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Auroville Bulletin 102

Governing Board & IAC reconstituted, Land razed at Soffio community, new Show Cause Notices

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Monday, 12 October 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.
- **Stay informed:** To stay informed, you can join this Telegram channel, this WhatsApp group, subscribe to the RA News and Notes and to the *Voices of Auroville* magazine.

Editorial

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What is happening now

Governing Board and IAC reconstituted

The Ministry of Education reconstituted the Governing Board and International Advisory Council through two notifications published on 7 October 2026 in the Gazette of India. Both are appointed for a period of four years.

The new GB is being chaired by Shri Thiru Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, and has among its members Shri K. Kailashnathan, the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. Prof. Goutam Ghosal, who was part of the previous GB and had posted many derogatory statements against Aurovilians on X, has also been reappointed. New members include Dr. Bijayeeni Mohapatra, co-author on Regional Public Health Studies, Dr. Mrs. Chhalamayi Reddy, Director-Principal of the Sri Aurobindo International School, and Dr. V. Thiruppugazh, retired IAS officer. It also includes two ex-officio representatives of the Government of India, as has always been the case. You can find the details here.

The new IAC is composed of four members instead of five. Shri Hasmukh P. Rama and Dr. David Frawley were both reappointed from the previous IAC. Both had remained silent on the situation in Auroville, while the three other members who had drawn the Government's attention to problematic land exchanges, were not reappointed. The two new members are Dr. Kiran Vyas, Founder of Tapovan, a centre in Paris dedicated to the study of Ayurveda and yoga, and Shri Kottamasu Venkateswara Rao, Chairman & Director of Tata International Singapore. You can find the details here.

Given the composition of both the new GB and IAC, it is unlikely that they will intervene in favour of the re-empowerment of the Residents' Assembly and its representatives.

Land razed at Soffio: patta discrepancies discovered by RA FAMC

In a massbulletin sent on 12 September 2026, the RA FAMC brought to light serious discrepancies in the land ownership paperwork of three sections of Auroville land. These sections of land are:

- **6.38 acres of land next to, and including part of the Soffio community.** This land has been held by Auroville without contest since 2000. On 20 July 2024, one Mr. Kuzhandaivelu was added to the patta (a land ownership paper that shows possession) as a joint patta holder along with Auroville Foundation. Now this land has been grabbed and cleared of trees (see below). Currently the Estate Officer and Secretary of Auroville Foundation has displayed a Show Cause notice issued to the joint patta holder. However there is no information available regarding any appeal being made to the District Revenue Officer (DRO) by the Auroville Foundation.
- **61 cents of land at Acceptance.** This land was bought for Auroville by the SAS in 1974 and was vested in the Auroville Foundation through the Act. On 12 July 2026, Subramaniam, Paneerselvam, and Vijaya were added to the patta as joint patta holders along with the Auroville Foundation. There is an ongoing court case regarding this land, between the Auroville Foundation and the persons now named in the land ownership papers. See here for a report from the Land Board from 2021.
- **18 cents of land at Halcyon (located north of Simplicity, on the beach).** This land was bought for Auroville by the SAS in 1969 and was vested in the Auroville Foundation through the Act. On 1 October 2024, Loganyaki was added to the patta as a joint patta holder along with the Auroville Foundation.

In the case of the first section at Soffio, the land includes an area that is supposed to be allocated to a new housing project named 'New Birth'. The AVFO 'ATDC' have been advertising it to residents, inviting people to sign up to the project. On 15 August the Secretary held an inauguration of the project and unveiled a monument, a foundation stone measuring approximately 1.5m high with Jayanti Ravi's name on it. As was highlighted by the RA FAMC "it is now clear that AVFO knew about the joint patta holder from July 2024 and nevertheless staged the inauguration of an alleged building project in full cognizance of the issue".

In the first week of September, residents became aware that the land immediately behind the new foundation stone was being cleared of trees. Calls to the AVFO 'Working Groups' requesting that they step in to stop the land grab went unheeded, and residents reported that the men carrying out the land grab were aggressive towards them. Around 50 tractor loads of cut trees were removed from the site in the subsequent days. A signboard was erected, which stated that the land was under the ownership of S. Kolandaivel, son of Sugumaran. By 22 September the land had been entirely cleared of trees and a small hut was erected. Currently, the Secretary has a Show Cause notice displayed at the site.

The RA FAMC has written to the Secretary requesting that, as the Estate Officer for the Auroville Foundation, she step in and protect the land. To date, they have received no response. The usual action to be taken would be for the Auroville Foundation to appeal the inclusion of joint patta holders by the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) to the District Revenue Officer. It is not known if this action has been taken.

The Show Cause notice will have no effect on the situation until the appeal has been filed. It is noteworthy that it may be the same RDO who finalised all three joint patta inclusions. It is hoped that the Secretary will do the right thing, and intervene to protect Auroville lands.

