



Jammu & Kashmir
Peoples Democratic Party
 جموں و کشمیر پیپلز ڈیموکریٹک پارٹی

SPEAK UP

Monthly Party Newsletter



IS KASHMIR FILES WHAT THE PANDITS WERE WAITING FOR?

Inaugurations and festivals making breaking news is indeed a sign of troubling times. As we write this, Fahad Shah has been arrested for a third time after posting bail. And don't forget – if you're "willfully" harbouring a militant your property will get attached. When faced with the barrel of a gun free will becomes irrelevant. Certainly won't deter militants but will keep people on tenterhooks, fearing for their lives and their homes. They failed to protect the lives such as that of SPO Ishfaq Ahmad and his brother and the same system expects unarmed civilians to stand up to militants.

A movie called "Kashmir Files" has been the subject of a rather heated debate. Let's break that down, shall we? No discussion about Kashmir will ever be complete without Kashmiri Pandits. They are an essential part of our society. More importantly, they have been our friends, neighbors, teachers and a lot more. Sadly, most governments haven't done much except exploiting their pain and their exile has caused irreparable damage to the very fabric of our state.

The film did its job of entertaining people and BJP promoted it with tax breaks and a public holiday to watch it. We can't help but ask – how is this translating into tangible concrete measures that will directly benefit Kashmiri Pandits? Seeing as GOI helped them break a box office record will some part of the proceeds be going to the cause of Kashmiri pandits that was exploited so artfully? Dr. Manmohan Singh as PM gave them jobs and helped them move out of tents into homes. What has BJP done in the last 8 years in power besides weaponizing their pain to propagate the narrative that Hindus are in danger?



Muslims perform last rites of a Pandit woman in Baramulla.
Photo: Twitter/Sajad Hameed

"For BJP the real victims are and will always be the Hindus beyond Kashmiri Pandits which is a funny coincidence because the Germans viewed themselves as victims and the Jews as the perpetrators. After all the BJP-RSS ideology largely relies on the Nazi playbook."

The country is being ruled by the proponents of Hindutva that after having put every Indian minority in danger want you to believe that *"Hindu khatre mein hai."*

Is Kashmir Files the panacea that Kashmiri Pandits were waiting for? No, but if their pain was acknowledged the way it deserved to be and due reparations had been made to them this movie would not have been an all consuming cathartic experience for them. It would have been just another film based on Kashmir.

Countless Muslims in J&K were mercilessly butchered by both the sides and women were often killed by militants on the pretext of being informers. So, Kashmiri Muslims of all people will know that trauma triggers the oldest part of the brain that cannot be soothed with arguments about facts and figures. Instead of debating the movie we need to hold space for their experiences and stand up for each other. Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities were subjected to unspeakable horrors and driven out by gun toting militants and we were forced to watch in silence. A mother who lost her son or a wife who lost her husband lost their whole world. It is shameful and appalling to minimize their pain in this debate of "genocide or no genocide". Our views may differ on various issues but there can be no Kashmiriyat without Kashmiri Pandits.

For BJP the real victims are and will always be the Hindus beyond Kashmiri Pandits which is a funny coincidence because the Germans viewed themselves as victims and the Jews as the perpetrators. After all the BJP-RSS ideology largely relies on the Nazi playbook. The issue of Kashmiri Pandits is being used as a stepping stone towards BJP's larger agenda of setting the stage for their more sinister plans. With that said, we cannot afford to succumb to fear and identify with victimhood. History is replete with examples of dictators like Hitler and Mussolini who once thought they were invincible. Turns out they were wrong as they were swiftly humbled by the sword of justice.

Feedback, information and suggestions are welcome. Please email us at -
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