

		
<p>Ajay Shah President, VHPA Utsav Chakrabarti Executive Director, HinduPACT</p>	<p>HinduPACT co-sponsors Capitol Hill Event to Highlight Kashmir Moving Forward Post-Article 370 Abrogation and Continued State-Sponsor Terrorism by Pakistan</p>	

August 3, 2021
Washington, DC

[Hindu Policy Research and Advocacy Collective \(HinduPACT\)](#), an initiative of World Hindu Council of America (VHPA) and [Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora \(GKPD\)](#) co-hosted members of the Kashmiri and Afghan Diaspora communities on Capitol Hill in an event titled “***Kashmir: Moving Forward in a Dangerous Zone,***” on July 29, 2021 to kick off the two-week initiative - #KashmirForward. The event coincided with the historic visit to India by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, who held consultations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar.

Congressional staffers, NGO leaders, and media personalities heard first-hand accounts of the detrimental impacts of terrorism felt in the region, due solely to the growing presence of radical Islamist occupiers supported by Pakistan’s military and intelligence apparatus.

Not all was doom and gloom. The event primarily commemorated the second anniversary of the removal of the temporary provisions of Article 370 and 35A, dating back to 1954. This monumental act of Parliament on August 5, 2019, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, enabled the Government of India to apply the full scope of its Constitution to the entirety of the country for the first time since the founding of the modern-day Republic.

For the first time in India’s almost 75 years of existence, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the right to free and compulsory education. This action upheld equal-opportunity employment to members of the LGBTQ+ community. The repeal of Article 370, opened up the ability of all women, irrespective of their ethnic background, equal inheritance rights in marriage, as is guaranteed by the Constitution of India, in the rest of the country.

This action thus guaranteed equal rights to all citizens of India while freeing the state from the clutches of terrorist warlords. It finally empowered the poorest and marginalized sections of society (namely minority non-Muslim communities) in the state with job restitution and whistleblower protection, which they had been long been denied.

Over the past two years there has been a 40% decrease in cases of terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir. Speakers at the event provided their real-life experiences to contrast this with the situation in the broader region, as the conflict between the US-backed government of Afghanistan and the Pakistan-supported Taliban has escalated dramatically after our withdrawal just in the last two weeks.

There was a [flurry of social media activity as the event progressed under the hashtag #KashmirForward](#), with members of the audience, popular influencers, and the Kashmiri and Afghan diaspora communities posting about the event and their own lived experiences.

Below, are some examples

<p> DK Bakshi @DKBakshi_GTC · Jul 29 #KashmirForward - Afghan people love Indians. While programs their they called me Ustad. Some ladies tied R are suffering . Sad. I can see the pain they are going thro like Kashmiri Pandits pain of genocide. Sad</p> <p> Global KP Diaspora (GKPD) @kp_global · Jul 29 Khalida Nawabi, law student and Afghan Human Right #KashmirForward @KapilMishra_IND @thekiranbedi @surinderkauldr @kaul_utpal @rkkaulsr @shafalica @ @amitabhmattoo @rainaashutosh @KaulVirinder @D</p>  <p>1:01 5.8K views</p> <p>  66  172</p>	<p> Kapil Mishra ✓ @KapilMishra_IND</p> <p>Check now #kashmirforward</p> <p>Something big is happening</p> <p>8:13 AM · Jul 29, 2021 · Twitter for Android</p> <hr/> <p>772 Retweets 22 Quote Tweets 4,907 Likes</p>
---	---



Kashmir Archives @kashmirArchives · Jul 29

Glad to see #Afghans #kashmiris and American experts #CapitolHill to discuss with staffers and lawmakers the r sponsored terrorism in destroying their lives and land.

#KashmirForward



Hindu American Foundation and 6 others

4 89 245



HinduPACT
@hindupact

Humbling to host our #Kashmiri & #Afghan who are victims of #Pakistan sponsored terr morning at the #CapitolHill. So much to unq you hear the personal stories of tragedies ad region. Valuable insights by @CliffSmithZBR #KashmirForward



House Foreign Affairs Committee and 3 others

2:45 PM · Jul 29, 2021 · Twitter Web App

30 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 78 Likes



Global KP Diaspora (GKPD) @kp_global · Jul 29
Dr. Mohan Sapru, a Kashmiri Human Rights Activist and me providing more information on Kashmir's past and future.
[#KashmirForward](#) @PMOIndia @vijai63 @OfficeOf @KapilMishra_IND @vivekagnihotri @surinderkauldr



1:20 4.4K views

4 104 257



Global KP Diaspora (GKPD) @kp_global · Jul 29
Cliff Smith, the Washington Project Director of the Middle East speaking about the dangers of Pakistan's lobby here in India.
[#KashmirForward](#) @PMOIndia @vijai63 @OfficeOf @KapilMishra_IND



1:33 2.8K views

5 87 197



Kashmir Archives @kashmirArchives · Jul 29



Nisar Hawayee, Afghan analyst and #Pashtun human rights defender calls out Pakistan as the de-facto sponsor of terrorism in Afghanistan and Jammu and Kashmir. #KashmirForward



2



42



90





Dr. Surinder Kaul from GKPD appreciated the outpouring of support for the [#Afghan](#) & [#Kashmiri](#) speakers despite the attack on us from pro-Taliban & Pakistan shill organizations and individuals, who arrived at the venue to harass the Afghan and Kashmiri speakers.

Ajay Shah, the convenor of HinduPACT, added that HinduPACT continues to work with Kashmiri diaspora to highlight the need for the safe return of the indigenous Kashmiri Hindus to their native land.

About HinduPACT USA

Hindu Policy Research and Advocacy Collective, USA - HinduPACT USA is an initiative of the World Hindu Council of America (VHPA). HinduPACT (hindupact.org) aims to bring Hindu ethos and dharmic values of unity in diversity, plurality, compassion and, mutual respect amongst religions to policy and advocacy for human rights, environmental protection, racial and gender equality, and, interfaith dialog. HinduPACT activities include voter education (hinduvote.org), CHINGARI (Coalition for HINDu Girls Abducted and their RiGhts) and weekly live show on contemporary American Hindu issues HinduLounge (hindulounge.com).

About World Hindu Council of America (VHPA)

World Hindu Council of America (VHPA) is the most prominent organization of Hindus in the USA. Founded in 1970, it has chapters across the country. VHPA runs educational programs for Hindu children and youth in addition to community service (Seva) activities, and initiatives such as Hindu

Mandir Executives' Conference (HMEC), Hindu Womens' Network, American Hindus Against Defamation (AHAD), Hindu Policy Research and Advocacy Collective USA (HinduPACT).

<p>Ajay Shah President, World Hindu Council of America (VHPA) Email: ajayshah@vhp-america.org Phone: (858) 866-9661</p>	<p>Utsav Chakrabarti Director, Awareness, Advocacy and Public Relations (VHPA) Executive Director, HinduPACT Email: utsavc@gmail.com</p>
<p>HinduPACT is an initiative of World Hindu Council of America (VHPA) P.O. Box 2009 Natick, MA 01760 Web: ahadinfo.org hindupact.org hinduvote.org hindulounge.com vhp-america.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VHPAmerica.org/ Twitter: @VHPANews Instagram: @worldhinducouncilvhp YouTube: youtube.com/vhpavideos</p>	
 <p>The footer contains five logos: AHAD (American Hindus Against Defamation), HinduPACT (Hindu Policy Research and Advocacy Collective), hindu vote (Enlightened Democracy), CHANGARI (Coalition for Hindu Girls Abducted & their Rights), and Hindu Lounge.</p>	