NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE TRUST
(Public Welfare • Justice • Development)
(A Social Institution Established under Central Act No. 2 of 1882)
Establishment No. – 212/IV/2026
Office : 670, Model Colony, Ranipur Mod, Haridwar (Uttarakhand) 249407
Email : npst.india@gmail.com
Phone : 7895591519

Ref. No. NPST/121/2026 Dated - 25.09.2026

1- The Secretary, Department of Tourism,
Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun
Email : garbyal.dhiraj@ias.nic.in

2- The Member Secretary,
Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board, Dehradun
Email : msukpcb@yahoo.com

3- The Chief Executive Officer,
Shri Badrinath–Kedarnath Temple Committee
Email : support-ucdb@uk.gov.in

Subject: Urgent representation seeking inquiry into the high-decibel DJ/music event at Shri Badrinath Dham and formulation of a binding SOP for all four Char Dhams to prevent commercialization of sacred precincts, noise pollution, ecological hazards and activities prejudicial to their religious sanctity and fragile Himalayan ecology.

Sir,

National Public Service Trust is a public welfare institution working in the fields of public interest, environmental protection, access to justice, transparency, legal and administrative reforms, preservation of constitutional and cultural values and accountable governance, and regularly takes up matters of wider public importance before competent governmental, statutory and judicial authorities.

The Trust seeks immediate intervention concerning the Devbhoomi Cultural Festival reportedly held on 19–20 September 2026 at the Arrival Plaza, Shri Badrinath Dham. As reported in Amar Ujala dated 25.09.2026, objections were raised regarding the nature of the programme and preservation of the

religious dignity of the Dham. The media report records that the event was organised at the Badrinath Arrival Plaza and that questions were raised regarding the appropriateness of conducting such activities at the sacred shrine. It further records the Chamoli district administration's position that departmental stalls had been installed by the administration, while according to the officials quoted in the media report, the cultural event itself was organised by the Army.

Shri Badrinath Dham cannot be reduced to an ordinary tourism, entertainment or commercial-event destination. Any attempt by the State or its instrumentalities to permit, facilitate or associate themselves with high-decibel DJ/music or entertainment-oriented events in the sacred precincts, if undertaken contrary to applicable norms and without adequate regard to the religious character of the Dham, creates a legitimate apprehension of gradual commercialisation and entertainment-oriented transformation of a sacred pilgrimage landscape. Such a precedent cannot be permitted to become an administrative practice. Crores of devotees in India and across the world repose profound and utmost faith in the Char Dhams and Devbhoomi Uttarakhand, and the reported event has caused serious concern and hurt among devotees regarding the preservation of the sacred, spiritual and traditional character of Shri Badrinath Dham.

The controversy is therefore not confined to one programme. Shri Badrinath, Shri Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri are sacred Himalayan pilgrimage landscapes, and high-decibel DJs, subwoofers, amplified entertainment and similar activities within their sacred precincts raise substantial concerns regarding religious sanctity, noise pollution, ecological sensitivity, wildlife disturbance, carrying capacity and disaster-management preparedness. The authorities must disclose who granted the relevant permissions, what noise limits were imposed, whether decibel levels were monitored, whether the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board was consulted and whether any environmental, wildlife or disaster-risk assessment preceded the event.

The Char Dhams are situated in a fragile high-Himalayan ecosystem. Excessive anthropogenic noise, crowd concentration, vehicular movement, generators, artificial lighting, temporary infrastructure and waste can collectively create ecological pressures. Potential effects upon noise-sensitive fauna and the surrounding high-altitude, snow/glacial and geological environment require assessment by competent scientific institutions. Such

effects should not be presumed without scientific evidence, but absence of prior scientific assessment cannot be treated as permission to expose an ecologically sensitive sacred landscape to avoidable risk.

The Trust therefore requests that **(i)** a time-bound inquiry be instituted into the Badrinath event, examining the complete permission/NOC file, responsible authorities, sound permissions, prescribed/recorded decibel levels and environmental/disaster-management safeguards; **(ii)** all relevant files, correspondence, CCTV/video footage and monitoring records be immediately preserved; **(iii)** responsibility be fixed wherever statutory or administrative violation is established; **(iv)** the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board conduct a comprehensive Noise & Ecological Audit of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri and establish periodic/real-time noise monitoring; and **(v)** pending a permanent framework, high-decibel DJ/subwoofer/concert-style entertainment activities be restricted within the sacred precincts of all four Dhams permanently.

Most importantly, the State Government, in consultation with UKPCB, Disaster Management authorities, environmental/wildlife and geological experts, temple committees and concerned district administrations, may immediately formulate and notify a binding **"Char Dham Environmental, Acoustic & Sacred Precinct Protection SOP"**, providing for Silence/Acoustic Conservation Zones; prohibition/regulation of high-decibel DJs, subwoofers and commercial entertainment; enforceable decibel limits; environmental and disaster-risk assessment; wildlife, crowd/carrying-capacity, traffic and waste safeguards; and a transparent permission, inspection, enforcement and officer-accountability mechanism. Immediate institutional intervention is necessary so that the Badrinath incident does not become a precedent for recurring commercial or entertainment-oriented activities at the Char Dhams. The sacred character of Devbhoomi and the faith attached to its Dhams require preventive protection, not corrective assurances after each controversy. The matter may therefore be treated as MOST URGENT, appropriate interim directions issued forthwith, and a reasoned Action Taken Report communicated to the Trust at the earliest.

Regards,
Krishnakant
(Chairman)

Enclosed (copy of): Media Reports.

AMAR UJALA (UTTARAKHAND) DATED 25.09.2026

अमर उजाला 25.09.2026

बदरीनाथ धाम में सेना के महोत्सव पर उठ रहे सवाल

धाम की धार्मिक गरिमा भंग करने का आरोप लगाया

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

गोपेश्वर। बदरीनाथ धाम के अराइवल प्लाजा परिसर में 19 और 20 सितंबर को सेना ने देवभूमि सांस्कृतिक महोत्सव का आयोजन किया। सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों के स्वरूप को लेकर स्थानीय लोगों और विभिन्न संगठनों ने विरोध जताया है। उन्होंने बदरीनाथ धाम की धार्मिक गरिमा का ध्यान रखने की मांग की।

माणा गांव के पूर्व ग्राम प्रधान पीतांबर मोल्फा ने कहा कि महोत्सव माणा गांव में होना चाहिए था। सेना ने इसे बदरीनाथ धाम में आयोजित किया, जो अनुचित है। बजरंग दल के संयोजक रवि झिंक्वाण ने ऐसे कार्यक्रमों पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध की मांग की। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि कार्यक्रम के दौरान धाम की धार्मिक गरिमा का ध्यान नहीं रखा गया। बदरीनाथ धाम सनातन धर्म का प्रमुख तीर्थस्थल है।

यहां धार्मिक परंपराओं के अनुरूप ही गतिविधियां होनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कपाट बंद होने के बावजूद कार्यक्रम आयोजित करने को अनुचित बताया। धाम को योग और ध्यान की भूमि बताते हुए डीजे के साथ कार्यक्रम पर आपत्ति जताई।

प्रशासन ने पल्ला झाड़ा

चमोली जिला प्रशासन ने कार्यक्रम में विभागीय स्टॉल लगाए थे लेकिन प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों का कहना है कि सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन सेना की ओर से किया गया था। प्रशासन की भूमिका केवल स्टॉल लगाने तक सीमित थी।