



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

29th February 2020

Dear Shri Yediyurappa avare,

Sub Request urgent review to reconsider the decision pertaining to the ESZ of Bannerghatta National Park.

Bannerghatta National Park is home to a number of species of flora and fauna (with India's first biological park to have a fenced forested elephant sanctuary) and serves as a catchment area for water bodies that feeds Cauvery.

This 260 km large protected forest is unique: no other big Indian city has such an enormous forest region which is rich in biodiversity, so close to its urban limits.

An ESZ is supposed to complement the conservation of forests and manage activities sustainably. An IISC study conducted by leading scientist TV Ramachandra in 2015 had stated that the present ESZ is biologically and hydrologically sensitive. Another recent study by the Indian Institute of Human Settlements said that preservation of this ESZ is important in protecting the Bengaluru from becoming a heat island.

The most important thing to remember here is that until the ESZ is a notified zone per the Supreme Court's ruling, the area surrounding will continue to be treated as an eco-sensitive zone under the MoEF and CC guidelines. The shrinking of Eco-Sensitive Zone will cause great damage to the existing wildlife, the flora and fauna in the said regions and will lead to dense urbanization that will aggravate man- animal conflict. Not surprisingly, it is agitating citizens of Bengaluru.

Situation is now alarming. Public voices are rising. This time, citizens are pushing online petitions that are being signed, and media is reporting widely about the Government's plan of reducing ESZ.

This ESZ reduction was first mooted by the previous governments and I and several public representatives had vigorously opposed it and so this decision predictably comes as a shock to all of us.

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Already the 37% reduction of ESZ is bearing its consequence on quality of life of Bengalurean's and those living around Bannerghatta. Considering that thousands of citizens had written in with their objections earlier to not reduce the ESZ, there must be a more detailed scientific look into the ESZ around Bannerghatta.

You will agree that our government has a solemn obligation to protect our environment and resources for future generation.

So I request you to urgently reconsider this it's imperative that the government does not reduce the area of ESZ and must work towards ensuring a sustainable development that promotes ecological balance and retain the original size of ESZ.

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

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

Copy:

- ✓ 1) **Shri Prakash Javadekar**, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
- 2) **Shri DV Sadananda Gowda**, Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India.
- 3) **Shri Anand Singh**, Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Ecology, Government of Karnataka.
- 4) **Shri PC Mohan**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bangalore Central Constituency.
- 5) **Shr Tejasvi Surya**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bangalore South Constituency.

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR