452, 341, 353, 465 & 506(i) IPC read with sections 66(c) & 66(d) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022 lacks bonafide and should not be allowed to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this Court.

From: Pages 24 and 25

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that Hemant Lamba has been indulging in "anti-Aurovillian activities", "opposing every action of the Governing Board and acting against the interest of the residents of the Auroville and the Mother's charter." He has committed "criminal offences" and has stopped public officials from performing their legal duties, for which an FIR has been registered against him.

He "lacks bonafide and should not be "allowed" to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court."

This sentence aims to paint Hemant Lamba as a criminal who shouldn't even be allowed to make a case in the High Court.

Note: *The criminal offences mentioned here refer to the FIR filed against Hemant Lamba and 5 other individuals by the Office of the Auroville Foundation. A quash order (to annul the FIRS) has been applied for by Hemant and the others since they consider the allegations made to be spurious.*

From: Page 25

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that "The Governing Board is the Supreme authority under the Auroville Foundation Act."

This argument is the core ground for the later appeal filed by the lawyers of the Governing Board.

(t) The Governing Board is the Supreme authority under the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988. In terms of section 7(1)(a) of the Act, the general superintendence, direction, control and management of the affairs of the undertakings and the right, title and interest thereon vest with the Foundation.

(u) Though under section 10(3) of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, the Foundation consists of three authorities namely the Governing Board, Residents' Assembly and Auroville International Advisory Council, in terms of Section 11(3) of the Act, the general superintendence, direction and management shall vest with the Governing Board. Thus all powers of Foundation which includes the Residents Assembly is exercisable by the Governing Board and the Governing Board has complete control and management of the affairs of

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all undertakings and the right, title and interest thereon of Auroville.

From: Pages 25-26

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that all powers of the Auroville Foundation, including the powers of the Residents' Assembly (RA), come under the GB. The GB "has complete control and management of the affairs" of Auroville and is the authority who may take a call on what is and isn't in the best interest of Auroville.

From: Pages 26 - 27

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the function of the RA is only to advise the GB. It is at best only an advisory body of the GB.

It is further argued that this is abundantly clear especially from the AV Foundation Rules of 1997 which expanded on the powers of the GB. The WCom can help create further organisation, only in-line with the decisions of the GB.

According to the lawyer, only the GB has the power to make any regulations.

(w) In terms of section 19(1) of the Act, the function of the Residents Assembly is to only advise the Governing Board in respect of all activities relating to the residents of Auroville.

(x) In terms of section 20(4) of the Act, the Working Committee of the Residents Assembly can create further organization, provided the Working Committee is satisfied that such organizations have declared

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that they shall act in conformity with the decision of the Governing Board and their main objective is to promote ideals laid down in the charter of the Auroville proclaimed by the Mother. Therefore, it can never be the case of the petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022 that the sub groups of the Working Committee will have to act in conformity with the decisions of the Governing Board, but the alleged members of the Working Committee itself will act on a war path with the Governing Board. Further in terms of section 32 of the Act, the power to make regulations also vests only with the Governing Board.

(y) Rule 4 of the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997 have further expanded the power of the Governing Board. Therefore, it is abundantly clear that it is only the Governing Board which has the sole exclusive power as per the Act to decide on matters with relation to the Foundation and the Residents' Assembly at best can only be called as an advisory body to the Governing Board.

(z) The idea of Auroville was that of the divine mother, wherein she envisaged a spiritual and a cultural township for nearly 50,000 people from different parts of the world, coming together and living as a single community, in the 3000 acres of land. However, people like the

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petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022 want to ensure that they use Auroville as their own private fiefdom which actions are purely against the vision of the Mother. People like the petitioner in W.P.No.14707 of 2022 want Auroville to be made into their own elite club by restricting entry to freshers and by squatting and claiming title over lands belonging to the Auroville Foundation (government as per the statue). The Government of India also provides grants of close to 30 crores (earlier 20 crores) every year for hardly 2500-3000 people living in Auroville.

From: Page 27 - 28

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the Mother envisaged a spiritual and cultural township of nearly 50,000 people from all over the world living on 3000 acres of land.

It is then argued that people like Hemant Lamba want to use Auroville as their own private "fiefdom" (estate or domain of a feudal lord), make Auroville their own elite club by restricting entry to newcomers, and squatting on land belonging to the Auroville Foundation, meaning land belonging to the government as per law, purely against the vision of the Mother.

It is also pointed out that the GoI provides grants close to 30 crores every year for hardly 2500 - 3000 people living in Auroville.

Note: The budget allocated for Auroville's purposes covered about 4% of Auroville's overall budget in 20-21.

Note:

Arguments were also presented in court by lawyers representing **Anu, Arun, Srimoyi and Partha**, on the same petition. They have been omitted here due to milder significance in the larger picture. You can find these arguments on pages 28 - 32 of [the document](#).

**Arguments presented in court by the lawyers representing
the Governing Board on the petition filed by Anita Gaur (Outreach Media):**

From: Page 35

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the Charter says Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Therefore, no person who wants to be a true Aurovillian should fight for positions and assets. However, Anita “smacks of arrogance” since she wants a certain person to “continuously hold positions in the foundation”.

(g) The Charter of Auroville makes it clear that it belongs to nobody in particular and it belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville, one must be a willing servitor of the divine consciousness.

(h) As per the above charter which is recognised in preamble to the Act and which is what the Act seeks to achieve, no person who wants to be a true Aurovillian should fight for positions and assets. However, the very petition of the petitioner in W.P.No.8675 of 2022 seems to smack of arrogance, since the petitioner wants a certain set of persons to continuously hold positions in the foundation. This action is directly opposite to the Charter of Auroville.

(i) Ms.Fabienne Marechal whose cause the petitioner has espoused in the writ petition does not have a clean track record. It can be seen that the Foundation has given complaints against Ms.Fabienne Marechal for usurping public property and stealing the equipments belonging to the Foundation which have been purchased through public funds and public money. Therefore, the petitioner in W.P.No.8675 of 2022 lacks bonafide and should not be allowed to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this Court.

From: Page 35

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that Fabienne has usurped public property and stolen equipment belonging to the Foundation, purchased through public funds and public money. She lacks integrity and should not be “allowed” to make a case in High Court.

Note: *All assets in Auroville do indeed belong to the Auroville Foundation, of which Fabienne is a part as a member of the Residents' Assembly. It is not correct to claim that Fabienne was using the assets for her personal use.*

From: Page 36

Plain English Translation:

The same argument stating that people like the petitioner (this time Anita) want to use Auroville as their own private "fiefdom", make Auroville their own elite club and squatting on land belonging to the Auroville Foundation was made again, including the mention of Gol grants.

(j) The idea of Auroville was that of the divine Mother, wherein she envisaged a spiritual and a cultural township for nearly 50,000 people from different parts of the world, coming together and living as a single community in the 3000 acres of land. However, people like the petitioner want to ensure that they use Auroville as their own private fiefdom which actions are purely against the vision of the Mother.

(k) The people like the petitioner want Auroville to be made into their own elite club by restricting entry to freshers and by squatting and claiming title over lands belonging to the Auroville Foundation (government as per the statute). The Government of India also provides grants of closer to 30 crores (earlier 20 crores) for hardly 2500-3000 people living in Auroville.

Arguments presented in court by the lawyers representing the Governing Board on the petition filed by Krishna Devanandan (ATDC):

Over pages 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40, the lawyers argue the petition to be invalid. In addition, the same argument about the Charter was invoked.

(j) Auroville as an idea and as a concept, are being destroyed by people like the petitioner in W.P.No.11738 of 2022. The idea of Auroville was that of the divine Mother, wherein she envisaged a spiritual and a cultural township for nearly 50,000 people from different parts of the world, coming together and living as a single community in the 3000 acres of land. Miscreants like the writ petitioner in W.P.No.11738 of 2022 who do not believe in the spiritual guidance of the divine Mother, are disturbing the peaceful humanity, co-existence and selfless life style, and thus, the present writ petition ought not to be entertained by this Court.

From: Page 40 - 41

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the idea and concept of Auroville is being destroyed by people like Krishna. It is argued that the vision of Auroville is that of a "spiritual and cultural township for nearly 50,000 people [...] in the 3000 acres of land", and "miscreants" like Krishna "do not believe in the spiritual guidance of the divine Mother" and "disturb the peaceful humanity, co-existence and selfless lifestyle of Auroville."

From: Page 41

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the Gol "is providing free lands, subsidised infrastructure, food, energy, electricity" and "full income tax exemption" to Auroville only for the Charter. "Meddlesome interlopers" like Krishna with a "my way or highway attitude" cannot abuse this.

Note: All Auroville land has been purchased through Auroville's own fundraising efforts. No land has been bought from Government of India funds. It is also unclear what 'food' is referred to. The Government of India is also not providing energy, electricity, or subsidised infrastructure.

(k) The Government of India is providing free lands, subsidised infrastructure, food, energy, electricity and providing full income tax exemption to Auroville and its people only for this divine purpose and for the realisation of Charter of Auroville. This cannot be abused by meddlesome interlopers like the petitioner in W.P.No.11738 of 2022 who seemed to have a "my way or highway attitude".

General note: There is no mention of 'human unity' in the vision of Auroville presented by the lawyers of the Governing Board.

Statements by the judge

(verdict)

The Court expressed its "deep sense of anguish for the present infighting" in Auroville. Excerpts of some of the statements offered by the honourable judge are below. It is worth noting that the sentiments expressed by the honourable judge seek unity and fraternity.

It is also these very sentiments that are currently being appealed by the Governing Board.

From: Page 43

31. The nature of the enactment shows that there is no place for egoistic thinking as all the three authorities will have to jointly work for the achievement of "The Mother's" Charter. The relationship between the three authorities is of mutuality. In this world, as Sri Aurobindo says, there are always three terms of existence: the individual, the group in which he lives, and largest group which is humanity as a whole. And nobody can get rid of these three terms. The world cannot get rid of groups and the individuals, individual cannot give up group or their largest group, and no group can exist without a membership of individuals and the largest group around. The three are inter related.

There is a spiritual unity between the three namely the individual, groups and the largest group. Therefore, if you are really spiritually governed, you will see mutuality of the three. Sri Aurobindo says "by no mechanical law can you attain to this mutuality". It is only when you develop true brotherhood and you exercise true brotherhood that this mutuality can be experienced and can be realised.

From: Page 44

COPY 32. The Auroville Foundation Act has been enacted to fulfil the noble and divine ideals of "Sri Aurobindo" and "The Mother" and to develop brotherhood. The enactment prescribes brotherhood and is of such a nature that you are bound, even if you want to throw away brotherhood, you are bound to have it, it's like a spiritual compulsion.

33. Under the Auroville Foundation Act, Auroville will be administered by the people of Auroville. Secondly, as long as the people of Auroville want to develop Auroville in accordance with the Charter of Auroville, they have full freedom to do so. Even the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation cannot infringe upon the Residents of Auroville as long as they follow the Auroville charter. However, the Governing Board, of course, has the power of control and supervision and to see that everything is run smoothly and, particularly, that it is bound to promote the ideals of Auroville.

The bipartisan nature of the ruling may be seen through statements like below, exhibiting the court's insistence on all bodies truly functioning in a collaborative manner in order to uphold Mother's vision for Auroville.

46. As seen from Section 20 of the Act, even the Working Committee cannot take a decision on its own, it must be a collective decision approved by the Governing Board. It is also made clear under Section 20 (4) of the Act that the main object for any policy decision for the Foundation should be to promote the ideals laid down in the Charter of Auroville proclaimed by the Mother on 28.02.1968. The said Charter is based on the philosophy of "unity in diversity and peace of humanity".

From: Page 55

*Plain English Translation:
The judge states that even the WCom cannot take decisions on its own, they must be collective decisions, very much approved by the GB. Any policy decision for the Foundation must be to promote the ideals laid down in the Charter - Unity in diversity and peace of humanity.*

From: Page 76

*Plain English Translation:
The judge states that to achieve the noble ideals of the Mother, the only way out is to update the RoR to re-establish the democratic setup of the Foundation.*

66. To put a quietus to the dispute and for achieving the noble ideals of the Mother, the only way out is to update the Register of Residents after giving wide publicity to enable the eligible residents of Auroville to get themselves registered as the member of the Residents' Assembly in terms of the Act and its Rules. This court is of the considered view that only after the Register of Residents is updated and all eligible residents are registered as members of the Residents' Assembly, the democratic set up of the foundation can be achieved.

Over pages 57 and 58, the honourable judge reiterates through various statements that the Auroville Foundation Act was "established for the welfare of the residents of Auroville who are followers of the Charter of Auroville, whose primary teachings are human unity, peace and progress."

Please find below the closing remarks by the judge

71. Before parting with this case, this court reminds all the parties to this dispute about the motto “United we stand, divided we fall”. If all the four statutory authorities under the Auroville Foundation Act work together having the Mother's Charter in mind, the noble and lofty ideals of Sir Aurobindo and The Mother will certainly be achieved and there will be peace and prosperity for the Residents of Auroville. This Court is confident that all the parties to the dispute will forget the recent unpleasant incidents and work together in terms of the Mother's Charter in future.

Plain English:

If the authorities under the Foundation Act work together, the ideals of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo “will certainly be achieved and there will be peace and prosperity for the Residents of Auroville.”

The honourable judge was confident that all parties will work together for Mother's Charter, because united we stand, and divided we fall.

----- x -----

Appendix A-52 - RA TDC to /AVFO 'ATDC'/

16th August 2022



Auroville, 16th August 2022

TDC 22.019

Dear Govind Ranjan, Hemant Shekhar, Jaya Berggreen-Clausen, M. Ponnusamy, Jothi Prasad Rajan, Sindhuja Jagadeesh, Toby Neuman

We are writing to you following the recent judgment of the High Court of India on W.P.Nos.14707 & 11738 of 2022 which we, the TDC members duly selected by the Residents' Assembly through its ratified selection process and notified to the Governing Board intend to comply with.

As you may be aware, the judgment states "65.. all the parties to these writ petitions are only interested in the implementation of "The Mother's" charter which prescribes the philosophy of "Unity in Diversity" and "Peace of the entire Humanity", but the procedure as contemplated under the Act for achieving that objective has not been followed." and that "64. Any reconstitution of the Auroville Town Development Council can be done only after consultation with the Residents' Assembly that too, by a proper resolution passed by the Residents' Assembly." The judgment stands against the recent invalid attempts to reconstitute the Town Development Council and leaves no reasonable question regarding your status in the same.

We request that you comply with the judgement of the Madras High Court and vacate the offices you have been occupying and to hand-forward to us all associated materials by 24th August 2022 (such materials not limited to office and cabinet keys, digital and hard-copy data, computers and hardware, software, accounts, records, contracts, and so on).

Please be advised that refusal or non compliance with the judgment of the High Court would constitute Contempt of Court and would require us to bring the same to the notice of the High Court.

We look forward to your positive response at the earliest.

in Service

L'avenir d'Auroville - TDC Town Development Council

Allan B, Anan, Dorle, Divya L, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera N, Natasha S, Tom G

CC:

Dr. G. Seetharaman

GB

IAC

Residents Assembly Service

Please write to: TDC@auroville.services 2022-08-16

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Appendix A-53 - RA WCom to Secretary & former WCom members

16th August 2022



Auroville
Foundation

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

16th August 2022

To:

1. Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi,
Secretary, Auroville Foundation
Auroville Foundation Bhavan
Auroville 605101
2. Anuradha Legrand,
former member of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
Sunship
Auroville - 605101
3. Parthasarathy Krishnan
former member of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
Maitereya Community
Auroville 605101
4. Arun Selvam
Former Member of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly,
Celebration Community,
Auroville 605101
5. Srimoyi Rossegger
Former member of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
Samasti Community,
Auroville 605101

Dear Sirs/Madam,

Sub: Judgement of the Madras High Court dated 12.08.2022

In WP14707 of 2022, you have been arrayed as Respondents 1-5. The Hon'ble Madras High Court has been pleased to dispose of the same vide judgement dated 12.08.2022. The Court has reiterated that under the Scheme of the AVF Act, the Residents' Assembly has the right to choose their own Working Committee. As the judgement states in para 45:

"It is also made clear in Section 20 (3) of the Act that the manner of choosing the members of the Working Committee and their term of office shall be such as may be decided by the Residents' Assembly. Therefore, the Working Committee is chosen only by the Residents' Assembly and its term of Office is also decided by the Residents' Assembly."

Administrative Area (Town Hall), Auroville - 605101, Tamil Nadu, India

Tel: + 91 413 2622143 Fax: 91 413 2622055 E-mail: workingcom@auroville.org.in Website: <http://www.auroville.org>

The present members of the Working Committee have been elected on 27th June 2022 by the Residents' Assembly as follows:

Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Mael Shanti Vidal, Sauro Mezzetti, Valli Senthilkumar

The resolution of the Residents' Assembly is attached for your reference.

We, the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of Auroville, intend to follow and comply with the judgement of the High Court. We request that you comply with the same and ensure that we are given back access to our office and records in order for us to assist the Residents' Assembly in various matters including completing the updation of the Register of Residents in accordance with the Act and Rules and in compliance with the direction of the Madras High Court in its judgement dated 12.08.2022.

You are requested to comply with the judgement of the Madras High Court within a period of 5 days, i.e. 22nd August 2022, and ensure that all office spaces, records and email accounts are restored to the legitimate Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of Auroville.

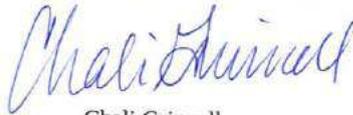
Please be advised that refusal or non compliance with the judgement of the High Court would constitute Contempt of Court and would require us to bring the same to the notice of the High Court.

Regards,

For the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation



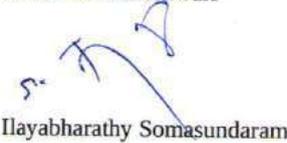
Aravinda Maheshwari



Chali Grinnell



Hemant Lamba



Ilayabharathy Somasundaram



Sauro Mezzetti



Valli Senthilkumar



Mael Shanti Vidal is currently abroad but has sent by email his agreement with this letter.

CC:

1. The Governing Board
2. The International Advisory Council
3. Residents' Assembly

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Auroville Foundation

Auronet (<https://auroville.org.in>)

OUTCOME OF THE SELECTION PROCESS 2022

By RAS (Residents Assembly Service) , 27 Jun 2022 / 12:08 pm
in Announcement Tags Selection process
loading...

OUTCOME OF THE SELECTION PROCESS 2022

We are happy to announce the results of the selection process for Auroville Council, ATDC, Entry Board, FAMC and Working Committee.

Please welcome new members of the Working Groups!

Auroville Council

Julia (Soffio), Philippe (Anusuya), Samrat (Anusuya), Svenja (Prarthna).
Ongoing members: Balaji (Kottakarai), Claudine B. (Inspiration), Shiva (MM Nursery), Shivaya (Newlands), Suryan (Isai Ambalam).

ATDC

Allan B. (Hope), Anan (Eternity), Divya L. (Kalabhumi), Dorle (Soffio), Fabian O. (Pitchandilkulam Forest), Island L. (Espace), Lata (Certitude), Meera (Auro Orchard), Natasha (Evergreen), Tom (Invocation).

Entry Board

Aurore (Transformation).

Ongoing members: Alain S. (Invocation), Dheena (Aspiration), Jayanthi (Auromodele), Lakshmanan (Kuilapalayam), Matriprasad (Prayatna), Matilde (Madhuca), Ramanarayana (Courage), Swadha (Courage).

FAMC

Bobby P. (Prarthna), Danny (Sve Dame), Elodie (Center Field), Mita R. (Samasti / New Creation).

Ongoing members: Amy (Sunyata), Palani M. (Auromodele), Ranjithkumar (Mangalam).

Working Committee

Aravinda (Auro Orchard), Chali (Madhuca), Ilayabharathy (Amy), Maël (Grace), Valli (Petite Ferme).

Ongoing members: Hemant (Aurodam), Sauro (Grace).

Appendix A-54 - RA FAMC to /AVFO 'FAMC'/

18th August 2022



**AUROVILLE
FOUNDATION**

FUNDS AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ACUR, Auroville 605 101
TAMIL NADU - INDIA
Phone: 0413 2623649
E-mail: famc@auroville.services

18 August 2022

To

1. Auroville Foundation
Represented by its Secretary,
Auroville Foundation Bhavan
Auroville 605101
2. Mr. Chandresh Patel
Governing Board appointed member to the FAMC
Certitude Community,
Auroville 605101
3. Mr. Torkil Dantzer
Governing Board appointed member to the FAMC
Swayam Community,
Auroville 605101
4. Mr. Sathyamoorthy Pathchiappan (Kalya)
Governing Board appointed member to the FAMC
Shakti Community,
Auroville 605101
5. Ms. Jocelyn Brynhild
Governing Board appointed member to the FAMC
Certitude Community,
Auroville 605101
6. Ms. Geeta Hemant
Governing Board appointed member to the FAMC
Kalpana Community,
Auroville 605101
7. Mr. B.S. Sathyanarayan
Governing Board appointed member to the FAMC
Bharat Nivas Campus,
Auroville 605101



**AUROVILLE
FOUNDATION**

FUNDS AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ACUR, Auroville 605 101
TAMIL NADU - INDIA
Phone: 0413 2623649
E-mail: famc@auroville.services

Dear Mesdames, Sirs,

Sub: Judgement of the Madras High Court dated 12.8.2022

The Hon'ble Madras High Court has been pleased to dispose of WP14707 of 2022 vide judgment dated 12.8.2022. In this judgment, the Court has reiterated that under the Scheme of the Auroville Foundation Act, the Residents Assembly has the right to choose the members of their committees. As the judgment states in para 49:

The Auroville Foundation has been established by the Mother to benefit its residents who abide by the Auroville Charter. Therefore, any decision concerning the Foundation will have to necessarily get the concurrence of the residents. The members of the Governing Board need not be the residents of Auroville. Whereas the members of the Residents' Assembly will necessarily have to be the residents of Auroville. [...] When the Foundation was established only to benefit its residents, who follow the Charter of Auroville laid down by the Mother, any policy decision of the Foundation can be taken by the Governing Board only in consultation with the Residents' Assembly.

and in para 53:

Under the impugned order dated 06.05.2022, which is the subject matter of WP.No.14707 of 2022, Governing Board of the Auroville foundation has restricted the functioning of the Residents' Assembly on account of the alleged non updation of the Register of the Residents and on account of the alleged ongoing activities in the Residents' Assembly, which according to the Governing Board has resulted in disfunctional state of affairs and has led to complete policy paralysis. The Governing Board has not consulted the full compliment of the Residents' Assembly, which is mandatory as per Section 17 of the Act. The Governing Board under the Auroville Foundation Act, cannot take a unilateral decision on its own and restrict the functioning of the Residents' Assembly as the functions of the Residents' Assembly is a statutory function as prescribed under Section 19 of the Act. No resolution was passed by the Residents' Assembly comprising of all the residents who are entitled to be registered as members of the Residents' Assembly authorising the Governing Board to pass the impugned order, which is the subject matter of WP.No.14707 of 2022. When there is no such resolution passed by the Residents' Assembly, the question of restricting the functioning of the Residents' Assembly on account of the alleged non updation of the Register of Residents and on account of the alleged ongoing activities of the Residents' Assembly, is not permissible as per the Statute, as the Governing Board cannot act unilaterally without consulting the Residents' Assembly, though the Governing Board is the authority under the Statute to accord final approval.

The present members of the Funds and Assets Management Committee have been elected by the Residents' Assembly on 26 June 2022:

Ms. Amy Bassett, Mr. Bobby Patel, Mr. Danny Merguei, Mrs. Elodie Desrousseaux, Ms. Mita Radhakrishnan, Mr. M. Palani, and Mr. R. Ranjithkumar

The resolution of the Residents' Assembly is enclosed herewith for your reference.



**AUROVILLE
FOUNDATION**

FUNDS AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ACUR, Auroville 605 101
TAMIL NADU - INDIA
Phone: 0413 2623649
E-mail: famc@auroville.services

We, the Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Residents Assembly of Auroville, intend to follow and comply with the judgment of the High Court. We request that you comply with the same and ensure that we are given back all of our office equipment including computers, chairs, desks, file cabinets and records in order for us to take up all the works of the Funds and Assets Management Committee without further delay. These may be returned to the first floor of the ACUR (commonly known as 'Town Hall') building from where they were removed on 26th and 27th June 2022.

You are requested to comply with the judgment of the Madras High Court within a period of 5 days, ie. 23 August 2022, and ensure that all the office equipment, records and email accounts are restored to the legitimate Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Residents Assembly of Auroville.

The Madras High Court in its judgement dated 12.8.2022 has held that the Governing Board cannot act without consultation of the Residents Assembly as noted above. In light of this, we the FAMC of the Residents Assembly who have been established in accordance with the Auroville Foundation Act and the Auroville Foundation Rules 1997 state that the FAMC consisting of Mr. Chandresh Patel, Mr. Torkil Dantzer, Mr. Sathyamoorthy Pathchiappan (Kalya), Ms. Jocelyn Brynhild, Ms. Geeta Hemant and Mr. B.S. Sathyanarayan who were appointed by the Governing Board under Office Order No. 01-2022 dated 1/6/2022 do not have any authority to act as they were not elected or appointed by the Residents Assembly of Auroville. We request that the Secretary to the Governing Board and the other members to whom this notice is issued recognise the judgement and allow us as the FAMC of the Residents Assembly to function and fulfill our obligations to the Residents of Auroville in accordance with the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 and the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997.

Regards,

For the FAMC of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

Amy Bassett

Bobby Patel

Danny Merguei

Elodie Desrousseaux

Mita Radhakrishnan

M. Palani

R. Ranjithkumar

cc:

Governing Board
International Advisory Council
Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
Residents' Assembly

Auronet (<https://auroville.org.in>)

OUTCOME OF THE SELECTION PROCESS 2022

By [RAS \(Residents Assembly Service\)](#) , 27 Jun 2022 / 12:08 pm
in [Announcement](#) Tags [Selection process](#)
[loading...](#)

OUTCOME OF THE SELECTION PROCESS 2022

We are happy to announce the results of the selection process for Auroville Council, ATDC, Entry Board, FAMC and Working Committee.

Please welcome new members of the Working Groups!

Auroville Council

Julia (Soffio), Philippe (Anusuya), Samrat (Anusuya), Svenja (Prarthna).
Ongoing members: Balaji (Kottakarai), Claudine B. (Inspiration), Shiva (MM Nursery), Shivaya (Newlands), Suryan (Isai Ambalam).

ATDC

Allan B. (Hope), Anan (Eternity), Divya L. (Kalabhumi), Dorle (Soffio), Fabian O. (Pitchandikulam Forest), Island L. (Espace), Lata (Certitude), Meera (Auro Orchard), Natasha (Evergreen), Tom (Invocation).

Entry Board

Aurore (Transformation).

Ongoing members: Alain S. (Invocation), Dheena (Aspiration), Jayanthi (Auromodele), Lakshmanan (Kuilapalayam), Matriprasad (Prayatna), Matilde (Madhuca), Ramanarayana (Courage), Swadha (Courage).

FAMC

Bobby P. (Prarthna), Danny (Sve Dame), Elodie (Center Field), Mita R. (Samasti / New Creation).

Ongoing members: Amy (Sunyata), Palani M. (Auromodele), Ranjithkumar (Mangalam).

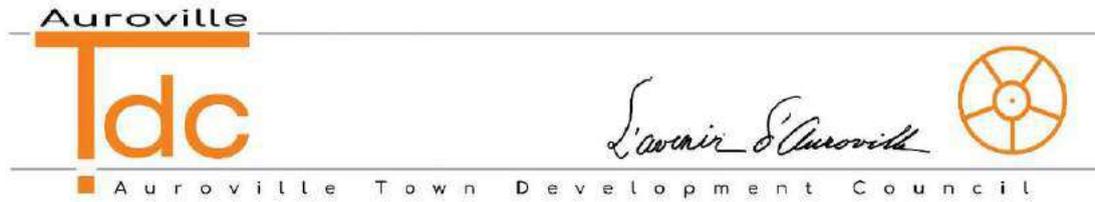
Working Committee

Aravinda (Auro Orchard), Chali (Madhuca), Ilayabharathy (Amy), Maël (Grace), Valli (Petite Ferme).

Ongoing members: Hemant (Aurodam), Sauro (Grace).

Appendix A-55 - RA TDC to Joint Committee

19th August 2022



Auroville, 19th August 2022

TDC 22.021

Subject: Madras High Court judgement reg TDC, Auroville

To Mr. Mohan IAS, Collector, Villupuram District.

To Ms. Geethanjali, Conservator of Forests.

Dear Respected Madam and Sir, members of the Joint Committee,

We would like to bring to your attention the recent judgement of the Hon'ble Madras High Court dated 12.08.2022. The judgment of the Hon'ble Madras High Court of India on W.P.Nos.14707 & 11738 of 2022 affirms that we are the TDC - Town Development Council of Auroville - members duly selected by the Residents' Assembly through its ratified selection process and notified to the Governing Board.

We therefore advise you to contact us prior to your next planned visit to inspect the remaining areas of the planned Crown Road for your report, so that we can guide and help you to inspect the entire stretch (4.4) Km of the Crown Road as prescribed in the NGT ruling.

As mentioned in our previous email to you dated 28th July 2022 we would like to reiterate that in the NGT ruling (under 123. b) it refers to development of the crown and the area referred to subsequently as the crown. It is understood that the Joint Committee has been directed to access the entire (4.4 KM) of the crown in their report, and **not only** the Darkali stretch. And

Please write to: TDC@auroville.services

2022-08-19

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therefore the other stretches of the Crown also fall under the NGT direction and are required to be inspected and assessed. This is also true for all the natural water flow and catchment areas along the entire Crown road. Especially in Darkali but also very importantly the area on the western part of the crown, South of Darkali towards the Language Lab / Savitri Bhavan.

Please contact us prior to your next planned visit to inspect the remaining areas of the planned Crown Road for your report, so that we can guide and help you understand the full area that requires to be inspected.

Please contact:

Ms Lata Iyer - 9486534339 - lata.iyer@gmail.com

or

Mr. Island Lescure - 75981 03616 - islandarb@gmail.com

Thank you for taking the above mentioned into account in your report.

Best regards,

in Service

L'avenir d'Auroville - TDC Town Development Council of the Auroville Foundation

Allan Bennett, Anan Skoles, Divya Lieser, Dorle Heller, Fabian Ostner, Island Lescure, Lata Iyer, Meera Natarajan, Natasha Storey, Tom Gablier

CC:

Dr. J. Ravi

Secr. Auroville Foundation Office

Auroville, Tamilnadu

secretaryavf@auroville.org.in

Please write to: TDC@auroville.services

2022-08-19

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Appendix A-56 - By the RA Working Groups to the RA

19th August 2022

Joint Massbulletin from the Working Groups of the RA 19th August 2022

Dear friends,

The voice and central role of Aurovilians in the governance of Auroville has been recognised in the Madras High Court.

The Court in its judgment dated 12.8.2022 has reaffirmed that “under the Auroville Foundation, Auroville will be administered by the people of Auroville”, “to [the] benefit of the residents of Auroville who abide by the Auroville Charter” and that we are responsible for the development of Auroville with the supervisory guidance of the Governing Board and the International Advisory Council.

The Residents’ Assembly is one of the three authorities of the Auroville Foundation and it is not subordinate to the Governing Board and the International Advisory Council. It is instead an authority equal to the others, and all have to work on equal footing in a spirit of mutuality. All internal committees hold a responsibility of the Residents’ Assembly in the management of the day-to-day activities of Auroville, and these committees cannot be constituted without the Residents’ Assembly’s involvement. For this reason, the judgment stated that appointments to the Town Development Council (TDC) without consultation of the Residents’ Assembly are invalid. Furthermore the High Court recognized that the nomination and appointment of the Working Committee is purely an internal affair of the Residents’ Assembly and has declared invalid (quashed) the letter from the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) of the Office of the Secretary of 6th May asking to stop all decisions and meetings of the Residents’ Assembly (on the ground that the Register of Residents was not updated). Thus, the decision of the Residents’ Assembly of 10th May regarding the Working Committee and all subsequent actions are valid. The only legally recognized Working Committee is the one established through the Residents’ Assembly and not the one currently recognized by the Office of the Secretary. The full judgment can be found here and summaries are being produced.

The calm strength and composure of residents throughout these difficult months has been a major contribution to winning the cases for the Residents’ Assembly. We have been able to demonstrate and stick to the ‘high ground’, continuing our collective work in the spirit of unity and it is essential we remain calm and equanimous against all acts of aggression or provocation at all times, now and always. We may need to be prepared for a marathon rather than a sprint regarding the current path of legal actions that we had to take in order to reaffirm the role and standing of the Auroville Residents as a whole, the Residents’ Assembly.

We invite you all, regardless of your opinion, to participate in the on-going Emergency RAD which follows the recent Court judgment. Please note that the proposed resolution ([link](#)) is an operational decision, not a policy decision, as it is not deciding something new. It is to affirm what is already valid, recognising the ruling and directions of the Hon’ble Madras High Court in all

matters, including updating the Register of Residents prior to new policy decisions being taken. We reject the false and desperate attempts that are being made by a few claiming otherwise. We, the working groups selected by the Residents' Assembly, are together in our commitment to uphold and harness the voice of the Residents' Assembly and the richness of our diversity as we strive towards the Charter and The Mother's Dream.

