

THE JAGIRS OF NAEEM AKHTAR

VOLUME 1 | EDITION 2 | 19 DECEMBER 2021 | ₹40

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KASHMIR CENTRAL

A KZINE INITIATIVE



CHOKING OF VOICES?

Spin Doctors Concoct Yarns On Kashmir

Militants' Strategy For High Security Zones

KASHMIR CENTRAL

Vol ume1 Edition 2
19 December 2021

EDITOR

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OWNED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

Bashir Ahmad Bhat
Registered with the
Registrar of Newspapers
of India under RNI No:

PUBLISHED FROM

J-24, Jawahar Nagar,
Srinagar, 190008

ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE

J-24, Jawahar Nagar
Srinagar, 190008
Phone 9858566134
kashmirkzine@gmail.
com

PRINTED AT

Access Publications
HMT, Srinagar
Mobile 6005737819

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kashmirkzine@gmail.
com

Periodicity: Weekly
Language: English
Price: ₹40

The information
contained in this magazine
has been reviewed for
accuracy and is deemed
reliable but is not necessarily
complete or guaranteed
by the Editor. The views
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CENTRAL

The attack on a bus carrying a contingent of the armed wing of J&K Police on December 13, in which three policemen lost their lives and 11 were critically injured, reveals the strategy devised by Pakistan for Kashmir. Major militant attacks have taken place near important security installations such as J&K Police Armed Wing Complex, several armed police battalions, sector headquarters of CRPF and the station headquarters of ITBP. Many top militant commanders including foreign terrorists have been eliminated in areas which are either designated as high security zones or those which house important and strategic security installations.

Since December 2019 alone, around six terrorists have been killed in Rangreth/Rawalpora area, which remains deployed heavily with military and para military security forces. It is also close to the defense installations or the old airport.

Terrorists have killed soft targets in close proximity to police and security installations. Popular chemist Makhan Lal Bindroo was killed at his shop which is at a few yards from the office of SSP Office, the cargo branch of JK Police and installations of the Army and CRPF.

Akash Mehra, son of Krishna Dhaba owner at Dal Gate was killed in a high security zone.

In the early phase of terrorism, top commanders of various terrorist organizations were caught alive in areas considered as high security zones. Bilal, a Pakistani terrorist, was killed in the Hyderpora encounter. As per intelligence agencies, during the winter of 2020 he was hiding somewhere on Raj Bagh-Jawahar Nagar road next to Police Station Raj Bagh. This road remains busy with the movement of security cavalcades of VIPs and VVIPs.

The most tragic incident of February 2019 in which 46 CRPF men lost their lives also took place in a high vision area close to the CRPF installation on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway. The area usually remains heavily guarded by paramilitary troopers round the clock.

The attacks in Uri, in Udhampur and in Pathankot have the same pattern. The Zewan attack is part of this strategy. The security and intelligence agencies have perhaps missed on this important point. It is like *Chiraag Taley Andhera*.

Admittedly, the militants have the privilege of mounting surprise attacks. But the state cannot afford to be caught off-guard.

Militants hide or strike close to top security zones because these high-profile attacks give them the publicity that they seek. Also, these areas usually don't come under the purview of suspicion.

Militants continue to follow the same pattern. During the long-drawn 2016 agitation, it was reported in October that a group of eight foreign terrorists were spotted in Rawalpura close to the residences of some high-profile persons. The area usually remain guarded by heavily armed forces. The intelligence and security agencies should bear this in mind to avert tragedies like that of Zewan in the future.



