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Auroville Bulletin 95

AV Today announces it is closing, Petition against an Aurovilian's 'termination'.

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Tuesday, 2nd December 2025

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

How can you help?

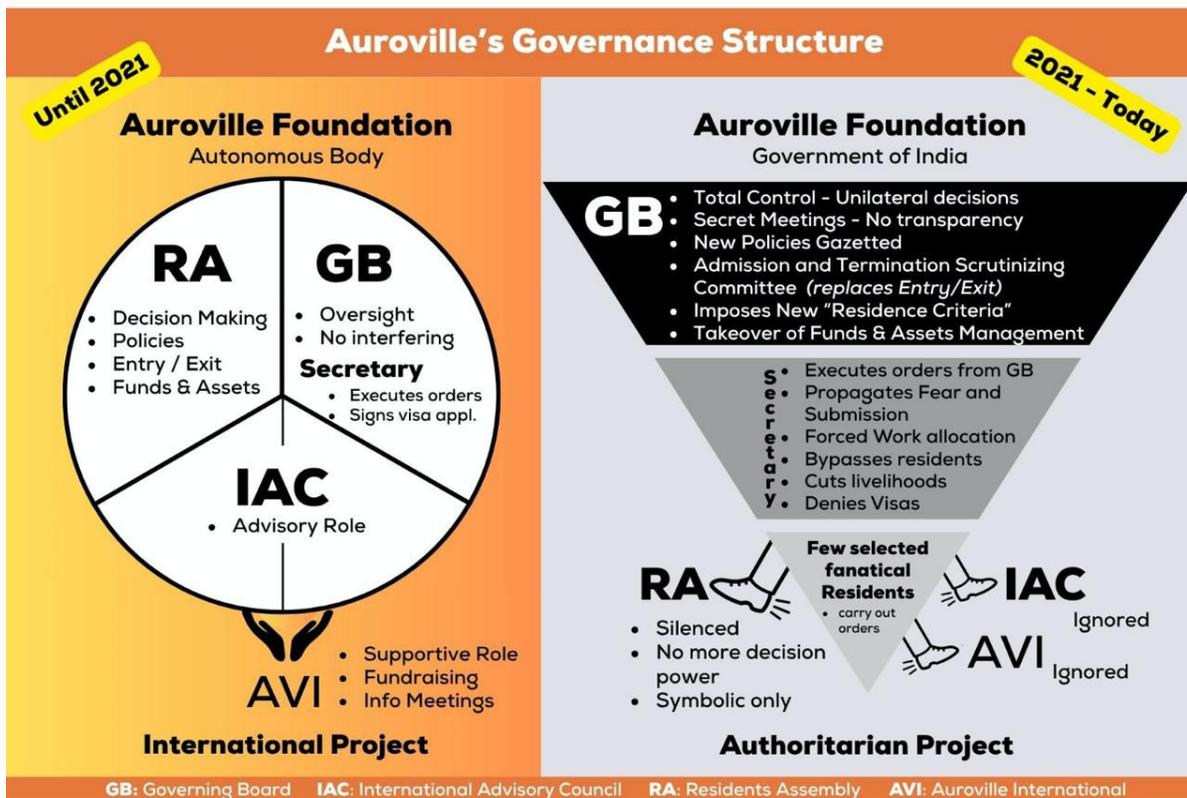
There are many ways to help support the community at this time. Please contact evolvingalaxy@gmail.com if you have any skills you would like to offer or would like to contribute financially! Thank you!

Financial assistance

- **Support for legal fees:** Please donate towards legal and delegation fees by emailing evolvingalaxy@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. For more information, please contact us by writing to evolvingalaxy@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 evolvingalaxy@gmail.com.
- **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.



Anonymous residents shared the image above, to illustrate the changes to Auroville's governance structure since 2021.

What is happening now

AV Today closing due to GB Media Policy

Message to our readers

This is the last issue of Auroville Today.

While this issue was in the press, the editorial team learned that a new media policy for Auroville is about to be implemented. We do not feel we can continue to function under this policy, so regrettably, because we are very aware of our responsibility to you, our readers, we have decided to stop publication. This additional page features a few articles that we had planned to publish in our December issue. Now we offer them to you as a final goodbye and thanks for your support.

The Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation, in its 68th meeting held on 5 December 2024, had approved a new media policy. However the policy was only made public on 7 November 2025, one month after this Governing Board's term of office had ended.

On 10 November 2025, the Funds and Assets Management Committee (FAMC) appointed by the Governing Board called a meeting of all Aurovilians involved in media. We were informed that the FAMC plans to bring all Auroville media activities together under a single, large media department. The main aim is to unify how Auroville represents itself to the world and to foster a 'positive image'. To ensure compliance with this objective, all media material will require approval by an overview group before it can be published.

On the face of it, this is not unreasonable. Clearly it is important that there is unity in how Auroville's purpose and ideals are presented to the world. The issue, however, concerns how to document the way in which a community of seekers is trying to realise these ideals. Auroville, as Mother emphasised more than once, is about experimentation, and experiments – particularly a unique spiritual experiment like this one which lacks any precedent – can be messy, chaotic, unpredictable.

If one adopts the communication strategy of the corporate world, the 'messiness' involved in designing a product must never be mentioned: the only image to be propagated is a positive one. But Auroville is not a product to be sold on the open market. It is a working experiment, an attempt to realise a new way of being.

At *Auroville Today* magazine, we have always felt it is important to document this process as honestly as possible, celebrating the successes but also reflecting on the failures. We have done this

not only because we feel that such a unique experiment needs honest documentation but, above all, because we have an abiding faith that Mother is continuing to guide this project; and that every detail, every struggle, may have its importance in the larger scheme of Auroville's evolution, even if we do not immediately grasp its significance or, indeed, how apparent oppositions can be reconciled at a higher level of consciousness.

The new media policy will not allow us to do this, as the focus will have to be upon 'positive' news only, and we will have to conform to a particular narrative regarding what we publish about Auroville. In addition, we were informed that new executives may be appointed to hold office along with or to replace the existing executives, presumably to ensure compliance with the new media policy.

At the same time, while we have complied with all requested procedures, a substantial donation made to Auroville for *Auroville Today* has not been released to the magazine.

Given these developments, we have come to the difficult decision that this issue, which coincidentally is published on *Auroville Today's* 37th birthday, will be our last.

We are immensely grateful for the support we have received from you, our readers, over the past 37 years.

Editors

Subscription refunds

Though *Auroville Today* is in financial difficulty because we have not been allowed to access our donation funds, we request current subscribers to let us know if they wish to receive a partial refund for the months remaining in their subscription. Please email avtoday@auroville.org in mentioning your bank details. We will try our utmost to pay all requested refunds.

Auroville's monthly news magazine 'Auroville Today,' which has been operating since 1988, has stopped operations immediately due to the recently released Auroville Foundation Media Policy. While the Policy was approved in the GB meeting of December 2024, it was only made available to Aurovilians in November 2025, in a slightly revised version. You can find the [original 2024 version here](#); the revised and [released version here](#); and a document detailing the differences between the two documents [here](#).

In their statement (see above), the editorial team notes that they were called into a meeting and told that all Auroville media is henceforth to function under one 'Media Hub' which seeks to "unify how Auroville represents itself to the world and to foster a 'positive image.'" The current editors of Auroville Today, who are widely respected for their long-lasting nuanced reporting on events in Auroville, stated that they cannot continue to function under the current policy as honestly reporting on the 'messiness' of Mother's experiment is part of their core values. They also note that a substantial donation earmarked for Auroville Today has not been released since some time, hampering their operations and interfering with their responsibilities towards their donors.

