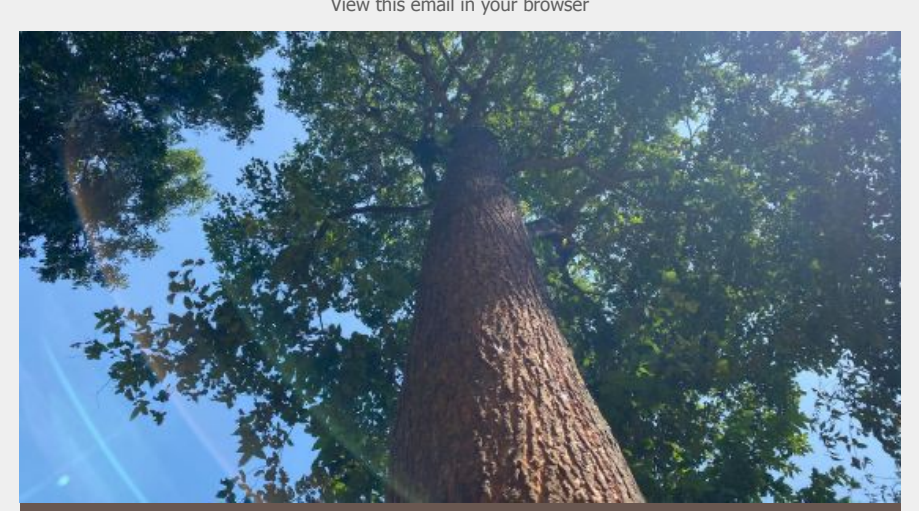


Auroville Bulletin 99

Two Aurovilians expelled from India, legal updates, new restrictions

A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

Thursday, 7th May 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.

Editorial

In Brief

This 99th issue is the second part of a split bulletin. Bulletin 98 covered the Youth Centre dismantling, the Eternity land exchange, SAIIER maintenance cuts, and the Auroville Global Fellowship follow-up report.

This **99th issue** covers:

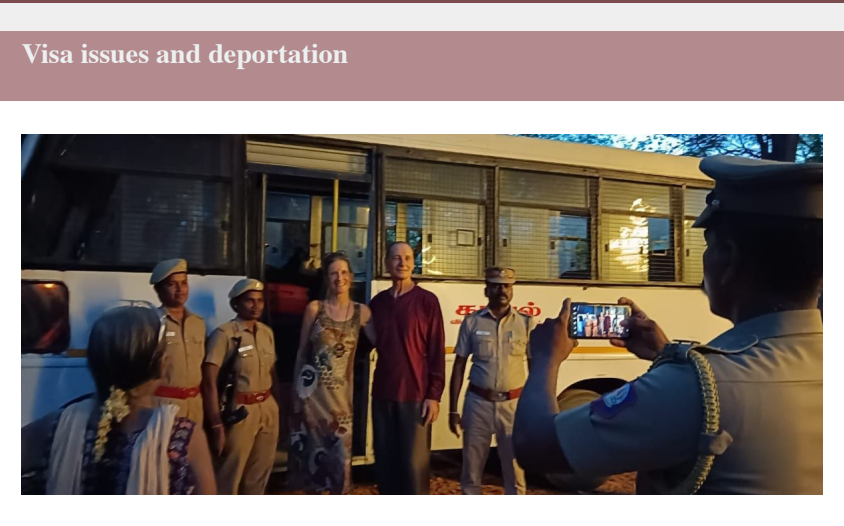
- Visa issues: two Aurovilians required to leave India under police escort on 29th April; AV Council and RA WCom massbulletin on visa difficulties
- New land exchange at Auro Annam: two-acre exchange registered on 7th April; complaint filed with Villupuram police alleging fraudulent transaction
- Annapurna Farm: High Court petition dismissed on 16th April; complaint filed against OSD Seetharaman; MoU with IIT Madras informally circulated
- Eternity land exchange: appeal before the Madras High Court dismissed on 28th April; court directs AVFO Secretary to issue written decision
- Other legal updates: police complaints filed against the Secretary and ex-Chairman; follow-up grievances on Youth Centre; Residence Criteria case dismissed; Working Committee case adjourned to June 2026
- New AVFO administrative directives: revised 'Housing Service' resolution; executive instructions on external consultancy; regulation of materials and vehicle movement
- Council room access: RA working groups denied access since early March
- Miscellaneous news & media links

Summer break

The Bulletin team will be on summer break over the next two months. 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.

