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## **Auroville Bulletin 93**

**AVFO ‘ATSC’ and ‘ATR’ target Aurovilians for RoR  
removal - sign the open letter!**

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Thursday, 18th September 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.services). If you wish to support the Farm or Forest Group as a whole, please contact these groups via [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com).

## Hands on help

- **Documentation work:** It is important to continue documenting tree cutting and land clearing. If you are available to help with documentation, please get in touch with [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com).
- **Keeping vigil in the AV Council room:** For more than 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) or 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

### ‘ATSC’ and ‘ATR’ targeting Aurovilians for RoR removal

The AVFO's 'Admissions and Terminations Registry' (ATR) is targeting long-time Aurovilians and RA Working Group members, including all RA-selected members of the TDC and WCom, with threats of removal from the Register of Residents (RoR).

This growing number of residents, including several people who have been waiting for their visas, received messages from the 'ATR' stating that they have 14 days to respond to a variety of accusations or risk being removed from the RoR. The majority of those contacted are international Aurovilians who rely on entry, business, or OCI visas to stay in India, and generally, have been critical of the AVFO's actions.

The ATR has also contacted individuals who have completed the Newcomer process but have not yet been added to the RoR, informing them that they must sign '[Appendix A](#)' and agree to abide by the [Residence Criteria](#) before they can be registered. The Secretary has delayed entering new names into the RoR for over three years. The RA WCom issued a [massbulletin](#) encouraging anyone who receives an email from the 'ATR' to get in touch with them at [workingcom@auroville.services](mailto:workingcom@auroville.services).

The continued pressure from the AVFO on visa-dependent Aurovilians since 2021 has significantly affected international interest in joining Auroville. In the past three months, only 23% of those entering through the Entry Board process and only 30% of those entering through the AVFO 'ATR' process are of non-Indian origin. It is also widely acknowledged within the community that over the past 3.5 years, a significant number of Aurovilians from the international community have left, due to mounting challenges related to visas, work projects, and sustaining their livelihoods.

**A group of residents shared an open letter objecting to these actions. You can sign the [letter here](#).**

## Tine 'removed' from AVFO 'WCom'

AVFO 'WCom' member Tine [shared a post](#) on Auronet stating that she has been removed from the AVFO 'WCom' with the agreement of the GB, and without being given any reason for her removal. This action comes after she has co-signed several community notices critical of the AVFO takeover of the Auroville Dog Shelter (please see below for more information). She was then removed from the WhatsApp group and her access to the AVFO 'WCom' email address was also taken away. Under the [Auroville Foundation Act](#), "The manner of choosing the members of the Working Committee and their term of office shall be such as may be decided by the Residents' Assembly," therefore the GB has no role in deciding its members. As it stands, the AVFO 'WCom' has dubious validity, as its only regular (non-interim) members Anu, Arun, Partha and Srimoyi were removed from office by a decision of the RA in 2022.

## Annapurna farm update

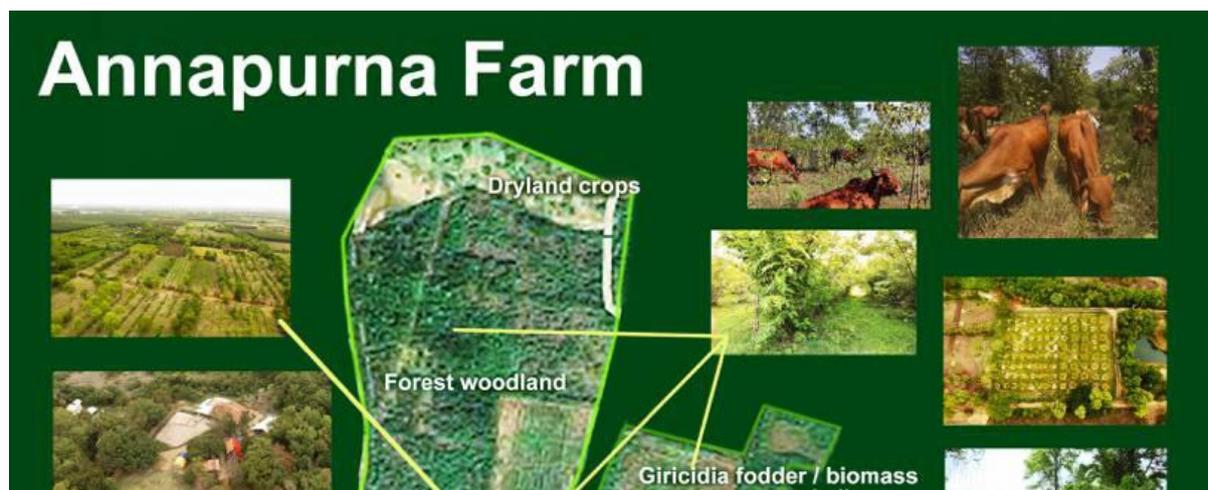
Since the news that the AVFO has signed an MoU with IIT Madras, agreeing to hand over 100 acres of Auroville's certified organic farmland in order to build a 'sustainability campus', support for Annapurna Farm has poured in from many different quarters:

- The number of signatures on the [petition](#) currently stands at 15k+ and is growing daily.
- Several letters have been sent to the Governing Board questioning the plan, including letters from [Auroville International](#) and the [International Advisory Council](#).
- One Auroville resident [shared a letter](#) on Auronet pleading for the GB to reconsider.
- [Ramsubramanian](#), a senior consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, also shared [supportive posts](#) on his social media.
- After the RA Wcom sent out a [press release](#) about the issue, it was picked up by several print and online media outlets (please see section 'Media and other links' below).

Despite the fact that the GB Chairman stated in his [speech to Aurovilians](#) in November 2022 that he found it "very strange that in a small family of 3000, we are not able to produce enough food for ourselves," the GB & the AVFO seem determined to push ahead with the plan despite it being certain that Auroville's capacity for food production will be dramatically impacted. One member of the GB, Goutam Ghoshal, [shared a tweet](#) (based on a statement given to him by Sindhuja Jagadeesh) that alleged that Annapurna was running on "consistent losses" and that the Annapurna team were "refusing to let it go for personal interest [sic]." The AVFO also sent out a [report](#) that made further claims, such as, "Of its 135 acres, assessments reveal that effective cultivation [of Annapurna] is ~30 acres," and that "Auroville is consolidating agriculture inside the Master Plan's Green Belt to lower food miles, reduce lifecycle emissions, and achieve outcome-focused food security."

These appear to be misleading statements, which have been countered in a [clarifying document](#). To the argument put forward that Annapurna Farm only "effectively" uses 30 acres of land, the document states "In catering to the water needs of 135 acres, acres of water harvesting and forest buffers perform a critical function. Cows need land to graze, grains need to be processed and stored, and these are all 'effective', if not critical, uses of land." The document also clarifies that Annapurna Farm is owed money by several Auroville entities, but that those debts had been allowed to be carried over "in the spirit of goodwill. Goodwill may look like a 'loss' on a balance sheet," the document notes, "but is Auroville's biggest wealth."

On 28th August the AVFO 'Farm Service' sent out a [massbulletin](#) that requested that the community 'register greenbelt farmland parcels' indicating that the AVFO groups are lacking the knowledge that would be needed to 'consolidate' farmland.





## How to Support Annapurna Farm

- **Sign the petition:** Almost as soon as the news began to circulate, a friend of Auroville started a change.org petition calling for a halt. So far, this petition has received 15K+ signatures. Please find the petition [linked here](#).
- **Email IIT Madras:** Below is an email template that you may use to contact individuals currently at IIT Madras as well as associates, and alumni. You are welcome to change wording, but please do not change facts and dates. Please find the template and useful email IDs [linked here](#).
- **Donate to the Farm and Forest groups:** Annapurna Farm stewards, like many Aurovilians, are affected by the AVFO's budget cuts and continue to offer an important service to the community with limited resources. You can email [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com) to organise a donation.
- **Learn about Annapurna Farm:** A factsheet about Annapurna Farm has been created and can be [found here](#). Please share this widely in all of your networks.

