



WORKING COMMITTEE
of the Residents' Assembly
AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

Appropriating Auroville's heritage
**MISMANAGEMENT OF AUROVILLE
ASSETS, FINANCES & RESOURCES**

3/3 AUROVILLE DOSSIER
OCTOBER 2023



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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 and mismanagement of Auroville's assets & finances, as well as human & natural resources by the Office of the Secretary **between December 2021 and October 2023**.

Two other dossiers on related themes have already been compiled, and have earlier been released. Further updates may later be released, depending on the needs, unfolding events and available resources.

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;
...

In this ideal place money would no longer be the sovereign lord; individual worth would have a far greater importance than that of material wealth and social standing. There, work would not be a way to earn one’s living but a way to express oneself and to develop one’s capacities and possibilities while being of service to the community as a whole, which, for its own part, would provide for each individual’s subsistence and sphere of action.

In short, it would be a place where human relationships, which are normally based almost exclusively on competition and strife, would be replaced by relationships of emulation in doing well, of collaboration and real brotherhood.”

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

Mismanagement of Auroville

Assets & Finances, Natural & Human Resources

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Introduction

Auroville was founded in 1968 on a barren plateau of Tamil Nadu that had been deemed 'uninhabitable' in a United Nations study. Over the last 50+ years, the project has been endowed with land holdings financed by international and Aurovilian donors, and community members have undertaken exemplary work towards restoring natural resources – water, soil, and a rare forest type endemic to the southeastern coast of India, the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest. This is an integral part of Auroville's Master Plan, which includes a large Greenbelt that connects to the Matrimandir at the centre of Auroville, through green corridors. **All natural resources of Auroville are to be managed and protected in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India, and Aurovilians are committed to doing so for the benefit of their community and immediate neighbours**, and humanity as a whole. This extends to significant archaeological heritage uncovered in the Auroville area.

Urban development of the Auroville township (immoveable assets such as residential and public buildings, roads and other public infrastructure) has been financed by international and Aurovilian donors, as well as the Government of India. All assets of Auroville (land, funds, immoveable assets) are vested in the Auroville Foundation, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. As such, **functionaries within the Foundation as well as the Residents' Assembly have certain powers and responsibilities towards the management of these assets, including protecting them, and ensuring that they are utilised and developed in accordance with the Charter of Auroville**. Other assets include moveable and digital assets, such as Auroville's internal communication platforms and archives, which constitute a significant legacy given the uniqueness of the Auroville experiment.

Under the administration of a new Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Dr. Jayanti Ravi (appointed in June 2021) **the community has seen unprecedented mismanagement and destruction of Auroville assets and resources such as land, forests and archaeological heritage, institutional and residential buildings, and digital assets:**

Residential and institutional buildings - The Office of the Secretary has ordered the destruction of existing residential assets together with the eviction of their Auroville stewards, and appropriated residential assets built for Newcomers and teachers of Auroville to house her non-Aurovilian Foundation staff, including her personal driver. By issuing Office Orders she has also taken over ACUR, the Town Hall of Auroville, dedicated to the Working Groups and administrative services of the Residents' Assembly, as well as both the Auroville Outreach Media offices (liaison with media) and the Auroville Archives (housing the recorded history of Auroville) – detailed in the *Dossier: Censorship and Takeover of Communication Platforms*.



Finances - The Office of the Secretary, with the support of the Governing Board, took over the management of Auroville's funds, replacing in 2022 the Funds and Assets Management Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly according to due process, as well as its subgroups, notably the Budget Coordination Committee (responsible for administering the municipal budget of Auroville). This dossier highlights the mismanagement of Auroville's communal funds that has ensued. For more information on the takeover of the management of Auroville's funds, see the *Dossier: Takeover of Auroville's Internal Governance*. In addition, the Office of the Secretary, together with the Governing Board (GB), have been requesting unprecedented amounts of Government of India (Gol) money (1000+ crore rupees), without any consultation with the Residents' Assembly (RA). The RA has also not been informed of the purposes for which these funds would be utilised, and has no oversight on the expenditure. However, the RA has noted a wastage of Gol funding in the destruction and unlawful repurposing of Gol-funded assets.

Moveable & digital assets - The Secretary has taken over all internal communication platforms of Auroville, including its online discussion forum, and Google Educational Suite - which includes the personal email address of every Aurovilian and the contents of their Google Drive - following allegations of anti-government activities which have so far not been corroborated. This has led to breaches of privacy and many community members being blocked out of their inboxes and from other Auroville online services. The administrators doing this work on behalf of the Secretary remain anonymous and it is not known whether or not these administrators have signed Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA's). The Auroville Archives have also been appropriated by the Office of the Secretary. You can find more information on this topic in the *Dossier: Censorship and Takeover of Communication Platforms*.

Natural resources & cultural heritage - While the Auroville Residents' Assembly has expressed its commitment to pursuing development in line with the Master Plan: Perspective 2025 framework and other relevant regulations, the Office of the Secretary has disregarded official Residents' Assembly Decisions on this topic, and the Town Development Council she appointed in 2022, in disregard of the existing Town Development Council selected by the Residents' Assembly, seem to be pushing for rushed urban development at all costs. This poses grave risk to precious natural resources such as Auroville's forests and water catchment areas, as well as significant archaeological heritage, which are to be protected under existing government regulations and the National Green Tribunals' court injunctions.

Land - The most concerning issue is the mismanagement of land. As Estate Officer, the Secretary has the duty to intervene in issues of land grabbing, and as we shall see below, has been negligent in carrying out such duties. Additionally, as Estate Officer, she has overseen the exchange of Auroville plots that do not follow due process. Notably, the Land Board, at the behest of the Secretary, is exchanging lands that were originally purchased with Mother's

sanction, and which are of much higher value than the plots they are exchanged for, losing Auroville crores of money. It is important to note that no Auroville lands have been purchased with Gol money, instead relying on donations from Auroville residents and well-wishers from India and the world at large.

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): The Auroville Foundation Office, located in Auroville, is the office of the Secretary to the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation.

Budget Coordination Committee (BCC): A committee of the Residents' Assembly appointed by the FAMC (see below) 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".

- /AVFO 'BCC': Subgroup of the /AVFO 'FAMC' appointed in 2022.
- RA BCC: Subgroup of the RA FAMC.

Central Public Works Department (CPWD): The Indian government authority in charge of public sector construction works.

Crown Road: A road envisaged to connect all four zones of the Auroville City Area: Cultural, Residential, Industrial, International.

Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC): Auroville's 9-member Funds and Assets Management Committee is the official body responsible for the management of the Auroville Foundation's funds and assets.

- /AVFO 'FAMC': FAMC appointed by the Office of the Secretary in 2022.
- RA FAMC: FAMC appointed by the Residents' Assembly since its constitution in 1997.

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

Governing Board (GB): One of the three statutory bodies of the Auroville Foundation, consisting of nine members, two of whom are ex-officio and seven of whom are nominated by the Ministry of Education, Central Government of India.

Land Board: The Land Board is appointed by a selection committee of the Residents' Assembly constituted by the Auroville Council, and is responsible for land purchase and land protection in collaboration with the two major Auroville Working Groups (see below), the Working Committee and the Funds & Assets Management Committee, as well as the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, who acts as the Estate Officer.



Land Stewardship: Auroville forest and farm land is managed via the allocation of stewardship to Auroville residents experienced and dedicated to green work.

National Green Tribunal (NGT): An Indian statutory body that deals with expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection and other natural resources.

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): The Auroville Residents' Assembly is one of the three statutory authorities of the Auroville Foundation, and is composed of all Aurovilians over 18. The Auroville Foundation Act designates the Residents' Assembly 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. The formulation of the master plan, for approval by the GB, is also a responsibility of the Residents' Assembly.

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

- **/AVFO 'ATDC':** TDC appointed by the Office of the Secretary in 2022.
- **RA TDC:** TDC appointed by the Residents' Assembly since its constitution in 2012, through the Master Plan, Perspective 2025, document. The planning of the Auroville Township is a function of the Residents' Assembly as per the AV Foundation Act (1988).

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 external bodies.

- **/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 the day-to-day management and coordination of various aspects of community life. Administrative groups are primarily made up of members of the Auroville Residents' Assembly, selected in accordance with selection processes that have been approved by the Residents' Assembly, with mandates also approved by the Residents' Assembly and, in some cases, the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation.

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 'FAMC'**



Mismanagement of Auroville assets and finances, Gol funds and international donations

Executive Summary

As Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Dr. Jayanti Ravi is responsible for the **unprecedented mismanagement of Auroville assets financed by international and Aurovillian donors, as well as the Government of India, and of Auroville's communal budget**, following a takeover of the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) and Budget Coordination Committee (BCC) duly selected by the Residents' Assembly. The Office of the Secretary and the committees she has established have:

- ordered the destruction of existing residential assets together with the eviction of their Auroville stewards, as well as the destruction of existing community infrastructure, to make way for the development of the Crown Road;
- replaced the Trustees and Executives responsible for significant Auroville assets & services, without justification or due process, such as ACUR (the Town Hall of Auroville, dedicated to the Working Groups and administrative services of the Residents' Assembly), the Auroville Visitors Centre, Auroville Outreach Media offices and the Auroville Archives (detailed in the *Auroville Dossier: Censorship and Takeover of Communication Platforms*);
- made drastic changes to budgetary allocations, including discontinuing or reducing stipends to 1 out of 8 Auroville residents, without justification or due process.

Moreover, **while the Residents' Assembly and its Working Groups have noted a wastage of GOI funds in the destruction and unlawful repurposing of Gol-funded assets, at the behest of the Secretary, the Governing Board (GB) has requested unprecedented amounts of Gol money to fund the development of Auroville.** The Residents' Assembly was not consulted in this decision, nor informed of the purposes for which these funds would be utilised. For more information on the takeover of the management of Auroville's funds, see the *Dossier: Takeover of Auroville's Internal Governance*.

The above has been done in **complete disregard of the internal policies of the Residents' Assembly of Auroville and general principles of natural justice, as well as the ethical and lawful use of funds and assets.**



Timeline of Events

Early June
2021

A new Secretary of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation, Dr Jayanti Ravi, is appointed by the Ministry of Education of the Central Government. She is warmly welcomed by the Aurovilians.

The new Secretary insists on the need to develop Auroville, to which Aurovilians agree. She further states that the Auroville Crown Road is a key feature of Auroville's development plan. Most Aurovilians agree that the Crown should be built, but request for some flexibility in the process, since the "Master Plan Perspective 2025" is more than 20 years old, soon to expire, and does not take into account the current ground realities of Auroville.

July 31
& Aug 1

A 'Crown walk' is organised by the new Secretary. 380 Aurovilians are curious and attend the said event. This is later misrepresented as 'support'. The next day, some of those who participated in the walk as well as other community members write **an open statement on the city which collects signatures from 450 residents.** This statement insists on the need for Unity, flexibility and sustainability over any form of dogmatism or fixed conception of Auroville's development.

→ [Appendix A-1 - Open statement on the 'city'](#)

Aug 4
- early Dec

Meetings are held between the Secretary, her appointed 'Town Development Council' (/AVFO 'ATDC'/), working group members, and concerned or directly impacted residents, notably stewards of residential assets or forested areas on the proposed 'Right of Way' of the Crown. These meetings are all held in small groups, are called at a very short notice and residents that have different views than that of the Secretary are progressively sidelined or silenced.

Several proposals are made to integrate the need for a Crown road while preserving Auroville's sustainable aspects and existing structures. These proposals, aimed at finding a middle ground to fit everyone's needs, are presented to the Secretary and /AVFO 'ATDC'.

→ [Appendix A-2 - Proposal on the Youth Center / Bliss area](#)

→ [Appendix A-3 - Proposal on the Darkali area](#)

Aug 18

JCBs clear a 30-metre wide path in the pretext of surveying on parts of the Crown Right of Way. On being questioned, members of the /AVFO 'ATDC'/ retreat, admitting their mistake.



Sep 30 **120 Aurovilians publish an open letter to the /AVFO 'ATDC/' asking for a “fair, honest, transparent and truly participative process that celebrates and is built on Human Unity”,** with a detailed list of questions and concerns regarding /AVFO 'ATDC/' around issues of framework, professionalism, values & ethics. In its answer, /AVFO 'ATDC/' misrepresents the points in the statement, and brushes aside its constructive suggestions.

→ [Appendix A-4 - Open letter to /AVFO 'ATDC/'](#)

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. Out of the seven new appointed members, only one has been previously connected to Auroville. This is in contradiction to the Auroville Foundation Act, which states that Governing Board members must have previously “rendered valuable service to Auroville”.
A new International Advisory Council of five members is also appointed by the Ministry of Education.

Oct 23 **A group of residents write to the new Governing Board,** calling for a genuine dialogue towards the finalisation of Auroville’s Master Plan, and for an environmental audit.

→ [Appendix A-5 - Email to the Governing Board by 'Evolving Galaxy', a group of residents](#)

Nov 2 **First meeting of the new Governing Board.** Among other points, the minutes of the meeting indicate that the Board has approved “a budget outlay of Rs. 1,000 Crores ... for Auroville Township development for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 on the basis of the budget prepared by the ATDC”. It further states that “a population of 15,000 by 2025 may be achieved”, announcing its plan to multiply by five the population of Auroville within three years.

Most residents are surprised at this statement, and consider that such a rushed development would destroy the very unique fabric of Auroville, which was built with the dedication of its residents over 50 years. The Governing Board had not met with the Working Committee, who represent the Auroville Residents' Assembly, nor had they interacted directly with the Residents' Assembly, prior to this first internal meeting.

→ [Appendix A-6 - Minutes of the 57th Governing Board Meeting](#)



Dec 2 **The FAMC releases a statement on AVFO's breach of procedure and lack of transparency regarding finances**, specifically the Rs. 51 crores special budget for infrastructure development.

→ [Appendix A-7 - Email from the FAMC](#)

Dec 2 - 3 **Youth Centre members receive an email from the /AVFO 'ATDC/' informing that the work on clearing the 16.7m 'Right of Way' for the Crown Road will begin 'next week'**. This 'Right of Way' is expected to destroy the existing built up area of the Auroville Youth Center. This is despite having had earlier arrangements, and having proposed several alternatives. The Youth Centre responds requesting some time, and summarises their many efforts to propose alternative options, culminating in a positive meeting at Sri Aurobindo International Institute for Educational Research (SAIIER).

→ [Appendix A-8 - Email exchange between /AVFO 'ATDC/' and Youth Center](#)

Dec 4 **JCBs come to clear the above-mentioned Right of Way for the Crown Road, that traverses the Auroville Youth Centre.**

No Work Order is presented by the people doing the clearing work, and Auroville residents therefore block the work in view of the imminent, and likely illegitimate destruction. The Office of the Secretary responds by requesting police presence, under the false pretence that events are happening on Government of India land, whereas Auroville lands are vested in the Auroville Foundation as an autonomous body. After these explanations are given, the police leave and request residents to solve the dispute internally.

→ [Appendix A-9 - Pictures & Video link](#)
→ [Appendix A-10 - Letter of the Undersecretary requesting police presence](#)

Dec 4 - 5 **Night clearing with JCBs in the Youth Centre area**
On the night of 4-5 December, JCBs, accompanied by a large police force, return to the Youth Centre area at 1 am in another attempt to clear the Right of Way of the projected Crown Road area. They are sent from the Office of the Secretary. Aurovilians and concerned youth rush to the site to prevent the destruction of trees and structures, but encounter police roadblocks on multiple access roads. Some minors are detained and put into a police van. Auroville residents that do manage to arrive on-site succeed in blocking the JCBs. Once again, the police leave following discussions with Auroville community representatives.



The following afternoon, the Residents' Assembly meets to discuss these shocking actions. The outcome is a petition to stop all developments and a resolution, signed by over 500 residents, rejecting the violent and threatening nature of these actions:

Auroville is a place "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 to realise human unity." As a member of the Auroville community, I cherish these values and the work we have to do together, whatever the challenges. I reject violence, threats & actions which undermine community processes and our collective work.
(Resolution signed by over 500 people, 5th December 2021)

- [Appendix A-11 - Pictures Bliss Forest](#)
- [Appendix A-12 - Video link](#)

Dec 6-7

Discussions with the Secretary regarding the future of the Youth Centre.

The Secretary meets with 2 residents and verbally informs them that if the buildings are not immediately dismantled at the Youth Centre she would order the JCBs to come back. She says that a No Objection Certificate would be given for the Youth Centre to be rebuilt elsewhere in Auroville, however when the concerned youths ask for written assurances that this would happen, these are not provided.

Dec 9

Demolition of Youth Centre Infrastructure during third attempt at clearing the Right of Way for the Crown Road, using hired enforcers

At 7:00 am more than 100 unidentified men, allegedly hired by an Aurovillian under the order of the Auroville Foundation, enter the Youth Centre with two bulldozers, once again without a Work Order. The paid crowd and machines forcefully enter and destroy infrastructure, bulldozing trees and buildings. Aurovilians, including women, are manhandled while attempting to peacefully halt the illegitimate intrusion and destruction.

- [Appendix A-13 - Pictures of the Youth Center's destruction](#)
- [Appendix A-14 - Videos - Youth Center](#)
- [Appendix A-15 - 'Facts vs Fiction' video](#), in which the Secretary publicly distorts the events that occurred

Dec 24

Takeover of Property: Following the destruction of the Youth Center, the Office of the Secretary begins to take over other existing community assets.

The first instance of this is the allocation of two apartments in Auroville's Maitreye-II housing block to staff members of the Secretary's Office, without



following any community-approved procedure. This contravenes the reality of Auroville's housing crisis, and bypasses all internal policies on housing allocation.

Feb 9
2022

All assets of OutreachMedia are taken over and the office space is sealed. OutreachMedia is the Auroville unit that liaises with outside media agencies. From one day to the next, their offices are sealed and an Office Order is presented to the team, in which new executives, handpicked by the Secretary, are appointed.

For more information on the takeover of OutreachMedia, see Dossier: [Censorship & Takeover of Communication Platforms](#).

- [Appendix A-16 - Picture OutreachMedia office sealed](#)
- [Appendix A-17 - Picture OutreachMedia office notice](#)
- [Appendix A-18 - OutreachMedia Office Order](#)

Mar 15

Memorium of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) without consultation with the Residents' Assembly and its nominated bodies - notably its Funds and Assets Management Committee and Town Development Council.

Residents are only informed of the MoU because the CPWD publishes the information on Facebook.

- [Appendix A-19 - Facebook post](#)

May-Aug
2022

Forcible takeover of Auroville's main Working Groups. The takeover of the main Working Groups of Auroville begins in May with the Working Committee, which is a statutory body of the Resident's Assembly. Next the AVFO announced in June that the FAMC and ATDC were to be 'reconstituted', again without any consultation or transparency. BCC & Housing Board, which are sub-groups of the FAMC, were also taken over in July & August. In each case, access to financial accounts and Google Workspace are removed from members of the RA-constituted bodies, all of whom were selected according to their mandates and via the agreed community processes. On June 27th, an RA Selection Process was carried out to select new Working Group members for the WCom, FAMC, AVC & TDC. From this point on the groups are styled as "RA Working Groups" to avoid confusion with the AVFO-appointed groups (styled as /AVFO 'Working Groups'/). Please see '*Auroville Dossier: Takeover of Auroville's Internal Governance*' for more information.

- [Appendix A-20 - Auronet post: A Working Update from AVFO's 'WCom'](#)
- [Appendix A-21 - Auronet post: Reconstitution of FAMC & ATDC](#)



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- [Appendix A-22 - Auronet post: from /AVFO 'FAMC'/ re BCC](#)
 - [Appendix A-23 - Email from /AVFO 'FAMC'/ re Housing Board & Housing Service](#)
 - [Appendix A-24 - Auronet post re the outcome of the 2022 Selection Process](#)

May 2

Demolition of residential asset in Centre Field

A residential asset of Auroville is demolished in Centre Field, supposedly in preparation for the laying of the Crown Road. The bulldozing ignores the Residents' Assembly decision to pause all work on the Crown until certain agreements can be made through collaborative processes. It also bypasses all of the standard processes for the demolition of Auroville assets. To date, the Crown Road works are still nowhere near the area.

- [Appendix A-25 - Pictures Demolition in Centre Field](#)

May 8

Community Response: A letter is sent by concerned Aurovilians to the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation with regards to the statement by the /AVFO 'ATDC' that "all unauthorised constructions in Auroville will need to be removed or repurposed until a renovation or removal, partial or full, is necessary".

The concerned Aurovilians' letter states that "**no construction by the residents of Auroville is unauthorised** as per the Auroville Foundation Act 1988 or Rules 1997, or any other statute / law in force. The residents, in fulfilling their statutory duties, have faithfully built the assets of Auroville, and the Foundation is not authorised to disturb or demolish any of its buildings in contravention to the Residents' Assembly or its activities."

- [Appendix A-26 - /AVFO 'ATDC'/ statement and S. response](#)
- [Appendix A-27 - Residents' Letter](#)

June 21

Takeover of Property: Auroville Town Hall

On June 21, 2022, an Office Order of the Auroville Foundation Office named new executives of the Auroville Town Hall – "ACUR" (Auroville Centre for Urban Research) – to replace the existing team with no notice or reasons given. Existing offices and assets (computers, etc.) are taken over, and administrative groups and services of the Auroville Residents' Assembly are ousted from the premises.

This follows a police-enforced attempt to take over the office of the Working Committee in the Town Hall.



For more information see *Auroville Dossier: Takeover of Internal Governance*.

- [Appendix A-28 - ACUR Office Order](#)
- [Appendix A-29 - Video of police demanding handover of keys](#)

June 21 **Takeover of Property, moveable & digital Assets, and Accounts: Auroville Archives**
On June 21, 2022, an Office Order of the Auroville Foundation Office names new executives of the Auroville Archives, to replace the existing ones, with no notice or reasons given.

See *Auroville Dossier: Censorship and Takeover of Communication Platforms*

- [Appendix A-30 - Archives Office Order](#)

June 26-27 **Takeover of moveable & digital assets, and accounts: FAMC office equipment**
On 26-27 June all the office equipment and records of the FAMC are removed from the offices of the FAMC selected by the Residents' Assembly (RA FAMC) at the Auroville Town Hall, and moved to the office of the FAMC appointed by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation (AVFO 'FAMC'). Access to the official FAMC email account is revoked for RA FAMC members and transferred to /AVFO 'FAMC' members. Shortly thereafter, the access to the FAMC Financial Service account is revoked for RA FAMC members and transferred to /AVFO 'FAMC' members.

- [Appendix A-31 - Letter from RA FAMC to /AVFO 'FAMC' requesting that the assets be reinstated](#)

July 6 **Takeover of Property: SAIER Apartment Block**
A member of the AVFO takes the keys to all the remaining unallocated units of the newly built SAIER staff quarters 'Harmony' & 'Prosperity'. No formal notice was given. Since then, some of these units meant for SAIER staff (mainly teachers) have been allocated to personnel of the Auroville Foundation.

July 19 **Open letter from RA TDC to /AVFO 'ATDC' criticising the seemingly haphazard and unplanned manner in which work on the Crown continues**
Members of the RA TDC note the need for "proper planning processes to arrive at a sensible approach to the development of this important Master Plan (Perspectives 2025) element; planning processes which re-unite our community instead of furthering divide and conflict." To date, the road is still



being constructed in the same haphazard manner with no clarity about when the construction will be completed.

→ [Appendix A-32 - Letter from RA TDC to /AVFO 'ATDC'/](#)

July 21

/AVFO 'ATDC/' communicates to the Auroville Housing Board that they will no longer issue NOCs (Non Objection Certificates, equivalent to a building site permission) to individual Aurovilians. From now on, they intend to have temporary stewardship only, while approval for creation of new assets will have to come from the Auroville Foundation.

→ [Appendix A-33 - Communication from /AVFO 'ATDC/' to Housing Board](#)

July 20 - ongoing

Different sections of the existing Crown Road, funded with a Government of India grant, are destroyed by the /AVFO 'ATDC'/. RA TDC writes to the /AVFO 'ATDC/' citing their destruction of Auroville Foundation property without permission noting that **this is punishable by law.**

Given that the destruction was of an existing stretch of Crown Road, the RA TDC also cites the January 2022 RAD (Resident's Assembly Decision) requesting a pause on all work on the Crown.

In a letter sent the previous day (July 21, 2022), **they also cite the National Green Tribunal ruling, which includes a stay order on any development on the Crown** until a report from a Joint Committee nominated by the NGT has been submitted.

In both letters, they cite the need for proper planning processes before development work is undertaken, and that no plans or work orders have been presented for the work undertaken for the Crown. As a result, the RA TDC questions the Implementation and Monitoring Committee's professionalism in implementing, monitoring or coordinating such works.

On the 6th of September, the RA TDC writes a letter to Govind Rajan of the /AVFO 'ATDC/', who is overseeing the work, warning against the illegal repurposing or sale of GOI funded materials, in reference to the redistribution of sand and pavers of existing stretches of Crown Road that are being destroyed at the instruction of the Auroville Foundation and CPWD. Some of the bricks are repurposed for use by Foundation-allied individuals and projects. They point out that the latter requires clearance from the Central Auditor General (CAG) and is punishable by law.

→ [Appendix A-34 - Letter from RA TDC to IMC re Bliss](#)



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- [Appendix A-35 - Letter from RA TDC to IMC re Foundation Property](#)
 - [Appendix A-36 - Pictures of dug up Crown](#)
 - [Appendix A-37 - Letter of RA TDC to Govind Rajan of /AVFO 'ATDC'/](#)
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Aug 9

The groups appointed by the Office of the Secretary announce that the /AVFO 'ATDC'/ role now 'supersedes' the role of existing land stewards

The /AVFO 'FAMC'/ & /AVFO 'ATDC'/ send out a community announcement informing that they are redefining the stewardship of Auroville land and that in the meantime the role of the /AVFO 'ATDC'/ will supersede that of all existing land stewards. Stewards are called to comply with /AVFO 'ATDC'/ decisions, in stark contrast to earlier, collaborative approaches to development.

- [Appendix A-38 - Public Announcement from /AVFO 'FAMC' & 'ATDC'/](#)
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Aug 10 - 14

The Director of the Auroville Earth Institute (AVEI), UNESCO Chair for Earthen Architecture, sends professional technical reports to the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation regarding the poor quality of the new Crown Road

The report outlines the associated wastage of government funds granted to the Auroville Foundation, stating that “the new paver blocks which are presently being laid are 14% weaker than the old ones. Therefore, the decision taken by the ATDC that you have nominated to remove the 7,040 m² of pavers of the existing Crown Road – built with Gol funds given when Dr Karan Singh was Chairman and worth 92.34 Lakhs Rs. (plus the funds spent now for the demolition of the present road) – is unjustified and a pure waste of the government’s money.”

The AVEI Director recommends to “immediately stop this road, get a proper study and survey done, remove what has been badly done and resume the construction of the road only once this study has been completed” and to “scrutinise the work of this contractor and the CPWD, because they are not at all following standards or best practices.

- [Appendix A-39 - Communication by AVEI to the AVF Secretary with a report of the July Crown roadwork](#)
- [Appendix A-40 - Report of the AVEI on the July Crown roadwork](#)

On August 13th, the Director of the AVEI sends an additional report further highlighting the poor quality of the Crown work being undertaken, and the wastage of government funds for Auroville.



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- [Appendix A-41 - Communication by AVEI to AVF Secretary with an additional report on the Crown roadwork.](#)
 - [Appendix A-42 - Additional Report of the AVEI on the Crown roadwork](#)
 - [Appendix A-43 - Communication of the report to the GB and IAC of the Auroville Foundation](#)

On August 14th, the Director of the AVEI publishes a follow-up to his report in which he states that the contractor has begun removing the pavers.

- [Appendix A-44 - AVEI Crown Follow Up Report](#)

Aug 22

The /AVFO 'ATDC/' requests access to the Housing Service database of residential buildings and their inhabitants. This request is denied given the 12 Aug 2022 MHC (Madras High Court) judgement that upholds the Working Groups selected by the Residents' Assembly (see *Auroville Dossier: Takeover of Internal Governance*).

- [Appendix A-45 - Request from /AVFO 'ATDC/' to Housing Board for database & response](#)

Aug 27

The /AVFO 'ATDC/' proceeds with an unannounced attempt to destroy residential property of the Auroville Foundation on the Crown
The RA ATDC writes a letter to the /AVFO 'ATDC/' in which they denounce this action as illegitimate, given that the development of the Crown is subjudice. The latter is pending the finalisation of the report of a Joint Committee ordered by the National Green Tribunal.

- [Appendix A-46 - Letter from RA ATDC to /AVFO 'ATDC/'](#)

Sep 15

The Ministry of Education responds to a Public Grievance from a group of Auroville residents (ASTHA) "with respect to incidents in Auroville Foundation linked to the Crown way clearing work of Auroville Township Development Council (ATDC)," stating that it is being examined.

- [Appendix A-47 - Ministry of Education's Reply to Public Grievance from a group of Auroville residents](#)

Nov 22

The /AVFO 'ATDC/' announces that the Crown Road work will restart and Phase 1 is to be completed by the end of December 2022. This is despite the fact that there are several pieces of land along the path of the proposed road that are still held by private individuals. Out of 2.1km of the 'new' Crown



Road, 1.4km has already been built, using Gol grants, in 2009. The roads were in good usable condition prior to their unnecessary destruction.

→ [Appendix A-48 - Auronet post from /AVFO 'ATDC': Crown Road update](#)

Dec 21

Long-standing Trustees of the Kattida Kalai Trust are discontinued by the AVFO without a reason given, through an Office Order signed by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation. The Kattida Kalai Trust is Auroville's largest Trust, under which the largest number of Auroville's income generating entities are registered.

→ [Appendix A-49 - Office Order no. 496](#)

Jan 7
2023

The RA WCom and RA FAMC report on the mismanagement of Auroville's municipal 'City Services' budget by the /AVFO 'FAMC'/ and /AVFO 'BCC'/ (who took over the management of the same in October 2022 – see Dossier 1: Takeover of Internal Governance). The communication states that the /AVFO 'BCC'/ are “removing maintenance [stipendiary] support of persons selected by the RA”, and “funding their own self-appointed groups, without following any previously agreed-upon procedure nor showing any form of accountability.” It further highlights that “these individuals [members of the /AVFO 'BCC'/] are creating financial hardship and insecurity in a haphazard way without any consultation nor agreement from the Residents' Assembly and its approved working groups.”

→ [Appendix A-50 - Mass Bulletin from RA WCom and RA FAMC](#)

Jan 23

Individual Aurovilians receive emails from members of the /AVFO 'ATDC'/ and /AVFO 'Housing Service'/ stating that they will need to vacate their homes due to these “being situated on the planned Radial / Outer Ring Road”. No timelines are given with regard to vacating homes, or proposals for alternative housing made.

The email reads “Though we do not have yet the fixed date of when these buildings will be dismantled, part of it is likely to happen in the near future as the planning work proceeds. As this concerns your residence, we are encouraging that you already now contact the L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC house transfer sub-group consisting of members from ATDC, FAMC and Housing, to find what possibilities are available for you transferring to another available residence within Auroville.”



The RA FAMC informs the community on 23 Jan that they are aware of the matter and extend their support to those impacted.

- [Appendix A-51 - Letters received by several community members](#)
- [Appendix A-52 - Mass Bulletin from RA FAMC](#)

Feb 2

Eviction of Auroville Residents: the /AVFO 'FAMC' informs 3 Aurovillians that they must vacate the houses they reside in, and request the Housing Service to place them on a high priority list for transfer to another residence. **There is no reason given for the eviction, and each Aurovillian impacted is a long-term resident of the home they are being evicted from** (in one case, for over 35 years, on a compound she had personally financed). There is no precedent in Auroville for requesting an Aurovillian to vacate a residence they are the long-term inhabitants of, unless they lose their Auroville status or the land is being exchanged.

Feb 21

The /AVFO 'FAMC' share a new Housing Policy and Housing Mandate with the community for feedback. There are several notable changes; the Housing Board, which was previously the decision-making body of the Housing Group, is eliminated, and the /AVFO 'FAMC' become the main decision-makers in most cases. As the Auroville Council is also no longer the arbiter of any appeal processes, this leaves a situation where the /AVFO 'FAMC' holds considerable powers in all housing matters, **without any checks or balances in place for community members who do not agree with their decisions.**

- [Appendix A-53 - /AVFO 'FAMC' Housing Policy 2023](#)
- [Appendix A-54 - /AVFO 'FAMC' Housing Mandate 2023](#)
- [Appendix A-55 - HP 2011 vs HP 2023 - Key differences](#)

March 18

Mismanagement of Auroville land: the /AVFO 'FAMC' & 'ATDC' announce that they are 'redefining' land stewardships and state that all existing land stewardships are no longer valid. They pronounce that "From now onwards ATDC is the authorised body that will decide on the land use of all Auroville lands." Land stewardship for Auroville's forest and farm land had previously been allocated by the Forest and Farm Groups in consultation with the TDC, via a 'Green Group' consisting of Farm and Forest Group representatives. This ensured that individuals with knowledge of forestry or farming were involved in the land stewardship allocation process, and that lands were stewarded by individuals with needed experience and commitment to green work.



A member of the RA TDC, and a steward of forest land, publishes a response, highlighting the responsibilities involved in stewarding such land, and questioning how this could be managed by the /AVFO 'ATDC/' given their lack of budget, competence, training, management plans, and maps for this purpose.

- [Appendix A-56 - /AVFO 'ATDC/' Announcement](#)
- [Appendix A-57 - Report by RA TDC member](#)

April 12-22

Takeover of Auroville Services: On April 14 the RA WCom published an announcement alerting the Auroville community of “an ongoing series of attempted takeovers of various services in Auroville by the Office of the Secretary to the Governing Board”. These included a range of services, from the Visitors' Center and the AV Safety and Security Team (AVSST), to the Eco Service and AV Arts Service, extending to the Board of the Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research (SAIIER). The RA WCom recounted how online meetings with the executives and managers of these services were called by the Personal Assistant of the Secretary “with very short notice, no agenda or purpose mentioned and no opportunities for representation or discussion given”. They further highlighted that “there have been no notices given, no hearings, no reasons, no written orders - in short no due process has been followed.”

An Office Order dated April 12 was later produced by the Office of the Secretary regarding the replacement of executives of the above-mentioned services. The Order included the names of new appointees to the Services. In some cases, these included names of Aurovilians who had not even been approached by the Office of the Secretary with regards to their appointment.

On April 22, the RA WCom published a Mass Bulletin to the Auroville community highlighting the lack of due process in these takeovers, notably, that this was not in keeping with the Code of Conduct of 2017, approved by the Governing Board.

- [Appendix A-58 - Mass Bulletin of April 14](#)
- [Appendix A-59 - Office Order of April 12](#)
- [Appendix A-60 - Mass Bulletin of April 22](#)

April 25

Mismanagement of Auroville 'City Services' budgetary disbursements: Youth Centre Budget Cut. On April 25, the Auroville Youth Centre is informed that their Auroville City Services budget, including Maintenances (stipends), is being discontinued.



June 19-20

Takeover of services and groups responsible for the management of Auroville’s agricultural sectors: FoodLink and Farm Group.

FoodLink is an Auroville Unit that serves as an intermediary between farms and consumers – individuals, community kitchens and grocery outlets, and Auroville restaurants. On 19 June, the long term executives of FoodLink were dismissed without prior notice or explanation, and without following due process. They had been working there for 25 and 7 years, respectively. This dismissal was effectuated by a new “Farm Service” constituted by the Office of the Secretary through the above-mentioned Office Order.

The next day, on 20th June, all stewards of Auroville farms received an email from the new /AVFO ‘Farm Service/’ announcing that “FAMC & Farm Service are currently restructuring Foodlink” and further adding, in reference to the Farm Group, that “the core group and sub-group no longer exists. All relevant matters concerning farming must be addressed to the Farm Service”. The ‘core group’ and ‘sub-groups’ referred to are groups that the farmers themselves have created to enable collaborative management of Auroville’s agricultural sector.

- [Appendix A-61 - Email from AVFO ‘Farm Service/’ to Farm Group](#)
- [Appendix A-62 - Farm Group Response](#)
- [Appendix A-63 - Forest Group Response](#)
- [Appendix A-64 - Forest Group fact-check](#)

July 4

The RA BCC publishes a Mass Bulletin reporting on the mismanagement of community funds allocated for human resources. They report that, since the /AVFO ‘BCC/’ and /AVFO ‘FAMC/’ have taken over the management of the City Services budget – Auroville’s municipal budget – (see Dossier 1: Takeover of Internal Governance) a total of 121 adult Aurovilians supported by this budget have seen their Maintenances (stipends) cut, amounting to 13.6% of the Aurovilians supported by a City Services Maintenance just before the RA FAMC and RA BCC were replaced by these groups (888 in total, CS Report FY 2021-2022). The RA BCC further report that the Maintenance support for children of these adults have been cut as well, while the Childrens’ Maintenance guidelines in vigour state that all children are eligible for this support regardless of the Maintenance status of their parents.

They further state that no Bridging Maintenances (equivalent to unemployment benefits) or gratuity settlements have been made available to the Aurovilians and employees impacted, as would have been standard procedure. The eligibility criteria for Bridging Maintenances are clearly



outlined in the *Work, Maintenance and Contribution (2018)* guidelines in vigour, while gratuity settlements for employees of budgeted services was previously routinely paid for from the City Services Budget, which included a Gratuity budget head and a dedicated account in Auroville's Financial Service to hold these funds.

While the first 'wave' of Maintenance cuts was to members of Working Groups selected by the Residents' Assembly (see Jan 7 entry above) this July 4 communication was immediately preceded by **"a 100% budget cut to the Forest Group (all Maintenances and salaries) and a budget cut of over 75% to the Farm Group"**. These cuts are incongruent with the budgetary priorities that had been identified by the community through a participatory budgeting process led by the RA BCC In 2022.

→ [Appendix A-65 - RA BCC Mass Bulletin](#)

July 12

On July 12, a long-term Auroville farm steward of Ayarpadi Farm is requested to give up a plot of 5 acres of cultivated land by the /AVFO 'FAMC' and their newly constituted /AVFO 'Farm Service'. The stated intention is to re-allocate the land to volunteers who have been given farming training (in a farming project managed by a member of the /AVFO 'ATDC') for the last 6 months.

The Farm Group publish an open letter that challenges the request, noting that farming is a skilled profession that involves long-term planning, and suggests that volunteers could either be asked to join an existing farm or be allocated land that is not yet part of an existing farm.

On August 29, an email is sent to Ayarpadi Farm, reversing the decision to reallocate the land.

→ [Appendix A-66 - Letter to Ayarpadi farm steward](#)

→ [Appendix A-67 - Open Letter from Farm Group](#)

→ [Appendix A-68 - Letter to Ayarpadi Farm reversing the decision](#)



July - Sep

Stipendiary support for Aurovilian seniors (so-called 'Silver Fund Maintenances') put into question and 'on hold' by /AVFO 'BCC'/.

In July 2023, senior Aurovilians who had previously been allocated stipends by the RA BCC on the basis of their being 70+ years of age, having worked for the community for 20+ years, and being in need of financial support, receive a request from the /AVFO 'BCC/' to fill in a 'Self Declaration Form', seemingly in order to justify continuing to receive this support.

On July 21, the RA WCom publish a communication to the community that clarifies that these Maintenances had been allocated on a permanent basis, and states that some of the questions asked in the form bring up **concerns around privacy, which is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.**

In July, senior Aurovilians newly applying for a Silver Fund Maintenance and eligible to receive one according to the criteria previously applied by the RA BCC (listed above) are informed by the /AVFO 'BCC/' that the /AVFO 'FAMC/' and /AVFO 'BCC/' are "currently reviewing this category". In September, they are informed that **"All new enrollments under the Silver Fund category are on hold". Not even temporary financial support is offered meanwhile to those requesting and in need of it.**

- [Appendix A-69 – Self Declaration Form](#)
- [Appendix A-70 – RA WCom: clarification regarding Silver Fund 'Self Declaration Form' from the /AVFO 'BCC/'](#)

UPDATED TILL 1st OCTOBER 2023



Mismanagement of natural resources & cultural heritage

Executive Summary

Auroville was founded in 1968 on a barren plateau of Tamil Nadu that had been deemed 'uninhabitable' in a United Nations study. **Over the last 50+ years, community members have undertaken exemplary work towards restoring natural resources – water, soil, and a rare forest type** endemic to the southeastern coast of India, the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest.

This work is an integral part of realising Auroville's Master Plan, which includes a large Greenbelt that connects to the Matrimandir at the centre of Auroville, through green corridors. While the Auroville community has expressed its commitment to pursuing development in line with the Auroville Master Plan: Perspective 2025 framework and other relevant regulations, the Office of the Secretary has disregarded the Residents' Assembly and its nominated bodies, while the Town Development Council she has appointed seem to be pushing for urban development at all costs. This poses **grave risk to precious natural resources such as Auroville's forests and water catchment areas, as well as significant archaeological heritage**, which are to be protected under existing government regulations and the National Green Tribunals' court injunctions.

Indeed all natural and archaeological resources of the Auroville area are to be managed and protected in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India. Aurovilians have shown great dedication towards protecting these not only for the benefit of their community and immediate neighbours, but also for humanity as a whole.

Timeline of Events

July - Dec 2021	The new Secretary Dr Jayanti Ravi insists on the need to focus on the Auroville Crown road at the earliest. The proposed plan is more than two decades old, was not made for implementation since no Detailed Development Plans have been formulated, and its legitimacy is questionable. Residents ask for Environmental assessments to be conducted first, and Environmental clearance to be obtained, since the proposed Crown road would be implementable only by felling thousands of trees, some of which are very valuable endangered species. The proposed Crown would also destroy important and precious water catchment areas, which are essential to Auroville's and the bioregion's water needs. It further puts at risk archeological heritage, since it would pass over
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archeological sites. For all these reasons, alternative proposals are made, but ignored.

→ See section [Mismanagement of Auroville assets, Gol funds and international donations](#)

Nov 24

The Ministry of Education's UNESCO cell writes to the Auroville Foundation with concern for the preservation of Auroville's Archaeological Heritage, stating that the Auroville Foundation is to ensure that "the development work in Auroville Foundation (AF) be done under the guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to preserve the archaeological heritage in Auroville."

→ [Appendix B-1 - Letter from the Ministry of Education's UNESCO cell](#)

Dec 4 - 9

On the 4th in the morning, JCBs accompanied by members of the /AVFO 'ATDC' are sent by the Secretary to clear Bliss Forest, a forested area that also houses Auroville's Youth Centre, in order to create a Right of Way for the Crown Road. They start uprooting trees, damaging 40 years of reforestation efforts, without any care for precious or endangered species, and without a Work Order. Residents stop the work, but JCBs return on the night of the 5th and morning of the 9th and wreak further damage to the forest, as well as the Youth Centre infrastructure (as detailed in the previous section on the Mismanagement of Auroville Assets)

→ [Appendix B-2 - Survey of trees in Bliss area](#)

Dec 10

Darkali Forest threatened with imminent clearing for the Right of Way of the Crown Road, endangered species and important water catchment areas at risk.

While some residents attend a public meeting called by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, bulldozers are sent at her behest to clear Darkali Forest, a mature reforested area with many endangered species of trees, and important water catchment sites. As was the case at the Auroville Youth Centre, the bulldozers are accompanied by hired enforcers and no Work Order is produced. Auroville residents try to stop the destruction without using violence. After some confrontations, the situation evolves into a peaceful sit-down opposition, as Aurovilians chant and refuse to move. They are informed that the following morning, bulldozing will resume at Darkali, and receive threats of arrests and, for non-Indians, deportation, if they obstruct the bulldozers.

(It is important to note that the stewards of Darkali forest had purposefully avoided planting trees along the planned Right of Way of the Crown when this was presented to them by Auroville's TDC over a decade ago, and that the only



reason the current clearing is threatening mature tree species as well as an important water catchment is because the Right of Way has been shifted by several meters without informing or consulting with the stewards).

Residents keep a peaceful presence throughout the night, and early in the morning, JCBs do indeed return to carry out the clearing. Those present on site manage to stall the clearing to a certain extent by sitting in front of endangered species of trees. In the afternoon, Auroville residents manage to obtain a stay order from the National Green Tribunal on the Auroville Foundation's clearing work in this environmentally sensitive area which is home to endangered tree species as well as water catchment areas.

- [Appendix B-3 - Outline of Crown provided to Darkali, March 2009](#)
- [Appendix B-4 - Stay order of NGT](#)

Apr 28
2022

The National Green Tribunal gives its judgement

The NGT allows the continuation of the Crown Project in stretches that have no trees; an independent Joint Committee is appointed to decide on the best way forward for forested areas in the Master Plan area of Auroville. The NGT also orders the Foundation to replace trees that are taken down in a ratio of 1:10. They also note that any development in Auroville can only proceed based on proper town plans, and must include Environmental Clearance before implementation can start.

- [Appendix B-5 - Summary of the NGT Judgement](#)

July 8 - 12

In contempt of NGT Order, the Office of the Secretary continues clearing of trees on Crown.

On Friday 8th and Saturday 9th July, without prior notice, a JCB entered the Youth Centre accompanied by a spokesperson for the AVFO to 'flatten the road area'. The JCB destroyed the vegetable garden next to the pizza oven and a 3-metre tall pipal, as well as many other smaller trees and bushes, were uprooted. On Monday 11th July, the JCB returned to the Youth Centre area and continued clearing trees and bushes despite the clear ruling of the NGT court case that no trees were to be touched.

On Tuesday 12th, another JCB accompanied by the spokesperson comes to the Youth Centre area. When asked for the relevant work order, he refused to produce one and claimed that the residents present were 'blocking' the work of the Government of India. This was followed by an announcement from AVFO naming the people present and threatening legal action against them, in another move to silence the concerns of the residents of Auroville. To date, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and contracts with the Central Public



Works Department and the subsequent work orders have not yet been shared with the Residents' Assembly or its working groups.

- [Appendix B-6 - Picture of the unnecessary YC clearing](#)
- [Appendix B-7 - Threats of /AVFO 'ATDC/](#)

Aug 12 **Threat to Archaeological Heritage communicated to the relevant Government bodies.**

The RA TDC writes letters to the Department of Higher Education, Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, and the CPWD, alerting them that the current road construction and clearing initiated by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation is a direct threat to important archaeological sites in the area.

They attach a communication from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, which asks the Auroville Foundation to "ensure that the development work in Auroville Foundation area be done under the guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to preserve the archaeological heritage in Auroville."

They also attach a note on the archaeological work previously undertaken in the area, which points out that the last Auroville Governing Board funded the last two excavations, and offered funding in 2017 for the restoration of artefacts, in view of the significance of the archaeological heritage identified.

- [Appendix B-8 - Letter to Department of Higher Education](#)
- [Appendix B-9 - Letter to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu](#)
- [Appendix B-10 - Letter to CPWD](#)
- [Appendix B-11- Communication from MoE to AV Foundation](#)
- [Appendix B-12- Note on Archaeological Work in the Auroville area](#)

Aug 18 **The report of the Joint Committee (JC) appointed by the National Green Tribunal is received.**

The report is incomplete as the JC only surveyed the Darkali area of the Crown, whereas the NGT had directed a report for the entire Crown. The RA-appointed Working Groups were mostly denied access to the JC during the period that the JC was studying the Darkali area. The report recommends a reduction of the width of the Crown through Darkali from 16.7 to 9.1m. This reduces the number of trees earmarked to be 'cut or transplanted' from 575 to 391.

- [Appendix B-13 - Joint Committee Report](#)

Oct 1 **Clearing work for a cycle path is undertaken through forested areas of Auroville (Bliss Forest and Existence), as well as private land, by the CPWD.**
This work has not been announced and is in violation of the NGT ruling given



that Environmental Clearance has not been obtained, nor a Detailed Development Plan prepared.

Members of the RA TDC come to the site and inform the CPWD officers of the same. The CPWD indicates that the /AVFO 'ATDC/' have the appropriate paperwork, and the RA TDC immediately requests that it be presented. The /AVFO 'ATDC/' does not present the required documentation.

Members of the community block the work on site given that it is illegitimate. The /AVFO 'ATDC/' subsequently publishes that the clearing work is being undertaken "in required compliance" and that any such obstruction is a legal offence. However, the clearing work does not resume.

- [Appendix B-14 - Letter from a steward of Bliss Forest alerting the Auroville Foundation and Working Groups of the clearing.](#)
- [Appendix B-15 - Communication of the clearing sent to the Auroville Governing Board and International Advisory Council](#)
- [Appendix B-16 - Report of the clearing sent to the Auroville Governing Board and International Advisory Council](#)
- [Appendix B-17 - Announcement from the AVFO regarding obstruction](#)
- [Appendix B-18 - RA TDC letter on clearing outlining the legalities](#)
- [Appendix B-19- Pictures clearing](#)

Feb 3
2023

A large-scale survey to mark all the trees between the Crown and Outer Ring Road is started. Workers do extensive damage to trees in order to number them, with some likely to die off from the procedure. When asked to do this differently, the /AVFO 'ATDC/' responds by threatening criminal procedures against anyone 'obstructing' the work.

Updated techniques, such as GPS/GIS locating, have been used extensively in Auroville, with more than 26,000 trees already surveyed without damaging or marking a single tree. Island Lescure, community member and trained arborist, shares a report on the efforts already done in Auroville in the past, showing the absolute ineptitude of the Secretary-appointed town planners.

- [Appendix B-20 - Pictures of tree damage](#)
- [Appendix B-21 - Bulletin from /AVFO 'ATDC/'](#)
- [Appendix B-22 - Report from certified arborist Island Lescure](#)

March 9 -11 **On Thursday 9th and Friday 10th March, individuals affiliated with the Office of the Secretary and the /AVFO 'ATDC/' entered Darkali Forest to resume the clearing of trees in the area. Some Auroville residents went on site and asked**



to see a valid work order and contract and were met with 'verbal and physical violence', according to a communication from the RA WCom.

On Saturday 11th of March, the RA WCom reported that 'a masked mob equipped with chainsaws arrived on site in Darkali to cut the trees' and refused to say who they were working for. The RA WCom further reported that the /AVFO 'ATDC' members present on site "refused to explain how they are complying with the Joint Committee report" and "refused to disclose any work orders, any contract or subcontract although these are mandatory documents which are normally made public, as per standard procedure."

March 19 **On March 19, the trees felled at Darkali earlier in the month are removed from the site. This includes 19 endangered Red Sanders trees, which, according to Rule 9 of the Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules, can not be moved except with a special permit issued by the District Forest Officer.** Much of the wood is taken to a local sawmill (Kottakarai). A report by Aurovilian Satprem Maini indicates that this valuable timber was sold to an associate of a member of the /AVFO 'ATDC' for less than one lakh, while the estimated value of the wood is approximately 20 lakh. The sale of this wood does not follow any of the established norms surrounding the sale of timber from Auroville's forests – in the past, 10% of the revenue would be contributed to the Forest Fund (dedicated to the development of Auroville's forests), and a portion would go to offset monies spent by the steward of the land for maintaining the forest.

→ [Appendix B-23 - Satprem Darkali Report](#)

→ [Appendix B-24 - Email from Satprem to Governing Board](#)

Early June **Clearing in Revelation Forest & Sanctuary in contempt of NGT court ruling:** In early June 2023, the /AVFO 'Land Board' begins clearing areas of Revelation Forest to prepare for the Outer Ring Road (ORR) under direction of the /AVFO 'ATDC'. Revelation is one of Auroville's largest forests in its Northern Forest area and has been maintained as a future park by its stewards, with extensive walkways already in place. The forest includes one area called the Sanctuary, which has had no human interference for many years, in an effort to welcome animal species that need undisturbed areas to live in. When the Land Board started clearing this sensitive area on 12 June, they were stopped by the stewards and other residents.



The clearing was being undertaken in contempt of court, given that the National Green Tribunal had prohibited development and clearing of greenery in Auroville outside of the Crown “until proper township plans are accepted and environmental clearance is obtained.” Therefore, a legal notice regarding this clearing among other issues, has since been sent to the Secretary and a number of residents.

Moreover, the Forest Group, in a statement, noted that **the Master Plan (Perspective 2025) does not include the Outer Ring Road**, and that the community has not reached an agreement on its implementation.

- [Appendix B-25 - Legal Notice wrt Clearing](#)
- [Appendix B-26 - Forest Group Statement on Revelation](#)

July 8

Further tree felling in violation of the NGT judgement by the /AVFO ‘Land Board’/ at the behest of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation. On 8 July, the RA TDC writes a letter to the members of the /AVFO ‘Land Board’/ expressing their concern around their involvement in the cutting of trees in Auroville in contempt of the judgement of the Hon’ble NGT dated 28th April 2022 as well as the Residents’ Assembly Decision of January 2022.

The letter states that the RA TDC understands that the /AVFO ‘Land Board’/ received an intimation from the office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to let the trees be cut, but that it is neither in the purview of the /AVFO ‘Land Board’/ nor in the purview of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to permit the cutting of trees prior to the evaluation and submission of the Report for the entire Crown by the Hon’ble Joint Committee. They specify that “Any cutting of trees is a direct violation of the court judgement and is not to be taken lightly,” and that “unless you have written and signed documentation intimating you to proceed with or be party to the cutting of trees on any part of the proposed Crown trajectory - outside of the Darkali park stretch - or anywhere inside the Auroville project / Master plan area on lands that have not been developed may make you personally liable for the actions taken.”

- [Appendix B-27 - Letter from RA TDC to /AVFO ‘Land Board’/](#)



Sept 7

The RA TDC reports that 378 trees have been cut on the proposed Crown and Outer Ring Road trajectories since the NGT judgement of April 2022, in direct contravention to the court's verdict and the RA resolution passed on January 21, 2022 to pause all development on the Crown, Outer Ring Road and Radials pending proper planning approved by the RA. This number does not include trees that were cut on the Crown Road trajectory in early December 2021 (see details in this dossier), which led to a stay order being granted by the NGT on December 10th, nor does it include clearing undertaken in other forested areas of the township since, notably in the Revelation Forest Sanctuary.

- [Appendix B-28 - RA TDC Tree Felling Report](#)
- [Appendix B-29 - RA TDC letter to community accompanying Tree Felling Report](#)

UPDATED TILL 1st OCTOBER 2023



Mismanagement of Auroville lands

Executive Summary

Over the last 50+ years, **Auroville has been endowed with land holdings financed exclusively by Indian, international and Aurovilian donors.** It is important to note that none of the Auroville lands have been purchased with Gol money, instead relying only on Indian and international donors, and the goodwill of Aurovilians. Under the administration of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Dr. Jayanti Ravi, the mismanagement of these land holdings has been shocking to the community and its donors. The Secretary of the Auroville Foundation has **refused to provide authorisation for purchase after all due diligence requirements have been met, without reasons given,** losing the chance to purchase missing parcels of land in the Auroville Master Plan area. She has also **not involved herself in any of the cases of encroachment reported to her office,** despite the fact that she was requested to do so on multiple occasions and has the power to intervene.

Even more concerning is that the Secretary has overseen **land exchanges suspected to be fraudulent - as they have incurred heavy financial losses to Auroville, and have not met the due diligence requirements.** Notably the /AVFO 'Land Board', at the behest of the Secretary, is exchanging lands that were originally purchased with Mother's sanction, and which are of much higher value than the plots they are exchanged for, losing Auroville crores of money. **The Secretary has also failed to intervene in issues of land grabbing that have plagued Auroville during her tenure,** while this is her duty as estate officer, leaving the land holdings of Auroville vulnerable and weakened, while the Residents' Assembly and its Working Groups are desperately trying to protect them.

Timeline of Events

Dec 22 2021	Two land purchases recommended by the Land Board and FAMC are ignored by the AVFO, losing an opportunity for the consolidation of Auroville land.
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The Auroville Foundation Office had not provided the required authorization letter despite many requests, thus the parties sold elsewhere. It may be noted that considerable energy, time and expenses for legal opinions and newspaper publications were incurred to prepare for the purchase prior to the final step of requesting an authorization letter to register the purchase. Despite many queries from the AVFO being answered by the then Land



Board, the letters of authorization for the following plots never materialise and so the plots are never purchased:

1. an area of 1.59 acres in the Greenbelt, authorization requested on 22nd December 2021
2. an area of 0.30 acres, in the Greenbelt, authorization requested on the 17th November 2021

- [Appendix C-1 - Land Board report](#)
- [Appendix C-2 - Request for 0.30 acres](#)
- [Appendix C-3 - Request and warning that sellers will withdraw](#)
- [Appendix C-4 - Final request for authorisation for 0.30 acres, ignored](#)
- [Appendix C-5 - Response Land Board to AVFO - queries for 1.59 acres](#)

Jan 3
2022

Land Board's urgent request for intervention and legal proceedings regarding land encroachment at Sri Ma community is ignored.

Despite several requests, the needed authorization letter for the court is not produced. While all necessary documentation was provided, the case is currently still languishing due to the inaction of the Secretary, in her role as Estate Officer.

- [Appendix C-6 - Request for authorisation](#)

Feb 12

The WCom requests the Secretary of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation to intervene in a select number (6) of evictions and encroachments of Auroville land.

The Secretary is the only person in the Auroville Foundation who is mandated to intervene in such matters, as she is the Estate Officer. To date, none of these have been resolved despite repeated entreaties to the Secretary.

- [Appendix C-7 - Overview of encroachments not responded to by AVFO](#)

March

Authorization for land purchase of two key plots is again left pending by the Office of the Secretary:

- 1) 3.95 acres, authorization requested on 10th March 2022
- 2) 0.76 acres, authorization requested on 28th March 2022

These are important agricultural parcels, and would have consolidated existing Auroville land. To this date, they have not been purchased.

Mar 23

Destruction of Property: The gate and live fence of Pitchandikulam Forest was forcibly destroyed by a mob directed by a private developer, claiming to have permission to do so from the Secretary. After destroying the gate



with the JCB, the mob entered into the Pitchandikulam area and threatened the residents.

Members of Auroville's Working Committee were immediately informed and met with the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to address the ongoing crisis. It was reported that the requested assistance was declined, with the comment that Aurovilians living in Pitchandikulam had refused to collaborate with the Secretary on implementing the Crown Road.

On the same day, the Working Committee wrote a formal letter to the Auroville Foundation requesting clarification on whether access to the land had been granted by her, as Estate Officer. The Land Board requested that the Secretary file a criminal complaint for destruction of property, trespass and intimidation, or to provide authorization for the Working Committee or Land Board to do so. No clarification was given and there was no authorization provided to the Working Committee or the Land Board.

- [Appendix C-8 - Report from Land Board](#)
- [Appendix C-9 - Email from Land Board](#)
- [Appendix C-10 - Letter from Working Committee](#)

Jun 28

The Auroville Foundation Office issues an office order replacing two Aurovillian members of the Land Board selected by the Residents' Assembly with two hired staff members of the Auroville Foundation Office. The members selected by the Residents' Assembly had not completed the terms they were selected for, nor is any reason given for their removal. There is no precedent for staff members of the Auroville Foundation Office being added to the Auroville Land Board, and there was no indication of any due process being followed by the AVFO in making these appointments. From now onwards, the Land Board whose members have been dubiously replaced will be referred to as /AVFO 'Land Board'/.

- [Appendix C-11 - Land Board Office Order No. 520](#)

Sep 13 -14

Land grab Ami/Abri/Evergreen: Another piece of Auroville land is denuded by one Mr. PKS - the Auroville Foundation Office does not intervene, despite urgent pleas of residents

A JCB tears through Evergreen forest at 4 AM in the morning. This event comes months after encroachers, headed by Mr. Subramanian (PKS) claimed the Auroville land as their own while holding recently acquired, questionable documents. The land falls within the Master Plan area.



The RA WCom and the /AVFO 'Land Board' had each made complaints with the anti land-grab cell in Villupuram, as well as other authorities, in the weeks leading up to this forceful intrusion, which began with the building of a wall on September 1st. The Collector had at the time requested Mr. Subramanian to halt all his activities on the site, pending a formal investigation into their claim of ownership.

On site, PKS insinuates that the Secretary is urging him on, quoted as saying that: "I have no intention to do such things, but the Secretary is asking me to do it, as she wants to provoke you, get photos of residents, so that FIRs can be filed against you. She wants Aurovilian foreigners out of India."

- [Appendix C-12 - Overview of land under threat of encroachment](#)
- [Appendix C-13 - Report of S. M. of events on 13-14 September](#)

Sep 23

Land grab Ami/Abri/Evergreen: The situation escalates as PKS, the person claiming the land, arrives with a large group of women from a village outside of Auroville's immediate neighbours, to force entry onto the land.

The women push those trying to block the encroachment out of the way, and men spray the faces and cellphones of onlookers with paint to avoid documentation of events. At times the situation turns violent. The Secretary is again asked to intervene; while she crosses the scene in her car, she does not stop and does not apply her responsibility as Estate Officer to put a stop to the illegal encroachment.

Thanks to the conjoined efforts of the RA WCom and other Auroville residents, a status quo order, valid until the matter is resolved in the courts, is obtained from the Tahsildar.

- [Appendix C-14 - Report of S. M. 23rd September 2022](#)
- [Appendix C-15 - Announcement of RA WCom](#)
- [Appendix C-16 - Pictures Evergreen](#)

Oct 8
- present

Land grab Ami/Abri/Evergreen: On Saturday 8th October 2022, in the morning, hired workers are brought onto Evergreen land to clear trees and undergrowth and to install cement pillars. Residents are called to the spot and attempt to stop the work, which is being done unlawfully since the courts have not yet given their judgement. PKS claims that it is legal to do so as the status quo order of the Tahsildar was not in writing. In the end, a written confirmation of the status quo order was obtained the same day by the RA WCom. The Secretary still does not intervene.

A court case against PKS is finally filed by the Office of the Secretary and heard in the district court, and eventually concluded in July 2023 when the judge rules in Auroville's favour and grants an interim injunction stating that



Auroville should not be prevented from entering its own property. PKS has since appealed the case to the Madras High Court.

→ [Appendix C-17 - Report by S. M. on events](#)

October
- present

The Secretary authorises the exchange of several plots of land in Auroville's possession, leading to major financial losses for Auroville.

Exchange was discontinued in the past as the exchanges were often highly unfavourable to Auroville, and thus dissuaded sellers from agreeing to sale instead of exchange. The Secretary has since overseen the exchange of 3 plots, losing crore rupees of Auroville Foundation money in the process, as her efforts to consolidate the land for the Crown Road now bypass all other community interests and concerns.

UPDATED TILL 1st OCTOBER 2023



Conclusion & community response

As evidenced in the above timeline, **the community has responded to many of the threats posed by the mismanagement of Auroville assets and resources – such as land grabs, destruction of Auroville assets, and eviction of Auroville residents – by appealing to concerned authorities to intervene.** These included, first and foremost, the Secretary of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation herself. Given that the Secretary did not respond to these requests, or take any action to remedy the situation, further appeals were made to other relevant authorities. The community is very grateful that in some cases other authorities have been responsive and supportive, and residents are doing their utmost to uphold these interventions, for example by documenting and reporting repeated instances of contempt of court in the case of the National Green Tribunal ruling.

In addition, members of the community have organised non-violent protests at sites of encroachment of Auroville land, and sites of destruction of Auroville assets, often at grave personal risk in the face of violent enforcers. This has created a climate of deep insecurity in the community, who nonetheless stand in solidarity with those stewards directly impacted. Community members and well-wishers have also shown financial solidarity with those Aurovilians who have seen their stipends cut by the AVFO administration. **In very difficult circumstances, the Residents' Assembly is continuing to do their utmost to protect Auroville's communal assets and resources, developed over many years with significant investment in time, money and energy by community members and Auroville's well-wishers throughout India and the world. Aurovilians remain committed to building the 'city the earth needs', guided by the Auroville Charter.**



Appendices

Appendix A-1 - Open statement on the 'city'

1st August 2021

A statement by Aurovilians on the "city" August 1st, 2021

"Auroville: ... At last a place where nothing will have the right to impose itself as the exclusive truth."

— Mother, February 1968

In recent times, Aurovilians have been under heavy pressure to accept without discussion the "Galaxy" concept as "Mother's plan" for the future city, beginning with the making of a perfectly circular "Crown Road". We firmly object to these pressures which, in our view, put Auroville's future in jeopardy.

There are some alarming misconceptions at work, which we would like to respond to:

1. The Galaxy

- It is true that the Mother gave her Blessings to the "Galaxy" concept for the city presented to her by a team of architects, but there is nothing to indicate that She ever considered this particular concept as sacrosanct or carved in stone for all time to come. She referred to it as "one of the projects" (Mother's Agenda, 20 April 1968).
- The Charter was not written "for the Galaxy" concept, as was recently asserted. The Charter (which does not even contain the word "city") has nothing to do with any architectural plan and belongs to a much higher plane of consciousness.
- In countless conversations with Aurovilians or with disciples, Mother hardly ever mentioned the Galaxy concept. But She did constantly stress the need for unity, harmony, and a change of consciousness that will replace the rigid rule of the mind. Again and again She warned against dogmatic views, especially those asserted in her name; and it is clear that six decades later, we have not learned those lessons.

2. The "Crown Road"

- Yesterday, a "walk" was organized to study issues facing the road, but ended up using callous means (such as destruction of fences, clearing a rich understory of bushes, etc.). Several Aurovilians living in the area concerned, some of them born in Auroville, were called "encroachers". These strong-arm tactics are misplaced in Auroville.
- We consider it irrational to insist on perfect circularity for the Crown Road, as though Auroville's future depended on an abstract line. The Crown is one element of the Auroville Master Plan (Perspective Plan 2025) but it is clearly stated on page 9 - section 1.1.2 : "The Master Plan

(Perspective 2025) provides a policy framework which will serve as a guide in the preparation of the five-year development plans and annual plans for implementation of the proposals.". And nowhere in the aforementioned document is it stated that the crown is a perfectly circular road.

- The Crown Road and the Master Plan have never been approved by Mother, as some people have erroneously stated in recent meetings.
- We all agree that Auroville must grow into a city. But there are many conceptions for a city, especially in today's world which is so radically different from what it was fifty years ago. Mother's vision was always an evolving one, as any cursory reading of her numerous notes and messages on Auroville over the years will show.
- Since 1968, Auroville has undeniably developed. Generations of Aurovilians have done outstanding work to secure the land, improve the environment, manage water resources, pioneer alternative energies, work with the villages — a development praised in India and beyond. Rigidly implementing the "crown" as currently proposed would, in effect, negate this very real progress, since it would involve razing buildings, destroying trees and passing over sensitive areas (i.e. groundwater recharge area) without considerate planning. It would not create a "smart city", but a ravaged environment. And it is not keeping pace with today's standard of urban planning.
- Between climate change, rising sea levels, heat waves, wildfires, massive floods, rising social disparity and instability, the world is beginning to realize that its cities are unsustainable. Forward-looking urban thinkers are now proposing new concepts of sustainable urbanism. Why should we in Auroville lag behind, instead of pioneering new ways towards urban sustainability?
- Moving towards a city will require fresh deep thought and not the blind application of an old plan. Several Aurovilians have already worked in this direction, trying to harmonize some of the initial ideas with present and future conditions; also non-Aurovilians such as Shri Balkrishna Doshi who has beautifully articulated the need for fluidity and adaptability. If such minds could come together with no dogmatic preconceptions, something new would certainly emerge.
- In the meantime, we firmly reject any group's attempt to forcibly impose its own limited vision on the entire community. This violates the very spirit of Auroville and will only end up creating deep divisions.
- It is crucial that we find the way to work together and we commit to doing so, so that we can collectively build a city and a society worthy of the Auroville Charter.

