

**6 MAJOR DAMS,  
A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT,  
A PAPER MILL  
AND NOW  
ANOTHER DAM?**

**Memorandum  
To Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka  
Shri. S. M. Krishna**

**Submitted by**

**Kali Bachao Andolan**

*Parisara Samrakshana Kendra*

Hulemalgi Building, Chowkimath

Sirsi (Uttara Kannada Dt.)

Karnataka 581401

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*Environment Support Group* ®

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Jayanagar, Bannerghatta Road,

Bangalore 560 041. INDIA

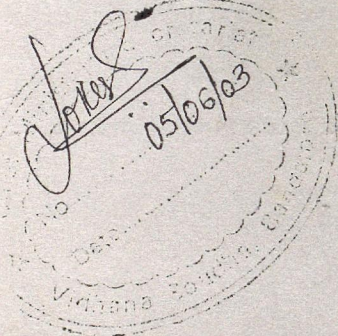
Telefax: 91-80-6341977/6531339/6534364

Email: [esg@bgl.vsnl.net.in](mailto:esg@bgl.vsnl.net.in)

KBA Website: <http://narmada.org/related.issues/kali/>

**On the occasion of World Environment Day**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003**



Dear Sir,

The 184 kms. long Kali River in the Uttara Kannada district of the Western Ghats region in Karnataka, already has 6 major Hydroelectric dams. In addition, the river supports the only nuclear plant in a forest in the world - the controversial Kaiga Nuclear Power Station. Over 1200 MW of power is already generated from these dams, and an additional 440 MW from Kaiga. There is now a serious attempt to build a 7<sup>th</sup> dam on the Kali River, near Dandeli, by Murdeshwar Power Corporation Limited (MPCL).

### **Dandeli Mini-Hydel Project of Murdeshwar Power Corporation Limited**

The MPCL dam is proposed to generate only 18 MW of electricity, but is quite po. This at the cost of submerging 210 ha. of forests along the Kali and at a capital cost of approx. Rs. 200 crores. Whilst financially this makes the dam amongst the costliest ever built, the ecological cost due to loss of forests would be tremendous indeed. For, if the dam were allowed, the last stretch of Kali that is flowing undammed, will be lost for posterity. And the power that would be generated would be clearly unaffordable.

**Legally this project has to be abandoned.** This is because the project proponent along with its consultants are guilty of presenting two fraudulent Environment Impact Assessments, one by M/s Ernst and Young, and thereafter by M/s Tata Energy Research Institute. Environment Support Group and Parisara Samrakshana Kendra exposed both frauds during 2000, and per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, this is a case fit for rejection absolutely. The report of the Deputy Commissioner of Uttara Kannada on the basis of Environmental Public Hearing held in January 2001 clearly documents this view, and endorses the affidavit filed by Environment Support Group in this regard. Recently, the District Forest Officer in his recent report dated 19 February 2003 has stated that "this proposal is undesirable from the forestry point of view" and "(h)ence, it may be recommended to the Govt. for rejection". The District Forest Officer has also found that the claims of the proponent that there are no forests in the submergence area is false, for this area constitutes an assemblage of moist deciduous and evergreen forests, supporting a range of wildlife, including the occasional tiger. Yet there is very high pressure to build this dam.

We wish to state that Shri. R. V. Deshpande, Karnataka Industries Minister, and Minister-in-charge of Uttara Kannada, is bearing enormous pressure on the clearance authorities to clear the project.

**No more forest submergence due to dams on Kali - GOK Order:**

Over the decades over 32,000 acres of forests have been submerged in this district to build the six dams, according to some estimates. This last stretch of the flowing Kali assumes a lot of importance when we appreciate the fact that it is mainly here that the last riverine stretch of original forest is left. Construction of the MPCL dam would also be in absolute violation of the 19th May 1987 Government of Karnataka order (No. FFD 242 FGL 83) that no further projects involving diversion of forest land for other uses will be undertaken on Kali River or its tributaries.

Latest Supreme Court decisions have upheld the spirit of this order.

**Uttara Kannada – a major source of Power, and yet very little development:**

Almost all the power that is generated from the district is exported to other regions.

**Uttara Kannada uses only 17 MW of the electricity produced.** Many parts of the region languish in darkness. A brief overview of major power generating sources in Uttara Kannada and the installed capacity is provided below.

<b>Dam</b>	<b>Installed capacity</b>
Supa dam power house	100 MW
Nagjari power house	855 MW
Kadra dam power house	150 MW
Kodsalli dam power house	120 MW
<b>Nuclear</b>	
Kaiga Nuclear Station	440 MW
<b>Total</b>	<b>1665 MW</b>

Clearly, the cry from the region of enough "development" by "dams" needs to be addressed. People of this district are tired of the constant threat of displacement, have witnessed with pain the submergence of some of the best forests in the Western Ghats, and now see the need to actively oppose any further plans to build projects that threaten their lives, forests and the wildlife.

#### **Pollution by West Coast Paper Mills:**

The West Coast Paper Mills has Dandeli has a dubious record of its pollution control management. The company is highly secretive, even as the result of their actions are there for all to see. Tens of acres of agricultural land is polluted by pulp waste, and the river's ecology is all mucked up by the raw effluent discharged into it by the Mills.

For the communities who depend on this river, adverse impact of the accumulated pollutants has been tremendous. Losses in agriculture, dairy farming and fisheries are a common tale here, and cattle deaths are regularly reported. Farmers in direct contact with the water suffer from a variety of skin diseases caused due to pollution of the river. Very little is known of the impact on wildlife.

The concerned regulatory agency, the Karnataka Pollution Control Board has done very little to contain the damage, thereby allowing the Mills a free run on its polluting spree. Only recently, due to pressure from local communities under the banner of Kali Bachao Andolan, has there been some response with the local Assistant Commissioner initiating criminal proceedings against the company. The demand is not a closure of the Dandeli Paper Mills. Rather it is to get the mill to clean up its operations for the benefit of all – including the employees of the mill.

#### **Illegal Sand Mining in the Supa Submergence area:**

Hundreds of small barges and trucks are illegally employed daily by contractors in rampantly excavating sand from the Supa dam submergence area. This is most visible at Chandevadi. The result is serious disturbances to the river's ecology. The people of the region are now pleading for an end to this unending misery.

## **Kali Bachao Andolan:**

**Parisara Samrakshana Kendra** (PSK), along with several local community organizations and tribal villages, have formed the **Kali Bachao Andolan** in order to build awareness on the threats to the Kali River, and to stop further damming, pollution and sand mining. Pandurang Hegde, leading the Kali Bachao Andolan, and several others, conducted a Padayatra in February this year. Sunderlal Bahuguna, leader of the Chipko Andolan, launched this Padayatra. There has been overwhelming response from local communities to this effort. **Environment Support Group** (ESG), Bangalore, is an active support organization of the Kali Bachao Andolan.

## **Demands of the Kali Bachao Andolan:**

As Karnataka State holds celebrations on World Environment Day, Kali Bachao Andolan has come to Bangalore, led by various tribal representatives from affected villages, to highlight that true commitment for the environment demands effective action. The symbolic protest at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial to be held this morning is to highlight the little that the Karnataka Government has appreciated of Kali's importance and the concerns of the people from the Kali Valley.

We fervently appeal that the demands of the Kali Bachao Andolan be endorsed in demonstrating your sincere commitment to the cause of environmental protection, and in ensuring environmental regulation is taken up with all seriousness. We appeal:

1. **No more dams be allowed that cause submergence of forests on the Kali.**

This decision would be in accordance of Government of Karnataka's order dated 19 May 1987 (NO. FFD 242 FGL 83) that following Kodsalli and Kadra dams, no more dams that cause submergence would be allowed on the Kali. MPCL dam must thereby be summarily rejected.

2. **The pollution of the Kali River by West Coast Paper Mills at Dandeli must be stopped immediately.** The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board must ensure that the necessary environmental safeguards are installed, else the project authorities punished per law. If the Board fails to take such action, the officials concerned must

be penalized per law.

3. **The rampant and illegal sand mining continuing in the Supa submergence area should be immediately stopped**, and the infrastructure engaged confiscated. An investigation must be ordered on how long this activity has been continuing, and by whose support.

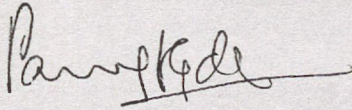
**Worldwide Appeal to you:**

The demand of KBA has found overwhelming support from Uttara Kannada, many parts of the country and the world. Letters and Emails are being sent to you from hundreds of concerned groups and individuals urging that you should endorse KBA's demands. We enclose a copy of all those who have so far endorsed this appeal.

