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Auroville Bulletin 98

**Youth Centre nearly dismantled, schools under threat,
updates on Eternity land exchange**

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Thursday, 23d April 2026

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

How can you help?

- **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.
- **Share information and resources with us:** Share information, pictures, videos and anything relevant with us at evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com. This allows us to continue our independent, fact-based documentation of ongoing events. You can also send your pictures or videos to documentation@auroville.services. Your anonymity will always be respected.

Editorial

The volume of recent developments has made it necessary to split this issue in two. The second part will follow shortly.

This **98th issue** covers:

- Youth Center: unannounced AVFO dismantling operation on 20th March; altercation between AVFO appointees and inhabitants; police complaints filed by both parties; 27 residents named in AVFO complaint; eight non-Aurovilians blacklisted by the AVFO 'WCom'
- Eternity land exchange: High Court petition dismissed; AVFO enters site and begins fencing on 9th March; relocation notice issued; appeal filed
- SAIER maintenance cuts: AVFO 'FAMC' directive to end part-time maintenances in schools and sub-units from June 2026
- Changes to AVFO 'FAMC' membership
- Auroville Global Fellowship follow-up report: *One Year Later: Auroville in Crisis & the Way Forward*
- Other miscellaneous news

The **next issue** will cover:

- Legal updates
- Annapurna Farm update
- Further land exchange developments
- New AVFO administrative directives
- Access to the Auroville Council room
- Media & Other Links

What is happening now

Youth Center nearly dismantled

In the [1116th issue](#) of the RA News and Notes, a French family of six announced they would be leaving Auroville shortly, stating they had “reached [their] limits”, and invited fellow residents to a [farewell gathering](#) at the Youth Center (YC) on 20th March evening. The family had been subject to ongoing housing, visa and financial pressure by the residents in the AVFO-aligned groups.

On the morning of 20th March, a group of approximately 30 AVFO-appointed individuals arrived unannounced with a JCB and several trucks to dismantle the YC, later [describing](#) the operation as the “clearing of an unauthorized and long-standing encroached settlement”. The group was led by Sindhuja, Antim, Joel, Muriel, Kaliananda and Selvaraj — closely associated residents who hold several concurrent postings within the AVFO. (For example, Sindhuja is a member of the GB 'ATDC', the AVFO 'Head of Town Planning', the AVFO 'HRS', the AVFO 'Media Vetter' and 'Official Spokesperson', as well as the AVFO 'Legal Coordinator').

The AVFO appointees began removing items from the kitchen, cutting the YC water pipes, and destroying assets. A call for support was circulated, and a number of residents came to the site to bear witness and stand in support of the YC. An altercation subsequently took place between Antim, Sindhuja and Joel, and two YC inhabitants, Dingbawi and Swati. The altercation escalated : one YC occupant was pushed to the ground by Joel for filming the scene, following which the other occupant struck Joel. Both parties attended a local hospital and filed police complaints. A first-hand account by an external witness is available [here](#), as is a report by the AVFO appointees [here](#). The YC inhabitants did not publish an account of the events publicly.

Two days later, the RA WCom published a [massbulletin](#) acknowledging “a specific violent altercation at the Youth Centre”, and stating that “false narratives” had been circulated “by those working closely with and for the Foundation Office”. Presenting what it described as “a more balanced account”, the RA WCom characterized the incident as “an escalating sequence of actions from all involved”, in which there is documented evidence of “verbal and physical provocation and several instances of violence on the side of those enforcing the destruction”. The massbulletin further condemned “the use of violence by anybody and everybody” and “the impunity with which these persons representing the Foundation Office continue to threaten, aggress and evade any responsibility for their unacceptable and violent actions under the guise of representing a Governing Board whose term has expired in October 2025.” The RA WCom requested that any residents answering future calls for presence maintain calm and document proceedings.

