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Auroville Bulletin 52

Resettlement emails received by Aurovilians, Selection Process 2023, Muyerchi YH update

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

January 13th, 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

- **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 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 evolvingalaxy@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 if you can help.
- **Financial support for legal fees:** If you can donate towards legal and delegation fees, please email evolvingalaxy@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. Please 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

Kalabhumi Meeting & Get Together on 20th Jan

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organized a meeting and community get together on Friday 20th January at 5.30pm at Kalabhumi. The meeting is “to co-create a space to review the past year, reflect on the present and revive our collective strength and action, looking forward.” The meeting is scheduled to last until 7pm, and will be followed by a gathering with food stalls and occasions to come together as a community. The meeting announcement and invitation can be found [here](#).



**KALABHUMI
MEETING &
GET TOGETHER**

Let's review the **past** year, reflect on the **present** and revive our collective strength and **action**, looking **forward**.

**Friday 20th January
5.30pm - Kalabhumi**

The meeting is scheduled to last until 7pm, and will be followed by a gathering with food stalls and occasions to come together as a community.

Auroville
RA
Residents'
Assembly

Please take 2min to tell us how you feel these days:
<https://auroville.media/kbm>

As a preparation to the meeting, please take two minutes to answer three questions over here: <https://auroville.media/kbm-0120/>

Selection Process 2023 - extension for 'nominated by others'

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(Entry, FAMC, and Auroville Council) is underway. The RAS announced on Wednesday 11th of January that the Auroville Council asked to extend the period in which those who were *nominated by others* can fill out their forms. The deadline was today, Friday 13th January. The Council has requested this due to the concern that there may not be enough FAMC members to reach a quorum (6 members). You can read their email to the RAS, as well as the list of those nominated by others, [here](#).

In the meantime, please give your feedback on the current candidates via the personalized link that you can find from RAS in your inbox. Alternatively, visit [the RAS website](#) and log in with your Auroville account. The deadline for feedback is Saturday 21st January 2023.

'Resettlement' emails received by Aurovilians

In November last year, an [announcement](#) was shared by the 'Resettlement Group', a team consisting of Jaya (AVFO's 'ATDC'), Geeta (AVFO's 'FAMC') & Banu (AVFO's 'Housing Service'). The group stated that their aim was to help relocate Aurovilians whose residences are "interfering with the key elements of the City as per the Galaxy Master Plan".

This week, several Aurovilians whose houses are located on the Radials and Outer Ring Roads [received mails](#) asking them to meet the group. The mails state that "Though we do not have yet the fixed date of when these buildings will be dismantled, part of it is likely to happen in the near future as the planning work proceeds". This is despite the NGT having ruled that no further construction can take place until complete Environmental Clearance & Detailed Development Plans (DDPs) for the future City have been put in place - a ruling that still stands even though the AVFO is appealing to the Supreme Court. However, the AVFO's 'working groups' appear to be pushing ahead with their plans to clear the 'Right-of-Ways'. This move comes while the current Crown Road works, which began in July last year, have only just restarted at a very slow pace, causing unnecessary disruption to all of those who use the roads in Auroville.

Should the future roads proceed as proposed, large portions of the lands for the Outer Ring Road and Radials are still in private hands. Opening up these roads would provide access to the non-Auroville lands and is likely to invite more private development and land speculation by developers, as well as leading to an increase in land prices. A section of the Outer Ring Road also passes through a residential area of Kottakarai village, and the road borders on the northern side of Edayanchavadi. If a road would be opened up in that section it would invite the same type of rapid non-Auroville development that has happened on the Kulapalayam road and the road from Edayanchavadi to Visitor Centre. Therefore, before the trajectory of any road can be finalized, careful planning will have to take place between Auroville and its

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which is a wildlife area. Before commencing any construction, destruction or relocation, the Environmental Impact Assessment would need to test the mobility needs and trajectories as part of the overall planning process.

Muyerchi Youth Housing Takeover and Eviction

The Muyerchi Youth housing (MYH) residents in Surrender community were recently told to vacate the building by the AVFO's 'Housing Service' due to 'major renovations'. As there was no evidence that such renovation work was needed and the building houses 5 Aurovilian youth, this move garnered protest within the community. Surrender residents sent [an open letter](#) via massbulletin on Friday 6th of January noting that "As a community, we would like to make clear that we do not accept or agree with the eviction of the Muyerchi youth for reasons that do not make sense and are unacceptable for not only practical but also ethical and moral reasons." After the open letter was sent, the AVFO's 'HS' subsequently [emailed](#) the community, blaming the youth for "spreading false messages", and inviting the community for a meeting with Housing.

