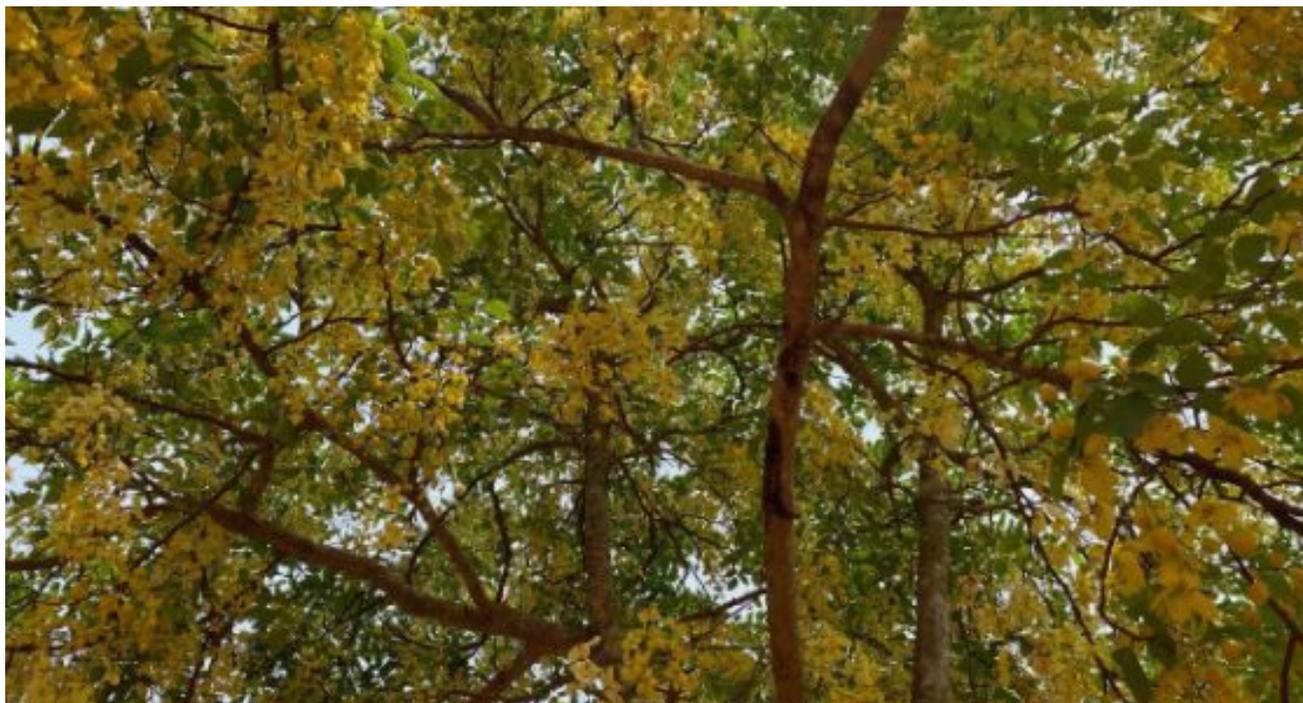


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Auroville Bulletin 23

Court cases, FIRs, and large bilingual community gathering

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

14th June 2022

Note: There are important actions to take at the end of each Bulletin, if you are reading on your phone you may need to click 'see more' to view the entire bulletin.

Hot topics

Legal challenge to the ATDC Office Order

On 3rd June, the residents of Auroville were [informed](#) through Auronet by the Office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation (AVFO) that both the FAMC and the ATDC were 'reconstituted' by two undisclosed Office Orders issued by the Governing Board. In complete disregard of Auroville processes, new 'members' were appointed without community consultation, allegedly with the authority of Dr Jayanti Ravi, Secretary to the Auroville Foundation. This was followed on 8th June by an [announcement](#) from the ex-WCom and their self-appointed 'interim members' (referred to in the Bulletin as the 'ex-WCom' for short), stating that the undisclosed Office Order had appointed seven 'members' for the FAMC and eight 'members' for the ATDC. The next day, a [collective statement](#) was posted by the 3 groupings now claiming to be the WCom, the FAMC and the ATDC.