Annapurna Farm update

Following the email received by the Annapurna Farm management team on 5 September 2026 giving them 10 days to 'relocate', and the subsequent intervention by Shri Mukul Wasnik, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth & Sports (please see Bulletin 101 for more information), the Annapurna Farm team shared the following statement:

"Since you last heard about Annapurna Farm, there have been some developments. By one of the residents of Annapurna Farm, a case in the local courts has been filed seeking an injunction. The respondents filed a counter response however it was quickly pointed out that the signatory was not authorized to make such statements. A follow-up concerning the land lease registration has been pursued at the local register. These actions together we trust will bring the needed attention to this situation.

In the meantime Caren calved and the paddy season has started. There is a lot of work to do in the fields and we hope to get good rains soon to support the paddy planting"

In the days after the 5 September email was sent, members of the AVFO 'Working Groups', in particular Sindhuja, and Gino from AVFO 'Farm Service', staged a concerted media campaign in an attempt to discredit the Annapurna Farm team - questioning their work, their intentions and their decades of service. AVFO-aligned social media was flooded with AI-generated videos and graphics, maligning the stewards of Annapurna (please see one example here). Tomas, who has been involved in running Annapurna Farm since 1986 and is the current steward of the land, gave an interview, telling the story of the farm since the beginning, outlining the many challenges they face and countering some of the false claims made by the AVFO 'Working Group' members.

Tamil Nadu state farming groups and state worker protection groups have shown strong support for Annapurna Farm. Leading organic farmers of Tamil Nadu have embarked on a three-month yatra that commenced on 2 October. In a gesture of solidarity with Annapurna Farm, all those walking will wear a 'kaappu' (wrist tie, or rakhi) of hand-spun organic cotton dyed with Auroville soil, and such ties will be offered to farmers and elders along the way in each village.

An open house event was held at Annapurna Farm on 16 September, the day after the deadline given by the AVFO for the 'relocation'. Around 150 people attended on the day. Tomas gave a tour of the farm and held a talk about their work, followed by music and dinner.

AV Council members served with Show Cause notices

On 9 October, the AV Council released a massbulletin in which they informed the community that the AVFO 'ATR/ATSC' have sent all AV Council members Show Cause Notices on 23 September. In this notice, the AVFO 'ATR/ATSC' accused AV Council members of being part of an "unauthorised group", of having posted in an "unauthorized parallel News & Notes", of having published "unsubstantiated allegations of 'oppression'" by the AVFO, and of having questioned "the legitimacy of ATR and ATSC", among others. The notice warns them of "disciplinary proceedings, including action affecting [their] status as a Resident of Auroville".

The AV Council replied that it is not an "unauthorised group" but has existed since 1988, and was given a mandate in 2004 by the RA; and that it "does not accept the characterisation of [its] communications as 'political campaigning', 'false propaganda' and has always been seeking "engagement and resolution". It highlighted that "many of the underlying issues could potentially be clarified through a direct conversation" and invited members of the AVFO 'ATR/ATSC' to join them for a meeting.

Ex-AVFO employee Angshuman Basu speaks up

Angshuman Basu, who for nearly 30 years was the Assistant Accounts Officer in the AVFO, recently received a Show Cause notice from the AVFO Officer on Special Duty, just 8 days before he was due to retire, meaning that his retirement benefits were withheld. Please see Bulletin 101 for more information. He has shared on his personal social media account a comic strip which tells his side of the story of what happened. It includes that **he was pressured to sign land exchange documents which, he states, he was not fit to sign** and he had insufficient knowledge of the nature of the land deals. He has made an appeal for the release, without deductions, of his retirement benefits and for financial assistance to support him through this difficult time.

Other Updates and Information

Resistance through humour: Genius Bros at YC

The Academik Genius Brothers, who entertained Aurovilians with satirical stage performances from 2000 to 2021, returned in May 2026 to give a one-off show at Youth Centre. Recasting the Youth Centre as 'The Museum of Pioneer Youth', Genius Brothers Jesse and Wazo performed in the characters of the Director of the Museum, and Officer Bapoune, Chief of Security. Those who attended were transported to an earlier time when freedom of expression was once enjoyed in Auroville.

After the show, one resident was refused an approval for their recommendation letter by the AVFO 'ATR' due to their attendance of the event, demonstrating that now, attending a humorous cultural show is a sufficient motive for the AVFO to deny a resident's stay in Auroville.

Executives sought for Dog Shelter

The RA FAMC is seeking new Executives for the Auroville Dog Shelter. In their massbulletin dated 4 October they shared a report written by a former member of the Dog Shelter management team, Arthur Birago. Arthur, alongside former AVFO 'WCom' member Tine, was in charge of the shelter until August 2025 when new Executives were forcibly installed by the AVFO. His visa letter of recommendation subsequently remained unsigned and he left India in the following months. During their tenure, Arthur and Tine faced pressure from AVFO 'ATDC' Sindhuja and Antim to move the shelter to make way for a 'VIP road' that does not feature on the Master Plan.

