

Auronet (<https://auroville.org.in>)

FAMC Report November 2022

By Funds & Assets Management Committee (FAMC) , 02 Dec 2022 / 06:46 pm
in Report

How will work be organised and distributed in Auroville?

Money would be no more the sovereign lord. Individual value would have a greater importance than the value due to material wealth and financial position. Work would not be there as the means for gaining one's livelihood, it would be the means whereby to express oneself, develop one's capacities and possibilities, while doing at the same time service to the whole group, which on its side, would provide for each one's subsistence and for the field of his work.

– The Mother

Work, bhakti and meditation

I have always said that work done as sadhana - done, that is to say, as an outflow of energy from the Divine and offered to the Divine or work done for the sake of the Divine or work done in a spirit of devotion is a powerful means of sadhana and that such work is especially necessary in this yoga. Work, bhakti and meditation are the three supports of yoga...

– Sri Aurobindo

Funds & Assets Management Committee Report

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- All assets, buildings, farms, forests, lands are resources that belong to the Divine Mother to be optimally and diligently used by all. The assets are held in a structure-The Auroville Foundation-amenable to the laws of the land.
- FAMC has been set up in the Act to coordinate the funds & assets of Auroville held in trust for all. In view of this, the thrust of FAMC is to move forward on compliance, accountability and transparency in all areas pertaining to funds, assets, utilization and coordination with necessary human resources for the best results.
- FAMC met the Governing Board members briefly on 7th and 8th November.
- FAMC is working with a group of Aurovilians to set up a Human Resource Service to meet the needs of Auroville units and services while offering fulfilling work opportunities for Aurovilians, newcomers and volunteers. The HRS team will communicate with you

all very soon.

- About PTPS: Regular stock taking had not been happening since April 2022. This has begun in November and will be carried on periodically. Fixed assets will also be looked at. Within the next 6 months PTPS is expected to transition to support the Prosperity system along with regular grocery outlets. It will no longer function under Service Trust. PTPS management board (which has done a good job of supporting the transition so far) will also stand dissolved.
- FAMC is taking forward the centralized platform for AVF accounting for all the trusts. The pilot setup is done. Remaining trusts accounts will be included to provide a complete setup where after pertinent Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the access and use of the trust accounts will be set up and tested. This is an ongoing work from the previous FAMC team. We hope to prepare the full setup for a new rollout by April 2023.
- FAMC has been working closely with the BCC since the last three months. A total revamp of BCC operations have been done and methods are put in place for bringing efficiency in collection of contributions at unit and individual level and streamlining expenditures to municipal services. During this scrutiny of the contributions to city services it has been ascertained that over six hundred residents do not contribute to the city services. We will approach the residents to be made aware to participate in the contributions and hear concerns as necessary. Also soon, the monthly expense accounts will be requested from all municipal services for proper accountability of utilization of the recurring budgets that have been disbursed.
- FAMC is in the process of consolidating GST submission and filing into six verticals across all units and services registered with AV Foundation. On Thursday, 10th November FAMC and the Foundation Office arranged for a consolidation of GST reporting and filing in respect of all units dealing with Auroville Finance and Furtherance activities. All units and services executives are requested to keep in mind the new changes for GST filing is to be properly understood and followed. Information and requirements for each of the six verticals is being shared. Please make time and participate.
- House to house verification was done for Register of Residents by members of AV foundation along with members from the various working groups. The list of house assets, stewardship and house sitter information is collated and will be streamlined in coming weeks. Preparations for a proper building assets survey will be undertaken by ATDC and FAMC where by GIS information and other pertinent parameters for the building will be recorded. Announcements on this work will be sent to the residents when it will be launched.
- Housing Policy (2011) & Housing Mandate (2018) are being revised and internal feedback and review is carried out. These drafts will be shared to the residents for feedback soon.
- Ongoing initiatives:
 - Gratitude Farm engagement in the Demo Farm of Auroville.
 - Discipline Farm review for optimum and full utilisation.

