



KASHMIRI PANDIT SANGARASH SAMITI

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PRESS RELEASE

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**(Eyes wash by the State Government on protecting the Temples /
Religious places and its properties of
Kashmiri Pandit Community in the Valley)**

It is very unfortunate that the State Government's recent statement on the floor of the State Assembly recently in which a representative of the Government, Hon'ble MoS for Revenue, assured the august house that a ban has been imposed on the sale of Temples / Religious places and its properties in the Valley but after contacting the Revenue Officers of the Civil Secretariat yesterday i.e on 22.01.2008, they categorically told the KPSS as "no such ban has been imposed on the said issue and they have not received any communication from the Government so far."

It is worth to mention here that KPSS has already informed about this temple land mafia group with names to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Chief Minister, State of J&K on 09.09.2007, but till date no action / enquiry has been taken against such persons but on the contrary some of the influential persons from these trusts and mafia group are pressurizing the Government to delay the bill and they are trying to influence the Madam Sonia Gandhi in Delhi so that they could get more time to drain out the money from respective trust accounts outside the State and also liquidate the maximum temple properties. On the other side the non-state subjects who claim themselves as Mahants and trustees are slowly and steadily selling their properties and business establishments in the Valley with this intention that tomorrow, may be, Government pass the Temple Bill on the floor of State Assembly then these Government agencies could not hold their neck for their ill deeds which they have done for last 17 years.

It is pertinent to mention here that we had already appealed, through print and electronic media, the Separatist Organizations to come fore to help the Community to save our age old religious heritage and the identity of the Kashmiri Pandit Community which are in the shape of these temples and asthapanas. But these Kashmiri leaders failed to



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come to the expectations of the Kashmiri Pandit Community to save the religious places of this Ethnic Community so it shows that these leaders alongwith main stream politicians are not interested to safe guard the identity of the Kashmiri Pandits and also to claim the return of migrants with respect to the Kashmiri Pandit Community living outside the Valley to bring them back to encourage them to live in their ancestral houses is just an eye wash before the World Community.

If the Government fails to bring the bill in the State Assembly and impose ban on these sales (what so ever it may be) of temples / religious places and its properties with a direction to seize the respective accounts of these trusts / Committees dealing with the managements of these temple properties in this present Assembly Session then KPSS will proceed for hunger strike (fast unto death) and the responsibility will wholly and solely on the shoulders of the Hon'ble Members of both the Houses of the State Assembly.

Further, we request the Community members all over the world to come forward so that the Kashmiri Pandit's religious places could be saved in the Valley which represent our age old culture and identity.

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