



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
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

19th December 2019

Dear Shri Yediyurappa avare,

Sub Request urgent review of government decision to drastic reduction of Bannnerghatta National Park eco-sensitive zone.

I am writing to you with reference to the proposal by the Government for reduction of the Eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) by about 100 sq. km to 169.84 sq. km from 268.96 sq. km.

Bannerghatta National Park has a crucial multi-faceted role to play. BNP not only serves as the Wildlife corridor but also is the only lung space closer to Bengaluru, which is vital in maintaining the ecological balance (on Air, Water and Land) and sustainability of Bengaluru city and in reducing the heat island effect, pollution levels and overall quality of life for the city's inhabitants.

The government proposal to shrink the BNP area by 100 sq. km is shocking and will have disastrous consequences on environment and paves way to illegal mining and quarrying in and around the BNP area. This will result in destroying both, the Flora and Fauna and adversely affect 2,250 agrarian communities who will face severe ramification on their livelihood because of the quarrying and subsequent man-animal conflict.

Owing to 80,000 objections from citizens and experts, the Mining and Geology Department and Forest Department in Karnataka have shut down numerous illegal mining/quarrying units around the periphery of Bannerghatta National Park in June 2018. The effect of these closures has been tremendous, where within weeks of the closure; wildlife was sighted in and around mining zones. The proposal to reduce ESZ will adversely impact elephant corridor besides overall ecology of the region.



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In light of the reports that government has written to Centre for reducing ESZ by 100 sq. km, I request your urgent review of the decision and seek a detailed review before the final decision is made. I want to discuss this issue with you and request a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri B S Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru