

Auroville's Progress

By Auro Sangamam , 05 Sep 2020 / 08:29 am

in General

Tags no politics

Dear community,

Governing Board is about to meet again. And, you will see renewed attacks on Aurosangamam to undermine its contributions in serving the community's progress towards our ideals.

First, we would like to say to those who choose to attack us: well done! We wish you much success in your efforts. We equally hope you will also wish and pray for progress on the matters we have raised below with the Working Committee and the Governing Board.

For now, we would like to continue to keep our focus on the 3 critical matters below we have raised concerning Auroville's functioning. After receiving our last email below, the Working Committee sought to meet with our members along with two facilitators. Amid Covid-19 imposed space restrictions, 17 of our members met the Working Committee members in the SAIER meeting hall and began a dialogue process.

Of course, we would be too naive not to expect some personal and political attacks on the side. The Mother said: "Auroville is not a place for politics; no politics must be done in Auroville and in the offices of Auroville." However, the entry policy document you are currently voting on says something different: "Not engage in national politics by standing for elections or belonging to a political party". What in effect the entry policy says is this: Politics within Auroville is okay; politics in the offices of Auroville is okay; politics of influencing local village body elections is okay; participating in international politics is okay; only national politics, that too only standing for elections or being a part of a political party is not okay. Only that "qualified" politics is not okay.

Welcome to your new Auroville!

Sincerely,

Aurosangamam

PS: Unable to bear the heat of the critical matters we are raising, a falsehood is continuing to be spread: that Aurosangamam is led by one family. First, except 2 members of the 17 that engaged in a dialogue with the Working Committee, for example, came from entirely different families! Second,

anyone interested in knowing more about who we are and how we function can join us in our open meetings every Tuesday at 5.30 PM at the Town Hall, whenever physical meetings are allowed; else you can join in our virtual meetings. Third, no one ever claimed that members of Aurosangamam come with no blemishes from their past. Is there anyone in Auroville without past blemishes? If yes, the Working Committee would not be secretly shipping a report to the Chairman alone - without sharing with the Residents' Assembly or the Governing Board - to prevent a governmental investigation against residents of Auroville. It is pertinent to recall here that the particular report became possible only because 93 petitioners led by Aurosangamam helped create the RA Revival Task Force (along with two other Task Forces); and it is the RA Revival Task Force that called for a meeting attended by nearly 700 residents, resulting in yet another Task Force drafting the secretive report, which the Working Committee has not shared with the community! So, instead of pointing fingers at others' blemishes with our own blemishes, can we focus on matters below concerning Auroville's progress towards its ideals?

From: Aurosangamam <aurosangamam@auroville.org.in>

Date: Thu, Jul 16, 2020 at 10:28 AM

Subject: Re: Two amendments to MHRD notification sought by residents

To: Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in>

Cc: Auroville Foundation <avfoundation@auroville.org.in>, karansi <karansi@sansad.nic.in>, Chairman Auroville Foundation <chairman@auroville.org.in>, Madan Gopal Madabhushi <madan17@gmail.com>, sachidananda mohanty <sachimohanty@yahoo.co.in>, Prema Nandakumar <premnand@gmail.com>, Nirima Oza <nirima@gmail.com>, <office@spmrf.org>, Dr. K. Parameswaran <kparameswaran@gnlu.ac.in>, <neetaprasad@gmail.com>, Anirban Ganguly <anirbangan@gmail.com>

Dear Working Committee,

Thank you for relinquishing your earlier stand that Aurosangamam is not to be responded to, as you had claimed six months ago. We appreciate your writing back to us. And, thank you for recognizing that Aurosangamam is a legitimate group of residents of Auroville with their legitimate concerns about Auroville's progress towards its ideals.

We are very grateful for all your hard work during this Covid-19 crisis. Yet, given the gravity of matters we had raised – and you had replied on – our dialogue below cannot be set aside.

In your email below, perhaps inadvertently, you have divulged the root cause of our community's problems. You state below that the issues of collective importance we have been raising are “best dealt with internally”. Can you please help us understand who among those copied in this email, in

your view, are not included in your “internal”? As the Auroville Foundation Act does not differentiate anyone copied on this email as “internal” or “external”, can you please explain how you differentiate; and why?

Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole as set forth in the Mother’s charter, and our ideals too do not ask us to differentiate among anyone as “internal” or “external”. On the contrary, our ideals explicitly call on us to achieve human unity within and without – both individually and collectively. Therefore, we will forever be enlightened if you can please first explain your definition of “internal” vs. “external”; or “inside” vs “outside”; or simply put, “us” vs. “them”.

Continuing on your assertion about “internal” and “external” in your email below, you have recently released the attached note to residents of Auroville admonishing them not to approach “external” authorities (Exhibit A). This is an extremely pertinent and urgent matter. As you are aware, the following criminal acts have very recently occurred in Auroville in the past few weeks alone:

- Blasts with country-made devices in two communities causing harm to residents of Auroville and damage to assets of Auroville (Exhibit B); and
- Criminally negligent late-night parties in Auroville during CPC Section 144 enforcement for Covid-19, endangering lives of residents (Exhibit C).

Please note that the above are cognizable offences of serious nature, and residents have every right to approach authorities to report on such, and similar, matters. You may desire to resolve matters at your level, but the Indian parliament – through enactment of laws – has given certain powers to Indian administrators to enforce laws. We assume that the Working Committee is not above the Indian parliament to admonish residents of Auroville – as in the attached illegal note (Exhibit A) – not to share information with Indian administrators. Calling for non-reporting to authorities and not reporting based on the Working Committee’s instigation could both constitute illegal acts, if it is suppression of information about criminal acts within Auroville. For example, if some law-violating residents want to continue their illegal late-night parties despite lockdown regulations – and the Working Committee is unable to enforce governmental regulations, but just poses to authorities as if it is in control; while also suppresses and instigates residents to suppress such information – why should the rest of the law-abiding residents of Auroville suffer?

Please note that the attached Working Committee’s note does not have a single sentence about residents of Auroville abiding by the Indian law, while elaborately admonishing residents not to approach “external” authorities! Therefore, we request the Governing Board and the administrators in the Ministry to take cognizance of the above, and issue appropriate directions to the Working Committee to fully withdraw its attached illegal note instructing residents to stop sharing information with authorities.

Compatible with the ideals enshrined in Auroville's charter and abiding by the Foundation Act, we do not consider anyone copied on this email – including the governmental administrators of the Ministry of Human Resource Development – as “external”. We believe that such artificial divisions – and attempts to bury our inadequacies under the so-called “internal” carpet – pull us back from progressing towards our ideals. These artificial divisions of “internal” vs. “external” only serve some residents in violating Indian laws with impunity; safeguarding the corrupt; and perpetuating neo-colonialism in Auroville.

Neither are the issues we have raised – and continue raising – trivial to not have a broader dialogue with those copied on this email and, if required, others who can provide additional expertise. The issues we raise pertain to the Resident Assembly discharging its statutory functions as prescribed in the Auroville Foundation Act. And, we have been continually pointing out ways in which various Auroville groups – habitually, systemically, and illegally – obstruct the Residents' Assembly from discharging its statutory functions.

Although we have raised the following questions in our many emails before, we provide them as a list below, with the hope that you will answer them now:

1. Non-inclusion of all residents of Auroville in Residents' Assembly decision-making processes:

India, as a country, is able to reach 1.3 billion people for its electoral exercises. Securities and Exchange Board of India, for example, mandates companies to reach crores of shareholders to notify them individually about any company voting exercises. Email is an option, only if those shareholders opt for it; if not, the companies are required to send paper notification to shareholders by mail. For nearly six years now, some Working Committee members with admirable legal acumen have been continuing in their roles in the committee without any interruption. Yet, how come, after six years of these members performing these roles in the Working Committee, you are again saying below that you are unable to reach just over 2000 residents for community decision-making processes?

You have been informed about 18 months ago about this continuing illegal exclusionary practice. In January 2020, you had finally accepted to the Governing Board that 25% of residents have been excluded in decision-making processes of Auroville. Despite these, why is this inclusion of all residents in the decision-making processes not a priority for the Working Committee? We allege here that by giving wishy-washy replies such as the ones in your email below – and by conveniently pointing fingers at other groups such as the RAS – you are more interested in maintaining the status quo of disenfranchising these many residents, and obstructing the Residents' Assembly from assembling in full to perform its statutory functions.

More urgently, during these COVID-19 times, if the Government of India – for emergency reasons – needs to individually reach all persons in the Registry of Residents of Auroville, what assurance are

you giving them on your ability to reach all residents? (Lets' recall here again that you have had more than 18 months to register current coordinates of just about 2000 people).

