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Auroville Bulletin 92

Federick's visa granted, more land exchanges approved by the GB, IIT Madras campus & Annapurna farm

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Wednesday, 6 August 2025

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

How can you help?

There are many ways to help support the community at this time. Please contact evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com If you have any skills you would like to offer or would like to contribute financially! Thank you!

Financial assistance

- **Support for legal fees:** Please donate towards legal and delegation fees by emailing evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com. Please see [here](#) for more information about why financial assistance is necessary.
- **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. If you wish to support the Farm or Forest Group as a whole, please contact these groups via evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com.

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 evolvinggalaxy@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, WhatsApp 94430 03617 to sign up. See [here](#) for more information.
- **Share information confidentially with the RA WCom via email 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

Fredericks visa is granted

Frederick was finally granted a visa just days before he was due to leave India. The three year visa is backdated for two years, meaning that it expires next year in July 2026.



Land exchanges proposed affecting Auroville lands in Auro Annam, Djaima, Eternity, Felicity and Kuilapalayam main road.

The GB has approved several exchanges of highly valuable Auroville land for scattered parcels of land, many in the Greenbelt and some on the outer ring road outside the master plan, as well as some land in the city area. As with the previous exchanges by the current GB, the land evaluations do not favour Auroville.

Reportedly 7.5 acres of Eternity, [estimated](#) over 100 crore rupees, is being proposed for an exchange for 7.3 acres of scattered parcels of land & a building asset with a total estimated value of 15 crore. The private owner benefiting from this exchange is Velmurugan, the son of T. Kannan, the new owner of the 10 acres of Auro Orchard land that was exchanged in 2023. A parcel of city land appearing in the list of land to be acquired in exchange was previously offered for sale to Auroville for much less than the rate assessed in exchange, however AVFO 'Land Service' members reportedly refused to purchase it. Some parcels to be acquired in exchange do not exist (or survey numbers are improperly noted) and other parcels already belong to Auroville, indicating an unprofessional manner, possible corruption and the lack of historic knowledge by employees of the AVFO regarding AV lands.

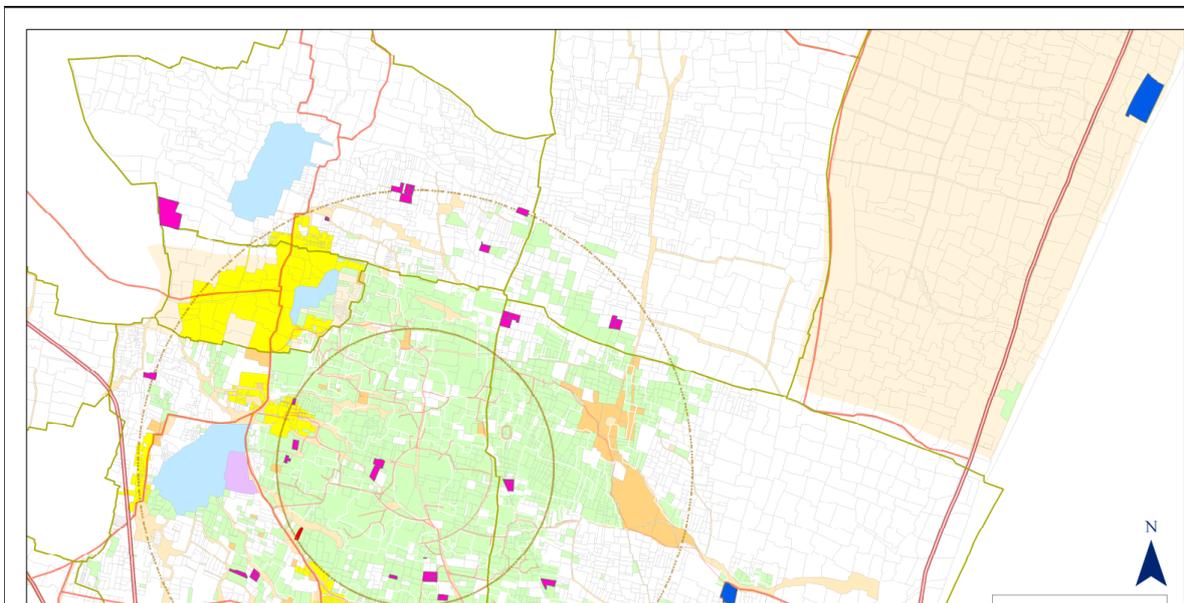
Regarding Eternity, it is noteworthy that the [Mother herself](#) signed the lease for this land in 1968 and it was then purchased the following year. This disregard is similar to that affecting AuroOrchard, where the Mother's statements regarding Auro Orchard being reserved for organic farming and the keen interest she showed by asking for monthly meetings with Gerard, her steward, were all disregarded by the GB, AVFO and their allies.

