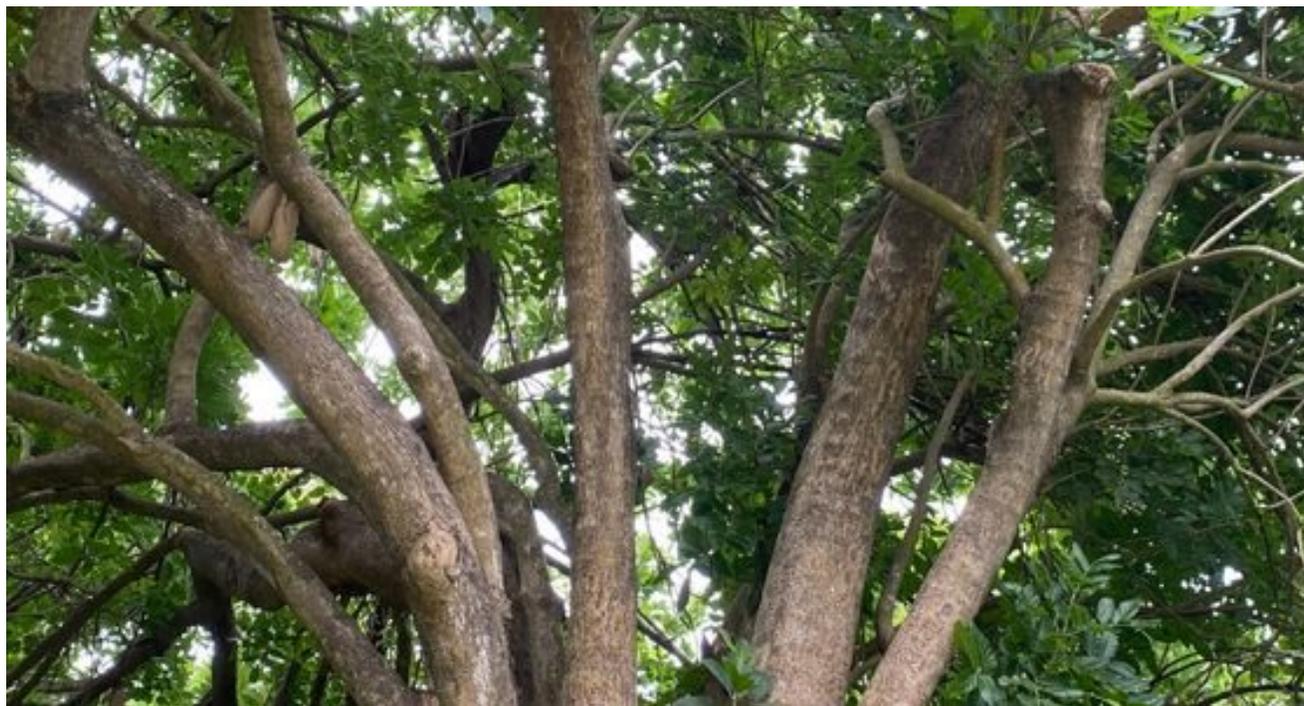


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Auroville Bulletin 39

UNESCO event & land encroachment at Abri/ Evergreen continues

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

September 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

UNESCO Event - Please sign the collective letter today!

Residents were recently informed that an event is planned for the 30th September in the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo. This event is organised by the AVFO together with the Indian delegation to UNESCO, the Ministry of Education of the Government of India (GOI) and the Ministry of Culture of the GOI. On 18th September, the AVFO's 'WCom' first shared the event with [the community via Auronet](#). The organising team from Auroville consists of Franz, Manoj, Devasmita, Egle, Tapas B., Joel VL, Satyakam, Jaya and Anu.

Following the [massbulletin](#) sent by the WCom of the RA on this matter, Aurovilians and well-wishers prepared a letter to UNESCO and the Indian Ministries of Education and Culture noting the ongoing take-over of Auroville by the Secretary and Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation. The letter raised concerns about the speakers representing Auroville in the event, as they have been “unilaterally selected by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, without consultation of the Residents’ Assembly of Auroville, which is one of the three governing bodies of the Auroville Foundation.”

As of 25th September, it seems there is a possibility that the UNESCO event will not go ahead as planned, but this is yet to be confirmed. It is not clear yet why the event may have been cancelled or postponed. Either way, the organizers have committed that the letter to UNESCO will be sent. The [letter](#) (English), translated into [Tamil](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#), will be sent by Monday evening, 26th September.

Please help by signing the letter to UNESCO and sharing it with friends and well-wishers of Auroville! You can find [the form for signing the letter here](#). The letter has already been signed by more than 1000 Aurovilians and well-wishers.

Abri/Ami/Evergreen land grab update

Mr PKS, who has been encroaching Abri/Ami/Evergreen land, promised to stop clearing Evergreen Forest land until the Court hearing on the 22nd September. However, Mr PKS did not submit the necessary documents to the Courts and the hearing was subsequently postponed

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Aurovilians out of the way, spray paint on phones, manhandle and attack people, effectively creating a human barrier allowing PKS to put up a gate and fence. Aurovilians trying to document were consistently attacked.