Please read their full statement, available [here](#), as it reflects the painful clash between the corporatisation of Auroville by the AVFO, with the experimental and dynamic approach of our collective experiment. Decades old, foundational and important community services are increasingly suppressed, extinguished, and forced underground by those who seek to recast Auroville as a government project that obeys AVFO diktats. The editors have made the final issue freely available. You can [find it here](#).

AVFO 'FAMC' member Chandresh shared a [statement](#) on Auronet about the closure of AV Today. At the same time as asserting that "Claims of censorship or persecution are unfounded" he also stated that "Alignment is essential to coherence. Auroville's media landscape must move toward a unified umbrella of communication. [...] Fragmented messaging harms Auroville's credibility and purpose".

The statement that “claims of censorship and persecution are unfounded” are not supported by the reality of the situation for residents, who have seen in the past four years the takeover of Auronet, of the auroville.org platform and of the News and Notes. Even some Facebook groups which had been functioning under the administration of residents have been forced to hand over admin rights to Sindhuja, who claimed she had a right to do so in her role of ‘AVF Media Vetter’. Although alternative, RA-controlled platforms have been put in place by residents, they have to operate in secrecy and without the funding given to the AVFO controlled media, and in many cases with their email IDs being blocked from sending to auroville.org.in addresses, meaning that many residents are digitally unreachable. Additionally, many residents have been personally targeted for expressing views that differ from the AVFO’s official discourse. Arun Ambathy, whose story is featured below, is one such example.

‘Auroville Uncensored’: A new video channel reporting on Auroville’s situation has come up on Youtube. Three videos have been released so far - detailing the overall issues in Auroville, the plan to handover Annapurna Farm to IIT Madras, and the latest video is regarding AVFO media censorship. You can find [the channel here](#).

Aurovilian deemed ‘persona non grata’ by AVFO

A [letter](#) that terminates the Aurovilian status of Major Arun Ambathy (retired from the Indian Army) was released on 28th October 2025. The letter, signed by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, declares him a 'persona non grata' in Auroville. It appears that Arun is the first person to have his status revoked by the AVFO under the newly implemented [Residence Criteria Standing Order 2024](#). While Arun was confirmed as an Aurovilian by the RA Entry Board in April 2025, this process is not recognized by the AVFO, and their letter refers to Arun as a Newcomer whose status has been revoked.

AVFO 'WCom' shared a [massbulletin](#) which stated that "This decision has been made in view of repeated conduct deemed inconsistent with the ideals, values, and Residence Criteria of Auroville." The massbulletin further instructed that "Mr. Arun Ambathy is not permitted to enter or reside within Auroville premises, and no resident, service, or unit shall engage, employ, or otherwise entertain him in any capacity henceforth", further instructing "all security personnel ... to ensure strict compliance with this directive." This represents an unprecedented turning point in the use of coercion and force in the AVFO's management of Auroville in recent years.

Since he came to Auroville in 2018, Arun has been involved in reforestation at Revelation forest. He has also been an outspoken supporter of Auroville's Residents' Assembly and has repeatedly questioned the legality of the AVFO's actions over the past few years.

He has personally confronted AVFO 'ATDC' members about multiple unauthorised works under the guise of "Government Work," including illegal soil mining, illegal inter-state soil transportation, and the cutting of roadside trees, which was done without the necessary permission from the Highway Department (see below for more information), as well as the cutting of protected species like Palmyra trees, Red Sanders, and Teak trees without permission. Arun stepped in when there was unauthorised tree cutting on village common land (poromboke), soil excavation on poromboke land, and a change made to the course of water streams - to the detriment of surrounding villages. Thanks to his proactive work in speaking out against illegal acts by the AVFO, 3 FIRs against these unauthorised works have been filed at the Auroville Police Station, which have led to strong strictures from the Collector's office.

Arun also supported the many workers who were employed for years in Auroville's forests to claim the gratuity owed to them by Auroville, after their employment was illegally terminated with no notice and no compensation, when the AVFO 'FAMC' fired all of the forest caretakers *en masse*.