In service,

Working Committee, Auroville Council, Town Development Council, Funds and Assets
Management Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Appendix A-57 - Letter from the RA WCom to the Townhall 'management' team

16th August 2022



Auroville
Foundation

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

16th August 2022

To:

Balu, Lieve, Venkatesh

The Judgement of the Madras High Court dated 12.8.2022 has reiterated that under the Scheme of the AVF Act, the Residents' Assembly has the right to choose their own Working Committee. As the judgement states in para 45:

"It is also made clear in Section 20 (3) of the Act that the manner of choosing the members of the Working Committee and their term of office shall be such as may be decided by the Residents' Assembly. Therefore, the Working Committee is chosen only by the Residents' Assembly and its term of Office is also decided by the Residents' Assembly."

The present members of the Working Committee have been elected on 27th June 2022 by the Residents' Assembly as follows:

Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Mael Shanti Vidal, Sauro Mezzetti, Valli Senthilkumar

The resolution of the Residents' Assembly is attached for your reference.

We, the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of Auroville requires access to their office in order for us to assist the Residents' Assembly in various matters including completing the updation of the Register of Residents in accordance with the Act and Rules and in compliance with the direction of the Madras High Court in its judgement dated 12.08.2022. You are requested to comply with the same within a period of 5 days, i.e. 22nd August 2022.

Please be advised that refusal or non compliance with the judgment of the High Court would constitute Contempt of Court and would require us to bring the same to the notice of the High Court.

Regards,

For the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of Auroville Foundation

Aravinda Maheshwari

Chali Grinnell

Hemant Lamba

Ilayabharathy Somasundaram

Sauro Mezzetti

Valli Senthilkumar



Mael Shanti Vidal is currently abroad but has sent by email his agreement with this letter.

Cc: Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi, Secretary, Auroville Foundation

Administrative Area (Town Hall), Auroville - 605101, Tamil Nadu, India

Tel: + 91 413 2622143 Fax: 91 413 2622055 E-mail: workingcom@auroville.org Website: <http://www.auroville.org>

Auronet (<https://auroville.org.in>)

OUTCOME OF THE SELECTION PROCESS 2022

By RAS (Residents Assembly Service) , 27 Jun 2022 / 12:08 pm
in [Announcement](#) [Tags](#) [Selection process](#)
[loading...](#)

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Please welcome new members of the Working Groups!

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ATDC

Allan B. (Hope), Anan (Eternity), Divya L. (Kalabhumi), Dorle (Soffio), Fabian O. (Pitchandilkulam Forest), Island L. (Espace), Lata (Certitude), Meera (Auro Orchard), Natasha (Evergreen), Tom (Invocation).

Entry Board

Aurore (Transformation).

Ongoing members: Alain S. (Invocation), Dheena (Aspiration), Jayanthi (Auromodele), Lakshmanan (Kuilapalayam), Matriprasad (Prayatna), Matilde (Madhuca), Ramanarayana (Courage), Swadha (Courage).

FAMC

Bobby P. (Prarthna), Danny (Sve Dame), Elodie (Center Field), Mita R. (Samasti / New Creation).

Ongoing members: Amy (Sunyata), Palani M. (Auromodele), Ranjithkumar (Mangalam).

Working Committee

Aravinda (Auro Orchard), Chali (Madhuca), Ilayabharathy (Amy), Maël (Grace), Valli (Petite Ferme).

Ongoing members: Hemant (Aurodam), Sauro (Grace).

Appendix A-58 - RA Resolution RAD/04/2022

August 2022



Auroville
Foundation

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Resolution of the Residents' Assembly

No. RAD/04/2022

Emergency Residents' Assembly Decision-making of August 2022

Preamble

In recent months, a series of Office Orders, along with 2 Standing Orders for the FAMC and the TDC, have been issued by the Office of the Secretary. The Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, mandates that the Residents' Assembly of Auroville be involved in the governance of Auroville and consequently in the process of appointments. This has been the practice ever since inception. Unfortunately, the stance of the present Secretary has forced Residents of Auroville to seek legal recourse to establish and reinforce the intent and purpose of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988.

In light of the recent ruling by the Madras High Court dated 12.8.2022, the Residents' Assembly of Auroville is committed to affirming the organisational structure of the Auroville Foundation consisting of the Governing Board, the International Advisory Council, the Residents' Assembly and the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly, which must work together in a spirit of "true brotherhood" leading to "mutuality". Through this resolution, we – the Residents' Assembly – affirm our deep faith and commitment to develop Auroville in accordance with the Auroville Charter and the philosophy of our founders the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. We accept and welcome with gratitude the judgment of the Hon'ble Madras High Court.

The present Resolution is being passed with respect to the sentiments expressed by the Madras High Court, in a spirit of cooperation and collective decision-making, with the hope that it will bring us closer to the ideals and aspirations set out in the Auroville Charter.

Resolution

- **We understand** that the Madras High Court in its judgement dated 12.8.2022 has reaffirmed that "under the Auroville Foundation, Auroville will be administered by the people of Auroville", "to [the] benefit of the residents of Auroville who abide by the Auroville Charter" and that we are responsible for the development of Auroville with the supervisory guidance of the Governing Board and the International Advisory Council. **We accept** the verdict of the Hon'ble Madras High Court and hereby resolve that we shall follow the letter and spirit of the judgement. **We request and direct** our Working Committee to take the necessary steps to implement the said judgement.
- **We confirm** that orders (Office Orders, Standing Orders and any other form of orders) from the Office of the Secretary and her appointees are not the result of a collaborative work with the RA, and have been issued without consultation with or approval by the Residents' Assembly, as is required by the AVF Act, the AVF Rules, and their interpretation by the Madras High Court in its judgement dated 12.8.2022.
- **We affirm** our trust and confidence in our functioning Committees, Working Groups and Services and confirm the members as per the Annexure 2 attached who were selected by the Residents' Assembly either directly, or by means and procedures approved by it. **We direct** the Financial Service and Unity Fund to continue to function only and exclusively under the direction of the RA-selected FAMC and the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.

Administrative Area (Town Hall), Auroville - 605101, Tamil Nadu, India

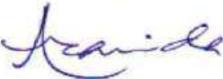
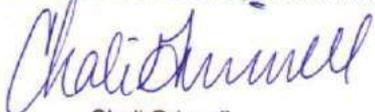
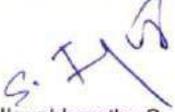
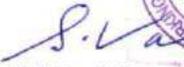
Tel: + 91 413 2622143 Fax: 91 413 2622055 E-mail: workingcom@auroville.org.in Website: <http://www.auroville.org>

services

- **We are conscious** that the Madras High Court has directed us not to take any policy decisions till the Register of Residents is updated in accordance with the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 (AVF Act), and the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997 (AVF Rules). **We hereby direct** strict compliance with the same. We hope that all the other statutory bodies of the Auroville Foundation will follow the aforementioned direction.
- In light of the sentiments expressed by the Madras High Court and in the spirit of cooperation, **we request** the Governing Board, with the support of the International Advisory Council, to immediately direct recall of all Office Orders and Standing Orders in Annexure 1 which were issued without consultation with the Residents' Assembly or their duly elected Working Groups. The names mentioned in the listed Committees and Office Orders in Annexure 1 were neither nominated nor selected by the Residents' Assembly.
- Keeping in mind the directions of the Hon'ble Madras High Court, **we instruct** that our Working Groups shall not take any policy decisions till the updation of the Register of Residents but **will continue** to ensure and reaffirm the governance structure of the Auroville Foundation as stipulated in the AVF Act and the AVF Rules, in compliance with the judgement of the Madras High Court dated 12.8.2022.
- **We further empower and direct** our Working Committee to assist the Residents of Auroville in the process of the updation of the Register of Residents in strict compliance with the AVF Act and the AVF Rules. **We request** the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to extend the same cooperation to our Working Committee and bona fide Working Groups and ensure the updation of the Register of Residents in accordance with the AVF Act and the AVF Rules and in compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in its judgment dated 12.8.2022.
- **We reserve the right** to intervene and recall, or if necessary, ratify the decisions or members of the Working Groups in accordance with the AVF Act, AVF Rules and previous resolutions and rules of this Assembly.
- After the passing of this Resolution in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Assembly, **we direct** our Working Committee to take all necessary steps to ensure implementation of the decision of the Madras High Court. **We authorize** the Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly (Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Mael, Sauro, Valli) to sign this Resolution on behalf of the Residents' Assembly.

I Agree with the Resolution as stated above
 I Disagree with the Resolution as stated above
 I Abstain

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

		
Aravinda Maheshwari	Chali Grinnell	Hemant Lamba
		
Ilayabharathy Somasundaram	Sauro Mezzetti	Valli Senthilkumar



Note: Mael Shanti Vidal, Working Committee member, is temporarily out of station.

Dated: 25th August 2022

Auroville Foundation

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Annexure 1

Orders to Various Working Groups and Services

1. ATDC, Office Order No.491 appointing members of TDC, dt.15.07.21
2. ATDC Standing Order No. 01-2022 (Replacing the SO No.01-2019 dt.04.06.2019), dt.01.06.22
3. ATDC, Office Order (no number) reconstituting ATDC based on SO of 01.06.2022, dt. 01.06.22
4. FAMC, Office Order No. 01-2022 reconstituting the FAMC, dt. 01.06.22
5. ACUR, Office Order (no number) replacing executives, dt. 21.06.22
6. Archives, Office Order (no number) constituting a management committee, dt. 21.06.22
7. Land Board, Office Order (no number) replacing 2 Avn members with employed Special Officers, dt. 28.06.22
8. Unity Fund/City Services, Office Order No. 495 to Freeze disbursements, dt. 25.07.22
9. BCC, Announcement by GB FAMC of Office Order (no number) constituting BCS, dt. 30.07.22

Additionally:

- 10.From ATDC - Notice on stewardship (From Aurovet), dt. 09.08.2022
- 11.GB FAMC - Loan Group Reconstitution, dt. 06.08.2022
- 12.GB FAMC to Housing Board - Need the following information, dt. 07.08.2022



Auroville Foundation

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Annexure 2

Members of Various Working Groups or services as selected or endorsed by the Residents' Assembly

Members of the FAMC (Funds and Assets Management Committee):

Amy B, Bobby P, Danny, Elodie, Mita R, Ranjith, Palani

Members of the TDC (Town Development Council):

Allan, Anan, Divya, Dorle, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera, Natasha, Tom

Members of the Auroville Council:

Balaji, Claudine, Julia, Philippe, Shivaya, Samrat, Shiva, Suryan, Svenja

Members of the Working Committee:

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Mael, Sauro, Valli

Members of the BCC (Budget Coordination Committee):

Aurosugan, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Mahi, Rathinam, Sacha, Suryamayi, Verena

Members of the Land Board:

Helena, Padmanabhan, Raja, Rajavelu, Renu, Satyakam and Venkat

Members of the Auroville Archives:

Gilles G, Thambidurai with Doris, Isabelle, Kristen, Meera

Executives of ACUR:

Donata, Annemarie



Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Auroville Foundation

Appendix A-59 - RAS report on the results of the Emergency RAD

25th August 2022

25/08/2022, 18:34

● Outcome of the Emergency RAD to approve the Resolution of the Residents' Assembly No. RAD/04/2022

Announcement



**OUTCOME OF THE EMERGENCY RA DECISION-MAKING PROCESS
TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF THE RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY No.
RAD/04/2022**

Dear Residents,

Here are the results of the Emergency RAD (voting), called by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly, on the following [Resolution](#). The summary of the topic of this Resolution is as follows:

"We, members of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation, agree to pass a resolution that states that we, as one of the authorities of the Auroville Foundation as affirmed by the honorable Madras High Court, confirm that orders (Office Orders, Standing Orders and any other form of orders) from the Office of the Secretary and her appointees are not the result of a collaborative work with the RA, and have been issued without consultation with or approval by the Residents' Assembly, and affirm our support for the groups and appointees by the RA".

A total of 1161 valid votes have been submitted online and in-person. The number of participants exceeded the 10 per cent quorum required to validate the decision (239 votes)*.

<https://mailchi.mp/auroville/erad-results-rad-04-2022-graph-1001086>

1/4

** - Based on data received from the Residents Service, the total adult population of our community eligible to participate in RADs (age - above 18, confirmed Aurovilians) is 2386 (as of the month of August 2022).*

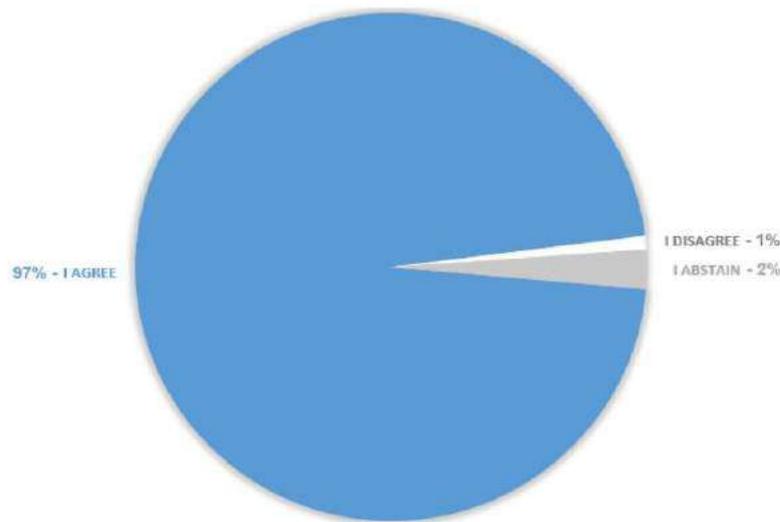
[More details >>>](#)

Kindly note that as per [the RAD policy](#) "Only confirmed Aurovilians can participate in decision-making.

*Those who have been announced as confirmed Aurovilians by the Entry Board are eligible to participate in all community decision-making processes **along with those** who have been entered into the Register of Residents maintained by the Secretary's Office. It does not include under 18-year-olds, newcomers and any other Auroville statuses".*

This utterance is based on the WCom unanimously signed declaration that "the final decision of who is accepted as 'Aurovilian' should stay with the Residents' Assembly and not with the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation. Therefore, we have written to: the Residents' Assembly Service that those who have been announced as Confirmed Aurovilian by the Entry Board are eligible to participate in all community decision-making processes along with those who have been entered into the Register of Residents maintained by the Secretary's Office..." (<https://auroville.org.in/article/84308> / [About confirmed Aurovilian status](#) dt. 05.04.2021).

RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY DECISION:



97% (1122) participants voted in favour of the above Resolution.

1% (10) participants rejected it.

2% (29) participants abstained.

For your information: as the Residents' Assembly Service's Auroville email account has been blocked, we could not reach out to the community members via our regular mass email communication, and, consequently, many residents (especially those with their auroville.org.in email addresses) were not able to get the voting link on time. Despite all the difficulties this Emergency RAD was attended by an unprecedented number of participants.

We would like to remind you that, according to [the Provisional RAD Policy](#), "8. Responsibility for implementing decisions made through this RAD process lies with the concerned working group/s or resident/s".

Many thanks to all the residents who participated in this decision-making event!

~ With gratitude,

For the Residents' Assembly Service

Dan, Giovanni P, Sathish A, Tatiana S

Appendix A-60 - Communication to GB and IAC regarding RA Resolution

25th August 2022



Auroville
Foundation

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

25th August 2022

To Hon'ble Chairman, Dr RN Ravi
To Respected members of the Governing Board
To Respected members of the International Advisory Council

Respected Chairman, Governing Board Members and International Advisory Council Members,

We are pleased to inform you of the outcome of the latest Residents' Assembly Decision (RAD) to pass Resolution No.RAD/04/2022. Please find enclosed the announcement and signed resolution.

An unprecedented and clear statement has been made by the Residents' Assembly (RA) in the form of a resolution that was passed by 97% of the 1161 eligible participants in the process. (Please note that this is the highest participation by the RA in Auroville's history, having tripled since last year.) This resolution affirms the membership of the groups and committees listed in Annexure 2 as bonafide representatives of the RA. It also confirms that none of the appointments listed in Annexure 1 were made through any consultative process with the RA. As resolved by the RA, the affirmed members of the working groups and committees are available for working together in a spirit of 'mutuality' and 'brotherhood' with the Governing Board and International Advisory Council.

We would like to make our earnest request to you to instruct the Secretary to cancel the Office orders (and other orders) listed in Annexure 1 and engage with representatives authorized by the RA. Additionally, we request that the management of AuroNet and the auroville.org.in email domain is returned to the previous teams who have the confidence of the community. This would help immensely in taking steps towards coming out of the current impasse to build the Auroville International Township in a true spirit of Unity.

As directed by the RA we affirm to follow the judgment of the Hon'ble the Madras High Court in letter and spirit.

We are committed to help the Office of the Secretary to complete the Register of Residents.

We look forward to your active support to build a harmonious and welcoming environment for the healthy growth of Auroville.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

Aravinda Maheshwari

Ilayabharathy Somasundaram

Cc: Secretary, Auroville Foundation

Chali Grinnell

Sauro Mezzetti

Hemant Lamba

Valli Senthilkumar

Administrative Area (Town Hall), Auroville - 605101, Tamil Nadu, India

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Appendix A-61 - Appeal document

22nd August 2022

The full appeal document (over 400 pages) to the 12th August judgement of the Madras High Court can be read hereafter: [Appeal document](#)

Some extracts from it can be found in appendix A-62 (on the following page).

The interim stay passed by the appeal bench on the 26th August can be found in Appendix B-21.

Appendix A-62 - Extracts from the appeal document

22nd August 2022

High Court of Judicature at Madras:

(Appellate Jurisdiction)

[Complete appeal document here.](#)

Note:

The document is 414 pages long. The below excerpts are only from the "Grounds" section of the document, which encompasses on what grounds the appeal is being filed.

Pages are numbered as per the page number in the PDF as opposed to the numbering in the index so the reader may, with ease, jump to the page being referenced.

Reminder that this document does not aim to summarise the appeal, and that excerpts selected are intended to offer visibility into the future of Auroville as envisioned by the Governing Board.

- A. That the impugned order of the learned judge is contrary to law as well as facts.
- B. That the impugned order is founded on an erroneous premise and has been passed without proper appreciation of the facts on record.
- C. That the impugned order had failed to consider the grounds that were set out in the Writ Petition.

From: Page 20 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

The judgement passed on 12th Aug is appealed on the grounds that it is against the law, that all facts have not been considered, and that the order exceeds that which was sought out in the original petition by the RA's representative Hemant.

From: Page 21 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that in the verdict, two independent issues have been incorrectly interlinked (Register of Residents and the general management of Auroville). Updating the RoR can only concern the RA and that "under no stretch of the imagination can it ever encroach upon [...] the management of Auroville by the Governing Board.

E. The learned judge in the impugned order has interlinked two independent issues. One being the updating of the Register of Residents and another is the general superintendence and management of Auroville. The updating of the Register of Residents is an act which can only concern the Residents' Assembly and under no stretch of imagination can it ever encroach upon the general superintendence and management of Auroville by the Governing Board which is a statutory mandate in terms of s.11(3) of the Auroville Foundation Act,

It is argued that the order (by Dr. Seetharaman claiming no RADs are valid till the RoR is updated) was struck down citing it lacked the backing of an RAD (Residents Assembly Decision). However, "such communication by an officer of the GB does not require any backing of [... the RA]".

F. The learned judge has committed a patent error by striking down the impugned order therein, on the premise that the impugned order did not have the backing of the resolution of the Residents' Assembly. Such communication by an officer of the Governing Board does not require any backing of the resolution from the Residents' Assembly and such a requirement is not found in the Act. Thus, the finding of the learned judge that the Governing Board cannot function without consulting the Residents' Assembly is entirely perverse.

It is argued that for the court to conclude that the notion that the GB cannot function without consulting the RA is "perverse".

Note: a statutory law is a law (here: Foundation Act) passed by a statutory body (here: Parliament) as opposed to by the judiciary (court).

H. As has been submitted above, the issues raised in the writ petition was confined to an order passed by the OSD of the appellant foundation to update the Register of Residents and in another stale order (which has already been subsequently superseded), reconstituting the ATDC. However, the learned judge after allowing these two writ petitions has further gone on to hold that unless and until the Register of Residents is updated, all activities in Auroville should come to a standstill. It is pertinent to mention that the writ petition has nothing to do with the functions of the Governing Board. Without the Governing Board being made as independent party to the writ petition, the impugned order has been passed, wherein and whereby all the policy decisions of the Governing Board has been enjoined from exercising its statutory mandate in terms of s.11(3), s.16, 17 of the AF Act. Thus through judicial order, the statutory functions have been suspended.

From: Page 22 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the verdict putting on hold all policy decisions until the RoR is updated is against the legal functions of the GB as per the Foundation Act (passed by parliament aka a statutory body) through an order by the judiciary (court).

It further argued that without making the GB an independent party in the petition, their statutory functions cannot be put on standstill through this case, and that the petition actually had nothing to do with the GB.

(Note: The original petition was filed against The Auroville Foundation AND Arun, Anu, Partha and Srimoyi.)

From: Page 22 - 23 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the court has mistakenly declared that the GB, IAC and RA jointly manage the Foundation and that each have a separate authority and that any one of them cannot override the authority of the others.

It is claimed, quoting a part of the Foundation Act, that the entire power of management of AV rests with the GB, and that "under no stretch of the imagination can it be said that the [...] management of the Foundation can be done jointly by" the GB, IAC and RA.

I. The Learned Judge has committed a patent error by stating that under the scheme of Auroville Foundation Act, the three bodies mentioned therein namely the Governing Board, International Advisory council and the resident assembly jointly administer and manage the foundation. The learned judge had erroneously held that one authority cannot override the power of the other. While holding so, the learned judge had completely lost sight of the mandate of the AF Act in particular 11(3) of the Act, which states that the entire power of the management and

The significance of this excerpt:

The vision of the AV Foundation Secretariat is herein clearly stated, namely that the administration and management of Auroville is the responsibility of the GB alone and is not the function of the RA or the IAC.

Note: If agreed to, the Chairperson of the GB can delegate these tasks to the Secretary of the AVF and henceforth the complete running of Auroville will be in the hands of the Secretary.

superintendence left entirely with the Governing Board. S.11(3) is extracted as follows :-

"Governing Board. – (1) The Governing Board shall consist of the following members, namely: –

(3) 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."

Thus, by no stretch of imagination can it be said that the administration and management of the foundation can be done jointly by the Governing Board, the IAC and Resident Assembly.

J. The learned judge has committed patent error in holding that under the Auroville Foundation Act, Auroville will be administered by the people of Auroville. The learned judge also erred in holding that as long as the people of Auroville want to develop Auroville in accordance with the Charter of Auroville, they have full freedom to do so and even the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation cannot infringe upon the Residents of Auroville as long as they follow the Auroville Charter.

From: Page 23 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the judge is mistaken in stating that "Auroville will be administered by the people of Auroville" and that as long as they develop Auroville as per the Charter, "they have full freedom" and that the GB cannot take over the authority of the RA in the administration of AV.

From: Page 23 - 24 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the Act clearly gives superior authority to the GB as opposed to RA and IAC, since the power of management of all material assets of Auroville are clearly given to the GB.

It is argued by the AVFO lawyers that following the Charter is only a basic prerequisite of being in Auroville, but the Foundation's job, mandated by Parliament, is to develop and build the Township as per the Master Plan, as living in Auroville means to develop it beyond the Charter. The "tangible expression" of the Charter is to manifest the ideals of Auroville and to develop the township for 50,000 residents.

It is further argued that if residents of Auroville oppose, delay, block or frustrate the development of the township, they cannot claim to be living by the Charter.

Most significantly, it is argued (twice) that the Act never [explicitly] states that Auroville will be administered by the people of Auroville. IF that was the purpose of the Act, the residents would have been asked to establish a residents' welfare association.

K. The learned Judge has lost sight of the fact that the Act clearly gives the power of securing proper management of the properties vested in the Foundation under section 6 and other properties relatable to Auroville to the Governing Board. Though the Act contemplates three authorities in

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the Foundation, primacy has been given to the Governing Board since all actions require the approval of the Governing Board. Nowhere does the Act state that Auroville will be administered by the "people of Auroville". If that was the intention of the interventions by the Central Government prior to the Act being passed, there would have been no need of Auroville Foundation and the residents could have been asked to establish a residents welfare association to administer their residential affairs. Co-operation with and contribution to the development of Auroville in accordance with the Charter of Auroville is a basic prerequisite of being in Auroville. Auroville Foundation has been mandated by Parliament to develop and build the Auroville Township in accordance with the Auroville Master Plan (section 17[e]). The residents of Auroville do not have the freedom to oppose, delay, block or frustrate the development of the Auroville township while claiming to live by the values of the Charter of Auroville. Living in Auroville comes with a commitment that goes beyond *wanting* to develop Auroville in accordance with the Charter. Wanting to develop Auroville in accordance with the Charter needs to find tangible expression in manifesting the ideals of Auroville and the development of the township for 50,000 residents.

The significance of this excerpt:

The vision of Auroville as per the interpretation of the Foundation Secretariat does not entail the administration of Auroville by its residents. According to them, the main purpose of the Foundation Act is not to manifest Auroville according to the Charter, but to build the city according to the Master Plan.

As a scholar on The Mother, Gilles Guigan offers insights into how The Mother saw the development of Auroville and the importance of growing it with quality instead of focusing on numbers alone, unlike what is claimed by the AVF Secretariat. Please find Gilles' article [here](#).

L. The learned Judge has lost sight of the fact that Sections 11(3) and 17 make it clear that the powers of management of the assets of Auroville

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Foundation are with the Governing Board. Section 17[a] does not imply that the Governing Board needs to consult the Residents' Assembly for each decision it wants to take. Consultation is required under this clause for coordination of activities and services only in a limited sphere of the functioning of the Foundation. This has already been done with the establishment of trusts, units and Activities and there is no need for the Governing Board to consult the Residents' Assembly for matters that are clearly under the responsibilities and powers of the Governing Board as that would make it practically impossible for the Governing Board to perform its duties under the Act. The purpose of the Act as stated in the preamble is to making long-term arrangements for the better management and further development of Auroville, not to paralyse Auroville's administration with unreasonable and unpractical consultation processes.

From: Pages 24 - 25 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the powers of management of the assets of Auroville are clearly with the GB.

It is argued that the GB needs to consult the RA for specific things, yes, and that's what the trusts, units and activities are for. There is "no need for the [GB] to consult the [RA]" for things that the GB alleges is clearly under its own power and responsibility.

It is argued that the purpose of the Act is for the "better management and further development of Auroville" and not to paralyse administration with "unreasonable and unpractical" processes.

The significance of this excerpt:

The vision of Auroville as per the GB entails equating the development of Auroville as an experiment with its infrastructural development, and if upheld, it will be so mandated by law.

As a reminder of the practical and reasonable vision of Auroville, please [see Mother's 'A Dream'](#).

From: Pages 25 - 26 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that "under no stretch of the imagination can it be stated that the intent of the Act is collective-decision making [...]." If that was the intent of the Act, there would only have been the residents in the structure put in place.

It is similarly argued that "by no stretch of imagination can it be stated that the Auroville Foundation has been primarily established for the welfare of the residents of Auroville."

It is argued that the purpose of the Foundation itself is "for the better management and further development of Auroville in accordance with its original Charter".

The significance of this excerpt:

The vision of Auroville as per the AVFO once again questions any need for the welfare of its residents.

O. The learned Judge has not considered that by no stretch of imagination can it be stated that the intent of the Act is collective decision-making by the Governing Board, Residents' Assembly and Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly. If that had been the intent, the Act would have provided for a single governance council with representatives of the residents instead of the hierarchical structure with three entities as enacted. Similarly, by no stretch of imagination can it be stated that Auroville Foundation has been primarily established for the welfare of the residents of Auroville. Auroville Foundation was established for the purpose as stated in the Act, namely to "provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Auroville and to vest such undertakings in a foundation established for the purpose with a view to making long-term arrangements for the better management and further development of Auroville

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in accordance with its original charter and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".

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P. The learned Judge has committed patent error by failing to note that the expression "welfare of the residents" is nowhere found in the Act. If in 1988 (the year in which the Act was passed) there was a need of taking care of the welfare of the then about 2,000 residents or even the future new residents, a residents welfare association could have been formed instead of spending precious Government resources on establishing a body corporate through an Act of Parliament. In this regard, it is pertinent to note the closing paragraph of the preamble of the Act reads as follows: "And Whereas for the purpose of encouraging, continuing and consolidating the aforesaid activities of Auroville, it is necessary in the public interest to acquire the undertakings of Auroville and to vest them in a body corporate established for the purpose"; It is clear therefore that Auroville Foundation was established for a much larger and higher purpose than the welfare of the residents of Auroville, who are meant to be voluntary workers as part of a Sangha, not a democratic assembly of residents claiming rights to self-rule.

From: Page 27 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued once again that "the expression 'welfare of the residents' is nowhere found in the Act", and suggests that had it been the priority, a residents' welfare association would have been formed instead of spending precious Government resources on establishing the Foundation.

It is argued that the residents of Auroville are "meant to be voluntary workers as part of a Sangha, not a democratic assembly of residents claiming rights to self-rule".

The significance of this excerpt:

The vision of Auroville as per the AVFO lawyers entails residents of Auroville as "meant to be voluntary workers" who do not have the "right to self-rule".

From: Pages 27 - 28 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the decisions of the Foundation (equated to the GB) do not need the residents to agree with them, nor do they need to prioritise their welfare.

The Act is claimed to have been established for the management of Auroville's assets with the objective of manifesting a township for 50,000 residents.

It is argued that the Foundation (equated to the GB) is not meant to be a mere benefactor of the residents, and that the residents are "expected to contribute to manifesting the Auroville vision, mainly through [...] the development of the Auroville township."

The messages of the Mother cited in the arguments presented prescribe the importance of discipline and "work".

Q. The learned Judge erred in holding that "any decision concerning the Foundation will have to necessarily get the concurrence of the residents for the welfare of the residents of Auroville". Further, Auroville Foundation was established not as welfare organisation for the benefit of a privileged

group of individuals but as a body corporate for the proper management of Auroville-related assets and undertakings with the objective of manifesting the Mother's vision of a universal township for 50,000 residents as an expression of Sri Aurobindo's vision of a transition to a higher consciousness. The relationship between Auroville Foundation and the residents is not that of a benefactor and beneficiary. Auroville residents are expected to contribute to manifesting the Auroville vision, mainly through work for the development of the Auroville township. In this regard the following messages of the Mother are of importance:

"Auroville is in the construction stage and disciplined workers are needed. Those who do not want or are not able to follow a discipline should not be here at present. Good will, sincerity and discipline are indispensable qualities for those who want to be Aurovilians." 23-04-1971.

"Auroville is created to realise the ideal of Sri Aurobindo who taught us the Karma Yoga. Auroville is for those who want to do the Yoga of work. To live in Auroville means to do the Yoga of work. So all Aurovilians must take up a work and do it as Yoga". 27-03-1973

Therefore describing Auroville residents as beneficiaries is a complete distortion of the role that Auroville residents are supposed to play.

S. The Learned judge has committed judicial overreach and included his own reasoning to arrive at a conclusion that the relationship between the three bodies is of mutuality. The learned judge has not taken into account the plain and express wording of the statute and has substituted his own views for interpreting the statute which is plainly erroneous.

From: Page 29 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the judge has erred in concluding that relationship between the GB, IAC and RA is of "mutuality".

From: Page 35 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that contrary to the 12th Aug verdict that said all policy decisions should be put on hold till the RoR is updated, only the RA's functions need to be paused till the RoR is updated while the GB "must be able to fulfil its powers and functions under the Act without any restrictions."

It is further argued that the GB's work can't be paused simply because 800 residents are refusing to fill the updated form.

II. That as per the incorrect observation of the learned judge in para 69 of the impugned order, it is pertinent to mention there are no "four statutory authorities". There is only one statutory body, Auroville Foundation, which under section 10[3] consists of three (not four) authorities, namely the Governing Board, the Residents' Assembly and the Auroville International Advisory Council. Only the proceedings of the Residents' Assembly need to be paused while the Register of Residents is updated while the Governing Board must be able to fulfil its powers and functions under the Act without any restrictions. The Governing Board's functioning cannot be curtailed simply because around 800 residents have still not submitted, or even refused, to send the updated form, even after time extensions and numerous reminders.

NN. That the learned judge has failed to note the petitioner's real grievance are the actions of R2-R5 who are admittedly private individuals and whose actions have no bearing on the impugned communication. Thus, it is clear that the petitioners' are seeking to achieve indirectly what they could not achieve directly and consequently their assertion at para 24 that the petitioner does not have any other alternative/efficacious remedy is mischievous and incorrect since the petitioner always have the remedy of filing a civil suit against R2-R5.

18

From: Page 36 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that the petition is actually only against Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi. The petitioners are accused of seeking to "achieve indirectly what they could not achieve directly", that this case being filed is "mischievous" and they always have the option to file a civil suit against the 4.

From: Page 37 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued that Hemant has been "continuously indulging in anti-Aurovilian activities" by opposing the GB, thus "acting against the interest of the residents of Auroville and the Mother's Charter."

OO. That the learned judge has failed to note that Hemant Lamba has been continuously indulging in anti-Aurovilian activities by opposing every action of the Governing Board and acting against the interest of the residents of the Auroville and the mother's charter. Development works at Auroville have been sought to be thwarted by the petitioner.

2

PP. That the learned judge has lost sight of the fact that the entire lands, properties, undertakings vest with the central government and the central government has delegated all its powers to the foundation, which in turn are managed by the Governing Board.

QQ. The Appellant craves leave of this Hon'ble Court to raise additional grounds at the time of hearing.

For the reasons stated above, it is prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to set aside the impugned order passed by the Learned Judge of this Hon'ble Court dated 12.8.2022 in W.P. Nos. 14707 of 2022, and thus render justice.

Dated at Chennai on this the 18th Day of August, 2022


COUNSEL FOR THE APPELLANT

From: Page 37 of PDF

Plain English Translation:

It is argued, as a reminder to the court in closing, that "the entire lands, properties, undertakings vest with the central government and the central government has delegated all its powers to [...] the Governing Board."

The Foundation Office thus appeals to the Learned Judge to "render justice".

Closing Remarks:

The below is an excerpt from the original Writ Petition submitted in the name of Hemant Lamba (from page 248).

It is presented here to note that "50,000 people" is stated as an ambition in writing even by the "side" contesting the case. This number forms a part of the premise of the petition itself.

The petition does however stress the criticality of peace, progressive harmony, and human unity for this unique experiment.

Brief Background

3. It is submitted that Auroville was founded by the 'Mother' on the 28th of February, 1968 as an experimental township in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu. The objective of the AVF Act and Auroville is to realise an international township of 50000 people. The Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 provides the skeletal structure for the same to govern this unique experiment in human unity which aspires "to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony, above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is realise human unity"

Page No.: 2

Appendix A-63 - Communication from RA WCom on illegitimate appointees

2nd September 2022

Massbulletin from Working Committee

Public Notice: Illegitimate Appointees

To all residents,

We would like to remind everyone about the unprecedented decision of a large number of residents that was recently taken through a resolution of the Residents' Assembly (RAD/04/2022). (The resolution was passed by 97% of the 1161 residents who participated, the highest ever.) This resolution includes the statement that the residents of the listed working groups and services, appointed by the Office of the Secretary, are not accepted as representatives of the Residents' Assembly. We advise and urge everyone to not recognize or engage with any of these members (listed below) in any way as they do not have the confidence of the RA and have not been appointed by it.

Best wishes,

Your Working Committee

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Mael, Sauro, Valli

- 1) Anu, Arun, Joseba, Partha, Selvaraj, Srimoyi, Tine - so-called Working Committee
- 2) Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, Torkil - so-called FAMC
- 3) Govind, Jaya, Prasad, Sindhuja, Toby - so-called ATDC
- 4) Balu Kuppusamy, Lieve, Venkatesh - so-called ACUR management
- 5) Varun Kapur, Muriel - Archives 'management committee'
- 6) Ocean, Naren Gupta, Ravi Borchardt, Rupali (resource person) - so-called BCC (subgroup of FAMC)
- 7) Aryamani, Banu, Donata, Pietro, Saroja, Uma M, Venkatesh - so-called Housing Board (subgroup of FAMC)
- 8.) Ocean, Rima, Sathyanarayan - so-called Loan Group (subgroup of FAMC)

Appendix A-64 – Communication from AV Council on electricity disconnection

14th September 2022

Disconnection of power supply

September 20, 2022, 3:23 pm

Dear Community,

The Council would like to inform you that the power supply of the RA Working Group room, as well as to the AVC office desk, on the 1st floor of Town Hall has been disconnected on 14th September, 2022.

The Council reported the incident to the Auroville Electrical Service (AVES) on 18th September by email, to which an automatic email acknowledgement was received.

Sincerely,

Auroville Council

Balaji, Claudine, Julia, Philippe, Samrat, Shiva, Shivaya (TOS), Suryan, Svenja

Appendix A-65 - Report of RA WCom Meeting with the Chairman of the Governing Board

19th October 2022

RA WCom: report on our meeting with Sri R.N. Ravi

Dear community,

We would like to inform you that on Wednesday, 19th October, the Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly had a 2-hour long meeting with Sri R.N. Ravi, Chairman of the Governing Board (and Governor of Tamil Nadu). The Secretary to the Governing Board, Dr Jayanti Ravi, was also in the room.

At the beginning of the meeting, we introduced ourselves, including how long each of us has been in Auroville and briefly what work we have been involved in here. Then we presented some of Auroville's efforts over the past decade towards developing the city, emphasizing the fact that while there is still a lot to do, much has already been done and expertise is largely present within the community. We also spoke about the current state of affairs, insisting that for a positive way forward to be found, people need to feel secure and the current state of fear needs to come to an end. The conversation was frank and our sharings were honest yet respectful. The Chairman listened with focus and attention, asked questions throughout and shared his views on several aspects of Auroville, its current reality and its aim of being a gnostic and spiritualised society.

We feel this was an important first step in establishing contact with the Governing Board, through its Chairman, and hope that it will open the way to a better understanding of the residents' perspective.

We attach for your information a document that was prepared for the occasion and handed to the Chairman, and that follows the structure and key messaging of our presentation to him (the powerpoint is also attached). Of course, much more was said than what is written in the attached note and powerpoint.

We will keep you updated on further developments, if any.

Sincerely,

Your Working Committee
Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël, Sauro, Valli

Appendix A-66 - Note presented by RA WCom to the Chairman of the Governing Board

19th october 2022

WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY

NOTE

Auroville at a crossroads: **A positive way forward for developing Auroville**

19th October 2022

Submitted by the Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation
(Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Maël Shanti Vidal, Sauro Mezzetti, Valli Senthilkumar)

Auroville - 605101, Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: +91 413 2623 770 - E-mail: workingcom@auroville.services



**Auroville
Foundation**

PART I

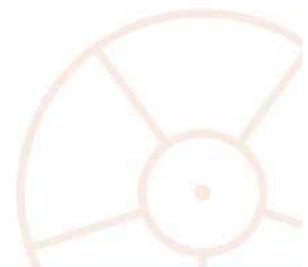
Considerations

The conventional methods of human development have brought the world to a crossroads, leading to extreme stress on human beings and natural resources, and to inequalities and conflicts. A course correction is needed towards building livable cities.

For the past 55 years, through its spiritual and material researches, Auroville as a living laboratory has been in search of new paradigms of human development. The pioneering work in watershed management, afforestation, organic and urban agriculture, integrated planning, green building, recycling, renewable energy, low carbon mobility and more has been seeded in Auroville and is spreading in different parts of India. An integrated life diminishing the lines of division between material and spiritual development to achieve a living embodiment of human unity is the core purpose of Auroville. The entire focus of Auroville is on experimenting with new ways to build a progressive future for humanity.

Over the years, a number of exercises have been undertaken with the participatory involvement of residents to draw road maps for development. Some of them are:

- ✓ A **Vision Task Force** was constituted in 2015 with the participation of members of the Governing Board, International Advisory Council and Residents' Assembly. Nearly 165 experts from all areas participated to lay a template for development.
- ✓ A **Green Belt Development Plan** was made between 2014 and 2016 with facilitation from a leading landscape architect, Mr. David Stein, in collaboration with experts in Auroville.



Part I: Considerations

- ✔ A **Detailed Development Plan for Residential Zones 1 & 2** was made in 2020 to accommodate a density of 5,000 new inhabitants. Accordingly an infrastructure of services like parts of the Crown Road, Radial, wastewater treatment, drinking water, energy and communication was laid down. Since then, most residential developments have followed the agreed pattern and many new communities like Kalpana, Humanscapes, Vibrance, Sanjana, Arati, Maitreye were developed. There is still room for housing to be built for approximately 4,000 additional people in this zone.

- ✔ A **participatory water development exercise** was undertaken in early 2021, with the help of dedicated residents and the several water experts that live in Auroville. The presence of Auroville has fostered a huge growth in our surrounding region, which has also created increasing water stress. The main source of water in Auroville is groundwater, and nearly 5000 wells have been dug around us. Due to over exploitation, salinity from sea water intrusion is a big challenge. As construction is an activity that consumes a large amount of water, any indiscriminate building could spell doom for the future of Auroville and the bioregion as the existing water resources are scarce. A water plan is the first area of work that needs to be taken up before any major construction project begins. The Ministry of Urban Development has given guidelines to develop water plans, which the Auroville community strives to follow.

- ✔ Identifying **Development Priorities** was an exercise conducted in 2021 with sectoral experts and residents to define needs and set them as priorities for future manifestation. Sectors that were included in the study were Education, Water, Economy, Culture, Health & Wellness, Bioregional development, and more. A detailed report with priorities for each sector is available and implementation could start tomorrow. Once implemented this would fill gaps in achieving a need-based growth. Focus on development priorities will provide a springboard to take a leap in the development of Auroville.



Part I: Considerations

- ✓ **'Dreamweaving the Crown'** is a planning exercise that was carried out in early 2022 to visualize and harmonize the many views of Auroville experts and residents, seeing that currently the focus on development has gathered around building a crown road. The concept of the Crown is, however, wider than just a road. The Crown is a 75-meters wide band connecting all zones of Auroville. Roads and pathways are only a small element of the Crown and need to be part of wider planning considerations. With the 'Dreamweaving the Crown' process, a very rich harvest of ideas and suggestions from various experts have come forth, and are available for manifestation. This exercise found acceptance among more than 90% of the Auroville residents. Giving space for the Dreamweavers to develop the Crown would offer a possibility to get out of the current development impasse. Instead of a crown road, the focus should shift to the development of the Crown as a whole, taking into account the input of Auroville's various experts.

Reports on these exercises and many more can be provided on request.

In conclusion, with the great efforts made by many residents and well-wishers, including many experts, to build the 'City the Earth Needs' with high standards of sustainable living, Auroville has achieved much in its 54 years of existence and still has much to do.

Our next step in developing Auroville is to synthesize all these efforts and learnings and take a leap towards accelerating the pace of development. The above studies and many more have offered concrete steps for encouraging and supporting the growth of Auroville as the 'City the Earth Needs'. **The skills and competency to undertake these next steps are present within the Auroville community through its many resident experts, and it is of utmost importance that those residents - and the Residents' Assembly at large - are involved and consulted in planning processes.**



PART 2

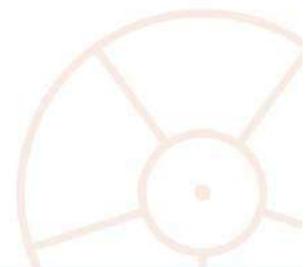
A call for an atmosphere conducive to growth and development

Aurovilians aspire for the Auroville city and community to grow and to expand in a meaningful way - but the current climate of fear and authoritarianism is not conducive to finding a positive way forward for Auroville. We appeal to you, as the Chairman of the Auroville Foundation, to take action so that true collaboration between all constituents of the Auroville Foundation can manifest. More specifically, we appeal for your support in:

1 **RECOGNISING AND RESPECTING THE RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY AND ITS COMMITTEES**

The Auroville Foundation Act is a unique framework for the experiment of Auroville that was created to safeguard the freedom of its residents. The Residents' Assembly is one of the 3 pillars of the Auroville Foundation, and is the required component for the change of consciousness that Auroville aspires to bring to the world and all of mankind. It is through collective decision-making that Auroville can explore what it means to be a gnostic society inspired by the works and vision of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. For this meaningful project to grow and develop, the first necessity is that the voice of the residents is being heard and respected - through the Residents' Assembly, its decisions and its committees. The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly, which has been appointed as per Section 20 of the Auroville Foundation Act, together with committees created under section 19 of the Act, needs to be recognised and respected.

The 3 'authorities' of the Auroville Foundation (Governing Board, Residents' Assembly and International Advisory Council) must work in a spirit of collaboration and mutuality, as was envisioned by Kireet Joshi, the architect of the Act.



2 STOPPING THE CULTURE OF INTIMIDATION AND COERCION

Auroville, as a gnostic community, is based on trust and on faith. The repeated use of fear to divide and coerce the residents of Auroville needs to stop. For almost a year, residents have been in fear of losing their homes, their visas, their maintenances and income. Aurovilians who have expressed disagreement with the current authoritarian methods of administration have been harassed and threatened, this leading to FIRs in the most extreme cases. The ongoing use of blackmail - whether through visas, financial means or disguised threats - needs to stop. In short, the literal and figurative bulldozing that has been taking place over the past year has to come to an end. Auroville's raison d'être is to be a spiritual, yet experimental township. The Unity in Diversity that Auroville aims to achieve cannot be built with fear.

3 RESTORING ALL COMMUNITY PLATFORMS FOR INFORMATION SHARING AND COMMUNICATION

For decades, Aurovilians have been communicating through online platforms which have allowed for fruitful discussion and debate to happen, and for most essential information to be shared. Since May 2022, these platforms have been taken over and censored: Aurovilians and committees have lost access to their auroville.org.in inboxes and Drives, a number of AuroNet (intranet discussion platform of Auroville) users have been banned and their posts have been removed, and several essential communication channels (such as the Auroville massbulletin) have been taken over. Committees constituted under section 19 of the Auroville Foundation Act have been blocked from communicating with the Auroville residents and with the Office of the Secretary. All these communication channels were managed by residents who were known and had the confidence of the community at large, having signed non-disclosure agreements ensuring confidentiality and privacy would not be infringed upon. These communication tools were created for the purpose of integration and cohesion of the residents and need to be restored. Unfounded accusations on digital platforms and censorship based on arbitrary criteria must stop.



4 INCLUDING AUROVILLE EXPERTS AND COMMUNITY IN PLANNING PROCESSES

For more than 50 years of existence, Auroville has been home to acclaimed experts in the fields of sustainable building, afforestation, water management, waste management, education, economics, and many more. Most of these experts have been sidelined by the current administration, which has refused to work with those that emphasize the need for Auroville to be the result of a higher synthesis of views, perspectives, knowledge and skills, based on Sri Aurobindo's teachings. Aurovilians' achievements so far need to be recognised and embedded in the shaping of the future city. Planning the 'City the Earth Needs' can only be done by integrating inputs from experts in various fields of action, together with a participative dimension to integrate the voices of the residents, those who have committed their lives and resources to Auroville. The many efforts put in over the years to study crucial aspects of planning, agreeing on development priorities, and processes such as the recent Dreamweaving initiative, need to be taken into account while planning for the City of the Future.

5 SECURING THE LANDS, ASSETS AND RESOURCES OF AUROVILLE

The lands of Auroville are the body of the Mother's Dream. Without these lands, the Auroville Dream and Charter would not be able to manifest. Aurovilians cherish all lands that have been vested under the Auroville Foundation, and all of these lands - whether within the city area or without - have been bought with generous donations from people of goodwill all over the world as offerings to the Mother's Dream. Securing and safeguarding lands that currently belong to the Auroville Foundation while acquiring remaining lands needs to be a priority. Auroville's assets and resources - its spaces, its houses, its forests, its people and their ways of sustaining themselves - need to be protected, for they are the result of the hard work of several generations of Aurovilians and well-wishers over more than 54 years.

We appeal once more for your help in creating an atmosphere that is conducive to Auroville's growth and positive development, and thank you in advance for your efforts and commitment to upholding the spirit and values of Auroville.



Appendix A-67 – Powerpoint presented by RA WCom to the Chairman of the Governing Board

19th October 2022



19th October 2022

Auroville at a crossroads

A positive way forward for developing Auroville

The Working Committee
selected by the Residents' Assembly

For the past 55 years, through its spiritual and material researches, Auroville as a living laboratory has been in search of new paradigms of human development.

Over the years, a number of exercises have been undertaken with a participatory involvement of residents to draw road maps for sustainable development.

Recent development studies and reports

- ❖ Study on surface water management (2013)
 - ❖ Implementation and Development program & City Land Use (2014)
 - ❖ Vision Task Force report (2015)
 - ❖ Green Belt development plan (2016)
-

Recent development studies and reports

- ❖ Detailed Development Plan for Residential Zones 1&2 (2020)
 - ❖ Citizens' Assembly on Water (2021)
 - ❖ Development Priorities document (2021)
 - ❖ Dreamweaving the Crown (2022)
-

A few possible next steps

- ❖ Synthesize all the efforts and learnings
- ❖ Prepare a water plan
- ❖ Focus on the development priorities that have been identified for sectors
- ❖ Act on the 'Dreamweaving the Crown' report

Aurovilians aspire for the Auroville city and community to grow and to expand in a meaningful way - but the current climate of fear and authoritarianism is not conducive to finding a positive way forward for Auroville.

We appeal to you, as the Chairman of the Auroville Foundation, to take action so that true collaboration between all constituents of the Auroville Foundation can manifest.

For an atmosphere conducive to development

- ❖ Recognising and respecting the Residents' Assembly and its committees
 - ❖ Stopping the culture of intimidation and coercion
 - ❖ Restoring all community platforms for information sharing and communication
-

For an atmosphere conducive to development

- ❖ Including Auroville experts and community in planning processes
- ❖ Securing the lands, assets and resources of Auroville

In conclusion, with the great efforts made by many residents and well-wishers, including many experts, to build Auroville with high standards of sustainable living Auroville has achieved much in 54 years and still has much to do.

We appeal once more for your help in creating an atmosphere that is conducive to Auroville's growth and positive development, and thank you in advance for your efforts and commitment to upholding the spirit and values of Auroville.

Appendix A-68 - Transcript of the Chairman's address to the Residents' Assembly

7th November 2022

Transcript of the address to the residents of Auroville by Shri R.N. Ravi, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation

Monday 7th November 2022, Unity Pavilion

Note: Small words ("of", "it", "them" etc.) have been added in places to restore flow to a sentence otherwise spoken as a train of thought, and for grammar. Highlights (in yellow) have been added to draw attention to certain ideas and statements.

My dear friends from Auroville,

At the very outset I express my sincere sense of gratitude to all of you for responding to our request for the meeting today afternoon. You know, when this Governing Board was constituted about a year back, we had come and met you. At the time we didn't have such a large presence. And so it is a matter of delight that we have a larger presence today.

Having expressed my gratitude and thanks to you for coming over, I would like to state the objective of this meeting, the purpose why we are meeting this afternoon. The Governing Board has requested this meeting and the meeting is being held. This is essentially - you all know it at some level, but I would like to express on behalf of the Governing Board, the Governing body - that **we have some serious concerns about the affairs at Auroville**, and we are here to share our concerns with you and then leave you with these thoughts.

And I'd certainly like to have the benefit of your suggestions, your views, because being Aurovilian, you are the one who's supposed to be or should be the one who may be the most interested and primary stakeholder in the development and management of Auroville.

When this new Governing Body was constituted, we got on the job earnestly to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us. And of our responsibilities, one was of course, to promote the ideals of Auroville. We have to help the people, Aurovilians and others, on how to promote it. But one tangible part of the responsibility was to implement the Master Plan as duly framed by the Governing Body in consultation with the Residents' Assembly and duly notified by the government in 2010 through Gazette notification.

This process, in fact, when it started, unfortunately, there were developments which were unpleasant in nature. There was boisterous opposition to it.

Now opposition was of the nature of 'this is not the way to do it', that the Master Plan is not finalised as yet, that it is not consistent with the ideals of Auroville because it is against the environment... on various lines, opposition was expressed.

Of course, the matter then started going to the media, national and international, the projection was made that Auroville was in distress, Auroville was under siege, Auroville was being destroyed by totalitarian control. The matter also went to court, to litigation.

In fact, the way the whole thing erupted, it gave us a shock. And especially to me as an individual, because I have been a student of Sri Aurobindo right from my college days. I have grown in my personal life following the two great icons, Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo.

So, I was shocked, what could be there, then we started going into the background - why. Now, we also started meeting Aurovilians. And in the last one year, several hundred Aurovilians have met me at least, individually and in groups of two, four, fourteen. They have shared their concerns - some saying that this is not the way to do it, this should not be done like this, some saying that, no, we must not delay it, we must do it. So both kinds of views and opinions have been coming.

Then we started wondering - Why is it so? **This small family is hardly 3000 people with so many Differences.**

When the governing body in the late 90s and early years of the first decade of the present millennium, they drafted the Master Plan. And they drafted in consultation with the Residents' Assembly, because these are all matters of records. And it took almost 10 years or so.

When the government notified the Master Plan, for some reason, it took time and it was not implemented. When the new Governing Body came, we thought we should go ahead and do it. And then the opposition started coming: don't do it.

Some people for, some against.

Those who are against it say this is not the way, it should be tweaked, there should be some readjustment. There were ideas coming like that. Some people say that look, the fact that it has not happened shows that this is not the way, we must or will move forward.

A question haunted us as to why this small family is not able to collectively advise us on how to go about this.

Then we went into the background.

We all know that this unique experiment here began in the year 1968. And this experiment was essentially to translate the vision of Sri Aurobindo of creating a community of gnostic beings which Mother defined in terms of the Charter.

And it began.

In 1980, the government of India had to come up with the Emergency Provision Act 1980. And the very preamble of that Act says that the management of Auroville entered into such serious difficulties and differences that the government had to take over the management, and the government took over the management of Auroville.

At the time, for the next eight years till the Foundation Act came, the government managed Auroville with the advice of the International Advisory Council. There was no Residents' Assembly at the time, residents were associated but there was no formal body as Residents' Assembly. So, till 1998 [sic], affairs went on like that.

And then came the Act; the government thought the government should not be in it. So, they created a body corporate called Auroville Foundation. This Auroville Foundation created three bodies: International Advisory Council, Governing Board, and Residents' Assembly, to run the affairs of Auroville, to manage its affairs.

And we started the journey. And as a part of that journey, the physical manifestation of Auroville; Auroville has two parts: a spiritual evolution and physical manifestation; so to fulfil the physical manifestation of Auroville, the Master Plan was created. The Master Plan was drafted by the Governing Board in consultation with the Residents' Assembly, which finally the government of India approved and issued through Gazette Notification.

Now, when they started implementation, the problem again came. Questions were raised that it should be revisited. That is one part of it as far as the physical manifestation of Auroville is concerned, how the Master Plan has become a matter of debate.

There are differences, but when we started, I for one started looking into trying to understand, because as I told you, being a student of Sri Aurobindo, there was a deep anguish within me and I wanted to understand why is that? Where are we, how are things going on? We tried to understand and study Auroville, how it is functioning, how the individuals are functioning, how the institutions are functioning, how this collective is evolving.

In the process, I myself have gone through several areas, I have travelled to farms, I have travelled to the institutions where they are doing good things, manufacturing things. I have travelled to centres where they are producing things for the sake of Auroville.

A question that is lingering and very, very, very crucial: As far as the physical manifestation of Auroville is concerned, this is an area of concern in which there is a difference of opinion. But the core thing is the ideals of Auroville. We are not talking about the ideals of Auroville.

We know that we are all here as students of Sri Aurobindo. We have all been reading him and trying to understand and trying to evolve. The first thing that Mother's Charter makes very clear, that to be in Auroville, one must be a willing servitor of the divine consciousness.

And in plain and simple language, it means one has to be a bhakt, with total surrender to the Divine Consciousness, one must be a bhakta, a devotee, or a sadhak, who comes over here with a desire for further evolution to the higher level of consciousness. And that it's a place of constant education and progress.

Sri Aurobindo has also said - which we are all aware, and even Mother said, I myself have gone through the collective works of Sri Aurobindo, Life Divine and all. All of you, I'm sure many of you have gone through it, - that Auroville is different from other places because it is the place

where collectively, through assisted evolution, one reaches the higher level. In normal course, it may take several lives to evolve. But by assisted living, Sri Aurobindo makes it clear it is possible it may be possible even to evolve in one lifetime. Sri Aurobindo lays down a process of integral yoga which is a combination of gyaana, bhakti and karma.
It is not one.

First and foremost, a stipulation is through the Charter, that a person coming to Auroville has to be a bhakta, a devotee, a willing servitor of the divine consciousness and then integrate the two - karma and gyaana, knowledge - evolving it.

Now, it pains me, when I moved around, **the sadhana element of it, we find it is GROSSLY deficient, grossly deficient.** You may find my statement very provocative, but I want to provoke because after all, we are here not for the brand Auroville but for the soul of Auroville. If the soul is not there, brand does not matter.

People often say, we have built the **Matrimandir** - wonderful. But Matrimandir, which is the soul of Auroville, should be the place where Aurovilians **should be regularly going and meditating. It has become a place of tourist attraction, tourists come and visit and go.**

Sadhaks I have met individually, there are very good people who actually, when I met them, tears started flowing, they just didn't utter a word. I could feel a sense of pain and anguish among them - where are we? Where are we going? They were not even able to speak.

Someone very elderly said - 'Mr. Chairman, we have lost the way'.
Now, the question is, when I look here, I find a lot of commercial activities going on. Somebody is doing good business.

Is it a place of commerce? No, certainly not. Because karma is nishkama karma, where it is not self desire. I am doing the work but the work is not for my profit and benefit, it is for the benefit of the community's desire, that is nishkama karma.

I find it very strange. And I find it very strange that in a small family of 3000, we are not able to produce enough food for ourselves. This is something which is intriguing.

I've seen people here doing distribution business. Things are being brought from different agencies in Calcutta, Bombay, and so many places, some are doing for distribution of things which are coming from Israel and some other foreign countries - we are doing trading, we are doing business, we are doing commerce.

I'm not saying everyone - some of us are doing that. But is it consistent with the ideals of Auroville? I think we need to do some serious thinking on it.

As far as the physical manifestation of the Township is concerned - that is one part of it. But we are more concerned about the ideals of it.

Everybody comes and explains to me, 'we are for human unity.' And when I ask what is human unity, what do you understand? Someone says, well, we have got 500-600 people collectively, we have met and had lunch together.

Now human unity as we all know that Rishi Aurobindo said, is when I am standing here, a few 100 people are sitting here, and I see myself in each one of you as a divine manifestation of myself in all of you. When I'm able to see myself in all of you and you will start seeing yourself in me - that is unity.

Because we all know under what circumstances Rishi Aurobindo evolved this theory, his lifetime was a time when humanity was at its worst crisis.

The world has seen two devastating World Wars, the unleashing of atomic weapons, millions of people were killed. And the question that bothered him was - what is the fate of humanity? Is it Self-destruction?

And then, through the long process of meditation and study, he realised that no, we are one step short of evolution, we have to evolve to that level where we all see the divine which is present in all of us in the form of consciousness.

The consciousness evolves by disciplining the physical part of the being, and then I start seeing myself in all of you, and then differences will dissolve, then humanity will be able to live in peace. And individually while some people were doing it for thousands of years in this country, he wanted as an experiment that let it be a collective exercise where the collective community of gnostic beings.

I've met, as I told you, several hundred people. And again, I'm surprised that many people I met are not even aware of all of us in this small village of a community. **Everyone is living, by and large, I won't say everyone but by and large, people are living in silos.**

That is a Governing Board concern, and it should be your concern as well, that Auroville is not like any other place where we are free to do whatever we wish, here **the freedom is the freedom of a sadhak. The basic essential condition is that I am a sadhak.** So, I have a right to be here, and I have the freedom to pursue it following the broad compass, the directions which are illustrated by Sri Aurobindo through triple transformation and Sapta Chatustaya, how to do the Sadhana.

How we are going to do this, how to do this, those things have to be evolved. We are doing some excellent work, I must say this, somewhere I've seen very good work being done.

But these are good works in the material domain.

Where is that sadhana?

Who is coming?

You know, in 1988, when the Foundation came, even before in fact, in 1980 itself, the government was treating it, because Auroville is also the identity of India, because this is India's spiritual identity, which says **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world is a family, and that is based on the fact that everyone is a manifestation of the same divine.**

So for the growth of Auroville, the Government of India gave a number of special relaxations - like Visa. Anyone who seeks to come to India has to go through a scrutiny. Everyone doesn't get it; after all, with foreign countries, there is a security dimension. But the moment Auroville recommends, there is a trust that this recommendation is conveyed to our embassy and mission, and the visa is taken for granted.

Relaxation also is that a visa is for a longer term, for five years, normally we give it for a short term six months or a year to any tourist coming visiting, or one who is coming for some kind of well approved functions. We give it for longer periods.

Relaxation was also given to be exempted from taxation, the remittances which are coming up free, all these extraordinary relaxations, disregarding the security concern of the country because who all is coming is not vetted by the security agencies. It is trust.

These all were done primarily with a belief that **Auroville must grow and must grow freely.** According to the ideals of Sri Aurobindo, and as defined by Mother.

There may be a lot of problems, a lot of issues, we can keep discussing whether the road should be built here or not, we may be concerned about whether the crown is built or which building is built where, these are one aspect of it.

But the ideal of Auroville has to be preserved, it has to live here, and in the most vibrant manner. You know, all these publications that happened, **the adverse publications that went to the international press, it did create a very, very bad name for Auroville. It was not in good taste.**

But the question is, this is one part of it. The image of Auroville, the image of Auroville is important, but more important than that is the ideal of Auroville. The ideal of Auroville, if it suffers, the image is a fleeting thing. If our substance is good, the packaging will take its own course, we don't have to worry about it.

When Mother was here, there was no need for branding it. Everyone accepted it, and people believed it.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would request all my dear friends, Aurovilians, to think of **how to restore the ideal of Auroville.** And I can tell you for sure, so far in this last one year meeting, visiting, I have seen activities which are just the opposite of the ideal. Some of the Aurovilians told me which I don't wish to repeat here... people were doing activities.

When I talk to the agencies, they say - Look, we don't usually interfere in Auroville because we believe that Auroville is a special place. However, **we have got cases of substance abuse, money laundering, embezzlement, fraud, land grab,** I don't wish to go into detail of it. But these things don't edify us, these things don't bring us any closer to what we should be.

Neither I nor the Governing Board is here to give you a talk or lesson, no, you are all experienced. Some people say, 'I have been there for 40 years', some people say 'I have been here for 50 years'. Somebody says, 'I'm a third generation Aurovilian'. I wonder and we all wonder, is their being third generation something stipulated in the Charter? The Charter is whether we are committed to the ideals or not, that is important. Somebody says, I have met Mother - Yes, very good. You had that holy touch, you are blessed, but that should not be for you to tell me I have met Mother, so whatever I'm doing is perfect, because Mother has recorded it, Sri Aurobindo has recorded whatever he wanted, how he wanted the city to come.

So it is not important.

How do you find stewardship being taken as ownership? Somebody who has been there at a particular place for, let us say, 40 years says 'it is mine'? Is it Auroville? Do we have that concept? I think there is a need for very serious churning.

And it is something which is not beyond redemption, it can be done and it has to be done.

And the Governing Board has a responsibility.

Now the question comes: who has got the power? Now these are immaterial matters whether the power is with the Governing Board power or with the Residents' Assembly power or with the International Advisory Council. These are immaterial. As far as we are concerned, there are only two powers - one is the Constitution of India and the laws of India, and second is the Charter given by the Mother.

There is no other power. We don't recognize any other power, Sri Aurobindo's teachings and Mother's Charter: that is one, sacrosanct. And the Constitution and the laws of India.

It is not important whether the Residents' Assembly has the power or the Governing Board has the power. We have come down to the level where we are doing it for the power struggle. I think we have moved far away from being a sadhak.

Now, we believe, and sincerely believe, that any way forward should be, as far as possible, in consultation and taking everyone along, aboard. We don't like to create any sense of discrimination, or any impression that force is being used - NO. Auroville is not the place where force and coercion should be the choice; that should not be the choice. But we also have an obligation, since the Act tells us to see that the ideals of Auroville are to be promoted.

Now when we see that the ideals of Auroville are being compromised, and compromised in a big manner, I have no hesitation to say, because I have not come here to play music to your ears, I have come to tell you what I feel as a pain, it is the anguish of someone who has been a devotee of Rishi Aurobindo. The issue has to be confronted frontally; it cannot be just wished away by nice talking.

If my words hurt you, you are free to hurl at me, I will not mind it; but the issue has to be confronted. And I would suggest now that Auroville has to have a set of guidelines, agreed norms how to conduct its affairs, in terms of who should be allowed to come, who should be in Auroville, what are some common minimum activities which are consistent or necessary for being a sadhak in this process of our forward journey. These norms should and MUST be there.

We have 50 years plus. We have made some significant achievements, there's no doubt about it, but these achievements in the physical domain are not everything. The core has to be respected, the core has to be restored. So I would request every dear friend of mine present here, and those who could not make it due to some circumstances; let us not get passionate, let us not get angry at each other. Think over it.

Because I am telling it plainly: to let the status quo continue is not acceptable. Because India cannot afford for Auroville to decline, Auroville to move away from the ideal.

Auroville has to be spiritually strengthened, and of course materially reinforced as well, for which we need to have some set of norms...

I have always maintained that Auroville should be managed by Aurovilians; there should not be any external interference - this is the ideal situation. But when we see that the Auroville community, which is a small community, is not able to reach a consensus, and this is not the first Time.