Following the incident, the AVFO filed a police complaint against 27 individuals “involved in the obstruction of clearing operations at the Youth Centre”. The AVFO 'WCom' also sent a list of eight people who had been present at the YC, including two young adults who grew up in Auroville, to the Guest Registration Service, guest houses and AVFO Security services, informing them that these eight individuals had been “blacklisted”. The AVFO 'WCom' instructed these services to cancel their C-Forms and to deny them entry into Auroville. The RA WCom responded via [massbulletin](#), noting that “the people named in this public manner have not been informed of this action against them, they have not been presented with any allegations which could lead to these actions being taken against them, nor have they been given a chance to present their version of events”. The RA WCom further instructed the Guest Registration Service, guest houses and AVFO Security services “to refrain from taking action until there is a written order by the relevant Indian authorities signed by name(s)”

...which ended by the relevant Indian authorities signed by name(s) .

On 2nd April, the AVFO 'WCom' published their own update via [massbulletin](#), characterizing the space as “a hangout and party venue for guests and tourists”, stating that “efforts” had been undertaken “to clean and prepare the Old Youth Centre area to facilitate harmonious development”, and that “approximately 90% of the clearing work has been completed”. They also mentioned that “a new Youth Learning & Training initiative is currently being developed with support from the Government of India”.

On 27th March, an anonymous account identifying itself as “Auroville Child & Youth Protection” sent an [email](#) about the YC incident to Indian authorities, AVFO appointees and media outlets. The email requested for an independent investigation, a safe testimony mechanism for residents, urgent intervention, and a review of the Secretary’s reappointment. This email prompted replies by Sindhuja and the AVFO ‘WCom’, among others. The full email thread is available [here](#). The Auroville Child & Youth Protection account later sent follow-up communications, on [30th March](#) (formal complaint “to the responsible decision-maker”), [9th April](#) (evidential statement), [14th April](#) (record of events) and [20th April](#) (direct appeal to Dr Jayanti Ravi).

A YC “Record of Events” was prepared by the Auroville Child & Youth Protection account and can be [found here](#). You can also watch [here](#) a documentary movie on the YC, published in September 2023.

Update on Eternity land exchange

In December 2025, Eternity residents were informed through the AVFO 'WCom' that a land exchange was planned for the entirety of the Eternity community (see [Bulletin 96](#)), starting with a first exchange of 7.5 acres. Between mid- and end-February, the AVFO made several attempts to enter the land without the agreement of Eternity residents, who requested documentation and procedural clarity that had not been provided. On 22nd February, Eternity residents published a report in the RA News and Notes (available [here](#), page 2 onwards).

On 28th February, the matter was brought by Eternity residents before the Madras High Court. On 6th March, a community update with more details was shared via [massbulletin](#). On the same day, Sindhuja, the AVFO 'Legal Coordinator', published an [announcement](#) stating that the High Court had dismissed the Eternity petition. On 9th March morning, Eternity residents filed a police complaint with the Superintendent of Police of the Villupuram district. In the afternoon, the Eternity case [Court Order](#) was finally published, revealing that the residents' petition was dismissed on the grounds of them being only "permissive occupants". Shortly after, approximately 30 members of the AVFO and their 'working groups' came to the site, broke the lock, and started clearing the ground for fencing purposes. On 14th March, the AVFO 'Land Service' returned to the land to finish clearing and fencing the exchanged parcel (find a [video here](#)).

On 16th March, Eternity residents received a 14-day notice for relocation, with alternate housing allocated without prior consultation and without addressing residents' earlier requests for information. A reminder was sent by OSD G. Seetharaman on 21st March. An appeal has been filed before the Madras High Court, and the matter remains unresolved. A rough timeline of events is available [here](#). Residents are organizing a potluck gathering on 24th April at Eternity, from 4 to 7 pm, to "come together in community" and "honour the spirit of the forest and the ocean". The schedule can be [found here](#).



The poster features two landscape images: a top image of a forest with a rainbow and a bottom image of a coastal area with a windmill. A vertical banner on the right contains the text '@ ETERNITY' and 'COMMUNITY GATHERING'. At the bottom, it reads: 'Potluck, Collective Moment of Silence, Walk Friday → 24th April → 4-7pm.'

Event Schedule



@ Eternity
Friday, 24th April
4 - 7:30pm

2 - 4pm	Set-up
4 - 5pm	Settle-in, Connect, Reflect
5pm	Walk to the Sea
5:15 - 5:45pm	Symbol & Collective Silence
5:45pm	Return to the Forest
6pm	Potluck: Share & Rejoice
7 - 7:30pm	Wind-up



Eternity is home to a biodiverse forest restored by the family residing there since 1986. The land obtained in exchange is of lesser value, with some parcels located outside of the Master Plan area. The primary beneficiary of the exchange is the son of T. Kannan, the politician and real estate developer that had highly benefitted from an earlier AuroOrchard land exchange (and has subsequently bought land along the Matrimandir). One resident raised these concerns last December [on Auronet](#): “Why are we now trying to do yet another land exchange with the same real estate person? Are we going to allow him again to buy more land in the city area and then exchange it with Auroville?”

‘Prosperity’ & Maintenance Cuts

Changes to AVFO 'FAMC' membership

On 2nd March, Margarita wrote to the Secretary, announcing she would resign from her positions [as member of the AVFO 'FAMC'](#) and [as Trustee of the Kattida Kalai Trust](#), effective 1st April, due to health issues. On 7th April, a [massbulletin](#) named Chandresh and Kalya as members of AVFO 'FAMC'. Both were initially appointed by an AVFO [Office Order](#) in June 2022, and their term expired in May 2025. However, less than a year after being appointed, Kalya reportedly left the group for undisclosed reasons. Residents have questioned why their names were included in recent communications since, to date, no new Office Order has been published by the AVFO regarding the membership of its 'FAMC'.

'Prosperity'

In December 2025, the AVFO 'BCC' announced in an [email](#) that they would soon become 'Prosperity Services'. They requested that all residents fill up a form with personal information such as place and nature of work and weekly work hours. On 19th March 2026, the 'Towards Prosperity Facilitation Team' shared by [massbulletin](#) that there would be a series of focused group conversations on: Education & Research, Income Generating Services (IGS), Youth & Elders and Collective Services, which were slated to happen at the end of March. These sessions were presented as "a space for dialogue and reflection on the current situation and a plan towards a more coherent and collective approach aligned with Auroville's purpose". No explanation was offered as to how the 'Towards Prosperity Facilitation Team', a group who has not been selected by the RA and whose membership is unknown, has determined what constitutes "alignment with Auroville's purpose".

On 9th March, an [email](#) from AVFO 'FAMC' was sent to Unit executives. It announces a change of the way units contribute to the collective pot, routing their agreed share through AVFO 'BCC', and the sustenance components for individuals then routed through the Prosperity system. A [Toward Prosperity presentation](#) draft was shared for review and reflection. This document sets out a plan that is both highly ambitious and vague, outlining a transition towards prosperity, abundance and shared participation. It refers to very general theories without ever providing any figures or details.

Aurovilians were later invited by AVFO 'FAMC' via [massbulletin](#) to a meeting on 11th April to present what emerged from the survey, conversations and interviews. It announced that AWARE would present the key findings from the process and ten concrete directions that have been proposed in response. The feedback on that day would shape the final report before it is made public and submitted to the AVFO 'FAMC', with the intention that implementation begins on 24th April. The meeting was [cancelled](#) by the AVFO 'FAMC', invoking the need for greater clarity, but it eventually went ahead on 18th April. A short and informal account of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Schools and SAIER units face maintenance cuts again

On 10th April, the AVFO 'Budget Planning Team' (a subgroup of the AVFO 'BCC' and AVFO 'FAMC') sent an [email](#) to the SAIER Administrative Executives, stating "that there should be no

provision for half or partial maintenance across schools and all SAIER sub-units” and that “only full maintenance allocations are to be considered”, starting in June 2026. No reason was given in the mail. Some residents have expressed concern that this policy may soon be extended beyond SAIER to other units across Auroville.

