Karnataka's Kannada Flag May Get Official State Status

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Why in News?

Karnataka Chief Minister has announced plans to grant official state flag status to the yellow-and-red Kannada flag.



- The proposal is scheduled for discussion during the upcoming winter session of the Karnataka Legislature at Belagavi.
- The government is reviewing legal provisions to ensure that the Kannada flag may be hoisted alongside the National Flag without compromising its dignity

Kannada Flag

- **Flag colours** – Yellow and Red.
- The flag symbolises Kannada identity, culture, and regional sentiments.
- The government has proposed the following measures:
  - Seek official recognition for the flag from the Union Government.
  - Facilitate the hoisting of the flag at government offices and the Vidhana Soudha.
  - Consider making the display of the flag mandatory in institutions that receive government support.
  - Encourage private establishments to hoist the flag.

- **Previous developments:**
  - In 2018, the Siddaramaiah government proposed a redesigned Karnataka state flag and sought recognition from the Centre.
  - The present government intends to retain the widely used plain yellow-and-red flag instead of introducing the earlier redesigned version.
  - An earlier Cabinet resolution and proposal were submitted to the Union Government, but recognition is still awaited.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

- **Fundamental Duties - Article 51A(a) –** Every citizen must abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- **Freedom of Speech and Expression - Article 19(1)(a)**
  - Guarantees freedom of speech and expression.
  - This provision is particularly pertinent to debates regarding the articulation of linguistic and cultural identity.
- **Flag Code of India, 2002**
  - Regulates the display, hoisting and use of the National Flag.
  - Any proposed arrangements for a state flag must adhere to the established regulations governing the use of the National Flag.
- **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971** - Provides legal protection against specified forms of insult to the National Flag, Constitution and National Anthem.

Other Karnataka Government Initiatives
Reservation for Kannadigas • The government is considering implementing a 5% job reservation for Kannadigas in multinational companies (MNCs) operating within Karnataka. • The proposed objective is to enhance employment opportunities for local residents. **Kannada-Medium Aided Schools** • There is a demand to extend grant-in-aid benefits to Kannada-medium aided schools established after 1995. • The proposed grants are intended to primarily cover the following: - Teachers' salaries. - Government funding for sanctioned teaching posts. **Gram Anubhava** • This initiative was launched by the Chief Minister of Karnataka. • The program aims to provide urban school students with exposure to rural life. • It is targeted at students in Classes 8, 9, and 11. **Kannada Book Promotion** • Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara has announced a 50% discount on its publications. • The discount is available from 1 to 30 November.

Reference

[Indian Express | Kannada Flag May Get Official State Recognition]



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