A resident of Auroville has requested the court to review the Office Order (491) by which Dr Jayanti Ravi sought to reconstitute the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC). On 7th June, the Madras High Court heard arguments challenging the validity of the Office Order and submissions seeking for it to be set aside. A further hearing is scheduled for 28th June at which time the Auroville Foundation represented by its Secretary, Dr Jayanti Ravi, shall have the opportunity to make its submissions in response.

Legal challenge to uphold the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly

As reported in [their latest update](#) to the community, on 13th June, a case was filed by the Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly (represented by Hemant Lamba) at the Madras High Court in Chennai. A request was made to the honourable High Court to ask the Auroville Foundation (represented by Dr. Jayanti Ravi, the Secretary to the Auroville Foundation) to abstain from interfering with the work of the Residents' Assembly and their lawful Working Committee. The High Court accepted to hear the case and the lawyer standing for the Auroville Foundation made a promise that the AVFO would take no further steps until the next hearing on Monday 20th June 2022, when the hearing continues.

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“Anticipatory Bail” granted to the six Aurovillians given FIRs

On 10th June, Anticipatory Bail was granted to the six Aurovillians (Chali, Hemant, Renu, Sauro, Suryan & Wazo) who were given First Information Reports (FIRs) by the Undersecretary of the Auroville Foundation. For details regarding the FIR that was filed against them please see [here](#).

Anticipatory bail was sought because certain false charges that were alleged against the six Aurovillians could have led to their immediate arrest, as non-bailable crimes. This represents a first step in ensuring that these Aurovillians are not arrested on false charges. For a legal definition of Anticipatory Bail Law please see [here](#).

The WCom stated, in [its latest update](#) to the community, that “the charges brought against these six residents have no substance and are an extreme attempt to intimidate the Residents’ Assembly and its working groups into submitting to the decisions and actions of the Office of the Secretary”. It further assured residents that it “will continue to do [its] duty to the Residents’ Assembly by protecting and upholding its decisions and its functioning”

Impressions from the Community Gathering

On 13th June 4-6pm, a community gathering was called by a group of Tamil Aurovillians in an effort to bring the whole community together as a family. There were presentations clarifying the Auroville Foundation Act, the role of the Residents’ Assembly, and the functioning of Auroville's internal governance. After a break for tea, juice and samosas, individuals shared their feelings about Auroville. The entire meeting, including the presentations, was translated in Tamil and English to allow for all attendees to listen and share without a language barrier. The general atmosphere at the event was one of deep appreciation for the true sense of community that was alive. It was estimated that there were approximately [600 people](#) at the Unity Pavilion, the [inside room](#) was full, and there were people sitting together on the grass [outside](#). One Aurovillian expressed that this meeting paved a new path for how community gatherings could be held, and how the feeling of an Auroville family was strengthened by this event.

Other Updates and Information

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Register of Residents (RoR)

Many Aurovilians feel that the recent request by the AVFO to fill in their form to update the RoR is unnecessary, particularly as it is linked to an attempt to suspend all decisions made by the Residents' Assembly. For Auroville residents who prefer not to sign the RoR form as requested by the AVFO, two template letters were drafted and are available to inform the Residents' Service and the AVFO of your decision. Please see [here](#) for a template letter to the AVFO, asking them to provide your registered information for you to check. See [here](#) for a template letter to the Residents Service, asking them to check that your information is correct and to share it with the AVFO.

Selection Process - Call for feedback on nominees

The RAS [called for](#) "constructive feedback" on the nominees for the working groups selection process. The list of all the nominees can be found [here](#), and feedback can be given [here](#). The feedback period will run **until Friday 24th June**. It is truly encouraging to acknowledge the number of Aurovilians who came forward and nominated themselves / accepted nominations for the working groups.

