

ONE TWO KA FOUR: CUK REGISTRAR PROF AFZAL ZARGAR

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KASHMIR CENTRAL

A KZINE INITIATIVE

CHALLENGE POSED BY TALIBAN FIGHTERS

**Summer of
2022 may be hot
in Kashmir**



KASHMIR CENTRAL
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DELIMITATION COMMISSION: Commoners Are Happy About Dislocation Of Political Players

The draft report of the Delimitation Commission has invoked mixed response from various sections of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Political parties as usual seem to be aghast with the reorganization of the Assembly segments across Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier this week during my visit to Delhi a senior officer in the establishment and a dear friend wanted to know the feedback from the ground about the report. On a lighter note I responded that it was actually the dislocation commission. The political players, from former legislators to top brass of political parties, have lost their respective strongholds in the proposed reorganized constituencies. Their anger and frustration is justified.

The commoners, meanwhile, seem to be enjoying the dislocation of the political proprietors. This privileged class of political elites had inculcated a sense of proprietorship over the people of their respective constituencies. They regarded themselves as indispensable and remained unchallenged for decades.

It was with this self-constructed sense of indispensability that the culture of political heirs took root in J&K. The sons and daughters of the political elites would be installed on the people as a matter of right. The people had a limited and at times no choice at all than to vote for the political dynasts.

Though people are mostly silent on the issue, the fact is that they are celebrating the dislocation of the political class the same way they celebrated the detention of former chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. The reason we are hearing protests on the delimitation issue is because it is always the privileged class which is vocal and grabs headlines. How common people view the developments is often ignored by the media.

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Bashir Assad

razor sharp analysis

INCISIVE REPORTING

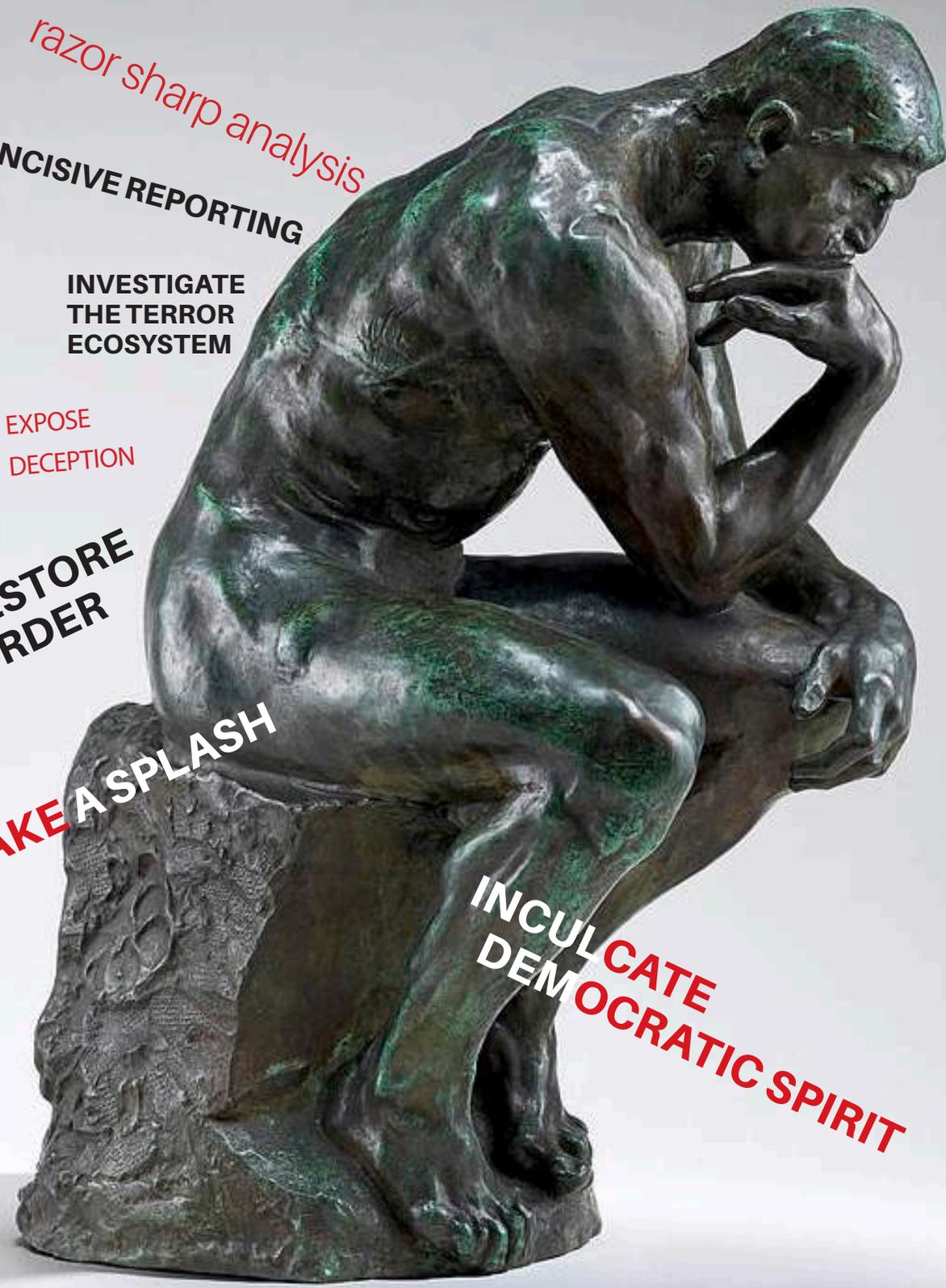
INVESTIGATE THE TERROR ECOSYSTEM

EXPOSE DECEPTION

RESTORE ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT



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TALIBAN FIGHTERS:

Summer 2022

May Be Hot In Kashmir

Intrusion Attempts Of Terrorists Source Of Concern For Security Agencies

by Sheikh SAMEER

Even though Pakistan is fighting a bigger battle within from the home-grown terror outfits putting up a stiff resistance to its armed forces, sources in the terror network reveal that the coming summer is going to be hot in Kashmir.

There are reports of the expected influx into Kashmir of Pakistani mercenaries and terrorists who sided with Taliban. Such developments shall complicate

the situation here for the Indian security agencies. It shall also have social ramifications in the Valley.

It was anticipated soon after takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban that the mercenaries and terrorists would be directed by Pakistan towards Kashmir. There are military and intelligence reports suggesting that terrorists armed with sophisticated deadly weapons left behind by the US troops in Afghanistan are pulling up their socks to muscle in Kashmir.

Of late, there have been reports

that Afghan-returned terrorists are gathering at launching pads on other side of the LOC. These reports have been confirmed by sources in the terrorist network. The intrusion attempts of these terrorists are a source of concern for the security agencies.

**PAKISTAN SUPPLYING
WEAPONS FROM
AFGHANISTAN FOR
USE IN KASHMIR**

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan happened in mid

THEPRINT.IN



Sources reveal that in 2022, Pakistan will escalate its attempts to destabilize Kashmir more. *Vo yahan haalat zyada kharab karne ki koshish karenge*, a terror operative told KASHMIR CENTRAL

August. The early weeks of the Taliban were taken up by the heady occupation of top offices and the formation of the government. Thereafter, winter set in and heavy snow closed the winter routes.

With the summer approaching and the infiltration routes being opened up again, Pakistan has started supplying weapons from Afghanistan for use in Kashmir.

Sources in the terror network reveal that in the coming months, we may expect Pakistan fighters who were engaged in Afghanistan to be moved to Kashmir. Most of them may hail from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

Sources further reveal that ISI

THE NEW YORK TIMES



shall use weapons drawn from Afghanistan in Kashmir as an intimidation tactic. The plan is to send the message to India that Pakistan has influence and reach

in Kashmir.

Kashmir has been at the centre of Pakistan's strategy to help establish the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Sources in the ter-



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DEFENCEVIEW.IN



Of late, there have been reports that Afghan-returned terrorists are gathering at launching pads on other side of the LOC. These reports have been confirmed by sources in the terrorist network

ror operations state that the use of weapons from Afghanistan will create pressure on India that the Taliban and the fighters from there have presence in Kashmir.