Appendix A-2 - Proposal on the Youth Center / Bliss area

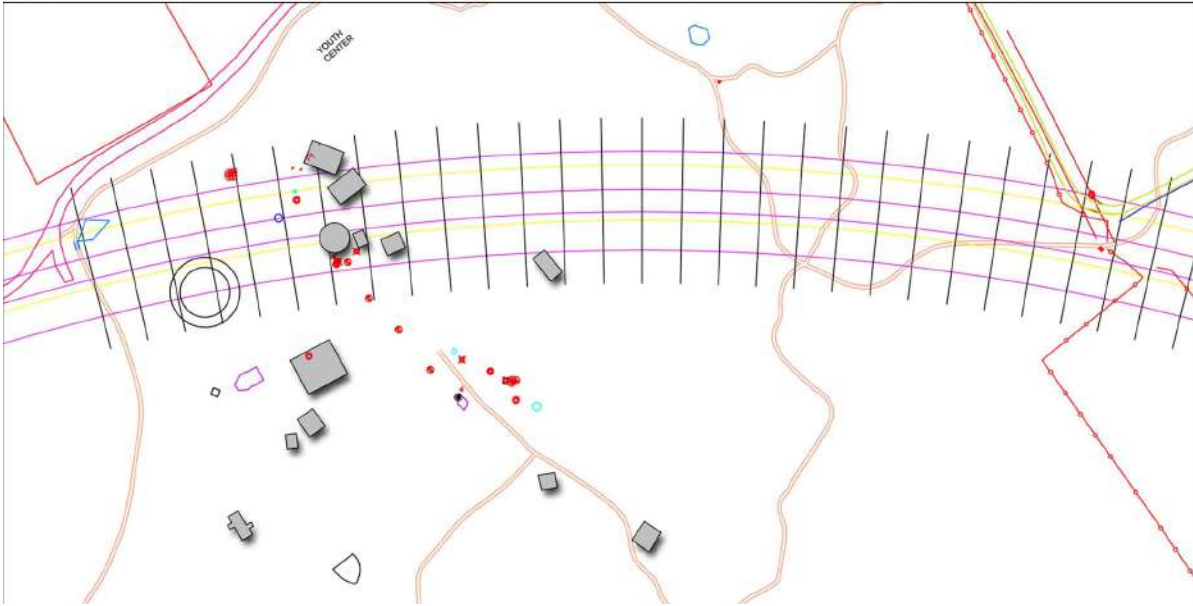
4th August 2021 - early December



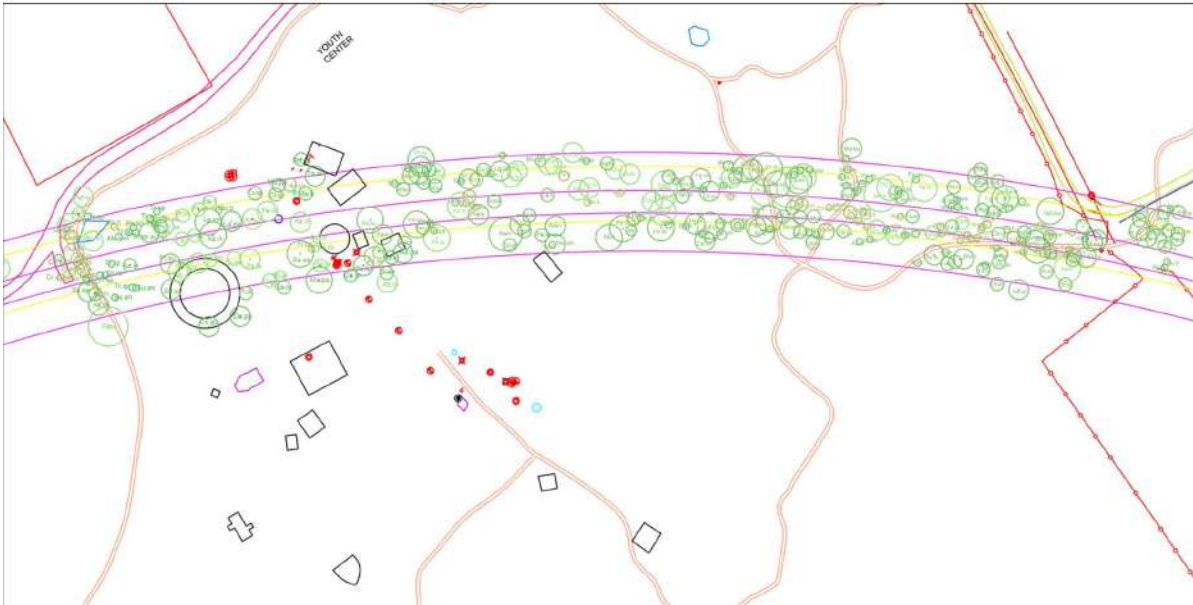
Series of events

- 31st July Crown walk
- 1st Aug Meeting of people directly affected
- 4-6th Aug Series of meetings at crown locations
- Survey of trees and buildings
- 9th Sept Meeting in YC to share the results of the survey
- 14th Sept Submission of 6 points for clarification
- 1st Oct Meeting with Toby and Poonuswami
- 2nd Oct Meeting with Toby, Sreevatsa, Omar
- 8th Oct Meeting with Toby

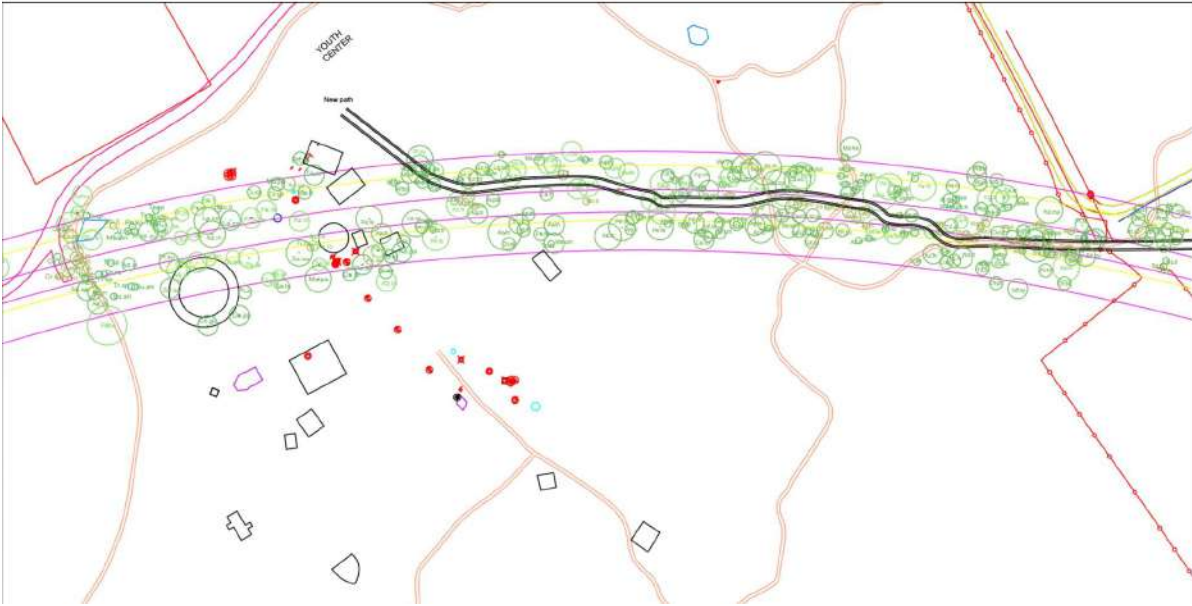
Crown Survey



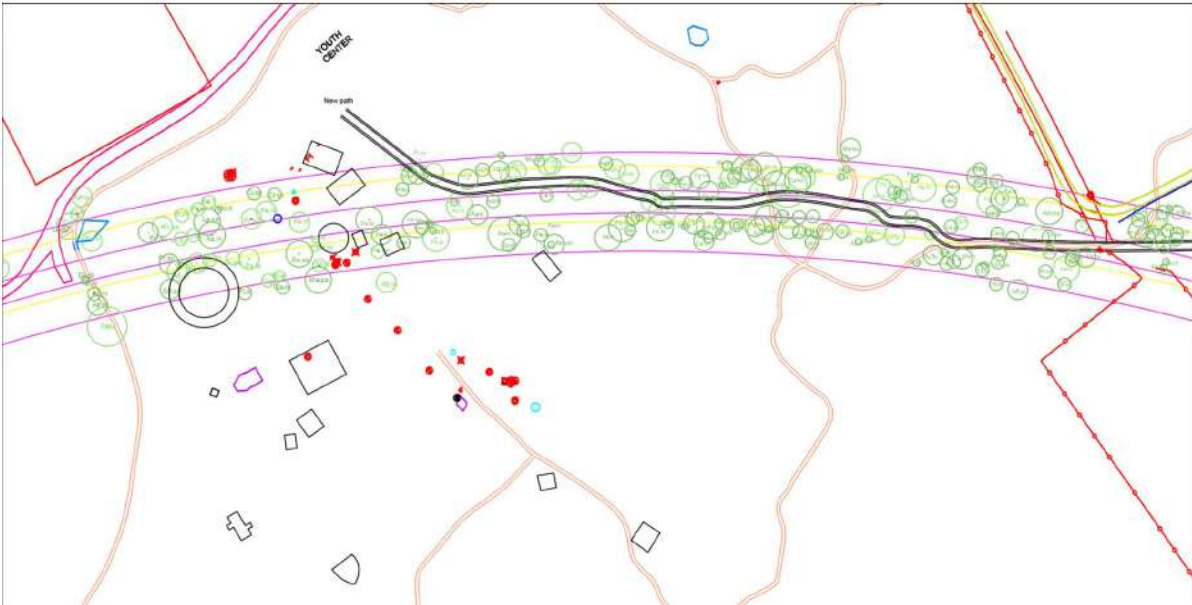
Survey of Trees



Survey of Trees with cleared path – 2 meters wide



Survey of Trees with cleared path – Selected important trees



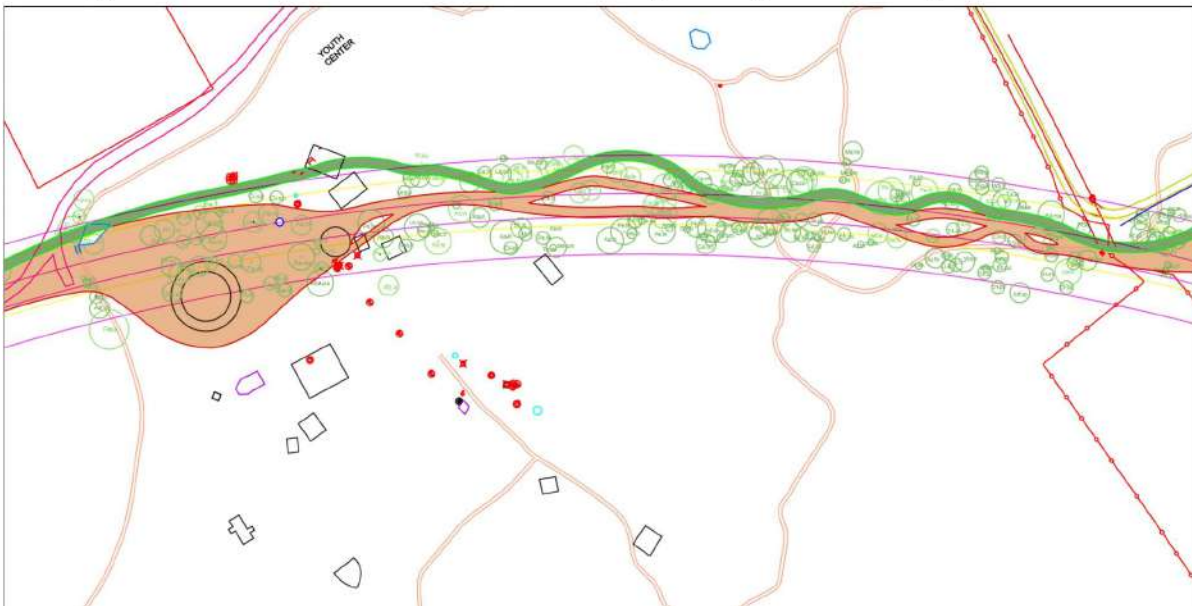
Points of clarification asked to TDC – 14th Sept

Definition of terms used

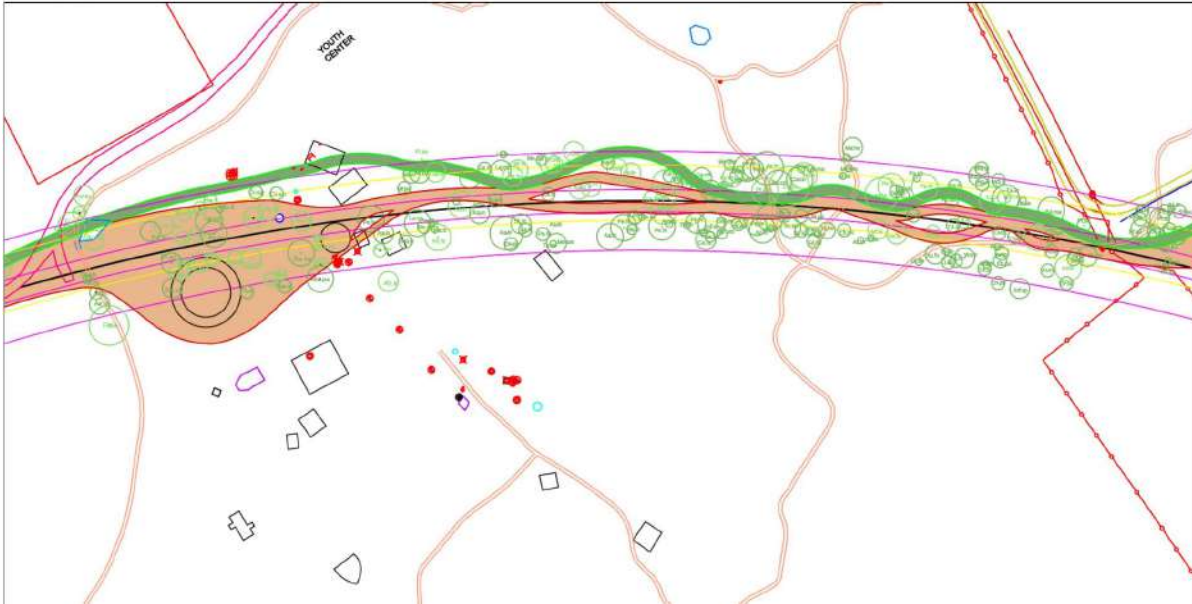
- **Crown Development** – being the area considered for developments associated with the crown
- **Mobility Corridor** – the area currently proposed as 6.7m paved way
- **Infrastructure Corridor** – currently proposed as an inner and outer corridors that are 2.5 and 3.1 meters wide respectively.
- **Green Area** – areas along the Crown development that are currently designated as parks or other green areas, such as Darkall, Bliss, and Mahalakshmi park

1. Is the full width of the Crown development set at 75m?
2. Within the Green Areas of the Crown development can the Mobility Corridor deviate from the perfect circle that has been proposed at a radius of 690m?
3. Within the Green Areas, can the Mobility Corridor be restricted to pedestrians, cycles and other slow moving, non-polluting traffic?
4. Does the Mobility corridor need to be 6.7 meters wide or can it be wider or narrower depending on what the existing ground conditions suggest or usage requires?
5. In the Green Areas can the inner and outer infrastructure corridors be combined in to a single corridor?
6. When crossing the Green Areas can the infrastructure corridor be de linked from the mobility corridor and travel along the nearest available existing road?

Alignment that follows discussions regarding crown in green areas



Same Alignment with the center of the RoW highlighted



Next steps:

- Acceptance of this proposal as a conceptual basis for the development of the crown in Bliss forest area.
- Formation of a concept design team to further develop the ideas and to match this with the reality on the ground.
- Allocation of a budget for the continued clearing work required in Bliss area, and also to cover the expenses incurred so far.
- Consideration of how to move the process forward once the concept design has been finalized.

Appendix A-3 - Proposal on the Darkali area

December 2021

DARKALI'S CROWN PROPOSAL

December 2021



Development of the Crown in Darkali

The stewards of Darkali first started integrating a possible Crown through Darkali over 25 years ago when the then Auroville Development group showed where the alignment was projected. At that point the stewards did not further develop this area which was then predicted to be 5 meter wide, no trees were subsequently planted but it was protected and regeneration happened in that area.

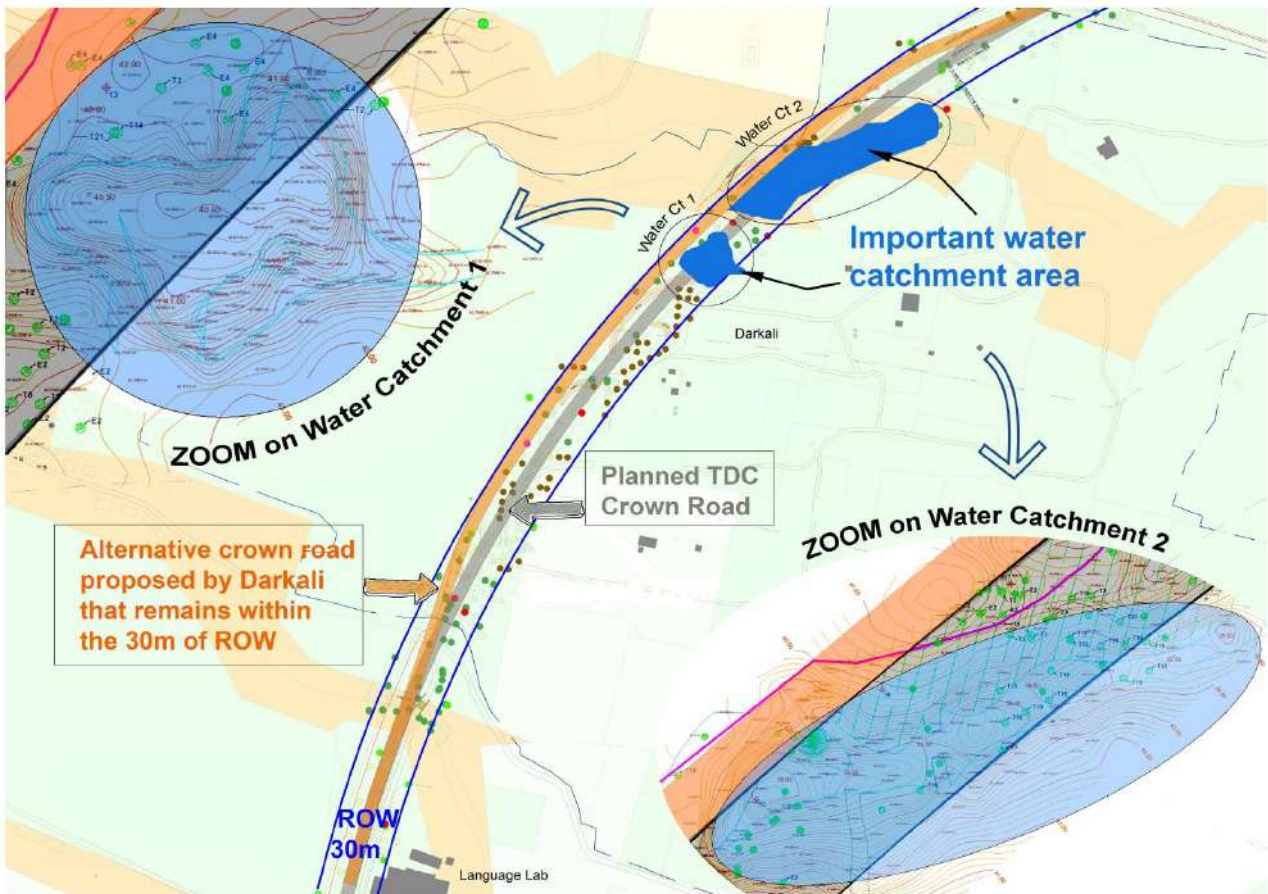
It only became apparent in recent years that this alignment had changed, pulling the Crown into an area that had been actively managed not only in the sphere of tree planting but extensive soil and water conservation, this is directly adjacent to the old alignment.

The recent events in chronological order: -

- 31/7/2021 – The Crown walk.
- 16/9/2021 – The latest survey map was presented to the Darkali stewards by TDC members; Anbu, Toby and Debu.
- 23/9/2021 – A meeting held with Darkali stewards to see a way forward when many alternate proposals offered by the stewards were discussed with TDC members; Anbu, Toby, Saravanam, plus Gajendran.
- 7/10/2021 – The present alternate proposal by the Darkali Stewards was presented to TDC members; Anbu, Toby, Saravanam. They then walked on the land together to discuss and physically see the advantages of this route.
- 21/10/2021 – The Darkali stewards attended a meeting onsite at Darkali with the secretary Dr. Ravi and Srinivasamurthy from the Auroville Foundation and TDC members, Anbu and Toby. During this meeting it was stated that the alternate proposal offered by the Darkali stewards was not acceptable and that they would have to collaborate with the 16.7 meter clearing.

The main points of the proposed route put forward by the Darkali stewards: -

- The alignment falls within the 30 meter Crown parameters as per TDC survey.
- The route requires very little tree removal compared to a massive clearing of dense indigenous vegetation as well as substantial areas of large mature trees for the TDC route.
- The route does not impact the exhaustive rain water conservation work carried out in the area compared to the extensive damage caused by destroying two key water catchments if TDC proposal was followed.
- Most of the route has been carefully cleared.





Water catchment 2 with the TDC road proposed over it



A stand of large trees to be cut within TDC's proposal



The two options



Darkali's proposed alternative with TDC's route to the left



Water catchment 1 with the TDC road proposed over it (to the right)



Ficus bengalensis, large tree to be cut if following the TDC's proposal

Appendix A-4 - Open letter to / AVFO 'ATDC'/

30th September 2021

Questions and concerns regarding Auroville Town Development Council
around issues of framework, professionalism, values & ethics



“Auroville is an extraordinary experience, in the sense that the construction of Auroville is a unique attempt. The concept is very simple; it is a city built for 50,000 inhabitants... for people who are conscious that they can transcend their own limitations, and who are coming together for an experience comparable to that in a laboratory. It is a very special laboratory, because this city will be built to be at the service of Man. And I believe this approach is essential to understand how Auroville can grow, on what basis Auroville can be realised.

“Auroville should be at the service of those who will live there. That means that this city will not be constructed first and then occupied. But it will be the inhabitants who will define by a living experience the needs of the city. This approach is the opposite of that taken up to now by contemporary urban planners. Cities have been built and then people have been asked to inhabit them. Here the problem is reversed...”

[Roger Anger in an interview in 1973](#) (quoted in the Master Plan)

“When the model was made, the model was not really representing the kind of galaxy that I had seen in Roger's plan. And I think the first thing we should know is: are we really talking about a building? Or are we talking about celebration of life? That's what I think Mother was talking about. How do you charge the souls to manifest their subtle existence and the purpose of their existence? Do we talk about this at all? Or are we talking about 'my kitchen is not working,' or 'the costs are like this,' or 'I have no road,' or 'I have no water supply'... **I think the issue is first, we should remove these words of architecture and building. We should talk about how do we celebrate life on this planet, and make a model.**”

- [Dr. B.V. Doshi in 'Auroville City Conversations'](#)

As a community of concerned citizens who are for the city, for the Crown Corridor, and for the development of Auroville following the Mother's Dream, which is what has drawn us here in the first place, we are committed to and asking for a fair, honest, transparent and truly participative process that celebrates and is built on Human Unity.

ATDC recently stated (N&N 03-04-21) that "The Mother has never said that there must be "unity" before the city can be built. She wanted the city to be built within a time-line." We do not see Human Unity as a point on Auroville's agenda that can be pursued by sitting together in a circle, after the city has been built. We believe that unity gets created in and through the process of harmonising seemingly opposing views and beliefs, when we choose to come together with our differences, learn to speak our truth with integrity, care and sensitivity, learn to listen deeply to other perspectives however different from ours, so that true consensus can be arrived at. Bypassing this step and pushing ahead with building while leaving a big part of the community feeling left out and disappointed would inevitably instil a disharmonious energy into the process and into the very bricks used for building the city, which will need far greater energy to later heal and transform. We resonate with the Mother's words, when she says "a clearly formulated thesis is set; against it is opposed the antithesis, formulated with the same precision. Then by careful reflection, the problem must be widened or transcended until a synthesis is found which unites the two contraries in a larger, higher and more comprehensive idea." We want to be part of a process which can help us widen and transcend the problem, so that everyone can arrive at a larger, higher and a more comprehensive idea!



After repeated attempts at engaging directly with those who hold ideas around hierarchy, authority, expertise, power, etc. that we do not resonate with, we are pained to see the manner in which tracts of land are being cleared in Auroville with a lack of community participation or consensus. In this situation of great urgency, we have felt compelled to compile a list of concerns and questions regarding the ATDC, around issues of framework, professionalism, values and ethics that we would like to bring to light. We are committed to whatever efforts may be needed to resolve these issues on the grounds of our shared aspiration and dedication to Auroville, Dream of the Divine.

I - Questions of Legitimacy

1. Is the present ATDC legitimately constituted?
2. Is ATDC following its approved mandate?
3. Is private sponsorship of working groups from interested parties acceptable?

II - Concerns regarding Coherence, Integrity, Trust and Transparency

1. Attending a community meeting doesn't mean supporting a proposal
2. Clearing for a survey versus clearing the road
3. Planning the crown road by leapfrogging the community?
4. High-tension line: Shifting agreements and eroded trust
5. Beyond the Crown? ATDC's map with 100+ buildings marked in red...

III - Need for Objectivity, Inclusivity and Synthesis, Contributions waiting in the Drawers...

1. Why are significant professional studies and contributions from inside and outside Auroville ignored?
2. Conflating Galaxy Concept, Master Plan, Development Plan, and 'Mother's Dream'...

IV - Concerns regarding Competence, Foresight & Preparedness, Information Sharing, Institutional Memory

1. Yes to a pollution-free crown 'on which children can play safely' - now and not in an unknown future
2. Planning for water conservation, eco-disruptive conduct of people, waste management
3. Does an ambulance need a 6.7m wide road?
4. How much of Auroville's presently owned land need to be cleared for planned roads?
5. The need for institutional memory

V. Respecting basic human values and the ethics of Auroville

1. Diversity not division: The harmful effect of 'anti-city', 'anti-development' and 'anti-galaxy' labelling
2. ATDC's responsibility in discouraging extremism and vigilantism
3. The need for safe and constructive meetings, free of pressure tactics and traumatising language
4. Celebrations building community - the courage of inclusivity

All these concerns are detailed in the following pages.

I - QUESTIONS OF LEGITIMACY

1. Is the present ATDC a legitimate working group?

The present ATDC members are once interim members who were made permanent by an Office Order (no. 491, dated 15th July 2021), which was in clear violation of the relevant Standing Order issued on 2019, as well as the RAD of 2017. This makes ATDC answerable to the community about its legitimacy.

2. Is ATDC following its legal mandate?

We have found the ATDC not following (hence violating) the RA mandate in the following instances:

1. ATDC has refused to follow an AVC appeal process, as noted in AVC meeting minutes. This is in contradiction to their 2007 mandate.
2. ATDC has not presented a DDP for community approval as is required by the RA mandate; they didn't do that for the Residential Zone development which they discussed with residents over there.
3. ATDC is not following their own established protocol put in place for evaluation, monitoring and implementation. For instance, before any action is taken on the ground, it has to be announced in N&N and a 2-week feedback process given. Trees have been cut in Centre Field and lands have been otherwise cleared without any such announcement or opportunity for feedback from the community.

3. Is private sponsorship of working groups from interested parties acceptable?

We have come to learn that a community member intensely engaged in town planning politics has been significantly sponsoring the ATDC. This wrong use of personal money and power is inadmissible, not only by the common standards of ethics for any governance, but all the more so in the city where 'money would no longer be the sovereign lord'.

II - CONCERNS REGARDING COHERENCE, INTEGRITY, TRUST & TRANSPARENCY

1. Attending a community meeting doesn't mean supporting a proposal

When the Crown Walk was announced by the Secretary, about 380 people participated, drawn by their interest in understanding the proposed plan and/or by concern. This was later quoted by ATDC as *"having 380 people supporting us and the plan"*. This amounts to misusing interest and participation by implying presence as agreement.

2. Clearing for a survey versus clearing the road

The community, specifically the directly affected communities (Darkali, Center Field, Bliss, Youth Centre), was repeatedly promised that only minimal clearing of one-square-metre spots would be done for the purpose of the survey. Toby of ATDC said *"We just needed a point here and there to make places accessible for survey. But it was never said, not by us, that that had to be cleared. Most places were reachable, some places needed some bushes to be removed. But clearing 30 meters is really nonsense. I don't know how it slipped in there, by whom, but it happened. We saw it a bit too late. But when we saw it, we corrected it."* (Ref: Toby' sharing in GM 20-08-21)

In spite of repeated promises to only clear survey spots here and there, there has been an unabated cutting of shrubs and trees in the Centre Field, opposite Unity Pavilion, near Aurodam and in other places, clearing tracts of land as if preparing to lay a road. Despite stating that the survey is complete, some of these cleared areas haven't seen any surveyors come and carry out any work. Was the survey a pretext for clearing for the road?!



3. Planning the crown road by leapfrogging the community?

ATDC members have repeatedly stated: *"We don't yet have any plans. We will first complete the survey, then present the results to the community and the plans will be made in consultation"*. But clearing for a road is seen to be going on in full swing as though the plans have already been made.

How could the entire planning phase for the crown road have been accomplished within just a few days between completion of the survey and start of the physical work?

Why has the mandatory participatory planning with the community been omitted?

All the above make us wonder if the plans are really yet to be made, or if they are being withheld from the community, which directly contradicts ATDC's own declared intentions of partici-

patory planning and collective decision-making, as listed in the poster below. It also goes against Auroville's fundamental values and principles of inclusivity and unity.



4. High-tension line: Shifting agreements and eroded trust

The community's trust in the ATDC has been severely affected by broken agreements and promises in dealing with the High-Tension Line and the clearing and planning of the Crown.

Through the few months of engagement with Forest Group and Youth Centre around the issue of laying the HT line, there were repeated instances of assurances given but not honoured, proposals sought but ignored, and protocols and procedures bypassed. This has shaken the community's confidence in the ATDC's integrity and ability.

- In March 2020, ATDC asked for an EIA to justify any deviation for HT cable route towards GOI who gave funds. The Forest Group submitted the EIA in July 2020, but never heard back.
- On Nov 2, 2020 at the joint meeting at YC, there was consensus that the ATDC and Bliss stewards would look into the details of how to lay the HT cable along existing roads. A week later, AVF sent a letter ordering the clearing of RoW of the future Crown and all Radials! On Nov 17, TDC replied with a letter, naming a few Aurovilians "opposing the work"
- On Dec 1st, after the three interim members joined, ATDC emailed all the participants of the Nov 2nd joint meeting that they wanted to meet soon. However on Dec 17th, a work order was quietly issued (i.e. sent only to the WC) to lay the cable along RoW.
- After so many rounds of friendly conversations and promises made for collaboration, why would ATDC make a list of 'objecting Aurovilians' and supply it to the Foundation? This has deeply shaken the trust of the members of the community, in ATDC's integrity.

Relevant details are in the following 3 Auronet articles:

<https://auroville.org.in/article/82384>

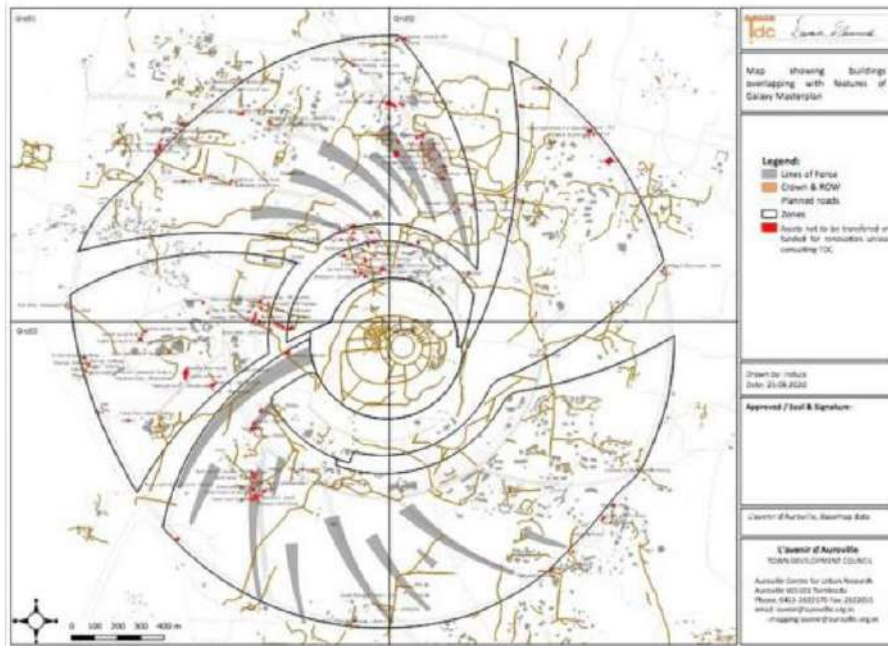
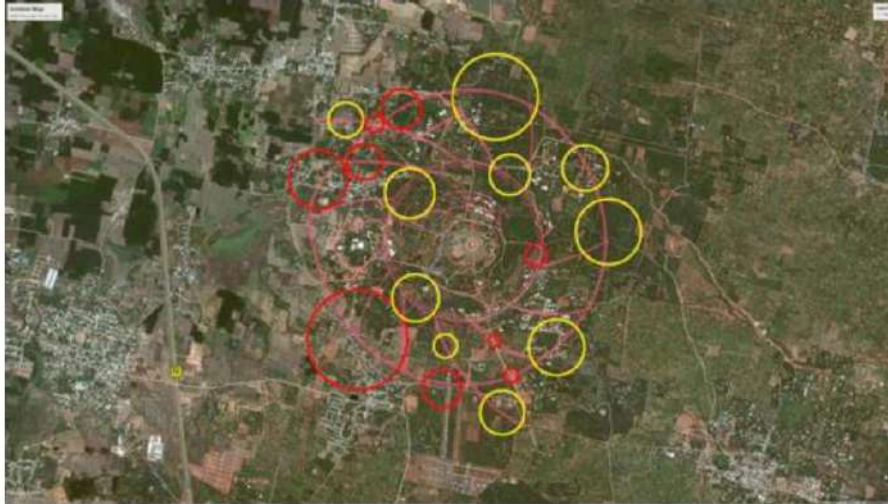
<https://auroville.org.in/article/82850>

<https://auroville.org.in/article/83007>

5. Beyond the Crown? ATDC's map with 100+ buildings marked in red...

While all attention is on the Crown, a map has been given by ATDC to Housing with 100+ Auroville buildings marked in red as being situated on the future radials, outer ring, or Lines of Force, and therefore no longer transferable without ATDC's explicit permission...

How is this possible without due consultation of the community, which was not even informed?!



III - NEED FOR OBJECTIVITY, INCLUSIVITY AND SYNTHESIS. CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE DRAWERS...

1. Why are significant professional studies and contributions from inside and outside Auroville ignored?

Extensive professional studies and contributions, offered by experts from in and outside Auroville over many years, have been consistently side-lined instead of being given due consideration.

A survey is an informational basis, based on which four other surveys have to be done, without which urban planning cannot be undertaken. Urban planning is not about surveys and drawings. It is about political, social, economic and environmental issues.

When Dr. Doshi was advisor to TDC in 2011, four major studies were done addressing these four issues, each of which was done with a work order from TDC. Mr. Doshi with a group of Aurovilians spent months translating the Galaxy concept to meet the ground reality and prepared detailed reports and proposals. Among these, an important and relevant one for us is the [Auroville City Area - Land Suitability and Land Use Proposal](#) (April - May 2014)

Over the years, some architects and planners among the community have been given work orders by TDC to undertake studies. Numerous studies and workshops, such as those conducted by David N / the Dreamcatchers, the international team of town planners conducting the 2019 'January Sessions', the work on Crown Guidelines by Lata Iyer, etc. have been repeatedly ignored by the ATDC.

(See [Auroville Crown Way Study: Past, Present and Future: September 2021](#) for a comprehensive compilation of all these studies available for reading and viewing.)

Why aren't these studies being acknowledged, shared with the community and considered in the planning work today? We have come to believe that they have been side-lined because the outcome did not align with the singular idea of the perfect circle. Or is there another reason?



2. Conflating the Galaxy Concept, Master Plan, Development Plan, and 'Mother's Dream'...

The Mother's Dream was to have a city built for 50,000 people, divided into four zones (industrial, residential, cultural and international) interconnected in some way.

On the basis of this vision, a team of architects and town planners led by Roger Anger started to design the city in several stages, which finally took the shape of the Galaxy and was presented to the Mother. She accepted it as a plan that answered her parameters. This was how the Galaxy Concept was born.

How this Galaxy Concept would actually be designed and implemented on the ground, Mother had left to the architects and town planners. Even when she was guiding the work, she was

always flexible to changing plans and aligning them with the ground reality. (Ref: [Aravinda's sharing in GM 20-08-21](#)) As Roger said in an interview *"the city is still to be invented, everything has still to be done through the daily experience and rhythm of the Aurovilians. Apart from these lines of force, everything is flexible, nothing is fixed."*

The Master Plan provides a policy framework which will serve as a guide in the preparation of five-year Development Plans and Annual Plans for implementation of the proposals.

We see all these terms being used interchangeably, causing a considerable amount of confusion.

Moreover the Galaxy Concept and the Master Plan are being narrowly interpreted following an exclusive line of thought, and imposed in the name of 'Mother's Dream' while conflating the above elements, without giving space to an open and rational discussion.

IV - CONCERNS REGARDING COMPETENCE, FORESIGHT & PREPAREDNESS, INFORMATION SHARING, INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY,

1. Yes to a pollution-free crown 'on which children can play safely' - now and not in an unknown future

Given its admitted failure in regulating traffic on the existing roads, and in absence of any communicated plans, the ATDC presently does not appear equipped to fulfil its vision of a community-friendly crown as promised and promoted. How does the ATDC propose moving towards this goal?

Even before we expand infrastructure, is it not important to demonstrate how...

... vehicular traffic on existing roads will be regulated, especially given that more and more residents and villagers around are beginning to own private cars?

... existing vehicles powered by fossil-fuels will be phased out so that only e-vehicles, cycles and pedestrians use the roads being proposed to be built?

The little mud path between New Creation and Sanjana has now become a busy road with trucks, buses and all kinds of traffic any time of the day or night, with several instances of serious lack of safety over the years. This is just one example. With so many such areas that are crying for immediate attention that are not being looked into, how do we trust any meaningful process for larger tracks of roads and infrastructure opening up?

2. Planning for water conservation, eco-disruptive conduct of people, waste management

The community has not seen any plans for these essential, non-negotiable elements of planning that need to be in place before starting any road.

3. Does an ambulance need a 6.7m wide road?

In other words, what is the need for a 6.7m wide road for just cyclists, pedestrians, and emergency & service vehicles? Auroville's paved roads, including the crown road, are mostly between 4 and 5 metres wide!

How are these numbers arrived at?

And if the road itself is meant to be for cyclists and pedestrians as stated by the TDC in its GM on Friday 17th September, then why is there a separate area for pedestrians and cyclists?

4. How much of Auroville's presently-owned land would need to be cleared for planned roads?

The figures declared by the TDC for land needing to be cleared for the crown, ring and radials - i.e. 1.64% of Auroville's total land - are vastly understated. These numbers are based on 20 sq km as the area of the city (5 sq km) + the green belt (15 sq km) which includes the villages, poramboke lands, two large water bodies, and vast areas of land not owned or controlled by Auroville. If we subtract all these from the 20 sq km, we will be left with a much higher percentage!

5. The need for institutional memory

TDC seems to have a lack of institutional memory in multiple aspects of planning of the city, in spite of the same persons serving on the TDC over several mandates. Examples of this are numerous, as pointed out by ex-TDC members and community members who have worked with and for previous formations of L'Avenir. One striking example is the ['Outcome of TDC meeting with Aurodam and Centre Field residents and other concerned Aurovilians'](#) from March 2013, which furnished understandings that seem to be largely ignored or forgotten as recent meetings are painfully re-inventing the wheel.

It would also be expected for a community aspiring towards effective participatory planning that the results of community-wide consultations would be shared back to the community; this seems to have been omitted in a number of instances. [Suhasini's consultative study completed in January 2021](#), as well as the last few months' initiatives at including the community in planning the crown are cases in point.

V - RESPECTING BASIC HUMAN VALUES AND THE ETHICS OF AUROVILLE

1. Diversity not division: The harmful effect of 'anti-city', 'anti-development' and 'anti-galaxy' labelling

Aurovilians (including some senior urban planners who have been involved in developing projects along the Crown against many odds) asking for a transparent, clear and inclusive process have been stigmatised and accused as being 'anti-city', 'anti-development' and 'anti-galaxy', thus fomenting a deep divide in the community and trivialising the real issues of town planning. This

attitude must change most urgently, and the community members in apex groups, most of all in the ATDC, carry a very major responsibility to make this happen. And to what purpose did the TDC hand over to the Foundation a list of names of Aurovilians deemed to be opposed to the 'Master Plan' at the time of the HT line issue?

2. ATDC's responsibility in discouraging extremism and vigilantism

Why has the ATDC not taken a stand and discouraged provocative and abusive conduct by 'perfect-circle' activists, on multiple occasions, both on the ground (for instance during the 'Crown road walk and talk' of 31st July, when groups of 'volunteers' came to 'clear' the land subsequently, as well as online (on AuroNet etc)? While the line between condoning and supporting may be blurry, the ATDC has a share of responsibility in allowing rumours and labelling to fester in the community's tissue.

3. The need for safe and constructive meetings, free of pressure tactics and traumatising language

In short-notice meetings with residents directly affected by the plans, TDC has been seen to use and endorse psychological pressure tactics and offending language ('trespassers', 'encroachers'), in absence of the wider community that should have a presence in such negotiations.

Darkali is a forest sanctuary that has been lovingly and painstakingly nurtured over decades from a pebble desert into a forest park for the future city, through the work and fundraising efforts of its stewards. In their words: *"We were singled out with a few other Aurovilians and summoned, with a two-hour notice, by the Secretary to a meeting with the TDC and Working Committee and members of a group called the 'Universal Township Support Group' to be publicly insulted, verbally trashed, treated as trespassers and rogue elements during four hours. We were initially isolated and put under such pressure that made us feel obliged to cut our own trees to satisfy the extreme wish of urgency forced upon us by the TDC..."*

In a recent meeting with concerned stakeholders, the TDC mentioned that if Auroville doesn't make the road now the government will step in and do it. This statement was perceived as a veiled threat.

4. Celebrations building community - the courage of inclusivity

On the recent Ganesh Puja, an invitation to the 'community' to gather and ask for the manifestation of the City was addressed exclusively to those being in favour of the 'perfect circle'- one more instance of dividing the community. We believe that we - working groups, informal groups and individuals - can and must embrace a genuinely inclusive attitude if we are sincere in our aspiration to bridge the present gaps and build the Auroville to which Mother has called us.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR REFERENCE

[Charter of Auroville](#)

[History of Perspective Master Plan 2025](#)

[Report of the Study to identify Auroville's Development Priorities for 2021-2026 \(draft - 008\)](#)

(Directions for growth with development policies, planning and programs) A study undertaken by L'avenir d'Auroville (TDC) for the preparation of "Auroville Detailed Development Plan" with Suhasini Ayer as the consultant and coordinator

[Auroville - a way forward](#)

Collaborative sessions, January 2019

[Crown Ways](#)

David Nightingale's presentation of a people- and nature-friendly Crown Way

[Auroville Crown Way Study: Past, Present and Future: September 2021](#)

A comprehensive compilation by Prashant, Suhasini, Lata, Dharmesh, Tejaswini, Fabian & Team of all the studies carried out so far and meaningful ways forward.

[Report of a meeting between TDC and residents of Centre Field, Aurodam and other concerned Aurovilians held in March, 2013](#)

A report that demonstrates that the issues have remained largely the same over the last 8 years, which needs some serious introspection and investigation as a community!

A comprehensive compilation of studies done on [Mobility in Auroville](#)

CONCERNED AUROVILIANS (Signatures received by 30.9.2021)

Appendix A-5 - Email to the Governing Board by 'Evolving Galaxy', a group of residents

23rd October 2021

Welcome & Note of Concern to the new Av Governing Board members

From: Evolving Galaxy <evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, 23 Oct 2021, 11:40 am

To: <govtam@nic.in>, <lg.pon@nic.in>, <nirima@gmail.com> ,
<aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com>, <gghosal87@gmail.com>, <rssaraju@gmail.com> ,
<gbnandana1956@gmail.com>, <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, <neetaprasad@gmail.com>,
<jsfa.edu@gov.in>

Cc: workingcom <workingcom@auroville.org.in>

Dear members of the Governing Board of Auroville,

We are delighted to know that a new Governing Board has been constituted. We warmly welcome you all and we hope that you will visit Auroville very soon.

During your visit you will sense that there is a new energy flowing here, especially since the arrival of the new Secretary, Dr Jayanti Ravi.

Discussions on a master plan for AV have resumed but unfortunately not progressed, in the absence of a real, meaningful dialogue.

Despite our best efforts to discuss views based on long experience on the ground and documented and professional studies, some people are attempting to enforce a five-decade-old plan upon the community, projecting it as "Mother's plan" (while Mother never approved of any particular plan as final!) and disregarding Auroville's lines of development in these five decades.

Auroville's work in eco-restoration, alternative energies, water conservation, handicraft development, rural development etc., have been widely acknowledged, emulated, replicated in India and beyond, and this work would be seriously jeopardized were the five-decade-old plan enforced without considerable adaptations to today's reality.

Two recent documents (one signed by 450 people, and another one signed by 120 + Aurovilians) have clearly explained why imposing a five-decade-old plan just like that would have grave implications for the future of Auroville. (Kindly see attached files.)

We invite you to call for and encourage a genuine dialogue so that Auroville's master plan can be finalized, taking into account all the recent work and recommendations by experts and respecting the achievements of Auroville in critical areas, especially land restoration, afforestation and water management.

We strongly believe that the final master plan should be subjected to a rigorous environmental audit: the world is now looking for a new paradigm of urbanism and Auroville must show the way, not "repeat the errors of the past", as said by the Mother.

We are keen to meet you in person whenever you come, to present this perspective to you.

Thank you!

Warmly,
Concerned Aurovilians

Appendix A-6 - 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".

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- 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-7 - Email from the FAMC

2nd December 2021

51-crore special budget for infrastructure development: Statement by Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC)

02 Dec, 2021

Dear Community,

On November 30th, and through unofficial channels, the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) received the attached Rs. 51 crore special budget for infrastructure development. We are given to understand that this budget has been submitted to the Government of India and has not yet been sanctioned. This special budget is for the remaining months of the fiscal year 2021-2022 and if sanctioned, would need to be utilised in large part within a very small window (by 31 March 2022). This would mean that the projects included in the budget are envisaged to be completed in large part within that same timeframe.

The FAMC has many questions and concerns about this budget proposal and its related works, and we would like to inform the community that the FAMC has not been involved in any manner whatsoever in its creation, neither initiating, planning, approving or endorsing it. We understand that discussions on these projects and the special budget may have begun back in June or July of this year between the Auroville Foundation (Secretary), the Working Committee and the ATDC. The FAMC has never been invited to participate in these discussions nor have we ever been informed that discussions of this nature were even taking place.

We have also been given to understand that any allocation will not be channeled through the Unity Fund, but that instead for each beneficiary a separate bank account would be required, as per new guidelines issued by the Government of India.

Given the above, we assume that if the budget is sanctioned, FAMC will bear no role or responsibility in advancing the funds, nor in monitoring the proper utilisation of the funds nor the technical progress of the works, nor the administrative requirements of the Government of India. We assume these responsibilities will be borne by the Auroville Foundation and the ATDC alone. We also take this opportunity to express our bewilderment that the Working Committee has not till date informed or consulted the Residents' Assembly or the FAMC on this matter. We notice a pattern of behavior here where important matters of this nature are not being shared with the residents and other stakeholders. We are also concerned that diversity of opinions and views and

legitimate concerns of the residents and stakeholders (such as FAMC) are therefore not being in turn shared with the Secretary and Auroville Foundation office by the Working Committee.

We hope that the Working Committee will take this opportunity to sincerely reflect on its role within the assembly of residents and its accompanying responsibilities to the residents, which at a bare minimum should be timely communication and reporting of important developments (such as this one) to the residents and all stakeholders involved.

The members of FAMC

Attached files:

211112 ATDC infrastructure development budget FY 2021-22 FINAL.xlsx

Appendix A-8 - Email exchange between /AVFO 'ATDC', Youth Center and Bliss

2nd - 3rd December 2021

Letter from Youth Centre members to ATDC rejecting its work order which dishonoured earlier proposals

3rd December 2021

Dear ATDC,

We are appalled to say the least by this email. In our last meeting at SAIER (in the presence of some members from ATDC and the Forest Group), we left feeling very positive about the presented proposal.

The current ATDC, Resident Assembly approved or not, has at the very least, demonstrated its self-contradictory conduct, entirely lacking of honesty, integrity and transparency with the community. Despite its legality being currently disputed, in the spirit of collaboratively deciding the future of Auroville, we have repeatedly shown extensive flexibility, presence and willingness to cooperate. We've attempted to propose innovative solutions, aided by experts and elders from the community, which have largely received positive community feedback.

We then invite you to explain how this conversation got to the point of starting work next week. Such short notice on a clearly sensitive community issue allows us to only call this out for what it is — bullying.

We do not accept your order.

We reject the way you have been playing with the community in the name of the future of Auroville. We have not been shown a single proposal outlining an actual plan for the future of this space by you while we've proposed many. We believe you have been delaying and wasting our time and resources. We have also been promised but not yet allocated any resources to rebuild our Mainspace, Kitchen or Gameroom, all offer a living fact - that generations of Aurovilian youth have built the structures that stand before us.

Auroville's 'development' cannot come at the cost of the idea of Auroville itself. Auroville's youth today is willing and eager to continue Youth Centre's legacy of offering experiential learning through conscious development of green community spaces to our peers - the future of Auroville. We have the skills, the experience and the development plans closest to being Master Plan compliant and preserving the rich historical and ecological significance of the land in question.

We will be sending a separate email with a budget and actual proposal for how we plan to use the space that we are happy to discuss further, separately.

In the meantime, since the Youth Centre is a community space and Auroville belongs to us all, we call upon our legal right to demand a way forward for the 'development of Auroville' that is RA approved. We are happy to accept any proposal the community collectively agrees upon, whatever it may be.

We also demand a stay on this order on the grounds of short notice, since we already have events planned for the next two months, starting with a workshop fair by Youth Link on 11 Dec and followed by the annual Christmas fair. We also do not currently have a venue with similar infrastructural capabilities to host our weekly pizza nights, a critical source of our income.

In service of the Dream,
Youth Centre

Appendix A-9 - Pictures & Video link

4th December 2021

Contrary to what Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) had previously informed the Youth Centre and Bliss Forest stewards, bulldozers (from Auroville Road Service) arrive at Bliss forest, Lilaloka entrance on December 4th, at 9AM. They are accompanied by members of ATDC, and a few Aurovilians who support this action. They start uprooting trees. The caretakers arrive and block the work. No Work Order is presented by the people doing the clearing work.

Video link: [▶ Bliss Forest - December 4th, 2021](#)







Appendix A-10 - Letter of the Undersecretary requesting police presence

4th December 2021

P.R.Srinivasmurthy
Under Secretary



3rd December 2021

To
The DSP,
Kottakupam Police Station,
Kottakupam-605104,
Tamil Nadu.

Sir,

Auroville Foundation has decided to clear the Right of Way for making the Crown Road as described in the Auroville Master Plan.

Some residents of Auroville are obstructing the work that has been approved by the Government of India which is on Government property.

We request you to deploy necessary Police Force as a preventive measure in case any untoward incident occurs during the work being carried out.

Yours faithfully,


(P.R.Srinivasamurthy) 3/12/2021



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-11 - Pictures Bliss forest

5th December 2021



Appendix A-12 - Video link

5th December 2021

Video link: [▶ Youth Center - December 5th, 2021](#)


Appendix A-13 - Pictures of the Youth Centre's destruction

9th December 2021




Appendix A-14 - Videos - Youth Centre

9th December 2021

Video link 1:  Youth Center - December 9th, 2021 - Part 1

<https://youtu.be/s0vDB15EyLY>

Video link 2:  Youth Center - December 9th, 2021 - Part 2

<https://youtu.be/MYf8SYkg7Eo>

Appendix A-15 - 'Facts vs Fiction' video

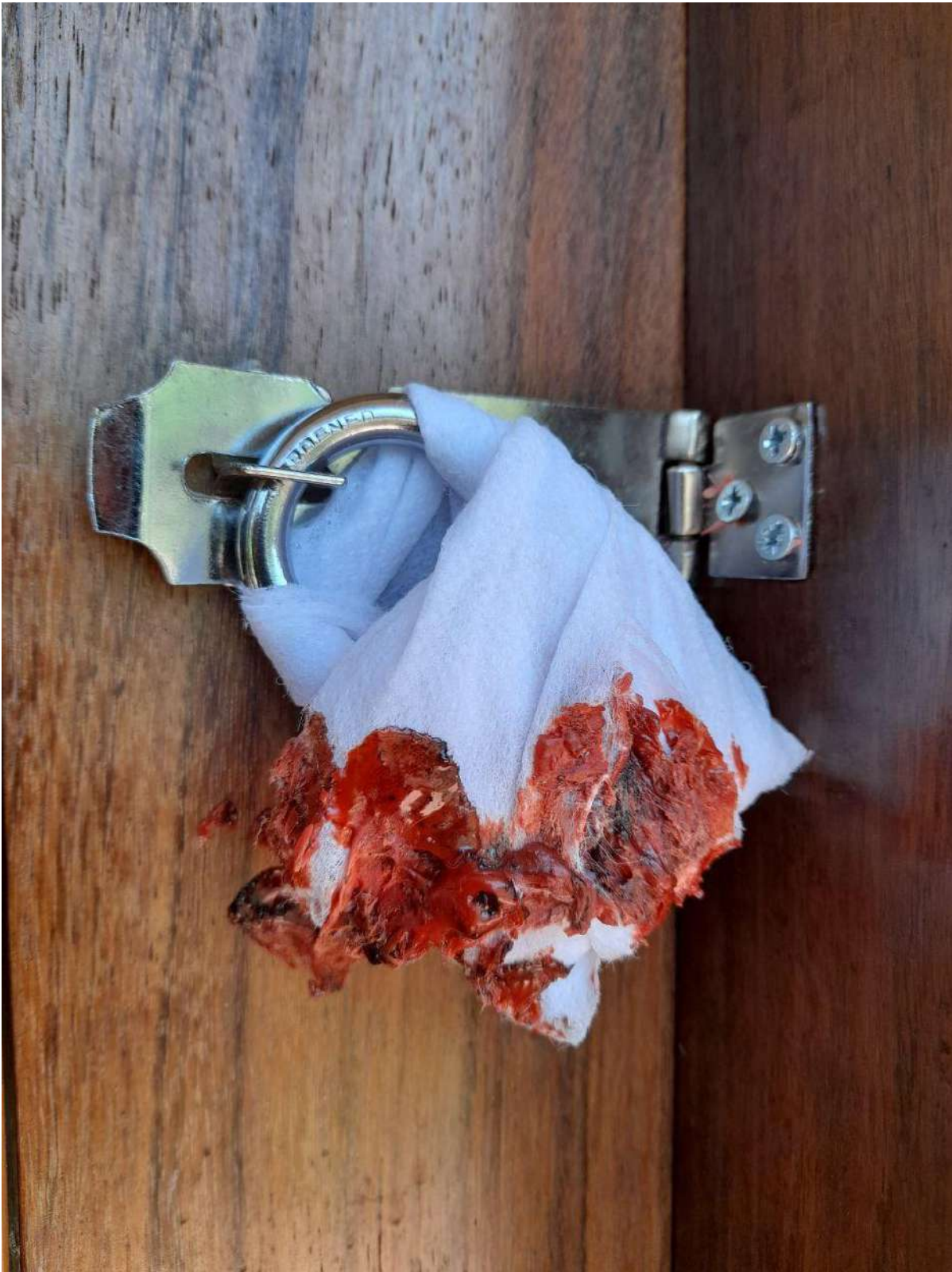
9th December 2021

Video link:  Facts Vs Fiction

<https://youtu.be/whOfXeZAQI0>

Appendix A-16 - Picture OutreachMedia office sealed

9th February 2022




Appendix A-17- Picture OutreachMedia office notice

9th February 2022



Appendix A-18 - OutreachMedia Office Order

9th February 2022



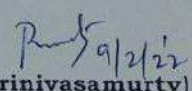
P. R. SRINIVASAMURTY
UNDER SECRETARY

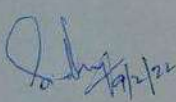
No. AF/Misc/31/ 09 February 2022

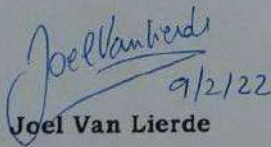
OFFICE ORDER

Further to our Office letter No. AF/M/63 dated 06-12-2021 appointing Official Spokespersons, this is to appoint Ms. Sindhuja Jagadeesh and Mr. Joel Van Lierde as executives of Auroville Outreach Media with immediate effect, replacing the current executives Ms. Fabienne Marechal.

Shri. Chandresh Patel and Shri. Dev Mohanty will be the Advisors for the executive team until further orders.


(P. R. Srinivasamurty)


Ms. Sindhuja Jagadeesh


Mr. Joel Van Lierde

Copy to:

1. Shri. Chandresh Patel
2. Shri. Dev Mohanty

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-19 - Facebook post

15th March 2022

facebook [साइट अप करें](#) [लॉग इन करें](#)
क्यात भूम गए?

CPWD
17 मार्च · 🌐

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 कमेंट 5 शेयर

[शेयर करें](#)

संबंधित पेज

- Food Corporation of India**
सरकारी संगठन
- History by Alok S Jha**
शिक्षा
- IRCON International LTD.**
सरकारी संगठन
- Manoj Joshi**
सरकारी अधिकारी
- Department of Administrativ...**
सरकारी संगठन
- Ministry of Housing and Urb...**

Facebook पर CPWD को और देखें

[लॉग इन करें](#) या [नया अकाउंट बनाएं](#)

Appendix A-20 - Auronet post: A Working Update from AVFO's 'WCom'

May - August 2022

A Working Update

by Anu on May 21, 2022, 8:41 pm

Dear Aurovilians,

We could not reach you these last days as all means of communication were cut and we had been driven out of our office. The locks were changed, also without notice and passwords and keys withheld so that we could no longer access the office, the computers or files if needed. Our posts were removed from Auronet by the Council's orders.

These are challenging times but also a time of much deeper transition and we thank everyone who has reached out and stood in support, even if a bit shyly, these last days.

In keeping with the community approved PWG clause of removal we informed the RAS of our decision on 27th April, 2022, of removing 3 members from the previous team with the reasons, and to circulate this to the rest of the community as stipulated.

<https://auroville.org.in/article/90796>

We have also inducted 3 interim members as stated in the PWG clause and are now a 7 member team working together. It is a balanced group with a good mix of age, genders, nationalities, north and south variations and we are happy to work together to serve Auroville and the Mother's Dream.

The Auroville Foundation has kindly offered the team a temporary space till things get sorted. Meanwhile, we have resumed our regular meetings with the Secretary, Dr Jayanti Ravi from 11th May, 2022

High on the agenda remains the visa issue which needs to be pursued urgently.

The other important point is the filling out of the RoR questionnaire as soon as possible, by all residents, regardless of nationality and many people have already completed this. Please take a few minutes and take the trouble to fill out the forms so that we can conclude this exercise in the next two weeks.

Here is the link to the googleform:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe21uw2qubAJ8WFp5pBWaINX4k0pKP3Ky_a0q1rZQkWli73MA/viewform

The printed version is attached. Copies are also available at the Foundation Office and can be filled out and handed over directly.

If you need any help with filling out the questionnaire please write to us at workingcom@auroville.org.in

We expect to be working every day and will update you on the time and place where you can reach us in the next days.

With our best wishes,

Anu, Arun, Partha, Srimoyi (continuing members)
Joseba, Selvaraj, Tine (interim members)

The Working Committee

Appendix A-21 - Auroville post: Reconstitution of FAMC & ATDC

May - August 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 A-22 - Auronet post: from /AVFO 'FAMC'/ re BCC

May - August 2022

Disregard BCC communication regarding disbursement of funds

by Chandresh on July 29, 2022, 5:48 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 A-23 - Email from /AVFO 'FAMC'/ re Housing Board & Housing Service

May - August 2022

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)

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).

Appendix A-24 - Auronet post re the outcome of the 2022 Selection Process

May - August 2022

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. (Kalabhumii), 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-25 - Pictures Demolition in Centre Field

2nd May 2022







Appendix A-26 - /AVFO 'ATDC'/ statement and S. response

8th May 2022

ATDC: Announcement for unauthorised buildings

Subject: ATDC: Announcement for unauthorised buildings
Date: Fri, 6 May 2022 12:55:53 +0530
From: massbulletin <massbulletin@auroville.org.in>
To: massbulletin <massbulletin@auroville.org.in>
CC: Avenir d'Auroville <avenir@auroville.org.in>

- if you need to respond, pls reply to avenir@

L'avenir d'Auroville/Auroville Town Development Council hereby informs all residents that all unauthorised constructions in Auroville will need to be removed or repurposed until a renovation or removal, partial or full, is necessary.

If you're living in an asset that has no NOC, it is likely that you will soon receive an email from the ATDC regarding your situation.

If you are living in a building that has authorisation but falls on a right-of-way or a Line of Force, you will receive an email from L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC regarding relocation to a different Auroville asset before arrangements are made for the removal of the asset.

Best regards,

L'avenir d'Auroville (ATDC)

Date: 08-05-2022, 12:56
To: avenir <avenir@auroville.org.in>

Dear ATDC,

Your mass bulletin regarding unauthorized buildings to the Aurovilians is not self-explanatory. Therefore, I am obliged to ask clarification.

1- Issuing an NOC with rubber stamp and signature based on an application form provided by the planning body is a practice that was initiated only in 2009-10. Before building approval was implied when a notice was published in the Auroville news and / or a verbal approval by the group that was overseeing the planning office with a short typed out note if it was required by a funding agency. Therefore, could the ATDC please specify what do they consider the valid documentation for establishing an approved building permission for structures built from 1968 to 2009?

2- As per the Auroville foundation act all assets created on lands owned by the Auroville are deemed to be the property of the foundation. Therefore, a register of assets would be maintained by the foundation. We request the ATDC to publish the list of building assets to the residents to enable them to be informed on the status of buildings that are stewarded by them.

To address another point in your mail - as per the ruling of the NGT – Original Application No. 239 of 2021 (SZ) - Date of Judgment: 28th April 2022 –

Ref to Section 125 (i) - The ATDC or any other body is directed to prepare a “proper Township plan” with details including phasing for EC. And till such time the court instructs not to proceed with further construction in the project area.

Therefore, on-going developments that have already obtained an NOC issued by the ATDC pre-dating 28th april’22 are exempt from this ruling. If the ATDC is contesting this point, please provide the legal ruling from the relevant authority to justify your understanding.

Ref to Section 125 (ii – d) - “Till that exercise is completed, the 1st Respondent is directed not to cut any further trees from the property. The 1st Respondent is at liberty to undertake the crown road work in the remaining stretches where there are no trees. The 1st Respondent is also at liberty to take action against unauthorized occupations, if any, strictly in accordance with the law in force.”

The above clearly states that actions against “unauthorized occupations” is to be strictly limited to crown corridor where there are no trees. Thus the 3rd point in your mass bulletin “If you are living in a building that has authorization but falls on a right-of-way or a Line of Force, you will receive an email from L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC regarding relocation to a different Auroville asset before arrangements are made for the removal of the asset.” is in violation of the court ruling section 125 (ii – d).

I therefore request the ATDC to desist from issuing statements, taking actions and making any regulations that are not in the line of the ruling of the NGT.

Appendix A-27 - Residents' Letter

8th May 2022

Request to the Secretary, Auroville Foundation

To: Secretary,
Auroville Foundation
Auroville Foundation Bhavan
Villupuram, Tamil Nadu 605101

Dear Madam,

It has come to our notice that the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) has issued a statement to the Auroville Community that “all unauthorised constructions in Auroville will need to be removed or repurposed until a renovation or removal, partial or full, is necessary”.

This is to let you know that no construction by the residents of Auroville is unauthorised as per the Auroville Foundation Act 1988 or Rules 1997, or any other statute / law in force. The residents, in fulfilling their statutory duties, have faithfully built the assets of Auroville, and the Foundation is not authorised to disturb or demolish any of its buildings in contravention to the Residents' Assembly or its activities.

The ATDC has sent a letter to the Youth Centre stating “As per the NGT verdict, all unauthorised occupations will need to be dealt with immediately.” This is a vile and gross misrepresentation of the NGT's judgement. The NGT simply stated that “The 1st Respondent is also at **liberty** to take action against unauthorised occupations, if any, strictly in accordance with the law in force (emphasis supplied).”

The verdict cannot be misconstrued to mean that the NGT has given any specific direction to the Foundation to deal with unauthorised occupations. It is unfortunate that the ATDC has no understanding of the law when issuing notices of such nature, notwithstanding the fact that it does not have the legal authority to do so.

The Secretary and the ATDC cannot claim any part of Auroville's assets, or any buildings at a whim and fancy, that the Residents of Auroville have built from their own efforts, or with support.

Furthermore, the Foundation is reminded that it is not authorised to do work anywhere in Auroville, except specifically on the parts of the crown that is the road. Even with the Crown road,

the Foundation has been specifically directed to await the report of the joint Committee giving clear directions on the alignment, width and form of the crown road, and further, to follow in strict compliance, the said directions of the Joint Committee.

The Foundation will do well to follow the rule of law and to abstain from any clearing / development projects in Auroville until it has obtained Prior Environmental Clearance.

Sincerely,
Residents of Auroville

ccd: Auroville Town Development Council
Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly
Funds and Assets Management Committee
Auroville Council
Residents' Assembly Service

Appendix A-28 - ACUR Office Order

21st June 2022

P. R. SRINIVASAMURTY
UNDER SECRETARY

No. AF/Unit/179/516

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-29 - Video of police demanding handover of keys

21st June 2022

Video link: [▶ Police at Auroville Town Hall May 18th 2022 - Part 2](#)

Appendix A-30 - Archives Office Order

21st June 2022

P. R. Srinivasamurthy
Under Secretary

No. AF/M/45/506

21 June 2022

OFFICE ORDER

Auroville Archives has been functioning as a service which was headed by late Maj. Gen. K. K. Tewari. After the demise of Maj. Gen. K. K. Tewari, this service is continuing with Mr. Thambidurai and Mr. Gilles Guigan.

On the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, the Ministry of Culture, UNESCO Desk, Ministry of Education, Government of India, national and international Sri Aurobindo centres have requested to source photos, videos and other archival material for preparation of their programs.

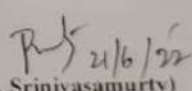
Secondly, it is urgently required to formalize archival management structures for Auroville's soft assets such as online documents, emails, plans and drawings, applications, land maps, housing records etc., from the various working groups of Auroville.

In view of all the above, it has become necessary and expedient to constitute a Management Committee for the Auroville Archives with the following members:

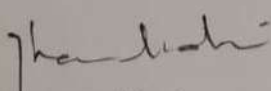
1. Mr. Thambidurai
2. Ms. Muriel Ghion
3. Mr. Varun Kapur


The Management Committee will be responsible for the collection, maintenance and safe-keeping of all archival material. The Committee may take the help of resource persons as and when required.