Bashir Assad

razor sharp analysis

INCISIVE REPORTING

INVESTIGATE THE TERROR ECOSYSTEM

EXPOSE DECEPTION

RESTORE ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT



JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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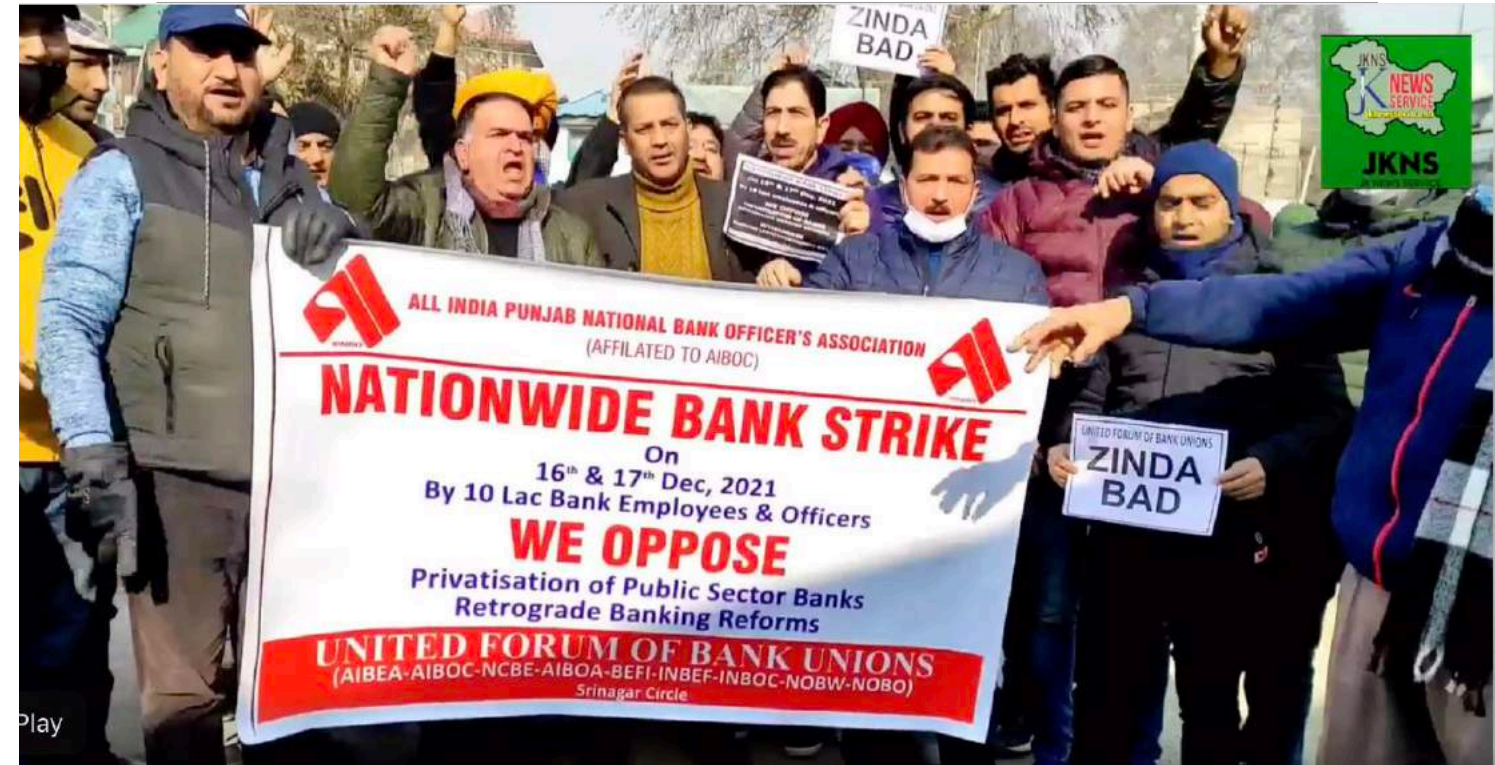


SOME PREACHERS NORMALIZE MISOGYNY
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CHOKING OF VOICES?

SILENCING THE VALLEY?

Spin Doctors Concoct Yarns On Kashmir



Employees of State Bank of India protesting in Srinagar against the privatization of public sector banks. The employees were protesting under the banner 'United Forum of Bank Unions'

by Iqbal AHMAD

In democracies globally, citizens organize peaceful protests in support of their demands and to highlight their grievances. Protest over legitimate collective or individual demands is the essence of democracy. So it is in Kashmir.

After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, people from various walks of life – especially the poorly paid labour and daily wagers working in various government and semi-government organizations and departments have registered their protest on many occasions. They have thronged into the streets in thousands in Srinagar as well as

in Jammu, protesting what they call the lukewarm response of the administration to their demands.

On certain occasions, the number of participants in such protests has been in tens of thousands. On every day basis, people in large or small numbers register their protest against the local administrative units on issues immediately concerning them. Mostly people are seen protesting regarding poor road connectivity, poor supply of water and electricity, poor medical facility etc. At times they have been seen protesting the insufficient availability of ration and eatables.

Local newspapers, local news channels and other mediums of

communication available to the people report such events on daily basis. Nobody has found these protests to be anything out of the ordinary. To protest regarding their demands is a core right in a democracy. People have the right to highlight and agitate over what they perceive as the failures of the administration.

WHY ARE SPIN DOCTORS BUILDING THE NARRATIVE OF FORCED SILENCE?

Why are the spin doctors of Kashmir constantly selling the narrative to the outer world that people in Kashmir have been

Painting Kashmir Black Normalised



silenced post the abrogation of Article 370? Why are they spinning the yarn that freedom of expression has been choked by the state? Every section of the society be it students, government employees or the commoners facing any kind of problem come out in the streets in Kashmir and also in Jammu, seeking redressal of their grievances peacefully. Then why this narrative being spun that voices have been choked?

There is no silencing of political expression either. Political parties have been organizing public meetings where they have been very critical of the administration. Every day, one or the other political party organizes rallies and road shows. People participate in these events in large numbers.

HILARIOUS: OMAR CLAIMS MEDIA GAG SURROUNDED BY JOURNOS, CAMERAS

Examine the height of hypocrisy. National Conference vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah was address-

Omar Abdullah recently alleged that the media in Kashmir is not allowed to perform their professional duties. Amazing as it was, Omar said this when he was encircled by a host of mikes, cameras and a crowd of journalists from the print and electronic media

ing a workers' convention at the Dak Bungalow at Khanabal in Anantnag district on December 12. Omar alleged that the media in Kashmir is not allowed to perform their professional duties.

Amazing as it was, Omar said this when he was encircled by about 20 microphones, about 20 cameras and a crowd of journalists from the print and electronic media.