2. Obstructing the Residents' Assembly from assembling:

The attached Residents' Assembly mandate (Exhibit D) clearly outlines that a resident of Auroville should be allowed to vote on a proposal in person by attending a meeting of the Residents' Assembly and by voting on a form distributed during the meeting (Clause 6 (b)). But, in violation of this Clause in the mandate, the Working Committee – along with its partner-in-crime the RAS – continues to thwart the Residents' Assembly meetings from happening, as you have corroborated in your email below.

It will not be complicated for anyone on this email to understand that any voting of the Residents' Assembly SHOULD happen ONLY after a physical assembling of residents in a Residents' Assembly meeting; that too after providing due notification individually to all persons in the Registry of Residents, as per the RA mandate. Sporadic voting booths and setting up tables at restricted hours etc. – as you have mentioned below – are tactical moves used for many, many years to obstruct the Residents' Assembly from assembling in full and from performing its statutory duties as per its own mandates.

For example, the Matrimandir gardens and amphitheater have more than enough space for all the residents in the Registry of Residents to convene in a meeting, as outlined in the attached Residents' Assembly mandate. Even during COVID-19 times, all 2000 residents can be easily convened in this space with enough physical distance maintainable between one another. We regularly have bonfires and dances at the Matrimandir garden and amphitheater, all attended by large audiences. Why then, are you not asking your partner-in-crime the RAS to convene the Residents' Assembly at the Matrimandir gardens and amphitheater every time a proposal is to be voted on by the Residents' Assembly? If, as per the attached mandate (Clause (6) (b)), residents can assemble, dialogue and then vote on proposals, how beautiful it will be for the residents – specifically, to decide on policies for the community with the Mother's blessing at the sacred gardens!

Yet, as you have yourself validated in your email below, why are you exclusively exploring with your partner-in-crime RAS ALL ways – other than conducting the mandated Residents' Assembly MEETINGS – to complete your plebiscites?

3. Termination of persons in the Registry of residents:

One such plebiscite that you want to somehow accomplish in a hurry is the amendments to the MHRD's notification dated March, 11, 2019. As we wrote in our email below, the Working Committee has been desperately focused on conducting a plebiscite on its version of amendments to the MHRD's

notification – not those sought by residents themselves. Despite the elaborate feedback given in writing to YOUR Task Force – predominantly filled with foreign lawyers – you have been desperately seeking to somehow get ratification for the amendments YOUR committee desires. Even on this matter, the bottom-line is, you are again obstructing the residents from voting on the amendments THEY themselves seek and from forwarding them to the Governing Board and the Ministry for their consideration.

The Ministry's notification – 'Admission and Termination of persons in the Register of Residents Regulations, 2019', dated March 11, 2019 – contains termination reasons in Section (6) (1). Residents of Auroville simply seek amendments to make it clear – in Section (6) (1) – reasons why a person can be terminated from the Registry of Residents (Exhibit E). Let's recall that the language in Section (6) (1) in the current notification is as per the language drafted by the Residents' Assembly in 2013. As we outlined in our previous email below, those termination reasons in Section (6) (1) are so vague, leaving room for wide interpretation and rendering the section impractical for implementation. As the Residents' Assembly forwarded such vague language to the Governing Board, we need to apologize for our such sloppy drafting. We seek to rectify them now. Therefore, residents have themselves sought the ONLY TWO attached amendments – in the notification's Section (6) (1) – to clarify the reasons for terminating any person from the Registry of Residents, as outlined in our email below. These two amendments will bring the termination reasons in full alignment with Form-I of the Ministry's above notification. Why have you obstructed for eight months now – since December 2019 – the residents' legitimate concern for clarifying the termination reasons in Section (6) (1)?

Instead, you have been so desperately advancing an amendment on term limits of Termination Committee members. It is understandable that some of your members – who are so accustomed to wielding power by continuing uninterrupted as members of Auroville working groups for very many years – seek to amend the notification to extend the term of the Termination Committee members! We also understand that YOUR amendment will help them continually be on the Termination Committee to intimidate some residents with termination. But, how will it help Auroville's progress? As you are well aware, YOUR amendments will pave way for Termination Committee members behaving against Auroville's ideals. Going by the history of Auroville working groups, the term of Termination Committee members should remain as short as possible. This will ensure that no resident intimidates another using their position in the Termination Committee.

