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## **Auroville Bulletin 91**

**Frederick's visa denied, RA WCom eviction, Petition for  
ERAD on legitimacy of AVFO 'working groups'**

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Saturday, 24th May 2025

Please find a glossary of acronyms and terms used in this bulletin [here](#).

## **How can you help?**

There are many ways that we can all help support the community at this time. Here are some ways that you can help! If you have any skills you would like to offer, questions as to how these actions are helpful to the community, or how you can get involved, feel free to contact [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com) or the related email below. Thank you!

## Financial assistance

- **Support for Maintenances:** Please support individuals cut off from their maintenances by the AVFO working groups. For more information, please contact the BCC: [bccoffice@auroville.services](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.services). If you wish to support the Farm or Forest Group as a whole, please contact these groups via [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com).
- **Support for legal fees:** Please donate towards legal and delegation fees by emailing [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com). Please see [here](#) for more information about why financial assistance is necessary.
- **Support the RA News and Notes:** The RA News and Notes needs financial support to continue functioning please consider making a donation to Financial Service account number #252150. To read all issues and subscribe, [click here](#).

## Hands on help

- **Documentation work:** It is important to continue documenting tree cutting and land clearing. If you are available and willing to help with documentation, please get in touch with [evolvingalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvingalaxy@gmail.com).
- **Keeping vigil in the AV Council room:** For nearly 3 years 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.
- **Share information confidentially with the RA WCom via email [workingcom@auroville.services](mailto:workingcom@auroville.services).** The RA WCom is collecting information regarding the various interactions with the AVFO and their appointees. This information is necessary in order to protect the RA and will remain strictly confidential.

## What is happening now

### Frederick's visa denied



Frederick was informed in April 2025 that his application for a visa extension, which had been left pending since July 2024, had been rejected and he was ordered to upload a flight ticket on the FRRO's website within 7 days. Frederick is one of Auroville's longest-serving residents, having first come to Pondicherry and the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1960, and settling permanently in 1966. He was among the first to be admitted as an Aurovillian by the Mother herself, and worked closely with her during Auroville's formative years. Over his nearly six decades in Auroville, Frederick has been instrumental in numerous foundational projects. Now 86 years old, Frederick has dedicated his life to the development and vision of Auroville. Please find [here](#) a document that outlines some of Frederick's contributions to Auroville over the years.

Several residents appealed to the AVFO 'WCom' to support Frederick during this difficult time. In response, AVFO 'WCom' member Anu released a [statement](#), claiming that "Though the decision is not in our hands - in view of all that has happened, if Frederick makes a step to offer a sincere and genuine apology to the Govt of India, the Governing Board, the Secretary and to Auroville, the Working Committee is willing to support him". However Frederick's repeated requests for the reasons behind the visa denial have been met with silence and he has made it clear that he does not know what he may need to apologise for. Anu subsequently shared an [anonymous article](#) making several unsubstantiated accusations about Frederick's actions over the years.



Several hundred people came to celebrate Frederick's 86th birthday at Certitude on 13th May. On the same day a video was released by Auroville Media Liaison Service, featuring Frederick talking about how he had not been given any indication as to why his visa extension had been refused. To date, the video has received over 130k views across social media platforms. The following day, a [Times of India article](#) was published containing incorrect claims from AVFO-appointee Sindhuja Jagadeesh that Frederick had received a 'Leave India Notice' from the Ministry of Home Affairs. She also stated that "The notice was a result of an inquiry committee's report", however without providing any reference to an actual inquiry. A further [interview with Frederick](#) was shared by News 9 the following day.



### Petition for Frederick

To date, over 3,000 Auroville residents and other well-wishers have signed a [petition](#) appealing against the decision not to renew Frederick's visa. The petition has now been sent to the relevant authorities however it is still open and taking signatures.

### RA WCom evicted from office spaces

Executives of Kailash youth accommodation received emails from the AVFO 'FAMC' in May 2025 demanding that all of the current residents and the users of the office space vacate the building and they must hand over the keys to the AVFO 'Housing Service'.

Kailash currently houses 15 young people, many of whom are aged under 18, some of whom have no other place to call home. The office space has been occupied by the RA WCom since the AVFO takeover of the Town Hall building. The email stated that the AVFO 'Security Team' would be occupying the office space from May 12th and that the residents should vacate before the end of the month. Residents above 18 were requested to "approach housing" with no other alternative given, while those below 18 were requested to go back to their families, bypassing the fact that in some cases this is no longer a possibility.

RA WCom released a [massbulletin](#) sharing the news of the eviction, stating that "We have agreed that under the circumstances it would be best for Kailash that the Working Committee moves out of the office space and finds another place from which to work". Six days later, they [announced](#) they had found a new space to work and hold their open house, however within a few days of the announcement the executives of that unit also received threats from the AVFO 'FAMC'. To avoid repercussions for the executives, RA WCom agreed to move out, as announced in their May 23rd [massbulletin](#) titled 'Homeless Again'.

## **AVFO 'ATSC' update & ERAD petition**

The Madras High Court has vacated (lifted) the interim stay injunction that was in place on the GB-created Admissions and Terminations Regulations, which was published in the Gazette of India in January 2024. The court case itself is still active but was adjourned for four weeks until after the court's summer break.

As acknowledged by the RA WCom in their [massbulletin](#) on April 30th 2025, the lifting of the stay order has implications for Auroville's residents because "this decision means that the new regulations on entry and exit that were previously stayed are now applicable until a final or a different order comes from the Madras High Court". A further WCom [massbulletin](#) on 7th May shared the [court order](#) and stated that "The order does, however, recognize the prerogatives of the Residents' Assembly as indicated in Section 19 of the Act and states that if any of the regulations contravene the function of the Residents' Assembly under Section 19 of the Act, then the Act would prevail."

Even prior to the court order lifting the stay, the AVFO 'Admissions and Terminations Scrutinizing Committee' (AVFO 'ATSC') had been functioning, claiming that the order only disallowed them from adding or removing people in the Register of Residents (RoR). Both before and after the judgement, several announcements of Newcomers and Aurovilians were sent out to the community for feedback.

The AVFO 'ATSC' have also communicated a number of threats to 'terminate' the residency of Aurovilians and Newcomers who have been deemed as not following the [AVF Residence Criteria](#) Standing Order. Several residents who are waiting for letters of recommendation from the Secretary have been ordered to attend meetings with the AVFO 'ATSC' and some have been told that they will have to sign a form agreeing to follow the AVF Residence Criteria in order to get their letter.

Other actions carried out by the group include no longer allowing long-term volunteers, insisting that anyone who wishes to remain in Auroville for over one year must begin their Newcomer process. This particularly affects those who are dependent on a visa to stay in Auroville, as their application to extend their visa will not be processed unless they apply to become a Newcomer through the AVFO 'ATSC'.

### **ERAD Petition**

A group of residents have launched a petition for an ERAD on the legitimacy of a number of GB-appointed groups, including the AVFO 'ATSC', 'Human Resources' (HR), the 'Admission and Terminations Registry' (ATR) as well as the AVF Residence Criteria itself. If the petition is successful in raising 300 signatures from Aurovilians who are on the Master List then an ERAD will be launched. The ERAD organising team have lately added a [resolution](#) to the petition as was recommended by the RAS. You can sign the petition [here](#).

## **AVFO recruitment attempts**

An unnamed AVFO Officer on Special Duty (OSD) sent a [massbulletin](#) out to the Auroville community inviting self-nominations for serving in an AVFO group, service, unit or trust and stating that “The Auroville Foundation is keen to move forward in collaboration towards the building of the city and the right administering of Auroville”.

Since the AVFO takeover of Auroville began in 2021, the Office of the Secretary has taken over all key institutions, ejecting teams of experienced people and replacing them with only those aligned with the AVFO's and GB's agenda, regardless of their prior experience or skill. This has resulted in a small number of people simultaneously serving several positions in different groups, concentrating the power in the hands of few who have not been selected by the RA.