Omar said that at the workers rally organized by National Conference at the Dak Bungalow

in Anantnag in which thousands of party workers at district level, block level and village level took part with enthusiasm. NC's major leaders like Altaf Kaloo, Syed Tawqeer Hussain, Advocate Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Sakina Itoo and others participated in the meet. The NC leaders addressed the workers meet spiritedly and made their points. The major speech was delivered by Omar Abdullah. After this rally of robust political participation, the claim of silencing of voices is made.

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Circulation Department, KASHMIR CENTRAL,

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e-mail: kashmirkzine@gmail.com | macoffice121@gmail.com

Circulation Phone:- 7006350448

SPIN DOCTORS WANT TO SEE VIOLENCE AND BLOOD ON STREETS

Pak Proxies Cannot Rest If They Do Not Find Daily Stats Of Kashmiri Youth Dead

Wailing Mothers, Crying Families Essential To Satisfy Their Appetite



The Employees Joint Action Committee protesting at Press Enclave Srinagar for minimum wages and regularisation of 61,000 daily wagers working in various different departments of Jammu and Kashmir government

There is a deliberate attempt by a section of media to peddle lies regarding Kashmir and present it in bad light. No surprise that these media persons are pro Pakistan and owe allegiance to the secessionist camp. What do these media persons seek? That the Administration must allow subversive and anti national elements to create law and order situations? Do they seek that protest rallies must turn into sites of violence and fatalities? Perhaps this indeed is what the spin doctors want. They are so used to manufactured vio-

lence in Kashmir that they find peaceful protests abnormal. This is why we find this constant web of lies being spun around us. That people cannot protest in Kashmir. People cannot agitate in support of their demands. Any protest rally is seen as an agitation only if youth resort to violence and die. These Pakistan proxies constantly want to normalize the bizarre in Kashmir. After the Hyderpora encounter, certain sections of people like lawyers and politicians – though in small numbers – came out to protest against what they termed civilian killings. There were some known faces among these protestors. These indi-

viduals are either ideologically inclined towards extremism or have been the benefactors of the violent conflict in Kashmir. These are the lawyers and politicians who participated in the low-intensity protests following the Hyderpora encounter. It is pertinent to recall the Hyderpora encounter in clear light. The incident happened on November 15 in which a foreign terrorist Bilal was killed along with three other persons. Police have claimed that the other persons who got killed with this foreign terrorist were two associates of Bilal. The third was the building owner who was killed in the cross fire.

Women of Chinkaral Mohalla in Srinagar protest unscheduled power cuts, say their children are not able to study properly



Emboldens Secessionist Elements To Emerge, Pollutes Minds

State Is Seen As
Weak, Ineffective

Endangers Life,
Property of
Peaceful Citizens

On October 24, some people celebrated the victory of Pakistan over India in the T-20 World Cup match. They raised anti-India slogans and even sang the Pakistan national anthem.

The victory was celebrated in many parts of Kashmir. But the girls hostel of Government Medical College Srinagar and the boys hostel of Sheri-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Srinagar took lead in the celebrations. These twin events – the Hyderpora encounter and celebrations following the India-Pakistan match emboldened the secessionist elements to emerge from the debris.

This is the operative part: the emboldening of the secessionist elements to emerge from the debris.

This is precisely why some people who have the feel of the ground suggested that the government must rusticate those girl students who were the leading lights in singing the Pakistani anthem following Pakistan's victory in the cricket match. This is precisely why it was important that their admissions should be cancelled.

Those decrying action against so-called poor and innocent medical students are blind to the ramifications of such protests in a sensitive region like Kashmir. The magnanimity of the state in condoning such "freedom of expression" has been mistaken to be the weakness of the state.

RAMIFICATIONS OF CONDONING "INNOCENT PROVOCATIONS"

When the state does not respond to any provocation, people tend to take the state for granted. When the state is taken for granted, a fantastic narrative is spun. The narrative is that the state has no authority and no control. The narrative further claims that the state has lost relevance and credibility. It is separatism that rules the roost.

The state has been magnanimous for the last 30 years, when such errors were overlooked. The ground reality is that following the magnanimity of the state, people propagated separatism and extremist politics. Despite this, they continued to enjoy all benefits drawn from the state.

DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON POPULACE

The decision of the state to overlook all transgressions had a deep impact on the collective psyche in Kashmir. The impact has been deep and lasting. The policy of the state to ignore all errors has led to a social impact where everything is taken as a matter of right. Sedition is regarded as a matter of right. Discrediting the state and its institutions is taken as a matter of right. Going against the state

Celebrations following the India-Pakistan match emboldened the secessionist elements in Kashmir to emerge



and its interests is seen as a matter of right. Even not following the civil laws is seen as a matter of right.

WHY THE STATE MUST BE UNCOMPROMISING ON SOVEREIGNTY

Without compromising on the freedom of expression of the peace-loving people, the government must be and has to be uncompromising regarding the sovereignty of the state.

It is accepted that every citizen has the right to be critical of the government and its institutions. At the same time, it is the utmost responsibility of the state to protect the life and property of its citizens. Hence the state must take stern and appropriate action against those who undermine the state and endanger the lives and property of the citizens.

