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Auroville Bulletin 32

Victory in the High Court for WCom & ATDC cases, Emergency RA Meeting 4.30pm today

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

August 13th 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

Legal Update

The three petitions that were awaiting judgment in the Madras High Court have come to a conclusion. You can find the full court verdict [here](#). Below is a short overview of the outcome. A more detailed report on the legal and practical implications of the judgment will be shared as soon as possible.

Madras High Court - Working Committee of the RA is reinstated - The WCom petition of Hemant Lamba has been allowed. The Governing Board is not allowed to get involved in appointing the Working Committee, which is strictly the jurisdiction of the RA. Seetharaman's order was quashed*, therefore the WCom of the RA was reinstated as the legitimate body (Hemant, Sauro, Chali, Mael, Aravinda, Bharathy & Valli).

All four authorities of the Foundation are directed to abstain from taking any policy decisions until the Register of Residents has been updated, and the Secretary of the AVFO is directed to update the RoR immediately.

The Auroville Foundation is directed to work strictly with the approval and collaboration of the Residents' Assembly along with all other authorities of the Foundation, and not separately from them.

*Quashed: Rejected as invalid by legal procedure.

Madras High Court - Office Order 491 is quashed - The petition of Krishna Devanandan is allowed. Office Order 491 regarding the ATDC has been quashed and any further policy decisions are disallowed until the RoR has been updated and proper approval of all authorities including the Residents' Assembly has been obtained.

Madras High Court - Outreach Media case is dismissed - The case of Outreach Media was dismissed due to a lack of locus standi, a legal technical issue that means that the petitioner is not directly affected and thus cannot come to court with the matter. The real affected executive, or the appointing authority (i.e. FAMC of the RA or the RA), must come to court.

National Green Tribunal - Next hearing planned - The latest National Green

23rd August.

The FAMC case is postponed until the first week of September.

Dreamweavers Report

The Dreamweaving Team has shared a [statement](#) to the community regarding the initiative, clarifying that currently the work Aurovilians and Vastu Shilpa Consulting had done together is no longer being pursued by the AVFO. There is also an invitation to a panel discussion, Q and A, and film screening about the Dreamweaving initiative that will happen in late August.

Auroville Earth Institute - Report on Quality of Crown Road Work

Satprem Maïni of the Auroville Earth Institute, UNESCO Chair of Earthen Architecture, has written an extensive report detailing the quality of work done on the Crown Road by the contractor of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), India. It was sent to the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, Governing Board members, and Dr. Karan Singh, amongst others. [The accompanying email](#) outlines Satprem's history in Auroville, his understanding of the history of development here, and questions the means used to develop the Crown by the Secretary and her supporters, in light of Auroville's ideals.

The report gives an extensive technical assessment of the quality of the materials used and the work done. Satprem's report concludes on the following highlights:

- The original blocks of the Crown Road (which were taken out at various locations) are stronger by 14% and thicker than the new ones by 4.1 mm. The evaluation of the existing road shows that it is still in good condition after 10 and 14 years.
- The old road was made by use of GOI funds - removal of the old pavers is a waste of government money worth 97.78 Lakhs Rs.
- The contractor does not follow the Indian standard published by the Indian Roads Congress and the Ministry of Surface Transport (Roads Wing), using incorrect materials, sub-grade paver blocks for the intended purpose of the road, and techniques that are either not applied properly, or not appropriate for an area that experiences heavy monsoon rains.
- No infrastructure details are given on current plans for the Crown that the CPWD is using. This means that there are no provisions for future laying of

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- The design for the road is highly inappropriate for the climatic conditions of Auroville, and the road will be “unliveable during the hot season because of the heat caused by the sun radiation.”
- The current plans do not take into account accurate land elevations and slopes, which are essential for creation of a road such as this.
- Work is not done properly, leading to consistently [misaligned kerbs](#) and [uneven paving](#).

The report also gives an overview of the events that happened in the Youth Centre between 3th-10th December, including witness testimonials, as well as video and image documentation.

For a copy of the full report, please write to the Auroville Earth Institute, earthinstitute@auroville.org.in.

BCC Update

In the last bulletin, it was mentioned that BCC was under pressure from the AVFO's 'FAMC' to collaborate or be dissolved. It appears clear now that the AVFO's 'FAMC' wishes both for BCC members to collaborate with them to ensure continuity, and to dissolve the BCC.

The AVFO's 'FAMC' wrote to the BCC stating that "All assets in Auroville, financial as well as physical, belong to the Auroville Foundation. AVF has a duty to have full oversight of all transactions. Practically this oversight is carried through the FAMC". They added that the work of the BCC therefore "has to be done in close collaboration with FAMC". They stated that BCC and FAMC would have to "have collaboration meetings every month to go through changes in allocations and planned transfers" and that the administration of contributions, which BCC has been managing to date, would be taken up directly under the FAMC.

The AVFO's 'FAMC' further requested that individual BCC members confirm, via their personal email ids, their willingness to join the BCS team by Monday August 8th, when the BCS would be formed. Note that this date for the formation of the BCS comes more than a week after the AVFO's 'FAMC' announced the constitution of the BCS team and its members (July 30th).

The BCC replied that they well understand their duty of transparency not only to the AVFO but the whole Auroville community, and highlighted that "During the last years BCC increased the transparency through the improvement of service to the

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BCC, and would like more clarity on the BCS to understand any basis for collaboration.