Therefore, will you stop pushing for YOUR amendments aimed at extending prevailing power-plays; and instead will you please let the Residents' Assembly vote on the only two attached amendments – sought by the residents themselves – for the Governing Board and the Ministry to consider?

From your past behavior, you can now claim that our tone is not conducive for you to reply; or you can instigate another group of people to write, claiming that there are contrary perspectives; or you can do both. For a change, may we request you to answer the above questions truthfully, with all your contrary perspectives? Then, please call for an all-included Residents' Assembly meeting for us to come together to discuss these matters related to Auroville's progress. We will then respect you more.

Sincerely,

Aurosangamam

PS: As the Governing Board members' reputation is on the line with some of the serious matters we have outlined, we request the Governing Board to take suo-moto cognizance of the above points, and add them to their upcoming meeting agenda.

On Wed, Jun 24, 2020 at 10:31 AM Working Committee <workingcom@auroville.org.in> wrote:

Dear Aurosangamam,

After your last email, we would like to share several points with you.

We would like to point out that nowhere in our posting of the notes of the GM that took place beginning of March, do we state that there is an intention to initiate an urgent RAD. There is no RAD in the pipeline at this time. At a later date, when the time is more appropriate, we will initiate an RAD only on proposed amendments to the 'Admission and Termination of persons in the Register of Residents Regulations, 2019'. Regarding an internal 'exit policy', we agree that further discussion within the community is needed before moving forward.

Regarding another point you have raised, we acknowledge that there is a group of several hundred people who have difficulties participating in community processes such as RAD's due to a lack of computer or email, or a discomfort/inability to use a digital platform. We have asked the RAS to explore ways to address this beyond setting up a table with a physical presence for one day. Another action that is needed is to contact, either by phone or in person, all those who do not have an email address listed with Residents' Service and see if they have one to add, or see with them what would be needed for them to be able to participate. We would welcome your active help with this task.

Another point we would like to make is that we believe that the kinds of issues you raise now and have raised in the past, are best dealt with internally.

Lastly, we must tell you frankly that the tone and language that is used in your emails is really not conducive to harmonious and productive discussions. Additionally, they do not at all reflect the more positive and balanced tone and language and attitude that we see and hear from individuals who are involved with your group. We ask you to please reflect on this and make an effort to show the same respect to us as you would like to see shown to you.

Sincerely,

The Working Committee

On Sat, Jun 20, 2020 at 11:24 PM Aurosangamam <aurosangamam@auroville.org.in> wrote:

Dear Working Committee:

During this crisis time – when many surrounding villagers have lost their livelihoods and are struggling to cope with their lives amid the COVID-19 pandemic – you seem very busy politicking, as usual! We write after reading your recent announcement regarding the RAD voting process to seek approval for YOUR amendments to the Auroville Foundation (Admissions and Termination of persons in the Register of Residents) Regulations, 2019 (as per the Ministry of Human Resource Development's Notification dated 11th March, 2019).

We see the following two issues with regards to your desire to conduct an urgent RAD at this difficult time of COVID-19:

1. Disenfranchised Residents' Assembly: You have still not updated the Residents' Assembly or the Governing Board – even after the assurance you gave its members during their last meeting – whether you can say today with 100% confidence that you can affirmatively reach every Resident of Auroville in the Registry of Residents with a voting form. Also, under the current times, how could you conduct a Residents' Assembly meeting – as mandated by the Residents' Assembly – for a RAD voting process?
2. Plebiscite on YOUR amendments: The far greater danger of your proposed RAD voting – after disenfranchising substantive number of residents – is the fact that you are only keen on a plebiscite to gain legitimacy for the amendments a bunch of foreign lawyers in Auroville seek in the above GOI notification. Since the Ministry published the notification in March 2019, the Working Committee has been trying hard – using a Task Force whose members it selectively appointed without any say by the Residents' Assembly – to ratify amendments that some power-seeking members so eagerly desire. It is this desire to push through a select power-group's agenda through a plebiscite that the Governing Board member Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty, Chairperson for the committee on Auroville Governance, called out as a failed practice, during his last public interaction with the Auroville community.