After these twin events of the cricket match and Hyderabad, the extremist elements enjoying the blessings of some politicians and also of a section of the media have been desperately trying to revive the culture of violence. They want to again manufacture violence on streets where youngsters die and families are left crying and wailing. They want to revive the toxic cycle where militancy is romanticized and more and more youth are inspired to join its ranks.

These Pakistan proxies sit in comfortable, luxurious spaces to receive plush funding to decry every single encounter between militants and security forces. As part of a well designed scheme, mikes and cameras are thrust in the faces of ordinary bystanders



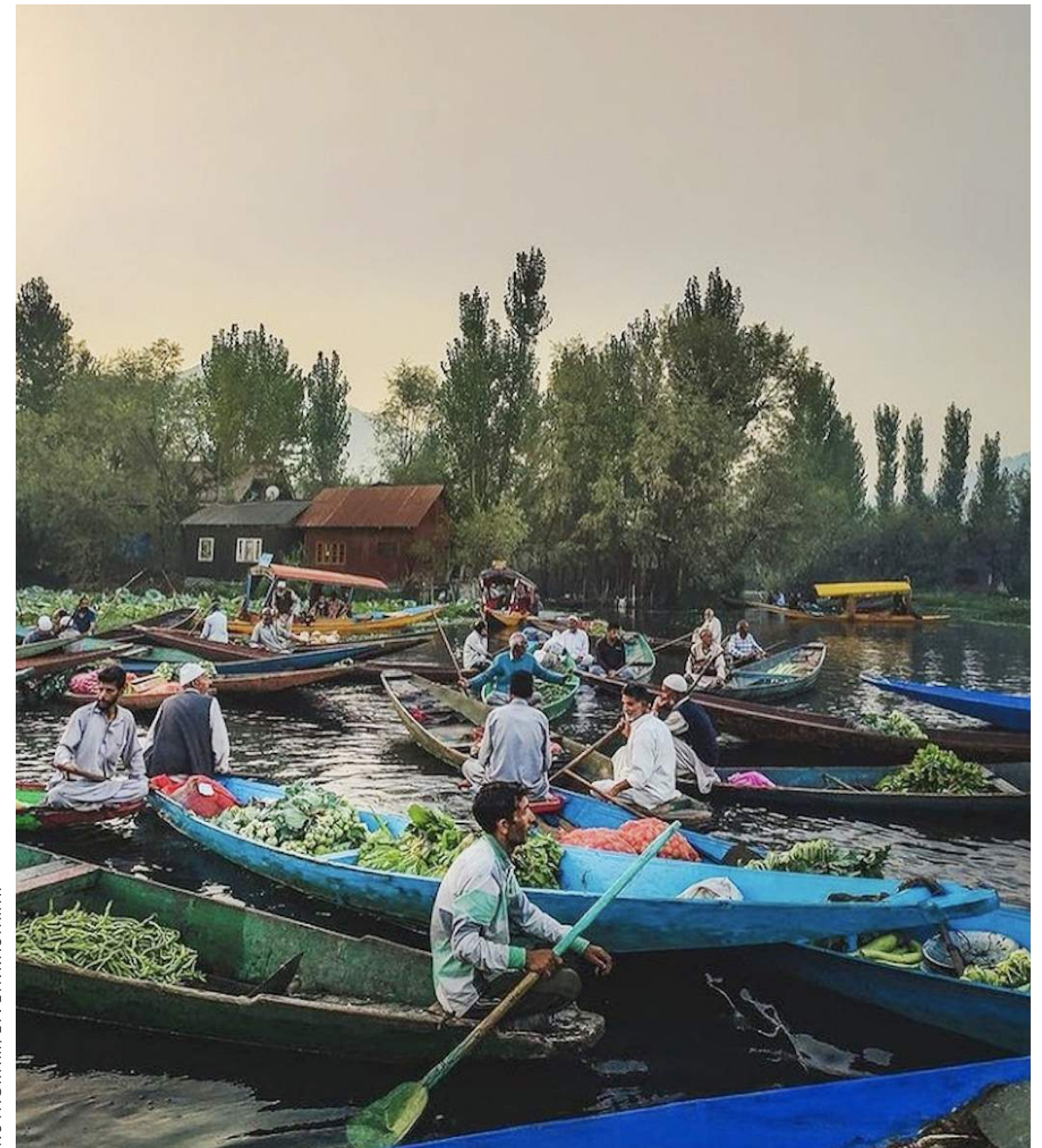
Those decrying action against so-called poor and innocent medical students are blind to the ramifications of such protests in a sensitive region like Kashmir. The magnanimity of the state in condoning such "freedom of expression" has been mistaken to be the weakness of the state

who may have witnessed an operation. These bystanders have zero understanding of the profile of the militants who were killed or the way they gunned down innocent civilians.

The strategy is this. Women must be provoked to cast aspersions on the operation in which dreaded militants have been

killed. The rogues in the diaspora then come out in full force, uploading the scenes near the encounter site and selling it to the international community as a fake encounter.

This trend must be arrested. It is essential to scuttle the efforts of Pakistan proxies to revive the cycle of violent clashes in Kashmir.



