

## ***Auroville Bulletin 3: A Summary of what is going on in Auroville Today***

27th January 2022

### **Recent events update:**

#### **RAD RESULTS - 89% VOTE TO PAUSE**

- **RAD RESULTS** - In the highest turnout ever in a Resident's Assembly Decision-making (RAD) process, 89% of voters voted in favour of the question of whether to "pause all clearing, infrastructure laying and permanent construction work on the Right of Ways of Crown, Radials and Outer Ring in order to enable the community to define a way forward for Auroville's development"

**The outcome of this historic vote is a clear indication that the majority of Aurovilians recognise the value and importance of defining a way forward in developing Auroville together, rather than a process of a top-down force dictating it. The outcome of this historic vote is a clear indication that the majority of active Aurovilians recognise the value and importance of defining a way forward in developing Auroville together rather than in a process of top down force dictating it.**

How the Office of the Auroville Foundation & Town Development Council (ATDC) respond to this remains to be seen, as we await the National Green Tribunal outcome. Previously, the ATDC [stated](#) that they would **not** abide by the RA's decision. We would like to remind you that the ATDC is currently operating with a skeleton team of a mere three members, only one of whom was actually selected by the Residents Assembly. The other two members were appointed only for an interim period of three months which have now since elapsed. According to the standing order, a fully functioning ATDC should include 15 members (13 selected by the RA, one selected by the WC and one selected by the GB). Therefore this current skeleton ATDC has no authority to go against the near unanimous vote by the RA, and if it does, it will be in clear violation of our community processes. We would like all of us to be aware that the ATDC is currently operating with a reduced team of a mere three members, only one of whom was actually selected by the Residents' Assembly (RA). According to the Standing order NO.1/2019 dated 4 the June 2019 (Replacing the Standing Order No. 6/2011 dated 01-05-2011), a fully functioning ATDC should include 15 members (13 selected by the RA, one selected by the Working Committee and one selected by the Governing Board). Therefore this current ATDC is not constituted in accordance with the Standing Order approved by the previously Secretary, and prima facie

Gazetted, and therefore its decisions cannot be regarded as valid: An invalidly constituted ATDC has no authority to go against the near unanimous vote by the RA, and if it does, it will be in clear violation of our community processes.

For a quick analysis of how this result compares to previous RADs, see [here](#) and [here](#)

- **RAM to discuss the Selection Process:** FRIDAY 28th (tomorrow) is the next RA Meeting on the working groups selection process. The participation levels in the last RAD shows that the RA is in the process of reviving, but one vote in a RAD isn't enough.
- Tomorrow, there is a RA meeting about a very crucial topic: the Selection Process for our working groups. Considering the recent events and the actions by some members of our working groups, it is vital that as a community we work together to ensure that our working groups function to represent the residents assembly as a whole rather than enable groupism. There are certain key safety features that need to be included in the selection process in order to safeguard our community processes going forward. Your involvement in this process is needed.
- The meeting Considering the recent events and the actions by some members of our working groups, it is vital that, as a community, we work together to ensure that our working groups function to represent the Residents Assembly as a whole rather than enable groupism. There are certain key safety features that need to be included in the selection process in order to safeguard our community processes going forward. Your involvement in this process is needed.
- The meeting will be held tomorrow at **Unity Pavilion from 4-6pm**. A group has worked on a proposal which they will present to the community. This RA Meeting will then be followed by a feedback period, during which feedback on the proposal will be sought.  
Only 70 people are allowed in-person (Covid restrictions), so please write to RAS ([raservice@auroville.org.in](mailto:raservice@auroville.org.in)) and come early if you would like to be present. In case you can't attend in-person, please attend by Zoom. [Here is the zoom link](#). We are also trying to organise multiple places in Auroville where people can watch the RA meeting together. One such projection point will be the Language Lab, and other spaces are being arranged.