The Auroville Foundation Act's preamble states how the Emergency Provisions Act was brought in, because there were very serious internal difficulties in the management of Auroville and so the government had to step in. Now, we don't like the government to step in again. We would like Auroville to grow with the cooperation and goodwill of all the Aurovilians to make it what is its destiny.

But certainly Auroville is not a place for... Yes, some people said that we are helping the farmers. I asked how they are helping the farmers - they said they are helping them do productive farming. I asked, where did you learn farming? He was quiet. What is your expertise in farming? He says 10 years back, we were in Bangalore for 2 weeks learning something about Farming.

First thing is, it is a 10 year old technique. Secondly, did you try it in Auroville? As a demonstration? We do not have any demonstration farm at Auroville for the farmers to come and see; so why should a farmer of the neighbouring village trust you? Simply for you to say that you are helping the farmers is not convincing. You don't have the requisite qualification to guide the farmers.

Somebody says yes, but for Auroville, I would have been lost. I come from a very poor background, my parents were very poor, and we have come. Very good - Auroville helped you and gave you a home and very, very noble land.

But tell me, how is it different from, in Tenkasi, there are people who from the last 45 years have committed themselves to rehabilitating the physically disabled, 24/7 they have been working, committing their own resources, and they have helped more than 40,000 disabled people. Their life is devoted to Seva.

How is it different from Villupuram in this very district, where there is a place where one young couple, for the last 12 years, have been helping the mentally disabled, intellectually deficient, autistic people. They also acquired a barren piece of land, and now they are growing into farming. They have rehabilitated more than 500 intellectually disabled people. They had invited me; I had to go over there and was so happy to see and touched by the sense of service, that as young persons after doing MBA and all that, they could have had a chance to go and do a good living. They chose to devote their lives to people who are marginalised and ignored by society: mentally disabled, autistic children. Both husband and wife. I was so touched when I found in front of me,

one child of about 12 years, retching and the man went over and caught the vomit in his hand. That sense of service!

But that is not Auroville. Tenkasi, those who have helped more than 40000, is not Auroville. Auroville is far more than that, but here we don't see that.

I think there are people who are very, very anguished here. As I told you, when I met them, I saw their tears flowing. Their silence was so loud, so loud, they could not speak, but their silence... they were so anguished. I think we need to restore the ideal. We have to have some agreed norms for being in Auroville.

Following certain norms may not be strict, of course, nobody says it has to be a strict line that everyone has to follow, that independence has to be with every Aurovilian, but that freedom is that of the sadhak, not just of anybody else. We need to do that.

As far as the physical manifestation of the Master Plan is concerned, the question is, when the Master Plan was prepared, in consultation with the Residents' Assembly, and it was in process for more than a decade and then it was notified, the question is: Do we revisit it?

There are people in Auroville who tell me not to go ahead. There are people who say this is not the way, we have to change it. The question is, do we keep revisiting a decision arrived through due process? I think if we continue doing that, there will not be any end to it. Here today, we have come, the GB has come to you, to clearly spell out the concern that we have, and to appeal to you and urge you all to be dispassionate and think it over.

Think over it - how do we develop Auroville? How do we keep the ideals of Auroville?

We - when I say 'I', I am talking on behalf of the GB, it's not individual - would be very happy to have your mails. As I told you, several hundreds of Aurovilians have come and met me. We are open to meeting you all. I am open, I hear. We are not short of time as far as listening is concerned, and come up with your ideas. But we also cannot keep waiting endlessly.

I would appeal to you all, if you have some suggestions, please send us a mail in the next one week. What do you wish. How should it be according to you, and what should be the agreed norms for the sadhaks, for the Aurovilians to follow.

And let us come away from these arguments which are essentially materialistic in nature. Those things are there, as far as the Master Plan is concerned, all those things there, those things are agreed, there will be problems, there can be litigation, we will try, wherever it is possible, wherever it is possible, to... You know, what is non-negotiable is the ideal. The ideal is Non-negotiable.

And as for a decision taken through the due process, it should also be non-negotiable, but if there is a constructive suggestion, something that is in the interest and promoting the ideals, it is welcome.

It is not that we are pushing it.

But at the same time, I am telling you in very, very plain language, which may again hurt you: Auroville needs a shock, an external shock to bring it to its senses, bring it to its trail. Coming

from a layperson, you might feel offended, but be that as it may. I myself have been a disciple, as I told you, I have been to many of the Auroville ashrams, Auroville places, I have been studying it. I do feel about it.

A status quo business as usual will not work. In the best possible manner, each one of us has to now jolt ourselves and think.

It is essentially for this purpose that I requested you, I thank you all, the GB is grateful to you all and appreciate your coming and listening to our concern. Please send your mails, individually, collectively, the choice is yours, you are free; we will very patiently examine all those. Let me assure you, we are all well-wishers of Auroville. We cannot afford, even in our remotest dream, to do anything that be contrary to the very idea of this country, to the darshan, the very vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

We are all humans, sometimes we may err. And that is where we leave to others, not only here, we even have a consultation with a lot of people who have devoted their lifetime in the sadhana of this integral yoga, and how to go through the triple transformation, and through forming the Sapta [Chatushtaya], the seven quadrats, how they have dedicated their lifetime. We have also been in consultation with them, getting their ideas.

But for heaven's sake, let us not have entitlement and rights, that "this is my right". This is not a place where we should claim rights and powers.

We are here collectively for a cause. And the cause is for each one of us, individually and collectively, to grow it.

Thank you, friends. Thank you very much for listening to me; I'll be very happy to receive your mails. Thank you.

Appendix A-69 - Press Release dated 10.11.2022

10th November 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

General information: media@auroville.services

National press: +91 95857 10457

10th November 2022

Auroville residents regret that Shri R.N. Ravi, Chairman of the Governing Board, yet again ignores requests to hear concerns

Since the appointment of a new Secretary of the Auroville Foundation in 2021, the development of Auroville has come to a standstill due to intimidations and a takeover of Auroville institutions, resulting in several court cases brought by Auroville residents. Residents hoped that the newly appointed Governing Board and Chairman would help resolve the deadlock. On 19th October the Chairman of the Governing Board and Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri R.N. Ravi, had met with the duly selected Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly, and intimated that there was hope for respectful collaboration between the Auroville Residents' Assembly and the Governing Board. However after his visit to Auroville on Monday 7th November residents had their hopes dashed, resulting in dismay and disappointment at the continued takeover.

Auroville residents hoped that Shri R.N. Ravi would help to restore a sense of security and stability in Auroville. They hoped he could facilitate the resolution of the issues at stake and put Auroville's harmonious development back on track. The meeting called by the Chairman on 7th November 2022 at the Auroville Unity Pavilion was attended by more than 600 who had expected a space to interact and bring forth their concerns, questions, and suggestions for a way forward.

Sadly, Mr Ravi spoke on unsubstantiated claims that Auroville is "grossly deficient", repeating the same narrative that the Secretary Dr Jayanti Ravi has been spreading as a pretext to take over the control of Auroville from its Residents. After his speech, the Chairman refused any questions, suggestions or requests made by the residents, only inviting comments by email. In the past year, hundreds of residents and their duly selected representatives have already sent email communications to the Governing Board and its Chairman, including collective letters and

statements signed by over a thousand residents. None of these have been acknowledged to date. So far, attempts to harmonise differing views and to move in collaboration have been repeatedly ignored by the Secretary and her followers, who pursue with their authoritative grip over the affairs of Auroville.

The following day, on 8th November, Auroville residents met at the Banyan tree next to the Matrimandir for a collective meditation on the way forward. Members of the Governing Board were invited but did not join.

Aurovilians and well-wishers from all over India and worldwide are dismayed that the development of Auroville will continue to be stalled by the Office of the Secretary and their authoritarian rule, instead of finally moving forward in collaboration with the residents as aligned with the ideals and values of Auroville.

Context

For over 50 years, voluntary workers have come from all over India and the world to create a gnostic society manifested in the form of the Auroville International Township. Aurovilians are committed to the ideals set forth by the Mother and by Sri Aurobindo, and outlined in the Auroville Charter.

For over 50 years, land was purchased with funds donated by well-wishers, devotees, and residents from all around the world. Auroville has been taking shape, progressively emerging from a barren plateau thanks to the efforts and dedication of all its residents and volunteers. Infrastructure has been created per needs and available human and financial resources. The city has considerably developed in various fields, including education, economy, sustainable living, and more. All of this and much more has been carried out by the residents through Karma Yoga as an offering to Mother's dream, with very limited assistance from external agencies or public funds.

However, for the past year, the development of Auroville has come to a standstill under the administration of Dr Jayanti Ravi, the new Secretary of the Auroville Foundation. Existing assets - trees, communal buildings, individual houses and even roads - have been torn down and bulldozed, without following any due process and without any suitable alternatives.

Hasty, non-sustainable and non-participative 'development' is currently being used as a façade to take authoritarian control of all the organisational entities and systems set up over the years by the residents themselves. Work has been outsourced to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) in complete contradiction to the sustainable plans prepared by the many Auroville experts and architects, including the internationally lauded Auroville Dreamweaving process for development. In order to take control of the existing infrastructure and tangible achievements of Auroville, the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation is repeatedly using intimidation tactics in an attempt to silence and divide the Auroville residents. The residents have created plans for a collaborative development of Auroville, and have identified key priorities for growth. Actionable proposals have been formulated, but when presented to the Secretary these were brushed aside.

The residents of Auroville are fully committed to the material and spiritual growth of Auroville. A false narrative of "resistance to the city project" continues to be propagated in the media by the

Secretary and her followers in order to undermine the efforts and dedication of Auroville residents, and to ease the takeover of the Aurovilian institutions.

Pictures

Download pictures:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cSoM5O9UUideA9ivJCBRjTwEhyL3jm2y>

Media Contact

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Appendix A-70 - Letter inviting the GB to a collective meditation

8th November 2022

Invitation to community meditation

RA Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.services> 7 November 2022 at 21:32
To: CHENNAI <govtam@nic.in>, Lt Governor of Puducherry <lg.pon@nic.in>, Goutam Ghosal <gghosal87@gmail.com>, gbnandana1956 <gbnandana1956@gmail.com>, Rayavarapu sri sarraju <rssarraju@gmail.com>, Nirima Oza <nirima@gmail.com>, Aravindan Neelakandan <aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com>, Neeta Prasad <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, neetaprasad <neetaprasad@gmail.com>, asfa-mord@nic.in, Dena Merriam <dena.Merriam@finnpartners.com>, Gabi Gillessen <yogabi@roottolight.com>, vco@aurouniversity.edu.in, hp@aurohotels.com, Michel Danino <micheldanino@gmail.com>, American Institute of Vedic Studies <vedicinstitute@gmail.com>
Cc: Working Committee RA <workingcom@auroville.services>

To the Chairman and members of the Governing Board, and Chairperson and members of the International Advisory Council of the Auroville Foundation

On behalf of the residents of Auroville, we would like to invite you to a meditation at the Lotus Pond at the base of the Matrimandir on Tuesday, the 8th of Nov., at 10:00 am. (Please see the announcement below that went out to the community this morning.)

Please join us in a call to the Divine to help us work together to manifest Auroville in a spirit of mutuality, collaboration and unity.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation
Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Mael, Sauro, Valli

RA Working Groups call for a Collective meditation on Tuesday 8th November

INVOKING LIGHT, PEACE AND UNITY

Meditation on Tuesday 8th November from 10 am to 12 noon at Matrimandir

All of us feel the current unsettling and crucial times. However, the tides for change are high. The upcoming Governing Board meeting is scheduled at 11 am on Tuesday the 8th of November. We invite all to concentrate from 10 to 12 noon, including while the GB meeting is ongoing. All are welcome to join for as long as they can or feel. Let us gather in silent presence to call for Mother's force and action. The GB and IAC members are invited to join.

Time: 10 am to 12 noon

Place: Lotus Pond under the Matrimandir, and in the Petals and Gardens.

For all, including those who cannot physically join in the morning, the invitation is to hold a strong connection and presence throughout the day. We hope that our friends and members of the Auroville family across India and the world will join us in unity.

Let us all surrender our struggles and let the Mother take care of us. Together we can overcome, grow, and leap into the unknown, into the collective adventure of consciousness that Auroville is meant to be.

In community,

Working groups selected by the Residents' Assembly

Auroville Council (Balaji, Claudine, Julia, Philippe, Samrat, Shiva, Shivaya, Suryan, Svenja)

RA FAMC (Amy B., Bobby P., Danny, Elodie, Mita R., Palani, Ranjith (TOS))

RA TDC (Allan B., Anan, Divya L., Dorle, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera N., Natasha S., Tom G.)

RA Working Committee (Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël, Sauro, Valli)

Appendix A-71 - Collective letter to the Chairman

14th November 2022

Dear Chairman and members of the Governing Board,

We came to meet you on the 7th of November with the hope to discover together how we can move forward with truth, humility and courage. However, we were surprised that the dialogue we were expecting didn't happen.

We heard, in your speech, many accusations condemning Auroville and Aurovilians on innumerable levels without clear grounds, making assumptions not only about the reality of Auroville but misinterpreting its ideals and true *raison d'être*.

Still we welcome your criticism of Auroville as we acknowledge that we aren't perfect and that progress needs to be made. Yes, a good honest shake is helpful to the growth process, individually and collectively — yet with the very clear and honest condition that this shake is conscious and not in itself stepping on the essence, ideals and values of Auroville. And on this path which has never been attempted before upon Earth we are in the unknown. Time, patience and endurance are needed to discover the way and who can really judge the spirituality of any individual or group unless one has realised the Supreme Truth we are all looking for?

We do need to improve the way we live together. More discipline, for instance, would surely be welcome. But this discipline cannot be imposed by any external authority. The Mother herself told us that the organisation should emerge from life itself and not be organised by arbitrary mental ideas or conceptions. This is one of the fundamentals of Auroville and why she clearly said - "Only those who have resolved to stay in Auroville for good have the right to intervene in its organisation".

All of Auroville is profoundly grateful to India - it is her commitment to host all forms of spirituality that allows Auroville to root itself on her blessed land. We are also grateful to India for allowing this experiment which, as per its Charter, does not belong to anyone in particular but belongs to humanity as a whole, in service of the Divine's Will alone. Auroville is a township devoted to the Divine but it is not an ashram. Aurovilians are not French or German or Indian or Israeli — they are Her workers. The city to be built is the material tool to evolve our consciousness; it is neither our goal, nor our ideal.

To infuse spirit in matter and evolve our consciousness through this harmony and unity is the essential goal, the ideal, the vision, and the truth of Auroville.

We choose to bet on the beauty of life and on each being, embracing our imperfections and holding hands with the parts of ourselves that need to grow, knowing that it is Her grace leading each of us through different guises and paths in this infinite and wondrous Lila back to Herself. There is a great diversity of people here with a wide range of experience and professional backgrounds in a multitude of fields, from science and governance to arts and poetry, farming to architecture and archaeology, history, education and yoga. While recognised in the outside world

for our expertise and achievements, here, we try simply to be useful, to serve, and to learn. The stories of selfless dedication, of sacrifice, of endurance against all odds are not few, and yet mostly remain recorded only in the book of the Divine.

However, the present situation of fear, intimidation, threats of criminal charges, visa renewals being delayed or drastically reduced, cutting of maintenances and much more have seriously endangered the very Spirit of Auroville and our human fabric.

For instance, the Dreamweaving exploration was one effort to embody this very Spirit of Auroville — of integrating our differences of opinion, embracing the diversity of our knowledge and expertise, of a true collaboration not imposed but rather a spontaneous, genuine and joyful expression where each can find their place in a holistic development of Auroville.

But why was all this genuine effort made by the Dreamweavers suddenly put aside when it was supported by such a large portion of the community? There was so much hope at that time that this would be the way out and suddenly, the whole experience was abandoned by the Auroville Foundation Office without explanation.

We cannot build mutual respect and mutual trust in that way. That will never work.

Mother imagined the development of Auroville as a Tower of Babel in reverse, that instead of becoming divided while building the city (as in the case of Babel), we will unite. When we look at what has been achieved in the last year which amounts to almost nothing except for what has been destroyed, including our roads, we can only conclude that building “The City the Earth Needs” in such a climate and such a division is an impossibility. To restore unity real collaboration is the only path forward. And it should be with the unity of the three main bodies of Auroville, working hand in hand to collaborate with mutual respect and the honest acceptance of our respective roles in manifesting Her vision.

From this perspective we would like to invite you to a genuine dialogue with the Residents’ Assembly of Auroville, in an atmosphere conducive to honest sharing, understanding of our different views that may lead to a harmonious and peaceful way forward. We trust that we all are growing through this moment of deep crisis and serious disagreements and that beyond our individual preferences, perspectives and limitations “The City the Earth Needs” will be.

At Her service,

Residents of Auroville

Appendix A-72 - Email from RA WCom to GB Chairman

16th November 2022

Letters and proposals from residents of Auroville

RA Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.services> 16 November 2022 at 13:05
To: CHENNAI <govtam@nic.in>, Lt Governor of Puducherry <lg.pon@nic.in>, Goutam Ghosal <gghosal87@gmail.com>, gbnandana1956 <gbnandana1956@gmail.com>, Rayavarapu sri sarraju <rssarraju@gmail.com>, Nirima Oza <nirima@gmail.com>, Aravindan Neelakandan <aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com>, Neeta Prasad <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, neetaprasad <neetaprasad@gmail.com>, asfa-mord@nic.in
Cc: Michel Danino <micheldanino@gmail.com>, vco@aurouniversity.edu.in, American Institute of Vedic Studies <vedicinstitute@gmail.com>, Gabi Gilllessen <yogabi@roottolight.com>, hp@aurohotels.com, Dena Merriam <dena.merriam@finnpartners.com>, Working Committee RA <workingcom@auroville.services>, adcoffice@nic.in

To the Chairman and members of the Governing Board

Dear Respected Sir and Members,

Greetings from Auroville.

As you had invited residents to write to you with their thoughts, ideas and suggestions, many have done so. A number of residents have written to you directly (copies available at this link) and some have asked us to forward their letters to you, which are attached to this email. In addition, please take the time to read two short summaries called 'Some Glimpses of Mother's Auroville' (link) and 'On Planning Auroville - some misconceptions...', available here, as well as a proposal for a different approach to Economy in Auroville called 'Prosperity' (link).

We hope that these testimonials and proposals will help you to deepen your understanding of Auroville and the people who have committed themselves to this special place and to Mother's Dream.

With best wishes,

The Working Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation
Aravinda Maheshwari, Chali Grinnell, Hemant Lamba, Ilayabharathy Somasundaram, Mael Shanti Vidal, Sauro Mezzetti, Valli Senthilkumar

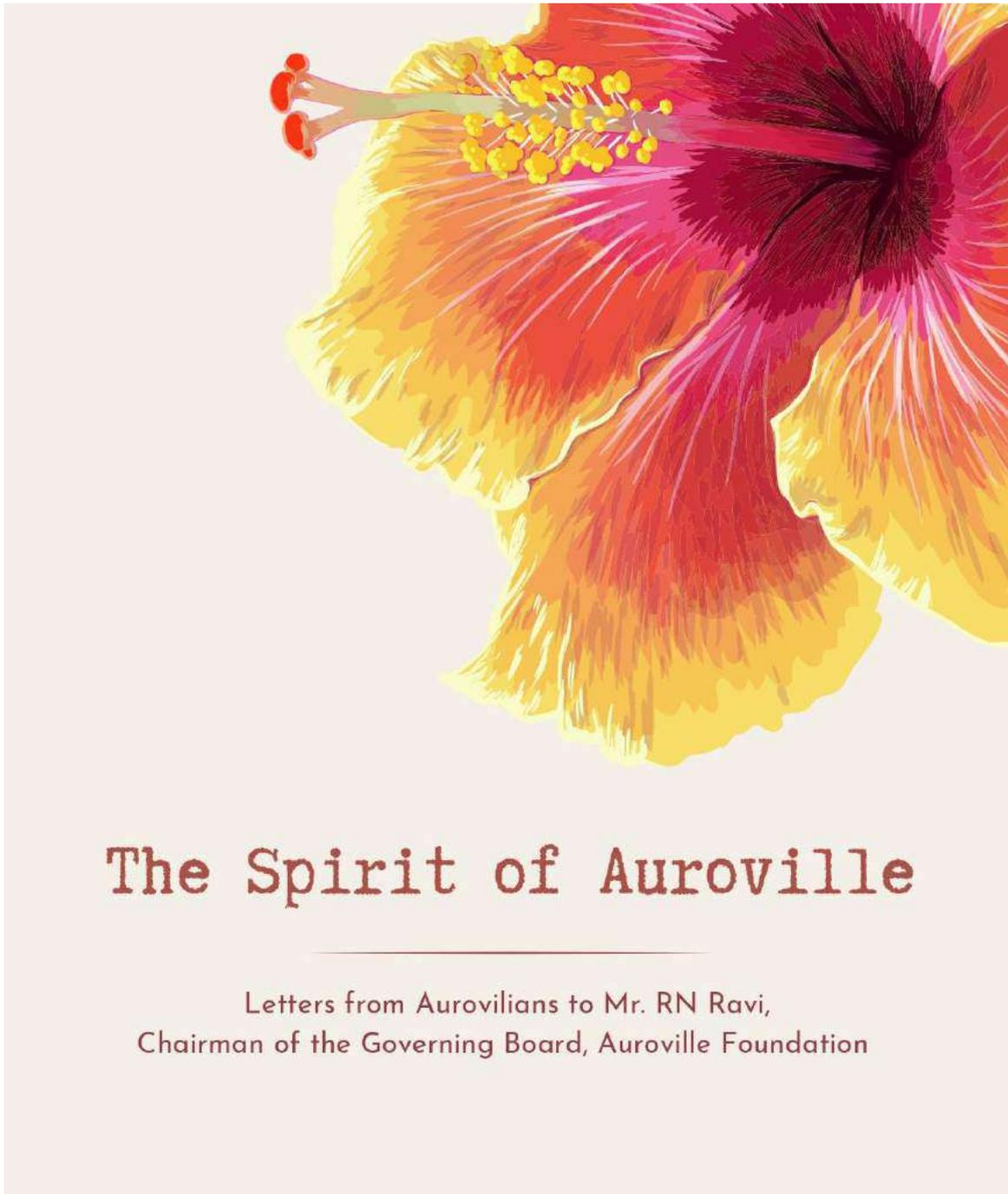
Cc:
Members of the International Advisory Council

Appendix A-73 - Compilation of letters to GB Chairman

16th November 2022

To read and download this compilation of letters, follow this link:

<https://auroville.media/letters-to-gb-chairman/>



Appendix B-1 - Email from the Office of the Secretary

8th February 2022

Regarding the FAMC

February 8, 2022, 3:15 pm

Dear Community,

Please find here some important correspondence with the AV Foundation office regarding the FAMC which we feel is necessary to share with you.

On Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM UNDER SECRETARY

<srinivasmurty@auroville.org.in> wrote:

Dear Members,

As per the definitions in the Auroville Foundation Rules 1997, FAMC is of the Governing Board. Secretary, Auroville Foundation is the Principal Executive Officer of the Auroville Foundation and also the convener of the FAMC vide the same Rules. The meetings of the FAMC will be convened henceforth by the Secretary or her nominee.

As already discussed a few times during FAMC meetings, the next meeting of the FAMC will be convened at the Foundation Office on 11-02-2022 at 03:00 pm. The Financial Advisor of the Ministry of Education, Government of India is also a member of the FAMC who will be attending the meeting online.

I am sending herewith the agenda points for discussion on 11-02-2022 and if you have any agenda items to be discussed you may please send by 09-02-2022.

Regards,

Srinivasamurty

***** From: FAMC Administration <adminfamc@auroville.org.in>

Date: Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 2:53 PM

Dear Mr. Srinivasmurty,

Please find attached the views of the FAMC on the FAMC, vis-a-vis the Auroville Foundation Rules 1997.

Extracted from the document is our conclusion: " From the above it follows that the definition of the FAMC in sections 2 and 5.1.b. of the Rules of the Auroville Foundation is mistaken. The FAMC is to be seen as a committee constituted by the Residents' Assembly under section 19.3 of the Auroville Foundation Act and section 5.3 of the Auroville Foundation Rules."

It is also to be noted that all of our members have been accordingly selected by the Residents' Assembly and are serving according to a mandate received and approved by the Residents' Assembly.

As such, we will continue our way of working as before and you are welcome to attend our meetings as usual.

As this inconsistency is a serious matter and not solely the problem of the FAMC to solve, we will be informing the Residents' Assembly and the Working Committee of this matter for further follow-up.

Best regards,

FAMC (members are: Amy, Angelo, Jonas, Lisa, Marc, Palani, Ranjith, Stephan)

Appendix B-2 - Communication from the AVFO on Aurovet

3rd June 2022

Reconstitution of the FAMC and ATDC

By Auroville Foundation , 03 Jun 2022 / 07:38 pm

Update on Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) and Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC)

The Mother envisaged the Auroville Township with an ultimate population of 50,000 with Matrimandir at its centre and soul. In 1988 the Auroville Foundation Act was enacted by the Parliament of India to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Auroville and to vest such undertakings in a Foundation for better management and further development of Auroville in accordance with its original charter.

The Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) had been established by the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation for the planning, development and building of the Auroville township in accordance with the Auroville Master Plan. The Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) is a committee established by the Governing Board for the management of funds and assets of Auroville Foundation, as described in the Auroville Foundation Rules 1997.

The Governing Board set up an Organization & Governance Committee (OGC), in its 58th meeting held on 18th January 2022 to look into the organization and governance of Auroville. The OGC reviewed past Governing Board meeting minutes, audit reports and recommendations made by the Finance Committee of the Auroville Foundation.

The OGC has recommended to bring about more transparency, accountability, and productive utilization of the various assets of Auroville with the effective participation of the residents of Auroville. The OGC recommended to reconstitute the FAMC, which has now been done vide an Office Order.

The OGC also recommended to reconstitute the ATDC for which a Standing Order has been issued, replacing the earlier Standing Order. For the appointment of new members of the ATDC under the revised Standing Order, an Office Order has been issued. Memberships of both the FAMC and ATDC include residents of Auroville.

The reconstitution of the FAMC is aimed at realizing the Mother's vision of a self-supporting township without internal money exchange and with a collective supporting system for which the Mother had given the name "Prosperity". The reconstituted FAMC will also be given the responsibility of ensuring compliance with statutory regulations and requirements while bringing in more transparency and accountability.

The re-constituted ATDC is mandated to accelerate the planning and development of the Auroville township with the support of Auroville internal and external experts and active participation of Auroville residents.

Appendix B-3 - Newspaper article, Times of India

4th June 2022

Auroville Foundation reconstitutes town council, assets committee - Times of India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/puducherry/auroville-foundation-reconstitutes-town-c...>

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Auroville Foundation reconstitutes town council, assets committee

TNN | Jun 4, 2022, 12:19 PM IST



PUDUCHERRY: The governing board of Auroville Foundation has reconstituted the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) and the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) to bring transparency, accountability and productive utilization of the various assets of Auroville – an international township in the making -- with the effective participation of the residents.

The decision to reconstitute the ATDC and FAMC was taken by the Organization and Governance Committee (OGC), which was set up by the governing board during its 58th meeting in January this year, said a release from the foundation.

"The OGC reviewed past governing board meeting minutes, audit reports and recommendations made by the finance committee of the Auroville Foundation. The OGC has recommended bring about more transparency, accountability and productive utilization of various assets of Auroville with the effective participation of the residents of Auroville. The OGC recommended reconstituting the FAMC, which has now been done. The OGC also recommended to reconstitute the ATDC for which a standing order has been issued, replacing the earlier standing order," said the release.

The foundation issued an office order for appointment of new members of the ATDC under the revised standing order. Members of both ATDC and FAMC include residents of Auroville.

"The reconstitution of the FAMC is aimed at realising the Mother's (revolutionary freedom fighter turned spiritual leader Sri Aurobindo's spiritual collaborator) vision of a self-supporting township without internal money exchange and with a collective supporting system for which the Mother had given the name 'Prosperity'. The reconstituted FAMC will also be given the responsibility of ensuring compliance with statutory regulations and requirements while bringing in more transparency and accountability.

"The re-constituted ATDC is mandated to accelerate the planning and development of the Auroville township with the support of Auroville internal and external experts and active participation of Auroville residents," said the release.

ATDC had been established by the governing board for the planning, development and building of the Auroville township in accordance with the Auroville Master Plan. FAMC had been established by the governing board for the management of funds and assets of Auroville Foundation.

Appendix B-4 - Document written by residents explaining FAMC and ATDC takeover (errata)

14th June 2022

What follows is an extract from a weekly newsletter that was created in January 2022 by Auroville residents, to inform the community about the most recent developments in Auroville. This explanatory bulletin has had over 50 issues in the year 2022, and continues to be released anonymously every week.

Evolving Galaxy Bulletin 23 - 14th June 2022

An errata to the paragraph in Bulletin 22 titled “Important Information regarding the FAMC” and further clarifications on the topic were needed.

In 1997 the Auroville Foundation Rules were published. It was quickly discovered that the Rules made reference on some occasions to the FAMC as being a Committee “constituted by the Governing Board.” On other occasions it was referred to as being “of the Residents’ Assembly.” The Secretary of the Auroville Foundation at the time, Mr. N. Bala Baskar, wrote to the Ministry of Human Resource Development with a request to rectify the anomaly. This was never done. The Rules, which can only be modified by Parliament, remained untouched. For the past 25 years, all successive Governing Boards of the Auroville Foundation, including the former Governing Board, have recognized the FAMC as a committee of the Residents’ Assembly and respected the rights of the Residents’ Assembly to choose the FAMC’s members. This has now changed. Unelected FAMC members have been appointed by the Governing Board, allegedly on the recommendations of the Secretary. The WCom, AV Council and RAS seem to nevertheless carry on with the community-ratified Selection Process, in which new members would also be selected for the FAMC.

In addition, on 3rd June the AVFO sent a message to the community which changed (and limited) the duties ascribed to the FAMC under the 1997 Rules. The message said: “The reconstitution of the FAMC is aimed at realizing the Mother’s vision of a self-supporting township without internal money exchange and with a collective supporting system for which the Mother had given the name “Prosperity”. The reconstituted FAMC will also be given the responsibility of ensuring compliance with statutory regulations and requirements while bringing in more transparency and accountability.” These unilateral changes have not been approved by the other authorities of the Auroville Foundation, nor by the Parliament.

According to the AVFO’s announcement, there seems to be an intention to change the duties of the FAMC in a number of ways. Rule 4 of the 1997 Rules states, for example, that the Governing Board (GB) can only acquire by purchase, lease, gift or otherwise immovable or movable property after consulting with the FAMC. If the GB wishes to borrow on the security of Auroville assets they need approval of the central government in addition to consulting with the FAMC. It seems that this clause is now being challenged. The GB has of their own volition decided they have no duty to consult the FAMC on such matters. According to the AVFO’s message, the FAMC is only

permitted to advise if there has been regulatory compliance, and no longer has strategic input on the management of Auroville assets. This is a significant diminution of the checks and balances intended by Parliament to ensure that Auroville is managed well.

For the detailed account from Bulletin 22 regarding the recent take over of the FAMC and ATDC please [see here](#).

Appendix B-5 - Office Order announcement posted on Auronet

8th June 2022

Office Order FAMC and ATDC

By Working Committee (WC), 08 Jun 2022 / 08:12 pm

For your information

Today the Working Committee received from the Auroville Foundation 2 Office Orders: for the FAMC and for ATDC ;

Names FAMC:

- I. Shri Chandresh Patel
- II. Mr. Torkil Dantzer
- III. Mr. Sathyamoorthy Patchaiappan (Kalya)
- IV. Shri B. S. Sathyanarayan
- V. Ms. Jocelyn Brynhild
- VI. Ms. Geeta Hemant
- VII. Joint Secretary & FA, Ministry of Education

Convenor:

- VIII. Secretary, Auroville Foundation

Resource Persons:

- I. Alok Mallik
- II. Ocean Bekker

Names ATDC:

1. Dr. G. Seetharaman,
2. Ms. Jaya Berggreen-Clausen
3. Mr. Hemant Shekhar
4. Ms. Sindhuja Jagadeesh
5. Mr. Toby Neuman
6. Mr. Jothi Prasad Rajan
7. Mr. Ponnusamy Murugesan
8. Mr. Govind Ranjan

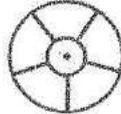
Resource Persons:

1. Ms. Jacqueline Lacoste
2. Mr. Lakshay Dharan
3. Mr. Helmut Schmid

Anu, Arun, Joseba, Selvaraj, Srimoyi, Partha, Tine
(Working Committee)

Appendix B-6 - Office Order 180 reconstituting ATDC

1st June 2022



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AUROVILLE FOUNDATION
AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BHAWAN, ADMINISTRATIVE AREA,
AUROVILLE - 605101

No. AF/M/63

Date: 1st June 2022

OFFICE ORDER

Sub: Reconstitution of the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC)

- A. The Governing Board, vide Standing Order No. 6/2011 dated 1st May 2011, had constituted the Auroville Town Development Council (hereinafter referred to as "ATDC");
- B. The above-mentioned Standing Order was replaced with an amended Standing Order No. 1/2019 dated 4th June 2019;
- C. Standing Order No. 1/2019 dated 4th June 2019 was replaced with Standing Order No. 01/2022 dated 25th May 2022 (hereinafter referred to as the "ATDC Standing Order").
- D. Clause 1 of the ATDC Standing Order provides for the appointment of ATDC members by the Governing Board;

Therefore, the Auroville Town Development Council is herewith reconstituted with the following members:

1. **Dr. G. Seetharaman,**
2. **Ms. Jaya Berggreen-Clausen**
3. **Mr. Hemant Shekhar**
4. **Ms. Sindhuja Jagadeesh**
5. **Mr. Toby Neuman**
6. **Mr. Jothi Prasad Rajan**

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7. Mr. Ponnusamy Murugesan

8. Mr. Govind Ranjan

Resource Person:

1. Ms. Jacqueline Lacoste

2. Mr. Lakshay Dharan

3. Mr. Schmid Walter Helmut

This Office Order shall come into force with immediate effect.



