

The Hindu

Public ire over park ID cards

Staff Reporter

'Security threat is more on the streets and malls than in parks'

— PHOTO: BHAGYA PRAKASH K.



SEEING RED: Protesters taking a stance against the Horticulture Department's move to issue IDs to walkers and joggers in Lalbagh and Cubbon Park in Bangalore on Monday.

BANGALORE: Members of several civic organisations and the public staged a protest against the proposal of Horticulture Department to introduce identity cards for walkers in Lalbagh and Cubbon Park.

Holding placards, protesters lined up on the footpath on the Queen's Road near Mahatma Gandhi statue and raised slogans against the introduction of ID cards. Several children also joined the protest.

Condemning the move, the protesters said that if security was the reason, the Cubbon Park police station should have recorded an increase the crime rate.

"The idea is absurd and undemocratic," said historian Ramchandra Guha, who took part in the protest. More police personnel could be deployed if the authorities saw a security threat in the park instead of issuing ID cards to walkers, he added.

"Security threat is more on the streets and malls than in parks. Murders of women (alone at home) are being reported in the city," pointed out Kathyayini Chamaraj of CIVIC. A press release from the protesters said the manner in which the policy was formulated encourages exclusion of access rights of

the urban poor, street and working children, elderly people, migrant workers, people of third gender and others.

The protest was initiated by Environment Support Group, Slum Jagatthu, Vimochana, CIEDS, Dalit Sangharsha Samithi, Hasiru Usiru, Open Space, CIVIC, Stree Jagruthi Samithi, Alternative Law Forum, Sangama and Sanmathi.

They see red over ID cards for green spaces

TNN 1 December 2009, 01:32am IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/5286055.cms>

BANGALORE: For walking Rs 200, for breathing Rs....? Evenings are fun, but not when I need an ID card to run! Many more such banners and placards were raised by over 250 protesters on Cubbon Road to protest against the conditional access to public spaces.

People from different organizations across the city gathered on Monday evening to express their disagreement with proposed move to have people show ID cards to enter Cubbon Park and Lalbagh.

With the city's famed greenery making way for infrastructure work, citizens are angry that the government's now eyeing the remaining lung spaces. These areas serve multiple purposes -- they're playgrounds, working areas, stress-busting spaces and homes for many. Regulars are completely against the proposed plan. "My parents used to bring me here every weekend when I was a kid. I grew up here. Even these fences were not there and it was an open space for everyone. I remember striding up the stairs of Vidhana Soudha as a kid and peeping inside. The area is restricted now for obvious reasons, but one cannot put such restrictions on places like parks," said Bhargavi S Rao, coordinator, Environment Support Group.

Protesters are not even in the favour of free ID cards. "What will happen to tourists, migrants and guests? Will you provide an ID card to them as well? There are other ways to ensure security," said Shreya Bose, a law student.

Many feel the government has taken this step to favour the elite, and make money. They also believe that the policy encourages exclusion of the urban poor, children, the elderly, street vendors, labourers and others from accessing public spaces.

Environment Support Group, Slum Jagatthu, CIEDS, Vimochana, Dalit Sangharsh Samiti Samyojaka, Sanmathi, Alternative Law Forum, Sangama, Stree Jagruthi Samithi, CIVIC Bangalore, Hasiru Usiru and Open Space were some of the organizations that took part.



ದಿ ಟೈಮ್ಸ್ ಟಿವಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಯು

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ದಿ ಟೈಮ್ಸ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿರೋಧಿಸಿ ಹಲವು ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು

Deccan Herald

1/12/09

Parks are public commons



Protesting the government's move to restrict entry into Cubbon Park and Lalbagh only for those with ID cards, members of the ESG, Slum Jagathu, CIEDS, Vimochana, DSS Samyojaka, Sanmathi, Alternative Law Forum, Sangama, Stree Jagruthi Samithi, CIVIC, Hasiru Usiru and Open Space, held a demonstration in front of Cubbon Park on Monday. DH PHOTO

DNA India-Bangalore

Cubbon Park ID card move brings together a rainbow of protesters

It's a move meant to secure the city's parks, but it has got a whole host of citizens het up. They say the government should facilitate easy access to lung spaces that offer opportunities for exercise and recreation, not interfere unnecessarily, Odeal D'Souza reports

Odeal D'Souza



Many Bangaloreans gathered outside Cubbon Park on Monday evening to protest a directive from horticulture minister Umesh Katti that nobody would be allowed to enter the public area without an identity card exclusively meant for the purpose.

The protest, which was initiated by Bhargavi S Rao of the Environment Support Group, benefited from the participation of over 11 non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Speaking to DNA, Bhargavi said, "Our first reaction to such an eventuality was to protest. When we asked other NGOs for their support, they willingly came forward to help us in our pursuit." As many as 300 people, including regular walkers, participated in the protest.

Elaborating on the need to protest this development, NGO activists said that the ID card rule will only create a rich-poor divide among persons who wish to access the city's lung spaces. Stating that though the authorities may give other reasons such as security concerns and misuse of parks by anti-social elements for implementing the rule, the activists said that the end result would only be a situation that puts the have-nots at a disadvantage.

"This policy will only prevent the urban poor and minorities, including transgenders, labourers, migrant workers, autorickshaw drivers and differently-abled persons, from accessing the city parks," Bhargavi said.

Expressing his agreement, Leo F Saldanha, coordinator of the Environment Support Group, said, "Such social discrimination must not happen in our city. Every person has the right to access the city's lung spaces and they should not be prevented from doing so."

Dharma Somashekar, coordinator of the Sanmathi NGO, said that the horticulture department has no moral right to charge the public any further for accessing the city's lung spaces. "We already pay taxes for them under the corporation tax. Why should we pay anything extra? The money should be used efficiently for the maintenance and security of the parks," he said.

Besides NGO activists, many children had also gathered at the spot to raise their own sounds of dissent: 'Beku beku, park beku, beda beda, fees beda'. Raju, who works for an organisation that serves working children, said, "This park means a lot for us kids. Whenever we have any functions or small gatherings, we always conduct them here. However, they are now depriving us of our only hope for recreation."

Haridas Menon, a regular walker, said, "I enjoy my early-morning jog here, I get to meet people from different walks of life. My whole family comes here. The government ought not to interfere unnecessarily in such matters. Instead of encouraging us, it is placing hurdles."

ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಐಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್: ವಿರೋಧ



ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿರೋಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾಯಿತು. ಈಗ ಐಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸರದಿ! ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಲು ಐಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ನೀಡುವ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪವನ್ನು ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯುವಂತೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಂಘಟನೆ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿ

ದರು. ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ನೀಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿತ್ಯ ವಾಕಿಂಗ್, ಜಾಗಿಂಗ್ ನಡೆಸುವವರು, ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಮತ್ತಿತರರಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರ ದೂರು. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಲಾಲ್‌ಬಾಗ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ನಡೆಗದಾರರಿಗೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿಧಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಕ್ಕೆ ವಿರೋಧ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾ

ಗಿತ್ತು. ನಂತರ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರದ್ದುಮಾಡಿ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ನೀಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಅದಕ್ಕೂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಂದ ವಿರೋಧ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆಯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲೂ ಐಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ವಿತರಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ನಮ್ಮದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು.

<http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?>

Title=Not+just+a+walk+in+the+park&artid=UvzOtoVaa9w=&SectionID=Qz/kHVp9tEs=&MainSectionID=wIcBMLGbUJI=&SectionName=UOaHCPTTmuP3XGzZRCAUTQ==&SEO=

Not just a walk in the park

[Express News Service](#)

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IST

BANGALORE: ‘Why should we pay for the air we breathe’, ‘Change is not welcome, if it is ID cards,’ read the posters at a protest held by people outside the Cubbon Park. People from all walks from life and environmental support groups took part in the protest, voicing their opinion for the repeal of the new rule which makes ID cards mandatory for entering Cubbon Park or Lalbagh. The protest brought agitated Bangaloreans to the streets as they raised their voices against the horticulture department’s decision.



Aniruddha Chowdhury

“It is the fundamental right of an individual to enter a park. How can the government take away our access to green parks?” said Bhargavi S Rao of Environment Support Group (ESG).

“We have lost our lakes, old buildings, now they want to take away our parks too?” asked historian Ramachandra Guha.

On the other hand Umesh Katti, director of horticulture, pointed out that the levy of Rs 200 on identity cards is for security measures. Questioning the security reasons cited by the authorities, the protestors were cynical of the role of the director without the involvement of the police.

MF Saldhana, former justice and a regular jogger at Cubbon Park had a different stance on the issue of ID cards, “This is a bed of corruption.

This is a new avenue for them to generate money.” During this protest, a petition was signed by all the participants and it will be presented to Katti and more such protests will be held across the city, said Bhargavi.

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'Keep it free'

<http://mid-day.com/news/2009/dec/011209-citizens-protest-cubbon-park-id-card.htm>

By: Nolan Pinto **Date:** 2009-12-01 **Place:** Bangalore

Citizens oppose govt decision to cut off Cubbon Park, Lalbagh to those who don't buy Rs 200 identity cards

NGOs and students assembled with placards yesterday evening at Queens Statue, Cubbon Park to

oppose the state government's decision to make ID cards priced at Rs 200 per annum mandatory for those who want to enter Cubbon Park and Lalbagh.



It's my right: Protesters at Cubbon Park yesterday.
Pic/Satish Badiger

Murali from the NGO Sangama said making identity cards mandatory would rob the poor of a place to relax. "It is like making it a place reserved for rich people," said Murali.

Smriti Mariam, a law student and volunteer with Environment Support Group, said, "When the British were here, we need identity cards to enter the park. It feels like we are heading back to the days of the Raj."

Haridas Menon, who uses the park for the daily walk, said, "A park is a recreational place. It belongs to all of us.

If there are security problems, the police need to do their jobs properly and allow us to live in peace."

Vinay Sreenivasa, from the NGO Hasiru Usiru said, "We already pay taxes to the government. That should be enough for them to look after the park and its security. According to the public trust doctrine adopted by the Supreme Court, the public should have unrestricted access to parks."

Where do poor go?

Gangadhar, a member of the Dalit Sangharsh Samiti said that the ID would force many occasional visitors to Bengaluru and the poor to sit on the roads. "People from different places visiting Bengaluru come to rest here. This ID card business will push them on the roads. Moreover, with pollution everywhere, the park is one place where all citizens come to breathe some fresh air. Let us keep it that way," he said.

N Jayaram, director, department of horticulture, refused to comment on the issue.



ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿರ್ಧಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವಿರೋಧ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸುವ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಸೋಮವಾರ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು.

ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಿಸಿದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, 'ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟರು.

'ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ ಜನರ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಹಕ್ಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕಾರಣವಿಲ್ಲದೇ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿಸಲು ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿಧಿಸುವುದು ಅಥವಾ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ವಿತರಿಸುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಾಕಾರರು ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

'ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿಧಿಸುವ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಹಿಂಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 50 ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ವಿತರಿಸುವ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವನ್ನೂ ವಾಪಸು ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು. ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಇರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೊರತು ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿಧಿಸಬಾರದು ಮತ್ತು ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ವಿತರಿಸಬಾರದು' ಎಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದರು.

'ಅನಪೇಕ್ಷಿತ ಮಂದಿಯನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ದಿಂದ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಮರ್ಥಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಉದ್ಯಾನದ ಭದ್ರತೆ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದರು.

'ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಕೆಲವರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ.



ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸುವ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಹಿಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕೆಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು. -ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ, ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರಿಗೆ, ಬೀದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮುಂತಾದವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಸಿಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭದ್ರತೆಯ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರನ್ನು ಐಟಿ ನಗರಿಯಾಗಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದೇಶೀಯರನ್ನು ಸೆಳೆಯುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ನೂತನ ಬಗೆಯ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತವಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಟೀಕಿಸಿದರು.

'ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀಮಂತರು ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲದೇ ಜನಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರು, ಬಡವರು, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದವರು ಮತ್ತಿತರರು ವಾಸಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಮ್ಮದಿಯ

ಕ್ಷಣಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳೆಯಲು ಅವರು ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿಯನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಮಂದಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಲು ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಬಳಸಲು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಉತ್ತಮ ಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದರು.

ದಲಿತ ಸಂಘರ್ಷ ಸಮಿತಿ, ವಿಮೋಚನಾ, ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಎನ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಎಂ‌ಎಲ್ ಸರ್ವೋಚ್ಚ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

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[Express News Service](#)

Park protest gains momentum

BANGALORE: Leo Saldhana, of the non-governmental organisation, Environmental Support Group (ESG) said that Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa has directed the BBMP commissioner Bharatlal Meena for “necessary action” after the protest at Cubbon park on Monday, saw people raise their voice against the use of ID cards at Lalbagh and Cubbon Parks.



Aniruddha Chowdhury

Horticulture Minister, Umesh Katti had recently announced that ID cards were mandatory for people to enter these lung spaces.

ESG and other organisations are thinking of writing letters to the Chief Minister and the Minister of Horticulture against the levy of Rs 200 for the ID cards.

“It is the fundamental right of an individual to enter a park,” said Bhargavi, of ESG. “Awareness workshops will be conducted to sensitise Bangaloreans and more protests will be held across the city, unless the minister of horticulture withdraws the ID card rule,” she added.

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