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PRESS RELEASE

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(Damaging of Sadhu Ganga Asthapan, Kupwara)

In dismay and shock, KPSS want to express pain and resentment for burning down of Sadhu Ganga Asthapan in Kandi Khas, Kupwara. The revered Asthapan was burnt down to ashes during the intervening night of 17th / 18th September, 2013. Since its reconstruction by the State Tourism Department, the Asthapan was in controversy for changing the nomenclature of the Asthapan from a Pandit to Muslim. Even the some versus from Holy Quran were also carved on the doors and window during its reconstruction by the Tourism Department.

It shows the thought is being inculcated that among the masses particularly to younger generations to damage and destroy the remains history and culture of Pandits in Kashmir. Since past six months there have been many harassment attacks / stone throwing incidents on the Kashmiri Pandits and now a Kashmiri Pandit Asthapan is being burnt down to ashes in Kandi Khas, Kupwara.

All the efforts so made and the promises so extended for the return of Pandits seem to have been extended without any ground reality and shakes the confidence which otherwise is being promoted and the incidence of Kandi Khas, Kupwara has given a set back not only to the Pandit Community and overall minorities living in the Valley.

Leaders of the masses have failed number of times to maintain the claims and promises which were basis and could have facilitated the return of peace and tranquility between the majority and minorities in the Valley.

KPSS reiterates once again that we do not want any sort of lip sympathy from the leaders of masses but concrete results on the ground zero where they have to ensure that such incidents do not take place and the nefarious designs behind all this is to save the communal brotherhood inter se the Communities prevalent from centuries in Kashmir.

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