What is happening now

Visa issues and deportation



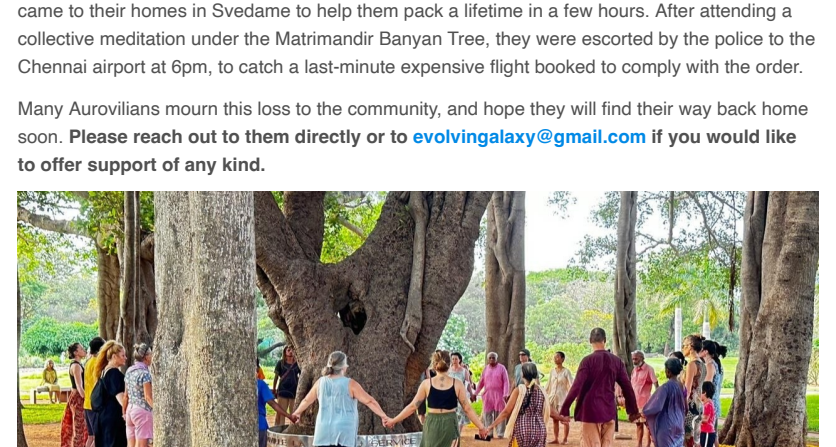
Two Aurovilians forced to leave under police escort

Daniel and Dariya, two Aurovilians who had been living in Auroville for respectively 22 and 35 years, were required to leave the country under police escort on 29th April 2026. They were both working at Quiet Healing Center, and were known for their Aquatic Body Work (Watsu) sessions and courses, their healing work and community gatherings, and their warm and supportive energy.

This followed the issuance of a "Leave India Notice" in November 2025 by the FRRO for undisclosed reasons. Allegedly, their deportation may be due to two distinct reasons. Either because the Auroville unit under which they were offering Watsu sessions outside Quiet was closed by the AVFO 'FAMC', and they kept offering a few rare sessions to Watsu students; or because they have been accused by the AVFO of being 'anti-government' without being given a chance to respond to these allegations. Their case is an example of how AVFO polices have disenfranchised Aurovilians and prevented them from legally carrying out their work, as the unit that they were able to offer their activity under was closed down without prior notice, and they were struggling to create a new umbrella for bodyworkers of Auroville. Over the past months, they had appealed to authorities to review their situation, and had been hoping for a positive resolution.

On 28th April, they were asked by the FRRO to buy flight tickets by 30th April, and then to go meet the FRRO in Chennai to plead for an extension. They booked tickets to leave on 17th May, hoping the extension would be granted. However on 29th April their extension was refused, and they were told they would be sent to Trichy deportation camp until their flight on 17th. They found new tickets, and arranged with the FRRO to have until 5pm the same day. Many Aurovilians came to their homes in Svedame to help them pack a lifetime in a few hours. After attending a collective meditation under the Matrimandir Banyan Tree, they were escorted by the police to the Chennai airport at 6pm, to catch a last-minute expensive flight booked to comply with the order.

Many Aurovilians mourn this loss to the community, and hope they will find their way back home soon. **Please reach out to them directly or to evolvingalaxy@gmail.com if you would like to offer support of any kind.**



Other visa issues

Over recent years, many Aurovilians have found themselves unable to return on a regular Entry visa as they were not given any letter of recommendation (LoR) by the Secretary. Others are in a situation where they cannot leave the country because their visa has expired and they are still awaiting their LoR. The Secretary has reportedly not signed any LoRs during her last two visits to Auroville.

In October 2025, an Aurovilian was prevented from re-entering India at Chennai airport despite holding a valid visa. There was a similar incident in August 2023. In both cases, these Aurovilians were denied entry due to unexplained negative remarks, preventing them from returning to their home and family in Auroville. To date, these cases remain unresolved.

On 1st May, the AV Council and RA WCom published a massbulletin about visa issues, stating that "visa difficulties are affecting a growing number of Auroville residents" and "in several cases, individuals have left Auroville without their visas being renewed because they were not provided with the required letter of recommendation". They reaffirmed that "those concerned continue to be considered Aurovilians by us", in order to preserve "the possibility for them to return in the future".

