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# Auroville Bulletin 31

**BCC Takeover, Register of Residents, Update on AVC Secretary**

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A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

August 9th 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

## Register of Residents

On 1st August, The AVFO sent out [a new massbulletin](#) regarding the Register of Residents, in which they urge the community to fill out their form before 15th August. They note that “15th Aug would be a final date for all those who may have missed out filling with the form , and also for those who may not have filled up all required fields with meaningful, accurate, true to your knowledge data.”

Those who filled in the form digitally have been instructed to rectify missing fields; for paper forms no information is given. The email ends with the statement that “there will be legal consequences and ramifications for failing to fill up the forms by the coming 15th Aug.”

The WCom of the Residents’ Assembly has [responded](#) to this email, stating that:

“Although there are no direct legal consequences that can be envisioned at this time, the present actions are keeping with the attempts to browbeat and harass the Residents of Auroville and make life difficult for those who don't comply. We are awaiting clarity on the RoR and its maintenance from the courts but in the meantime our suggestion to residents is to fill out the basic required fields as - having consulted with the lawyers - our conclusion is that this is not worth resisting at this time.”

## BCC Takeover

Last week, the BCC was seemingly replaced by a [new body appointed](#) by the AVFO ‘FAMC’ called the ‘Budget Coordination Service’ (BCS). The announcement listed 8 members supposedly willing and capable to take up this work. In the intervening week, it has become clear that at least 3 people on this list were not even asked if they were willing to step in, and that currently only a few members are left. It is unclear whether this ‘BCS’ is functioning and/or able to take up any of the many vital functions of the BCC, or whether it is able to execute these functions with the skill and care that the current BCC team has shown to the community.

The RA’s FAMC [responded](#) to the email appointing the AVFO’s BCS , advising residents “to disregard its contents in light of the fact that forming such groups

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elected working groups before reacting to such messages/orders.”

The BCC had a joint meeting with the RA-selected Working Groups on Monday, 1st August. They also met with the AVFO ‘FAMC’ to try and understand the role of the BCS, however no clarity was reached. BCC continues its work despite the lack of clarity, and in the face of pressure to either ‘collaborate’ or be replaced.

## Disbursement of Funds

Last week, the BCC and Unity Fund received Office Order 495 signed by the AVFO accounts officer, B.S. Sathyanarayan. The order instructed them to “immediately stop all BCC disbursement of funds to all projects except maintenance with immediate effect”. The reason given was that BCC had not handed over a list of people who receive maintenance, nor data of disbursements over the last 3 months. BCC disbursements are routed through the Unity Fund, whose executives were willing to comply with the Office Order and who had, unbeknownst to the BCC, already sent the data. Wary of the consequences to the community, the BCC also sent this data the same day.

Budgets were disbursed Monday 1st August following communication to Unity Fund from the AVFO Accounts Officers, Sathyanaran (who is also a member of the AVFO ‘FAMC’), temporarily allowing disbursements. Unity Fund executives, Otto and Rathinam, wrote to the BCC asserting that transfers would be done for August. BCC has received no further communication from either Mr. Sathyanarayan or the AVFO ‘FAMC’ regarding BCC’s authority to order disbursement. Office Order 495 has not been revoked.

## AV Council Secretary Update

Since the events on 28th July when Sathiya, the Secretary to the AV Council, was physically assaulted by Lieve, the AVFO appointed ACUR (Town Hall) Executives, there have been several attempts to register a [First Information Report](#) (FIR) . Despite the clear evidence in the [video footage](#) that Lieve was using unnecessary force against Sathiya, the police have refused to register a FIR against Lieve and have only allowed an entry into the [Community Service Register](#) (CSR). Even this entry into the CSR was permitted only after the intervention of a lawyer on Sathiya's behalf. It is not clear why the police are showing reluctance in allowing an FIR to be registered. The video footage of the incident has since gone viral with more than 10 million views and was featured in a number of local news reports. Without any context of the current situation, it was interpreted by some as having racial aspect against Sathiya. To help set the record straight, Sathiya gave an [interview](#) in which she explains the current

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Community members have been holding a vigil (now continuing into the 6th week) to ensure that the Auroville Council room stays at the service of the Working Groups of the Residents' Assembly. The Entry Board, Housing Board, Auroville Council, and BCC continue to have their weekly meetings in this room thanks to these efforts. **If you want to contribute to this vigil with your presence, please email [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com).**

## Loan Group 'reconstituted'

In a letter dated 06.08.22, the AVFO's 'FAMC' [announced](#) that they had 'reconstituted' the Loan Group. The previous members were Otto (FS), Ratinam(FS), Ranjith (FAMC of the RA) , Palani (FAMC of the RA) and Bharathy (Housing Board). The letter stated that Ranjith and Palani had been removed and replaced by Ocean Bekker and AVFO accounts officer B.S. Sathyanarayan from the AVFO's 'FAMC'. The letter also stated that Bharathy, who was recently selected by the community to join the WCom of the RA has been replaced by Rima Das (Housing Board).

## Entry Board, RAS and AVCouncil locked out of Auroville's Google Workspace

Since 6th August, the Entry Board, Residents' Assembly Service, and the Auroville Council have lost access to their @auroville.org.in inboxes and Google Drives. Despite official requests for clarification from the AVFO, which is currently in charge of the inboxes, no clarity has been given on why these vital services are locked out of their accounts.

