

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CRL. M.P. NO. OF 2017

IN

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRL.) No. 5777 of 2017

SHAFIN JAHAN

... PETITIONER

VERSUS

ASOKAN K.M. & ORS.

....RESPONDENTS

APPLICATION FOR DIRECTIONS

To
The Hon'ble Chief Justice
And his companion justices
Of the Supreme Court of India.

Humble petition of the
Petitioner above named.

1. The applicant herein is the Respondent No.1 to the above SLP and is seeking directions, inter alia, for ensuring the security, well being and protection of his family as prayed for more particularly herein below.
2. Respondent No.1 was the Petitioner before the High Court and was constrained to file a second habeas corpus petition being Writ Petition No. 297 of 2016 in view of a very serious apprehension that daughter of Respondent No. 1, namely Ms. Akhila was likely to be taken out of India and into ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) controlled territory with the active encouragement and connivance of Respondent No. 7 and 8 who had completely taken charge of her life

and deeply brainwashed her. In particular, Respondent No.8, who is the President of the Women's Wing of the Popular Front of India(PFI), and also acts as a preacher and psychologist at the Respondent No. 7 conversion institution (MarkazulHidayaSathysarani), had completely taken control of Akhila, otherwise a stranger to her, by housing her, financing her (evidently through the party/organisation to which she is affiliated, namely, Popular Front of India) and even took charge as her avowed "guardian" by rejecting and selecting matrimonial candidate(s) for her. Respondent no. 7 and 8 who are agents/fronts for the PFI/SDPI tried to thwart every attempt by the High Court to ensure that Akhilawas able to complete her education (house surgeoncy) by being housed in an independent facility. Eventually, in order to prevent the court from ensuring that Akhila was housed at her medical hostel and in order to retain control and custody over her and scuttle further orders of the High Court, Respondent Nos. 7 and 8 got her "married" to the Petitioner, an activist of the extremist organisation, PFI/SDPI.

3. The High Court has described the Petitioner as a "stooge" acting on behalf of the "forces acting behind the curtains" and he was brought in at the eleventh

hour after a rushed "marriage" only to defeat orders of the court/prevent intervention by the Court and take Akhila outside the country under the pretext of being "married" to her. The sham "marriage" was carried out allegedly on the evening of 19.12.2016, the very day the High Court had passed an order indicating that Akhila would be sent to her hostel on the next dated, i.e. 21.12.2016. No indication was given to her family or the High Court of the said plans and the same was a fraud on the court to obstruct the administration of justice. Further, the Petitioner who has been in touch with ISIS agents including one Mansi Buraqui who carries out recruitment for ISIS in India, was admittedly trying to take Akhila out of the country to the Middle East. Although it was claimed that the Petitioner got "married" to Akhila through "waytonikaah.com", it appears from news reports about an NIA Report that neither of the two had visited each other's profile until their so-called marriage. True copies of the Facebook posts along with English translation are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure A.** (Page Nos. 25 of 28). It is not a mere coincidence that around the same time, several persons, including neo converts have escaped to ISIS controlled territory. It is relevant to note that most of these

persons are adults, highly educated and technically/highly qualified professionals. It is pertinent to note that till June 2016, around 21 youth from Kerala have gone missing and are feared to have joined ISIS. Further, six have been thereafter arrested suspected to have planned a terrorist attack on Israeli tourists. True copies of the news reports dated 27.02.2017 and 21.10.2016 are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure B.** (Page Nos. 29 of 35).

4. A pattern similar to the conversion/indoctrination of the daughter of Respondent No. 1 is seen in the following cases:

a) **Case of Nimisha**(WP (Crl.) no. 468 of 2015)

- A young woman studying in a dental college converted to Islam and soon married another neo convert, Issa@Bexin.
- Her parents had filed a habeas corpus petition when she went missing which came to be dismissed by the High Court of Kerala as she was not under any illegal custody (Pages 153-159 of Additional Documents).
- Thereafter, it was reported that Nimisha@Fathima, Issa@Bexin and their brother-in-law had joined ISIS (Pages 79-82, 118-119 of Additional

Documents). It is believed that her brother in law has already been killed.

b) **Case of Athira** (W.P. (Crl.) No. 235 of 2016)

- Young, 22 year old woman was supported and facilitated by PFI through her coerced conversion through Sathyasarani institution (Respondent No. 7).
- Like the Petitioner, was influenced by a PFI activist and her classmate and later married the former.
- Speeches of Zakir Naik employed in deeply brainwashing the victim.
- Sainaba, Respondent No. 8 played a similar role by acting as her guardian. Modus operandi strikingly similar to the present case.
- After her reconversion, she has sought action against the perpetrators.
- True copies of the news report dated 28.09.2017 are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure C.** (Page Nos. 36 of 40).
- The affidavit of Athira is annexed as Annexure R6 at Page 160-170 of Additional Documents. Also see Page 78-79, 92 of PB.

c) **Case of Aparna** W.P. (Crl.) No. 131 of 2016 (Pages 213-215, Para D, PB)

- 6
- Highly qualified, young, educated woman converted through Sathyasarani (Respondent no. 7).
 - Like Respondent No. 8, women affiliated with PFI/SDPI accompanied victim to Court and played an identical role in assuming the role of a guardian and facilitating their indoctrination as well as marriage to strangers.

d) **Case of Sruthi**

- A young educated woman, was offered Rs. 7 lacs to convert to Islam.
- She was indoctrinated to believe that "Bharat Maharajyam is not our country" and that "we Muslims are not destined to live with Hindus".
- She was granted police protection by the Kerala High Court after there were threats from radical outfits, namely, PFI who had approached her to take her to Syria and Yemen. The affidavit of Sruthi is annexed as Annexure R6 at Page 166-170 of Additional Documents.
- A true copy of the news report dated 21.08.2017 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure D.** (Page Nos. 41 of 42).

e) *Shahansha A. v. State of Kerala*, (2010 (1) KHC 121):

- PFI/SDPI activists have been named in a case of indoctrination and deceitful conversion.

- Large-scale conversions of young women taking place in specific districts in Kerala such as Kasargod, Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram (Pages 45-57 of Additional Documents).

5. The nature of the brain washing and indoctrination in these cases is uncannily similar inasmuch as all of these educated young women have been speaking in the same voice, showing extreme fear of the horrors of "hell" and the fear of being singed in "hell fire". The Respondent No. 1's daughter, Akhila too has expressed the same fears and has been made to believe that the only escape from hell is the path shown by such extremists/radicals. These young, unsuspecting women have been made to believe that the only method of salvation is by following the said path. The Kerala police investigation report dated 01.09.2016 after meeting Akhila reports as follows:

"While interacting with her it is revealed that she has been taught a lot of things with regard to "Hell" after one's death". Islam is the only solution for human kind. Again she believes that Islam will help her reach heaven after death. She explains that this factor attracted her to join Islam.

It is clear that Respondent No. 8 has brainwashed her for she too, in her affidavit before the High Court has spoken the same language about "hell" and "sin".

Likewise, even Sruthi and Athira have expressed a similar fear of hell and hell fire. Athira who went to Sathyasarani (Respondent No. 7) has said:

"Thus due to fear of hell I gravitated more and more towards Islam and began to believe in Islam. Whenever I think about anything the hell came to my mind. Thus, I believed that only way to escape from hell is through Islam". (She was also influenced by speeches of Zakir Naik)

Sruthi also says she was frightened by the

"horrors of hell and punishments in hell, about punishment after death and khabar punishments."

It is a matter of serious concern why such educated women have fallen prey to such irrational fears of hell and why they were reduced to virtual robots in the hands of those who brainwashed them. The daughter of Respondent No. 1 was also rendered virtually robotic in her conduct. After falling into the company of the Respondents under question, 4 different Muslim names were produced; she spoke of carrying on pastoral farming and repeatedly tried to persuade Respondent no. 1 and his wife to convert Islam, saying that Hindu gods had done nothing for them and this was the only way to salvation. At 24 years of age, Respondent no. 8, otherwise a stranger, admittedly assumed "guardianship" of Akhila. It appears that this is not the

first time that Respondent no. 8 has played this role as the case of one Athira shows.

So extreme and toxic is the ideology that is used to brain wash the said youth that they are made to believe that interacting with non-believers is non-puritanical and therefore escape from an "impure" place like Kerala is necessary. A true copy of the news report dated 08.05.2017 and 11.07.2016 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure E.** (Page Nos. 43 of 45). The affidavits of Sruthi and Athira are annexed as Annexure R6 at Page 160-170 of Additional Documents.

6. In the circumstances it is absolutely necessary, inter alia, as matter of national security and safety of citizens as also to prevent social unrest that the above cases be thoroughly investigated along with the case of Respondent No.1's daughter and the perpetrators be brought to book.