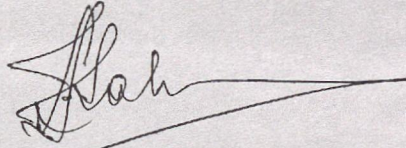
Sir, it is time that the Karnataka Government complied with these demands and secured the River's ecological future, now and forever.

We thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,



Pandurang Hegde  
Parisara Samrakshana Kendra  
Sirsi



Leo F. Saldanha  
Environment Support Group  
Bangalore

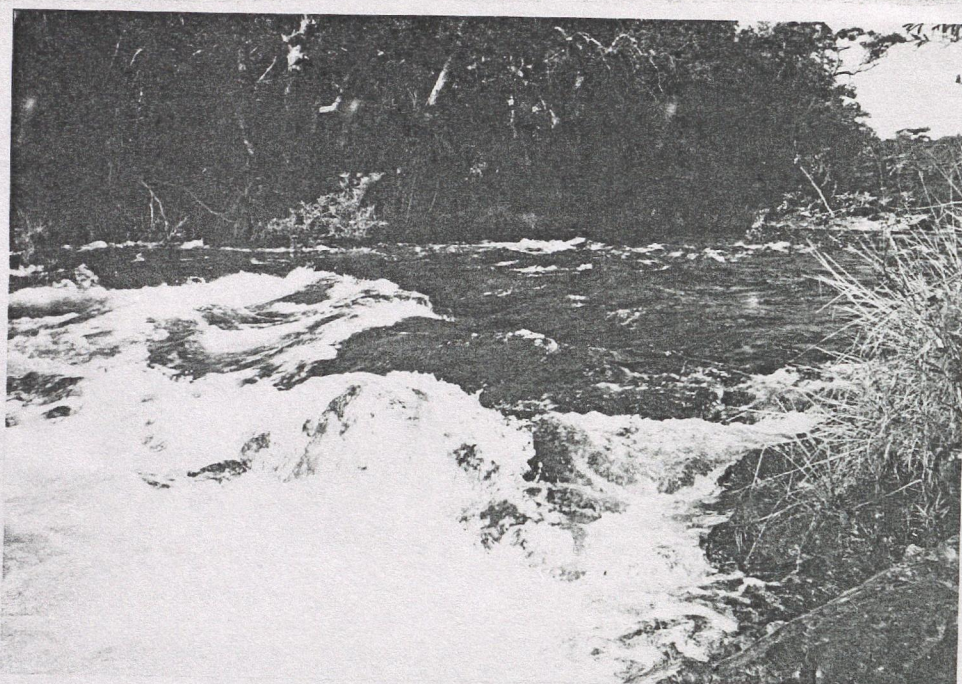
**For KALI BACHAO ANDOLAN**

**Contact Details:**

Parisara Samrakshana Kendra  
Hulemalgi Building, Chowkimath  
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Karnataka 581401  
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Fax: 4435450/ 427839  
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KBA Website: <http://narmada.org/related.issues/kali/>



White water rafting on the rapids near Dandeli.  
This sport is a source of tourist revenue to the place -- both directly to the people who run the rafting club, as well as other people who benefit from the presence of these tourists in this area. With the new dam coming up, the rapids will be lost which will mean a loss of revenue for all of these people dependent on this sport.



MARKINGS ON TREES SHOW THE LEVEL OF SUBMERGENCE THAT WOULD BE CAUSED BY THE DAM IN THE DANDELI MINI-HYDEL SCHEME.



THE KALI RIVER FLOWING THROUGH DANDELI RESERVE FOREST. THE RIVER WAS ALMOST DAMMED AND THE FOREST SUBMERGED BASED ON A PLAGIARIZED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT BY INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING FIRM, ERNST & YOUNG.