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## Paramilitary academy inaugurated by the AVFO

On 28th August 2025, the Gujarat-based [Rashtriya Raksha University](#) (RRU) and the AVFO inaugurated the "RRU-Auroville Security Training Academy (RASTA)" at Bharat Nivas. According to [media reports](#), the academy aims to provide "security education" combining "technical mastery with Auroville's spiritual wisdom" and will offer certification courses in firefighting, cyber security, drone operations, and basic military training. The project was reportedly conceptualised and launched within 15 days. The Secretary described the academy as embodying "youth empowerment, community safety, and national resilience."

The media report claimed that the academy will run programs for "600+ students across Auroville schools." Invitations to join the academy have reportedly been sent only to Aurovilians over 18 years of age, indicating the target demographic is adults rather than school students.

On 1st September, the RA WCom sent [a letter](#) to the GB expressing "deep concern" about the initiative, stating it was launched "without consultation with, or consent from, Auroville's Residents' Assembly." They cited five main concerns:

- that associating Auroville with military-style training contradicts the Charter as Auroville's ethos is "non-political, non-sectarian, and non-militaristic";
- that the 15-day timeline left no room for mandated consultation with the Residents' Assembly;
- that positioning Auroville as a hub for "security operations" and "military training" risks alienating the international community;
- that framing the academy as a vehicle to "fuel the local economy" reduces Auroville to a commercial enterprise;
- and that claims about the academy reflecting "Auroville's spiritual wisdom" are inaccurate as no such mandate has been given by the Residents' Assembly.

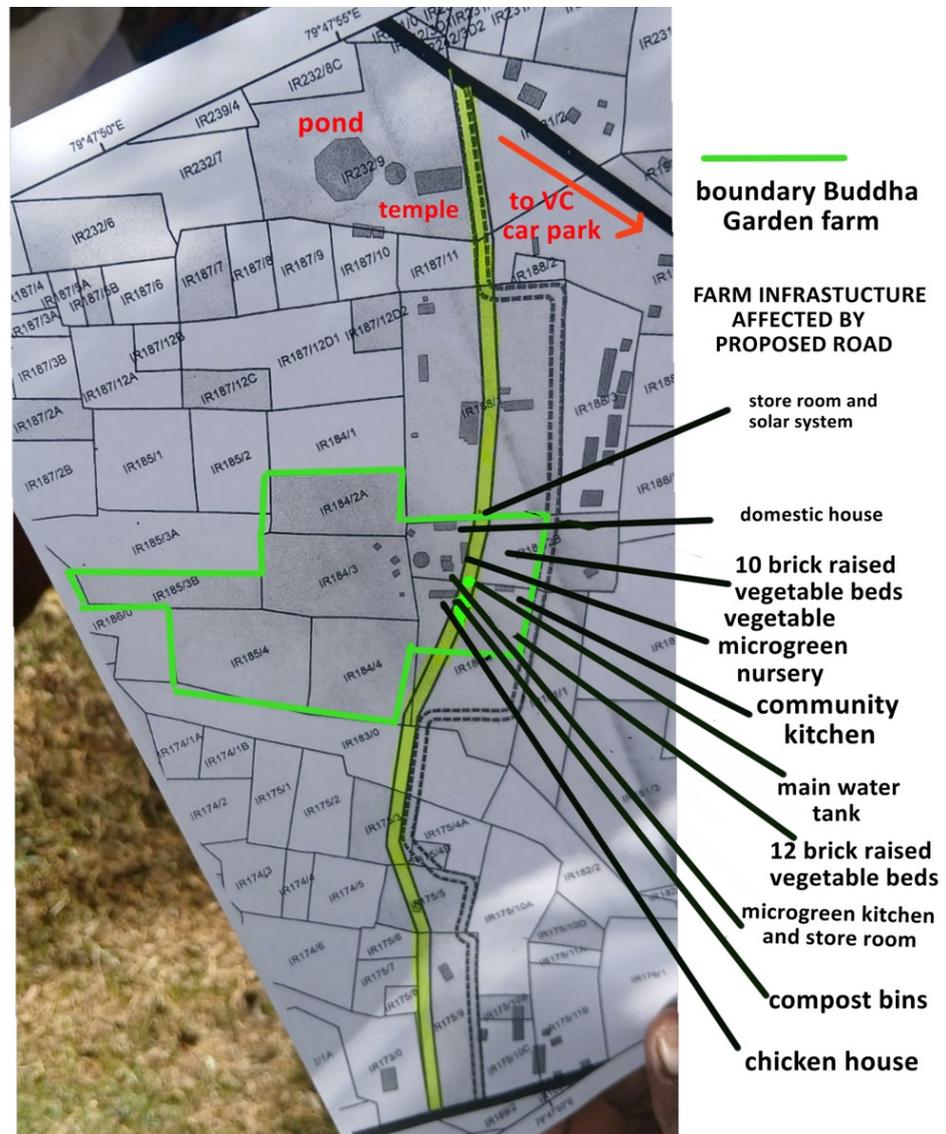
The RA WCom requested that the use of Auroville's name in connection with the initiative be immediately suspended, that all RASTA programmes be halted until proper consultation occurs, and that assurance be given that Auroville's development will follow its Charter and legal mandate.

