



P3 CITY

CITY TO GET RID OF STRAY DOG POPULATION IN SEVEN YEARS: MAYOR

Srinagar Mayor, Junaid Azim Mattu on Wednesday said that the city will get rid of stray dog population within 6 to 7 years as the corporation is set to kick-start a sterilization process at a large

P5 THINK

PLEASE, DON'T FORGET THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, escalating the Russo-Ukrainian War, which had started in 2014. With more than 6.5 million Ukrainians fleeing the country and a third of the population displaced, the invasion has triggered



P7 STATE

PROTESTERS IN JAMMU SEEK RELOCATION OF KP EMPLOYEES FROM KASHMIR

A group of Kashmiri Pandits staged a demonstration here on Wednesday in support of the demand for the relocation of the community members employed in Kashmir under the



Quote!

You should not honor men more than truth

- Plato

Yasin Malik Jailed For Life



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Delhi court on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to Muhammad Yasin Malik, one of the foremost separatist leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, in a militant funding case, saying the crimes were intended to strike at the "heart of the idea of India" and intended to forcefully secede J&K from Union of India.

Special Judge Praveen Singh

awarded varying jail terms to Malik for offences under the stringent anti-terror law--Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the IPC, rejecting the NIA's plea for capital punishment.

He said the crimes for which Malik was convicted were of very serious nature.

These crimes were intended to strike at the heart of the idea of India and intended to forcefully secede J&K from

UOI. The crime becomes more serious as it was committed with the assistance of foreign powers and designated militants. The seriousness of the crime is further increased by the fact that it was committed behind the smokescreen of an alleged peaceful political movement, the judge said.

The judge said the manner in which the crimes were committed was in the form of conspiracy whereby

Life Comes Full Circle For Yasin Malik

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: From a Pakistan-trained militant to one of the prominent separatist faces in Kashmir, life has come a full circle for chief of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Yasin Malik who was in limelight for varied reasons over the past three decades of turmoil in the erstwhile restive border state.

The 56-year-old Malik, who has been sentenced to a life term by an NIA court here, has been in and out of jail several times dating back to his student activism days before the onset of militancy in 1990.

Having renounced the path of militancy and donned the political cloak in 1994, Malik, who is married to a Pakistani artist and has a 10-year-old daughter, had announced Gandhian way of protest after his release and was perceived to be a moderate voice in the separatist camp.

He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with a 2017 militant-funding case registered by National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Born on April 3, 1966 in Maisuma locality in the heart of Srinagar, Malik is also facing trial in the much-publicized abduction case of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in 1989, and an attack by JKLF militants on IAF personnel in Srinagar that left four dead and many others injured in 1990.

Malik started his activities at a very young age in 1980s when he formed Tala party which was involved in an attempt to disrupt the 1983 cricket match between India and West Indies in the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar besides staging a protest against the hanging of JKLF founder

3 Foreign Militants, Cop Killed In 'Chance' Encounter



File Photo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three foreign militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and a policeman on Wednesday were killed in a chance encounter in Kreeeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said.

Police and army's 52 RR established joint special checkpoints in many places of Kreeeri on Wednesday on the basis of information about the movement of militants in the area,

a police spokesperson said. At a checkpoint near Shrawara-Najibhat crossing, he said, the militants noticed the joint party and opened fire upon them.

The joint team, he said, retaliated to the fire leading to a chance encounter.

In the fierce gunfight, the spokesperson said, 3 foreign militants were killed and a police personnel Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh received critical gunshot injuries.

"The injured

NEWS DIGEST

Soldier Injured In Landmine Blast

Srinagar: A soldier was injured on Saturday in a landmine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Mankote sector of Poonch district. The soldier identified as NK Ajay Kumar sustained multiple injuries on both legs when a landmine went off along LoC in Mankote sector of the district on Wednesday afternoon, reports said. **More on P6**

J&K Logs Five New Covid Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported five new Covid cases on Wednesday that took the infection tally to 4,54,212, officials said. Of the new cases, three were from Srinagar district and the rest from Jammu district, they said. There are 59 active cases while the overall recoveries has reached **More on P6**

Youth Killed After Car Falls Into Gorge

Jammu: A 26-year-old youth was killed and another injured when a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a gorge near Mehari Kalakote in Rajouri district on Wednesday. Official sources said that an Alto car rolled down into the gorge after the driver lost control over it. One person Arjun Sharma (26) son of late Krishan Lal of **More on P6**

Govt Job For Grenade Attack Victim's Kin

Jammu: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday handed over an appointment letter to the daughter of a man, who was killed in a grenade attack by militant on a wine shop in north Kashmir's Baramulla district last week. Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal visited the residence of Ranjit Singh, the grenade attack victim, and **More on P6**

BSF Officer Dies Of Heart Attack

Srinagar: A Border Security Force (BSF) officer died of a heart attack in the Kashmir capital Srinagar. Sources said that a BSF Sub-Inspector complained of chest pain and was taken to BSF Hospital Humhama where doctors shifted him to SMHS Hospital. Sources at SMHS hospital said that the officer died in the hospital and the cause of death is attributed **More on P6**

Court Verdict Will Fuel More Alienation: PAGD

The Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Wednesday termed "unfortunate" the life imprisonment awarded to Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik by a Delhi court in a militancy funding case and said it is a "setback" to the efforts for peace. The court verdict will only fuel more alienation **More on P6**

Mobile Internet Suspended In Parts of Kashmir

Mobile internet was suspended in Kashmir as a precautionary measure after a court awarded life imprisonment to separatist leader Yasin Malik in a militant funding case on Wednesday, officials said. They said the mobile internet has been suspended across all network service providers in the Valley. However, the officials said, **More on P6**

Banihal's 'Miracle Baby' Dies At Srinagar Hospital

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A baby girl, who was declared dead soon after being born at a Ramban hospital but found alive an hour after her burial, died at a medical facility here on Wednesday, officials said.

Medical Superintendent of the government-run G B Pant Children Hospital Dr Nazir Hussain Choudhary said the baby died at 6.30 am at the neonatal intensive care unit.

She was found alive after her family had been forced to dig up her grave when local people in Hollan village objected to her burial at their graveyard.

The baby **More on P6**

Affordable Healthcare To Every Citizen Is Our Endeavour: LG

'People Of J&K Were Deprived Of Basic Health Services For Decades'

Observer News Service

Kakrya: Asserting that the government's constant endeavour is to ensure affordable healthcare to every citizen, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that in last three years his administration has made adequate investment for medical education & training to protect and promote people's health.

"It is our constant endeavour to ensure affordable healthcare to every citizen. Apart from an unprecedented increase in budgetary allocations to health sector, the government has tried to reduce inequalities in healthcare



in rural areas," Sinha said.

He made these remarks during his address to the students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing at Matrika Auditorium of SMVDU here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.

"Our focus is availability, quality and affordability to

bridge the health gap of people," the LG said.

During his address, the official spokesperson said that the LG congratulated the students embarking on a new journey, and urged them to improve the quality of life and quality of care with **More on P6**

J&K HC Grants Bail To PDP's Waheed Parra

Basit Makhdoomi

SRINAGAR: The Division Bench of J&K High Court Wednesday granted bail to J&K Peoples Democratic Party leader (PDP) Waheed ur Rehman Parra and directed his immediate release provided he is not involved in any other cases.

Parra had been facing incarceration since past two years in two FIR's registered against him. He was charged under section 13, 17,18,38,39,40 the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) along with section 120-B, 121A, 124-A of the IPC.

He had moved for his bail before the special court in 2021 which had been granted



in one FIR while in a subsequent FIR his bail plea had been rejected.

Waheed was challenging the said rejection order in an appeal before the Division Bench of the High Court.