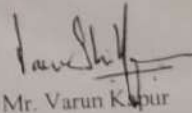
This Office Order is issued with the approval of the competent authority with immediate effect and will remain in force until further orders.


(P. R. Srinivasamurthy)

To
The Executives Concerned


Mr. Thambidurai


Ms. Muriel Ghion


Mr. Varun Kapur

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-31- Letter from RA FAMC to /AVFO 'FAMC'/ requesting that the assets be reinstated

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 dysfunctional 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. (Pitchandiikulam 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).

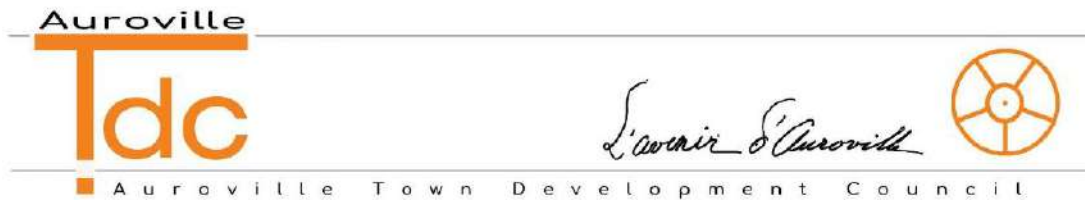
Working Committee

Aravinda (Auro Orchard), Chali (Madhuca), Ilayabharathy (Amy), Maël (Grace), Valli (Petite Ferme).

Ongoing members: Hemant (Aurodam), Sauro (Grace).

Appendix A-32 - Letter from RA TDC to /AVFO 'ATDC'/

19th July 2022



Auroville, 19th July 2022

TDC 22.006

Open letter:

To the members of the non-RA appointed "ATDC" team,

We, the undersigning members of the Residents' Assembly appointed and mandated L'Avenir d'Auroville / TDC team, herewith voice our strong protest against the manner in which the "work" on the Crown in the area of the Youth Centre / Bliss Park and near Darkali is presently being executed. These actions are done without any Detailed Development Plan, in fact without any plan whatsoever, without any transparency on what is to be built, what is the budget, what are the processes in place to select contractors, what are the systems to supervise the work and ensure a decent outcome. Similarly, there is no study whatsoever on how to deal with the change in traffic once these sensitive parts of Auroville are opened up as it seems is underway now.

While there is an agreement in the community to put the work on the Crown as a priority, a large portion of the residents of Auroville also have clearly expressed the wish and the need for proper planning processes to arrive at a sensible approach to the development of this important Master Plan (Perspectives 2025) element; planning processes which re-unite our community instead of furthering divide and conflict. Please remember the RAD which was clearly stating that before continuing any work on the ground, professional, collaborative and appropriate planning steps should be taken to ensure the best outcome. The same was the driving tenor of the Dream-weaving initiative which also was supported – at least publicly – by Dr. Ravi and the Governing Board.

We fail to understand your reason behind this haphazard and unplanned way of "construction" and as such can see it only as another indication on how unprofessionally your team functions, how the *raison d'être* of Auroville and the welfare of the community of Aurovilians dedicating their life for the realization of Auroville is of no interest to you and how you lack any respect for the many achievements Auroville and its residents have accomplished over the many decades.

While we know that at present your team will not stop with this unprofessional and detrimental approach, we would still like to voice the above for the record. While we are writing this, decades-old Neem and Palmyra trees on Peromboke land near Darkali are being destroyed, clearly against the ruling of the NGT and without any notice or process.

in Service.

L'avenir d'Auroville / TDC

Allan B, Anan, Divya L, Dorle, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera N, Natasha S, Tom G

Appendix A-33 - Communication from /AVFO 'ATDC'/ to Housing Board

21st July 2022

Update on the application - V.

ATDC <avenir@auroville.org.in> Thu, Jul 21, 2022 at 15:54

To: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>, V. V. <***@gmail.com>

Cc: Building applications Avenir <application-avenir@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>

Dear V., dear Housing Board,

We wait for you to come back to us with clarity on whether or not funds are going to be made available for V. to build his new house. Kindly let us know by what date you plan to complete this investigative exercise.

Please note that ATDCs preference is to give no NOCs at all in the green belt unless the person is directly related to a Green Belt activity. This logic is not very hard to understand as we are also trying our best to find methods to regulate non-Auroville developments to comply with Green Belt zonal regulations. Just because in the past we have sprawled and given NOCs in locations which have no relation to the Master Plan, does not mean that we should continue in the same vein and be in violation of our own development norms. We made an exception for V. (and a few others in the Green Belt) only because his application has been pending since years; however, as expressed before, we have encouraged him to move to Sector 1.

Please also note that going forward we will be eliminating NOCs to private individuals altogether; Approval Certificates will be issued to Auroville Foundation for the asset, and the temporary steward will enter into an agreement of occupancy separately with the FAMC/ Housing. Kindly make note of this, as old parameters such as "temporary" and "permanent" NOCs will no longer be applicable.

We will send you the official policy revisions when ready but our modes of functioning and the way we look at stewardship and assets can already start reflecting this approach.

Thanks and regards,

L'avenir d'Auroville / ATDC

On 14-07-2022 16:02, Housing Board wrote:

Dear V.,

Thank you for your email giving your point of view.

In response we would like to address the issues raised point by point.

1. We have yet to clarify that the house transferred to you was on private land, as the information received from the Land Board is that the original house is on Auroville land and the extension has been made into private land. Before we consider whether you are eligible for a full refund as according to the latest evaluation, we have to clarify if the original house is on the private land or if extension has encroached on the private land.

2. We are not concerned if the original house has an NOC but it is an issue if the extension was made without NOC, particularly if it is found to have been made into private land.

3. The statement regarding S. & J. referred to the attached mail we received from Venkatesh. We are not able to understand the circumstances in which you received the grant/loan as we cannot find any written decision relating to it.

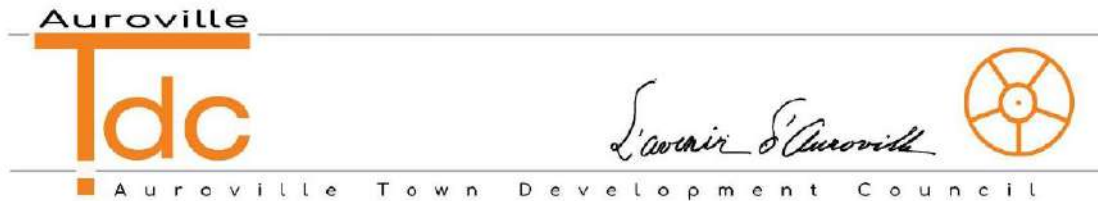
Any planning/feedback issues that you have regarding the original allocations in Mango Garden should be raised with ATDC.

We note that the current ATDC are planning to only issue you with a temporary NOC for the new house. While we do not understand the logic behind this decision we are unfortunately not able to give any funds towards a temporary house. Should you decide to build a permanent house in Sector 1&2 as has been suggested then we can consider your request for compensation once a permanent NOC has been issued.

Best Wishes,

Appendix A-34 - Letter from RA TDC to IMC re Bliss

21st July 2022



Auroville, 21st July 2022

TDC 22.007

To the Implementation and Monitoring Cell

It has come to our attention that the work for the so-called cycle path and digging of the trench for laying the cable, in the Bliss forest area is damaging the roots of the nearby trees. This will have an impact on the health of the trees in the long run and therefore needs a different solution..

The co-stewards of Bliss Forest have suggested that the cycle path and cable trench along the Crown is built without any paving and digging is done in a way so that there is no tree damage.

Given the fact that the January 2022 RAD clearly decided *"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".

Further the Report of the Joint Committee as stipulated in the NGT ruling has not yet been finalised and the plans of the same shared with the community. We strongly advise you to halt any further work on the Crown until such time that the report is completed and finalised.

Finally, any development in any area in Auroville should **not** be conducted without DDP. We again strongly advise you to halt any further work on the Crown until such time that the DDP is completed and finalised.

We as the TDC together with the Working Committee endorse this request by the stewards.

Sincerely, and in service,

L'avenir d'Auroville - Town Development Council

Allan, Anan, Divya, Dorle, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera, Natasha, Tom

Working Committee of the RA

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël, Sauro, Valli

cc Bliss forest stewards, Forest group, working committee of the RA

Appendix A-35 - Letter from RA TDC to IMC re Foundation Property

22nd July 2022



Auroville, 22nd July 2022

TDC 22.008

ref: execution work Crown

To the Implementation, Monitoring and Coordination team,

It has come to our attention that Auroville Foundation assets are being destroyed without due permission. This is pertaining to the removal of the pavers on the road - funded by GOI grants - between Swedam and YC. This road was in near perfect condition and maintained by the Auroville Road Service. As you must well be aware, the unauthorised destruction of Auroville foundation assets is punishable by law.



We have repeatedly requested to see the relevant plans, the NOC as per proper established process, the subsequent work order/s, the tender documents and the contracts for the work that is being executed on the Crown. These have so far not been shared with us and as of now, it seems that there is no supervision or a reasonable plan of action and that the pavers on the above stretch were now removed without your knowledge. If that is indeed the case, it would clearly show that you are not up to the task of either implementing, monitoring or coordinating. Giving us good reason to believe that so far any planning you have done for the execution of

the Crown is inadequate and does not take into account the existing ground realities, storm water runoff and catchment, ecologically sensitive areas. Neither has a valid mobility study been done further pointing to the fact that there is no strategy in place to ensure that the Crown cycle path is not used by motorised vehicles.

Furthermore the community has decided in the January 2022 RAD ***"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".

Therefore any work being carried out is in violation with the RA decision.

Given the above, we strongly request you to stop all execution work until the proper planning for such work has been completed and the community has ratified these plans.

In Service

L'avenir d'Auroville - Town Development Council

Allan, Anan, Divya, Dorle, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera, Natasha, Tom

cc: FAMC, Working committee

Appendix A-36 - Pictures of dug up Crown

20th July - ongoing



Appendix A-37 - Letter of RA TDC to Govind Rajan of /AVFO 'ATDC/'

6th September 2022



Auroville, 6th September 2022

TDC 22.030

Subject: CAG clearance for used pavers and river sand

To Mr Govind Ranjan,

It has come to our attention that the pavers and the river sand of the existing "Crown" road, of which you are overseeing the current destruction at the instruction of the AVFO / CPWD are being used on various bits and pieces of road and parking areas in Auroville, without any form of planning or process and against all Residents' Assembly decisions. Furthermore, these GOI funded materials are being given or even sold to 3rd parties without the necessary CAG clearance required to repurpose or redistribute GOI funded materials. These materials need to be properly stored until they are required for use in their original purpose. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that it is punishable by law to misuse GOI funds and funded assets.

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

Appendix A-38 - Public Announcement from /AVFO 'FAMC' & 'ATDC'/

8th August 2022

Notice on stewardship submitted by FAMC and ATDC

massbulletin av <massbulletin@auroville.org.in> Tue, 9 Aug, 2022 at 8:33 pm

To: massbulletin av <massbulletin@auroville.org.in>

Dear Aurovilians,

This notice is to inform everyone that while we are figuring out a way for redefining stewardship in Auroville, ATDC's role as the Planning and Development Body, being the Prescribed Authority as per the Master Plan, supercedes the role of all stewards of all land vested in the Auroville Foundation.

The Auroville Foundation and the ATDC are making sure that the land is consolidated, and developed according to the Master Plan. Please check N&N/ AuroNet for periodic announcements on development projects. We request all stewards of land parcels to cooperate with the development work without obstruction.

Sincerely,

FAMC / ATDC

Appendix A-39 - Communication by AVEI to the AVF Secretary with a report of the July Crown roadwork

10th August 2022

Report on the very badly built Crown Road

Auroville Earth Institute <earthinstitute@auroville.org.in> Wed, Aug 10, 2022 at 1:51 PM

To: jyantiravi@auroville.org.in, secretaryavf@auroville.org.in

Cc: Srinivasmurty <srinivasmurty@auroville.org.in>, yogabi@roottolight.com, micheldanino@gmail.com, shambhavi.yogini@gmail.com, vedicinstitute@gmail.com, hp@aurohotels.com, dena.merriam@finnpartners.com, neetaprasad@pib.gov.in, jsfa.edu@gov.in, nirima@gmail.com, gbnandana1956@gmail.com, aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com, rssaraju@gmail.com, gghosal87@gmail.com, lg.pon@nic.in, govtam@nic.in, sdgsrtpwd@nic.in, collrvpm@nic.in, "Dr. Karan Singh" <drkaransinghjnfmf@gmail.com>, Jacqueline Anger <rojac@auroville.org.in>, Anupama <anupama@auroville.org.in>, Avenir d'Auroville Members <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC All Members <famc@auroville.org.in>, Working Committee Members <workingcom@auroville.org.in>

Ref: 1588 C 410 Secretary road report 220810

Dear Mme Secretary,

This is in reference of our meeting of the 10th June at the Foundation building when you made me promise that I would write directly to you if I faced any problem regarding town planning. You told me that day that I should not have copied Dr Karan Singh, former chairman of the Auroville Foundation, in my letter dated 12th May addressed to the ATDC regarding the possible demolition of 885 m² of the Auroville Earth Institute premises because 0.15m² of our office was on the right of way of the radial of Auroshilpam.

Therefore, to fulfil my promise, I write to you now to express my serious concern about the way that the Crown Road near the Youth Centre is being planned and built. Note that I copy also the concerned people, as this is a very serious matter.

Please find attached my report on the construction of this road, which has also been requested by the Town Development Council of the Auroville Foundation, selected by the Residents' Assembly.

In this report, you will read how this road is so badly built that it will collapse after the first rains and that a lot of money given by the government will be wasted. You will discover that the new paver blocks which are presently being laid are 14% weaker than the old ones. Therefore, the

decision taken by the ATDC that you have nominated to remove the 7,040 m² of pavers of the existing Crown Road – built with Gol funds given when Dr Karan Singh was chairman and worth 92.34 Lakhs Rs. (plus the funds spent now for the demolition of the present road) – is unjustified and a pure waste of the government's money.

To summarise my recommendations, you must immediately stop this road, get a proper study and survey done, remove what has been badly done and resume the construction of the road only once this study has been completed. You should also scrutinise the work of this contractor and the CPWD, because they are not at all following standards or best practices.

Please understand me well. I DO NOT object to the manifestation of Auroville and I DO NOT object to the construction of this road. I came here nearly 33 years ago to build this city. However, this road as well as the rest of Auroville must be built only once proper studies have been done. Things must be built with the utmost perfection we can achieve and done in harmony.

I agree that trees will have to be cut and some buildings will have to be demolished if there is no way to integrate them in the Galaxy concept. However, what has happened recently with the destruction of the Youth Centre and some of the forest of Darkali is not the way to proceed. We should not manifest Auroville with the kind of violence, aggressions and threats that the Foundation office has ordered since December 2021.

Very sincerely, at the service of Truth.

Mr S. M.

Director Auroville Earth Institute

Master of Architecture – Lyon, France

Post Graduate Diploma in Earthen Architecture – Grenoble, France

Representative for Asia – UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture

Auroshilpam, Auroville 605 101 – T.N. India

Tel.: +91 (0) 413 – 262 3330 / 262 3064 / Fax: +91 (0) 413 – 262 2886

Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in

Web: <http://www.earth-auroville.com>

Appendix A-40 - Report of the AVEI on the July Crown roadwork

10th August 2022



AUROVILLE CROWN ROAD

TECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORT

10th August 2022

Satprem Maini
Architect

Auroshilpam, Auroville 605 101, TN INDIA
Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in

<http://www.earth-auroville.com>

Tel: +91 (0) 413 - 262 3064 / 262 3330
Fax: +91 (0) 413 - 262 2886

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1. SCOPE OF WORK

1.1 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.

About one third of the Crown Road (1423 m long x 4.5 m & 7.5 m wide) has been built by the Auroville Road Service between 2008 and 2012 with funds from the Government of India. It has not been possible to build more stretches of the CR due to the lack of funds and because the CR passes through lands not owned by Auroville.

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 HT cable on the side of the Crown Road. See Annex 7.7 page 35 for more information on this destruction.

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.

In July 2022, the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) nominated by the secretary of the AVFO ordered the destruction of the pavement of the CR by removing all the pavers blocks. To date, pavers and all the kerbs have been removed on three different stretches, for a total of 492 m of 4.5 wide road. The entire length of the road built by the Auroville Road Service is supposed to be destroyed as the tender for making the new road is for 2 km.

Note on the ATDC nominated by the secretary of the AVFO and the Town Development Council of the Auroville Foundation, selected by the Residents' Assembly: See Annex 7.1 page 26 which details what these two bodies are.

1.2 REQUEST FROM THE AUROVILLE TOWN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE RESIDENT ASSEMBLY

As the work done by SP & Co for the CR did not appear to follow the best practices, the recently elected Town Development Council of the Auroville Foundation, selected by the Residents' Assembly (RA TDC) asked Satprem Maïni, director of the Auroville Earth Institute (AEI) to prepare a report on the road construction and a comparative study on the quality of the old paver blocks that were being removed, and the new ones that were delivered on the road. See Annex 7.3 page 29 for the official letter from the RA TDC.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE TECHNICAL REPORT

While starting the investigation on the quality of the work being done for this road and in view of the complexity of the situation, it became clear that the scope of the report had to be widened. Therefore, this document includes information and data beyond the initial scope, which was for the quality of the road construction and the comparative study of the paver blocks. The following components were added by Satprem.

- Assessment of the planning, study, and information sharing by the secretary's ATDC.
- Evaluation of the quality of the existing CR, built by the AV Road Service in 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- Brief information on the destruction of the Youth Centre, violence and aggressions allegedly ordered by the AVFO.

2. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

No justification has been given by the Auroville Foundation Office and the secretary's ATDC as to why they have contracted the CPWD to build 2 km of the Crown Road. The Auroville Road Service did an excellent work, and all the roads that they have built with government funds are still in good condition after 10 and 14 years.

Furthermore, the Road Service had no work for the last 4 years and B.V. Doshi mentioned in 2011, when he was the chairman of ATDC, that any construction of buildings and infrastructure in Auroville should be awarded to Auroville services if they have the capacity, which is totally the case here with the Road Service. See the letter in Annex 7.2.

The contractor selected by the CPWD did an estimate of 9.7315 Crores Rs. for 2 km of road, but the Auroville Road Service would have done it cheaper than that, and with a better quality.

The secretary's ATDC ordered the removal of all the pavers blocks and kerbs of the exiting road, arguing that *"they wanted a better grade of blocks and that the thickness was not matching"*. This statement is totally wrong: the older blocks done by the Road Service are stronger by 14% and thicker than the new ones by 4.1 mm, which is better for heavy traffic. The evaluation of the existing road shows that it is still in good condition after 10 and 14 years. Thus, the removal of the old pavers is a pure waste of government money worth 97.78 Lakhs Rs.

Further, as the old road was financed by the government, wouldn't it be necessary for the government to approve this work before destroying anything?

It seems that there is a total lack of planning, proper survey and study by the secretary's ATDC:

- They were asked three times to provide proper plans, study and survey of the crown road, but they never did.
- The survey done mentions levels of the Crown which are 48 to 49 m higher than the actual levels.
- Sindhuja Jagadeesh, a member of the ATDC, said publicly *"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 as it is today."* A road cannot just follow the ups and down of the original topography. This kind of answer demonstrates that they have not planned anything to solve the variation of levels, and they have no idea how to plan and to build this road.
- The road section given to the site engineer does not show any infrastructure detail, which is vital while making a road. All service infrastructure should be defined and built before making the road.

The evaluation of the road being built shows the following serious mistakes. The contractor does not follow the Indian standard published by the Indian Roads Congress and the Ministry of Surface Transport (Roads Wing):

- The materials are not the correct ones: They are using a fine red soil for levelling the depressions, when it should be a well graded soil or better, clean aggregates. The sub-grade is done with a mixed aggregate containing a lot of fine stone dust. Thus, the road will not allow any rainwater percolation.
- Materials are spread in a single layer of 400-600 mm, when standards request layers of not more than 100 mm.
- The contractor did not put any markers. Thus, levels are not well controlled.
- Kerbs are not levelled, and they do not follow the proper curve of the road.
- The width of the road and the infrastructure corridor varies up to 9.5 cm.
- The position of the trench for the HT cable, which has been partially laid, varies between 30 cm inside and 60 cm outside of the limit of the infrastructure corridor.

Furthermore, the clearing and demolition at the Youth Centre and Bliss Forest ordered by the secretary, Dr Jayanti Ravi, where a volunteer could have been killed, was done without any proper survey. As a result, at the Youth Centre, the width of the clearing is about 5 m beyond the right of way along a 100 m stretch (outer part of the CR).

2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This road must be stopped immediately, and a proper study and survey done.
2. Whatever has been badly built by the CPWD contractor must be removed.
3. Construction of the road should only resume only once this study has been completed and survey redone.

3. ASSESSMENT OF THE PLANNING & STUDY BY THE SECRETARY'S ATDC

3.1 WRONG LAND SURVEYING AND ABSENCE OF PLANNING BY THE SECRETARY'S ATDC

The RA TDC asked the group nominated by the secretary for the town planning (ATDC) to provide proper plans, study and survey of the Crown Road. Satprem asked them twice also to share these plans, but the ATDC never did. Dorothea Heller (Dorle), a member from the RA TDC asked the team on the site to show the survey and asked the contractor to show the plans (planned trajectory, sections, levels, drainage, etc.). Only a schematic plan in Figure 1 was shown along with a schematic road section (Figure 4). She asked him also to show the markers on the ground, but he was unable to show any markers either, which are a must to control the levels and alignments of a road.

Dorle was only doing her duty as a member of the RA TDC. However, Dr. G. Seetharaman, Member-Secretary of the secretary's ATDC published a complaint in the mass bulletin of the 12th July writing that "she obstructed the work and that obstructing government works is a criminal offence, and also in this case contempt of court."

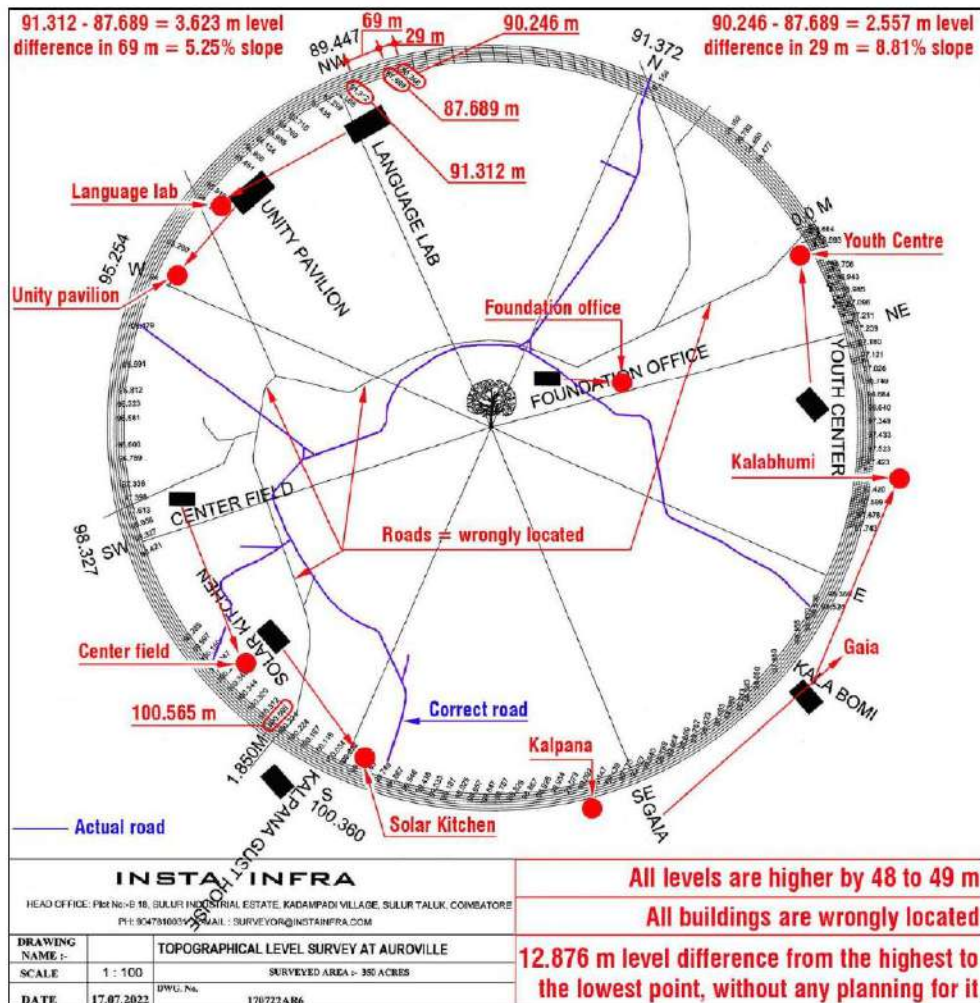


Fig. 1: Wrong survey done by INSTA INFRA, Coimbatore

The plan of the survey shown in Figure 1 is absolutely wrong on many points:

- All the levels mentioned in this plan are all wrong, as they are higher by 48 to 49 m as compared to the actual levels: The Auroville plateau stands at 45-50 meters above the mean sea level, but this survey indicates levels on the Crown between 87.689 and 100.565 m. Their lowest point at 87.689 m is in fact at 38.72 m according to a proper survey done by Dirk Nagelschmidt from Aqua Engineers in 2012. See the correct levels of the Crown Road in Figures 2 and 3 below.
- The few buildings on the plan are incorrectly located: they have been shifted randomly between 20° and 30°.
- Similarly, the few roads are also rotated by the same angles and are also incorrectly drawn.
- In the area of Darkali and Ilaignarkal the slope of the site is very steep with slopes of 5.25% and 8.1%, as their survey mention altitudes of 87.689 m, 90.246 m and 91.312 m with short distances in between. These differences of levels, despite the fact that they are 48-49 m too high, follow the same kind of slope surveyed by Dirk. However, these kinds of slopes cannot be kept for a city road.
- It is important to mention here the comment given by Sindhuja Jagadeesh, from the ATDC, during the "Community Support Meeting" held on the 26th July: When the question was asked "How do you want to deal with the 13 m level difference on the Crown Road?" she answered: "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 as it is today." This kind of answer demonstrates that they have not planned anything for solving the variation of levels on the Crown, and they have no idea on how to plan and build this road. Dirk did an excellent study on that, at the request of a previous ATDC... but his study and recommendations have been discarded by the present secretary's ATDC.
- To the question that was asked to Sindhuja during the same meeting "Which reference points are you taking, and which coordinate system are you using to mark the Crown Road?" she answered: "I will get back to you on this question by email." She has not answered for the past three weeks. Furthermore, according to Giulio Di Anastasio, half of the reference points of Auroville have disappeared.

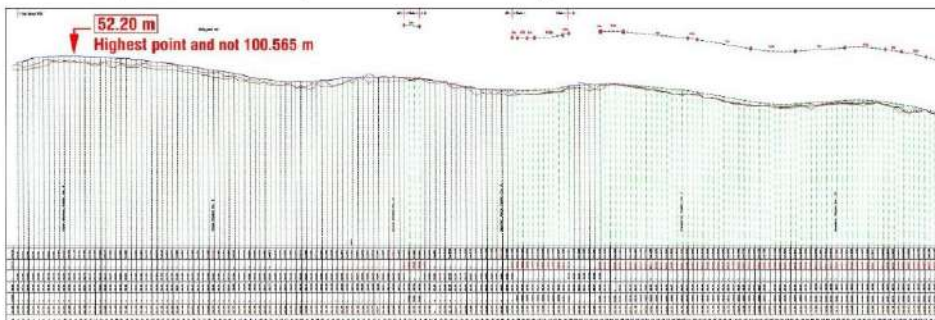


Fig. 2: Proper survey done by Dirk Nagelschmidt in 2012 – Longitudinal section part 1

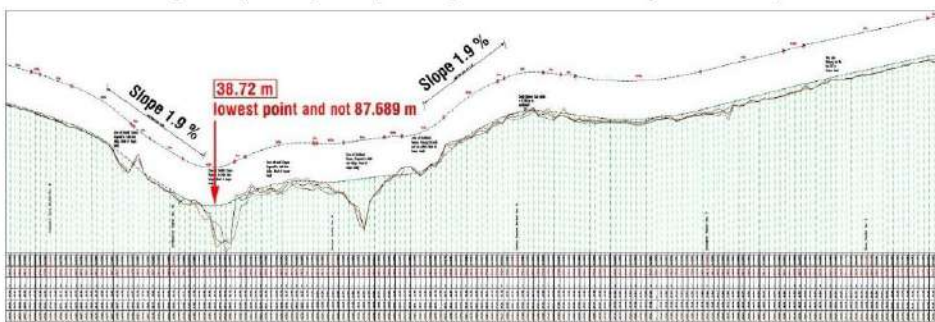


Fig. 3: Proper survey done by Dirk Nagelschmidt in 2012 – Longitudinal section part 2

Figure 3 mentions "slope 1.9%". These slopes would be the slope of the road once made, as Dirk planned it with some levelling, culverts or bridges, and he also mentioned in some cases that further studies would be needed.

The slopes of 5.25% and 8.1% calculated from the survey of INSTA INFRA are the slopes of the actual land. As Sindhuja quoted, "Crown will go up and down along with the levels as it is today". This means that the road will be very steep in that area, as the secretary's ATDC did not apparently study anything.

Thus, because of these numerous mistakes and inaccuracies of this survey, the survey in Figure 1 is totally unreliable. Therefore, one can wonder how the ATDC can trust this surveyor and how the contractor can ever locate and build properly this road.

3.2 SECTION OF THE CROWN ROAD WITHOUT DETAILS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Even though the secretary's ATDC refused to share any information and any plans for this road, it has been possible to get a section of the road from the site engineer who allowed taking a photo of it. Note that the quality on the road section showed below in Figure 4 is very bad because it has been taken with a cell phone on the site.

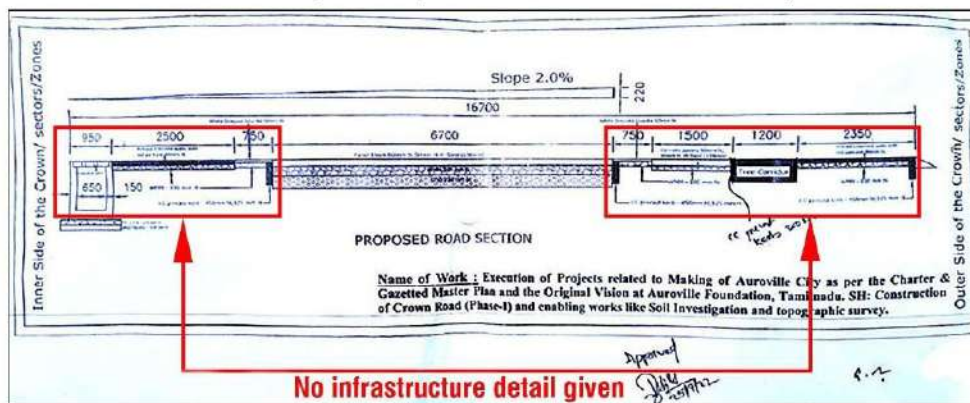


Fig. 4: Road section taken with a cell phone on the site

Figure 7 next page shows another section of the Crown Road, which again does not detail anything about the infrastructure. We should hope that the secretary's ATDC has planned something for the various services on the side of the road on the right of way. However why don't these plans show such information?

Especially the plan given to the engineer on the site (Figure 4) must show these, as he should be aware where to leave provisions for these services. Further, these services should be laid before doing the road, and this has not been done, as shown in Figures 5 & 6: they are preparing the base to lay the stone pavement. Thus, everything will have to be broken down later, when services will be laid. What a waste of money, time and finally bad quality work.

It is important to note that the stretch of the CR built by Road Service has pipes laid across every 50 m as provisions for laying infrastructure network from one side to the other, in case of future necessity. This detail avoids opening the road later, which would cost a lot and disturb the traffic for quite some time. This has not been done now on the YC stretch and may not have been planned by the secretary's ATDC for the rest of the Crown Road.



Fig. 5: No service laid... but pavement is being prepared



Fig. 6: No provision for services and for the tree corridor

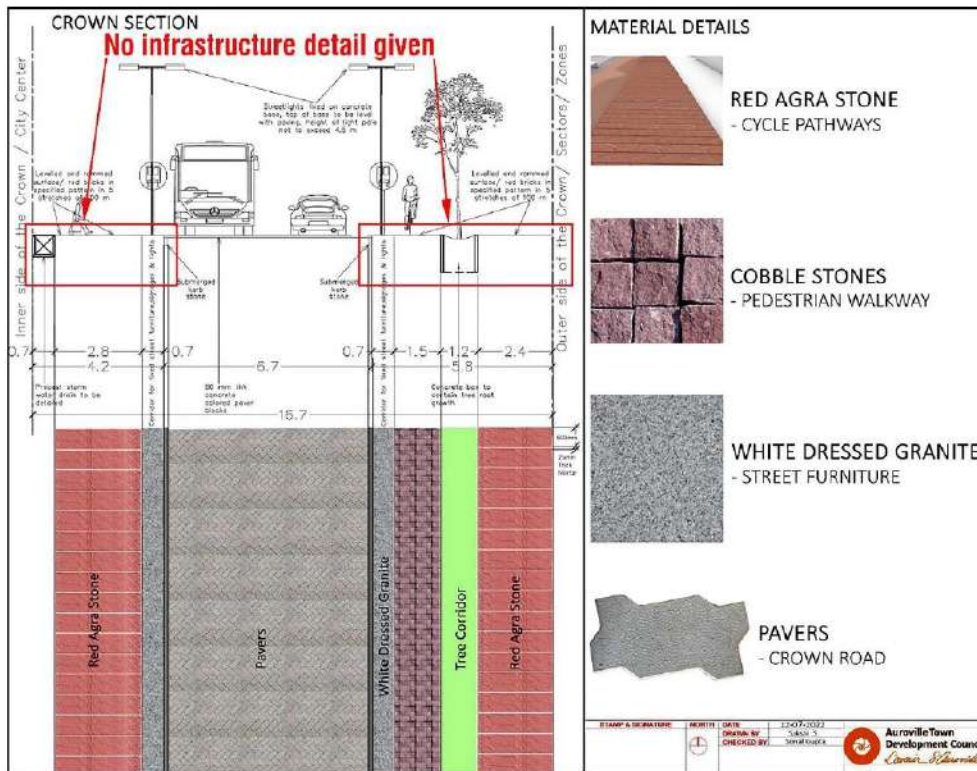


Fig. 7: Road section with pavement details, posted on twitter: Again, no infrastructure details given

The figure above shows the type of pavement that the secretary's ATDC plans to lay on the sides. This type of design will make this road unliveable during the hot season because of the heat caused by the sun radiation. Further, the strip of the tree corridor of 1.2 m has been reduced to an insufficient width. This is a highly inappropriate bioclimatic design for a "green street" in the hot tropical monsoon climate of Auroville.

The figure above was taken from Twitter and has been officially communicated to neither the members of the RA TDC who asked for information nor to the residents of Auroville. This demonstrates that the secretary's ATDC is more interested in advertising on social media than in answering to people who asked for information or in communicating to the residents who will be using this road.

3.3 BYPASSING THE WORK OF THE DREAM WEAVING

In response to today's Auroville critical moment, a group of 18 architects and planners collectively worked for a few months to propose studies and designs for the development of the Crown and the manifestation of the Galaxy concept. Teams intentionally met with a variety of people, perceived to be on 'opposite' sides, to understand their points of view and to find a synthesis between diverse ideas in order to weave them into cohesive outcomes.

In a process of design integration, they have closely worked both with Auroville's pioneers as a source to further understand the process and intentions leading to the Galaxy model, as well as with experts of various related fields working on the ground. This process could allow people to come to agreements from different sides and angles, working in harmony with evolving ecosystems and changing challenging realities, while holding to the original vision.

However, the secretary's ATDC insisted first on cutting and modifying the final report, which includes a pool of designers' ideas, as well as experts and community feedback. This has been rejected by the Dream Weaving coordinators because it does not fit the standards of participatory planning processes.

Then the secretary's ATDC simply bypassed the Dream Weaving work. None of the ideas from the Dream Weaving report which were proposed for the Crown have been used to help develop the Crown Road which is currently under construction.

Initially, the Vastu Shilpa Consultants were supposed to use the Dream Weaving report to support their work on the entire Detailed Development Plan (DDP) of Auroville, but, according to our knowledge, the secretary's ATDC pushed them out by continuously adding unreasonable conditions and constraints to the contract. Of course, the Vastu Shilpa Consultants did not accept as this would undermine the consultants' work. To our knowledge, the DDP is not in process as the Vastu Shilpa Consultants are not involved anymore in Auroville. The entire outcome of the Dream Weaving has been discarded by the secretary's ATDC.

For more information on the Dream Weaving process, please follow this link to the all the presentations: [Dream Weaving presentations](#), and the report: [Dream Weaving report](#)

3.4 CLEARING BLISS FOREST & DESTRUCTION OF THE YOUTH CENTRE WITHOUT PROPER SURVEY

The frantic and violent action which started on the 4th December 2021 by the order of the secretary, Dr Jayanti Ravi to clear and raze portions of Bliss and Darkali Forests and the Youth Centre ostensibly along the right of way of the Crown Road was done without any proper survey. As a result, the width of the clearing at the Youth Centre, is about 5 m beyond the right of way stretch, about 100 long, on the outer part of the road as shown in Figure 8.

Figure 9 shows that the oven of the Youth Centre was outside of the right of way. This oven was severely damaged on the 9th December 2021. It was finally destroyed on the 23rd July when a JCB went on breaking more things which were out of the right of way. This oven should not have been destroyed.

The youth reported that *"Two members of the secretary's ATDC, Anbu and Toby guiding the attack on the 9th Dec. 2021, instructed the JCB drivers to drop two trees onto the roof of the pizza oven, in a wilful and conscious attempt to destroy it."*

This shows the definite will from the AVFO/ secretary's ATDC to try destroying the Youth Centre.

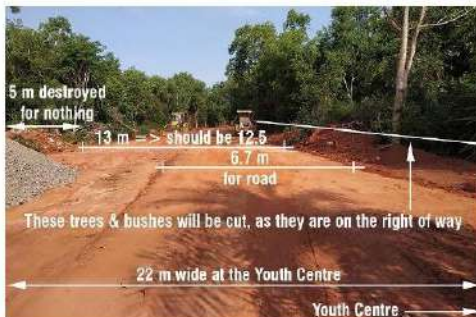


Fig. 8. Clearing and road too wide



Fig. 9. Oven was outside of the right of way

See Annex 7.7 page 35 for more information on the destruction at the Youth Centre.

3.5 STUDY OF THE ENTIRE CROWN ROAD DONE BY DIRK NAGELSCHMIDT IN 2012

Dirk was contracted for this study by a previous team of ATDC in 2012. He did an excellent and detailed study, where he integrated the hydraulic verification of the entire crown road. He integrated climatic data, rainfall intensity, wind, evapotranspiration, geology and permeability of the earth surface, etc.

His technical study started from the present ground realities and went up to the planning of levels with bridges, culverts and dam structures for crossing canyons, for which he said that further investigation was needed. He wrote: *"In the canyons, deeper studies and investigations, including an environmental impact study, are necessary, but they are not part of this study."*

Dirk did a very detailed study of stormwater management with possible technical solutions for stormwater drainage and erosion control, including biological impact and its treatment. This stormwater management plan was following the principle of passive rainwater harvesting through infiltration. He even went into the technical details of designing the transversal cross section, e.g. the carrying layer structure, water channels, ponds and pits. These detailed designs were ready for implementation. Why isn't the secretary's ATDC implementing those?

Dirk emphasized the environmental aspects, as the Crown Road crosses sensitive areas such as canyons, water recharge areas and the Bliss and Darkali Forests. He mentioned that in some parts, special trees would have to be identified and would need to be integrated into the design of the Crown. He mentioned that some areas on the Crown had clay formations, and therefore did not fulfil geotechnical requirements for percolation. Regarding this issue he wrote: *"Those areas are found near Darkali, Aurodam and Centre Field. The rainwater from these areas need to be channelled to areas where there is a good percolation or to existing canyons."*

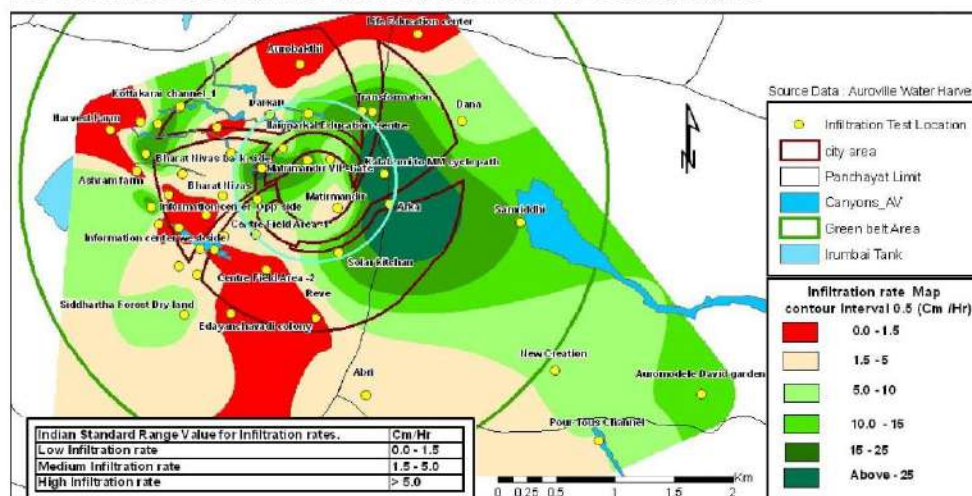


Fig. 10: Infiltration map of Auroville from the report of Dirk

For more information on the report done by Dirk in 2012, please follow this link: [Dirk Report on Crown Road 2012](#).

The basic information given on this excellent study done by Dirk is reported here to contrast with the absence of study, lack of environmental concern, inexistence of stormwater management and many other technical details which have not been done by the secretary's ATDC. In reference to Bliss and Darkali Forests, when Dirk mentioned that *"in some parts, special trees would have to be identified and would need to be integrated into the design of the crown"*, the AVFO and the secretary's ATDC bulldozed everything, without proper survey and without notice.

The above statement is made because the RA TDC asked the secretary's ATDC to provide proper plans, study and survey of the Crown Road, and that the author also asked them twice to share these plans and study. However, the ATDC never did. If they had ever done such a study, why would they not share it? Isn't Auroville supposed to be a place of transparency and collaboration, towards *"a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity"*?

Didn't the Mother write in 1954 this sentence in the "Dream"?

"In short, it would be a place where human relationships, which are normally based almost exclusively on competition and strife, would be replaced by relationships of emulation in doing well, of collaboration and real brotherhood."

Why won't the AVFO and secretary's ATDC abide by this sentence of the Dream?

4. EVALUATION OF THE ROAD BEING BUILT

The work done by the contractor SP & Co, which has been contracted by CPWD, is substandard for every detail or sequence of the road construction. The following section reports how badly this road is being built and how it does not follow the Indian standards, which are published by the Indian Roads Congress and the Ministry of Surface Transport (Roads Wing).

4.1 SUB-GRADE AND SUB-BASE

First, the materials are not the correct ones:

- To save on the cost of the filling material for levelling depressions, the contractor is using a fine red soil for levelling the depressions. This red soil is very fine and does not contain aggregates. When the Auroville Road Service needs to use a cheaper filler, they use what they call "Gravel", which is a very gravelly red soil, containing about 30% of small aggregates (3 to 10 mm). The correct practice is to use well graded soils containing large size of aggregates, varying from 20-25 to 100-125 mm, according to the Indian standard IRC 19-2005. The practice from the Auroville Road Service to use the "gravel" is justified by the fact that the Auroville area does not have well graded soil, containing such size of aggregates.
- The filling layer in front of the Youth Centre (Figure 11) was done with a mix of red soil and top soil containing roots, which was collected from the clearing of the forest.
- To save on the cost of aggregates and to minimise the process of laying various layers of different materials, the contractor used a very thick single layer of mixed aggregates, containing a lot of fine stone dust. The later is so fine, that it has the size of silt (<0.06 mm). Thus, this material will seal the sub-grade and will not allow percolation of rainwater. In contrast, the Auroville Road Service follows the best practice, which is to lay clean aggregates of 40 mm in 2 layers of 10 cm compressed to 8 cm, then 1 layer of 20 mm aggregate and finally baby jelly (6-8 mm). Only this sub-grade can allow rainwater to percolate. See Figure 13.



Fig. 11: In front of YC: filling with red soil mixed top soil



Fig. 12: Single layer of mixed material of 40 cm and not 10

CROSS SECTION FOR THE PAVED AND THE STABILISED ROAD						
Cumulated thickness (cm)	Material	Paved road		Thickness (cm)		Outer
		Inner				
	Pavers	K				K
8	Pavers			8		
12	Sand	E		4		E
16	Baby jelly			4	no mix	
23	20 mm	R		7	15% mix	R
31	Excavation	40 mm	B	8	25 % mix	B
39	Excavation	40 mm	B	8	25 % mix	B
44	JCB	Filling	Concrete	Filling	Filling	10 cm
46	24 cm		sand	2		sand

Fig. 13: Auroville Road Service best practice works for the previous part of the Crown: Proper materials with proper thicknesses of the various layers

Second, all the materials are spread as a single layer which is too thick, and not compressed enough:

- Figures 11 and 12 in the previous page show that the aggregate has been laid as a single layer of 40 cm. Thus, the bottom part of the layer cannot be well compressed. The course was compressed by only 5 cm.
- Figures 14 to 16 below show how thick the single layer is before compressing it with the roller compressor.
- Figure 17 shows a small test that the author did at the same place as shown in Figure 16: using only the force of both hands, the rod of \varnothing 16 mm went inside the layer after it was compressed. At 10 cm below the top, the rod went in by 10 cm and at 30 cm below the top, the rod went in by 30 cm... This shows that the bottom part of the layer was not compressed at all. Thus, it is very likely that this part of the road will cave in after the rains.



Fig. 14: 40 to 60 cm of loose red soil at once = far too thick



Fig. 15: 45 cm of loose red soil = not well compressed



Fig. 16: 60 cm of loose red soil at once = far too thick



Fig. 17: Bottom part of the layer not compressed

The Indian Roads Congress standard “IRC 19-2005 Standard Specifications and Code of Practice for Water Bound Macadam”, specifies in section 3.2.1, page 5 that these courses should be done “with a compacted layer thickness of 100 mm”. It even adds further in section 4.3.2, page 8 “that thickness of each compacted layer is not more than 100 mm for grading 1” (clean aggregates ranging from 125 to 22.4 mm). See Figures 18 and 19.

Similarly, the standard published by the Ministry of Surface Transport “Specification for road and Bridges work”, 1973 revised 1995, mentions in section 400, pages 101 to 105, the same specifications and requirements for sub-base (non-bituminous and shoulders).

<p>IRC:19-2005 3.2 Coarse Aggregates-Size and Grading Requirement</p> <p>3.2.1 The coarse aggregates shall conform to one of the grading given in Table 2. Grading 1 shall be used only for sub-base courses, with a compacted layer thickness of 100 mm.</p> <p>Fig. 18: 100 mm thick layer from IRC 19-2005</p>	<p>IRC:19-2005 4.3.2 The WBM Course shall be constructed in layers such that thickness of each compacted layer is not more than 100 mm for grading 1 (Table 2). The compacted thickness of layer shall be 75 mm for grading 2 and grading 3. Each layer shall be tested by depth blocks. No segregation of large or fine particles shall be allowed. The coarse aggregates as spread shall be of uniform gradation with no pockets of fine material.</p> <p>Fig. 19: Max 100 mm thick layer from IRC 19-2005</p>
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4.2 KERBS, ALIGNMENT AND LEVELS

Another serious problem is that the contractor did not put any markers. He uses only a total station to mark the road and levels. We have no idea which reference points he is taking to be sure of the correct location of the road - Sindhuja never answered this question. Further, one man on the site mentioned once that they took the "Globe" (Matrimandir) as the centre point of the crown. He was not able to say anything else. In fact, the centre of Auroville is the banyan tree and not the Matrimandir, and with only a single point, it is not possible to locate anything. Reference points are needed for that as it is necessary to do some triangulation to locate something correctly on the ground. Therefore, it is not possible to be sure if the road is well located. Anyhow, this is not within the scope of this study. Nevertheless, the levels and alignment of the kerbs are very badly done, as the photos below show.



Fig. 20: Kerbs are laid on the soil and not on cement mortar



Fig. 21: No plain concrete on the sides

The kerbs are not laid on cement mortar as they should be and no plain concrete is laid on the sides to hold the kerbs, as the Auroville Road Service does.



Fig. 22: Kerbs are falling and moving a lot



Fig. 23: Kerbs are not aligned properly and move

Kerbs are not aligned:

A string line of 10 m was pulled to check the alignment of the kerb in various places. Figures 24 and 25 besides show how accurate the laying of these kerbs is.

Further, as the kerbs are not held by plain concrete at the bottom, they move further, during the compression of the layers by the roller compressor. Thus, they also tilt as the layers are not compressed on both sides simultaneously.



Fig. 24: No care for alignment



Fig. 25: Up to 2.5 cm wrong

The kerbs zigzag a lot, as showed in Figure 26. This figure shows also that this part of the kerbs is linear and does not even follow the curve of the Crown.

We also checked the levels of the kerbs, as it also appeared that they were not levelled. A string line of 10 m was also pulled to check these levels. Figures 27 and 28 shows that there is always 2 cm difference in level on 10 m. This checking was done 5 times on 50 m and there was always such a difference.

We also checked the levels with a tube level on both sides of the road, to check the slope: We took 10 measurements over 50 m. The slope mentioned on the drawing in Figure 4 on page 7 is 2 cm/m, thus making 13.4 cm difference between the inner and outer kerbs. Figure 29 shows that the difference in slope varies from 8.5 cm to 13.2 cm, but never 13.4 cm. Thus, giving slopes varying between 1.27% to 1.97% and not 2%.

We also checked the levels between the outer kerbs of the road and the outer kerbs of the right of way. Again, there were a lot of differences with the levels varying from -2 to +3 cm, thus making a difference up to 5 cm.



Fig. 26: Zigzags and kerbs linear and not curved



Fig. 27: Kerbs not levelled, up to 2 cm difference



Fig. 28: Wrong levels



Fig. 29: Never the proper slope: 1.26% to 1.97% and not 2%



Fig. 30: Difference of levels between road and right of way



Fig. 31: Kerbs are not levels and show big bump

Figure 31 shows a very big bump, with 6.5 cm wrong on 20.6 m long. The contractor is not checking well his work.



Fig. 32: Big bump by 6.5 cm



Fig. 33: Inaccuracy of levelling

Figures 32 and 33 show how inaccurate the levelling is. This is the result of not taking proper markers and not laying the kerbs on cement mortar.

We also measured the width of the road, which is supposed to be 6.7 m. We took 10 measurements over 50 m and the width is rarely 6.7 m.

Figure 34 shows that the width varies between 6.66 and 6.72 m, thus making 6 cm of difference.

Similarly, the width of the outer infrastructure corridor, which is supposed to be 5.8 m wide, varies even more, from 5.765 m to 5.86 m, thus making a greater difference, up to 9.5 cm.



Fig. 34: Width varying a lot

4.3 POSITION OF THE UNDERGROUND HT CABLE

Several measurements were taken, trying to locate this HT cable, as it appeared that the trench was never in the same alignment from the road. Figures 35 to 41 show that the underground HT cable is never located at the same distance from the road, as it varies from 30 cm in to 60 cm out.

Thus, it will be impossible to know with precision where this cable will be for future possible maintenance.



Fig. 35: HT cable moves from 30 cm in to 60 cm out.



Fig. 36: Totally inaccurate location of the HT cable

Something was very puzzling about this HT cable: Figure 41 shows the HT cable going out of the ground on the front side, but at the other end, there was no cable in the trench, which was randomly opened or filled, over about 100-120 m.

We checked very carefully by removing the loose soil in a trench which was opened, to see if the cable was below the earth which fell in (Figure 40) and after 20 cm we found the natural ground and no cable.

Therefore, I asked Ponnusamy, from the Electrical Service and member of the secretary's ATDC, one week ago "Does it mean that the cable has been laid in the middle portion of the road only, and not at the entrance?"

He did not answer this question, asked one week ago.



Fig. 37: Trench 30 cm inside and no cable



Fig. 38: Trench never in a straight line with no cable inside



Fig. 39: Trench 15 cm outside and no cable



Fig. 40: Trench 1.3 m deep with no cable inside



Fig. 41: Cable comes out in front, but no cable at the end

4.4 LAYING OF THE NEW PAVERS

With the frenzied action undertaken by the secretary's ATDC, perhaps to show the Governing Board and the International Advisory Council who they are meeting soon, the contractor started to lay the pavers. As a result, the pavement is so badly done that it will be impossible to drive on them as we have measured up to 11 mm difference of level of two pavers side by side (Figures 43 and 45).

The figures below speak for themselves.

This odd work is due to several reasons:

1. The block thickness varies a lot: measurements were taken on 50 blocks: the thinnest one being 70.9 mm and the thickest being 83.8 mm = 12.9 mm thickness difference on 50 pavers.
In addition to this unacceptable variation, many pavers (at least a quarter of the 50 blocks measured) had a great variation in thickness from one side to the other.
=> The maximum thickness measured varied from 78 mm to 69.3 mm = 8.7 mm difference for a single paver.
2. The sand bed below was not well levelled by the contractor
3. The workers laying the pavers are unskilled and did not lay them well.
4. The contractor does not supervise anything and has not demonstrates attention to quality.
5. The level of the pavers varies a lot, from 40 mm to 55 mm above the kerbs (Figure 43), when they must be at the same level. However, a worker said that a layer of granite slabs of 50 mm will come on top of the kerbs, laid on a sand bed of 10 mm. Firstly, the thicknesses will not match, as the difference of level between the pavers and the kerbs is as an average 48 mm (taken from 10 measurements) whereas the slab with sand will be 60 mm. Secondly, this detail is vey bad, as the granite slabs will partly rest on the hard kerbs and the soft filling of the side, thus causing the slab to break if any vehicle drives on it.



Fig. 42: Pavers laid very badly

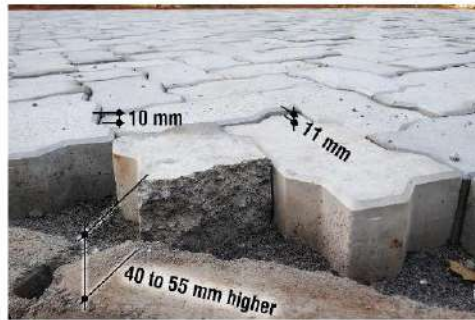


Fig. 43: A lot of difference of level between pavers

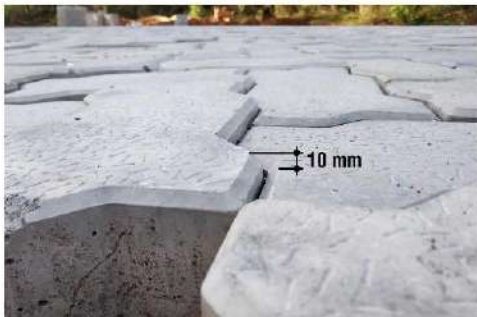


Fig. 44: 10 mm difference in level between 2 pavers

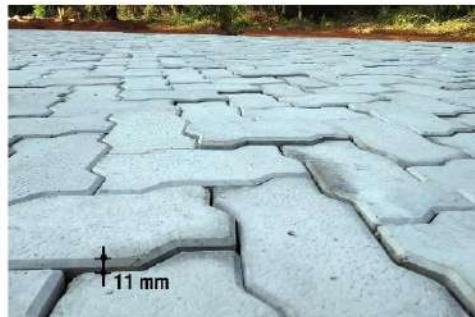


Fig. 45: 11 mm difference in level between 2 pavers

5. COMPARATIVE STUDY OF OLD PAVERS AND NEW PAVERS

5.1 TESTING PROTOCOL AND SPECIFICATIONS FROM THE INDIAN STANDARDS

Following the request from the RA TDC, we tested the old pavers and the new pavers. We conducted the test for water absorption and dry compressive strength according to the Indian Standard "IS 15658-2006 Precast concrete block for paving – Specifications".

Water absorption followed the protocol described in Annex C of this standard: Pavers were immersed 24 hours in water and then dried in a ventilated dry air oven at 107°C for 24 hours, until two successive weighing at intervals of 2 h show an increment of loss not greater than 0.2 percent of the previously determined mass of the specimen. The compressive strength followed the protocol described in Annex D of this standard. They were tested with our 3000 kN digital testing machine.

The standard IS 15658-2006 specifies these requirements:

- Maximum limit for water absorption: 7%
- Strength required according to use:
 30 MPa: Non-traffic; 35 MPa: Medium-traffic; 40 MPa: Medium-traffic (city streets); 50 MPa: Heavy-traffic (industrial complexes); 55 MPa: Very heavy-traffic (container terminals)

IS 15658 : 2006					
Table 1 Recommended Grades of Paver Blocks for Different Traffic Categories					
<i>(Clauses 5 and 9.1.4)</i>					
Sl No.	Grade Designation of Paver Blocks	Specified Compressive Strength of Paver Blocks at 28 Days N/mm ²	Traffic Category	Recommended Minimum Paver Block Thickness mm	Traffic Examples of Application
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
i)	M-30	30	Non-traffic	50	Building premises, monument premises, landscapes, public gardens/parks, domestic drives, paths and patios, embankment slopes, sand stabilization area, etc
ii)	M-35	35	Light-traffic	60	Pedestrian plazas, shopping complexes ramps, car parks, office driveways, housing colonies, office complexes, rural roads with low volume traffic, farm houses, beach sites, tourist resorts local authority footways, residential roads, etc
iii)	M-40	40	Medium-traffic	80	City streets, small and medium market roads, low volume roads, utility cuts on arterial roads, etc
iv)	M-50	50	Heavy-traffic	100	Bus terminals, industrial complexes, mandi houses, roads on expansive soils, factory floor, service stations, industrial pavements, etc
v)	M-55	55	Very heavy-traffic	120	Container terminals, ports, docks yards, mine access roads, bulk cargo handling areas, airport pavements, etc

NOTES

- 1 Non-traffic areas are defined as areas where no vehicular traffic occurs.
- 2 Light-traffic is defined as a daily traffic up to 150 commercial vehicles exceeding 30 kN laden weight, or an equivalent up to 0.5 million standard axes (MSA) for a design life of 20 years (A standard axle is defined as a single axle load of 81.6 kN).
- 3 Medium traffic is defined as a daily traffic of 150 – 450 commercial vehicles exceeding 30 kN laden weight, or an equivalent of 0.5 to 2.0 MSA for a design life of 20 years.
- 4 Heavy traffic is defined as a daily traffic of 450 – 1 500 commercial vehicles exceeding 30 kN laden weight, or an equivalent of 2.0 to 5.0 MSA for a design life of 20 years.
- 5 Very heavy-traffic is defined as a daily traffic of more than 1 500 commercial vehicles exceeding 30 kN laden weight, or an equivalent of more than 5.0 MSA for a design life of 20 years.

Fig. 46: Recommended specifications according to IS 15658-2006

5.2 OLD PAVERS PRODUCED BY THE ROAD SERVICE IN 2012

The old pavers which were manufactured by the Road Service in 2012 were collected from the stretch of the Crown Road near Svedam, which had been dismantled by the secretary's ATDC. Luckily, some pavers were left on the road and we could collect them. Nine pavers were selected randomly. Their compressive area was 338.55 cm². Only three samples were tested for water absorption.



Fig. 47: Old paver blocks

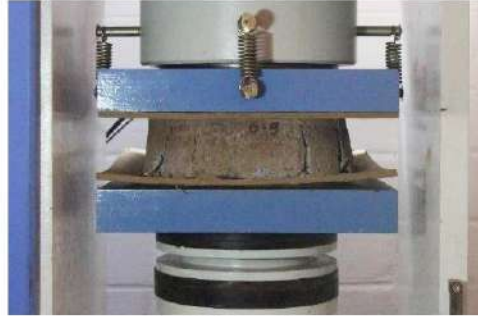


Fig. 48: Testing old pavers

The results were as such:

- Average thickness, taken on 50 samples = 79.9 mm => **Thickness varies from 76.6 to 81.8 mm = 5.2 mm.**
- Average water absorption, taken on 3 samples = 4.1%
- Average compressive strength, taken on 9 samples = 47.01 MPa
- Standard deviation of the compressive strength, taken on 9 samples = 7.87 MPa.

Note: 1 MPa = 10.917 kg/cm² = 145.037 PSI

5.3 NEW PAVERS FROM SRI ANNAI TILES, DELIVERED FIRST AND RETURNED

Several thousand blocks were delivered on the side of the road being built opposite of the Youth Centre. They were produced by Sri Annai tiles, Poothurai - Gorimedu Road near Ousteri lake. Nine samples were collected randomly from this pile. Their compressive area was 319.49 cm². Similarly, to the old pavers, only three samples were tested for water absorption.



Fig. 49: New pavers by Sri Annai Tiles



Fig. 50: Testing new pavers by Sri Annai Tiles

The results were as such:

- Average thickness, taken on 9 samples = 78.2 mm
- Average water absorption, taken on 3 samples = 8.7%
- Average compressive strength, taken on 9 samples = 18.36 MPa
- Standard deviation of the compressive strength, taken on 9 samples = 7.37 MPa.

While preparing this report, new information surfaced: On Saturday 6th August, the secretary's ATDC returned all these new pavers to the manufacturer. They may have realised that these pavers were not up to the grade they wanted to have, as it is shown in the data above.

5.4 NEW PAVERS, SECOND BATCH FROM VIGNESH INDUSTRIES TO BE USED

After the return of the first batch of pavers, the secretary's ATDC again delivered several thousand blocks on the side of the road being built opposite of the Youth Centre. These pavers were produced by Vignesh Industries, Chennai. The cost of the pavers is 63 Rs./ sqft, thus ~21 Rs. /paver. Nine samples were also collected randomly from this pile. Their compressive area was also 319.49 cm². Three samples were tested for water absorption.



Fig. 51: New pavers by Vignesh Industries

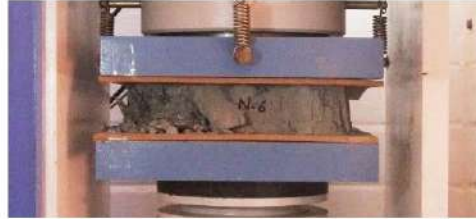


Fig. 52: Testing new pavers by Vignesh Industries

The results were as such:

- Average thickness, taken on 50 samples = 75.8 mm => **Thickness varies from 70.9 to 83.8 mm = 12.9 mm.**
- Average water absorption, taken on 3 samples = 6.7%
- Average compressive strength, taken on 9 samples = 41.13 MPa
- Standard deviation of the compressive strength, taken on 9 samples = 4.58 MPa.

For more information on the testing report for all these types of blocks, see Annex 7.6, page 32.

5.5 ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

Though the pavers produced by Sri Annai Tiles will not be used, it is important to compare them with the older pavers, as it demonstrates how unprofessional the secretary's ATDC has been proceeding from the very onset.

- **Old pavers from the Road Service**
 - The strength of the old pavers satisfies the requirements of IS 15658-2006 for medium-traffic of city streets, which requires 40 MPa, but their compressive strength is 47.01 MPa, with only 4.1% water absorption.
 - **They are 14% stronger than the new pavers from Vignesh Industries and their water absorption is 61% better. => Therefore, there was no reason at all to remove these pavers.**
- **New pavers from Sri Annai Tiles**
 - They are sub-standard and cannot be used for traffic roads according to IS 15658-2006.
 - They cannot even be used to pathways as the minimum requirement is 30 MPa and the average compressive strength was 18.36 MPa. Their water absorption is higher than the limit of 7% with 8.7%.
- **New pavers from Vignesh Industries**
 - Though they are better than the pavers done by Sri Annai Tiles, with a compressive strength of 41.13 MPa, **they are still weaker than the old pavers of the Road Service by 14%.**
 - These pavers did not undergo "*all the necessary quality check in due course of time...*" mentioned by Ponnusamy in his email dated 15. 07. 2021 (see Annex 7.4, page 30).
 - **Pavers are thinner by 4.1 mm than the ones of the RS. Their thickness varies up to 12.9 mm.**
 - **The maximum thickness difference in a block, from one side to the other is 8.7 mm.**
 - The new pavers may erode faster than the old ones, as their water absorption is much higher with 6.7%, and at the limit of the Indian standard IS 15658-2006 (7%).

☞ **Therefore, the argument of Sindhuja in the "Community support meeting" held on the 26th July, that they are removing the old blocks because they wanted to have better grade and thickness does not stand at all.**

Many questions arise about this work and especially these two:

- Why are they laying new pavers without having tested them and be sure that they are according to standards?
=> They even made that mistake twice!!!
- Why did they dismantle the existing road before being sure that they could find better pavers and do a better work?

This is one more example of the lack of project planning and professional incompetence.

6. EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF THE EXISTING CROWN ROAD

During the “Community Support Meeting” held on the 26th July, Sindhuja justified the removal of the existing pavers because according to her “*They are not in a perfect condition first of all*”.

It is true that they are not in a perfect condition, because the oldest ones have seen 14 years of traffic and the newest ones 10 years, and they received respectively rainfall of 20,203 mm and 13,282 mm.

Therefore, it was necessary to evaluate the state of the old pavers and the whole road to be sure of her statement.

6.1 REMOVAL OF THE PAVERS OF THE EXISTING CROWN ROAD BUILT BY THE ROAD SERVICE

The 1,423 m length of the Crown Road was built by the Road Service with GoI funds from 2008 to 2013. The width of the road is mostly 4.5 m, except for the Solar Kitchen – PTDC stretch, where it is 7.5, thus amounting to 7,040 m². The Road Service estimated recently the cost of the pavement that the secretary’s ATDC is removing to 92, 34 Lakhs Rs. See figure 53 below.

Crown Road built by the Auroville Road Service				
Financial Year	Projects	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (m ²)
2008-09	Crown Road Kailash - Surrender stretch	440	4.5	1,980
2010-11	Crown Road - Arka stretch	220	4.5	990
2011-12	Crown Road Solar Kitchen Stretch (PTDC)	212	7.5	1,590
2011-12	Crown Road - Kalabhumi stretch	72	4.5	324
2011-12	Crown Road - Gaia Stretch	252	4.5	1,134
2012-13	Crown Road - Svedame stretch	227	4.5	1,022
	Total	1,423	-	7,040
	Cost per m ² for only the pavement with paver blocks			1,311.848
	Total cost of the pavement with paver blocks			92,34,754
	Note: The cost per m ² includes the labour and all materials (pavers, kerbs, sand & PCC for kerbs)			

Fig. 53: Details of the stretch of the crown road built by the road Service

Sindhuja said in the “Community Support Meeting” held on the 26th July, that they wanted to use these pavers to make a road near Aurodam and something at the southern service node. However, 7,040 m² of pavers is 1.74 acres or a square of 84 m x 84 m. Do they really have a study for that or is it merely an idea thrown to try justifying wasting 92.34 Lakhs Rs. of government funds?



Fig. 54: Removing pavers which are in a very good condition



Fig. 55: Pavers removed



Fig. 56: Removing the kerbs



Fig. 57: Pavers in good condition



Fig. 58: Transportation of pavers



Fig. 59: River sand has been removed

Figure 59 shows dismantled stretch of Svedam which was in the best condition, as this stretch did not have so much traffic. All the river sand ($\sim 111 \text{ m}^3$, worth **~ 1.7 Lakhs Rs. in 2013**) has been removed and no one knows where it went. Furthermore, this material is very precious, as it is not possible to get any of it anymore due to the ban on it. Is this sand sold? If yes, to whom and why?