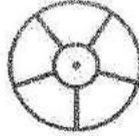
Dr Jayanti S. Ravi
Secretary, Auroville Foundation

Copy communicated to:

1. Chairman, Auroville Foundation
2. Chairman, International Advisory Council, Auroville Foundation
3. Members of the Governing Board, Auroville Foundation
4. Members of the International Advisory Council, Auroville Foundation
5. Director (INC), Ministry of Edu. Government of India
6. The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
7. Guard File, Office Orders

Appendix B-7 - Office Order 182 reconstituting FAMC

1st June 2022



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AUROVILLE FOUNDATION, AUROVILLE 605101
OFFICE ORDER NO. 01-2022 dated 1/6/2022

Reconstitution of the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC)

Whereas sections 17(d) and 17(f) of the Auroville Foundation Act, empower and mandate the Governing Board to secure proper management of the properties vested in the Foundation and to authorize and coordinate fund-raising for Auroville and to secure proper arrangements for the receipts and disbursement of funds for Auroville;

Whereas a Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) had been established under section 16(1) of the Auroville Foundation Act, read with section 5(1)(b) of the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997 Governing Board by Order AF/M/23/130 dated 25-01-2007;

Whereas the Auroville Foundation office of the Secretary sought and received proper clarification for discrepancy in reference to the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) in Auroville Foundation Rules 1997 – Clause 2 (1) (c) and clause 4(1) (d) & (e), which subsequently are clarified by the Under Secretary of the Government of India, Ministry of Education in a letter number F.No.27-2/2022-UU (Part I) dated May 27, 2022;

Whereas the Governing Board accepts the recommendation by the Organisation and Governance Committee established by the Governing Board under section 16(1) of the Auroville Foundation Act in its 58th meeting held on 18th January 2022 after the review of the functions of the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) in regards to proper management of funds and assets of Auroville Foundation with regards to the C&AG audit points over the prior many years, a need for consolidation of financial of Trusts, units and services to streamline its operations, and to the comply with the GST regulations and ensure GST compliance for proper and streamlined fund flows; for optimal utilization and maintenance of assets such as housing, buildings, farms & forests towards realising its objects and Charter of Auroville;

Now therefore, the Governing Board reconstitutes the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) under the Auroville Foundation Act with effect from the date of issue of this Office Order subject to the following provisions:

1.0 Executive Committee

- 1.1. The Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) shall be managed by an executive committee.
- 1.2. Members of the executive committee shall be appointed by the Governing Board.
- 1.3. For the appointment of members of the executive committee, Secretary, Auroville Foundation shall issue suitable orders from time to time with the approval of the Chairman, Auroville Foundation and will intimate the

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Governing Board members of the said orders.

2.0 Term of Office

- 2.1. Existing members may be re-appointed to the succeeding FAMC executive committee, so as to ensure continuity of work. The re-appointment of FAMC executive committee members will be subject to the eligibility criterion as per clause 2.3 of this Office Order.
- 2.2. The term of office of a member of the FAMC executive committee shall be three years from the date of the Office Order by which member appointments are made.
- 2.3. An executive committee member shall be eligible for re-nomination for a maximum of one term in succession and for subsequent nomination after a lapse of at least one term from the last one.

3.0 Cessation of Membership and Vacancies

- 3.1. A member shall cease to be on the FAMC executive committee: (1) if he/she is continuously absent from FAMC work for more than three months; (2) if he/she resigns in writing and the resignation is accepted by the Governing Board; (3) if the Governing Board for good and sufficient reasons removes a member.
- 3.2. If a casual vacancy is caused for any reason, the Governing Board may appoint a member for the remaining period of the term.

4.0 Functions and Reporting

- 4.1. The FAMC shall administer the funds and assets of Auroville Foundation, and carry out all such works as may be assigned to it by the Governing Board from time to time and make recommendations to the Governing Board in line with the Charter of Auroville.
- 4.2. The FAMC may set up services or other entities, including but not limited to services for land management, housing, farms, green work, financial services and accounting to assist the FAMC.
- 4.3. The executive committee of the FAMC may be authorised by the Governing Board to take decisions relating to funds and assets, subject to delegation of authority levels as may be decided upon by the Governing Board from time to time.
- 4.4. The FAMC shall be accountable to the Governing Board and shall submit to it a faithful and true account of its activities periodically.

5.0 Amendments

- 5.1. The Governing Board may amend, from time to time, any or all of the provisions of this Office Order.

6.0 Composition of the Reconstituted Committee

- I. **Shri Chandresh Patel**
- II. **Mr. Torkil Dantzer**
- III. **Mr. Sathyamoorthy Patchaiappan (Kaliya)**

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- IV. Shri B. S. Sathyanarayan
 - V. Ms. Jocelyn Brynhild
 - VI. Ms. Geeta Hemant
 - VII. Joint Secretary & FA, Ministry of Education

Convenor:

- VIII. Secretary, Auroville Foundation

Resource Person:

- I. Alok Mallik
- II. Ocean Bekkar

This order shall supersede and replace any and all FAMC Committee in consonance with the Auroville Foundation Act and Rules therewith.

This Office Order is issued with the approval of Chairman, Auroville Foundation and shall come into force with immediate effect.



Jayanti S. Ravi
Secretary, Auroville Foundation

Copy communicated to:

1. Chairman, Auroville Foundation
2. Chairman, International Advisory Council, Auroville Foundation
3. Members of the Governing Board, Auroville Foundation
4. Members of the International Advisory Council, Auroville Foundation
5. Director (INC), Ministry of Edu. Government of India
6. The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
7. Guard File, Office Orders

Appendix B-8 - Communication from Auroville Council

14th June 2022

Status of current FAMC & new email address

June 14, 2022, 10:41 pm

Dear Community,

The FAMC have just informed us that with the confusion arising due to the irregular appointments of a new FAMC by the office of the Secretary, some of their members have been unsure about their willingness to continue.

For now though there are still 5 active members of the FAMC namely: Amy, Jonas, Palani, Ranjith, and Stephan. We are yet to hear from the other members.

As the FAMC email has been taken over by the office of the Secretary they have been forced to create a new email account and are reachable at "FAMC@auroville.services". Please only use this email address to communicate with the FAMC of the Residents' Assembly. You may only be able to reach them from a non-auroville.org.in email account due to this domain having been blocked by the office of the Secretary.

Warm Regards,

Auroville Council and Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Appendix B-9 - 14 June Auroville Council clarifications on FAMC and ATDC

14th June 2022

Clarification regarding questionable appointments of FAMC and ATDC by the office of the Secretary

By AV Council (AVC), 14 Jun 2022 / 10:51 pm

Dear Community,

We know that the situation in Auroville is very confusing at the moment. The developments of recent times are obviously concerning to all, irrespective of where allegiances may lie or what the particular sentiments might be.

The essential thing to understand is that the principles and spirit of Auroville's purpose are endangered at present. It is not a personal matter but something that will affect all of us and Auroville's trajectory for years to come. Unfortunately, there is a small segment of Aurovilians supported by the office of the new Secretary, who completely disregard the Residents' Assembly (RA) and are orchestrating a takeover of the RA to establish a rein of control and authority over working groups against the collaborative spirit and functioning of Auroville, altering the role the RA has played since the Auroville Foundation Act came into effect. All this is driven by them claiming to be the sole guardians of the truth in the name of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo, while maligning people and working groups to gain power through the forcible appropriation of positions, using coercion and intimidation, and spreading misinformation.

As working group members selected by the RA we are mandated to oversee the observance of the policies and decisions of the RA. In the last weeks and months we have been doing our best to uphold not only the policies and decisions of the RA but also its structure and organization, not out of a dislike of anyone or an impulsion to be confrontational but only because the RA via its organization has mandated us to do so and because we believe that Auroville should be organized by its Aurovilians, those who have determined to spend their lives here.

Like many of you, the Auroville Council and the Working Committee are extremely concerned to find that the office of the Secretary, assisted by a coterie of residents, is attempting to assume the authority of appointing two of our main working groups, the FAMC and ATDC; while also not recognizing the selected Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.

The conditions of these appointments are highly questionable as they do not seem to be based on any reasonable legal grounds, nor do they adhere to the policies of our internal organization. And because of this lack of a credible process in their appointments, the Auroville Council and the Working Committee are unable to recognize any of the members appointed by the office of the Secretary in their announcement <https://auroville.org.in/article/91445>.

Please find a detailed explanation of why the process followed by the office of the Secretary on these matters lacks credibility in the 'Annex' to this statement.

The RA will continue its process of selecting the Working Groups as per our internal policies and structure. The resulting Working Groups will be the appointed representatives of the RA. If the Organization & Governance Committee (OCG) wishes to make recommendations to our internal structure we are available and open to recommendations.

Sincerely,

Auroville Council and Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Annex

To "Clarification regarding questionable appointments of FAMC and ATDC by the office of the Secretary"
by Auroville Council and Working Committee

Regarding the appointment of the FAMC by the office of the Secretary.

The premise used to appoint the FAMC via a new office, as informed by the Secretary to the FAMC on May 27th 2022, is that the Ministry of Education (MoE), Auroville's nodal Ministry, has agreed to remove from the Auroville Foundation (AVF) Rules 1997 what the Secretary called 'a typo', namely the inclusion of the words "of the Residents' Assembly" after the word "FAMC" in some sections of the AVF Rules 1997.

In doing so, it would be uncontestable that the FAMC is a committee constituted by the Governing Board (GB). The AVF Rules 1997, as they are now, are confusing as the FAMC is defined as a committee constituted by the GB; but certain sections of the Rules speak about 'FAMC of the Residents' Assembly.'

But as yet, there is no official indication that the MoE has agreed to this assessment of it being a 'typo'. And of course, it is not possible to act upon such a change without an official intimation from the MoE and only after this change is seen in an updated and duly gazetted version of the Auroville Foundation Rules. Moreover, the reality is that in fact, all past Governing Boards have always considered the reference (in the AVF Rules 1997) to the FAMC being a constituted committee of the GB to be the real error.

To further clarify the details of why we consider the appointments of the FAMC via an office order issued by the office of the Secretary to be questionable:

1) Since the AVF Rules have been promulgated in 1997, the FAMC has always been a working group constituted by the Residents' Assembly.

2) All the Governing Boards of the Auroville Foundation have explicitly recognized that the FAMC is a working group of the Residents' Assembly!

3) Almost immediately upon receiving the Rules of the Auroville Foundation in 1997, the then Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Mr. N. Bala Baskar, wrote to the Ministry of Human Resource Development with the request to rectify the error and change the definition of the FAMC into "FAMC means the Funds and Assets Management Committee constituted by Residents' Assembly under sub-section (3) of section 19 of the Auroville Foundation Act."

4) Ever since, the amendment of the Auroville Foundation Rules 1997 has been subject of discussion and letter and email exchange between the HRD Ministry (now MoE), the Auroville Foundation and the Working Committee, resulting in substantial files.

5) Successive Governing Boards of the Auroville Foundation, including the former Governing Board, have repeatedly and incessantly requested the HRD Ministry to approve the changed Rules of the Auroville Foundation. The minutes of many Governing Board meetings testify to this. We specifically refer to the minutes of the 43rd meeting of the Governing Board which state in section 12 ii:

"The Governing Board reviewed their discussion with the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) on 6 April 2013. The present FAMC, the Board noted, is a Committee of the Residents Assembly and not of the Governing Board. The Board agreed that it is neither necessary nor practical to have an FAMC of the Governing Board, as mentioned in the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997. The Board agreed that the request sent earlier for amending the Auroville Foundation Rules, 1997 may be followed up with the Ministry."

6) We believe that the FAMC was intended to be constituted by the Residents' Assembly and not by the Governing Board, taking into account:

a. section 16.2 of the Auroville Foundation Act which specifies that only Governing Board members have the right to vote in a committee constituted by the Governing Board. Section 5.1.b. of the Auroville Foundation Rules explicitly mentions that the FAMC is constituted by the Governing Board under sub-section (1) of section 16, with the Secretary of the Foundation as its Convener and with not exceeding ten other members including the Financial Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The only Board member in this FAMC would be the Financial Advisor, who is one of the two ex-officio Board members. This could never have been the intention of the Parliament of India in approving the Rules.

b. the fact that the Financial Advisor, Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), a high level Government of India official, could not practically be a member of a committee which meets three afternoons a week at a location a few thousand kilometres south of New Delhi. (Please note that in 1997 Zoom meetings did not exist).

7) We also believe that it is not the intention of the Indian Parliament to have two FAMCs, one constituted by the Governing Board and the other by the Residents' Assembly.

8) The Government of India is of course fully entitled to change the Rules of the Auroville

Foundation as it may deem fit. However, we believe that any such change has to be made in accordance with the Auroville Foundation Act, in particular its sections 31 and 33. These sections mention that “Every rule or regulation made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days ...” (section 33) and that such Rules have to be notified (section 31). We believe that these sections are also applicable to any change of the AVF Rules 1997.

9) Any co-opting of members of the Residents Assembly for participation in or membership of groups/committees constituted by the other two authorities, namely Governing Board and International Advisory Council, needs to be selected and approved by the Resident Assembly as an overseeing authority of the residents.

Regarding the appointment of the ATDC by the office of the Secretary.

TDC or L'avenir D'Auroville has seen many incarnations since it was first founded by the Mother in 1965.

After the publication of the Master Plan in the Gazette of the Government of India the Governing Board constituted the Town Development Council with a Standing Order that was published in the Gazette in 2011. A new Standing Order was issued in 2019 but it has not been gazetted.

As per the 2011 Standing Order (SO) the RA nominates upto 13 members of the TDC with the GB and WCom nominating one each. And although it was stated in a Mass Bulletin on June 4th 2022 that a new Standing Order has been issued which supposedly excludes the RA from participating in the selection of the TDC, the SO mentioned has so far not been made public. Also, seeing that there is no mention of this new SO in the 59th minutes of the GB and with no record of any other GB meeting since we do not understand under which circumstances this new SO has been issued. It must also be stated that the Organization & Governance Committee (OGC) has not consulted with the RA when undergoing its study. For example, the Auroville Council which is the mandated group by the RA to encourage the generation of programs and policies for the RA and oversees the observance of policies and decisions, has not been consulted by the OGC, when the GB and its committee's are bound as per the Foundation Act to consult the RA.

Appendix B-10 - WCom update

14th June 2022

Dear friends,

We want to update you on a few on-going topics.

1. Regular meetings of AVC, FAMC and WCom continue

The Working Committee continues to meet with the Auroville Council and, when required, the Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) of the Residents' Assembly to discuss and coordinate responses to the various exceptional issues that the community is facing. The continued unilateral attempts by the Secretary to enforce her vision over the principles and functioning of Auroville and the Residents' Assembly are supported by a small number of self-appointed residents, and this is understandably causing confusion and disquiet for many residents. We see the need, by listening to many residents' voices, to stand for the Residents' Assembly's decisions and integrity, as well as empower it to hold its own functioning and processes which are crucial to Auroville's core purpose and evolution.

2. Disputable 'dissolution' and 'constitution' of ATDC and FAMC by Governing Board

The Office of the Secretary to the Governing Board states that the Governing Board has reconstituted the Auroville Town Development Council with a new Standing Order and appointed members to it by Office Order. Similarly, the Office of the Secretary states that the Governing Board has also reconstituted the FAMC as a committee of the Governing Board, despite this committee of the Residents' Assembly (RA) having operated for many years with an approved RA mandate constituting it in a formal decision in 2016. The FAMC of the Residents' Assembly has a unique history arising from the Rules and Regulations. It has always been a working group constituted by the Residents' Assembly and it has been formally recognised by all previous Governing Boards. The Standing Order and Office Orders which are claimed to be in place have not been shared with us or to the wider community, which are questionable practices.

Selection of members of the Residents' Assembly for the Working Committee, FAMC, Entry Board/ Admission Committee, Exit / Termination Committee, TDC, Auroville Council or any other group or committee constituted under section 19.3 of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, is the prerogative of the Residents' Assembly. If any of the other two authorities, namely the Governing Board or the International Advisory Council, would like to propose membership for any such groups or committees, then the right authority to collaborate with would be the Residents' Assembly through its duly-selected Working Committee. The selection process to choose residents for such groups and committees is well laid out and respected, although still evolving as we learn and adapt it to the community's needs. The Residents' Assembly has not delegated its right to select its group and committee members to any other body of the Auroville Foundation.

As some additional background, please note that the Working Committee raised at an early stage the issue of the Governing Board's Organization and Governance Committee not engaging with the Residents' Assembly. In its response to the 58th Governing Board Minutes of Meeting, the Working Committee stated: "There are currently efforts being made by Auroville residents and working groups to review and improve organization and governance in Auroville. We believe this committee needs to be enlarged to include representatives of the 2 other authorities of the Foundation, which are the Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Council." The Organization and Governance Committee did not consult the Residents' Assembly nor its Working Committee before formulating its recommendations to the Governing Board.

3. Upcoming Selection Process for working groups

We strongly support all the residents of Auroville who will participate in the upcoming Selection Process during which new members will be selected for the Auroville Council, ATDC, Entry Board, FAMC and Working Committee. As previously stipulated, these are committees of the Residents' Assembly and therefore must be appointed by our collectively agreed-upon processes. It is truly uplifting to see how many people nominated and put themselves forward for the working groups in these intense times. We are equally grateful to those randomly selected residents who will make up the selection committees.

4. Case filed at the Madras High Court in Chennai

A case was filed by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly represented by Hemant Lamba on Monday 13th June 2022 at the Madras High Court in Chennai. The request made to the honourable High Court is to ask the Auroville Foundation represented by its Secretary to abstain from interfering with the work of the Residents' Assembly and their lawful Working Committee. The lawyer standing for the Auroville Foundation represented by the Secretary assured the court that no steps will be taken by the Auroville Foundation till the next hearing on Monday 20th June 2022 when the case will be further heard.

5. FIR anticipatory bail granted

In May 2022, the Under Secretary filed an FIR (First Investigation Report) against six Aurovilians, including three members of the Working Committee. The first hearing took place on 25th May and the second hearing on Friday June 10th, in which anticipatory bail was granted, despite attempts by the Office of the Secretary to challenge the application made by those accused. An anticipatory bail is a preventive relief to ensure that no individual is confined in any way until and unless found guilty. This means that they cannot be arrested and sent to jail unless a judgement is reached against them. The Working Committee states that the charges brought against these six residents have no substance and are an extreme attempt to intimidate the Residents' Assembly and its working groups into submitting to the decisions and actions of the Office of the Secretary. Please be assured that we will continue to do our duty to the Residents' Assembly by protecting and upholding its decisions and its functioning.

6. Meetings of the community

The Working Committee encourages the holding of peaceful meetings and gatherings as and when needed, as it is important that the Residents' Assembly continues to communicate, be informed and function in spite of the challenging times Auroville is going through. It is important that we continue to unite our diversities, and that we address the false and divisive narrative of

local Aurovilians vs. Aurovilians of foreign origin which has unfortunately been spread by a few individuals. In this regard, we are grateful to the bilingual gathering organised by a group of Tamil Aurovilians on Monday 13th June, and other such attempts to uphold genuine initiatives of coming together as a community.

7. Methods of communication

Since the takeover of the auroville.org.in domain, the Working Committee mailbox, the AuroNet platform and the community's massbulletin, the Working Committee and the Auroville Council have started setting up alternative methods of communication. The Working Committee can be reached at workingcom@auroville.services and a new mass mailing system has been put in place, to which you can subscribe by filling this form. Other alternative methods of communication are being explored but may take some time to be released, therefore we suggest residents create their own private spaces for discussion if that need is felt.

More soon.

In service,

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
Chali, Elisa, Gilles, Hemant, Juergen, Sauro

Appendix B-11 - BCC Timeline

Dates	Communication from FAMC	Communication from former BCC	Comments
19-06-2022	Invite to BCC for a meeting		
24-06-2022		Expressing confusion over our legitimacy and declining our invitation.	
29-06-2022	Email to BCC with an attachment of a circular from OSD requesting a meeting on 1 st July.		This was declined because of a short notice. After a lot of back and forth, meeting was scheduled for 8th July.
08-07-2022			First meeting between FAMC and former BCC happened.
10-07-2022	Draft work plan for BCC was sent.		
11-07-2022		Acknowledgement of the receipt of work plan.	
10-07-22		Email with an attached work plan.	
12-07-22	Email from us requesting CS maintenance disbursement for the months of April 2021 till March 2022, first quarter of 22-23 and discussion on annual budget. Request for meeting.		
13-07-22		Will get back after data extraction. Meeting confirmed for 19 th July.	
13-07-22	Request for budget for our perusal		
16-07-2022		Partial information about budget sent.	
18-07-2022	Request for maintenance disbursement details again from BCC. In case of non-compliance of this request of those details, we will cancel the meeting.		
19-07-2022		BCC is not attempting to avoid FAMC oversight. We are awaiting clarity regarding the status of this body.	
19-07-2022	Reply was sent on the same day, that the data needs to be provided or we will need to intervene in the transfers.		
21-07-2022	Email explaining the need for oversight for FAMC towards all assets and data.		
24-07-2022		We received partial information about maintenances (minus the names and minus the first quarter of 22-23)	
24-07-2022		"crisis of legitimacy of FAMC" and court cases filed were raised.	Data was not provided.

28-07-2022		We received the requested data, asking our legitimacy and that the data was being shared under extreme pressure.	
30-07-2022		Request for an urgent meeting	
31-07-2022	We were unable to meet them on 1 st August but would schedule a meeting later. And gave them 4 th August as meeting time.		
04-08-2022	Directional changes explained. Call for anyone of them to collaborate was made.		Meeting.
06-08-2022	Reminder was sent to let us know by that evening, willingness to collaborate in directional changes.	Willing to collaborate in principle details by the end of 9 th August.	
07-08-2022	Request asking them to get back to us latest by 8 th August afternoon, with anyone of them willing to collaborate.		
08-08-2022		An email explaining that BCC works as a team.	
09-08-2022	Again an explanation: directional changes are here to stay and anybody of them willing to collaborate?		No reply
26-08-2022	We requested a transition.		No reply
29-08-2022			We visited them regarding the transition, after waiting for 2.5 days for a response from them. It also needs to be noticed that the former BCC had already created an alternative email address for themselves on or before 28 th August (as per one of the postings by an Aurovilian on AuroNet.) This was done despite repeated requests to all the working groups to refrain from doing so.
29-08-2022			We received an acknowledgement of the receipt of our email.
29-08-2022			Transition was completed.

Appendix B-12 - Email setting up meetings with /AVFO 'FAMC'/ and HB

13th July 2022

Meeting with reconstituted FAMC

From: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Date: Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 6:54 PM

To: "FAMC ." <famc@auroville.org.in> , Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Dear friends,

We are now ready to meet you as our Accountant is back. Some of us representing the team will be available to meet you on Thursday 14th July at 10.30 am.

We will bring the requested data to the meeting. We are happy to discuss our work and open to listen to your input.

The Housing Board

Amy L. (Housing Service), Angela (Community), Aravindh (Housing Service), Bharathy (Community), Iyyappan (Community), Rima (Community), Venkat (Community).

Appendix B-13 - Email sharing HB data and workplan

18th July 2022

Information shared and meeting notes

From: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>
Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 9:36 AM
To: FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>
Cc: housing <housing@auroville.org.in> , Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Dear Team,

Please find attached the information that was shared at last week's meeting and the meeting notes.

Best Wishes,

The Housing Board
Amy L. (Housing Service), Angela (Community), Aravindh (Housing Service), Bharathy (Community), Iyyappan (Community), Rima (Community), Venkat (Community).

3 attachments

Workplan.docx

Present Assets record from the data available from the Housing Service Database.docx

Meeting Housing Board and GB Finance group.docx

FAMC . <famc@auroville.org.in> Wed, Jul 20, 2022 at 7:58 PM
To: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>
Cc: housing <housing@auroville.org.in> , FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>

Dear Housing team,

Thank you for the last meeting and for sharing your input to a work plan, it has many interesting and

honest points about the challenges and the way forward. We are in a process to create work plans and timelines for improving all of Auroville administration, and you have already started this process.

Below is a copy of mail going to all workgroups under the FAMC responsibility. We suggest you spend a bit more time on your work plan, trying to add timeframe and look at what obstacles

need to be removed and resources you would need to move faster. Then we would be happy to meet again and discuss how to move forward.

In Her Service,
Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Jocelyn, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil)

Copy of mail to working groups under FAMC:

The FAMC have been asked by our Governing Board to present a Work Plan with a timeframe for all work under the FAMC umbrella, including you. We have worked on it, and we share the result in the attached file. This Work plan has been presented to the Governing Board, and we have been asked to proceed accordingly. It is a very comprehensive plan which needs a lot of work and resources to accomplish. But this is part of a more planned and proactive way of management, which is very much needed in Auroville.

There are many reasons why Auroville has been stagnant and not able to grow, and lack of coordinated planned management is one of them. There are again many reasons for this, and we are not particularly interested in discussing this, but much more focused on looking forward, and all collaborate to improve all our administration. Work plans for the FAMC , which means work plans for each of the administrative workinggroups under FAMC.

So, in collaboration, we need to make a work plan for the remaining part of the year, with a time frame, and if extra resources will be needed. This will be a continuous work in the future, and we will all be better at this exercise, by practise.

We suggest that you do an internal process in your team.

- Try to focus on the future.
- Avoid looking at things that have gone wrong, why and who is to blame.
- Try to imagine where your administration ideally should be - what should be in order, and which processes should be running smoothly.
- Which changes and actions should be needed.
- What would be needed to do this and which obstacles should be needed to be removed.
- Try to give a timeline.

If you are able to make a draft for a work plan out of this it would be very good. Otherwise we suggest we meet and discuss how we can together make a realistic but yet progressive plan for improving your part of the administration of Auroville.

Workplan FAMC 2022.docx

Housing Coordinator . <housing-coordinator@auroville.org.in> Thu, Jul 21, 2022 at 10:21 AM
To: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Please can we hold off replying to this until we have discussed it at our next meeting?

Best Regards,

Amy L.

Admin Housing Board . <admin-housingboard@auroville.org.in> Wed, Jul 27, 2022 at 10:27 AM
To: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Best Regards,

Housing Board Administration

Workplan FAMC 2022.docx

FAMC . <famc@auroville.org.in> Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 6:22 PM
To: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>
Cc: FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, housing <housing@auroville.org.in>

Hi friends,

We need to meet again for the Work Plan of housing. Does Wednesday, 3rd August at 10:30am in FAMC office suit you?

In Her Service,
Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Jocelyn, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil)

Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in> Mon, Aug 1, 2022 at 9:29 AM
To: "FAMC ." <famc@auroville.org.in>
Cc: housing <housing@auroville.org.in> , Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Dear Friends,

Thank you for inviting us.

Please note that HB and HS work closely together and Wednesday morning being the HB meeting where-in HS members also participate and the same afternoon is the HS meeting, it is very difficult for us to make time.

Could we therefore meet on Thursday morning at 10 and some of us will pass by with the updated work plan?

Regards,

The Housing Board

Amy L. (Housing Service), Angela (Community), Aravindh (Housing Service), Bharathy (Community), Iyyappan (Community), Rima (Community), Venkat (Community).

Housing Service <housing@auroville.org.in> Mon, Aug 1, 2022 at 10:45 AM

To: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Cc: "famc ." <famc@auroville.org.in>

Dear All,

As a Housing service member, I don't get any invitation from Housing service or even from Housing Board to participate in the HB meeting of Coming Wednesday. It is totally unclear.

Thanks!

K. Venkatesh.

Housing Coordinator . <housing-coordinator@auroville.org.in> Mon, Aug 1, 2022 at 11:27 AM

To: Housing Service <housing@auroville.org.in>

Cc: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in> , "famc ." <famc@auroville.org.in>

Dear Venkatesh,

Myself and Aravindh are the Housing Service representatives to the Housing Board and therefore we will attend the Wednesday morning Housing Board meeting as usual.

This email is to clarify that no HB members are able to attend this proposed meeting due to this clash. As you know, there is a Housing Service meeting on Wednesday afternoons.

Hope that makes things clear,

Best Regards,

Amy L.

Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in> Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 9:07 AM

To: "Housing Coordinator ." <housing-coordinator@auroville.org.in>

Cc: Housing Service <housing@auroville.org.in>, "famc ." <famc@auroville.org.in>, Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Dear Team,

Please find attached the HS/HB workplan.

Best Wishes,

The Housing Board

Amy L. (Housing Service), Angela (Community), Aravindh (Housing Service), Bharathy (Community), Iyyappan (Community), Rima (Community), Venkat (Community).

Appendix B-14 - Office Order 495

25th July 2022

NO.AF/UNIT/218/ 564 25TH July,2022

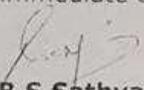
OFFICE ORDER NO. 495

SUBJECT: request Auroville Unity Fund/City Services to immediately stop all BCC disbursement of funds to all projects except maintenance with immediate effect.

FAMC is required to have proper management and oversight of all contributions to Auroville economy as well as all expenses. As new projects have been started FAMC also need to look into additional maintenance and funds for the projects

After several requests, the Budget Coordination Committee has shared the draft Budget for the FY 2022-2023. But, the details of disbursements for maintenances and other expenses for the period from 1.4.2021 to 30.06.2022 has not been shared

In view of the above, Auroville Unity Fund/City Services is requested to immediately stop all BCC disbursement of funds to all projects except maintenance with immediate effect.


B.S.Sathyanarayan
Accounts Officer

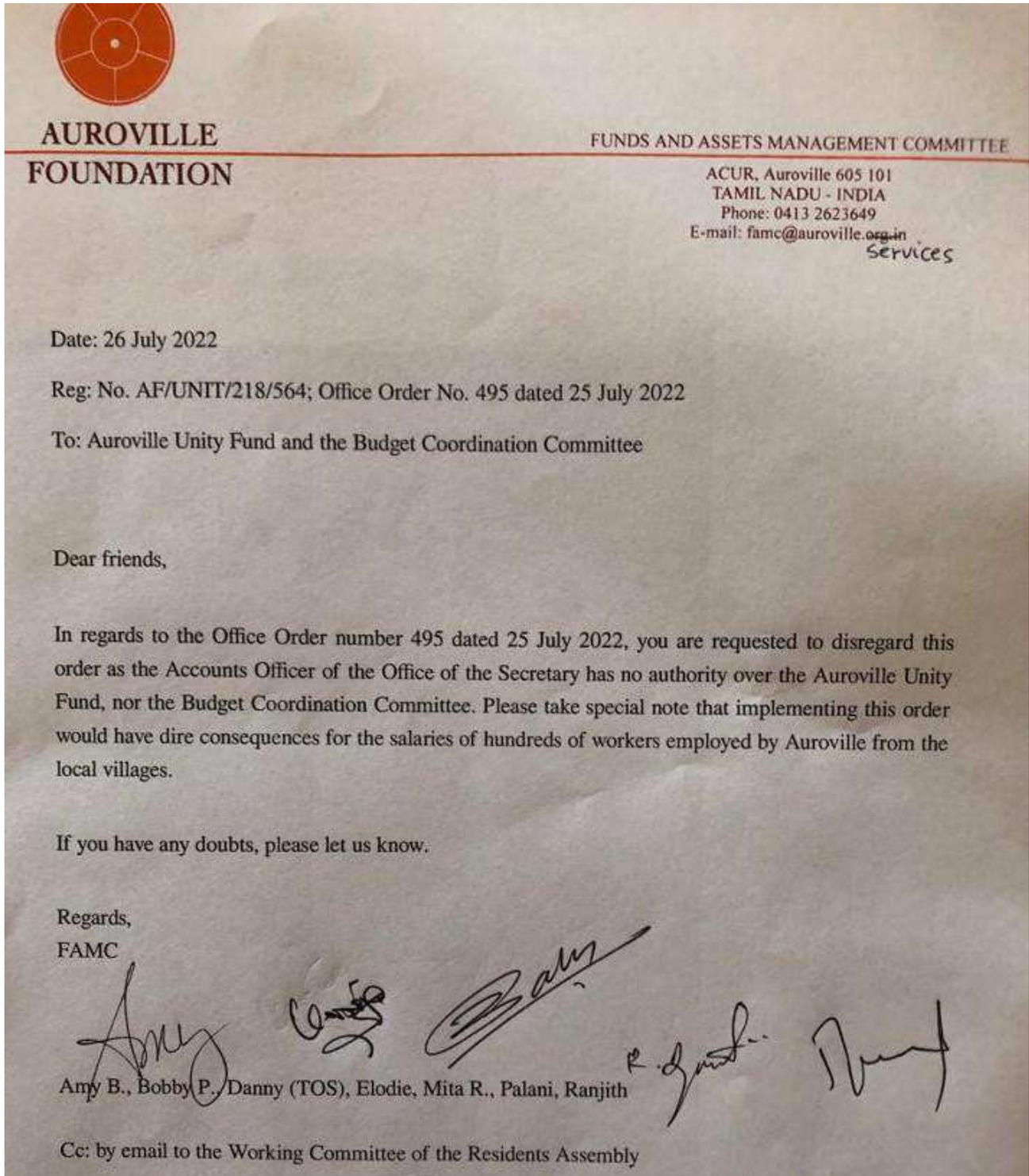
Copy to:
Mr.Otto/ Mr.Rathinam Auroville Unity Fund.
BCC
FAMC

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BHAVAN, AUROVILLE - 605 10
Tel : (0413) 262 2222 & 262 2414 Fax : (0413) 262
E-mail: avfoundation@auroville.org.in

Appendix B-15 - RA FAMC notice: disregard Office Order 495

26th July 2022



Appendix B-16 - Announcement from BCC to the community

28th July 2022

Freezing of City Services budget: Update from the BCC

By Budget Coordination Committee (BCC) , 28 Jul 2022 / 05:07 pm

Dear Auroville Community,

Our team has been dedicated to serving Auroville by administering funds for our community services. We have been in charge of collecting income, and disbursing budgets and Maintenances. Many of us were BCC members throughout the Covid economic crisis, emerging from that with a participatory budgeting process that tried to relook at our collective aspirations, needs and priorities.