They received a short reply stating "We thought we had expressed ourselves clearly. BCS has been created by a new office order. Once established, it will take over all work of BCC, which then will cease to exist". On August 9th, they reiterated their request for individual BCC members to come forward to join the BCS. So far no BCC member has responded.

Other Updates and Information

Upcoming Emergency Meeting of the Residents Assembly

The Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly has called for an emergency meeting **this Saturday, 12th of August, 4.30-6.30pm at Kalabhumi**. In their [background note](#) to the invitation, the RA WCom shares that they are recommending an Emergency Residents' Assembly Decision-making process (RAD). The RAD will ask the RA to decide on whether it wants to reject or accept the slew of Office Orders that the Secretary has been issuing in her attempts to take over internal Auroville organisational bodies and units, as "these orders encroach on the authority and space of the Residents' Assembly to manage the day to day affairs of Auroville, as was envisaged in the formulation of the Act."

The [background document](#) also gives an overview of the role of the different powers of the Auroville Foundation Act (1988), and outlines why the present situation asks for our urgent, collective energy.

Please come to the meeting this Saturday, 4.30-6.30 at Kalabhumi to discuss the next steps we can take as a community!



Working Committee, FAMC, AV Council
and TDC would like to meet you for an

EMERGENCY MEETING KALABHUMI

Saturday 13th from 4:30 to 6:30

**See you all at 4:30
in Kalabhumi**

There are short informational videos available about the upcoming meeting, which can be found here:

[English version](#)

[Tamil version](#)

[Korean version](#)

[Spanish version](#)

15th August Light Mandala & Sacred Fire - volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with the 15th August evening event being held at the Inuksuk behind the Tibetan Pavilion - '[Light Mandala & Sacred Fire](#)'. If you would like to help, please email av4unity@gmail.com. Donations are also appreciated at FS account 251257. Please see [here](#) for a video with information about the event.



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The poster features a purple lotus flower in the background. The text is written in a white, elegant script font. At the bottom, there are three logos: the Auroville RA Residents' Assembly logo, a small portrait of Sri Aurobindo with the text 'SRI AUROBINDO ALL LIFE IS YOGA 1872 2022 150', and the 75 Years of Independence logo with the Indian national flag.

Light Mandala
Sacred Fire + Offering

Monday, 15th of August
Inuksuk, behind Tibetan Pavillion, 6pm onwards

Auroville
RA
Residents'
Assembly

SRI AUROBINDO
ALL LIFE IS YOGA
1872 2022 150
Sri Aurobindo

75
YEARS OF
INDEPENDENCE

Email from the illegally appointed 'ATDC' regarding stewardships

In [a mass bulletin](#) dated 9th of August 2022, the illegally appointed 'ATDC' inform the community that in their opinion, "ATDC's role as the Planning and Development Body, being the Prescribed Authority as per the Master Plan, supercedes the role of all stewards of all land vested in the Auroville Foundation." The implications of this statement are unclear, but the email ends with the notice that "We request all stewards of land parcels to cooperate with the development work without obstruction."

TDC of the RA report on NGT & Joint Committee

The Town Development Committee of the Residents' Assembly is anticipating the release of the report of the Joint Committee, and has shared [their own report](#) in which they re-emphasize the decision of the RA to pause all work on the Crown. Work being currently carried out on the Crown in all sections of Auroville is in violation of this decision. They note that this is especially important for the stretch of road through Darkali Forest, where many trees and water catchments are at risk.

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“We wish that concerned Aurovilians visit the large and unplanned clearing and de-facto highway that is being installed in Bliss / Youth Centre [...] to see and decide if Darkali should fall to the same fate.”

AVFO's 'FAMC' 'closes' the new Auroville Media initiative

A [new media initiative](#) was announced 3 weeks ago, 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](#).

In their report in News and Notes dated 6th of August 2022, the GB FAMC under ‘Units and Trust Issues’ announced that “**Auroville Media Liaison Service**, an activity under Auroville Arts Service, was closed.” This unilateral decision is another attempt to silence the voices of Aurovilians who do not align themselves with the recent actions of the AVFO.

Action needed

- **Come to the meeting of the RA-Selected Working Groups this Saturday, 13th of August, 4.30-6.30:** The Residents’ Assembly selected Working Groups will come together to give an update and explain the current situation.
- **Join the RAS Telegram group :** For announcements of the RAS, please join their Telegram group (admin send messages only). Click on the link on your smartphone and Telegram will open automatically: <https://t.me/+i-7Fo2G0jwY4Y2ZI>
- **Help out with the Light Mandala for the 15th of August :** Volunteers are needed for this event for flower arrangement, refreshments, etc. Please reach out to av4unity@gmail.com if you are willing to help, or donate to FS account 251257.
- **Come see the Crown work at Youth Centre :** As the TDC of the RA has

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implemented in Darkali forest.

- **Call for financial support:** If you would like to donate towards legal and delegation fees please email evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com.

Media & Other Links

- **Anan from Eternity interviewed on Auroville (Tamil only) :** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=javovVtsHZYt>
- **Hindu article on Madras High Court Judgment**
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/auroville-residents-welcome-high-court-ruling/article65762731.ece>

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.

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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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