



Hindu Council of Australia

(ACN 082 437 670)

Date 9th August 2019

Press Release

Abrogation of Article 370 by Indian Government

The Hindu Council of Australia wholeheartedly supports a recent action taken by the Government of India to repeal temporary article 370 and to bifurcate the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in two union territories: J & K and Ladakh. This action will be the key to bring peace and prosperity to South Asia and especially in Northern region of Jammu and Kashmir, which has suffered because of state sponsored terrorism from Pakistan for the last 30 years.

This action meets a long-standing demand of the people of Ladakh, brings an end to the discriminatory and non-democratic provisions of Article 370.

Indian constitution guarantees secular and democratic governance for all Indians irrespective of their race and / or religion. The population of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Christians in Kashmir Valley of former J & K state has been reduced from 30 per cent in 1947 (at the time of joining the union of independent India) to less than 5 per cent due to the genocide, terror and discrimination of its minorities. This was an unforeseen implication of Article 370, which was not envisaged by the well-intentioned secular and liberal founding fathers.

Temporary provision of Article 370 was antithesis to democracy, human rights and rule of law. State sponsored Pakistan's back terrorism perpetrated ethnic cleansing of Hindus from valley. Stone pelting and armed terrorism became home industries among Kashmiri teenagers and youth, who were brainwashed with Islamic separatism and used as gun fodder.

Abrogation of Article 370 will now integrate them with the larger India giving them proper education, liberal and democratic values, employment reservation for low income and marginalised people, equal rights for women including property inheritance, better enforcement of law and order, and participation in India's economic progress which was hitherto not possible under article 370.

Progressive democracies constantly evolve, evaluate and revise their legislature in the best interest of the society (e.g., Berlin wall and recent Migration Amendments in Australia). Most countries have backed India's move including the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

Hindu Council of Australia strongly urges the Australian Government to support Indian Government's action.

End...