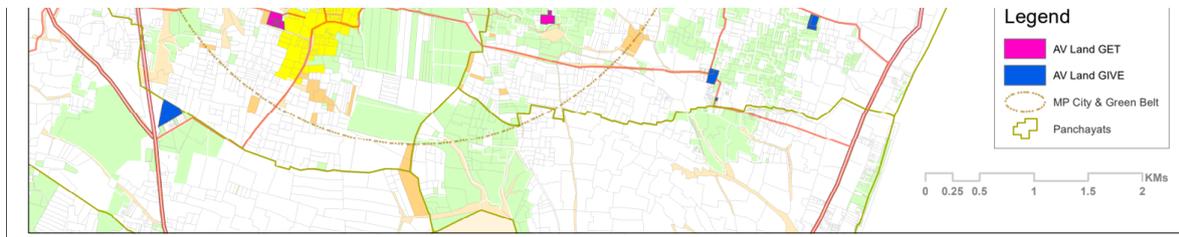
In 2004, Eternity's live fence and afforestation had arrested much of the Tsunami's devastation, making it an example of how vegetation can help minimise damage.

As well as representing a huge financial loss to Auroville, the proposed exchanges would be an ecological disaster in Eternity and elsewhere in Auroville, where half a century of environmental work, and assets created by Aurovilians would be lost.

In [this video](#) (in Tamil) an activist visits Eternity and highlights the general irregularities of land exchanges, the environmental value, the injustice and potential destruction these are causing Auroville.

Other communities that are being targeted in this latest round of exchanges include Djaima, Auro Annam, Felicity and some land lying on the Kulapalayam main road. Please see below for a map which gives an overview of the proposed exchanges.





Legal update from RA WCom

The RA WCom shared a legal update via [massbulletin](#) on 2nd August 2025. The case against the Admission and Termination Regulations (published in the Gazette of India in January 2024) was heard in the Madras High Court on 31st July. It was the final hearing. Arguments were heard for both sides, then both parties were requested to make written submissions by the 8th of August. The final verdict will come after that.

The case concerning the Working Committee regulations made by the GB (also published in the Gazette of India in January 2024) was not discussed and will be taken up at a later stage.

The massbulletin stated “These [Working Committee] regulations were stayed *ad interim* by the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court in February 2024, with in order that was in our favor, and the stay is still in place.

Two other very important cases concerning the Working Committee are still pending in the Madras High Court. These may have an important impact on the function of the RA”.

69th GB meeting: Land exchanges, IIT Madras campus and CRPF deployment approved

The 69th meeting of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation took place on 8th July 2025, at which the GB approved several significant projects without any consultation or approval from the RA. Residents were only made aware that the meeting had taken place after a [press release](#) was shared the day after.