## Other recent events update:

- **Outreach Media:** FAMC [sent their response](#) to the Office of the Auroville Foundation.
- **Governing Board meeting update:** The Governing Board (GB) have not yet provided meeting minutes to the community, however they did make a press release which was the [basis of this article](#). In the press release they state that the GB 'unanimously reaffirmed its stand on continuing with the expeditious

implementation of the Auroville township as per the Auroville Master Plan, and invited all to harmoniously collaborate in its execution'. We remind you as per the last bulletin, that the wider community was excluded from sharing their views on the matter with the GB.

Notes from the meeting between 5 community members and the GB were [published on Auronet](#). Aurovilian Youth Maël [gave this radio interview](#) about [the letter](#) he wrote to the GB.

- **Declaration form:** The Working Committee published a note on Auronet to say that the Secretary had 'clarified' that the [declaration form](#) that many people had been asked to sign to receive their visas 'was a pilot/draft to get a pulse of what will be the most appropriate version. The declarations signed by about 20 people so far stand cancelled'  
This leaves many questions unanswered about the intention of this 'pilot/draft'. It is also important to note that at no point was the community asked for an opinion on the form in order to garner a pulse. It is also important to note that at no point was the community asked for an opinion on the form in order to garner a pulse.
- The [Dreamweaving process](#) has begun!

## List of ongoing petitions for reference and links to sign:

### Collective statements:

- Statement on Peace in Auroville: <https://forms.gle/WRkXun3koJwbZ9FF6>
- Statement on media and press releases: <https://forms.gle/cx5QRBTy8SF4bm578>
- Support the RAS to continue their work: <https://forms.gle/P9t2RfhV8TdRdJuXA>
- Against the new Declaration form: <https://forms.gle/veaohWoBo6v5tXTx5>
- Change.org petition, "SOS from Auroville":  
[https://www.change.org/p/prime-minister-of-india-sos-from-auroville-the-city-of-dawn-needs-your-help-urgently?utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=custom\\_url&recruited\\_by\\_id=d40343e0-5a75-11ec-9972-93dd67c73b4c](https://www.change.org/p/prime-minister-of-india-sos-from-auroville-the-city-of-dawn-needs-your-help-urgently?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=d40343e0-5a75-11ec-9972-93dd67c73b4c)

We are very happy to announce that this change.org petition has crossed over 51,000 signatures and is still increasing daily.

### Writing actions to take:

- Voice your opinion by writing to the Auroville Council and Entry Board regarding the violence enacted by Aurovilians at Youth Center (emails: [avcouncil@auroville.org.in](mailto:avcouncil@auroville.org.in), [entryboard@auroville.org.in](mailto:entryboard@auroville.org.in)).
- Write to the Working Committee, kindly requesting them to find out more about the complaint that the RRO is acting on (email: [workingcom@auroville.org.in](mailto:workingcom@auroville.org.in)).

- Write to the Matrimandir executives, alerting them that the Matrimandir gardens is not the appropriate venue for meetings and discussions with working groups and others (email: [matrimandir@auroville.org.in](mailto:matrimandir@auroville.org.in)).

### **A selection of recent news articles:**

- *“Auroville and the Crown road project: Conflict in paradise”*, by Sarosh Bana, published on 18th January 2022 in National Herald India: <https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/environment/auroville-and-the-crown-road-project-conflict-in-paradise>
- *“Bulldozers, violence and politics crack an Indian dream of utopia”*, by Hannah Ellis-Petersen, published on 16th January 2022 in The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/16/bulldozers-violence-and-politics-crack-an-indian-dream-of-utopia>
- *“Bulldozing a dream? Auroville’s importance as an experiment in alternative living”*, by Ashish Kothari, published on 9th January 2022 in the Wallstreet International magazine: <https://wsimag.com/economy-and-politics/68234-bulldozing-a-dream>
- *“Why Auroville Needs to Be a Model of Exemplary Development Practice”*, by Lakshmi Venugopal and Tejaswini Mistri-Kapoor, published on 24th December 2021 in The Wire: <https://thewire.in/urban/debate-auroville-master-plan>

### **Other references:**

- [Recent letter](#) from the AVI Board (3rd letter)
- [IAC’s Statement](#) to the Governing Board

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 - you are welcome to write to [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com).

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

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.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list or know someone who would like to be added, please email [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com)