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# Auroville Bulletin 54

## News & Notes, Muyarchi update & Balkrishna Doshiji passes away

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A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

January 30th, 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

- **Spirit of Auroville book available:** If you would like a copy for a suggested contribution of Rs 250 to cover the cost price, please write to [spiritofauroville@auroville.services](mailto:spiritofauroville@auroville.services).
- **BCC calls for support for Aurovilians on bridging maintenances:** 25+ Aurovilians working for Auroville have been moved onto bridging maintenances without warning. Please see [here](#) for more information, and 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 can 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 :** Please participate! For nearly 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](mailto: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

### Selection Process 2023 - results

The 2023 Selection Process was concluded on Sunday 29th January. New members selected to the Auroville Council are: Ashwini (Petite Ferme) and Riju (Courage), leaving one space unfilled. New members selected to the Entry Board are: Fabienne (Sukhavati), Grace (Pumphouse), Sara (Baraka) and Sonja (Aurodam).

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that the FAMC team continues with just three members: Bobby P, Danny and Mita. The FAMC will most likely be in need of resource persons and if you would like to offer your help, you can contact famc@auroville.services.

The RA TDC and RA WCom were not part of this Selection Process and will continue with their current teams.

## News & Notes update

For the fifth week in a row, the News and Notes has declined to publish any communications from the RA working groups. This prohibition seemingly also extends to the AV Council, as their monthly report for December was also not published this week. The editors have continued to publish the reports and announcements from the AVFO's 'Working Groups', legitimizing their claims by styling them as 'The Working Committee', 'The FAMC' and 'The ATDC'.

A concerned resident who wrote to the News & Notes editors to ask for clarification about their stance [received a reply](#) from one of the editorial team stating that "the Secretary is adamant that until the ROR is completed, articles from RA groups shouldn't be published." It is not clear how the update of the RoR is relevant to what is published in the News & Notes, nor why the Secretary has a role in deciding what information is communicated to residents via their own internal platforms.

## Update on Muyarchi Youth Housing

Muyarchi is a housing project in Surrender that houses five Aurovilian youth, who had been asked to leave the project for 'major renovations' without any clarity that they would be allowed to move back. As there is a long history of conflict with the AVFO-allied neighbours, and no indication that these renovations were truly needed, the Surrender community found this action unacceptable and sent [a letter protesting the move](#).

Recently, the AVFO's 'Housing Service' sent [an email to Muyarchi community](#), noting that if they did not move out by the end of January, they would be deducted double the contribution for housing from their FS accounts each month. The Muyarchi residents were supported by some concerned community members to deal with this situation. After a meeting with some of these community members, AVFO's 'Housing Service', Otto from Financial Service, and the Muyarchi residents, it was decided that the youth can stay for the time being and only have to bear the original increase of Rs 600 contribution.

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He started to verbally assault the youth, stating that they were all 'drug-addicts'. After a heated conversation, and with the help of neighbours and a member of AVSST, the youth residing in Muyarchi agreed to pay more attention to being silent, while the neighbour agreed to leave the premises.

## Kalabhumi meeting

On 20th January, a group of residents held a community meeting in Kalabhumi. The meeting was [attended by around 500 people](#). Included was an invitation to participate in offering [prayers](#) for a community [kolam](#), a [timeline](#) of events up until now, an opportunity for audience members to share their learnings from the past year and a talk by Deepti. The RA-appointed working groups presented their intention statements for 2023, which was followed by a personal statement from WCom member Chali. Audience members responded with a [standing ovation](#) for the WCom members that lasted several minutes. After the meeting the organising team sent out a [massbulletin](#) which acknowledged that there had not been enough time to discuss 'burning issues' such as the takeover of the News & Notes and the FIRs against 32 Aurovilians. They shared that there is space for further discussion of issues such as these at the 5pm Wednesday community meeting, held every week at Tibetan Pavilion.



## Balkrishna Doshiji of Vastu Shilpa passes away

Balkrishna Doshi, a pioneering architect and urban designer, passed away on Tuesday 24th January 2023. He was 95 years old. Doshi was born in Pune, India in 1927 and began his career as an architect in the 1950s. He was heavily influenced by the work of Le Corbusier and Louis Khan, with whom he worked closely.