Sources reveal that in 2022, Pakistan will escalate its attempts to destabilize Kashmir more. "Vo yahan haalat zyada kharab karne ki koshish karenge," revealed an OGW.

WHY THE CEASEFIRE OF FEB 2021 WAS A HOAX BY PAKISTAN

In early 2021, Pakistan reached out to India to announce the ceasefire on the LOC. On February 25, 2021, the ceasefire was announced following talks between

the Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan. According to sources in the terror network, India did not realize at that time that Pakistan was interested in the ceasefire only to buy time. The Pakistan Army wanted to focus its energies on Taliban activities in Afghanistan at that time, and did not want to remain engaged with India.

A terror operative told KASHMIR CENTRAL: "Pakistan's intention was that once it is free from regular engagement in Afghanistan, it shall focus on the activities in Kashmir with full strength". Though there were no incidents of cross-border firing in March, there was no let-up in smuggling of drugs along the entire 3323-km

IB or along the 740-km LOC, in spite of the regular patrols and checks by the security agencies.

Sources in the terror network have revealed that since Pakistan's engagement in Afghanistan has gone down, it shall focus on Kashmir to destabilize the situation here.

The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan is probably the single most important event that has had an effect on the outlook of the people in the Valley in recent times. The Taliban conquest of Afghanistan led to euphoria among sections in Kashmir, especially among the India haters and baiters. There was major spillover of this euphoria also on the Kashmir social media.



EURASIANTIMES.COM

Pakistan's 'iron brother' China has not come forward to embrace the Taliban. Pakistan's efforts to find space amongst the OIC and craftily attempting that they take ownership of the Afghan problem as a larger Islamic issue also does not seem to have found many takers

PAKISTAN STRESSED OVER INTERNAL PROBLEMS POSED BY CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

Of equal import is the internal situation in Afghanistan, which continues to sink into a deeper quagmire daily. Even within Pakistan, the sense of jubilation over the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan is waning. The terrible realization has dawned that not

only are their own internal issues staring at them in the face, but those of their Western neighbour are also seemingly theirs now.

Meanwhile, with the US engagement in Afghanistan foreclosed, the Biden administration is ignoring both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Ditto for the world, which has not warmed up to the Taliban administration because of its extreme policies that severely discriminate against women. The US and all other major global

powers are largely ignoring both Pakistan and Afghanistan. You created the problem, you resolve it – seems to be the unstated refrain to Pakistan.

Pakistan's iron brother China has not come forward to embrace the Taliban. Pakistan's efforts to find space amongst the OIC and craftily attempting that they take ownership of the Afghan problem as a larger Islamic issue also does not seem to have found many takers.

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SOFT TARGET KILLINGS BY PAKISTAN'S TERROR NETWORKS LIKELY TO RESURGE IN KASHMIR

ISI Effort: Keep Fear Quotient High, Target Public Property And Specific Private Assets



The Panchayat Ghar of Munand Guffan village in Kulgam district was gutted in a fire in September 2018

PHOTO COURTESY: SCROLL.IN

by Waseem GUL

Soft target killings, which saw a lull for a couple of months since November 2021, are likely to resurge in Kashmir in the coming weeks.

Sources in Pakistan's terror network in Kashmir reveal that the Pakistani deep state has tick-marked civilian killings as part of its strategy to create fear psychosis in the minds of the people in Kashmir.

Strategic and defense analysts feel that the attacks are part of Pakistan's tactical plan to keep away the people from participation in the electoral democratic exercise likely to be held in Jammu and Kashmir by the end of this year or in the first quarter of next year. Pakistan's purpose is to

keep the fear quotient high in Kashmir. The soft targets flagged by ISI include political activists, media-persons and social activists.

Reports have been received that Pakistan's terror operatives may try to damage some public assets like the Panchayat Ghars constructed by the government at many places across Kashmir. There are also inputs that militants may try to damage the house and assets owned by those affiliated to the political parties, especially BJP.

Inputs received from the terror networks reveal that public or specific personal assets shall be targeted for a two-dimensional impact. One, Pakistan wants to sustain the fear of its reach in

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Kashmir. Second, by using Kashmiri militants or Over-Ground Workers (OGWs) for the attack, Pakistan wants to send the message internationally that it has nothing to do with the attacks, and that the attack is a locally-driven action.

THE UNDERHAND MACHINATIONS OF ISI

Pakistan is consistently trying to build the façade that ISI is not engaged in any mischief in Kashmir. As part of this strategy, Pakistan is engaged in constant posturing that it seeks talks with India to “resolve the various bilateral issues”. But the underhand machinations of ISI continue in Kashmir.

ISI regularly sends its operatives in Kashmir to keep the well-oiled terror network running. The supply of weapons, narcotics and fake Indian currency are standard ISI

operations in Kashmir. In addition, Pakistan Army keeps implementing new plans to keep Kashmir unstable and create fear.

Sources in the terror network reveal that the strategy to target public assets or damage/vandalize houses or properties of BJP activists is the same strategy that ISI used in the 1990s. At that time, ISI used this strategy to create fear among Kashmiri Pandits and drive them out of the Valley.

According to an OGW, it is a delusion to assume that it makes any difference to ISI whether the target is a Kashmiri Pandit, Muslim, man, woman or child. “They have routinely killed men who are sole bread winners of their family, earning only a few thousands every month. The ISI strategy is the same, regardless of who the victim is at ground level. The poor defenseless Kashmiris are soft targets. Pakistan does not

care who the victim is. Pakistan is only focused on implementing its plans for Kashmir. Their objective is to keep the situation in Kashmir stressed and unstable at all times and give it the veneer of local resistance, said the OGW.

SPATE OF ATTACKS ON PANCHAYAT GHARS IN 2018

In 2018, Kashmir witnessed a spate of fires in panchayat buildings after the municipal and panchayat elections were announced in mid-September. The elections were scheduled to take place in nine phases starting November 17. Within a week of the announcement made by the government, eight such arson attempts were reported. Most of the attacks took place in South Kashmir. By mid-November, about a dozen panchayat houses had been damaged.

REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THAT PAKISTAN’S TERROR OPERATIVES MAY TRY TO DAMAGE SOME PUBLIC ASSETS LIKE THE PANCHAYAT GHARS CONSTRUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT MANY PLACES ACROSS KASHMIR. THERE ARE ALSO INPUTS THAT MILITANTS MAY TRY TO DAMAGE THE HOUSES AND ASSETS OWNED BY THOSE AFFILIATED TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ESPECIALLY BJP



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**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
OF KASHMIR
NOW SHOWING**

One Two Ka Four



**The
Afzal Zargar Maneuvers**

by Bisma NAZIR

Prof Afzal Zargar was appointed as Registrar at Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in 2014 for a five year term by Prof Abdul Wahid Qureshi.

Prof Qureshi was Prof Zargar's next door neighbor at Saderbal, Srinagar and was close to Prof Zargar's father at Kashmir University (KU). Sources reveal that at the time when he joined CUK as Registrar, Prof Zargar was not entitled to leave his position at Kashmir University for five years.

But courtesy his clout at Kashmir University and the active support of Prof Mehrajudin Mir, Prof Zargar managed his deputation to Central University in violation of rules.

At Central University of Kashmir, Prof Zargar had more friends waiting to indulge him, again in violation of rules. This was the time when Prof Talat Ahmed was the vice chancellor of Central University of Kashmir.

Allegedly in violation of rules, Prof Talat Ahmed sanctioned leave for Prof Zargar for four years, extendable by one more year. Prof Talat placed the case before the University Council for ratification.

The University Council headed by the then Governor Mr NN Vohra. In the meeting held on April 16, 2014, the Governor turned down Prof Zargar's deputation to CUK as the same was declared illegal.

Prof Zargar made a representation to the university. Prof Khurshid Andrabi, then Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University and also Prof Zargar's colleague at the

Department of Biotechnology Department, endorsed the matter for consideration of Kashmir University Council.

