

Karnataka Rajya Amritmahal Kaval Hitarakshana Samiti, Chikkamagaluru,  
Karnataka Invites you to –

## Amritmahal

### A Public Discussion on Land, Water, Livestock, People and the Commons

23 Nov, 10.30am – 5.30pm, Gandhi Bhavana, Bangalore

Amritmahal Kavals are traditional grazing pastures in the Deccan Plains of Karnataka. These common lands are rooted in a culture that encompasses the land, water, livestock, and people of the landscape. Thousands of communities that practise animal husbandry, especially sheep rearing for their livelihoods have depended on these Kavals. Among them, Dalits and nomadic tribes are especially dependent on these lands. The lives, cultures, occupation and animal husbandry practices of these communities are tightly interlinked with the biodiversity of the Kavals. Due to the deep sense of ownership and belongingness, these dependent communities believe that protecting these lands is their tradition. Consequently, these grazing lands have also been home to several unique and endangered flora and fauna.

Ignoring these facts, the State has gone amok in diverting these lands in the name of development. Amritmahal Kavals, which have served as common lands are therefore, now fast disappearing. These diversions to the industries are taking place without the consent of the communities that have depended, nurtured and protected the Kavals. However, this authoritarian culture has been a subject of debate, discussion and even dissent among the affected people and concerned citizens. Given these circumstances, there is need for deliberation on these unique common lands, their importance and current conditions, livelihoods of dependent communities, the future of livestock rearing and the need for legal battles, grassroots movements. This event is a step towards informing public opinion through conversations and debates by progressive thinkers and decision-makers.

**Venue:** Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Park East, Seshadripuram, Bangalore

#### Programme Schedule

**Welcome:** 11am

#### **Introduction**

*Manohar Patel*

#### **Amritmahal: Awareness and Conservation**

Presided by: *Dr Banjagere Jayaprakash, Writer*

- **Biodiversity of Amritmahal Kaval and associated indigenous knowledge systems**  
*Jahnvi G Pai, Researcher*
- **Importance of commons for Rural Economics.**  
*Dr Raghupathi, Expert on Livestock Rearing*
- **Importance of Kavals and native breeds of livestock for food security**  
*Dr. G N S Reddy, Environmental and Livestock Expert*
- **Rights of the AHINDA communities and environmental movements**  
*Leo Saldanha, Environmental Activist*

**Lunch: 1.00pm – 1.30pm**

**Common Lands, Development and National Interest: Pro-people culture versus an Anti-people state**

Presided by: *Dr. Sridhar*

- **On Commons Administration**  
*Nilakanta swamy Kurubar, Nomadic Sheperds Collective and, Sheperd*
- **Neoliberal State Policies**  
*Bhargavi S Rao, Environment Support Group*
- **The Race to destruction in the name of development**  
*Dr. C. S. Dwarkanath, Ex-Chairman of Backward Classes Commission*
- *Jayalakshmi, Activist*

**Vote of Thanks:** Rajya Amritmahal Mahal Kaval Horata Samiti

**Karnataka State Amritmahal Kaval Hitarakashana Samiti, Chikkamagalur**

**Member organizations:** Karnataka Rajya Alemaari Kurigaahigala Sangha, Chitradurga; Karnataka Rajya Kriyasheela Jaatigala Okkuta, Tumkur; Janadani Sanghatane, Chikkamagaluru; Neeravari Horata Samiti, Chitradurga; Environment Support Group, Bangalore; Alternative Law forum, Bangalore; Kyathanabeedu Prathishtaana, Chikkamagaluur; Maithreya Adhyayana matthu Parisara Kendra, Tiptur; Wildlife Aware Nature Club, Tumkur; Sanchalana, Chikkanayakana Halli; Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene, Tumkur, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga and Hassan; District Science Centres, Hassan and Tumkur; Traditional Healers Association, Chitradurga, Chikmagalur, Hassan and Tumkur; Vanamitra, Bangalore; Chitradurga Indigenous Communities and Scheduled Tribes Collectives; Environmental Researchers and Activists.

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