A petition has been launched by residents against the AVFO's decision to terminate Arun Ambathy's status and declare him a 'persona non grata'. You can [sign it here](#).

Council Room seized after 3+ year vigil

For almost 3.5 years, the AV Council meeting room in Town Hall has been kept safe for the use of the RA and its Working Groups by a dedicated group of vigil keepers who have coordinated to hold a continuous 24/7 presence inside the space. The first attempt to take over the room came on 1st July 2022 (please see [Bulletin 26](#) for more information). Since then, there have been periodic efforts to claim the room by AVFO-aligned Aurovilians, including one particularly [violent incident](#) in August 2022.



Watch the video of the council takeover [here](#).

On 14th November 2025, the lone Aurovilian who was holding the room for the community was asked by AVFO 'WCom' member Selveraj to leave the room to discuss an unrelated matter with him. The Aurovilian tried to get him to come inside the room instead, but he wouldn't, so she left the room to speak to him. She was then ambushed by a group of around 10 people, who then entered the room and claimed the space. The AVFO 'WCom', in an unsigned Auronet post, [claimed](#) that the repossession of the space was 'peaceful'.

The AVFO 'WCom' also erroneously stated that AV Council is "a group which has not been formally recognised under the current governance framework of the Auroville Foundation." This claim was strongly refuted by both the AV Council in their [massbulletin](#), and the RA WCom in [their communication](#). WCom stated that "The Auroville Council was created at the insistence of then Chairman of the Auroville Foundation, Shree Kireet Joshi, and is a committee formally constituted under Section 19 of the Auroville Foundation Act ... This statement shows shocking ignorance of the basic tenets of the Governance of the Auroville Foundation by people who persist in claiming to be the 'Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly.'"

Annapurna Farm update

Annapurna Farm representatives met, for the second time, with the AVFO 'FAMC' and other Governing Board (GB) appointed group members, on the 21st October 2025. Key points from the meeting include:

- Annapurna is expected to shift in a timeframe of approximately 6 months.
- There is no area of Auroville farmland available for them to shift to, that meets Annapurna's basic farm relocation requirement - namely, 50 acres of contiguous land.
- In the meeting notes of Chandresh (AVFO 'FAMC') it is mentioned that events will unfold "as soon as the lease is signed," however the meeting summary created by Annapurna Farm representatives note that near the end of the meeting it was asserted that a lease has been signed with IIT Madras for the Annapurna land and that "...we [AVFO 'FAMC'] are handing it over today".
- The Annapurna team have now themselves taken on the work of trying to identify suitable land, as the Farm Service, assigned the task to assist, did not come up with any viable suggestions.

Please find the meeting notes of the Annapurna Farm team [here](#), and those of the AVFO 'FAMC' [here](#), for comparison.

Annapurna Farm is Auroville's most productive farmland, producing around 30% of all of the food that is produced in Auroville. If the plan to lease this land to IIT Madras goes ahead, the community will significantly fall short of its goal to have food sovereignty and sustainable agricultural practices within Auroville.

The change.org petition is still open; please [sign here](#) if you have not already done so.

Other Updates and Information

Afsanah's GH Update

Large scale tree clearing has taken place in and around Afsanah's Guest House for the completion of a second Vérité radial. Buildings inside the guest house area have also been demolished. Although the guest house currently remains open, some guests who had long standing reservations have reported that their stays were cancelled without warning. It was also [announced](#) that Aurovilians may no longer use the swimming pool, citing an unnamed 'security issue'.



As shown in the picture below, this new piece of road is just a few meters away from, and runs parallel to, the old radial, which remains in good condition and continues to function effectively. The destruction of this community asset and the clearing of trees raises concerns around allocation of community time, resources, and funds. Instead of functioning roads, and an operational guest house, there are now cleared areas, demolished buildings, and a guest house of significantly reduced value to the community.