KASHMIR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL HEADED BY GUV NN VOHRA TURNS DOWN AFZAL ZARGAR REQUEST FOR SECOND, THEN THIRD TIME

The matter was again turned down by Kashmir University Council headed by Governor Vohra. In the meeting held on October 27, 2014, the Council observed in writing that the "the request made by Prof Zargar is not maintainable and hence action under rules be taken against him".

With the tacit conspiracy of Prof Andrabi and Prof Mehrajudin Mir, Prof Zargar again made a representation to Kashmir University to reconsider the decision. The University Council again rejected the request in its meeting dated April 13, 2015.

Accordingly, the deputation of Prof Zargar to Central University



Mirwaiz Umar Farooq



of Kashmir was terminated. Prof Zargar was asked to join back at Kashmir University vide University Order dated June 29, 2015.

KU COUNCIL THREATENS PROF AFZAL ZARGAR WITH TERMINATION OF SERVICES

"The University should not entertain any correspondence in this regard and Prof Zargar should join back the university forthwith, failing which action for termination of his services from the University be taken," reads the order.

Prof Zargar was issued the final notice on June 29, 2015 "to join back the University forthwith failing which your services in the University would be terminated".

Despite the clear decision of Kashmir University, Prof Zargar managed a stay order on the letter issued by Kashmir University.

Thereafter, Prof Zargar continued as the Registrar of Central University of Kashmir for five years.

Some of the officers at Kashmir University and its legal councils supported Prof Zargar in managing his stay at CUK in violation of rules.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR: MEHRAJ AND ZARGAR PRIVATE LTD

Prof Zargar ensured that the officers who supported him benefited from their decision. He hired a building owned by some of them at Rajbagh as a hostel for students at an exorbitant rate. This was the time when CUK was operating from Nowgam.

While Kashmir University



Prof Mehrajudin Mir

"The University should not entertain any correspondence in this regard and Prof Zargar should join back the university forthwith, failing which action for termination of his services from the University be taken," reads the order issued by Kashmir University. Prof Zargar was issued the final notice on June 29, 2015 "to join back the University forthwith failing which your services in the University would be terminated"

had terminated his deputation to CUK, he illegally remitted Leave Salary Contribution (LSPC) for his unauthorized period of deputation. In this way, Prof Zargar abused his official position and flouted all established financial rules.

During the period of his stay at CUK as Registrar, Prof Zargar managed the establishment of Department of Biotechnology at CUK and subsequently his appointment as professor in the department. Since he could not join CUK as professor without getting relieved from Kashmir University, he was compelled to join back at Kashmir University.

Again after managing his leave from KU by maneuvering the

rules, Prof Zargar joined CUK as Professor in September 2019. All these years, Prof Zargar was hand in glove with Prof Mehrajudin Mir. In order to cover up his misdeeds at CUK, Prof Mir again appointed his henchmen Prof Zargar as Registrar for the next five years.

Prof Zargar's appointment as Registrar was made by Prof Mir just one month before he (Prof Mir) was to leave office in September 2020. This was done against MHRD/UGC norms, (including order No F.No.V.11014/11/04-CDN of MHRD), which do not allow the outgoing VCs to make any appointment/promotions three month prior to the expiry of their term.

WHEN CONTACTED BY KASHMIR CENTRAL, PROF AFZAL ZARGAR SAID THAT HE WOULD RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS SHARED WITH HIM REGARDING THE CHARGES. LATER HE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND.

Ex Gratia Jobs For Two Brothers, Medical College Seat For Sister

HOW AFZAL ZARGAR JOINED KASHMIR UNIVERSITY

Sources reveal that Prof Afzal Zargar did not ever face competition for any position. He always enjoyed the patronage of bosses at Kashmir University and Central University because of his father late Abdul Gani Zargar, who yielded heavy clout in Kashmir University.

Abdul Gani Zargar was the Personal Secretary of late Prof Mashirul Haq, the former vice chancellor of Kashmir University. Prof Haq was killed in April 1990 by the militant group Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). Prof Haq became the victim of an inter-group clash between the militants of JKLF and the militants of Hizbul Mujahideen. Abdul Gani Zargar was with Prof Mashirul Haq at that time. He too was killed in the militant group clash.

As per the policy of J&K government at that time, Abdul Gani Zargar's family was entitled for ex-gratia relief Rs 4 lakh and a Class 4 job to any dependant family member under SRÖ 43.

Bypassing all rules, Dr Afzal Zargar was directly appointed as Assistant Director in Academic Staff College of Kashmir University. Sources say that the appointment was made as part of the plan hatched by Prof Mehrajudin Mir, who was the Director of the Academic Staff College in Kashmir

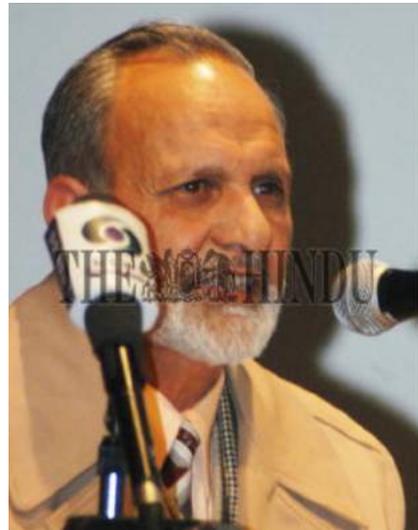
University at that time.

On the same compassionate ground, the brother of Prof Afzal Zargar was appointed in Kashmir University on a non-teaching position. Prof Zargar's sister Asifa was given admission in MBBS in a medical college outside Jammu and Kashmir. She now works with State Health Department.

Prof Afzal then moved to the Department of Bio-Chemistry of Kashmir University as a lecturer without facing any competition. His role as Chief Proctor at Kashmir University is considered by many to be the most notorious tenure in the chair.

In 2014, Prof Zargar was appointed as Registrar of Central University of Kashmir by Prof Abdul Wahid Qureshi. Sources reveal that Prof Qureshi was the next door neighbor of Prof Zargar at Saderbal in Srinagar. Sources add that Prof Qureshi was very close to Prof Zargar's father at Kashmir University.

Sources reveal that then Governor Mr NN Vohra turned down Prof Afzal Zargar's deputation to Central University of Kashmir. But he managed to get a stay order to Kashmir University's termination order (see text of official letter cited with the write-up), and continued as the Registrar for five years.



Prof Wahid Qureshi

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR

No: F (Prof BCh) Adm /TW/KU/15
Dated June 2.9.2015

Professor M. Afzal Zargar,
Registrar,
Central University of Kashmir
Transit office, Sonwar, Srinagar

REF REPRESENTATION DATED 13.03.2015
REGARDING DEPUTATION TO CENTRAL
UNIVERSITY

Sir,

University Council has passed following resolutions/decisions on your deputation to Central University:

RESOLUTION DATED 16.04.2014.

“Resolved that the action taken by the Vice-Chancellor in having authorised deputation of Dr. M Afzal Zargar, Professor, Department of Bio-Chemistry, to Central University of Kashmir as Registrar for a period of 4 years extendable by one year as a special case, be not a greed to

Further resolved that Dr. M. Afzal Zargar be asked to apply for lien which would be considered as per extant rules of the University

RESOLUTION DATED 27.10.2014

“While reviewing the case of Professor Mohd Afzal Zargar, the council resolved that the response/reply of Prof. Mohd Afzal Zargar is not maintainable and hence action under rules be taken in the matter”

Above resolutions stand communicated to you vide letter dated 25.06.2014 and order dated 22.01.2015.

Your above referred to representation was again placed before university Council at its meeting held on 13.04.2015 whereat following comments/observations were made by the Hon'ble Chancellor and other members of the Council

“The University should not entertain any correspondence in this regard and Professor Zargar should either join back forthwith failing which action for terminating his services from the University be taken.

In light of the above decision you are required to join back this University forthwith failing which action for terminating your services from the University will be initiated.

