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Auroville Bulletin 17

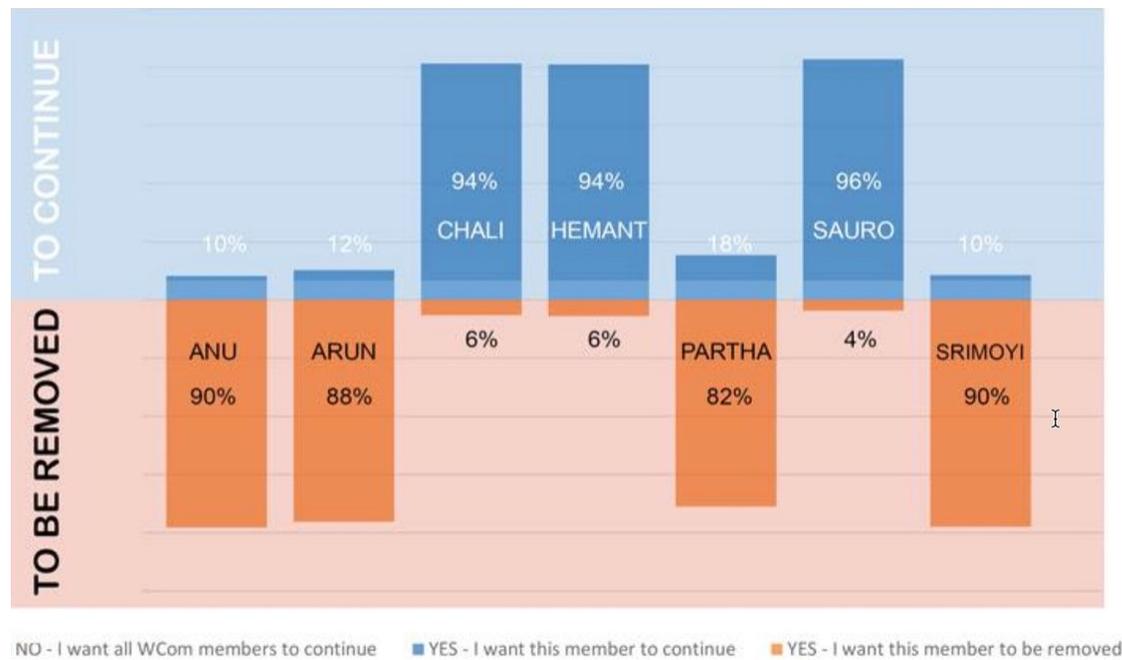
RAD results resounding. Ex-WC4 refuse to respect the Residents' Assembly.

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

15th May, 2022

Hot topics

The results of the RAD on a “Vote of no confidence in/call for a new selection of the current Working Committee team” are in.



The RAS registered **864 valid votes**. It is the second highest turnout for an RA decision ever, following the previous one on the implementation of the Crown. Of those who participated, 92% of voters agreed to remove individual members. Members whose term immediately ended are Anu (90%), Arun (88%), Partha (82%), and Srimoyi (90%). Chali, Hemant and Sauro receive widespread support to continue.

The outcome of this RAD clearly shows that the Residents' Assembly does not support the WCom members who are not accountable to the community. It is important to remember that the results of the vote are not personal, but rather an attempt to move towards a Working Committee that upholds the voice of the Residents' Assembly.

Attempted takeover by ex-WC4

A few hours after the RAD results were released it became apparent that the four members of the Working Committee who had been overwhelmingly voted to step down (Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi), were not going to respect the RAD outcome. A [post](#) was made on Auronet by the ex-WC4 from the Working Committee account announcing "3 new interim members for the Working Committee: Joseba, Selvaraj & Tine". It appears that they believed their previous announcement regarding the

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account was removed quickly at the request of the Auroville Council, who clarified their reasons why [here](#). They also asked Auronet to remove access to the Working Committee account for all 7 of the Working Committee members. Shortly after, the announcement was [reposted](#) by Joel Van Lierde via the 'Auroville Foundation' Auronet group. The Auroville Council made a [clarification post](#) and later reiterated the validity of the RAD in an [email](#) to the Auroville Foundation Office, Governing Board & International Advisory Council. It is important to note that as per Section 20 (3) of the Auroville Foundation Act, "The manner of choosing the members of the Working Committee and their term of office shall be decided by the Residents' Assembly".

The following morning on Wednesday 11th May, the Aurovilians illegitimately proclaiming to be the Working Committee (Anu, Arun, Partha, Srimoyi) along with their self appointed interim team (Joseba, Selvaraj and Tine) met in the Working Committee meeting room. When they left for the Foundation Office, they locked the door of the Working Committee Secretariat's office, barring the entrance. For the remainder of the day, the seven members of the illegitimate Working Committee walked back and forth between Town Hall and the Foundation Office. In the following days, some members of the community offered a silent and supportive presence in or around the Working Committee Secretariat's office. Support for the three Working Committee members who courageously continue their term of office (Chali, Hemant and Sauro), as well as to the secretaries of the Working Committee is most welcomed.

