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## **Auroville Bulletin 78**

**AVFO gazettes new regulations, Destruction continues across Auroville, AuroOrchard and land exchange update**

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Thursday, 18th December 2023

Please find a glossary of acronyms and terms used in this bulletin [here](#).

## **Urgent actions needed**

- **Vote in the Emergency RAD regarding the new AVFO Admission and Termination Regulations.** Please watch [this video](#) for more information.

Use your personalized voting link sent by the Residents' Assembly Service (RAS). If you didn't receive the link, please check spam or promotions folders. If still not there, kindly visit RAS polling stations:

\*SATURDAY\* (Jan. 20th) @ PTPS Aspiration: 11 am - 1 pm

\*SATURDAY\* (Jan. 20th) @ Solar Kitchen: 3 pm - 5 pm

\*SUNDAY\* (Jan. 21st) @ Solar Kitchen: 11 am - 1 pm

- **Share information confidentially with the RA WCom via email [workingcom@auroville.services](mailto:workingcom@auroville.services).** The RAWCom is collecting information regarding the various interactions with the AVFO and their appointees. This information is necessary in order to protect the RA and will remain strictly confidential.
- **Assist with documenting tree-cutting and clearing:** In light of the recent Stay Order placed on the NGT verdict by the Supreme Court it is particularly important to continue with documentation of tree cutting and land clearing. If you are available and willing to help with documentation, please get in touch with [tdc@auroville.services](mailto:tdc@auroville.services).
- **Support for Maintenances:** An increasing number of Aurovilians have been cut off from their Maintenance, and are in need of support. For more information, please contact the BCC: [bccoffice@auroville.services](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.services). If you wish to support the Farm or Forest Group as a whole, please contact us at [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com) and we will redirect you as needed.
- **Financial support for legal fees:** If you can donate towards legal and delegation fees, please email [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com). Please see [here](#) for more information about why further financial assistance is necessary.
- **Help with the AVC room vigil :** For nearly 1.5 years the community has held a 24/7 vigil in the AVC room in Town Hall. **More people are needed** to ensure the round-the-clock presence. Please contact [avcouncil@auroville.services](mailto:avcouncil@auroville.services), WhatsApp 94430 03617 to sign up. See [here](#) for more information.
- **Join the Wednesdays for Auroville meetings:** There is a weekly community meeting held at the Tibetan Pavilion, every Wednesday 4:30-6:00 pm.
- Attend the **General Meeting, TODAY, Thursday 18th January at 6:00PM**

A promotional poster for a general meeting. The background is a gradient of green and purple, featuring a large yellow daisy flower on the right side. A purple diagonal banner across the top right contains the text 'Your presence is crucial!'. The text is arranged in a clear hierarchy, starting with the location 'Auroville' in a script font, followed by 'Residents' Assembly' in a sans-serif font. The main title 'GENERAL MEETING' is in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below this, the location 'At Kalabhumi' is written in yellow. A white horizontal line separates the title from the date and time 'TODAY 18.01.2024 From 6:00 to 7:30 PM'. Another white horizontal line follows. The agenda items are listed in white text, and the closing message 'We look forward to seeing you on Thursday!' is in yellow.

*Auroville*  
Residents' Assembly  
**GENERAL  
MEETING**  
**At Kalabhumi**

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**TODAY 18.01.2024**  
From 6:00 to 7:30 PM

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We will present information and explanations about:

- the ongoing Emergency RAD
- the Admission and Termination Regulations, 2023

We will also answer any questions you may have about these regulations. Questions about other topics are welcome as well.

**We look forward to seeing you on Thursday!**

## Urgent Topics

**New Admission and Termination Regulations to give full authority to the Secretary and GB**

New [Admission and Termination Regulations](#) were Gazetted by the AVFO on 4th January 2024. As with the newly gazetted Working Committee regulations (see below), they were made without any consultation with the RA. These regulations essentially hand absolute power to the Secretary and the Governing Board (GB) to control who lives in Auroville. According to the new Regulations, an “Admissions and Terminations Scrutinising Committee” (ATSC) will be formed, which is intended to replace the current Entry Board and the newly-formed Exit Review Group which was recently approved by the RA via an Emergency RAD. The ATSC will consist of five members, out of which only two would be residents, and the three remaining “non-resident members ... shall be persons having knowledge and expertise in the field of administration”. According to the newly published Regulations, the two RA members will be “nominated by the Governing Board”, essentially giving full power of approval to the GB.

Some other changes outlined are:

- The ATSC will scrutinise all applications from volunteers and newcomers and will approve in each case. However, the final power would now lie with the Secretary, who “shall either accept the decision of the Admissions and Terminations Scrutinising Committee or disagree for reasons to be recorded in writing”.
- The procedure to become an Aurovilian has been revised. Applicants must first complete a period of time as a volunteer (at least 3 months). It is stated that the volunteer should meet their own expenses but in “certain cases” the Auroville Foundation may provide a maintenance.
- Several new steps are outlined in the process of becoming an Aurovilian, including the completion of a new “Auroville Orientation Programme” organised by AWARE. It is unclear what would happen to the 200+ people who have completed their Newcomer process and been confirmed as Aurovilians by the Entry Board, but haven’t been entered into the Register of Residents (RoR).
- The ATSC will have powers to recommend the removal of any resident, including those who are already on the RoR, following a process outlined in the document. However the final decision would again rest with the Secretary.
- The Central Government is empowered to communicate the removal of any resident or applicant through the Secretary if they have “reasons to believe that any volunteer, newcomer, resident or any other person in Auroville is a threat to national security or possible offender under any Act administered in India”.

On 6th January, the RA WCom sent out a [massbulletin](#) stating that “We have been advised by our lawyers that at first reading this seems to be in direct contradiction to provisions in the Auroville Foundation Act... We are exploring immediate steps that can be taken and will keep you informed”.

**The RA WCom has since launched an Emergency RAD asking the RA to reject the new Regulations. Your participation is essential. Please watch the attached video and check your inbox for your personalised voting link. In-person voting is also possible, and all the details are available [here](#).**

You can watch an explanatory video in English [here](#):



You can also watch the video in: [Tamil](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [German](#)

## Entry Service office locked

On 15th January 2024, the office of the Entry Service had its locks changed without warning or consent. The Entry Board sent out a [massbulletin](#) the following day, stating that "At the moment we find ourselves unable to continue our work as usual as we can't access the office and the computers. We'll be unable to meet new applicants and conduct interviews". This takeover of the physical office comes nearly 1.5 years after the Entry Board & Service were locked out of their Google Workspaces.