Threat to the life of Respondent no. 1/his family from PFI/SDPI/its agents:

a) Background of PFI/SDPI:

- Extremist activities & radicalisation of youth; affiliation with ISIS, Lashkar-e-Taiba, HizbulMujahideen, SIMI (Students Islamic Movement of India), Zakir Naik etc. (Pages 38-39 Additional Documents).

- Involved in illegal and criminal activities such as forced conversion, murder, possessing arms, rioting etc.
- Links with SIMI (banned outfit). Kerala Government stated that PFI was SIMI in a new form (Page 29 of Additional Documents). Many of the leaders of SIMI are now leaders of PFI. Mr. E. Abubacker, National President of SDPI and Chairman of PFI was State President of SIMI (Page 36 of Additional Documents).
- 21 Active PFI and SDPI members were convicted for possessing arms, explosives and training of arms under the Sections 120B and 143 read with Section 149 of the IPC, Section 5(1)(a) read with Section 27 of the Arms Act 1959, Sections 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 and Sections 18 and 18A of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (Pages 32-33, 37 of Additional Documents).
- In December of 2016, the sentence of the NIA Court was enhanced by the Kerala High Court to 6 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Rs. 1000 for each of the 21 accused.
- In 2014, Kerala Govt. had stated that PFI/SDPI members were involved in 27 murder cases including the kidnap and murder of boys for

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ransom and murders of CPI (M), ABVP and RSS activists; Also involved in 86 attempt to murder cases and a total of 106 communal cases (Pages 34-35 of Additional Documents).

- In July 2016, PFI organized a rally in support Zakir Naik, inter alia, where slogans of Pakistan Zindabad were raised (Pages 30-31, 61 of Additional Documents).
- Another 27 PFI members charge-sheeted for their involvement in a Taliban like attack on Professor TJ Joseph in which they had cut off his palm for asking a question on Prophet Muhammad (Page 28 of Additional Documents). 13 of them have already been convicted.
- SMS hate campaign was carried out by PFI that led to the mass exodus of people of North East from various parts of India (Page 26-27 of Additional Documents).
- PFI has also been reported to have links with **ISIS, Al-Qaeda, LeT** and other terrorist organizations (Page 25 of Additional Documents). Around 21 youngsters have joined ISIS terror camps in Afghanistan and several 'cadres' have been arrested. (highest for any state in India).

- Former CM of Kerala, Mr. Achutanandan, has stated in the assembly, the subversive tactics of PFI (Page 44 of Additional Documents).
- NIA had also created a Dossier on PFI. It was reportedly stated that PFI believes in a Taliban brand of Islam, triggers divide and is also involved in serious matters of National Security. A true copy of the news reports dated 13.09.2017 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure F.**
(Page Nos. 46 of 54).

b) Antecedents and background of Shafin Jahan (Petitioner)

- Activist of the Popular Front of India/Social Democratic Party of India (PFI/SDPI) (Page 117/I, 456/II). Family members closely connected with PFI/SDPI (Page 459/II).
- Earlier, active member of Campus Front, college outfit of PFI/SDPI found to be involved in illegal conversion activity in college campuses. (see *Shahansha A. vs State of Kerala* 2010 (1) KHC 121 at page 45-57 Additional Documents. @ 52).
- Active member and administrator of the WhatsApp group namely, SDPIKeralam. Member of the core committee of the SDPI called, Thanal. MansyBouraqui, an ISIS agent, arrested by NIA also a part of the said committee. Admitted position at

page 117. (Pages 86/I, Para 45; Pages 424, 458/II of Police Report).

- Criminal antecedents:

- i. Accused in Crime No. 2100 of 2013 registered in respect of offences under sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 294(b) (obscene acts) r/w 149 of the IPC pending before the Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC). Security proceedings were initiated against him but later dropped (Page 457-458/II of the Police Report)

- Extremist views on Facebook (Pages 91/I, PB; Page 427-428/II):

- i. "You be ready, one bullet is waiting for you."
(Showing automated weapon) (Pg 177-178 Additional Documents)
- ii. "Do you get a smell of a terror attack coming?"
(Also showing militant with weapon) (Pg 181-182 Additional Documents)
- iii. "Darling, bridegroom is smart... UAPA is also against us" (Pg186-187 Additional Documents)
- iv. "It is true that I was not available for the last four days.

It is true that I also travelled to the border areas of Yemen.

I have travelled through Sallala and not through Syria.

Howsoever I die my other expects to see my dead body.

Even though it was Eid, I could not go around celebrate it" (Pg 179-180 Additional Documents)

- v. Congratulated the 8th Respondent on her elevation as a member to the Muslim Personal Law Board (Pg184-185Additional Documents).
- vi. "My life companion should be a person who is part of an innocent terrorist/anti-national.

The love of my life companion should be of such intensity that even a prisoner of long duration like me, should feel attracted.

The intensity of the live towards me should be such that even the darkness of the prison should get illuminated

I should be made to believe that justice is not far away even if, in vain.

She should a person who makes me believe that my problems are small and can be overcome and justice is not far away.

She should be my voice to speak against the oppressive and murderous government that I am not prepared to succumb.

She should be a courageous woman who will not make me cry even though I am facing severe tribulations.

She should be a person who always reminds and bears with me of the dawn of the next day, when the previous day comes to an end." (Page 188-189 of Additional Documents)

- Plans to migrate/leave the country:
 - i. Facebook post says he went to border areas of Yemen. ISIS militants have also started to train new recruits in Yemen(Pages 144-152 of Additional Documents)
 - ii. Connections/conversations with MansyBuraqui, an ISIS agent in respect of ISIS recruitment, (Buraqui arrested by NIA: page 87/I; 423-424/II, 458-59/II of the Police Report)
 - iii. Plans to leave the country for the Gulf. (Page 30, Para 7; 88/I, Para 46; Page 426/II, 461/II of the Police Report, PB)
 - iv. In the conversation with MansyBouraqui, the Petitioner asks him how many rupees he will

earn for being a recruiting agent to which the former replied that the payment for the same would be in dollars and not rupees.

c) **Sainaba (Respondent No. 8)**

- National President, National Women's Front (Women's Wing of PFI): (Para 7, Page 233-34/I of her Counter Affidavit; Page 316/I of the Police Report, PB);
- Akhila describes her as a "Senior psychologist" (page 152/I, PB). She describes herself as a "counsellor" at Sathyasarani (page 246/I, PB) and is admittedly devoted to conversion activities which she regards as her religious duty (page 233, 235/I, PB).
- Pending criminal case in respect of conversion of one Athira where R8 was involved (Page 316/I of the Police Report, PB). See affidavit by Athira, aged 22, who was indoctrinated by Respondent No.8. Thus, Respondent No.8 is actively engaged in conversion activities, in particular, through Respondent No.7 where she brainwashes young women.
- Her conduct in insisting on housing a complete stranger like Akhila, supporting her financially and otherwise taking responsibility for her by *inter alia*, arranging her so-called marriage with the Petitioner, raises serious disquiet about her intentions. (Pages

83/I). Describes herself as "guardian" of Akhila (Page 474/II)

It is significant to note that neither Respondent No. 7 or Respondent No. 8 nor has the Petitioner filed any rejoinder to the Reply of the Respondent No. 1 which raises serious issues. The same are therefore deemed to be admitted.

7. The High Court was compelled to give the Respondent No. 1 and his family protection due to a serious threat perception from the Petitioner and his affiliates and in particular, the organisation namely PFI/SDPI (Popular Front of India/Social Democratic Party of India) of which he is, admittedly, an activist. The said organisation has been described in a State Government affidavit "**virulently fundamentalist**" and has wide criminal antecedents, including the notorious hand chopping case of Professor Joseph and is involved in several other cases of murders, kidnapping and attempts to murder (Page 190 -197 of Additional Documents). It is also actively involved in organized conversion and radicalization activities through institutions such as Respondent no.7 which are extremely well-funded and resourceful and preach contempt of other faiths.

8. That, it is significant to note that the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala had ordered an investigation into the matter and had expressed extreme dissatisfaction in the conduct of the state police.
9. In the meantime, it is necessary to bring on record that the Petitioner/his affiliates etc. are causing harassment to the Respondent No.1 and his family by fuelling unruly protests and creating law and order situations outside Respondent No.1's home. Respondent No. 1 has reason to believe that even so called human rights activists have been instigated by PFI/SDPI to create trouble around Respondent No.1's house and to plant stories in the media to create a perception that he has placed his own daughter under house arrest and/or violated her human rights.
10. It is submitted that it is the Petitioner/his affiliates/PFI/SDPI who are squarely responsible for the current situation since it was their threatening and menacing conduct and the threat perception to the Respondent No. 1 and his family that resulted in the High Court having to order round the clock security for Respondent No.1 and his family. The Petitioner is now seeking to make a virtue of the situation for himself by claiming a human rights violation while it is on account of the threats and intimidation from PFI/its affiliates that Respondent No. 1 and his family are

currently in the said situation. The State Government in its wisdom chose to post policemen outside the house for the security of the family and in addition two lady police women inside the home of Respondent No. 1 for the security of Akhila. Thus, the State also was alive to the threat perception to the Respondent No. 1 and his family. It is preposterous for the Petitioner to suggest that the Respondent No. 1 or any member of his family is "beating" or in any manner torturing Akhila who is Respondent No. 1's only child. The situation which the Respondent Nos. 7, 8 and Petitioner/their affiliates are responsible for, have put Respondent No. 1 and his wife under tremendous mental and emotional trauma. The State has failed to extend support to families such as those of Respondent no. 1 nor has it come up with an effective program to curb radicalism.

