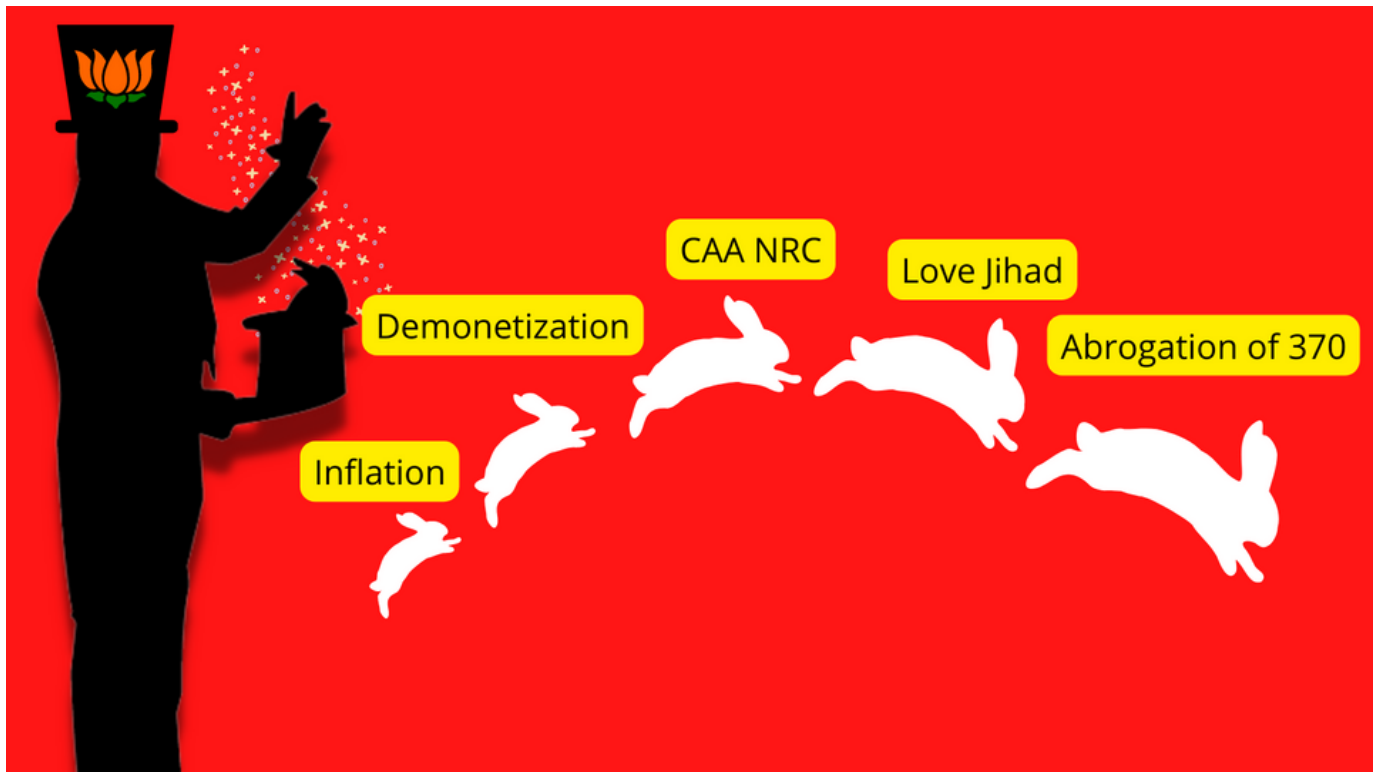




Jammu & Kashmir
Peoples Democratic Party
 جموں و کشمیر پیپلز ڈیموکریٹک پارٹی

SPEAK UP

Monthly Party Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE MAGIC SHOW

You watch in awe as the magician waves around his shiny handkerchief. Voila! He pulls a rabbit out of his hat, one that was empty a moment ago. You're mesmerized and although you know you've been deceived you want to believe that the magic is real. Welcome to the not so subtle art of misdirection. While he distracted you with a shiny handkerchief dancing in the air the real magic was happening elsewhere. Our very existence is under attack, the unemployment ratio is now at 46 percent, our youth are rotting in jails for no punishable crime and agencies are on the prowl hunting journalists, businessmen while not even sparing ordinary civilians from their raiding sprees. And then the magician in his true showmanship, waves his handkerchief for thousands of cheering fans. Voila! You are now watching his rally on TV. You're told that the state being stripped of its special status is good for you. We are giving you progress, development, tourists and Panchayat Raj. If you're not happy with the status quo you're an anti-national Pakistan loving terrorist that should be jailed arbitrarily for years to come. And if you manage to get bail after spending half a decade in jail you bet we're going to put you right back inside on another charge. Just like journalist, Aasif Sultan who has been accused of aiding the terrorist outfit TRF, an organization that did not even exist until he was already in jail. Sounds absurd until you realise this is BJP's way of making examples of these men.

Honorable HM Amit Shah recently joked that Kashmir is the only thing that makes him angry. But it's the Chinese troops learning Hindi at the Ladakh border that are having the last laugh as Chinese hackers have been trying to sabotage the power distribution system in Ladakh. So, while LG Sinha tells you we were visited by 80 lac tourists, Chinese troops have been camping out in our backyard. As always, the real magic is happening elsewhere.

"Dozens of our men are being rounded up on a daily basis for no particular reason. In Kashmir you truly live every day as your last because it could actually end up being your last day as a free person."



Bound in chains: Journalist Aasif Sultan. Photo: CPJ

Freedom of Speech? Not on BJP's watch. At least 13 people have been arrested under sedition for chanting anti-India slogans outside Jama Masjid. They will be slapped with the infamous PSA. As the saying goes, no rest for the wicked. Infact, not even during Ramadan as agencies are raiding homes like there is no tomorrow. To add insult to injury, teachers in Baramulla have been asked to shed their hijabs so that "students can feel more comfortable". Looks like someone forgot to copy paste the justification they used in Karnataka. Scores of Sarpanches died and did not get so much as a mention in the recent PM's rally held in Jammu. Dozens of our men are being rounded up on a daily basis for no particular reason. In Kashmir you truly live every day as your last because it could actually end up being your last day as a free person.

The freedoms enjoyed by Indian citizens in other states are nothing more than an illusion. After bulldozing Muslims, they will come for Christians, Dalits and other minorities. Hindus with their diverse sects and castes won't be far behind after that because a fascist regime will always need someone to go after. After J&K, it will be their turn. So, we stand here screaming but they've silenced and tuned us out. You see, they're still mesmerized because they're too busy watching the magic show.

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