AV Council & WCom announcements regarding communications

The AV Council and WCom made a joint [post](#) laying out the clear reasons why the AVFO's sanctioned "WCom" (earlier referred to as "ex-WCom") is incorrectly constituted, and why the AVFO's request to pause Residents' Assembly decisions while they update the RoR is not valid. This post also reasserted that **the only and official Working Committee** of the Residents' Assembly is the one constituted by the latest decision of the Residents' Assembly (Chali, Elisa, Gilles G, Hemant L, Jürgen A, Sauro) and that there is no other "Working Committee".

AV Council also spoke out against the recent appropriation of Auroville's communication channels by the AVFO. See [here](#) for their posting regarding the email situation, jointly signed by the WCom, and [here](#) for their posting about the mass bulletin takeover. More recently, AV Council [shared](#) that it had changed its email ID to avcouncil@auroville.services and reiterated its invitation that all residents create a new non-Auroville email ID. If you need help in this regard, you can fill [this form](#) and someone will get back to you on behalf of the AV Council. If you have not yet informed AV Council about your new non-Auroville email ID, please use [this form](#) to do so.

“Important Information regarding the FAMC”

An errata to the paragraph in Bulletin 22 titled “Important Information regarding the FAMC” and further clarifications on the topic, can be viewed [here](#).

Mass cleaning and Plantation Drive

On 7th June, a clean up and tree planting [initiative](#) was set up by the GST and Central Excise Commission of Puducherry in association with the Auroville Foundation Office. The attendees included students from Puducherry, workers from the waste management company Urbaser Sumeet, as well as Dr Jayanti Ravi, the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and Governing Board member Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan, and Padmasri Nissan from the GST & Central Excise Puducherry Commissionerate. They [cleaned waste](#) in several locations and [planted trees](#). Environmental experts were not consulted prior to the event since tree planting initiatives are generally discouraged in the height of summer, as the trees have a low chance of survival, or need a lot of maintenance and after care in order to grow. Furthermore, as the banners advertising the event were being taken down, passers-by noticed that [waste from the banners](#) was left as litter on the road side.

Action needed

- **Update your email ID with us:** If you would like to continue receiving the Auroville Bulletin from Evolving Galaxy, it is important that you use a non-Auroville email ID. If you have not yet updated your email ID with us, you can send us a mail to evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com
- **Update your email ID with AV Council:** It is also important that you update the AV Council with your new non-Auroville email ID. In order to do so, please fill in [this form](#). Help to create a non-Auroville email ID can be sought [here](#).
- **Template letters regarding RoR update:** If you wish, use the template letters instead of filling in the RoR form issued by the AVFO. See [here](#) for a template letter to the AVFO, asking them to provide information for you to check. See [here](#) for a template letter to the Residents Service, asking them to check that

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- [Sign a letter](#) of support for the Working Groups
- **Open letter to AVFO on the RoR:** Please see [here](#) for an open letter to the Office of the Secretary requesting only forms approved by RA, GB, and IAC be used for updating the RoR
- **Call for financial support:** If you would like to donate towards legal and delegation fees please email evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com.

Media & Other Links

- Promotional video in Gujurat to attract people to come live in Auroville: [न मंदिर न मस्जिद, न पोलीस न गुनेगार | Auroville | India's Unique City](#). A [translated transcript is readable here](#) and shows the fallacy of this promotional operation.
- Beautiful video from Down to Earth (environmental news organisation) about reforestation work by Sarvanan in Aranya Forest: [This Tamil Nadu man turns 100 acres of barren land to an indigenous forest](#)
- Video about Auroville on France 24: [Spirituality and ecological values: What remains of India's utopian city of Auroville? • FRANCE 24](#). It is deplorable that the last three minutes of the video are dedicated to the AVFO's narrative, without any counterbalance.

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.

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- 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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