However, the crisis of legitimacy around Auroville's Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) has crippled our work, culminating in an Office Order requesting Auroville Unity Fund/City Services "to immediately stop all BCC disbursement of funds to all projects except maintenance with immediate effect". This would include regular monthly budgets scheduled to be disbursed to the services on Aug 1st.

The situation is dire, and we wish to explain how it has unfolded. As per our mandate, the Budget Coordination Committee (BCC) is a body that is answerable to the FAMC. Specifically, the FAMC is

to approve the annual budget. We have been facing an unprecedented situation where there are two FAMCs. It is not in the power of the Budget Coordination Committee to determine which is legitimate. We set up meetings with both FAMCs to present the budget and get feedback, while awaiting clarity on which body we are accountable to. However, the FAMC newly appointed by the Foundation Office/Governing Board (FO/GB) refused to meet us unless we provided data about the current budgets and personal Maintenance disbursements with names. We were not comfortable providing such data to a body whose right to request it was not established, and whose intentions were not disclosed. We were also concerned about the consequences to the community of failing to comply with these requests. These were communicated as orders to be executed within very short timeframes, and included threats to the integrity of BCC's work. In an attempt to avoid drastic actions, we first provided overarching data of income, expenses and reserves, as well as Maintenance allocations with no personal data.

However, on Monday July 25th we were served an Office Order (no 495) signed by Mr. B.S. Sathyanarayan, Accounts Officer of the Auroville Foundation Office and also a member of the FAMC newly appointed by the Foundation Office, requesting Auroville Unity Fund/City Services "to immediately stop all BCC disbursement of funds to all projects except maintenance with immediate effect". The Office Order cited BCC's failure to provide data to the FAMC newly appointed by the Foundation Office, and the need of the latter to "look into additional maintenance and funds" for "new projects started by the FAMC".

We immediately requested a meeting with the newly appointed FAMC to explain their intent and the implications of this Office Order. We wished to understand if they have an alternative plan for

making funds available for services, or if we could come to an understanding of how to ensure the continuity and stability of the budget. At the same time, we received an official request from the FAMC selected by the Residents Assembly to “disregard this order [Office Order #495] as the Account Officer of the Office of the Secretary has no authority over the Auroville Unity Fund, nor the Budget Coordination Committee. Please take special note that implementing this order would have dire consequences for the salaries of hundreds of workers employed by Auroville from the local villages.”

We understand there is now a court case which seeks clarity regarding which FAMC is legitimate, and our repeated request has been to await such clarity before any major changes to BCC or City Services are undertaken.

We have received no response from the FO/GB FAMC, only a new request by Mr. B.S. Sathyanarayan, in his capacity as Accounts Officer, to provide detailed budgetary and Maintenance data, stating that the FAMC would call for a meeting following receipt of these details.

Under extreme pressure and the direct threat to the monthly budgets of the services and economic support to individuals (Aurovilian and non-Aurovilian), we have decided to provide the requested data to the FO/GB FAMC. We do so in the hope that this will prevent sudden undue economic hardship. However, we have no indications of how the situation will develop.

We remain committed to serving the community to the extent possible.

BCC

(Aurosugan, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Mahi, Rathinam, Sacha, Suryamayi, Verena)

Appendix B-17 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ statement

29th July 2022

Disregard BCC communication regarding disbursement of funds

By Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) 29 Jul 2022 / 05:48 pm

Dear Community

You may have received recent communications from the Budget Coordination Committee; which the FAMC suggests you to kindly ignore. The Funds & Assets Management Committee along with Unity Fund and City Services are now managing the disbursement of all funds, including monthly maintenances and other project funds. We would like to also re- assure you that no funds are being withheld and will be routinely processed as usual.

Funds & Assets Management Committee

Appendix B-18 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ mass mail constituting the /AVFO 'BCS'/

30th July 2022

Dear Community

We'd like to inform you that ever since we as the new members of FAMC took charge as a team and announced our collective aspirations to the community, (<https://auroville.org.in/article/91616>) we have since been trying to reach out to the various sub-groups functioning under the FAMC such as to align our mandate, vision and goals for the coming months and years through proper work plans. And yet despite our earnest effort through the course of the month to meet with the BCC members for a collaborative dialog to move forward with renewed impetus, we unfortunately felt the team had been persistently stalling matters, and with a lack of sharing of information as had been requested from the team. Despite the repeated requests to help with critical data such for the FAMC to review the community budgets and suggest oversight, it was not shared with one reason or another being cited through the month.

As we now embark on a journey on setting up many new projects, new initiatives - some long pending and overdue; there is an urgent need to streamline and support all of them through proper budgetary planning, roadmaps and milestones. We have therefore requested the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation to help us establish a new team to help us achieve them. Through our request the "Budget Coordination Service" has been constituted by Office Order by the Auroville Foundation for the purpose.

Members of the Budget Coordination Service are:

- (1) Ms. Ocean Bekker
- (2) Mr. K. Anbu
- (3) Ms. V. Sarasu
- (4) Ms. Meena
- (5) Ms. Svetlana Grigorashchenko
- (6) Ms. R. Anitha
- (7) Ms. H. Suryagandhi
- (8) Mr. Ravi Borchardt

In addition, Ms Rupali Batra is the resource person to assist the BCS, Budget Coordination Service.

In Her Service,
FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Jocelyn, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil)

Appendix B-19 - RA FAMC sends out a notice to disregard the constitution of the /AVFO 'BCS'/

4th August 2022

Note from FAMC sent via Telegram on 04.08.22

Dear community,

In regards to the "GB-FAMC" massbulletin email dated 30 July 2022 regarding the constitution of a new Budget Coordination Service, we advise the residents to disregard its contents in light of the fact that forming such groups cannot be done over email and or without formal approval through a community process.

Also, at least two named members were not even aware of being part of a new team called 'Budget Coordination Service' and have, since this announcement, stated unequivocally that they will not be part of it.

Such announcements are lamentable, and cause unnecessary confusion, in an already unclear situation. If you have questions regarding such messages/orders, please clarify with our RA elected working groups before reacting to such messages/orders.

Regards,

FAMC

(Amy B., Bobby P., Danny, Elodie, Mita R., Palani, Ranjith)

Appendix B-20 - /AVFO 'FAMC' communication

6th August 2022



**AUROVILLE
FOUNDATION**

FUNDS AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ACUR, Auroville 605 101
TAMIL NADU - INDIA
Phone: 0413 2623649
E-mail: famc@auroville.org.in

Date: 06/08/2022

This is to inform that FAMC has appointed **Sathyanarayan** and **Ocean Becker** as the new Loan Group members from the FAMC replacing Ranjith and Palani.

In addition to it **Rima** as new Loan Group members from the Housing replacing Bharathy.

Please confirm that all of them are added in the mailing list(loangroup@auroville.org.in).

In Her Service

Smiles

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Jocelyn, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil)



Appendix B-21 - Interim stay passed by the MHC following an appeal by the AVFO

26th August 2022



WEB COPY



W.A.Nos.1962 and 1961 of 2022

W.A.Nos.1962 and 1961 of 2022
and C.M.P.Nos.14295 and 14291 of 2022

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
and
N.MALA, J.

(Order of the Court was made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

Learned counsel for the parties argued the appeals at length.

2. Learned counsel for the respondents/writ petitioners pray for two weeks' time to make further arguments.

3. Learned senior counsel appearing for the appellant prays for an interim order, if the appeals are likely to be adjourned, because effectively arguments have been made by the parties. It is more specifically in regard to the order passed by the learned Single Judge going beyond the prayer made in the writ petitions and thereby restraining the working of Auroville Foundation, through the Governing Board, Residents' Assembly, Working Group of Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Council.

Page 1 of 4

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>



W.A.Nos.1962 and 1961 of 2022

WEB COPY

4. Learned counsel for the respondents/writ petitioners submit that the order of the learned Single Judge is going beyond the prayer made in the writ petitions in view of the subsequent developments and, therefore, the order passed by the learned Single Judge is justified. In any case, they would make their further submissions.

5. Taking into consideration the overall arguments, we find a case in favour of the appellant to pass an interim order not only on the ground that the direction given by the learned Single Judge in paragraph 69 is going beyond the prayer in the writ petitions, but even the finding and the observation made in reference to the pleadings. We would not at this stage comment upon the effect of the supersession of the Standing Order and constitution of Auroville Town Development Council. Thus, the operation of the impugned order of the learned Single Judge is stayed till the next date of hearing.

6. It is, however, made clear that the interim order would not affect the pending writ petition filed to challenge the order passed subsequent to the order under challenge in the writ petitions in question.

Page 2 of 4

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>



WEB COPY

List on 09.09.2022.



W.A.Nos.1962 and 1961 of 2022

bbr

(M.N.B., CJ) (N.M.,J.)
26.08.2022

Page 3 of 4

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>



WEB COPY



W.A.Nos.1962 and 1961 of 2022

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
and
N.MALA, J.

bbr

W.A.Nos.1962 and 1961 of 2022

26.08.2022

Page 4 of 4

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>

Appendix B-22 - Email from /AVFO 'FAMC/' to BCC regarding new team

26th August 2022

BCC transition

FAMC . <famc@auroville.org.in> Fri, Aug 26, 2022 at 5:47 PM

To: BCC OFFICE <bccoffice@auroville.org.in> , otto avl <otto@auroville.org.in>

Cc: FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Secretary AV Foundation <secretaryavf@auroville.org.in>, Auroville Foundation <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>, Naren Gupta <nk@auroville.org.in>, Ocean Bekker <ocean@auroville.org.in>, Ravi Borchardt <ravi@auroville.org.in> rupalisachraj@gmail.com

Dear friends,

We would like to thank all of you for your service. It has been much appreciated by the community.

It is time to make transition to the new team and the following four members (copied in this email)

will be the new members of the BCC:

1. Naren Gupta
2. Ocean Bekker
3. Ravi Borchardt
4. Rupali Batra (Resource Person.)

We sincerely hope that some or all of you can help them in this transition. Please let us know how you can help.

In Her Service,

Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, Torkil AND Dr. Jayanti Ravi)

Appendix B-23 - RA FAMC response

28th August 2022

FAMC response to Chandresh, et al wrt BCC 'transition'

FAMC <famc@auroville.services> 28 August 2022 at 13:30

To: jayanti.ravi@gmail.com, torkil.dantzer@gmail.com, "rupalisachraj@gmail.com" <rupalisachraj@gmail.com>, chandresh@aurinoco.net

Cc: BCC Office <bccoffice@auroville.services>, "FAMC ." <famc@auroville.services>, Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.services>

as FAMC email addresses are currently blocked from delivering messages to @auroville.org.in email addresses, this is being sent to several individual email addresses. It is expected that this message will be shared with all the named individuals. Thank you.

To: Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, Torkil, and Dr. Jayanti Ravi,
cc: Budget Coordination Committee
Naren, Ocean, Ravi, Rupali
Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

To all,

In reference to the email (see attached) dated 26 August 2022, we bring to your kind attention the results of the emergency Residents' Assembly Decision (also see two attachments). Therefore the email dated 26 August 2022 to the Budget Coordination Committee is without merit and is unequivocally rejected.

Regards,

The Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation
Amy Bassett, Bobby Patel, Danny Merguej, Elodie Desrousseaux, Mita Radhakrishnan, M. Palani, R. Ranjithkumar

3 attachments

2022.08.26 email to the BCC about a transition .pdf

Outcome of the Emergency RAD to approve the Resolution of the Residents' Assembly No. RAD_04_2022.pdf

Resolution of the RAS No. RAD-04-2022 in August 2022 .pdf

Appendix B-24 - BCC response

29th August 2022

Re: BCC transition

BCC Office <bccoffice@auroville.services> 29 August 2022 at 15:21

To: FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>

Cc: BCC Members <bcc@auroville.org.in> , BCC OFFICE <bccoffice@auroville.org.in>

Dear Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil,

In your email (attached), you have mentioned the good work that we have been carrying out as the BCC team, and how appreciated this is by the community. At the same time, you are requesting a transition to new members. This morning, a delegation of members of the FAMC appointed by the Governing Board, and the 4 new BCC members appointed by them, came to our office without prior notice and inquired about the transition process.

By noon, passwords to all our official @auroville.org.in BCC email ids were changed; we therefore no longer have access and are replying to you from an alternative email.

We kindly would like you to clarify whether you are ending our terms as BCC members, or whether you intend for the BCC members you have newly appointed to join our team. In case you intend to replace us, we expect you to follow due processes of law and natural justice, including informing us in writing of your causes and grounds for dismissal, giving us a chance to respond and giving reasonable notice.

Please note that we are also in receipt of the mail sent to you on Aug 28 by the FAMC selected by the Residents' Assembly which considers any such interference on your part with the BCC to be without merit given the results of the latest RAD.

BCC (Aurosugan, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Mahi, Rathinam, Sacha, Suryamayi, Verena)

2 attachments

FAMC response to Chandresh, et al wrt BCC 'transition'.pdf

Auroville Email Mail - BCC transition.pdf

Appendix B-25 - Communication from BCC on takeover of email inboxes

30th August 2022

Massbulletin from BCC 30.08.22

BCC lost access to email accounts

Dear Community,

This is to inform you that your mails are not reaching BCC.

This is because the passwords to our various BCC inboxes (@auroville.org.in) were changed without our knowledge, and BCC members were removed from our BCC Shared Drives (on Monday 29th).

We are requesting access and will keep you informed.

Thank you for your patience.

BCC (Aurosugan, Enrica, Hans, Mahi, Rathinam, Sacha, Suryamayi, Verena)

Appendix B-26 - Email from /AVFO 'FAMC/'

31st August 2022

[housingboard] Change

FAMC . <famc@auroville.org.in> Wed, Aug 31, 2022 at 3:08 PM

To: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in> , housing <housing@auroville.org.in>

Dear friends from Housing Board and Service,

We would like to thank you for your time and service. As per the office order, the new team is ready to start functioning in Housing from 31st August 2022.

The members of the new team are:

Aryamani
Banu,
Donata,
Pietro,
Saroja,
Uma Melin,
Venkatesh.

--

In Her Service,

Smiles,
FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil)

Appendix B-27 - Response from Housing Board

31st August 2022

Change

Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in> Wed, Aug 31, 2022 at 4:26 PM

To: "FAMC ." <famc@auroville.org.in>, Secretary AV Foundation <secretaryavf@auroville.org.in> ,
Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Cc: housing <housing@auroville.org.in>, saraladonata@libero.it, aryamani
<aryamani@auroville.org.in>, banu K <banu@auroville.org.in>, saroja <saroja@auroville.org.in> ,
Uma William <auroyuva22@auroville.org.in>, Venkatesh <venkatesh@auroville.org.in>

Dear all,

We are quite surprised by your email as we have not seen any Office Order. As you may be aware, today is quite an important holiday in India, so therefore our offices are closed. Please do send us a scanned copy of said Office Order.

We are also surprised to get this notice, without any explanation. Instead, we understand that two of our members were yesterday invited to a private meeting, in which this move to replace the Housing Board was intimated to them.

This despite the topic of the meeting clearly concerning the Housing Board as a whole.

It is our understanding from this meeting that there is concern about the work of the Housing Board and what is perceived as a lack of collaboration with the groups appointed by the Secretary. It has clearly been the Housing Board stance since the beginning that we collaborate with everyone, and we have been transparent about this stance.

We would like to remind you of our meeting of Thursday, 14th of July (see attachment 1), and our email dated 18th of July, which included the data that was asked of us on said meeting (see attachment 2). We sent a second work plan according to your provided format on the 2nd of August. (see also attachment 2, bottom)

Since then, we have had one request from you on August 7th, which after informal conversation with Torkhil was decided we did not have to respond to, as the request in that email needed to be revised (see attachment 3).

We again received a request from you to meet on Wednesday, August 24, in the evening time, to which we responded on Monday, August 29th. As you well know we have our main HB meeting on Wednesday morning, so any email sent on Wednesday night may take some time for us to respond to. In our email (attachment 4) of Monday night, we clearly ask you for a suitable time to meet.

We hope this dispels any notion that the Housing Board has been uncollaborative.

If you do continue with your intention to replace us, we would at a minimum expect you to follow due processes of law and natural justice, including informing us in writing of your causes and grounds for dismissal, giving us a chance to respond and giving reasonable notice.

Please also clarify what you envision will happen with our HB and HS staff, as they are not mentioned in your email.

The Housing Board

Amy L. (Housing Service), Angela (Community), Aravindh (Housing Service), Bharathy (Community), Iyyappan (Community), Rima (Community), Venkat (Community).

4 attachments

Attachment 4 - Collaboration_.pdf

Attachment 3 - Need the following information.pdf

Attachment 1 - Meeting with reconstituted FAMC.pdf

Attachment 2 - Information shared and meeting notes.pdf

Appendix B-28 - Response from the RA WCom

1st September 2022

Dear community,

As you may already be aware, the latest attempted takeover by the Office of the Secretary is the Housing Board and Housing Service, after the BCC. The illegitimate 'FAMC' which has been appointed by the Office of the Secretary has today, 31st August, informed the bona fide members of the Housing Board & Service of their 'replacement' effective from today onwards.

This is issued once again in complete disregard of the latest Resolution of the Residents' Assembly, which has confirmed that such appointments have not been made in due consultation with or approval of the RA, as is required. Furthermore, it is passed without the knowledge and consent of the bona fide FAMC of the Residents' Assembly, nor of the RA selected Working Committee or of the Auroville Council. This decision has not been taken in consultation with the Residents' Assembly, either directly or indirectly.

We invite all fellow community members to show a peaceful presence and support to the current Housing Board & Service. Please remain calm in all circumstances, do not respond to provocations that may arise, and document all actions by the illegitimate appointees of the Secretary.

Sincerely,

Your Working Committee
Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël, Sauro, Valli

Appendix B-29 - Response from the RA FAMC

3rd September 2022

FAMC response to Sathyanarayan, Torkil, et al wrt reconstituting Housing Service

FAMC <famc@auroville.services> 3 September 2022 at 07:47

To: torkil.dantzer@gmail.com, chandresh@aurinoco.net

Cc: saraladonata@libero.it, pietro.cefaloni@gmail.com, uma_melin@yahoo.com "FAMC ." <famc@auroville.services>, Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.services>, Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.services>

as FAMC email addresses are currently blocked from delivering messages to @auroville.org.in email addresses, this is being sent to several individual email addresses. It is expected that this message will be shared with all the named individuals. Thank you.

To: Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, and Torkil

cc: Housing Board and Housing Service, Aryamani, Donata, Banu, Pietro, Saroja, Uma Melin, K. Venkatesh, Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

To all,

In reference to the Office Order no. 436 dated 30 August 2022 (see '1' attached), and to the email dated 31 August 2022 (see '2' attached), we bring to your kind attention the results of the emergency Residents' Assembly Decision (see '3' and '4' attached).

Therefore the Office Order dated 30 August 2022 concerning reconstitution of the Housing Service is without merit and is unequivocally rejected.

Regards,

The Funds and Assets Management Committee of the Residents' Assembly of the Auroville Foundation

Amy Bassett, Bobby Patel, Danny Merguei, Elodie Desrousseaux, Mita Radhakrishnan, M. Palani, R. Ranjithkumar

4 attachments

2. 2022.08.31 Gmail - Change.pdf

1. 2022.08.30 Office Order 436 reconstituting Housing Service.pdf

3. Outcome of the Emergency RAD to approve the Resolution of the Residents' Assembly No. RAD_04_2022.pdf

4. Resolution of the RAS No. RAD-04-2022 in August 2022 .pdf

Appendix B-30 - Update from the Housing Board

16th September 2022

Update from the Housing Board

Dear community,

As you may be aware, the members of the Housing Board have been 'removed' from office and replaced by a team appointed by the Office of the Auroville Foundation. No notification or reasons have been given.

In their present form the Housing Board team has been working together and in full collaboration with the Housing Service, since August 2021. During this time, new working procedures and systems have been put in place to improve the quality of the service.

However, the dismissal and replacement has been done disregarding the work done, and without requesting any kind of proper hand over. As the "take over" has been done in such a hurry, even the Office Order issued is misleading and incorrect. The Office Order does not mention the Housing Board, but only the Housing Service, which are two separate bodies. It is unclear at this stage whether there is an attempt to restructure the Housing group, disregarding in this way the Housing Mandate which has been approved by the Community in 2021, or a simple lack of information and knowledge about the work and the structure of the Housing group.

We have also been locked out of our inboxes and are no longer able to access the Housing accounts. As such, we feel our hands are tied, as many of our decisions relate to the allocation of funds for repairs and building projects, which we have no access to at the moment. We find the current events go against all sense of natural justice and we await the outcome of the Madras High Court case regarding the FAMC.

We would like to remind you that the Housing Board was created in 2017 through a community process to assure transparency and accountability, which the service by itself was lacking. Since the Housing Board was created, they have been grappling with many unrecorded decisions and accounting mismanagement of past Housing Group teams.

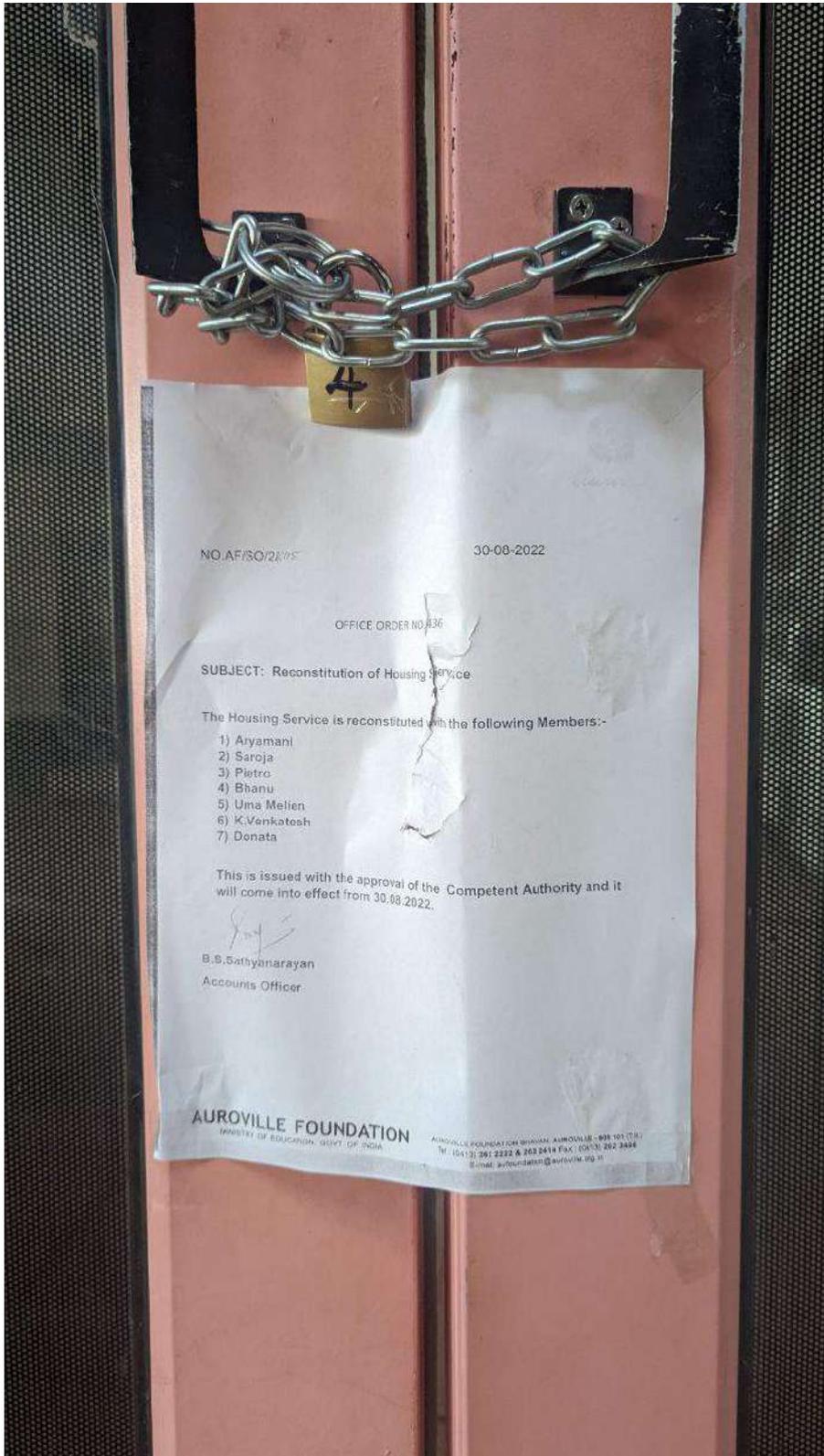
As the Housing Board, we wish to continue whatever work we can in the spirit of service. If you have any enquiries, you can reach us at housingboard@auroville.services or av.housinggroup@gmail.com. We will always do our best to help you with the means available to us.

With care,

The Housing Board
(Amy L., Angela, Aravindh, Bharathy, Iyyappan, Rima, Venkat)

Appendix B-32 - Image of office Order #436 pasted on locked offices

2nd September 2022



Appendix B-33 - BCC Communication to the Community

13th October 2022

BCC can no longer operate as before - but remain committed to serve Auroville

Dear Community,

We regret to inform you that the BCC (Budget Coordination Committee) can no longer operate as before. We no longer have any control or oversight over Auroville's City Services budget.

As of October 13th, 2022, BCC team members no longer have access to the Financial Service system. This means that we have completely lost control over the setting up or changing of City Services Maintenances (adult and children), and are no longer able to access Auroville Service accounts or execute transfers for both services or individuals (for visa and passport refunds, for example).

We are deeply concerned about the future of Maintenance and budgetary support for Auroville individuals, services and employees. And we are also deeply concerned about the financial management and stability of Auroville as a community.

We have informed the RA WCom and RA FAMC of the situation. In the meantime, we remain available to the community. **We will maintain office hours in the Council Meeting room in Town Hall on Tuesdays: 10:30AM - 12:00PM and 2:30PM - 3:30PM to answer any questions, hear your suggestions and concerns.**

As a team, we are committed to continuing to explore possible developments and improvements related to the guidelines, management and review of the use of City Services funds towards supporting the realisation of Auroville's ideals.

Your BCC members (Aurosugan, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Mahi, Rathinam, Sacha, Suryamayji, Verena)

Appendix B-34 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ on the role of BCC

23rd October 2022

About BCC

By Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) , 23 Oct 2022 / 11:52 am

FAMC has over the last several months invited former BCC members to collaborate and work together to prepare an annual work plan, streamline budget collection for timely submissions for allowing for an annual AV budget that FAMC is tasked to put together. Also submit budget details for a joint review on priorities to be readjusted for new changes that are put together by FAMC for more productive and effective services support with proper accountability and transparency.

FAMC provided ample time and invitation to take up new direction to the important sub-group.

As it became clear that no cooperation was forthcoming, FAMC has restructured the role of BCC and new modalities are being framed. New team members are brought into play for a transition to the changed needs of Auroville. The future of maintenance and budgetary support of Aurovilians and financial management and stability of Auroville need not be a concern of the former BCC members as we believe that **She** is definitely guiding us.

Everyone needing to meet up with the BCC team is requested to come meet the team sitting along with FAMC in the Archives build. You may also write an email to the new team bccoffice@auroville.org.in for your queries or requirements.

The new BCC team will introduce itself to you very soon.

In Her Service,

Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, ShankarDevy and Torkil)

Appendix B-35 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ on contributions to City Services

23rd October 2022

About Contributions

By Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) , 23 Oct 2022 / 12:01 pm

Dear friends,

BCC and FAMC are fully aware of the rising inflation in India which is putting a strain on the economy of many Aurovilians and the need for a long awaited increase in maintenance.

We are in the last phase of implementing an increase, but our monitoring of contributions to City Services has in the last month shown a sudden drop. We are concerned that some units are withholding their contribution due to the current circumstances.

We are emphasizing that contributions are going to support the community at large, and all should contribute **in time** according to their responsibilities. In the coming weeks we will contact directly to ensure that adequate funds flow into City Services.

We are also working on strengthening the contribution system, to ensure a more smooth and constant flow of contributions, which would be easier to monitor and budget from. We hope soon to be able to implement a much needed increase.

In Her Service,

Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, ShankarDevy and Torkil)

Appendix B-36 - BCC update on bridging maintenances

24th November 2022

UPDATE ON BRIDGING MAINTENANCES

Dear Community, we are aware of many on-going concerns in the community for those Aurovilians who have been placed on Bridging Maintenances without due process or justification by the Foundation Office appointed FAMC/BCC and Accounts Officer.

As previously announced, the RA BCC is coordinating support for these Aurovilians in case it will be needed. Donors have come forward for this, and we invite others to contact us if you wish to contribute. We are also in touch with the individuals impacted, few of which have decided to take up other work in Auroville.

While prepared for this eventuality, we very much hope that Maintenances to those Aurovilians who are working for Auroville and in need of support will not be cut due to a conflict situation, as this would be a grave breach of Auroville's core values and ideals.

With care and concern,

Your RA BCC members (Aurosugan, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Mahi, Rathinam, Sacha, Suryamayi, Verena)

Appendix C-1 - Office Order #491

15th July 2021

P. R. SRINIVASAMURTY
UNDER SECRETARY

No. AF/M/63/



15 July 2021

OFFICE ORDER NO. 491

Subject: Re-Constitution of the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC)

1. Whereas the Governing Board, vide Standing Order No. 6/2011 dated 1st May 2011, had constituted the Auroville Town Development Council (hereinafter referred to as "ATDC") for the purposes mentioned therein;
2. Whereas the Residents' Assembly through the Working Committee recommended the names of the Residents of Auroville vide their letter 14th July, 2021 to the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, Governing Board for the purpose of constituting Auroville Town Development Council; which was last revised on 29th November, 2017.
3. Now, therefore, the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, after careful consideration, reconstitutes Auroville Town Development Council with the following residents recommended by the Working Committee, as its members:

S. No.	Names
1	Shri. Anbu Velayudam
2	Shri. Toby Neumann
3	Shri. Saravanan Mahalingam
4	Shri. Sreevastsa Rameshbabu Govindass
5	Shri. Lakshay Dharan

4. The Working Committee also recommended to nominate **Ms. Elaine Catherine Phillips**, Auromodele, Auroville, as a nominee of the Working Committee to the ATDC.
5. On behalf of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation also nominates **Shri. Debabrata Sahoo**, Kalpana, Auroville, in the Auroville Town Development Council.
6. **Ms. Vidya Angurajan**, Udavi School, Auroville, is also nominated as an apprentice for one year who will be reviewed after six months.
7. The term of office of the Auroville Town Development Council shall be 2 years from the date of issue i.e. 15th July, 2021.

Page 1 of 2

o/c

P.T.O.

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BHAVAN, AUROVILLE - 605 101 (T.N.)
Tel : (0413) 262 2222 & 262 2414 Fax : (0413) 262 3496
E-mail: avfoundation@auroville.org.in

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

To be continued...

8. Without prejudice to the above decisions, the Governing Board, in consultation with the Working Committee, may co-opt new members from time to time and, as agreed to by the Working Committee, may also replace such members who, for various reasons, are not able to contribute adequately to the process of planning and development, by other nominees recommended by the Working Committee.

This Office Order issues with the approval of Secretary, Auroville Foundation and shall come into force with immediate effect.


