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# Auroville Bulletin 35

RAD result are in, MHC Appeal today, Illegitimate groups  
refuse to accept judgment

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A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

August 26th 2022

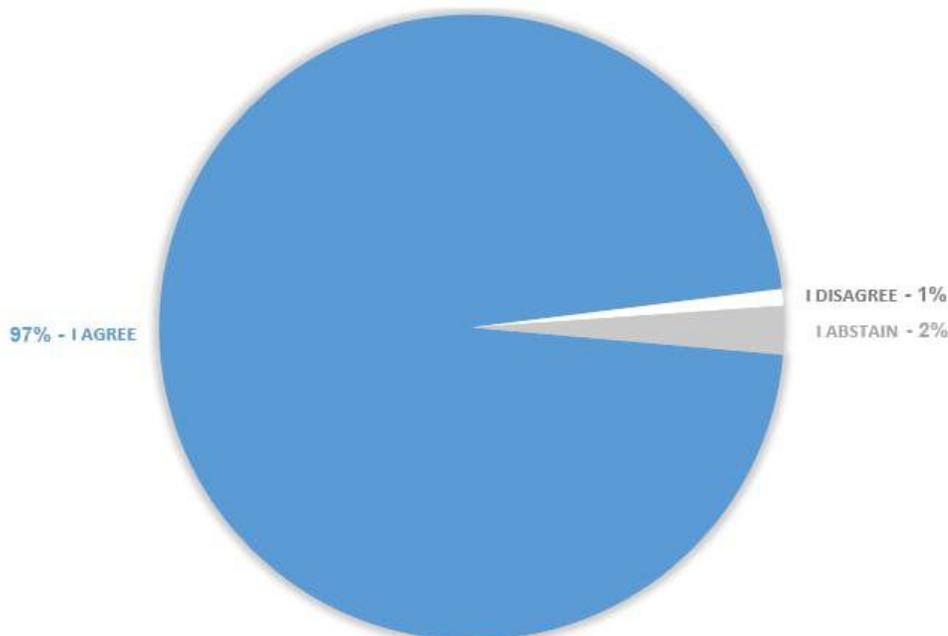
*Note: There are important actions to take at the end of each Bulletin, if you are reading on your phone you may need to click 'see more' to view the entire bulletin.*

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

# Hot topics

## The Emergency RAD Results are in!

**“We, members of the Residents’ Assembly of the Auroville Foundation, agree to pass a resolution that states that we, as one of the authorities of the Auroville Foundation as affirmed by the honorable Madras High Court, reject the Office Orders, Standing Orders and any other form of orders that have been made and may be made in future by the Office of the Secretary and her appointees without consultation with or approval by the Residents’ Assembly, and affirm our support for the groups and appointees by the RA.”**



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overwhelming 97% (1122 Aurovillians) of the Aurovillians who participated voted in favour of the resolution. 2% (29 Aurovillians) abstained, and only 1% (10 Aurovillians) rejected the resolution.

The number of participants in this emergency RAD (a total of 1161 Aurovillians) is three times the average participation in RADs for the past 6 years. 49% of all Aurovillians eligible to vote (2385 total) participated in this emergency RAD despite the fact that many Aurovillians were temporarily out of station, or unable to cast their vote due to the takeover of auroville.org email addresses. This RAD also saw nearly 500 participants physically casting their vote. You can find [the full proposal of the RAD here](#).

## Legal update

**AVFO appeals the Madras High Court judgment** - The AVFO has submitted an appeal to the Madras High Court challenging [the judgment](#) made by the Court on 12th of August, 2022. The first hearing will be today, 26th of August.

**AVFO appeals the National Green Tribunal judgment** - The AVFO has also appealed the judgment of the NGT dated 28th April, 2022. For the Tribunal, the appellate Court is the Supreme Court of India. The appeal is listed for the 29th of August.

**FIRs on Aurovillians** - The charges levied by the Undersecretary, Mr. Srinivasmurthy, against 6 community members will be discussed next in Court on the 29th of August.

**NGT Additional Petition** - The additional petition filed by Navroz will be heard again on the 29th of August. The hearing will include a consideration of the recent report of the Joint Committee (see below).

**With the initiation of appeals to both the High Court and the Supreme Court, plus the continuation of the NGT and the FAMC case, there is an urgent need for financial support for legal and delegation fees. If you are able to help please email [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com).**

## AVFO groups ignore Madras High Court judgment - RA WGs respond

The recent [judgment](#) from the Madras High Court has confirmed that AVFO's WCom

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from the Governing Board, upholding the results of the WCom RAD. For the ATDC, the judge has ruled that “any reconstitution of the Auroville Town Development Council can be done only after consultation with the Residents' Assembly.” (para 64)

However, both the illegitimate Wcom and ATDC appear to believe that they have not been removed from office. Anu, Arun, Joseba, Partha, Selvaraj, Srimoyi & Arun posted a [correspondence](#) between themselves and the WCom on Auronet in which they repeat their previous position that Chali, Hemant and Sauro have been removed from the WCom, and that the recent Selection Process is not valid. As for the ATDC, their 16th August [update](#) on Auronet stated that they were “the duly appointed and legal Auroville Town Development Council”.

Since the judgment, the RA-appointed WCom & TDC have sent letters to these illegitimate groups, informing them to vacate the offices that they are occupying in Town Hall and return all the materials associated with their work (see [here](#) for the letter from WCom, & [here](#) for the letter from TDC). The AVFO has refused to accept the registered letter from the WCom, and it was returned unopened. A copy of the letter was then attached to the Working Committee office door.

