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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Public Appeal:**

I am the legal counsel for Smt. Sujatha Bhat, the mother of Miss Ananya Bhat, the first year MBBS student who disappeared while she went to the Dharmasthala temple. The Hon'ble Government of Karnataka has set up a Special Investigative Team (SIT) to probe the Dharmasthala mass burials case and has entrusted the SIT to also probe the case of Smt. Sujatha Bhat and similar cases that may arise in the future.

Since the SIT was constituted, I have received a few calls from the relatives of individuals who allege horrible experiences and tragedies at Dharmasthala and want to file police complaints but are uncomfortable with complaining to their local police stations.

Therefore, I request the Government to set up a 'Helpline' for the already constituted SIT and to publicize the same. Further, I request that the Government duly notify the SIT's office itself as a 'police station' for the purpose of receiving future complains. We are aware that in cases where the SIT acts as a 'police station' but is itself not notified as a 'police station', the accused exploit it and seek stays from courts of law.

**Sincerely**

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