Construction projects that have been approved include:

- Line of Progress project: A 1000-bed residential complex to house 380 individuals in Sector 2 of the Residential Zone, proposed for inclusion under the [Higher Education Financing Agency \(HEFA\) scheme](#).
- Serviteurs Volontaires housing: A 100-bed facility for long-term volunteers and newcomers. Subsequently, an [application announcement](#) shared by the AVFO 'ATDC' on 24th July informed that approval had been given to Jothi Prasad to build a temporary 'prototype' building in [sector 4](#) of the residential zone.
- Security Infrastructure: Construction of a dedicated security complex, including a 'master control room' in Auroville's Southern Service Node.
- NBCC Housing & Retail Complex: A partnership with [NBCC \(India\) Ltd](#) for a residential-commercial project outside the Master Plan area.

The GB also approved proposals for:

- Sri Aurobindo Integral Multiversity: A 1000-student university campus with academic, sports, and residential infrastructure.
- A "Free Progress" school within Auroville under SAIER
- University-level programs under the Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research, to be established outside the Master Plan

Two new Standing Orders were ratified by the GB. If implemented, they will significantly expand its regulatory control: The orders have not yet been shared with the community.

- Code of Conduct for Business Units 2025: This order "streamlines and regulates unit operations," potentially giving the GB greater oversight and control over Auroville's commercial activities and enterprises.
- Framework for Functioning of the Residents' Assembly 2025: This order aims to "ensure clarity and order in community governance." Given the GB's history of attempting to limit the Residents' Assembly's decision-making powers, this framework may further restrict community autonomy and formalize the GB's authority over resident participation.

The GB also approved new status categories including 'Auro Mitra' and 'Auro Hiteshi' for collaborators and well-wishers, and mandated the formation of an 'Elders Committee' composed of long-standing residents, again demonstrating their intention to control who becomes resident of Auroville.

As mentioned above, the GB also approved a "significant land exchange transaction in the prime city area".

IIT Madras ‘Sustainability Campus’ & Annapurna Farm

The press release announced that the GB have signed an MoU with IIT Madras (as was previously announced - please see [Bulletin 90](#) for more information) for the establishment of a "Sustainability Campus" on leased Auroville land. This arrangement effectively transfers Auroville land to a government institution for a project that is not part of Auroville's community development. The campus will apparently focus on "global excellence in sustainable technologies" under IIT Madras administration. There has been no official disclosure about the planned location of the campus, however a [subsequent article](#) in The Hindu stated that it will be "on a 106-acre expanse of land in Sedarapet area".

The only contiguous area of Auroville land of this size in this location is [Annapurna Farm](#), one of the most productive farms in Auroville which has been responsible for pioneering work in sustainable farming techniques. Much of the land at Annapurna was bought during the Mother's lifetime. If this amount of land is given to IIT Madras, this would leave the farm with just 35 acres. There has been no communication from the AVFO or the GB with the Aurovilians who have spent decades running this very productive organic grain and dairy farm.

CRPF Deployment

The GB recorded its prior approval for the deployment of 15 members of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for a period of five years "to safeguard Auroville's development zones and uphold law and order."

The CRPF is India's largest paramilitary force under the Ministry of Home Affairs, typically deployed for internal security, counter-insurgency operations, and maintaining law and order in sensitive areas. The force is commonly used in conflict zones and areas experiencing civil unrest, for example as part of [anti-Naxal operations](#) in Chhattisgarh.

The deployment of permanent CRPF personnel in Auroville represents a significant escalation in security measures for the township, which has already seen a huge increase in security and surveillance since the takeover began in 2021.

Other Updates and Information

Upside-down car taken down

The famous upside down car which was installed at the Transformation turning by members of the Youth Centre around 2008, was taken down without warning on 8th July 2025. It was one of the most photographed sites in Auroville, and was an iconic public art piece created by Auroville youth. It was [removed by a JCB](#) in order to lay cables alongside the Lilaloka-Revelation Radial. In recent years, the car had become a site of protest, as several anonymous artists used the vehicle as a canvas to register their opposition to the actions of the AVFO.





