

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

[View this email in your browser](#)



Auroville Bulletin 14

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

27th of April, 2022

Hot topics

Legal case against AVFO regarding Outreach Media

An Aurovilian filed a case against the Auroville Foundation represented by its Secretary in the Madras High Court at the end of March. Auroville Outreach Media was created by the residents and has been accountable to the working bodies of the

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

due processes. It is only the FAMC which has the authority to appoint and dismiss executives and unit managers. But the FAMC has been bypassed by the Auroville Foundation Office. The petitioners' side of the case was heard and the other side will be heard in June, after the court resumes from summer break.

For a short recap of the Outreach Media events that took place in January and February 2022, please refer to [Bulletin 2](#), [Bulletin 5](#) and [Bulletin 6](#).

MoU between AV Foundation and the CPWD

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on March 15, 2022 between the Auroville Foundation and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), the official construction agency of the Government of India. The scope of work is not clear since [the announcement](#), made by the CPWD on its social media pages (Facebook and Twitter), only states "for the execution of Projects related to Making of Auroville City, Tamil Nadu". The Foundation Office has not made any post on this topic. The Working Committee has asked the TDC for a copy of the MoU and what projects are included.

Meanwhile, the Water Group received an update about sludge from Elaine of TDC which states : "The long-term sludge solution will be taken up with the CPWD (Infrastructure) and Prakrit will take over the management of the program. Currently, there are 6 CPWD projects in the pipeline and Fecal sludge management is one of the six." The outsourcing of projects to the government's public works department without the knowledge of the Residents' Assembly is cause for deep concern, as it demonstrates the unwillingness of the AVFO to consult and collaborate with Aurovilians regarding the building of the city. Foundation Office has not made any post on this topic. The Working Committee has asked the TDC for a copy of the MoU and what projects are included.

Meanwhile, the Water Group received an update about sludge from Elaine of TDC which states : "The long-term sludge solution will be taken up with the CPWD (Infrastructure) and Prakrit will take over the management of the program. Currently, there are 6 CPWD projects in the pipeline and Fecal sludge mgmt is one of the six." The outsourcing of projects to the government's public works department without the knowledge of the Residents' Assembly is cause for deep concern, as it demonstrates the unwillingness of the AVFO to consult and collaborate with Aurovilians regarding the building of the city.

The French and Belgian Ambassadors and the Dutch General Consul recently visited Auroville and have reportedly expressed concerns regarding the situation faced by visa holders living in Auroville. It is important to continue to garner international support by reaching out to all the embassies and to express concern regarding the lack of security that foreign nationals are currently facing in Auroville. The visa crisis continues with several more families affected in the last week. There is a special urgency to write to Israeli, German, US and Italian embassies due to the visa threats experienced by several Aurovilians of these nationalities. For a template letter outlining the key concerns please see [here](#). Feel free to use this letter if you feel it is useful.

For Indian nationals, you can write to the Ministry of Home Affairs or [sign the Indian Aurovillian letter of support for 5 year visas](#).

Community participation

Vote for a new interim Working Committee

The Residents' Assembly Decision-making process (RAD) on the Working Committee (removal of members + creation of an interim team) is now in its final stage, the **voting period!**

Please note that this is a different RAD than the one on a new Selection methodology, which was running until last week.

Why is this RAD so important? This RAD was called because at the moment the seven members of the Working Committee are split into two groups, unable to collaborate in a way that allows forward movement or that represents the diversity of voices from the Residents' Assembly. There have been calls for the Working Committee to remain and 'work together' for some time now, but it seems that it is not possible with some of the members in place.

Four members of the current Working Committee have undermined the Residents' Assembly as a whole by delegitimizing its processes. These 4 Working Committee members [have claimed](#) that their "duty and allegiance is to her [The Mother] alone" and that they will not respect the voice of the Residents' Assembly if they interpret that it "jeopardizes Auroville's growth". This is of great concern, as it implies that they consider themselves as the only holders of a higher truth, to which other residents wouldn't have access.

Auroville needs Working Committee members who follow their mandate, uphold the

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

interpretations and agendas. By asking those who have led the community into a stalemate to step down, an opening will be available to those who are ready to represent the Residents' Assembly in moving forward.

NB: More information on the reasons for which these Working Committee members are being asked to resign can be found in [this document](#) (also available [in French](#) and [in Tamil](#)).

What is the proposal?

The proposal has been refined, taking into account feedback from the community (see [here](#)) and feedback from the 2nd RA Meeting (see [report](#)). The new proposal allows the residents assembly to choose which of the current members of the Working Committee stay and allows for the appointment of an interim team which would be in place until the upcoming selection process, scheduled for June 2022. **The new proposal is available [in English](#), [French](#) and [Tamil](#).**

Who can vote?

Any confirmed Aurovilian aged 18 and above can participate in Residents' Assembly Decision-making processes.

How & where to vote? Until when?

You can **vote online** by using the personalised voting link sent to you by the RAS. If you are not used to online voting, you can watch the short video below.

You can also **vote in person**:

- either at the RAS office in Town Hall, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 12; or
- in Solar Kitchen on Sunday 8th May, from 11am to 2pm.



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The voting period will run until Sunday 8th May.

Collective letter to the Governing Board

As mentioned in [Bulletin 13](#), the Governing Board has not met with the community since the events of December. A letter has been written on behalf of the Residents of Auroville asking to meet with the Governing Board in order to foster dialogue, express our concerns and to find a way forward. If this speaks to you, please [sign the letter here](#).

We have a new Selection methodology for Working Groups

The RAD on a new Selection methodology for Working Groups has ended and the results of the vote have been made public by the RAS [here](#). Out of 368 voters, 95% voted to approve the new selection methodology and 5% voted against it. The new selection methodology is approved and the next Selection Process is currently scheduled at the end of June 2022.

Development updates

Bulldozing in Eternity

On the 14th of April, the local MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) began clearing the more than 200 meters of fence line on the beach, in places entering 5-10 meters inside of the Eternity boundary line. Survey marker points showing the boundary lines of the community were bulldozed. The residents of Eternity and Auroville were not informed that this work would be done or if there is a work order from the Government to do this. The land that the MLA cleared was surveyed in 2010 by the Government. Over the next 3 days, [\[continued here\]](#)

The Sprout and Evergreen

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

service node (area between Road service and Sustenance farm) that is designated for building. Last year the ATDC approached Evergreen stewards in order to start construction on the hydroponic salad project, The Sprout. Evergreen and the Forest group supported this project and approved of the location. The project was announced, and community feedback given (and ignored). Recently, ATDC changed the agreed upon roadside location, and pushed the project deep into the Evergreen forest. The new location exceeds the service node area, goes deeper into the Greenbelt, and would cause the felling of many trees. Evergreen stewards and the Forest group maintain their support for the Sprout project, but the ATDC currently does not have any members selected by due process, and has not taken into account community feedback, nor stuck to their announced plans. This illegitimately constituted ATDC have begun marking boundaries for the Sprout, and marking the path of a 22m radial (which follows the existing tar road) that cuts through 400 meters of forest.

Other updates and reports

Letters given to the GB by 4 WCom members

At the occasion of the 59th meeting of the Governing Board, 4 members of the Working Committee (Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi) have given two letters to the Governing Board without having informed the three other Working Committee members: '[RA/RAS Review and Suggestions](#)' and '[Review of the Media Misinformation since December 2021](#)'. These letters include fallacious claims and hurtful statements. Several replies to these letters have been posted on AuroNet, among which [a reply by the other three Working Committee members](#), [a reply by residents](#) through the AuroNet Group Be Here Now, and [a reply by Suryamayi C.S.](#) as someone who has undertaken academic research on Auroville's collective decision-making practices.

Bank Accounts frozen without notice due to visas lapsed

For Aurovilians with Indian bank accounts, please be aware that your accounts could be frozen if your visa expires whilst you are waiting for it to be processed by the RRO. There are unprecedented delays in visa processing and some Aurovilians have been waiting months even though all documents were submitted well within the recommended time frame. If your visa has expired whilst waiting for it to be

AV Council GM & resignation of 2 members

On Monday 18th April, some members of the AV Council held an official meeting to introduce themselves and update the community on their progress and challenges during the past year. They mentioned that 2 of their members, Suresh and Meenal, had stopped attending meetings for the past weeks, and did not respond to their request to join this community meeting. During the Q and A period, many community members expressed that as the mandate of the AV Council includes ensuring that working groups follow their mandate, action towards the ATDC and WCom needs to be taken - as members of these groups have explicitly disregarded their mandate.