(P. R. Srinivasamurthy)
Under Secretary
Auroville Foundation

Copy to:

1. All Members of the Auroville Town Development Council, Auroville
- ✓ 2. The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly, Auroville
3. The Funds & Assets Management Committee, Auroville

Appendix C-2 - Letter from WCom

21th July 2021



Auroville
Foundation

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

21st July 2021

To:

Mr. P. R. Srinivasamurty,
Under Secretary,
Auroville Foundation,
Auroville Foundation Bhavan,
Administrative Area,
Auroville- 605101.

Dear Mr. Srinivasamurty,

We acknowledge receipt of the Office Order No.491 dated 15th July 2021. Here are observations which we would like to share and have on record.

1. In our letters of 14th July and 25th May regarding the appointment of new members of ATDC we had included the duration of the terms of office for the 2 members selected through a community process, Sreevatsa and Saravanan, as well as that of the interim members selected by the previous Working Committee through a fast-track process, namely Anbu, Lakshay and Toby. However, we find the terms of office for all members have been mentioned as 2 years from date of issue of the order, which is not accurately reflecting the recommendation of the Working Committee while the Office Order states that the membership, without distinction between interim members and selected members, is recommended by the Working Committee. We request you to amend the Order and make a clarification saying that the Working Committee recommended a term of office until December 2021 (one year from date of selection) for the interim members and until 3rd May, 2023 for the selected members (4 years from date of selection). After careful consideration, the Secretary has decided to appoint all the members for 2 years from date of issue of the Order.
2. We had agreed ATDC will invite Vidya as an intern apprentice or as a resource person. Therefore, this is an appointment that we understood would be done directly by ATDC.

We look forward to your understanding and support in this matter.

Best regards,

The Working Committee

Anuradha Legrand

Arun Selvam

Chali Grinnell

Hemant Lamba

Parthasarathy Krishnan

Sauro Mezzetti

Srimoyi Rosegger

Administrative Area (Town Hall), Auroville - 605101, Tamil Nadu, India

Tel: + 91 413 2622143 Fax: 91 413 2622055 E-mail: workingcom@auroville.org.in Website: <http://www.auroville.org>

Appendix C-3 - A communication from the Auroville Council

3rd September 2021

Follow up on ATDC membership

By AV Council (AVC), 03 Sep 2021 / 12:10 pm

Dear Community,

In continuation to our previous announcement titled “Observations related to ATDC Standing Order and Office Order”, we are posting the below observations of the ATDC selection process and past involvement of AVC in these processes. We are announcing this to bring forward a clearer and consolidated picture of the events leading to the current situation.

1. In mid 2020, WCom and AVC formed a sub-group to prepare the TDC selection process. While the proposals were still being discussed, due to pressure from TDC (as there were only 2 active members namely Sreevatsa and Saravanan), WCom and AVC began an interim selection process. But because some of the AVC members were in support of looking at permanent rather than interim selections, AVC withdrew from the interim selection process. The WCom went ahead and held the interim selecting process alone. The TDC members, Sreevatsa & Saravanan also tried to explain the then Wcom the need for the long term members instead of the interim solution for the effective working of TDC .

But AVC did not object to the interim selection going ahead because it did not seem feasible to hold another full fledged selection process for TDC in a timely manner as preparations for the general selection process were Underway.

2. During the process and announcement for interim member selections, there were some community members who shared that they would rather participate in a permanent process as the interim term is too short to give their full commitment. Now the interim members whose term was only supposed to be 1 year has been extended to 2.5 years in total.

3. This interim selection was initiated by WCom, the call for nominations was made to the RA but the final selection was made by the WCom. Therefore, much of the present ATDC reflected in the Office Order 2021 was not appointed by a community ratified process.

4. Post the appointment of the interim members to TDC (Dec 2020), AVC was part of the TDC selection process subgroup from March-July 2021. Suddenly WCom informed AVC that the TDC selection subgroup was suspended. Shortly thereafter the new Office Order 2021 was issued. Understanding the events that led to the interim selections for ATDC, and then the extension via the Office Order 2021, without the appropriate involvement of the RA, we recommend that more scrutiny is applied to the events where due steps for selection may not have been considered, and the reasons why this happen.

At Her service,
The Auroville Council

Appendix C-4 - Letter from Concerned Residents to WCom

6th September 2021

Date: 6 SEPT 2021

Dear Working Committee of the Residents Assembly

This letter is to draw your attention to the outcomes of the General Meeting of the Residents Assembly dated Friday 20th August, 2021

1. Whereas it has been observed at the General Meeting, and by the Auroville Council (report dated 25th Aug 2021) that the Secretariat of the Auroville Foundation has (see article 5 & 6, Office Order No. 491, dated 15th July 2021) nominated two members, namely Mr. Debabratha and Ms. Vidya, to the ATDC, interim or not, without having shown authorisation from either the Residents Assembly or the Governing Board. Office Order No.491 is therefore in contravention to the RAD 2017 policy as well as the Standing Order of 2019.
2. Whereas the Office Order No.491 does not distinguish between interim members and Residents Assembly selected members (see article 3 & 7 Office Order No.491), as pointed out by the Working Committee of the Residents Assembly (dated 21st July 2021).
3. Whereas Office Order No.491 fails to recognise the exclusive authority of the Residents Assembly (empowered by the Auroville Foundation Act 1988) to select ATDC members for durations **outstanding** an interim period, and is in contravention to article 5 of Standing Order 2019.
4. Hence, members of the General Meeting of the Residents Assembly seek immediate clarification from the Working Committee regarding the above-mentioned Office Order No.491.

Awaiting your reply,

Kind regards,

Concerned residents of the Residents Assembly

Undersigned:

Mamas (Centrefield)
Sangeeta (Centrefield)
Anusuya (Centrefield)
Sivan L- (Lata, Certitude)
M.B. (Nilandha) (Adventure).
MITA, CENTREFIELD
Sangeeta, Pump House
Sujasini, Prarthana
Prashant, Certitude
Naveen, Pump House

Appendix C-5 - Reply from WCom

21th September 2021

Fwd: Seeking clarification regarding ATDC

From: Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in>

Date: Tue, 21 Sep, 2021, 7:13 am

To: M. <xxxxxxx@auroville.org.in>

Dear M.,

This is to inform you that we have forwarded the concerns of 36 people shared to us requesting clarification, to Secretary Dr. Jayanti Ravi requesting a response to your queries.

We await her response.

With regards

For the Working Committee

Valli

Secretary

On Mon, Sep 6, 2021 at 8:49 AM M. . <xxxxxxx@auroville.org.in> wrote:

Dear Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly,

Please find attached a scanned copy of a letter from 46 concerned members of the Residents' Assembly seeking immediate clarification on the question of the current membership of the ATDC.

A hard copy of the letter with the names of the undersigned will be submitted to your office later this morning.

Please send your response to my email -- I will ensure it is widely circulated.

Regards,

M.

Appendix C-6 - Letter from a former member of the WCom to the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation

25th October 2021

Auroville, 25-10-2021

Dr. Jayanti Ravi I.A.S.
Secretary
Auroville Foundation
Auroville Foundation Bhavan
Auroville 605101

Dear Madam,

I take the liberty to write to you as it seems to me that some of your recent decisions regarding the appointment of the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) and the manifestation of a part of the Master Plan are not in accordance with the Auroville Foundation Act and the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan Perspectives 2025.

My observations are the following.

1) Regarding the Standing Order No 6/2011 dt. May 1st, 2011, and your Office Order No 491 based on this Standing Order.

It seems to me that the Governing Board has erred in issuing this Standing Order for the following reasons:

- a) The Auroville Foundation Act contains no provision to the effect that the Governing Board can issue Standing Orders.
- b) In case the Standing Order No 6/2011 would be considered as being equal to Regulations made by Governing Board in accordance with section 32 of the Auroville Foundation Act, it should have been approved by the Government of India as mentioned in section 33 AVF Act, which, I believe, did not happen.
- c) The Standing Order No 6/2011 basis itself on Section 16 of the AVF Act, which authorises the Governing Board to appoint such committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under the Auroville Foundation Act; however, section 16.2 specifies that the Board may co-opt to such committees as members such number of persons who are not Board members as it may think fit, and those co-opted person shall have the right to attend the meetings of the committee but not have the right to vote.
- d) It appears therefore that this section of the Act prescribes the powers of the Board to create committees that are largely consisting of Governing Board Members. An example of this is the Finance Committee, which, I believe, consisted of Governing Board members and the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation as members.
- e) Please also note that your Office Order # 491 appears to be equally erroneous as it does not follow the Standing Order No 6/2011, as the appointees have not been charged with any of the specific functions listed in the Standing Order.

2) Regarding which authority should constitute the Town Development Council.

- a) Section 19.1.c. of the Auroville Foundation Act describes the functions of the Residents' Assembly. One of these functions is to **“(c) formulate the master plan of Auroville for the approval of the Governing Board.** (emphasis added)
- b) Section 19.3 states that, for the purpose of carrying on its functions, the Residents' Assembly may establish such committees as it may consider necessary **which shall represent it in relation to the functions to be performed by the Governing Board.** (emphasis added).
- c) One of the functions to be performed by the Governing Board is specified in section 17e. of the Auroville Foundation Act, e.g. **“to prepare a master-plan of Auroville in consultation with the Residents' Assembly and to ensure development of Auroville as so planned.”**
- d) It follows that **for the formulation of the master plan of Auroville** the Residents' Assembly, and not the Governing Board, has the authority to establish a committee.
- e) The Governing Board then has then the authority to approve this master plan.

3) Regarding the implementation of the Master Plan

- a) Apart from its function **“to prepare a master-plan of Auroville in consultation with the Residents' Assembly,”** the Board has the authority, as also mentioned in section 17e of the Auroville Foundation Act, **“to ensure development of Auroville as so planned.** (emphasis added).
- b) A narrow interpretation of this section would be that, since the Master Plan has been made, the Governing Board would have the authority to **ensure development of Auroville as so planned,** for which consultation with the Residents' Assembly is not prescribed.
- c) However, the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan Perspective 2025 specifies in section 1.1.2 that **it provides a policy framework which will serve as a guide in the preparation for Five Year Development Plans and Annual Plans.** (emphasis added)
- d) This is further specified in its Section 2.11.1, which states that **Five Year Development Plans are to be made** containing the priority items to be taken up for development, and that at the close of the first Five Year Development Plan, the progress would be assessed, after which a second detailed development plan would be prepared, followed by further detailed development plans for subsequent 5-year periods. (emphasis added)
- e) Section 2.11.2 then states that the Five-Year Development Plans will be reviewed, and that **the review process will be the same as followed for the preparation of the Perspective Plan, and the results will be approved by the Governing Board in consultation with the supervisory Ministry.** (emphasis added)
- f) It seems therefore that your drive to manifest a section of the Master Plan, namely the Crown, is premature, as neither Five Year Development Plans (nor any Annual Plans) have been made and approved by the Residents' Assembly and subsequently by the Governing Board in consultation with the supervisory Ministry.
- g) Mr. Sreevatsa of the ATDC mentioned in his presentation to the community on September 10, 2021, that the work of the ATDC was proceeding on the basis of the community approved

Master Plan of 1999. I consider this statement as incorrect, since this 1999 Master Plan has been replaced by the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan Perspective 2025, which was approved by the Governing Board and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, and was subsequently gazetted by the Auroville Foundation in 2010. Any work of the ATDC can only be done on the basis of this approved and gazetted Master Plan.

Regarding the implementation of the Crown and Outer Ring Road

- a) From the above it follows that before implementing the Crown Road to the specified width of 16.7 metres, a Five-Year Detailed Development Plan would need to be prepared, which not only details the land use plan with land schedule, building development regulations etc. for the development along Crown Road, but also provides the mobility plan required for the whole of Auroville. This would address the mobility needs of:
- i. the residents and guests of Auroville;
 - ii. the traffic generated due to on-going building development in Auroville;
 - iii. the goods and service traffic generated by the activities within and around Auroville;
 - iv. the traffic of the floating population of employees (presently over 7000 per day from the local villages) and daily visitors;
 - v. the through-traffic generated by residents of local and regional villages using Auroville roads as connector and short cuts;
- b) In this context I would also like to observe that the plans for the Outer Ring Road, as specified by the ATDC in its written response to a question from *Auroville Today*, published in its October 2021 issue, seem to lack proper consideration. In response to the questions how the Outer Ring Road is planned, whether all traffic from within and without Auroville is permitted to travel on it, and to what extent it impacts the villages which it would pass through and the greenbelt which it would separate from the city, the ATDC responded as follows:

For the very reason that the outer ring road passes through adjoining villages, it is important that it remains public and accessible to all. This road will receive traffic from the access roads that would connect the Pondicherry- Tindivanam Highway and the East Coast Road. The main purpose of this road in the context of Auroville is (1) to connect the four zones on the peripheral side of the city and (2) to divert the non-Auroville bound traffic from entering the city.

In responding to this question, the TDC shows lack of institutional memory. Only two years ago, Auroville was successful in convincing the authorities that the four-lane highway planned to connect the Pondicherry-Tindivanam highway to the East Coast Road, and which would run between Kulapalayam and Auroville, should be relocated further north.

The Outer Ring Road as planned by the ATDC will bring all the endemic problems connected to highway development into Auroville. The air and noise pollution; and on lands not owned by Auroville, strip commercial development with the accompanying issues of garbage dumping, excessive water extraction, ground water pollution, and social issues like alcoholism, violence and prostitution. Moreover, planned as it is between the city areas and the greenbelt, such a

road would be a danger to all those who need to cross the road to go into the greenbelt for sports or relaxation. Where the road goes through or borders communities like Sharnaga, Prarthna, Samasti, Maitreye, Victory, Dana, Silence and Kottakarai and the forests communities of Meadow, Gaia, Samriddhi, Revelation and Miracle, it would destroy them environmentally and socially.

For the reasons mentioned, I believe that it would be judicious if you would:

- i. Advise the Working Committee to call for a decision of the Residents' Assembly to approve the ATDC as a committee constituted by the Residents' Assembly; approve the appointment of its members for the term specified by you or as otherwise modified; and approve the works to be done as specified by you or as otherwise modified.
- ii. Decide to shelve the plans for the manifestation of the Crown till a Detailed Development Plan regarding the Crown and a Detailed Mobility Plan for Auroville in general have been approved by the relevant authorities.

Dear Dr. Ravi, I would appreciate it if you would be so kind to give my observations proper consideration. I am not a specialist in Indian law, so perhaps some of them are incorrect, in which case I would highly appreciate it being informed about the differing perspective.

Respectfully,



Carel Thieme
(Member of previous Working Committees)
Samasti community
Auroville 605101
Email: carel@auroville.org.in
Mob: +91 94432 62298

Appendix C-7 - Minutes of 57th Governing Board Meeting

2nd November 2021

Final Minutes of the 57th Governing Board Meeting held on 2nd November 2021.

Present: Shri. R. N. Ravi, Chairman, Auroville Foundation, Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan, Shri. Aravindan Neelakandan, Prof. Goutam Ghosal, Prof. R. S. Sarraju, Members, Governing Board and Dr Jayanti S. Ravi, Secretary, AF.

Dr Nirima Oza, Smt. Darshana M. Dabral, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor and Smt. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India attended online. Prof. N.G. Basappa could not attend.

Dr Nirima Oza could not participate in the online meeting effectively due to connectivity issues.

Secretary, Auroville Foundation (AF) welcomed the Hon'ble Chairman and Governing Board members and gave a presentation, which includes a work plan outline for the period 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 focusing on the growth of Auroville as per the vision of the Mother.

Secretary informed the Board that she had prepared the presentation after studying and compiling decisions already taken in previous Governing Board meetings and her interactions with various Auroville working groups and residents.

Chairman and members of the Board appreciated the detailed and comprehensive analysis of the various issues, challenges and proposed ways forward for the integral development of Auroville. The Board took decisions and made observations as detailed below.

1. Governance

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of governance and organisation in Auroville:

- 1.1. There is a proliferation of groups and discussion forums.
- 1.2. There seems to be decision paralysis or the inability to put decisions into practice.
- 1.3. The Residents Assembly is seen by many as a decision-making body for even operational issues that are under the responsibility of working groups.
- 1.4. The absence of work plans or governance and organisation that ensures implementation of work plans.
- 1.5. Culture of "stakeholders" seems to have replaced the culture of "voluntary contributors" / "willing servitors".

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Final Minutes of the 57th Governing Board Meeting held on 2nd November 2021.

- 1.6. Working group member selection processes include conventional canvassing and voting.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to Auroville governance and organization:

- 1.1. Decision-taking in Auroville needs to be driven by the ideals given by the Mother.
- 1.2. There is a need for the preparation of work plans for each work area of Auroville by the respective working groups. These work plans must relate to the realization of the ideals of Auroville including township development, governance, economy, education and research.
- 1.3. Selection of human resources for working groups must be done with reference to the skill sets, experience, commitment and engagement needed for the implementation of the ideals of Auroville in general and work plans of working groups in particular.
- 1.4. There is a need to promote a culture of engagement, transparency, commitment, accountability and integrity.
- 1.5. The initiative to have contact persons / coordinators for residential communities to engage with residents for cultural, academic and other activities that strengthen the spirit of goodwill and harmony may be continued through periodical interactions with the contact persons / coordinators.
- 1.6. The Working Committee must assist the Governing Board with the implementation of decisions taken by the Board within a time frame.

2. Township Development

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of Auroville Township development:

- 2.1. Presently Auroville has a population of about 3,500 persons scattered over a large land area (also outside the Auroville Master Plan area).
- 2.2. There is scattered, sporadic and ad-hoc development resulting in high-cost infrastructure and lack of a cohesive social fabric.
- 2.3. Master Plan right-of-ways (the Crown, radials, outer ring and international zone loop, etc.) have not been cleared, resulting in haphazard infrastructure development at high installation and maintenance costs.

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- 2.4. There is a lack of focus on the development of the township amongst the various working groups and Auroville residents.
- 2.5. The low population dispersed over a vast land area, results in scattered habitation and land protection issues.
- 2.6. Housing and other facilities to be developed to welcome more people with commitment to the ideals of Auroville.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken to accelerate the development of the Auroville Township:

- 2.1. On the occasion of Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary, a fresh impetus must be given to realise the Auroville Township in accordance with the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan within a time frame.
- 2.2. The Governing Board noted and endorsed the decisions already taken by the previous Governing Board on Auroville Township Development including planning and development as per the Auroville Master Plan and engagement with the Tamil Nadu Government to obtain statutory land use regulation (New Town Development Authority) for the Auroville Master Plan area to ensure land use as envisaged in the Auroville Master Plan.
- 2.3. The ATDC (Auroville Town Development Council) needs to have a work plan, with clearly defined deliverables, time lines, a human resources plan and annual budget.
- 2.4. ATDC membership selection / nomination to be done with a focus on competence, skills, work experience, and a commitment to plan and develop the Auroville Township in accordance with the Auroville Master Plan.
- 2.5. The ATDC needs to complete the work of preparation of Detailed Development Plans (DDPs) based on the Auroville Master Plan.
- 2.6. Build the township infrastructure backbone (water, electricity, communication, sewerage, etc.) along the fully cleared RoWs to enable planned urban development.
- 2.7. A tree plantation drive may be initiated with immediate effect only in the green belt and the green corridors / network inside the city area as provided for in the Auroville Master Plan.
- 2.8. All Master Plan deviations on the land earmarked for the Crown have to be cleared so that the circular Crown Road and related infrastructure can

- be built without further delay. A similar exercise shall be implemented for the twelve radials and the outer ring road, where land ownership permits.
- 2.9. The work on the completion of the Matrimandir gardens and the lake may be accelerated.
 - 2.10. Housing development to accommodate (young) Aurovilians must be undertaken.
 - 2.11. New education facilities may be built, while ensuring utmost utilization of the existing ones.
 - 2.12. Development of the Industrial Zone is essential to make Auroville the self-supporting township as envisaged by the Mother.
 - 2.13. The Board endorses Office Order 491 dated 15th July 2021 (read with corrigendum dated 25th October 2021) issued by the Under Secretary AF with the approval of Secretary AF for the nomination of members of the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC), including a nominee by the Secretary, Auroville Foundation (AF) on behalf of the Governing Board. Secretary AF is authorized to nominate the Governing Board's nominee on the ATDC as and when required for smooth and efficient functioning of the ATDC.
 - 2.14. A budget outlay of Rs. 1,000 Crores is approved by the Board for Auroville Township development for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 on the basis of the budget prepared by the ATDC. Detailed budget estimates may be prepared by the ATDC and scrutinized by the Secretary, AF for submission to the Ministry of Education. Expenditure to be incurred with an effective and transparent monitoring and reporting system.

3. Land

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of Auroville lands:

- 3.1. There are private developments (residential and commercial) both in the city area and in the greenbelt.
- 3.2. There is slow progress in city land consolidation.
- 3.3. Some lands of the Auroville Foundation have been encroached upon.
- 3.4. Some lands of the Auroville Foundation are not utilised, underutilised, or not utilised in accordance with land use as envisaged in the Auroville Master Plan.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to Auroville Foundation land:

- 3.1. The land acquisition proposal for the remaining private lands in the City Area according to the Auroville Master Plan is ratified by the Board.
- 3.2. The Board also endorses the proposal to engage with the Tamil Nadu Government for the establishment of a New Town Development Authority (NTDA) for the Auroville Master Plan area.
- 3.3. The Board advises that stewardships of Auroville lands are changed periodically.
- 3.4. Appointment of experts (on contract basis) for land consolidation.
- 3.5. Prepare a land and building assets database with details of present and potential utilisation.
- 3.6. Optimise the utilisation of all land and building assets.

4. Economy

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of the economy of Auroville:

- 4.1. The Mother had envisaged Auroville as a self-supporting township. Auroville is not yet self-supporting and is unable to meet the basic needs of all residents of Auroville.
- 4.2. It is not clear how many adult Aurovilians are contributing through work towards the realisation of the aims and objectives of Auroville.
- 4.3. Auroville's cost of living seems to be high.
- 4.4. Auroville is still a monetary transactional society.
- 4.5. There is no pan-Auroville annual budget.
- 4.6. There is no medium and long-term economy plan.
- 4.7. Human resources are not evaluated for their contribution to Auroville after the completion of the newcomer period.
- 4.8. There is a large number of trusts and units with multiple GST registrations and accounting systems.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to the economy of Auroville:

- 4.1. Preparation of an annual Auroville budget that includes all resources and all needs.
- 4.2. Preparation of a medium and long-term economy plan including financial plans of the income-generating units of Auroville.
- 4.3. Make capital available for the growth of existing income-generating units and start-up capital for new income-generating units.
- 4.4. Establish an innovation and incubation centre for the youth to be actively engaged.
- 4.5. Strengthen and support the knowledge economy.
- 4.6. All Auroville lands, buildings and other assets must be utilized to generate collective resources for Auroville as whole.
- 4.7. Use some of the outlying lands of Auroville for income generation through joint ventures or ventures in which Auroville has a passive stake.
- 4.8. Elimination of internal money exchange.
- 4.9. Ensure that all basic needs of all residents are met and that all residents contribute to the realisation of Auroville.
- 4.10. Enhance Auroville food production to meet the needs of Auroville.
- 4.11. Simplify the governance and organisation structures (trusts, units, activities and committees).
- 4.12. Integrated common accounting systems to be implemented for more effective and transparent financial management.
- 4.13. Contributions by income-generating units to be reviewed (rationale of the 33% contribution; utilisation of surpluses).
- 4.14. Reduce construction costs with innovative construction practices and effective and transparent price discovery mechanisms
- 4.15. The Mother envisaged Auroville as a self-supporting township. All Auroville residents are expected to contribute to achieving this goal and work for the collective welfare of Auroville.

5. Education and Research

The Board noted the following in relation to the present status of education and research in Auroville:

- 5.1. There is a mix of conventional education systems with the envisioned ideal of integral education with a dedicated team of teachers.
- 5.2. There seem to be under-utilised facilities.

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to education and research in Auroville:

- 5.1. Establishment of various Centres of Excellence in Auroville.
- 5.2. Auroville to become a hub for integral education and research.
- 5.3. The Board noted that the establishment of the Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity as an affiliating network for integral education, research, teaching, training and extension is a good and appropriate initiative to be launched during the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.
- 5.4. The Centre for International Research on Human Unity (CIRHU) may be established as planned.
- 5.5. Auroville may engage with other institutions and organisations and conduct exchange programs, thereby sharing the experience and skills of Auroville with the world at large
- 5.6. Youth hubs and innovation labs may be established in the township.
- 5.7. The students of Auroville schools may be given a broader exposure to the philosophy, teachings and vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

6. Entry Process

The Board is of the view that the following action needs to be taken in relation to the entry of new residents into Auroville:

- 6.1. The entry process of Auroville should be more welcoming and the Auroville population should grow to 50,000 as envisaged while ensuring that newcomers understand, and subscribe to, the ideals of Auroville. A population of 15,000 by 2025 may be achieved.
- 6.2. There could be active engagement with Auroville International Centres and Sri Aurobindo Centres to facilitate the joining of volunteers and interns

while maintaining international diversity and commitment to the ideals of Auroville

- 6.3. The Board noted that the Mother had envisaged Auroville as an ideal town, and that when Auroville residents live by the ideals given by the Mother, Auroville will become a magnet that attracts people from all over the world, who also wish to contribute to the realization of the Auroville ideals.

7. Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary

- 7.1. The Board advised the Secretary AF, to pursue the proposals for events, programs and projects with Government of India and approved an initial budget for the programs, events and projects of Rs. 50 Crores.
- 7.2. The Board expresses a strong aspiration that the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo may be the beginning of a new phase of accelerated development of the Auroville Township as the City for the Future, the Ideal Town and a Laboratory of Evolution as envisaged by the Mother.

8. Meetings of the Governing Board:

- 8.1. The Board decided to meet at least once in every quarter.
- 8.2. During these meetings the Board will review progress made with reference to work plans of the various Auroville working groups and the overall progress of Auroville's development.

9. Conclusive remarks

- 9.1. Chairman and the Board appreciated the presentations made by the Working Committee, FAMC, ATDC and SAIIER.
- 9.2. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the Board.

Appendix C-8 - RAD Petition on the appointment of the ATDC

18th November 2021

RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY DECISION (RAD)-MAKING EVENT

How to add your name to support this Decision-making Event

IF YOU SUPPORT THIS DECISION-MAKING EVENT, PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO ADD YOUR NAME:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMMfyhh49T_H_SVtTolQ7oegqj_zf1u5pSy0

Read about the proposed decision here

Please Read the full details of the proposed RA Decision below before adding your Name:

- This RAD has been called because all but two of the current ATDC/L'avenir members were not selected by the RA.
- This has been observed by the Auroville Council in its post here: <https://auroville.org.in/article/86208> where it notes: "...much of the present ATDC reflected in the Office Order 2021 was not appointed by a community-ratified process."

Reason behind this RAD: Below is a basic timeline of events regarding the selection of the ATDC and the reason behind the said RAD being initiated.

1. In May 2019, there was a selection process that was created for the Residents Assembly to choose among themselves; members that would be appointed as the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC).

This selection process was in the middle of the term of ATDC members who had been selected by the community in 2017. The reason for inter term selection was that of the seven members selected in 2017, only two remained in the ATDC

2. 3 members were chosen in May 2019, making a total of five members onto the ATDC.

3. However, within the span of another year, three more members resigned and only two members stayed on the ATDC. These two members are to finish their term of office on 3rd May 2023.

4. Two members, being not enough to carry out such a large responsibility, rendered the ATDC paralysed in planning or creating DDP's of Auroville, not having the number to even create a majority (quorum) within the Council.

5. In 2020 the Working Committee of the Residents Assembly stepped up, and through a fast-track process, appointed three additional members to join the ATDC as interim members. This interim period is to expire on 1st Dec 2021.

The interim selection was implemented without consultation or approval of its parent body, the Residents Assembly. However, the community overlooked this, as there was a dire need to fill vacancies in the ATDC. Moreover, new members had a definite interim timeline, and this gave the Residents Assembly the required time to reconstitute new members onto the ATDC.

6. In July 2021, the secretariat under the new secretary, Dr. Jayanti Ravi arbitrarily constituted a new ATDC extending the terms of the three interim members into a full term (till July 2023), as well as appointing three more members to the ATDC.

The selection of members from among itself to constitute the ATDC is the exclusive right, as well as the burden of the Residents Assembly.

The Working Committee of the RA may only select interim members for the sake of efficiency in case there is a lapse in procedure or a need for more temporary members. **The secretariat may not select a single member for any working group, unless otherwise required by the Residents Assembly or the Governing Board.**

While the governing board has currently organised the ATDC constitution, the ATDC/L'avenir D'Auroville, a body that is to be constituted by Residents Assembly members, are chosen at the pleasure of the Residents Assembly..

The aim of this RAD is to bring the processes of selection back in line with Auroville's governance structures. This proposal uses the tools created by the Residents Assembly to assert itself and its will in the creation of the Auroville Town Development Council, in order that the members may truly represent the Residents Assembly's aspirations in the development of Auroville

To clarify, the below RAD Proposal is unrelated to any other developments that have, or are taking place currently within Auroville. It does not seek to interfere with any development policies that are being explored by any other body of Auroville. The intent behind this proposal is to ensure that bodies that are created by the Residents Assembly, and that are to be appointed by the Residents Assembly, are done by the collective will of the Residents alone.

RAD Proposal; **The RA resolves to...** [Please choose one of the three options below]

OPTION 1 – ...allow ATDC Interim members to continue for an extended period of 3

months or until the conclusion of the next selection process, whichever is earlier.

This will mean that:

- a) The members selected by the RA in 2019 (Sreevatsa and Saravanan) continue their term till 3rd May 2023;
- b) Anbu, Toby, Lakshay and Elaine, interim members as selected by the WCom, continue for an extended period of 3 months till 1st Mar 2022, or until the next selection process is completed - whichever is earlier;
- c) Vidhya and Deboo step down as members with immediate effect.
- d) Auroville Council puts in place a selection process to replace interim members, and Residents Assembly Service (RAS) implements this selection process within a time frame of 3 months (from the RAD result).

OPTION 2 – ...require all ATDC members except RA-approved members step down and selection process begins immediately

This will mean that:

- a) Saravanan and Sreevatsa continue their term till 3rd May 2023.
- b) All ATDC interim members step down with immediate effect
- c) Auroville Council puts in place a selection process to replace interim members, and Residents Assembly Service (RAS) implements this selection process within a time frame of 3 months (from the RAD result).

OPTION 3 – Please add my vote to the majority

FURTHER DETAILS ON CURRENT ATDC MEMBERS

Only two of the current TDC members (namely Saravanan Mahalingam and Sreevatsa Govindass) have been selected with consultation, and through a process approved by the Residents Assembly, in 2019. Their term naturally ends on 3rd May 2023.

Three members, namely Anbu Velayudhan, Lakshay Dharan and Toby Neumann were selected through a fast-track process as interim members (interim terms end on 1st December 2021) by the Working Committee (WCom). However, this fast-track process has also not been approved by the Residents Assembly.

The selection of Elaine Catherine Phillips as interim member of the ATDC was done by recommendation of the WCom. However, this too has been without consultation or approval of the RA and devoid of process.

The selection of 2 members of the ATDC, namely Vidya Angurajan (as intern), and Debabrata Sahoo (Deboo) does not abide by either Standing Order 1/2019, Standing order 6/2011, or the WCom's recommendations of May 25th and July 14 2021 as well as 21st July. These three

interim members have not been selected through any process, and have taken office without consultation or approval of the Residents Assembly.

This RAD has been called to give the community the opportunity to bring the selection, nomination and appointment of ATDC members back into alignment with the 2019 Standing Order and community processes which have been permitted by Section 19(3) of the Auroville Foundation Act 1988. It will mandate the Auroville Council and the Residents Assembly Service to bring to the RA a selection process that shall be implemented within a definite time frame for the development of Auroville.

Further reads:

Auroville Council:

03rd Sep 2021 <https://auroville.org.in/article/86208>

25th Aug 2021 <https://auroville.org.in/article/86077>

Working Committee of the RA:

25th May 2021 Letter to Secretariat May 25th 2021.pdf

Governing Board:

Standing Order No. 1/2019 4th June 2019

[https://auroville.org.in/sites/www.auroville.org.in/files/article_attachments/TDC%20Standing%20Order%20dt.%2004.06.19%20\(1\).pdf](https://auroville.org.in/sites/www.auroville.org.in/files/article_attachments/TDC%20Standing%20Order%20dt.%2004.06.19%20(1).pdf)

Standing Order No. 6/2011 1st May 2011 Letter No. F.27-3 /2000- UU dated 12 April 2001, and was notified by Auroville

Secretariat:

Office Order No. 491 From AVF - Office Order, Re-Constitution of the Auroville Town Development

Council (ATDC) dt.15.07.21.pdf

Note: Decision regarding whether to remove OPTION 3 - option to add vote to majority, or to replace it with a no-confidence motion to replace all members of the ATDC shall be discussed and decided in the follow-up Meeting of the Residents Assembly.

