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Auroville Bulletin 51

GB meeting held in secret, Town Hall watchman wrongfully dismissed, Spirit of Auroville booklet

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

January 5th, 2023

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

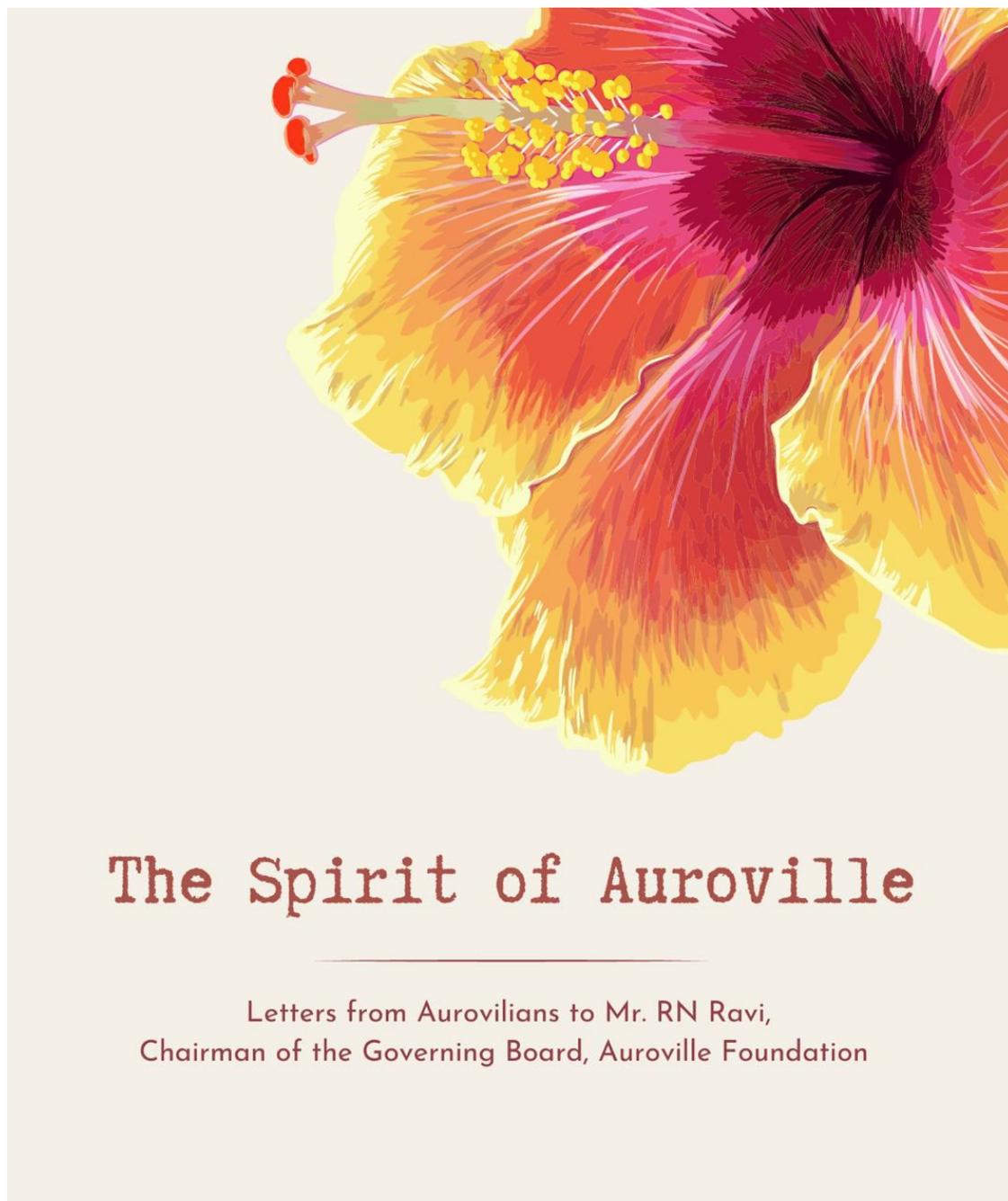
- **Write to the News & Notes:** Please write to newsandnotes@auroville.org.in and ask them if they have changed their policy regarding publishing content from the RA working groups (see below for more information).
- **Attend the Kalabhumi Meeting:** 20th January, 5.30pm. For more information please see [here](#).
- **Inform us if you can provide a new job for the Town Hall watchman:** The watchman was allegedly allegedly fired for restoring electricity for an event of the Residents' Assembly (see below). If you have any alternative (night) work for him, please reach out to evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com
- **BCC calls for support for Aurovilians on bridging maintenances:** 25+ Aurovilians have been moved onto bridging maintenances by AVFO's 'FAMC' while they are still working for Auroville. Please see [here](#) for more information, and email BCC on bccoffice@auroville.services or bccauroville@gmail.com.
- **Financial support for legal fees:** If you can donate towards legal and delegation fees, please email evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com. Please see [here](#) for more information about why further financial assistance is necessary.
- **Help with the AVC room vigil :** Please participate! For over 6 months the community has held a 24/7 vigil in the AVC room in Town Hall. **More people are needed** to ensure the round-the-clock presence. Please contact avcouncil@auroville.services, WhatsApp 94430 03617 to sign up. See [here](#) for more information.
- **Join Wednesdays for Auroville meetings:** There is a weekly community meeting held at the Tibetan Pavilion, every Wednesday 5:00-6:30 pm.

Hot topics

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Spirit of Auroville booklet

With the help of resource persons, the RA WCom has compiled and published the letters sent by residents to the Chairman of the Governing Board, Shri R.N. Ravi, following his speech held at Unity Pavillion on 7th November 2022. The project was announced through [massbulletin](#). The letters show the beauty and resilience of the aspirations of the Auroville Residents' Assembly. The booklet is called 'The Spirit of Auroville', and its digital version can be read and downloaded by clicking on the below image.



GB meeting held in Chennai without informing residents

In a major break with precedent and protocol, the Auroville Governing Board met last week in Chennai without sharing any information with the community beforehand. Although GB meetings have previously been held outside of Auroville, they have never gone ahead without sending a notice to the community first. Residents and the RA Working Groups only became aware of the meeting because one of the GB members, Goutam Ghosal, shared [two tweets](#) ahead of the meeting on his personal twitter page. A later tweet shared a [photo](#) of the Secretary, confirming that she had been present at the meeting.

As shared by the RA WCom in their [November report](#), against all normal practices the GB have also failed to share the agendas and minutes of their previous two meetings, despite repeated requests from the RA WCom.

ACUR 'management' - watchman wrongfully fired

After the 'One Year Later' event at Town Hall, commemorating the bulldozing of Youth Centre and Bliss forest in December of last year, the ACUR (Auroville Center for Urban Research, aka Town Hall) 'management' team appointed by the AVFO sent out a [massbulletin](#) stating that "to organise events on the ACUR premises [...] permission needs to be gotten in writing, at least one week in advance, from the ACUR management [...]". The peaceful 'One Year Later' event was attended by about 200 Aurovilians. Even though Venkatesh, one of the ACUR 'management' team, had given his permission for the event to go ahead, during the event toilets were locked and power was cut at the behest of another team member, Balu. Residents reactivated the electricity and the Town Hall watchman was held responsible by the ACUR 'management' for this, following which in direct retaliation his employment was terminated, effective from 31st December. Subsequently, the RA WCom sent Balu, Lieve & Venkatesh [a letter](#) noting the instances of their aggressions and mismanagement.

Some members of the Residents' Assembly are actively looking for a suitable new job for the Town Hall watchman. If you have any ideas or offers, please reach out to us at evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com.

News & Notes

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reports or notices from the RA working groups, despite massbulletins being sent out by RA WCom & RA TDC throughout the week. If the N&N is choosing not to publish notices from RA working groups, it would represent a serious change in direction of its editorial line. Throughout the recent community upheaval, the N&N has kept the community fully informed by publishing content from both sets of groups, in a spirit of neutrality. *Please refer to the section at end of the Bulletin for links to many of the communications from the RA Working Groups that were sent in the last week.*

As the situation is currently unconfirmed, it would be helpful if residents ask for clear information. All are invited to write to the N&N team (newsandnotes@auroville.org.in) and ask them if there has been a change in their policy regarding publishing content from the RA working groups.

In addition, if you are not currently receiving the Auroville Massbulletin managed by and for the RA, please email avmassbulletin@auroville.services from your non-auroville email ID.