Yours faithfully
Assistant Registrar
Administration-TW



How The Daughter Of CUK Registrar Got Admission To MBBS In Pakistan

Pakistan offers a sponsored quota for Kashmiri students under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP). For many years now, as part of this quota, hundreds of relatives of ex-militants, active militants or pro-Pakistan sympathizers in Jammu and Kashmir have been admitted to MBBS in medical institutions in Pakistan on the recommendations of separatist leaders.

One of the Kashmiri youngsters who secured admission to MBBS in Pakistan is Simrah Afzal Zargar, the daughter of Prof Afzal Zargar, the Registrar of Central University of Kashmir. Simran was allotted an MBBS seat in Fatima Jinnah Medical University, Lahore. The seat was given to Simrah in lieu of the killing of Prof Zargar's bother-in-law (wife's brother), a hardcore militant. He was killed by the Army.

Simrah was admitted to the MBBS course in Pakistan on the recommendation letter given by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the Chairman of Hurriyat Conference. The recommendation was managed by Prof Mehrajudin Mir, former vice chancellor of Central University of Kashmir. Prof Mir has family ties some members of the Mirwaiz-led Awami Action Committee.

Prof Mir's sister is married in Pakistan. She often visits him here in Kashmir. She is also the local guardian of Prof Zargar's daughter's in Pakistan.

Simrah Afzal Zargar, the daughter of Central University Registrar Prof Afzal Zargar, is a member of the Standing Committee on Human Rights and Peace in Pakistan (IFMSA).

The presence of Kashmiris on all Pakistani or Pakistan-supported panels that are used for India

bashing is highly prioritized by ISI. Kashmiris who have chosen to peddle the Pakistan narrative on these forums have been lavishly bankrolled by ISI.

CUK REGISTRAR PROF AFZAL ZARGAR

Prof Mohammad Afzal Zargar is working as the Registrar of Central University of Kashmir (CUK) for the second term. As the Registrar, he is the member of various statutory and decision-making bodies of Central University of Kashmir including the Executive Council, Academic Council, University Building Committee (UBC) and Planning and Monitoring Board. Earlier, Prof Zargar was working as Head, Department of Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry. For five years, he was the Chief Proctor in the University of Kashmir.



VISITING POK WITHOUT INFORMING HOME MINISTRY

Prof Zargar has visited Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) many times in the recent past for meeting his daughter. Sources say that Prof Zargar did not seek the permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for visiting Pakistan, which is mandatory for every government employee.

Sources reveal that Prof Mir too visited Pakistan many times along with his wife to meet his relatives who are settled in Pakistan and POK, without seeking the permission from MHA. Sources add that Prof Mir tried his best to set up a campus of Central University of Kashmir at POK to facilitate his regular visits there. He let go of his efforts only after he was categorically reprimanded by GOI for his lofty plans.

NIA PROBE INTO PRO-PAKISTAN DOCTORS AND TECHNOCRATS IN KASHMIR

National Investigation Agency (NIA) is investigation the triangular nexus of terrorists, the Hurriyat and the Pakistan establish-

Simrah Afzal Zargar, daughter of CUK Registrar Prof Afzal Zargar, got admission in a medical college in Pakistan on the recommendation of separatists because her Mamu, a hardcore militant, was killed by the Army



ment for patronizing Kashmiri students to prepare a generation of pro-Pakistan doctors and technocrats in Kashmir. NIA has termed this as an "alternative mechanism" for the funding of terror groups. Reportedly NIA is also probing the nexus of Prof Afzal Zargar, Prof Mehrajudin Mir, Hurriyat and Pakistan.

Central University of Kashmir is also probing the case involving Prof Zargar.

PROF AFZAL ZARGAR NEVER STOOD UP IN HONOUR OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

It is well-known about Prof Afzal Zargar that he never stood up in honour of the national anthem whenever it was played in any function. He started standing up for the national anthem only after he applied for the post of Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir in July 2021. There was no national flag at any post in the Central University of Kashmir before July 2021. A very small flag has now been

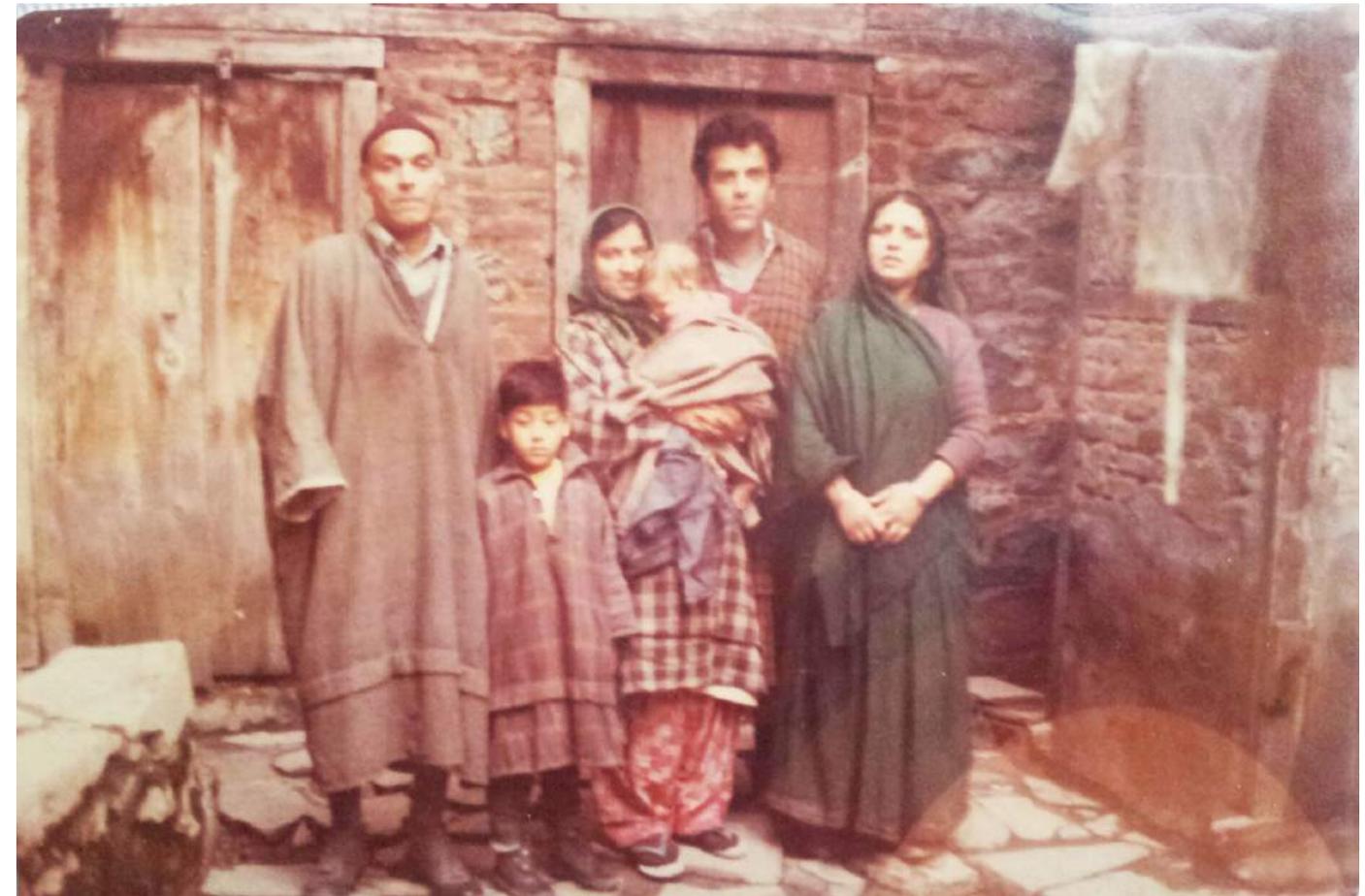


erected in an isolated place at the University. This was done after Prof Zargar and the then vice chancellor Prof Mir were reprimanded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development about erecting the national flag on the campus of Central University of Kashmir.

Sources reveal that Prof Zargar spends much of his time these days talking to Kashmir's power brokers, seeking their support for assuming the position of vice chancellor of Central University of Kashmir.

