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Auroville Bulletin 94

Karan Singh challenges media claims, AVFO takes over Afsanah Guest House

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Wednesday, 22nd October 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 evolvingalaxy@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, 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 to help with documentation, please get in touch with 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 or 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.

Errata - Incorrect email ID shared!

Please note that the correct email ID for us is evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com. If you have written to us and not received a reply, please check which address you sent it to!

What is happening now

Karan Singh challenges AVFO incorrect claims regarding his visit

“Has Mother left Auroville? Or is Auroville in one of those ‘Hours of God’ as Sri Aurobindo has so eloquently described? I have been told that they [the Aurovilians] keep firm, believing that whatever happens is The Mother's will. I hope they will sustain. As Sri Aurobindo wrote, ‘Being pure cast aside all fear, for the hour is often terrible, a fire and a whirlwind and a tempest ... but trust and go forward’”

-Karan Singh, September 2025

In August 2025, [the Hindu](#) reported on Dr. Karan Singh's visit to Auroville referencing a misleading and incorrect AVFO press statement, and claimed that Dr. Singh “has commended the progress made on the Crown Road project and the Matrimandir lake redevelopment.” When asked to comment on the article in an interview with Auroville Today, Dr. Singh said:

“I was amazed to read it, for it is not true. I did visit Auroville on 14 August as I wished to make a flower offering to Sri Aurobindo at his statue at Savitri Bhavan. [...] I was on the point of leaving when I was told that the Secretary was on the way to greet me. I waited, she came, we had a cup of tea, and I left. That was all.”

In the interview, Dr. Singh expresses a different view: “I have a concern. Building the city is important, but not when it is only done by the Public Works Department. Trying to build Auroville without the cooperation of the Aurovilians is prima facie a contradiction which goes against the *raison d'être* of Auroville. Auroville can only be built in collaboration with its residents.” You can find the full interview [here](#).

The RA WCom sent [a letter](#) to the Hindu editor, asking them to correct the article, however as of October 2025 no corrections have been made.

AVFO takes over Afsanah Guesthouse

One of the most iconic Auroville guest houses, Afsanah Guesthouse (AGH), was forcefully taken over by the AVFO on 16th October 2025. The AVFO and its appointed groups have been attempting to take over the management of the guesthouse since 2023. This asset was financed privately and has never received any GOI funding. There are suspicions in the community that AVFO's interest mainly stems from the fact that AGH, due to its luxury and beauty, is a prime place to host the ever-increasing numbers of visiting politicians and other VIPs. Auradha Markus, who was appointed as executive first by the RA FAMC and later confirmed by the AVFO 'FAMC', has been managing the place with Rosy Shankar since mid-2022. Under their management, AGH has flourished and doubled its income in the last 4 years, as per their [financial overview](#).

While envoys of the AVFO came several times to the site before in an effort to take over the space, Auradha and Rosy were, until now, able to resist with the help of community members on site. A full timeline of events [can be found here](#). During the 16th October takeover, members of the AVFO-appointed Security Service were on site, namely Giacomo and Shenbagam. As Auradha attempted to retrieve her personal belongings from the office, Giacomo struck out at her. Auradha and Rosy's personal belongings were not given back, and the computers and files were removed from the premises. The takeover was facilitated by several other AVFO-supporting Aurovilians including Antim and Sindhuja, as well as Malar and Kaliananda who are set to take over the running of AGH as per a recent [Office Order](#).

Auradha and Rosy shared via [massbulletin](#) their shock and anger at recent events, and gratitude to those who have supported them over the last few, intense years.



A [post](#) was shared on Auronet by the AVFO 'FAMC' regarding the takeover. It is important to note that no information has been shared with the community about the current membership of the AVFO 'FAMC' since the end of their tenure in May 2025, at which point Torkil and Geeta resigned.

In the statement, they claimed that there had been 'gross mismanagement' of the guesthouse however no evidence of this has ever been shared, in contrast with the former AGH management team who have shared AGH's balance sheets and been fully transparent with the community about all matters arising during their time running the guest house.

AVFO forms 'Appellate Committee'

The GB has formed an 'Appellate Committee' via an [Office Order](#) shared with the community on 30th September 2025. An appellate committee is a group of authority formed to consider appeals, in this case based on terminations of Auroville status and removal from the Register of Residents (RoR).

