



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 28TH DAY OF JUNE, 2024

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR. N. V. ANJARIA, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K V ARAVIND

WRIT PETITION NO. 4962 OF 2024 (GM-RES-PIL)



BETWEEN:

1. SRI GURUNATH VADDE
S/O VAJINATH VADDE
AGED ABOUT 56 YEARS
SOCIAL WORKER
R/O JANASEVA ASHRAMA
BHAVANI, BIJALAGAON – 585 443
KAMALANAGAR TALUK
BIDAR DISTRICT

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI J. R. MOHAN, ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
REP. BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF KANNADA AND CULTURE
M.S. BUILDINGS
DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI,
BENGALURU - 560 001
2. THE KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA
M.S. BUILDINGS
DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI,
BENGALURU - 560 001

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SMT. NILOUFER AKBAR, AGA FOR RESPONDENT NO.1)





THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO ISSUE A WRIT IN THE NATURE OF MANDAMUS, DIRECTING THE RESPONDENT NO. 2 TO USE KANNADA LANGUAGE IN ALL ITS DAY-TO-DAY OFFICE WORKS WHILE PASSING ORDERS, ISSUANCE OF NOTICES, ENDORSEMENTS, ETC., BY CONSIDERING THE REPRESENTATIONS DATED 17.01.2024 SUBMITTED BY THE PETITIONER VIDE ANNEXURES-C, C1 AND C2 AND ETC.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, THIS DAY, **CHIEF JUSTICE** MADE THE FOLLOWING:

ORDER

The present public interest petition seeks a prayer, whereby the petitioner wants that at all levels, in all correspondences in the Government, there should be use of Kannada language.

2. Asserting the case, learned advocate for the petitioner submitted that in rural areas, it is only Kannada language which is understood by the people.

3. There is no gainsaying, as was rightly submitted by learned Additional Government Advocate Ms. Niloufer Akbar, that there has been extensive use of Kannada language in the Governmental affairs, correspondences and other communications.

4. As to which language should be used in the Governmental affairs is essentially a matter of policy, convenience and realism.



While Kannada which is a local language in the State has to be promoted and to be given importance, that itself will not justify entertaining the present public interest petition by directing positively the State Government and its authorities to use Kannada language.

5. At the same time, wherever it is necessary, the use of English language in addition to Kannada language cannot be disbanded. The judicial pronouncements, the law reports, statute books and important notifications and out-state or overseas correspondence with the State authorities are all in English language. There should be requisite blend of local language and global language in running the Government affairs.

5.1 The Kannada language may be endeared, at the same time utility of English language should not be overlooked or discarded. The English is an official language for use in the High Court under the Constitution. There can be no universal formula as to one language should only be used in the Governmental affairs.

6. At local levels, however, it is hoped that the Government and the officers as far as possible, may use, promote and give



prominence to the local Kannada language to subserve the culture and the people of Karnataka. It cannot be, but, a universal phenomenon.

7. With the above observations, the petition is dismissed.

**Sd/-
CHIEF JUSTICE**

**Sd/-
JUDGE**