On Friday 13th, the Petitioners' representatives & Coordination team for the Working Committee RAD posted [an announcement](#) on Auronet about the RAD outcome and follow up, in which they informed the community that "the 4 members removed via this RAD are no longer able to access the email or digital archives of the Working Committee."

On Saturday 14th, the Working Committee & Auroville Council jointly released [an announcement](#) via massbulletin and on Auronet announcing the new interim members: Elisa (New Creation), Gilles G. (Samasti) and Juergen Axer (Sunship). One interim member is still to be announced. They will be joined by Raju (Grace) who joins as a resource person in the role of Police Liaison and Ranjith (Mangalam) who will be a resource person in the areas of land and labour issues. The ratified members of the Working Committee have now begun normal operations in the office of the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.

Other Updates and Information

- **New checklist in place in addition to the declaration form**

There is now a new [checklist](#) that has to be completed alongside the [declaration form](#), before Newcomers can become Aurovilians or visa holders can receive their recommendation letters. The checklist includes questions such as ‘has the person obstructed, or caused obstruction of the Auroville Township development works?’ and ‘Is the person involved in spreading fake news against the Auroville Foundation?’ The legal basis upon which the Secretary needs to inquire about the matters set out in this checklist is not clear, as it does not facilitate the performance of her duties. As the checklist does not provide any details on what specifically constitutes ‘obstruction’ or ‘fake news’, the aim appears to be to instill compliance through fear.

- **Follow-up on the letter directing the RA “to pause any decisions”**

In [Bulletin 16](#), a letter from Dr. G. Seetharaman stating that “the Governing Board directs the Residents Assembly to pause any decisions” was shared. This groundless demand has since received three replies:

1. From the three on-going WCom members ([read here](#));
2. From the four dismissed ex-WCom members ([read here](#));

Importantly from over 500 residents of Auroville ([read here](#)). This collective letter can still be signed [here](#) (if not already done).

- **Updates from the Youth Center & the ATDC**

Since [Bulletin 16](#), the following events related to Youth Center & the ATDC have taken place.

- On May 8th, following an [email](#) sent by a resident (Suhasini) to the ATDC challenging their recent announcements, the FAMC [requested](#) 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”.
- On May 9th, a resident (Uma P.) posted on [Auronet](#) an invitation “to help the YC dismantle [its] structures” since she believed that “[the ATDC were] going to dismantle the Youth Centre structures [from] the 10th May onwards”. This invitation was also sent to the Youth Center via email. The Youth Center team sent a [reply](#) on the same day, followed by a [reply from the FAMC](#) on the following day, stating that “any demolition not required for the Crown Road is not in compliance with the 28 April 2022 National Green Tribunal judgement”.
- Also on May 9th, following Uma’s communication, the Youth Center sent a [third email](#) including several questions to the ATDC, to which [the FAMC asked](#) for replies “before any further action is taken”.
- In the meantime, the Road Service has started working on the stretch of the Crown Road that is in front of the Youth Center and is laying the underground HT cables. This work is being documented.

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the WCom Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi. They have finally decided to end this email exchange with an AuroNet post that can be found [here](#).

- **Margherita & Batoo's Story.** A young Aurovilian / Newcomer family - Margherita, Batoo & their baby son - have been stuck in Italy for the last four months. They have no recourse to return to their home in Auroville due to inaction by the Secretary of the AVFO. The young family would have been on the street if not for a friend offering them a room in their house. Although they are married, her husband is not permitted to work in Italy, so Margherita is carrying the responsibility of trying to make enough money to survive in Italy whilst still breastfeeding her baby. Read their full story [here](#).
- **Invitation to all.** A call to the community to come together in meditation during these intense and difficult times is currently circulating via Whatsapp and Telegram. A community event is planned **TODAY, Sunday 15th May, at 6.30pm in Town Hall**. Click [here](#) to see the poster.

Action needed

- **If you wish to keep updated about unfolding events** it is possible to join information WhatsApp/Telegram groups via these links
Telegram: <https://t.me/+8ASPQu22b-djNjhl>
Whatsapp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LTOCOadsf4HAGWH6DHwejH>
- **Call for financial support:** If you would like to donate towards legal and delegation fees please email evolvingalaxy@gmail.com

Media & Other Links

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~~YouTube video of the recent 1 year 1000 meeting. You can watch the full 1000~~
Tous meeting that took place at Kalabhumi on Saturday 7th May [here](#).

- **Article in The Quint:** You can [read here](#) the article “Auroville: Residents Allege Being Blacklisted, Denied Visas; Admin Denies Claims” by Smitha TK.
- **Transcription of Kireet Joshi’s talk:** A transcription of [this video](#) on Auroville’s self-governance can be found [here](#).

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. 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>

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