Since leaving Auroville, Arthur has continued to monitor the progress of the shelter and has highlighted concerns regarding issues such as: "veterinary care, vaccination and ABC [animal birth control] services, finances, infrastructure, and the whereabouts and condition of the former resident dogs". His report states that:

"*During my former management of the Shelter, we established a close working relationship with Smt. Maneka Gandhi and People for Animals. When the recent crisis arose, I contacted her again. [...] She intervened at the highest level, including with the Governor of Tamil Nadu, and we have now received confirmation that the Dog Shelter can continue to operate at its present location. Dr Jayanti Ravi subsequently informed Smt. Gandhi that the immediate difficulties she has are essentially twofold: she doesn't have "good people" nor "money" [...] Smt. Gandhi therefore asked me to urgently help identify suitable people from within Auroville and to prepare a realistic financial recovery plan which she will submit to Jayanti Ravi.*"

The RA FAMC therefore reached out to the community to ask that suitable and committed community members step forward to take up this responsibility. If you are interested in knowing anyone who would be suitable, please write to famc@auroville.services.

Mandatory ID cards being issued

As was reported in Bulletin 99, Auroville ID cards are now being issued by the AVFO 'ATSC' & 'ATR'. In a massbulletin dated 17 September, the groups stated that "for security reasons" the cards would be mandatory for all Aurovilians. The groups did not expand on what the "security reasons" were that would necessitate such a restriction. However, given the partisan and biased manner in which the AVFO 'Working Groups' operate, it is possible that these cards could be used as a tool to persecute those not aligned with the AVFO.

According to a social media post made by Sindhuja, the ID cards are "equipped with a QR Code that allows security at Auroville's entry points to access relevant details when scanned". There has been no indication to Aurovilians what the AVFO and its Working Groups consider to be 'relevant details' about them, and on what legal grounds or under which circumstances they might be refused access.

RA WCom member resignation

As announced by the AV Council via massbulletin on 1 October, Jayaval, who was selected to be a member of the RA WCom in February 2026, resigned his position due to personal reasons. The AV Council stated that "Further steps regarding the vacancy and the selection of a new member will be taken through Residents' Assembly processes".

Zoho Task Force

On 4 September, the RA FAMC shared that an RTI request had shown that the current funding for the Zoho accounts system, which is via a government grant, will run out at the end of this financial year (March 2027). Please see Bulletin 101 for more information. They invited trustees and unit executives to enter a discussion with them about whether the accounts platform is fit for purpose and a worthwhile investment of funds.

They are now putting together a 5-member task force to evaluate the Zoho accounting platform. They are seeking one more woman to join the team. If you are interested in joining, please email famc@auroville.services.

Media & Other Links

Media Highlights

- September 2026, **Auronet:** Auroville and the Language of Exile: When Words Replace Facts by Anu, an AVFO 'WCom' member, and a response to this piece by an unknown Aurovilian, named Response to Anu's post re exile.
- 20 September 2026, **RamBle Zone:** *University of Tangible Miracles & Institutions of Invisible 'Eminence'* by Ram Subramanian (Former Executive and Co-founder of the Sustainable Livelihood Institute of Auroville)
- October 2026, **RA Forest Caretakers**: *Newsletter 25: Underground Fanzine for Future Generations*
- 3 October 2026, **Financial Times Weekend Magazine:** Dark days in the 'City of Dawn' by Chris Kay

Other Media

- 12 August 2026, **The Economic Times:** *Auroville's kilns go cold as soaring LPG prices leave pottery piling up*by Dia Rekhi
- 21 August 2026, **The Hindu:** *Auroville Foundation Secretary calls on President* by The Hindu Bureau
- 21 August 2026 (in Tamil), **Dinamalar:** *A 70-year-old German man is amazing at organic farming in Auroville soil*
- 4 September 2026, **The Hindu:** *Virtual museum dedicated to Sri Aurobindo unveiled at Auroville to mark his 150th birth anniversary* by The Hindu Bureau
- 13 September 2026, **The Telegraph:** *Auroville land transfer halt prod as Mukul Wasnik flags IIT Madras campus plan* by Pheroze L. Vincent
- 13 September 2026, **The Times of India**: *Parliamentary panel chief urges ministry intervention over eviction notices to Auroville's Annapurna Farms*
- 14 September 2026, **Deccan Chronicle:** *Annapurna Farm Faces Eviction Threat in Auroville Over IIT-M Campus*
- 14 September 2026, **Urban Acres:***Auroville Farm Evictions Face Parliamentary Pushback Over IIT Campus*
- 18 September 2026, **Wallpaper:** *Tour Auroville, an experimental architectural ecosystem that makes its own rules* by Nipun Prabhakar
- 21 September 2026, **Article 14:** *Visas Under Threat, Dodgy Land Deals & Ecological Damage: How Modi Govt Influence Has Changed Auroville* by Jagisha Arora
- 28 September 2026 (in French, podcast), **RGG FM:** *Mémoires Incarnées d'Auroville - Interview de la Dr. et MCF Suryamayi Clarence-Smith (Partie 3)*
- 28 September 2026 (in Tamil), **Daily Thanti:** *"Measures must be taken to protect the land and dignity of Auroville" – Velmurugan urges*
- 29 September 2026, **TFI Post:** *Auroville Annapurna Dispute Intensifies Over Eviction, IIT Madras Sustainability Campus* by Adarsh Dubey

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://linktr.ee/evolvingalaxy

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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