11. The Respondent No. 1 is a retired Army Jawan who has served the country with sincerity and dedication and after Respondent No. 1's retirement he worked as a peon in the Armed Forces Tribunal. Thus, resources of Respondent No. 1 are extremely limited and he has had to resign from his job as a peon in view of the unfortunate situation that the Petitioner, Respondent and 7, 8 and their affiliates etc. have put Respondent No. 1's family in. The Respondent No. 1 is finding it

extremely difficult to make ends meet whereas the Petitioner has the backing of an extremely powerful and resourceful organisation namely the PFI/SDPI who at the snap of a finger deploy scores of foot soldiers to create menacing and ugly situations which often turn violent. Respondent no. 1 is deeply fearful for his life and that of his family members.

12. In fact, even after the High Court decision, a huge law and order situation was created by PFI activists violently protecting against the High Court judgment and shouting slogans against the Hon'ble judges and casting aspersions against the judiciary (Page 43 of Additional Documents). Policemen were injured, police barricades were broken and vehicular traffic was disrupted. The Police had to control the situation with additional forces, and lathi charge etc. The Kerala High Court Advocates Association has passed a resolution deprecating the said conduct.
13. The threats to Respondent No.1 continue and every few days, unruly, law and order situations are created outside his home and strangers are sent on the pretext of human rights violations. The said organisations which are backing the Petitioner have created an environment of intimidation and deep fear psychosis. These intimidatory tactics have been employed in open court. Desperate attempts are being made to derail the

investigation and deflect attention from the real issue at hand which is the illegal, criminal and anti-national activities of PFI/SDPI and their affiliates. Activists are sent to create a "trial by media" and have tried to make a public spectacle of the family's misery. A bogey is sought to be raised in the name of promoting a "multicultural society" when it is the PFI/SDPI who are the biggest threat to multi-cultural societies/communal harmony. The present case is on no account an ordinary inter religious marriage but rather, part of a well oiled, well funded systematic effort to wean away vulnerable women and make them pawns in a larger game.

14. In the circumstances it is absolutely necessary for the investigation which has been commenced by NIA to be completed and final report submitted to this Hon'ble Court. If indeed, the Petitioner and his affiliates have nothing to hide, there is no reason for them to resist it.
15. It is also necessary to restrain the Petitioner and his affiliates from indulging in any activities which cause a breach of peace or interfere with/threaten the lives of Respondent No. 1 and his family.

PRAYERS

It is therefore most respectfully prayed that this That this Hon'ble Court be pleased to:

- (a) direct the NIA to expeditiously complete a thorough investigation into the matter including the links with other cases referred to in paragraph 3 above and submit to this Hon'ble Court its final investigation report;
- (b) To ensure full protection and security to Respondent No.1, his wife and daughter;
- (c) To restrain the Petitioner/his affiliates/henchmen either by themselves or through organisations to which the Petitioner is affiliated /activist of, or any other persons from issuing threats to Respondent No.1 and/or interfering with the protection currently granted to the Respondent No.1 and his family, and from creating any law and order problems/breach of security around their home;
- (d) pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem just and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

FOR WHICH ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONER
SHALL AS IN DUTY BOUND EVER PRAY.

Filed by:

Filed on: 7. 10.2017

(A.RAGHUNATH)

(Advocate for the Petitioner)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRL. M.P. No. Of 2017

IN

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) No. 5777 of 2017

IN THE MATTER OF:

SHAFIN JAHAN

..PETITIONER

VERSUS

ASOKAN K.M. & ORS.

..RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT

I, Asokan K.M., S/o. Mani, Aged 56 years, resident of Karattu House, 'Devi Kripa' T.V. Puram Post, Vaikom, Kottayam District, presently at Ernakulam, Kerala State, do solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I am the 1st respondent in the above Special Leave Petition and I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case as such I am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. I state that the facts stated in the application for directions filed in the above Special Leave Petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material is concealed there from.
3. I State that the Annexures filed along with the application for permission to file additional documents are true copies of their respective originals.

4. The facts stated in the above paragraphs 1 to 3 are correct.

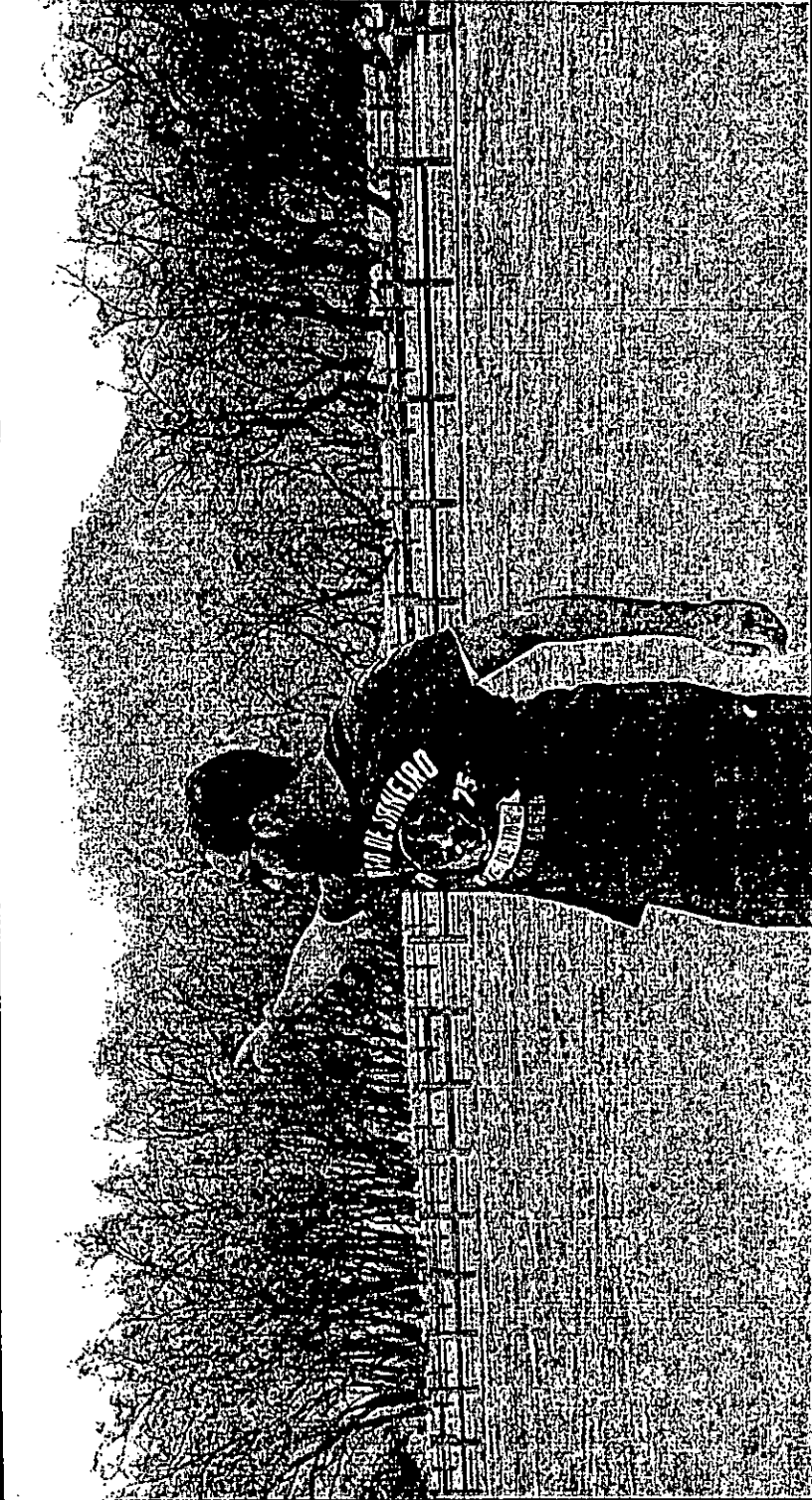
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

I, Asokan K.M, the deponent above named, do hereby verify the contents of the above mentioned affidavit as being true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and state that nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at on this day of October, 2017

DEPONENT



0 0 156

Mansel Buran (00:00) ...
Live 0 2 10 July 2016 at 11:23

Shahin Jahan S (00:00) ...
Live 0 2 10 July 2016 at 11:23



Shahin Jahan S (00:00) ...
Live 0 2 10 July 2016 at 11:23

Mansel Buran (00:00) ...
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Mansel Buran (00:00) ...
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Mansel Buran (00:00) ...
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Rivas Abdul Mansel (00:00) ...
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Rivas Abdul Mansel (00:00) ...
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Shahin Jahan S (00:00) ...
Live 0 2 10 July 2016 at 11:23

Mansel Buran (00:00) ...
Live 0 2 10 July 2016 at 11:23



Mansel Buran (00:00) ...
Live 0 2 10 July 2016 at 11:23

1st Facebook post

Mansi Buraaq : That mountain is Tora Bora

Sidheeque NM : Huh?