One year prior, SAIER’s budget was cut by one crore. At that time, a number of full-time educators agreed to accept reduced pay in order to keep schools operational. Many Auroville schools also rely on part-time teachers, who contribute to the diversity and quality of their curricula. Several educational and cultural units fall under the umbrella of SAIER, including the Auroville Library and the Centre for Research in the Performing Arts (CRIPA), and others who rely on part-time maintenances to function.

Should this directive be implemented, it would affect the continuation of schools and several other educational and cultural units under SAIER. **Please write to the AVFO ‘FAMC’ (famc@auroville.org.in), ‘BCC’ (bcc@auroville.org.in) and SAIER (saiier@auroville.org.in) to ask questions on the reasons behind this decision, and express your concerns about this plan.**

Other Updates and Information

New report by the Auroville Global Fellowship

On 28th February, a subgroup of the Auroville Global Fellowship released a follow-up report titled *One Year Later: Auroville in Crisis & the Way Forward*. The report builds on the Fellowship's January 2025 earlier publication, and examines five areas in which the situation in Auroville has deteriorated during 2025 and early 2026, concluding with proposed approaches to resolving the crisis. According to the authors, the report draws on government reports, national journal articles, legal filings, interviews, and publications from Auroville.

The **full report** is available in [English](#) and [French](#), with a **two-page executive summary** also available in [English](#) and [French](#). Enquiries or feedback may be directed to AurovilleGlobalFellowship@gmail.com.

Peace and solidarity walk



The Light For Unity core group, together with RA Working Groups, organized a ['Peace and Solidarity Walk'](#) on 13th March. According to the organizers, about 250 to 300 people attended the walk.

Miscellaneous news

- **RA WCom observations on 69th & 70th GB minutes:** on 11th March, the RA WCom published via massbulletin its [observations](#) on the GB's [69th meeting minutes](#), and its [observations](#) on the GB's [70th meeting minutes](#). These were the last meetings held by the GB before the end of its term.
- **Update of RoR status:** on 1st April, the AVFO 'HRS' sent an [email](#) to many residents asking them to mention whether they were in or out of Auroville, in order to update their RoR status. Many residents who are currently TOS reportedly did not receive the email.
- **Visitors Center cafe change of management:** at the beginning of April, the executives of the Visitors Center Right Path Cafe were suddenly changed by the GB 'FAMC'. The consequences on the functioning of the unit, and the continuation of the service it provided to the community, are currently unknown.
- **Appointment of S Bascarane as 'community coordinator':** the AVFO has recently appointed S Bascarane, retired Superintendent of Police, as community coordinator. One of his first interactions with the community was a [curious massbulletin](#), sent on 4th March to all residents on the occasion of Holi, a major Hindu festival.
- **Food system envisioning:** a group of Aurovilians have been meeting regularly to "envision a new system that improves the interconnectedness between the community, the food and the farmers of Auroville". On 17th March, they published [this article](#), "the first in a series of [their] reflections and aspirations". You can contact them at avfoodsystemenvisioning@gmail.com
- **Email to schools restricting youth driving:** on 18th March, the AVFO 'ATDC' sent an [email](#) to SAIER, the School Board and Auroville schools, reporting that children below 18 have been driving vehicles without a valid license and instructing specific parents to implement specific measures. Among other elements, the email mentions that there will be "special counselling and corrective guidance" in case of "repeated violations" from the children and their parents. This wording was omitted in the [announcement](#) submitted to AVFO 'News & Notes'.
- **Final TSC report:** the 'Temporary Selection Committee', who selected members for the RA working groups in January 2026, published its final report on 20th February. You can find it [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://auroville.media/egb/>

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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