The removal of these pavers and kerbs was mentioned in the tender given by CPWD. However, did the secretary's ATDC do a technical study to show that these pavers were not good enough and that they had to be removed? As the government paid for it, the government must have approved first their removal.

6.2 STATE OF THE PAVEMENT AFTER 10 AND 14 YEARS

A visual examination of the quality of pavers was done on stretches of the road which have not yet been demolished ($\sim 950 \text{ m}$). Some parts of the road are in a very good condition after 12 years (stretch after Arka), as shown in Figure 60 and 61. Similarly, many parts of the Crown are in the same condition.



Fig. 60: Road after Arka, towards Gaia



Fig. 61: Texture of pavers after 12 years & 14,864 mm rainfall

The visual examination also tried to identify the most damaged pavers. Figures 62 and 63 below show the most damaged part of the entire Crown, opposite Arka, near an entrance of Surrender. Figure 62 shows the area of the road which was surveyed: An area of 4.6 m² (137 blocks). Only 17 blocks were eroded as shown in Figure 63, thus giving a ratio of 12.4%.

It is important to note that the pavers shown in figures 62 and 63 are the worst of the entire Crown. In most of the areas, pavers are not eroded much and look like those in Figure 63, in the previous page. Nevertheless, though these blocks do not look great, they could still have been used for several more years.

However, the advantage of paver blocks compared to macadam is that any damaged paver can be easily removed and replaced.



Fig. 62: Most damaged pavers at the entrance of Surrender Fig. 63: Most damaged pavers opp. Arka-entrance of Surrender

It should be mentioned that most of the severe erosions are due to the abrasion caused by the red soil brought up onto the pavers by vehicles where the CR is connected to the dust road. This was to be expected.

6.3 PLANENESS, EVENNESS AND DEFORMATIONS

Another part of the evaluation was to study the planeness, evenness and deformations of the most damaged parts of the remaining road. This was conducted by either pulling a 10 m string line very tightly or checking the deformations with a straight edge of 3.6 m long in the most damaged parts.



Fig. 64: Existing road at Kalabhumi



Fig. 65: Existing road at Gaia

Figure 64 shows the most damaged parts at the beginning of the stretch of Kalabhumi, which are eroded because of the step between the dirt road and pavers. The left side, which is 2.5 cm depressed is due to a deformation of the sub-base.

However, the entire area of the deformation is only ~1 m² and could be easily repaired if needed.

Figure 65 shows significant deformation on the stretch near Gaia, with long undulations, but of a maximum of 2.5 centimetre. It is important to mention such deformations are impossible to feel while driving.

Figure 67 shows the most deformed part of the entire Crown Road, opposite of Arka, near an entrance of Surrender.

These deformations are due to the settlement of the sub-base. However, the paver blocks were not damaged.

This kind of deformations could easily be repaired by removing the pavers, redoing the sub-base and putting the pavers back.



Fig. 67: Existing road at Arka: the most damaged part



Fig. 66: Existing road at Gaia: deformation over 3.6 m



Fig. 68: Existing road at the round about

6.4 UNJUSTIFIED DESTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING ROAD BUILT WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDS

The evaluation of the existing road shows that it is still in a very condition after 10 and 14 years and receiving, for the oldest pavers 20.2 m of heavy monsoon rainfall during that time. Only a very few blocks would need to be replaced if their eroded texture were deemed unacceptable.

The strength of the old pavers largely satisfies the requirements of IS 15658-2006 for medium-traffic of city streets: the minimum requirement for such road is 40 MPa and the old blocks have an average compressive strength of 47.01 MPa, which almost meet the requirements for heavy-traffic (industrial complexes).

Therefore, the removal of these pavers was totally unjustified and is a huge waste of government money, worth 92.34 Lakhs Rs., plus the cost of removing the pavers, estimated in the tender of CPWD at 5.44 Lakhs Rs. ... This amounts to a waste of almost one Crore Rs. (0.9778 Crore Rs. to be precise), paid with Gol funds.

Furthermore, the road which has been dismantled in front of Santé is being very badly redone by the contractor: aggregates containing a lot of fine dust (Figure 69) have been spread in a very thick layer (Figure 70). The grainsize distribution of this material shows that it has a continuous grainsize distribution with 22.1% of very fine grains from 0.5 to 0.05 mm, meaning that it is a very compact material, **which will make the layer nearly impervious and thus will stop the percolation of rainwater.** The road done by the Road Service was very well done with the proper size and clean aggregates and it has behaved very well over the last 10 and 14 years.

Figure 70 shows that this base course is 8 cm higher than the old road. This means that the road level, which was correctly levelled by the Road Service, will be ~20 higher than what was done earlier. This will create problems to access the surrounding development existing beside the road.



Fig. 69: Too many fines in the aggregate



Fig. 70: Course higher by 8 cm above old road level

7. ANNEXES

7.1 NOTE ON THE TOWN PLANNING BODIES AND AUROVILLE WORKING GROUPS

According to the "Foundation Act 1988", the Auroville Foundation is composed of three authorities which are the Governing Board (GB), the Residents' Assembly (RA) and the International Advisory Council (IAC). As per the act, the Residents' Assembly is in charge of selecting its various working groups, such as the Working Committee, The Auroville Council, the Funds and Asset Management Committee, the Town Development Council, etc.

However, the secretary's office has recently started to issue Office Orders with the intention of replacing members of these groups with people of her choice.

Accordingly, a few months back the secretary, Dr Jayanti Ravi has nominated a new team for the town planning that we mention here as either "ATDC" or the "secretary's ATDC". This body is not, according to the Foundation Act 1988, the legal body representing the Residents' Assembly. Therefore legally, this body has no authority to do any town planning in Auroville. However, with the support of the secretary, they do.

At the end of June 2022, the Residents' Assembly has elected a new group of Town Planning Council that we refer here as the "RA TDC" or the Town Development Council selected by the Residents' Assembly. Only this body should have the authority to do town planning and to order work to be done in Auroville.

Furthermore, the members of the ATDC have to be approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and their names and functions printed in the Gazette of India. To our knowledge, none of these legal requirements have been taken by the Auroville Foundation Office.

7.2 LETTER FROM B.V. DOSHI AND SAURO FROM THE 2011 TDC REGARDING AWARDING WORKS

Note: the author has highlighted in yellow the most important part regarding the allocation of works.

Construction of Buildings and Infrastructure in Auroville

Process for the awarding of construction works.

1. Process Objectives

The objectives to be achieved with the process of awarding construction works for Auroville buildings and infrastructure are the following:

- Transparency and disclosure
- Effective decision making
- Statutory and legal compliance
- Commitment to values and ethical conduct
- Accountability
- Achievement of project quality, quantity, cost and time parameters.

2. The Auroville Context

Auroville has been, and will be for many years to come, a construction site. Right from the time of the beginnings of the construction of Matrimandir and the first buildings in Auromodèle, Auroville has been developing and strengthening its own architectural design, engineering, landscaping, construction and project management skills.

Additionally Auroville has its own infrastructure services (including Auroville Road Service, Auroville Electrical Service, Auroville Telephone Service, Auroville Water Harvest) that have development as well as operation & maintenance wings.

The Auroville Foundation therefore distinguishes itself from most other institutions in that it has a wide range of internal design, engineering, construction and infrastructure departments that can be utilised for the building of the Auroville township.

It should be noted however that the internal services will not be always in a position to carry out projects on their own and therefore various models of project implementation need to be considered.

3. Implementation of Construction Works

It is recommended that Auroville Foundation undertakes construction works (buildings and infrastructure) with its own internal design, engineering construction and infrastructure services with the following implementation models:

- (a) For projects for which internal services of Auroville Foundation have sufficient capacity, skills and experience, the project may be taken up entirely by internal Auroville services on a turn-key basis. In this model there is no involvement of an external contractor.
- (b) For projects for which internal services of Auroville Foundation cannot meet all required capacity, skill and experience requirements, a part of the work is outsourced to one or more subcontractors. Project management is done by the Auroville internal services which also remain responsible for the implementation of the project.
- (c) For projects for which the internal services are not equipped, or in situations where the volume of work exceeds the project execution capacity of the internal services of Auroville Foundation, the entire project may be outsourced to one or more contractors. In this model the project management part of the work may remain with the internal services or may also be outsourced. In this implementation model, the internal services of Auroville play the role of a client body and remain responsible for the implementation of the project.

Bills of quantities and rates / prices will have to be approved by the TDC for each of the above mentioned implementation models.

4. Register Of Contractors

Prequalification parameters shall be fixed by the TDC for contractors to qualify as Approved Contractors and inclusion in a Register of Approved Contractors. Qualification parameters include:

- Track record in terms of quality, quantity, time, cost, health and safety;
- Experience with building technologies proposed to be used;
- Equipped to work with innovative building technologies;
- Size and capacity of the organisation;

Page 1 of 2

Fig. 71 (1): Letter from B.V. Doshi and Sauro, dated 11. 08. 2011, first page

-
- Ratio between total value of projects executed and average value of Auroville projects to be contracted;
 - Geographical presence;
 - Local employment generation;
 - Design and engineering skills and capacity;
 - Track record in statutory compliance;
 - Track record in corporate social responsibility.

The process for registration as an Approved Contractor will include open invitations through the media and a selection process that is based on pre-defined selection criteria with reference to the above mentioned parameters.

Every three years, the TDC shall update the Register of Approved Contractors after a review of the performance of existing Approved Contractors and the addition of new Approved Contractors.

The TDC shall ensure that there are not less than five Approved Contractors in the Register of Approved Contractors. If the number of Approved Contractors falls below five, the TDC shall publish invitations for selection of additional Approved Contractors through the media.

5. Awarding of Contracts

Drawings, technical specifications, bills of quantities and other relevant documents shall be given to the Approved Contractors with an invitation to submit offers. Offers may be split in technical and commercial bids for projects where technical bids needs to be evaluated before commercial bids are opened. A project shall be awarded to the party offering the lowest price for the works while complying with all quality, technology and other relevant project parameters.

6. Works Allocation Team

(a) It is recommended that the process of awarding of construction works as described above is managed by a Works Allocation Team of the Town Development Council as part of the Implementation and Monitoring work area.

(b) The Works Allocation Team will also undertake the following functions:

- to check and verify architectural and engineering documentation;
- to monitor compliance with approved architectural drawings and engineering specifications;
- to monitor financial management of projects during execution;
- to monitor project management and to ensure that every six months a progress report (including technical, financial reporting) is issued by the project holder.

(c) The first members of the Works Allocation Team are as given in the Annexe.

Approved by the Town Development Council in its meeting of 22-07-2011 held at Auroville.

B.V. Doshi
Chairman

Sauro M.
Member- Secretary

Place: Auroville
Date: 22-07-2011

Annexe

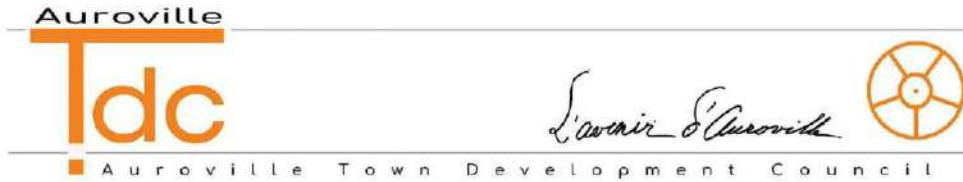
Members of the Works Allocation Team:

Note: Mr. Toine van Megen, Member TDC Advisory Group will act as an Advisor to the WAT during the initial phase of operation and process development.

Page 2 of 2

Fig. 71 (2): Letter from B.V. Doshi and Sauro, dated 11. 08. 2011, second page

7.3 REQUEST FROM THE AV TOWN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE RESIDENT ASSEMBLY



Auroville, 30th July 2022

TDC 22.013

Subject: Crown quality and paver block testing

Dear Satprem,

Thank you for the information that you have shared regarding the construction of the Crown road. We would like to request you to prepare a report on the quality of the road construction being executed and to conduct a comparative study for the water absorption and the crushing strength of the old paver blocks and the new ones which have been delivered to the road construction site at the Youth Centre in your laboratory.

Please do the needful and send us any bills for any incurring expenses for the above.

in Service

L'avenir d'Auroville - TDC

Allan B, Anan, Divya L, Dorle, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera N, Natasha S, Tom G

2022-07-06

1

Fig. 72: Letter from the RA TDC ordering this study

7.4 LETTER FROM THE ATDC (PONNUSAMY) ASKING NOT TO INTERFERE AND NOT TO TEST PAVERS

The author asked Ponnusamy, member of the secretary's ATDC, to collect some samples for testing, as he found that the new paver blocks were not as good as the old ones. This request was out of a genuine concern for the quality of the road. However, the answer of Ponnusamy clearly states that they don't help and people to interfere, meaning to check what they are doing. However, this question remains: why did they deliver pavers twice on the road, before testing them?



Earth Institute . <earthinstitute@auroville.org.in>

Reply: [avenir forwarding] Paver blocks for the crown road.

AVES <aves@auroville.org.in>

Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 1:28 PM

To: Earth Institute <earthinstitute@auroville.org.in>

Cc: "Ponnusamy .murugesan" <ponnusamy@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>

Dear Satprem,

The paver blocks unloaded on the crown stretch are the part of CPWD work and they will follow all the necessary quality checks in due course of time while paving the crown way.

We suggest you not to interfere in the process of execution in progress.

We look forward to your understanding & kind cooperation.

with Best Wishes,

M. Ponnusamy,
AVES Team
Service Area
Auroville - 605 101
Vanur Taluk,
Villupuram District
Ph: 0413-2622132, 2622264

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Auroville Earth Institute** <earthinstitute@auroville.org.in>

Date: Fri, Jul 15, 2022, 11:29 AM

Subject: [avenir forwarding] Paver blocks for the crown road.

To: Ponnusamy <ponnusamy@auroville.org.in>

Cc: Avenir d'Auroville Members <avenir@auroville.org.in>, Road Service <roadservice@auroville.org.in>

Ref: 1388 C 304 Ponnusamy blocks road 220715

Dear Ponnusamy,

After discussing with you on the crown road, I went to the Road Service and Ismael to see the new paver blocks that you plan to sue for the road.

I found them very rough and not looking as strong as the blocks that the Road Service is used to do.

Therefore, I would like to collect 6 samples of these new blocks and 6 samples from the old blocks done by the Road Service. I will send a report later to l'Avenir.

Please let me know if I can collect them.

Warm regards,

Satprem

Fig. 73: Reply from Ponnusamy asking not to interfere

- 29 -

7.5 LONGITUDINAL SECTIONS OF THE CROWN ROAD, SURVEYED BY DIRK NAGELSCHMIDT

These sections were part of the [report done by Dirk on Crown Road 2012](#).

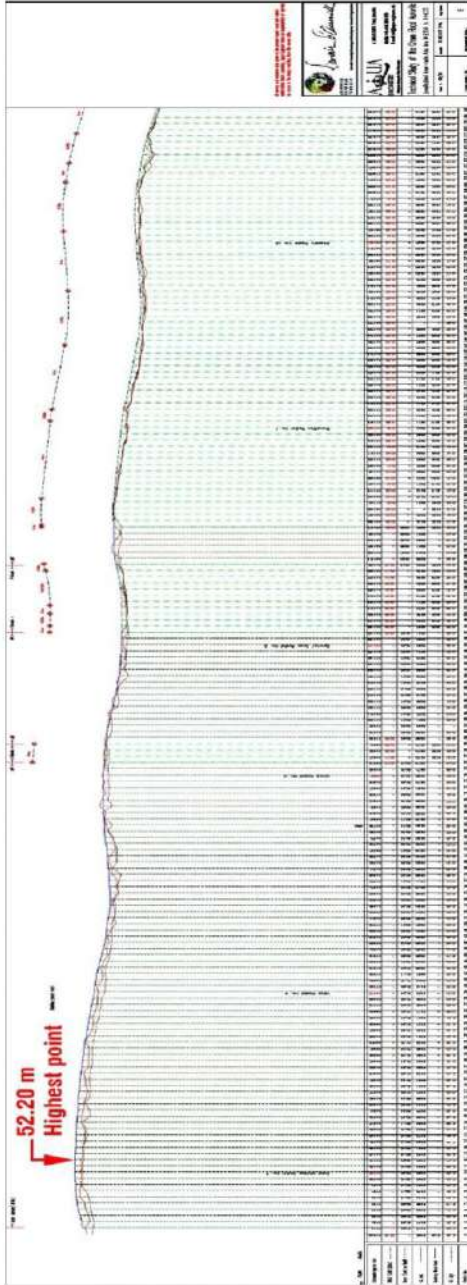


Fig. 74: Longitudinal section, part 1

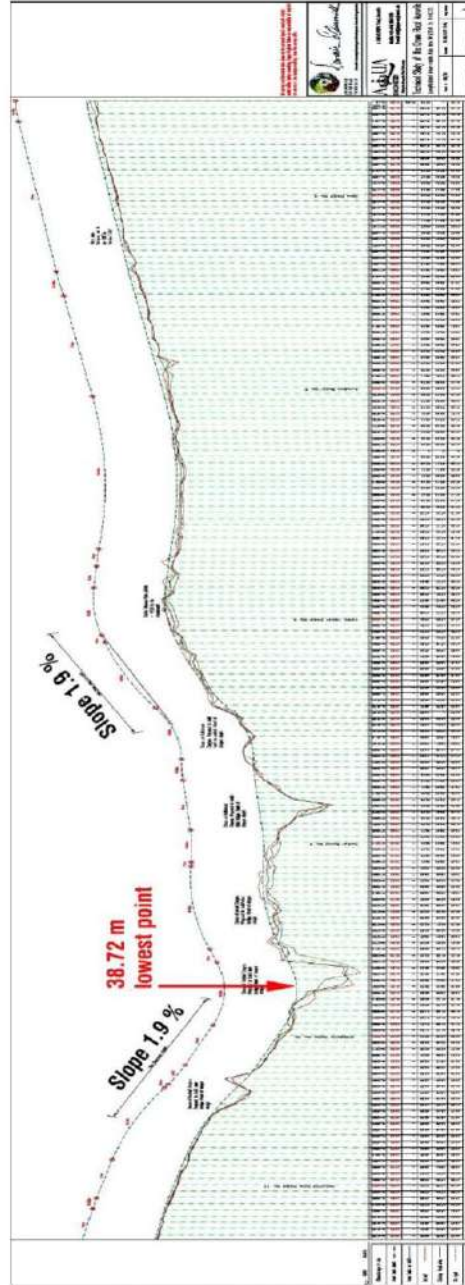




Fig. 75: Longitudinal section, part 2

7.6 TESTING REPORT OF PAVER BLOCKS CONDUCTED BY AVEI

Report of the 1st batch of new paver blocks, produced by Sri Annai Tiles (returned just before the completion of this report).

 AUROVILLE EARTH INSTITUTE <small>UNESCO CHAIR EARTHER ARCHITECTURE</small>										 CRATERRE <small>CONCRETE RESEARCH & TESTING</small>				
COMPRESSION TEST RESULTS - PAVER BLOCKS CROWN ROAD AUROVILLE										Postal address : Auroville				
Client name : Auroville TDC of the RA										Testing date : 07/08/2022				
Production date : Unknown										Report date : 02/08/2022				
Sample Type	Ref. (State)	Dimensions (mm)			Compression area (cm ²)	Air dry mass (gr)	Oven dry mass (gr)	Saturated mass (gr)	Volumic mass (kg/m ³)	Initial moisture content %	Water absorption (%)	Load at failure (kN)	Compressive strength (MPa)	Average Compressive strength (MPa)
		Length	Width	Height										
New pavers delivered on the road and produced by Sri Annai Tiles	N1	Dry	-	-	78	319.49	5.692	-	2.284	-	-	58.6	1.33	18.36
	N2	Dry	-	-	79	319.49	5.470	-	2.167	-	-	723.6	22.65	
	N3	Dry	-	-	78	319.49	5.504	-	2.209	-	-	652.5	20.42	
	N4	Dry	-	-	79	319.49	5.408	-	2.143	-	-	494.7	15.46	
	N5	Dry	-	-	78	319.49	5.320	-	2.135	-	-	498.8	15.61	
	N6	Dry	-	-	78	319.49	5.444	-	2.185	-	-	508.2	15.91	
	N7	Dry	-	-	77	319.49	5.442	5.258	5.646	2.212	3.5%	770.8	24.13	
	N8	Dry	-	-	78	319.49	5.380	5.210	5.610	2.159	3.3%	841.2	26.33	
	N9	Dry	-	-	79	319.49	5.440	5.208	5.778	2.155	4.5%	731.6	22.90	
Old pavers produced by the Road Service, taken from the old part of the crown road near Svedam	O1	Dry	-	-	80	338.55	5.992	-	2.201	-	-	1254.6	37.06	47.01
	O2	Dry	-	-	80	338.55	5.996	-	2.214	-	-	1247.6	36.85	
	O3	Dry	-	-	81	338.55	6.162	-	2.247	-	-	1337.1	54.26	
	O4	Dry	-	-	79	338.55	6.006	-	2.246	-	-	1430.0	42.24	
	O5	Dry	-	-	79	338.55	5.970	-	2.232	-	-	1761.7	52.04	
	O6	Dry	-	-	78	338.55	5.936	-	2.248	-	-	1341.4	39.62	
	O7	Dry	-	-	79	338.55	6.052	5.868	6.134	2.263	2.6%	1869.7	55.23	
	O8	Dry	-	-	79	338.55	6.026	5.866	6.100	2.263	2.7%	1821.1	53.79	
	O9	Dry	-	-	78	338.55	6.072	5.912	6.160	2.299	2.7%	1761.1	52.02	

Requirements from 'IS 15658-2006 Precast concrete block for paving - Specifications'

- Maximum limit for water absorption: 7% • Strength required according to use:
- 30 MPa: Non-traffic; 35 MPa: Medium-traffic; 40 MPa: Medium-traffic (city streets); 50 MPa: Heavy-traffic (Industrial complexes); 55 MPa: Very heavy-traffic (container terminals)

Comments

- ⇒ Sample N1 (new paver block 1) broke at a very low pressure, as it may have had a serious defect. => How many blocks could be like that?
- ⇒ The old pavers are 2.56 times stronger than the new pavers and their water absorption is 2.10 times less than the new ones, respectively with 4.1% & 8.7%.
- ⇒ The new pavers cannot be used for traffic road and not even for pathways as the minimum requirement from 'IS 15658-2006' is 30 MPa.
- ⇒ The new pavers may erode extremely fast as their strength is sub-standard and the water absorption is higher than permissible by the Indian standard IS 15658-2006.

Notes:

- Oven dry weight is measured on a block dried in an oven at 107°C during 24 hours.
- Air dry weight is measured on a block which was left under sun for 2 days at the ambient air humidity.
- Initial moisture content is calculated from the air dry weight to the oven dry weight.
- Saturated weight and water absorption are measured on a block immersed for 24 h, from the oven dry state.
- Wet state: block are immersed in water for 24 h, then drained until no longer puddling.
- Volumic mass is calculated from the air dry weight.

Auroville Earth Institute
1 MPa = 10.197 Kg/cm² = 145.037 PSI
Auroshipam, Auroville 605 101, TN INDIA
Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in
Web: www.earth-auroville.com
Tel: +91 (0) 413 - 262 3064 / 262 3330 / 262 2886

Fig. 76: Test results pavers – Old ones & new pavers produced by Sri Annai tiles


													
COMPRESSION TEST RESULTS - PAVER BLOCKS CROWN ROAD AUROVILLE													
Client name : Auroville TDC of the RA		Organisation : AV Foundation		Postal address : Auroville		Testing date : 08 & 09/08/2022		Report date : 10/08/2022					
Client Email id : Unknown		Telephone : -		Fax : -		Initial moisture content %		Water absorption (%)		Load at failure (kN)			
Sample Type	Ref. State	Dimensions (mm)		Air dry mass (gr)	Oven dry mass (gr)	Saturated mass (gr)	Volumic mass (kg/m ³)	Initial moisture content %	Water absorption (%)	Load at failure (kN)	Compressive strength (MPa)		
		Length	Width									Height	
New pavers used on the road and produced by Vignesh Industries	N1	Dry	-	-	69	319.49	5.100	-	2.313	-	1142.4	35.76	
	N2	Dry	-	-	67	319.49	4.976	-	2.325	-	1245.0	38.97	
	N3	Dry	-	-	74	319.49	5.462	-	2.310	-	1484.0	46.45	
	N4	Dry	-	-	75	319.49	5.432	-	2.267	-	1364.4	42.71	
	N5	Dry	-	-	76	319.49	5.530	-	2.277	-	1226.4	38.39	
	N6	Dry	-	-	73	319.49	5.270	-	2.260	-	1121.1	35.09	
	N7	Dry	-	-	73	319.49	5.400	5.160	4.7%	2.315	4.7%	1471.8	46.07
	N8	Dry	-	-	73	319.49	5.284	5.040	4.8%	2.266	4.8%	1498.6	46.91
	N9	Dry	-	-	72	319.49	5.222	4.940	5.7%	2.270	5.7%	1273.0	39.84
Old pavers by the Road Service from the old part of the crown road near Sweden	O1	Dry	-	-	80	338.55	5.962	-	2.201	-	1254.6	37.06	
	O2	Dry	-	-	80	338.55	5.996	-	2.214	-	1247.6	36.85	
	O3	Dry	-	-	81	338.55	6.162	-	2.247	-	1837.1	54.26	
	O4	Dry	-	-	79	338.55	6.006	-	2.246	-	1430.0	42.24	
	O5	Dry	-	-	79	338.55	5.970	-	2.232	-	1761.7	52.04	
	O6	Dry	-	-	78	338.55	5.936	-	2.248	-	1341.4	39.62	
	O7	Dry	-	-	79	338.55	6.052	5.888	2.8%	2.263	2.8%	1889.7	55.23
	O8	Dry	-	-	79	338.55	6.026	5.866	2.7%	2.253	2.7%	1821.1	53.79
	O9	Dry	-	-	78	338.55	6.072	5.912	2.7%	2.299	2.7%	1761.1	52.02
Requirements from "IS 15658-2006 Precast concrete block for paving - Specifications"													
• Maximum limit for water absorption: 7% • Strength required according to use: 30 MPa: Non-traffic; 35 MPa: Medium-traffic; 40 MPa: Medium-traffic (city streets); 50 MPa: Heavy-traffic (Industrial complexes); 55 MPa: Very heavy-traffic (container terminals)													
Comments													
→ The old pavers are 14% stronger than the new pavers from Vignesh Industries, with respectively 47.01 MPa and 41.13 MPa. → The water absorption of the old pavers is 61% better than the new pavers from Vignesh Industries, with respectively 4.1% & 6.7%. → The new pavers may erode faster than the old ones, as their water absorption is much higher and at the limit of the Indian standard IS 15658-2006.													
Notes: - Oven dry weight is measured on a block dried in an oven at 107°C during 24 hours. - Air dry weight is measured on a block which was left under sun for 2 days at the ambient air humidity. - Initial moisture content is calculated from the air dry weight to the oven dry weight. - Saturated weight and water absorption are measured on a block immersed for 24 h, from the oven dry state. - Wet state: block are immersed in water for 24 h, then drained until no longer puddling. - Volumic mass is calculated from the air dry weight.													
1 MPa = 10.197 Kg/cm ² = 145.037 PSI Aurovilipam, Auroville 605 101, TN, INDIA Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in Web: www.earthinstitute@auroville.com Fat: +91 (0) 413 - 262 3364 / 262 3330 / 262 2886													

Fig. 77: Test results pavers – Old ones & new pavers produced by Vignesh Industries

Data on the comparative measurement between 50 old pavers from the Road Service and 50 new ones from Vignesh Industries. Note that the old pavers are 4.1 mm thicker than the new ones and are much more regular in size.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENT OF PAVERS				
Old pavers by Road Service			New pavers by Vignesh Industries	
Ref.	Thickness (mm)		Ref.	Thickness (mm)
Old (Road Service) 1	80.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 1	69.0
Old (Road Service) 2	76.6		New (Vignesh Industries) 2	79.5
Old (Road Service) 3	81.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 3	74.0
Old (Road Service) 4	81.5		New (Vignesh Industries) 4	76.5
Old (Road Service) 5	79.1		New (Vignesh Industries) 5	76.0
Old (Road Service) 6	78.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 6	74.2
Old (Road Service) 7	80.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 7	73.0
Old (Road Service) 8	80.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 8	74
Old (Road Service) 9	78.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 9	72.0
Old (Road Service) 10	79.5		New (Vignesh Industries) 10	79.2
Old (Road Service) 11	79.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 11	74.4
Old (Road Service) 12	81.5		New (Vignesh Industries) 12	74.9
Old (Road Service) 13	80.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 13	77.3
Old (Road Service) 14	81.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 14	67.0
Old (Road Service) 15	81.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 15	74.1
Old (Road Service) 16	79.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 16	77.9
Old (Road Service) 17	78.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 17	77.1
Old (Road Service) 18	79.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 18	74.2
Old (Road Service) 19	80.3		New (Vignesh Industries) 19	76.0
Old (Road Service) 20	80.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 20	76.0
Old (Road Service) 21	79.6		New (Vignesh Industries) 21	82.5
Old (Road Service) 22	79.1		New (Vignesh Industries) 22	74.5
Old (Road Service) 23	80.3		New (Vignesh Industries) 23	75.0
Old (Road Service) 24	82.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 24	74.6
Old (Road Service) 25	79.6		New (Vignesh Industries) 25	74.2
Old (Road Service) 26	79.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 26	72.1
Old (Road Service) 27	80.9		New (Vignesh Industries) 27	73.1
Old (Road Service) 28	80.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 28	79.3
Old (Road Service) 29	80.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 29	73.0
Old (Road Service) 30	79.3		New (Vignesh Industries) 30	80.1
Old (Road Service) 31	81.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 31	77.9
Old (Road Service) 32	79.5		New (Vignesh Industries) 32	73.6
Old (Road Service) 33	81.8		New (Vignesh Industries) 33	76.7
Old (Road Service) 34	79.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 34	73.0
Old (Road Service) 35	78.3		New (Vignesh Industries) 35	76.0
Old (Road Service) 36	80.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 36	76.7
Old (Road Service) 37	81.3		New (Vignesh Industries) 37	70.9
Old (Road Service) 38	79.5		New (Vignesh Industries) 38	76.6
Old (Road Service) 39	79.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 39	76.6
Old (Road Service) 40	79.3		New (Vignesh Industries) 40	75.3
Old (Road Service) 41	79.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 41	80.0
Old (Road Service) 42	81.6		New (Vignesh Industries) 42	77.6
Old (Road Service) 43	78.5		New (Vignesh Industries) 43	83.8
Old (Road Service) 44	79.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 44	76.4
Old (Road Service) 45	80.2		New (Vignesh Industries) 45	78.1
Old (Road Service) 46	80.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 46	77.7
Old (Road Service) 47	81.5		New (Vignesh Industries) 47	77.3
Old (Road Service) 48	79.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 48	75.6
Old (Road Service) 49	81.0		New (Vignesh Industries) 49	77.8
Old (Road Service) 50	79.9		New (Vignesh Industries) 50	75.8
Average =	79.9		Average =	75.8
Standard deviation =	1.14		Standard deviation =	3.04
Maximum thickness =	81.8		Maximum thickness =	83.8
Minimum thickness =	76.6		Minimum thickness =	70.9
Max. thick. difference in a block =	0.5		Max. thick. difference in a block =	8.7
Notes: • Measurements were taken with a calliper, at the center of the block • Blocks with the maximum difference from one side to the other were measured.				

Fig. 78: Comparative measurement between the old pavers by the Road Service and the new ones by Vignesh Industries

7.7 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 secretary's ATDC that large portions of the Auroville population do not support the development of Auroville in line with the Galaxy concept.

7.7.1 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 Darkaji. 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 Thiruchitrumbalam, Panchayat leader of Koot Road, allegedly hired by an Aurovillian 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 chant 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](#)

7.7.2 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. 79: Police manhandling people



Fig. 80: 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. 81: Antim attacking people



Fig. 82: Antim trying to punch a resident



Fig. 83: Vindictive Antim and Srimoyie saying "She (secretary Dr Jayanti Ravi) said it has to be done now"



Fig. 84: Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam, Panchayat leader Of Koot Road manhandling a resident



Fig. 85: Venkatesh Thiruchitrambalam Panchayat leader Of Koot Road twisting the arm of a resident



Fig. 86: 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. 87: Demolition of game room without warning and with all things inside



Fig. 88: The violent mob harassing a woman resident protesting peacefully



Fig. 89: Kitchen destroyed without notice and with all things inside



Fig. 90: Savage destruction without notice

7.7.3 Cost of the destruction at the Youth Centre and Darkali

- **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.
– Kitchen	= 2,41,900 Rs.
– Main space structure	= 3,52,000 Rs.
– Oven and roof	= 4,36,000 Rs.

- **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.

7.7.4 Trauma caused to people 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 Aurovillian 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 Aurovillian. 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.

7.8 DESTRUCTION AT DARKALI

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. 91: Peaceful presence at Darkali, to avoid bulldozing



Fig. 92: Bulldozing old trees at Darkali



Fig. 93: Bulldozing trees at Darkali

7.9 DESTRUCTION AT CENTER FIELD

The following information was communicated by Mita Radhakrishnan.

A lot of false statements have been spread by the secretary's ATDC about the status of the houses of Tapas/Mita, and Elodie/Txuma in Centre Field. The following brief history of these houses demonstrates that these houses were either built before any system of building permissions existed, or that whatever had been developed later had a permission to be built and that they were not willingly built on the Crown. This history shows also how often the town planning groups changed their mind and especially the one of the secretary Dr Jayanti Ravi.

The former house of Tapas and Mita was one of the first houses of Auroville and it was built in 1978 by a French artist, Michel. Therefore, the original house was built BEFORE any planning permissions existed. Also, no one knew exactly where the road would come.

Tapas became the steward in the mid-1990s, and later Mita joined her in 1995. In 1996, Tapas and Mita applied for and received building permission (now called NOC) for a small extension with a ferrocement roof to create a small kitchen and dining area with a small room. In 1997 Elodie, the daughter of Tapas asked for and got building permission to make a bathroom close to the studio. Later, Txuma and Elodie, applied for and got building permission in 1998 to build a house.

In 1999 Tapas and Mita applied for and got building permission for an extension. Luigi from the former town planning "Aurofuture" visited once the site and said that it was a very harmonious atmosphere and that they would make a loop in the road around the house.

In July 2021, during a meeting at the SAILER Conference Room, Dr Jayanti Ravi accused Tapas, Mita, Elodie and Txuma of being “encroachers”. The next day, there was a “Crown Walk” with more than 200 people who came along with the secretary, at which point she was informed that they had received NOCs. Thus, the secretary acknowledged that she had made a mistake and that they would have to be relocated.

Later in 2021 Tapas, Mita, Elodie and Txuma had several meetings with the ATDC. They cooperated for the Survey but opposed it when the promises made in the meetings were not kept. Along with Darkali, Youth Centre and Bliss, they cleared themselves a path for the road, where it could come without disturbing the buildings. This path was also shown to the secretary and her ATDC.

At this point, the secretary told Jasmine of Auro Orchard and also some youth that the house could remain as it is and could become a Crown building. It was an idea in the air since Tapas and Mita too had wanted it to be integrated as a Crown Building as an Art Gallery or a space for Art classes.

Like Bliss, Youth Centre and Darkali, they continued to negotiate with the secretary’s ATDC represented by Toby and Anbu. In the discussions with them, especially after the Survey results came, they said that it was not clear yet whether the house would need to be demolished or not. Toby and Anbu said that in case it would need to be demolished, they would allow Tapas and Mita to demolish it themselves in order to save as much as possible and be able to reuse them. Toby and Anbu said that the secretary’s ATDC would pay the demolition charges.

Meantime, Tapas and Mita accepted the offer from the FAMC to move to Nolly’s house in Samasti, as they felt that if they agreed to move, a war would be avoided. Papers were signed at the Housing Service in August 2021 and the keys were given to Tapas.

On the 2nd May 2022, the staff from the Secretary’s office along with members of the secretary’s ATDC and others (Sindhujaa, Antim, Josephine, Varun, Tine, Janemajay, Santosh, etc.) came without any warning in the evening with a JCB and started demolishing Tapas and Mita’s house. They cited the NGT judgement as the reason.

For Elodie and Txuma’s bathroom which falls on the right of way of the road, the members of the previous ATDC had promised that they would be able to re-build the bathroom on the other side and would not need to move out. This was totally overturned later by the secretary’s ATDC.



Fig. 94: House of Tapas and Mita outside



Fig. 95: House of Tapas and Mita inside



Fig. 96: House of Tapas being destroyed



Fig. 97: House of Tapas destroyed

Appendix A-41 - Communication by AVEI to AVF Secretary with an additional report on the Crown roadwork.

13th August 2022

Additional report on the very badly built Crown Road

Auroville Earth Institute <earthinstitute@auroville.org.in> Sat, Aug 13, 2022 at 2:56 PM

To: jyantiravi@auroville.org.in, secretaryavf@auroville.org.in

Cc: Srinivasmurty <srinivasmurty@auroville.org.in>, yogabi@roottolight.com, micheldanino@gmail.com, shambhavi.yogini@gmail.com, vedicinstitute@gmail.com, hp@aurohotels.com, dena.merriam@finnpartners.com, neetaprasad@pib.gov.in, jsfa.edu@gov.in, nirima@gmail.com, gbnandana1956@gmail.com, aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com, rssaraju@gmail.com, gghosal87@gmail.com, lg.pon@nic.in, govtam@nic.in, sdgsrtpwd@nic.in, collrvpm@nic.in, "Dr. Karan Singh" <drkaransinghjnfmf@gmail.com>, Jacqueline Anger <rojac@auroville.org.in>, Anupama <anupama@auroville.org.in>, Avenir d'Auroville Members <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC All Members <famc@auroville.org.in>, Working Committee Members <workingcom@auroville.org.in>

Ref: 1607 C 425 Secretary additional report 220813

Dear Mme Secretary,

I am sorry to have to report again about how badly the Crown Road is being built.
Please find attached a short additional report to the evaluation that I did.

Therefore, as I mentioned earlier, you should immediately stop this road, get a proper study and survey done, remove what has been badly done and resume the construction of the road once this study has been completed.

We cannot go on wasting public funds from the Government of India.

I sincerely wish that we can finally build this road with the best practices in the very near future.

Very sincerely, at the service of Truth.

S. M.

Director Auroville Earth Institute

Master of Architecture – Lyon, France

Post Graduate Diploma in Earthen Architecture – Grenoble, France

Representative for Asia – UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture
Auroshilpam, Auroville 605 101 – T.N. India
Tel.: +91 (0) 413 – 262 3330 / 262 3064
Fax: +91 (0) 413 – 262 2886
Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in
Web: <http://www.earth-auroville.com>

Appendix A-42 - Additional Report of the AVEI on the Crown roadwork

13th August 2022



AUROVILLE CROWN ROAD

TECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORT (FOLLOW UP ON THE INITIAL REPORT)

13th August 2022

Satprem Maini
Architect

Auroshilpam, Auroville 605 101, TN INDIA
Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in

<http://www.earth-auroville.com>

Tel: +91 (0) 413 – 262 3064 / 262 3330
Fax: +91 (0) 413 – 262 2886

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1. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This short report is a follow up on the 43-page report published on the 10th August, on the technical evaluation regarding the construction of the Crown Road, which was requested by the Town Development Council of the Auroville Foundation, selected by the Residents' Assembly.

1.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The construction is still going on with totally sub-standard and bad quality work.

The contractor has done about 200 m of the sub-grade of the outer infrastructure side of the road with a very thick single layer of 40-60 cm of dry topsoil containing roots and branches which was collected from the side of the clearing. These roots and branches will rot and furthermore, this layer was too thick and dry. Because of its dry state, the layer could not be compressed properly. Thus, it would probably cave in with the first rains.

The laying of the bad quality pavers went on and this pavement is absolutely not levelled and plane. After using the plate rammer, the surface is even worse, with pavers shaking and with many broken edges. Riding on it with a bicycle is like riding on corrugated sheets. In fact, after having rammed the layer with a plate rammer, the surface is shakier than before, and one can feel the pavers moving below the wheel of a bicycle.

1.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This road should be stopped immediately, and a proper study and survey done.
2. Whatever has been built by the CPWD contractor should be totally removed.
3. The destruction of the old stretches of the CR which were well built by the Road Service should be stopped.
4. The contract with CPWD should be cancelled and the work offered to the Auroville Road Service.
5. The Auroville Road Service should rebuild the old stretches which have been destroyed without reason.
6. Pavers to be used should be the one done by the Auroville Road Service.
7. Construction of the road should only resume once this study has been completed and survey redone.

2. EVALUATION OF THE ROAD BEING BUILT (CONTINUED)

2.1 SUB-GRADE

The work done by the contractor is still sub-standard, or increasingly so with every detail and sequence of the road construction.

Again, the materials are not the correct ones and the layers are too thick:

To save on the cost of the filling material for levelling depressions, the contractor used a single and very thick layer of 40-60 cm of dry topsoil containing roots and branches which was collected from the side of the clearing. The figures below speak for themselves.



Fig. 1: Very thick layer of topsoil with roots and branches



Fig. 2: Dry topsoil which cannot be compressed



Fig. 3: Pushing dry topsoil



Fig. 4: Impossible to compress dry topsoil

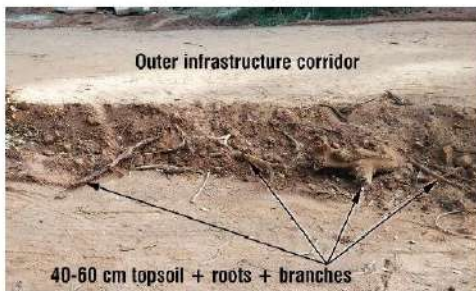


Fig. 5: Roots and branches will rot



Fig. 6: Roots and branches below the kerbs of the road

Apart from the fact that topsoil is not the correct material and that in a dry state, a layer of 40-60 cm cannot be compressed, roots and branches will rot and thus leave cavity which will collapse, causing the road to caving in.

Note that this sub-grade is below the outer infrastructure corridor, and thus should not bear too much load. However, as the layer could not be compressed because of the wrong material, laid in an overly thick layer, this part of the road would settle with rains and because of the rotting roots and branches.

2.2 KERBS, ALIGNMENT AND LEVELS

The laying of the kerbs continues with the same bad quality work, as the Figure 7 demonstrates it.

The kerbs are still not laid on cement mortar and no concrete hold them in place on their sides.

The curve of the road appears random.



Fig. 7: Random alignment of the kerbs

2.3 POSITION OF THE UNDERGROUND HT CABLE

The laying of the HT cable cannot be understood. Figures 8 and 9 show the cable going out of the limit of the right of way, when the cable should be laid in the infrastructure corridor in the right of way, and minimum 30 cm inside of the kerbs.

As some kerbs have been laid on the outer limit of the right of way, what will happen in the future when they lay the HT cable in the ground?

☞ Will they make a deviation of this cable and let it run out of the right of way?

=> **In that case, they will not follow the correct plans and will have to clear more of the forest on the side.**

☞ Or will they break the kerbs and pavement to lay it inside the right of way as it should be?

=> **In that case, this will again waste more Government of India funds.**

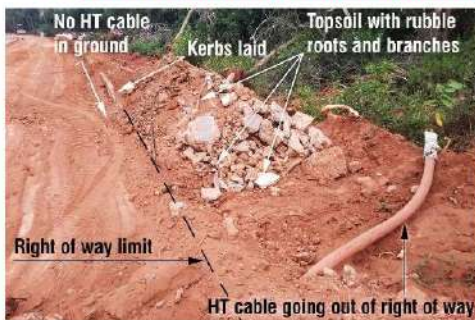


Fig. 8: HT going out of the road, while rubble is being filled



Fig. 9: Topsoil with rubble, roots and branches filling

2.4 LAYING OF THE NEW PAVERS

The contractor used the plate rammer, which is the normal procedure to level the surface. However, as the pavers were first so badly laid and not on fine sand, the plate rammer damaged many edges and corners, which made many of the pavers shake and worsened the levelling.

The gap between the pavers was not kept as 2.5 mm as it should, but the contractor laid pavers with up to 15 mm gap (Figure 13 below).

The figures below speak for themselves.



Fig. 10: Plate rammer to "level" the surface



Fig. 11: Surface once rammed = blocks shaking & broken



Fig. 12: So many pavers damaged, shaking and not levelled

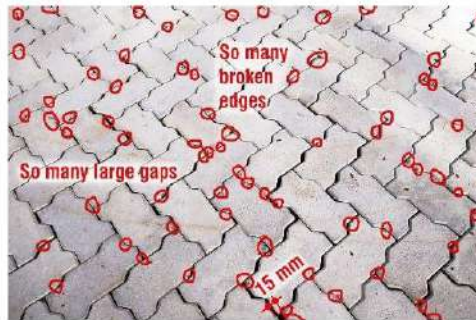


Fig. 13: Up to 15 mm gap between pavers



Fig. 14: Unevenness of the surface & broken edges

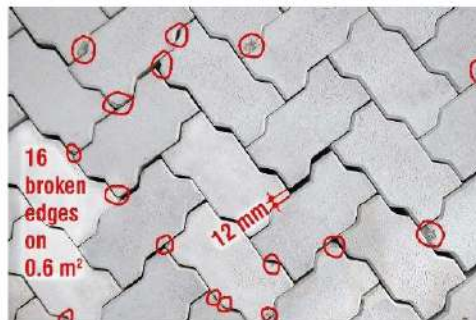


Fig. 15: Many pavers broken within a small area



Fig. 16: Laying pavers = up to 19 mm before ramming

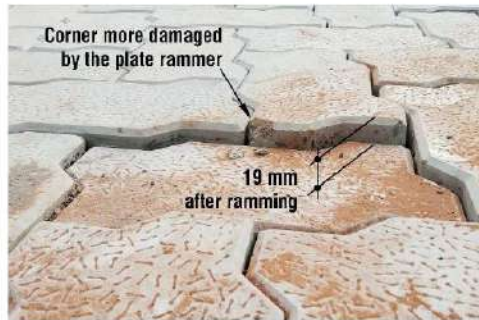


Fig. 17: Same paver after ramming = still 19 mm difference



Fig. 18: Broken edges caused by the plate rammer



Fig. 19: Quality of levelling pavers = 18 mm difference here



Fig. 20: Quality of levelling (crosswise) before ramming



Fig. 21: Crosswise levelling before ramming



Fig. 22: Crosswise levelling before ramming



Fig. 23: Depressions in the length of the road, before ramming



Fig. 24: Lengthwise levelling before ramming



Fig. 26: Waves in lengthwise before ramming

Important note:

These photos were taken before ramming with the plate rammer.

After ramming the surface, the levels were even worse, with many blocks shaking and many with broken edges.

=> These pavers must be entirely removed, as well as the sub-course, sub-grade and kerbs.

2.5 OLD PAVERS BEING USED FOR A ROAD NOT IN THE MASTER PLAN

The members of the ATDC nominated by the secretary decided to reuse some of the old pavers removed from the well-made Crown Road which was done by the Road Service for strengthening the road to Aurodam Kitchen, starting from the Crown Road at that level.

However, this road is a temporary road used since a long time, but it is not a road in the Master Plan, and one day should be removed.

What was the reason to pave this road?



Fig. 26: Waves in lengthwise before ramming

Appendix A-43 - Communication of the report to the GB and IAC of the Auroville Foundation

14th August 2022

More bad works for the Crown Road. Please stop this work.

Auroville Earth Institute <earthinstitute@auroville.org.in> Sun, Aug 14, 2022 at 11:25 AM

To: yogabi@roottolight.com, micheldanino@gmail.com, shambhavi.yogini@gmail.com, vedicinstitute@gmail.com, hp@aurohotels.com, dena.merriam@finnpartners.com, neetaprasad@pib.gov.in, jsfa.edu@gov.in, nirima@gmail.com, gbnandana1956@gmail.com, aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com, rssarraj@gmail.com, gghosal87@gmail.com, lq.pon@nic.in, govtam@nic.in

Cc: "Dr. Karan Singh" <drkaransinghjnfm@gmail.com>, Jacqueline Anger <rojac@auroville.org.in>

Ref: 1613 C 429 GB, IAC more bad works CR 220814

Dear Members of the Governing Board and the IAC,

I am sorry to write again about how bad the Crown Road construction is. However, in the name of truth and perfection in works, I cannot remain silent. Please find attached a very short one-page report.

The secretary did not follow up on my reports and goes on wasting Government of India funds. It is obvious that she will not change her mind and will go on with this sub-standard road. Is it her gift to Sri Aurobindo's 150th Anniversary to destroy well done roads in Auroville and do such bad work?

Why did she contracted the CPWD and did not ask the Auroville Road Service to do this job?

In October 2021, Pashi, a respected elder Aurovilian told the Secretary that the PWD is incapable to build Mother's town. She replied that "*The money comes from the GOI, we have no choice*". This is contradicted by the fact that the Auroville Road Service has built 1423 m of the Crown Road between 2008 and 2013, with Gol funds.

This road which is still in a good state is being destroyed by her order now.

The Crown has to be realised, as it is an essential part of the Galaxy and the Master Plan. This road has to be built and I am more than willing to help its manifestation, but with the utmost perfection and in collaboration with the residents.

Section 15 (1) of the Auroville Foundation Act 1988 mentions “(...) *Secretary to the Foundation to exercise such powers and perform such duties under the Chairman of the Governing Board as may be prescribed or as may be delegated to him by the Chairman*”.

Therefore, I appeal to you to make this work stop immediately and to stop wasting Gol funds. Please read my last recommendations, mentioned in my report dated 13th Aug.

I would also suggest that after stopping this road construction, you should ask an independent external team of experts to test whatever has been done. We cannot go on wasting more Gol funds.

Don't you think that all what this secretary and her ATDC have ordered and done should be looked into very carefully?

Very sincerely,

S. M.

Director Auroville Earth Institute
Master of Architecture – Lyon, France
Post Graduate Diploma in Earthen Architecture – Grenoble, France
Representative for Asia – UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture
Auroshilpam, Auroville 605 101 – T.N. India
Tel.: +91 (0) 413 – 262 3330 / 262 3064
Fax: +91 (0) 413 – 262 2886
Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in
Web: <http://www.earth-auroville.com>

Appendix A-44 - AVEI Crown Follow Up Report

14th August 2022



AUROVILLE CROWN ROAD

TECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORT - FOLLOW UP ON THE INITIAL REPORT

14th August 2022

Satprem Maïni

The contractor, who has done a sub-standard work at every stage of this work, removed about a quarter of the pavers which were so badly laid. His workers worked the whole night of the 13th-14th August to do that.

He had probably realised that they did not do a good job. However, why did they not work well first, and why are they wasting more Government of India funds? Note that it is impossible to make a smooth and levelled road with these pavers as their thickness varies too much: Up to 12.9 mm measured on 50 pavers and with a maximum difference of 8.7 mm from one side to the other of the same paver. The secretary's ATDC has wasted funds twice with bad quality pavers. How much more Government funds will be wasted?

The supervisor in Figure 1 tried first to hit me and grab my cell phone several times. As I did not want to fight, I just backed up and walked towards the Youth Centre. He said that he will place a police complaint against me. Is there any law forbidding people to take photos of public work being done, except maybe for defence and military purposes?

Is this road a strategic defence initiative? Therefore, I came back to take the following photos.



Fig. 1: Supervisor who tried first to hit me and grab my cell phone



Fig. 2: Pavers removed during the night of the 13th-14th August



Fig. 3: About a quarter of pavers removed



Fig. 4: More waste of government funds

Auroville Earth Institute, Auroshilpam,
Auroville 605 101, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

TEL +91 (0) 413 - 262 3064 / 262 3330
FAX +91 (0) 413 - 262 2886

EMAIL earthinstitute@auroville.org.in
WEB www.earth-auroville.com

Appendix A-45 - Request from /AVFO 'ATDC'/ to Housing Board for database & response

22nd August 2022

Information needed

ATDC <avenir@auroville.org.in> Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 09:53

To: housing <housing@auroville.org.in>

Cc: ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>

Dear Housing Service,

For the purpose of detailed building & infrastructure planning, L'avenir d'Auroville is looking into the existing settlements to correlate with the future developments, as per the Master Plan.

We need all available data regarding the buildings and their users to proceed with the intended planning works and therefore ask you to kindly give us access to the database you have generated until this date regarding the houses and their inhabitants.

We look forward to hearing from you soon, positively.

Govind, Hemant, Jaya, Ponnusamy, Prasad, Sindhuja, Toby
L'avenir d'Auroville / ATDC members

Housing Coordinator . <housing-coordinator@auroville.org.in> Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 10:03

To: Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

No, this is an illegally formed group and they cannot have access.

Best Regards,

Amy L.

Housing Services Coordinator

Housing Coordinator . <housing-coordinator@auroville.org.in> Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 10:07

To: ATDC <avenir@auroville.org.in>

Cc: housing <housing@auroville.org.in>, Housing Board <housingboard@auroville.org.in>

Dear Team,

As was made clear by the recent court judgement, you are not the ATDC as the ATDC can only be formed in consultation with the Resident's Assembly. Therefore you have no need to have access to any data and we do not need to comply with any request from you.

Best Regards,

Amy L.

Housing Services Coordinator

Appendix A-46 - Letter from RA TDC to /AVFO 'ATDC'/

27th August 2022



Auroville, 27th August 2022

TDC 22.026

Subject: illegitimate attempt to again destroy property

To Govind Ranjan, Hemant Shekhar, Jaya Berggreen-Clausen, M. Ponnusamy, Jothi Prasad Rajan, Sindhuja Jagadeesh, Toby Neuman

We are writing following the unannounced and illegitimate attempt today to again destroy property of the Auroville Foundation near the proposed Crown Rd, the bathroom of Elodie and Txuma. The existing building has the appropriate approvals and no alternative to the basic infrastructure required has been made available, despite numerous commitments on your part.

It is understood that following proper planning, as per the National Green Tribunal judgment the full section of the Crown area will need to be assessed and detailed development plans produced, and eventually existing structures have to be seen within that strategic context.

Yet, in the absence of due authority, proper planning, internal processes and natural justice you have no grounds to initiate or enforce such actions. It is subjudice and will be brought to the attention of the honorable courts.

We again urge you to respect the unequivocal position of the Residents' Assembly and abandon the course of destruction and division, you do not represent Auroville or its Residents. The City the Earth Needs cannot and will not be manifested this way.

Sincerely,

L'avenir d'Auroville - TDC Town Development Council

Allan B, Anan, Dorle, Divya L, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera N, Natasha S, Tom G

Copied to:
Dr. J. Ravi
Auroville Foundation Office
Working Committee
Auroville Council
FAMC

Appendix A-47 - Ministry of Education's Reply to Public Grievance from a group of Auroville residents

15th September 2022

Through E-mail

F.No. 2-2/2021-UU
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated the 15th September, 2022

To,

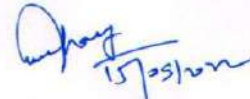
ASTHA-Auroville Foundation,
Email: astha.auroville@gmail.com.

Subject: - Public Grievance from ASTHA Group, Auroville Foundation (AF) with respect to incidents in Auroville Foundation linked to the Crown way clearing work of Auroville Township Development Council (ATDC).

Madams/Sirs,

This is in reference to your Public Grievance bearing Registration No. MINHA/P/2022/02600 addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Home regarding the events transpired in December, 2021 in Auroville Foundation during the Crown way clearing work of ATDC.

2. In this regard, it is hereby informed that the matter is under examination of this Ministry.
3. This issues with the approval of 'Competent Authority'.



(Saroj Kumar Choudhary)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Email: sarojchoudhary.edu@nic.in

Copy to:

Sh. Pratap Singh Rawat
Under Secretary (Foreigners Division)
MDCNS, India Gate Circle, New Delhi.
Email: pratap.rawat67@nic.in
Tel: 011-23077506

Appendix A-48 - Auroville post from /AVFO 'ATDC'/: Crown Road update

22nd November 2022

Crown Works update

by ATDC Admin on November 22, 2022, 1:58 pm

Dear residents,

The Crown work is moving forward. The stretch between PTDC and Youth Center (up to the crossing with the road from Matrimandir to Auroshilpam) is Phase 1.

Please look at the map showing the routes which will be made available for the various modes of transport. The marked stretch of the Crown will be inaccessible until end of December.

Please note:

- 1) Ambulance will be parked at Sunship until the Crown work is completed.
- 2) Arka and Mahalakshmi Home will have their emergency access via Mahalakshmi Park.
- 3) Center Field cycle path will be open temporarily for motorised 2-wheelers.
- 4) Kalabhumi and Cripa will be accessible via Gaia field.
- 5) Cars and buses will have to strictly stick to the demarcated route. Kindly do not attempt to take the cars on the routes marked for 2-wheelers.
- 6) All other locations should have no blockages on their emergency accesses.

Signage will be erected in multiple locations. Please bring to our attention anything we may have overlooked.

We understand that it is a time of inconvenience for some; we thank you for keeping the larger picture in mind and for helping us during this period by approaching us in case of any measures to be taken to ease the situation. If it is in our capacity, we will surely facilitate.

Let's build Her Auroville together, with joy and gratitude.

With kind regards,

Govind, Hemant, Jaya, Ponnusamy, Prasad, Sindhuja, Toby

L'Avenir d'Auroville

Appendix A-49 - Office Order no. 816

21st December 2022

DR. JAYANTI S. RAVI, IAS
SECRETARY

No. AF/Trust/23/816



21 December 2022

OFFICE ORDER NO. 496

The **Kattida Kalai Trust** was set up through Trust Deed registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Vanur, executed on **05-04-2002** which was last revised vide **O.O. No. 461** dated **05-04-2019** re-appointing **Mr. M. Palani, Mr. Carlos Herrera, Mr. Jean Moreno** and **Ms. Margarita Maria Correa Jaramillo** appointed as **additional trustees** for **five years** from **05-04-2017**.

Subsequently, **Mr. Debabrata Sahoo** was appointed as **additional Trustee** to the **Trust** for the remaining period vide **O. O. No. 483** dated **12-01-2021**.

Now, the Working Committee and the FAMC in their letter dated **13-12-2022** has recommended to re-appoint **Ms. Margarita Maria Correa Jaramillo** and **Mr. Debabrata Sahoo** and appoint **Mr. Arnout Jozef Fernand** as **Trustees** until further orders.

Accordingly, the matter has been considered and **Ms. Margarita Maria Correa Jaramillo** and **Mr. Debabrata Sahoo** are re-appointed and **Mr. Arnout Jozef Fernand** is appointed as Trustees to the Trust in accordance with clause 4 (C) of the Trust Deed w.e.f. **07-12-2022** until further orders or until 5 years, whichever is earlier.



(Jayanti S. Ravi)
Secretary
Auroville Foundation

To
The Trustees concerned.

Accepted & received the above order

Copy forwarded to:-

The Working Committee and the FAMC with reference to their letter dated 13-12-2022.

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-50 - Mass Bulletin from RA WCom and RA FAMC

7th January 2023

RA WCom and FAMC: On financial hardship caused by those impersonating the 'BCC'

Dear Residents,

This communication is made in view of the fact that certain individuals associated with the Office of the Secretary, Auroville Foundation, are usurping the role and functions of the Budget Coordination Committee (BCC) constituted under the Funds and Assets Management Committee selected by the Residents' Assembly (RA).

It is highly regrettable that these individuals have been given the role of disbursing collective funds via the Auroville Financial Services whilst not being accountable to the Residents' Assembly, nor to any of the selected representatives of the community.

These individuals have bypassed community processes, declaring that the RA is not valid and have thus renounced the

ideal of Auroville's collective organisation being based on a living experiment of Human Unity in Diversity. It is of deep concern that in doing so, they are upholding the top-down form of governance currently being imposed by the Office of the Secretary and a minority group of Aurovilians claiming the exclusive ability to hold the vision of Auroville. It is worth reminding ourselves that this minority group's legitimacy has been rejected by the 1161 residents that participated in a formal decision and resolution of the Residents' Assembly in August 2022.

Those individuals usurping the legitimately constituted BCC are acting in a careless and harmful manner by removing maintenance support of persons selected by the RA, are attempting to obtain sensitive information from residents concerning contributions, and funding their own self-appointed groups, without following any previously agreed-upon procedure nor showing any form of accountability. We note that these individuals are creating financial hardship and insecurity in a haphazard way without any consultation nor agreement from the Residents' Assembly and its approved working groups. The Governing Board-appointed 'FAMC' ('GB-FAMC') under which these individuals function are also slandering persons, inferring by removing maintenance support that they are not working for the community and calling into question these Aurovilians' commitment to Auroville, when these same Aurovilians have been entrusted by the community in their roles and responsibilities. The 'GB-FAMC' claim in their

November report that these selected and endorsed representatives are “anti-city”, and conclude that they are unwilling to support a “parallel governance / administration” - which they themselves have created.

As duly-selected representatives of the Residents’ Assembly, we are committed to supporting those that are being targeted by these coercive and divisive tactics, and we are actively looking into other solutions to address the economic safety issues currently at stake. This will only be possible with the support and active participation of the residents of Auroville.

We invite all those that are willing to support us in addressing this issue by providing financial or in-kind support to please contact the Budget Coordination Committee selected via the Residents’ Assembly at this email address:
bccoffice@auroville.services.

Any questions you may have regarding the situation may be addressed to the BCC using the above email address.

We stay committed to growing truer to the ideals of Auroville, to honouring what has been built with the dedication, efforts and financial contribution of all residents and wellwishers, and Mother’s Grace, over the last 54 years. It is in moments of crisis such as this one that we need to stand united, and support each other.

In community,

Working Committee selected by the Residents’ Assembly (Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël, Sauro, Valli)

FAMC selected by the Residents’ Assembly (Amy B., Bobby P., Danny (TOS), Elodie, Mita R., Palani)

Appendix A-51 - Letters received by several community members

23rd January 2023

Letters received by several community members from /AVFO 'ATDC' & 'Housing Service'/

Dear

Your residence/storeroom is identified as being situated on the planned Radial / Outer Ring Road [specified in the mails].

Though we do not have yet the fixed date of when these buildings will be dismantled, part of it is likely to happen in the near future as the planning work proceeds. As this concerns your residence, we are encouraging that you already now contact the L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC house transfer sub-group consisting of members from ATDC, FAMC and Housing, to find what possibilities are available for you transferring to another available residence within Auroville.

Those assets which are vacated, will be handed over to the Housing Service.

Jaya, Geeta and Banu

For L'avenir d'Auroville / ATDC House Transfer sub group

Appendix A-52 - Mass Bulletin from RA FAMC

23rd January 2023

RA FAMC: Concerning emails about relocation due to planned roads

Dear Friends,

We have noted instances of some Aurovilians receiving emails about them occupying housing assets which may be on the proposed crown road, outer ring road, radials, or other planned areas in Auroville, with advice to contact a 'house transfer subgroup' and relocate.

We wish to offer our assistance and guidance to such individuals. Aurovilians who receive such a communication may get in touch with us via email at "famc@auroville.services" by forwarding the email to us with relevant details.

We also want to remind you that we are available in person every Wednesday during our open hours from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the RA Working Committee office (former Koodam, across from the Auroville Library).

Regards,

Amy B., Bobby P., Danny, Elodie, Mita R., Palani
FAMC selected by the RA

Appendix A-53 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ Housing Policy 2023

21st February 2023

Auroville Housing Policy 2023

*At Auroville nothing belongs to anyone in particular.
All is collective property.
To be utilised with my blessings for the welfare of all.
The Mother*

As per the words of the Mother and the Charter of Auroville, there is no private property as such in Auroville and all assets, including those created or financed by individuals, belong to the community as a whole. Housing assets may be entrusted to residents under various types of agreements but this in no way implies any form of personal ownership. This Housing Policy formulates guidelines, to address the various situations which exist and may arise with regard to housing in Auroville.

1) General Principles

- a) All houses, apartments and other immovable constructions created on Auroville land, vested in the Auroville Foundation, are assets of the Auroville Foundation. The Auroville Foundation holds all these assets in trust for humanity as a whole.
- b) Therefore, an Aurovilian or any other person cannot in any way claim to be the private owner of houses, apartments or other constructions in Auroville.

2) Management and Stewardship

- a) All houses, apartments and other immovable assets created on Auroville land are under the management responsibility of the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC). The FAMC delegates part of this responsibility to the Housing Service.
- b) Stewardship of a house or an apartment is a privilege granted to an Aurovilian or a Newcomer which allows the steward to occupy and reside in the asset as long as the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - i) Is living in Auroville on a regular basis at least nine months of every calendar year; and
 - ii) Is working fully in Auroville for a recognized service, unit or undertaking directly relatable to Auroville
- c) At the same time, it is the responsibility of the steward to care for the housing asset in such a way as to avoid the asset falling into disrepair. Basic repairs, annual maintenance such as painting, as well as upgrading of infrastructure as needed are also the responsibility of the steward. If the steward is not in a

financial position to attend to these works, he/she will seek the help of the Housing Repair Service under the Housing Service.

- d) A person who is not an Aurovilian or a Newcomer cannot be a steward of a house or apartment in Auroville and such persons have no right of occupancy.
- e) Any person who is not an Aurovilian or Newcomer and who residing in a house or apartment vested in the Auroville Foundation, including the family members of an Aurovilian or Newcomer, must sign the same declaration as Aurovilians and Newcomers that they have and will not make any claim of ownership on these assets. Such persons will have to ensure the asset and its common infrastructure is kept up properly in close coordination with the Housing Service.
- f) An Aurovilian or a Newcomer cannot be the steward of more than one housing asset at a time.
- g) Residential assets cannot be taken advantage of for personal profit (e.g. renting of rooms). Likewise they cannot be transformed into a guest house, except by the FAMC.
- h) All stewardship allocation must be ultimately approved by the FAMC.

3) Temporary Absence of a Steward

- a) Any steward who wishes to leave Auroville for a period longer than three months, due to which the house or apartment will be unoccupied, must consult the Housing Service for placing a temporary housesitter.
- b) A suitable house-sitter will be identified in collaboration with the Housing Service, the steward and the closest neighbors. An agreement outlining the temporary stay of the house-sitter will be prepared by the Housing Service. This will be signed by the house-sitter and the Housing Service, mentioning all the pertinent details of the location, duration, context and the details of steward under whom the current stewardship is vested.
- c) House-sitting agreements will have a maximum duration of one year, with the possibility of being extended with the mutual agreement of the steward and the Housing Service.
- d) In case the steward will be absent for a period less than three months, notification of absence must be given to the Housing Service and any temporary house-sitting agreements must be disclosed.

4) Permanent Absence of a Steward

- a) In case an Aurovilian or a Newcomer leaves Auroville permanently, the house or apartment will be re-allocated by the Housing Service.
 - i) A Newcomer is considered to have left Auroville permanently if his or her Newcomer period has been terminated by the Entry Service without s/he having become Aurovilian;

- ii) An Aurovilian is considered to have left Auroville permanently if his or her name has been removed from the Register of Residents by the [Termination Committee].
- iii) An Aurovilian or Newcomer passes away.

5) Revocation of stewardship

- a) In the case that a steward is not regularly fulfilling the conditions and responsibilities of stewardship, namely, living in Auroville at least nine months out of every calendar year, working fully in Auroville for a recognized service or undertaking directly relatable to Auroville and maintaining the housing asset in proper condition;
- b) Or in the case that a steward has contravened the stipulations of this Housing Policy such as, but not limited to, giving the asset for sub-lease or rental, allowing unauthorized persons to reside there or repeated failure to inform of long absences or allow house-sitters without going through the Housing Service, stewardship may be revoked by the FAMC.

