

## ***Auroville Bulletin 6 : A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today***

18th February, 2022

### **Recent events update:**

- **RAD - feedback deadline & suggestion for feedback:** the new Selection Methodology for Participatory Working Groups (Auroville Council, Entry Board, FAMC, TDC and Working Committee) is open to feedback until the 18th of February, 2022 (**TODAY MIDNIGHT**). You can give your feedback using the following form: <https://auroville.formstack.com/forms/sprtf>

While giving your feedback, here are a few suggestions that you might want to consider adding in the “General notes on process” part (if you agree with these suggestions):

- to include the selection of new ATDC in the new methodology;
  - to ensure that any working group member who has not been selected by the Residents’ Assembly be replaced by RA-selected members during the coming selection process. This would mainly be useful for the ATDC selection (as TDC members can be appointed by the Governing Board to fill a gap), ensuring that members who are not appointed by the RA will hold office only until the next selection process takes place (unless they are selected by the RA);
  - the need for a ‘de-selection’ process in the Participatory Working Groups document, a process to address the topic of removal of members from office during their term. For instance a criteria for this would be that removal of members can happen through a defined process if these members are seen to not respect / comply with decisions of the Residents’ Assembly.
- **Outreach Media update:** Since “the spare key to the Outreach Media office was retrieved by a member of the Auroville Foundation staff from the Auroville Archives without permission from the FAMC” and “the locks to the office were changed, the spokespersons appointed by the Auroville Foundation's Office (Joel and Sindhuja) have taken possession of the Outreach Media office” (see Auroville Bulletin 5), the spokespersons appointed by the Foundation’s Office have started working in the Outreach Media office. To date they have reportedly not yet been able to access the Outreach Media’s email address however they have taken over [the Auronet group “AV Outreach Media”](#).

As a response to the recent events in regards to Auroville’s Outreach Media, and the actions taken by the Office of the Secretary on the matter, [a letter in support of Auroville’s Outreach Media](#) signed by 325 residents has been sent on the 14th of February to the FAMC and Working Committee, copied to the Auroville Council, Outreach Media and Office of the Secretary. The same letter was forwarded to the Governing Board, International Advisory Council

and Auroville International Board members, with a covering note. Additional signatures for the letter continue to be collected, feel free to add your name by filling in the following form: <https://forms.gle/LwD5ZbmFmws2Pbg39>

- **Office of the Secretary giving reduced-length visas:** As of yesterday (17th February) at least three Aurovilians (2 children and 1 adult) have received recommendation letters for five year visas. However a number of Aurovilians have also reported that their one year visa requests have been reduced to 6 months and others to just 3 months. No reason for this has been given by the Secretary's office. Please email the Working Committee ([workingcom@auroville.org.in](mailto:workingcom@auroville.org.in)) to ask them what they are doing about this unprecedented situation.
- **RRO visits:** Reportedly, RRO officers are continuing their visits, including to some of the people who were not present at the peaceful protests. The interactions continue to be polite and respectful. If you have been visited by the RRO, please write to [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com) to make sure that it is put on record.
- **AV Council Information Sharing Meeting:** The Auroville Council has invited all Aurovilians to meet together at the Unity Pavilion for an information sharing meeting on 25th February at 4-6pm. More details are [here](#).
- **Dreamweaving update:** The dreamweaving architects are hard at work as they prepare for the final dreamweaving sessions this Saturday and Sunday (19/20th) in Unity Pavilion. On Saturday, the final presentations will be made in the Unity pavilion, focusing upon key ideas and how the ideas of other architects, as well as detailed feedback from peers, experts, focus groups, and randomly selected members of the community, have been integrated into their designs for the Crown. Participants from all these groups will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive responses.  
The links for Saturday live streaming  
<https://youtu.be/UFO6GzlrNo> (morning)  
<https://youtu.be/1qaZyvvwuE> (afternoon)  
The Sunday session is an opportunity for all those involved to deeply reflect upon the process and outcome of the previous six weeks. Their deliberations will be integral to the final report which will be forwarded to the Vastu Shilpa Foundation for them to consider in drawing up the Detailed Development Plan for Auroville. Soon a presentation of the Dreamweaving on the Crown exercise, including the process, outcome, lessons learned and possible future applications, will be made to the larger community. We will announce the details following this weekend's sessions.
- **Auroville Festival:** The Auroville Unity Festival schedule has been published on various platforms. Festival organisers have included some activities which have wrong information regarding venue, time and date. Many of the activities have also been included without the consent of those organising them. Organisers of the Craft Mela and Dreamweaving, for instance, have

