



GLOBAL KASHMIRI PANDIT DIASPORA

AN INITIATIVE TO RECOGNIZE KP GENOCIDE AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

17th August 2019

Press Release: Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora

Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) invited the global envoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale to a meeting with community members of Houston on August 17th 2019. Dr. Chauthaiwale is the head of BJP's Foreign Affairs Department and supervises Prime Ministers overseas engagements. He is visiting from India and coordinating Prime Ministers upcoming visit to Houston. All heads of KP community organizations from India and all over globe were connected to this meeting by teleconference. In addition community members from all over the globe (U.K, Germany, Singapore, India, and U.S.A) also joined the conference call.

Surinder Kaul International coordinator of GKPD opened the meeting by thanking Vijay Chauthaiwale for taking time out from his busy schedule to address the Kashmiri Pandit community. He said that it was time to celebrate the power and diversity of our great nation. The participants paid their respect to the 'Matrebhoomi' by standing up to a rendition of Vande Mataram.

Vijay Chauthaiwale was then welcomed by the local community members in traditional Kashmiri Pandit style.

Chairman

Dr. K. L. Chowdhury

GKPD - India

Prof. Renuka Dhar

GKPD - USA

Dr. Rabinder Kaul

GKPD - Canada

Mr. Vidya Bushan Dhar

GKPD - Australia

Mr. Ash Raina

GKPD - Europe

Mr. Veer Kaul

GKPD - New Zealand

Mr. Veer Khar

GKPD - Germany

Mr. Deepak Koul

GKPD - UK

Dr. Shafalica Bhan Kotwal

TREASURER

Mr. Suneel Kaul (NZ)

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On behalf of the local community, Veena Ambardar and Ashok Moza from Houston thanked Modi Ji and his team for abrogation of article 370. Veena Ambardar said that in addition to paving the way for major infrastructural developments in Kashmir, this move had also instilled a ray of hope in the Kashmiri Pandit community that they will be able to reclaim our homeland. Ashok Moza felicitated Vijay Chauthaiwale and said that for the first time the community is hopeful that they we will be able to restore our lost traditions and cultural heritage. He reflected on how grave the situation in Kashmir was before the abrogation of the article 370 because of ongoing scams and corrupt practices.

Surinder Kaul spoke about the history of GKPD and its achievements over the past 10 years. GKPD had succeeded in bringing all major community organisations across the globe on one platform in the spirit of 'one community one voice'. He thanked the heads of the KP organizations who had joined the conference call for their contributions towards the community betterment. Going forward GKPD aims to focus on challenging the separatist narrative at the United Nations. He discussed the challenges facing the community in terms of cultural religious and social extermination unless concrete steps are taken immediately.

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In his address to the community Vijay Chauthaiwale said he was privileged to be part of the community celebrations and could feel the joy, positive vibrations and excitement in the community following the recent transformational changes in India. The abrogation of article 370 was a historic moment at par with the events around August 1947. It was the result of the strong ideological commitment, will to execute, emotional involvement, strategic implementation and focussed techniques to execute the strategy that our visionary Prime Minister and his team had shown. He expressed his satisfaction that after being thrown out of their homeland Kashmiri Pandits can now go back with dignity and their held high. He paid tribute to the visionary leadership of Late Shyama Prasad Mukherji. The role played by Arun Jaitley who worked tirelessly on the legal aspects of the article was also noted.

However, he said this is just the beginning and the global diaspora needs to now focus on the strategy going forward to maximise the advantages. He talked about the narrative taking hold globally against the abrogation of the article which needs to be tackled at all levels, especially at the level of social media. GKPD needs to continue playing an important role in increasing awareness globally of the benefits that abrogation of article 370 will bring to the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the country as a whole.

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He said Kashmiri Pandits are legitimate stakeholders in Kashmir and the Government of India is willing to listen to their views and committed to resolve the situation to their satisfaction.

Surinder Kaul thanked Vijay Chauthaiwale for his support and reiterated the aspirations of the community around single township for rehabilitation and preservation of temples and historical monuments.

To conclude the meeting the attendees sang the national anthem with the tricolour in their hands.

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