6) House Allocation

- a) The Housing Service, in consultation with FAMC, will make the allocation of all houses and apartments.
 - i) Inheritance rights are not recognized in Auroville, there being no personal property as such.
 - ii) Adult Aurovilian progeny are considered co-stewards of a house stewarded by their parents if they are living there permanently and provided they are working for and in Auroville. If the Aurovilian parents move to another asset or pass away, upon the request of the adult Aurovilian progeny to Housing Service, he/she will normally be made official steward of the housing asset.
- b) The Housing Service will normally allocate a house or apartment to an Aurovilian or a Newcomer. In exceptional cases, in consideration of services being rendered to Auroville, the Housing Service may make a house or apartment available to consultants, long-term guests, volunteers, students, civil workers and others who will stay in Auroville for a limited period of time with the prior agreement of the FAMC.
- c) The Housing Service may allocate a newly constructed house or apartment to an Aurovilian for stewardship against a specified donation, depending on the project costs for the housing asset. Even though the allocation of stewardship is given against a contribution, continuing stewardship is still subject to fulfillment of the stewardship criteria and responsibilities mentioned in this policy and may be revoked for reasons mentioned in the previous section.

- i) Stewardship of newly constructed houses or apartments may also be allocated pro-bono, depending on the source of funding for the project (e.g., donations). Pro-bono stewardship allocation of a house or apartment is the decision of the Housing Service and is provided only for those Aurovilians who have no financial means. Consideration for pro-bono housing will be based on the same priority criteria mentioned in this policy 2(b). Pro-bono allocations must be approved by the FAMC.
- d) For allocations of used houses, the Housing Service will make the asset ready for occupation by refurbishing the asset to be structurally safe, clean with proper hygiene standards, and properly maintained. Stewardship of the asset will normally be given against a contribution, the extent of which will be based on several factors including the cost of the refurbishment and administrative costs of the Housing Service, among others.
 - i) Stewardship of used houses or apartments may also be allocated pro-bono. Pro-bono stewardship allocation of a house or apartment is the decision of the Housing Service and is provided only for those Aurovilians who have no financial means. Consideration for pro-bono housing will be based on the same priority criteria mentioned in this policy 2(b). Pro-bono allocations must be approved by the FAMC.
- e) In case the requests for a housing allocations exceed the number of houses and apartments available, the Housing Service shall consider the following criteria to establish the priority for allocation, in no particular order:
 - i) The ability of the Aurovillian or Newcomer to contribute financially towards his or her housing;
 - ii) The number of Aurovilians or Newcomers in the family;
 - iii) Length of residence in Auroville and history of engagement in work for Auroville during those years;
 - iv) Length of time spent on the waiting list;
 - v) The urgency of the situation.

7) House Exchange or Transfer

- a) An Aurovillian wishing to become a steward of a house or apartment in exchange for his/her present stewardship of a house or apartment, will contact the Housing Service, who will conduct the house or apartment exchange.
- b) Feedback from the respective communities involved in a house transfer or house exchange will be considered before a decision is made but will not be binding.
- c) Possibilities for obtaining stewardship of a house or apartment through house exchange will be informed to all those who are on the waiting list for allocation of a housing asset and published in the News & Notes and on Auronet. Potential stewards who contact the Housing Service for stewardship of the asset will be

considered in light of the priority criteria mentioned in 6e and the feedback obtained from the community, and the decision will be taken accordingly.

- d) The Housing Service will determine the modalities of exchanges or transfers. Any houses involved in a house exchange or transfer have to be properly inspected by the Housing Service and each vacating steward will provide the necessary funds to refurbish the house to a proper and professional standard. Appropriate agreements will be drawn up for the new stewardships and signed by all parties.

8) New Housing

- a) An Aurovilian or Newcomer or an Auroville unit wishing to construct an individual house or an Aurovilian or an Auroville unit wishing to construct a multiple housing project will obtain the prior written permission of L'Avenir d'Auroville (NOC) and the FAMC. Before giving its approval, L'Avenir d'Auroville and the FAMC will ascertain that:
 - i) The proposed building construction is within the Master Plan guidelines and the building application process has been approved and an NOC obtained;
 - ii) The funds necessary for the construction of an individual house are available or the proposed multiple housing project is financially sound in terms of the health of the business;
 - iii) For a multiple housing complex or project, proper project and financial management have been provided for;
 - iv) Additionally, those applicants who are Newcomers have obtained a proper recommendation from the Entry Service. Before giving its final approval, L'Avenir d'Auroville will inform the Housing Service.
- b) An Aurovilian or Newcomer wishing to construct an individual house will be fully responsible for the realization of the construction.
- c) An Aurovilian or Newcomer permitted to construct will make a fraternal contribution at the rates then in effect to the Housing Repair Fund based on the basic costs of the asset(s).

9) Newcomer Housing

- a) In order to provide housing to Newcomers so that they may experience Auroville with a minimum of difficulties, small houses and apartments specified as 'Newcomer Houses' are made available for them.
- b) The Housing Service will manage Newcomer housing, and report periodically to the Entry Service and FAMC of allocations and other important information pertaining to Newcomer housing.
- c) The Housing Service will normally allocate Newcomer housing to a Newcomer for a maximum period of one year. The Housing Service may extend this period

for a limited time, in cases where the Newcomer process gets extended or due to a lack of permanent housing.

- d) The Housing Service may decide that Newcomer housing can be allocated to an Aurovilian for a period of up to one year provided that a future housing is assured for the said Aurovilian.
- e) The Housing Service allocates Newcomer housing against a monthly contribution from the Newcomer to the appropriate Housing Fund (as mentioned in section 12). The amount will be reasonable to cover the costs for administrative services and for the maintenance of the asset.
- f) Newcomers wishing to construct an individual house or an apartment in a multi-dwelling housing project will make a Payment Agreement with the Housing Service and deposit the value of the house or apartment with the Auroville Maintenance Fund. In case the Newcomer decides to leave Auroville the deposited amount will be refunded to the Newcomer as per the terms of the Payment Agreement. When the Newcomer becomes an Aurovilian the deposit will be transferred as a donation to the Auroville Unity Fund as per the terms of the Payment Agreement. Only Newcomers with a positive recommendation of the Entry Service may enter into Payment Agreements.

10) Youth Housing

- a) Youth housing is temporary housing designated for Aurovilians who are under the age of 35.
- b) Youth housing is managed and allocated by the Housing Service.
- c) In order to be eligible for Youth Housing, a person should be:
 - i) Aurovilian;
 - ii) Under the age of 35;
 - iii) Living in Auroville on a regular basis at least nine months of every calendar year;
 - iv) Working fully in Auroville for a recognized service, unit or undertaking directly relatable to Auroville.
- d) The Housing Service allocates Newcomer housing against a monthly contribution to the appropriate Housing Fund (as mentioned in section 12). The amount will be reasonable to cover the costs for administrative services and for the maintenance of the asset.
- e) After the age of 35, Aurovilians in Youth Housing are expected to find other accommodation in Auroville.
- f) Youth Housing can be reallocated by the Housing Service in case any of the eligibility requirements mentioned above are no longer being fulfilled by the resident.

11) Bridge Housing

- a) Bridge housing is temporary housing designated for Aurovilians who are waiting for a permanent housing solution.
- b) Bridge housing agreements are given for a maximum period of 2 years.
- c) To be eligible for Bridge housing, a person should be:
 - i) Aurovilian;
 - ii) Living in Auroville on a regular basis at least nine months of every calendar year;
 - iii) Working fully in Auroville for a recognized service, unit or undertaking directly relatable to Auroville;
 - iv) Having an urgency to shift housing such as in the divorce of couples, expansion of one's family, waiting for construction of a house or apartment, etc., for which one needs a temporary solution.
- d) The Housing Service allocates Bridge housing against a monthly contribution to the appropriate Housing Fund (as mentioned in section 12). The amount will be reasonable to cover the costs for administrative services and for the maintenance of the asset.

12) Housing Funds

The Housing Service will manage three funds: the *Housing Repair Fund*, the *Newcomer, Bridging and Youth Housing Fund* and the *Revolving Fund*.

- a) **Housing Repair Fund:** The Housing Repair Fund will be used to repair and renovate stewarded residential assets as is required. Its income will come from:
 - i) Fraternal contributions as described under 8c above.
 - ii) Donations towards the allocation of a house or apartment under 6c and 6d above;
 - iii) Other donations and contributions (such as from City Services).
- b) **Newcomer, Bridge and Youth Housing Fund:** The income of this Fund will be used for the reconditioning of Newcomer, Bridging and Youth Housing and will consist of:
 - i) Monthly contributions as cited in section 9e, 10d and 11 above
 - ii) Other donations and contributions (such as from City Services)
- c) **Revolving Fund:** The income of the Revolving Fund will be used for stewardship transfer advances as needed, and other operational needs related to Auroville Housing Service and will consist of:
 - i) Fund-raising
 - ii) Other donations and contributions (such as from City Services)

13) Allocations from the Housing Repair Fund

- a) To be eligible for receiving financial aid from the Housing Repair Fund for the repair or renovation of a housing asset of which one is the recognized steward, one must be:
 - i) Living in Auroville on a regular basis at least nine months of every calendar year; and
 - ii) Working fully in Auroville for a recognized service, unit or undertaking directly relatable to Auroville
- b) In the case that the requests for financial aid exceed the funds available, the Housing Service shall consider the following criteria to establish the priority for allotting aid:
 - i) Nature and urgency of the repair/ renovation requested;
 - ii) Ability of the Aurovilian to contribute by him- or herself and/or obtain donations or loans from other sources, and their ability to repay any loans.
- c) The Housing Service may allocate the aid in the following ways:
 - i) In the form of a full or partial grant.
 - ii) In the form of a full or partial loan, to be reimbursed in monthly or other installments by the unit for which the Aurovilian works and/or by the Aurovilian as he/she has the financial means to do so.
- d) The Housing Service may also request the unit or service in which the Aurovilian works to make a donation or contribution to the Housing Service, to be used for the repair/ renovation of the house or apartment.

14) Appeal

- a) All disputes of matters under the purview of this policy will be reviewed and decided by the FAMC, whose decision will be final.
- b) Additionally, any request for an exception to any of the above will also be presented to the FAMC, whose decision will again be final.

FAMC approved January 2023

Appendix A-54 - /AVFO 'FAMC'/ Housing Mandate 2023

21st February 2023

HOUSING MANDATE (January 2023)

Auroville Housing Mandate

Residential assets in Auroville are regulated by the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC), an oversight body constituted by the Governing Board. The FAMC delegates the operational responsibilities with regard to residential assets to the Housing Service, a department of the FAMC. A Housing Advisory Group is constituted to advise the FAMC on policy and strategic goals for long term growth of Housing and effective utilization of existing housing assets. The respective roles and responsibilities of the FAMC, the Housing Service and the Housing Advisory Group are as follows:

- 1) **The FAMC:** The overall superintendence of all residential assets in Auroville falls within the mandate of the FAMC. The FAMC is to ensure “that all funds and assets of Auroville are being managed in a responsible manner and are used to achieve the vision set out in the Charter of Auroville.” FAMC’s specific responsibilities in regards to this mandate include:
 - a) Providing an **effective oversight** to the work of the Housing Service for both operational and strategic matters covering immediate and longer term planning;
 - b) Reviewing and providing **guidance in relation to the financial management of all residential assets**, including the review of Annual Work Plans and Annual Reports regarding Auroville’s Housing;
 - c) Reviewing, and providing **guidance in relation to the operational workings and structuring of the Housing Service** including, where appropriate, approval of operating procedures and manuals;
 - d) Appoint, review, and determine the terms of service (and termination of Service) for the members of the Housing Service and, in particular, the positions of the Finance Coordinator and the Coordinator of Housing Service;
 - e) On the basis of recommendations by the Housing Service, **approving the allocation of residential property**, the period of its occupancy (including Stewardship), and any conditions of occupancy that may apply to that occupancy;
 - f) Reviewing and **approving an annual budget** submitted to it by the Housing Service;
 - f) Reviewing and **approving policies and key documentation, as well as approving amendments to such documents that are related to housing** and submitted to it by the Housing Service; and
 - g) Considering, in consultation with the Town Development Council and the Housing Service, Auroville’s housing needs within **wider strategic planning** relating to Auroville’s management of funds and assets.
- 2) **The Housing Advisory Group** is responsible for strategic planning for Auroville’s housing requirements. Its specific responsibilities include:
 - a) The **identification of Auroville’s housing needs**, problems and potential solutions for both current and future generations;
 - b) Identifying **priority areas for fundraising** and advising in relation to the same;
 - c) The production of an **annual work plan and annual budget** highlighting key **housing issues that will be encountered or resolved** within the following year. This shall be submitted to the FAMC for review and approval;
 - d) **The production and submission of an annual report** to the FAMC setting out information regarding the work of Auroville’s Housing sector over the last year.

- e) **Drafting and monitoring policies** relating to housing for recommendation and approval to the FAMC;
 - f) **Reviewing all new housing projects that ATDC approves for** implementation by project holders;
- 3) **The Housing Service** is responsible for the daily administration and attendance to Auroville's housing issues. It makes decisions that touch upon the Housing Policy and is accountable to FAMC. Specific responsibilities include;
- a) Providing regular updates on its work including, but not limited to, information regarding its finances; at intervals to be agreed with the FAMC.
 - b) Providing effective periodic management for residential property owned by the Auroville Foundation;
 - c) Recommending to the FAMC the allocation of residential property, the period of its occupancy (including Stewardship) and any conditions of occupancy that may apply, and doing so in a manner that is fair, transparent, free of arbitrariness or conflicts of interest and in accordance with any relevant published guidelines or policies governing the same;
 - d) Recommending loans or contribution waivers, where appropriate, to Loan Group for review and further approval, where appropriate from the FAMC;
 - e) Approving grants relating to housing maintenance and repairs below a threshold sum set by the Housing Advisory Group in accordance with internal policies governing the same. Such grants shall be reported to the FAMC;
 - f) Processing loan requests to housing needs will as per the Loan policy and considering requests for, and recommending to the Loan Group, that loans, be issued in accordance with guidelines and applicable policies;
 - g) Maintaining administrative and accounting records necessary for the smooth running of the Housing Service;
 - h) Arranging or preparing estimates for repairs approved by the Housing Service and provide oversight during the process of the repairs being undertaken;
 - i) Maintaining current data regarding all the residential assets of Auroville, their occupancy and stewardship and make it available to the FAMC;
 - j) Collecting and recording contributions due in relation to occupancy and repairing of residential assets;
 - k) Reporting regularly to the community on Housing Service works as listed above;
 - l) Maintaining and displaying transparency in the decisions made with respect to house transfers, loans and grants sanctioned or any other decisions made by the Housing Service. In case of a conflict of interest from any of the member of the Housing Service in any specific decision to be made, a clear communication as to the the nature of the issue is to be presented to the FAMC in order for it to ensure the decisions are made without bias; and
 - m) Assisting, as necessary, with the Housing Advisory Group in the discharge of its duties.

Constitution of the Housing Advisory Group

The Housing Advisory Group will be composed of members chosen by the FAMC in a fair and transparent manner. The constitution of the group will be as follows:

1. 2 members from the Housing Service;
2. 1 member from the FAMC;

3. 1 member from the Town Development Council;
4. 1 members from the community-at-large

Representative members shall be nominated by their respective groups which will then be subject to final approval by the FAMC.

Community-at-large members will be selected by the FAMC based on their skills and experience relevant to Housing work.

1. Appointments to the Housing Advisory Group will be for a period of three year terms;
2. The FAMC will endeavor to ensure knowledge retention within the Housing Advisory Group by, where possible, facilitating handovers between departing and newly selected members and, where possible, staggering the terms of Housing Advisory Group membership.
3. Reappointment to the Housing Advisory Group will be done by FAMC following the same process as initial selection;

Criteria for membership of the Housing Advisory Group

To be a member of the Housing Advisory Group, an individual must:

1. Have a commitment to the Charter and ideals of Auroville;
2. Be willing to dedicate their time and energy to the work of the Housing Advisory Group in a spirit of goodwill, collaboration and transparency. This includes the ability to work together harmoniously with the FAMC and Housing Service members;
3. A concern for and willingness to work toward the improvement of Auroville's housing situation;
4. Display competence in areas of work covered by this mandate;

Removal of a member from the Housing Advisory Group

1. The FAMC reserves the right to remove a Housing Advisory Group member at any time if one or more of the above cited criteria for membership is breached;

FAMC DRAFT January, 2023

Appendix A-55 - HP 2011 vs HP 2023 - Key differences

21st February 2023

Key Differences in the new 2023 draft Housing Policy as set out by the /AVFO 'FAMC'/'

- All references to the Auroville Council (AVC) and the Housing Board (HB) are removed.
- Any reference to arbitration of personal disputes by the AVC is removed. Therefore, any dispute will be exclusively resolved by FAMC. There is an obvious conflict of interest in a Committee setting policy and giving direction to implement to a sub group and also handling any appeals in cases of people being aggrieved by their policies or direction.
- It is unclear whether the AVFO's 'FAMC' will regard itself as being at liberty to revisit any decision of previous FAMCs in order to give a decision favorable to individuals it deems suitable.
- The AVFO's 'FAMC' have jumped to trying to change the Housing Policy and Mandate without addressing their own FAMC Mandate of 2016, which still refers to the FAMC as appointed by and accountable to the Residents Assembly. So at the moment, an aggrieved resident may seek to rely on that as a justification for going to the AVC to arbitrate an appeal. Unfortunately, there is little doubt that the AVFO's 'FAMC' will ignore such a move.

2 general principles (below from 2011 policy) are entirely removed.

- "An Aurovilian, a Newcomer or a Friend of Auroville will not purchase any immovable property which according to Auroville's Master Plan is intended to become part of Auroville in the future without making it immediately relatable to Auroville. Any exceptions must be agreed upon by the Auroville Foundation."
- "In principle, all members of the Residents Assembly have to reside in Auroville. Any exceptions will have to be worked out with the Housing Board."

Stewardship

- Stewardship is recast as a "privilege". This is a new concept which dilutes what used to be "rights", in favor of the AVFO's 'FAMC'.
- Stewards should be working "fully in Auroville for a recognized service, unit or undertaking directly related to Auroville".
- Stewards should be "living in Auroville on a regular basis at least 9 months of every calendar year".
- All stewardship allocation must be ultimately approved by the FAMC.
- It appears that even if you have made a financial contribution to an asset, your stewardship can now be revoked. Section 8 of the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) considers foreign donations. It says that the receiving entity (in this case the AVF)

“shall utilize such contribution for the purposes for which the contribution has been received.” If foreign Aurovilians have given money for their housing and their stewardship is then revoked, this raises questions as to whether the 2023 draft policy is compliant with the FCRA.

Friends of Auroville

- The 2023 draft Housing Policy removes all rights of Friends of Auroville (FoA) to be Stewards. This is a very big change of policy from the 2011 Housing Policy. It leaves in limbo the status of FoA who have made contributions towards housing and are now stewards (obviously with the agreement of former FAMCs and the AVFO). It is unclear how their status would now be considered, as the 2023 draft Policy gives them no rights at all. A unilateral shift of policy without consultation leaves all sorts of questions, i.e. if the AVFO can solicit donations for one purpose and then do as it chooses once the money has been received as there are questions of acting in bad faith. As before, this raises questions as to whether this draft policy is compliant with the FCRA.

House Allocation

- The Housing Service, in consultation with FAMC, will make the allocation of all houses and apartments.

Temporary Absence of Steward

- Temporary absence before notifying HS to place a House sitter remains at 3 months despite recent announcements that it would be reduced to 8 weeks. However, stewards who are out of Auroville for less than 3 months must notify the Housing Service regardless. House sitting contracts cannot be longer than one year with the possibility of an extension.

Permanent Absence of Steward

- In case of an Aurovilian passing away, stewardship may pass to ‘Adult Aurovilian progeny’ (children), who are automatically considered as co-stewards if they live in the house. However the 2023 draft policy does not mention any other adult Aurovilian who is living with the steward at the time of their death. So it is unclear how this would leave spouses, married or otherwise, or other situations where another Aurovilian is living in the house for whatever reason.

In the 2011 policy the wording is “the house or apartment will normally be allocated to the Aurovilian(s) or Newcomer(s) with whom the deceased was living prior to his or her death”.

- The 2023 draft policy also removes a section where it says that the HB will consider the

requests of stewardship of the house from the child or children of the deceased who do not live in the house, or anyone who has made a financial contribution to the house within the last 5 years but has ceased to live there.

- There is new wording defining when a steward can be considered to be permanently absent from Auroville. The 2023 draft policy states:

“ In case an Aurovilian or a Newcomer leaves Auroville permanently, the house or apartment will be re-allocated by the Housing Service ... an Aurovilian is considered to have left Auroville permanently if his or her name has been removed from the Register of Residents by the [Termination Committee].”

This can be compared with the 2011 policy:

“An Aurovilian is considered to have left Auroville permanently if he or she has been out of Auroville for a period of at least five years. In these cases, after a 3 year absence, the steward and the Housing Board will work in close collaboration for the next 2 years, as needed, for the optimal use of the asset. If the steward is then out of Auroville for a total of five years, the stewardship is reverted to the Housing Service for re-allocation.”

The change is possibly indicative of the AVFO/AVFO's 'FAMC' seeking greater power to remove people from the RoR thereby dispensing with any 5 year requirement altogether if it suits them. This should be seen in the context of any potential future moves to take over the rights the RA holds over entry and termination.

New section: Revocation of stewardship.

- This section is entirely new, as the concept of 'stewardship revocation' did not exist before.

It reads;

“In the case that a steward is not regularly fulfilling the conditions and responsibilities of stewardship, namely, living in Auroville at least nine months out of every calendar year, working fully in Auroville for a recognized service or undertaking directly relatable to Auroville and maintaining the housing asset in proper condition; Or in the case that a steward has contravened the stipulations of this Housing Policy such as, but not limited to, giving the asset for sub-lease or rental, allowing unauthorized persons to reside there or repeated failure to inform of long absences or allow house-sitters without going through the Housing Service, stewardship may be revoked by the FAMC.”

- This could have huge potential ramifications - for example members of the RA working groups have recently seen their maintenances removed, as they have been deemed by the AVFO's 'FAMC' as not working in Auroville for a recognised service. Going by this policy, those people could have their stewardship 'privileges' revoked.

Funds

- ALL funds of HS, including allocation of repair grants are to be managed by the Housing Service. Although the 2023 draft mandate mentions a “threshold” for allocations - which must be agreed by the ‘Housing Advisory Group’ - this is not mentioned in the draft policy. This brings concerns regarding accountability and individual members of HS having decision making powers over considerable sums of money.
- All references to the ‘Housing Fund’ is removed from the 2023 draft policy- this is the fund from which one-off house grants are given to Aurovilians who are transferring or remodeling a house.

House Transfers

- House exchanges and transfers -these are now clubbed together with the same guidelines. There were separate guidelines previously as exchanges could be decided independently between stewards so long as no money exchanged hands.
- Feedback from existing community members will be considered but will not be binding.
- There is a line that states that “HS will determine the modalities of exchanges or transfers”. The meaning of this is unclear but it could mean that HS can determine the practical steps (and timescales) to be taken in order for a house transfer to be successful. Therefore; FAMC determines policy but HS can decide how to implement policy.

Transfer of new assets:

- Any transfer is given against a contribution amount that reflects the cost of the project, or can be allocated pro bono by FAMC.

Transfer of ‘used’ assets:

- Any transfer is given against a contribution amount based on factors such as cost of refurbishment and administrative costs. This therefore removes the concept of ‘market rate’ of Auroville houses, which could be welcome. However it is unclear where this would leave present stewards who have already paid the ‘market rate’ for their house.
- Vacating stewards have to provide the funds to refurbish the asset.

New Housing

- The 2023 draft policy now includes a reference to new housing being “within Master Plan guidelines”.
- Previous references to discretionary financial assistance for Aurovilians struggling to complete a building project is removed.

All references to Staff Quarters and Guest Houses are removed from the 2023 draft policy. New categories of housing defined in the 2023 draft policy are:

- Bridging Housing.

- Youth Housing, which was previously defined by the Youth Housing Guidelines. The upper age limit has been reduced to 35 (from 40).

There is no reference to the Youth Housing Selection team (previously a defined group of seven to ten Aurovilians), so it appears that selections will also be done by Housing Service.

The proposed elimination of the Housing Board as a decision-making power raises a number of concerns. The Housing Board was created via community-approved processes with the purpose of providing accountability to the community and rooting out issues of favoritism and mismanagement of assets. The forcible takeover of both the FAMC & the Housing Board means that the community now has no say how decision-makers are selected or held to account and there is a lack of transparency about how decisions are made within both groups.

Appendix A-56 - /AVFO 'ATDC' & 'FAMC'/ Announcement

18th March 2023

Land Asset Stewardships Redefined

by Chandresh on March 18, 2023, 11:37 am

Dear Aurovilians,

The detailing and implementation of the Galaxy Master Plan is being prepared on many levels and with urgency by the ATDC.

In order to move forward with the development of Auroville City as per the Master Plan and considering that non-ownership is a core value of life in Auroville, going forward all rights for development of the Auroville lands will follow land- use as defined in the Master Plan and by the ATDC, and endorsed by FAMC. Individual rights over land or other assets, as has been practiced till now, will change now to community ownership as per the planning parameters by ATDC and caretaker agreements worked out by FAMC and its subgroups.

This implies that going forward all "land stewardships" that were given or as understood in the past, especially in the City Master Plan area no longer hold validity in the context it was practiced. L'avenir d'Auroville / ATDC is the authorized body that will decide on the land use of all Auroville lands. City Center and the lands in the City Master Plan area will immediately be directly under the joint work team of ATDC and FAMC. The Land board team will assist in the maintenance of these land assets.

All the green belt lands also will follow planning parameters in consideration of the ground realities and the necessary change thereof as feasible. The maintenance and caretaker agreements for the green belt lands, farms and lands outside of the Masterplan area are being considered for their proper use.

Persons who have been given land stewardship in the past and have questions about their situation can make an appointment for a personal interaction by writing to avenir@auroville.org.in and/or famc@auroville.org.in.

At Her service,

FAMC, ATDC

Appendix A-57 - Report by RA TDC member

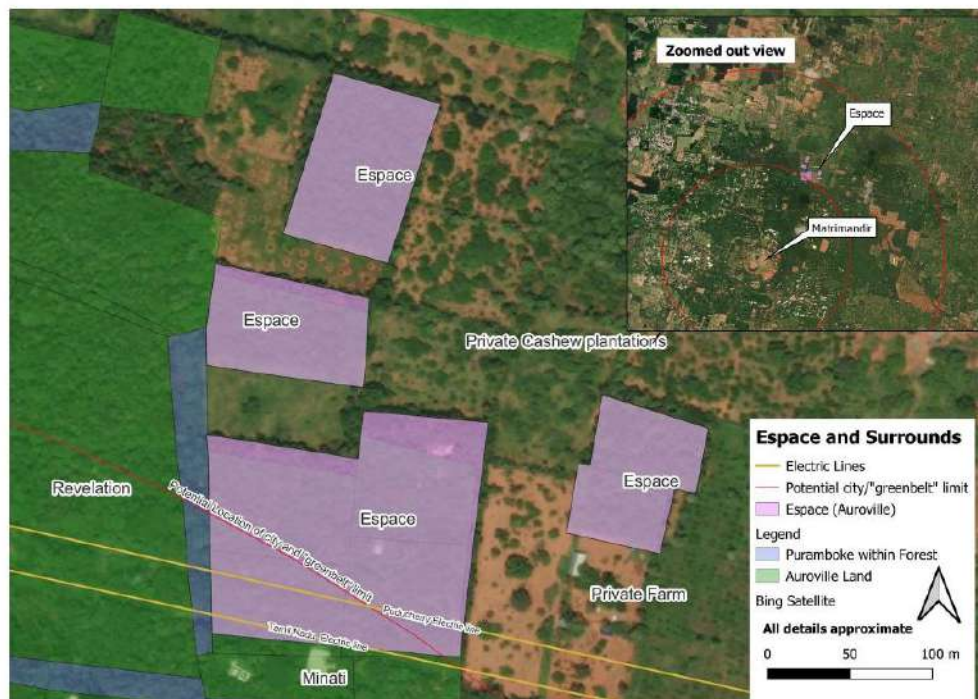
18th March 2018

Espace Community

Recently an announcement has been made regarding [stewardships within the "city"](#) area by the Foundation Office (FO) appointed ATDC and FAMC. As a response, I wanted to share about Espace, a Forest Group managed land located partially within the "city" limits, as it is clear that very little information has been shared about how lands are managed as forest or similar in Auroville. This is just an example.

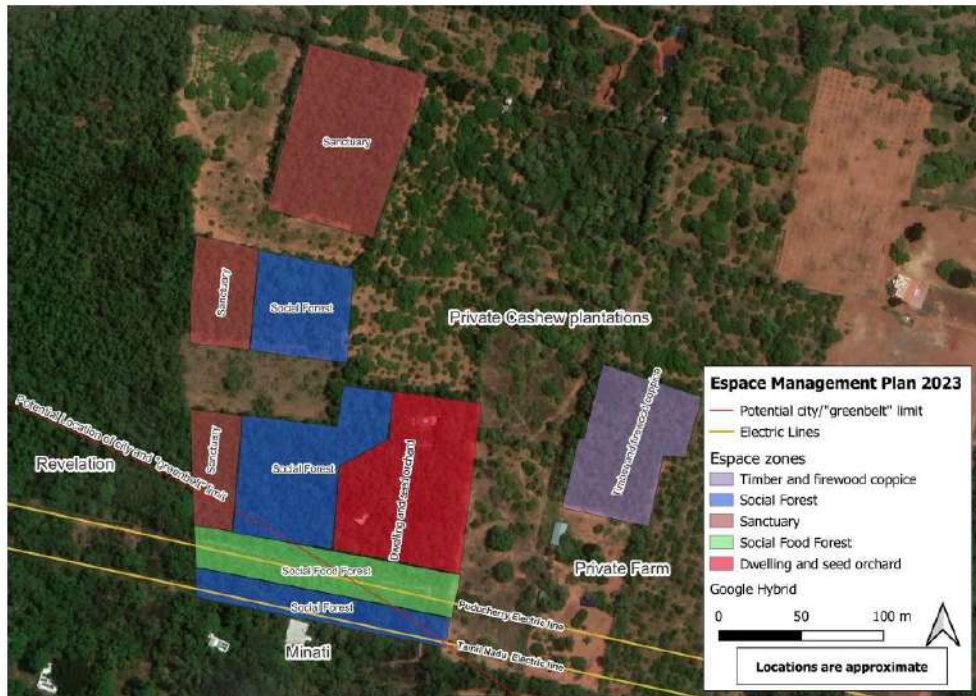
Espace was started in 2002 by me – it was a monoculture cashew plot that had just been purchased by Auroville and someone needed to fence it and protect it and since it was in the "greenbelt" (as designated in the masterplan). The default was to either plant forest or farmland on it. The soil was deemed not suitable for farmland by the then Green Group and as such it was to become forest.

Shortly afterwards I also started taking care of several acres that had been managed by what used to be Fertile Windmill (now Baraka) as it was a plot that was too far for them to manage, and it made more sense for me to do so as I was able to. Several years later, after the main area was secured, fence-wise and by making good relations with the neighbouring private landowners, three more plots, which are much more remote and isolated, were added to Espace.



I currently manage this area with Manolo. We receive no budget and no maintenances for this work.

It is about 10 acres. We have drawn up a management plan of the area, as can be seen below, for the time being.



Current responsibilities

- Keep both overhead electric lines clear of vegetation (Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry) (317 metres)
- Keep paths clear
- Keep an eye on trees that may fail near accessways and buildings. Remove if necessary
- Be familiar with [AV Forests Long Term Management and Stewardship Criteria document](#)
- Be familiar with management plan of Espace
- Adhere to or evolve management plan of Espace
- Maintain fence-line both in terms of fence integrity and vegetation growing into neighbouring land (1255 metres)
- Maintain good relations with neighbours
- Remove opportunistic creepers that negatively affect growth of trees
- Prune trees to improve timber value as and when it makes sense
- Harvest dead wood and sell it
- Investigate when it sounds like someone may be encroaching upon managed land (poachers, wood thieves, JCB work)
- Communicate and coordinate with Land Board for disputes, fencing and potential land purchasing
- Regularly submit accounts
- Improve and maintain social food forest area

Prior responsibilities

- Select, obtain and transport seedlings in planting season
- Dig and plant in the planting season
- Create bunds for storm water management

The idea in the medium term was to make a path through the social food forest area all the way to the Nine Palms dams for people to be able to use for recreational or educational purposes. I have conducted numerous walks, open to the public, over the years for this purpose.

Conclusion

Trying to understand how the FO appointed ATDC and FAMC would manage this place:

- Without it costing more money than Auroville is currently contributing to it
- Having no proper maps or orientation of where things are/ which plots are to be managed (I have communicated the location several times due to issues such as the mis-location of structures and boundaries)
- Having no trained staff nor being in contact with people of competence for carrying out this sort of work
- Having no management plans
- Having no contact with or recognition from the Forest Group due to the manner in which they have acted, since quite some time

Having managed Espace for almost 20 years, I have never been approached by any Town Development Council (or of anything with a similar name) to do anything with it. Every aspect can surely be improved upon, and it certainly needs to fit into an overall plan but now it seems that the FO appointed ATDC and FAMC want to claim ownership on the management of it with the pretext of removing ownership. So, approximately 10 people, with no land management experience, want to now decide what happens on this land instead of people elected by the 45+ people from the Forest Group who have decades of experience in managing this sort of thing? All this to do what?

And finally, as an aside, a little bit about the vegetation used as there is very little knowledge that it is the nearly extinct [Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest \(TDEF\)](#) type or East Deccan Dry Evergreen Forests species of which seeds have been [recovered from temple groves throughout Tamil Nadu](#) since, everywhere else, [most of this vegetation has been wiped out](#). This is the vegetation adapted to the region and therefore the most suitable to plant. Again, it is not to say that we need to plant this everywhere, it is to say that this is something that should be considered as one of the main sources of vegetation choice due to its suitability. Density and location of vegetation are different topics.

Appendix A-58 - Mass Bulletin of April 14

14th April 2023

RA WCom: Takeovers of services in Auroville

Dear Community,

Over the last 2 days there has been an ongoing series of attempted takeovers of various services in Auroville by the Office of the Secretary to the Governing Board, purported to be with the authorization of the Governing Board. There have been no notices given, no hearings, no reasons, no written orders - in short no due process has been followed. Online meetings were called by the Personal Assistant of the Secretary with very short notice, no agenda or purpose mentioned and no opportunities for representation or discussion given.

The services that we know of that have received such a communication are the Visitors' Center, the Eco Service, AV Arts Service, AV Safety and Security Team (AVSST) and the SAILER Board. In some cases, the executives' access to the auroville.org.in email addresses and Google Drives of these services have already been suspended, again without written notice or reason given. There is also at least one case that we know of where the auroville.org.in email has been blocked for a unit that has not received a notice for a meeting but that was previously targeted for takeover.

If anyone else has received similar communications please contact us as soon as possible either by writing to workingcom@auroville.services or by getting in touch with one of our members directly.

We are following the situation closely and will do our best to keep the community informed.

Please join us in calling for light and strength in the face of this latest challenging situation.

Faithfully,

Your Working Committee

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Mael (TOS), Sauro, Valli

Appendix A-59 - Office Order of April 12

12th April 2023

DR. G. SEETHARAMAN
OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY



No. AF/ESTT/OO/277

12-04-2023

OFFICE ORDER

**Subject: Appointment of Executives/Members
for Units/Activities/Trusts/Boards**

Further to the findings of the Systems and Processes Audit, Code of Conduct 2017; and approved by the 57th Governing Board meeting, the Working Committee and the Funds and Assets Management Committee have jointly decided in discussion with the GB to change the composition of some of the teams looking after the different activities of Auroville.

Auroville is at that inflection point where all efforts to support and strengthen the activities for its growth and development need to be augmented. The intent of the team composition changes is to bring in greater accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, responsiveness including upholding the compliances of the laws of India and suggested operational processes and practices. One representative from the Auroville Foundation would be included as a member of the larger Units/Activities/ Boards and Trusts.

AV Arts and Services additionally would also look into efficient and effective utilization, capacity management of the performing spaces related to Arts and Culture and Education across Auroville. Representatives from Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Sri Aurobindo Society could also be considered to be part of the team given this year is the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.

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.

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

Whereas the Governing Board accepts the recommendation by the Organization and Governance Committee established by the Governing Board under section 16(1) of the Auroville Foundation Act.

Now therefore, the Governing Board recommends the appointment of the names below as team members for the Units / Activities / Trusts / Boards, as attached in Appendix A.

The term of the Executives / Members / Trustees of the Units/Activities / Trust / Board shall be 2 years from the date of issue of this order.

This Office Order issued with the approval of Secretary, Auroville Foundation and shall come into force with immediate effect.



(G. Seetharaman)

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
4. Service Trust

APPENDIX A

1. SAHER BOARD

- i. Ashoke Chatterjee Ex officio
(Ex officio, Executive)
- ii. Sanjeev Ranganathan
Ex officio (Ex officio, Executive)
- iii. Devi Namasivayam
- iv. Aurevan
- v. Jean Yves Tariot
- vi. Anton Keulaars
- vii. Lijun (Ex officio, Executive)
- viii. Mahavir
- ix. Representative from
Sri Aurobindo Society
- x. Representative from
Sri Aurobindo Ashram

2. Auroville Arts Service

- i. Supriya Menon
- ii. Sowmya Van Baaren
- iii. Devasmita Patnaik

3. Bharat Nivas Trust

- i. Tapas Bhatt
- ii. Janmajeya
- iii. Rajeshwari
- iv. Bianca Anna
- v. Egle Borchardt

4. Visitors Centre

Campus Management

- i. John D'Andrea
- ii. Satyamurthy (Kaliya)
- iii. Sanjay Khusale
- iv. Lieve Claes
- v. Vatsla Sharma
- vi. Auroananda Gajendran

Restaurants (overseeing role)

- i. Aneetha Pathak
- ii. Ravi Borchardt
- iii. Dinesh Shanmugam Moorthy

Parking and Mobility

- i. V. Shankar
- ii. Sai Suresh
- iii. Minhaj Ameen

5. Security and Emergency Service

- i. Alok Malik
- ii. Sheida Borchardt
- iii. Adi
- iv. Devanathan Karunakaran
(Aikiyam)
- v. Anbu (team member)
- vi. Kaliananda (team member)
- vii. Major Arun Ambaty (team
member)
- viii. Teresa Caterina Martens
(team member)
- ix. Giacomo Colomba (team
member)

6. Guest House Trust

- i. Lieve Claes
- ii. Selvam Rajmani
- iii. Auroananda Gajendran

7. Housing Service

- i. Rep of WC, TDC, FAMC
- ii. Premnath
- iii. Venkateswaran Kanakarajan
(Venkatesh)
- iv. Banumathi Kannan (Banu)
- v. Saroja

8. Eco Service

- i. Sumit Kumar
- ii. Palani Kannan
- iii. William Sullivan "B"
- iv. Vanitha Balamurali (Aikiyam School)

9. RAS

- i. Satish Arumugam
- ii. Hans Van Baaren
- iii. Jacques Rosier
- iv. Egle Borcharadt
- v. Ramnarayan

10. ACUR

- i. Balu Kuppuswamy
- ii. Lakshmanan

New Teams Proposed for the below mentioned activities:

11. Farm Service

- i. Anshul Aggarwal
- ii. Luigi Fabozzi
- iii. Jyothi Prasad
- iv. Anitha Rajesh

12. Green Belt Services

- i. Saravanan
- ii. Aviram
- iii. Major Arun Ambathy (Resource Person)

13. Park Maintenance

- i. Jacques Rosier
- ii. Kothandaraman Arumugam

14. Sports Task Force

- i. Vikram Mani
- ii. Nitin Shitole
- iii. Divij
- iv. Shamba
- v. Natasha
- vi. Jyoti G
- vii. Representative from Kalarigram (invitee)

Appendix A-60 - Mass Bulletin of April 22

22nd April

RA WCom: Important information about attempted takeovers

Dear Community,

We would like to share with you the advice that we have offered to the executives and managers of units and services who have received requests for online meetings with the Secretary, in which it was communicated verbally that there will be changes in executives and teams. Not everyone who was contacted attended these meetings, and in several cases, including those who didn't attend the meeting, this was followed very quickly by access to auroville.org.in email accounts being blocked.

Due process is not being followed, according to their own Standing Order (attached) and the Code of Conduct of 2017 (approved by the GB). Therefore we advise that no one considers handing anything over or stepping down until and unless the following is produced:

1 A resolution from the relevant trust

2 A resolution from the 'FAMC' signed by the JSFA (Joint Secretary, Finance Advisor to Ministry of Education and ex-officio member of the GB) who is listed in the Office Order appointing the 'FAMC' according to Section 16 of the AV Foundation Act.

3 An Office Order from the Office of the Secretary.

More information that would be needed in any handover:

- A clear date when responsibilities go from current executives to new ones, with names.
- Certain things that are cleared and handed over such as: financial responsibility (accounts and balance sheets), assets with inventory list, data, legal responsibilities (pending or ongoing cases in court, eg), etc.

It may also be useful to understand point 2 in a bit more detail. Section 16 of the Auroville Foundation Act says:

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 not 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.

This means that only GB members have 'voting' rights/authority in any committee created by the GB under Section 16. The current GB FAMC has been created under this

Section with only one GB member included, which is the Finance Advisor of the Ministry of Education, who is an ex-officio member of the GB. Therefore, he is the only 'FAMC' member who can sign decisions and actions of the 'FAMC' and would have to be the one to sign any resolution to change executives.

Yesterday an Office Order (attached) was shown to executives at the Visitors' Center, in which a number of entities were listed with individuals named under each that were being 'appointed' in positions of responsibility by the Office of the Secretary. **A few points to note:**

- The entities listed were a mix of trusts, units, services, a board and a 'task force', all being clubbed in one Office Order and appointments being made in the same way;
- A number of the individuals listed have either not been asked or have been asked and declined;
- It is stated that this has been discussed with the Governing Board jointly by the Working Committee and the Funds and Assets Management Committee. **We, the Working Committee duly selected by the Residents' Assembly, were not consulted in this matter and do not agree with the way in which these changes are being implemented, where once again the wider RA is being sidelined and ignored.**

If individuals claiming to be newly appointed executives or team members appear on site and do not produce the above documents and do not accept a refusal to withdraw and hand over, please inform us immediately.

In community,

Your Working Committee

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Mael (TOS), Sauro, Valli

Appendix A-61 - Email from /AVFO 'Farm Service'/ to Farm Group

21st June 2023

Email from /AVFO 'Farm Service'/ to Farmers

Dear farmers,

For your information, FAMC & Farm Service are currently restructuring Foodlink. Please be aware that operations and business will continue as usual during this process.

Please further note the following:

1. Farmers can now directly email the farm service team for farming information.
2. The core group and sub-group no longer exists. All relevant matters concerning farming must be addressed to the Farm Service.

Thank You

Farm Service

--

On behalf of Farm Service

(Anitha, Anshul, Gino, Prasad)

Appendix A-62 - Farm Group Response

11th July 2023

Dear Torkil and Chandresh, members of AFO FAMC

The Farm Group does not agree with your analysis of the farming situation in Auroville or your so-called solution. Our thoughts are as follows:

- You say that since farmers only produce 20% overall of what Auroville needs, this is because of subsidies given to the farmers rather than structural issues relating to the Auroville market. As we have explained to you, a large part of the reason for this deficit is because the Auroville market demands food that it is impossible to grow in this area. Farmers cannot do much about that and a better approach would be to try and change the habits and attitudes of Auroville consumers towards the food that can be grown in this climate and with the present natural resources. Auroville farmers can and will produce more of these items provided they could be sure that most of what they grew would be sold.
- You say that FAMC have tried to engage farmers but that they have been resistant to this. We have met just two or three times with the AFO FAMC and twice with the farm service. In the last meeting with FAMC, Gheeta, Torkil and Chandresh, we all agreed in principle to look at ways both groups could move forward together; focusing on the things with which we can agree. Two days after, the Farm Service was created and at our first meeting with them, Prasad informed us that they, not FAMC, would only be dealing with us. Now, last week an email reducing farmers' maintenances. You say that the Farm Service is moving ahead with dealing with surpluses through restructuring Foodlink. Just to let you know that farmers are still getting produce returned and being told not to bring in certain items because Foodlink cannot deal with them. In other words, the new Farm Service Foodlink are having the same problem as before, in fact possibly more.
- If you want to go ahead with making farmers support themselves please be aware that you are encouraging farmers to grow what makes the most profit which is not necessarily what Auroville needs. Do you think this is a good move? It is also unclear about expectations with regard to the standard of Auroville produce. The existing high standards ensure that Auroville food is grown in a way that is healthy for people as well as the Earth. Do you subscribe to those values? Or is the value to be measured only in profit and production? At present it sounds very much like the latter and Auroville farmers do not agree with this. You talk about new ways of farming; can you please explain? If you mean the Gratitude project or Unity farm, we do not see any much new happening there.. You talk about the new farms which are having no subsidies and so we should all have no support; are you talking about Unity farm which got a budget of over 7 lakhs to start up or Gratitude project with double that investment? If farms would get all such startup investment the situation might look quite different now.
- Growing more food also requires investment so where is that supposed to come from? Many farms do not have resources for new investment to grow more and for those that

do it will take time to make the necessary changes to increase production. You say that the new initiatives of which you talk have/will be carried out without subsidy and presumably investment. Please do explain this further. How will these new projects be set up with no financial backing and how are the people doing the work managing with no financial support? (using savings? Getting jobs outside Auroville?) Please clearly explain this to us.

Farmers have shown lots of goodwill to try to cooperate with you although your group has been imposed on Auroville without any proper process.

Now getting these decisions thrown at us;

First our common farm group accounts are frozen. These accounts are vital for farmers to be able to take emergency loans, seed/compost loans, infra loans, it also blocks the repayment of several lakhs of rupees to farms from a fund which farmers have pooled to pay operating cost of foodlink and any excess gets paid back at the end of the financial year.

Then Farm group and it's subgroups are being dismissed as non existent; these groups are simple working groups where farmers meet, look at each others work, plan crops and are crucial for learning and regulation of production.

Foodlink being taken over without any respect for its executives and no time for a proper transition and finally cutting of the personal maintenance from farmers, again from one moment to the other without any proper prior communication is totally unacceptable.

We really start to wonder about your motives and capacity; anyone with a little sense of reality will realize that all these measures are surely not going to help to increase food for Aurovilians.

We will continue to work on the land because that is what farming is about. We will find ways to survive and keep supporting Aurovilians because that's what is needed. Unless you stop making these unilateral decisions and there is normal communication it will be difficult to work with you any longer.

Wishing for better times,

Auroville Farm group

The above message was a response to the AFO FAMC e-mail below:

Dear Auroville farmers,

Despite many years of work, large areas given for farming, large subsidies in form of maintenance, donations and loans, the farms of Auroville have only managed to produce around 20% of the food Auroville needs.

Over the last year FAMC have tried to engage farmers in discussions about how this can be radically changed, but there has been little interest to move away from the safety and protection of subsidies. Auroville is now expecting a fast growth in population and the existing farm

production system will not in any way be able to be scaled up. The new Farm Service is moving fast ahead with new ways of farming, opening Food Link for selling surplus outside, and is working without expectation of subsidy or maintenance, but based on sale of production. It would not be possible to run two different production systems at the same time, one heavily subsidised and one without. FAMC has decided that with effect from June 2023 we will move into a new setup to support a fair maintenance scheme of a "care package" for running farms in Auroville, and farms have to rely additionally on what they produce and sell.

A "care package" provided by BCC covers the monthly support of the lunch scheme, in-kind support for groceries and the health fund contribution. The City Services Contribution will also be provided with a waiver. We know it is a difficult transition for the farm sector, and we realise that some farmers will have trouble taking these steps.

In case anybody has serious financial problems with this, they can approach City Services for temporary support.

In Her Service,
Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations,

Chandresh and Torkil for FAMC

Appendix A-63 - Forest Group Response

3rd July 2023

Forest Group update Report 3rd July 2023

by xxxxxxxx on July 4, 2023, 2:13 am

The FG would like to inform the community that they are very disappointed and distressed at community members Chandresh and Torkil, and the GB FAMC for supporting them, in their recent communication and action.

After withholding the Forest Budget, which supports 60 employees from our neighbouring communities, this communication states that their budget has been suspended. It also states that over 40 Aurovilian personal maintenances (some full/some part-time) will also be stopped at short notice. It should be noted that some of these Aurovilians have dedicated their whole working life to protecting and developing land for Auroville.

For transparency, please read carefully the mail they sent to a few members of the FG and the FG's reply.

We are really hoping for community support to ensure this callous action is reversed.

Faithfully the Forest Group

FG reply to email received by a few foresters:

Dear Torkil and Chandresh, and other members of the GB elected FAMC,

It is with great concern that we write this mail to you. Since mid last week (Wednesday, June 21, 2023) a few members of the Forest Group have received the mail copied below. This mail has not been received by all members on the Auroville Forest Group via mail Id (forestgroup@auroville.org.in).

However, the ramifications of the shocking content of this mail, along with those not receiving it and not being aware that their subsistence will be cut within a week, are very alarming.

The threat of cutting personal maintenances of 50 Aurovilians and 60 salaries of employees at such short notice will put 110 people under duress and could have extreme psychological effects. The threat of cutting of our Forest Care budget, which solely goes to paying salaried employees wages, puts dedicated residents of our neighbouring villages, who are mostly living on the breadline, under extreme pressure to feed their families.

One wonders how two people with no financial worries could put so many people in this situation.

Also, the sudden cutting of salaries of employees may also have legal consequences, as the mail does not detail the timeline of the FAMC for forwarding the 60 employees entrenchment compensation and for 49 out of the 60 who have been employed more than 5 years, their gratuity package, all this according to the 1947 Indian labour laws.

It is also deeply concerning and surprising to read in your mail the following statement: "FAMC over the last year has tried numerous times to get into a dialogue with the green workers, but with little or no result, often not even willing to meet. The old Forest Group does not seem to have any willingness to change and be part of a fast developing Auroville according to its purpose.", as we attended a fruitful meeting with Madam Secretary and the FAMC on the 27th February at the Auditorium Bharat Nivas. A meeting in which you, Chandresh and Torkil, did not attend yourselves.

This meeting has been video recorded and starts with a powerpoint presentation called "FAMC meets the Farmers & Green buffer & Park Zone " presented by Geeta and the Madam Secretary. Approximately 80% of Forest Group members attended this meeting, a lot of information was exchanged and the movement of our present accounting to a more CAG oriented system was agreed upon and instigated.

As you have been supplied with all our accounts up to date (including full accounts FY 2022-2023 plus May 2023), you must be aware of how the forests are financed and understand the ramification of what you are proposing in your mail.

We therefore request a meeting with you ASAP, to reassure us that you will:

Make payment of our overdue monthly City Services Forest Care budget for June 2023, so that salaries to 60 employees of Auroville can be paid.

Make timely payment of the City Services Forest Care budget for July salaries for our 60 employees.

Ensure that the maintenances of Aurovilians, full time or half time involved in Forest Care, are transferred to our personal Financial Service accounts at the latest on Monday, July 3, 2023, so that your Aurovilian sisters and brothers are able to provide their families with basic needs.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

The Auroville Forest Group

Appendix A-64 - Forest Group fact-check

Forest Group Fact Check

1. The Governing Board in its 57th Meeting minutes requested the Funds & Assets Management Committee to prepare an annual work plan for all its sub groups. The current FAMC team was constituted in June, 2022.
2. The forest group is a collective of 45+ stewards of green buffer zone parcels of lands owned by the Auroville Foundation. The group has called these land parcels as forest lands. Many of the land parcels in the City area (300+ acres) have been purposefully planted with trees on the infrastructure Right of Ways (RoW) and other City Center areas. Many in the group have been strongly opposing the implementation of the gazetted Master Plan over decades. Over the last year and a half, the main opposition for the clearing of the RoW for the Crown way has been blocked by many members of this group along with many young activists whom they have recruited from Auroville and other young newcomers and volunteers.
3. Lands in the City master plan area have been taken over in the name of stewardship and purposefully converted into "forest" lands. Many land contours have been changed by digging out large water catchment areas without city detailed planning or approval from the Auroville Town Development Council and solely with the intention to block any city development and maintain hold over the lands enjoyed by the stewards' family and friends.
4. Forest averaged budgets over the last ten year has been as follows:
 - a. Total (avg) income – Rs 133 lakhs/-
 - b. Total (avg) expenditure – Rs 170 lakhs/-
 - c. Total (avg) loss – Rs 35 lakhs/-
5. Rs 11 lakhs/- a month (Rs 132 lakhs annually) are provided from BCC community budget for 45+ maintenance and 60+ wages. This is for an overall 6 SqKm area of green buffer zone. This is way too much over staffed for green buffer zone or even counting national and state level "forest ranger" (and this is not a forest) allocations. The intention for personal and family estate holdings is clearly the unwritten fact underneath.
6. Traditionally no City supported services set aside funds for EPF, ESI, Gratuity. This is an area that is under radar and is probably a large amount that is a liability. This amount has to be identified in asap.
7. An area of 6 SqKm should be feasible to be made self-sustaining for its own maintenance by a small group of persons as an efficient and professional service team of say 10 to 15 service staff. Anyway the current residents live on the lands and have permanent presence so hired staff count may be limited.
8. In fact, the area so far set aside for the green buffer cover can easily provide for the Rs 11 lakhs/- monthly budget and on top provide more surplus revenue to the city services.
9. A lot of timber movements have been seen over the decades around Auroville and three to four private timber sawmills have come up in the immediate vicinity of Auroville. Not one was setup for Auroville. The rumored estimate for the monthly timber sales after talking to the sawmill owners show a monthly outflow of (Rs xx lakhs/- per month – or Rs xxx/- annually)
10. The forest group has never submitted their accounts to any of the previous Funds & Assets Management Committees. Even last year their accounts were not submitted for consolidation. This year Mme Secretary had a meeting with the green group (In Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Bharat Nivas for the sole purpose of CAG audit, in which no other directional change was discussed) and first time they have provide the accounts and this too in the format of simple spreadsheets only.

11. A summary review of the expense/income spreadsheets of last 24 years shared shows a continued losses by the forest service over all of the 24 years.
12. The knowledge of the eco system maintenance and growth with various parameters learned over the decades is a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be properly disseminated to all other forest departments, schools, ecology and forest institutions etc. This core IP also will add to the revenue streams for the city services.
13. Auroville Master Plan is a gazetted document for the development of Auroville. The development of Auroville as per the Master Plan is directly in the purview of the Governing Board. There are clearly marked and designated areas for the City Master plan area and City parks. There are land areas outside of the City master plan designated for a variety of services for the City and two of these that most people perceive as the sole ones are farming and green buffer zones. Clearly many City services related needs are very much attributable to the Green buffer Zone around the City center. This has been conveniently forgotten and brushed aside by the green group.
14. The current FAMC team had to bring about a review of this sector on its own as there has been no cooperation and historical data to base the true and actual need for this sector. A proper accountability review is necessary by the newly formed Green Buffer Zone service team along with the FAMC. Each land parcel has to be reviewed for:
 - Area of each parcel,
 - Costs to maintain,
 - Potential for agro-industrial output,
 - Timber sales,
 - Integrated combined services personnel to reduce overheads etc.
 - Repurposing of the land parcel as necessary as below.

For the planning side ATDC planning team will also need to review:

- The Master Plan perspectives 2025 define access roads into Auroville radials,
- Four zonal vehicles parking structures,
- Waste water treatment and other city services need to be outside of the core City center,
- Electrical substations need to be put up in the green belt,
- Maintenance depots, warehouse etc will come in the green belt,
- Community mobility parking and vehicular repair depot,
- Warehousing for operations of the City services in the center etc.

This total sectoral budget will need to be immediately reduced to a 10 to 15 member core service team of Aurovilians and 20 to 25 member core support/security team members for the clearing, poaching and perimeter fence maintenance etc.

A workplan is to be prepared immediately for a comprehensive, self-sustaining and long term management of this large assets of the Auroville Foundation. Over the coming years the final land use of green buffer zone will be established and development will proceed towards fulfilling that.

The following is the timeline for the incessant one way reaching out communication that FAMC team did with the forest group members via their group email id.

1. June 23, 2022 – Wish to meet
 - No response
2. June 29, 2022 - Meeting with reconstituted FAMC

Please come prepared with the following:

- a) An update of the Auroville Foundation assets register (physical and financial assets).
- b) A work plan for the remaining part of the present financial year;
- c) A copy of the existing guidelines/ processes/ criteria by which disbursements and utilisation of funds are presently managed.

3. June 29, 2022 - Responded that they do not recognize us. They copied the RA shadow groups on auroville.services domain.
4. July 9, 2022 – FAMC again reached out to forest group to meetup

The forest group responded that the forestgroup@auroville.org.in is no longer valid and that FAMC contact them on forestgroup@auroville.services. Of course this is not only illegal but also the shadow domain was not accessible anyway.

5. August 19, 2022 FAMC one more time reached out to the forest group to come and meetup.
6. August 19, 2022 forest group again repeated the same thing as before -- that the forestgroup@auroville.org.in is no longer valid and that FAMC contact them on forestgroup@auroville.services.
7. August 25, 2022 forest group responded that they are working with RA FAMC and that if we need any information to contact them. (actual text below)
8. October 1, 2022 Christopher claims stewardship of two parcels of lands within City Master plan area as forests lands and cites NGT to block work
9. October 25, 2022 FAMC again invites forest group to come and prepare the workplan together
10. February 27, Mme Secretary called all the green group members for a meeting in the Bharat Nivas Auditorium to remind them to send their account. FAMC requested forest group to provide their land data and the forest group provided that.
11. The accounts in spreadsheet format were provided that Anitha on behalf of the AVF office had to put into Tally. The data in spreadsheets were only till January 2023. In May the final two months of accounts information was provided to Anitha for entering into Tally accounts for the forest group.

Please note that green buffer zone workplan discussion and proper information and planning meeting has yet to happen for a lapse of over a year now.

from: **FAMC**
 . <famc@auroville.org.in>
 to: Forest Group
 <forestgroup@auroville.org.in>,
 FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>

 date: Jun 23, 2022, 5:26 PM
 subject: Wish to meet

Dear Forest Group members,

The present FAMC has been reconstituted directly under the Governing Board for a period of 3 years. This has come about because of Auroville's non-compliance with both the Auroville rules and values as well as the laws of India with damaging results and very heavy fines.

This group has committed for the next 3 years to address these pressing issues so we need to sit with you to hear how best we can help to move towards implementing Auroville's true values in forests and green work.

Please give us a convenient time of next week to meet and begin our collaboration.

In Her Service,
Smiles,
FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Jocelyn, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil)

from: **FAMC**
 . <famc@auroville.org.in>
 to: Forest Group
 <forestgroup@auroville.org.in>

 cc: FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>

 date: Jun 29, 2022, 8:16 PM
 subject: Meeting with reconstituted
 FAMC

Dear friends from Forest Group,

Please find the attached circular from OSD, Auroville Foundation. In this context we would like to meet with you all on Wednesday, 6th July 2022 at 10:30pm in the FAMC office in the Archives building, first floor, back side.

Please come prepared with the following:

- a) An update of the Auroville Foundation assets register (physical and financial assets).
- b) A work plan for the remaining part of the present financial year;
- c) A copy of the existing guidelines/ processes/ criteria by which disbursements and utilisation of funds are presently managed.

In Her Service,
Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Jocelyn, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil)

from: **Forest Group** <forestgroup@auroville.org.in>

to: "FAMC ." <famc@auroville.org.in>,
workingcom@auroville.services,
avcouncil@auroville.services,
famc@auroville.services

cc: Forest Group
<forestgroup@auroville.org.in>

date: Jun 30, 2022, 10:05 AM

subject: Re: Meeting with reconstituted FAMC

Dear Chandresh, Geeta, Jocelyn, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil

We do not recognize you as legitimate members of the FAMC. Kindly contact the duly selected groups of the Residents' Assembly.

Dear members of the Working Committee, FAMC and Auroville Council

Kindly see the communication below and advise how to proceed.

Warm regards

Auroville Forest Group

from: **FAMC**
 . <famc@auroville.org.in>
 to: Forest Group
 <forestgroup@auroville.org.in>,
 FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>
 date: Jul 9, 2022, 5:30 PM
 subject: Re: Meeting with reconstituted
 FAMC

This email account is not in use, please contact us at forestgroup@auroville.services

from: **FAMC**
 . <famc@auroville.org.in>
 to: Forest Group
 <forestgroup@auroville.org.in>,
 FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>
 date: Aug 19, 2022, 8:11 AM
 subject: Fwd: Meeting with
 reconstituted FAMC

Dear friends,

Please find attached the circular from the OSD, Auroville Foundation. In this context we wish to meet with you in our office in the Archives building, first floor, rear side. Let us know your preferred time and date (before the end of August 2022.)

Please come prepared with the following:

- a) An update of the Auroville Foundation assets register (physical and financial assets).
- b) A work plan for the remaining part of the present financial year;
- c) A copy of the existing guidelines/ processes/ criteria by which disbursements and utilisation of funds are presently managed.

In Her Service,
Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Jocelyn, Kalya, Sathyanarayan and Torkil)

from: **Forest Group** <forestgroup@auroville.org.in>
to: "FAMC ." <famc@auroville.org.in>
date: Aug 25, 2022, 12:52 PM
subject: Re: Meeting with reconstituted FAMC

To: Jocelyn, Geeta, Chandresh, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, Torkil

In the light of the recent Madras High Court (MHC) decision regarding the role of the Residents Assembly in appointing working groups, the ongoing RAD on the validity of various office orders of recent months and the upcoming case on the constitution of the FAMC in front of the MHC, we are not able to meet with you at this point of time.

Representatives of the Forest Group (which has maintained regular and transparent accounting throughout its existence) have recently met with the RA appointed FAMC to discuss various issues around accounting and formalizing the accounts.

For any questions on this, the Forest Group recommends that you approach the RA appointed FAMC at your convenience.

Kind regards,
Auroville Forest Group

From: christoph <christophp@auroville.org.in>
Sent: 01 October 2022 11:04
To: Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in>; ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>; Forest Group <forestgroup@auroville.org.in>; Auroville Foundation <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>
Subject: clearance in Existence and Bliss

To whom it may concern.

The clearing of a 2.5m wide cyclepath through Existence, private land, Bliss and Revelation which has started yesterday, Friday afternoon at 5pm and is continuing right now is a violation of the NGT court order. An Environmental Clearance and DDP is needed for this kind of work.

We request you to stop this work immediately.

Christoph

Bliss Forest co-steward

from: **FAMC** . <famc@auroville.org.in>

to: Forest Group
<forestgroup@auroville.org.in>

cc: Secretary AV Foundation
<secretaryavf@auroville.org.in>,
FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>

date: Oct 25, 2022, 8:58 AM

subject: Workplan

Dear Forest group,

FAMC, which is convened by the AV Foundation Secretary, is working with all its subgroups to prepare the respective work plans for the coming year.

In order for proper assets and human resources to be effectively deployed from all the Aurovilians and Newcomers joining Auroville, it is good to put forward the plan for all the forest land assets and its needs, challenges and growth for the maintenance and growth of the green belt of Auroville.

We would like to once again invite the forest group members to sit with us so that the forest work may be jointly understood and a way forward can be reviewed.

In Her Service,
Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, ShankarDevy and Torkil)

Appendix A-65 - RA BCC Mass Bulletin

4th July 2023

RA BCC: Observations on Recent Budget Cuts

The RA BCC has been made aware of a 100% budget cut to the Forest Group (all Maintenances and salaries) and a budget cut of over 75% to the Farm Group (all Maintenances previously allocated – whether half or full – have been reduced to a care package, which is the equivalent of a quarter Maintenance). These cuts were communicated to only a few members of either group, in emails signed by only two members of the FO FAMC, and implemented immediately. Maintenance support to children has been cut alongside that of their parents in the case of Forest Group, although this was not mentioned in the FO FAMC's communication.

In light of these significant budgetary cuts, we would like to remind the community that the RA BCC held a community budgeting process in early 2022, to get inputs on budgetary priorities. We wish to highlight that Farms/Food and Social Support (Maintenances) were amongst the highest budgetary priority areas, to receive more financial support from the City Services budget if needed/possible. Forest was considered to be in the mid-low priority range for increased funding. At the time, Forest was receiving 5.8% of the City Services Budget, and Farms were receiving 3% (CS Report FY 2020-2021). The full report of the outcomes of the community budgeting process is available [here](#).

So far, a total of 121 adult Aurovilians have seen their Maintenance support cut by the FO FAMC and BCC, amounting to 13.6% of the Aurovilians supported by a City Services Maintenance just before the RA FAMC and RA BCC were replaced by these groups (888 in total, CS Report FY 2021-2022). This is the first occasion at which Childrens' Maintenances have been cut as well – despite the fact that the RA FAMC and RA BCC had amended the Childrens' Maintenance guidelines in October 2021, making all children eligible for this support regardless of the Maintenance status of their parents. To our knowledge, no Bridging Maintenances or gratuity settlements have been made available to the Aurovilians and employees impacted, as would have been standard procedure. Gratuity for employees of budgeted services was previously routinely paid for from the City Services Budget, which included a Gratuity budget head and a dedicated FS account to hold these funds. We believe that the community needs to be informed of these critical developments, which have not been publicly communicated by those deciding and implementing them.

In service,

Your RA BCC Members (Aurosugan, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Mahi, Sacha, Suryamayi, Verena)

Appendix A-66 - Letter to Ayarpadi farm steward

12th July 2023

From: FAMC . <famc@auroville.org.in>

Date: Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 1:32 PM

Subject: Land allocation

To: Ayarpadi Farm <ayarpadifarm@auroville.org.in>

Cc: FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Farm Service Auroville <farmservice@auroville.org.in>, Auroville Foundation <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>

Dear M.,

As has been communicated by FAMC, there are many residents who have expressed their interest in farming in the recently completed RoR survey. To encourage farming activity, it has been decided to allocate 2 acres of land to aspiring farmers. This policy change was also conveyed to the farmers during the meeting with Farm Service on 4th June 2023, as well as during the last meeting convened by Mme Secretary, AVFO between farmers, FAMC, and Farm Service at Windarra farm. On the 13th of June, Farm Service members also met with you personally to discuss this possibility, and the meeting note was shared with you and with FAMC.

As part of the first phase, Farm service will allocate the land parcel that you are farming in situated next to Windarra, as well as the service farm, beginning with those Aurovillians who have undergone 6 months of training at Unity Farm. In order to proceed with this transition We kindly request you to schedule a time to come to the farm and do a handover for various assets on the farm parcel, such as the roadside entrance key and also review the current assets and conditions of the land, fence and protection, bore connections, any buildings etc. Thank you for your cooperation.

In Her Service,

Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations,

Chandresh, Geeta, Margarita for FAMC and Anitha and Anshul for Farm Service

Appendix A-67- Open Letter from Farm Group

17th July 2023

Dear members of FAMC and Farm Service

We are taken aback by your request to Ayarpadi Farm to give up 5 acres of their cultivated land to be used by volunteers to explore a farming future. We are happy to welcome new farmers in Auroville, but the way you go about this is very disturbing.

We think it is important to understand that farms are not just fields, but carefully set up entities where different parts and activities become a functioning organism where all parts play a crucial role. Cutting off a part of a farm as a whole from one day to the other has a dramatic effect on the farm. Farm economics are very tight and over the years a farmer finetunes the different farm parts to be able to manage logistics properly and make the economics of the farm work.

