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# Auroville Bulletin 45

## Chairman Meeting with Residents Tomorrow 3pm

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A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

November 6th, 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](#).**

## Urgent Actions needed

- **Come to the meeting of the Chairman of the Governing Board:** Tomorrow, at 3pm, at Unity Pavilion.
- **BCC calls for support for Aurovilians on bridging maintenances:** At least 20 Aurovilians have been moved onto a bridging maintenance with no warning, while they are still working for Auroville. Please see [here](#) for more information. If you can help support them, email BCC on [bccoffice@auroville.services](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.services) or [bccauroville@gmail.com](mailto:bccauroville@gmail.com).
- **Financial support for legal fees:** If you would like to donate towards legal and delegation fees please email [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com). Please see [here](#) for more information about why further financial assistance is necessary.
- **Help with the AVC room vigil :** For over 4 months a small group of Aurovilians have held a 24/7 vigil in the AVC room in Town Hall. If you can help, or you need a space for a meeting or any other small group event then please contact [avcouncil@auroville.services](mailto:avcouncil@auroville.services) or WhatsApp 94430 03617 to sign up.
- **Join the Wednesdays for Auroville meetings:** There is a weekly community meeting held at the Tibetan Pavilion, every Wednesday 4.30-6pm. [Poster is here.](#)

## Hot topics

### Chairman of Governing Board meeting with the Residents Monday, 7th November

The Chairman of the Governing Board, Shri RN Ravi, has agreed to meet with the Residents' Assembly. This will be the first time that a member of the Governing Board

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Seetharaman, the AVFO's Officer on Special Duty.

The meeting will take place tomorrow, Monday 7th November, at 3pm at the Unity Pavilion. The RA WCom sent a [massbulletin](#) stating "We hope this upcoming community meeting with the Chairman will allow for sincere and honest, yet respectful conversations to happen. This would lay the grounds for a fruitful and positive way forward in Auroville's growth and development". The Governing Board meeting itself will take place on 8th November at 11am. There is a group meditation planned at the Matrimandir Lotus Pond at 10am on the same day.

**It is vital that many members of the Residents' Assembly attend tomorrow's meeting, so please come and show your support!**

**PLEASE ATTEND**

**MEETING WITH THE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE  
GOVERNING BOARD**

00:00 | -00:27

**Monday November 7  
Unity Pavillion  
3pm**

**WORKING COMMITTEE**  
of the Residents' Assembly  
AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

## Legal Update

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

**January 2023** — Supreme Court appeal regarding National Green Tribunal Ruling

**To be announced** — Madras High Court hearing on the FAMC case; Hearing of AVFO appeal of the Madras High Court judgment of 12th Aug; Madras High Court hearing on the 2022 Standing Order on ATDC; Hearing on quash petition for FIRs on 6 Aurovilians

**Supreme Court - appeal of AVFO regarding National Green Tribunal Ruling:** The case has been postponed until January. The official date will be announced as soon as possible.

**Madras High Court - ATDC Office Order:** The petition challenging the ATDC Office Order was dismissed on Thursday 13th October. We continue to await the court order (the official document detailing the outcome). The case will be explained in more detail as soon as the court order is posted.

**Tindivanam Court - Abri/Ami/Evergreen land grab** - On the 2nd of November, the case regarding the contested plots at both Abri/Ami corner and inside Evergreen was heard.

Meanwhile, Michael B updated the documents of his land opposite Evergreen, which was part of the land under contestation. In the update, it was shown that the sub division, surveys and registrations were wrong, which in turn clarified the false registrations of PKS on the Auroville land. The Tindivanam DRO had sent [a notice](#) ordering the cancellation of these wrongly registered documents, purchased by PKS. At the hearing in Tindivanam, PKS claimed not to be aware of the cancellation, so the case was postponed until Tuesday, 8th November 2022.

## **Red assets to be demolished - 'resettlement group' announced**

A number of assets have been built over the years in areas that are deemed reserved for other purposes as per the Master Plan. In many cases, the constructions pre-date the plan and were unintentionally built in areas that may interfere with elements of the City. These elements include the Outer Ring Road (which is set to cut through large tracts of sensitive sanctuary forest), as well as other projects, such as a new Town Hall planned in the area of Serenity community. Other communities that will see many residential buildings demolished include Pony Farm, Horizon, and Sve Dame. For a

The AVFO ATDC has announced the formation of a 'resettlement group' consisting of Banu (AVFO Housing), Jaya (AVFO ATDC), and Geeta (AVFO FAMC). This group was created to facilitate moving residents from 'red assets' to another place. [Their announcement](#) claims that most assets in question are "store rooms etc". However, the map shows that at least a dozen houses, many housing families, are also in line to be demolished. Furthermore, any actions taken now are done in spite of the fact that no Detailed Development Plans have been made or Environmental Clearance sought, as per the NGT order, and Auroville is still in the midst of a housing crisis with no adequate alternative housing for these 'resettlements'.

