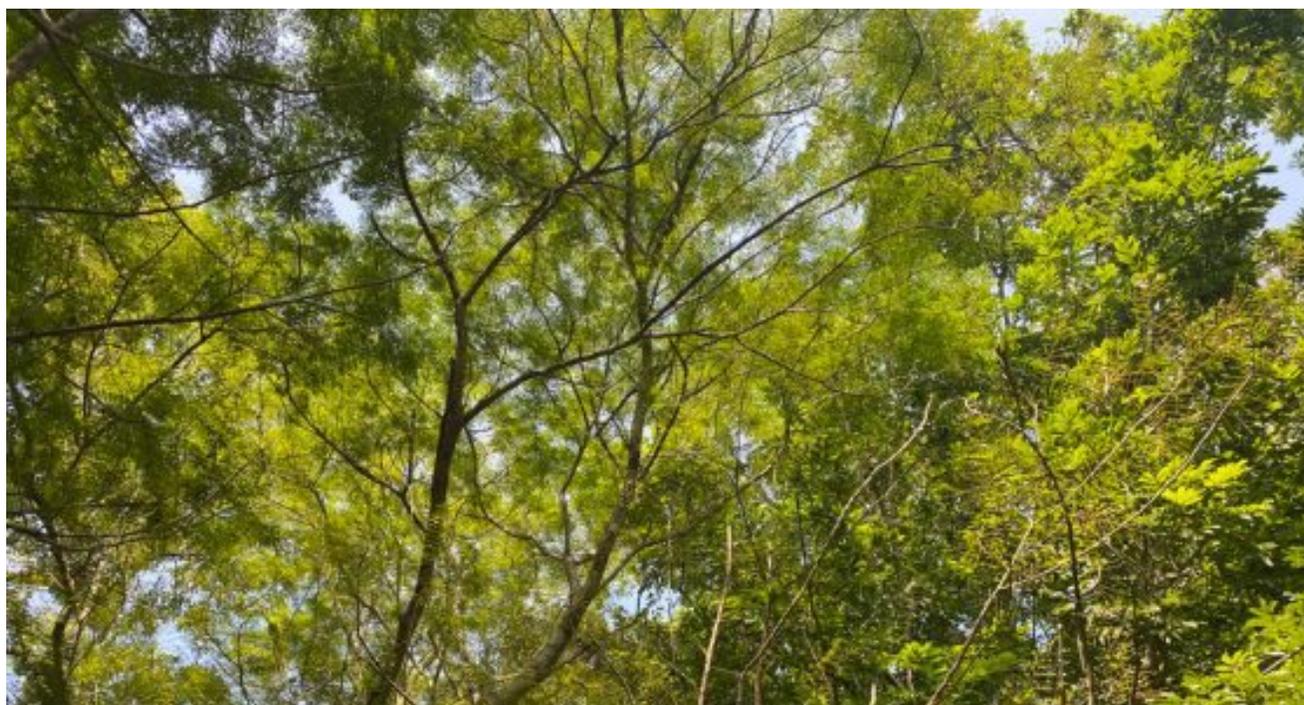


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# Auroville Bulletin 57

**Mael's Leave India notice, Join the choir for  
Auroville's birthday, Farming project in Evergreen**

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A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

February 25th, 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

- Sign the appeal letters to the Prime Minister Mr Modi: Two Aurovilians have written letters of appeal to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. They can be read and signed via [this link](#).
- **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 [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto: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 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

### Mael's Leave India Notice

Mael, who was born and raised in Auroville and a member of the RA WCom, received a Leave India Notice (LIN) on 15th February, instructing him to leave India on or before March 1st 2023. As of yet there is no resolution to the situation. The AVFO's 'WCom' indicated in an [Auronet post](#) that the order has come directly from the Home Ministry; however it is believed to be linked to undisclosed comments made by the

The announcement by the AVFO's 'WCom', stating that they "cannot pursue this further", was called "dry and uncompassionate" by one Auronet user, with another noting that it was "a public admission of voluntary dereliction of duty with regards to this most critical matter." The Working Committees selected by the Residents' Assembly have always previously upheld their duty to support residents in need.

The Auroville International (AVI) Board intervened by sending a [letter to the GB](#), noting that the LIN raises "suspicion... that this serious measure is a retaliation for [Mael's] commitment to the governance of the Auroville community." The letter also mentions that "In a recent meeting with Secretary Dr Jayanti Ravi, she urged us to connect young people from all over the world with Auroville ... We resonate with this request, as it is completely in line with our own commitment to Auroville. However, it is more than counteracted by events such as the expulsion of a young person who has the basis of his existence in Auroville and dedicates his life to building the city." AVI has been supporting Auroville in a number of different capacities, but particularly financially, since its inception in 1983. See [here](#) for a report about their contribution to Auroville over the years.

On Friday, the WCom of the RA sent a massbulletin calling on the community to pray for Mael, while efforts to find a solution are ongoing.

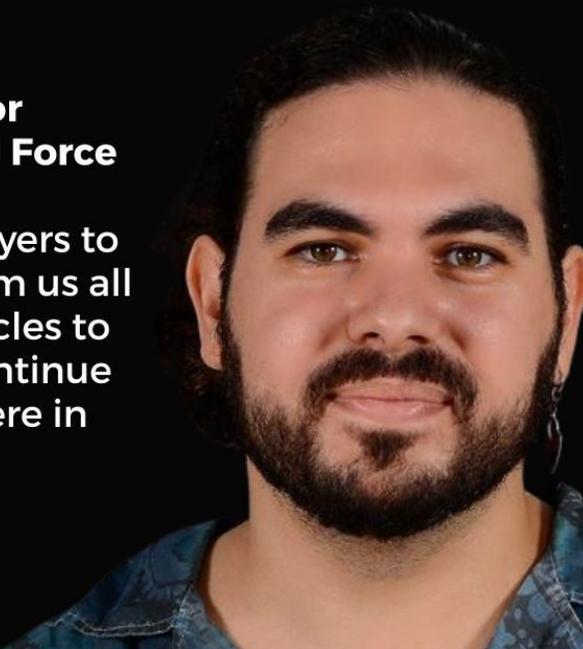
# Pray for Maël

Dear Auroville Family,

**Please join us in calling for Mother's Grace, Light and Force to be with Maël in this challenging moment.** Prayers to the Divine are needed from us all to create a space for miracles to happen so that he can continue working for the Mother here in Auroville with us.

With love and hope,

Members of your Working



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Hemant, Sauro, Valli**

## Join the choir event and sing on AV's birthday!

In light of the recent 'Leave India' notice, Aurovilians are organising a choir event for 5.30pm on Tuesday 28th February at Solar Kitchen parking, inviting everyone to get together and sing a song of hope for the future. Solar Kitchen will be providing dinner afterwards. The song, called 'One Day' originally performed by Matisyahu, will be practiced on the spot and then performed live by whoever wants to join. The song has been sung by a choir before and can be found [here](#).

The choir will be directed by Shakti, who has offered several practice sessions this week in Kalabhumi studio. The next timings for practice at Kalabhumi studio are:

- Sunday 26th February 2.30-4pm
- Monday 27th February 4-6pm

You can also practice the song at home using [this karaoke version](#).

**Please come to sing, and bring you friends and family to raise a voice of hope together!**



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**to share our love  
for the dream of  
Auroville and let  
our collective  
voice rise**

## Letter to PM Shri Narendra Modi

Two Aurovilians, Divya Kapoor and Christine Devin, have written two letters addressed to Prime Minister Modi, to appeal for him to intervene in the ever-escalating situation in Auroville. These letters are open to gathering additional signatures until midnight on 28th February. After some feedback from community members, the organisers sent an [update](#) to the original letters. They note that “These letters were written in a spontaneous manner reflecting the situation when the community learned of the sudden Leave India Notice received by Mael. There was, and still is, a sense of urgency to call for the support of higher authorities while we are working to solve this ongoing situation that threatens the existence of Auroville.”

**All are invited to sign these letters in support of their call. You can find the signing form [here](#).**

## Farming Project in Evergreen Forest

Without any discussion with Evergreen stewards, a part of Evergreen Forest was allocated to the ‘Unity Farm’ project in August 2021. More recently, trees were cut to clear the land and this week, a chain link fence was put up, blocking Evergreen’s access to another piece of forest that is part of Evergreen.

According to [the announcement on Auronet](#), the project aims to train interested people how to farm, so that they can each be allocated a plot of 1-5 acres to create small farms on which they are invited to build a house. This plan is in direct contradiction to the efforts of the Farm Group over the years to upscale farming into larger plots, as small subsistence plots are not cost effective (as each plot needs its own infrastructure and machinery) and on average, grow very little food for Auroville. The project is funded by the Government of India.

The plot is an extension of Sustenance farm, and was supposed to be taken care of by the late Ramalingam and Anitha. Since Ramalingam’s passing, the project is now

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group for [a building application](#). The AVFO's 'ATDC' is calling for feedback on this application, which you can send before 9th March to [application-avenir@auroville.org.in](mailto:application-avenir@auroville.org.in).

The RA TDC has written a massbulletin in which they note the conflict of interest and other issues with the project, such as that it is in violation of the NGT ruling, which asks for DDPs and environmental clearance before any more development of Auroville is undertaken. You can read their [full communication here](#).

## Other Updates and Information

### Housing Service Update

#### AVFO's 'FAMC' announces draft Housing Policy & Mandate

The AVFO's 'FAMC' has released drafts for a new [Housing Policy](#) & [Mandate](#). If the group manages to implement these documents some of the proposed changes would be;

- The elimination of the Housing Board from the Housing Group. The proposed mandate would create a 'Housing Advisory Group' who would be made up of 5 Aurovilians majorly from the AVFO's 'working groups'. However, this group would only exist to advise the AVFO's 'FAMC' on "policy and strategic goals", with operational responsibilities being delegated to 'Housing Service' and 'FAMC' becoming the final decision-makers in most situations.
- All references to the AV Council are removed and AVFO's 'FAMC' are the final arbiters of all appeals - meaning that they are the body reviewing their own decisions in case of conflict.
- Stewardship is recast as a "privilege" which can be revoked by AVFO's 'FAMC' under certain conditions, set by themselves.
- Friends of Auroville (FoA) are not mentioned in the policy and seemingly lose all rights to stewardship. It is unclear how this leaves current FoA who hold stewardship agreements.
- The financial management of Housing Service funds will be dealt with by the Housing Service.
- There are changes to the definitions of when a steward is deemed to have left

An Aurovilian has reviewed the 2023 draft policy in comparison to the 2011 [community-approved policy](#) and has given their opinion on the changes and what they could mean in practice. You can find this document [here](#). They note that:

“The proposed elimination of the Housing Board as a decision-making power raises a number of concerns. The Housing Board was created via community-approved processes with the purpose of providing accountability to the community and rooting out issues of favouritism and mismanagement of assets. The forcible takeover of both the FAMC & the Housing Board means that the community now has no say how decision-makers are selected or held to account and there is a lack of transparency about how decisions are made within both groups.”

## Issues of concern in Housing Service

- The AVFO's 'Housing Service' has recently allocated a 200+ sqm family-sized house in Kalabhumi to a single Aurovilian, without following any community processes and for no financial contribution. Meanwhile [eviction emails](#) have been sent to Aurovilians and a number of families with houses on the Outer Ring Road [asking them](#) to “contact the L’avenir d’Auroville/ATDC house transfer sub-group... to find what possibilities are available for you transferring to another available residence within Auroville.” There is a shortage of houses suitable for families in Auroville, so it is not clear on what basis a single person could be allocated a house of this size.
- An Aurovilian couple have shared the [chain of events](#) related to the ongoing transfer of their house that they are living in in Felicity. Despite the house transfer being almost completed when the AVFO took over Housing Service, the new group did not complete the process, instead choosing to ignore the list of applicants and place a family in the house who had not applied. One member of this family has familial links with a member of the AVFO's 'FAMC', presenting a clear conflict of interest. The family is already housed, meaning that there is no urgency to rehouse them. After objections from the couple and the Felicity community, the transfer was placed on hold. To date, the transfer has still not been completed. There is also a second family house in Felicity stewarded by Housing Service, which has been left empty despite the ongoing housing crisis.
- There have been other recent house transfers which lack transparency, with stewards assigned without any open community process. In one case, a house in Light was transferred to the same family who had previously been offered the house in Felicity mentioned above. As with the Kalabhumi house, the house was not at any time offered to the community as a whole, essentially meaning that it was passed 'under the table' without any transparency about how the decision to give it to them was made.

Satprem of the Auroville Earth Institute has written a technical report detailing the comparative carbon emissions of the original pavers on the Crown, versus the current concrete slabs that are being installed. The conclusion drawn is that the production and transport of the cement slabs (per sqm) requires 6.1 times the amount of carbon emission needed compared to the original pavers, which were much lower in cement and which were made at the Auroville Road Service. The Auroville Road Service was never informed of the tender for the road. You can read Satprem's full report [here](#).

## AVI Chairman's Speech

The AVI Chairman, Christian Feuillet, opened the General Assembly of the AVI Association with a speech that focussed on the meaning of the 'Spirit of Auroville'. He said "the spirit of Auroville is not found in the verticality of a power coming from above, but in the horizontality of a collective spirit". He goes on to note "All must work together with the greatest possible goodwill to build and develop the city. Consultations and debates must take place, but once a broad consensus is reached, the work should proceed without hindrance or delay. All residents must obviously be included in this process."

You can read the full text of the speech [here](#).

## AVFO's FAMC closes small-scale activities

At the beginning of November 2022, the AVFO's 'FAMC' sent [an email](#) to several Activity managers whose annual turnover does not exceed 2 lakhs. The email stated "If you do not intend to develop your activity to the next level we suggest you close down your activity and work with any other unit with a similar scope of work to your activity". A little over 3 months after this information was shared, several people [received emails](#) informing them their Activities would be closed on 31st March. This puts a strain on Aurovilians who focus on giving back to the community with their activity and forces a change towards income generation. It may also affect a number of Aurovilians whose small-scale activities were generating enough income to cover their own maintenance, forcing some of them to request support from the common City Services fund.

## 'Overcoming Apartheid'

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mandela, will be part of an informal gathering from 4 to 6.30 pm at the Unity Pavilion. All who are interested in his experiences of overcoming societal struggle and the truth and reconciliation process that followed are welcome. You can find the announcement from the organisers [here](#).

## Notices from RA Working Groups

### RA TDC 'Considering Multiple Perspectives'

The RA TDC shared a [notice](#) called 'Considering Multiple Perspectives' which is a call to "define and follow [a] middle-forward path, leaning neither towards anarchism nor towards fascism". They are setting up a participatory planning process which will be open to all to contribute to, noting that "the only rule of the game is for each to bring their goodwill, expertise and diversity into a shared approach and be ready to meet respectfully on middle ground".

### Auroville Council Report - January 2023

AV Council shared their [monthly report](#) for January in which they share a number of the topics and challenges that they have dealt with in the past month.

## 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

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- 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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