To contact them, please write (from a non-auroville.org.in account) to:

Auroville Council: [avcouncil@auroville.services](mailto:avcouncil@auroville.services)

Residents' Assembly Service: [raservice@auroville.services](mailto:raservice@auroville.services)

Entry Board Service: [entryboard@auroville.services](mailto:entryboard@auroville.services)

Entry Board have sent a [massbulletin](#) to inform the community the the entry service is not currently contactable by email.

# Other Updates and Information

## Detailed email sent from AVFO's 'WCom' to AVI Centers

On the 1st August, the AVFO's 'WCom' [sent an email](#) to the centres of Auroville International with an invitation for a renewed call to join Auroville in their respective nations via social media, TV, publications and others. The email mentions a 6-month package with accommodation, work, food, and sessions on Integral Yoga, Auroville, and an overview of the city, guided by Aurovilian mentors – for a monthly contribution.

[The email](#) continues to narrate a history of recent events that singles out a section of Aurovilians as being 'anti-development', ignoring the continued takeover of all Auroville groups and functions by authoritarian means. It also offered details not yet officially declared to Aurovillians themselves, such as:

- private landowners on the Crown having been contacted and expressing their willingness to exchange land;
- the creation of a bicycle path across the entire 4.4km Crown, to be ready by 15th August (citing that the stretch through Darkali will be prepared last);
- the declaration of a housing project aimed at inviting 1000 new Aurovilians named "The 1000-bed project".

These assertions contradict the fact that the Joint Committee has not yet prepared its report for the National Green Tribunal; and SAIER staff quarters as a housing asset for Aurovilians was taken by the Foundation Office, while Aurovillians who were waiting for assigned housing there have not yet been offered other housing options.

Mael Shanti, a child of Auroville and member of the RA-selected Working Committee, responded to the AVI centres [with a thoughtful response](#), reminding the AVI members that it is not so much development that residents oppose, as the authoritarian and rigid means by which development is imposed. Additionally, the WCom of the RA released the [email](#) that they have sent in reply, which countered the many inaccuracies.

Work on the Crown Road has continued this week. There are [2 sections of road](#) that have been dug up, the stretch between Bliss & Horizon and a section by Sante Health Centre and Arka. The old, so-called 'substandard', roadblocks have been taken away to be laid in several places across Auroville, including [inside Aurodam](#) community - where Sindhuja (member of the AVFO's 'ATDC') lives. Aurodam community members were not consulted about the plan to lay a new road there.

## 15th August Sacred Fire Offering & Light Mandala

For 15th August 150th Birthday Anniversary & 75th Independence of India there will be an event organised by community members. A Light Mandala & Fire of Invocation (Shubh Agni) – which will be a collective offering to Sri Aurobindo & Mother India and an expression of our gratitude and our aspiration to embody the true Spirit of Auroville.

**The Inuksuk behind the Tibetan Pavilion between 6 and 9 pm.**

If it is possible for you to make a contribution to help the event to go ahead, please give what you are able to FS account 251257. To offer assistance in setting up the event, please send an email to [av4unity@gmail.com](mailto:av4unity@gmail.com).

## Land acquisition and land exchange - Paul Vincent

Paul Vincent Baptiste, an Auroville community member with extensive knowledge of land matters relating to Auroville, has written an article about the current land situation..

He states that the building of the Crown Road before proper acquisition of all lands on the Crown has led to a steep increase in land prices. Where before prices were relatively fixed at 1.25 crore per acre, now “land owners are fixing the price of their lands at Rs 2,5 crore per acre or 1 acre of their lands against 4 acres of the Foundation lands outside the Master Plan.” This means that extremely valuable lands on the beach side, such as Eternity and Sri Ma community, could be in danger of being exchanged well below their true value as the Secretary rushes to complete the Crown project.

Paul Vincent also points out that “the GOI has never purchased any lands of Auroville. All lands have been purchased over the years with funds provided by good-willed friends of Auroville from India, from the world over, and to some extent by

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For the full report of Paul Vincent, [please see here](#).

## AVFO's 'ATDC' second Announcement to the Community

The AVFO's 'ATDC' released a [second announcement](#) outlining their new institutional structure. They mention that major parts of building the city have been outsourced to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). They state that project holders who deviate from the Masterplan will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and that permissions for existing buildings may be revoked. The announcement mentions that internal fencing within residential communities will be removed in the immediate future. Additionally, upcoming projects will not ask for feedback from the community on development guidelines or new neighbours but all other feedback would be welcome.

NOCs will no longer be issued to individuals or units, instead 'Approval Certificates' will be issued by the Foundation. The outline how assets marked for demolition which lie in the path of planned development (so-called 'red assets'), will be managed, however their guidelines do not mention how buildings will be managed that were built before NOCs were introduced, approximately 15 years ago.

## Corrections and Clarifications

1. In Bulletin #29 it was stated that the Youth Centre Pizza Oven accidentally broke apart when the team was moving it. However it appears that the oven was deliberately broken by the YC team in order to salvage the material for a new oven to be made.
2. In Bulletin #30 the AvCouncil was omitted from the list of RA Working Groups who were present during the 'Meet & Greet' session.

## Action needed

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**Support the Light Mandala - August 10th event!** If it is possible for you to make a contribution to help the event to go ahead, please give what you are able to FS account 251257. For volunteering, please send an email to [av4unity@gmail.com](mailto:av4unity@gmail.com).

- **Stay updated through the RAS Telegram Massbulletin:** Please use [this link](#) to join the Massbulletin telegram group.
- **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 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](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

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