## Crown Road update and concerns about safety

The state of the dug up areas of the Crown Road is increasingly deteriorating due to the monsoon rains. Some areas have become difficult and dangerous to pass, as the road is blocked and residents have to use nearby cycle paths. The RA TDC shared their concerns in [a massbulletin](#) and asked residents to be cautious whilst driving. They noted that they had brought the issue to the attention of the Secretary and the CPWD.

The AVFO ATDC has meanwhile communicated the reasons for the current state of the Crown, on which all work appears to have stopped for the last 2 months. According to [their report](#), the pavers were no longer considered the most aesthetic solution since they would have had to be cut along the curb line due to the curvature of the road. The Crown Road is now to be made up of precast cement slabs. Cement slabs are among the least ecological materials for roads, raising questions regarding Auroville's many efforts to create a sustainable and ecological city. Work has still not restarted on the Crown Road. For their full report, which also details their intention with regards to red assets, building permissions, DDPs, and other topics, please [see here](#).

## AV Community Gathering Team meets with GB Chairman

On 31st October, some members of the AV Community Gathering Team attended a meeting in Chennai with the Chairman of the Governing Board Shri RN Ravi. The team describes the meeting as pleasant and respectful, and that they felt heard by him. They shared about their work as a Community Gathering Team, the visa issue, concerns about the current approach to development, and parallel working groups, among other points (find [the full presentation here](#)). The Chairman listened and responded with some points of his own, which included a concern that not enough Aurovilians work in the Matrimandir, lack of farming outputs, and the need for an Exit



## RoR update ongoing

Despite an initial timeline of 2 weeks, the in-person update of the Register of Residents by the Office of the Secretary has yet to be completed. Initially, the AVFO's 'WCom' [announced](#) that the visiting teams would be verifying information about all houses in Auroville and their occupants. They claimed this was necessary for house tax purposes. The RA WCom later refuted this claim [stating](#) that "house inspections are not required for updating the Register of Residents or for calculating House Tax". The plan to collect information about houses in Auroville seems to have been abandoned, and residents report that questions asked relate solely to the verification of RoR forms. Some residents have expressed concerns about how their personal data is being collected and stored, and whether legal requirements for data protection are being met.

On 28th October, the Office of the Secretary sent out a [massbulletin](#) regarding the RoR update which acknowledged that the update was taking longer than expected due to certain constraints. Residents were asked to spare time during working hours so that the update could be completed by 31st October. This was followed on 1st November by a communication from different members of the visiting teams, requesting that residents visit the Foundation Office in person with their documents in order to complete the update.

Some of the emails sent claim that the RA WCom had asked residents not to cooperate with the RoR update. In response to this, the RA WCom sent a [massbulletin](#) which linked to several announcements they had made on the topic. In each of these, they urge residents to help in updating the RoR. In the massbulletin, the RA WCom also notes that "the Office of the Secretary had announced the updating of the Register of Residents in early May 2022, more than five months ago. We hope that the exercise of verifying RoR entries will be soon concluded".

## RA TDC announcement

The RA TDC sent out an announcement about their recent work, and future directions. The report notes that they have mainly been "firefighting and responding to emergency situations". Other topics covered include NOCs, participative planning, future collaborative workshops, and responses to feedback that was given after the recent General Meeting. The full announcement can be read [here](#).

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On Wednesday 2nd November a group of residents organised a General Meeting to discuss potential concerns and topics to bring up with the Chairman of the Governing Board. Despite heavy rain, about 130 Aurovilians participated. It has now been confirmed that the Chairman will meet with the community on Monday, 7th November (see above).

The General Meeting at the Unity Pavilion was set up in a circle and included time for sharing and silence. Concerns raised to be brought to the Chairman included visas, land exchange, bridging the gap between the RA and GB, and a call to acknowledge the sincerity and hard work of Aurovilians over the years who are now branded as criminals. There was a brief mention of the need to communicate that during these challenging times, every individual in the RA is asked to express themselves with respect; this resulted in a later [massbulletin](#) from the RA Working Groups asking residents “to refrain from issuing damaging statements”.



## Invitation to the Education Minister

A group of Aurovilians sent [an email](#) to the Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inviting him to Auroville to meet with the representatives of the working groups selected by the RA. The Minister recently visited Auroville, but only met with the representatives of the AVFO-appointed groups. Attached to the letter were the following documents:

- a [brief introduction](#) to Auroville’s achievements over the last 54 years, listing Auroville’s major achievements;
- a [letter](#) from residents giving information about the verdict of the Madras High

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architect of the Auroville Foundation Act that specifically addresses the envisioned relationship between the GB and RA.

## Media & Other Links

- [Wasteless and Tamil Nadu Govt Launch Educational Programme \(the Hindu\)](#): The Auroville Unit Wasteless has launched an educational programme in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu govt. to raise awareness about microplastics and ocean pollution. The programme will be offered at more than 200 schools in Tamil Nadu.

## 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 [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com).

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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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