New land exchange at Auro Annam

A new land exchange has been registered between the AVFO and two Puducherry-based land dealers, V. Balasubramanian and L. Naveen Karthikeyan. It involved approximately two acres of Auroville land known as Auro Annam, located in Thiruchitrambalam village. According to the registration documents, which were submitted on 7th April 2026, the Auro Annam land was valued at ₹4,53,44,000, while the land received in exchange was valued at only ₹19,50,500, a ratio of approximately 23:1. The land received is situated at Rayapuduppakkam, at or beyond the boundary of the Master Plan area, and is reportedly inaccessible and lacking public pathways.

According to a press note, a complaint was submitted on 28th April to the Superintendent of Police, Villupuram District, alleging fraudulent transactions involving Auroville Foundation property. The complaint was filed by Mr. Balamurugan, an employee of the RA WCom, who was accompanied by approximately 20 community members and Salem-based social activist Mr. Piyush Manush. The petition calls for investigation into the roles of the Secretary and other concerned officials, and requests that a criminal case be registered. Based on market values, the petition estimates the loss to Auroville at approximately ₹26.5 crores, with a further estimated ₹3 crores in stamp duty and registration fees lost to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

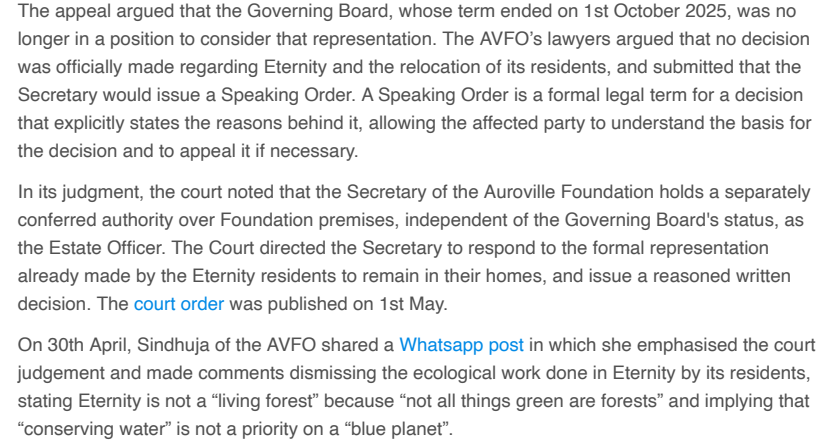
Annapurna farm update

Following the lease of 100 acres of Annapurna farm to IIT Madras (see Bulletin 92 and this special August 2025 edition), a petition was filed by an Aurovilian before the Madras High Court. While the judge granted an interim stay on 27th February 2026 (see massbulletin), the case was finally dismissed on 16th April on the ground that "the petitioner is merely a permissive occupant and does not hold any legal title over the farmland", according to a communication by Annapurna farm. It is the same argument that had invalidated the Eternity case. The Annapurna court order has not yet been uploaded, so the exact wording and motivations of the judgement are still unknown.

On 28th April, two residents of Auroville lodged a complaint against OSD Seetharaman with the Superintendent of Police, Villupuram District, challenging the Annapurna lease agreement as being fraudulent. The complaint alleges that the lease deed with IIT Madras, officially registered on 23rd December 2025, contains survey numbers that differ materially from those referenced in the MoU signed with IIT Madras in July 2025, constituting an unauthorised deviation. It further notes that the lease deed was executed after the Governing Board's term had expired on 6th October 2025, meaning no authority competent to approve such a transfer of immovable property was in place at the time. The complaint requests investigation into "the authority under which the lease deed was executed, the decision-making process, the deviation from the MoU, and whether any undue benefit or collusion is involved."

In the meantime, the MoU that was signed between the AVFO and IIT Madras has been published in Tamil news media. The MoU provides for a 33-year lease of 100 acres of Auroville land to IIT Madras at no cost, however the survey numbers mentioned are not Annapurna farmland. No Residents' Assembly body is party to the agreement; campus governance is vested solely in nominees of the IIT Madras Director and the Governing Board. A confidentiality clause stipulates that the terms shall not be disclosed, which explains why it was not obtained even through an RTI. Notably, the Ministry of Education had already issued a "no objection" to the proposal in April 2024, over a year before the OSD submitted it for formal approval in May 2025. Read the full MoU here.

