



All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation

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AIPSO Condemns the Decision to Scrap Article 370

The All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) condemns the central government's decision to scrap Article 370 of our Constitution that guarantees special status to Jammu and Kashmir. This move smacks of authoritarianism and should be denounced by all the peace loving, democratic minded people of our country.

There is a history and popular struggles behind the incorporation of Article 370 in our Constitution. The people of Kashmir resisted the invaders of Pakistan and decided to join the secular Indian State. The newly formed Indian State had guaranteed them autonomy embodied through Article 370. It is a matter of grave concern that successive governments have failed in implementing the Article in its letter and spirit. Instead of taking steps to win the disenchanted people of Kashmir through the implementation of Article 370, the RSS controlled BJP government had scrapped it. This is a huge blow to the constitutional structure of our country, which the BJP had taken oath to protect. Alas, the RSS which had played no role in the struggle for Indian independence cannot be expected to know this history or live up to it.

The division of Jammu and Kashmir is a further blow launched by the BJP on the unity and diversity of our country. That the government had initiated all these measures by placing Kashmir under virtual military clampdown in itself shows their anti-democratic nature. The division of Jammu and Kashmir will help those destabilising forces that are active in the region and want to breakdown Indian unity. Given the kind of statements that are emanating from the US, there seems to be enough material to deduce whose interests the decisions of the government of India are going to serve.

The AIPSO denounces the moves of the BJP government and calls upon all patriotic people of our country to stand up against these divisive measures. The present attack should not be seen as a simple attack on Jammu and Kashmir alone. It should be located in the larger context of growing attacks on dissent, democracy, secularism and Constitutional values.

AIPSO urges the people to unitedly resist the BJP government's authoritarian measures and join in protest for protecting peace and prosperity of our entire country.