After hearing the counsel of both sides **More on P6**

Mehbooba, Lone Welcome Para's Bail

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti welcomed Jammu and Kashmir High Court's decision to grant bail to party's youth leader Waheed Parra who was arrested in **More on P6**

Central Forces Shifting From Rental To Permanent Spaces In J&K

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: In an attempt to enhance the armed forces infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government of India (GOI) has granted an approval for the construction and upgradation of temporary camps for CISF and CRPF in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a reported by Economic Times, CISF has been sanctioned 2,725 acre of land at Sidhra near Jammu, while CRPF has been allocated 44.77 acre land at seven locations across North, South and Central Kashmir.

While talking to Kashmir Observer, PRO CRPF, Junaid Khan said that the decision was taken a long back by the Ministry of Home Affairs to



File Photo

enhance the infrastructure & security of CRPF deployed in Kashmir valley.

"Undoubtedly, there was a need to build better infrastructure for troops deployed in the region.

In recent times, we've seen several temporary CRPF camps in Kashmir being targeted by militants. But, with the centre's decision to acquire land and build a permanent camp for several CRPF battalions, which already reside in the valley on a rental basis, the threats of a militant attack will subsequently subside," said PRO Khan, adding that it's always better to have a permanent address over a temporary space.

Hypothetically speaking, he said, if there was any CRPF camp living on the rental basis in Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam or any other district, the centre has allocated a specific area for setting up a permanent address for that battalion in the given district. The official **More on P6**

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'Antiviral Drugs May Reduce Monkeypox Symptoms, Shorten Contagious Phase'

Press Trust Of India

Some antiviral medications might have the potential to shorten symptoms of monkeypox and reduce the amount of time a patient is contagious, according to a study of seven patients diagnosed with the rare viral disease in the UK between 2018 and 2021. The cases analysed in the study, published on Tuesday in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, represent the first instances of in-hospital transmission and household transmission outside of Africa. The research also reported the patient response to the first off-label use of two different antiviral medications -- brincidofovir and tecovirimat -- to treat the disease. The study found little evidence that brincidofovir was of clinical benefit but concluded that further research into the potential of tecovirimat would be warranted. The researchers also report detection of monkeypox virus in blood and throat swabs. As optimum infection control and treatment strategies for this disease are not yet established, data from the study could help inform global efforts to further understand the clinical features of the disease as well as transmission dynamics, they said. "As public health officials are trying to understand what is causing the May 2022 monkeypox outbreaks in Europe and North America -- which have affected several patients who reported neither travel nor an identified link to a previously known case -- our study offers some of the first insights into the use of antivirals for the treatment of monkeypox in humans," said Hugh Adler of the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK. "Although this latest outbreak has affected more patients than we had previously encountered in the UK, histori-



cally monkeypox has not transmitted very efficiently between people, and overall the risk to public health is low," Adler, lead author on the paper, said. With international travel returning to pre-pandemic levels, public health officials and healthcare workers around the world must remain vigilant to the possibility of new cases of monkeypox, said Nick Price of Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, senior author on the paper. Of the seven UK monkeypox cases analysed in the study, four were imported from West Africa with three further cases occurring due to human-to-human transmission within the case clusters. Monkeypox, a close relative of the smallpox virus, is a rare disease classified as a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) by the UK Health Security Agency. There are currently no licensed treatments for monkeypox and there is limited data on the duration of its contagiousness, with the incubation period ranging from five to 21 days.