Shafin Jahan S : How much rupees will I get on becoming a recruitment agent

Mansi Buraaq : Rupees!, Its Dollars, Dollars

Sidheeque NM : HMM

Riyas Abdul Manaf: Forget touring even staying in the bathroom is difficult

Shafin Jahan S : ☺

Mansi Buraaq : ☺



**Shafin Jahan S**
Feb 19 · 10 Jun 2016 · e

കഴിഞ്ഞ നാലു ദിവസം അമ്മനുടെ
ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു
എന്നതി സത്യമാണ്.

ഓരോരുത്തരുടെയും ജീവിത സാഹചര്യം
യഥാസ്ഥിതിയോടെ
അതേപോലെ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടു
എന്നതും സത്യമാണ്.

സാധാരണക്കാരെക്കൂടി റാണിയേയും അല്ല
നാലാലായിരക്കളുള്ള യാത്രക്കുറിക്കുറിക്കാണ്
അവിടെ പോയത്.

ഒരു കാര്യം.
അമ്മനന് എങ്ങനെ മരിച്ചു.
എന്തായിക്കി എന്തെങ്കിലും കാര്യം പറ്റി.
പൊന്നാളായിട്ടു കറങ്ങാൻ പോകുന്ന
പോലെ അമ്മനായി.

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 155

**Manal Buraq** അമ്മനേ ഒരു കാര്യം
അമ്മനായി.

 Like · 7 · 10 Jun 2016 # 1171

 Sidheeqa NM

 Huda

2nd facebook:

It is true that I was not available for the last four days.

It is true that I also travelled to the border areas of Yemen.

I travelled through Sallala and not through Syria.

Howsoever I die my mother expects to see my dead body.

Even though it was Eid, I could not the go around celebrate it.

(True copy)

The
Brief

06-10-2017 10:08

Hebel Construction
Group plans to boost its construction capacity by five times (Asia Times Staff)

06-10-2017 09:55

China continues to take
a tough stance on digital currencies (Asia Times Staff)

06-10-2017 09:24

Chinese travellers made
461 million trips and spent 385.6 billion yuan over the first four days of Golden Week (Asia Times Staff)

06-10-2017 09:14

Guangzhou city
complex plan aims to draw 250 million tourists by 2020 (Asia Times Staff)

06-10-2017 09:07

The Japan-US
relationship - like most nation-to-nation ties - is strongest when unstressed and North Korea's push for atomic weapons offers plenty of stress. One result is talk in Tokyo on whether Japan should develop its own nuclear arsenal instead of relying on America's. (Grant Newsham)

06-10-2017 07:34

Opinion // Do-nothing,



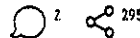
Screenshot from a video of IS training in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, in 2015

SOUTH ASIA | TERRORISM

Shadow of Islamist terror
looms over South India

While timely arrests have averted terror strikes, youths trained in Islamic State's Afghan camps are said to have set up sleeper cells across south

By E JAYA KUMAR | FEBRUARY 27, 2017 2:50 PM (UTC+8)



Kerala, a state on the southern tip of the Indian coast overlooking the Arabian Sea, has been a role model for other areas of the country in literacy, social harmony, health care and land reform. It's now drawing attention for more potentially violent reasons.

In June 2016, it was reported that 21 people - 12 men, six women and three children - from Kerala's predominantly Muslim northern districts had gone missing and were said to have joined Islamic State (ISIS).

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More recently, the National Investigation Agency detained six youths who were allegedly planning attacks on Israeli tourists in neighboring

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The arrests and newspaper reports are "disturbing," said retired Professor MN Karaserry, a writer and social commentator living in Kozhikode, one of Kerala's largest cities.

Retired professor Hameed Chennamangaloor, another social critic also from Kozhikode, was guarded in his response.

"So far, there has been no clue about their (21 missing) whereabouts, no proof they joined ISIS. The number of 'ISIS recruits' mentioned in the reports too is very small compared with those joining the terror group from Europe or the US," he told Asia Times last year.

Many people question the news reports by arguing that Yemen could be the possible destination of these youths. Mujahid Muslims of Kerala have been going to Yemen to practise puritan Islam.

They argue that Arab traders brought Islam to Kerala and Muslims in the state have been leading a peaceful life unlike those in northern India where Muslim invaders from foreign lands spread Islam by sword.

However, immigration records indicate that some of the missing young people traveled to Afghanistan and then to Iran on their way to Syria.

One reason could be their revulsion toward what they see as a hollow society steeped in materialism

They may have taken the Iran route to escape detection as India enjoys warm ties with that country. They may have thought that the presence of women and children in their group will ensure them a safe passage to Iraq as "Shia pilgrims."

Rebels against a hollow society?

Most of the men and women among the missing were educated and from middle-class families. Among them were couples who recently converted to Islam. They had ample opportunities to join their family business or take up jobs as professionals. It is unlikely they faced any social discrimination or alienation in a pluralistic and highly literate state like Kerala.

What made them reject the bright future ahead? How did this radical change happen in them?

One reason could be their revulsion toward what they see as a hollow society steeped in materialism. Another could be their exposure to speeches, literature or CDs on Salafism that exhort the faithful to return to the way Prophet Muhammad and his followers lived.



some of them might have already learned as children in "madrassas" (Islamic religious schools).

Read: ISIS recruit from India killed in Afghan drone strike

Or it could be the ideal environment for such radical thoughts to flourish. Seventeen of those missing belonged to Kasargod district where Muslims constitute 37.24% of population, according to a 2011 census. Most Muslim families in Kasargod have at least one member working in the Arabian Gulf and some of these migrant workers try to replicate the strict Islamic lifestyle they see there, back home.

When his response was sought on the radicalization of Muslim youth in the Malabar region, Karaserry drew attention to the bigger picture – the "social, moral and cultural decay destroying Kerala."

Affluence and moral decline

According to Karaserry, the decay began soon after the formation of the state (in 1956) when the Catholic Church, Nair (a Hindu sect) Service Society and the Indian Union Muslim League launched Vimochana Samaram (liberation struggle) to bring down the first elected Communist government of the state in 1959.

The second blow came when communists themselves played the same religion card to return to power in 1967. Since then, successive coalition governments have been playing the card to cling to power, he said.

The affluence triggered by the Gulf boom in the 1970s, despite some positive effects, led to more greed, consumerism, the display of opulence, crime and erosion of social values. Religion, politics and money power formed a dangerous cocktail and most people of Kerala, who were once admired for their plain living and high thinking, were soon hooked to it, he said.

"The question of Muslim youth getting radicalized has to be viewed in this context. Let's also not ignore another threat we face now – the rise of Hindu fascism, which is equally worrisome and dangerous," Karaserry said.

Leaders' silence shocking

When asked whether youths drawn to terror groups can be reformed, Karaserry said: "Political and so-called cultural leaders in Kerala won't speak up. They always play safe. They don't want to create enemies. We have painfully felt their silence after Chekannur Moulavi (a progressive Islamic cleric from Edappal) was murdered in 1993 and Professor T.J. Joseph's hand was chopped off in 2010 (by Muslim fundamentalists as punishment for setting a question paper that was deemed to be blasphemous)."



other creative writers remain silent on terror groups. Only social critics like Karaserry and Hameed have the moral courage to comment on such issues without fear or favor."

As elections in Kerala are often won on a wafer thin majority, most political parties remain silent on issues like the case of the 21 missing. They don't want to antagonize Muslims who form a big chunk of the electorate.

Kerala's incumbent chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, a communist whose home district is next to Kasargod, tries to generalize whenever his attention is drawn to such issues.

Nangarhar connection

The arrest of six youths from Kannur and Kozhikode on October 3 for allegedly plotting terror attacks across southern India and an Indian Express report on October 20 of an international manhunt for a key ISIS recruiter from Kozhikode have deepened fears that Kerala may be coming under the shadow of the dreaded group.

