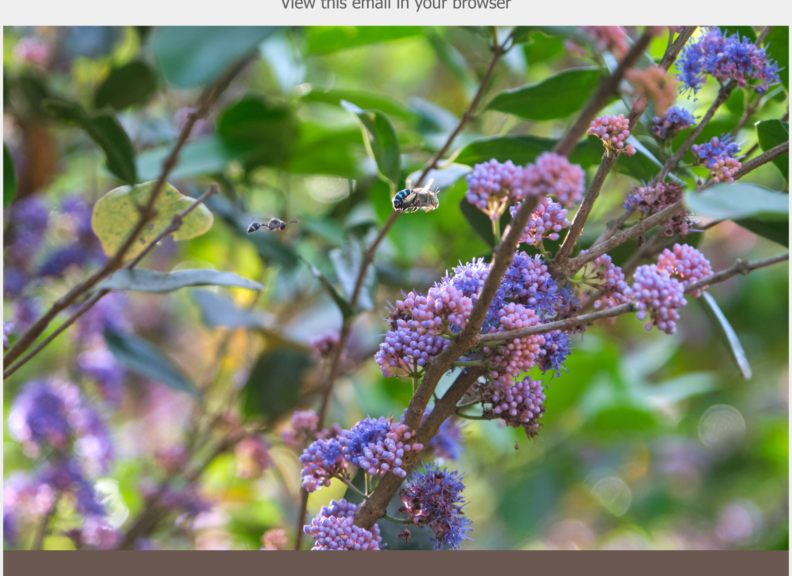
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Auroville Bulletin 101

Annapurna given ten days to ‘relocate’, visa threats escalate, RA FAMC reaches out about Zoho accounting

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Saturday 12th September 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 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.
- **Share information and resources with us:** Share information, pictures, videos and anything relevant with us at evolvingalaxy@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.

In brief

- Annapurna farm given 10 days to ‘relocate’
- Visa threats escalate
- RA FAMC: Call to share information about Zoho accounts
- AVFO 'FAMC' policies threaten farmers and Auroville grown food
- AVFO Officer under investigation
- Forest worker gratuity
- Statement by former IAC members
- Tamil Nadu Governor visit

What is happening now

Annapurna Farm given 10 days to ‘relocate’

Since 101 (out of 135) acres of Annapurna farmland was leased to IIT-M by the AVFO, the Annapurna management team has tried to protect the farmland by working with the AVFO to save the farms operations, the herd of 23 certified organic dairy cattle and the 20 permanent workers. They have viewed, or are already familiar with, the five areas of Auroville Greenbelt lands identified by ATDC last August as potential lands to relocate to, which ranged from approximately 3.5 to 11 acres, however none come close to the 50 acres of contiguous land that the Annapurna team estimate would be the minimum amount of land required. They have submitted to the concerned AVFO groups two reports, both in September 2025, regarding what would be minimally necessary for the farm operations to be relocated, however they received no written responses. In June 2026, IIT-M began fencing off the 101 acres of leased Annapurna Farm land.



On 5 September, the Annapurna team received an email from an unnamed AVFO Officer on Special Duty informing them that they must begin immediate transitional arrangements, giving a timeline of just 10 days to ‘relocate’. In this short time, they are expected to shift all the residents to assets located in several different communities in the Residential Zone, without any confirmation of the current availability - and the herd of cows “to the alternative farm areas within the Green Belt already identified/shown by the Farm Service” (i.e the herd is to be separated and absorbed by twos and threes into existing Auroville dairy farms). Such a huge move for a herd of livestock would require very careful planning and execution in order to avoid extreme suffering by the animals, however no such plans are in place, and the AVFO and its appointed groups have not even contacted the other farms who can supposedly suddenly absorb this number of dairy cows including all the costs, the maintenance, and the daily care, and additionally handle the increase in work for milking, processing milk, etc.

No budget has been planned, agreed, nor allocated for any of the costs of relocation, either for the residents or the livestock. Whenever costs have been mentioned by the Annapurna Farm team, they received responses such as 'the money will be there when it's needed' or 'we'll fundraise'.