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The **JAGIRS** of **NAEEM AKHTAR**



80 kanals of migrant property in Budgam tehsil acquired by former minister, Mehbooba close aide

by Waseem GUL

Earlier this year, the LG Administration directed the district magistrates of Jammu and Kashmir to identify and collect all revenue records of the properties belonging to Kashmiri Pandits. The order was issued by the LG in order to retrieve the land and other properties which had been occupied illegally after the exile of Kashmiri pandits.

The government also directed the District Magistrates to cross-check the revenue records of the land belonging to Kashmiri Pandits which had been fraudulently sold or had been subjected to distress sale after they left the Valley.

Meanwhile, Kashmiri Pandits have also been directed to provide the revenue records or other valid documents pertaining to their properties which they owned before their exile. Till now, the revenue officials have moved at snail's pace on these directions. Their efforts have been limited to catching the small illegal occupants of land or houses that belonged to Kashmiri Pandits.

NAEEM AKHTAR'S ACQUISITION OF RICHES, WHILE IN POWER

In what can be termed as a gross violation of J&K Migrant Immovable Property Act, Nayeem Akhtar, a close aide of late Mufti Mohammad Syed and his daughter Mehbooba Mufti has occupied around 80 kanals (10 acres) of migrant property in Budgam tehsil. Akhtar has held important portfolios during the reign of the PDP government in the erstwhile state.

Akhtar's daughter Shehryar Khanum runs a dairy farm at this expansive plot. According to the revenue records accessed by KASHMIR CENTRAL, Akhtar is in possession of 79 kanals and 8.5 marlas of land at Mamath estate and Surd estate respectively. The kind and nature of land falls under the category of Banjri Kadeem (11 marlas) and Zair Saya (10 marlas) falling under Khasra number 23, Khewat number 5, Khata number 17; 26 kanals and 8 marlas of land under Kita 15, 46 kanals and 13 marlas under Khasra number Kita 32, 3 kanal 4.5 marla under Khasra number 67 (Migrant property) khata number 50 Khewat number 17. This land is registered in the name of Nayeem Akhtar,

son of Mohd Syed and also in the name of Asmat Ara, wife of Naeem Akhtar, caste Andrabi, residents of Bandipora vide sale deed number 49. Another 13 marlas, again in the category of migrant property under Khasra number 82 are registered vide section 121 in the name of Aijaz Ahmad etc and Akhtar with equal shares. The acquisition of such huge property while in power tantamounts to misuse and abuse of power, which can be investigated under Prevention of Corruption Act and Disproportionate Assets Case.

At Mamath estate in Budgam tehsil, Akhtar is in possession of 3 kanals and 8 Marals of Maidinie (Plain land) owned by Shri Owatar Krishan etc Bashara one part and Kashinath etc Bashara 3 parts. This land falls under Khasra number 36 Khata number 17 and Khewat number 5 in total. Akhtar occupies 79 kanals and 6 marlas of state, community and migrant land in Budgam tehsil.

WHY NAEEM COULD NOT GET THE LAND TITLE TRANSFERRED

The story gets more interesting. In October 2017, the Revenue Department issued orders for the transfer of 20 Tehsildars in one go. All but one Tehsildar joined their new place of posting after being relieved from the earlier place of work. The only Tehsildar who was not relieved was of Budgam Tehsil. This was Wafai, who was transferred to the Revenue Training College as

Principal.

Wafai did not join his new place of posting for about two months. The new Tehsildar who was supposed to join at Budgam by relieving Wafai was told to wait for some time.

A SENIOR REVENUE OFFICER PRIVY TO THE DEVELOPMENTS TOLD KASHMIR CENTRAL THE FOLLOWING:

The file pertaining to the transfer of the title of the land in which Naeem Akhtar was

Shehryar Khanum



Presently, Akhtar's daughter Shehryar Khanum runs a well-provided dairy farm at this expansive plot

Will Action Be Taken Against Big Sharks?

On August 14, 2021, the Jammu and Kashmir government ordered the development of an online portal for disposal of complaints pertaining to removal of encroachment, trespassing and land occupation through fraudulent means. The Department of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction shall develop an online portal for quick redressal of such grievances. It remains to be seen whether action is taken against the big sharks, and the axe falls on the influential encroachers and high-profile land grabbers.

interested was pending with Wafai, who was Tehsildar Budgam. While the file was pending, Wafai was transferred out. Akhtar was then a minister in the Mehbooba-led coalition government. He directed Wafai to stay back and dispose of the file.

The revenue officer revealed that Wafai had just a few months left for his retirement. He was reluctant in illegally transferring the title of the land to Naeem Akhtar and his family. By the time Akhtar could use his official position to force the new Tehsildar for the disposal of the file, BJP withdrew the support to Mehbooba. Her government

Naeem Akhtar was regarded as Mr Clean while he occupied a position of power in the Mufti Sayeed and Mehbooba Mufti government. He has lied in the affidavit submitted to the Election Commission regarding the property owned by him



was toppled.