Recent emails from the 'ATSC' and 'ATR' sent to residents, mostly long-term Aurovilians, many of whom are 60+ years of age, make a series of unsubstantiated allegations and threaten to remove them from the RoR. Please see [Bulletin 93](#) for more information.

The RA WCom [shared an extract](#) of these emails with the community, expressing that "These letters are filled with baseless accusations, written in a tone that is hostile, intimidating, and devoid of humanity. The language and the attitude is aggressive, accusatory, and completely against the spirit of Auroville's Charter and our aim of human unity". An open letter was written by residents in response, and it is still available for signing ([here](#) in English and [here](#) in Tamil).

The formation of an 'Appellate Committee' made entirely of members of the GB, whose actions throughout their term has been overtly hostile to the RA, has led to suspicions that the decision to remove the targeted Aurovilians is a *fait accompli*. The IAC shared a [letter](#) in which they stated "We cannot resist the conclusion that the show-cause notices list convoluted accusations couched in dramatic language so as to build a case for termination against those Residents whom the current administration, for whatever reasons, happens to be unhappy with". Since the current GB is now at the end of their tenure (please see below for more information), it is not clear how this will affect the formation of this committee.

'Show Cause Notices' from the AVFO 'ATSC' and 'ATR' continue to be sent out to community members. **If you receive one, please email workingcom@auroville.services.**

69th & 70th GB meetings

70th Meeting 'concludes term' of GB

According to [media reports](#), the 70th GB meeting was held in Auroville on Saraswati Puja, 1st October 2025. This was apparently an extra meeting in order to “review four years of governance and development” at the end of the four year term of this GB. It is not clear if there will be any extension to their term, or if a new GB will be constituted.

In line with the secrecy that has been apparent throughout the GB's tenure, there was no communication to the community about the meeting, before or after it took place. According to an [article](#) on newsx.com, “Discussions throughout the session addressed a variety of significant topics, leading to several crucial decisions that will enhance administrative clarity and advance Auroville's vision ... The visit ended with a tour of the Ganesh Temple at Auro Orchard, showcasing Auroville's integration of spirituality, sustainability, and cultural heritage”.

NOTE: The Ganesh Temple has been cut off from Auro Orchard since the AVFO exchanged the land in 2023.

69th Meeting Minutes released

The full 69th GB meeting minutes were released recently, please find them [here](#). Many of the topics had been previously shared in media reports and were covered in [Bulletin 92](#).

Other topics not previously announced include:

- A sub-group was constituted to examine AVFO 'ATDC' projects and provide recommendations for streamlined execution.
- The GB approved allocation of 10 hectares of (as yet unnamed) land to AHIMSA (Association for Human Integrated Massive Social Action) for three years to “enhance agricultural productivity”.
- The Chairperson suggested formation of an ‘Elders Committee’ composed of long-standing residents to provide “advice related to manifesting Auroville's vision and mission.” A “suitable group” may be selected with GB approval.
- The GB was apparently briefed on the distinction between “Children of Auroville and Guest Children of Aurovilians”. It is not clear who the latter category refers to.
- In another example of the GB attempting to control the flow of information about Auroville, the GB approved establishing ‘Auroville Integral Information Centres’ to disseminate information through various media and outreach events. They seemingly “highlighted the need for comprehensive review of existing Auroville Integral International Centres, many of which operate independently of the Auroville Foundation”. This is possibly referring to AVIs.
- The GB deliberated on articles and videos released by The News Minute, perceived as defamatory toward the Auroville Foundation. The GB advised that legal action may be considered if the outlet “continues repeated and targeted defamatory campaigns”.
- The GB was “apprised of a report circulated by an entity operating under the name 'Auroville Global Fellowship (AGF)', which has no affiliation with the Auroville Foundation”. The GB directed that a public clarification be issued on the Foundation's official website, stating the AGF is not connected to the Foundation. Threats of “appropriate action after

obtaining legal opinion” is also mentioned, with no further details.

- The GB approved removal of AVFO 'ATDC' member Mr. Govind Ranjan due to continuous failure to attend meetings.
- As shared in [Bulletin 93](#), the GB “approved removal” of AVFO 'WCom' member Tine due to “consistent non-cooperation, unilateral decision-making, and sending emails without approval of other Working Committee members”. It is important to note that as per the Auroville Foundation Act, the GB has no role in the selection or removal of WCom members.