An [article](#) on the Hindi-language news site [amarujala.com](#) (see [here](#) for the English translation) made a number of unsubstantiated claims about ‘financial irregularities’, including;

“An investigation revealed that the guest house had been the victim of serious mismanagement for several years. The audit revealed numerous financial irregularities, including unverified cash transactions, unaccounted income, and serious deficiencies indicating possible embezzlement of guest revenue”.

These extremely serious allegations are not based on facts. The former AGH management team have been open and transparent about all the events surrounding the takeover, and have shared a complete [timeline](#), which includes a large number of emails from them to the AVFO ‘working groups’ regarding claims of financial mismanagement by the Guest House Trust. The article was later updated to include a response from RA WCom, who had written to the editors of [amarujala.com](#) to object to this framing of events.

Following the [statement](#) that was shared on Auronet by the AVFO ‘FAMC’ after the forcible takeover of AGH, Auradha and Rosy sent a [massbulletin](#) to the community, which disputed several aspects of their statement, in particular the claims that the repossession was “peaceful” and that they were “unauthorized occupants” who “grossly mismanaged” the guest house.

‘Crown Tram’ plans in the media

Articles in *The Hindu* indicate a new agreement between the Auroville Foundation and Indian Railways to create a “low speed, electric commute facility” for Auroville. While this plan is not new - a piece of railroad was even laid down in Aurovelo many years ago as a test site - it now includes a ‘Toy Train’ to service the Kindergarten zone, as well as a ‘Crown Tram.’ Details on funding have not yet been clarified, and there are also open questions about how a tramway could be implemented in the near future, given that several privately owned plots still prevent completion of the Crown Road.

You can find the articles in *The Hindu* [here](#) and [here](#). A reel showcasing the proposed tram, made with Artificial Intelligence, was shared on Facebook by the account ‘Pondicherry City’ and can be found [here](#).

Legal update

Admission and Termination Regulations Case

The legal status of the Auroville Foundation (Admissions & Terminations of Persons in the Register of Residents) Regulations, 2023 remains contested. The RA WCom [reported](#) on 26th October that the case, which had concluded its debate in August, is being reconsidered after the main judge was transferred. Despite the 2023 Regulations having been challenged in court, no stay or interim order has been granted against them.

Working Committee Legitimacy

Multiple court cases concerning the legitimacy of the Working Committee remain pending in the Madras High Court. The RA WCom [has stated](#) that all three cases are still open, contrary to a recent [communication](#) from the AVFO 'legal coordinator' (Sindhujā) suggesting the matter has been definitively resolved. An October 2024 judgement in a 'quo warranto' case dismissed the petition on technical grounds but did not pronounce on which Working Committee holds legitimate authority. A Court Order from 4th September 2023 had stipulated that the Residents' Assembly may function under specified conditions, with certain limitations also applying to the Governing Board.

Land Exchange Court Cases

On 28th October 2025, the Madras High Court dismissed a Writ Appeal challenging the AVFO's land exchange transactions. The appeal, filed by an Auroville resident, had sought to halt land exchanges and cancel registrations dating from 2021. Please find the court order attached [here](#). The High Court upheld an earlier judgement from 4th March, which had found that the AVFO followed due process in conducting land exchanges. According to that ruling, the transactions were conducted in consultation with statutory bodies (i.e. they consulted the AVFO 'working groups', they were aligned with the Auroville Master Plan, and resulted in net gains for the Foundation. The court also determined that land exchanges do not require prior government sanction, as they differ from outright sales.

Roadside trees cut

The AVFO 'Green Services' cut six trees, including two mature Kaya trees, which were providing shade to the roadside just outside Edayanchavadi, in order to make way for the expansion of the outer ring road (ORR). Although Auroville holds the *patta* of the roadside land, once you permit a state highway to be built on it, the road including buffer zones on both sides and trees on both sides become part of the highway infrastructure. Thus, any tree cutting on the roadsides needs clearance of the Highway Department.