## ‘VIP’ road threat to MP farms re-emerges

In July 2025 a group from AVFO 'ATDC' came to Buddha Garden and confirmed to the team that the planned VIP road is to go right through the middle of the farm. They stated that the width of the road plus other infrastructure will be nearly 20 metres. The Buddha Garden team were shown a map of the planned area for the so-called 'Western Access Node' which will be spread across most of what is now Buddha Garden land. This affects all of the farm's critical infrastructure.

## MAP TO SHOW PROPOSED VIP ROAD AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT BUDDHA GARDEN FARM

(based on map from ATDC)



AVFO 'ATDC' informed the team that plans for the area include not only the new road, but an electricity substation together with a shopping mall, restaurants and car parks. The group stated that there would be no place for farms and that all the farms in the area (including Siddhartha and Shambala farms) must relocate and should start the relocation process now. As all three of the farms are located inside the Master Plan (MP) area, this statement contradicts the AVFO's recent assertions that all farms will be consolidated inside the MP. It is important to note that this new 'VIP' road and the accompanying infrastructure does not appear anywhere on the MP, demonstrating that the AVFO are at times willing to deviate from the MP that they claim to be implementing strictly. The Buddha Garden team were asked to start the process of relocation two years ago when they were first told about the road, however the plots of land that they were shown by the AVFO 'FAMC' were not suitable for farming. For further information, including a full report about the issue, the history of Buddha Garden and details of their land usage please [see here](#).

# Other Updates and Information

## AVFO 'FAMC' reduced to two members

Although no official announcement has been made, two members of the AVFO 'FAMC', Geeta and Torkil, apparently stepped down at the end of their terms, on 31st May 2025. Margarita and Chandresh appear to be the only remaining members. At the beginning of May, the AVFO sent out a recruitment [massbulletin](#), inviting members of the community to work at a range of working groups, services and even some units. There has been no update so far about this opaque 'selection process', besides the [extension](#) of the application deadline after the "overwhelming response".

## Latest AVFO takeover attempts

## Auroville Dog Shelter

The Auroville Dog Shelter (ADS) was taken over by the AVFO through an Office Order issued on August 30, 2025. This follows a pattern since 2022, where the AVFO has taken control of well-run units whose executives do not immediately comply with all its directives.

In this case, the issue appears to stem from ADS's difficulties to relocate for the proposed VIP Road, which the GB and AVFO plan to build directly through the shelter and, as noted above, will also affect three established Auroville farms. The ADS team had indicated they were willing to relocate, however they were promised a new portion of land and some financial support before doing so, which they never received.

