

GENERAL INFORMATION - PRELIM 2

Background -

Wasim Ali Khan, professionally known as '**Baekaar**', is a prominent Indian singer, songwriter and rapper. Baekaar predominantly works in Hindi and other languages such as Punjabi and Haryanvi, and his area of expertise lies in contemporary R&B and Hip-hop. He churned out more than 25+ songs and three major albums over the last five years, with the latest album dropping in December of 2021. These songs gained popularity among the public and especially the youth, thereby cementing Baekaar's status as that of a cult icon. He is also considered as one of the smartest business minds in the Indian hip-hop industry because he puts his money behind commercial music, chooses experienced music producers, and provides other growing artists a chance to stake a name in the industry by way of featuring them in his songs/albums.

Tommy Janardhan professionally known as '**TJ**' is a Canadian based, up-and-coming Indian artist who writes, composes and produces his tracks. His first collaboration in India was with MC Thaaf and D'cruzl in the song '*Koi Ha?*'. He has also worked with artists like Dopead, AceFresh, Deetle MC, and crews like Bambai Lokal and Mumbai's Greatest. He excels in directing and composing classical and theatrical music, with each new song (instrumental or lyrical) breaking records. He has an eye for details and likes to micromanage everything on the recording set.

Dispute -

The duo of Baekaar and TJ have been the formula for hit songs in the Punjabi music industry. The duo most recently was under the co-production of a track tentatively named '*Wae Forward*'. The lyrics, composition, recording, and mixing were undertaken by TJ. The feud between the two started brewing during the production of the song, wherein Baekaar was seen micromanaging the entire pre-production and post-production processes which finally ended in November 2020.

This feud tipped past its breaking point when '*Wae Forward*' was leaked to the general public in March 2021. TJ, in a live video on social media, openly accused Baekaar of not paying him and leaking songs produced by them. In the live video, TJ also brought forward allegations of prior and continuous leaking of music tracks by Baekaar and non-payment for the tracks already released. TJ also claimed that Baekaar made excuses about how and where the songs were leaked. According to TJ, Baekaar – who was living in Brampton, Canada – had been giving out the songs to friends and acquaintances, who further shared and correspondingly leaked the songs. Furthermore, TJ revealed

that he requested payment by via text during the end of February 2020 for the mastered rendition of '*Wae Forward*', which was met with no reply from Baekaar. Upon not receiving any response relating to payment, TJ uploaded a 40 second trailer of '*Wae Forward*' on his Instagram to promote the song. The upload got a reaction out of Baekaar who called TJ from the same number that he was ignored on. However, this time TJ refused to answer the phone. The live video went on to further explain how Baekaar's team attacked TJ's YouTube and Instagram channels, his lack of contact and TJ's team being blamed for uploading a video teaser that belonged to a full song already leaked to the public.

Baekaar, in response, posted a live video on Instagram in Punjabi with counterstatements to the allegations made by TJ. Baekaar stated that the antics resorted to by TJ were to garner more social media followers and he did not need to stoop to such levels to do so. Baekaar sought to clear the air that he was not the kind of man to duck from making payments. He was also of the opinion that he was not under any obligation to respond to people that leaked trailers on their official social media accounts. Baekaar further stated that payment for '*Wae Forward*' would be completed upon finalization of TJ's versions, and the song's official release. Baekaar went on a rant about how he was diligent in all his previous payments and insisted that would be the case for '*Wae Forward*' without question. He also spoke about having his doubts as to whether the leak was committed by TJ or TJ's team. He also went on a tirade of how he had been helpful towards TJ and other budding artists and had not worked towards ripping them off, but instead given them an opportunity to express themselves.

In response to the live video on Instagram released by Baekaar, an additional video was released by TJ with further allegations of unethical behaviour and contract mismanagement by Baekaar with similar newcomers in the industry. TJ went on to '*spill the beans*' on the recording and composing strategies adopted by Baekaar. Furthermore, he urged Baekaar to speak the truth and to stop taking the public on joy rides by telling them half-stories. He also went on to claim that all the songs he had done with Baekaar ended up getting leaked somehow, and that leaks had arisen from either Baekaar or his team. He reiterated the non-payment issues and ended the live video with a warning of further legal procedures in case there was a lapse in such payment.

Sensing the need for resolution, Baekaar's manager Mr. Samson Sandhu suggested that the parties attempt to mediate the dispute to seamlessly conclude and wrap up the dispute and so the parties could carry on with their individual businesses, keeping the best interests of both parties in mind.