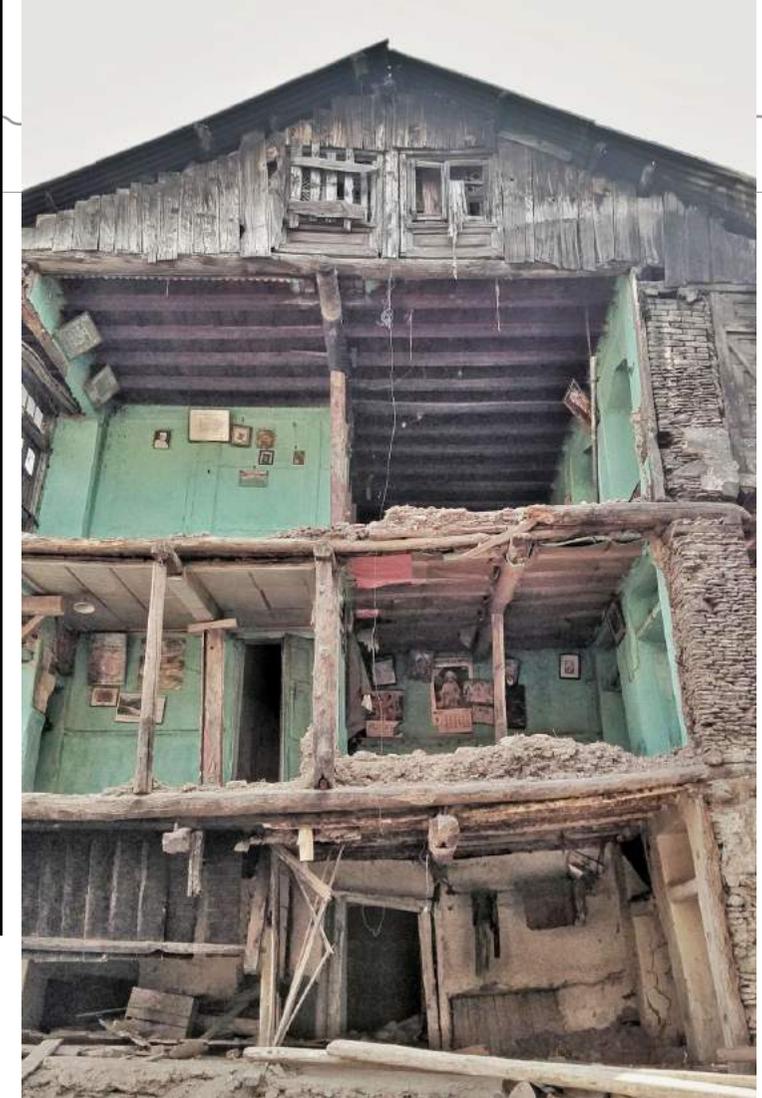
THE EXODUS OF KASHMIRI PANDITS

**When Dugger
Bhats Across
Kashmir Emptied
Out, A Part Of Us
Emptied Out
Forever**



Inside the Gigoo family ancestral house, Kashmir, 1980. PHOTO COURTESY: SIDDHARTHA GIGOO IN THE WIRE.IN

**The Youth Of Today Do Not Know What
Their Loss Has Meant For Kashmir**



Photographer Anmol Kachroo's mother longs for her home away from home. (Anmol Kachroo / TRTWorld)

by G M MIR

There are multiple versions about the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits. I feel surprised when I see many fellow Kashmiris taking positions on the social media that somehow the Pandits were responsible for the exodus or the government was responsible or the Governor of that time was responsible. Now many youngsters have also started believing one or the other of these versions.

Perhaps not owning up to our failures makes it easy to deal with

them. Whatever the reason, by taking these positions we whitewash a very sad and ugly part of Kashmir's history.

Whatever platitudes we may come up with to explain the Pandit exodus, those who lived through those times know the truth, and these truths cannot be denied.

DUGGER BHAT, THE BEAUTIFUL PANDIT VILLAGE NEAR MY VILLAGE

There was a Pandit village close to my village in Kupwara district. It was called Dugger Bhat. My

own village is Vilgam.

Dugger Bhat was a beautiful village. Two streams passed through it. There were beautiful Chinar trees on both sides of the path leading to the main road.

My favourite teacher lived in this village. His name was Sri Mohan Lal.

After the exile, he resides at Bohri, Jammu with his wife and three sons.

We often went to Dugger Bhat because some of my classmates lived there, and they were my good friends. I still remember their names. Prince, Fency, Bia and others. They were brilliant in studies.

I did not come to know of the departure of Pran Nath and Hadie Nath the day they went. Or I would have gone and met them and hugged them. Perhaps I would have cried

Above: Walking through the lanes of Downtown Srinagar, I came across a Kashmiri Pandit house, which was in ruins. In one of the house's dilapidated corners, a 30-year-old calendar hung on one of the walls. I asked a passerby who the owner of this house was. 'It's been so many years that I don't even remember now,' he said. (Anmol Kachroo / TRTWorld)

PHOTO COURTESY: TRAVEL THE HIMALAYAS





News spread that young men from our area had taken arms training from Pakistan and had brought Kalashnikov with them. A section of villagers became aggressive in their attitudes towards the Dugger Bhat. After some weeks, all the Pandits left their ancestral village. Their going away fills me with sadness to this day

But for me and my other friends, the real reason to go to this village was to meet Pran Nath and Hadie Nath. Both were postmen. Their full names were Pran Nath Bhat and Hadie Nath Bhat. But we called them Pran Nath and Hadie Nath, and waited eagerly for them to get letters for our family.

THE JOY OF LETTERS

My father and other men of our village used to go outside the state for shawl business. Telephone was

a rare luxury those days. It was limited to the cities, to government offices or the residences of very senior officers.

For us, a postal letter was only medium to get information of the well being of our family members who had gone out for work. We used to feel limitless joy whenever we see these postmen visited our village. We used to follow them and ask them again and again, jumping with joy: Don't you have a letter from my father?

In the movies, we used to see that the postman used to come on

a bicycle. In our mountain region of Kashmir, our postmen used to come walking to the village with bags full of letters.

The visit of the postman to the village was a minor celebration. Every kid of our village would be jumping about around the postman. Kids would follow them laughing. We used to call them Pran Nath and Hadie Nath as if they were our age.

After every two or three days, we used to go to the two postmen and ask them for letters from our family members. The postmen

were always full of good humour. They would smile while saying yes or no. Perhaps they also enjoyed this frequent play with the boys.

THE YOUTH STARTED GOING TO PAKISTAN FOR ARMS TRAINING

I remember that it was around 1990. My father was in Punjab in connection with his business. We started hearing that young men were going to Pakistan for arms training. We still used to visit Dugger Bhat, the Pandit village, for letters. But now I could see that Pran Nath and Hadie Nath looked fearful.

It seemed to us that both the

postmen had stopped coming to our village with any postal material. Perhaps they knew that some youth from my village also had gone to Pakistan for arms training.

One day, a large number of people from our locality gathered on the road. They were shouting slogans of Hum kya chahte azadi.

They moved on the road leading to the main market of Vilgam. They also passed by the road where the Pandit village Dugger Bhat was situated.

I saw that the azadi-pasand protestors started shouting the slogans loudly and belligerently when they reached near the Pandit village. I was a student of Class 7 at that time. I and my friends had no

idea of what was going on. I felt confused and wanted my father to be there near me, but he was outside the state. I saw those men raising slogans in a threatening manner, like they were trying to intimidate the Pandit families.

I thought of Pran Nath and Hadie Nath. Were they feeling scared, I thought. I felt sad and concerned for them.