The *Express* reported of new ISIS recruits from India heading for training camps in Nangarhar province in Afghanistan and named a key recruiter from Kozhikode, Sajeer Mangalachari Abdullah.

A graduate from National Institute of Technology-Calicut, Abdullah is said to have recruited the six youths to kill Israeli tourists visiting Kodaikanal and also target pro-Hindu leaders and judges in Kerala for their "anti-Muslim" views or verdicts.

He is said to have facilitated the travel of the 21 missing to Afghanistan.

Responding to the report, Abdullah's siblings said he was a loner and they did not know what had happened to him.

National Investigation Agency report

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) report released in late October reveals that more than 30 youths from Kerala had attended ISIS training camps in Afghanistan. Some of them may have already returned to India to set up sleeper cells.

Many educated Muslim youths from Kerala working in the Gulf and some non-resident Indian businessmen are supporting or funding terror activities, the report said.

Some of the religious groups in Kerala regarded as secular are backing or inspiring these youths, it said.

Before the NIA took over the case of the missing 21, the Kerala state police had arrested Yasmin Ahmed, a 29-year-old Bihari woman, suspected to be working for Abdullah.



and one of Abdullah's key operators.

Terror plot foiled in Tamil Nadu

ISIS interest in southern India became all the more evident with the arrest of Subhani Haja Moideen, 31, in Chennai in neighboring Tamil Nadu state early October.

He was charged with planning attacks against foreign tourists under the guidance of ISIS operative Muhammad Sultan Armar based in Syria.

Moideen, a native of Thodupuzha in Kerala and living in Tiruvelveli, Tamil Nadu, told NIA he had received combat training in Mosul, Iraq, for five months last year and served the group in the war zone for two weeks.

Moideen also told them he met a couple from Maharashtra state at a public place but was not sure whether they were fighting for the ISIS. Investigating agencies are examining the records of missing people from Maharashtra to see whether the woman Moideen met with went from India or reached Iraq through a third country.

Moideen decided to leave ISIS after witnessing the death of a friend in a shell attack but he was jailed by an ISIS court and released later. After returning to India via Istanbul, he continued working for ISIS.

Before his arrest, Moideen was planning to gather explosives from Sivakasi, the center of India's firecracker industry, and meet some handlers in Chennai and Coimbatore to coordinate terror attacks in the state.

According to NIA, Moideen also met with members of the Kerala module of the group which included the six youths arrested.



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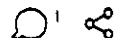
The Kerala-Nangarhar connection points to a larger number of IS members from India than the projected figure of 67. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM

Hunt for ISIS recruiter luring Indian youth to Afghanistan

Man from Kerala sends recruits to Nangarhar province where they are taught to make bombs and stage attacks back home: Indian Express

By ASIA TIMES STAFF | OCTOBER 21, 2016 1:23 PM (UTC+8)



An international manhunt is under way by intelligence agencies of India, Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates for an Indian who is said to be a key recruiter for Islamic State in Afghanistan, the Indian Express reported.

The suspect Sajeer Mangalachari Abdullah of Kozhikode in Kerala allegedly instructed six youths, who were recently arrested, to kill Israeli tourists visiting Kodaikanal in neighboring Tamil Nadu state and also pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party leaders and judges for their "anti-Muslim" views or verdicts, the Express reported on Thursday.

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As ISIS militants flee Mosul and Raqqa fearing the imminent fall of their remaining strongholds, terrorist recruiters in India have been instructed to send fresh recruits to Nangarhar in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, which is said to be a perfect hideout for them. There they are given do-it-yourself instructions on making bombs and staging attacks in India, the report said.

"Nangarhar is about as close as you can get to a black hole," an Indian intelligence official told the Express. "It's the perfect place to go if you want to disappear. Even Afghanistan's intelligence services have next to no on-ground reach there."

All the six youths arrested by the National Investigation Agency were well educated. Of them, Doha-based Manseed Bin Mohamed had strong political views that, like IS's, sought direct action. the report said, quoting the NIA.

Earlier, Abdullah had sent 21 Kerala residents, including eight minors, to Nangarhar.

The Kerala-Nangarhar connection points to a larger number of IS members from India than the projected figure of 67.

ISIS interest in southern India became all the more evident with the arrest of Subhani Haja Moideen this month. He was charged with planning attacks against foreign tourists under the guidance of IS operative Muhammad Sultan Armar.

Armar's group in Syria is said to include Indian Mujahedeen operatives Abu Rashid, Shahnawaz Ahmad and Mirza Shadab Beig, all fugitives.



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Kerala must act against PFI and sister organisations; cases of forced conversions will only polarise state further

India (/category/india) Naveen Nair (/author/naveennair) Sep, 28 2017 19:44:43 IST

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A week ago when 22-year-old Athira Nambiar called a hurriedly conducted press meet in Kochi, she was perhaps making personal amends for what she now claims was an error committed a few months ago.

The girl, who had very gleefully told awaiting cameras outside the Kerala High Court in June that she had adopted Islam over Hinduism after her profound love for the former, set the record straight last week when she revealed that a few of her friends and classmates had 'influenced her' to change her religion.

But more significantly, her revelation has blown the lid off one of Kerala's worst kept secrets of recent times. Coerced conversions involving two or more organised agencies and institutions that owe allegiance to hard-line Islamic fundamentalism have been rampant in the state, but the state administration has been doing absolutely nothing to tackle the menace.

At the crux of the entire alleged operation is Popular Front of India

(http://www.newindianexpress.com/thesundaystandard/2013/apr/28/kerala-police-unmasks-pfis-terror-face-472325.html) (PFI), a separatist organisation evolved out of the notorious homegrown terror outfit Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) which was banned in 2001.

Kerala must act against PFI and sister organisations; cases of forced conversions

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Athira's allegations have put the spotlight back on PFI as she claims that she was supported and facilitated by PFI throughout the conversion process. Athira also goes on to name one Siraj, an activist with PFI and brother of her classmate Aneesa, who had assisted Athira during the conversion.

"It was Siraj who motivated me to convert to Islam. Siraj was instrumental in me leaving home, and getting converted. Later on, I stayed at one of his relative's house. He, along with a few other workers of PFI transported me from one hideout to another before I appeared in front of the police. Even my mobile phone was taken away from me and they returned it only after I told the police that I converted on my own wish and that I was staying with a classmate of mine and nowhere else," Athira said during the press meet.

Athira had then told the Kerala High Court that she would prefer staying with her parents but be allowed to practice Islam. Last week she said that she was returning to Hinduism.

Security agencies believe that they have enough evidence to put PFI under the dock for coerced conversion and the National Investigating Agency (NIA), which is already involved in investigating such cases as per an order of the Supreme Court, thinks that PFI is the mainstay of the entire conversion factor that has mushroomed in Kerala.

Speeches of Zakir Naik and concocted versions of the Holy *Quran* with distorted meanings are some of the tools employed in 'thought reform processes', a new word to the often-over-abused misnomer 'brainwashing'.

With Athira coming on record to say that a concerted effort was unleashed on her through her Muslim women friends and classmates to influence her, the modus operandi is all but out in the open.

"I was completely misguided into believing that whatever my religion taught me was false and it would land me in hell if I followed such customs. Who will not get scared when you are continuously fed such things? They even gave me books of Zakir Naik. It was only when I started reading the Holy Quran objectively having returned to live with my parents that I realised that all of this was ridiculous," added Athira.

The NIA recently filed a status report with the Supreme Court in another where a girl named Akhila was converted to Islam as Hadiya. The case had ruffled a lot of feathers in the state.

The report says, "The involvement of one AS Zainaba in luring and influencing Athira, the detainee in Habeus Corpus WP(Crl) 235 of 2016 for converting her to Islam with the assistance of her associates in SDPI/PFI and Markaz-ul-Hidaya (Sathya Sarani Charitable Trust) during May 2016 when Akhila Asokan was under her custody reveals that the instant case is not an isolated incident but rather an organised effort."

Though the NIA, which is investigating the case has maintained silence, sources have confirmed to *Firstpost* that the NIA is indeed shocked to find that both the modus operandi and the players involved are similar not just in the Athira and Akhila cases, but in at least more than a dozen such cases.

The agency which had submitted a report to the Union Home Ministry a couple of weeks ago recommending an immediate ban on PFI. It has zeroed down on a few activists including Zainaba, the leader of National Women's Front, PFI's women organisation and an institution named Sathya Sarani Charitable Trust as the nerve centre for all such activities. Sathya Sarani Charitable is based in Manjeri in Malappuram and claims to be an Islamic teaching.