Matrimandir Lake development continues amid controversy



Despite ongoing concerns, the Matrimandir executives and the lake team, led by donor Michael Bonke, are proceeding with the full-scale construction of the Matrimandir Lake — abandoning the earlier phased approach. This decision follows the failure of the “Lego” block-built dam during Cyclone Fengal in November 2024. Phased construction, as originally pursued by the previous team, would have allowed for technical studies and course correction. This is no longer being considered.

However, whether built in phases or as a single project, many technical and environmental issues remain unresolved:

Technical Concerns

- Leakage risks: The test lake consistently leaked, yet the lake team failed to address the problem. With the proposed single water body, detecting leaks in the HDPE lining — covered by granite chips — will be virtually impossible. Repairs would also be unfeasible. And HDPE foil imports from Europe are restricted.
- Excavation and soil disposal: The lake is designed to be 100 meters wide and 10 meters deep, raising major questions about managing excavated soil. Some soil was already transported to the hillside in the northern Green Belt without the legally required clearances from local authorities, resulting in the arrest of a driver in mid-March 2025. With no official permissions granted, further soil movement has been halted.
- Water source: No clear solution exists for filling the lake. The option of using water from the proposed desalination plant is defunct, as the project is stalled. Yet, Michael Bonke continues to push the idea of submerged balloons filled with potable water to artificially raise lake levels.
- Water quality and climate impacts: Concerns about water quality, temperature stratification, evaporation, and the resulting effects on the local microclimate remain neither acknowledged nor addressed.
- Flood risks: The problem of undersized overflow weirs — which could cause lake wall failure with downstream flooding during heavy rains — has been ignored, even after the “Leao” dam collapsed 10 months ago.

Tree Removal at Lake Site

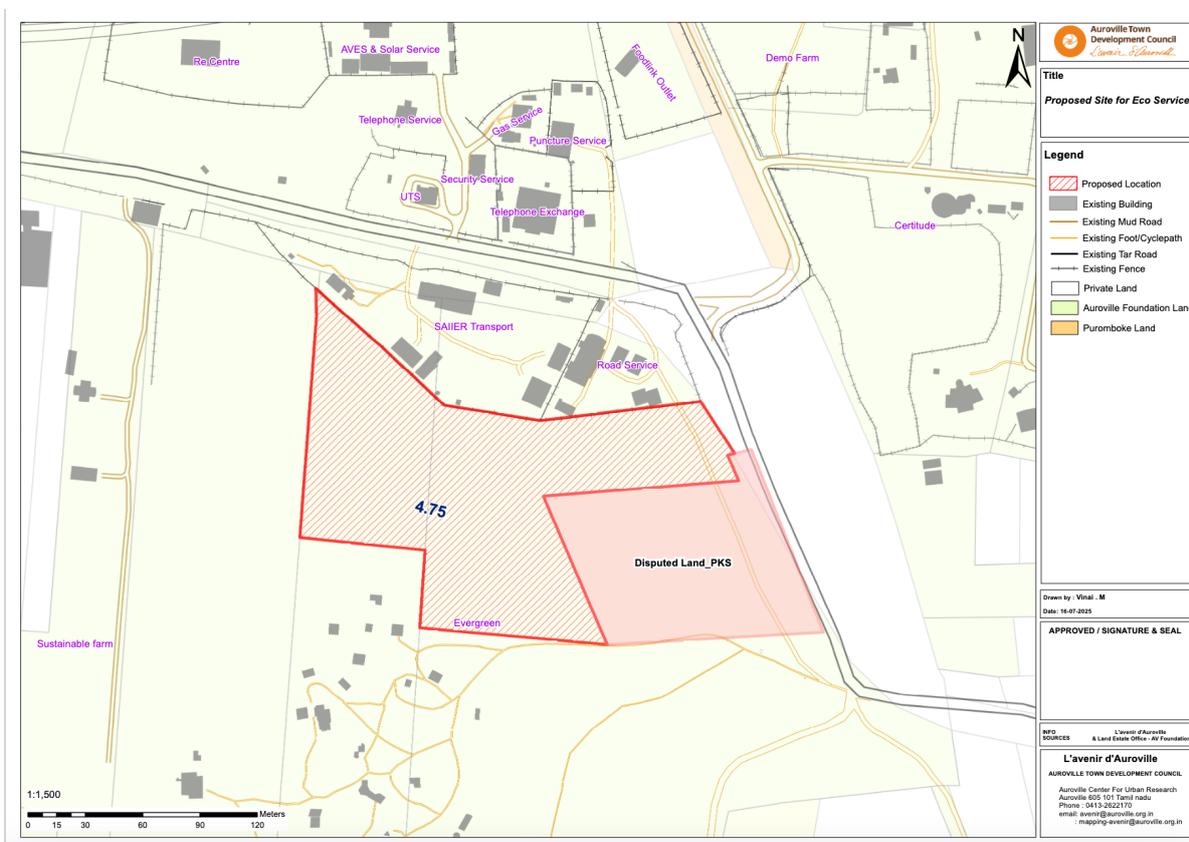
Nearly 450 trees have been removed from the lake site. The Matrimandir executives claimed an 80% transplantation success rate, but two years later very few have survived. Recently, many more trees were cut in the third section of the lake (near the west gate), where some scheduled plant species had been recorded.