Eternity land exchange update



A community gathering held at Eternity on 24th April 2026 was attended by approximately 120 people. Eternity stewards later shared a massbulletin with a 4 minute-video about the situation at Eternity, with an invitation to share it widely.

An appeal filed by Eternity residents at the Madras High Court was dismissed on 28th April. The appeal had been filed following the Court's March ruling (see Bulletin 98), which classified the residents as "permissive occupants" of the land and directed them to submit a formal representation to the Governing Board.

The appeal argued that the Governing Board, whose term ended on 1st October 2025, was no longer in a position to consider that representation. The AVFO's lawyers argued that no decision was officially made regarding Eternity and the relocation of its residents, and submitted that the Secretary would issue a Speaking Order. A Speaking Order is a formal legal term for a decision that explicitly states the reasons behind it, allowing the affected party to understand the basis for the decision and to appeal it if necessary.

In its judgment, the court noted that the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation holds a separately conferred authority over Foundation premises, independent of the Governing Board's status, as the Estate Officer. The Court directed the Secretary to respond to the formal representation already made by the Eternity residents to remain in their homes, and issue a reasoned written decision. The court order was published on 1st May.

On 30th April, Sindhuja of the AVFO shared a Whatsapp post in which she emphasised the court judgement and made comments dismissing the ecological work done in Eternity by its residents, stating Eternity is not a "living forest" because "not all things green are forests" and implying that "conserving water" is not a priority on a "blue planet".

Other legal & police updates

Police complaint filed against Secretary and ex-Chairman

On 5th March, a group of Aurovilians and friends led by Salem-based social activist Mr. Piyush Manush submitted three distinct complaints to the Superintendent of Police, Villupuram District, against the Secretary Dr. Jayanti Ravi and the ex-Chairman R.N. Ravi. According to press reports (in Tamil, see translation here), the complaint focuses on the recent land exchanges, "alleging corruption and a revenue loss of up to ₹350 crore." Mr. Piyush added that "over the past five years, numerous acts of corruption have taken place" and that "the Tamil Nadu government has also incurred a revenue loss in this matter". Mr. Piyush has also reported about the complaint on Instagram.

On 1st April, a group of 20 people led by Mr. Piyush returned to the Villupuram police station to file a follow-up complaint with about 200 pages of photos and evidence. Speaking to a local newspaper (in Tamil, see approximate translation here), Mr. Piyush said that the investigation was "slow". A short interview in Tamil was also posted on Instagram.

Follow-up grievances filed about the Youth Centre destruction

On 28th April, four formal letters of grievance were submitted to the Villupuram police by Auroville residents about the recent destructive events at the Youth Centre. These follow-up complaints raise concern about the "lack of progress" on the complaints filed at the end of March against the AVFO, and urge the police to investigate the matter rapidly and to provide protection against further harassment or retaliatory violence.

Residence Criteria case dismissed

Early 2026, an Aurovilian had challenged the new 'Residence Criteria' and an interim Stay Order was granted on 18th February (see Bulletin 97). In a follow-up hearing on 9th March, the petition was finally dismissed, as reported by Sindhuja of the AVFO. The written order has not been published yet, and so the grounds on which the petition was dismissed are currently unknown.

Working Committee case further adjourned

The appeal concerning the membership of the Working Committee, the functioning of the Residents' Assembly, and the principle of mutuality among the authorities of the Auroville Foundation was scheduled for hearing on several occasions before being adjourned to June 2026.

Other Updates and Information

New AVFO administrative regulations

AVFO 'Housing Service' revised 'Resolution'

On 2nd April 2026, the AVFO 'Housing Service' published a massbulletin announcing it has adopted a "revised and standardised" resolution "to govern the allocation and use of residential assets in Auroville". According to this massbulletin, "housing assets continue to be allocated by the Housing Service as a right of use for a prescribed period" and are non-transferable. The notion of stewardship, central to Auroville's history with housing, has been removed from all the new resolutions and policies edited by the AVFO in recent years. The revised 'Housing Asset Allocation Resolution' mentioned in the massbulletin was not attached in the mail, and has not been shared on Auronet, so residents do not have access to the contents of this new resolution.