It is important to note that this new piece of ORR has three connecting roads from the main highway, thereby increasing traffic into Auroville, which is against the original intent and design of the Masterplan.



Watch the video [here](#).

The cutting of the trees was initially halted by local people who were surprised by the action and demanded that the AVFO workers show the paperwork to prove that they had permission. The police were called and, as the workers were unable to prove that they had permission to cut the trees, their work was initially stopped. However, workers hired by the AVFO returned later to cut the remaining trees.

A police complaint has been filed by the Highway Department and has been taken up as a [CSR](#). The events were covered in the local news ([here](#) in Tamil and [here](#) for an English translation).

Errata re Dr Karan Singh

In [Bulletin 94](#), an article was shared about Dr Karan Singh comments to AV Today, regarding a false and misleading article in *The Hindu* newspaper. Due to an editing mistake, the 94th edition was sent without including Dr Singh's correct title. The Bulletin team extends their apologies for this oversight.

Miscellaneous

- **Change.org Auroville petition concluded:** A [petition](#) that was launched in December 2021 in the wake of the destruction of the Youth Centre and the attempts to destroy Darkali Forest has been concluded with a total of nearly 59,000 signatures. The final petition was submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for his consideration.
- **Auroville 'Alignment Program':** The AVFO 'HRS' sent out an unsigned massbulletin which announced that "FAMC, HRS, ATR, and the Visitors Centre" were launching the "[Auroville Alignment Program](#)" which they claimed "is a collective effort to help each one of us ... live the ideals and purpose of Auroville in a more conscious, practical way". The program for Aurovilians is named '[consecration](#)'.
- **AVFO CoC for pet owners:** The AVFO 'Working Committee' sent out an unsigned massbulletin (apparently a 'draft') containing a '[code of conduct for pet owners](#)' which claimed to be in line with the Mother's guidelines for Auroville. The massbulletin was accompanied by a [selection of the Mother's quotes](#) regarding animals in Auroville, in which it was noted that she was against having a zoo in Auroville. The closest thing that Auroville has to a zoo is "Le Paradise D'Auro", an animal park located near Irumbai which was heavily supported by the AVFO 'WCom' member Arun.
- **RRU Cyber Psychology course:** The first offering from the "RASTA (RRU–Auroville Security Training Academy) initiative" is a '[Cyber Psychology](#)' course that was shared with the community by "Dr. S. Bascarane, Community Coordinator cum Cyber." Dr. S. Bascarane is a Superintendent of Police (SP) for Wireless/Cyber Crime in Puducherry. Cyber crime does not appear to be a pressing issue for the Auroville community so this appointment raises a number of questions regarding the use of community funds for outside consultants, particularly at a time that many Aurovilians are being denied access to community resources.

Media & Other Links

- 23rd November 2025, **The Scroll**: [Eco India: How a citizen science lab Tamil Nadu is unlocking the potential of the mighty fungi](#). The video includes interviews with Aurovilians Milla and Nadja and volunteer Ishaan, and documents their ongoing citizens' science work to understand the fungi in Auroville's environment.
- November 2025, **Tragi-Comik Newsletter N° 14**: "*The Descent into the Night*": A Contemporary Moment? Find [the English version here](#), [French version here](#).
- 7th March 2025, **The Inder**: [Auroville: Ein Traum von Gemeinschaft am Scheideweg](#) [Auroville: A Dream of Community at a Crossroads].
- 28th October 2025, **The Hindu**: [Auroville gallery hosts show by three women artists](#). Artists mentioned are Tejaswini Mistri Kapoor, Clara Sevilla, and Tosha Parmar. You can find an unlocked pdf of the article [here](#).
- 20th November 2025, **Times of India**: [Three Auroville athletes in Indian team that won World Beach Ultimate Championships](#). The article mentions Aurovilians Amarsakthi Sivaraj, Harsha Vardhan, and Gothainayagai Bala Murugan, and wrongly attributes their achievements to Jayanthi Ravi. You can find a pdf of the article [here](#).

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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