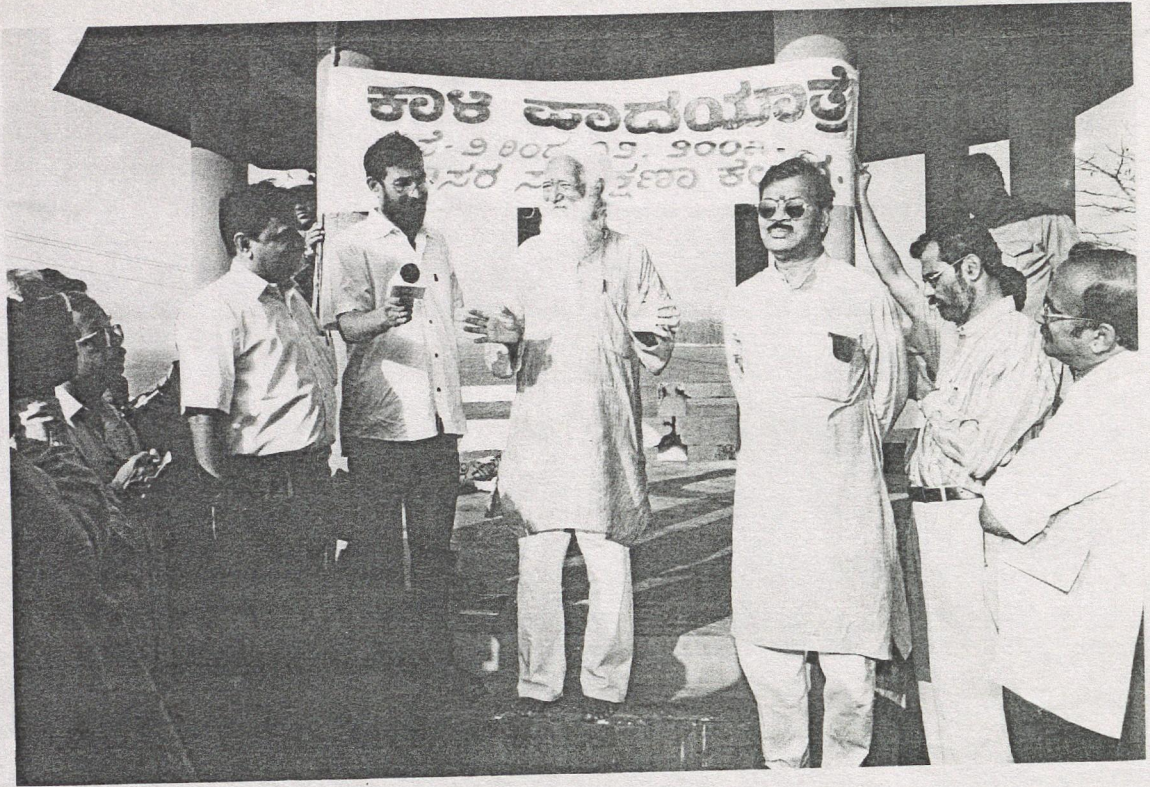
Illegal sand mining along the banks of Kali river and its tributaries , especially in the Supa reservoir area. The pictures show sand mining in Chandewadi.





AT THE JANUARY 2001 PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE DANDELI MINI-HYDEL SCHEME, ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT GROUP WAS ASKED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF KARWAR, TO SUBMIT OUR FINDINGS IN AN AFFIDAVIT. THIS AFFIDAVIT ALONG WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT SAW THE CANCELLATION OF THE PROJECT IN APRIL 2002.





The Padayatratre (foot march) that was undertaken by Pandurang Hegde (second from right) along the course of the Kali River to raise awareness amongst people about the threats to the river. This was for 11 days from February 2nd till 12th, 2003



# राष्ट्रीय जल विरादरी

34/46, किरण पथ, मानसरोवर, जयपुर (राजस्थान)

फोन/फैक्स : 0141-393178

Email : jalbiradari@rediffmail.com/watermantbs@yahoo.com

To,

May 31, 2003

S.M. Krishna,  
Chief Minister of Karnataka  
Bangalore,

Honourable Chief Ministerji,

I, Rajendra Singh, President of Rashtriya Jal Biradri, appeal to you to address the concerns raised by the Kali Bachao Andolan. They have been <sup>highlighting</sup> ~~raising~~ several threats to the Kali River and are working to protect it.

There are already 6 major hydel plants on the river ~~and~~ which already generate over 1000 MW of electricity. Now, there seem to be serious attempts to build another dam near Dandeli to generate another 18 MW. However, this will submerge over 175 acres of forests that abuts the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary consisting of rare flora and fauna. In addition to the over 32,000 acres of forests already submerged in Uttara Kannada. The river is also being polluted by the Dandeli Paper Mills which discharges its untreated liquid effluents directly into the river. In addition, there is also illegal sand mining on the banks of the Kali River that has been reported in the regional newspapers.