This is the reason why Akhtar could not get the title of the land changed. Presently Akhtar's daughter Shehryar Khanum runs a dairy farm at the site. A well-provided dairy farm has been constructed at the site. Shehryar has a bottling plant at Ompora Budgam, where the premium milk is packed and processed for retail sale. The milk is transported by the dairy farm employees to various locations including the high profile

Budgam's then Tehsildar was reluctant in transferring the title of the land illegally to Naeem Akhtar and his family. By the time Akhtar could use his official position to force the Tehsildar for the disposal of the file, BJP withdrew the support to Mehbooba and her government was toppled

Friends' Enclave adjoining Srinagar International Airport.

FALSE AFFIDAVIT ON PROPERTY SUBMITTED TO ELECTION COMMISSION

The details of immovable property as declared to the Election Commission of India by the darling bureaucrat of Mufti Syeed-turned-never-popularly-elected-minister are abysmally inadequate. The details can be accessed online through National Election Watch.

There is no mention in the affidavit regarding the dairy farm or its property value. The value of the agricultural land in the name of Nayeem Akhtar and his spouse is mentioned as Rs 1 crore.

In reality, the dairy farm itself was worth more than Rs 15 crores at rates prevalent at that time in Budgam, the suburbs of Srinagar. The value of commercial buildings shown is nil. This is an utter lie as there are commercial structures in the dairy farm itself.

The story doesn't end here. The value of non-agricultural land is declared as nil. It is shocking and absurd that the person who used to wear the image of Mr Clean of the Mufti Cabinet has lied to even the Election Commission of India.

Central University of Kashmir

Mehraj and Zargar Private Ltd

by Bisma NAZIR



When contacted by KASHMIR CENTRAL regarding his wrongdoings at Central University Kashmir, Prof Mehraj said, "I cannot respond on call. I can't respond to you on email or over WhatsApp. You can come and I will talk to you." When the KC correspondent asked Prof Mehraj whether he would meet at his residence, he responded: "As per your convenience. I can't tell anything. That's your choice. You can come next week. My family members are out of station. Once they come back, you are welcome."

Prof Mehraj, in association with Registrar Prof Zargar, appointed his wife Prof Nighat Basu in Department of Education. The department of Teacher Education was formed so he could appoint his wife as a professor

After Kashmir University, the Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal has become a hub of corrupt practices and nepotism. The university was visualized as a centre of educational excellence in Kashmir. The majority of its faculty came from Kashmir University including the ex Vice Chancellor Prof Mehraj Uddin Mir. It is highly unfortunate and unbecoming of this august post that Prof Mehraj left no stone unturned to make this institution a dumping ground for his family members, relatives, children of relatives and friends by flouting all rules and regulations.

Prof Mehraj Uddin Mir took over as the Vice Chancellor of Central University in 2015. Before that, he had worked at the Department of Law at Kashmir University for more than 35 years. When he took over as VC, Central University was in its infancy. The university had to build its infrastructure, both physical and educational. The task involved investment of hundreds of crores.

It is to be noted that the two Central Universities in the erstwhile state of J&K were built at the same time. Central University Jammu has done remarkably well both in terms of quality education and building of physical infrastructure.

THE STATUS OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

Let us examine the status of Central University Kashmir. Prof Mehraj, who was former Registrar and Controller of Examinations in the University of Kashmir, has set new standards of nepotism in Central University.

Prof Mehraj, in association with the Registrar Prof Mohd Afzal Zargar, appointed his wife Prof Nighat Basu in the Department of Education. Till 2015-16, Central University Kashmir had only eight to ten departments. Out of these, three were education departments. These were Department of Education, Department of Teacher Education and Department of Physical Education.

For Prof Mehraj, the main motive of these departments was to accommodate his relatives. The department of Teacher Education was established especially for his wife so that he could appoint her as a professor there.

Prof Mehraj headed several committees which had financial powers. His wife Prof Nighat Basu was part of these committees. Insiders of the university say that no one from the UT Administration or the Centre has taken any cognizance of the expenditure made by Prof Mehraj.

Prof Nighat Basu retired five years ago. She was again appointed on contractual basis for the position of Assistant Professor, and is still working at Central University.

MORE FAMILY APPOINTMENTS IN CU KASHMIR

Now the story gets even more interesting. Prof Mehraj appointed Prof Praveen Pandit, the mother-in-law of his son Haider, as the Controller of Examination. Prof Pandit has been

working in the education sector in Kashmir, so appointing her in CU was convenient for Prof Mehraj. He would get the experts of his choice for the selection process. The experts were tutored in whom to choose for the coveted government jobs with fat salaries. In this way, Prof Mehraj smartly used his position to share the



Prof Zargar had to complete one year on probation in CU before appointment as Registrar. After the period ended, Prof Zargar was given the coveted chair. Why? The Registrar holds the purse strings of the varsity

goodies with his family and create a rather homely environment at the Central University.

After retiring as the controller of examinations, Prof Praveen Pandit was again engaged. This was just the start of the fraudulent appointments made by the former vice chancellor in connivance with the Registrar Prof MA Zargar.