We would, yet again, humbly say that instead of the amendments you seek, you should seek the following two amendments that residents have proposed. Instead of YOUR amendments that are aimed at helping a few individuals consolidate – and perpetuate – their power play within the community, the following are two concrete amendments sought by residents of Auroville (apart from the deletion of the clause in Form I that allowed ownership of land in the Master Plan area, which is already amended):

- Amendment #1 – Section 6 (1): Currently, the notification uses the following language as one of the reasons for termination: “a resident’s behavior is incompatible with Auroville’s ideals or the laws of India”. As a person’s behavior cannot be incompatible with laws of India, but can either abide by it or violate it, the language should be changed as follows: “a resident’s behavior is incompatible with Auroville’s ideals or in violation of the laws of India”

- Amendment #2 – Section 6 (1): Currently, the notification says that a resident can be terminated because “a resident is not engaged in any community work or meaningful activity relevant to the life and growth of Auroville”. This reason, as any reasonable person would agree, is wide open for interpretation. Therefore, we propose that termination reasons are clearly spelled out as below in line with the affirmations that a resident will sign in Form I of the notification:

1. If a Resident’s behavior is not compatible with the ideals of Auroville (as related to Section 1 of Form -I signed by a Resident) including:

- (i) making a fraudulent entry, or misrepresentation or suppression of information to enter into the Registry of Residents.

- (ii) indulging in corrupt practices including but not limited to misappropriation of funds from Auroville’s enterprise units or donors or the Government of India.

2. If a Resident’s behavior is discriminatory – social, political, economic, geographical or racial – towards other residents or others outside community of residents (as related to Section 2 of Form -I signed by a Resident)

3. If a Resident is found to be actively participating in Indian or International politics (as related to Section 2 of Form -I signed by a Resident)

4. If a Resident’s behavior is in violation of laws of India (as related to Section 3 of Form -I signed by a Resident)

5. If a Resident's behavior shows disrespect towards the heritage, cultural values, local people, customs, traditions or social order (as related to Section 3 of Form -I signed by a Resident)

6. If a Resident is proved to own land in the Master Plan area, except if it is inherited land from his/her family or ancestors (as related to Section 5 of Form -I signed by a Resident)

7. If a Resident has not been residing in Auroville for more than 3 years consecutively.

We urge you again to first enfranchise all Residents of Auroville prior to any new RAD voting process as well as follow the mandate of assembling the Residents' Assembly in a meeting to discuss any amendment and vote (given many residents' lack of computer access, a virtual meeting will again disenfranchise them). And, we also urge you to bring forth amendments sought by the residents instead of the power-grabbing amendments proposed by the vested individuals within the community.

Sincerely,

Aurosangamam

Attached files:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document
(12.77 KB) | iconExhibit-A.docx |
| application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document
(17.63 KB) | iconExhibit-B.docx |
| application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document
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(13.28 KB) | iconExhibit-E.docx |
| image/jpeg iconThe Mother on politics.jpeg
(97.77 KB) | |

Exhibit-A

Resolve issues and conflicts without going to external authorities/entities

By [Working Committee \(WC\)](#) , 02 Jul 2020 / 12:57 pm
in

- [Announcement](#)

Dear Community,

In recent times, and in the past, there have been cases of Aurovilians going to, or threatening to go to, the RRO/FRRO with complaints against other Auroville residents.

We would like to state clearly and firmly that this practice and attitude should stop. It is not acceptable for an Auroville resident to put themselves in the position of a single and individual 'Exit Committee' and putting visas of other Aurovilians at risk.

Auroville's internal processes must be given a real and sincere chance, by all involved in any conflicts or disagreements, to resolve issues and conflicts without going to external authorities/entities.

We look forward to everyone's understanding and collaboration in this.

All the best to all,

The Working Committee and Auroville Council

Exhibit-B

Acts of aggression at Kalpana and Sunship on June 20th

By [Satyakam](#), 10 Jul 2020 / 01:40 pm
in

- [Announcement](#)

JOINT STATEMENT FROM KALPANA & SUNSHIP

Dear Auroville Community, we are sharing our letter to the Working Committee with details about the events on the night of June 20, 2020, so that you are correctly informed.

Dear Working Committee,

By now you are somewhat aware of the incidents of aggression that took place at Kalpana and Sunship on Saturday night, June 20, 2020. As both demonstrated the same pattern and use of materials on the same night, we wonder at the intention and will to harm these places. We are therefore submitting a joint report so that you can take cognizance of all the facts and help us find the culprits to prevent further acts of aggression. If we are to profess harmony and human unity in the name of Auroville certain conditions have to be met.

We have also seen your letter of reprimand to Srijita and the AVSST report. Please understand that we value Srijita's presence in Sunship and in its Core Team as a person of integrity. Given her past record as Auroville's Police Liaison, where she continued as a resource person it was natural for us to ask her to file the complaint. The error on our side was to let her take full responsibility, instead of specifying "on behalf of Sunship Residents" and this has now been corrected via a letter of support from the Sunship Core Team.

The AVSST report has a number of discrepancies as well.

Had AVSST taken the decision to file a basic complaint at once, as such incidents require, we would have all been on the same page and acting together. We also did not hear much concern from the Working Committee, apart from a casual inquiry if we were planning to file an FIR from one member. Therefore, we decided to go ahead on our own for the sake of the community.

Now we are being told about the 'possibility' of Auroville youth being involved and to therefore defer necessary actions. Even if that is so, we have no names, nor their reasons for such an aggression. It is important to know who they are and what or who instigated them. Without that it is unfair to lay a blanket accusation on all the youth of Auroville.

That said, Auroville has also been witness to the manipulation of children and youth against certain sections of people and projects many a times. A case in point is Kalpana: young children were brought from school by their teachers to protest when the digging of the foundations started and were made to sing that they were against Kalpana. The community of adults and educators need to think about what they are doing to our children from such an early age.

We include the **Sunship** report below followed by the report from **Kalpana**.

SUNSHIP REPORT

20 June 2020 :

-23h40: Many residents heard 3 loud blasts and came out at the common spaces of Sunship. Several residents heard voices downstairs and ran and chased 2 men in the dark. It was impossible to make out what age, dress, origin etc. Immediately after they checked the lift and found debris of firecrackers of a substantial amount. At the same time, another resident of Sunship returning home, checked out around the ground floor.

-23h50 : A resident, ex police liaison, resident of Sunship, called AVSST dispatch, not reachable. As she had access to AVSST intervention no. she intimidated the person on duty. She then gave a shout out to the residents to be alert. Lift was blocked to ensure no further damage occurs. Ten residents gathered at the common space of Sunship and discussed what to do.

21 June 2020

00h10 : AVSST member arrived to take a look and discussed the gravity of the incident and for calling the police. He decided to take a look first by patrolling. Two Sunship residents accompanied the patrol and came back around 00h30 having found nothing.

1am : Sunship residents retired to their respective residences. A resident spoke to AVSST who claimed to be on a trail. She stated that she would get in touch with them later in the morning.

10h20 : A Sunship resident spoke to AVSST police liaison, explaining the gravity of the incident and the necessity of police complaint. He stated that the matter was too trivial for a complaint as there is no damage.

14h00 : At a Sunship core team emergency meeting, it was decided unanimously to ask Srijita to go ahead with a police complaint on behalf of Sunship. As AVSST had refused to help earlier, she contacted the DSP for advice and preliminary enquiry.

15h20: Srijita informed AVSST dispatch that police were on the way to Sunship.

16h20 : AVSST did not guide the police inside as they were lost for quite some time in Town Hall area and one Sunship resident met them in search of the site. Police met with residents at Sunship for preliminary enquiry and proceeded immediately after to Kalpana.

Subsequently it came to our notice that residents closest to the lift were most affected by the blast causing trouble with hearing and one person has had to consult a doctor and unable to sleep well the next days.

THE KALPANA REPORT

Kalpana Auroville 23rd June 2020

Subject: act of aggression perpetrated at Kalpana.

Dear Working Committee and Auroville Council members,

Please find here below a report of a serious act of aggression perpetrated at Kalpana.

Report: On Saturday night (20th June 2020) at 10h30 pm, there were 4 very loud explosions from small but effective cracker based home-made explosives. The sound came from the Crown Road and the crackers targeted the AV consulting entrance and the entrance to the dance studio.

Some residents went out and saw that these paper/clay based "bombs" were used. Please see the attached photo of an unexploded device.

There was again one more minor explosion around midnight and then someone threw sambar and milk packets to deface the entrance to AV Consulting and the other office. The damage is not substantial but the places look very dirty.

The really worrying part: some of the crackers were wrapped with slow burning coal and flammable cardboard - which could have gone to flames.

We have attached pictures and have secured the samples with us.