Discipline land grab

The Discipline community has lost 2.5 acres of forested land after the AVFO decided not to appeal a court order that awarded the land to private claimants. The land, which has been nurtured by Auroville foresters for over 40 years, was cleared of trees and fenced by encroachers on 7th June 2025.



According to a [timeline](#) compiled by residents, the disputed land was originally purchased by Auroville in 1989 from Vasudeva Kounder for Rs. 51,570. Auroville did not apply for patta transfer however did hold the sale deed as proof of ownership. In 2017, one of the original seller's descendants, Kalyani, allegedly sold the same land to Mr. Ramalingam for Rs. 5,00,000, leading to a court case which ran for several years.

On 22nd January 2025, the First District Court ordered that the land belonged to Ramalingam. On 20th March, Ramalingam sold the land to Mr. Anabalagan from Edayanchavadi for Rs. 20,08,000. Between January and May, despite Mr. Anabalagan reportedly informing the AVFO of the court order and seeking their support for peaceful possession, the AVFO took no action.

In May, Mr. Anabalagan and associates arrived at the Discipline forest three separate times, breaking the fence with a JCB and claiming ownership of the 2.5-acre plot. Residents intervened to stop the encroachment on each occasion, but received no assistance from the AVFO. Only Mr. Balasubramaniam from the AVFO visited the site once during this period.

On 4th June, Sindhuja, writing in her capacity as AVFO Legal Coordinator, sent [an email](#) to the AVFO 'FAMC', 'Land Service', and the OSD Dr. Seetharaman, stating that "it has been decided that no appeal will be filed in this matter." The email also requested that "no action should be taken on the property" and that parties should not "attempt any fencing, enter the land, or engage in any form of ground-level dispute" until the final decree is issued.

Three days later, on 7th June, land grabbers began clearing the forested land, removing 960 trees and constructing a fence around the claimed area. They also removed wood from the land, which may constitute theft of Auroville property.

The incident follows a pattern similar to the ongoing Evergreen land dispute involving PKS, where valuable Auroville land developed over decades has not been adequately defended by the AVFO. The failure to protect Discipline land represents both significant financial loss and raises questions about the AVFO's approach to safeguarding Auroville's assets.

The case highlights the vulnerability of Auroville lands where documentation issues exist, and the consequences when legal challenges are not properly contested. The Discipline land had been used for reforestation efforts and was part of Auroville's green belt development.

Residents have expressed concern about the AVFO's decision not to appeal the court order and the subsequent loss of land that has been under Auroville's stewardship for decades.

Soil movement from Matrimandir questioned by Tehsildar

The [Tehsildar](#) has intervened and impounded a vehicle carrying soil for the second time, due to unauthorised soil movements from the Matrimandir. After observing trucks regularly transporting soil outside the township, an Auroville resident approached the Tehsildar's office to file a report. The Tehsildar promised to visit Auroville to investigate the matter personally. During the Tehsildar's visit on June 27th to the Visitors Centre checkpoint, a truck carrying soil from inside Auroville was observed leaving the township. The resident stopped the vehicle and requested authorisation for the soil movement. The truck driver then showed a [gate pass](#) from Matrimandir authorising the movement of 200 lorry loads of soil, however a gate pass alone does not qualify as proper permission as that should be given by the Tehsildar.

A similar incident occurred in March of this year, please see [Bulletin 90](#) for more information. At that time, the Collector had clearly instructed the Matrimandir team that soil could not be moved without proper permissions.

During the Tehsildar's questioning at the most recent incident, Mr. Anbalagan from Edayanchavadi, who recently claimed 2.5 acres of Auroville land in Discipline (see above for more information), arrived and demanded the immediate release of the truck, claiming he had only rented the vehicle to Auroville. The Tehsildar refused this request and called the police to the scene, who subsequently impounded the truck along with the soil, taking it to the Auroville Police Station. An investigation is currently underway.