One week later, the AV Council [announced](#) on Auronet that the 2 members who weren't attending their meetings for the past weeks, Suresh and Meenal, resigned on 25th April. The Council have announced that they will request 4 new members in the next selection process.

ATDC Expansion at Town Hall

Last year, as FAMC reported [here](#), "ATDC approached FAMC, BCC and Project Coordination Group (PCG) with a request to vacate at the earliest the office space used by them, as they were in urgent need of additional office space (the whole second floor of the Townhall), as the new Secretary has directed them to complete the DDPs within two months". This rearrangement of space went ahead as requested, meaning that ATDC now occupies more space in the Town Hall than any other service. On the 19th April, Auroville Board of Commerce (ABC) management received an email informing them that they had less than a week to vacate the space they currently occupy (a desk next to Land Board), and also informing that the Guest Service would similarly be forced to move out. The reasons given were that ATDC 'urgently' needed the space. As ATDC continues to refuse to keep the community informed (Elaine's recent reappointment was announced by FAMC for example), it is not clear what the ATDC urgently needs the space for.

Hypocrisy of Kalpana Core Group

Last year, Vaiya, one of the pioneers of Auroville, was forced to leave her apartment in Kalpana because she was blocked from installing the AC unit that she urgently needed for health reasons. The original design of Kalpana was supposedly made in such a way that AC would never be necessary, however in reality it did not work in

Auroville mentioned in UNESCO presentation

[This short 4 min video](#) of the recent presentation at UNESCO on behalf of India shows that Auroville is being watched, not only nationally but also internationally, and that there are plans for Auroville that are not wholly in our hands.

Action needed

- **Sign the letter to the GB:** A letter has been written on behalf of the Residents of Auroville asking to meet with the Governing Board in order to foster dialogue, express our concerns and to find a way forward. If this speaks to you, please [sign the letter here](#).
- **Vote in the WCom RAD:** Please follow instructions given above and sent by the RAS via email.
- **Write to your Embassy or Home Ministry:** It is a crucial moment for Aurovilian visa holders. Support is urgently needed. Non Indian nationals can write to their embassies, Indian nationals can write to the Ministry of Home Affairs. A template letter to embassies can be found [here](#).
- **Indian Nationals collective letter:** If you are an Indian Aurovilian and haven't yet signed the letter of support for 5 year visas, please do so by [clicking here](#). Please note that this is ONLY for Indian nationals.
- **Call for financial support:** If you would like to donate towards legal fees please email evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com

Changing the narrative

- It has been repeated on several occasions recently that the recent push for development at all costs is justified because “Mother wanted to build the city fast”. Usually, a few out of context quotes are provided to support this view. [Here](#) Gilles G. comprehensively demolishes that argument with a very well

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

for context, history and a hopeful reminder of the spirit of Auroville.

About us

We are a group of Aurovilians who are actively involved in understanding the current crisis situation in Auroville in order to find a way forward together.

We stand for:

- Respecting our community processes for decision-making
- A collaborative approach in developing Auroville using integrated methods such as the Dreamweaving initiative
- Transparency and fairness in the organisation of Auroville
- Creating unity with our diverse voices

Please note that the website <https://standforaurovilleunity.com/> contains a great deal of information and a detailed timeline.

With regard to future actions, those who have particular skills such as writing, social media, film editing etc. - you are welcome to write to evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com.

Please also share your thoughts and suggestions by replying to this email.

We hope this has been helpful. Let's keep working to find a way to bring us closer together to the beautiful dream of human unity in Auroville. We can do it... together.

For those who have had previous technical problems receiving the Bulletin, the list of all previous Bulletin issues is accessible here: <https://linktr.ee/evolvinggalaxy>

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**