We wonder why you want to take a part of a good functioning farm to experiment with. Ayarpadi has been consistently producing field crops on this part of their farm. The farm is a main producer of grains like paddy, peanuts, ragi and sesame. These crops are all in short supply in Auroville and need skill to produce. Since many years, every year, crops have been produced on this particular plot of land. This plot is delivering around 4 tons of grain crops every year consistently which after processing end up in solar kitchen and PTDC. Ayarpadi is our main producer of boiled rice in Solar kitchen and a good amount comes from this particular plot.

Farming is a very demanding occupation and one needs many years to acquire the skill set and patience to succeed. A half year of training as you are offering gives at best a short exposure to the world of agriculture. It would be very wise to let those volunteers join an existing farm of their choice for a few years and learn farming in our challenging reality. After which they can be allocated land to farm on their own.

A very big part of setting up and running a farm in Auroville is setting up infrastructure. Ayarpadi Farm has spent a lot of their energy/money making this plot of land into a productive land parcel. To just grab this land away from the rest of the farm without any dialogue and discussion is simply not acceptable.

There are many land plots (5-6 acres in Rajapudupakkam, 17 acres in Irumbai) in Auroville which need protection and can be made productive. If you think that the volunteers are ready to become farmers please allocate some of those lands to them and assist them to put in the needed infra to be able to start growing food for the community.

There might be farms who have areas to be developed and might be happy to welcome newcomer farmers to develop the existing farms to become more productive.

The farm group is open for a healthy dialogue whenever you want to talk about developing farms in Auroville.

Hoping for common sense,

The Auroville farm group

Appendix A-68 - Letter to Ayarpadi Farm reversing the decision

29th August 2023

From: Anshul

Date: Tue, 29 Aug 2023 at 2:35 PM

Subject: regarding Ayarpadi/Windarra land

To: Ayarpadi Farm

Cc: Farm Service Auroville <farmservice@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>,

Margarita FAMC <margarita-famc@auroville.org.in>

Dear M.,

After considering the recent developments in the International Zone land by the ATDC, we have decided to keep Ayarpadi land out of the reallocation process. We also recognise the years of investment in the land made by you and hope you can continue to use it productively. We need to create new MoUs regarding house-sitting for both lands. We will contact you for this.

Also, we would like you to name the land next to Windarra differently so that its production and expenses can be assessed separately. Please keep these records separately.

Do you have a name in mind? (Could be Ayarpadi 1 and Ayarpadi 2 or feel free to suggest)

Please go ahead with the plans for this season and continue your work on the land.

Thank you.

Regards

anshul

on behalf of farm service

Appendix A-69 - Self Declaration Form

July 2023

SELF DECLARATION FORM (I)

Date -

I, (Auroville Name)..... full name(as in Passport)
.....

ML/RoR No....., FS a/c No., Aadhar Card No.....

born on (dd/mm/yr) resident of
community.

DECLARATION: (Please check whichever is applicable)

I, hereby state that: (please check ✓ whichever is applicable)

- I am working, and my work place(s) is/are: _____ Full-time Half-time
- I have a unit/activity in Auroville
- I receive a pension (in India/abroad)
- I'm a house steward of an Auroville Asset
- I have a private bank account in India
- I have a fixed deposit in India

Here, I declare that I **have no source of income in Auroville / outside Auroville. I am not a recipient of any pension from any source outside of Auroville.**

I confirm that the above contents are true to my current situation and I am responsible for providing the above information.

(SIGNATURE OF THE DECLARANT)

Appendix A-70 - RA WCom: clarification regarding Silver Fund 'Self Declaration Form' from the /AVFO 'BCC'/

21st July 2023

RA WCom: clarification regarding Silver Fund 'Self Declaration Form' from the AVFO BCC

Dear Community,

A number of you have contacted us for advice about how to respond to the request from the AVFO BCC to Aurovilians who are receiving a 'Silver Fund' maintenance, to fill out a self declaration form.

We copy below a statement by the RA BCC providing information about the Silver Fund.

While the RA BCC recommends that you reply to the AVFO BCC's email or meet with them, we would like to add that some of the fields of the "Self Declaration Form" seem very inappropriate to us. This form also brings up privacy concerns, which is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, and we do not want to encourage this administrative culture in Auroville. Our recommendation would therefore be that, if you decide to respond to the AVFO BCC's request, you only provide the information that you feel comfortable sharing with them, and simply state that after sincere consideration you reaffirm that you do not have sufficient funds to meet your basic needs and therefore still need this financial support from the Auroville community. This could be done either via email or in person.

We hope this clarifies. Feel free to get in touch with us and with the RA BCC if you have any further questions.

Also please inform us of any further email exchange you may have with the AVFO BCC.

Lastly, if you have received this request from the AVFO BCC and neither you nor a family member are receiving a 'Silver Fund' maintenance, please inform us and the RA BCC.

Warmly,

Your RA Working Committee

(Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël (TOS), Sauro, Valli)

Statement by the RA BCC:

Advice & Information for Responding to the Maintenance Self Declaration Form

Dear friends,

You may have received an email with a 'Self Declaration Form' to be filled in, related to a 'special category' of Maintenance that you are receiving. If so, you are probably receiving what we call a 'Silver Fund' Maintenance.

The Silver Fund Maintenances are Maintenances that were provided to Aurovilians over 70 years of age, who had lived and worked in Auroville for at least 20 years, and were in need of financial support. These Maintenances were allocated on a permanent basis, unless people voluntarily chose to give it up (for example in cases where they started to receive a "good" pension from their home country). In some cases, the BCC shifted eligible senior Aurovilians to a Silver Fund Maintenance to free up Maintenances in the service they were working in for new people to be able to join. Receiving a Silver Fund Maintenance did not imply that the Aurovillian had stopped working, but it did offer the Aurovillian financial security regardless of how much they were able to continue working.

We feel concerned that the FO BCC might be considering ending this Maintenance support. When first allocating the Silver Fund Maintenance, similar questions were asked as the ones detailed in the Self Declaration form (although this was typically done in person, and based on good faith). We would advise those who have been asked to fill in a Self Declaration Form to reply to the mail or to meet with the FO BCC. Although we cannot know if this will result in the Maintenance support continuing, what we have observed is that lack of communication does lead to them cutting budgets and Maintenances. If you are receiving a pension and this pension is insufficient, we advise you to mention this in the form. Be sure to mention any kind of work that you continue to do for Auroville.

In case you are informed that your Maintenance will be cut, consider requesting information regarding their guidelines for receiving this Maintenance. Please keep the RA BCC and RA WCom informed of their reply.

With care,

Your RA BCC members

(Aurosugan, Danny, Enrica, Hans, Mahi, Sacha, Suryamayi, Verena)

Appendix B-1 - Letter from the Ministry of Education's UNESCO cell

24th November 2023

From: Sarada Natarajan <sarada.natarajan@gmail.com>

Date: Monday, 29 November 2021 at 6:19 AM

To: <govtam@nic.in>, <lg_pon@nic.in>, <nirima@gmail.com>, Aravindan Neelakandan <aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com>, <gghosal87@gmail.com>, <rssaraju@gmail.com>, <gbnandana1956@gmail.com>, <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, <neetaprasad@gmail.com>, <jsfa.edu@gov.in>, <office@kaiciid.org>, <info@gpiw.org>, <yogabi@roottolight.com>, <vco@aurouniversity.edu.in>, <Dena.Merriam@finnpartners.co>, Michel Danino <micheldanino@iitgn.ac.in>, Michel Danino <micheldanino@gmail.com>, American Institute of Vedic Studies <vedicinstitute@gmail.com>, <shambhavi.yogini@gmail.com>

Cc: <contact@aurovillecanada.org>, <info@auroville.de>, <auroville-pamplona@auroville.es>, <itxaso.recondo@gmail.com>, <info@auroville.es>, <aurovilleinternationalfr@gmail.com>, <aurovillehungary@gmail.com>, <info@auroville.nu>, <sweden@auroville-international.org>, <info@aviuk.org>, <info@aviusa.org>, <aviny@aviusa.org>, <avi@auroville.org.in>, <escuchaintegral@gmail.com>, <anandi7@yahoo.com>, <janaviaus@auroville.org.in>, <AVI-WA@outlook.com>, <auroville.international.belgium@gmail.com>, <paulobpereira@uol.com.br>, <ateljevic.irena@gmail.com>, <maxbeck_100@hotmail.com>, <aviliaisongreece@gmail.com>, <haiti@auroville-international.org>, <sadhanaforest@gmail.com>, <ptlloyd65@gmail.com>, <juergenfaulstich@gmail.com>, <Yuval@auroville.org.in>, <israel@auroville-international.org>, <auroville.italia@gmail.com>, <avijapan@auroville.org.in>, <yes_nurlan@yahoo.com>, <kenya@auroville-international.org>, <kenya@sadhanaforest.org>, <Avikorea@auroville.org.in>, <kaziseibutis@gmail.com>, <sbenoit@pt.lu>, <info@transformarte.com>, <montenegro@auroville-international.org>, <Newkarma11@gmail.com>, <Lisa.c.ioanes@gmail.com>, <avi_russia@mail.ru>, <kornienkoart@yandex.ru>, <jaredquek@gmail.com>, <auroville.southafrica@gmail.com>, <camille.egger@bluewin.ch>, <gunnuron@gmail.com>, <toshak2000@gmail.com>, <rafaelgsalguero@hotmail.com>, <info@auroville-international.org>

Subject: Fwd: Suggestion/concern regarding the development work in Auroville Foundation

This is for your kind attention and action.

Regards

Sarada Natarajan, Ph.D.

Art Historian

----- Forwarded message -----

From: unesco.edu <unesco.edu@nic.in>

Date: Wed, Nov 24, 2021 at 9:54 AM

Subject: Suggestion/concern regarding the development work in Auroville Foundation.

To: Auroville Foundation <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>

Cc: <sarada.natarajan@gmail.com>, K. Sanjay Murthy <secy.dhe@nic.in>, secretaryavf <secretaryavf@auroville.org.in>, srinivasmurty <srinivasmurty@auroville.org.in>, Angshuman Basu <abasu-avfn.py@nic.in>, S K Samantaray <sk.samantaray@nic.in>, Saroj Kumar Choudhary <sarojchoudhary.edu@nic.in>, BINDU RAJAGOPALAN U D C, Dept. of Education <bindurajagopalan.edu@nic.in>

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to the concern expressed by Dr. Sarada Natarajan through her e-mail addressed to the Secretary (HE).

2. In this regard, Auroville Foundation may ensure that the development work in Auroville Foundation (AF) be done under the guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to preserve the archaeological heritage in Auroville.
3. The above suggestion is for your information and necessary action.

With regards,

Section Officer (UU/IFC)
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001

From: "sarada natarajan" <sarada.natarajan@gmail.com>
To: "K. Sanjay Murthy" <secy.dhe@nic.in>
Cc: "RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI" <govtam@nic.in>, "Lt Governor of Puducherry" <lg.pon@nic.in>, nirima@gmail.com, "aravindan neelakandan" <aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com>, gghosal87@gmail.com, rssarraj@gmail.com, gbnan dana1956@gmail.com, "Neeta Prasad" <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, neetaprasad@gmail.com, "Darshana Dabral" <jsfa.edu@gov.in>
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2021 10:32:19 PM
Subject: Auroville Foundation and Archaeological Heritage of India

From

Dr Sarada Natarajan
307, Renaissance Woods I
Jarakabande Forest Road
Jalahalli West
Bengaluru 560 015

To

Mr. K Sanjay Murthy IAS
Department of Higher Education
127-C Wing, Shastri Bhavan
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road
Rajpath Area,
Central Secretariat,
New Delhi 110001

Dear Sir,

Kindly find attached the reply of a request that I sent to the Auroville Foundation regarding the possible destruction of archaeological heritage in the development proposed in their premises.

I request you to follow up this matter. According to their reply, it seems that they are pursuing the said development with no survey done and no information regarding archaeological excavations already carried out by their teams and advertised in their archaeological park.

I sent this RTI because it is the constitutional responsibility of every Indian citizen to protect our national archaeological heritage and consequently I am shocked by the uncaring attitude of the Auroville Foundation.

Please see these links to have information on the archeological work done in Auroville. [Archaeology in Auroville's International Zone - Auroville Wiki](#), <https://youtu.be/GaH5MtS6KSg> and [News & Notes 724:Auroville's Archaeology – An Overview and Future Prospects - Auroville Wiki](#)

I request you to kindly ensure that development work proceeds with due attention to our irreplaceable archaeological heritage **under the guidance of the ASI**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarada Natarajan
Art Historian
Bengaluru

Appendix B-2 - Survey of trees in Bliss area

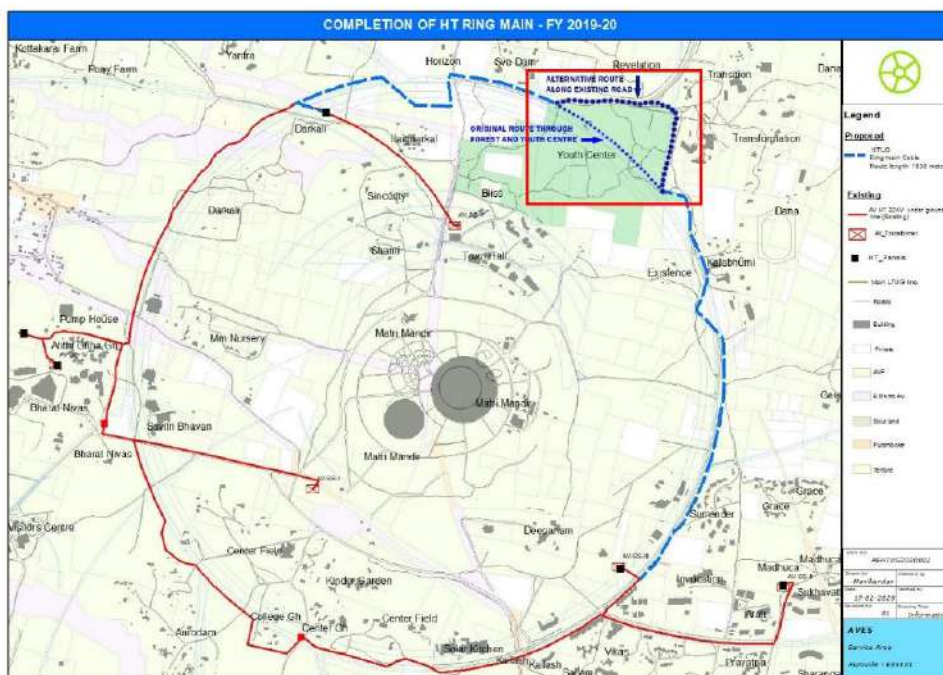
July 2020

Environmental Impact Assessment

Project: Proposed high tension electrical underground line route

Date : July 2020

Location: Bliss Forest and the Auroville Youth Centre Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India 605101



Plan showing overall route of the HT line and the area of the EIA (red rectangle)

This EIA was conducted voluntarily, without funding from the project holders.

Compiled and Contributed to by: Auro Ancolie Stoll, Christoph Pohl, Fabian Ostner, Island Lescure, Glenn Baldwin, Lakshmi Venugopal and Lara Davis

Reviewed by: Nina Sengupta

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Introduction

Purpose of the EIA: To analyse and support the proposed development by avoiding, minimizing and/or mitigating any potential adverse environmental impact and highlighting associated social implications.

Proposed development: To lay an underground high-tension cable from the south east of the area known as Bliss Forest, connecting to the northwest of the Auroville Youth Centre, Auroville - following the circular trajectory of the Crown Road as proposed in the current Auroville Master Plan. (Ref Plan above)

Purpose of the high-tension electric line: The connection of this cable will enable Auroville to have a more manageable, reliable and potentially independent electrical system.

The proposed rationale for high tension (HT as opposed to low tension LT) connection is to keep the electricity supply system flexible for future connections and usage options, e.g. of grid connected solar. Under the current regulatory system, in an HT based solar setup the electricity generated in one place can be shared with other consumers located in the HT supply area; which a LT based supply system will not allow. HT also allows a power backup for the consumers in the area, which is currently being tested by AV Consulting. If it works, HT connection will allow solar arrays to be directly connected to the grid in conjunction with conventional power sources.

The reason to make the cable go a full circle along the Crown road is to reduce disruption in power supply during servicing. The plan is to feed the cable at two independent points and divide the cable into seven sections – allowing each section to be shut off for servicing when needed. This will enable supply to be re-routed and unhindered in other sections. This will also allow transformers to be installed as needed along the route.

Requirements: A 1.2 metre deep, 40 cm wide, trench would require excavation. Access for excavation and future maintenance requirements are 3 meters wide following the entire length.

Costs: Potential costs of the proposed route, following the circular trajectory of the Crown road:

Service or material	Details	Amount
Trenching (manual) and cable laying as per data from the Auroville Electrical Service and the Auroville Road Service (contracted for the excavation; cost references in Appendix)	₹2884 x 344 meters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • 16 days of digging with 7 workers • Cable and all other materials • Laying • Closing trench 	9,92,096
Vegetation removal (approximate quote from TreeCare, Auroville)	320 meters by 3 meters. 2 persons for 5 days. ₹800/hour, 8 hours/day	32,000
Onsite supervisor to minimise damage to vegetation during trenching and cable laying	20 days @ ₹1000/day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 days during trenching • 4 days laying cable and related materials 	20,000
Replanting: 150 trees and shrubs (Based on affected trees and shrubs taken from tree survey and expecting high survival rate for replanting, 115 + 30%=149.5). A sapling is never a sufficient replacement for a matured / established tree. But this is the best mitigation possible given the circumstances.	Using the largest size obtainable but remaining economically viable: ₹2500/tree planted (based on similar works, see Avenue Tree Planting Scheme for cost comparison) x 150 trees and shrubs	3,75,000
Total Costs		₹14,19,096

Manual digging over machinery has been chosen as impacts to roots of adjacent vegetation from compaction and root severance would be substantially more with the latter.

Adequate maintenance of the trench and the road/corridor and addressing any associated impact on the woodlot in the future will require separate recurring budget not included in this report.

Areas potentially affected by the proposed route:

The designated areas that the proposed development passes through and would impact is the Bliss Forest and the Auroville Youth Centre.

Members of the EIA team visited the area on the 23rd of May 2020 to view the site and consult with the Bliss Forest stewards and the Youth Centre caretakers. The following is what was found relating to exiting land use.

Several zones are present along the proposed HT line route which falls within Bliss forest and the Auroville Youth Centre. These can be classified as:

1. **Bliss Forest:** dense planted and regenerated, predominantly native, evergreen forest (~28.5 acres)
2. **Auroville Youth Centre:** built up and/or used area (~4.7 acres)
3. **Buffer Zone:** newly planted/sparse vegetation (~0.27 acres)

Description of the zones:

1. Bliss Forest

This area is dominated by native vegetation which has been planted with a long-term vision of creating an “urban sanctuary forest” with the initial management plan being:

- initial control of invasive species to allow for the establishment of planted species. Phased out once native species have established (completed)
- removing dead or dangerous trees near roads and paths
- protection from grazing animals

According to various stewards, the initial pioneer species were planted in the 1980s. Native species were introduced starting in 1995, which intensified in 1997 with a large plantation of native species in groves (groups of 12) and replacement planting in the subsequent 3 years. Since 2002 sporadic planting has been implemented, but generally the area has been left to regenerate naturally for the last 15 years.

Upon visiting the site, we found a diverse mix of species of various ages, most of which are in good condition. The majority are native species which are often only found in Auroville and on small isolated plots such as sacred groves throughout the state of Tamil Nadu. A list of some of the species encountered while visiting the site can be found in the Appendix: Flora species found within Bliss Forest.





Pictures showing mature trees and extensive natural regeneration in the Bliss forest

2. Auroville Youth Centre

The area in question is an important cultural venue as it is used as a centre for activities for the youth of Auroville. It caters to more than five thousand people per year. It is a significant social hub for Auroville youth having been established two decades ago. There are several trees on the proposed HT line route.





Pictures of buildings in the Auroville Youth Centre area

3. Buffer Zone

An area between the social area of the Youth Centre and the road has been planted to act as a buffer zone. The diversity here is more limited, mainly dominated by the following tree species:

- *Psydrax dicoccos*
- *Mimusops elengi*
- *Senna spectabilis*
- *Acacia auriculiformis*



Pictures of flora in the Auroville Youth Centre buffer zone

Environment within the proposed route corridor:

Methodology - tree survey:

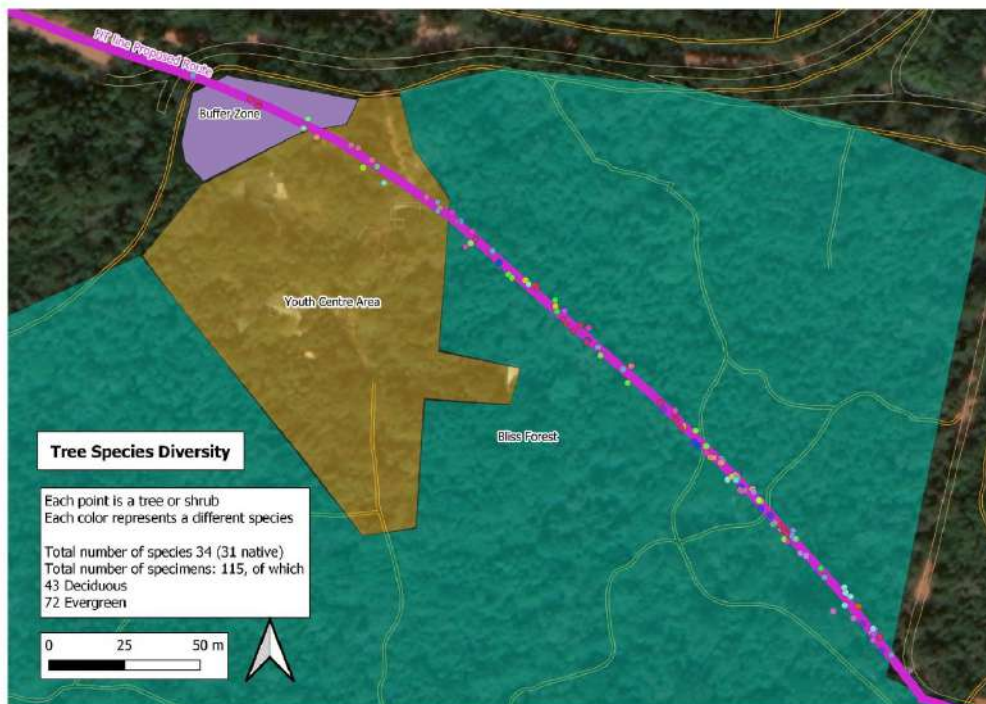
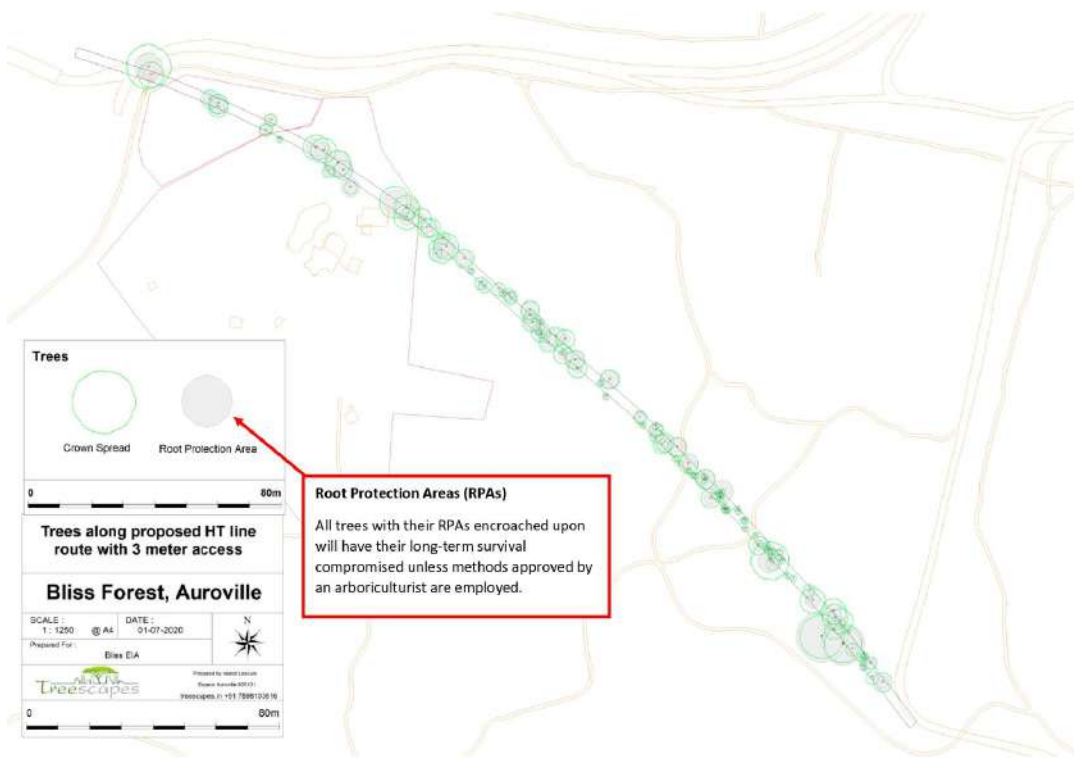
A basic tree survey was carried out on the 27th of June 2020 along the proposed route within a 3 meter wide corridor to identify what is present. The survey identified 115 trees and shrubs that would be potentially affected. The location of each is depicted on the map below. Information on each tree and shrub recorded can be found in the Appendix: Tree survey schedule.

The survey identified 34 different species of trees and shrubs.

72 of the 115 specimens recorded are evergreen species, indicating an advanced stage of forest development within these local environmental conditions (which is best suited to the extreme local climatic/environmental conditions of the region). A native evergreen canopy also offers greater collateral value for sustainable climates (e.g. canopy shade throughout the year, reduced and more stable temperatures, improved water management).

Root protection areas (critical rooting zones) were generated based on tree stem diameter according to the British Standard BS:5837 - 2012 *Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction* and the Australian Standard AS 4970 - 2009 *Protection of trees on development sites*.

Many instances of regeneration were not recorded due to their small stem diameter, but these are present throughout the area.



Community/stakeholder engagement:

Members of the EIA team visited Bliss forest and the Auroville Youth Centre on 23rd May 2020 to view the site and consult with the Bliss forest stewards. They felt that the proposed route would negatively impact over three decades of work.

The Youth Centre team was presented the project with the proposed routing. They expressed serious reservations about the proposed HT line route, and how it would impact their ecological, political and social environment. The Youth Centre team statement can be found [here](#).

At the Auroville Forest Group meeting on the 6th March 2020 the proposed development was discussed where, unanimously, members were not in favour of the proposed route due to predicted adverse impacts on the densely reforested areas which include mature evergreen trees. The minutes of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Although the initial proposed route was not favoured by the above, the recommended alternative route has been unanimously agreed upon by the Bliss Forest stewards and the Youth Centre team (the two groups who would be directly affected) and has been endorsed by the Forest Group.

Analysis:

The area through which the HT line is proposed is part of Auroville's reforestation effort, containing native species that are 25 years old. Various stewards of Bliss Forest have been developing and managing the land and the planted trees for over three decades. The proposed route would therefore change the status quo of the area and it would create a road/corridor fragmenting the forest in two.

It has also been observed that as sufficient access must be kept for maintenance requirements at all times, an argument could be made to use the route as transport access in the future, which is not in alignment with the current expressed needs of the community.

Environmental impacts from an HT line in this area would be:

- Significant vegetation loss (115+ trees and shrubs, estimated number of young natural regeneration 500+)
- The fragmentation and thus reduction in size and contiguity of a unique and valuable urban forest sanctuary
- A disturbance to the establishing fauna of the area
- The opening up of an access to core areas of the established forest

General, unquantified, impacts to ecosystem services provided by the forest:

- Increased water run-off in the long term
- Increased local temperatures
- Reduced air quality
- Reduction in wildlife habitats
- Increased loss of water through uncontrolled evaporation
- Increased soil erosion in the long term
- Decreased carbon sequestration.

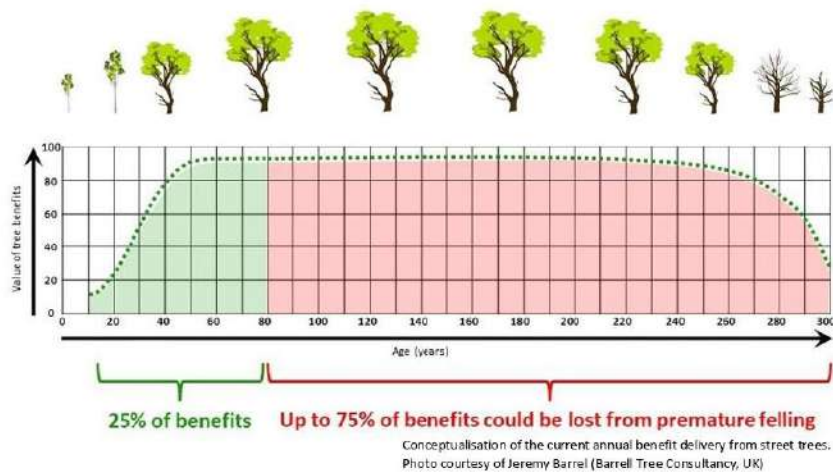
Although the trees on the site are not yet visually impressive in size, they provide benefits to members of the community of Auroville on a daily basis (jogging, walking, cycling) thus creating an important social urban space.

Social benefits from access to green spaces in urban settings:

- Improved concentration
- Reduced stress
- Increased recovery rates
- Connection with nature
- Places of inspiration

Replanting to offset tree loss:

The benefits that trees provide exponentially increase with size and maturity irrespective of whether they are in a woodlot or along the road. Therefore, in short term, the idea of planting new trees to replace the loss of older trees cannot be justified. The image below provides a simple visual representation. Note that even dead or dying trees, provide important niche habitats to flora and fauna in a woodlot.



Environmental Impact Statement:

EIA process has found that the proposed project will alter the status quo of the land where a standing woodlot, matured over two decades, will be substantially cleared and fragmented in the process.

The social implications of cable laying in the Youth Centre area were deemed to be unfavourable as well.

With the aim to avoid, minimize and mitigate impact, the best access in the area at this time is via the current road. As such, the EIA team proposes an economically viable alternative that allows the high-tension cable to be fit to use as intended, but with minimal environmental and social impact.

Recommended Alternative Route:

The route with the best access and least impact.

This route would:

- follow the current road which will allow immediate adequate access for the initial works and for future maintenance
- not change the status quo of the forested area
- not impact the Youth Centre
- be cheaper than the initial proposed route



Procedural guidelines:

While digging trenches, consider the root systems of the trees nearby in order to cause the least damage. This is to avoid immediate and long-term damage which could lead to failure of trees and therefore to pose an unacceptable risk to persons and property. This is also to avoid unnecessary costs for management/replacement of damaged trees.

Other routes that have been considered:

1. Along the outer bicycle path
2. Along the Bliss forest bicycle path

Both routes, being in close proximity to surrounding vegetation would require the path widened and therefore cause vegetation loss. They would both cause less environmental impact than initial proposed route but with negligible benefit in cost and accessibility in comparison to the recommended alternative.

Cost Comparison:

Service or material	Details	Amount
Initial proposed route	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manual Trenching• Cable and laying cost• Onsite supervision• Vegetation removal• Replanting	₹14,19,096
Recommended alternative route	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JCB work, cable and laying cost: 502 meters x ₹2700• Onsite supervision, vegetation removal and replanting costs not applicable	₹13,55,400

Appendix

Cost references:

HT Line estimates

Potential trench digging costs:

- Bobcat: approx ₹300/meter - one meter deep by 30cm wide. Unable to excavate to 1.2 meters without addition of water and use of a bucket tool and to excavate 40cm wide so the method is deemed unviable. (communication from Auroville Matrimandir)
- Manual: Normally a worker can dig 3m/day (40cmx1.2m) including water requirements. Cost Rs.220/m. (communication from Auroville Road Service)
- JCB/ Backhoe: A JCB can dig 18m/Hr (40cmx1.2m) on normal land conditions, and 15m/hr on hard land conditions. No water required. Cost Rs.36/m on normal land and Rs.43/m on hard land. (communication from Auroville Road Service)

Total HT cable, digging and laying costs = INR 2700 per meter with JCB average (average conditions). (communication from Auroville Electrical Service)

Total cable and laying minus JCB digging cost per meter $2700 - 36 = ₹2664$

Cable, laying plus manual digging cost per meter: $2664 + 220 = ₹2884$

Auroville Road Service manual digging estimate:

Description	Unit	Length	Width	Height	Day	workers	Nos	Rate	Amount
Manual digging - 3m/worker/day	Day	344	0.4	1.1	16	7	112	600	67200
Contingencies 10%									6720
								Grand Total	73920

Note:

Clearing and marking not included in the above quote.

Flora species found within Bliss Forest:

Below is an unexhaustive list of flora species found within approximately 30 metres of the proposed HT line route inside Bliss Forest. Note – there are a number of species which are not even recorded on the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#). Often, these are the locally rare species, with the danger of being extirpated.

Mature specimens	IUCN Red List Status	Young Specimens	IUCN Red List Status
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	Least concern	<i>Carmona retusa</i>	Absent from list
<i>Atalantia monophylla</i>	Absent from list	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i>	Absent from list
<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i>	Absent from list	<i>Coffea wightiana</i>	Least concern
<i>Benkara malabarica</i>	Absent from list	<i>Ochna obtusata</i>	Absent from list
<i>Bridelia retusa</i>	Least concern	<i>Cleistanthus collinus</i>	Vulnerable
<i>Senna siamea</i>	Least concern	<i>Terminalia bellerica</i>	Absent from list
<i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i>	Vulnerable	<i>Careya arborea</i>	Absent from list
<i>Dimorphocalyx glabellus</i>	Absent from list	<i>Chukrasia tabularis</i>	Least concern
<i>Diospyros affinis</i>	Absent from list	<i>Polyalthia korinti</i>	Absent from list
<i>Diospyros ebenum</i>	Data deficient	Regenerating Naturally	IUCN Red List Status
<i>Drypetes sepriaria</i>	Absent from list	<i>Atalantia monophylla</i>	Absent from list
<i>Ehretia pubescens (Ehretia Laevis)</i>	Absent from list	<i>Diospyros ebenum</i>	Data deficient
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Least concern	<i>Walsura trifoliata</i>	Absent from list
<i>Garcinia spicata</i>	Absent from list	<i>Tarennia asiatica</i>	Absent from list
<i>Gardenia resinifera</i>	Absent from list	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i>	Absent from list
<i>Glycosmis mauritiana</i>	Absent from list	<i>Ixora pavetta</i>	Absent from list
<i>Libidibia coriaria</i>	Absent from list	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Least concern
<i>Manilkara hexandra</i>	Absent from list	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Absent from list
<i>Millettia pinnata (Pongamia pinnata)</i>	Least concern	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i>	Absent from list
<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	Least concern	<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i>	Absent from list
<i>Pamburus missionis</i>	Absent from list	<i>Ochna obtusata</i>	Absent from list
<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>	Near threatened (Endangered according to CITES)	<i>Pterospermum suberifolium</i>	Absent from list
<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i>	Least concern	<i>Gardenia resinifera</i>	Absent from list
<i>Walsura trifoliata</i>	Absent from list	<i>Glycosmis mauritiana</i>	Absent from list
<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i>	Absent from list		
<i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i>	Absent from list		
<i>Lannea coromandelica</i>	Absent from list		
<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i>	Absent from list		

Hyperlinks within the document

Avenue Tree Planting Scheme:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QiHXJgJvkUdJJcuc3V9Lgq3Pvonvij_3/view

The Youth Centre team statement:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vUN00KDy4p2VMx3fO_i2fx9OXfXBVfdw

Auroville Forest Group meeting minutes of the 6th of March 2020:

<https://auroville.org.in/article/78462>

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Explanation of Tree Survey Schedule

Tree id: The number of the tree or group and as referenced on the map.

Common Name: The usual name by which the tree is identified. Only one is used though there are sometimes several or none.

Species: The scientific name of the tree.

Life Stage:

Y	Young – a tree within its first third of life expectancy
M.A	Middle Aged – a tree within its second third of life expectancy
M	Mature – a tree in its final one third of life expectancy
O.M	Over Mature – a tree having reached its maximum life span and is declining in health and size due to old age
V	Veteran – a tree that is of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of its age, size and condition

Canopy Spread: Radial crown spread in meters, estimated to the nearest meter.

Stem Diameter:

The stem diameter in mm at 1.5m above ground level or as described in BS:5837, 2012 Annex C. Multi stemmed trees have a stem diameter calculated as per BS:5837, 2012 section 4.6, estimated to the nearest 10 mm.

Number of Stems: Used to calculate the stem diameter as stated in the BS:5837, 2012, limited to six.

RPA (Radius):

Root Protection Area (RPA), calculated using the BS:5837, 2012, Annex D. The radial distance, from the tree's trunk, at which barriers should be erected assuming a circular RPA from the center of the tree unless appropriate root protection measures are taken. The RPAs of the trees have been plotted on the attached Tree Constraints Plan (TCP).

RPA (Area):

The RPA has been calculated using the BS:5837, 2012, Annex D. The figure given represents the area in m² which should be left undisturbed around each retained tree, unless appropriate measures are employed to avoid damage to affected trees. The TCP indicates both the above and below ground constraints and should be used as a design tool in preparing the proposed site layout.

Estimated Remaining Contribution (ERC):

Estimated remaining contribution; an estimate of the remaining contribution in years that the tree or group of trees is expected to have based on species, condition on the site in its current context. The following bands are used:

<10	Tree is dead or dying and unlikely to contribute beyond 10 years
10+	Tree is assessed as being able to contribute to the site for 10+ years
20+	Tree is assessed as being able to contribute to the site for 20+ years
40+	Tree is assessed as being able to contribute to the site for 40+ years

Tree Survey Schedule

Easting	Northing	Tree ID	Species	Common Name	Foliage	Stem diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	Life Stage	Canopy spread (m)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)
370838.1	1328239	T1	Tamarindus indica	Tamarind Tree	Deciduous	320	1	3.84	M.A.	5	40+
370841.7	1328237	T2	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	270	1	3.24	M.A.	4	40+
370842.4	1328235	T3	Cassia fistula L.	Cassia fistula L.	Deciduous	100	1	1.20	Y	2	40+
370841.7	1328234	T4	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	220	1	2.64	M.A.	4	40+
370846.5	1328234	T5	Diospyros ebenum J.Koenig ex Retz.	India ebony	Evergreen	130	1	1.56	M.A.	3	40+
370849.2	1328231	T6	Manilkara hexandra (Roxb.) Dubard	Manilkara hexandra (Roxb.) Dubard	Evergreen	120	1	1.44	M.A.	3	40+
370848	1328231	T7	Diospyros ebenum J.Koenig ex Retz.	India ebony	Evergreen	130	1	1.56	M.A.	3	40+
370853.2	1328227	T8	Mitragyna parvifolia (Roxb.) Korth.	Mitragyna parvifolia (Roxb.) Korth.	Deciduous	90	1	1.08	M.A.	2	40+
370852.6	1328223	T9	Pterospermum suberifolium	Pterospermum	Deciduous	214	3	2.57	M.A.	4	40+
370850.9	1328222	T10	Mitragyna parvifolia (Roxb.) Korth.	Mitragyna parvifolia (Roxb.) Korth.	Deciduous	90	1	1.08	M.A.	2	40+
370854.2	1328225	T11	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	250	1	3.00	M	4	20+
370859.9	1328221	T12	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	200	1	2.40	M.A.	3	40+
370862	1328217	T13	Pamburus missionis (Wight) Swingle	Pamburus missionis (Wight) Swingle	Evergreen	70	1	0.84	Y	1	40+
370865.1	1328213	T14	Gardenia resinifera	Brilliant Gardenia	Evergreen	80	1	0.96	Y	2	40+
370866.3	1328212	T15	Gardenia resinifera	Brilliant Gardenia	Evergreen	80	1	0.96	Y	2	40+
370870.8	1328211	T16	Mecycylon umbellatum Burm.f.	Mecycylon umbellatum Burm.f.	Evergreen	80	1	0.96	Y	2	40+
370871.8	1328210	T17	Lepisanthes tetraphylla (Vahl) Radlk.	Lepisanthes tetraphylla (Vahl) Radlk.	Evergreen	80	1	0.96	Y	1	40+
370874	1328209	T18	Mimusops elengi	Mimusops elengi	Evergreen	120	2	1.44	Y	2	40+
370874.5	1328209	T19	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	140	1	1.68	Y	2	20+
370880.6	1328205	T20	Lannea coromandelica	Odlamaram Tree	Deciduous	230	1	2.76	M.A.	3	40+

Easting	Northing	Tree ID	Species	Common Name	Foliage	Stem diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	Life Stage	Canopy spread (m)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)
370880.7	1328203	T21	Mecycylon umbellatum Burm.f.	Mecycylon umbellatum Burm.f.	Evergreen	80	1	0.96	Y	2	40+
370881.3	1328201	T22	Lannea coromandelica	Odlamaram Tree	Deciduous	200	1	2.40	M.A.	3	40+
370883.8	1328201	T23	Bridelia retusa (L.) Sprengel	Spinous Kino Tree	Deciduous	110	1	1.32	Y	1	40+
370884.1	1328198	T24	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Evergreen	156	2	1.87	M	3	40+
370883.4	1328198	T25	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	120	1	1.44	Y	1	20+
370884.2	1328197	T26	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	140	1	1.68	Y	1	20+
370886.4	1328194	T27	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	200	1	2.40	M.A.	3	20+
370888.8	1328196	T28	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	200	1	2.40	M.A.	3	20+
370891.6	1328196	T29	Diospyros ebenum J.Koenig ex Retz.	India ebony	Evergreen	130	1	1.56	M.A.	3	40+
370891.1	1328191	T30	Pamburus missionis (Wight) Swingle	Pamburus missionis (Wight) Swingle	Evergreen	85	2	1.02	Y	1	40+
370891	1328191	T31	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	130	1	1.56	M.A.	3	20+
370894.7	1328189	T32	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	260	1	3.12	M	3	40+
370905.7	1328183	T33	Atalantia racemosa Wight & Arn.	Atalantia racemosa Wight & Arn.	Evergreen	236	3	2.83	M	3	40+
370895.5	1328186	T34	Peltophorum pterocarpum	Service Tree	Deciduous	140	1	1.68	M.A.	3	40+
370903	1328182	T35	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	90	1	1.08	Y	1	40+
370904.5	1328177	T36	Gardenia resinifera	Brilliant Gardenia	Deciduous	80	1	0.96	Y	1	40+
370915.2	1328171	T37	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	140	1	1.68	M.A.	2	20+
370916.1	1328168	T38	Drypetes sepiana (Wight & Arn.) Pax & Hoffm.	Drypetes sepiana (Wight & Arn.) Pax & Hoffm.	Evergreen	40	1	0.48	Y	1	40+
370920.4	1328167	T39	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	191	2	2.29	M.A.	2	20+
370920.3	1328168	T40	Morinda coreia Buch.-Ham.	Morinda coreia Buch.-Ham.	Deciduous	113	2	1.36	Y	1	40+
370920.4	1328165	T41	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	113	2	1.36	Y	2	20+
370923	1328163	T42	Mecycylon umbellatum Burm.f.	Mecycylon umbellatum Burm.f.	Evergreen	122	6	1.47	M.A.	3	40+
370922.2	1328162	T43	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	150	1	1.80	M.A.	3	20+
370927	1328162	T44	Peltophorum pterocarpum	Service Tree	Deciduous	256	2	3.07	M.A.	3	40+
370930.5	1328156	T45	Peltophorum pterocarpum	Service Tree	Deciduous	180	1	2.16	M.A.	3	40+

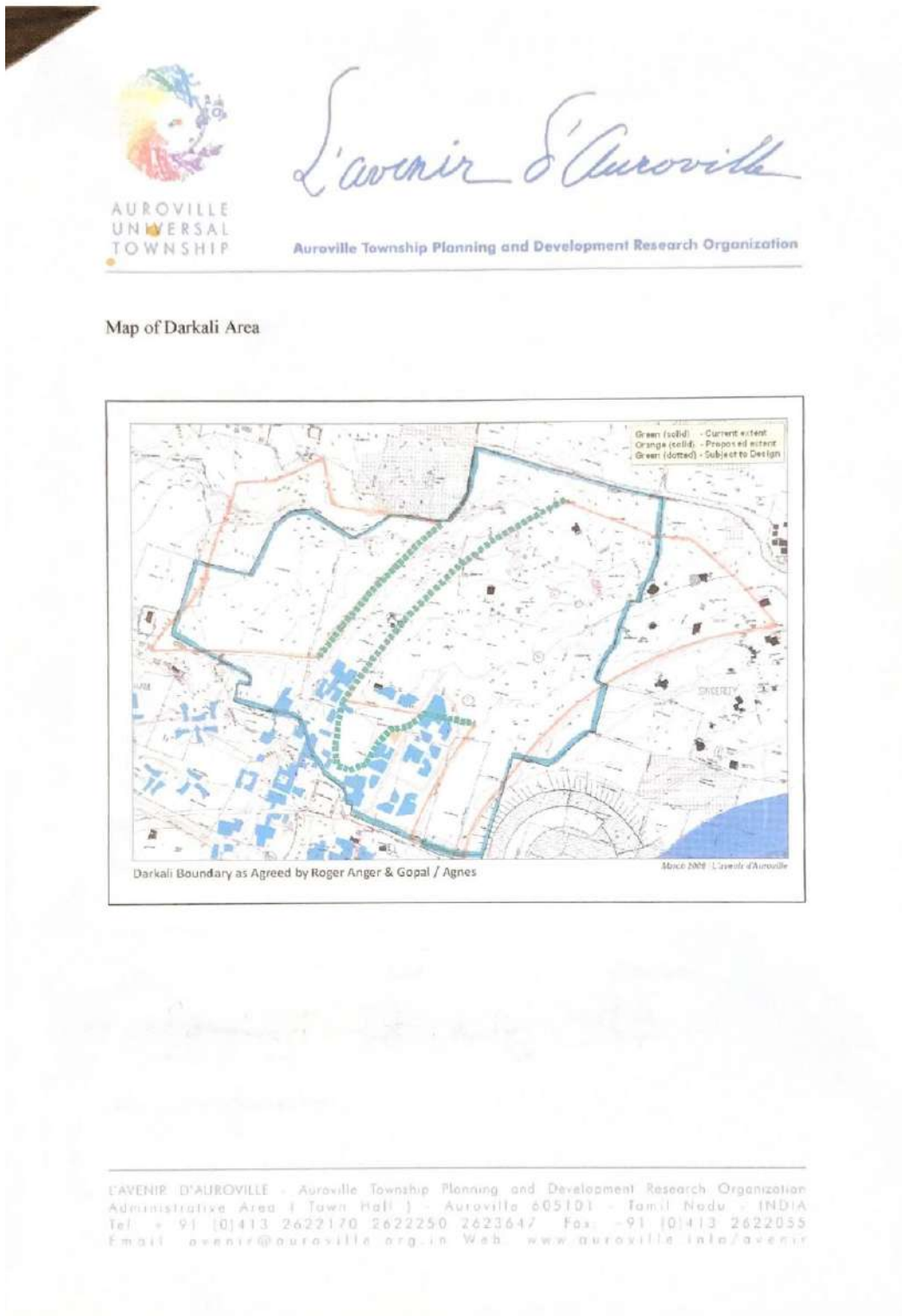
Easting	Northing	Tree ID	Species	Common Name	Foliage	Stem diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	Life Stage	Canopy spread (m)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)
370930.5	1328154	T46	<i>Diospyros ebenum</i> J. Koenig ex Retz.	Indian ebony	Evergreen	40	1	0.48	Y	1	40+
370927.6	1328157	T47	<i>Pamburus missionis</i> (Wight) Swingle	Pamburus missionis (Wight) Swingle	Evergreen	30	1	0.36	Y	1	40+
370926.5	1328158	T48	<i>Ixora arborea</i>	Torch Tree	Evergreen	28	2	0.34	Y	1	40+
370931.8	1328153	T49	<i>Libidibia coriaria</i>	Divi Divi	Evergreen	60	1	0.72	Y	1	40+
370932.8	1328153	T50	<i>Libidibia coriaria</i>	Divi Divi	Evergreen	60	1	0.72	Y	1	40+
370935.5	1328152	T51	<i>Catunaregam spinosa</i>	Catunaregam spinosa	Deciduous	100	1	1.20	M.A.	1	40+
370935.8	1328151	T52	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem Tree	Deciduous	262	2	3.14	M.A.	3	40+
370935.4	1328151	T53	<i>Libidibia coriaria</i>	Divi Divi	Evergreen	60	1	0.72	Y	1	40+
370941.1	1328148	T54	<i>Drypetes sepiaria</i> (Wight & Arn.) Pax & Hoffm.	<i>Drypetes sepiaria</i> (Wight & Arn.) Pax & Hoffm.	Evergreen	300	1	3.60	Y	1	40+
370940.7	1328146	T55	<i>Libidibia coriaria</i>	Divi Divi	Evergreen	60	1	0.72	Y	1	40+
370940.1	1328147	T56	<i>Libidibia coriaria</i>	Divi Divi	Evergreen	60	1	0.72	Y	1	40+
370939	1328146	T57	<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Queen of the night	Evergreen	49	6	0.59	M.A.	1	40+
370937.5	1328145	T58	<i>Walsura trifoliolata</i> (A. Juss.) Harms	<i>Walsura trifoliolata</i> (A. Juss.) Harms	Evergreen	170	1	2.04	M	3	40+
370940.7	1328146	T59	<i>Walsura trifoliolata</i> (A. Juss.) Harms	<i>Walsura trifoliolata</i> (A. Juss.) Harms	Evergreen	40	1	0.48	Y	1	40+
370940.4	1328145	T60	<i>Atalantia monophylla</i>	Wild lemon	Evergreen	35	3	0.42	Y	1	40+
370942.9	1328142	T61	<i>Gardenia resinifera</i>	Brilliant Gardenia	Deciduous	73	6	0.88	M.A.	1	40+
370941.8	1328143	T62	<i>Ixora arborea</i>	Torch Tree	Evergreen	28	2	0.34	Y	1	40+
370941.8	1328142	T63	<i>Libidibia coriaria</i>	Divi Divi	Evergreen	60	1	0.72	Y	1	40+
370942.4	1328142	T64	<i>Morinda coreia</i> Buch.-Ham.	<i>Morinda coreia</i> Buch.-Ham.	Deciduous	100	1	1.20	M.A.	1	40+
370945.8	1328142	T65	<i>Polyalthia korinti</i>	Sirunetti	Evergreen	10	1	0.12	Y	1	40+
370946.2	1328141	T66	<i>Catunaregam spinosa</i>	Catunaregam spinosa	Deciduous	90	1	1.08	M.A.	1	40+
370948.4	1328138	T67	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i> Burm.f.	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i> Burm.f.	Evergreen	30	1	0.36	M.A.	1	40+
370948.5	1328136	T68	<i>Ixora arborea</i>	Torch Tree	Evergreen	80	1	0.96	M.A.	1	40+
370948	1328139	T69	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> (Roxb.) R.Br.	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> (Roxb.) R.Br.	Deciduous	40	1	0.48	Y	1	40+
370951.7	1328134	T70	<i>Tarema asiatica</i>	Asiatic Tarema	Deciduous	52	3	0.62	M.A.	1	40+

Easting	Northing	Tree ID	Species	Common Name	Foliage	Stem diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	Life Stage	Canopy spread (m)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)
370953.1	1328131	T71	Murraya paniculata	Queen of the night	Evergreen	57	8	0.68	M.A.	1	40+
370952.5	1328131	T72	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	150	2	1.80	M.A.	3	40+
370955.3	1328129	T73	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Evergreen	30	1	0.36	M.A.	1	40+
370956.8	1328128	T74	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	100	1	1.20	Y	1	20+
370956.1	1328129	T75	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	100	1	1.20	Y	1	20+
370955.2	1328130	T76	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	100	1	1.20	Y	1	20+
370956.8	1328127	T77	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	100	1	1.20	Y	1	20+
370957	1328125	T78	Diospyros ebenum J. Koenig ex Retz.	Indian ebony	Evergreen	70	1	0.84	M.A.	2	40+
370956.2	1328126	T79	Peltophorum pterocarpum	Service Tree	Deciduous	312	3	3.75	M	6	40+
370959.3	1328129	T80	Glycosmis mauritiana	Orange berry	Evergreen	20	1	0.24	M.A.	1	40+
370958.9	1328127	T81	Glycosmis mauritiana	Orange berry	Evergreen	20	1	0.24	M.A.	1	40+
370960.1	1328126	T82	Glycosmis mauritiana	Orange berry	Evergreen	30	1	0.36	M.A.	1	40+
370961.6	1328121	T83	Tarrena asiatica	Asiatic Tarrena	Deciduous	30	1	0.36	M.A.	1	40+
370963.6	1328120	T84	Tarrena asiatica	Asiatic Tarrena	Deciduous	30	1	0.36	Y	1	40+
370968.5	1328116	T85	Lannea coromandelica	Odlamaram Tree	Deciduous	120	1	1.44	M.A.	2	40+
370969.6	1328113	T86	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	190	1	2.28	M.A.	4	40+
370976.2	1328110	T87	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Evergreen	197	3	2.37	M	4	40+
370976.6	1328108	T88	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Evergreen	197	3	2.37	M	4	40+
370978.2	1328107	T89	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Evergreen	142	2	1.71	M	4	40+
370972.5	1328102	T90	Eucalyptus spp.	Eucalyptus Tree	Evergreen	670	1	8.04	M	7	20+
370976.3	1328104	T91	Tabebuia argentea	Caribbean Trumpet	Deciduous	177	2	2.12	M.A.	3	40+
370979.2	1328100	T92	Eucalyptus spp.	Eucalyptus Tree	Evergreen	560	1	6.72	M	6	20+
370980.8	1328104	T93	Garcinia spicata (Wight & Arn.) Hook.f.	Garcinia spicata (Wight & Arn.) Hook.f.	Evergreen	30	1	0.36	M.A.	1	40+
370982.1	1328098	T94	Drypetes seplaria (Wight & Arn.) Pax & Hoffm.	Drypetes seplaria (Wight & Arn.) Pax & Hoffm.	Evergreen	100	1	1.20	M.A.	2	40+
370985.2	1328095	T95	Tarrena asiatica	Asiatic Tarrena	Deciduous	20	1	0.24	Y	1	40+

Easting	Northing	Tree ID	Species	Common Name	Foliage	Stem diameter (mm)	Number of Stems	Root Protection Area (Radius, m)	Life Stage	Canopy spread (m)	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)
370986.3	1328096	T96	Bridelia retusa (L.) Sprengel	Spinous Kino Tree	Deciduous	80	1	0.96	Y	1	40+
370985.7	1328096	T97	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Walsura trifoliolata (A. Juss.) Harms	Evergreen	28	2	0.34	Y	1	40+
370986	1328094	T98	Bridelia retusa (L.) Sprengel	Spinous Kino Tree	Deciduous	50	1	0.60	Y	1	40+
370988.5	1328089	T99	Drypetes seplaria (Wight & Arn.) Pax & Hoffm.	Drypetes seplaria (Wight & Arn.) Pax & Hoffm.	Evergreen	69	3	0.83	M.A.	2	40+
370985.7	1328092	T100	Morinda coreia Buch.-Ham.	Morinda coreia Buch.-Ham.	Deciduous	100	1	1.20	M.A.	1	40+
370987.9	1328093	T101	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	140	1	1.68	M.A.	2	40+
370991.7	1328087	T102	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	170	2	2.04	M.A.	3	40+
370821.7	1328249	T103	Phoenix sylvesteris (L.) Roxb.	Phoenix palm	Evergreen	250	1	3.00	M.A.	3	40+
370817.1	1328248	T104	Murraya paniculata	Queen of the night	Evergreen	122	6	1.47	M.A.	2	40+
370824	1328243	T105	Tabebuia argentea	Caribbean Trumpet	Deciduous	250	1	3.00	M.A.	2	40+
370820	1328251	T106	Senna siamea	Siamese Senna	Evergreen	358	2	4.30	M	4	40+
370815.5	1328255	T107	Senna siamea	Siamese Senna	Evergreen	220	1	2.64	M	4	40+
370813.1	1328256	T108	Senna siamea	Siamese Senna	Evergreen	240	1	2.88	M	4	40+
370801.7	1328258	T109	Libidibia coriaria	Divi Divi	Deciduous	40	1	0.48	Y	1	40+
370798.9	1328265	T110	Pterospermum suberifolium	Pterospermum	Deciduous	149	2	1.78	M.A.	2	40+
370797.4	1328261	T111	Pterospermum suberifolium	Pterospermum	Deciduous	150	1	1.80	M.A.	2	40+
370782.4	1328270	T112	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	260	1	3.12	M	3	10+
370782.4	1328268	T113	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	160	1	1.92	M	3	10+
370779.8	1328271	T114	Acacia auriculiformis	Work Tree	Evergreen	180	1	2.16	M	3	10+
370760.9	1328279	T115	Azadirachta indica	Neem Tree	Deciduous	200	1	2.40	M.A.	4	40+
370760.2	1328281	T116	Ficus religiosa	Peepal Tree	Deciduous	360	1	4.32	M	7	40+

Appendix B-3 - Outline of Crown provided to Darkali, March 2009

March 2009



Appendix B-4 - Stay order of NGT

10th December 2021

Item No.01:

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.239 of 2021 (SZ)

(Through Video Conference)

IN THE MATTER OF

Navroz Kersasp Mody

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Auroville Foundation and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 10.12.2021.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. RAMAKRISHNAN, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE DR. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Mr. A Yogeshwaran

For Respondent(s): Dr. D. Shanmuganathan for State of Tamil Nadu

ORDER

1. The grievance in this application is that the 1st respondent- Auroville Foundation is engaged in cutting large scale trees from Auroville Forest area which has its own biological diversity and eco-sensitiveness.
2. It is stated that Auroville Foundation was established in the year 1968 as an autonomous body and they visualised a project for development of their area. They are developing a township on the basis of a master plan prepared by them not approved by any authority. Earlier they have done some construction work alone but now in the guise of expanding the project by providing a ring road by name 'Crown Road' they have now proposed to cut large number of trees from the area which will come under the definition of 'Deemed Forest' as envisaged by the Hon'ble Apex Court in Godavaraman Case. If this is allowed to be cut

without obtaining necessary planning and permission, then it will have great impact on the environment.

3. Learned Counsel appearing for the applicant had relied on certain newspaper reports to convince regarding the location of area with large number of trees and the manner in which cutting are done by using heavy machineries. Though, certain objections were raised before the authorities, no action was being taken by the authorities which prompted the applicant to file this application, claiming to be environmental activist to protect the Auroville Forest area against destruction, seeking following reliefs:

- a. Direct the 1st respondent to prepare a Detailed Development Plan including a mobility plan which is based on and respects the present day ground realities, to be approved as mandated in the Master Plan and implement projects based on such plan after necessary impact assessments and feasibility studies in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- b. Direct the respondents to pay costs to the applicant.
- c. Issue such other orders as it deems fit in the interest of the case and render justice.

4. Learned Counsel appearing for the State of Tamil Nadu submitted that Tamil Nadu Government has no interest in this matter. Though part of the area is falling within Tamil Nadu but the area where activities are going on is exclusively in the possession of the 1st respondent- Auroville Foundation and high dignitaries are at the helm of affairs of the administration of the Foundation.

5. On going through the allegations made in the application, we are satisfied that there arises a substantial question of environment as to whether any permission is required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for cutting trees from an area which can be treated as a 'Deemed Forest' under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. So, the matter is admitted.

6. Issue notice to the respondents by e-mail and also by speed post today itself and produce proof of service of notice. Dr. D. Shanmuganathan took notice for the 3rd respondent on whom copy of the application has also been served.

However, Learned Counsel for the applicant is also directed to serve the copy of the application to the Department of Environment, State of Tamil Nadu as well for their information and instruct the Counsel regarding their stand in the matter.

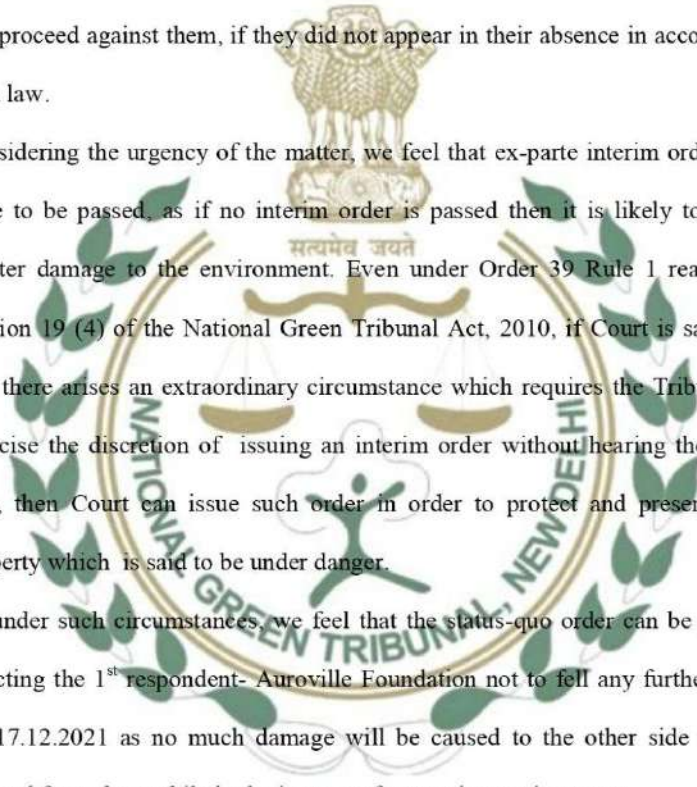
7. Learned Counsel for the applicant is also directed to produce necessary requisite with the postal stamp and postal cover so as to enable this Tribunal to send notice by speed post today itself so as to ensure service on the respondents and proceed against them, if they did not appear in their absence in accordance with law.

8. Considering the urgency of the matter, we feel that ex-parte interim order will have to be passed, as if no interim order is passed then it is likely to cause greater damage to the environment. Even under Order 39 Rule 1 read with Section 19 (4) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, if Court is satisfied that there arises an extraordinary circumstance which requires the Tribunal to exercise the discretion of issuing an interim order without hearing the other side, then Court can issue such order in order to protect and preserve the property which is said to be under danger.

9. So under such circumstances, we feel that the status-quo order can be passed directing the 1st respondent- Auroville Foundation not to fell any further trees till 17.12.2021 as no much damage will be caused to the other side if it is stopped for a short while in the interest of protecting environment.

10.1st respondent- Auroville Foundation is directed to file their response or objection to the allegations made in the application on the next hearing date so that the question as to whether interim order will have to be continue or not can be considered on that date.

11. Registry is directed to communicate this order to the respondents by e-mail today itself so as to enable them to comply with the direction.



12. For appearance of parties, filing independent response and hearing on question of continuing of interim order, post on 17.12.2021.

.....J.M.
(Justice K. Ramakrishnan)

.....E.M.
(Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati)

O.A. No. 239/2021(SZ)
10th December, 2021. (AM)



Appendix B-5 - Summary of the NGT Judgement

28th April 2022

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Ruling of 28 April 2022

What did the NGT decide?

The NGT Ruling of 28 April 2022 resulted in 3 Directions from the Tribunal (set out at paragraph 123 of the 28 April Ruling). These were:

NGT Direction 1: AVF to not do any construction work in the “project area” until they have prepared "...a proper township plan either in respect of 778 Ha which is in their possession now or in respect of 1963 Ha which was visualized by the MOTHER by identifying the locations where each zone will have to be located, where the roads will have to be laid showing the location of the ring roads with their width and further road, if any, to be constructed, the nature of industries and other activities which they are expected to establish in the township and if it is not going to be implemented as one phase, how many phases in which they are going to complete the project and then apply for Environmental Clearance (EC).... Till then they are directed not to proceed with further construction in the project area."

NGT Direction 2: A Joint Committee (JC) would be created of by the NGT of environmental experts they appointed:

1. JC to do a report before environmental clearance is to be obtained by the AVF for further development activity on the Crown Road;
2. JC would assess how any new roads would affect water bodies/streams in the area; and
3. Until the JC finished their report, AVF:
 - “is directed not to cut any further trees from the property [ie the AVF owned grounds]”;
BUT CAN
 - “undertake the crown road work in the remaining stretches where there are no trees.”

NGT Direction 3: AVF was ordered to “plant trees in the ratio of 1 : 10 for the number of trees to be cut” when they undertake construction work and consider the recommendations made by the JC regarding what tree species should be planted.

Appendix B-6 - Picture of the unnecessary YC clearing

8th July 2022



Appendix B-7 - Threats of /AVFO 'ATDC/'

12th July 2022

Notice about obstructing the work of the ATDC and CPWD (*anonymized*)

by ATDC Admin on July 12, 2022, 6:56 pm

Notice to all concerned persons

On Tuesday 12 July 2022, the work of the paving of the Crown Road ordered by L'avenir d'Auroville/ATDC and executed by the CPWD, Government of India, was obstructed by the following persons:

- A. M.
- D. S.
- D. K.
- D. H.
- N. S.
- T. M.

The NGT verdict received on April 28th 2022 authorises the work on the Crown to continue. Anybody blocking this work is essentially going against the directive issued by the NGT and will be held responsible.

The Auroville Town Development Council and the Office of the Auroville Foundation herewith inform the Residents of Auroville that obstructing government works in India is a criminal offence, and also, in this case, contempt of court.

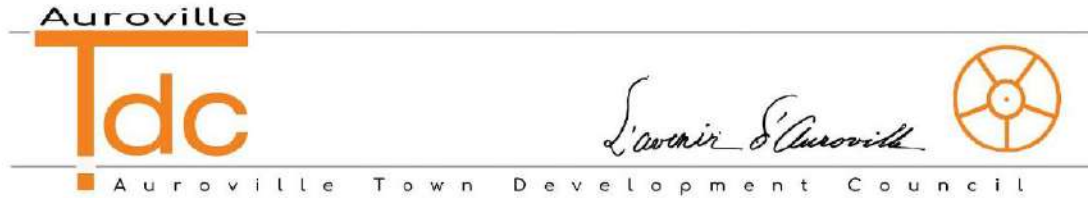
Henceforth necessary action will be taken when any person, whether a resident of Auroville or not, is found to be blocking the work on the ground.

Kind regards,

Dr. G. Seetharaman
Member-Secretary
Auroville Town Development Council

Appendix B-8 - Letter to Department of Higher Education

12th August 2022



Auroville August 12, 2022

TDC 22.015

To

Sh. K. Sanjay Murthy
Secretary
Department of Higher Education
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi

Subject: Archeological heritage of Tamil Nadu at risk

Dear Sir,

Auroville is a unique experiment established in 1968 on a barren plateau in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu, where men and women of all countries aspire to live in peace and harmony above all creeds and nationalities. It is a sanctuary of spiritual progress and unending education. The Government of India recognized it with The Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 and UNESCO did so in five major resolutions since 1966, the latest in 2017.

Recently, the Secretary of Auroville Foundation (AVF) initiated construction of a road, felling hundreds of trees and disrupting the ecology of the place. This resulted in litigation by residents of Auroville and a stay on construction. On April 28th, The National Green Tribunal ruled that the Auroville Foundation (AVF) can only build in specific areas while safeguarding the natural resources. Following the ruling, the pace of construction has accelerated.