THE MAN WHO CARRIED A KALASHNIKOV

A few weeks after that, one fine Friday I was going to the mosque when I saw hundreds of people of my village surrounding a handsome man. They all seemed to be

Sanjay Tickoo feels a separate township for pandits should come up in Srinagar. (Photo | Zahoor Punabi, EPS)



I felt happy every time that I heard that the Dugger Bhats would be back. For many years, I and the other boys kept waiting for the two postmen and our Pandit childhood friends. We would wonder why they aren't coming back



in awe of him and were looking at him respectfully. I went into the crowd to see who the man was. I heard people around saying that he is a Mujahid. The men were saying he has a Kalashankooof. I did not know what is a Kalashankooof. It was a new word for me, but the men were saying it and were looking at him with great admiration.

Much later, I learnt that the word Kalashankooof that I had heard was the Russian automatic rifle Kalashnikov, a highly potent killer. The man whom the villagers were surrounding with great esteem was none other than Master Yousuf Dar. He was the first

man of our area who had returned from Pakistan after arms training.

Later we came to know that a group of five men from our area had gone to Pakistan and had returned with what was called as Kalashankooof.

For us children, life largely remained the same. While we were out for our tuition classes in Vilgam, I and the other boys would continue to go and meet Pran Nath and Hadie Nath to check whether they had letters for our family. I used to feel excited as we walked to their village, thinking that my family members would be delighted that I got my father's letter home.

THE PANDITS LEFT DUGGER BHAT

News spread that young men from our area had taken arms training from Pakistan and had brought Kalashankooof with them. A section of villagers became aggressive in their attitudes towards the Dugger Bhats.

What was the impact of all these developments on the Dugger Bhats? We all called the Pandits of Dugger Bhat that way.

The impact was that after some weeks, Dugger Bhat emptied out. All the Pandits left their ancestral village. Their going away fills me with sadness to this day.

I did not come to know of the departure of Pran Nath and Hadie Nath the day they went. Or I would have gone and met them and hugged them. Perhaps I would have cried. One day I and the other boys saw some trucks standing outside Dugger Bhat. So many trucks standing together was a surprise. But it was not our concern to verify about the trucks, so we went our way.

The next day we came to know that whole Pandit village is empty. Everybody living there had gone to Jammu in those trucks. Many men and women of our village including members of my family said the Dugger Bhats have gone

to Jammu for a short while only. They will be back.

EVERYONE THOUGHT THE DUGGER BHATS WOULD COME BACK SOON

I felt happy every time that I heard that the Dugger Bhats would be back soon. Pran Nath and Hadie Nath had also gone to Jammu. For many years, I and the other boys kept waiting for the two postmen and our Pandit childhood friends to come back. Growing up together, my friends and I would discuss them sometimes. We would wonder why they aren't

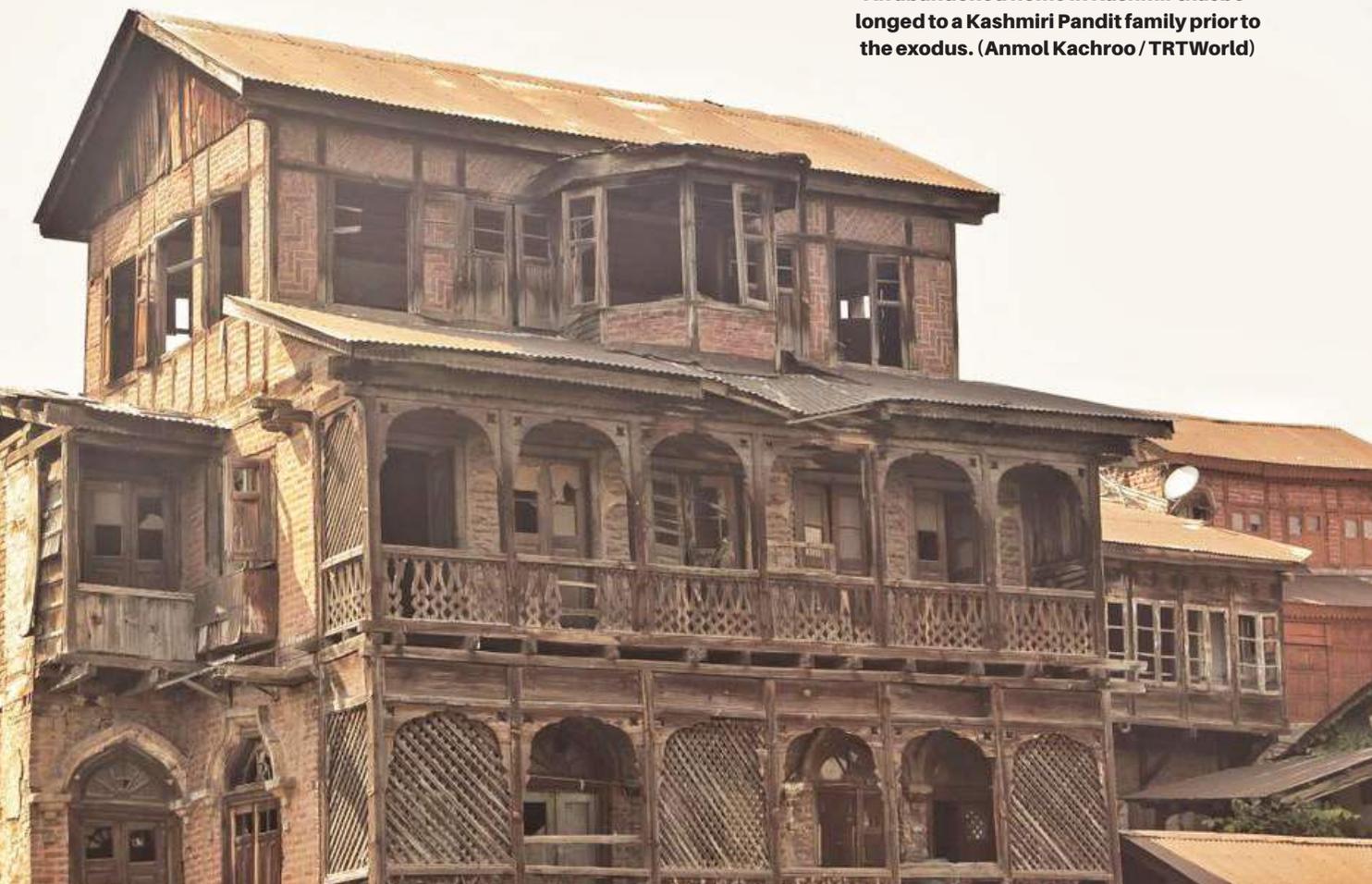
coming back.

We felt sad every time it seemed to us that the Pandits of Dugger Bhat would never come back. Then other postmen were deputed to deliver letters in Vilgam. But our childhood heroes were Pran Nath and Hadie Nath, around whom we kids would jump and dance with joy. We would run in front of them, we would run behind them.

Many times, my friends and I would innocently discuss that we should search for Pran Nath and Hadie Nath in Jammu and ask them to come back. But all these years, militancy kept increasing in the Valley. All of us felt terrorized.

WE SHOULD HAVE STOPPED OUR PANDIT BROTHERS FROM GOING AWAY, BUT WE DID NOT

An abandoned home in Kashmir that belonged to a Kashmiri Pandit family prior to the exodus. (Anmol Kachroo/TRTWorld)



Some weeks after seeing the men with the Kalashankooof, we started seeing more and more of the Army in our town. We saw Army soldiers with guns. We saw policemen with guns. Seeing so many soldiers and policemen in our town was a strange feeling. Sometimes we would hear gunshots from encounter sites. Many times we would hear that so and so person is a militant, or so and so person has gone to Pakistan for arms training. Life did not seem so light and carefree any more.

During these years of terrifying violence in the Valley, my friends and I continued to remember the Dugger Bhats. Walking through our village many years ago, we had heard slogans against the Pandits. But we did not know the meaning of those slogans. We did not know the outcome of those slogans.

It was not just our Dugger Bhat that emptied out. Dugger Bhats across Kashmir emptied out. In the later years, my friends and I realized that a big part of Kashmir had emptied out. A big part of us had emptied out. Prince, Fency, Bia and others. All of

them had emptied out of Kashmir.

The youth and children of today do not know what it was to lose Prince, Fency, Bia and the other Pandit boys. They do not know what their loss meant to Kashmir.

