

***Auroville Bulletin 4:  
A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today***

05/02/2022

## **Recent events update:**

**Narcotics Police visit an Auroville Community:** On January 28th, a tempo traveller van with narcotics police from Tamil Nadu as well as from North India came to the residence of an Aurovilian family. A young Tamil man had been arrested and claimed to be an informer. The police searched the community for cannabis plantations and did not find any evidence of illegal substances. During the course of the search, the police officers stated that they had been tipped off by other Aurovilians. They were reported as being generally friendly but nevertheless the Aurovilian resident stated feeling quite intimidated as they were alone at the time and felt like they were being framed. The police took the resident's phone number before leaving in a cordial manner. The Aurovilian stated that the police were kind, especially after realising that they had been misinformed. They even took some time to admire the trees of the area and ask about the reforestation of Auroville and asked if they could have some seedlings to plant.

The concerns raised by this event are:

- 1) Police were allegedly contacted directly by Aurovilians with an unfounded and serious allegation. "Tipping off" police for a serious criminal activity in this manner erodes trust within our community.
- 2) This type of action goes against many of our community values; that we try to keep police out of Auroville and solve conflict internally.
- 3) There was no Working Committee member present during the visit.

**RRO visits update:** There have been continued impromptu visits by RRO to Aurovilian homes as well as requests to visit their office in Pondy. The main purpose appears to be an inquiry into any involvement in the recent protests. As several of the Aurovilians visited were not present at the protests but may be known to support a more collaborative approach to building Auroville, it is a concern as to how the list of Aurovilians to be visited was compiled. If you are visited by the RRO, remain calm and respectful. Until now the RRO have been satisfied with the answers to their questions and have not taken the matter further regarding any individual. Please write to the Working Committee ([workingcom@auroville.org.in](mailto:workingcom@auroville.org.in)) to ask them how their investigation into this matter is progressing.

**Recent RA Meeting regarding our selection process for working groups:** A Residents' Assembly Meeting was held on the 28th of January in Unity Pavilion, to present a new selection methodology for our working groups. This new selection methodology has been worked on by the 'Selection Process Review Task Force', and [can be found here](#). A report of the meeting has been published by the RAS, together with a call for feedback on the proposal. Here is some useful material for you to consider:

- [The new proposal](#)
- [Presentation](#) made by the Selection Process Review Task Force
- [Video recording of the meeting](#)
- [Minutes of the meeting](#)
- [Feedback form](#) on the proposal

Specific feedback as well as general feedback on the proposal are being sought. The feedback that is being collected is not limited to the process of selection for working groups members, but can also include the need to have a 'de-selection' process for working groups members (removal of members during their term of office). We will keep you updated in the next bulletin about this feedback process.

**Youth Centre Update:** The Youth Centre (YC) has begun a conversation with the ATDC regarding the new buildings. The YC team instigated the meeting with the three current members of the ATDC (Srivatsa, Toby and Anbu).

"The ATDC have stated that they recognise the Youth Centre as a project and confirm its continued development at the current location. The YC team is now about to enter into a collaboration with the ATDC, which means that ATDC will assist the YC team in the process of receiving building permission for the next stages of the development of the Youth Centre.

In October, the YC team had submitted a detailed phase by phase plan for development which had been presented to the ATDC, as well as a vision statement of what the Youth Centre is and aims to be. Now, after the bulldozing and destruction of structures, YC has reworked this plan to fit the new situation. It now includes a detailed site map and has a number of architects, builders and designers helping them to create designs that the Youth Centre team alongside any youth that are interested in vocational skills will build together, once there is a go ahead from the community.

The YC team has expressed that they want to go through the correct community processes which include communicating and coordinating with the ATDC. They are optimistic that something beneficial to all will be developed on the site."

The next meeting between the ATDC and the YC is planned for early next week, and the team is committed to updating the community via Auronet and this Bulletin with the progress.

**Dreamweaving update:** The Dreamweaving initiative is continuing. For recent updates since the last Bulletin regarding the Dreamweaving process and its progression, please see [here](#) and [here](#). Round Two is happening: There was a full day session yesterday, 4th February. 11 teams made their presentations. Each team had 25 mins to present, followed by 5 mins of reflection and then 5 mins feedback from the dreamweaving architects. Mr Doshi/Vastu Shilpa Foundation gave feedback at the end of both morning and afternoon sessions. The sessions were livestreamed & you can still watch them now. Please see [here](#) for the morning session and [here](#) for the afternoon session. Another full day session is taking place today. Please check Auronet for any further updates.

**Message from Julian Lines and Discussion on Auronet:** On February 2nd a [supportive post](#) from Julian Lines, Board member of AVI USA and former member of Auroville's International Advisory Council, appeared on Auronet. This prompted a discussion between two Aurovilians, which is [attached](#).

**Update on National Green Tribunal:** As of today, no information has been received regarding a verdict. For more information on the proceedings, please [follow this link](#).

**Changing the Narrative:** There are several narratives propagated by some people without a full understanding of the history of Auroville and facts surrounding the situation. Each Bulletin will aim at addressing a current prominent narrative and elaborate on the facts connected to it. We hope you find this helpful.

Narrative:

Only 3000 people on 3000 acres

Reality:

- 1) The total planned area for Auroville is 4942 acres (20 sq km), of which a total of 2349 acres (9.5 sq km) is currently owned by Auroville. Auroville also owns another 1200 acres outside the planned area.
- 2) Because of government regulations, the government has never donated for the purchasing of any of this land. All funds for land purchase came from donations from organisations, private persons and Auroville's own internal contributions. That all these funds came together is thanks to the hard work of the current 3000 Aurovilians and the estimated 2000 Aurovilians that were here before. A lot of work is done by Auroville's fundraising projects like Acres for Auroville, Green Acres, Land for Auroville Unified, Art for Land, etc.
- 3) The residential area where most Aurovilians are planned to live is 939 acres (3.8 sq km). The remaining area is not meant to be residential. So in the greenbelt the intention is to have only 2000 persons on 3700 acres (15 sq km).
- 4) It is also worthwhile reflecting that although Auroville has only around 3000 people on the Master List, that is not the sum total of the people who make Auroville what it is. The thousands of volunteers, friends of Auroville, spouses and parents of Aurovilians, students and employees who have made Auroville their home and/or workplace over

the years have also contributed a vast amount to Auroville, albeit not necessarily on a permanent basis. So it is far too simplistic to say that just '3000 people occupy 3000 acres'.

**Petition to the FAMC:** Since the RAD overwhelmingly was in favour of pausing the work on the Crown, Outer Ring Road and Radials until a collective way forward is found, it is very important that all units and services such as the TDC, Road Service, Aurinoco, etc., respect the RAD outcome. The petition requests the FAMC to ensure that Auroville funds and assets managed by these services are not used in a way that goes against the RAD outcome. Please follow [this link](#) to read, and sign if you agree.

### **Recent news articles:**

[How Auroville can teach us all a thing or two about offsetting carbon](#)

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. It has PDFs of many documents, videos, etc. Please check out this goldmine of information.

With regard to future actions, those who have particular skills such as writing, social media, film editing etc - you are welcome to write to [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com).

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.

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