"That both Zainaba and Sathya Sarani's names have been creeping up in almost all such conversions cases, is, perhaps, too much of a coincidence for the investigators to ignore. We have seen a clear pattern that has developed over the years in not just giving assistance for such conversions, but also in making an effort to find out such girls and lure them," an NIA officer told *Firstpost* under the condition of anonymity.

The modus operandi

Conversion is not a new concept in Kerala. Rather it is one state whose example has been used again and again by Sangh Parivar forces to highlight what they call 'love jihad'. But since the last few years, the picture seems to have drastically changed in Kerala, especially in the northern districts of Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kannur.

Love jihad remains a misnomer and an allegation since the police have never been able to find credible evidence.

Former officers say that although converting Hindu and Christian girls to Islam in the garb of love have been rampant since the nineties, investigations one after the other had not reached anywhere perhaps due to the lack of political will or inability to stumble upon a credible proof of an organised effort.

It is this picture that is changing at the moment. While the 'love' in 'love jihad' still remains a mystery, the modus operandi for conversion now involves using fellow women students to evangelise (a term often used for Christian preachers) Hindu or Christian girl students into making them believe that Islam is the one and only way to lead a better life that would take you to heaven.

"I was given a lot of literature that made me believe that it is bad to follow a religion that permits polytheism and idol worship. To such questions, I had no answers and their explanations about Islam were so powerful and convincing. This really changed my mind," added Athira.

Ashraf Kadakkal is a professor at the University of Kerala and a well-known educational activist who had been calling the bluff of the hard-line Islamists for quite some time now. He goes on to say that whatever happened to Athira is a hardly a surprise from his own experience.

"I am not saying whether there is a concerted or organised effort to convert. There is no evidence for that. But what happens is that mostly in such atmospheres of professional colleges where young girls are trying to cope with the pressures of study and home, there have been situations where they have been influenced by peer groups and end up finding Islam, which simplifies a lot of things, attractive," says Kadakkal.

But matters take a different turn once a girl from another religion expresses her interest in Islam.

"This is where fringe elements like PFI or Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) come to support them and the entire issue takes a different colour altogether. What is needed is a thorough investigation of the matter because this is taking us to different levels of polarisation right in the heart of our universities which will destroy us in some time," warns Kadakkal.

But veteran police officers are saying that there is much more to it than what meets the eye.

Subash Babu, a retired Superintendent of Police who had led a number of anti-terror operations in the state, says the new modus operandi is very clear, and has been adopted because most of these organisations now want to actively convert rather than play the second fiddle by just rendering help to people who willfully convert.

"All these terror groups work at multi-layers which is not easy for the common man to understand. Even the PFI does that. They have an intellectual team, a political section and even a team which is called the 'annihilation squad' which was behind the hand chopping incident of Professor TJ Joseph. Conversion

40
clearly seems to be one of their top agenda now and they have specialised teams for that among students too. The Campus Front is the prime example," added Babu.

Babu's words find credence in the claims that Athira made last week. She said that once she had started expressing her desire to learn more about Islam, she was added into an exclusive WhatsApp group called 'Hidayat Sisters' which was instrumental in putting her through to the Sathya Sarani and Popular Front of India that then facilitated her conversion.

Popular Front of India's version

The Popular Front of India has, meanwhile, rubbished all the claims of its involvement in such activities. Though their representatives were not reachable in spite of repeated attempts, a note on its website clearly calls the Union government's moves to stifle its functions as undemocratic (<http://www.popularfrontindia.org/?q=sat-09092017-1710>).

"The activities and the interventions of the NIA so far show that the agency is gravely prejudiced against minorities and backward classes, especially Muslims and is blatantly promoting the agenda of the Sangh Parivar rather than the nation and its people," the note said.

The note also goes on to add that PFI activist Zainaba was actually made a guardian for the girl Akhila by the Court itself and that Sathya Sarani is not a conversion centre but only an Islamic education centre.

The state government has meanwhile maintained complete silence over the issue although on a number of occasions Pinarayi Vijayan and company have spoken out against PFI and SDPI. Many read their silence as a political stand that continues to think that any action against such organisations will antagonise a big vote bank which in turn would work in the favour to the likes of the Sangh Parivar.

But with the state taking no action even in the light of recent evidence, the growing uncertainty only helps in polarising the state further and helping those who love to fish from troubled waters immensely.

Published Date: Sep 28, 2017 07:00 pm | Updated Date: Sep 28, 2017 07:44 pm

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in P S Gopikrishnan Unnithan | Posted by Sonalee Borgohain
Kochi, August 21, 2017 | UPDATED 15:44 IST

A + A -



A High Court has directed the state police chief to provide protection to a Hindu girl's family after she complained of threats from radical outfits.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Kerala High Court directed the state police chief to provide protection to a Hindu girl.
- 2 The girl learned that her husband was associated to some radical outfit.
- 3 They had plans to take the girl to either Syria or Yemen.

The Kerala High Court has directed the state police chief to provide protection to a 24-year-old girl and family after they complained about being threatened by some radical outfits.

According to sources, Sruthi from Kannur was in a relationship with her college friend Aneez. The college faculties who noticed it warned the girl and informed her family about their relationship. After immense pressure from the family to part ways, both of them allegedly eloped to Delhi.

A close relative of Sruthi, who spoke to India Today, revealed that it is very common for people here to engage in inter-religious marriages. But the fact that she has been taken to Delhi has shocked the family.

On May 16, the family filed a missing complaint with the local police and later moved the High Court. The girl, who was presented before the court on June 21, stated that she was married to Aneez and the court let Sruthi to go with him.

Later Sruthi learned that Aneez and some members of Popular Front of India (PFI), a Muslim outfit, have plans to take her to Syria or Yemen. She returned to her parental home but some radical groups started threatening the family.

Meanwhile, Aneez filed a complaint with the High Court stating that Sruthi was under confinement of her parents.

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Sruthi, who was produced before the court with her parents, told that there is a possibility that Aneez along with the members of some radical groups attack her. Taking her statement into account, the court directed the state police chief to provide security to the family.

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The Kerala High Court also asked the police to submit a detailed report.

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Kerala becomes easy target for Islamic State as radicalised youth turn to home for jihad recruitment

India (/category/india) TS Sudhir (/author/tssudhir) May, 08 2017 19:38:03 IST

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Contrary to reports, it seems many of the 21 youth who had left Kerala to fight for the Islamic State in Afghanistan are still alive. What's more, they seem to be engaged in a mission to indoctrinate more youth into their mission. And the recruitment zone seems to be their backyard of Kasargod, Kerala's northernmost district.



On Thursday, a Kasargod native, Haris Masthan was added to "Message To Kerala", a Whatsapp group with 211 members. The admin of this group is a person called Abu Isa who is suspected to be Bexen Vincent from Palakkad who along with his brother and their wives had gone to Syria to join IS last year. All the members added were from Kasargod district and pro-IS literature in Malayalam was posted on the group.

Masthan reported the matter to the Kerala police who saw that the refrain on the group reportedly was to convey that the Islamic way of life is not possible in Kerala and that they should take up the path of *jihad*. What was also intriguing was that many members claimed to be in Afghanistan and were among those who were believed to have been killed in the drone attack earlier this year. Like one person who introduced himself as Rashid Abdulla, is one of the missing persons from the district and he rubbished NIA's theory that he has been killed.

Kerala becomes easy target
for Islamic State as
radicalised youth turn to

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Clearly, the WhatsApp group was also being used to send a message to sleuths back home apart from trying to net more youth.

For some time now, Kerala's presence on the IS radar has baffled investigating agencies given its social indices of high literacy; welfare programmes, political awareness and remittance economy. After reports of the first lot that fled Kerala in 2016 surfaced, Muslim parents blamed their inability to spot signs of increasing religious conservatism in their children.

The Kerala police say that the factors that are seen as assets for Kerala are also responsible for the radicalisation of the youth.

"It is an easy field because of deep Internet penetration, high digital literacy and foreign contacts. Every family in Kerala would know at least ten people who are working abroad," points out Jacob Punnoose, former Kerala director general of police. "While policing becomes easier because of the Internet, it also means we need to be more vigilant."

Islamic scholars blame the Saudi influence for youth turning truant. Ashraf Kadakkal, who teaches Islamic history at the University of Kerala points out that over a period of time, youth started relying on online sources instead of the Ulema and ended up in websites propagated by hardliners.

"The understanding of Islam by the 21 youth who went to Syria was gained online. The Gulf Salafism is the orthodox and reactionary Saudi template and when these youth get influenced by it, they end up having a very closed world view. It's a more puritanical strain of Islam and an interpretation of Quran for the Saudis," says Kadakkal.

The attempt is to target weak minds who can be radicalised. They are told that the Islam practised in Kerala is impure and does not follow the fundamentals of Islam, which considers interactions with the opposite gender, taking loans, cinema, music as un-Islamic. Using the cloak of religion, they are brainwashed to embrace the path to turn a *jihadi* for the sake of saving Islam.

