



GLOBAL KASHMIRI PANDIT DIASPORA

AN INITIATIVE TO RECOGNIZE KP GENOCIDE AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

8th Feb 2020

Press Release – GKPD hails PM Narendra Modi’s and Finance Minister Nirmal Sitharaman’s statements in Indian Parliament on Kashmiri Pandits’ genocide

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Mr. D.K. Bakshi

Treasurer

Mr. Suneel Kaul (NZ)

Global Kashmiri Pandits Diaspora (GKPD) offers its heartfelt gratitude to honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi ji for his historic statement in parliament on 5th Feb 2020, about Jammu and Kashmir’s identity being ‘buried on 19th January 1990.

January 19 is commemorated worldwide by Kashmiri Pandits as exodus day when the entire population of Kashmiri Pandits was forced to flee, almost overnight, their homeland of generations following a targeted campaign of murders, rapes, destruction of properties and ethnic extermination. National human rights commission of India has reported this as being akin to genocide.

Honorable Modi ji also stated that the incumbent state government, in addition to allowing terrorism to fester, allowed the situation to worsen into one where unconstitutional land grabbing became the norm. There is overriding evidence that over the last 30 years the property rights of lakhs of Kashmiri Pandits have been systematically eroded leading to a genocide and loss of the tune of US 35 billion dollars. Land, houses, temples and shrines belonging to the minority Kashmiri Pandit (Hindu) community have been illegally taken over.

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Global Kashmiri Pandits Diaspora (GKPD) was honored to meet Prime Minister Modi ji at the 'Howdy Modi' event in Houston in September 2019. At that meeting Modi ji acknowledge the sufferings of the community and promised to 'build a new Kashmir with everyone moving ahead together'. Recognition of the exodus day in the Indian Parliament is seen by the community as a step towards restoration of justice and rehabilitation that has been the community's demand for over three decades now.

We would also like to thank Nirmala Sitharaman, the honorable Finance Minister of India, who, in flawless Kashmiri, quoted eminent Kashmiri Pandit poet Dina Nath Nadim when she opened the budget session of Indian parliament recently. The poem voices the longing of the community to return to their homeland and the pain of exodus.

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