The blast sounds were so loud that the community members were frightened and shocked including children.

The Auroville Security Service whom we called immediately at 10h37 pm told us later on that there was no security guard at the Solar Kitchen round about because they were understaffed.

This situation worries us a lot as this is the first time in Auroville that we have witnessed such an obvious act of aggression.

We ask you to do everything in your power to look for the cause and the ones who did it.

We must not accept this kind of behaviour in Auroville where people of good will came to offer their work as volunteers in the service of the City and the search for peace and harmony among all of us including the Bio Region.

Thank you for your attention,

Best regards,

Kalpana community members

Our two communities request that you make this report known to the Auroville community via email and/or News&Notes to correct unnecessary rumours.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,

Sunship and Kalpana Teams

Exhibit-C

CTF/WC: Call for community solidarity

By [Announcements & Massbulletins](#) , 08 Jul 2020 / 02:12 pm
in

Dear Residents,

Although we acknowledge the effort and cooperation of many residents, we feel we must bring to your attention that we are getting very discouraged by the lack of compliance of some people – Aurovilians, guests and volunteers - with government regulations and the safety guidelines issued by us. We would like to point out that non-compliance by even a minority can affect the community as a whole.

We have come to know of people engaging in contact sports, attending large entertainment gatherings in public spaces as well as private houses, not paying attention to our many mass bulletins which contain instructions on the do's and don'ts, and receiving persons from outside Auroville without following due precautions. Worst of all, some people who are supposed to quarantine themselves, have not respected the quarantine requirements and have been moving around in public. This puts everybody here in Auroville and in our neighbouring villages at risk. So far, we have had people in quarantine because of travel history or awaiting testing or results, but in all cases quarantine requirements have to be taken seriously.

We are working long hours, 24/7, often deep into the night, to help protect Auroville: on how testing can be organized, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) trainings, vehicle sanitization, talking to BMO (Block Medical Officer) and other authorities, doing contact tracing, organizing breakfast/lunch/dinners and other supplies for those in quarantine, trying to find a comfortable place in Auroville for them so that they don't have to suffer at some quarantine shelter in Villupuram or Tindivanam, and once we have this place, organizing doctor's hours, mobilizing the whole community to run around for them with their PPEs on, and informing the community as much as is possible - and these are just a few of the tasks and responsibilities that are being carried out.

But without the support of everyone in the community, our work is pretty much in vain. Could those who have ignored the guidelines please reflect on their attitude and the dangers they are putting the community in? Could those who have ignored the guidelines and participated in contact sports or joined entertainment gatherings in or outside Auroville please stop doing so? And could those in quarantine stay in his/her space and not move out till the quarantine period is over?

Please note that some instances of non-compliance have already come to the attention of the authorities. In spite of the goodwill and general respect they have shown to Auroville so far, they may now intervene as they feel appropriate to control the spread of Covid-19.

Up to now we have depended upon the sense of responsibility and self-discipline of individuals and the collective, towards themselves and each other (and for this

reason and reasons of privacy we have not published the list of quarantined persons). However, we have experienced so many cases now in which the trust that was extended was disregarded and disrespected, that we have started to wonder if we are right in not publishing the list.

We understand that there are different views about the pandemic in general and the appropriate attitude and response on the ground, but we expect you all to respect the basic precautions and measures to support a collective sense of safety and security, and to reassure those around us.

We need and call for community solidarity.

The Covid-19 Task Force and the Working Committee

Exhibit-D

Residents' Assembly Service mandate 2007

MANDATE OF THE THE RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY SERVICE as agreed upon BY THE RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY ON THE 13 OF AUGUST 2007

The tasks and responsibilities of the Residents' Assembly Service will be:

- 1) To call meetings of the Residents' Assembly
 - a. either at the request of the Working Committee; or
 - b. at the request of a recognised working group; or
 - c. at the request of at least 60 residents.
- 2) To ensure that meetings of the Residents' Assembly are called with a clear Agenda stating the purpose of the meeting, and the decision(s) to be arrived at.
- 3) To publish the Agenda of a meeting of the Residents' Assembly in the *News & Notes*, on AVnet and on the massbulletin of the community email service.
- 4) To ensure that there will be a minimum period of 2 weeks between the date of the publication of Agenda of the meeting of the Residents' Assembly in the *News & Notes* and the date of the meeting.

Only in emergencies, as assessed by the Working Committee, will the Residents' Assembly Service call a meeting at a date demanded by the Working Committee.
- 5) To ensure the chairing of meetings of the Residents' Assembly by
 - a. a member of the Residents' Assembly Service itself; or
 - b. a member of the Residents' Assembly appointed by the Residents' Assembly Service; or
 - c. a member of the Residents' Assembly Service together with a member of the Residents' Assembly appointed by the Residents' Assembly Service.
- 6) To ensure that each resident of Auroville can vote on a proposal as outlined in the Agenda:

- a. In writing: via email or through a signed form sent to the Residents' Assembly Service indicating the name of the person and the vote.
 - b. In person: by attending the meeting of the Residents' Assembly and filling a form distributed by the Residents' Assembly Service in the meeting.
- 7) Assisted by three impartial Aurovilians as selected by the Residents' Assembly Service:
- a. To count all votes cast in the meeting and submitted in writing
 - b. To check if a person who has submitted a vote (in writing or in the meeting of the Residents' Assembly) is a resident of Auroville
 - d. To compile the voting statements pertaining to a particular decision of the Residents' Assembly in alphabetical order of names of the residents and ensure that the voting records are properly archived.
- 8) To announce in the *News & Notes*, on AVnet and on the massbulletin of the community email service
- a. If at least 10% of the Residents, constituting the quorum, have brought out a valid vote;
 - b. The totals of all votes cast in writing and in the meeting of the Residents' Assembly in favour and against a proposal.
 - c. If a proposal has been accepted by the Residents' Assembly, when a minimum of 50% of the votes has been cast is in favour of the proposal
- If possible, these announcements will already be made in the meeting of the Residents' Assembly itself.
- 9) To ensure that all meetings of the Residents' Assembly are recorded and that such recordings are properly archived.
- 10) To make the minutes of the meetings of the Residents' Assembly and to publish them in the *News & Notes*, the AVnet and on the mass bulletin of the community email service.
- 11) To communicate decisions of the Residents' Assembly to the Working Committee for further communication to the Secretary and other authorities of the Auroville Foundation.
- 12) To allow a resident of Auroville to inspect whether his or her votes have been correctly entered into the voting records and get a copy of the recording of the meeting of the Residents' Assembly at cost price to verify the accuracy of the minutes.

Exhibit-E

Amendments sought by residents of Auroville in MHRD Notification dated March 11, 2019

- **Amendment #1 – Section 6 (1):** Currently, the notification uses the following language as one of the reasons for termination: “a resident’s behavior is incompatible with Auroville’s ideals or the laws of India”. As a person’s behavior cannot be incompatible with laws of India, but can either abide by it or violate it, the language should be changed as follows: “*a resident’s behavior is incompatible with Auroville’s ideals or in violation of the laws of India*”
- **Amendment #2 – Section 6 (1):** Currently, the notification says that a resident can be terminated because “a resident is not engaged in any community work or meaningful activity relevant to the life and growth of Auroville”. This reason, as any reasonable person would agree, is wide open for interpretation. Therefore, we propose that termination reasons are clearly spelled out as below in line with the affirmations that a resident will sign in Form I of the notification:
 1. If a Resident’s behavior is not compatible with the ideals of Auroville (as related to Section 1 of Form -I signed by a Resident) including:
 - (i) making a fraudulent entry, or misrepresentation or suppression of information to enter into the Registry of Residents.
 - (ii) indulging in corrupt practices including but not limited to misappropriation of funds from Auroville’s enterprise units or donors or the Government of India.
 2. If a Resident’s behavior is discriminatory – social, political, economic, geographical or racial – towards other residents or others outside community of residents (as related to Section 2 of Form -I signed by a Resident)
 3. If a Resident is found to be actively participating in Indian or International politics (as related to Section 2 of Form -I signed by a Resident)
 4. If a Resident’s behavior is in violation of laws of India (as related to Section 3 of Form -I signed by a Resident)
 5. If a Resident’s behavior shows disrespect towards the heritage, cultural values, local people, customs, traditions or social order (as related to Section 3 of Form -I signed by a Resident)
 6. If a Resident is proved to own land in the Master Plan area, except if it is inherited land from his/her family or ancestors (as related to Section 5 of Form -I signed by a Resident)
 7. If a Resident has not been residing in Auroville for more than 3 years consecutively.