Dr Mehraj used his influence to get his son Haidar and his daughter-in-law appointed in Baba Ghulam Shah University. Prof Mehraj first appointed his daughter-in-law in Kashmir University. But after the news broke out in newspapers of the fraudulent appointment, Dr Mehraj secured the appointment of his daughter-in-law in Baba Ghulam Shah University as an Assistant Professor.

Another feather in the cap of Dr Mehraj is that he got his daughter appointed as a doctor in the Health Centre of the University of Kashmir. This time he was helped by Prof Khursheed Andrabi, the

rules, Prof Zargar had to complete one year on probation in Central University before he could be considered for the post of Registrar. In a convenient scheme of things, Prof Mehraj and Prof Zargar waited for the probation period to end. Thereafter, Prof Zargar joined Central University as Registrar. Till then, Dr Fayaz Nikka was given interim charge as the Registrar.

Only a naïve person with no understanding of academic institutions will ask the question as to why Prof Mehraj and Prof Zargar were so keen that the latter should occupy the chair of the Registrar. The Registrar holds the purse strings of the university. The expenditure of the state grants allocated to a university run into hundreds of crores. These funds are routed through the Registrar. With Prof Mehraj as the Vice Chancellor and Prof Zargar as the Registrar, the duo were in a convenient position to misuse the university funds.

disgraced former vice chancellor of University of Kashmir. The fraudulent appointment was highlighted by the media, and the Vigilance Department is investigating the misuse of official position by Prof Khursheed Andrabi.

Prof Nighat Basu retired five years ago. She was again appointed on contractual basis for the position of Assistant Professor, and is still working at Central University

Dr Mehraj and Prof Zargar have had a mutually happy equation at Central University, and have showered each other with favours.

Prof Afzal Zargar was earlier the Registrar in Kashmir University. After his tenure as Registrar ended, he was taken on deputation and joined Central University as a Professor. As per



GAME ON FOR VICE-CHANCELLORSHIP

Prof Mehraj retired this year. There is now stiff angling at Central University that Prof Zargar should occupy this coveted position. To keep the malpractices at Central University going at a comfortable pace, Prof Mehraj is keen that Prof Zargar should take over as the Vice-Chancellor. The duo is also keen that Prof Zargar should



Prof Mehraj and Prof Zargar are opposing the appointment of Prof Abdul Ghani as VC so that their corrupt practices are not exposed

become the Vice Chancellor so that the frauds and scams carried out by the happy coalition can stay confidential, and the nepotism at the university may continue.

According to UGC guidelines, the senior-most faculty member takes charge as the Vice Chancellor after the retirement of the incumbent VC. Going by this rule, it is the turn of Prof Abdul Ghani to become the Vice Chancellor of Central University. Sources say that Prof Mehraj and Prof Zargar are going all out to try that Dr Abdul Ghani should not occupy the chair as he is regarded as honest. Sources say the duo is afraid that if Prof Abdul Ghani becomes vice chancellor, their subterfuges, corrupt practices and bluffs shall be exposed.

Currently, Dr Farooq Shah has been given the interim charge as Vice Chancellor of Central University Kashmir. Sources say that Dr Farooq

Shah is from the lobby of Prof Mehraj. As long as Dr Shah occupies the VC's chair, Prof Mehraj and Prof Zargar are in a comfortable space and do not have to fear that their wrongdoings shall be exposed, reveal sources.

According to sources, there was a lot of hue and cry in the university regarding how Dr Farooq Shah was given the interim charge as the VC ignoring senior-most faculty member Prof Ghani.

ABOUT PROF ABDUL GHANI AND PROF FAROOQ SHAH

Both Prof Abdul Ghani and Prof Farooq Shah are from the Department of Management Studies of Central University.

Prof Abdul Ghani has more

There was a lot of hue and cry in the university about how Dr Farooq Shah was given interim charge as VC ignoring senior-most faculty member Prof Ghani

than 28 years of experience in teaching and research. He is regarded as a man of principles and upright morals. Prof Ghani was earlier a professor at Kashmir University and then Regional Director IGNOU. He is now a Professor at Central University Kashmir.

Prof. Farooq Shah has been a student of Prof Ghani. Shah was teaching in a college earlier. He joined Central University as an Associate Professor.



SOME PREACHERS NORMALIZE MISOGYNY

**Frequently
target women
with abuses and
slurs on pulpit**

**We Need To
Question And
Stop This**

by Mohd IMRAN

Kashmir has witnessed remarkable success of women. All of us are acknowledging it and are proud of it. The achievements of the Kashmiri women in diverse fields are phenomenal. But I am pained today. I am pained by the bigoted Mullahs and religious fanatics who target Kashmiri women frequently. Their attacks on women flow from their socially perverted mindset. I am pained by it and it needs to be exposed.

Why do we need to expose such socially perverted mindsets amidst us? Till the doctor does not correctly diagnose a disease, he cannot treat it. Similarly, till we do not correctly acknowledge and diagnose this disease among some members of our society, we cannot treat it. A wound that remains hidden does not get treated or healed. In order to treat a wound, one must expose it.

The misogyny in some sections of our society is a wound that we suffer. If we keep hiding this wound, it shall go from bad to worse. We need to bring this wound to light in order to treat it and heal it.