Auroville harbours a considerable archaeological heritage, whose great value has been acknowledged in India and worldwide (see the attached "*Note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage*"). The current road construction and clearing is a direct threat to archaeological sites that have been explored and identified in the area. We attach an important communication from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, which asked the Auroville Foundation to "ensure that the development work in Auroville Foundation area be done under the guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to preserve the archaeological heritage in Auroville." However, we are not aware of any such consultation process having taken place between the Auroville Foundation and ASI.

We therefore appeal to you to take immediate action to pause the current works, and take appropriate measures for the preservation of this important heritage of Tamil Nadu and India. We are happy to assist you in this matter to guide you to the concerned area and archaeological sites.

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

If you want to contact us, please write to: Tdc@auroville.services

Copy to:

1. Ms. Lily Pandeya, Joint Secretary, UNESCO Matters, Ministry of Culture.

Appendix B-9 - Letter to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

12th August 2022



Auroville, August 12, 2022

TDC 22.016

To

Dr. V. Irai Anbu IAS
Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu
Secretariat
Chennai 600009

Subject: Archeological heritage of Tamil Nadu at risk

Dear Sir,

Auroville is a unique experiment established in 1968 on a barren plateau in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu, where men and women of all countries aspire to live in peace and harmony above all creeds and nationalities. It is a sanctuary of spiritual progress and unending education. The Government of India recognized it with The Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 and UNESCO did so in five major resolutions since 1966, the latest in 2017.

Recently, the Secretary of Auroville Foundation (AVF) initiated construction of a road, felling hundreds of trees and disrupting the ecology of the place. This resulted in litigation by residents of Auroville and a stay on construction. On April 28th, The National Green Tribunal ruled that the Auroville Foundation (AVF) can only build in specific areas while safeguarding the natural resources. Following the ruling, the pace of construction has accelerated.

Auroville harbours a considerable archaeological heritage, whose great value has been acknowledged in India and worldwide (see the attached "*Note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage*"). The current road construction and clearing is a direct threat to archaeological sites that have been explored and identified in the area. We attach an important communication from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, which asked the Auroville Foundation to "ensure that the development work in Auroville Foundation area be done under the guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to preserve the archaeological heritage in Auroville." However, we are not aware of any such consultation process having taken place between the Auroville Foundation and ASI.

We therefore appeal to you to take immediate action to pause the current works, and take appropriate measures for the preservation of this important heritage of Tamil Nadu and India. We are happy to assist you in this matter to guide you to the concerned area and archaeological sites.

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

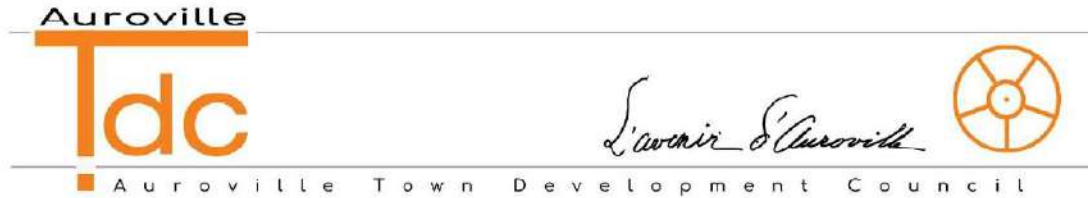
If you want to contact us, please write to: Tdc@auroville.services

Copy to:

1. Thiru D. Mohan IAS., Villupuram District Collector
2. Department of Archaeology
3. Dr. K. Rajan, Senior Consultant to the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology

Appendix B-10 - Letter to CPWD

12th August 2022



Auroville August 12, 2022

TDC 22.017

To the

SENIOR MANAGER (C)
IITMPC, CPWD, CHENNAI

SPECIAL DIRECTOR GENERAL (PRC)
1st floor, G Wing, Rajaji Bhavan, 3rd Avenue, Besant Nagar,
Chennai, 600090
Tamilnadu

Subject: Archeological heritage of Tamil Nadu at risk

Dear Sir,

Auroville is a unique experiment established in 1968 on a barren plateau in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu, where men and women of all countries aspire to live in peace and harmony above all creeds and nationalities. It is a sanctuary of spiritual progress and unending education. The Government of India recognized it with The Auroville Foundation Act, 1988 and UNESCO did so in five major resolutions since 1966, the latest in 2017.

Recently, the Secretary of Auroville Foundation (AVF) initiated construction of a road, felling hundreds of trees and disrupting the ecology of the place. This resulted in litigation by residents of Auroville and a stay on construction. On April 28th, The National Green Tribunal ruled that the Auroville Foundation (AVF) can only build in specific areas while safeguarding the natural resources. Following the ruling, the pace of construction has accelerated.

Auroville harbours a considerable archaeological heritage, whose great value has been acknowledged in India and worldwide (see the attached "*Note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage*"). The current road construction and clearing is a direct threat to archaeological sites that have been explored and identified in the area. We attach an important communication from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, which asked the Auroville Foundation to "ensure that the development work in Auroville Foundation area be done under the guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to preserve the archaeological heritage in Auroville."

However, we are not aware of any such consultation process having taken place between the Auroville Foundation and ASI.

We therefore appeal to you to take immediate action to pause the current works, and take appropriate measures for the preservation of this important heritage of Tamil Nadu and India. We are happy to assist you in this matter to guide you to the concerned area and archaeological sites.

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

If you want to contact us, please write to: Tdc@auroville.services

Appendix B-11- Communication from MoE to AV Foundation

November 2021

From: Sarada Natarajan <sarada.natarajan@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, 29 November 2021 at 6:19 AM
To: <govtam@nic.in>, <lg.pon@nic.in>, <nirima@gmail.com>, Aravindan Neelakandan <aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com>, <gghosal87@gmail.com>, <rssarraj@gmail.com>, <gbandana1956@gmail.com>, <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, <neetaprasad@gmail.com>, <jsfa.edu@gov.in>, <office@kaiciid.org>, <info@gpiw.org>, <yogabi@roottolight.com>, <yco@aurouniversity.edu.in>, <Dena.Merriam@finnpartners.co>, Michel Danino <micheldanino@iitgn.ac.in>, Michel Danino <micheldanino@gmail.com>, American Institute of Vedic Studies <vedicinstitute@gmail.com>, <shambhavi.yogini@gmail.com>
Cc: <contact@aurovillecanada.org>, <info@auroville.de>, <auroville-pamplona@auroville.es>, <itxaso.recondo@gmail.com>, <info@auroville.es>, <aurovilleinternationalfr@gmail.com>, <aurovillehungary@gmail.com>, <info@auroville.nu>, <sweden@auroville-international.org>, <info@aviuk.org>, <info@aviusa.org>, <aviny@aviusa.org>, <avi@auroville.org.in>, <escuchaintegral@gmail.com>, <anandi7@yahoo.com>, <janaviaus@auroville.org.in>, <AVI-WA@outlook.com>, <auroville.international.belgium@gmail.com>, <paulobpereira@uol.com.br>, <ateljjevic.irena@gmail.com>, <maxbeck_100@hotmail.com>, <aviliaisongreece@gmail.com>, <haiti@auroville-international.org>, <sadhanaforest@gmail.com>, <ptlloyd65@gmail.com>, <juergenfaulstich@gmail.com>, <Yuval@auroville.org.in>, <israel@auroville-international.org>, <auroville.italia@gmail.com>, <avijapan@auroville.org.in>, <yes_nurlan@yahoo.com>, <kenya@auroville-international.org>, <kenya@sadhanaforest.org>, <Avikorea@auroville.org.in>, <kaziseibutis@gmail.com>, <sbenoit@pt.lu>, <info@transformarte.com>, <montenegro@auroville-international.org>, <Newkarma11@gmail.com>, <Lisa.c.joanes@gmail.com>, <avi_russia@mail.ru>, <kornienkoart@yandex.ru>, <jaredquek@gmail.com>, <auroville.southafrica@gmail.com>, <camille.egger@bluewin.ch>, <gunnuron@gmail.com>, <toshak2000@gmail.com>, <rafaelgsalguero@hotmail.com>, <info@auroville-international.org>
Subject: Fwd: Suggestion/concern regarding the development work in Auroville Foundation.

This is for your kind attention and action.

Regards

Sarada Natarajan, Ph.D.

Art Historian

----- Forwarded message -----

From: unesco.edu <unesco.edu@nic.in>

Date: Wed, Nov 24, 2021 at 9:54 AM

Subject: Suggestion/concern regarding the development work in Auroville Foundation.

To: Auroville Foundation <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>

Cc: <sarada.natarajan@gmail.com>, K. Sanjay Murthy <secy.dhe@nic.in>, secretaryavf <secretaryavf@auroville.org.in>, srinivasmurty <srinivasmurty@auroville.org.in>, Angshuman Basu <abasu-avfn.py@nic.in>, S K Samantaray <sk.samantaray@nic.in>, Saroj Kumar Choudhary <sarojchoudhary.edu@nic.in>, BINDU RAJAGOPALAN U D C, Dept. of Education <bindurajagopalan.edu@nic.in>

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to the concern expressed by Dr. Sarada Natarajan through her e-mail addressed to the Secretary (HE).

2. In this regard, Auroville Foundation may ensure that the development work in Auroville Foundation (AF) be done under the guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to preserve the archaeological heritage in Auroville.

3. The above suggestion is for your information and necessary action.

With regards,

Section Officer (UU/IFC)
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001

From: "sarada natarajan" <sarada.natarajan@gmail.com>
To: "K. Sanjay Murthy" <secy.dhe@nic.in>
Cc: "RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI" <govtam@nic.in>, "Lt Governor of Puducherry" <lg.pon@nic.in>, nirima@gmail.com, "aravindan neelakandan" <aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com>, gghosal87@gmail.com, rassaraju@gmail.com, gbnandana1956@gmail.com, "Neeta Prasad" <neetaprasad@pib.gov.in>, neetaprasad@gmail.com, "Darshana Dabral" <jsfa.edu@gov.in>
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2021 10:32:19 PM
Subject: Auroville Foundation and Archaeological Heritage of India

From

Dr Sarada Natarajan
307, Renaissance Woods I
Jarakabande Forest Road
Jalahalli West
Bengaluru 560 015

To

Mr. K Sanjay Murthy IAS
Department of Higher Education
127-C Wing, Shastri Bhavan
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road
Rajpath Area,
Central Secretariat,
New Delhi 110001

Dear Sir,

Kindly find attached the reply of a request that I sent to the Auroville Foundation regarding the possible destruction of archaeological heritage in the development proposed in their premises.

I request you to follow up this matter. According to their reply, it seems that they are pursuing the said development with no survey done and no information regarding archaeological excavations already carried out by their teams and advertised in their archaeological park.

I sent this RTI because it is the constitutional responsibility of every Indian citizen to protect our national archaeological heritage and consequently I am shocked by the uncaring attitude of the Auroville Foundation.

Please see these links to have information on the archeological work done in Auroville. [Archaeology in Auroville's International Zone - Auroville Wiki](#), <https://youtu.be/GaH5MtS6KSg> and [News & Notes 724:Auroville's Archaeology – An Overview and Future Prospects - Auroville Wiki](#)

I request you to kindly ensure that development work proceeds with due attention to our irreplaceable archaeological heritage **under the guidance of the ASI**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarada Natarajan
Art Historian
Bengaluru

Appendix B-12 - Note on Archaeological Work in the Auroville area

12th August 2022

A Note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage

Since 1966, archaeologists have explored Auroville's archaeological potential. However, it was in 1983, on the request of Auroville residents, that the ASI Madras Circle carried out an excavation under Mr. P Narayana Babu, assisted by Rajagopal and Dayalan, identified a large Iron Age Megalithic site (in Auroville's "International Zone") and a Neolithic to Late Chola Period site (in the "Industrial Zone"); a sarcophagus was found dating back to the Iron Age.

In the last 30 years, Rescue Archaeology intervened whenever construction projects unearthed archaeological finds at Auroville. Subsequently, educational school programs were conducted in classroom environments to introduce the topic of archaeology and ancient history to students in the region. Archaeologists from India, Italy, US and Germany have participated in safeguarding this National Heritage. An Archaeological Park was created on a Megalithic Site by bringing to the surface Cairn circles in their exact placement; it displays well-designed panels in Tamil, Hindi and English giving an overview of the Iron Age period, its Megalithic culture as well as a description of the Auroville sites and the artifacts found here.

Indian archaeologists, such as Profs P. Ravitchandirane, K. Rajan, V. Selvakumar, etc., have published or commented on archaeological finds at Auroville. Each site has been meticulously documented and a binder for each excavation was prepared. Digital Archiving of the entire record has begun so as to share this knowledge with the academic community. Artifacts are being restored and await the construction of the Auroville Museum of Archaeology to be displayed. We are at the beginning of a great reveal.

The last Auroville Governing Board funded the last two excavations and offered funding in 2017 for the restoration of artifacts. However, the Auroville Town Development Council in its planning process does not fully include Archaeology as a layer of intervention, and the current push to clear the Crown, Outer Ring Road and 12 Radial roads is putting at great risk a precious archaeological heritage, much of which is explored but not yet excavated.

Additional links:

[https://wiki.auroville.org.in/w/index.php?title=Archaeology in Auroville%27s International Zone](https://wiki.auroville.org.in/w/index.php?title=Archaeology_in_Auroville%27s_International_Zone)

<https://youtu.be/GaH5Mt56K5g>

<https://www.aurovilleradio.org/poppo-on-archeology/>

<https://www.asichennai.gov.in/excavations.html>

1 | A brief note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE IN AUROVILLE TERRITORY

Tamil Nadu, together with Kerala, Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh, is home to an archaeological culture known as the South Indian Megalithic Culture (SIMC). This culture was characterized by the building of megaliths, which are structures and monuments built with large stones. The function for which megaliths were built is considered to be connected with burial of human remains, usually collected in urns after cremation or otherwise decay of the body. The approximate chronology of the SIMC spans between the Iron Age and the Early Historic period, from circa 2,000 BCE to 500 CE, as reported by the most recent studies (ref. Prof. Selvakumar, lecture at Archaeological Science Centre, IIT Gandhinagar, 27 Nov. 2021, at <https://asc.iitgn.ac.in/lecture14.php>).

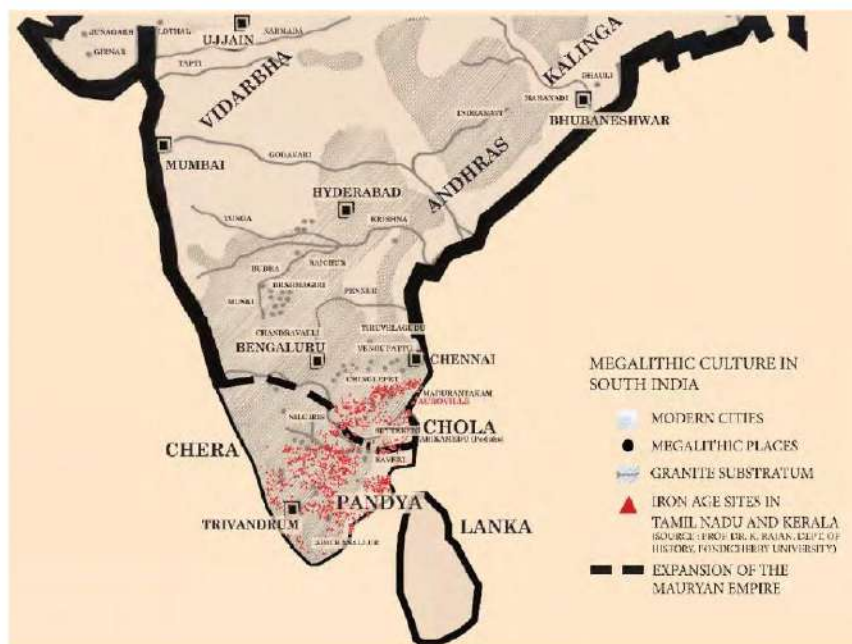


Figure 1 – Map of Megalithic Culture in South India

Since the early inception of Auroville, planting of trees has been a constant activity of many residents. The tree planting involved digging the earth for depths usually less than 1 meter, and in many situations presence of potsherds was noted in the excavated earth. A more systematic approach to document the presence of potsherds was utilized, through maps of archaeological evidence in areas subject to tree planting, to preserve memory of the findings and their locations. Later on, surface reconnaissance surveys have been conducted to better define areas having archaeological evidence.

In particular, a large area has been identified as a megalithic burial ground in the International Zone, with presence of megalithic Cairn Circles and urns field, and notable artifacts have been recovered and preserved for future study and display. Archaeological Survey of India has also conducted several field campaigns, with discovery of granite slabs covering terracotta urns and a sarcophagus, accompanied by precious bronze artifacts.

2 | A brief note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage

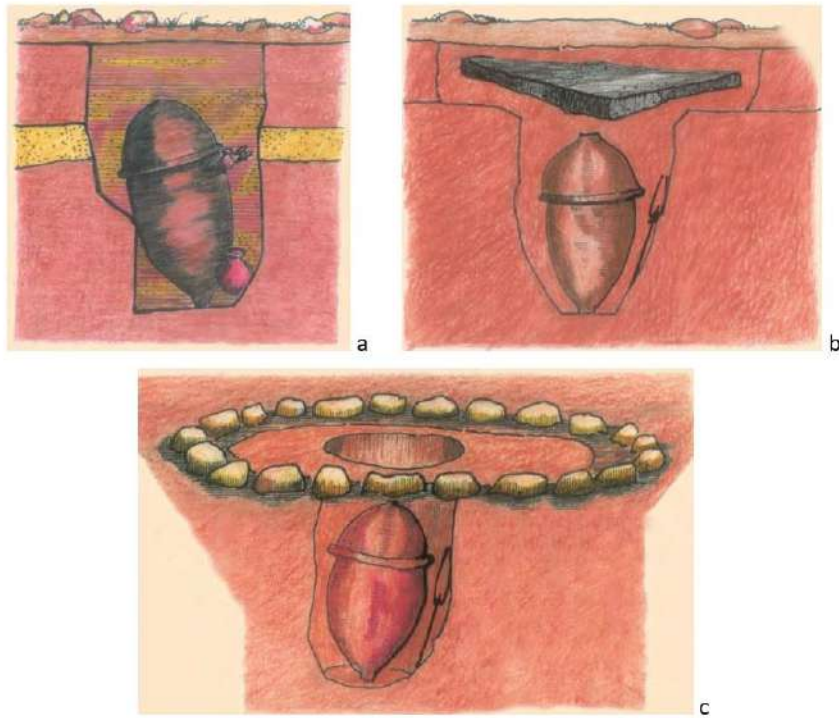


Figure 2 – Types of burial found in Auroville: a) Single terracotta urn burial; b) Single terracotta urn burial topped with granite slab; c) Single terracotta urn burial in stone cairn circle

All unearthed archaeological artifacts have undergone a first emergency restoration, and are currently stored in the Tamil Heritage building (not yet completed) inside the Bharat Nivas / Pavilion of India compound, in the International Zone of Auroville.



Figure 3 – Some of the bronze artifacts stored after emergency restoration

3 | A brief note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage



Figure 4 – Map of megalithic burial ground in International Zone Auroville. The darker grey area indicates the burial ground extension

In 2014, during the works done for laying the High Tension line in the International Zone of Auroville between Aurodam community and Savitri Bhavan, a trench had been dug using mechanical earth movers: the trench, large 60 cm, reached a depth of more than 1 metre.



Figure 5 – Trench for HT line in Auroville International Zone – Overview

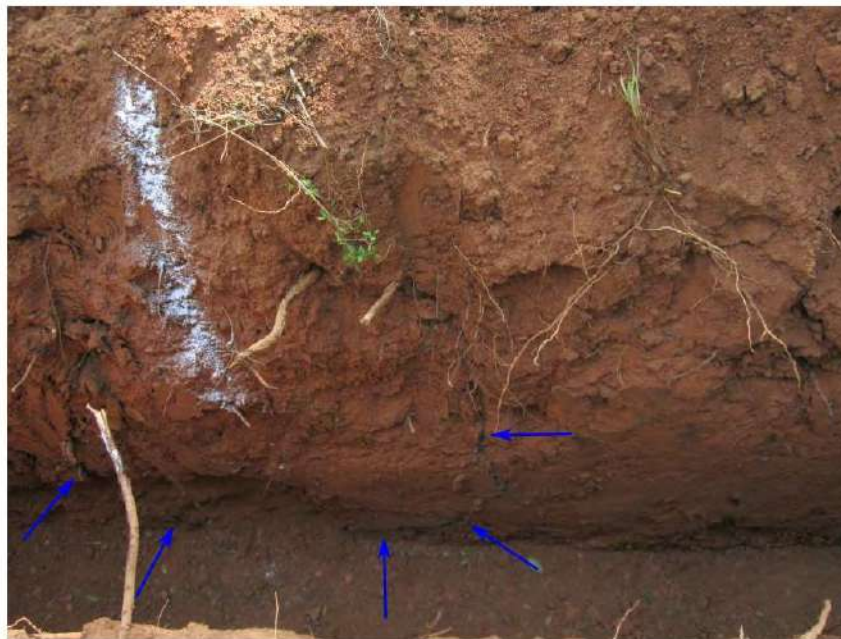
4 | A brief note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage

During the works digging works no attention was given to the numerous potsherds and stone fragments which were emerging through the excavated earth. After the trench was completely dug out, a quick inspection of the earth excavated and deposited along the sides of the trench, and of the trench walls identified 29 concentrations of archaeological artifacts, comprising of potsherds and stones.



Figure 6 – Potsherds found in the excavated earth - Trench for HT line in Auroville International Zone

Many (if not all) of the potsherds can be attributed to urns, most probably used for burial practice, intercepted and shattered into pieces by the earth mover in its work.



5 | A brief note on Auroville's Archaeological Heritage

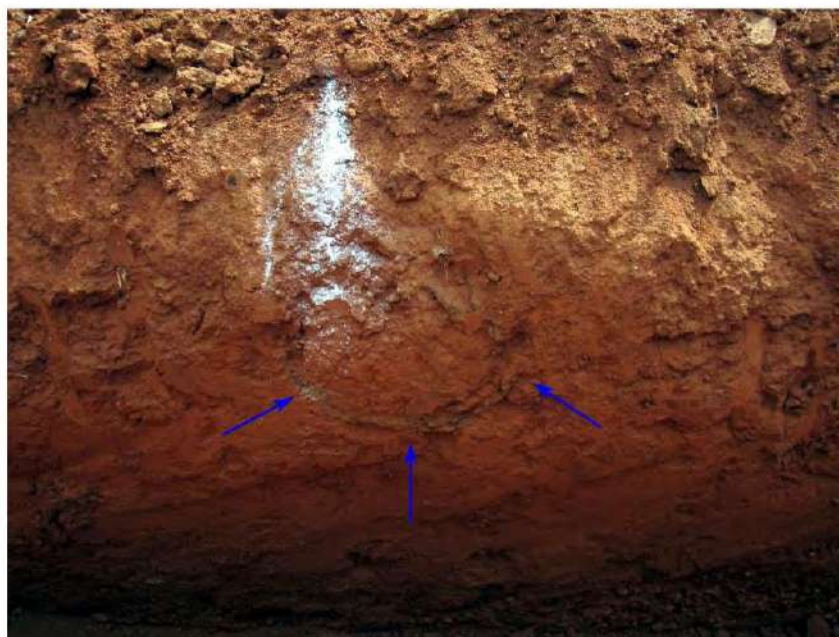


Figure 7—Urns remains visible in the trench wall - Trench for HT line in Auroville International Zone

Moreover, some limestone boulders, usually utilised for cairn circle structures, were found during these works.

A quick inventory and a sketch with position of the findings was done before the trench was closed, to allow for easy location in the future.

The HT line had been laid on the external edge of the planned Crown Road.

Any intervention in this area should take into consideration the presence of this heritage, and instruct proper investigations in order to bring to light and preserve the remains of this archaeological culture for future generations.

Auroville Today

JUNE-JULY 2013, No. 287-288

Auroville's monthly news magazine since 1988



The world beneath our feet

Today's Aurovilians are not newcomers to a virgin land. For over three decades, archaeological excavation work has unearthed stone-age, megalithic and Chola artefacts in the area now known as Auroville.

More than sixty years ago, in North Germany, a curious six-year old kicking through the rubble of an abandoned quarry stumbled upon a rusty old sword from a battle long past. The young lad was hooked for ever.

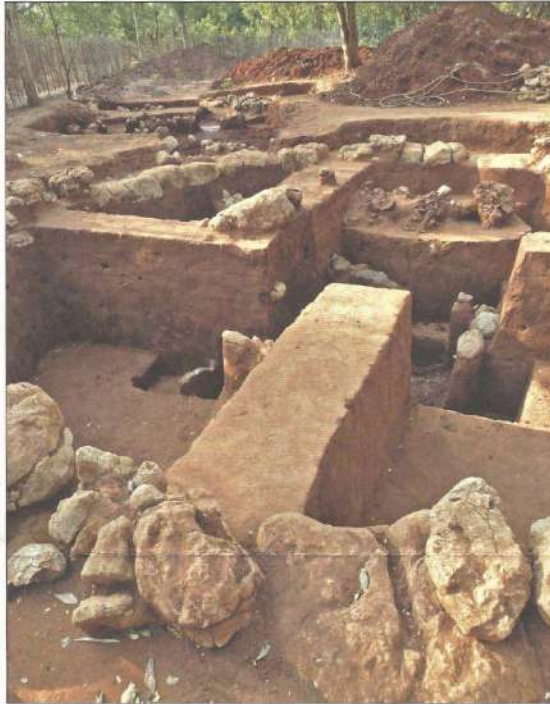
Decades later on a sun-baked plain in South India, under a billowing canopy that offers some shade, he bends over a box of semi-precious stone beads. Sifting through the pile, he picks out perfectly striped specimens and passes them around to the nine-year olds gathered around. Welcome to Poppo's world of Auroville archaeology.

"What we do is rescue excavation, not archaeology," corrects Poppo. "At the same time, whenever possible we provide a hands-on education to interested children, such as from Transition and Deepenam, and from Udavi and other village primary schools."

It was in the early eighties that Poppo and others stumbled upon the hidden world of Auroville's early dwellers while digging holes for trees. Poppo poetically describes the actual moment of discovery in his journal: "The hard crust of the earth was punctured by thousands of tree holes, unearthing pottery shards and limestone. Shards are the Geiger counters for archaeologists, but to the layman are of no significance. However when the crowbars hit hard granite at the bottom of several tree holes, we became alert, because the nearest granite hills are about 25 kilometres away."

A hasty clearing of the top soil revealed a large granite slab – later found to weigh over two tonnes – along with a powdery metal axe and hundreds of pot shards. A test-pit was carefully dug and the slab removed. It revealed a terracotta sarcophagus more than a metre in length, standing on six legs, dramatically ornamented with a pair of horned rams' heads. "It was covered by a lid containing evenly-spaced oval shaped holes with corresponding holes in the lower body, probably used for lowering the heavy sarcophagus on ropes safely down into the narrow burial pit," explains Poppo. Apart from soil that had entered the sarcophagus over two thousand years, it was empty. No organic remains or other objects were found within.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was invited and carted away the specimens for analysis. Thermo-luminescence dating revealed it to be from the megalithic Draavidian era (circa 500 BCE – 100 CE). However, as Tamil Nadu has innumerable megalithic sites, and there was nothing of "great value" in the artefacts rescued in Auroville, Poppo and his team of volunteers



A cairn circle near the Matrimandir visitors' entrance, excavated in 2013

were allowed by the ASI to proceed with the work. The sarcophagus was returned.

While little is understood about rock cultures or the significance of their funerary rituals, megalithic burials are believed to have served as a mode of transition to the nether world. Megalithic people exposed their dead to the elements and animals. When the flesh was removed, the remaining bones were collected and interred in terracotta urns, sometimes measuring up

to one metre in height. "The six-legged sarcophagus was truly exceptional," says Poppo. "It must have been for the burial of a clan chief or king."

In 2000, the Auroville 'rescue excavation' project got a shot in the arm when German archaeologists visited Auroville and spent a few months leading the excavation work and sharing their expertise with volunteers. "We can't do any better," was one of the compliments Poppo received, when they compared his work to theirs. This interaction later led to an exchange. Gopi, from Rayapudupakkam Village, who has an interest in history and is a long-time technician attached to the project, and Anandamayi from Auroville, were invited to the State Museum of Archaeology in Paderborn and Münster, Germany, to learn about archaeological restoration and preservation. Gopi now works full-time in the field and in restoration work.

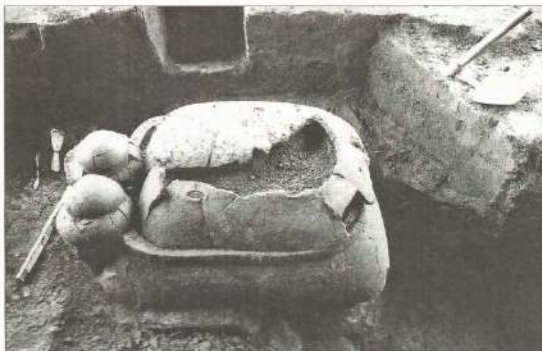
The work

Archaeological work is painstakingly slow and physically demanding. The team preserves everything that can be preserved – the ancient burial sites, capstones and cairn circles are reconstructed in place – while the finds of ceramics, terracotta and metal implements, which are often powdery and greatly corroded, are preserved and restored. Metal objects, often of iron and occasionally of bronze, are cleaned carefully using chemicals, followed by a process of high quality wax impregnation, which is done at Maroma, which provides structural integrity and strength. Every dig and find is documented with survey drawings, photographs and sketches. Global Positioning System (GPS) data is used to integrate the ancient locations with the general Auroville town plan.

Cairn circles, capstone burials and urns have now been uncovered and 'rescued' in certain areas of Auroville in the past thirty years. Around the centre of the township alone, more than sixty locations have been identified within a 45-acre area as archaeologically-rich with a high concentration of megalithic artefacts.

Recent excavations at a site next to the Unity Pavilion and another one between the Kindergarten and Bharat Nivas have shown more cairn circles with urn burials. The collection of red-black ware, terra cotta urns, iron implements (knives, axes, sickles, lances, swords and daggers) and glass and stone beads continues to grow.

continued on page 2



Sarcophagus during discovery, 1982



Sarcophagus restored by the Archaeological Survey of India, 1985

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- Circle work for individual and collective growth
- The woes of the Crown road

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- A proposal for participatory working groups
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- Gajendran and HP Foods

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- Laughter in healing
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 - The new Spirituality
 - Oneness
- Brief News

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Transition school children visiting the excavation near the Matrimandir Nursery



Poppo lecturing on the history of the area and showing an iron spear head
Below: Boy with an iron axe head



Devi restoring an urn

The word megalith derives from the Greek, *mega*, which means big and *lithos*, which means stone. It refers to the time when people buried their dead with simple structures incorporating massive stones. In Europe, the megalithic period is dated from 3,000 – 2,000 BCE. In India, the megalithic period is more recent, dating from 1,000 BCE – 300 CE. Coexisting with the more advanced culture of the Sangam period, when international sea-trade with countries such as Rome and Greece was at its height, the parallel megalithic culture of South-India is a mystery yet to be unravelled.

continued from page 1

Sometimes other objects are found, not from the megalithic period. Seven years ago, in the *oda* (canyon) of Bommaiypallayam, a team of paleo-biologists discovered a 70,000 year old baby skull in deposits of ferrite layers.

In 2003, during an excavation at the site near Shradhanjali, a 7 centimetre high, exquisite statue of a woman in seating position was dug up, evidence of a 10th century Chola settlement. "I call her the Venus of Auroville," says Poppo, laughing. In 2005, Poppo's team unearthed several embossed copper coins and stone bead artefacts at CSR, dating from the same period. In 2009, while excavating the foundation for the guestrooms of Savitri Bhavan, a 10,000 year old well-preserved stone axe was found at a depth of only 50 centimetres.

In 2005, the team expanded its work and made a detailed documentation of the destruction of megalithic sites in the Auroville bioregion. "We had to do this survey rather urgently, not only because we are frequently asked to justify why we are doing these excavations, but also because the development in the bioregion is destroying many of these spots," says Poppo with a hint of exasperation.

Challenges

A work of this magnitude could not proceed without the usual challenges, both from without and within Auroville. "At some point in time, someone from a village made a complaint and the police became involved, but this turned out in our favour," says Poppo. "We showed them all the work we had done – the sites where our digs were made, the finds, the documentation, the conservation work and the stored artefacts. In the end, realising that we are not treasure hunters, the police congratulated us on doing a fine job of preserving what is clearly Tamil cultural heritage, and encouraged us to continue the work." With the help of the Auroville Foundation Secretary, Poppo is now formalizing his work with the Archaeological Survey of India. The Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation, acknowledging the importance of this work, has promised to make a grant of Rs 5 lakhs (US \$ 9,000) towards the archaeological work for this financial year (2013-2014).

Equally challenging are the obstacles the work encounters in Auroville – a limited budget and a seeming lack of community support – although the schools occasionally send their children to the sites to learn about the ancient history of this area. "I love teaching them," says Poppo. "But sadly, there is no budget for this type of education."

Another problem is the occasional hostility from Aurovilians who have construction projects planned on top of archaeological sites. Although many Aurovilians are aware that they are occupying archaeologically sensitive areas, they do not calculate the costs and the time needed to excavate and document the area they want to build on, into their planning.



Copli with a restored urn



Restored urns in



An excavation in progress

The restored urn

Anandamayil rescuing bones from burial urns

Suryamandalam

The problems between the future and the past surfaced again when Poppo designed Suryamandalam, the Tamil Heritage Centre and Museum, which will be part of Bharat Nivas, the Pavilion of India in the International Zone. The main building of the Centre, surrounded by water, will have two floors and a basement. The ground floor will be for exhibitions and cultural performances, whereas the first floor is reserved for studies on South-Indian art and will host a library. The basement will be used as storage space for the hundreds of boxes with archaeological finds, as well as a conservation area.

The Museum will be located at a distance of about 100 metres from the main building. "It will showcase the special Ayanar culture of the region around Auroville, and be a modern megalithic museum where all the major finds will be displayed. It will be unique for India," says Poppo. Equally unique is the location right on top of a recent excavation site which will be integrated into the Museum. "This in-situ Museum will offer an experiential quality," he explains. "It will incorporate the educational aspects in a sensory way, where different stations will invite exploration through touch, smell, sound and tactile sensations." There will be ramps where you walk over the excavation site and see partly excavated urns, with the tools and equipment used on excavation sites lying around. The Museum will also offer workshops on history and archaeology in order to create a holistic material and historical awareness.

"The problem," says Poppo, is that the Crown Road is planned right through the Museum and so would cover the excavation site. My proposal to shift the road so as to create an integral compound cannot be discussed. The only other option is to divide the compound into two, and move the road by twenty metres to go in-between the main building and the Museum. I consider this a less-than-ideal solution, but even this meets with objections as some town planners consider that the Crown must be a perfect circle, which is the only argument I have heard against my proposal." The issue has not yet been settled.

"It is the duty of every citizen of India to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture," states the Constitution of India in its section Fundamental Duties (51A). "That's exactly what we have been doing here," says Poppo. "For it is Auroville's duty to Tamil Nadu and to India to preserve their ancient culture as well as we can."

And preserve and persevere he does. The thousands of artifacts now stored elsewhere in the Bharat Nivas compound, awaiting their permanent shift to Suryamandalam's Museum and storage spaces, offer a mute testimony of his years of painstaking and loving work.

Priya Sanduravalli Carel



The "Venus of Auroville"



Cornelian necklace stones with white lines etched into them



Auroville school children participating in the archaeological excavation, 2007

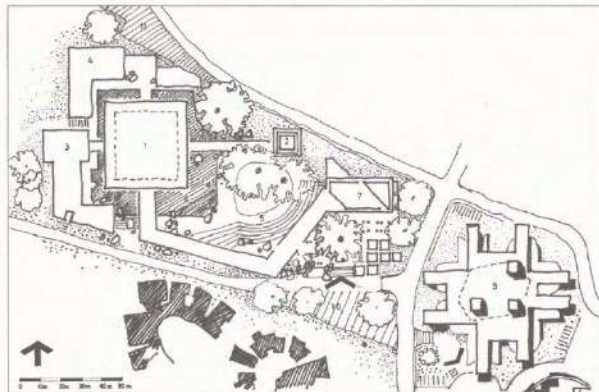


the basement of the former CIC building at Bharat Nivas



Deepanam children Devi and Priyamwada stringing the beads into necklaces

Poppo (Reinhold) Pingel, born in 1942 in Germany, has been living in Auroville since 1970. Apart from extensive low-cost village housing developments in the early years, he has also been working as an architect for projects such as the Quiet Healing Centre and apartments; the Udavi school extension; and the Afsanah guesthouse complex. He is the driving force behind Auroville's archaeological work on a voluntary basis. A monograph "Poppo Pingel" was published in 2012.



Site map of Suryamandalam. # 1 is the Tamil Heritage Centre. # 9 the Museum. The Crown Road goes in between

PUDUCHERRY

Excavation in Auroville throws up Iron Age artefacts

 Megha Dharan

PUDUCHERRY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015 00:00 IST
UPDATED: FEBRUARY 16, 2015 07:38 IST

SHARE ARTICLE f t in v e PRINT A | A | A



The findings in Auroville date back to the Iron Age and establish internal trade links before Greco-Roman times. Photo: Special Arrangement

Burial sites, possibly dating back to the Iron Age, were unearthed during an archaeological excavation programme in Auroville.

The artefacts found beneath granite slabs in urns include cups, vessels, cowbells made of bronze, beads and semi precious stone lapis lazuli. Iron objects such as swords, spades, spears, sickle and axe were also found.

According to archaeologist and assistant professor from Tagore Arts College Ravichandran, who has been leading the excavation, assisted by field supervisor Gopinathan and volunteers from the college, the three burial sites found are secondary ones and only partial remains could be found in such sites.

The depth of the site is around three to four meters and 10 to 15 meters in diameter. The cairn circle in the centre is made with limestones transported from Royapudupakkam and granite slabs from Thiruvakkarai, a few kilometres from the site.

Trending in Puducherry

Puducherry Power tariff in Puducherry to see revision from April 1

Puducherry Puducherry government extends COVID-19 restrictions till January 31

Puducherry Do's and Don'ts

Puducherry COVID-19 | Test Positivity Rate touches 51.75% in Puducherry; 2 more die in Mahe

Puducherry Varsity offers additional chance to complete degree

Puducherry government approaches SpiceJet to renew operations

"We have formally requested the operator to resume services from the airport at the earliest as several COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted," said Minister K. Lakshminarayanan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Top Picks in The Hindu today



Dhanush, Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth announce separation



Every stage was a canvas for Pandit Birju Maharaj, painter of rhythm

The team has been making several similar finds over the past two years in Auroville. The excavation programme, which concentrated on an area very close to the Matrimandir, was aimed at finding evidence of a trading link between the ancient port city of Arikamedu and the site inside Auroville.

"The significance of the excavations is in that they establish a once flourishing internal trade and commerce even before the Roman and Greek period," Mr. Ravichandran said.

He surmises that the language used must have been Tamil but no evidence has been found so far. Only graffiti marks can be found on the outer surface of the pottery. According to the findings, the settlement must have been a cattle-rearing community and they must have had trade with Arikamedu.

The site was first accidentally discovered by the locals while taking soil for Pongal celebrations. Initially, it took time to get permission from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Surveys conducted around Puducherry and Auroville revealed Medieval Age and Stone Age materials.

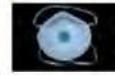
Gilbert Lachaux, an Auroville resident, recalls finding a granite slab about 60 cm below the ground level while digging holes to plant trees 30 years ago.

The excavation is funded by the Auroville Foundation. The team is collaborating with the Tamil Sembulam, a part of the Tamil Heritage Foundation (THF) for archaeological purposes.

It is supposed to go on till September, depending on the availability of funds.

"There is an immediate need to protect the site from being destroyed like Perambai near the Ousteri Lake, which was ruined by mineral excavation. India has several archaeological sites that are not preserved and shares the same fate as Perambai," said Mr. Ravichandran.

In the near future, the site will be turned into an archaeological park where the architecture can be studied and the excavated items will soon be exhibited in a museum at Bharathi Nivas in Auroville.



A clip-on sensor to turn face mask into smart monitoring device

THE  HINDU
Our code of editorial values

This article is closed for comments.
Please [Email the Editor](#)

Appendix B-13 - Joint Committee Report

18th August 2022

[Full report](#)

**REPORT OF
THE JOINT COMMITTEE
APPOINTED BY
THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**IN O.A. No.239 of 2021,
Dated: 28.04.2022**

**IN THE MATTER OF
AUROVILLE CROWN ROAD FORMATION**

Submitted By

**District Collector
Villupuram**

**Conservator of Forests
Chennai**

Appendix B-14 - Letter from a steward of Bliss Forest alerting the Auroville Foundation and Working Groups of the clearing

1st October 2022

Clearance in Existence and Bliss

From: C. <xxxxxxx@auroville.org.in>

Date: Sat, 1 Oct 2022, 11:04

To: Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town

Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, Forest Group <forestgroup@auroville.org.in>,

Auroville Foundation <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>

To whom it may concern.

The clearing of a 2.5m wide cyclepath through Existence, private land, Bliss and Revelation which has started yesterday, Friday afternoon at 5pm and is continuing right now is a violation of the NGT court order. An Environmental Clearance and DDP is needed for this kind of work.

We request you to stop this work immediately.

C.

Bliss Forest co-steward

Appendix B-15 - Communication of the clearing sent to the Auroville Governing Board and International Advisory Council

4th October 2022

S. for destruction of another forest

Auroville Earth Institute <earthinstitute@auroville.org.in> Tue, Oct 4, 2022 at 9:40 AM
To: yogabi@roottolight.com, micheldanino@gmail.com, shambhavi.yogini@gmail.com, vedicinstitute@gmail.com, hp@aurohotels.com, dena.merriam@finnpartners.com, neetaprasad@pib.gov.in, jsfa.edu@gov.in, nirima@gmail.com, gbandana1956@gmail.com, aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com, rssaraju@gmail.com, gghosal87@gmail.com, lg.pon@nic.in, govtam@nic.in

Ref: 1950 C 642 GB, IAC destruction forest 221003

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

Please find attached a report on the illegal destruction of yet another Auroville forest ordered by Dr Jayanti Ravi. At the end of last week, she ordered the destruction to open a cycle path through Auroville land and private land, without informing anyone as usual.

You will read in the second page of the report that the member of her illegal ATDC who was kind enough to show us the plan of this cycle path, designed by Sindhuja Jagadeesh and Anupama Kundoo, said that Dr Jayanti Ravi gave the order not to show us the plan or to give any information.

This kind of “development” and process are very questionable.

Is it acceptable that Dr Jayanti Ravi violates the law, as the NGT Court Order requires an Environmental Clearance before starting such work? Is it acceptable that she orders not to inform the community? Is it acceptable that she orders the members of her illegal ATDC to publish a message threatening anyone obstructing her destruction, which is in fact illegal?

Is it acceptable that Sindhuja Jagadeesh is in charge of the ATDC, when she has built in the Master Plan area a house for a private party, without any permission to build it? Is it acceptable that she has bought with her sister a benami land in the Master Plan area? She is also known to be a member of a cult who has harassed people physically and psychologically.

Is it acceptable that Anupama Kundoo is the “Head of Urban Design” of the illegal ATDC when she does not live here since so many years? She was in Auroville recently for a few days only. Therefore, how can she design anything, without being aware of the ground reality? What is her agenda?

I kindly beg you to stop Dr Jayanti Ravi ordering such destruction and bypassing the Residents Assembly.

I ask you also to take the appropriate measures and reconsider how the Auroville town planning is done and by whom.

Truth and Love from the City at the Service of Truth.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Very sincerely,

S.

--

Mr S.M.

Director Auroville Earth Institute

Master of Architecture – Lyon, France

Post Graduate Diploma in Earthen Architecture – Grenoble, France

Representative for Asia – UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture

Auroshilpam, Auroville 605 101 – T.N. India

Tel.: +91 (0) 413 – 262 3330 / 262 3064

Fax: +91 (0) 413 – 262 2886

Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in

Web: <http://www.earth-auroville.com>

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/earthinstitute.auroville>

Appendix B-16 - Report of the clearing sent to the Auroville Governing Board and International Advisory Council

4th October 2022

DESTRUCTION OF A FOREST (AUROVILLE LAND+PRIVATE LAND) 30. 09 & 01. 10. 2022

Satprem Maïni, Director of the Auroville Earth Institute

4th October 2022

Dr Jayanti Ravi (JR) ordered the destruction of a Forest, to open a 2.5 m wide cycle path. At 5 pm on 30th September 2022, 6 people plus a junior engineer from CPDW, Vignesh, entered Existence community with a bulldozer, which started to destroy a strip of the forest in Existence, then continued on private land and went up till the border to Bliss Forest. As usual, the community was not informed, and no office order was shown.

Around 10 am on 1st October 2022, the bulldozer came back, went over the private land and went on destroying Bliss Forest. Vignesh explained that they were briefed by the AVFO to create a 2.5 m wide cycle path in the city area through all planned green corridors. This cycle path of 1.13 km length was designed by Anupama and Sindhuja. It is planned to start from the city centre, run from Existence into Bliss Forest, crossing the Crown, and go through Revelation until it connects to the outskirts of the green belt, thus opening a direct access from the city centre to Alankuppam village. However, this cycle path is not needed at all; as Figure 5 on the next page shows, the zone already has many cycle paths. Furthermore, a 2.5 m wide cycle path is far too large, as it will allow 4 wheelers to use it.

CPWD was told to bypass trees which had a girth larger than 30 cm. Vignesh was informed by the Aurovilians that the land between Existence and Bliss is a private one. He replied that the AVFO had told them that the area was all Auroville land. Vignesh was also informed, by the Aurovilians, that the NGT Court Order does not allow such work until an Environmental Clearance has been obtained and a DDP worked out. He replied that the AVFO gives orders to the CPWD and that he was not aware of such details.

As more Aurovilians arrived on site, they managed to stop the destruction. Mr Madhi, the vigilance officer of JR, arrived on site. He said that the Aurovilians had nothing to do there and were illegally blocking government work. He asked people to leave and to let the bulldozer destroy. He added that JR's ATDC had done a DDP for the whole of Auroville. He was asked to show an office order, a plan and an environmental clearance. He had none of this.

Two land Board members who came on site ascertained that the private land was not recently purchased by the Auroville Foundation and that they were not aware of any agreement between the owner and the AVFO. As the bulldozer was stopped by the Aurovilians, it destroyed only 130 m of forest, on an average of 3.5 m wide. It is important to note that this destruction was partly on Auroville land and partly on private land (Figure 6, next page).

Later, a member of the illegal ATDC nominated by JR and Lieve Claes (member of QAnon) came on site. Lieve was filming the Aurovilians present with her cell phone, presumably for reporting to Dr. Jayanti Ravi for retaliation (see the last sentence of the note published by JR's ATDC, next page) and probably to upload the video on the Facebook page "Manifesting Auroville", where she and her friends are regularly posting divisive and defamatory information, lies and words of hatred against those who are standing against the on-going mindless destruction and threats.



Fig. 1: Bulldozer destroying the forest



Fig. 2: Bulldozer opening a cycle path



Fig. 3: Minimum width destroyed = 3 m – Average width = 3.5 m



Fig. 4: Maximum width destroyed = 5 m

The member of the illegal ATDC was kind enough to meet with some of us in the ATDC office, and to show a printed plan (Figure 5). He told us that **he had been ordered by the AVFO not to show us this plan or to give any information.** However, he shared the plan despite the order, as he was concerned about such development. Nevertheless, he was not able to show neither any DDP nor environmental clearance which would have been required before starting such destruction. **Vignesh was also present and said that he was told that this plan was not final.** The plan below shows that there is absolutely no need to open this new cycle path, as many cycle paths already exist in the zone. Furthermore, the foresters present on site mentioned that there was no need to bring a bulldozer to do this job, and that it would be much better to cut the vegetation by hand, taking care of rare species and transplanting them if needed, if the work would indeed prove necessary and legal. **They also expressed that they would be happy to do it themselves, if one day needed.**

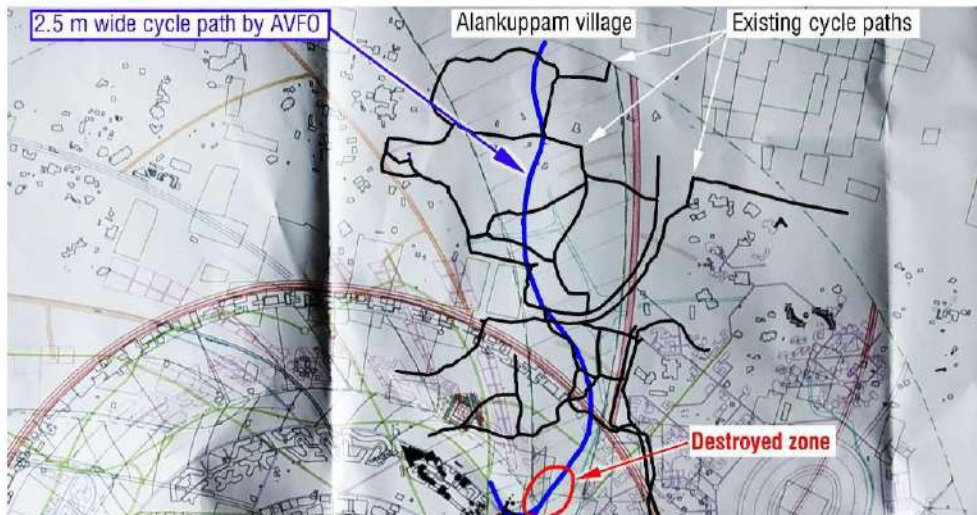


Fig. 5: Temporary plan shown by the member of JR's ATDC



Fig. 6: Area showing the Auroville land and the private land

Though the work ordered by Dr Jayanti Ravi was illegal, because she did not get any prior environmental clearance, JR's illegal ATDC sent a note through the Auroville Mass-Bulletin, **threatening anyone obstructing the work with retaliation**, as mentioned hereafter.

*This is to inform that the clearing work in progress to create cycle paths through the parks, **are in required compliance.** The work pursued is the clearing of shrubbery for the purpose of creating a cycle path. Further, no trees are being felled for this purpose. **It's a legal offence to obstruct this work in progress. Anyone obstructing this work is doing so at their own risk and necessary actions may be initiated with the videos and photos of the people involved.** With Best regards,*

Dr G. Seetharaman (MS), Govind, Hemant, Jaya, Ponnusamy, Prasad, Sindhuja & Toby, L'Avenir d'Auroville

Appendix B-17 - Announcement from the AVFO regarding obstruction

2nd October 2022

To all those who are obstructing the work of CPWD

massbulletin av <massbulletin@auroville.org.in> Sun, 2 Oct, 2022 at 12:12 pm

This is to inform that the clearing work in progress to create cycle paths through the parks, are in required compliance.

The work pursued is the clearing of shrubbery for the purpose of creating a cycle path. Further, no trees are being felled for this purpose.

It's a legal offence to obstruct this work in progress. Anyone obstructing this work is doing so at their own risk and necessary actions may be initiated with the videos and photos of the people involved.

With Best regards,

Dr G. Seetharaman (MS), Govind, Hemant, Jaya, Ponnusamy, Prasad, Sindhuja & Toby
L'Avenir d'Auroville

Appendix B-18- RA TDC letter on clearing outlining the legalities

3rd October 2022

Unauthorised clearing in Existence / Bliss forest

AV Mass Bulletin <avmassbulletin@auroville.services>

Unauthorised clearing in Existence / Bliss forest

Dear Community,

Friday afternoon and Saturday morning a JCB accompanied by an engineer from the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and a survey team started clearing a 2.5m wide path between the trees through Existence forest towards Bliss forest. This bulldozing of understory forest regeneration is the first step in creating cycle paths that have been proposed by Dr Anupama Kundoo and are being implemented by the CPWD on instructions from the Auroville Foundation Office (AVFO) Secretary.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed that a proper township plan and environmental clearance need to be in place before further construction can be undertaken in Auroville. This stay on construction includes the clearing and creation of new rights of ways, including cycle paths, which can only be properly planned for alongside housing, economic, environmental and cultural needs and tested through the environmental impact assessment process.

The AVFO and those collaborating with them are acting in clear contempt of the NGT judgment. In addition, this unauthorised clearance is implemented on the basis of invalid appointments & contracts, undisclosed and incomplete plans arrived at without participation of the Residents Assembly and is generally devoid of basic sense, process or decency.

The CPWD engineer confirmed that they do not have environmental clearance and are only in the process of applying now, apparently based on 'detailed plans produced by Dr Anupama' which were not available on-site, or anywhere else. His colleague later confirmed that the process could take 6-12 months, and neither he, nor Prasad (so-called 'ATDC' member) could confirm or verify whether they even had the basic plans necessary to start the process. We have confirmed that no application has been processed by the appropriate authorities.

Cycle-paths will of course be needed in the right place and time as part of the building of this unique universal township, trees will need to be cut, difficult choices will need to be made – but they will be made consciously, and together.

The overriding concern is not the bulldozing, it is the violent and authoritarian approach which has no place in Auroville and is itself the most significant barrier preventing a joyful and timely realisation of the 'City the Earth Needs'.

Mr Madhi, AVFO vigilance officer, and now the so called 'ATDC' recognised by the Governing Board have threatened those who object to and prevent these unplanned, unlawful and

unauthorised works by first demanding proof of the 'required compliance' which they claim to have. We will continue to challenge the senseless destruction, lies and threats and we welcome any support you can provide, in peaceful presence, in collective actions and in working with us as we take up the proper planning of the township in a conscious and holistic way.

More soon,

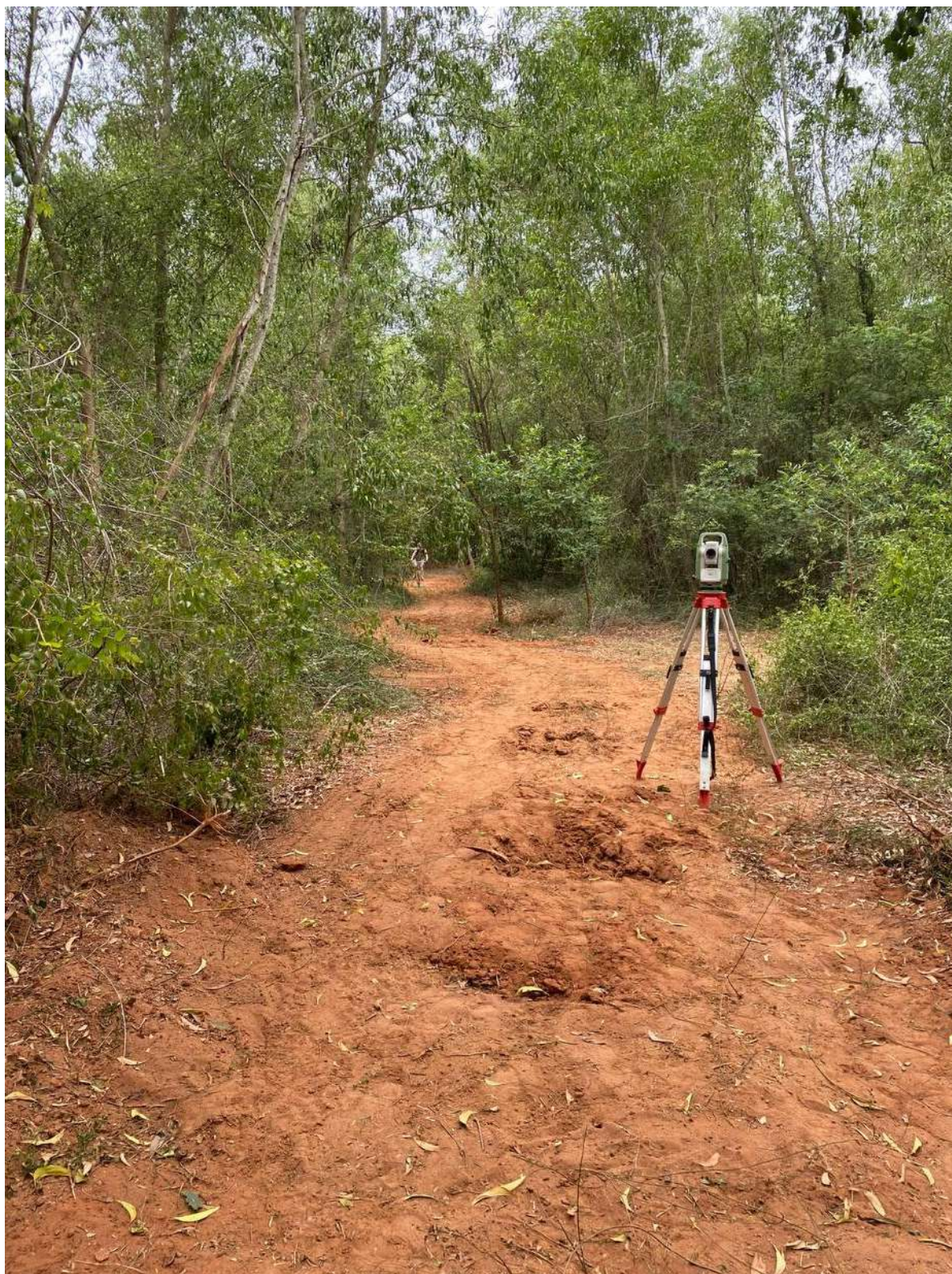
in Service

L'avenir d'Auroville - TDC Town Development Council

Allan B, Anan, Dorle, Divya L, Fabian, Island, Lata, Meera N, Natasha S, Tom G

Appendix B-19 - Pictures clearing

23rd November 2022





Appendix B-20 - Pictures of tree damage

3rd February 2023





Appendix B-21 - Bulletin from /AVFO 'ATDC'/

3rd February 2023

CPWD surveying parts of the Master Plan - submitted by ATDC

massbulletin av <massbulletin@auroville.org.in> Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 5:41 PM

Dear residents,

CPWD is surveying certain parts of the Galaxy Master Plan. The trees have to be marked and numbered as part of this survey, and the marking needs to be as permanent as possible. The standard procedure is to remove some bark and paint the number on the cleared skin of the tree. Any other method will be easily tampered with, especially in the current climate in Auroville where vandalism seems prevalent.

We understand that today some residents have gone and obstructed the work of the survey team and have asked for stickers to be put on the trees instead. While painting the trees may seem shocking to some, we want to reassure everybody that this does no lasting harm to the trees and is a normal procedure in a survey.

We remind everyone that obstructing authorised work, in this case of CPWD, is a criminal offence, and that at this point strict action will be taken against those who are obstructing work on the ground.

If you feel something is amiss, and to register a complaint, the correct procedure is to write to avenir@auroville.org.in or to the Foundation Office, or to visit us in person. Kindly and respectfully, do not bother the guys doing the hard work on the field.

Best regards,

Govind, Hemant, Jaya, Ponnusamy, Prasad, Sindhuja, Toby
L'avenir d'Auroville / ATDC

Appendix B-22 - Report from certified arborist Island Lescure

3rd February 2023

An attempt, from an arboriculturist's point of view, at a neutral reply to the [project communicated by the GB ATDC](#) to mark the trees within Auroville. (I have forwarded this to them too)

I would like to bring to people's attention that over 26,000 trees have already been surveyed within Auroville and [plotted on a plan](#) to an accuracy of about 2 centimetres, without damaging a single tree. Yes, more needs to be done, but properly. We have the means and know-how here.

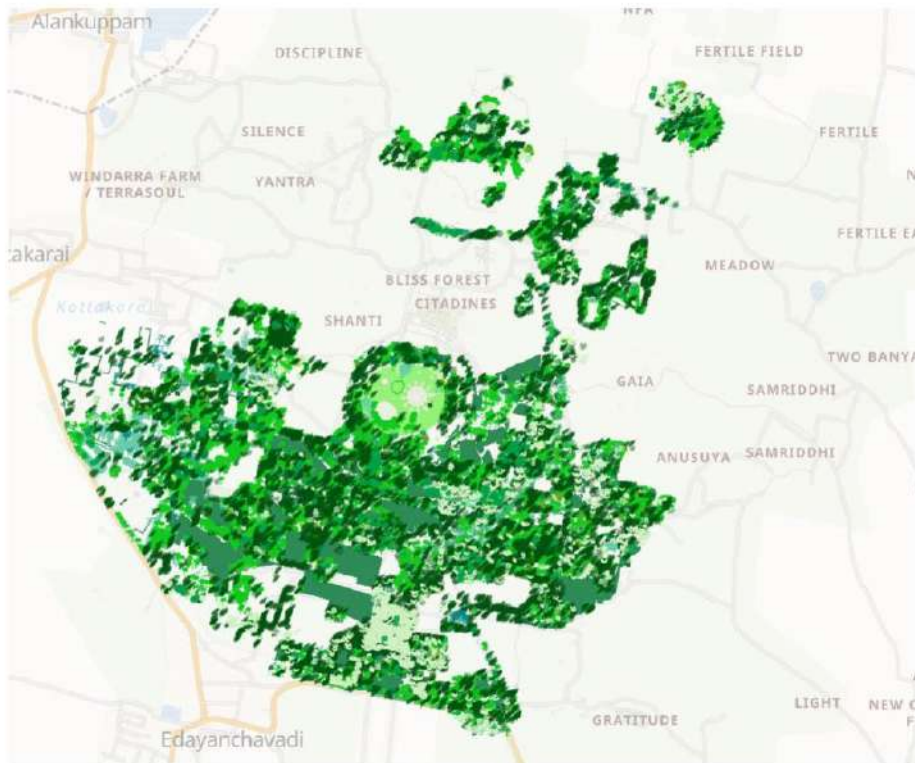


Figure 1 A brief representation of some currently surveyed vegetation

I don't know what the intended outcome of the survey mentioned by the GB ATDC is but marking and numbering trees isn't very useful information. The method used is certainly not standard except in substandard environments. It may also be more informative to plot areas instead of individual trees. If just the number of trees is required, then using remote sensing is also more efficient.



Figure 2 Example of tree marking in AV commissioned by the GB ATDC. [For more photos click here](#)

In the latest newsletter from the [International Society of Tropical Foresters](#) I had submitted a brief article regarding surveying trees for development purposes (it is one of the services that I provide for which I have both education and experience with). The article is [on page 6 here](#). I have personally surveyed over 2000 trees in Auroville using this method with some projects being directly with the [TDC in 2020](#). So, this is not new for Auroville.

If the intent of the project is to identify the trees, a team from Delhi will not be able to do this as they will only recognise some species. It is clear that more information regarding the flora of the area is required for people to get an idea of why many people feel that it is important to conserve.

The World Wildlife Fund has this to say about it: [link](#). And they have forwarded the work to be updated [to here](#). And finally, [The characteristics, representativeness, function and conservation](#)

[importance of tropical dry evergreen forest on India's Coromandel Coast](#) from the *Journal of Threatened Taxa* is another source of information worth considering.

Regarding whether this marking method does or not lasting harm to the trees: this is essentially partial [girdling](#). Full girdling around a stem will always kill a tree (or at least the stem or branch separated from the roots by the damage). Partial girdling will affect the tree more or less depending on the severity of the damage, the type of tree, its current health and the environment that it is in or will shortly be in (such as if the summer is about to come, as it is currently). It is a practice generally avoided unless you want to damage or kill a tree.

Please state the intent for the project and please specify what you mean by *Galaxy Master Plan* as there is no record of this document. If you have it, please send it to me as a timeline is being worked on to present what documents exist regarding Auroville planning, from 1965 up to now, to clarify things.

I would like to suggest that you, being in the position that you are (supported by money and power) could do a lot of positive things, but that would require identifying and working on what people can agree on first rather than focusing on doing things that divide the community.

I would also request that you stop this work until the intent is clearly communicated and an appropriate method is identified to achieve that intent, if it is found that the intent has value.

Requesting accountability and progress,

[Island Lescure, consulting arborist](#)

Appendix B-23 - Satprem Darkali Report

29th March 2023

CROWN ROAD, FALLEN TREES AND POSSIBLE CORRUPTION?

Satprem Maini, Director Auroville Earth Institute – 29th March 2023

1.1 FOREWORD AND SCOPE OF WORK

On 11th March 2023, workers hired by the ATDC appointed by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation Office (AVFO) cut 203 trees in Darkali for the Crown Road of Auroville. Among these trees, 19 red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) were cut. Nine of them were between 20 and 25 years old, the largest tree having a girth of 53 cm (~17 cm diameter).

On 19th March 2023, some local people started to take away the wood and did not show any official office order, which is a must before starting such a work. They did not show either any contract or paper authorising them to take the wood away. This report aims at reporting that this work did not follow the usual procedures and that many things happened in a very doubtful way, leading one to think of some kind of corruption.

1.2 DOUBTFUL DEALS BETWEEN CONTRACTORS AND CPWD, AND CASH AMOUNTS GIVEN IN HAND

Early morning on 19th March, the owner of a local sawmill, Mr. Elumalai Hariputhri at Kottakarai village started to take away the fallen trees: small and large branches, and trunks of various sizes, as can be seen in Figure 1 to 3. An employee of the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) nominated by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, confirmed that the contract to remove the wood was given to Mr. Hariputhri, who was requested to pay 75,000 Rs. to collect "7 red sanders, 12 teaks and other woods". However, this deal appeared to be wrong as there were no teaks in Darkali. **Was the contractor misinformed intentionally by the ATDC to incite him into doing the job?**

Mr. Shankar, the officer from the horticulture department of the CPWD (Figure 4) was present on the site at the same time. Aurovilians present on the site could see **Mr. Hariputhri giving 50,000 Rs. cash in hand to Mr. Shankar, who counted the amount in front of them.** Therefore, this raises several questions:

1. **Was there any tender for allocating this work and how was this man selected?**
2. **Why did Mr. Shankar take 50,000 Rs. cash in hand? Did he keep it for him or did it go into an account of CPWD?**
3. The Secretary of the Auroville Foundation wants all the Auroville units to have only bank transfer, digital payments for all their transactions and digitalisation of accounts. **Therefore, why does she allow this kind of cash transaction? Is it normal or legal for such a large amount of cash money to be given in hand on a site, without any receipt or document?**

Mr. Hariputhri said to an Aurovillian that Mr. Shankar was a far relative of him, Mr. Shankar being originally from Bommayapalayam, a village near Auroville. **Therefore, one can wonder if the "tender" of CPWD was upright.**



Fig. 1: Trunks between 5 to 30 cm diameter



Fig. 2: Carrier loaded with trunks of various sizes



Fig. 3: Carrier loaded with branches of various sizes



Fig. 4: Mr. Shankar from CPWD

1.3 WOOD DISAPPEARING

Something very important must be noted: Aurovilians saw Mr. Hariputhri's team collecting various types of wood from Sunday morning 19th march. They saw a carrier going away around 9 am with various logs (Figure 1 and 2, on previous page), which seemed to be the first one. **Where had all the red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) gone?** When Mr. Shankar from CPWD was asked if they took away the red sanders, his answer was **"No, we did not, and only two of them had been cut"**. This raises some legitimate doubts because of the following reasons:

1. Because the Joint Committee mentioned that only 14 of them could be cut within the 9.1 m limit.
2. Because 19 red sanders had been cut instead of 14: 5 more trees were cut outside of the limit of 9.1 m.