After the intervention of the majority of the Surrender Community, the AVFO's 'HS' posted an [announcement](#) on Auronet "to clarify [their] stand". This clarification came over 3 weeks after the original [eviction mail](#) was sent to the MYH residents. They state that the decision to renovate came after it was observed that the building was "unkept ...As observed it was decided to renovate the building including electrical and plumbing". They also say that "There were concerns raised that Muyarchi residents are not respecting the [HS] guidelines". Several points regarding the financial contribution were outlined and the statement ends by saying "once the renovation is completed, [we will] invite [the residents] back on condition to respect the guidelines and agree to the increase of the contribution", suggesting that 'major renovations' are not the central reason for the attempted eviction of the MYH residents.

News and Notes - RA WGs delegitimised

Several community members recently noted an apparent change in the editorial policy of the News & Notes (N&N). The change came after a [threatening email](#) was sent from the AVFO 'working groups' signed by "L'avenir d'Auroville, FAMC, Working Committee" stating that the N&N team would be "liable for legal procedures" if they continue to publish notices from "irresponsible Aurovilians".

Since then, no statements from the RA working groups have been included in the 'Town Hall Speaks' section of the N&N, which is the space usually given for working

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[Auroville](#) booklet - but the WCom's official designation was removed and the notices were signed with their names only.

The AV Council made a [statement](#) on the subject, published in last week's edition of N&N. The notice included the message "We wish ... to emphasize that the N&Ns is an independent service for and by the residents of Auroville. Thus no fraction of the community can claim to have control over it or pressurize the editors in favor or against groups". The N&N editors addressed the issue with an explanation that was sent along with this week's edition. They state that the lack of notices from the RA working groups was "due to some controversy which the N&N had, until now, managed to avoid" and go on to say that "talks are ongoing concerning this with the Secretary" as well as the RA WCom and AV Council.

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

RA WCom December Report

The RA WCom has shared their report for [December 2022](#). In the massbulletin announcement that was sent with the report, they stated that "In the current climate, the task of the Working Committee is arduous and sometimes discouraging, but we are resolved to stand strong, collectively". They noted that their [November report](#) was not shared through massbulletin at the time, therefore it was shared alongside the December report.

Maintenances and budgets cut unilaterally

The AVFO 'BCC' at the behest of the AVFO 'FAMC' has unilaterally cut budgets and maintenances since taking control of disbursements in September. Specially targeted are those who work for RA Working Groups, with several members of RA groups losing their maintenances. A further 25+ people supporting the RA have also seen their maintenances or even entire budgets cut without any explanation given.

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without any consultation nor agreement from the Residents' Assembly and its approved working groups... As duly-selected representatives of the Residents' Assembly, we are committed to supporting those that are being targeted by these coercive and divisive tactics.”

If you can support these Aurovilians still working in RA selected working groups, please see [here](#) for more information, and email BCC on bccoffice@auroville.services or bccauroville@gmail.com.

Aurovilians summoned to an audit 'Enquiry Committee'

Following the financial audits of units last year, several unit executives have received [letters](#) instructing them to attend the AVFO to meet an audit 'Enquiry Committee', the purpose of the meeting being to “seek clarifications from them on audit findings and observations”. The letters also stated “In its 61st meeting, held on 08.11.22, the Governing Board appointed an Enquiry Committee to enquire into findings of the audit.” This is the first indication of any of the decisions made at the recent GB meetings as the minutes for 61st, as well as the 60th & 62nd meetings, have still not been shared with the RA.

The meetings with the 'Enquiry committee' are currently ongoing and we invite those who have been summoned at the AVFO to please share your testimonials with evolvingalaxy@gmail.com, so that this topic can be further covered in the upcoming issue of the bulletin.

Crown Road works update

In an earlier [communication](#), the AVFO's 'ATDC' claimed that the roads would only be disrupted until the end of December 2022. However, to date not a single stretch of road has been finished while more is in the process of being dug up. Currently, the entire radial from Solar Kitchen up to Kalabhumi has been left unusable, with very little progress in recent weeks. Some sections of the road have been left dug up and abandoned for months. It is additionally taxing on Auroville road users since it is the middle of guest season with many additional guests and volunteers using the roads.

The Stand for Auroville Unity website has documented the ongoing Crown Road works. You can see the overview in pictures [on their website](#).

G20 delegates to visit Auroville

According to information shared in [The Hindu](#) this week, G20 delegates will visit Auroville on 31st January 2023. No information about the visit has been shared with community members at this stage.

Media & Other Links

- **Bar and Bench:** [Calcutta High Court rejects plea challenging Governor of TN](#)
- **Deccan Herald :** [It will always be Tamil Nadu, not Tamizhagam](#)
- **Deccan Herald:** [Governor removes state symbol from Pongal invitation](#)
- **You Tube:** [TN Governor walks out amid row over speech](#)



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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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