Construction of the 7th dam is a significant violation of the 17th May 1985 notification issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests that no further forest could be destroyed anywhere in the Kali Valley after the construction of the Kodasalli and Kadra dams. In addition, the process of obtaining environment clearances for the dam has been fraudulent. The initial Rapid Environmental Im-  
Assessment (REIA) ~~Assessment~~ prepared by Ernst & Young was exposed to be a plagiarized version of the Tattihalli EIA proposed in Dhawad district. A second EIA generated by TERI is also shown to be based on secondary and spurious data. Thus, the dam cannot proceed on the basis of these EIA & need to be stopped.

# राष्ट्रीय जल विरादरी

34/46, किरण पथ, मानसरोवर, जयपुर (राजस्थान)

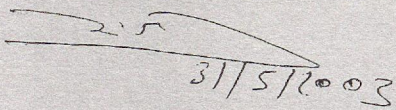
फोन/फैक्स : 0141-393178

Email : jalbiradari@rediffmail.com/watermantbs@yahoo.com

As mentioned earlier, besides being dammed, the Kali River is being polluted by the Dandeli Paper Mills which discharged large volumes of its untreated effluents into the Kali River. The once beautiful and clean river has been turned into a smelly gutter ~~and~~ filled with industrial effluents. This has been repeatedly raised by local communities & environmental groups to get this plant to clean up its acts ~~and~~. The KBA is not demanding a closure of the Mills - the emphasis is to stop pollution of the river which will also benefit the employees of the mill.

Rivers are givers and sustainers of life and need to be protected everywhere. I support the aspirations ~~and~~ of the people of Uttara Karmada who want the Kali River flowing and alive with life. Not dammed, polluted and dead.

Sincerely,

  
31/5/2003

( Rajendra Singh  
President  
Rasthriya Jal Biradri )

May 29, 2003

To

S.M.Krishna,  
Chief Minister of Karnataka,  
Bangalore.

Honourable Chief Minister,

We, the undersigned attendees of the Rashtriya Jal Sammelan held in Kanchipuram on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2003, appeal to you to address the concerns raised by the Kali Bachao Andolan (KBA). The KBA has been formed by Parisara Samrakshana Kendra of Uttara Kannada along with several local community organizations and tribal villages to highlight several threats to the Kali River and protect it.

There are already 6 major hydel plants on the river and there are serious attempts to build another dam near Dandeli which will submerge over 175 acres of forests that abuts the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary consisting of rare flora and fauna. The existing 6 dams have already submerged over 32,000 acres of forests in Uttara Kannada. The river is also being polluted by the Dandeli Paper Mill which discharges its untreated liquid effluents directly into the river. In addition, there is also illegal sand mining on the banks of the Kali River that has been reported widely in the regional newspapers.

Murdeshwar Power Corporation Limited (MPCL) proposed the 7th dam to generate an additional power of 18 MW, but the dam will significantly add to the burden on the river, which has been dammed repeatedly to generate an excess of 1000 MW of electricity. In fact, the total power requirement of the Uttara Kannada district is only 17 MW. Yet, there are villages in Uttara Kannada that languish in darkness. Clearly, Uttara Kannada has already been producing a lot of power for the rest of the state at high costs to the rich forests of the district and the people who depend on the river and the forests for their livelihood. Besides, this power from MPCL will cost over 10 times the cost of hydel power produced by the state-run KPCL. The forest and ecological wealth of this area is invaluable for the people of Karnataka and needs to be protected from further destruction by adopting sound developmental and ecologically appropriate development policies. The increased power requirements of the state could be alleviated by vigorously exploring other alternatives, like improving the efficiency of the existing hydel plants on the Kali River and by constructing several micro-hydel and pico-hydel schemes that generate power at minimal costs with no submergence.

