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# Auroville Bulletin 15

YC Alert, NGT outcome, unannounced bulldozing and a  
new WCom

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*A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today*

5th of May, 2022

## Hot topics

**Important community meeting**

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An important 'Pour Tous meeting' has been called by some residents to share an update on the ongoing crisis situation in Auroville. Topics will include the National Green Tribunal outcome and what it means in practicality, as well as the ongoing and planned RADs. This community meeting will take place on Saturday May 7th from 4:30 to 6pm, at Kalabhumi amphitheater. The aim of the meeting is to clarify the current situation and work on a constructive way forward together, please attend!

## Attempt to take over from 4 WCom members

Four members of the Working Committee (Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi), allegedly supported by the Office of the Secretary, have attempted to take over the entire WCom by dismissing the three other members (Chali, Hemant and Sauro). They used a twisted (mis)interpretation of the 'Participatory Working Groups' document to do so. In [their communication on this 'decision'](#), they make several false claims regarding the other three members. This unprecedented use of political manipulations is destructive to the core values of community processes in Auroville. This move came during the current vote of the Residents' Assembly to decide which Working Committee member should be removed from office, and which Working Committee member should remain. This appears to be another abuse of power by the four Working Committee members, attempting to bypass the Residents' Assembly in order to forcefully push forward their agenda.

The three other Working Committee members [replied here](#) that "this request is not valid and [they] will continue to exercise [their] functions unless ... requested otherwise by a decision of the RA". Sauro also sent [a personal response](#) and the Auroville Council made an [announcement](#) requesting "all Working Committee members to remain in their position and await the result of the Residents' Assembly

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Auroville's important matters.

## Vote in the WCom RAD: important, urgent and safe

Since the recent attempt to take over the Working Committee, and the many attempts to de-legitimize the rights and processes of the Residents' Assembly, it is crucial to participate in the RAD on the current Working Committee by voting. A new article from the petitioners' coordination team clarifies the following:

- Why is the Working Committee an important group of Auroville?
- Why is it important, now more than ever, to have a healthy, functioning and capable Working Committee?
- Why would we 'de-select' members if we stand for human unity?
- Why is it safe and legitimate to vote in this RAD?
- How to participate in the WCom RAD?

[Click here](#) to read this article.

The petitioners' coordination team has also prepared a short video in [English](#), [French](#) and [Tamil](#) to address the safety and the importance of this RAD. The RAS, on its side, has [shared with the community](#) some clarifications on its way of operating and the functioning of the RAD process in the form of [a comprehensive Q&A document](#).



(You can also watch this video in [French](#) and [Tamil](#))

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**participating!**

## ATDC notice to Youth Centre

The ATDC has just (on 5th May) sent a message to the Youth Centre team in [this e-mail](#) requesting that the YC team 'dismantle' - before 8am on 9th May - any 'unauthorized' structures that they built after damage caused when the space was destroyed. More information will be shared on Saturday at the community meeting at Kalabhumi.

## National Green Tribunal ruling announced

The ruling of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) was announced on Thursday April 28th. Among other major points, the ruling instructs the Foundation to prepare proper Detailed Development Plans (DDPs) and to obtain Environmental Clearance before undertaking any construction work. Regarding the Crown Road, the NGT decided to constitute a "Joint Committee" made up of State Government officials to study the contentious areas, deciding whether the road needs to be slightly deviated or reduced in width, in order to protect trees and water bodies. The full 78-pages judgment can be found [here](#), and the results [here](#). A short analysis and explanation of what the results mean for Auroville can be read [here](#).

Among other important passages, paragraph 119 of the ruling states that "the MOTHER never intended to destroy the green cover for the purpose of making the construction", denouncing the fact that "there was no impact assessment made by the authority viz., the 1st Respondent as to how many trees will have to be cut and what will be the impact of cutting of trees in the project area". The 1st Respondent refers to the Auroville Foundation.

Reports of this judgment have been published the following days in the national media, including articles in [The Hindu](#), [The New Indian Express](#), and [on LiveLaw.in](#). More recently, [The Hindu published another article](#) that also harvests some responses to the ruling by the Governing Board and the residents. Articles in Tamil were also published in the local media (on [thanthity](#), [dinakaran](#), [polimernews](#) and [dinamani](#)).

## Bulldozing in Center Field

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old house in Center Field to demolish it. Incidentally, during the demolition, water and internet line at Txuma's and Elodie's house (the direct neighbours) were cut while they were celebrating Elodie's birthday.

The demolition of the house started just 4 days after the NGT result allowed for the demolition of "unauthorized occupations, if any, strictly in accordance with the law in force". However this demolition did not follow the proper process for Auroville buildings. In addition, the upcoming study by the Joint Committee (see paragraph on the NGT judgement) may decide a different route for the Crown Way, so it is illogical to preemptively remove properties without full knowledge of the final Crown Road placement.

Even though the NGT has allowed for removal of some buildings, it is important to remember that the Residents' Assembly has overwhelmingly voted to stop all work on the Crown until detailed plans are prepared and the RA has decided to resume work on the Crown. The actions in this case clearly do not follow due process and go against the RA vote.

See here for [before](#) and [after](#) pictures of Tapas & Mita's house. For a video taken on the day, at the JCB's arrival, see [here](#). Articles on this event were also published in [The Hindu](#) and in [Hindustan Times](#).

## Errata in the last Bulletin

Following technical errors that were present in the 14th edition of the Evolving Galaxy Bulletin, please find hereafter functional links to the following articles:

- [Bulldozing in Eternity](#)
- [Hypocrisy of Kalpana Core Group](#)

## Other updates and information

To reduce the size of the Bulletin, other updates and information are summarized here:

- **No contract with VSF:** We have confirmation that no contract has been signed yet between the AV Foundation/TDC and Mr Doshi's Vastu Shilpa Foundation

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- **150th Birthday Launch:** On April 24th, the 150th Birthday celebrations were launched in Pondy with a speech given at Pondicherry University. Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs and ex-President of the BJP, took part in the event. [Here](#) is an analysis of the speeches that were given.
- **Eternity update:** Since [last week's report](#), the Government survey has started and took place between April 27th and May 4th. As there was no more fence, Eternity stewards were in need of a silent presence and community members came forward in support. As of today, there seems to be no longer a need for presence in large numbers.
- **Letter from AVF Office:** [A letter](#) has been sent from the Foundation Office to the Working Committee, requesting a sizeable amount of information on a short notice. This way of operating is not sustainable and should not be encouraged. The letter also attempts to de-legitimize the RAD process, which is concerning as the Office of the Secretary does not have any say on the internal functioning of the Residents' Assembly.

## Action needed

- **Please attend the important community meeting on Saturday, May 7th 4:30pm at Kalabhumi**
- **Urgently place your vote in the present WCom RAD before Sunday 8th May**

## 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:

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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. are welcome to write to [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@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/evolvingalaxy>

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