The ADS team received [no advance notice](#) of their removal. However, they had [previously shared](#) that they would stop submitting monthly reports to the community because of delays in Arthur's Newcomer process. These delays were reportedly due to allegations from AVFO 'ATR' that he was "spreading misinformation and discrediting Auroville institutions."

In a [massbulletin](#) on September 2nd, the ADS team stated that they had submitted a proposal that would have prevented the destruction of the dog shelter while allowing the road to proceed, but were ignored. They raised serious concerns about the welfare of the animals and noted that the new Executives, who had visited the shelter several days after the takeover, had expressed "no interest collaborating with the former team."

The ADS team also claimed that Arthur "has been the victim of false and intentionally fabricated allegations by ATSC member Antim ... his visa extension has not been signed which might force him to leave India end of September." A later [update](#) mentioned that their access to the shelter's email had been blocked. Both ADS massbulletins were signed by Arthur and former AVFO 'WCom' member Tine.

## Afsanah's Guest House

There have been fresh attempts by the AVFO to take over Afsanah's Guest House (AGH) by replacing the current management team with new executives via an [office order](#). Subsequently, the AGH team sent out a [detailed timeline of events](#), covering the period June 2022-August 2025, which outlines systematic interference from the Guest House Trust (GHT) and AVFO 'FAMC', that has resulted in significant operational disruption and financial irregularities.

The most significant issue emerged in June 2024, when the GH Trustees stopped transferring all guest payments from the GHT ICICI bank account to the AGH Financial Service account. A total of 9.4 lakh rupees of guest payments accumulated, with the GH trustees and accountant failing to respond to repeated requests for explanation. As of the timeline's end, 6.4 lakhs of guest payments remain withheld by the trustees. The AVFO 'FAMC' provided what the management team described as "an absurd and faulty explanation" for withholding the money, and made no effort to trace and retrieve the missing funds despite repeated requests. Please find more details of the actions carried out by the AVFO as previously outlined in [Bulletin 83](#).

The timeline also reveals a significant ongoing issue with a caretaker house, an asset of Afsanah GH that continues to be occupied by a previous executive dismissed in 2021 on grounds of financial mismanagement. The Housing Service is reportedly holding 8 lakhs paid by AGH towards this individual's permanent housing solution, with no resolution despite repeated communications.

## Aurosarjan campus space

The Aurosarjan Trustees have been ordered by the AVFO 'FAMC' to hand over a space on the Aurosarjan campus to MG-Ecoduties, a unit run by Margarita who is also a member of the AVFO 'FAMC'. When a trustee requested documentation to confirm that due process had been followed—a reasonable request, especially given the AVFO 'FAMC's' stated emphasis on accountability, and the fact that only two members remain in the group—they were met with threats of a takeover as Chandresh [responded](#): "FAMC can very well take over administration of the trust assets if there are procedural hurdles put up by the trustee instead of collaboration."

This response raises questions, as the AVFO 'FAMC' is a Committee, not a legal entity capable of holding or administering trust assets. It also highlights the potential for conflicts of interest when power is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals with no community oversight. It should also be noted that Margarita's position presents another potential conflict of interest, as she is simultaneously the sole trustee of the Kattida Kalai Trust (KKT), an 'AVFO' FAMC member, and a unit executive under KKT, which appears to be at variance with the provisions of the KKT deed.

## AVFO forms donation channeling 'oversight committee'

A new oversight committee (the 'DCC') for the AVFO 'Donation Channeling Group' ('DCG') has been announced via an [Office Order](#). Margarita is now both a member of AVFO 'FAMC' and the new 'DCC'. Since the 'DCG' was put in place by the AVFO, the number of administrative tasks that have to be fulfilled in order for units and trusts to receive their donations have increased exponentially. Additionally, several units and services have reported that their donations, particularly foreign donations, have been held up or blocked entirely, meaning that they are unable to receive them and therefore to function normally. This is despite the donations being given from entirely legitimate sources. The new 'DCC' has added another layer of bureaucracy to the process, meaning that requests for funds are now taking even longer. In their [report for June 2025](#), the Dog Shelter shared that the AVFO 'FAMC' and their auditors had also banned crowdfunding platforms, cutting off a vital source of funding for the shelter.

