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19–25 minutes



Auroville Bulletin 96

Petition for an Emergency RAD, Petition to Support AV Youth Centre

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Sunday, 4 January 2026

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. For more information, please contact us by writing to 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.
- **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.

In Brief:

- A petition aiming to collect at least 300 signatures, in order to launch an ERAD to select new members of the RA working groups, was launched by the new ‘Light for Unity’ team.
- AVFO ‘working groups’ attempt to close the Youth Centre before the Christmas Fair.
- Parliamentary report on Auroville acknowledges RA position and calls for change
- Eternity Land exchange slated to happen
- 70th GB meeting minutes

What is happening now

‘Light for Unity’ group launches petition for ERAD

In an [Auronet post](#), a new group announced itself: Light for Unity, an initiative of Tamil Aurovilians that seek to “restore peace, harmony, dignity, and a conscious collective approach to

community participation and governance.” As noted by one of their members, they have taken over an office in the Town Hall Graphic Section, after the current executive Guna had been forced to leave by AVFO ‘FAMC’ and ‘ATDC’. Noting the “extreme pressure” put on Guna, the Light for Unity team stepped in and “[secured the space](#)”. Their new office is open as a “grievance and coordination hub” that seeks to address ongoing issues in the community.

On 26th December 2025, the Light for Unity team also retook the Auroville Council Room, which had been taken from RA control just weeks before. In another [Auronet post](#), one member of the team asserts that the use of the room is now again dedicated to the Auroville Council, “to support their ongoing work for peace, well-being, and the larger interests of the Auroville community.”

Following on from a [community meeting](#) held at Kalabhumi on 27th December, the team shared a [meeting report](#) which stated that 175 people had attended.. The group [claimed](#) that they had been successful in [replacing a member](#) of the Housing Board, [removing an Executive](#) of Land Service as well as taking back the AVC room.

On 3rd January 2026, a petition was launched by the group members. The petition aims to collect at least 300 signatures in order to launch an Emergency RA Decision-making process (ERAD). If the petition is successful, an ERAD will be launched to ask for agreement for a new interim selection process which will fast track the selection of new members to fill the empty seats in the RA working groups.

Please find the petition with the text outlining the ERAD proposal [here](#).

Parliamentary Standing Committee Report Acknowledges RA's Concerns

On 8th December 2025, the 371st Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports was released. A Parliamentary Standing Committee has members from both Houses of Parliament. They study specific subjects of governance, and then write reports with recommendations for Parliament. The report of this particular Committee includes a section on the Auroville Foundation and contains several recommendations that align with positions the RA WCom has maintained over recent years. While not legally binding, the report asserts recognition of the role of the RA, its uniqueness as a community and its legitimacy as a statutory body of the AVF. The Parliamentary Standing Committee was chaired by Shri Digvijaya Singh, Member of the Rajya Sabha for the Congress Party, and had 31 members from both the ruling party and the opposition.

The report in brief:

- **On governance and decision-making**, the Committee recommends that any changes to the Auroville Foundation Act or the 1997 Rules should be made through a consensual process. The report emphasizes that "the three institutions must

work together in close coordination and harmony" and that "the Governing Board should continue the practice of consultation and collaboration with the International Advisory Council and the Residents' Assembly before making any key decisions."

- **On the implementation of the Master Plan**, the Committee notes that it should be implemented in close consultation with the RA and other stakeholders. It also calls upon the AVFO to submit the Master Plan to the State Urban Planning Department of Tamil Nadu.
- **On the relocation of Annapurna Farm**, the Committee shares the RA's concern that the loss of Annapurna farmland will negatively impact Auroville's ability to achieve food sustainability. The Committee recommends that "Annapurna farms should not be disturbed and that alternative sites nearby should be found to situate the [IIT Madras] sustainability campus."
- **On Auroville as an [Institute of National Importance](#)**, the Committee recommended granting this status to Auroville due to its unique characteristics, which distinguish it from other educational or research projects. This recommendation was widely reported in the national media, see [here](#) for one example.

The [RA WCom stated](#) that members of the Auroville community, including members of the RA WCom, had the opportunity to interact with the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee during his visit to Auroville and Annapurna Farm, expressing gratitude for the time and attention given.

The full Parliamentary Standing Committee Report is available

[here](#).

Threat to Youth Centre from AVFO ‘Working Groups’

The small group of residents remaining in the AVFO ‘working groups’ have recently directed the Auroville Youth Centre (YC) to close, indicating their intent to take over the space and assume control over its assets. Since the events of December 2021, which saw JCBs taking down Youth Centre structures amid protest from residents, these groups have repeatedly targeted the only cultural space in Auroville that is made by and for youth. Over time, the YC has also become a physical symbol of the resilience of Auroville’s community spirit.

Timeline of recent events

- **31st October 2025** - The YC hosted a ‘Spooky Night’ celebration for Halloween, organised by a registered AV unit called Hibiscus Art.
- **3rd November** - The electricity (and therefore water) supply to YC was cut and FS accounts were shut down, without prior notice, on the orders of the AVFO ‘FAMC’.
- **13th November** - After an intervention from Hibiscus Art, the FS accounts to YC were restored. The electricity supply has not been restored to date and YC has to rely exclusively on the use of a generator to provide electricity to the site.
- **6th December** - YC residents were called to a meeting with

AVFO 'WCom'. At the meeting, they were asked to share their plans for the upcoming YC Christmas fair. The YC residents pointed out that they were uncertain of what their plans for the fair are due to the electricity situation.

- **9th December** - The AVFO 'WCom' [called the YC residents](#) to a second meeting with AVFO 'FAMC', under the pretext of discussing electricity reconnection and their plans to hold future events. However, at the meeting they were told of the unilateral decision to shut YC down. The decision was presented as a *fait accompli*, that they had no choice but to comply with.
- **14th December** - The AVFO 'WCom' [announced on Auronet](#) their decision to close the Youth Center.

Although they were assured at the meeting that they would be given immediate housing solutions, in the [email that followed](#) they were told that housing would only be given once they are registered in the RoR. There is no evidence to show that anyone has been registered in the RoR since the Secretary began her term in 2021, therefore if the YC residents leave the site they might effectively be homeless.

The AVFO 'WCom' claimed in [their post on Auronet](#) that the location of the YC was deliberately chosen to obstruct the path of the Crown Road and the Master Plan. The history of the YC, its location and genesis, is long and complex and involves many different groups of Aurovilians who moved in and out of its development over time. The YC has functioned as a vibrant space for community fairs, plays, and as a home for the youth of Auroville for over 30 years. The AVFO 'Wcom' has recast the YC as a place of 'risk' and 'concern' and as "a focal point for

activities not aligned with the ideals of Auroville.” For a full history of the YC and its activities, please see [this report](#). On 18th December the current residents of the YC shared a detailed [response](#) to the AVFO ‘WCom’ claims. They stated that the massbulletin was “selective and misleading” and that it did not “accurately reflect either the history of the YC or the nature of the engagements that have taken place.” They also pointed out that “the framing of this situation as one of tolerance followed by enforcement obscures a deeper issue: the erosion of trust, due process, and community spirit over the last four years.”

To show the Youth Centre your much-needed support, you can sign their [petition here](#), which has already garnered over 6,000 signatures from wellwishers across the globe.

Eternity exchange with a land shark supported by AVFO

Residents of the Eternity community have been informed that the AVFO’s intention is now to exchange the entirety of the land stewarded by them (a total of 18.5 acres). This information was given to them at a meeting with the AVFO ‘WCom’, who claimed - without providing any evidence - that this plan had been approved by the GB before they completed their tenure.

The community was aware that the GB had approved 7.5 acres of Eternity (valued at over 100 Crores) for exchange, in return for various scattered land parcels totalling 7.3 acres which have a combined total value of just 15 crore, a low sum for this

amount of land. The beneficiary of that [proposed exchange](#) in Eternity is the son of T. Kannan, who was the beneficiary of the AuroOrchard land exchange. Please see [bulletin 92](#) for more information.

In a move that calls into question the effectiveness of AVFO land exchanges, T. Kannan has begun constructing stone walls around a recently purchased land parcel located opposite the Visitors' Gate entrance to the Matrimandir. He has also been widely informing people that he plans to build a hotel on that land. Questions have since been raised [on AuroNet](#) about how this situation has been allowed to happen, particularly because this land was only purchased following the AuroOrchard exchange.



There has been no transparency from the AVFO groups about what lands they plan to exchange for Eternity, nor how the loss of such high-value land would benefit Auroville. At the same time, significant pressure has been placed on Eternity community members to move out, with the exchange situation presented as a *fait accompli*.

The land at Eternity has been restored and stewarded by the family that is currently living there since 1986. It has been transformed into a thriving, ecologically biodiverse forest which was nurtured over 40 years using the family's own funds. During major environmental disasters such as the 2004 tsunami and Cyclone Thane in 2011, it was widely acknowledged that the forest and the community's living fences provided strong coastal protection in that area.

For further context, please see [this note from the RA WCom](#) outlining the recent, highly questionable land exchanges.

Other Updates and Information

70th Governing Board Meeting - October 2025

The Governing Board (GB) held its 70th meeting on 1st October 2025 at the Auroville Foundation, the final meeting of their four year tenure. In his opening remarks, the Chairman R.N. Ravi stated that the Board had undertaken "course correction" and expressed satisfaction with progress made on infrastructure development and the formalization of rules and regulations. The GB collectively thanked Dr. Jayanti S. Ravi for her tenure as Secretary. Dr. Ravi's second, [one-year term as Secretary](#) which began on 20 December 2024, has concluded.