Mr. Shankar also said to an Aurovillian: *"We will sell the wood. It is central Government property. It is forest area and it is under control of the Central Government."* Firstly, this is not correct at all. Auroville is an Autonomous Body under the Government of India and the National Green Tribunal declared that Auroville was not a forest. **Secondly, if the wood was government property, why did Mr. Hariputhri take this wood and who will collect the funds from the sales? Mr. Shankar, Mr. Hariputhri, the CPWD, the ATDC?** Mr. Shankar also mentioned that the value of these red sanders was only 40,000 Rs. /ton as their quality was not so great. Therefore, this raises again several questions:

1. **What was the involvement of Mr Shankar from CPWD in letting these trees get away?**
2. **Who took these red sanders, when and where did they go?**
3. The estimated weight of the 19 red sanders which had been cut is ~635 kg. Thus, at the rate of 40,000 Rs./ton, these trees would have a value of only 25,400 Rs., **which is simply 1.54% of the price that it would actually cost.** See the next section. **Isn't it a huge discrepancy of prices here?**

Furthermore, red sanders are prohibited to cut. However, the Joint Committee authorised to cut only 14 red sanders. Nevertheless, the sales of red sanders follow extremely strict regulations. However, these trees left Darkali and went on the market. **Therefore, how could these trunks be commercialised? How many bribes might there have been and where might these bribes have gone for allowing this wood to go on the market?**

Some logs from Darkali were stored at the sawmill of Mr. Hariputhri, mostly from the khaya trees showed in Figures 9 and 10 on the next page. However, the quantity of wood stored at the sawmill is only a percentage of what was cut. **Therefore, where have all these logs gone and where have all the small trees and branches gone?**

These trees have been planted and taken care of by Aurovilians over several decades. However, they have been cut without any transparency and sent to the market with large losses of funds, while Aurovilians try to develop a gift economy. **Is this a fair practice by the ATDC and the AVFO?**

Furthermore, small pieces of wood, branches and roots were dumped in various places, either in villages like in Kottakarai, as seen in Figure 6 or dumped in Auroville, on a land managed by the Land Board (Figure 7), or on the land of the doubtful project of Unity farm, managed by Prasad from the ATDC (Figure 8).

What was the reason behind these decisions? Why was this large amount of Biomass not given to Auroville farms?



Fig. 5: Taking away small wood, branches and roots



Fig. 6: Small wood, branches and roots dumped in Kottakarai



Fig. 7: Small wood and branches on AV land for Land Board



Fig. 8: Small wood and branches at Unity Farm (Prasad)



Fig. 9: Small wood at the sawmill of Mr. Hariputhri



Fig. 10: A few logs at the sawmill of Mr. Hariputhri

1.4 COST EVALUATION OF THE WOOD TAKEN

This section tries to estimate the actual cost of the wood which has been taken away from Darkali. The numbers mentioned hereafter are approximations which are surely underestimated, because things happened so fast, between the unexpected cutting on 11th March and the wood being taken away: it has not been possible to survey all the fallen trees accurately.

The weight of wood has been estimated from the girth which was surveyed and an estimation of the height of the tree according to its diameter/ girth. The volumic mass of samples taken from the site was measured at 1,033 kg/m³. These prices have been estimated according to today's prices of the local market. As there were many different species with many different sizes, these following prices were taken into account for the calculation.

The cost of red sanders were estimated from the prices given today by [India Mart](#), as follow. Note that the price of 3 Lakhs Rs. mentioned in India Mart for red sander logs were for 30 to 40 years old tree. As the oldest red sanders in Darkali were more than 25 years old, to be on the safer side, these prices were taken:

– Logs with girth above 35" (89 cm)	= 10,000 Rs. /ton	= 17 trees
– Logs with girth between 23" and 35" (58 and 89 cm)	= 8,000 Rs. /ton	= 15 trees
– Logs with girth between 18" and 22" (45 and 55 cm)	= 7,000 Rs. /ton	= 28 trees
– Logs with girth below 18" (45 cm) for firewood	= 2,200 Rs. /ton	= 114 trees
– Red sanders log for more than 25 years old tree	= 2 Lakhs Rs.	= 3 trees
– Red sanders log for more than 20 years old tree	= 1 Lakhs Rs.	= 7 trees
– Red sanders log for more than 15 years old tree	= 0.75 Lakhs Rs.	= 1 tree
– Red sanders log for less than 10 years old tree	= 0.25 Lakhs Rs.	= 8 trees

Note that three palmyras (*Borassus flabellifer*) were larger than 41 cm diameter (129 cm girth) and 4 Khaya senegalensis ranging between 63 cm and 95 cm. The largest tree was a banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*) of ~99 cm diameter (310 cm girth).

Figures 11 and 12 show logs of *Khaya senegalensis* which came from only 3 to 5 trees. These trees had large girths as seen on the forefront of Figure 11, showing the bottom part of the stem. Based on the data mentioned above **these logs from 3 to 5 trees alone, which were collected by Mr. Hariputhri have a value of ~2.41 Lakhs Rs., while he paid only 75,000 Rs.**



Fig. 11: Large logs from 3 to 5 trees (*Khaya senegalensis*)



Fig. 12: Smaller logs from 3 to 5 trees (*Khaya senegalensis*)

However, the value of the trees which have been cut at Darkali has been approximated as follow:

Logs with girth above 35" (89 cm) (17 trees)	= 3.12 Lakhs Rs.
Logs with girth between 23" and 35" (58 and 89 cm) (15 trees)	= 0.19 Lakhs Rs.
Logs with girth between 18" and 22" (45 and 55 cm) (28 trees)	= 0.15 Lakhs Rs.
Logs with girth below 18" (45 cm) for firewood (114 trees)	= 0.04 Lakhs Rs.
Red sanders log for more than 25 years old tree (3 trees)	= 6.00 Lakhs Rs.
Red sanders log for more than 20 years old tree (7 trees)	= 8.00 Lakhs Rs.
Red sanders log for more than 15 years old tree (1 tree)	= 0.75 Lakhs Rs.
Red sanders log for less than 10 years old tree (8 trees)	= 1.75 Lakhs Rs.
Total	= 19.99 Lakhs Rs.

Besides the ecological disaster, Auroville lost 19.24 Lakhs Rs. because the contactor paid only 0.75 Lakhs Rs.

Furthermore, the cost of all the branches which have a value for firewood should also be added to this cost, which could be worth a few more Lakhs of rupees.

It can be noted that this wood could have been given for free to Auroville workers or Village Action Group, etc.

1.5 DUBIOUS DEAL FROM A MEMBER OF THE ATDC

A member of l'Avenir, Mr. Jothi Prasad Rajan, who started a doubtful project "Unity Farm" at the beginning of the month, before he got the official permission from the ATDC, that means in violation of the usual protocol, wanted to do a strange deal regarding the wood of Darkali.

He wrote the following in an email of 18th March, the day before Mr. Hariputhri started to take the wood at Darkali:

"This is to inform you All that, Sundar who is a member of Unity Farm is buying the wood for 71k and will sell the firewood to Tanto and Red chilli. Timber will be sold to Auroville carpenters for a fair price and any profit from this proceeding will go 100% towards Unity Farm RnD and other farm-related expenses. There is no hanky panky in this deal and I want to make it abundantly clear to you ALL. At the service of Truth!" Prasad

Beside the fact that writing "at the service of truth" is far from accurate, Prasad wrote that there was no hanky panky... However, whatever has happened since the 11th March shows that a lot of things were not done with transparency and that no one cares about doing things legally.

As Mr. Sundar wanted to buy the wood of Darkali for 71,000 Rs., these questions arise:

- 1. Would he buy it with his personal funds or with the funds from Prasad and/ or the Unity Farm project?**
- 2. If Mr. Hariputhri paid 75,000 Rs. for some wood in Darkali, which wood Sundar wanted to buy?**

However, from the following pages, which report the chain of emails between the ATDC and FAMC members, it seems that Sundar did not buy the wood finally. In any case, these pages demonstrate that things are not very clear in the ATDC.

Prasad mentions in his email on 18th March that "The Darkali trees cutting and clearing and selling was awarded through a tender process by CPWD to a contractor." He mentions also in the email on 23rd March that the "CPWD has given the contract to one of their registered contractors." This raises the following questions:

- 1. If there was any tender and proper contract, why did Sindhuja and all her team refuse to share these details when asked on 11th March when the trees were being cut?**
- 2. Was there really a single contractor for cutting the trees, as it seems that they gathered all kinds of people, including women who were told that they were hired for shooting a movie? Was this detail in the tender?**
- 3. Was there really any honest tender by the CPWD and is Mr. Hariputhri actually a registered contractor of CPWD, as he is a relative of Mr. Shankar from the CPWD?**

The last page of the chain of emails relates to a storage yard for storing the trees which were cut on Michael Bonke's land. However, from the trees which were cut on his land, only some teak trees were moved and all the rest still lays on the road. Another question is: where is this wood storage yard located?



[avenir forwarding] Darkali wood declaration

8 messages

Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in> Sat, 18 Mar 2023 at 13:16
To: ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Joseba WCom <joseba-wcom@auroville.org.in>, Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>, Sundar Avenir <sundar-avenir@auroville.org.in>

Dear all,

This is to inform you All that, Sundar who is a member of Unity Farm is buying the wood for 71k and will sell the firewood to Tanto and Red chilli. Timber will be sold to Auroville carpenters for a fair price and any profit from this proceeding will go 100% towards Unity Farm RnD and other farm-related expenses. There is no hanky panky in this deal and I want to make it abundantly clear to you ALL.

At the service of Truth!

Prasad

Torkil FAMC <torkil-famc@auroville.org.in> Sat, 18 Mar 2023 at 16:21
To: Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in>
Cc: ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Joseba WCom <joseba-wcom@auroville.org.in>, Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>, Sundar Avenir <sundar-avenir@auroville.org.in>

Dear Prasad

Even though there is no Hanky Panky - I do not think this is the right way to do things, especially in the present situation. I am fully aware that the value of the wood/timber is not very high, but the general belief in Auroville is probably that it is very valuable.

I really recommend we sell it through an auction. LB is used to handling this.

Warmly

Torkil

On behalf of FAMC

[Quoted text hidden]

FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in> Sat, 18 Mar 2023 at 16:25
To: Torkil FAMC <torkil-famc@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, Joseba WCom <joseba-wcom@auroville.org.in>, Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>, Sundar Avenir <sundar-avenir@auroville.org.in>

I am in complete agreement with Torkil. It needs to go through the proper channels, that is LB. Let them handle it. Do not bypass them Prasad.

Geeta

In Her Service,

1+0+0+0+0+0+0+0+0 =1 (Equals One).

FAMC



Satyakam <satyakam@auroville.org.in> Sat, 18 Mar 2023 at 18:29
To: Torkil FAMC <torkil-famc@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Joseba WCom <joseba-wcom@auroville.org.in>, Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>, Sundar Avenir <sundar-avenir@auroville.org.in>

Dear all,

Good point Torkil.

You need to have more precise details about the volume/weight of the wood.

I will ask my colleagues about your proposal about the auction to be organised by the Land Board.

A proper challan is needed about what you are delivering to us.

Best regards

Satyakam

On Sat, Mar 18, 2023 at 4:21 PM Torkil FAMC <torkil-famc@auroville.org.in> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Land Board" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to landboardlist+unsubscribe@auroville.org.in.

To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/a/auroville.org.in/d/msgid/landboardlist/CAJJaGcB2t6wer_FWFhY4oLYmv8rCVKhPYPOP4Pg7kdDsX0qumQ%40mail.gmail.com.

Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in> Sat, 18 Mar 2023 at 19:52
To: Satyakam <satyakam@auroville.org.in>
Cc: ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Joseba WCom <joseba-wcom@auroville.org.in>, Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>, Sundar Avenir <sundar-avenir@auroville.org.in>, Torkil FAMC <torkil-famc@auroville.org.in>

I am not by passing anyone. The Darkali trees cutting and clearing and selling was awarded through a tender process by CPWD to a contractor. As per the terms of the contract, the contractor has the right to sell the wood to anyone he likes. It is not supposed to be handed over to Auroville. In that case I fully agree, It has to be done through LB. I made 100 percent sure that as part of the contract the wood belongs to the CPWD contractor.

I hope this clears the air.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Manifesting Mother's Dream Town

Town Hall, Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India 605101

T: +91 413 262 2170

Geeta FAMC <geeta-famc@auroville.org.in> Sat, 18 Mar 2023 at 20:01
To: Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Satyakam <satyakam@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Joseba WCom <joseba-wcom@auroville.org.in>, Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>, Sundar Avenir <sundar-avenir@auroville.org.in>, Torkil FAMC <torkil-famc@auroville.org.in>

Thank you Prasad for clearing the air. This needs to be included in a report about Darkali clearing (if such a report gets generated.)

Warm regards,

Geeta

Chandresh FAMC <chandresh-famc@auroville.org.in>

Sat, 18 Mar 2023 at 21:05

To: Geeta FAMC <geeta-famc@auroville.org.in>

Cc: Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in>, Satyakam <satyakam@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Joseba WCom <joseba-wcom@auroville.org.in>, Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>, Sundar Avenir <sundar-avenir@auroville.org.in>, Torkil FAMC <torkil-famc@auroville.org.in>

Is there a copy of the contract awarded to the contractor?
It's good to check out the terms of the contract agreement out.

Who is the contractor? I presume it is Prasad or Sundar?
The proper accountability may still be done for understanding and future reference.
[Quoted text hidden]

Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in>

Thu, 23 Mar 2023 at 15:19

To: Chandresh FAMC <chandresh-famc@auroville.org.in>

Cc: Geeta FAMC <geeta-famc@auroville.org.in>, Satyakam <satyakam@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, Joseba WCom <joseba-wcom@auroville.org.in>, Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>, Sundar Avenir <sundar-avenir@auroville.org.in>, Torkil FAMC <torkil-famc@auroville.org.in>, Anitha Rajesh <anitharajesh@auroville.org.in>, Unity Farm <unity_farm@auroville.org.in>

Dear Chandresh,

CPWD has given the contract to one of their registered contractors. When I learned it was about to be sold for 75K I felt it was very low. I asked Tanto Daniel if he would buy the firewood from this pile he was interested. The rest of the timber could be used within Auroville, that is why I shared this with you all so that you understand what is going on. Sundar a fellow Arovilian was ready to buy and pass on the profits to Unity Farm. He has an activity called Auro Sun. In any case, I came to know that it was sold to local timber merchant and it is taken away. We in Unity Farm got only around 9L from Gies Ol and we don't want to come to FAMC asking for more money. I feel we need to learn to generate income by working outside the farm (within Auroville) and supporting the farm. As you all know those who are working for Unity Farm are not seeking any maintenance. We are out there looking for work in Auroville. Please support us in every possible way.

We are uniting activities run by both Ramakrishna (Matrimandir plumber) and Sundar the builder (Auro Sun). Recently young Ranjith who impressed Madam Secretary and us with his ability to build campuses for just 50K in 1.5 days.

At The Service Of Truth

Prasad

To see what we are up to these days:

www.unityfarmers.org

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/bEUsnUm5bP8e4qkC9>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4YRXPxBdLBZw9w6EA>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Qf5bnCRWBi9VneyG6>

Jothi Prasad Rajan
mob:+91 9442859642

[avenir forwarding] Destination of the cut trees on MB land

7 messages

Toby Avenir . <toby-avenir@auroville.org.in> Fri, 24 Mar 2023 at 12:19
To: ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Avenir Admin <admin-avenir@auroville.org.in>

DRAFT

Dear members of the Land Board,

Please bring the cut trees of the lands which belong to Michael Bonke to the wood storage yard.

Give this request some priority.

ATDC

To: Land Board

CC

avenir
Michael Bonke
Shiva (Matrimandir)

Prasad Avenir <prasad-avenir@auroville.org.in> Fri, 24 Mar 2023 at 12:57
To: Toby Avenir . <toby-avenir@auroville.org.in>
Cc: ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>, Avenir Admin <admin-avenir@auroville.org.in>

Good to go
[Quoted text hidden]

-
Manifesting Mother's Dream Town

Town Hall, Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India 605101
T: +91 413 262 2170

Ponnusamy Avenir <ponnusamy-avenir@auroville.org.in> Fri, 24 Mar 2023 at 21:50
To: Toby Avenir <toby-avenir@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Avenir Admin <admin-avenir@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>

Good for me and can send
[Quoted text hidden]

Govind Avenir . <govind-avenir@auroville.org.in> Sat, 25 Mar 2023 at 07:08
To: Ponnusamy Avenir <ponnusamy-avenir@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Toby Avenir <toby-avenir@auroville.org.in>, Avenir Admin <admin-avenir@auroville.org.in>, ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>

Fine.
G/
[Quoted text hidden]

ATDC admin <admin-avenir@auroville.org.in> Sat, 25 Mar 2023 at 09:26
To: Toby Avenir <toby-avenir@auroville.org.in>
Cc: ATDC Auroville Town Development Council <avenir@auroville.org.in>

Please provide email addresses of people if cc is to non-common addresses, thanks.

Appendix B-24 - Email from Satprem to Governing Board

29th March 2023

Wood disappearing and request for investigations

Auroville Earth Institute <earthinstitute@auroville.org.in> Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 7:33 PM

To: GB Chairman Ravi <govtam@nic.in>, GB Chairman Ravi <adcoffice@nic.in>

Cc: yogabi@roottolight.com, micheldanino@gmail.com, shambhavi.yogini@gmail.com,

vedicinstitute@gmail.com, hp@aurohotels.com, dena.merriam@finnpartners.com,

neetaprasad@pib.gov.in, jsfa-moe@gov.in, nirima@gmail.com, gbnandana1956@gmail.com,

aravindan.neelakandan@gmail.com, rssaraju@gmail.com, gghosal87@gmail.com, lg.pon@nic.in

Ref: 0514 C 248 Chairman Darkali wood 230329

Dear Chairman,

After cutting trees in Darkali without following the recommendations of the Joint Committee, the ATDC has ordered the wood to be taken away.

Very unclear and opaque processes are being followed by the ATDC. 50,000 Rs have been given in cash on the site to a CPWD officer, while the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation wants all the Auroville units to have only bank transfers for all their transactions. Therefore, why does she allow this kind of cash transaction and is it normal or legal?

The local contractor, who is a relative of the officer of the CPWD horticulture department, is taking away all the wood after having paid only 75,000 Rs., while the value of the wood has been safely estimated to 19.99 Lakhs Rs. The wood is stored in unknown places, as we could find only a fraction of the wood stored in a local sawmill.

19 red sanders (red sandal wood), which is an endangered species have disappeared mysteriously and their value has been estimated to 16.5 Lakhs Rs. These trees will be commercialised soon and probably illegally, because the Government has set up very strict regulations for their commercialisation.

Where is this wood going?

Where is the money going? Auroville has lost about 19.24 Lakhs with this wood. However, these funds are only crumbs compared to the Crores of rupees that Auroville has lost with the land exchanges done in the last few months, as ordered by the Secretary.

What kind of deals are happening between the AVFO, the ATDC, the CPWD and local contractors, who are probably not registered with the CPWD?

Please find attached a report mentioning a lot of facts again, which seem to point towards corruption.

Please pause the whole process now, until audits and investigations are done.

Please investigate what the ATDC and CPWD are doing, especially Mr. Jothi Prasad Rajan from the ATDC.

Please investigate also what the Auroville Foundation Office and the Land Board are doing with land exchanges.

Very sincerely,

S.

Appendix B-25 - Legal Notice wrt Clearing

12th June 2023

Yogeshwaran A

Advocate

12.06.2023

To,

1. Dr. Jayanti Ravi,
Secretary,
Auroville Foundation
Auroville Foundation Bhavan
Auroville, Tamil Nadu – 605101
 2. Dr. G. Seetharaman
 3. Ms. Jaya Berggreen-Clausen
 4. Mr. Hemant Shekhar
 5. Ms. Sindhuja Jagadeesh
 6. Mr. Toby Neuman
 7. Mr. Jothi Prasad Rajan
 8. Mr. Ponnusamy Murugesan
 9. Mr. Govind Ranjan
 10. Mrs. Meenakshi, Special Officer
 11. Mr. Ponnambalam, Special Officer
 12. Mr. Rajavelu Kuppusamy
 13. Mr. Ainnarappan (Raja)
 14. Mr. Salim Karim (Satyakam)
 15. Mr. Venkata Krishnan
- All having office at Town Hall, Auroville, Tamil Nadu 605101
16. The Executive Engineer & Senior Manager (C)
Central Public Works Department
Pondicherry Project Circle
Auroville
Villupuram District
Tamilnadu

Sub: Contempt of Court – Wilful and wanton violation of the judgment of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 28.04.2022 in OA No. 239 of 2021.

Madam/Sir,

Under instructions from my clients Mr. Navroz Mody and Mr. Sandeep Vinod Sarah, residents of the Auroville Community and Petitioners in O.A. 239 of 2021 we issue the following notice to you.

M-1, Vadhula, No. 18, Brindavan Street
Mylapore, Chennai, TN 600-004

+91 9566254546
yogeshwaranadv@gmail.com

1. Our client states that you are aware of the subject mentioned judgment of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. The 1st of you was the 1st respondent in the Original Application. The 2nd to 9th of you are members of the ATDC constituted by the Governing board, 10th to 15th of you are members of the land board constituted by the Governing board and the 16th of you is the contractor who has been engaged by the 1st of you for the construction of the crown road.
2. Our clients state that the Hon'ble NGT after a detailed hearing, delivered the subject mentioned judgment directing the 1st of you to prepare a township plan and obtain mandatory environmental clearance under entry 8 (b) of the EIA Notification, 2006 and restrained you from proceeding with any construction in the project area. The Hon'ble NGT, as an exceptional measure, permitted only the construction of the crown road prior to obtaining such clearance. The operative portion of the judgment is extracted below:

"125. In the result, this Original Application is allowed in part and disposed of with the following directions:-

(i) The 1st Respondent is directed to prepare a proper township plan either in respect of 778 Ha which is in their possession now or in respect of 1963 Ha which was visualized by the MOTHER by identifying the locations where each zone will have to be located, where the roads will have to be laid showing the location of the ring roads with their width and further road, if any, to be constructed, the nature of industries and other activities which they are expected to establish in the township and if it is not going to be implemented as one phase, how many phases in which they are going to complete the project and then apply for Environmental Clearance (EC) as it will fall under Item 8 (b) of the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time. Till then they are directed not to proceed with further construction in the project area.

(ii) Considering it as an exceptional circumstances, even before obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC) for further activity, we are permitting the 1st Respondent to complete the crown road on the following conditions:- ..."

3. Our clients state that the 1st of you has also filed an appeal before the Hon'ble Supreme Court against this judgment, numbered as CA Nos.5781-82/2022. The Hon'ble Supreme Court did not stay the judgment of Hon'ble Tribunal. You, therefore continue to be bound by the Judgment of the Hon'ble Tribunal. The Hon'ble Tribunal has restrained you from carrying on any project activity until environmental clearance is obtained, except construction of the crown road subject to inspection and report of the committee constituted by the Tribunal.

4. Our clients state that any development has to be environmentally sustainable and should not damage Auroville's green spaces, which are the result of decades of greening activities by the residents. Our clients state that the order of the Hon'ble NGT ensures this by mandating EIA studies of the proposed developments.

5. Our client states that, in clear violation of judgment of the Hon'ble Tribunal,

a) you have commenced the work of clearing land for the construction of the proposed outer ring road by clearing vegetation such as understory consisting of young, native, evergreen trees and shrubs, thereby altering the ecology of the area. Town Development council of the Residents Assembly had brought these violations to your notice by way of emails on 29th May and 3rd June 2023. Our clients state that today (12.06.2023) you carried on clearing activity in the area called "Revelation Forest".

b) The ATDC constituted by the Governing board has allowed the clearing of undergrowth and vegetation such as young trees that are part of an urban forest for the project of "Mothers Flower Garden". This project is outside the Crown. Our clients state that the Town Development council of the Residents Assembly had brought these violations to the notice of the 10th to 15th of you by way of emails on 2nd January 2023 and again to the project holders on 20th May 2023.

c) Commenced with the work of clearing the land stewarded by 10th to 15th of you for the construction of the proposed Matrimandir lake. Clearing the land using a JCB of vegetation such as the understory comprising of young native evergreen trees and shrubs, thereby altering the ecology of the land. The executer of the

clearing work was notified of the violation by the Town Development council of the Residents Assembly on the 29th of May 2023 and earlier for a similar violation on the 22nd August 2022.

6. Our clients state that the Town Development council of the Residents Assembly had brought these violations to your notice by way of emails on 29th May and 3rd June 2023. However, you have continued to violate the judgement of the Hon'ble Court with impunity. A report on the illegal clearing was also sent to the 1st of you.
7. In these circumstances, our clients state that your wilful and wanton disobedience of the judgment of the Hon'ble Tribunal amounts to contempt. Our clients state that 1 to 15 of you are holding positions in the organization who have sanctioned, commissioned and monitoring the subject road and other areas being cleared in violation of the judgment of the Hon'ble Tribunal. You are aware of the judgment and ought to have complied with the judgment. The 16th of you, especially being a government department, which has been aware of the judgement, ought not to proceed to execute any project in violation of the judgement.
8. Our clients therefore call on you to immediately stop all activity inter alia relating to the clearing of the young trees and understory for the construction of the Outer Ring and other parts of the project area and comply with the judgment of the Hon'ble Tribunal, failing which, our clients state they will be constrained to initiate appropriate proceedings to punish you for contempt of the judgment of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Sincerely,



A. Yogeshwaran

Appendix B-26 - Forest Group Statement on Revelation

Early June

Statement of Forest Group on Revelation

10th of June 2023

ONGOING CLEARING IN THE NORTHERN GREENBELT

The Forest Group would like to provide an update to the community regarding the ongoing clearing of undergrowth in the northern part of Auroville, specifically from Discipline to Espace, passing through Miracle and Revelation. This activity has been initiated by the FO ATDC, citing it as preparation for the proposed Outer Ring Road (ORR).

We would like to bring the following points to the community's attention:

1. The inclusion of the ORR in the 1999 master plan is yet to be confirmed.
2. The 2001 AV Master Plan (Perspective 2025) also does not confirm the ORR.
3. The community has not reached a consensus on the implementation of the ORR.
4. A court order prohibits any development in Auroville until proper township plans are accepted and environmental clearance is obtained.
5. The argument that constructing this road is necessary to appease Pandian and avoid demolishing buildings in Auromode is unsubstantiated. The breach pertains to building on the Parambok, not the requirement for access (clarification provided by WC).
6. The FO ATDC does not comply with the required constitution, and therefore cannot legitimately make decisions as it disregards procedural requirements.
7. The prioritization of developing this road lacks support from any comprehensive mobility or other studies.

Moreover, even if we disregard the facts above, it would not be feasible to realize the ORR due to various factors, including the lack of available Auroville land for construction and its path through Kottakarai village and parts of Edayanchavadi Village.

The RA WC has conclusively established that the claimed need for opening this section of the ORR in the Pandian case as unfounded. Therefore, this clearing is arbitrary, illegal and against the ecological development of the city.

During this particularly challenging and stressful time for the Forest Group, we kindly request support from the broader community to document the ongoing activities in our northern forests.

Additionally, we appeal to a large number of Aurovilians to physically halt this work. If you are willing to assist or require further information, please contact us at forestgroup@auroville.services.

Appendix B-27 - Letter from RA TDC to /AVFO 'Land Board'/

8th July 2023

RA TDC: Open letter to Landboard

Auroville, 8th July 2023

TDC 23.041

OPEN LETTER TO AUROVILLE LAND BOARD

Subject: Serious violation of the NGT judgement - tree cutting

Dear Land Board members, Mrs. Meenakshi Special Officer, Mr. Ponnambalam Special Officer, Mr. Rajavelu, Mr. Raja, Mr. Satyakam, Mr. Venkat

We understand that the Auroville Land Board received an intimation from the office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to let the trees be cut on a stretch of land stewarded by Mr. A. Vohra.

It is neither in your nor in the purview of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation office or Mr. A Vohra to permit the cutting of trees prior to the evaluation and submission of the Report for the entire Crown by the Hon'ble Joint Committee.

In an NGT hearing on 14th March 2023 (see court order attached), hon'ble Mr. Vaibhav R Venkatesh stated - on behalf of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation Office - that no cutting of trees will be undertaken beyond the recommendation given by the Joint Committee, meaning the Darkali stretch.

It is with great disappointment that we have witnessed the Auroville Land Board being engaged in the cutting of trees near the Gaia crossing as well as the fact that you are acting against the decision of the Residents' Assembly taken in the January 2022 RAD.

It is very unfortunate that the Land Board chooses to willfully ignore both the judgement of the Hon'ble NGT dt 28th April 2022 as well as an RA Decision. Please be aware of the legal implications of your actions. Any cutting of trees is a direct violation of the court judgement and is not to be taken lightly.

As we have explained to you verbally several times, unless you have written and signed documentation intimating you to proceed with or be party to the cutting of trees on any part of the proposed Crown trajectory - outside of the Darkali park stretch - or anywhere inside the

Auroville project / Master plan area on lands that have not been developed may make you personally liable for the actions taken. This includes the clearing of shrubs and understory as well as young trees, as is being undertaken by Mr. A. Grandcolas on lands that should be stewarded by the Auroville Land Board between Town Hall and Martimandir.

Appendix B-28 - RA TDC Tree Felling Report

7th September 2023

Cultural zone



Gaia crossing

Internationals zone



Unity pavilion



Language Laboratory

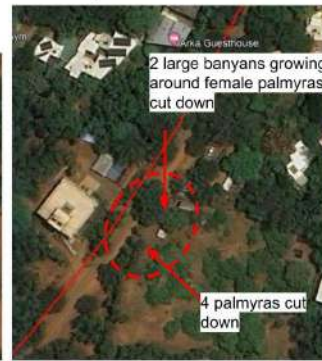
INTERNATIONAL ZONE

Acacia auriculiformis	3
Azadirachta indica	19
Borassus flabellifer	17
Cassia fistula	2
Eucalyptus spp.	5
Girardinia sepium	2
Peltophorum pterocarpum	5
Senna siamea	6
Senna spectabilis	4
TOTAL	= 63

RESIDENTIAL ZONE + CULTURAL ZONE

Borassus flabellifer	6
Chloroxylon swietenia	2
Diospyros ebenum	1
Diospyros Montana	1
Ficus benghalensis	2
Firmiana colorata	1
Gardenia resinifera	1
Mitragyna parvifolia	1
Peltophorum pterocarpum	2
Tricalysia sphaerocarpa	2
Azadirachta indica	7
TOTAL	= 26

Residential zone

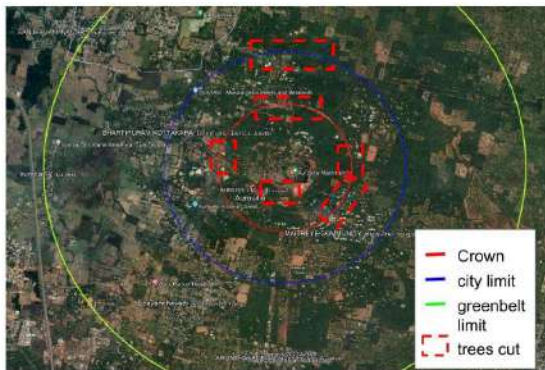


Opposite Sante

2



2023 09 07 - Details of areas in which trees have been cut since 28th April 2022 (Date of the National Green Tribunal judgement)



A total of at least 378 trees have been felled on various stretches of the proposed Crown trajectory as well as on the outer ring post NGT judgement of 28 04 2022. All these areas fall within the Auroville Master plan / Auroville project area.



Industrial zone



CSR road to Youth Centre stretch

Industrial zone



Kottakarai road to CSR road stretch

Matrimandir Garden



INDUSTRIAL ZONE

- Acacia auriculiformis 19
- Albizia lebbek 2
- Albizia saman 1
- Anacardium occidentale 14
- Azadirachta indica 21
- Bauhinia tomentosa 1
- Borassus flabellifer 2
- Brioleia retusa 2
- Cassia fistula 1
- Cordia monoica 1
- Dalbergia parriculata 3
- Eucalyptus spp. 5
- Ficus benghalensis 2
- Handroanthus impetiginosus 7
- Hildegardia populifolia 1
- Khaya senegalensis 7
- Mimusops elengi 1
- Morinda coreia 1
- Peltophorum pterocarpum 17
- Phoenix sylvestris 1
- Pterocarpus marsupium 1
- Pterospermum suberifolium 2
- Putranjiva roxburghii 1
- Senna siamea 7
- Strychnos nux-vomica 1
- Tabebuia rosea 1
- Tamarindus indica 2
- Tectona grandis 12

TOTAL = 136

MATRIMANDIR

- 9 TDEF
- 34 Neem
- 25 Acacia auriculiformis
- 3 Eucalyptus
- 9 Plumerias
- 61 Other trees
- 4 Teak
- 1 Guava
- 7 Palmyra

TOTAL = 153

Appendix B-29 - RA TDC letter to community accompanying Tree Felling Report

7th September 2023

RA TDC: Tree felling in Auroville 21.09.23

Dear Community,

Recently we put together the total (it's probably more) number of trees that have been cut since the NGT judgement. This does not include the understory (many young trees) that was cleared in MFG (Mothers Flower Garden project) and Revelation and other parts like Micheal Bonke's plots.

All these trees have been cut not only in violation of the NGT judgement, but also go against the resolution passed by the RA in January 2021 to pause all permanent development on the Crown, Radials and Outer ring road until proper plans had been agreed upon by the RA.

Some of the trees felled near Gaia crossing were 15-20 year old rare species such as Blackwood or also known as East Indian Ebony (*Diospyros Ebenum*) for which permission to cut is required and other rare trees like the East Indian satinwood (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), Bombay ebony (*Diospyros Montana*) and *Tricalysia sphaerocarpa*. Not to forget the Banyans and Palmyra's opposite Sante and near Unity Pavilion that were cut.

We are concerned by all the trees being cut also because these are ecologically valuable assets of Auroville which contribute to our green infrastructure and to having the highest concentration of floral biodiversity in the region and also of this forest type in general. The Auroville forest and green cover are a precious asset not only to Auroville, but also for the surrounding areas.

in Service,

L'avenir d'Auroville - TDC Town Development Council
Anan, Divya L, Dorle, Island, Natasha S, Tom G

Appendix C-1 - Land Board report

22nd December 2021

Land Board Report for GB/IAC May 2022

Overview of Auroville Lands

Auroville lands have been purchased by voluntary sale by the owners over the years. Negotiations are carried out by the land board and purchases are made through donations received by devotees, Aurovilians and well-wishers.

Thus, the consolidation of land holdings in the master plan area has not been achieved as yet and Auroville has developed correspondingly.

Within the masterplan concept Auroville owns; 82% of the city area, (some 138 acres remain to be purchased in the city area of which 18.56 acres of private land are on the crown area alone). And 32% of the Green belt, (some 2522 acres remain to be purchased). Auroville also owns approximately 1100 acres of land in the Oustery area, north near Saidapet and on the coast that were purchased primarily around 1965 under the surveillance of the Mother, they are located outside the Masterplan concept.

Please note that within the Master Plan area, a total area of 710 acres constitutes; Village settlements, Peramboke or Temple lands- these are primarily located in the GBelt area- except for Kottakarai Village that is partially located in the city area-

These 710 acres can be further broken down to approximately 368.4 acres of village settlements and 342 acres are Temple and/or Poramboke lands respectively.

The Land Board

The Land Board is constituted by some 30 persons who perform the various functions of; purchase, survey and protection on behalf of the Auroville Foundation.

The previous Auroville Foundation secretary Mr Chunkath, had assisted the LB in numerous ways, guiding the Land Board in setting up procedures to prevent fraudulent document purchases and halted land exchanges, after assessing that these had been un-favorable to Auroville. He recommended an empaneled evaluator be hired on the rare occasions it would be necessary. The adoption of these procedures was positive and have ensured genuine documents with transparent procedures for purchases, the stopping of exchanges has encouraged sales to reoccur once again, instead of parties demanding exchanges only.

General Issues

One disadvantage of the purchase procedure is that it takes time (2 months at minimum from price agreement to purchase conclusion) whereas local sellers are often prompted to sell land to attend to urgent personal matters (such as education, marriage or health). Therefore, any internal delays need to be avoided.

A recent suggestion by the AV Foundation office was to include the undersecretary to join the registration in Vanur, we are concerned that this may add further delays.

We have observed increasing land purchases by outside parties (non-ancestral land owners) who escalate the prices, and/or develop the properties in areas zoned for agriculture and are also demanding the use of the Auroville's private accesses, (access are provided by mutual agreements to the ancestral farmers owners only and are not transferable upon sale). We note that especially after the lockdown (see graphs below) purchases have increased. Roadside development and commercial activities in the green belt have also increased, therefore coordinated strategies with regard to preventing development in the green belt, applying appropriate statutes (see GO of TN 2003) or similar, and providing incentives to ancestral land owners whilst dissuading speculators are needed.

Steps and actions are needed that can minimize the causes of price escalations, and land use regulations may assist that the Auroville concept is sustained for the future. It is the duty of the LB to assist in these goals and to utilize the donations in a responsible manner on behalf of Auroville, we believe that communication and collaboration with the estate manager is essential to success.

Currently speculation and development by outside parties in the Master Plan area. (Business's and Plot layouts) are being carried out un-checked (permission from the TDC was required previously). The roadside developments and plotting layouts do not have any waste management or dump sites. These issues are affecting the ecology, beauty and atmosphere that Auroville aims to manifest. Waste is dumped on AV land or by the roadside; poorly managed water governance and loss of green areas will lead to over extraction of the aquifer which will lower or deplete the water table. This will negatively impact the whole area, causing particular hardships to the neighboring villages, farmers as well as Auroville.

Issues faced and questions

The present secretary has directed land acquisition for the city area, the LB assisted in providing the detailed information as requested (plots remaining, owners, guideline values) however we do not have any new information on the matter. The LB was recently invited to a meeting with the Collector but was not admitted to the meeting.

Q: Is there any update regarding land acquisition? The LB would like to know what strategy to follow when owners come forward to sell land in the city area in view of the acquisition? As the LB purchases are transparent the registered price may be escalated therefore communication is needed. If city lands will be acquired shall the Land Board focus its attention on the green belt instead?

It has been reported in some instances that parties are registering fake sales at a high value to influence land evaluation in the area for acquisition without actually proceeding with the sale.

Q: Can the consideration amount of the actual sales be verified, to prevent escalating the evaluation price for land that is not actually sold?

We are still facing problems for more than a 100 Patta transfers from earlier purchases, 14 are in Pondicherry state and some 90 in Tamil Nadu.

Q: Can assistance be provided to expedite the pending Patta transfers in both Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu?

Q: Can any advantage be provided to Ancestral land owners for selling land to Auroville? (Such as Income tax waiver or any other incentive?)

Purchases

Two purchases recommended by the FAMC and WC were negotiated by the LB, but were not executed.

- 1) an area of 1.59 acres in the Greenbelt, authorization requested on 22 Dec 2021
- 2) an area of 0.30 acres, in the Greenbelt, authorization requested on the 17 Nov 2021

The Auroville Foundation offices hadn't provided the required authorization letter despite many requests thus the parties sold elsewhere. It may be noted that considerable energy, time and expenses for; legal opinions, newspaper publications were incurred to bring the purchase prior to the final step of requesting an authorization letter to register the purchase.

Two purchases are currently awaiting authorization; (These are important agricultural lands, providing water, electricity and consolidating existing property).

3.95 acres authorization requested on the 10 of March 2022

0.76 acres authorization requested on the 28th March 2022

Q: Can a yearly authorization letter for purchases appointing 3 or 4 members of the Land Board be issued for purchases that are jointly agreed upon by FAMC and WC in favor of Auroville Foundation Offices? As opposed to an authorization for each purchase. Or can the Foundation permit the WC to authorize purchases?

Encroachment and Damage to Auroville Foundation (AVF) property;

A select number of (5) evictions and encroachments were sent on 12 February 2022 via the WC requiring the attention and action of secretary/ Estate officer. To date no answer has been received.

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. The party used a JCB to destroy the gate and check post bringing goons to intimidate the residents on 23rd March 2022, claiming he had permission from the secretary. The secretary had been requested by the WC 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). To date no answer has been received from the Auroville Foundation.

The AVF response is crucial to prevent acts of violence, trespass, destruction and threats to person and property, in order to emphatically dissuade similar present and future acts. Not doing so will make the work that the LB carries out on behalf of the AVF and the residents much harder. The destruction of the live fence by JCB, without prior intimation or in the presence of a Government surveyor has occurred on the Auroville Foundation beach properties located in Pondicherry district in April 2022. The destruction was finally halted by the police and a survey requested, which is awaited. AVF has not acted against these aggravated encroachments. Police complaints filed by the Land Board are the sole action within our purview and are limited in effect, as the Land Board does not have authority to proceed further in court without AVF's authorization. We note that encroaching parties are behaving with impunity and taking advantage of the present confusion and lack of effective follow up. We are facing aggravated encroachments into Auroville land and land grabbing issues. The Land Board has faced such problems, however with the assistance and involvement of the secretary, we 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 Auroville Foundation. The powers and authority of the Estate Officer have been unexploited in some of these instances.

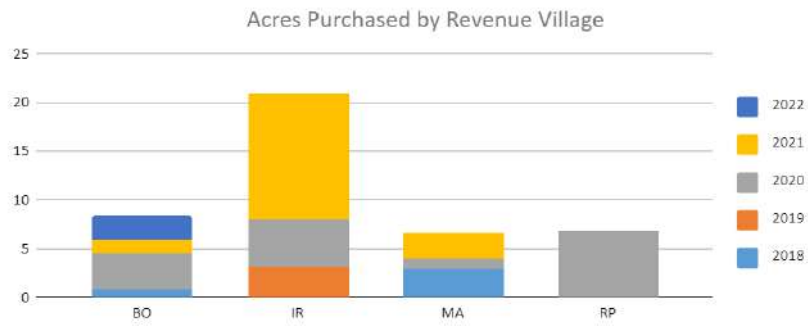
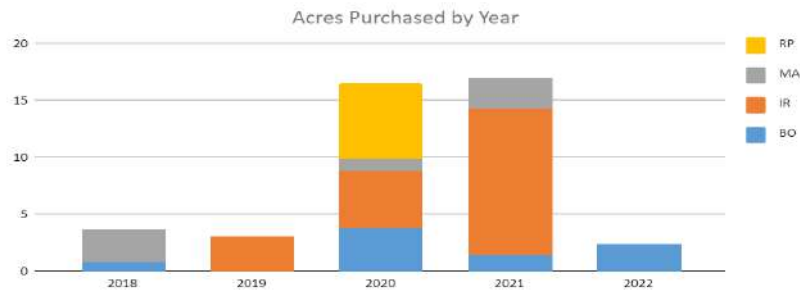
Pending Legal Matters:

Urgent legal proceedings that need AVF secretary signature has as yet not been received.

An authorization to take the matter forward by the LB was requested on 3rd Jan 2022, in order to represent the AVF to sign the review papers through the concerned advocate, regarding an encroachment on AVF property to date none has been provided.

It has been reported that the AVF is meeting with vendors and or other parties related to land issues. kindly consider including or informing the LB so that we are not working at cross purposes. Regular meetings between the AVF and Land Board could help to mitigate such issues, as discussed and agreed to earlier, however regular meetings have not been held so far.

The Graphs below show the acres, years and areas of land purchase along with weighted average from 2018-2022 (Bear in mind the lockdown/ restriction periods in 2020-21 and the time of this report for 2022)



Appendix C-2 - Request for 0.30 acres

15th November 2021

**Auroville Foundation
Land Board** *ole*

To,
The Working Committee
Town Hall
Auroville

Date: 15.11.2021

SUB: Authorisation for the Land Purchase IR28/7 – 0.30 acres

Dear Working Committee,

Request you to kindly forward this request of authorisation to The Secretary Auroville Foundation to authorise Mr.S.Venkatakrishnan S/o Mr. Subbarayalu Land Board Member, resident of Surrender community, Auroville for the purpose of signing the document pertaining to the purchase of the land belonging to Mr. Gnanasekaran S/o Sabapathy in Irumbai Revenue Village R.S.No.28/7- 0.30 acres provide an authorisation letter for the same.

Sincerely

J. Padmanabhan
Padmanabhan
For Land Board

Renu Neogy
Renu Neogy

Encl:

- AV Map
- Legal opinion
- Partition deed no. 381/2019
- Sale deed no.1775/1961
- Sale deed no. 1774/1961
- Encumbrance certificate from 1924 to 2021
- Patta copy no.2835
- 'A' Register copies
- Survey Report
- Newspaper Advertisement

Auroville 605 101
TN India
+ 91 413 2623 699/2622 657
landboard@auroville.org.in


Auroville

Appendix C-3 - Request and warning that sellers will withdraw

8th December 2021

Subject: Re: Authorization requested for IR28/7 & B023/3 - Land Purchase.

From: Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>

Date: 08/12/2021, 15:45

To: Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in>

CC: Auroville Foundation <avfoundaon@auroville.org.in>, Land Board Office
<landboardoffice@auroville.org.in>

Dear Working Committee and Auroville Foundation,

The sellers are very disappointed about the delay of the registration. The Land Board is not able to answer the constant inquiries with a promise that we can hold. It is very much likely that the seller will withdraw from the deal if the registration will not manifest before 16.12.21.

Warm Regards,

Land Board

Appendix C-4 - Final request for authorisation for 0.30 acres, ignored

11th January 2022



Fwd: [landboard] BO23/3 and IR28/7 - authorization requested

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>
Date: Tue, 11 Jan 2022, 11:31 am
Subject: [landboard] BO23/3 and IR28/7 - authorization requested
To: Auroville Foundation <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>
Cc: Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in>, FAMC-all <famc@auroville.org.in>

Dear Madam,

Land Board had submitted files for the below mentioned properties which are to be purchased. On 10th Jan 2022 you have requested verbally to furnish the following details, as per your request Land Board is hereby submitting details.

Name of the Seller : Mr. Gnanasekaran S/o Sabapathy
Rate : Rs. 25,00,000 per acre @ rate of 7,50,000/- (including trees)
Village : Irumbai
Survey No : R.S.No . 28/7 O.S.No. 39
Extent : 30 cents
Location : Green Belt
Reason : Within Master Plan
Access : No direct access in between two acres village land

Name of the Seller : Mr. Elumalai S/o Balakrishnan
Rate : Rs. 35,00,000/- @ rate of Rs. 8,05,000/- (including trees)
Village : Bommayarapalayam
Survey No : R.S.No. 23/3 O.S.No.23/2,3
Extent : 23 cents
Location : Green Belt
Reason : Within Master Plan
Access : Direct access at eastern side +

Notes: A sale agreement in Vanur was registered on 22.07.2021 with an advance payment of 5,00,000 Rs. The 6 month period is expiring on 22.01.22.

Please find the scanned copy of the request letters for the authorization, attached for your reference.

Warm Regards,


For Land Board


1st Floor, Town Hall
Ph: 0413 2623699

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Land Board" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to landboardlist+unsubscribe@auroville.org.in.
To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/a/auroville.org.in/d/msgid/landboardlist/CAK84ZYk_3hckw5M08B0deaatdUQh-omk%3DxnLeSxfnoR9UGQPjg%40mail.gmail.com.

2 bijlagen

 **Ib_BO23-3-0.23 acres_Land purchase_Authorisation request dated 15.11.2021.pdf**
149K

 **Ib_IR28-7 - 0.30 acres - Land Purchase _ Authorisation request dated 15.11.2021.pdf**
143K

Appendix C-5 - Response Land Board to AVFO - queries for 1.59 acres

28th December 2021

Auroville Foundation Land Board



To,
The Secretary
Auroville Foundation
Auroville

Date: 28.12.2021

SUB: Lands- Purchase of land – Vanur Taluk- Bommayarpalayam Village R.S.No. 218/5- 1.59 acres of land decided to Purchase – letter of Authorisation – clarification.
Ref: AVF/Land/1219/2021/298 dated 23.12.2021

Dear Madam,

Below are the answers to your queries as also shown in the report sent on 11/11/2021 (attached for your reference).

Reg. 0.36 cents for clarification, kindly note that the OS survey BO 215/8 (0.36) and 215/7 (1.23 acres) a total of 1.59 acres were clubbed together in the new survey number BO 215/8 and we are only purchasing the 1.59.

An extent of 0.68 cents also under the RS # BO 215/8 (Old Survey 215/7) has another owner named Parvathi Ammal of Bommayarpalayam- (this land is NOT being purchased by AVF presently).

The extent of 0.36 acres in OS No. 215/8 (R.S.No. 215/8) is ancestral way of property of Munusamy Gounder family Members, and the title also reveals the vendor's name, the Patta number 1776 stands jointly in the name of Meena and Jothi.

Furthermore we received EC from 1924 till date, and there are no encumbrances on this property. From 1924 till now they have enjoyed possession of the above said property of 0.36 cents.

The Land Board had published the newspaper advertisement in the Dinar Mallar Newspaper on 25.11.2021.

The petitioner Mr Durai S/o Duraiswami of Bommayarpalayam has stated that he has made an agreement with the land owner to purchase the land and paid an advance of Rs 1 lakh, however no such legal evidence has been proven or provided by the claimant and Land Board has also sent a registered notice requesting proof and any other evidence of this matter but none has been submitted within the dates provided on or before (9/12/2021), therefore his claim and petition may be rejected.

Furthermore the LB has republished a notice on 26/12/2021 mentioning that the petitioner has no claims or proof of advance provided to the vendor.

Sincerely

Padmanabhan
For Land Board

Raja@Ainnarappan

Auroville 605 401
India

Phone: +91 413 2623 699 2622 65
landboard@auroville.org.in

Appendix C-6 - Request for authorisation

3rd January 2022

Auroville Foundation
Land Board



To,
The Secretary
Auroville Foundation
Auroville

Date: 03.01.2022

Sub: Request to authorize Ms. Renu Neogy (Land Board- Executive) to represent Auroville Foundation and sign court documents- Suresh Kumar V/s Auroville Foundation case- SA 600/2021

Dear Madam,

This is to inform you that the Madras High court have ruled against Auroville Foundation in the case number SA 600/2021 (Suresh Kumar V/s Auroville Foundation). However, Land Board has approached Adv. Raghavachari to review the judgement in the Madras High Court.

Hence, we request you to authorize Ms. Renu Neogy (Land Board- Executive) to represent on behalf of Auroville Foundation and sign any court documents regarding this case.
Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely

Helena
For Land Board

Auroville 635 101
Tamil Nadu

Phone: +91 423 699 2622 657
landboard@auroville.org.in

Appendix C-7 - Overview of encroachments not responded to by AVFO

12th February 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - 4

Eviction of Encroachments

S.No	Case Number/ Survey Number	Action Requested	Date of Request	Status
1.	RS 195/2 (Srima)	Land Board request The Secretary to apply the powers of Estate officer to evict the encroachment.	Request letter sent on 09/08/2021 Request made in person on 18/11/2021	Encroached on since 2007. 12.44 cents as on 2015 (Subsequent encroachment has occurred. Fresh survey to be conducted to ascertain exact extent of encroachment)
2.	RS 108/4 (Acceptance Community)	Land Board request The Secretary to apply the powers of Estate officer to evict the encroachment.	Request made in person on 18/11/2021	The said issue is under litigation (OS 112/2019 and CMA 2/2020).
3.	RS 426/1A1 (I M Segar)	Land Board request The Secretary to apply the powers of Estate officer to evict the encroachment.	Request made in person on 18/11/2021	The land is encroached since 2016. Encroacher has built a shed on the land.
4.	RS 436/1A1 (Temple encroachment)	Land Board request The Secretary to apply the powers of Estate officer to evict the encroachment.	Request made in person on 18/11/2021	The land is encroached since 2016. Encroacher has built a temple on the land.

5.	RS 422 (Punitham- Dinesh Restaurant)	The Secretary to request District Collector and Tahsildar to carry out the eviction based on the setting aside of the writ petition by High Court filed by Punitham.	Request made in person on 18/11/2021	Porombokke land has been encroached.
6.	RS 230/1 (Visitor center)	The Secretary to request District Collector and Tahsildar to evict the encroachment on the porombokke land.	Request made in person on 18/11/2021	Porombokke land has been encroached by Mayavathi and she has set up a shop on the land.

Appendix C-8 - Report from Land Board

31st March

Report on Pitchandikulam trespass and destruction on 23rd March 2022

By Land Board , 31 Mar 2022 / 12:15 pm

On the 23rd of March at around 10.30 am a JCB, POSH hospital employees along with some 40 plus henchmen from Pondicherry and Kulapalayam area forced entry on Auroville lands and destroyed the gate using a JCB, while claiming that they had permission from the Secretary, however they did not provide any written confirmation of the same. After destroying the gate with the JCB the mob entered into the Community of Pitchandikulam and threatened the residents. The residents called the WC, LB and AV Security, and a call to the "Silent Presence" was also made. The Police remained on the road side till after the destruction had occurred.

Land Board members arrived at Pitchandikulam community and assisted in diffusing the situation (and the Kulapalayam members requested the Pondicherry people to leave). The AV security arrived, the police intervened towards the end, talking to the POSH hospital members and the Dr and his family at the gate to calm the situation further.

Meanwhile WC members were immediately informed and met with the AVF Secretary; it was reported that the secretary had advised the Dr/LB to follow the law (?!), the requested assistance during the crisis was declined with the comment that Avlians had refused to collaborate with her. The land board through the WC has requested the Secretary to file a criminal complaint for destruction of property, trespass and intimidation, or to provide authorization for the WC or LB to do so.

On the 23rd March the LB was copied on a letter from the WC to the AVF requesting a clarification on whether permission to the Dr, for access had been granted? The LB has requested the WC to update the LB about the meetings or communication between the WC and AVF on this alarming issue.

The next day a drilling rig was brought in and there is a lot of traffic through AV land every day since the appropriation of the access on Auroville Patta land (and not a public access, as wrongly mentioned by several parties. A rectification has also been sent to Dinar Mallar regarding their article published on the 24th March on the events).

History: This is an ongoing matter since 2020 (see LB February report). Briefly the matter concerns a private property purchased by POSH hospital to be developed as a Therapy center, Farm House and lately organic farming, (located between Certitude and Dilip's and adjacent to Gratitude), the party has been demanding access through AV property. The LB has requested the

Dr to get access through the Auropark plot development which is much shorter and not through the ecologically sensitive Pitchandikulam forest.

Appendix C-9 - Email from Land Board

10th March 2022

Fwd: Request for legal action

From: Land Board <landboard@auroville.org.in>

Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2022, 12:48 pm

Subject: Request for legal action

To: Avfoundation . <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>

Cc: Workingcom <workingcom@auroville.org.in>, FAMC <famc@auroville.org.in>, avenir <avenir@auroville.org.in>

To Auroville Foundation Secretary

Dear Madam Secretary,

On 23rd March the residents of Pitchandikulam were threatened by some 40+ unknown persons and the gate was destroyed by JCB at the behest of Dr Veerappan of POSH hospitals.

We request you to kindly take the following action;

- To file a criminal private complaint directly to the Magistrate for the destruction of Auroville property, intimidation, threats and trespass.
- And also simultaneously file a civil suit for permanent injunction (with a preliminary order for a temporary injunction till the civil suit is completed) against Dr Veeriah Veerapan of Posh Hospital for trespassing into Auroville lands.

Kindly take action or provide the Land Board with the necessary authorization to file the above suits.

Thank you,

Land Board Team

cc Working committee, FAMC, ATDC,

Appendix C-10 - Letter from Working Committee

23rd March 2022



Auroville
Foundation

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

To:

23rd March 2022

Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi, IAS,
Secretary of the Auroville Foundation,
Auroville Foundation Bhavan,
Administrative Area,
Auroville- 605101.

Dear Madam Secretary,

We must urgently bring to your attention once again the ongoing issue of access by Dr. Veerappan through Auroville land to his private land.

Background

With respect to the issue of access to Dr. Veerappan's land within Auroville Masterplan, the majority of the requested access is on Auroville Foundation property located along survey numbers BO 107/5,4,3,1, BO104/2,1, BO 69/1,2,3, BO 68/4,5,6,12.

The above-mentioned access is provided only for agricultural works, a width of 8ft is provided for tractors, upon request from farmers. Furthermore, access for agricultural purpose is given when there is absolute necessity and not for the convenience.

In this case, the access requested by Mr. Veerappan is for convenience and not for agricultural purpose, hence, considering the ecologically sensitive Pichandikulam forest, it was decided not to provide access through Auroville Foundation land.

Furthermore, Mr. Veerappan has other better and shorter options like through Auro park housing community to access his land. Thus restricting Mr. Veerappan's interference/movement through the ecologically sensitive Pichandikulam forest.

Recent Development

On 17th March 2022, the police officials from Auroville Police station have forcefully taken the keys from the Auroville security person and have opened up access to Dr. Veerappan. This act of the police officials of Auroville Police station has occurred notwithstanding the multiple police complaints we have made regarding the encroachment by Dr. Veerappan.

Moreover, when we contacted Superintendent of Police, Villupuram, to inform him about this act of the police officials of Auroville police station, we were told by the SP that permission was given by you to Dr. Veerappan to use the access.

Today, 23rd March, it has been reported that a group of Dr. Veerappan's people have appeared at Pitchandikulam with a JCB and have broken the Pitchandikulam gate, which is on Auroville Foundation property.

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>

Hence, we request you to please confirm if any agreement or any permission has been accorded by you to Dr. Veerappan to use Auroville's land for his access. This information is a prerequisite for any further proceedings from our end.

Please note that if permission is given for this access, it will open the door for many others in the area to take similar action on and against Auroville Foundation lands.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

For the Working Committee


Arun


Chali


Hemant


Sauro

Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

Auroville Foundation

Appendix C-11 - Land Board Office Order No. 520

28th June 2022

DR. G. SEETHARAMAN
OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY



No. AF/Gen/Land-Corrs/520

28 June 2022

OFFICE ORDER

To
The Land Board
Town Hall
Auroville

The following two staff members of the Auroville Foundation office are added to the Land Board management team to strengthen its operations with immediate effect and until further orders.

1. Ms. C. Meenakshi, Special officer Revenue and
2. Mr. T.K. Ponnambalam, Special officer Revenue.

Both have prior experience in dealing with land transfers as District Revenue Officers. Land purchase work is complex and requires knowledge of the domain. They are also conversant in working with the Collector's office and other land acquisition, consolidation related procedures. Going forward these professionals' membership in the team is crucial.

The following two members are replaced to keep the team focused on the tasks at hand going forward.

1. Renu Neyogi and
2. Padmanabhan

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(G. Seetharaman)

To
The Executives Concerned

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 C-12 - Overview of land under threat of encroachment

13th September 2022



Appendix C-13 - Report of S. M. of events on 13-14 September

13th - 14th September 2022

ENCROACHMENT OF EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ON 13th & 14th 09. 2022

Satprem Maini, Director of the Auroville Earth Institute

14th September 2022

On 13. 09. 2022, at 3.30 am, the security guards at the entrance of Auroville, on the Edayanchavadi road, phoned the police station to inform them that a bulldozer had started to crush trees in Evergreen. An Aurovillian residing at Evergreen community witnessed the destruction (Fig. 1). The bulldozer worked for about one hour and left. However, the police did not come as they said earlier *"This land belongs to PKS and he can do whatever he wants on it."*

At dawn, Aurovillians came to sit on the damaged land (Figure 3), and the whole day people stayed there in case of another possible attack. No other incident happened that day, however. Figure 2 shows PKS henchmen, one of them taking photos of Aurovillians. Therefore, does it mean that the last allegation of Mr. PKS, mentioned at the bottom of this report is true?

Turns out that the bulldozer had been sent by Mr Subramanian (PKS) of Vikravandi, (a local politician and real estate developer) in retaliation of four poles of a fence that he had installed on September 5th, which got broken, probably on the 12/09 (Figure 4). Though unknown who broke these poles and without evidence, PKS told to an Aurovillian: *"This is the law of action-reaction and I did it because your people broke them."*



Fig. 1: Bulldozer destroying trees at Evergreen on ~500 m²



Fig. 2: A few henchmen of PKS, one taking photos at residents



Fig. 3: Peaceful presence of Aurovillians, early morning



Fig. 4: One of the broken poles, installed by PKS



Fig. 5: PKS henchmen cutting trees on AV land (14. 09. 22)



Fig. 5: Leader of PKS henchmen cutting trees on AV land

Though this land (survey No. RS No IR 426/1E) is in undisputed possession of the Auroville Foundation since 1992, PKS claims ownership of it. If it was true, why did he wait for 30 years to claim its property, and decided to take action just now? However, it seems that the papers in possession of Auroville do not match with the recently acquired documents showed by PKS.

On September 9th, the officer on special duty of the AVFO filed a petition at the Court of Villupuram, three months after the encroachment happened (on 6th June). However, no stay order from the court has been given, as it appears that the petition is invalid because Dr Jayanti Ravi, as the estate officer of Auroville did not sign it.

Late afternoon just before going back, PKS said to an Aurovillian: *"I just want to install a fence along the road. If you come with 3000 people, I will come with 5000. If you want the land, just buy it from me and things will be settled."* He further added: *"I have no intention to do such things, but the secretary is asking me to do it, as she wants to provoke you, get photos of residents, so that FIRs can be filed against you. She wants AV foreigners out of India."*

On 14. 09. 2022, henchmen of PKS started cutting large trees on Auroville land, Figures 5 and 6 above.

Appendix C-14 - Report of S. M. 23rd September 2022

23rd September 2022

ENCROACHMENT OF EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ON 23.09.2022

Satprem Maïni, Director of the Auroville Earth Institute

24th September 2022

On 19th September 2022, Dr Jayanti Ravi (JR) met at the Foundation office Mr P.K. Subramanian (PKS) with two officers of the Land Board (LB) as well as three Aurovilians. JR requested that PKS halt all actions on the ground until the court decision on the 22nd September. However, this seemed to remain at the level of a sensible request only, not as powerful an order that she could have issued as the Estate Officer of the Auroville Foundation.

The hearing regarding the case, which was supposed to happen at the court of Villupuram on 22nd September 2022 was adjourned to the 14th of October, because PKS had not filed a written counter. This comes across as an obvious strategy to delay the judgement. It followed that, again, no injunction was granted.

Therefore, on 23rd September 2022, PKS again sent a tractor to dig holes along the land of Evergreen, to build the concrete pillars of a fence and to fix a gate. He brought with him many henchmen and a large mob of women, to make sure that the job would get done. Police were also there, doing nothing but observing the event.

About 100 Aurovilians gathered peacefully to witness and document what was happening. They stood on the side of the road and the cycle path along the Evergreen land.

Men were aggressive, pushing people who stood on the public cycle path, outside of the disputed land. Mr. Rajendharan Thoravi, the most aggressive henchman of PKS who assaulted Satprem and grabbed his cell phone on the 15th September, tried again to hit Satprem and to grab his cell phone while Satprem was documenting the happening.



Fig. 1: Tractor brought to dig holes and mob of women



Fig. 2: Mob of women hired by PKS



Fig. 3: PKS building a gate



Fig. 4: PKS and policemen who let him manhandle residents

Women were also very aggressive. They hit a resident lady who was sitting peacefully on the ground (Figure 5 next page). They dragged her violently, bruising her arm badly (Figure 9 next page), while pulling her on the rough ground. Two Aurovilians surrounded the lady being attacked and laid down on the ground to protect her. All three were hit and dragged on the rough ground by the furious women mob. One of the Aurovilians was pulled by the hairs, while the other one had his shirt torn apart and his arm bruised (Figure 10 next page). Mr. Sridhar from Sedarapet (Figure 5 next page), the main associate of PKS, has been instrumental from the beginning of this encroachment as he has been coordinating all the works and instigating violence. **A policeman was there but did nothing to stop them. He even pushed strongly away a resident who tried to defend Aurovilians.** The policeman was heard repeatedly saying to the residents, "Move out of the way and go to court." However, it was not possible to move out of the way, as so many women were surrounding the Aurovilians on the ground, using violence.



5: Resident lady attacked by the furious mob & Shridhar from Sedarapet



Fig. 6: Resident lady being beaten by a hooligan

Another resident lady was beaten and thrown to the ground by a violent hooligan. When she stood up, another hooligan assaulted her, trying to punch her (Figure 6). Mr. Rajendharan Thoravi, one of the associates of PKS, who assaulted Satprem on the 15th September, was again very violent. He assaulted several residents (Figure 7). Another resident, peacefully watching the violence from the other side of the road, got sprayed by yet another hooligan (Figure 8). An Aurovilian reporter who tried to document the violence with her camera go also sprayed. **A policeman present next to the scene did nothing to prevent it and even said “No camera, no news”.**

Hooligans went in Evergreen community with machetes to cut bushes.



Fig. 7: A hooligan assaulting residents



Fig. 8: A hooligan spraying a resident



Fig. 9 to 12: Residents bruised by hooligans

Similarly, to during all the previous instances, residents called the Land Board (LB) and the Foundation Office (AVFO) many times without the AVFO responding. Finally, someone for the AVFO answered, but neither anybody from the AVFO or LB came on site to interfere with this illegal landgrab. **Most amazingly, the secretary, Dr Jayanti Ravi drove by in her new luxury SUV on the road where the hooligans were assaulting Aurovilians and did not even stop.**

For more images and videos on this violence, see <https://photos.app.goo.gl/wtYbEQkYBKgcxwqJ9>.

Appendix C-15 - Announcement of RA WCom

23rd September 2022

Update regarding Evergreen corner

Dear community,

On Friday 23rd September, following the violent events at Evergreen, a delegation of Aurovilians met with the Collector. One of the Aurovilians present reported that the Collector immediately called the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) to pass an order to maintain status quo on the ground, due to a law and order problem, until the matter is cleared by the courts. He requested that the case be expedited and the decision taken urgently. The Tahsildar was also present at the meeting.

On Saturday 24th September, the RDO came on site at Evergreen. He spoke with Mr PKS and his henchmen, asking them to pause their work, and said that on Monday 26th September he will issue a status quo order to avoid any further developments for the time being.

We hope this will secure Auroville lands and residents until the courts have given their Verdict.

Sincerely,

Your Working Committee

Aravinda, Bharathy, Chali, Hemant, Maël, Sauro, Valli

Appendix C-16 - Pictures Evergreen

23rd September 2022













Appendix C-17 - Report by S. M. on events

8th October 2022

ENCROACHMENT OF EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ON 08. 10. 2022

Satprem Maïni, Director of the Auroville Earth Institute

10th October 2022

On 8th October 2022, Mr P.K. Subramanian (PKS) again sent his people to encroach the land at Evergreen, despite the verbal order given on 23rd September by the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) that *"no one is to be on site or do any work until the court judgment"*.

PKS agreed on that day, but the next day again sent his workers to paint the gate that he had erected and with his henchmen went walking around inside Evergreen Community, Auroville.

On 7th October, PKS delivered some concrete pillars to the site and, during the same night or very early in the morning of October 8th, his workers dug 23 holes to install them to make a fence.

Aurovilians were alerted and came on site around 9 am. They tried peacefully to stop the work which was not permitted as per the RDO verbal order, already mentioned above.

Despite the Aurovilians protesting, they kept on working and installed 6 pillars to make the fence. They pushed Aurovilians although, except for one of the henchmen, they were relatively peaceful compared to during previous incidents on the same disputed land.

Two police officers came to site but refused to listen to the Aurovilians, although they told them that the RDO had stated that PKS should not be working on site, or even be present there. One police officer did listen to the video recording of the RDO talking, and he still refused to take any action.

It is important to note that since September 23rd, the Land Board has frequently requested that the RDO issue in his order writing, but he has not done so.

One police officer asked everyone to disperse and some Aurovilians went to the RDO for trying to get the stay order. After waiting for a long time, they finally got it that same evening.

In all, PKS henchmen went 130 m inside Evergreen forest, from the road and cut about 100 small to medium size trees on a 100 m long strip, up to 12 m wide. The maximum diameter of the cut trees was 30 cm, but the most serious was that they cut two rare species: One "Pterocarpus santalinus", an endangered tree and one "Pterocarpus marsupium" which is a nearly threatened species.



Fig. 1: About 100 trees cut with 2 rare species



Fig. 2: Workers laying posts



Fig. 3: Aurovilians asking not to lay the posts



Fig. 4: The most aggressive henchman