



Gram Panchayat Hakkotaya Andolana Press Release  
Karnataka (26/2/2018)

**Gram Panchayat representatives assert their right to self governance and for the implementation of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act 2016, during the symposium 'Gram Swaraj Chinthana Manthana' (February 23-24, Manipal)**

**ಸ್ಪೂರ್ತಿದಾತರು:**

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಲ್.ಸಿ.ಜೈನ್,

ಮಾಜಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಆಯೋಗ ಮತ್ತು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾದ ಮಾಜಿ ಭಾರತೀಯ ರಾಯಭಾರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಮನು ಕುಲಕರ್ಣಿ, ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ಹಿರಿಯ ಫೆಲೋ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

**ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರು:**

ಡಾ. ವಿನೋದ್ ವ್ಯಾಸುಲು,

ವಿಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಣ ಚಿಂತಕರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಚಿರಂಜೀವ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು,

ಮಾಜಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷಿ ಸುಂದರಂ, ಮಾಜಿ

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂತ್ರಾಲಯ, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ರಘುನಂದನ್ ರಾಘವನ್,

ಮಾಜಿ ಜಂಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಮಂತ್ರಾಲಯ ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

ಶ್ರೀ. ಮಹಿಮಾ ಪಟೇಲ್

ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿ, ಜಿ.ಹೆಚ್. ಪಟೇಲ್ ಫೌಂಡೇಶನ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಮೈಕೆಲ್ ಫೆರ್ನಾಂಡಿಸ್

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಮುಖಂಡರು

ಶ್ರೀ ವಿನಯ್ ಬೈಂದೂರು

ಸಂಶೋಧಕರು, ವಿಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಣ

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ನಂದನಾ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ

ಸಂಚಾಲಕರು

**ಸಂಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮಿತಿ:**

ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯ ವೇದಿಕೆ

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಮಾಜ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ದಿ ಕನ್ಸನ್ಸ್ ಫಾರ್ ವರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಚಿಲ್ಡ್ರನ್

ಸುಗ್ರಾಮ

ಜಿ.ಹೆಚ್.ಪಟೇಲ್ ಫೌಂಡೇಶನ್

**ಸಂಯೋಜಕರು:**

ದಿ ಕನ್ಸನ್ಸ್ ಫಾರ್ ವರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಚಿಲ್ಡ್ರನ್

303/2, ಲಾಲ್ ಬಹದ್ದೂರ್ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ ನಗರ ವಿಮಾನಪುರ ಅಂಚೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 017

ಫೋನ್: 080-25234270, 25234272,

25234611

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: [cwc@pobox.com](mailto:cwc@pobox.com)

[cwcbir@gmail.com](mailto:cwcbir@gmail.com)

ವೆಬ್:

[www.theconcernedforworkingchildren.org](http://www.theconcernedforworkingchildren.org)

**“The State must transfer all the Gram Panchayat Funds – which are our entitlements. (According to the Grama Swaraj Act) These amounts up to crores of rupees which are presently held up in the Escrow account and denied to the citizens. They should be transferred with immediate effect to the respective grama panchayats. ESCROW account should be closed down within 10 days; if not, the state government will face a collective protest by all Gram Panchayats throughout the state”** This was the ultimatum issued to the State Government that emerged from the two day symposium ‘Gram Swaraj Chinthana’, organised by the Gram Panchayat Hakkotaya Andolana ( of which the Concerned for Working Children is the secretariat ), and Kundapur Taluk Panchayat Raj Ookoota.

In addition to the demand related to Escrow Accounts, the key demands are: Complete and holistic implementation of the Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act 2016, to its true spirit b) Further Amendments to the Act to include the omissions of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Amendment Committee Recommendations c) Discussions on the further strengthening of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. (Full list attached).

These were endorsed by the 25 MCL’s Collective representing the Local Self Government constituency, Grama Panchayat Hakkotatya Andolana, the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Parishat, organisations such as Action Aid, BREADS, Equations and Sugrama.

The symposium saw the participation of around 200 and 250 members including elected representatives of Panchayats from different districts of Karnataka; concerned authorities; civil society organizations working in the field of local governance; and representatives of Children’s Sanghas.

Panellists included Sri Meenakshi Sundaram (Former Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and Government of Karnataka); Smt. Nandana Reddy ( Member of Panchayat Raj Amendment Act drafting committee, Convenor –Gram Panchayat Hakkotaya Andolana); Sri. S.M.Vijayanand (Former Chief Secretary, Kerala State Government); Sri P.P. Balan ( Former Director- Kerala Institute of Local Administration; advisor to Government of Bhutan ); Sri Damodar Acharya ( Co-convenor, Gram Panchayat Hakkotaya Andolana ); Sri Krishna Kottaya (Coordinator, Poornaprajna Research and Development Centre, Udupi); and Sri T.B.Shetty (Member of Panchayat Raj Act Amendment Committee, Legal Advisory member of Gram Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana).

ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ತಾಣ: [www.gpha.weebly.com](http://www.gpha.weebly.com)

Discussions highlighted Karnataka's role as pioneer in Panchayat Raj in the country. Sri Meenakshi Sundaram presented the political context in which the 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into being and raised few points for consideration in relation to further amendments to the Act. Smt Nandana Reddy presented the salient points related to the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act 2016 which upholds the true spirit of the 73rd Amendment and mentioned major highlights of the present Act which include autonomy, mandate and accountability of the local self governments, the participation of the constituency with an emphasis on the most marginalized, the provisions for Habitation Sabhas and Special Gram Sabhas for vulnerable sections; the finality of decisions taken during Gram Sabhas; priority ranking tools and mechanism to identify beneficiaries ; mechanisms to hold elected representatives accountable. She elaborated on the 'Responsibility map' referred to in the Act that provides clarity regarding the responsibility to the three tiers of local governments based on the Principle of Subsidiarity. Lack of political will in operationalising the Act came under severe criticism.

Sri Vijayanand shared the Kerala Model of Local Governance. He pointed to the large size of the Gram Panchayats in Kerala, which allows them to have several institutions under them; and the independence and non hierarchy of Gram, Taluk and Zilla Panchayat. Sri P.P.Balan spoke about the experiences of local governance in Bhutan and attributed the high Gross National Happiness Index to the pivotal role played by Local Governments.

Sri. K. C Kondiah, the Chair person of the MLC's Collective representing the Local Self Government Constituency and two other members of the same, MLC s Sri Kota Srinavas Poojary, Sri K. Pratapchandra Shetty extended their support to all the demands from the participants. Sri C Narayana Swamy expressed the solidarity of the Panchayat Raj Parishat. Dr K. Gireesan (of Rajeev Gandhi Institute and Youth Development) and Dr. Jos Chathukulam (Institute of Social and Economic Change) in addition to lending their solidarity to the movement and the recommendation , asserted that the hierarchy between the various tiers of local governments should be done away with and raised the need to keep the collective struggle alive so that the powers of local elected representatives are not usurped by officials or members of the state or central legislature.

Gram Panchayat Hakkotaya Andolana

For Further Details Contact –  
Kripa - 9945375430  
Kavita- 9448990480