



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Finance
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Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

08 June 2018

Dear Shri Kumaraswamy Avare,

Sub: - Pathetic Condition of National Military Memorial (NMM), Bengaluru

I write to you upon you assuming the post of Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Although, I have resigned from the National Military Memorial Committee and Trust on 12 June 2015, I write to as a Citizen and someone who spearheaded the NMM Project regarding the present condition of the NMM in Bengaluru.

As you may be aware, the NMM is a prestigious project by the Karnataka Government to honour soldiers who had laid down their lives for the Nation, foundation for which was laid on February 10, 2009 by His Excellency the then Governor of Karnataka Shri Rameshwar Thakur.

In addition to honouring the sacrifice of our fallen soldiers, the NMM also serves as an inspiration to the Children of Karnataka. The strategic location of the NMM, which is among iconic sites like the Vidhana Soudha, Vishweshwaraiah Industrial and Technological Museum and Nehru Planetarium etc., will inspire the Youth and children and develop a sense of patriotism, and honor valour and sacrifice of our soldiers who died serving our Nation.

Though many years and months have passed since firming up the Conceptualisation and laying of the Foundation Stone, due to various reasons, the project continues to remain in an in-complete state. The Veeragallu honouring our martyrs as the traditional name itself denotes, commissioned 6 plus years ago, is yet to be transported from the quarry and erected at the memorial site by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA).



I have written several letters to the previous Government regarding the delay in completion and deteriorating conditions of the Memorial. In fact, the sad situation and continuing neglect, apathy and disrespect on part of the Government towards the memories, sacrifices and services of the men of the Armed Forces compelled me to resign from the National Military Memorial Project Committee and its Management Trust in June 2015.

Veterans and citizens have often complained about the current state of the Memorial, exhibits and monuments, including artillery and decommissioned weapons which are in decay. Buildings with precious memorials located within are crumbling due to leaks in the structure. The memorial with names of more than 24,000 fallen martyrs has not been maintained or updated.

I have invested significantly on this project over the last 10 years- emotionally, financially and timewise and needless to say, I am disappointed to see the continuing decline and lack of progress of the memorial.

The Military Memorial, when complete, will be the first of its kind Memorial in Independent India and the citizenry is looking forward to paying tributes at the India's first Military Memorial in Bengaluru. In view of the prestige and importance of the project & that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is the Chairman of the NMM Management Trust,

I urge you therefore to-

1. Take personal interest in the early completion of the project.
2. Provide necessary security to the project and rare exhibits displayed at the park.
3. Inaugurate the project and dedicate to the People of the Country without delay.

I look forward to your early response.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru

CC:

Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru