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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
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Member of Standing Committee on Finance
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Member of Parliamentary Forum on Youth
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8th April, 2010

Dear

Smt Naganand,

I am writing this to address the concerns you raised about the National Military Memorial Park (NMM Park) in your letter to the Hon'ble Governor Shri H R Bhardwaj. I couldn't respond earlier since I was away from Delhi on some Personal and then Parliamentary duties. It was our intention as a NMM committee to present the design to you earlier last month, but were prevented from doing so because of the Code of conduct prevailing due to the BBMP Elections.

Firstly, I do respect your views and concerns and am writing this letter to ensure that you have all the facts before you so that you can form your views based on these correct facts.

The concern seems to be that, "Over 30 trees will be axed to build the war memorial".

Let me assure you that this is totally incorrect. The design for this sacred National Military Memorial, has gone through several iterations and discussions with several well meaning and well intentioned citizens including members of the Abide Heritage group – and the final design of the Architect, touches only 4 trees. Even these trees are Eucalyptus/Ashoka trees and not heritage trees. All the heritage trees in the Park are to be left untouched by the design.

Most importantly for you and indeed all citizens of Bangalore, the National Military Memorial was conceived and is being built as a beautiful, somber and well maintained Park. Therefore the design also envisages planting of an additional 25-30 trees around the complex to give it a deeply wooded look and ambience.

Let me share the vision and objective of NMM with you. It is not being built to trouble you or disrupt your neighbourhood. The NMM is a sacred symbol of thanksgiving by the people of our city to the men of Karnataka who have died in the service of our nation. Our City will be the first city in the country to have such a memorial dedicated to these

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brave men and their families. It is all our fond hope that this memorial shall provide the younger generation an opportunity to be inspired by the lives and service of the men of the Armed forces who are the highest symbols of public and national service. An important need given the lack of real icons for our younger generation and declining values of public service in our nation.

I can assure you that I place citizen rights, heritage and Bangalore as very important aspects of my public life. I am available to you and anyone else anytime if you have clarifications on this project or anything else in Bangalore. I regret very much the unpleasantness that has crept in around such a great endeavor and would urge you to reach out to me in future if there are any concerns – all of them can be addressed amicably and with discussion always. I can be reached at rajeev.c@nic.in

I can also assure you that all applicable laws and rules of the construction - that is permissible in Park under the laws – will be followed in letter and spirit. We have already factored that in our design and is enclosed for your reference.

I hope that I have been able to address the concerns raised by you. Most importantly post this clarification, I hope you too will find in your heart, the space to supporting the NMM and share the feelings and emotions of many thousands of Bangaloreans. The NMM Park will make you and indeed all of us in Bangalore proud.

Very truly yours,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

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