Community leaders, however, say they have learnt a lesson from the 21 youth who went missing in 2016. The Jamaat-e-Islami has published half a dozen books criticising the Islamic State and even the Popular Front of India (PFI) has been campaigning against it. Parents have been advised to keep an eye on any kind of deviant behaviour and mosques have been instructed not to give any platform to any group that propagates a hardline approach.

But the jury is out on whether enough has been done. While the Jamaat is at the forefront criticising Hindu fundamentalism, it often tends to do little to control the radicals within Islam. Political parties too have tried to stoke the fire, pitching the PFI and its political arm, the Social Democratic Party of India, as a counterpoint to the Muslim League. The test then becomes on who is a truer (read Conservative) Muslim.

But with constant attempts such as the latest one in Kasargod to use Kerala as a recruitment centre, the Muslims in the state feel that if this goes unchecked, the entire community could face the heat. Muslims are 27 percent of Kerala's population and goes up to 70 percent in Malappuram, a Muslim majority district.

The BJP and RSS leaders allege that attempts to radicalise Muslim youth using different forms of social media is currently going on in north and central Kerala. "We have informed the police several times about how Whatsapp and Facebook are being used to mobilise youth to join IS but they have not done anything to curb it," says KK Vinod Kumar, general secretary of Kannur BJP.

Though the BJP denies any attempt to tar the entire community with the anti-national brush, any attempt to polarise, Muslim intellectuals fear, will harm Kerala's secular fabric. "The RSS and the BJP are already exploiting it through their media voices like *Janam TV* and *Kerala Kesari*," says Kadakkal. "They are trying to portray Kerala as a breeding ground for Islamic fundamentalists as if we are sitting on top of a volcano against who the Hindu community should unite. The BJP wants to project itself as the only party that can stop this and not the CPI(M) or the Congress."

While the Kerala police and NIA may see the IS as a foreign recruiter whose battleground is largely outside India, it is the ripple effect on Kerala society and the possibility of many of those brainwashed youth forced to turn against their homeland, that they should be worried about. Counter-intelligence cells in other states in India often snoop into chatrooms and even adopt fake names to engage with Islamic State recruiters and try to elicit information. The cyber squads of both agencies will need to up their act instead of only waiting for innocent youth like Masthan to come clean.

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ANNEXURE - F

Kerala's Missing 21: A Complex Web of Conversion & Radicalisation

THE NEWS MINUTE,
11.07.16

7 min read

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"Nimisha was a simple girl who used to love wearing salwar kameez," says Bindu, as she explains the events which shook her family and have sent shock waves across Kerala.

"When she came to tell us in November 2015 that she was in love with a man named Isa from Palakkad, she came in a burqa. My daughter is missing now, and newspapers say she has joined the Islamic State. Will the police help us?" she asks, as her voice quivers with helplessness.

Twenty-five-year-old Nimisha, a fourth year BDS student at a college in Kasaragod, converted to Islam last year. She is one of 21 people from Kerala who have gone missing, and there is a palpable fear that all of them, including a few couples and children, could have joined ISIS.

While 17 people were reported to have gone missing earlier, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday informed the state assembly that the number is in fact 21.

Kerala DGP Loknath Behra says that their links to the Islamic State (ISIS) have not been proven yet, but what is emerging is a complex

tale of conversion and religious brainwashing, which led them out of the country.

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The News Minute has spoken to five of the eight families involved to weave all the stories together and establish the connections between those who have gone missing. Who are these people? How did they know each other? And how did they get 'radicalised'?

Who Is Missing?

Kerala and Radicalism: A list of those who have gone missing NEWS

- 1 **Dr. Ijaz + Rihaila + Child**
(Wife) (2 year old) **Shihaz + Ajmala**
(Ijaz's brother) (Wife) **Ashfaq Majeed + Shamsia + Child**
(Baby) (Ijaz and Shihaz's relative)
Missing from Kasaragod
- 2 The three families were close and a few of them worked at Peace International school with another neighbour Abdul Rashid Abdulla.
- 3 **Abdul Rashid Abdulla + Ayesha + Child**
(Wife) (2 year old) **Also Missing From Kasaragod**
Ayesha's name before she was converted, was Soni.
- 4 Rashid was close to his neighbours Hafeezuddin and Marvan Ismail, both 23-year-olds.
- 5 **Hafeez + Marvan**
(went for classes on Islam with Rashid) **Also Missing From Kasaragod**
- 6 Rashid also knew two Christian brothers from Palakkad
- 7 **Bexen (Isa) + Bestin (Eshia)**
(converted to Islam) **Missing From Palakkad**
- 8 Rashid introduced Bexen to Nimisha, a Hindu girl who had converted to Islam.
- 9 Bestin and his Christian girlfriend, Merrin converted to Islam
- 10 **Bexen (Isa) + Nimisha (Faithima)** **Bestin (Eshia) + Merrin (Mirriam)**
Both couples got married this year **Missing From Palakkad**

(Photo Courtesy: The News Minute)

Hafeesuddin and Marvan Ismail, from Thrikarippur in Kasaragod

It all started with a message that a man named Hakeem who lives in Kasaragod got from his son 23-year-old Hafeesuddin Theke Koleth on Eid. The message sent via the Telegram app said that he was now in a Sharia country and all was well. The message itself and Hafeesuddin's demeanour during the last few weeks towards his family led Hakeem to suspect that his son may have joined ISIS.

"I know my son. He does not follow Islam like I do, he is far more radical. I have seen him changing over the last two years, which is why I won't hesitate to say that he could have joined a group like ISIS. My son was a simpleton, but I cannot deny that he had changed," Hakeem told *The News Minute*.

Hakeem approached Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and that was when the story began to unravel.

Hafeesuddhin and his friend Marvan Ismail had left their houses in May 2016, they had told their families that they were off to Kozhikode for a class on Islam. They have been missing ever since.

Brothers Ijaz and Shihaz and their wives Rihaila and Ajmala, from Thrikarippur.

Around the same time Hafeesuddhin and Marvan went missing, Hakeem's neighbours Ijaz and Shihaz too left their homes.

Ijaz was a doctor married to Rihaila and had a two-year-old child. His brother Shihaz was married to Ajmala.

The five of them left for Sri Lanka in May, stating that they are going for an Islamic course. They have not returned yet.

Ashfaq and wife Shamsia, from Thrikarippur

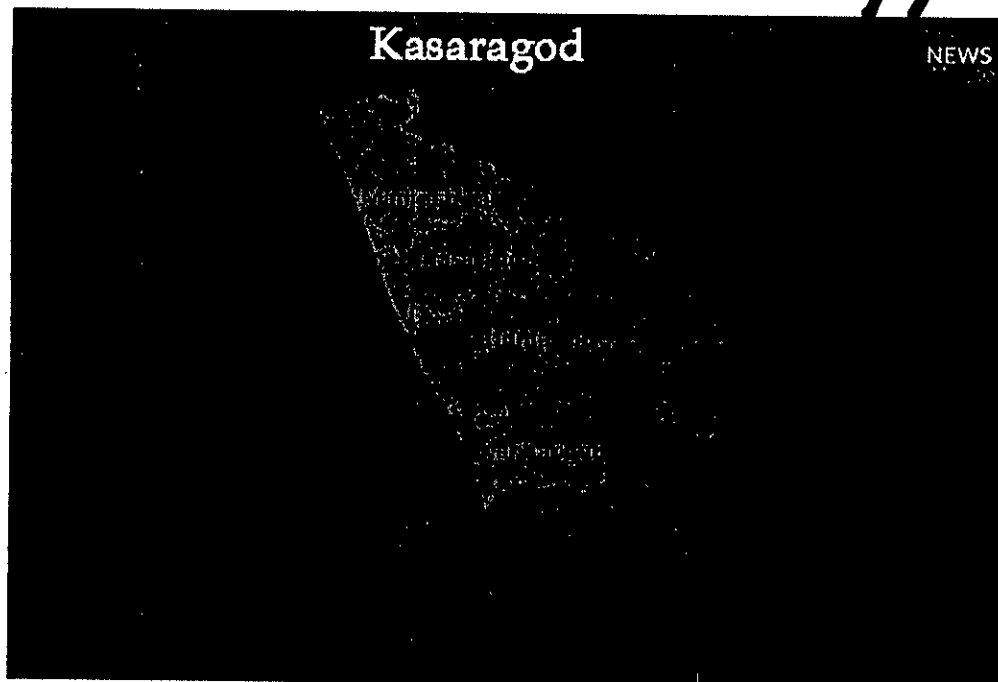
A cousin of Ijaz and Shihaz, Ashfaq, was a businessman in Mumbai.