Throughout his career, Doshi was committed to creating architecture that was not only functional and beautiful, but also responsive to the needs of the people who would be using it. His buildings were designed to be both livable and sustainable, and he was a strong advocate for the use of local materials and traditional building techniques. He won numerous awards in his field, including the 2018 Pritzker Architecture Prize, considered the most prestigious award in the field of architecture, in recognition of his lifelong contributions to the field.

Balkrishna Doshi was involved in Auroville, both as a member of the Governing Board and for some years, as Chairman of Auroville's Town Planning group. Last year his company, Vastu Shilpa Consultants, was in talks with the Auroville Foundation to prepare the DDPs for Auroville. Unfortunately, this possibility was discontinued by the AVFO, to the dismay of the community. Doshiji always emphasised the importance of seeing the Galaxy as a beautiful, flexible, inspiring, and inclusive concept, that could only be realised together with the residents of Auroville.

You can find an interview with Doshiji, in which he explains how he sees the Galaxy, in four parts here: [part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), and a film about him from the AV Arts Service [here](#).

## AVFO-appointed groups first 'open' meeting

The AVFO-appointed 'WCom', 'FAMC', and 'ATDC' held an 'open' meeting at the Unity Pavilion on Tuesday 24th of January. This is the first time that there has been an invitation to the community since these groups forcibly took over the governance of Auroville. There was conflicting information on the Q&A, as their [massbulletin](#) announced that it would be held after the presentations, while the [Auronet invitation](#) noted that "After each group's presentation we will open the floor for Q&A." Some RA members were keen to have dialogue with these 'groups', as there has not been any chance to do so in a long time. Unsure whether there would be space for dialogue at the end of the three presentations, some requested at the beginning for a format of Q&A after each presentation. They also requested for a dialogue to take place. This

[Approximately 40 people](#) were in attendance in the hall, with another 75 joining online throughout the two-hour meeting. The presentations outlined the current work done by these groups and their plans for the future. Some key points are highlighted here:

- Selvaraj of the AVFO's 'WCom' claimed that of the 2500 previously on the RoR, less than 2000 now remained, and that more time will be taken by the AVFO to verify this.
- The AVFO 'groups' are planning to invite 10,000 new people, and are contacting universities, embassies, and industries to do so, advertising the Auroville project to boost volunteer and resident numbers. It is unclear how this is in line with Mother's explicit instruction that there should be no promotional publicity for Auroville.
- It was announced that 1737 crores have been 'approved' for the development of Auroville, however it was not completely clear from the presentation if the funds have been approved at government level or just by the GB.
- There will be enhanced security from 26th January onwards for the G20 visit on the 31st.
- AVFO's 'ATDC' expects the first phase of the Crown, from Youth Centre to PTDC (2.1 km) to be ready by April 1st. A 'test stretch' of 100 meters through the Youth Centre should be done by the end of February.

An Aurovilian has also written a report on the meeting, which you can [find here](#).

## G20 coming to Auroville

G20 delegates will come to Auroville on Tuesday 31st January. The AVFO 'WCom' has announced that security around Auroville will be heightened on the days leading up to the event, with Auroville completely closed from Monday, 3pm. On Tuesday itself, nobody from outside will be allowed to enter, meaning that schools and many units inside Auroville will be fully closed, unless workers can arrive before 6.30am. Traffic should be possible after 4.30pm.