The legitimate TDC of the RA has also written to the [CPWD](#), [ACUR](#) (Town Hall) management & the [NGT Joint Committee](#) to inform them of the outcome. The FAMC also [wrote](#) to the GB FAMC to inform them that they do not have any authority to act as they were not selected or appointed by the Residents' Assembly. The illegitimate WCom & TDC were given until 24th August to vacate.

## Joint Committee of the NGT delivers its report

The Joint Committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal to find a way to implement the Crown Road while minimizing damage to the environment, has delivered [its report](#). The report allows the Crown Road to go through Darkali forest, in the formation of a perfect circle. It decreases the size of the road from 16.7m to 9.10m width. This will reduce the number of trees to be cut from 575 to 321.

The report is based on a very limited assessment of the Crown area and focuses on Darkali Forest only. A more detailed analysis of the report will be shared as soon as possible.

## Secretary's letter regarding the RoR

On the 19th of August 2022, the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation sent around [a letter](#) via mass bulletin informing Aurovilians of a final deadline for completion of the

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on to state that “those who still don’t submit the forms as mentioned in this letter will not find their names in the updated RoR.”

While the Auroville Foundation Act states that maintaining the RoR is the responsibility of the Secretary, only the Residents’ Assembly is responsible for admissions and terminations of persons to the RoR. Therefore the Secretary’s threat does not appear to have any legal basis. It has, however, been noted by the WCom in a recent [announcement](#) that “although there are no direct legal consequences that can be envisioned at this time, the present actions are in keeping with the attempts to browbeat and harass the Residents of Auroville and make life difficult for those who don't comply.”

As it is now a part of the [judgment](#) from the Madras High Court, all community members who have not yet done so, must complete the form by 31st August at the latest. If you do not wish to complete the [online form](#), then paper copies are available from the RA Working Committee’s office (currently in Koodam).

## Other Updates and Information

### Crown Road work at Gaia - Satprem additional reports

On 23rd August another [vital section of road](#) was dug up without any notice or warning to the community. Areas of built road that have been made unusable now include: the stretch in front of Santé, the Gaia crossing, and the road from the Youth Centre towards the T-junction. Movement around Auroville is severely hindered by these roadworks. As of yet, no new stretches of the Crown Road are ready for use. Existing stretches of road which are in perfectly good condition have been removed and are presumably to be replaced by the paver blocks used on the Youth Centre stretch. As Satprem’s series of comprehensive reports have demonstrated, these blocks are substandard compared to the existing ones made by the Road Service.

After his first and second report on the quality of the work already completed on the Crown Road, Satprem has also shared 3 short technical reports with the Secretary and Governing Board. For those interested in the technical details of the issues with the road work, you can find the newest reports here:

[Additional report 1](#)

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## Auronet Censorship of RAS and community members

In May 2022, administration rights were handed over to the AVFO by an ex-Auronet administrator (See Bulletin #19). Since then, the administration of Auronet has been in the hands of one or more unknown persons. Immediately following this handover, several users who have openly criticised the AVFO had their access to the platform blocked or restricted.

A number of Working Groups of the RA, such as the WCom and FAMC, have seen their access removed and handed over to the AVFO's 'Working Groups'. Other groups have had [posts](#) removed at random and without explanation. This week saw several examples of unprecedented censorship, including a [post](#) from the RAS regarding the Emergency RAD being removed and the deletion of a post from Island (TDC member) who was asking several pertinent questions. When Island [re-posted](#) the questions, his access to Auronet was blocked. Community member Jasmin also had her access blocked after questioning the point of view of certain Auronet users.

The Working Committee and Auroville Council are collecting data on how many people have been blocked on Auronet. If you have been blocked or, for example, your right to comment has been withdrawn, please write to them at [workingcom@auroville.services](mailto:workingcom@auroville.services) and/or [avcouncil@auroville.services](mailto:avcouncil@auroville.services).

## Thank You to the community

When there are issues of land encroachment, such as the encroachment currently ongoing at the Ami corner, Land Board and other concerned residents often ask for silent presence of Aurovilians. This supports the Land Board in executing their work, and helps to stop any illegal activities. The silent presence has been a very helpful and positive force. Thank you to all those who participate!

The Lawyers who represented the recent cases against the Foundation Office have also sent their heartfelt thanks for the cards which they received, signed by a large number of Aurovilians.

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- **RoR update** : Update your details in the RoR by 31st August - see [online form](#) and check above for details.
- **Call for financial support**: Legal cases are continuing. If you would like to donate towards legal and delegation fees please email [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com).
- **Come to the YC Pachamama Celebration**: This Sunday 28th, from 4.30 onwards, there will be a Pachamama celebration at Youthlink. Please bring food and drinks. Flowers, music and incense are also very welcome.
- **Help the vigil at Town Hall**: The effort to keep the Auroville Council room for use of the RA-appointed Working Groups has been ongoing for 55 days. Please send an email to [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com) if you are willing to help fill some of the timings.

## Media & Other Links

- **High Court Judgment**: Please see [here](#) for a comprehensive analysis of the High Court judgment written by an Aurovilian. The analysis shows how the judge demonstrates a deep understanding of the ideals of Auroville and how he has directly drawn on the words of Kireet Joshi, main architect of the Auroville Foundation Act, in coming to his conclusions.
- **Kripa on Galatta Voice**: Community member Kripa was interviewed (in Tamil) for the Galatta Voice series on Auroville. You can [watch the video here](#).

## About us

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We are a group of Aurovillians 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 [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@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/evolvingalaxy>

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