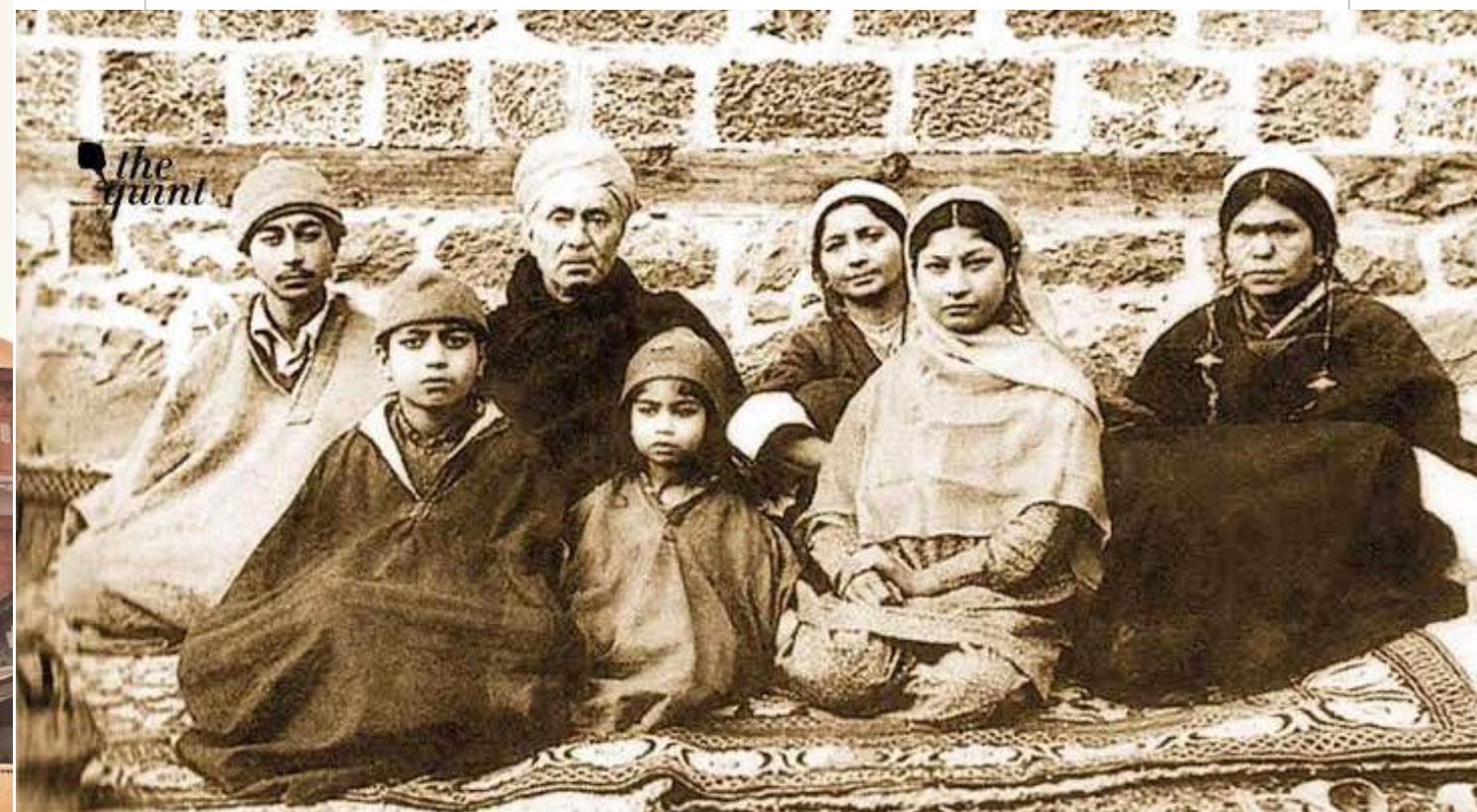
Many youth of today talk of conspiracy theories in the exodus of the Pandits. On Kashmir's social media, they talk like they know it all. They talk like the Pandits were responsible for their own exodus, or the Pandits had engineered their own exodus.

As I write these words today, my heart feels heavy. We who stayed behind know what the loss of teachers like Sri Mohan Lal, Pran Nath, Hadie Nath, Prince, Fency and Bia meant to Kashmir.

I was a student of Class 7 when the exodus of the Pandits happened. But I now know that we as a society could not protect them. We could not give them a sense of security to stay on. Our elders did not stop our youth at that time from raising slogans against Pandit brothers. We should have stopped our Pandit brothers from going away, but we did not.

The youth and children of today do not know what it was to lose Prince, Fency, Bia and thousands of other Pandit boys. They do not know what their loss meant to Kashmir

PHOTO COURTESY: THE QUINT



Magic Moves

by Mareaya FAYAZ

If you haven't seen Nargis Majid dancing, you've missed out on something. Check out nargismajid67 on Instagram. And wait for some dancing magic to begin.

If you can dance well yourself, so much the better. If you can't, don't fret. When Nargis flows through her moves like nectar and honey, it's like you too are flowing. One cannot stop the admiration. One cannot control the awe. Oh Yes! I want to dance like Nargis Majid. And I want to watch her moves. Wow!

In 2002, Shefali Jariwala of Mumbai became an overnight star after she danced to Kaanta Laga, the swinging number sung by Asha Bhonsle in the 1972 movie Samadhi. All would have forgotten about this song, but then Shefali Jariwala happened, and the song was blaring all across India.

Nearly 20 years later, Nargis Majid achieves the daunting task of outdoing Shefali Jariwala with her moves. Nargis dance to Kaanta Laga in a short video clip on her Instagram handle in December

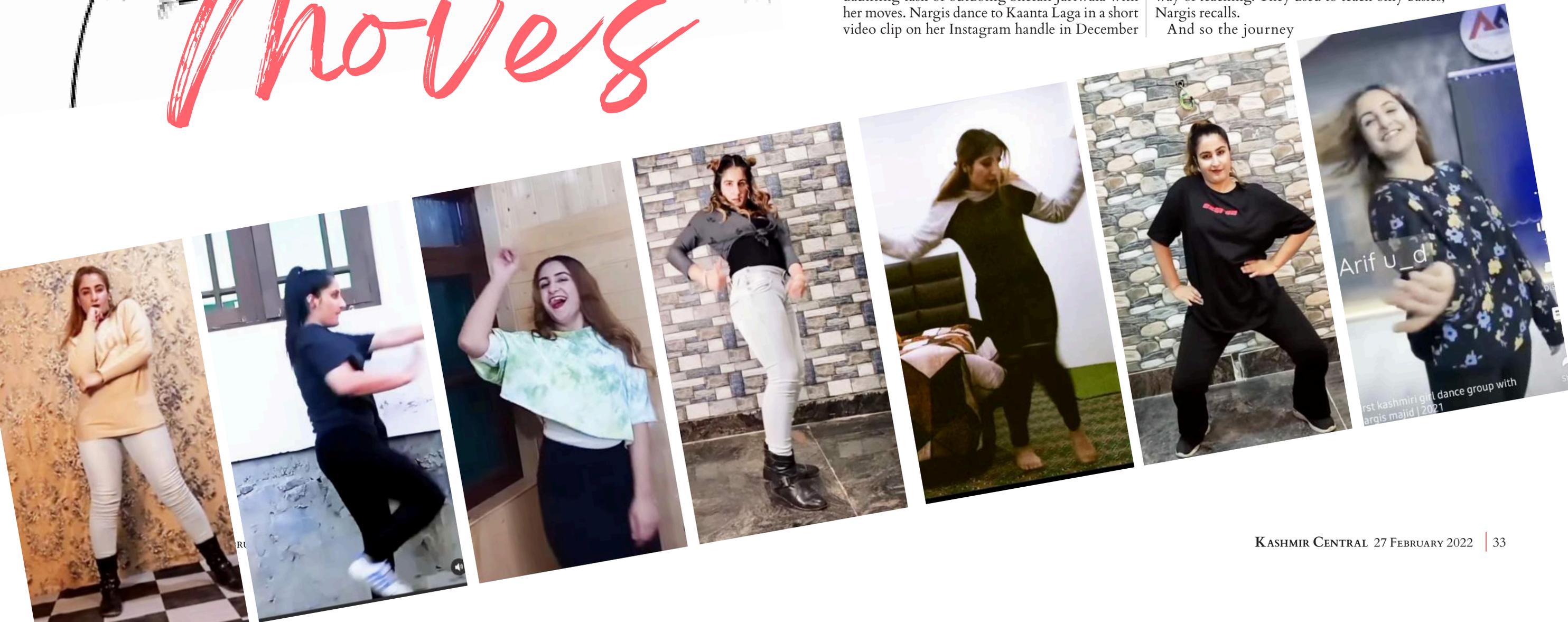
2021. Instantly, you knew that this girl can do Kaanta Laga 3.0 incredibly and make it a more fantastic watch. Well, wait for it. Nargis hasn't rolled out the complete video yet.