The Annapurna team sent out a newsletter about the situation they are facing, in which they state that they “are looking into how best to respond to this latest demand”. Manoj, an Aurovilian who had earlier collaborated with the AVFO, wrote on 6 September an Auronet post denouncing the situation in Annapurna.

On 10 September a welcome intervention came from the new Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth & Sports, Shri Mukul Wasnik. He wrote to the Ministry of Education to highlight his “serious concern regarding the recent communication issued by the Auroville Foundation Office directing residents of Annapurna Farms to vacate the premises within 10 days”, given that the recommendation of the Committee had been that “Annapurna Farm should not be disturbed” (for reference please see the report issued by the Parliamentary Committee in December 2025).

Visa threats escalate

The situation for Auroville residents who rely on a visa to remain in Auroville is becoming increasingly difficult, as the groups appointed by the Secretary and the former GB are now acting as the gatekeepers of people’s visas. It is now standard practice for everyone to be invited to a meeting with the members of the AVFO ‘Admissions and Terminations Scrutinising Committee’ (‘ATSC’, headed by Antim and Muriel) once their visa is in process, and it is only on their say that a person’s Letter of Recommendation (LoR) is given to the Secretary to sign. Additionally, many Aurovilians have reported that Antim is now also the final decision maker regarding the allocation of housing assets, meaning that he now holds a great deal of power in many of the vital aspects of the lives of Aurovilians. As the Secretary is rarely in Auroville due to her full-time job in Gujarat, there is a large backlog of people who are waiting for an LoR on an expired visa, either stuck inside or outside of India.

Some Aurovilians, especially former RA working group members or residents who have expressed themselves publicly, are called to meetings with a larger group of AVFO allies - typically Antim, Muriel, Kaliananda, Lieve and Lakshay. They then face an interrogation, which some Aurovilians have qualified as a “kangaroo court”.

A number of people whose visas have expired for up to two years were recently visited by officers from the RRO, who took some basic details and confirmed that the only pending issue was the lack of a signature by the Secretary on their LoR. This group of people have essentially been refused a visa due to the Secretary’s inaction. In a recent post in the AVFO ‘News and Notes’, Sindhuja of the AVFO claimed that those facing visa problems were ‘obstructing public works’ and ‘standing in front of a JCB’, however the vast majority of the people in this group have never taken any action to physically block development works.

In recent weeks, actions have also been taken against Aurovilians holding a business visa, who are now being refused the legally required C-Form to register at the address in which they live in Auroville. A small but increasing number of Aurovilians are coming to India on business visas due to the difficulties in obtaining LoRs from the Secretary. In a massbulletin dated 21 August, the AVFO stated that “Tourist Visas, Business Visas and other categories of visas are not permitted for persons residing in Auroville housing assets under the status of Aurovilian, Newcomer or Volunteer”.

RA-FAMC: call to share information about Zoho accounts

In 2024, the AVFO and its ‘FAMC’ mandatorily implemented the Zoho accounting system across all Auroville units. Margarita of the AVFO ‘FAMC’ was strongly involved in implementing this partnership. Via a Right to Information (RTI) request, the RA-FAMC discovered that the one crore grant given by the Government of India to cover the costs of the Zoho accounting system, will expire at the end of this financial year in March 2027. After this, the cost of the accounting platform will presumably be expected to be absorbed by the Auroville units themselves. This is despite the fact that the units' executives and trustees were given no say in whether the system is fit for purpose The RA-FAMC sent a massbulletin addressed to all unit executives and trustees, to open a discussion about Zoho and whether this system is actually working for Auroville units. If you wish to contribute to this discussion, please send an email to famc@auroville.services.

AVFO 'FAMC' policies threaten farmers and Auroville grown food

Forests:

In April, the AVFO ‘Green Belt Services’ (GBS) - who withdrew the budget and rescinded the authority of the longstanding Farm & Forest Groups - sent out a notice to ‘regulate the income generating activities of Greenbelt settlements [communities]’. Their proposal meant that forest communities which grow produce such as fruit and cashew would no longer be able to sell via FoodLink, PTDC and PTPS, as the income received from those places would now only be given to GBS. In order to receive their funds the communities were instructed to give bills, for example for petrol, to GBS. As the GBS stated that they would not accept any bills for labour, it meant that the forest communities would be unlikely to recoup all of the funds owed to them. This has led to many forest communities stopping their deliveries to FoodLink, reducing the supply of Auroville produce to residents.

Farms:

FoodLink is a service originally set up by the Farm Group as Auroville's central collection and distribution point for Auroville farm produce. Based in the Prosperity Service Area, it was built with the intention of allowing farmers to grow food for Auroville without concern for competing with each other, nor on figuring out how to market and distribute their produce, but rather focusing on production. Over the last years, FoodLink's management team has been replaced by the AVFO.

In 2023, the AVFO 'FAMC' set up a ‘Farm Service’ to oversee the management of all the farms of Auroville. No current members of the ‘Farm Service’ are farmers, and there has been no meeting between the farmers as a whole and these new managers in 3 years.

In 2025, under the direction of Chandresh of the AVFO ‘FAMC’, FoodLink introduced a weekly pricing based on a 20% blanket margin over Pondy wholesale market prices of inorganic produce. Thus, they linked Auroville's food system directly to the profit-driven food system everywhere else, because they believed it would help with sales. Historically, the price of Auroville produce was set by farmers and FoodLink together, each lifting the other's experience, to arrive at a yearly price that balanced the purchasing power of Aurovilian consumers with increasing costs of production from inflation. The yearly price shielded Auroville's food system from the fluctuations of the market prices, from scarcities and overcoats, and it linked prices to on-ground realities and costs of production - which doesn'tt vary from one month to the next in a non-competitive system.

As a gesture of goodwill, farmers agreed to a 3-month trial of the new system for FoodLink to study. One year on, it has become the established new system without being evaluated, despite multiple requests from farmers. The farmers state that production has dropped over the last year due to the increasing risk factor, but the data to evaluate the situation has not been released or studied by FoodLink.

In June 2026, the AVFO ‘FAMC’ sent an email to all distributors and food-related units in Auroville (PTDC, PTPS, HERS, Solar Kitchen, VC, etc.) to provide food only through FoodLink as of 6 July, with no steps on implementation. Farmers and distributors like raised alarms to both Food Link and AVFO 'FAMC' about the logistical impossibility of this, given FoodLink's limited capacity and the increasing sour relationship with farmers and other distributors due to untimely payments, problems in delivery and the new communication style. Although this system has not yet been implemented due to the on-the-ground impossibility, the AVFO ‘FAMC’ is still trying to push it through.

Over the last year, farmers have consistently received top-down instructions from FoodLink and the AVFO 'FAMC'. The Core Group of the Farm Group (Anshul, Charlie, Sathyavanan, Tomas, Velmurugan) has repeatedly made attempts to collaborate, in the interest of the food system. The full Farm Group had a meeting with Food Link on July 21, 2026 to find a way forward. They highlighted three actions by Foodlink which were untenable:

- Foodlink setting prices unilaterally, sometimes below the minimum agreed price, and changing them weekly based on market prices;
- Insisting that farmers distributes solely through them, despite untimely service and irregular payments;
- Unwillingness to allow farms to be partners in decision-making processes related to their own operations.

At the end of the meeting, the farmers stated: “After 3 years of trying to collaborate despite many many challenges, we are unable to find a way to work together with Food Link as they seem to see no need to work with us, only order us what to do. Information has been provided to FoodLink and [AVFO] FAMC time and again, but with no response to constructive steps forward. There seems to be no interest in creating worthwhile policies along with us, lifting our experience in the field, and actually serving the food system of Auroville. Farmers don't have the confidence in Foodlink's team's experience nor their capacity to deal with the complexities of Auroville's food system. They cannot be at the helm of deciding pricing, or what the farms should or should not be growing.The farmers feel complicated to start looking for complementary ways to distribute food in Auroville as they want to grow healthy and good food for Auroville, but the current management is not listening to us, and is attempting to implement policies that are not feasible, reasonable or realistic, and actually detrimental to the food sovereignty of Auroville."