Appendix C-9 - Announcement from ATDC regarding work on the Crown

28th December 2021

Crown development work has to continue

By L'avenir d'Auroville / Auroville Town Development Council (TDC) , 28 Dec 2021 / 10:02 pm

Dear Community,

This is regarding the possible Residents' Assembly Decision "*To stop all development work on the Crown until further notice from the Residents' Assembly.*"

ATDC would like to clarify that irrespective of the outcome of the Residents' Assembly Meeting and the Residents' Assembly Decision that might follow, the Crown development work has to continue in compliance with Sections 19(2)(c) and 17(e) of the Auroville Foundation Act, and the decisions taken by the Governing Board on 2nd Nov, 2021. Below is one of the decision points minuted by the Governing Board:

"2.8 All Master Plan deviations on the land earmarked for the Crown have to be cleared so that the circular Crown Road and related infrastructure can be built without further delay. A similar exercise shall be implemented for the twelve radials and the outer ring road, where land ownership permits."

Furthermore, continuation of Crown development work shall be subject to the verdict of National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai.

Sincerely,

ATDC

Appendix C-10 - MoU signing: CPWD Facebook announcement

15th March 2022

CPWD
17 March · 🌐

MoU signed between CPWD and Auroville Foundation, Tamil Nadu on March 15, 2022 for execution of Projects related to Making of Auroville City, Tamil Nadu in the gracious presence of Shri Rajesh Kumar Kaushal, Special Director General- PR Chennai, CPWD, Dr. Jayanti S Ravi(IAS), Secretary to the Auroville Foundation.

#centralpublicworksdepartment #March2022 #March #MoU #aurovillefoundation #events

60 7 comments 5 shares

Appendix C-11 - Update from the ATDC announcing its own restructuring

30th March 2022

Update on L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC

March 30, 2022, 2:26 pm

Dear Residents of Auroville,

We are restructuring l'Avenir d'Auroville/ Auroville Town Development Council in order for us to meet the requirements of a planning office capable of building the City of Auroville, to become a professional office having effective technical teams that can realise the building of Mother's City as per the Galaxy Plan and Master Plan.

This is an important change of its functioning, as, compared to the past decades, the pace of the work needs to speed up immensely as must its quality increase.

Practically this means that the technical teams will be expanded and the planning office will take up more space in the ACUR building. We have engaged many people for the technical team both from inside and outside Auroville. When our teams are complete we will publish a list of names of those who work at ATDC and an updated list of members.

ATDC will focus on many things including planning, development of Urban Design Guidelines for every sector/ zone, creation of DDPs with internal teams and external consultants, preparation of projects, implementation and monitoring of projects, surveys and mapping, resource mobilisation and much more.

While we are doing so, almost all of our time is taken up by making sure we first and foremost get settled in a new way of functioning. A lot of personal requests for buildings, extensions and renovations are reaching us, and we understand that some of you have been waiting for several weeks/months. We are attending to these individual applications in the midst of this bigger work for the building of the City which, at the moment, takes precedence over everything else.

We are undertaking in the near future several surveys in the city area and the green belt; we thank Aurovilians in advance for allowing our ground team to do their job.

Here are some updates on some topics:

1. Some requests for individual houses and extensions are presently on hold, as the DDP only can show where development is in line with the Master Plan. Those applications which are on hold will be communicated individually.

2. As part of the Master Plan implementation, we are working on opening up Residential Zone Sectors 1 and 2 for new residential projects of varying densities, along with some projects that will be located in outside Master Plan areas where land and infrastructure are available. If you are already on the list with Housing Service, then you will be contacted when a corresponding project starts. We request people with Project Holder capacities to write to ATDC as we are currently forming a pool of Project Managers that can help with various aspects of realising the projects in these 2 sectors.

3. We know that many people are requesting stewardship agreements for the houses that were built without any NOC's or approvals. The fact that this unclarity exists is part of the need for restructuring and a full clean-up of ATDC's records. We will not be issuing retroactive NOCs for the assets built without NOC. Once we have the base map and the corresponding information fully updated, these old issues will be looked into and dealt with case by case.

4. The ATDC has together with the Auroville Foundation approved 4 special projects as priority projects: Morning Star, Mother's Flower Garden, Svaram Musical Research Centre and The Sprout. More information will be published shortly as and when available to us.

We are grateful and immensely happy to finally have a real impetus to realise Mother's City, and hope that all of us are enjoying this beautiful development.

Sincerely,

Lieve
for ATDC

Appendix C-12 - Response from a member of the Residents' Assembly with questions pertaining to the restructuring.

31st March 2022

Open question to the ATDC restructuring

March 31, 2022, 12:43 pm

Not commenting on the post of the ATDC, just asking questions which come to mind when reading this spirited announcement:

- Who is steering this re-structuring process? Who is "we"?
- Under what mandate does the restructured ATDC function?
- What will be the role of the Residents Assembly in defining the mandate and the composition of the ATDC?
- What will be future feedback and review policies regarding the composition, mandate and functioning of the ATDC and decisions taken by the team?
- Who are present members of the ATDC and how have they been appointed? What are their qualifications? What are their individual scope of works, their deliverables, their terms of engagement?
- What about new members? How will they be appointed? What are their qualifications? What are their individual scope of works, their deliverables, their terms of engagement?
- What will be the financial setup of the re-structured ATDC?
- How will the re-structured ATDC collaborate with other working groups? Seeing that the development of the City is top priority now, what is the relationship of the ATDC toward other groups and even individual "stakeholders"?
- What is the role of the office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation in the process?
- I assume that the process of re-structuring the then TDC initiated and approved by the RA in 2017 (including the Terms of Reference, the definition of the TDC into a public Interface team and various technical teams) is obsolete?
- Is the re-structured ATDC then solely or in large parts appointed by the office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation and eventually the Governing Board without the participation of the RA (as it seems so now)? If yes, then it should be said so clearly so that we - us Aurovilians - know where we are at.

While I am fully for developing the city and getting into a creative groove that possibly brings us all together, I still think it important that these questions are addressed and answered. (and I am sure that many other Aurovilians will have more and more defined questions)

Appendix C-13 - Communication from RAS

26th May 2022

Details about upcoming ATDC members selection

Dear Resident,

Regarding the upcoming selection of the Working Groups, concerning the selection of the ATDC, we have been asked to clarify a few points.

The selection of the ATDC will be based on the TDC Standing Order (SO) 2011. Although another TDC SO was issued in 2019, it still remains to be published in the gazette.

As an Office Order (OO) needs to implement the SO, and as the current interim TDC members were not selected by the RA as is required by the SO 2011, the RA will now select upto 13 members from amongst the residents of Auroville to fill the Functional areas of the TDC; additionally, 1 member is nominated by the GB and 1 member is nominated by the WCom.

The current ATDC members, Anbu and Toby who's term should end on 15th July 2023 as per the OO 491 will be relieved of their position but are still eligible to be selected by the RA, or appointed by WCom or GB.

The TDC as selected by the SO 2011 will be the Interface Team as per the 2017 RA ratified structure of the ATDC and they will appoint the Technical Team. The Council encourages the new Interface Team to employ, at their discretion, any staff presently working with ATDC.

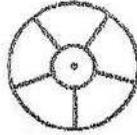
With best wishes for a dynamic and collaborative ATDC team to be selected.

~ Kind regards,

Auroville Council

Appendix C-14 - New Standing Order gazetted

1st June 2022



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AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BHAWAN, ADMINISTRATIVE AREA,
AUROVILLE - 605101

STANDING ORDER NO.01/2022 dated 1st June 2022
(Replacing the Standing Order No. 01/2019 dated 4th June 2019)

Constitution of Auroville Town Development Council

Whereas the Mother had envisaged Auroville as a universal township dedicated to human unity and international understanding and as further described by her in "A Dream" (1954), the Auroville Charter (1968), the message "To be a True Aurovilian" (1970) and the Mother's numerous other messages and writings on Auroville;

Whereas section 17(e) of the Auroville Foundation Act, empowers and mandates the Governing Board to prepare, in consultation with the Residents' Assembly, the Master Plan for the international cultural township of Auroville (hereinafter referred to as "the Auroville Township") and ensure its development as so planned;

Whereas the Governing Board, in terms of Section 17(e) of the Auroville Foundation Act approved the Auroville Universal Township Master Plan (Perspective 2025), hereinafter referred to as "the Auroville Master Plan", which is based on the "Galaxy Plan", which was approved by the Mother;

Whereas the Auroville Master Plan was approved by the Central Government, vide Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) letter No.F.27-3/2000-UU dated 12th April 2001, and was notified by Auroville Foundation, with the approval of the Central Government, in the Gazette of India (Part III) on 16th August 2010;

Whereas the Auroville Master Plan prescribes the "Town Development Council" as the body for implementing the Auroville Master Plan with an organisational structure as in Appendix V of the Auroville Master Plan;

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Whereas the Governing Board constituted the "Town Development Council" for the purpose of planning, developing and building of the Auroville Township in accordance with the Auroville Master Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") vide Standing Order 06/2011 dated 01-05-2011, which was replaced with Standing Order 01/2019 dated 04-06-2019 and

Whereas the Governing Board has decided to reconstitute the Council as provided for in this Standing Order;

Now therefore the Governing Board re-constitutes the Council subject to the following provisions:

1. Council Membership

1. The Council shall consist of not more than ten members to be appointed by the Governing Board
2. The Governing Board may authorise the Secretary, Auroville Foundation to appoint Council members on its behalf.
3. For the appointment of members of the Council, Secretary, Auroville Foundation shall issue suitable Office Orders from time to time with the approval of Chairman, Auroville Foundation.

2. Office Bearers and Work Areas

1. The Council will have one Chairperson, one Member- Secretary and one Member- Finance & Accounts.
2. The Governing Board shall nominate one Council member as the Chairman while the Member-Secretary and Member-Finance & Accounts will be elected by the Council members from amongst themselves.
3. Council members other than the Chairperson, the Member-Secretary and the Member-Finance & Accounts shall take responsibility for one or more work areas including, but not limited to, the work areas as given in Appendix V of the Auroville Master Plan ("Organisational Structure for Master Plan").

3. Term of Office

1. The term of office of a member shall be four years from the date of the Office Order by which member appointments are made.
2. Not later than six months before the expiry of each four-year term, the new members of the Council will be nominated and

will commence an induction and transition process with the then existing Council members to ensure a smooth transition.

3. The Governing Board may re-appoint existing members to the new succeeding Council, so as to ensure continuity of work. The re-appointment of council members will be subject to the eligibility criterion as per clause 3.4. of this Standing Order.
4. A member shall be eligible for re-nomination for a maximum of one term in succession and for subsequent nomination after a lapse of at least one term from the last one.

4. Cessation of Membership and Vacancies

1. A member shall cease to be on the Council: (1) if he/she is continuously absent from Council work for more than three months; (2) if he/she resigns in writing and the resignation is accepted by the Governing Board; (3) if the Governing Board for good and sufficient reasons removes a member.
2. If a casual vacancy is caused for any reason, the Governing Board may appoint a member for the remaining period of the term.

5. Functions and Responsibilities:

1. The Governing Board herewith empowers the Council, with the following functions and responsibilities:
 - (a) To be the Prescribed Authority for the operation and implementation of the Auroville Master Plan as defined in section 3.2(2)(e) of the Auroville Master Plan;
 - (b) Ensure that the Auroville Township is planned, developed and built according to the Auroville Master Plan;
 - (c) Prepare and approve Detailed Development Plans for building the Auroville Township in a time bound manner;
 - (d) Prepare and approve development plan regulations (building by-laws);
 - (e) Issue building permissions and completion certificates;
 - (f) Prepare and approve development projects, budgets, estimates, planning schedules, work plans and work completion schedules;
 - (g) Raise funds for the planning, developing and building of the Auroville Township including the consolidation of land required for the purpose in coordination with the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC);

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- (h) Secure the services of town planners, urban designers, engineers, architects, contractors, surveyors, consultants, legal advisors, and such other experts and professionals from within and outside Auroville as may be necessary from time to time and on such terms and conditions as may be decided by the Council;
- (i) Facilitate active and constructive participation of Auroville residents in the implementation of the Auroville Master Plan;
- (j) Constitute technical teams, working groups, project teams and other resource groups as may be necessary from time to time on such terms and conditions as may be decided by the Council;
- (k) Secure, where necessary, the support from the appropriate central, state, local or district government authorities for the implementation of the Auroville Master Plan in consultation and cooperation with the Secretary, Auroville Foundation;

6. Accountability and Reporting

1. The Council shall be accountable to the Governing Board and shall submit to it a true account of its activities, including income and expenditure statements and work progress reports as and when required by the Governing Board.
2. The Council shall keep the Auroville residents informed of planning and development progress being made.

7. Processes and Procedures

1. The Council shall determine, with the approval of the Governing Board its internal working procedures, which shall in all respects be consistent with the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, the Auroville Foundation Rules and the provisions of this Standing Order.
2. The Council shall provide a copy of its processes and procedures manual and revisions, if any, thereof to the Governing Board and the Working Committee for information.
3. Since the name "*L'avenir d'Auroville*" was given by the Mother for the Auroville Township planning and development organisation, the Council may retain this name and use the expression "*L'avenir d'Auroville* – Auroville Town Development Council" in Auroville internal communications.

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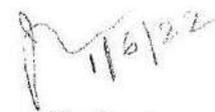
8. Advisory Group

1. The Governing Board may constitute an Advisory Group to advise the Governing Board and the Council on matters relating to the Auroville Master Plan, including, but not limited to the monitoring and reviewing of planning and development progress.
2. The Advisory Group will have a maximum of five members.
3. The term of office of a member of the Advisory Group shall be four years from the date of the Office Order by which the member is nominated or as otherwise agreed between the Secretary, Auroville Foundation and the members.

9. Amendments

1. The Governing Board may amend, from time to time, any or all of the provisions of this Standing Order.

This Standing Order is issued with the approval of Chairman, Auroville Foundation and shall come into force with immediate effect.

 11/6/22

Jayanti S. Ravi
Secretary, Auroville Foundation

Copy communicated to:

1. Chairman, Auroville Foundation
2. Chairman, International Advisory Council, Auroville Foundation
3. Members of the Governing Board, Auroville Foundation
4. Members of the International Advisory Council, Auroville Foundation
5. The District Collector, Collectorate Dist. Villupuram, Tamil Nadu
6. The District Collector, Collectorate, Puducherry.
7. Director, Town & Country Planning, Government of Tamil Nadu
8. Director (INC), Ministry of Education, Government of India
9. The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
10. Auroville Funds & Assets Management Committee
11. Guard File, Auroville Town Development Council
12. Guard File, Standing Orders

Appendix C-15 - Extracts from an interview of Roger Anger, Chief Architect of Auroville

1973

In an interview for a French TV channel in 1973, the Chief Architect of Auroville, Roger Anger, shared the following (hereafter translated from French):

Q. Are you doing what was done in Brasilia? You are first building the city that will then be inhabited.

R. Not at all! I believe that this is at the very core of the principle of Auroville. If the people who come here professing their faith are not capable of building their own environment, Auroville is already in danger of being lost. It is important that Auroville be built on the level of individual experience. One could say about Auroville that it starts on the opposite end of the tradition of contemporary urbanization, in which our urban concepts create a city on paper, however intelligent the concept may be, and then people are asked to live in it. Here the way forward is turned around. People come here to live the experience and it is from this experience that their living conditions, their environment will be created.

...

Q. So Auroville may never be finished, then?

R. Perhaps not, but that has absolutely no importance. What is important is not to build a city, it is to build, I repeat, a new humanity. Having said that, how much delay and how much time it will take, only the future will show us. I hope it will be soon!

Several other sources show how both the Mother and her Chief Architect insisted on Auroville being built by the Aurovilians themselves, rather than by external contractors.

A video link to this interview (in French) can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8c8DnJUhBA>

Appendix C-16 - Communication of the AVFO

3rd June 2022

Reconstitution of the FAMC and ATDC

By Auroville Foundation, 03 Jun 2022 / 07:38 pm

Update on Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) and Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC)

The Mother envisaged the Auroville Township with an ultimate population of 50,000 with Matrimandir at its centre and soul. In 1988 the Auroville Foundation Act was enacted by the Parliament of India to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Auroville and to vest such undertakings in a Foundation for better management and further development of Auroville in accordance with its original charter.

The Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) had been established by the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation for the planning, development and building of the Auroville township in accordance with the Auroville Master Plan. The Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) is a committee established by the Governing Board for the management of funds and assets of Auroville Foundation, as described in the Auroville Foundation Rules 1997.

The Governing Board set up an Organization & Governance Committee (OGC), in its 58th meeting held on 18th January 2022 to look into the organization and governance of Auroville. The OGC reviewed past Governing Board meeting minutes, audit reports and recommendations made by the Finance Committee of the Auroville Foundation.

The OGC has recommended to bring about more transparency, accountability, and productive utilization of the various assets of Auroville with the effective participation of the residents of Auroville. The OGC recommended to reconstitute the FAMC, which has now been done vide an Office Order.

The OGC also recommended to reconstitute the ATDC for which a Standing Order has been issued, replacing the earlier Standing Order. For the appointment of new members of the ATDC under the revised Standing Order, an Office Order has been issued. Memberships of both the FAMC and ATDC include residents of Auroville.

The reconstitution of the FAMC is aimed at realizing the Mother's vision of a self-supporting township without internal money exchange and with a collective supporting system for which the Mother had given the name "Prosperity". The reconstituted FAMC will also be given the responsibility of ensuring compliance with statutory regulations and requirements while bringing in more transparency and accountability.

The re-constituted ATDC is mandated to accelerate the planning and development of the Auroville township with the support of Auroville internal and external experts and active participation of Auroville residents.

Appendix C-17 - Request of Standing Order and Office Orders by AVC and WCom

14th June 2022

Mail sent to Foundation office for information reg FAMC and ATDC

By AV Council (AVC) , 14 Jun 2022 / 10:45 pm

Dear Community,

For your information, the following mail was sent to Dr J. Ravi, and Mr. Srinivasmurthy.

Best Regards,

Auroville Council

Dear Dr J. Ravi, Dear Mr. Srinivasmurthy,

Please do urgently send us the new Standing Order issued with regard to the appointment of members to the ATDC as informed to the Auroville Community via Mass Bulletin on 4th June 2022.

Please do also send us the latest Office Order appointing new members to the ATDC as well as the recent Office Order appointing new members to the FAMC as informed to the Auroville Community via AuroNet on 8th June 2022.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Auroville Council and Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Appendix C-18 - Court Order of 10 October

10th October 2022



W.P.No.25882 of 2022

W.P.No.25882 of 2022

WEB COPY

THE HON'BLE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
AND
D.KRISHNAKUMAR,J.

(Order of the court was made by the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice)

Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, referring to paragraph 35 of the grounds of the writ petition, submitted that the respondent Foundation, via the ATDC, is attempting to destroy precious green cover and bulldoze houses of residents without providing alternative accommodation, leaving residents homeless.

2. Interdicting at this stage, Mr.Vaibhav R.Venkatesh, learned counsel appearing for the respondent, stated that this issue has already been partly covered by paragraph 125 of the order dated 28.4.2022 passed by the National Green Tribunal, Chennai, and submitted that although liberty has been given to the respondent Foundation to remove the unauthorised occupants, yet the respondent Foundation has resolved to provide alternative

Page 1 of 3

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>



W.P.No.25882 of 2022

accommodation to the registered residents. The aforesaid statement is recorded.

3. Learned counsel for the respondent seeks four weeks' time to file counter affidavit.

4. Time as prayed for is granted. List the matter after four weeks.

5. The Registry is directed to list W.P.No.5961 of 2020 and W.A.Nos.1961 and 1962 of 2022 along with this writ petition on the next date of hearing.

(T.R., A.C.J.) (D.K.K., J.)
10.10.2022

sasi

Page 2 of 3

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>



WEB COPY



W.P.No.25882 of 2022

THE HON'BLE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
AND
D.KRISHNAKUMAR,J.

(sasi)

W.P.No.25882 of 2022

10.10.2022

Page 3 of 3

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>

Appendix C-19 - Court Order of 13 October

13th October 2022



WEB COPY



W.P.No.22895 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 13.10.2022

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.SURESH KUMAR

W.P.No.22895 of 2022

and

W.M.P.Nos.21922 & 21923 of 2022

Natasha Storey

.. Petitioner

-Vs-

The Auroville Foundation,
Represented by its Secretary,
Auroville Foundation Bhavan,
Auroville - 605 101.

.. Respondent

Prayer: Writ Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records and quash the office order dated 01.06.2022 bearing No.AF/M/63, issued by the respondent and consequentially direct the respondent to appoint the members nominated by the Residents' Assembly through its Working Council to the Auroville Town Development Committee.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.V.Swaroop

For Respondent : Mr.Vaibhav R.Venkatesh



W.P.No.22895 of 2022

ORDER

WEB COPY The prayer sought for herein is for a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus to quash the order dated 01.06.2022 bearing No.AF/M/63, issued by the respondent and consequentially, direct the respondent to appoint the members nominated by the Residents' Assembly through its Working Council to the Auroville Town Development Committee.

2. The Parliament has enacted an Act called Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, (in short, 'the Act'). Under the Act, the power of the Central Government to direct vesting of the undertakings in the foundation has been provided under Section 6. Under Section 10 of the Act, a foundation can be established and incorporated i.e., called the Auroville Foundation. Under Section 11, there shall be a Governing Board consisting of various members. The terms of the office of the members is mentioned in Section 12. The salary and perquisites is provided under Section 13. How the meetings to be conducted by the Board is mentioned in Section 14. There would be a Secretary and other office bearers of the Foundation in Section 15.



W.P.No.22895 of 2022

WEB CC

3. Under Section 16, the Governing Board was vested with the power to appoint such Committees, as may be necessary for efficient discharge of duties and performance of its functions under the Act. The relevant portion of Section 16 of the Act reads as follows:

“16. Committees of the Governing Board.-

(1) The Governing Board may appoint such committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under this Act.

(2) The Governing Board shall have the power to co-opt as members of any committee appointed under sub-Section (1), such number of persons who are members of the Governing Board as it may think fit, and the persons so co-opted shall have the right to attend the meetings of the committee, and take part in the proceedings of the committee, but shall not have the right to vote.”

and the powers and functions of the Governing Board has been provided under Section 17.

4. Under Section 18 of the Act, there is an Assembly called the Residents' Assembly, which shall consist of all the residents of Auroville,



W.P.No.22895 of 2022

who are, for the time being, entered in the register of residents maintained
WEB CC under this Section. Under Section 19, the functions of the Residents'

Assembly has been provided, which reads thus:

“19. Functions of Residents' Assembly.-

(1) The Residents' Assembly shall perform such functions as are required by this Act and shall advise the Governing Board in respect of all activities relating to the residents of Auroville.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the foregoing powers, the Residents' Assembly may-

(a) allow the admission or cause the termination of persons in the register of residents in accordance with the regulations made under Section 32;

(b) organise various activities relating to Auroville;

(c) formulate the master plan of Auroville and make necessary recommendations for the recognition of organisations engaged in activities relatable to Auroville for the approval of the Governing Board;

(d) recommend proposals for raising funds for Auroville for the approval of the Governing Board.



WEB COPY



W.P.No.22895 of 2022

(3) For the purpose of carrying of its functions, the Residents' Assembly may establish such committees as it may consider necessary which shall represent it in relation to the functions to be performed by the Governing Board."

5. Various other provisions also have been provided, including the power to make recommendation, which is vested with the Board.

6. With the above legal background, the order passed by the respondent Board i.e., the Auroville Foundation dated 01.06.2022, reconstituting the Council called the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC), is under challenge in this writ petition.

7. The petitioner being a resident of Auroville town has chosen to challenge the order in this writ petition on the ground mainly that, so far as the powers of the Residents' Assembly is concerned, which constitutes all the residents, who are registered in the register under Section 18 of the Act, they will have the primacy in town planning of the Auroville Town and for such purpose, they will be constituting an Assembly consisting of



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all the members and whose advice and recommendations shall bind on the Board. Therefore, if at all any constitution is to be made by the respondent, like the Auroville Town Development Council, as they have done through the impugned order, it must primarily consist of majority of the members from the Assembly and without the members of the Assembly or very minimal members of the Assembly, if any Council like the present one is constituted by the respondent through their Governing Board, that will run *contra* to the working pattern of the Act. That apart, this impugned order has been passed by constituting the Council on the basis of the revalidated standing orders of the Board and the said standing orders, according to the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, since either lapsed or no such standing order has ever been issued by the respondent. The claim made by the respondent through the impugned order that, the Council is constituted under the provisions of the standing order shall not stand in the legal scrutiny. Therefore, on that ground also, the impugned constitution is under challenge.

8. Reiterating the aforesaid, Mr.M.V.Swaroop, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner made submissions, therefore, he seeks indulgence of this Court against the impugned order.

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WEB COPY 9. *Per contra*, Mr.Vaibhav R.Venkatesh, learned counsel appearing for the respondent Foundation, on instructions, would submit that, even though the standing orders have been quoted in the impugned order, the main source of power of the Board of the Foundation to constitute such Committees is derived from Section 16 of the Act. Especially under Section 16, the power is vested with the Governing Board, who can appoint such Committees that may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under the Act.

10. When that being so, merely because certain standing orders have been issued in this regard, either have been lapsed or no such standing orders have been issued, that would not in any way hamper the power of the Governing Board to constitute a Council like the Town Development Council. Therefore, the impugned order is to be sustained, he contended.

11. He would further submit that, insofar as the functioning of the Residents' Assembly is concerned, as provided under Section 19, the



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Residents' Assembly shall perform such functions, which are provided under the Act and shall advise the Governing Board in all activities relating to the residents of Auroville.

12. Therefore, he would submit that, primarily the functions entrusted with the Residents' Assembly is only advisory in nature. Therefore, whatever advice the Assembly wants to give to the Board, they can very well give. Therefore, the mere constitution, as has been done through the impugned order, will not hamper the power or take away or abrogate the jurisdiction of the Residents' Assembly, as has been provided under the various provisions of the Act. Therefore, on that ground also, the impugned order cannot be successfully assailed, he contended.

13. I have considered the said submissions made on either sides and perused the materials placed before this Court.

14. If we look at the scheme of the Act, there shall be a Foundation called the Auroville Foundation, which should be established and that has already been established under Section 10 of the Act and there would be a Governing Board under Section 11 of the Act.



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15. Under Section 16 of the Act, the Governing Board may appoint such committees, as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of duties and performance of its functions under the Act.

16. Various functions have been entrusted to the Governing Board under the provision of the Act. Therefore, in order to execute such functions, very many Committees to the convenience of the Board can be appointed. This inference can be drawn from the language used by the legislature in Section 16 of the Act.

17. When that being so, the power of the Board to constitute any Committee like the one called the Town Development Council, which is now been constituted, cannot be questioned.

18. Assuming that in the impugned order, certain standing orders have been quoted as source of power or otherwise, by the respondent, mere quoting of the standing order would not take away or abrogate the power vested with the Board under Section 16 of the Act. Therefore, on that ground, there can be no defect on the part of the respondent in passing the impugned order constituting the Committee.



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19. If at all there is a defect, which has occurred in passing the impugned order by the respondent, by quoting the standing order, that defect is a curable one, therefore, that can be cured by the respondent by issuing any suitable corrigendum in this regard.

20. Insofar as the role of the Residents' Assembly is concerned, no doubt, the Residents' Assembly is one of the body under Section 18 of the Act and its function also have been enumerated under Section 19 of the Act. On seeing the provisions of sub-Sections of Section 19, it makes very clear that, the Assembly may allow the admission or cause termination of persons in the register etc, organise various activities relating to the Auroville, formulating master plan of Auroville and make necessary recommendations for recognition of organisations engaged in activities and also recommending proposals for raising funds for Auroville for the approval of the Governing Board.

21. Therefore, the activities which are provided under Section 19 of the Act, which are to be undertaken by the Residents' Assembly is only in the nature of supplementing, but not supplanting the main power and function vested with the board under the provisions of the Act. Therefore,



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merely because the constitution of the Development Council for the purpose of Section 16 having been made by the respondent through the Board, the petitioner cannot claim that being a member of the Assembly, the right of the Assembly is getting affected and thereby, the functions of the Assembly also as entrusted through the provisions of the Act is getting affected. The petitioner is having such kind of notion without any legal basis, therefore, it is liable to be rejected.

22. In that view of the matter, this Court is inclined to dispose of this writ petition in the following terms:

- That the impugned order is sustainable, accordingly, it is sustained. However, the respondent shall issue a corrigendum as to under which provision of the Act, the impugned order has been passed, which must probably be only under Section 16 of the Act, therefore, that shall be looked into. Accordingly, the appropriate corrigendum shall be issued by the respondent to the impugned order, tracing the power under which such order has been issued to that effect, within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.



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WEB COPY 23. With these directions, the writ petition is dismissed. However, there will be no order as to costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are also dismissed.

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Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
drm/sp



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13th October 2022

13th October 2022: Madras High Court rules in favour of the Governing Board's ATDC!

Dismissing a challenge of resident Natasha Storey to the Office Order of the Auroville Town Development Council of Auroville, the High Court rules that the Governing Board is the ultimate authority as per the AV Foundation Act, and that the Residents Assembly has an advisory role ONLY. The Court has further stated that the RA has no rights to question any appointment by the GB and that the Act is explicitly clear as to who is the final authority and that the RA has merely a consultative role.

There is only one legitimate ATDC and that is the one appointed by the Governing Board. One by one the confusion clears up, and Mother's Auroville is slowly reclaimed from the firm grip of falsehood. Let's build Her city in the spirit of true collaboration through work.

made with canva

Appendix C-21 - Announcement by /AVFO 'ATDC'/

13th November 2022

Only the GB can constitute the TDC: Court Order of 13/10/2022

By L'avenir d'Auroville / Auroville Town Development Council (TDC) , 13 Nov 2022 / 04:37 pm

Dear residents,

The Office Order issued by the Governing Board dated 01.06.2022, reconstituting the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC), responsible for planning of Auroville and implementation of its Master Plan, was challenged in a Writ Petition filed by resident Natasha Storey on August 16th.

Natasha argued mainly that the Residents' Assembly, meaning all persons in the Register of Residents (as constituted under Section 18 of the Auroville Foundation Act), has the decision power regarding the town planning and development of the Auroville city, and that the Governing Board has to follow the advice and recommendations of the Residents' Assembly.

The Madras High Court dismissed the Writ Petition on the 13th of October 2022.

You can find the full Court Order attached. In summary, these are the most important rulings of the Hon'ble Madras High Court:

- 1) Only the Governing Board has powers to constitute committees under Section 16 of the Act, and it is the only governing authority under the Auroville Foundation Act.
- 2) The Residents' Assembly can only recommend, assist and advise the Governing Board, and the function of the Residents' Assembly is only to supplement the powers of the Governing Board, and not to supplant the powers vested with the Governing Board as per the Auroville Foundation Act.
- 3) Petitioner Natasha is only one member of the Residents' Assembly, and as an individual resident she may personally disapprove of a legal decision of the Governing Board, but she cannot claim that the rights, functions or activities of the Residents' Assembly as a whole are affected by legal decisions of the Governing Board.
- 4) The present TDC was legally constituted by the Governing Board, and has all the rights and powers to abide by its mandate.

This order passed by the Hon'ble Madras High Court goes a long way towards restoring the correct understanding of the Auroville Foundation Act in Auroville and dispels many misinterpretations circulating amongst Aurovilians.

In the past months there have been accusations against the legally constituted TDC while it is implementing the Master Plan, based on the Galaxy Plan as approved by Mother.

With the question of the legitimacy of the Auroville Town Development Council now cleared by the Hon'ble Madras High Court, we will leap forward into this new phase of development, with the aim to invite 12,000 new participants by 2025, as envisioned in its Master Plan titled "Perspective Plan 2025".

We remain at the service of the Mother, in helping to build Her city, and we request the collaboration of the Auroville residents to join us in this joyful momentum to enter the next phase of development of the city for all humanity.

Sincerely,

Govind, Hemant, Jaya, Ponnusamy, Prasad, Sindhuja, Toby

members of L'avenir d'Auroville / ATDC

Appendix C-22 - Announcement by RA WCom on legal cases

19th November 2022

RA WCom: On legal developments and court cases

November 19th, via mass mail

Dear Community,

We are receiving many questions from residents in regards to the ongoing court cases, especially after very reductive statements were made recently on social media and other communication channels by those supporting the takeover by the Secretary's Office. As you can imagine, the situation is complex and nothing is as simple as it may seem. We invite all to be aware that simplistic statements on legal matters are often biased interpretations, and do not do justice to the complexities at play. We have full confidence in the work of our lawyers.

Legal processes take time and there will be ups and downs. This is not the end of the legal road we are on and we all have to stay centered, be patient, offer trust and support to each other and to those working for us in different spheres, and have faith. Out of what could be considered the most intense and challenging experience Auroville has faced so far, there is also an immense opportunity to learn, to grow stronger in our aspiration and closer to our ideal.

We are in a space of the Unknown, at a crossroads.

Let us collectively call for Mother's Grace and trust that all that is happening is part of the yoga, of the path towards the New Dawn that we aspire to manifest in Auroville.

Sincerely,

Your Working Committee

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël, Sauro, Valli