confirmed that they have contacted Auroville Unity Festival Team to change/remove the information related to their activities, however the schedule changes have not yet been published.

Many residents feel that this push for a 'unity festival' on behalf of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation that includes contentious activities such as a crown walk despite the fact that there have been no genuine attempts at healing the community is a propaganda exercise and some are choosing to boycott it on those grounds. Instead, some residents call for a week of introspection and silence out of respect for the recent troubles rather than a public festival, as shown for instance [on this poster](#).

- **Clearing of the crown:** In preparation for the unity festival, Auroville Road Service has cleared several sections of the proposed Crown road. One of the activities advertised in the festival is a walk along the proposed Crown road. As per the NGT stay order, no activity is to take place in the area, including any clearing. On several occasions the Road Service has had to be stopped from going ahead with this clearing despite the court order. They claimed that clearing of mullus and debris was permitted. However, according to the court "The Learned Counsel appearing for the applicant submitted that the 1st respondent is proceeding with other activities by putting underground cables etc. whatever work done by the 1st respondent during the pendency of this proceeding will be subject to final orders passed by this Tribunal and they will be doing the same at their risk". For your information the 1st respondent is the Auroville Foundation, represented by its Secretary.
- **An appeal from the Youth Center:** Dear community, friends, neighbours and guests of Auroville,  
We call on you, the youth that never ages, to come and join us at the Youth Center. With the help of Daniel, who recently returned to Auroville to help us at the YC, we are rebuilding the roof of our well loved and much used workshop and extending our work space. Starting on Wednesday we will be working everyday 9am to 12.30 (those who join us for the morning work session are welcome to join us for lunch). And 2pm to 5pm from the afternoon session. Do let us know ahead of time if you'll be joining us. All are welcome. The tasks are many and varied. There's lots to learn as we've redesigned and are rebuilding the roof structure, repairing the floor, building new shelves, replanting and developing the surrounding gardens and much more. Come and join us to learn, explore and play. We look forward to keeping the community updated on our process of rebuilding at the Youth Center. We have started a process of meeting with the ATDC Team to collaborate in designing and planning for the development of the Youth Center at its current location. Our aim is to rebuild a Youth Center, even better than ever before. Our emphasis is on working together, as a community, coming together and creating together. Do let us know if you have any questions or pass by the Youth Center to speak to one of our team and find out more. And action! The Youth Center Team

- **Newsletter from AVI Netherlands:** the newsletter from AVI Netherlands has had a change in its editor, mainly due to a decision of the AVI Netherlands Board to stop making references to the extreme nature of the 'Aurovillage' series. AVI Netherlands is therefore looking for a new editor, please get in touch if you'd be interested by the role.
- **Questionnaire: What has stalled development for the last 20 years?** A survey on development has been posted on AuroNet with the following message 'Here is a survey on "what stalled development for the last 20 years". It would be great if the people on here participated by sharing their views. It is a quick survey, unless you have lots to add in writing. This survey and the results will be shared with many groups and on the AuroNet. Please also share it' Please note that if you are opening the survey on a mobile, you will have to scroll sideways to see all 7 reply choices.  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefqxrsp4VfR2rXK4Y3s5ZUG3TFf5fr...>

The change.org petition is still going if you haven't yet signed and shared and would like to:  
<https://www.change.org/p/prime-minister-of-india-sos-from-auroville-the-city-of-dawn-needs-your-help-urgently>

## Recent News Articles:

<https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/how-green-is-my-citys-backyard/article38416704.ece>

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 - you are welcome to write to [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com).

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.