On 5 August, the core group of the Farm Group shared a massbulletin with the community about the situation that has led to many farms withdrawing or reducing their produce from FoodLink, and further informed the community that FoodLink is now selling non-AV produce ‘much of [which] is not even organic’. Gino, who is a member of the ‘Farm Service’, shared year article in the AVFO News & Notes in which he corroborated much of what was shared by the Farm Group, however he erroneously stated that FoodLink was established by the AVFO ‘Farm Service’, which has existed for only 3 years. In fact, FoodLink was established by the Farm Group more than 20 years ago, and only its management was changed by the AVFO.





The Farm Group recently started to hold a farmers market every Saturday at Youthlink, 10am-1pm. All Aurovilians who wish to support Auroville farms are warmly invited to attend this market and to buy farm produce with them directly.

Other Updates and Information

AVFO Officer under investigation

Angshuman Basu was the Assistant Accounts Officer at the AVFO and was one of only a handful of permanent original staff members remaining from before 2021. He received a show cause notice from an AVFO Officer on Special Duty, merely 10 days before his retirement due date, with a number of allegations. After his responses, he was 'allowed to retire' but four weeks after his retirement, he has not yet received the pension and retirement money owed to him for his nearly 30 years of service. (He is still listed on the AVFO website as active).

A similar process was used against Mr Srinivasmurty, ex-Undersecretary at the AVFO, 3 months before his retirement. Both of these long term officers collaborated with the current administration, taking actions against the RA and its working groups. In the case of Basu, he has signed the recent land exchanges on behalf of the AVFO.

Forest worker gratuity

In June 2023, the Forest Group budget was cut with no advance warning, effectively ending the employment of around 50 forest workers - some of whom had worked in Auroville’s forests for over 40 years - with no notice. Most of these workers are entitled to gratuity payments as per Indian law. Despite the BCC being responsible for fulfilling the payments, the AVFO and their ‘working groups’ have refused to take responsibility for the outstanding amount, which comes to over ₹47 lakh. They claim that the Forest Group ‘did not keep proper records’; however in the past the Forest Group always submitted complete records of the payments from the forest budget to BCC, in the format requested.

On 20 July 2026 a group of the forest workers, along with some Aurovilians and the activist Piyush Manush, went to the AVFO to protest these actions and call on the AVFO to pay the forest workers their dues. In particular, they highlighted that three workers have passed away since 2023 without receiving the money that was owed to them. A small ceremony of remembrance and gratitude was held near the Town Hall with some of their family members, and with Aurovilians. There has been no response from the AVFO or any of their ‘working group’ members.



Statement by former IAC members

In May 2026, five former members of the International Advisory Council (IAC) released a statement about the current situation in Auroville. They highlighted several ongoing concerns: increasing use of verbal and physical violence (citing in particular the takeovers of Afsanah’s Guest House, the Youth Centre events, and the Council Room incident on 13th May 2026), ‘strong reservations’ about land exchanges, and the lack of improvement in the visa situation. The statement drew a response from the AVFO ‘working groups’, which has subsequently been rebutted by an Aurovilian.

Tamil Nadu Governor visit

The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar,participated in an event held in Auroville on 6 June 2026, laying a foundation stone for the P.L.A.Z.A (Public Life Artisan Zone Auroville) and planting three trees near the Outer Ring road *[note: media reports erroneously stated that the trees were planted near the Visitors Centre]*



No details about the new P.L.A.Z.A have been shared with the community, apart from a massbulletin sent on 3 June inviting Aurovilians to ‘apply for a kiosk’ within less than 24 hours ‘at a location inside Auroville’. The location appears to be where six roadside trees, including two mature Kaya trees, were cut down near the ORR in October 2025 (please see Bulletin 95 for more information). Work on building the new kiosks has begun recently. The creation of new shops along the roadside is a continuation of the push for commercialisation under the AVFO ‘working groups’,catering for day visitors and encouraging tourism and marketing in Auroville, with businesses such as Le Paradis D’Auro, the Visitors’ Centre ‘Wildlife Museum’ and regular guided tours inside Auroville.

