The new selection process started in May with a call for nominations for candidates for the following Working Groups: Auroville Town Development Council, Entry Board, Funds and Assets Management Committee, and the Auroville Board. 78 Aurovilians came forward as candidates. The wider community was then invited to participate by casting a ballot on the nominees. By mid June, 838 feedback responses were received. The candidates and their nominees were then presented with the anonymity feedback the day before the Selection Process.

To choose the selection team, the Residents’ Assembly Service (RAS) started a brainstorming process to identify the right people who would be able to contribute effectively. After several rounds of discussion, 31 residents were chosen as to form the first selection process. The selection team then made a first selection round, with a second selection round and third final selection round in case it was needed.

Another important part of the whole event was that a large number of participants had always been engaged, the result of the process and how that reminded them to constantly adapt and allow flexibility to develop.

There was gratitude for feeling connected, united in spirit, and in the joy of being there and sharing that responsibility together. The demographic being completely self-selected, all the people appreciating connecting with others they never had a chance to talk to.

They were deeply engaged, grateful to be a part of. If yes, how could I be a part of it? For the first time, I began to ask myself whether I was capable of becoming an individual but a representative of Auroville. The sincerity in my work is not my own, it is the sincerity of an entire Vision, one that is easily dismissed as unachievable.

Friends often ask about this ‘utopia’, but there is always a slight hesitation answer. Will I be able to live in Auroville with my simple words and sentences? How can I take something from it? One day, I’ll miss the breeze and the soil. Once in a while I’ll miss my family and friends. Yet every time I begin to think about my journey, a force grips me tightly and the path reveals itself once again.

Bhaya