The WCom of the RA has since sent out [a statement](#) on how Aurovilians should respond to these hostilities, asking everyone to document but stay peaceful. The WCom of the RA and several Aurovilians have been working tirelessly to resolve the situation. After weeks of escalation, the AVFO has finally been involved in trying to seek a solution. However, according to the [recent report](#) of the WCom of the RA on land-related matters, there has been no firm action from the Secretary despite her duty to intervene as Estate Officer. For a full timeline of events at Evergreen, please see [Satprem's email to the IAC and GB members](#), as well as his [report on 17th September events](#) and his report on [23rd September events](#).

According to [a massbulletin of the RA WCom](#), on Saturday 24th September the RDO (Revenue Divisional Officer) came on site at Evergreen. He spoke with Mr PKS and his henchmen, asking them to pause their work, and said that on Monday 26th he will issue a status quo order. Residents are nonetheless asked to remain on standby in case of further developments.

A warm thank you to everyone who showed up in the last few weeks! Please join the SOS Telegram group, which is used ONLY for sending out SOS calls when necessary (no discussions). If you have the Telegram app, you can join by clicking on this link (on phone): <https://t.me/+uRLmmaJBpxM in4NjI1>

Legal update

Upcoming dates:

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10.11.2022 — National Green Tribunal hearing with regard to the Joint Committee report

To be announced — Madras High Court hearing on the FAMC case

To be announced — Hearing of AVFO appeal of the Madras High Court judgment of 12th Aug

To be announced — Madras High Court hearing on the Office Order appointing the GB ATDC, in front of a new judge

Other updates:

Madras High Court, ATDC – The hearing with regards to the Officer Order appointing the GB ATDC was planned for Monday, 19th September, but was not listed on the daily cause list of the Court. The new date is to be announced.

Madras High Court Appeal – The AVFO appeal of the judgment of the 12th August by the Madras High Court was planned for Friday, 23rd September, but was not listed on that day. The new date is to be announced.

FIRs on Aurovilians - It is likely that the hearing on the FIRs on 6 Aurovilians will come up today, Monday 26th September.

Other Updates and Information

Elodie and Txuma - Eviction by Secretary underway

Elodie and Txuma, whose bathroom is on the proposed Crown Road, received a letter signed by Dr G. Seetharaman, AVFO's 'Officer on Special Duty', informing them that they are illegal occupants of 'public premises'. The [letter](#) threatens them with eviction. It states that if they do not move, the Estate Officer (the Secretary of the AVFO) is within her rights to take legal action. The letter notes that rebuilding the bathroom elsewhere, as was the original agreement made by ATDC, is no longer a possibility as the entire house is "too expensive" and sits on the "Crown Belt".

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Newcomers, making it an inappropriate alternative for the house that Txuma and Elodie built with their own funds over the course of 20 years. Dr Seetharam claims that “as development has already started, the requirement to vacate said premises is of an urgent and essential nature.” The current works on the Crown Road have rendered large stretches of Auroville road barely usable, and all work by the CPWD is seemingly discontinued. In addition, there is no short term development plan or funding available for the so-called ‘Crown Belt’, raising questions about the urgency referred to in the letter.

Electricity cut to Council room - Vigil ongoing since 3 months

The vigil in the Auroville Council room to ensure that the space can be kept for the use of the Residents’ Assembly appointed working groups has been ongoing for 3 months. Electricity to the room was cut on the 14th September at the request of AVFO’s ‘ACUR management’. This left those using the Council room without lights, fan, or AC. Some functionality has since been restored. The Auroville Council reported the incident [on Auronet](#).

The AVC meeting room is a vital resource for the continued functioning of the Working Groups of the RA. Please email evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com or pass by the Council room to sign up for a vigil shift.

Gilles Guigan on recruitment - 12,000 Aurovilians by 2025?

The Auroville Town Development Council appointed by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation Office plans for the addition of 12,000 new residents by 2025. They do so at the behest of the Governing Board, who has shared this intention in the minutes of their 57th meeting. This would imply adding 400 Aurovilians each month.

Gilles Guigan, author of the two-volume book “Auroville in Mother’s Words”, has given his perspective in the latest *Auroville Today*. As a scholar on The Mother, Gilles gives a very relevant insight into how The Mother saw the development of the environment vis-a-vis the development of the individual, and the importance of growing Auroville with quality, instead of focusing on numbers alone.

You can read [the full article here](#).

Action needed

- **Sign the letter to UNESCO:** For Aurovilians and well-wishers of Auroville. You can find [the online form here](#).
- **Join us at ‘Wednesdays for Auroville’:** Every Wednesday, 4.30-6.00 pm at Tibetan Pavilion, there is a community meeting for concerned Aurovilians to work together and share information on the current situation.
- **Call for financial support:** If you would like to donate towards legal and delegation fees please email evolvingalaxy@gmail.com. Please see [here](#) for more information about why further financial assistance is necessary.

Media & Other Links

- **[Auroville Is The Future India Needs](#):** A blog post on Medium that describes the successes of Auroville as a blueprint for other societies.
- **[Galatta Voice Shorts](#):** A short video on Youtube on the land-grabbing actions of 23rd September 2022.

About us

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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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