Ashfaq was managing his father's lodge in Mumbai. He had come back to Kasaragod four months ago and had announced that he would not go back to Mumbai. In May, after Ijaz and Shihaz left for Sri Lanka, Ashfaq also left with his wife and baby.

Relative

Kasaragod

NEWS



Most people who have gone missing and are feared to have joined ISIS belong to areas around Kasargod and Palakkad in Kerala (Photo Courtesy: Map by The News Minute)

Main motivator Abdul Rashid Abdulla, his wife Ayesha and child, from Thrikarippur

The families of Ijaz and Hafeesuddhin confirmed that 29-year-old Abdul Rashid Abdulla, their neighbour and a teacher at the Peace International School, was the man who motivated them to leave the country. Rashid seems to have been the sharp evangelist, who lured people from other religions into Islam, and radicalised other Muslims.

His wife Ayesha, was a Christian before marriage, and completed her Engineering degree from Ernakulam and MBA from Bangalore.

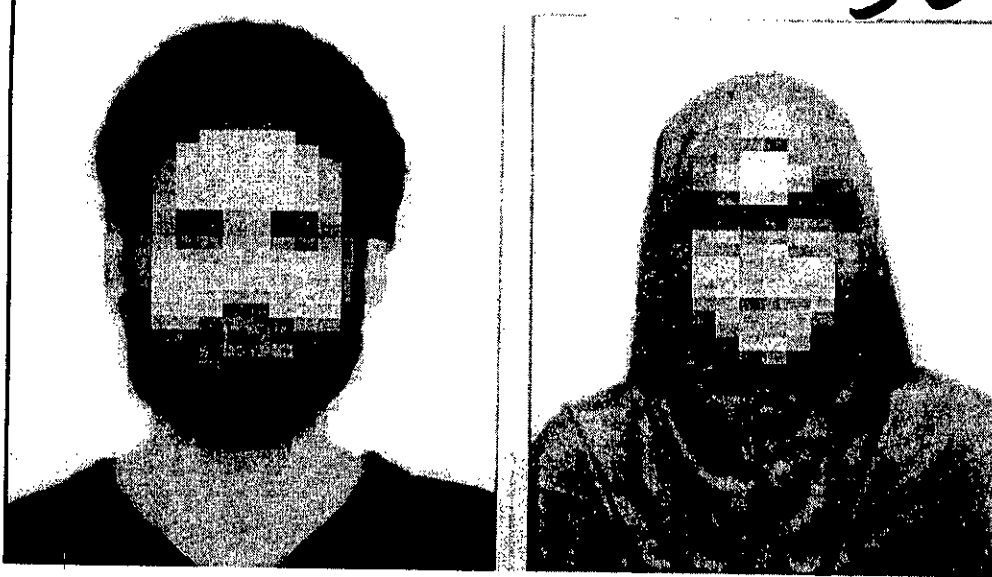
He is the main guy. He was working at Peace International and made them all join the same school. Ijaz, Shihaz and even Ashfaq's wife have all worked with Rashid at Peace International School.

Mujeeb, Relative

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Initially, 'it was believed that the 'radicalisation' was confined to a few Muslim families living in a single panchayat.

But here's when things get tangled. Soon enough, parents from Palakkad, Ernakulam and Thiruvananthpuram came out declaring that their children had also gone missing in May.



Bexen (Isa) and Nimisha (Fathima) (Photo Courtesy: The News Minute)

Brothers Bexen and Bestin and their wives Nimisha and Merrin

Thirty-two-year-old Bexen from Yakkara in Palakkad was an MBA graduate, but was unemployed. His brother, 24-year-old Bestin, had worked in Peace International School, Kochi for a while and then quit.

Last year, the two started growing their beards and wearing shorter pants. When their parents enquired, the brothers revealed that they had converted to Islam. Bexen had become Isa and Bestin was called Eshia.

In December 2015, Bestin (Eshia) went away to Sri Lanka with his wife Mirriam.

They returned in April and from then on they had been constantly travelling. They kept going to Hyderabad, Mumbai and Kasaragod. In May this year they told us they were leaving to Sri Lanka.

Elsi, Bestin's Mother

f t

Twenty-two-year-old Mirriam, Bestin's wife was born as Merrin in Kochi. Her father owned a medical shop in Kochi. In May 2015, Merrin left for Mumbai after getting placed with IBM. She returned home in September 2015 as Mirriam, and told her parents that she had converted to Islam.

Merrin and Bestin were friends in high school and they had an affair. But they fell apart after Bestin started eulogising Islam. Merrin told me that Bestin (Eshia) came to Mumbai and convinced her that Islam was the best religion in the world and she had to convert. He used to take her to a friend's (Ashfaq) house. The friend and his wife were instrumental in convincing my daughter.

Mini, Merrin's Mother

Merrin (Mirriam) and Bestin (Eshia) got married sometime last year.

"He brought Mirriam home. We could not do anything other than accept her," said Elsi, Bestin's mother.

But the story does not end here.



Nimisha's Mother Bindu (Photo Courtesy: The News Minute/Sreekesh R Nair)

'It all Happened in a Flash'

In Thiruvananthapuram, K Bindu lives next to the famous Attukal temple, and her family, for years, has been part of the temple management. While her son is an NSG commando, her daughter Nimisha was a student of dental sciences at the Century Dental College in Poinachy. This is the same college in which Rashid's wife had studied a few years ago.

Someone in the college runs a Seva group that takes students to other districts to help cancer patients and others. She had many Muslim friends and they would even come and stay over. Why would I ever suspect that something was going on? This Seva group was nothing but a way to brainwash kids. In November last year, my daughter came home. She was in a burqa and said her name was Fathima. She told me that she was marrying Isa (Bexen).

Bindu, Nimisha's Mother

f v

It all happened in a flash. Nimisha (Fathima) and Bexen (Isa) went to live with his parents in Palakkad. By then, Bexen's brother Bestin too was living in the same house with his wife.

Rashid's connection emerges here too. "We did not know this girl Nimisha at all. Rashid used to come home frequently and our sons used to go with him to Kasaragod. One day he told Bexen (Isa) that he had found a Muslim bride for him. In November, they both got married," says Bexen's father Vincent.

Bindu had, in May, met a pregnant Nimisha (Fathima), who assured her that she was leading a happy life with her husband and his family in Palakkad.

She used to speak to me every day till May. Then one day she informed me that she and Isa were going to Sri Lanka, to which I objected. But she messaged me on WhatsApp in June saying that they have reached Sri Lanka, but refused to disclose the location.

Bindu

f t



Representational image of Muslim praying. (Photo: iStockphoto)

Belief in the 'Purity' of Sharia Law

While their stories indicate strongly that they could have been radicalised in a systematic way and led out of the country to live under Sharia law, Kerala police have cautioned against any speculation. What the family do state clearly is that these men and women were led to believe in the 'purity' of the Sharia law and convinced to get back to their 'roots'.

(In the case of Bexen, Bestin and their wives, there is no confirmation on whether they have left India. The three families concerned have got no such intimation)

DGP Loknath Behra told TNM, "They may come back to Kerala; we cannot assume that they have joined any organisation. The conversion angle will be looked into. It is not right to brand them as having joined any organisation till an investigation proves that".

Home » News » India » NIA dossier on PFI: From conversions to radical Islamic thoughts

NIA dossier on PFI: From conversions to radical Islamic thoughts

Written By: Vicky Nanjappa Updated: Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 6:18 [IST]

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The National Investigation Agency recently prepared a dossier against the Popular Front of India. It lists in the dossier various incidents relating to the outfit. The dossier is currently under examination and the Ministry of Home Affairs is yet to take a call on banning the PFI.



The dossier cites several cases. The case relating to the chopping a professor's hand, a training camp in Kannur where the NIA seized country made bombs, murder of RSS worker Rudresh and an Islamic State module case is what the NIA has stated in its dossier.

The NIA says that the PFI follows a policy aimed at communalisation. It believes in a Taliban brand of Islam and triggers divide and also has a group of volunteers for physical activity.

"PFI had consistently been indulging in actions detrimental to overall national security." The NIA also cited the probe into the Love Jihad case. It said that it is using sister organisations such as Sathya Sarani based in Malappuram which carries out forced conversions.

The dossier pointed out that many of PFI's founding leaders were associated with SIMI before it was banned. This includes former PFI chairman E M Abdurahiman, who was all-India general secretary of SIMI in 1980-81 and 1982-93, PFI national vice-chairman P Koya who was with SIMI in 1978-79 and SDPI president E Aboobacker who was Kerala state president of SIMI in 1982-84, among others.



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The PFI has its presence in 23 states and is strongest in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. It has a machinery to meet violent ends, the dossier also states.

The outfit has squads of trainers and experts in making crude bombs and IEDs, an intelligence wing...and action squads to run unlawful and violent activities. It has clandestine training centres, where training in martial arts and indoctrination is given.

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