SRINAGAR'S DANCING SENSATION

Nargis, 20, is a dancing sensation of Srinagar. She is currently pursuing Bachelor in Arts from Amar Singh College. Nargis has done her schooling at New Convent School, Srinagar. Her hard work and persistence have been her biggest strengths. Her success journey is the perfect new-age example of 'A Woman Can Achieve What She Sets Her Heart On'.

Dance is clearly the young woman's passion. "I discovered my love for dance when I was a child. I joined a local dance academy close to my house for two months, but I was not happy with their way of teaching. They used to teach only basics," Nargis recalls.

And so the journey



began. Nargis started learning from YouTube channels and TV. "I began putting in my fullest efforts and worked hard to learn good moves. After I gained some confidence, I started uploading dance videos on the WeGO app and received a good response. Steadily, I started uploading content on Instagram and Youtube. I get highly motivated by the immense appreciation that I get on all social media platforms," says Nargis.

THE HUGE FAN BASE IN KASHMIR

Nargis has a large fan base in Kashmir now, and is a superhit on her Instagram and Youtube channels. She can perform Bollyhop (Bollywood and hip hop) and Salsa, and wants to pursue her professional career in Bollyhop.

Nargis has performed at major cultural events both in and outside Srinagar. Her debut performance was on the famous stage of Tagore Hall, Srinagar. She has also worked in many music videos with local productions, and has done three music videos with Doordarshan Kashmir.

It is highly creditable that Nargis has also made her mark in Bollywood. She has performed in a music video with ZEE Music under Renzufilms. Recently, she worked as an assistant choreographer in singer Afsana Khan's song starring Gauhar

WAY TO GO

"If you don't know where to learn dancing or you are not able to find any academy of your choice, do not lose hope. Make social media your teacher and your biggest platform. You can learn from the content there and upload yours as well," says the young woman who is dancing her way to success.

Khan, and Zaid Darbar.

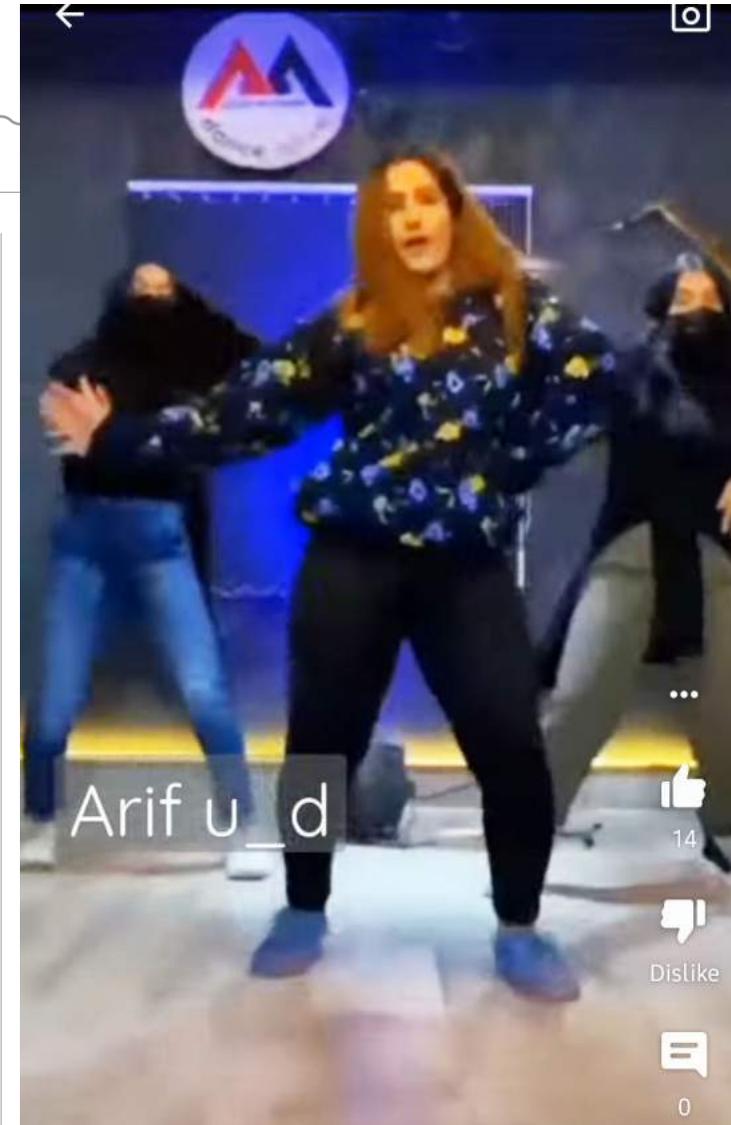
Nargis has received high recognition locally and has received certificates of appreciation at many events of Kashmir like Aaberawan, Panaash Productions, Khwaja Itrat, Khatoon Event, Kashmir Foundation, SheriKashmir Production, and also from JKStudentorg.

THE JOURNEY TO STARDOM

With thousands of followers on her social media platforms, Nargis is a young star of Kashmir. She emphasizes that excellence in her chosen field did not come easy. "It takes a high level of discipline and self-confidence. Perseverance, will power, hard work, and belief in oneself. I received mixed reactions from society. Some criticized me for my passion and some supported me. But success is always connected with faith in your own strength," she says with clarity.

Nargis highlights that dance as a career is a challenge in Kashmir. "We don't have much scope for dance here, but production houses are gradually showing their interest when they see our talent. We lack in many facilities and we don't have many events here, but things are getting better day by day," she smiles.

Nargis is fortunate to have received the complete support of her family. "My whole family believes in me, especially my dad, a forest officer. He was the one who first brought me to the dance academy after he noticed my interest," Nargis recalls fondly.



Nargis dancing with an all girl band of Srinagar

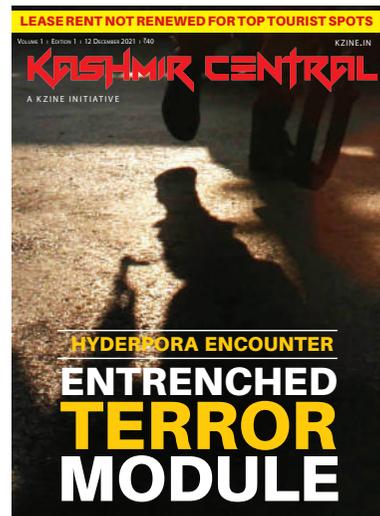
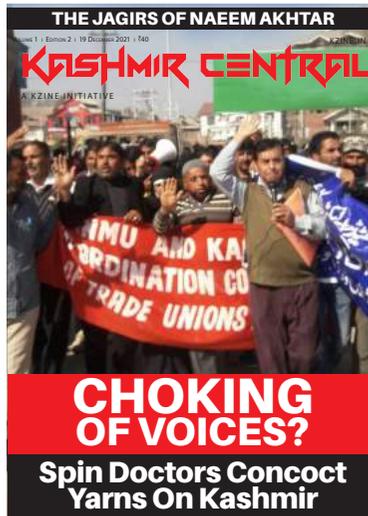
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