Other Updates and Information

Evergreen forest as the site for new Ecoservice

In August 2025, the AVFO 'ATDC' [announced their intention](#) to allocate almost 5 acres of Evergreen land in an effort to expand the Ecoservice operations. Ecoservice, which currently functions out of a 0.75 acre plot and sorts Auroville's waste in an effort to reduce landfill, is seeking a larger plot of land for "sorting, baling, shredding and storage, plus 1 acre for a sanitary-waste incinerator. Modern conveyor lines, balers, and a heated press will turn hard plastics into tiles and panels, while a 500 kg/hour incinerator handles unavoidable sanitary scraps. The larger site allows safer traffic flows, volunteer housing, training rooms, and fire-safety systems, positioning Auroville to cut landfill reliance below 5 percent."

While the efforts to extend the Ecoservice's capacities are largely welcomed, they come at the cost of denuding another 4.75 acres of carefully planted Evergreen forest - a community that already lost one acre of forest to 'PKS,' in a landgrab that the AVFO failed to properly contest in court. For the land in question and to see the extent to which it will destroy the Evergreen forest, please see the map below:



Water contamination cases in the residential zone

As shared by the Auroville Water Service (AWS) in a [massbulletin](#) dated 12th June 2025, cross-contamination occurred when grey water (waste water that is not sewage) and drinking water had been connected together to irrigate the ongoing “garden project” along the Crown, opposite Humanscape and Kalpana. An AVFO ‘ATDC’ member was reportedly involved in this incident and did not inform the residents. The same person had already been involved in a similar error in 2019 within the Kalpana community. After this error, AWS found low levels of E-coli bacteria in the water of several nearby communities, although it can’t be conclusively proved whether the cross-contamination was the cause. A number of residents have since become sick from E-coli infection. Despite the efforts of AWS to eliminate the presence of the bacteria, it has still not been fully removed.

Some community volunteers are now forming a group to track and map contaminated areas within Auroville. Any further reports, test results, or assistance regarding this issue would be deeply appreciated. Please [see here](#) for three recent communications from AWS related to this topic.

Please contact evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com, and your messages will be forwarded to the volunteer group.

Latest AVFO collaborations

More collaborations and visits between Auroville and outside parties were announced through the media, without involving the residents of Auroville. These include:

- Sindhuja and Antim, who are highly involved and represented in most of the constituted AVFO groups, met with the Villupuram District Collector S. Shiek Abdul Rahman to showcase alternative construction methods developed in Auroville. Visits included the showcasing of Compressed Stabilised Earth Blocks, which were originally developed by Satprem Maini of the Earth Institute. (NOTE: Satprem's visa was taken away after more than 30 years by the same AVFO representatives. He is no longer able to reside in Auroville.) A news report on the visit [can be found here](#).
- A hospitality sector delegation visited Auroville, according to [this report](#) in the Hindu, dated 24th June 2025.
- Auroville received a delegation from AURO University, Gujarat, a Private University "inspired by the Vision and teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Divine Mother." Their vision is "to be a premier University of Integral and Transformational Learning for Future Leaders." The visit was announced on [Instagram](#).
- The deepening collaboration with Pondicherry University is noted in the [Tamil Indian Express](#) (translation [here](#)), which states that "A new educational exchange program is being developed, allowing Auroville children to experience the outside world and children from outside to experience Auroville." The article also mentions that the AVFO is planning to set up information centers across India and globally, to "spread Auroville's values" throughout the world.
- On PM Modi's birthday, [Auroville hosted a global Sanskrit conference](#) in Auroville, facilitated by Central Sanskrit University. The event is said to have taken place at Auroville's 'Vedic Vidya Kendra.' (Location unknown, although pictures show the SAIER conference room as the main platform.)
- A [Taiwanese delegation](#) met with SAIER Executives to discuss collaborations based on "technological innovation and potential collaboration opportunities, especially given Taiwan's advanced semiconductor industry".
- Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat visited Auroville in September 2025, welcomed by Antim and Sinduja, among others. [News X](#) reports that "The visit, simple yet profound, reaffirmed state leadership's faith in Auroville's rare experiment—a universal city striving to turn ideals into lived reality."

Miscellaneous

- **Report on fungi in threatened AV forests:** Aurovilian Milla, together with the teams from Pitchandikulam Forest & Kanchi Mamunivar Govt. Institute for Postgraduate Studies has researched Auroville's fungal biodiversity. Over the course of the year, she found and photographed the rich world of Auroville's mushrooms. The teams discovered a hitherto unclassified type, now named as *Agaricus Auroviliensis*. The final report is a beautifully crafted piece that showcases this often-unnoticed part of the natural world. You can find the final report [here](#).
- **IAC shares statement at the end of their tenure:** The four year tenure of the IAC has come to a close, leading them to share [a statement](#) with the community. Their approach is a stark contrast to the GB who has not communicated with the RA regarding the end of their tenure, instead sending out a press release (see above article for more information). The announcement stated "we attempted to be a bridge between [the RA] and the Governing Board ... Throughout this time, we advocated for an inclusive and transparent process, for greater communication, for dialogue and open, respectful exchange... Unfortunately, we cannot say that our own voice has been heard".
- **Ninth edition of *Voice of Auroville* released:** You can download the pdf [here](#). In case you may have missed them, the earlier issues of *Voice of Auroville* are accessible [here](#).
- **AVFO/JIPMER medical course 'shelved':** A proposal, [originally announced](#) in the 67th GB meeting minutes, and prepared by the AVFO, for a medical course that would integrate allopathic and ayurvedic practices has been 'shelved' a few months after it was announced "with great fanfare" by the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and [AYUSH](#) in May 2025. The announcement caused [an outcry](#) amongst the allopathic medical community and it [later emerged](#) that regulatory bodies had not been consulted prior to the announcement. The plan has now been shelved with JIPMER [stating that](#) "The Institute hereby categorically clarifies that there is no move to introduce any such programme at JIPMER as of now."
- **Vikram Ram video:** Vikram Ram shared a [video](#) on Youtube in which he admits that many of the videos he shared on his 'Auroville Files' website were "theatrics" but he had to "speak harsh words so that the government would hear" and that he "fueled hatred... because he loves the project so much".
- **RA WCom letter to GB re Annapurna Farm:** The RA WCom shared [their letter](#) to the GB, laying out objections to their plan to lease the land to IIT Madras for a 'Sustainability Campus'. There has been no recent update shared with the community regarding this proposal.

Media & Other Links

- 30th September 2025, **RA Forest Caretakers Newsletter No 13**: *English Version* [HERE](#), *French Version* [ICI](#)
- 5th October 2025, **Vikatan**: [Auroville Residents Concern About Upcoming IIT Madras Project](#) (in Tamil) English AI translation [here](#)
- 20th September 2025, **Ameesagra.blogspot**: [It is the journey that matters](#)
- 17th September 2025, **Nakkheeran**: Part 1, [250 crore scam in Auroville](#) (in Tamil), English AI translation [here](#)
- 20th September 2025, **Nakkheeran**: Part 2, [Annapurna farm](#) (In Tamil), English AI translation [here](#)
- 24th September 2025, **Nakkheeran**: Part 3, [Is RSS trying to take over Auroville?](#), English AI translation [here](#)
- 2nd August 2025, **scanx.trade**: [Gujarat Industries Power Company Appoints Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi as Additional Director and Chairperson](#)
- 29th September 2025, **Youtube**: [Mallika Sarabhai: Life Through Invisible Cities I Dance, Politics & Resistance](#) Former GB member talks about Auroville between 1:25:55 - 1:28:30
- 3rd July 2025, **The Hindu**: [Auroville's push for transformative engagement with schoolchildren](#)

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. 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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