So yes. It gives me pain to accept it and also to express it. But I shall express what I have observed. The patriarchal and misogynistic violence against women in Kashmir has the sanction of powerful but dangerous religious obscurantists. What compounds the tragedy is that these obscurantists have long held sway over Kashmiri society.

REGRESSIVE IDEAS

The perverted mindset of the mullahs and other morbid women haters has had a deep impact on our society. Recently, there was a survey in Kashmir which astonishingly concluded that 40% women in Kashmir don't have a problem with husbands beating their wives. This is where we are in 21st century while talking about gender equality



and modern things. But this should not surprise us. Much of Kashmir's society even today is under the shackles of religious conservatism and backwardness. Regressive and reactionary ideas continue to be preached by religious clergy and many teachers.

Preachers frequently target women with abuses and slurs on pulpit to put them into submission. Regressive practice of purdah is growing manifold by each day ironically mostly in the educational institutions. We continue to impose medieval practices on all women of our society – in fact, on our whole society. Such practices and their practitioners have no place in a modern civilized society. They are an anathema to modernity and progress.

In Kashmir, the larger society and the government have often failed to take steps to prevent violent

acts against women. Far from ensuring the safety of women, our politicians provided cover to erring ministers and bureaucrats. They allowed them to go off the hook after their involvements in crimes such as molestations and sex-rackets. In a civilized society, the culprits are brought to the book, but here the law utterly fails to take its course.

OUR DEEP-ROOTED MISOGYNY

It is being deliberated that legal punishment would possibly act as a deterrent in such cases which involve outright violence against women. We only hope it does. But, in our context, the problem does not end here. Mere protests, condemnations, or even, punishments are not going

I am pained by the BIGOTED MULLAHS AND RELIGIOUS FANATICS WHO TARGET KASHMIRI WOMEN frequently. Their attacks on women flow from their socially perverted mindset



MULLAHS WITH EXTREMIST THOUGHT ARE “FASCINATED” BY THE INHUMAN TREATMENT OF AFGHANI WOMEN BY THE BARBARIC TALIBAN. They condone such behaviour and want similar treatment for Kashmiri women as they regard Taliban as the “Muslim Role Models”

to put an end to these acts. There is a deep rooted trouble in our society which often undercuts these inhuman acts against women. It is the deep rooted misogyny of our society where, rather chillingly, men are valued much more than women.

In the recent years in Kashmir, there has been a steady increase in the cases of foeticide, infanticide, domestic violence, ill-treatment of women over dowry, etc. In urban and rural areas alike, there is not much of a discrepancy in this unfortunate aspect. The problem lies in our attitudes towards women in the society. It is here that we can do a genuine favour to ourselves as a society. However, we may be in denial to ourselves, an honest appraisal would always prove that we belong to a

society which thinks of women as an inferior being. Sadly, our social perception of a woman is that of a secondary entity on which masculine powers can be enacted and exercised freely. It is how we view her as a family member or as a part of the larger society.

A woman has to carry the burden of modesty and moral keeping of our society according to medieval practices. This kind of mentality is too common in our society. As various studies have it, this is further complicated by the existence of daily violence which finds women as soft targets. Various scholars argue that a long period of violence, as in Kashmir, provides the ideal scenario of an increase in violence against women as the aversive attitudes towards them are aggravated further.

The closing of the Kashmiri mind

The closing of the Kashmiri mind is reflected in the way misogyny and harsh patriarchal violence is being normalized on the pulpit and in the society. Regressive preachers continue to attack women for their education and acquiring jobs. It is true that majority of the Kashmiri women are defying such medieval patriarchal exculpations. But a significant portion of the society, especially non-privileged women are falling into the trap.

It is a shame that these preachers have never talked about domestic violence or sexual violence against women, which is seeing a steady increase in the recent years. In some cases, they have been themselves found guilty of such crimes. Mullahs with extremist bent of mind are "fascinated" by the inhuman treatment of Afghani women by the barbaric Taliban. They condone such behaviour and want similar treatment for Kashmiri women as they regard Taliban as the "Muslim Role Models."

It is a shame that THESE PREACHERS HAVE NEVER TALKED ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, which is seeing a steady increase in the recent years



WOMEN ARE CASUALLY BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING WE FIND WRONG

Even after dastardly acts are committed against women, some people nonchalantly lay the blame on the victims themselves. The women have to undergo trauma of the taunts of 'blame' directed at them in the public places as being responsible for the floods. Surely, it cannot get anymore farcical than that. To whatever extent this may seem frivolous; this particular instance was a potent reminder of the psychological abuse that our women often face.

This kind of attitude towards women appears to LEGITIMIZE VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST THEM IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES in our society

The most unfortunate part is that this kind of attitude towards women appears to legitimize violent acts against women in both public and private spheres in our society. Imagine the lives of our women having to face the double oppression in the form of patriarchy and conflict. It is true that a significant number of women in our society have defied all this to progress beyond the limits imposed by the society; yet, the fundamental attitudes towards women in our society remain all the same. The change has to come now or never. And that begins by completely rejecting the misogynistic talk that regressive preachers spread on pulpit and social media about women or their place in the society.



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