Executive Instructions on External Consultancy and Services

Units executives received Executive Instructions by email on 24th December 2025 from AVFO's 'FAMC', signed by Dr. G. Seetharaman, OSD. These instructions regulate consultancy and professional services provided by Auroville Units to external entities, with the stated aim of ensuring consistency with the objectives of the AVF and applicable law. All units are required to obtain agreement from the AVFO and its 'FAMC' before entering into any agreement, MoU or similar arrangement with external entities. According to these instructions, residents offering consultancy or professional services without following this procedure, or without routing such services through a registered Unit, will be in violation of the Auroville Residence Criteria 2024.

During review meetings organised by the AVFO in February and March 2026, the executives raised questions about the rationale for the new instructions. The AVFO stated, without providing evidence, that the instructions were intended to prevent instances of Show Cause Notices related to misconduct by Units, and to bring greater discipline to Unit operations. Executives expressed concerns about the strictness of the new rules, stating they restrict operational freedoms and are not aligned with the reality on the ground. Executives also noted that no timeline has been specified for approvals by the AVFO 'FAMC', and expressed doubt about the AVFO 'FAMC''s capacity to process requests in a timely manner, citing the body's current non-responsiveness to emails. Additional concerns raised at the meetings are documented in the Minutes of the Trusts and Units Review Meeting.

Movement of construction materials

Further controls on everyday life in Auroville have been exerted via a circular titled "Regulation of Entry and Exit of Materials and Vehicles" which was shared via massbulletin on 11th March 2026. The document, again signed by Dr. G. Seetharaman, sets out procedures for the movement of materials to be followed by all Auroville Units, Services, and Project Holders. All materials transported into or out of Auroville for construction purposes will be permitted only upon submission of a valid "Final Building Approval Certificate" issued by the AVFO 'ATDC'. The concerned Unit or Service is also required to notify AVFO 'Security and Entry Service' in advance (acronym was incorrectly named in the circular, the correct name is 'Security and Emergency Services').

According to concerned residents, these new directives diverge from Auroville's established culture of centering trust and freedom towards Aurovilians, as well as collective decision-making processes being replaced by top-down directives by unelected officials. Since 2021, these actions erode the community life and spirit of Auroville, fundamentally changing the experimental and alternative quality of this project.

Access to Council room lost, again

Over recent months, the Town Hall's Auroville Council room access was lost and later reclaimed by the Light For Unity (LFU) core group (see Bulletins 96 and 97 for more information). On 5th March, an LFU member was informed by the AVFO that the LFU and RA working groups would no longer be allowed to use the Council room, and that on the instructions of the AVFO 'FAMC', the keys would be held by the AVFO 'WCom'. On 6th March, the Auroville Council was denied entry. In the following days, LFU members managed to get the keys from Joseba of the AVFO 'WCom', but the RA working groups did not gain access again. On 17th March, several members of the RA working groups went to the Town Hall, and since the Council room was closed, they used the WCom meeting room instead. Antim and Sindhuja of the AVFO 'working groups' rapidly arrived and confronted the RA working group members. The AVFO 'WCom' called the Security, so RA working group members left the room and sat on the floor, in the corridor, having their meeting while people were walking through. The Council room remains mostly unoccupied, and the RA working group members have not been able to access it since.

