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Auroville Bulletin 53

FIRs filed against 32 Aurovilians, Kalabhumi meeting, AVFO audit procedures

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

January 20th, 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

- **Join the Kalabhumi meeting on Friday 20th January at 5.30pm**
- **BCC calls for support for Aurovilians on bridging maintenances:** 25+ Aurovilians have been moved onto a bridging maintenance without warning, 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 about 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 the Wednesdays for Auroville meetings:** There is a weekly community meeting held at the Tibetan Pavilion, every Wednesday 5:00-6:30pm.

Hot topics

Kalabhumi Meeting & Get Together today at 5.30 PM

Residents have organised a meeting and community get together today, Friday 20th January at 5.30pm at Kalabhumi. “The intentions of this meeting are to reflect on the learnings of 2022, take stock of where we are today, and set intentions for this new year together.” The meeting is scheduled to last until 7pm, and will be followed by a gathering with food stalls and an occasion to come together as a community. Along that line, the organising team has invited residents to bring some snacks to share if

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The organising team has asked Aurovilians to share their feelings and ideas on the topics of the meeting in advance, by filling out a survey. You can find this survey [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.

- Youth Centre pizza
- Kajimba drinks
- Potluck-style snacks: if you can, bring something to share!

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PKS, who is claiming Abri/Ami corner and a part of Evergreen, has filed 32 FIRs against Aurovilians, including residents giving presence on the land and some Land Board members. Some of the names listed are unknown, while other names are of residents who were not present on site, or who have left Auroville years ago. The matter was shortly mentioned [on a Tamil News outlet](#). The case regarding the contested land is scheduled for judgement on the 31st of January.

The RA WCom's [announcement](#) details the names of the individuals affected as: Sathyaseelan, Kamalakannan, Raja, Selvarani, Renu, Arul, Mani Pillai, Valli, Natasha, Tom, Sukrit, Aravinda, Frederick, Vera, Michel, Ludu, Erik, Kuthavi, Helen, Ivan, Raji, Tamar, Amir, Aran, Kali, Bastian, Bettina, Dave, Krishna, Yuval, Anan, Ilana. The RA WCom notes that they are taking advice from their advocates and will keep everyone informed. Anybody affected is invited to call or write.

AVFO Special Audit

The Auroville Foundation's audit of commercial units is ongoing. Some unit executives have been called in for a meeting at the AVFO. Upon arrival, they faced a panel of 10 people, including GB members, Chandresh (AVFO 'FAMC') and a manager from the Institute of Chartered Accountants specialising in forensic auditing (a type of auditing that is specifically used to gather evidence in cases of suspected fraud). Without prior notification, they were video recorded with the recording projected on a large screen simultaneously. After answering an array of questions, they were asked to sign a copy of the notes made at the meeting.

Those who were interviewed reported that the experience was intimidating and unsettling and that questions were often personal and seemingly off-topic. In some cases, auditors had based their questions on individuals' social media pages.

Kattida Kalai Trust trustees discontinued by Office Order

In December 2022, three trustees (M. Palani of the RA FAMC, Jean Marc Moreno, and Carlos Herrera) of the Kattida Kalai Trust have been discontinued by the AVFO without a reason given, through an [Office Order](#). Ongoing trustees are residents who haven't vocally disagreed with the methods of the AVFO.

Other Updates and Information

Selection Process 2023 - nominations closing

The final date for giving feedback for the nominees in the 2023 Selection Process is Saturday, 21st January. After the extension of the period for nominees to update their applications, three more Aurovilians stepped forward. Please give your feedback for the current candidates via [this link](#).

Legal update

Supreme Court - Appeal of AVFO against the National Green Tribunal judgement

- This case was listed in the Supreme Court on Tuesday 17th of January. The hearing was adjourned by the Auroville Foundation due to logistical issues. The next hearing is to be taken up on Tuesday in the second week of March.

WCom December Report - Omitted from N&N

The RA WCom shared their [December Report](#) via massbulletin. Although it was sent to the News and Notes, it was omitted as the News and Notes no longer appears willing to print the notices of RA-appointed groups. The report raised several important points, among others:

- The WCom have not lost any legal cases. The FAMC case was recently withdrawn at the advice of their counsel, to enable them to submit a new case with updated information.
- Last June, the AVFO interfered with the constitution of the Land Board by wrongfully dismissing two of its members, Renu and Padmanabhan, via a dubious Office Order. The WCom sent the four remaining members (Raja, Rajavelu, Satyakam & Venkat) a letter noting that since that time there had been “no reporting, no transparency & no accountability to the Resident’s Assembly ... land exchanges have been carried out that did not follow approved due processes and have resulted in huge financial losses for Auroville.”
- The WCom are liaising regularly with the RRO/FRRO to assist residents with visa issues.

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themselves 'AVF Legal'. The WCom shared that they have taken "all necessary measures to ensure that these precious databases would remain under the management of the Residents' Assembly and its bonafide working groups".

Outcome of the Restorative Survey

In November 2022, the RA Working Groups launched a survey on a potential restorative process between the GB, IAC, and RA. It was sent out while Raghu N. was presenting his observations on the current situation, and was intended to see whether the community would feel ready for such a process, and if yes, under what conditions.

About 11% of the 235 who participated indicated that they can not see a process happening right now under any circumstances, 15% said that they would be ready to start without any prior conditions being met. The remaining 74% expressed they needed some conditions to be met before any process could happen. The main conditions mentioned were: the need to be able to trust the person facilitating the process; reassurance that all views would be represented; and a wish to be well-informed about the process. About half of the respondents also indicated that they would need certain parties to take actions before a process could start, such as for the AVFO to recognise the RA, to stop the visa delays, and to dismiss the FIRs against Aurovilians. Some respondents asked all involved to stop slandering each other, and called for listening and honesty. You can find [the full report here](#).

G20 summit in Auroville - schedule

The minute-to-minute program of the G20 delegate meeting, scheduled to come to Auroville on 31st January, [can be found here](#). It includes talks from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, the Sri Aurobindo Society, and the AVFO-appointed Working Groups.

Media & Other Links

- **New Indian Express:** [Piece by by Sri Ram Panchu on RN Ravi](#)

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.

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/evolvingalaxy>

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