The AVFO press release claimed that this ‘plantation drive’ would be part of an initiative to plant 10,000 trees. Previous AVFO ‘plantation drives’ have all failed because the saplings were planted at the wrong season or left uncared for (two examples can be found here and here).

Media & Other Links

From within Auroville:

- June-September, **The Winged Guardians of the Forest Humorous Newsletters**: No 21 (June), No 22 (July), No 23 (August) and No 24 (September)
- 5 July 2026, **Voices of Auroville**: *Voices of Auroville 11, July 2026*
- 26 June 2026, **Medium**: *Declaring a Water Emergency in Auroville* by Rajesh

External Media:

- [**French**] 15 May 2026, **Le Bien Public**: *La famille vit 8 mois par an hors de France : entre Diénay et l'Inde, « le choix de vie » des Lignier* by Martine Marie
- 25 May 2026, **The Hindu**: *Auroville secretary calls on Union Education Minister*
- 8 June 2026, **The News Minute**: *Auroville residents voice concern over self-governance and ecology* by Nithesh Kumar
- [**French**] 21 June 2026, **Le Ploërmelais**: *Ancien habitant d'Auroville en Inde, il a choisi Brocéliande pour y créer une oeuvre surprenante* by Ludivine Ageon
- [**French**] 25 June 2026, **Le Singulier**: *Auroville, l’utopie en sursis*
- 25 June 2026, **RTL Today**: *Beloved spiritual utopia under threat in Modi's India* by AFP. Reposted on many press outlets such as France24, 24 Digital, MSN, Herald Sun, Daily Sun, Kuwait Times, and many more (see list here).
- [**French**] 25 June 2026, **Courrier International**: *Auroville ou la fin d'une utopie dans l'Inde de Modi* by AFP.
- [**Spanish**] 25 June 2026, **Metro Libre**: *Auroville, una utopía espiritual bajo amenaza en la India de Modi* by AFP. Reposted on many press outlets such as MSN, SwissInfo.ch, and many more (see list here).
- 26 June 2026, **Malaymail**: *Inside Auroville: India’s experimental city caught between utopian ideals and state power under Modi* by AFP
- 9 July 2026, **Substack**: *Ways of Exploring "Auroville"* by Chad W. Post
- 12 July 2026, **The Times of India**: *‘Auroville: An Experiment Under Threat’ photo exhibition held in Pondy*
- [**French**] 13 July 2026, **LeQuotidien**: *La cité de l'Aurore portée par un idéal de paix*
- [**French**] 13 July 2026, **LeQuotidien**: *Près de Pondichery, le gouvernement sonne la fin de l'utopie Auroville* by AFP
- 15 July 2026, **MyStartup**: *From England to Auroville: How Krishna McKenzie Created One of the World's Most Inspiring Regenerative Farms* by Sandhya Mamidala
- 19 July 2026, **The Logical Indian**: *Meet Krishna McKenzie: The Visionary Behind Solitude Farm Who Turned Barren Land Into A Thriving Food Forest* by Nidhi Premi
- 21 July 2026, **Adventure.com**: *This utopian Indian township was founded in 1968. How much longer can it last?* by Nicola Zolin
- [**French**] 28 July 2026, **Ouest France**: *Paimpont. Le parcours de Mr. Proust, de l’Inde à la forêt de Brocéliande*
- 9 August 2026, **Open The Magazine**: *Auroville’s Hybrid Energy Experiment: Can Its Decentralised Renewable Model Work for the Rest of India?* by Anusreeta Dutta
- 11 August 2026, **Hindustan Times**: *Ahilya says she isn't afraid to speak up on student protests or Auroville issues: ‘There's fear for actors to lose work’* by Neeshita Nyayapati

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 websitehttps://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 evolvingalaxy@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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