

Dear Prime Minister,

We urge you to heed the call of the community and take immediate steps to free the Ganga from bondage. In particular, we demand that the following urgent action is taken to protect this iconic river, including:

- Permanently ceasing hydroelectric damming of the Ganga;
- Declaring the upper reaches of the Ganga and prohibiting any development which could adversely affect the environment of this eco-fragile region;
- Implement proper and immediate measures to clean up the river further downstream;
- Prohibit industrial and domestic pollution of the Ganga (including initiating prosecutions and shutting down or relocating offending industries);
- Banning polythene in all places of spiritual pilgrimage;
- Restricting visitors and vehicular traffic at sacred sites upstream; and
- Prohibiting any environmentally unsound development or encroachments along the riverbank.