## H.H. SRI VISHVESHA TIRTHA SWAMIJI

SRI PEJAVARA ADHOKSHAJA MATHA JAGADGURU SRI MADHWACHARYA MAHA SAMSTHANA UDUPI - 576 101, Karnataka

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## श्री श्री विश्वेजतीर्थश्रीपादाः

श्री पेजावराधोक्षज मठः जगद्रुरु श्रीमध्याचार्यमहासंस्थानम् उडुपि - ५७६ १०१, कर्णाटक.

Date : 05 07 13

To,
Sri Vijay Bahuguna,
Chief Minister,
Government of Uttarakhand

## Subject: Re-instating Dhari Devi in the aftermath of Uttarakhand Floods

Dear Sri Vijay Bahuguna-ji,

I am writing this letter with deep sense of sorrow in the context of recent floods in Uttarakhand.

As you may be aware Sri Gyan Swaroop Sanand Swamiji (formerly Prof G. D. Agrawal) is on Gangatapasya, (fast onto death) since June 13<sup>th</sup> at Matrisadan, Haridwar demanding stoppage of upliftment of Dhari Devi at Srinagar and suspensions of all hydropower projects on Ganga and its tributaries. I had also called a joint press conference with Sri Rajendra Singh in Bangalore on the same day, in which I had expressed my support to the cause of Sri Sanand Swamiji.

However, on the 16th of June the holy stone in the temple of Dhari Devi near Srinagar has been uplifted from its original location to pave the way for the Srinagar hydropower project. It is difficult to believe that the cloud burst and flash floods on the same day minutes after the upliftment are not a result of divine co-incidence. The locals at Srinagar believe the upliftment of Dhari Devi is one of the key reasons for this devastation. Therefore I urge you to take necessary steps to re-instate the idol at the same position.

Secondly, the environmentalists and the locals in Uttarakhand are convinced beyond doubt that the developmental activities happening in the river bed and the fragile mountain ranges, especially for the hundreds of power projects, have contributed significantly for the damage caused by floods. Therefore, it is required to review all projects and do a scientific analysis to assess the cumulative impact on spirituality, ecology and geology against the stated claims for development.

On behalf of every Indian, who considers Ganga as the soul of India, I urge to re-instate the Dhari Devi idol in its original position and to suspend all hydro-electric, tunnel, canal dam and barrage projects till a comprehensive analysis is done.

I am hopeful that you will not disappoint me and the crores of Ganga devotees across India.

इत्यनेकनारायणस्मरणानि

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