Many of the institutions taken over by the AVFO are named on the [self-nomination form](#) which was shared in the massbulletin. It is not stated what the criteria for selection will be, what skills are required or who will be selecting people for the new roles.

## **Other Updates and Information**

### **Circular re ‘unauthorised gatherings’**

Possibly in response to the Kalabhumi meeting that was convened by the RA WCom in March 2025 in order to launch the ERAD on Section 19 committees, the AVFO sent out a [circular](#) stating that "certain residents continue to organise gatherings and conduct activities without prior approval". They claimed that such gatherings were organised by "illegal and impersonating groups", and that the AVFO 'WCom' were "constituted by the Residents Assembly" - which is factually false as four members were dismissed by the RA, and three were installed as 'interim members' in 2022.

The RA WCom [responded](#) by massbulletin, pointing out that "It is fully within the rights of residents to hold meetings to share information and experiences ... The community getting together and being united is precisely what we must do.". They also clarified that none of the so-called members of the 'WCom' endorsed by the GB have a legitimate claim to that title.

## 68th GB meeting minutes

On 16th April 2025, the RA WCom sent a [detailed letter](#) to the Governing Board concerning decisions taken during the 68th GB meeting held on 5th December 2024. The letter expressed serious concerns that the [meeting minutes](#) "directly contradict both the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988, and the foundational principles of the Auroville Charter." Among key issues raised were; proposed amendments to the Auroville Foundation Act that would alter its foundational legal framework, the lack of timely sharing of minutes with the Residents' Assembly, mischaracterization of Auroville's planning history, implementation of projects without proper consultation, and exclusion of the RA from decision-making processes. The RA WCom noted that the minutes characterize Auroville as having "tended towards an antithesis of its core objectives" and becoming "a refuge for some persons with vested interests," which they described as "empty and false statements" that dismiss the contributions of thousands of residents over 56 years.

The letter also highlighted concerns about the creation of new services under the Secretary's direct control, the functioning of the AVFO 'ATSC' despite a stay order from the Madras High Court (now lifted). The RA WCom concluded by reaffirming their commitment to the Mother's vision and requesting genuine consultation in future decisions.

## Petition on Auroville Net Neutrality

A group of 16 Aurovilians have submitted a petition to several of Auroville's administrative bodies, Aurinoco, BSNL and the Auroville Telephone Service, regarding Aurinoco's decision to discontinue BSNL internet services over its fiber network. The petition was signed and submitted on 19th May 2025. The petition has arisen after Aurinoco announced on 3rd May that it would terminate BSNL connections, citing technical issues, followed by speed reductions and disconnections affecting over 200 users. The petitioners argue this violates net neutrality principles and individual choice of internet service provider. The petition highlights concerns including loss of significant individual investments in network infrastructure made on promises of provider choice, forcing users to pay nearly double monthly rates (800 rupees vs 449 rupees for BSNL), and potential regulatory violations.

The signatories request that Aurinoco restore net neutrality, process new BSNL applications, include resident representation in management decisions, and follow transparent tender processes. The petition is now open for broader community signatures through an [online form](#), with personal details remaining confidential. Detailed documentation including the full petition text, annexures, and supporting evidence can be found linked in the [massbulletin](#) announcement.

## **Electricity arrears paid by the community**

The electricity bills of the users of the High Tension (HT) electricity network were unexpectedly [presented](#) with exceptionally high bills in April 2025, and were informed that this was their contribution to the audit arrear bill of 91 lakh that Auroville had been given by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. This has happened because, after an audit, TNEB have now decided that those using the HT line can no longer be on tariff meant for places of worship and educational institutions, and will instead be on a more expensive general tariff. Despite not having been consulted in any of the decisions made by the Auroville Electrical Service (AVES) regarding the matter, the burden of payment has been placed on the consumers.

The HT network has always been a controversial project in Auroville because every residence in Tamil Nadu is entitled to a 3-phase low tension connection that is subsidised (free for the first 100 units and only ₹4.80 for the first 400 units). However, in a bid to connect each AV residence with HT, the AVES has removed the choice of individuals to opt for subsidised schemes; this in spite of the fact that HT connections are not necessary for residences. Previous BCC teams and economic groups have questioned this decision, which will only lead to ever increasing electricity tariffs.