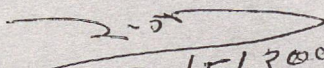
Construction of this new dam is also a significant violation of the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1987 notification issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests that no further forest could be destroyed anywhere in the Kali Valley after the construction of the Kodalalli and Kadra dams. In addition, the process of obtaining environmental clearances for the project has been fraudulent. The initial Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (REIA) by Ernst & Young was exposed to be a completely plagiarized version of the Tattihalla dam EIA proposed in Dharwar district. A second EIA generated by Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) was based on secondary and spurious data and not compliant with the requirements of a REIA. Based on the Statutory Environmental Public Hearing held in Dandeli on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2001, and the affidavit filed by Environment Support Group, the District Deputy Commissioner and Forest Officer recommended that the plans to build the dam should be abandoned.

Apart from being dammed, the Kali River is being polluted by the Dandeli Paper Mills which discharges large volumes of its untreated effluents into the Kali River. The once beautiful and clear river has been turned into an obnoxiously smelly cocktail gutter filled with industrial effluents. Repeated appeals by local communities and environmental groups to get this plant to clean up its act have had little support from the regulatory agencies. Note that the Kali Bachao Andolan is not demanding a closure of the Dandeli Paper Mills – which will affect the employees of the mill. Rather, the emphasis is on getting the mill to clean up its operations which will be of benefit to all, including the employees of the mill.

We, the undersigned demand that the Karnataka Government protect the Kali River by banning any further damming and by stopping its pollution. We support the aspirations of the people of Uttara Kannada who want the Kali flowing and alive with life. Not dammed, polluted and dead.

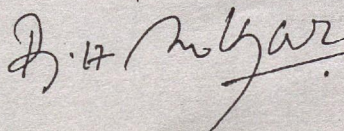
Sincerely,

1)

  
30/5/2003

RAJENDRA SINGH, TARUN BHARAT SANGH  
JAL BIRADRI

2)



R.H. Sawka  
secretary general  
Society

3)

S. Srinivasan

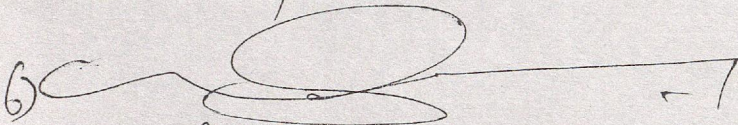
President  
Rain Water Harvesting, Exnora

S. Srinivasan

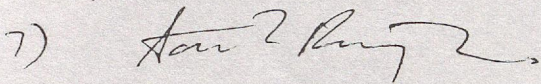
4) Surendra J. Metani

5) Pradeep K. Behera

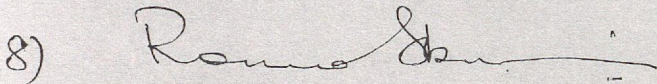
Secretary, ADARSA

6) 

(Sathramathi V.)

7) 

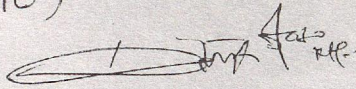
(ANANDA RAGHAVAN)

8) 

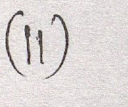
9) P. Gowri

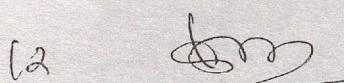
Member of Indian women's and children welfare Association.

10) NITYA



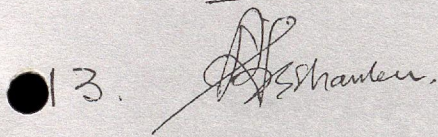
Student of TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
I year M.A. Social work  
urban and rural community development

(11)  (R. Elango) President, Kuthambakkam Panchayat

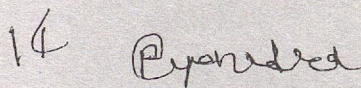
12)  K.R. Sridharan, RSS P Kerala

President 'Sahayaga'  
NGO to empower people in the management  
of Natural Resources

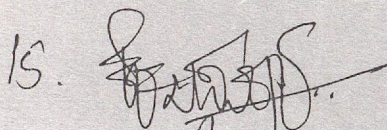
76. 7th main 4th cross, KSRTC Layout  
JP Nagar Phase II Bangalore - 78

13) 

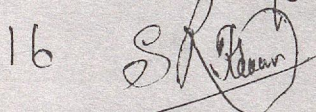
Pratibha - Pusad (M.S.)

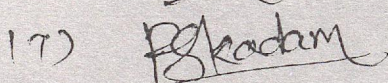
14) 

K.C. BASAVARAJU. K.R.R.S. Mysore

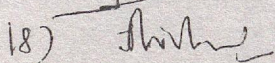
15) 

S.R. KANNAN THIRUKKUALAI 610004

16) 

17) 

Peduli Kadam MAHARASTRA -

18) 

J. RICHARD

No.	Signature	Name	Organization, (if any)
19	CHRISTIAN C	CHRISTIAN C	Tata Institute of Social Sciences Kethambakkam.
20	M. Hemavathi	M. Hemavathi	
21	T. THOMAS KECHERUP	T. THOMAS KECHERUP	OVFF - WFP. P. - 11000
22	Dr. N. N. PANICKER	Dr. N. N. PANICKER	Tatasa, Tiruvandur 615010
23	Sarala Panicker	Sarala Panicker	" "
24	Shetkey	Shetkey	IASA
25	Kanjil Sankaran	Kanjil	
26	Vinayaprasad	Vinayaprasad	
27	Satejaprasad	Satejaprasad	(USP) Sri Sarada Ashram.
28	D. V. S. RIDDHARAN	D. V. S. RIDDHARAN	Publisher, Goodnewsindia.com
29	P. Rajendra	P. Rajendra	M.S
30	C. Rameshchandra	C. Rameshchandra	Social Activist
31	J. R. Mishra	J. R. Mishra	Tanmukti Sangh, Varanasi
32	Manoj Rath	Manoj Rath	ADARSA, ORISSA
33	Kishori putra	Kishori putra	Thread, Khurda, ORISSA.
34	Sangeetha Sivan	Sangeetha Sivan	Thread, Khurda, ORISSA.
35	Subramanya Sastri	Subramanya Sastri	Volunteer, Environment Support Group, Bangalore
36	ANANTA CHIKKATUR	ANANTA CHIKKATUR	
37	Ajay	Ajay	ajay dndit@gmail.com

**List of endorsees of Kali Bachao Andolan and  
its the struggle to save the Kali River**

Rajendra Singh	President Rashtriya Jal Biradari KRRS, Mysore President, Sahayoga, Bangalore National Fishworkers Forum World Fisheries Forum National Alliance of People's Movement
K.C. Basavaraju Bhavanishankar Thomas Kocherry	President Kuthambakkam Panchayat KSSP, Kerala Secretary Geological Society, Bangalore
R. Elango	President Rain Water Harvesting, Exnora Publisher Goodnewsindia.com Janmukti Sangharsh Vahini Social Activist Sri Sarada Ashram Sri Sarada Ashram Secretary ADARSA, Orissa ADARSA, Orissa THREAD Khurda, Orissa THREAD Khurda, Orissa
K.K. Sasidharan R.H. Sowkar	Environment Support Group, Bangalore Asha for Education--MIT and Environment Support Group, Bangalore Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Student TISS Member Indian Women's and Children Welfare Association Mysore Association for India's Development, Bangalore
S. Srinivasan	CISED, Bangalore Chartered Engineer and Valuer, Chairman of Kanara Institute of Development Studies Trust (Kids Trust), Dandeli Designer, Nagpur Hazards Centre, New Delhi Senior Design Engineer Agere Systems India, Bangalore Asha for Education, Bangalore HID Forum, Bangalore Samanvaya, Chennai SPARK, Bangalore Save Bombay Committee, Mumbai Nagpur Intel Corporation Santa Clara, USA.
D.V. Sridharan	
Gyanendra Verma C. Ramachandra Sahejaprana Vivekaprana Pradeep Ku. Behera	
J.R. Mishra Manoj Rath	
Kishori Putu	
Subramanya Sastry Ananth Chikkatur	
Christian C Nitya P. Gowri Major General S.G. Vombatkere (Retd.) Nagini Prasad Raghuram Bindignavle Josephine Joseph Hemanta Ramachandra Naik	
Vaibhav Kaley Dunu Roy Ramesh Mehta Satish Kumar V Anuradha Prasad Ram Thanveer Kumar Kisan Mehta Neeta Deshpande Aniruddha Vaidya PhD	

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Kuthambakkam

Trivandrum

Trivandrum

Maharashtra

Chennai

Pusad

Thirukkuvilai

Bangalore

Bangalore

Expressions of solidarity

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Kasbekar Durgesh

V.B.Rawat

Therese Meera Varickamackel