



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

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

July 30, 2018

Dear

Hansvardhanj

Sub: Request you to urgently depute an inspection team to inspect incidents of Environmental Violations taking place in Bannerghatta National Park and the surrounding Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

I am writing to you in continuation of my letter dated July 13, 2018, highlighting the threats to Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) and the Eco-Sensitive Zone surrounding the National Park.

As you are aware, Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) just at the edge of Bengaluru city has a crucial multi-faceted role to play given its proximity to Bengaluru city. It serves as a crucial wildlife corridor connecting Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagarhole National Park and other areas in the Nilgiri biosphere reserve. Being close to Bengaluru, Bannerghatta National Park is vital in maintaining the ecological balance and sustainability of Bengaluru city and reduced the heat island effect, pollution levels and overall quality of life for the city's inhabitants.

However, despite repeated requests and interventions from both Citizens and myself to secure the National Park and the ESZ, illegal mining and quarrying continues in and around the forest, which is creating severe man-animal conflict in the region.

Moreover, the Government of Karnataka has also failed to submit a new draft notification with respect to ESZ around Bannerghatta National Park as per the guidelines and notification published in June 2016 (earmarking 268.96 sq km as ESZ around BNP), issued by the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoEF & CC). Lack of implementing proper regulations is invariably contributing to further deterioration of the environment and forests around Bannerghatta.



सत्यमेव जयते

Therefore, given the importance of Eco-Sensitive Zones to both ecological balance, sustainability and very existence of Bengaluru. I urge you to depute a team to inspect incidents of Environmental Violations taking place in Bannerghatta National Park and the surrounding Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Rajeev Chandrasekhar', is written over a horizontal line.

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Dr Harsh Vardhan

Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Indira Parvayaran Bhawan

JorBagh, New Delhi -110003