## Further MoUs and 'collaborations'

The AVFO has continued to make formal Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and other 'collaborations' with Indian institutes, engaging Auroville's name with no consultation with its residents - who only discover these new partnerships via press announcements. On 5th April 2025, an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) was [announced in The Hindu](#). The MoU was apparently to "facilitate knowledge exchange in digital heritage preservation, language computing, AI-driven cultural initiatives, and sustainable technology development" and would be "executed in coordination with Auroville's Electrical Service, Water Service and Aurinoco in the coming months". A [counter-piece](#) that mentions the ostracization of the RA in such agreements was published in [mathrubhumi.com](#).

Information about several other potential AVFO collaborations have been shared in The Hindu. An [article](#) on April 24th envisaged the construction of a "Madhya Pradesh Bhavan" in Auroville and shared that "Auroville has offered to train 100 selected teachers from Madhya Pradesh in holistic pedagogy during summer vacation". A further [article](#) from May 20th stated that the Ministry of Education was exploring "replicating Auroville's unique socio-economic model". The article claims that a ministry official met with 'stakeholders', and stated that she was "introduced to the diverse range of sustainable, artisanal, and socially responsible businesses that embody Auroville's ethos of conscious living". This continues an ongoing pattern by the AVFO of showcasing, appropriating and profiting from Auroville's achievements in the fields of environment, sustainable development, education and economy while simultaneously discrediting and dismantling the organisations and efforts made by the residents of Auroville who worked to create these innovations.

In another [Hindu article](#) entirely based on an AVFO press release, it was announced that the Secretary and other AVFO 'officials' had met with the Villupuram Collectorate to discuss development plans. The Villupuram Collectorate apparently agreed to "sort out the issues pertaining to revenue records and poramboke land" and the Secretary "outlined the plans to improve infrastructure for the 50,000 residents".

## AVFO community meetings

The AVFO and their 'Working Groups' have recently re-started their meetings with residents at Bharat Nivas. On 11th April 2025 a meeting with the main 'Working Groups' and 'AVF Legal', Mr. Seetharaman (OSD) and Mr. Koshy (Visa Officer) took place., You can find the YouTube video [here](#). A second meeting was held on 26th April, this time with the Secretary present. Please see [here](#) for the YouTube video. After the second meeting, one resident emailed a response to the invitation, stating "Until things improve and we have an administration which respects the people that concern it and with people representing them, I see no value in attending anything of this sort and I will certainly not help you to build a positive image for the press on the lines of "we are consulting with the residents", which is basically what this all boils down to".

## Miscellaneous

**Please note that the Auroville Bulletin team will be on a summer break for the next 2 months, we will resume in July 2025.**

Regular updates on events in Auroville can be found on the Telegram channel '[AV Development Announcements](#)' and on the [Auroville Community Updates WhatsApp group](#).

## Media & Other Links

- May 13th 2025, **Auroville Stories, Youtube:** [Early Days in Auroville 1969-1976](#)
- May 3rd 2025, **Chloe Sanchez, Youtube:** [The utopia I once called home](#) (in French, with English subtitles)
- April 16th 2025, **The News Minute:** [Inside Auroville: Power, profit, and plans for a federal enclave](#) (paywalled, [pdf here](#)).
- April 20th 2025, **The News Minute, Youtube:** [Chaos, conflict and Hindutva: What is happening in Auroville?](#)
- May 23rd 2025, **Indian Express:** [Lay down 'code of conduct' for officers appearing before courts to prevent 'sullyng government image': Gujarat HC to state](#)
- May 13th 2025, **The Hindu:** [Auroville's summer workshops train youth in new technologies](#)

## 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

If you wish to know more, the websites <https://auroville.media/> and <https://standforauroville.org/> contain a great deal of information on the current situation.

Please note that our previous bulletins can be found at this link: <https://linktr.ee/evolvinggalaxy>

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](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com). Also feel free to share with us information, questions or suggestions.

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.

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