



# GLOBAL KASHMIRI PANDIT DIASPORA

AN INITIATIVE TO RECOGNIZE KP GENOCIDE AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Chairman**

Dr. K.L.Chowdhury

**GKPD – India**

Mr. Utpal Kaul

**GKPD – USA**

Dr. Rabinder Kaul

**GKPD – Canada**

Mr. Vidya Bushan Dhar

**GKPD – Australia**

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Mr. Veer Khar

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Mr. Ajay Chowdhary

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Dr. Shafalica Bhan Kotwal

**GKPD – Thailand**

Mr. D.K. Bakshi

**Treasurer**

Mr. Suneel Kaul (NZ)

**Press Release: Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora hails Prime Minister Modi's Government order empowering Kashmiri Pandit community to obtain J&K UT Domicile certificate post removal of Art 370.**

**Terms it as an important first step for restorative justice for Kashmiri Pandit Genocide.**

The Non-Discriminatory Order recognizes the inalienable, residency rights of the Kashmiri Pandits in the face of their ethnic cleansing leading to their internal displacement and migration to lands where other governments hold sway.

Utpal Kaul, GKPD India Head, stated, *'What is noteworthy is the prompt response of the GOI to the concerns that the Kashmiri Pandit community leaders had raised. What is gratifying is that the order has given the lie to those misguided Kashmiri politicians who labelled Kashmiri Pandits as pariahs in the eyes of the State and its governance. The Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora records its deepest appreciation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah Minister of Home Affairs along with Lieutenant Governor G. C. Murmu.'*

The order grandfathered the Kashmiri Pandit diaspora with the right of domicile in Kashmir if one can demonstrate that one's residency roots in Kashmir are as far back as 1944 and thereafter. It gives equal rights to descendants of male or female Kashmiri Pandits. There is no anti-female bias as has been the trendline in fanatical circles in Kashmir. It gives applicants one year to register for domicile status. It provides for flexibility to suit the individual circumstances in terms of the needed documentation. Best of all it provides for a stiff penalty if any officer does not issue the certificate within a period of seven days of grant of appeal.

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Mr. Bimal Jad, Legal counsel GKPD, stated, *'The GOI has taken a progressive step which will bring Kashmir's historical diversity and inclusivity back to the Valley. Any attempt to oppose this order will be tantamount to aiding and abetting genocide. By the same token, the Kashmiri Pandits look forward to all right-minded civil society members joining hands with them.'*

GKPD also welcomes in equal terms the granting of domicile status to POJK refugees and Valmiki Samaj who were denied these rights for last 72 years.

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