While the GB expressed satisfaction with infrastructure progress

and formalization of rules and regulations, many residents have raised concerns about incomplete and poorly built roads, lack of completed infrastructure projects, and the use of community funds for ongoing repairs. During the GB's tenure, the only completed infrastructure project was a [55-lakh elevator](#) at Town Hall. Multiple new projects have been announced, and in many cases the ground has been cleared of trees (such as at the Southern Service Node, at Creativity, and next to Existence), but nothing has actually been built. Vast amounts of money has been spent on projects such as Mother's Flower Garden (12 crore budget, ref [64th GB MoM](#)), the new building opposite Kalpana - which appears to have no function, - and landscaping of the Kalpana/Sante stretch of the Crown Road, where precious shade trees have been replaced by lawns and flowers. Recently, there have also been announcements of a '[Toy Train](#)' and a tender for a [Virtual Reality Museum](#).

Residents have also expressed concern regarding the frequency of new administrative directives and the lack of clarity around their implementation, as well as limited communication from individuals identifying as members of AVFO 'working groups'.

The most concerning outcome of the meeting is that the GB approved a move toward centralized authority over all working groups, granting the Secretary final decision-making power regarding the reconstitution of working groups, committees, units, trusts, and entities. While existing group members may nominate new members and resource persons, the Secretary was authorized to make final decisions "in the interest of the Auroville Foundation."

Other matters discussed at the 70th GB meeting include:

- Approval for new "Procedures for engagement and functioning of the Residents' Assembly", about which no further information was shared.
- Zero-tolerance alcohol policy
- Water provision to Kottakarai village
- Greenbelt road development
- Administrative extensions and appointments

You can find the [full meeting notes here](#).

Maintenance update

The AVFO 'working groups' have introduced an increase in amount to parts of the Aurovilian maintenance system.

However, it does not apply to a significant number of people who currently receive support from community funds.

In an [email](#) sent to all BCC maintenance recipients, it was stated that the increment would apply only to Aurovilians who live and work in Auroville for a minimum of 35 hours per week, as required under the [Standing Order – Residence Criteria](#).

Although the increment was first [mentioned publicly](#) on Auronet in August 2025, recipients were [informed](#) that they had 24 hours to complete a work survey in order to qualify for the increment from 1st December, as well as for retroactive payments from August to November. No explanation was provided for the extremely short deadline.

In a subsequent communication, it was clarified that the maintenance increase does not apply to the following categories:

- Newcomers
- Half-maintenance recipients
- Children and students
- Apprenticeships
- Care packages
- Bridging
- Maternity
- Infirm (medical) categories
- The Silver Fund category (incorrectly described as “unauthorised”)

As a result, a large number of Aurovilians are excluded from the increment, including individuals who work full-time for Auroville but do not receive full maintenance through the BCC. This includes, for example, farmers and foresters who continue their work despite having their maintenance cut to a care package.

Regarding the Silver Fund, an elderly resident [repeatedly attempted](#) to request this support from the AVFO 'FAMC' and 'BCC' over recent years. To date, these communications have not received a response. Please also see [here](#) for a full outline of the history of the Silver Fund.

Anitya commercial activities closed

Anitya, a community of the Joy of Impermanence (Jol) project located close to the Edayanchavadi village, has been unilaterally ordered to close its commercial activities by the AVFO 'FAMC'. The community, which has a central space designed for hosting small groups and offering different healing modalities, was not informed of the decision beforehand nor of any reasons for the closure. Jol was given use of the abandoned plot to start a new community in 2018, and has built a thriving residential area that has been fully re-greened. One third of the Anitya community land was already lost recently, because of a radial built by the AVFO in 2024-2025 (but still not operational). This new road, stretching to the Visitors' Centre, is not mentioned on the Master Plan and had also led to the relocation of the Thamarai After School project for Edayanchavadi children, an initiative which was hosted by the Jol community.

Media & Other Links

- **RA FOREST CARETAKERS TRAGI-COMIK NEWSLETTER #15: English Version > [HERE](#) French Version > [ICI](#)**
- **RA FOREST CARETAKERS TRAGI-COMIK NEWSLETTER #16: English Version > [HERE](#). French Version > [ICI](#)**
- 8th December 2025, **News by Careers 360: [Parliament panel flags large-scale vacancies in research bodies, low stipends;](#)**

[suggests fellowship hikes](#)

- 11th December 2025, **The Print:** [Auroville-IIT Madras land row: House panel echoes residents, recommends alternative site for campus](#)
- 27th December 2025, **Shankar IAS Parliament:** [Institution of National Importance \(INI\) tag](#)

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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