- Understanding Housing Service processes to make them simple and focused.
- Prosperity work.
- Meeting with the Land Board.
- New initiative started:
 - Digitizing & Centralization of all AV accounts
 - Setting up of prepaid cards and UPI outward payment with ICICI for Units & Activities, that spend online typically requiring a debit card or UPI payment. This will allow all Units & Activities to do their operations without requiring a bank account in their name.
 - Setting up of Donation Gateway with Virtual Accounts and Virtual UPI to allow services to receive one time and recurring donations.
- Work in reviewing or update of policies and mandates:
 - Upgrade request from large activity to unit is under review and follow up - list of entities given.
 - Review of those who have not progressed is underway.
- Urgent items, routine items:
 - Review of funds distribution on recurring expenditures, collections
 - Review of the unutilized space on the 1st Floor of Archives. This space was meant for the media (AuroTraduction, News and Notes, Web Services and AV Radio.) Except for the Radio, none of the other members want to shift there. Funds needed for Radio's shift are substantial and this move may not happen in the immediate future.
 - Refurbishing of the old video & music library space is undertaken. The Human Resources Service will begin operations from this new location.
- Office, budgets, approvals:
 - Ongoing review, funding and use of monthly budgets for FAMC office and new initiatives that will be launched subsequently.
- Challenges:
 - Work Plan for sub groups – Farms & Forests
- Resource people needed for the following teams:
 - House Repair team
 - Forest Service planning

- BCC team
- Integral Information Service
- Prosperity
- Health Sector finance is being looked into.
- FAMC does not believe in parallel governance/ administration nor can Auroville's economy afford this phenomenon. There's a lot of work to be done for Auroville. Amongst us we also raised questions about whether Auroville should be funding "its own resistance" to "City the Earth Needs" and its Master Plan. The Office of the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation has not interfered in this process, though in some cases communication has gone out from a member of FAMC, who also happens to be working for the Office of the Secretary, AVFO. The outcome of this process put a few members of our community on bridging maintenance (BM) to help them find other work in the community than with the "working groups." This has been a painful process with no other alternative. Those who have been put on the BM will be asked if they need a basic minimum care package at the end of their BM period. This care package will take care of their basic needs for some more time.
- As is evident, FAMC has a huge amount of work to do. We need collaboration from the community and we request all people with skills in management and accounting, as well as people with goodwill and willingness to work, to contact us.
- **Units and Trusts issues** - Appointment, reappointment or resignation of trustees, unit executives and activity manager:
 - **Rapid Care Services** is a new activity under the umbrella entity **ASSA** (Auro Small Scale Activities). The scope of the work is “**Repair and maintenance services- Masonry, Painting, Carpentry, Aluminum Works, Metal Works, purchasing assistance**”. Arun SELVAM and Balaji SRINIVASAN are appointed as managers from 2022-11-01.
 - **Comm4unity** is a new activity under the umbrella entity **LEAD** (Learn Experience and Develop). The scope of the work is “**Community Building Tools/Life Coaching/Health**”. Kavitha SELVARAJ and Michael MARCO - MANGER are appointed as managers from 2022-11-01.
 - **Light Art** is a New Activity under the umbrella entity **AVArts** (AV Arts Service). The scope of work is “**Art classes/workshops for children and adults, producing/selling of my own art, publishing, distribution online/offline, expressive arts creation/facilitation/sales**”. Helena HUTTE is appointed as new manager from 2022-11-21.
 - **Auroville Institute of Applied Technology**, a unit under Auroville Village Action Trust. Appointment of Jean Yves Henri Claude TARIOT as an additional executive dated from 2022-11-21 to 2025-11-20. The other executives are Lavkamad CHANDRA, Karin LATZKE, Juergen PUTZ, Lakshay DHARAN.
 - **SAIIR under Auroville Foundation**. Appointment of Lijun LIU as an additional executive dated from 2022-11-21 to 2025-11-20. The other executives are Ashoke

CHATTERJEE and Sanjeev RANGANATHAN.

- **REVE Guest House, a unit under Guest House Trust.** Appointment of Jonas SUCHANEK as an additional executive dated from 2022-11-21 to 2025-11-20. The other executives are Jean-Xavier and Ishita GRASSI LIDCHI.

In Her Service,

Smiles,

FAMC (Chandresh, Geeta, Kalya, Sathyanarayan, ShankarDevy and Torkil)

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