## Palmyra tree 'transplantations'

To date, more than 70 Palmyra trees around Auroville have been uprooted under the pretext of 'transplantation', to make way for new roads and other infrastructure. This is despite there being no possible way of moving mature Palmyra trees without killing them. The tree does not have a root ball, instead its root is similar to an arrow which penetrates down into the earth to a depth which is the same as the height of its crown. Is it therefore impossible to transplant, and all of the 'transplanted' trees are now either dead or dying, demonstrating the futility of these actions. Palmyra is the Tamil Nadu state tree and is highly regarded for its resilience to cyclones as well as its economic value, as every part of the tree can be utilised in some form or another. Since Palmyra is a protected species within Tamil Nadu, it is extremely important to document cases where these trees are being uprooted or cut.

**If you witness the uprooting of a Palmyra, please call +91 95001 83706**



## Miscellaneous

- **Legal Cell formed:** The only remaining AVFO 'FAMC' members, Chandresh and Margarita, signed a [resolution](#) to create a 'Legal Cell', appointing Sindhuja, Antim and Joel as Executives. This action further concentrates AVFO control to a tiny clique who have no community oversight. It is not known what powers the 'Legal Cell' holds.
- **Letter to the Prime Minister:** A Tamil Nadu activist, Mr Raj. Sarvesh Kumar, has written [a letter](#) to Prime Minister Modi outlining a number of serious concerns regarding the direction that Auroville is taking.
- **Integrated BAMS-MMBS course:** The New Indian Express [shared an article](#) that revealed that the [new 'integrated medical course'](#) proposed by the AVFO to be run by JIPMER hospital had not been vetted by any regulatory bodies. A [subsequent article](#) in The Hindu, based on a press release by JIPMER stated that "there was no move to introduce [such a] dual degree program ... at the institute". This seems to indicate that the AVFO issued several press releases on programs that were not yet finalized, not authorized.
- **Discipline Land Cleared:** The Auroville land that has been grabbed at Discipline with no action taken by the AVFO has been entirely cleared and is [now planted](#) with a monoculture of Coconut trees. Nearly 1000 mixed trees and accompanying tracts of undergrowth were cleared during the land grab.
- **A Call to Preserve Auroville's Food Systems:** The Farm Group recently [shared a text which outlined several concerns regarding the direction that Auroville farming is going in.](#)

## Media & Other Links

- 31st August 2025, **RA Forest Caretakers Tragi-Comik Newsletter N\*12 September 2025: English Version** > [HERE](#) *French Version* > [ICI](#)
- 4th September 2025, **Tamil Hindu**: Article on Annapurna Farm (in Tamil) [pdf here](#), AI translation [here](#)
- 15th August 2025, **Substack**: [About Auro Innominata](#), By Auro Innominata, a collective of anonymous voices from Auroville
- 15th August 2025, **Substack**: [The Virtue of Integrity in Times of Crisis: Lessons from Auroville's Crucible](#) by Auro Innominata
- 27th August 2025, **Medium**: [Sham Sustainability at IIT-Madras](#) by Rajesh
- 25th August 2025, **Education World**: [IIT Madras-Auroville MoU for clean technology sparks concern among residents](#), by Shivani Chaturvedi
- 29th July 2025, **SRF News**: [Panik in der indischen Utopiestadt](#), by Maren Peters. Translation [here](#)
- 8th March 2022, **The Quint**: [Me the Change: Meet Deepika Kundaji, a Woman Who Birthed a Forest](#), by Smitha TK
- 1st September 2025, **Substack**: [The Holy Fools of Shining Valley](#), by Clam Adelaide (anonymous AVian writing on the current times)
- March 2025, **Cause Commune**: [Auroville, cité utopique passée à la moulinette du nationalisme hindou](#), by Ismaël Dupont

## 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 website <https://auroville.media/> contains 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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