Miscellaneous news

- **Collective meditation under the Banyan tree:** On 29th April, the Light for Unity core group organized a collective meditation under the Matrimandir Banyan tree "as an expression of unity and solidarity with the Residents' Assembly". About X people attended the meditation.
- **Arun Ambathy refused entry at Matrimandir:** On 28th April, Major Arun Ambathy (retired), an Aurovilian who was "terminated" and classified "persona non-grata" by the AVFO in October 2025 (see Bulletin 95), was refused entry at the Matrimandir compound. The following day, despite members of AVFO 'Security' being present on site to intervene if necessary, Arun was able to enter and attend the collective meditation with the assistance of other Aurovilians. However, Matrimandir executives indicated that refusals would continue, citing his lack of valid Auroville status.
- **Changes to Auronet:** On 6th March, a massbulletin announced "the launch of the new Auronet". Visual changes to the new version are minimal, and many Aurovilians stopped using the platform in 2022, after its takeover and censorship was introduced. The latest Auronet guidelines, updated 14th November 2025, explicitly mentions that "content encouraging violation of Indian law or orders of the Auroville Foundation" may be edited or removed from the platform. A resident wrote in the RA News & Notes: "the orders of the Auroville Foundation now sit alongside Indian law as a protected category" while "disagreement, in certain administrative vocabularies, has a way of becoming violation", qualifying Auronet as an "echo chamber".
- **Old Auroville website:** The first version of the Auroville website (1999 - 2003) has been uploaded online for archival purposes. You can access it here.
- **New relics at Savitri Bhavan:** During the 'Global Spirituality Mahotsav 2026' organized by the AVFO, new relics were installed at Savitri Bhavan. Find a video here.
- **Cinema Paradiso (MMC) management change:** On 20th April, the executive team of the MMC-Cinema Paradiso was changed with no explanation or prior notice by an AVFO office order. Nina, the ex-manager of the place, posted a brief note to the community in the following days. It is unknown whether the new team will make changes to the mandate and cultural programme of the venue.
- **AVFO Survey for Single Women:** On 21st April, the AVFO 'HRS' announced that they are conducting a "Community Support Survey for Single Women and Single Women with Children". The intentions behind conducting such a survey are unclear.
- **AVFO 'Wealth Generation Services':** In April 2026, the AVFO 'FAMC' created a WhatsApp group titled 'Auroville Wealth Generation Services', with personal invites sent to executives of several income-generating units. The group's stated intention is to strengthen Auroville's economy. This development has drawn comment from some residents, who have noted that a number of Auroville units have been closed or had their management replaced by AVFO-appointed executives in recent years, causing a negative impact on Auroville's economy.
- **Response to half-maintenance cuts in SAIIER:** For earlier context, see Bulletin 98. On 29th April, a resident asked on Auronet what is "the rationale for disallowing / discouraging half-maintenances?". The Auroville Council shared via massbulletin a letter sent to the AVFO 'FAMC' about teachers' maintenances, in which they "strongly urge [them] to consult with SAIIER and schools and work out a way together that would actually benefit everyone instead of impeding on the schools' valued work". The AVFO 'FAMC' did not respond to any of these communications yet.
- **Auroville Council report:** On 30th April, the Auroville Council shared its March 2026 report.

Media & Other Links

- **7th March 2026, Substack:** *Fascism Comes to Auroville, India* by Auro Innominata
- **14th March 2026:** *Why is agriculture important in and for Auroville?* by Food System Envisioning
- **15th March 2025, Youtube:** RSS கூடாரமாக மாறும் ஆரோவில் II ஆரோவில் சுற்றியுள்ள 7 கிராமங்களுக்கு ஆபத்து by Karpy Studio - see the translated video transcript
- **25th March 2026:** *Auroville, "What is important, it is not building a city, it is building new men."* by Gilles Guigan
- **29th March 2026, A lotus in the mud:** *How Karan Singh helmed Sri Aurobindo and Mother's vision for Auroville* by Julian Lines
- **30th March 2026, La Libre:** *Auroville, la ville qui voulait appartenir à tous mais qui se heurte à des contraintes bien réelles* by Maxime Daix
- **31st March 2026, The federal, voice of the States:** *Who was Mirra Alfassa — the French woman who institutionalised Puducherry's best-known spiritual legacy* by Veidehi Gite
- **1st April 2026, The Indian Express:** *Auroville turning into RSS training centre: Puducherry Congress chief* by Arun Janardhanan
- **7th April 2026, The Indian Express:** *'Collective effort, not work of three individuals': Michel Danino comes on record for first time, files affidavit in SC on NCERT textbook row* by Ritika Chopra
- **10th April 2026, Youtube:** *Why this Australian Refuses to Leave India (54 Years off-grid in Auroville)* by Mum & Son Travels
- **30th April 3036, RA News & Notes 1123:** *Vocabulary destined to innocent Newcomers* (anonymous submission)
- **30th April 2026, Newsletter N°20:** *Enough of Tragedies! English Version > HERE French Version > ICI* By RA Forest Caretakers
- **Askalokda:** *On a different note, what is happening in Auroville? ...* by Alok Da

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 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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