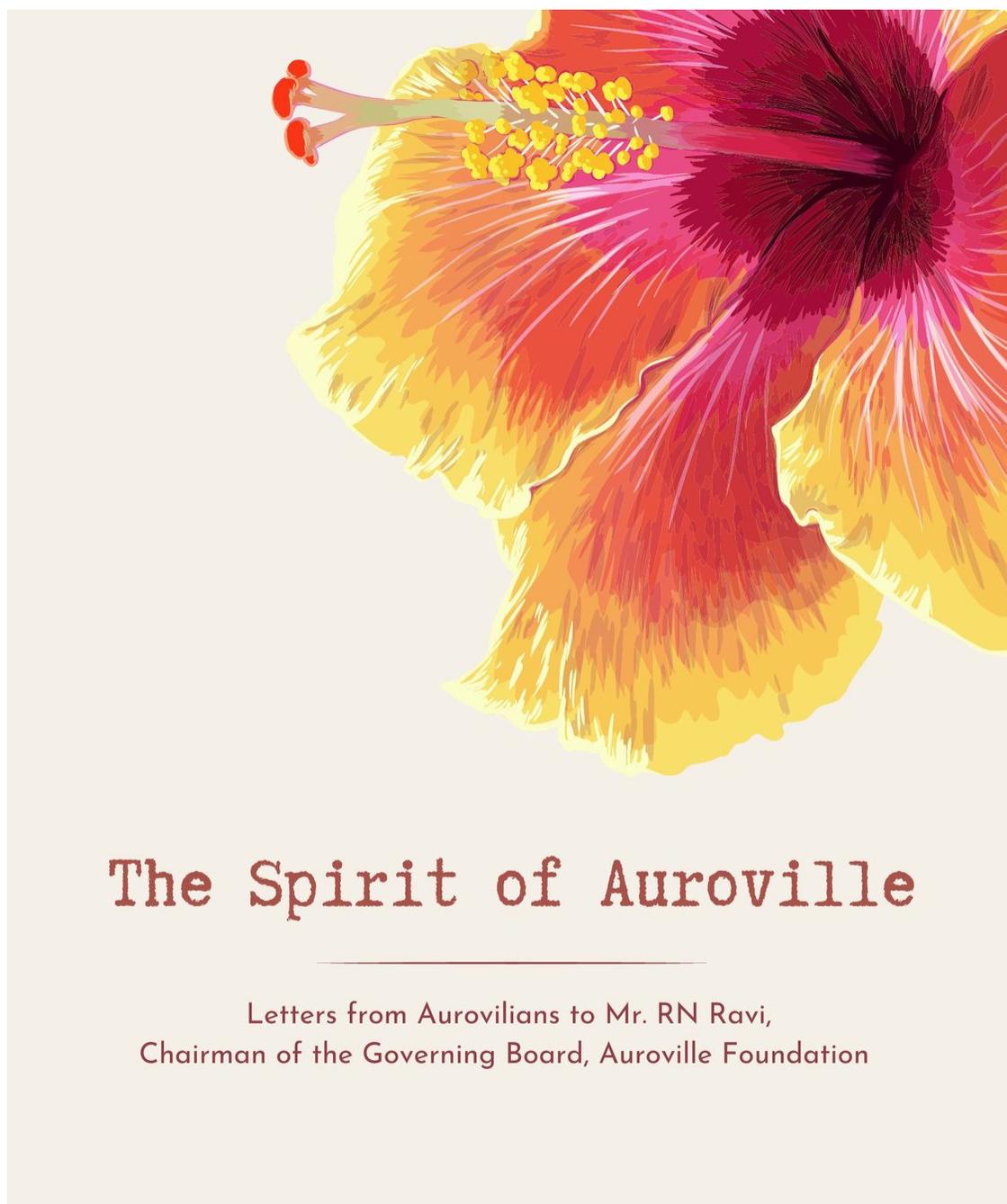
## Krishna Das at Matrimandir - Spiritual Summit

The famous kirtan singer Krishna Das will give a performance in the Matrimandir Amphitheatre on 12th February 2023. The event's aim, stated [on the AVI USA website](#), is to fundraise for Auroville. The concert is meant to kickstart a 3-days summit on Science and Spirituality in which the AVFO is involved, and for which you can find [the program here](#).

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that is seen and felt in such events and VIP visits organised by the Foundation office (to most of which the community is neither welcome nor informed)...". They also note the concern from different parts of the community that such events should not be held at Matrimandir, as it is not the space for large events open to all. You can find the RA Wcom communication [here](#).

## Spirit of Auroville book



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contains a selection of letters from Aurovilians to the Chairman of the Governing Board, is now available. If you would like to get one copy of it for a suggested contribution of Rs 250 (to cover the cost price), please write to [spiritofauroville@auroville.services](mailto:spiritofauroville@auroville.services). There are also copies available in the AV Council room in a box with instructions. The account number for contributions is 251681. You can also find the online version [here](#).

## Notices from RA Working Groups

### RA FAMC massbulletin regarding 'resettlement emails':

The RA FAMC sent a [massbulletin](#) regarding the 'resettlement emails' that were recently sent out by the 'house transfer subgroup' to a section of the community. They offer their assistance and guidance to affected residents and invite people to email them at [famc@auroville.services](mailto:famc@auroville.services).

### AV Council monthly report

AV Council shared their [monthly report](#) for December which includes updates regarding several community issues including the upcoming Selection Process, Auroannam and Muyarchi Youth Housing.

## 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:

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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).

**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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