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Auroville Bulletin 29

YC Demolition, BCC Office Order, NGT update

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

27th July 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.

Please find a glossary of acronyms and terms used in this bulletin [here](#).

Hot topics

Crown Road work & Youth Centre demolition



The work on the Crown Road continues in the Youth Centre (YC) area, [with trees again knocked](#) down despite the NGT Court order. The Crown was recently 're-marked', with ATDC claiming that the first markings by Road Service and bulldozed area were incorrect. This shifted the road about 5 meters into the remaining Youth Centre space. JCBs came on 22-24th July to knock down the pizza oven.

As the JCB started the demolition, residents came to observe and take pictures of any work done against NGT directives. As the Foundation has [threatened to take legal action](#) against anyone blocking the work, residents decided instead to support the Youth in protecting their resources. Throughout Sunday morning, people helped take down the two roofs over the pizza oven and brought all the materials into YC. Unfortunately, during the move the pizza oven itself broke, bringing a (temporary) end to the famous YC Pizza Nights.

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the road itself continues well within the original road marking.

Despite there being little community support for the AVFOs actions, there is often the same group of 50 Aurovilians who are present when demolitions take place. This leaves this group at a high risk of prosecution and helps feed the on-going narrative that it is only a small group of residents who are 'blocking development'.

It has been noted by legal professionals that the peaceful protests in Youth Centre and Darkali in December were successful in bringing the case to the NGT quickly, precisely because a large number of Aurovilians turned up and let their feelings be known. They advise that for legal cases to have a true impact wider support is necessary. Legal action can only go so far and if the development of Auroville is to be carried out in a way that takes account of the wishes of the Residents' Assembly, then Aurovilians themselves will have to act.



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In addition to removing without notice a [large section of road](#) between Bliss-Horizon last week, on 26th July a [section was also removed](#) on the road by Sante. In both areas, this means that 4 wheelers including school buses and ambulances are unable to pass and motorized 2 wheelers are redirected to the cycle paths, causing [potential hazards](#) to cyclists. Removing 2 important sections of road simultaneously and without any warning to the community indicates a lack of planning and awareness as the push to 'get things done' before the 15th August continues.

BCC given Office Order by AVFO to stop all project funds except maintenance

On 25th July, members of the BCC team and the Unity Fund were handed an [Office Order](#) demanding "Auroville Unity Fund/City Services to immediately stop all BCC disbursement of funds to all projects except maintenance with immediate effect". This would mean that all monthly transfers to all services would stop, which includes payments to non-Aurovilian/salaried workers, effectively crippling our internal operations and leaving hundreds of people without their needed income. It would also leave services without any budget for necessities such as water and electricity, internet, and any other non-maintenance expenses. Incidental and emergency requests for funds would also be stopped with immediate effect, both for services (repairs, material needs, etc) and for individuals (visa, health, etc).

Legal Update - NGT

Auroville residents Navroz and Sandeep have moved the National Green Tribunal again, regarding unauthorised destruction of Bliss and Darkali forest as well as building the crown road through a forest patch, by claiming *fait accompli**, prior to the Report of the Joint Committee.

Secretary has been served notice as directed by the Hon'ble tribunal and Secretary has been required to be present today, 27th July 2022, at the Tribunal.

**fait accompli* literally means 'a job done' and refers, in legal context, to the situation in which something is done with dubious legality and is then presented as the status quo from which next steps can be taken.

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All final submissions for the court cases regarding Office Order 491 constituting the ATDC, Outreach Media, and Working Committee were handed in on Wednesday, 20th July. The community now awaits the judge's verdict on all three cases. There is no timeline for the verdict.

If you are able to, please consider contributing to the legal fund, as it is expected that the recourse to the court will need to go on until a proper balance of powers is struck between the Residents' Assembly and the Office of the Secretary and/or the Governing Board. You can send an email to evolvingalaxy@gmail.com for contribution details.

Delhi Ashram rejects funding offer for 150th

As mentioned in Bulletin 13 dated April 15th 2022, the funding route of the proposed Ministry of Culture government grants for the 150th birthday celebrations was changed unexpectedly.

The Sri Aurobindo Centres in India, Auroville and both Ashrams (Pondicherry and New Delhi), were informed that the Secretary of the AVFO, Dr Jayanti Ravi, would now be the funding coordinator, and the grant payments would be routed through her office. Moreover, the funding would not come in the form of a simple grant but a more complex financial arrangement involving bond schemes. For full details see [here](#) for an extract from Bulletin 13.

In the past week, The Delhi Ashram sent a [letter](#) to the AVFO's Accounts Officer Mr Sathyanarayan, politely turning down the offer of funding from the Ministry of Culture, stating that "we will be content with whatever we will be able to do with the resources of the Ashram and any other funds we are able to raise from other sources".

Other Updates and Information

Working Groups of the Residents' Assembly Community Meet & Greet

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community-wide meet and greet on **Saturday July 30th, 4.30pm-6.30pm at Unity Pavilion**. They stated that the intention of the meeting is to “introduce ourselves, and listen to whatever you would like to share with us”.

The ‘working groups’ appointed by the AVFO also recently had a meeting on July 26th for “Community Support” to update the “community” on new projects. Unlike the Working Groups of the RA, this was not in fact a “community” meeting as [invitations](#) were only sent to a select group of residents and supporters.

TDC of RA Introduction to the Community

On 19th July the TDC of the RA sent a [letter of introduction](#) to the community. They stated that “the events of the last few months have made it clear that appropriate planning and implementation are indispensable”. They also gave a brief update of the work that they had carried up until now, which has included meeting with and presenting to the National Green Tribunal’s (NGT) Joint Committee.

New media initiative

A [new media initiative](#) has been announced which aims to “ensure that the voice of the Residents’ Assembly and its legitimate working groups are represented within internal communication platforms and towards any external agency or media platforms”. [Auroville Media Liaison](#) was launched on July 23rd and can be accessed via [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#).

The new media initiative is endorsed by the Working Groups of the Residents’ Assembly and is an official subgroup of the WCom.

AV Council room presence still maintained after 25 days

Since 2nd July, Aurovilians have kept a continuous presence in the Auroville Council room in the Town Hall building, following an [email](#), sent on 1st July by Lieve Claes of AVFO’s appointed ACUR (Town Hall) management, demanding that the AV Council vacate their meeting room and desks with less than 24 hours notice.

The presence in the AV Council meeting room has so far been held by a small number of committed Aurovilians. More people are needed. If you can spare even one or two hours please email evolvingalaxy@gmail.com or pass by the Council room to sign up. The AVC meeting room is a vital resource for the

Please note: The judge said that if any coercive action is taken against the people holding the vigil, it will be taken into account in his decision.

Action needed

- **Come to the meeting of the RA Working Groups!** : Our RA-selected Working Groups are meeting the community this coming Saturday, 30th of July, 4.30-6.30 at Unity Pavillion.
- **Call for financial support:** If you would like to donate towards legal and delegation fees please email evolvingalaxy@gmail.com.
- **Change your email out of @auroville.org.in:** If you or your friends & family have not yet done so, please send us an alternative email as the new @auroville.org.in administrators have blocked the bulletin from reaching Aurovilian inboxes.
- **Come hold vigil at Town Hall:** Help make sure that the Auroville Council room remains available for the Working Groups of the Residents' Assembly. Email evolvingalaxy@gmail.com to sign up.

Media & Other Links

- **New Media Initiative :** Auroville Media Liaison was launched this week, see above for further links and details

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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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