Other Updates and Information

Attempt to shift Mawite out of AuroAnnam

AuroAnnam, which is currently stewarded by Mawite, may be up for land exchange. Mawite has received [a series of emails](#) from the AVFO's 'FAMC' asking her for a meeting. When Mawite requested a postponement due to her health issues, she was asked to provide a doctor's certificate. Threats were made that the "legal cell of the AV Foundation" would become involved if she did not comply. The emails clearly show that the AVFO's 'FAMC' is planning to shift Mawite out of AuroAnnam unilaterally, despite the fact that she has lived there and stewarded the land for more than 20 years. It is unclear yet whether they are willing to provide her with financial support if she were to be relocated.

Aggressions by the AVFO's 'Housing Service'

Muyarchi Youth Housing

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Service' (HS) team stating that they were planning a "major renovation" of the building in January 2023 and they would therefore be "re-allocating all volunteers who are at present residing in the community" and so they should "be ready to move at the time [they] are asked to move out".

No information had been previously shared with the residents about plans for major renovation works to the building. The initial email seemed to only refer to the small number of volunteers who are currently staying at MYH, however when the residents replied requesting more information, it became apparent that the AVFO's 'HS' team were intending to 're-allocate' all of the current occupants which includes five Aurovilian youth. To date the AVFO's 'HS' have failed to clarify what 'major renovation' works are actually planned, why there is an urgent need for all of the residents to suddenly vacate the asset instead of remaining in the building while the work carries on and whether the residents will be able to move back to MYH once the works are completed.

Lock change attempted

Earlier this month, the AVFO's 'HS' team attempted to change the locks of a house that is stewarded by an Aurovilian who is currently ToS. Despite not having made any attempts to speak to the Aurovilian personally, a member of the team visited the Aurovilian's apartment with the intention of changing the lock. The AVFO's 'HS' then intended to move forward with placing a house-sitter there, chosen by their group. A neighbour alerted a friend of the Aurovilian who managed to stop them going ahead. This action represents a major change in the approach of the Housing Service, who have always worked in collaboration with stewards and communities to place house-sitters when Aurovilians are ToS.

RoR - Update

In a first communication since the extensive RoR update exercise, which was started in April 2022 by the Office of the Secretary, the AVFO 'WCom' has given a small update in its most recent report. The notice repeats the erroneous statement that the RoR had not been updated since 2005, and then notes that "All data collected has now been submitted after a primary verification. The Auroville Foundation is now making its own detailed verification and assessment and an announcement regarding the RoR is awaited." No end date for this exercise has been given.

NOTICE FROM THE RA WORKING GROUP

AVF Legal Threats

In a [massbulletin](#) dated 26.12.22, the RA WCom stated that “It has come to our knowledge that an unknown group of people referring to themselves as ‘AVF Legal’ has been sending threatening communications to residents over the past few weeks”. They added: “Unsigned emails from “AVF Legal” may be ignored since this group does not have any standing or legitimacy whatsoever and have previously refused to identify themselves.” They urge any residents who have been contacted by this unknown group to forward their emails to workingcom@auroville.services.

TDC open letter re ‘unplanned’ works

RA TDC shared an [open letter](#) they sent to the so called “Infrastructure group” regarding the manner in which the works on the Crown Road are proceeding in a seemingly unplanned way leading to several pipes and cables being cut during digging work.

WCom & AVC on Aurovilians not entered into the RoR

RA WCom and AV Council [informed](#) the community that over 100 Aurovilians who have completed their Newcomer processes have not met the Secretary and thus have not been entered into the Register of Residents (RoR). They clarified that these Aurovilians “are members of the Auroville community and are welcome to participate in Residents’ Assembly Decision-making processes”. They also informed that they had sent a letter to the Secretary on this matter, to which no reply has been received to date.

TDC reminds of NGT order

As clearing and excavation work for the lake is ongoing in the Matrimandir area, the RA TDC has sent [a letter](#) to the Matrimandir executives. In it, they remind the executives that there are still issues raised by experts concerning the lake that remain unaddressed, and that only permission has been given for a test pond. They also note the National Green Tribunal (NGT) court order, which states that no development can take place until proper plans and environmental impact assessments have been drawn up.

[Another letter](#) was sent to the Land Board and project holders of the Mothers Flower Garden project, on similar lines.

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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 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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