Jasmin & Aravinda's house move

With the assistance of a group of community members, Jasmin and Aravinda from Auro Orchard have moved their house. The house was shifted 35 meters away from its original location.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2EhXtr_e-g

This technical feat was necessitated by a AVFO land exchange in 2023, when they exchanged 10 acres of contiguous Auro Orchard land for several scattered plots of land inside the Master Plan area. At the time, the AVFO 'WCom' [claimed that](#) it was “clear that no house [is] being taken away, nor the coconut tope, nor any cultivated land,” and dismissed Auro Orchard's pleas not to exchange the land as “hyped fake news”. In fact all these areas and more were part of the exchange.

The financial loss to Auroville has been estimated at almost 100 crores but the greater loss has been that of vital and irreplaceable community agricultural assets. Access to the Ganesh temple has also been lost; despite verbal assurances from the new owner that access would be maintained, a lockable gate has now been installed. The Mother herself gave assurances when the land was purchased for Auroville that the temple would be maintained and kept open for people to come and worship.

Jasmin, Aravinda and the Auro Orchard community have never been given any support, financial or otherwise, from the AVFO and their 'working groups', however the wider community collective has provided ongoing support and assistance during this time, which enabled the house shift to happen.





Miscellaneous

- **Support the Freedom to Be!:** A group of Aurovilian artists have organised a petition asking for recognition, because of the actions of the AVFO 'FAMC' who have been systematically closing down units and activities that work with acting, modeling, DJ'ing and other artistic disciplines. You can sign the petition [here](#).
- **Mael's term as WCom member completed:** The RA WCom informed the community via [massbulletin](#) that Mael completed his term as a WCom member on 28th June 2025, and he will not be continuing further for personal reasons.
- **Emergency E-Rad Outcome:** The outcome of the emergency E-RAD regarding the role of the RA in the admission and termination of residents and the legitimacy of the related AVFO 'working groups' was [announced](#) on 2nd July 2025. A total of 510 votes were registered and 98.6% of those who voted were in favour of the resolution.
- **RA WCom call for support:** The RA WCom sent out a [massbulletin](#) calling for support and assistance. They stated "more can be done and more must be done! Will you help? If the answer is 'yes', please write to us at workingcom@auroville.servivces. All you have to do is say 'yes' - no form to fill out, no specific profile to meet, no expectations, just say 'yes'!"
- **Darkali before and after:** A new [photo report](#) shares images of Darkali before and after the destruction which began in December 2021.

Media & Other Links

- **RA Forest Caretakers newsletter no 11:** The latest issue of the Winged Forest Caretakers' humorous newsletter: *Does Silence Have a Sense of Humor?* **English version > [HERE](#) French version > [ICI](#)**. Please find all the previous editions [here](#).
- 3rd August 2025, **The New Indian Express:** [Govt backs integrated medical course proposed by Auroville at JIPMER without consulting regulatory bodies: RTI](#)
- 23rd June 2025, **The Indian Express:** [Amid Govts plan, Fear at Auroville: Turning into bureaucratic hostel](#)
- 6th July 2025, **The Times of India:** [Why some residents say Auroville has lost it's way](#) (paywalled) link to doc of article [here](#)
- 23rd June 2025, **The Indian Express:** [Bulldozers in an experimental township](#)
- 28th June 2025, **Youtube:** [Cultivating Relationality: Seeding Soil and Soul in Auroville's Living Ecology](#)
- 17th June 2025, **The Hindu:** [RAF team for V-P visit take a post-duty tour of Auroville](#)
- 5th May 2025, **Youtube Shorts:** [Is Auroville Under Threat?](#)
- 7th April 2025, **Substack:** [Exploring the Causes of Auroville's Crisis](#) by Rod Hemsell
- From 2023, **explorer.land:** [Auroville Land](#) by the Forest Group
- 7th July 2025, **Youtube:** [Is it an attempt to occupy Auroville? - What are the demands of the people?](#) (In Tamil)

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. 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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