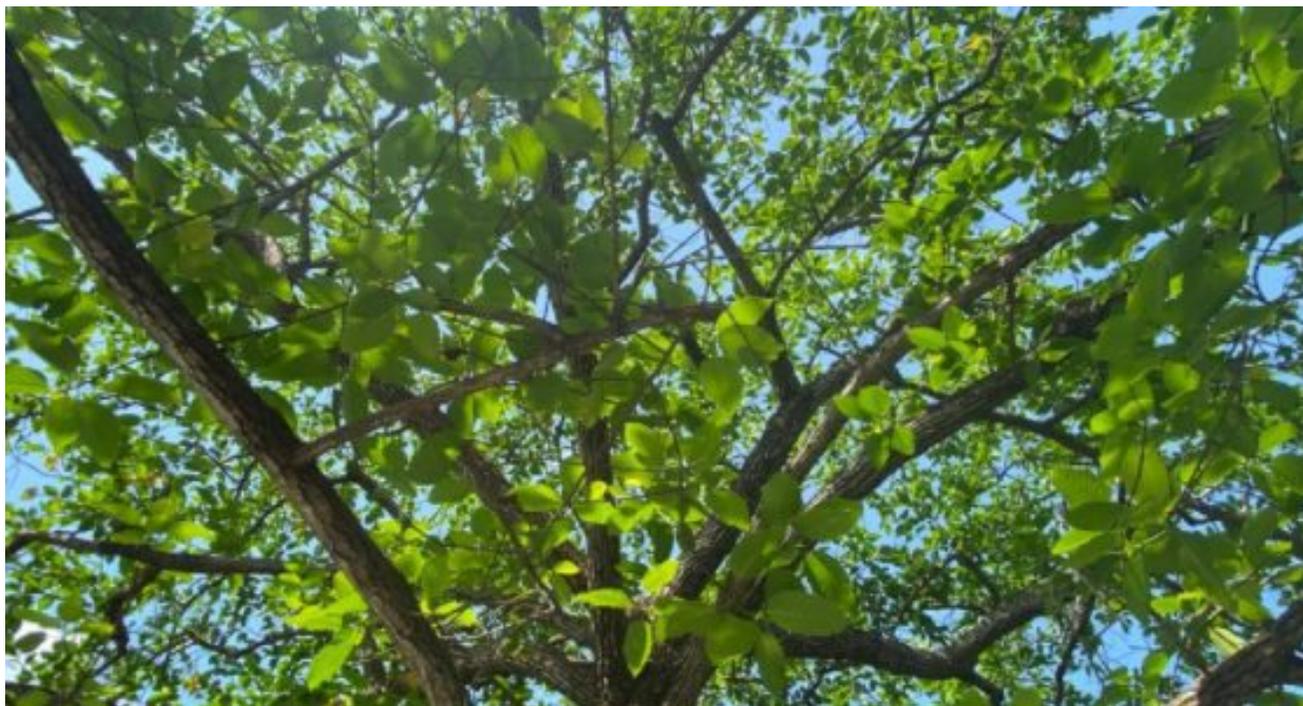


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# Auroville Bulletin 16

GB attempts to take over the RA and ATDC announces plans to bulldoze Auroville

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*A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today*

8th May, 2022

## Hot topics

**Governing Board “directs” the RA to pause any decisions**

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mailing service regarding an [email](#) that was sent to the Working Committee and copied to the RA, stating that “the Governing Board directs the Residents Assembly to pause any decisions taken by the Resident Assembly before the updation of the Register of Residents; all current ongoing activities such as with the RAD (Residents Assembly’s decision-making processes) are to be stopped with immediate effect until the Register of Residents (RoR) has been fully updated on an urgent basis. Any such decision taken before updating the Register of Residents will be invalid, null and void.”

This is a groundless demand, which is obviously aimed at silencing the voice of the RA. It shows how important it is for them to keep a status quo in regards to the Working Committee membership. First of all, the letter is not signed by the Governing Board but by Dr. Seetharaman, Officer on Special Duty for the Foundation. No proof has been given whatsoever that this is effectively a request from the Governing Board. Besides this, the Governing Board has no authority as per the Auroville Foundation Act to direct the Residents’ Assembly in its way of functioning. It is also important to note that updating the RoR is the responsibility of the Office of the Secretary, and it is their mandate to do so in a correct and timely manner. The RA should not have to pause its functionings due to a lack of diligence at the Auroville Foundation Office, who are mandated to keep the RoR updated at all times.

## ATDC announces plans to bulldoze Auroville

ATDC has threatened to bulldoze numerous ‘unauthorised’ buildings in Auroville in their [Auronet announcement](#) on May 7th, allegedly under the authority of the Secretary. The extensive yet incomplete list of buildings under threat can be viewed [here](#). The current way of issuing a No Objection Certificate (NOC) was only fully introduced around 2010. The ATDC has not clarified what they consider to be valid documentation for establishing an approved building permission for structures built from 1968 to 2009, nor have they given legal ruling to justify their announced actions. These recent announcements also appear to be in violation of [the National Green Tribunal ruling](#). They could be a threat to more than half of Auroville’s structures who do not have a permanent NOC, depending on the unclear criteria on which the ATDC bases itself to label a building as ‘unauthorized’.

As a response, a letter has been drafted to outline the various reasons why the ATDC’s actions are not only in violation of Auroville processes, but also against the laws of India. Please urgently [read and sign the letter](#) if you are in agreement that indiscriminate illegal bulldozing of buildings must not be allowed in Auroville. **The letter will be sent today, Sunday 8th May.**

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On May 5th, the Youth Center (YC) team received an [email](#) from ATDC, asking them to “dismantle the unauthorised structures in the Youth Center before Monday May 9th 2022, 8 am”. YC [replied](#) seeking clarity, outlining that “the section of the Crown Right of Way that passes through the YC has been untouched, and there has been no construction whatsoever on the Crown”. The following day, YC sent a [second email](#) to officially file an objection to the ATDC’s unclear and illegitimate demand.

On May 7th, Anbu from the ATDC visited YC and confirmed that in his view there were no new constructions. However during a later conversation Toby stated that the bulldozing orders were coming directly from the Auroville Foundation Office, and they intend to carry out the threat.

It is important to remember that the Youth Centre is a fully authorised project, supported by the Central Fund, the Cultural Zone group and the land was zoned in 1996 by L'avenir themselves.

The Youth Center may need physical presence and peaceful support in the upcoming days. If you are not yet on the Whatsapp and Telegram groups and would like to stay informed of further actions required, please reply to this email with your name, community and phone number.

## Community meeting in Kalabhumi

A ‘Pour Tous’ meeting (community meeting) was held in Kalabhumi on Saturday May 7th. One of the main agenda points was an update on the National Green Tribunal (NGT) verdict. Navroz and Sandeep, who filed the initial petition, explained the reasons why they filed the petition, as well as their understanding of the NGT judgement. They replied to questions from the community, and offered some clarity which brought hope to many who were present. Hopefully the video recording of the meeting will be available online soon. For now, you can [click here](#) to have a taste of how the meeting ended.



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## Action needed

- **Letter to the Secretary regarding ATDC action:** Please urgently sign the letter to halt widespread demolition [by clicking here](#).
- **Only a few hours left to vote:** If you haven't yet voted in the WCom RAD, you have until midnight **TODAY** to cast your vote online. If you need help with online voting, you can watch [this video tutorial](#).
- **Write to your embassies or the MHO:** If you are concerned about the visa situation in Auroville, please write to your embassy (for non-Indian nationals) or to the Ministry of Home Affairs (for Indian nationals). You can use [this template letter](#) as a model to start with. Please forward any replies to [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com)
- **Call for financial support:** If you would like to donate towards legal and delegation fees please email [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com)

## 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

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- [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 [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto: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>

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