The study authors observed clinical data alongside laboratory results from blood tests and nose-and-throat swabs to describe the duration and clinical features of monkeypox in a high-income setting. Researchers also reported patient response to antiviral medications developed to treat smallpox -- brincidofovir and tecovirimat -- which have previously demonstrated some efficacy against monkeypox in animals. Between 2018 and 2019, four patients observed in the study were treated for monkeypox in HCID units in England. Three of these cases were imported from West Africa. The fourth case occurred in a healthcare worker 18 days after initial exposure to the virus and was the first example of monkeypox transmission in a hospital setting outside of Africa. The initial three patients were treated with brincidofovir seven days after the initial onset of the rash. The study found that brincidofovir did not have any convincing clinical benefit in treating monkeypox and alterations in liver blood tests were ob-

served. The researchers noted that it is not known whether brincidofovir administration earlier in the course of the disease or at a different dosing schedule would have yielded different clinical outcomes. Despite this, all three patients, plus the fourth hospital transmission patient, made a full recovery, they said. Three further cases of monkeypox were reported in the UK in 2021 in a family travelling from Nigeria, with two of these cases being the first examples of household transmission outside of Africa. One of the 2021 UK patients was treated with tecovirimat and experienced a shorter duration of symptoms and upper respiratory tract viral shedding than the other cases in this cluster, the researchers said. However, they note that conclusions are unable to be drawn on antiviral effectiveness against monkeypox in such a small cohort, calling for further research into antivirals to treat this neglected tropical disease. "During previous outbreaks of monkeypox, patients were considered infectious until all lesions crusted over," said Catherine Houlihan, of the UK Health Security Agency and University College London, one of the co-authors of the paper. "In these seven UK cases, viral shedding was observed for at least three weeks following infection. However, data on infectivity remains limited, and is an important area for future study," said Houlihan. The authors acknowledge some limitations with this study, primarily its observational nature and the small number of cases analysed. They were also unable to confirm positive monkeypox PCR test results with laboratory samples of the virus, meaning that ongoing shedding of contagious virus was unable to be verified.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Ghulam Mohammad Mir S/o: Ghulam Qadir Mir R/o: Beerwah Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 9601 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S State Bank of India B/U RASMECC Sgr. 
 Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.
 No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.944
 Dated 24/05/2022
 Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir
 mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been received from owner. Shri : Abdul Qayoom Wani S/o: Sonallah Wani R/o: Sodipora Beerwah Budgam as Transferor) & Mrs. Fatima W/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/o Kuchaypora Magam Beerwah Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.618/MC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04B -2513. 
 Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.
 No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 952
 Dated 25-05-2022
 Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir
 mcb

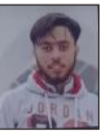
PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the local permit of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK03D-9983. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Nusrat Ahmad Sheik
 S/o Mohammad Shaban Shekh
 R/o Khanabal Anantnag
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the local permit of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK03D-7390. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Asif Saleem Itoo
 S/o Mohd Saleem Itoo
 R/o Guree Bijbehara Anantnag
 fko

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM
 The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars
 Name : Muzamil Qadir Malla
 S/o Gh Qadir Malla
 R/o Kawoosa Khalisa 
Details of Marks Certificate lost
 Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
 Roll No 12411252 Session /Year Annual / Reg. 2020
 Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.
 Sd/ Assistant Secretary
 Sub Office Magam
 bmg

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PHE DIVISION KULGAM
 E-mail:xenphekgm@gmail.com.Phone/Fax:01931295109
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
 E-NIT No: 14 /PHEK/2021-22
 Issued under No:PHK/ 1112-23 dated.25-05-2022

For & on behalf of the Governor J&K State, e-tenders are invited (in single cover system) "on item rate basis" from Registered contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document	MH of Account
1	Upgradation of PHE pipe network NHO Arif Ahmad sofi and other at sofi mohalla Ghat, NHO Nazir Ahmad Khar at Gund Abdullah mandoo Katoo Gali at Redwani payeen (under DDC /PRI/PRI capex)	0.80	1600/=	DEE	07 days	100/=	DDC/PRI/ PRI
2	Repairment of water supply BWO pipes at hajam Mohalla, Deenda Mohalla, Chowdhary pora Nandimarg "B" Panchayat Halqa Nandimarg "B" under PRI	0.56	1120/=	DEE	07 days	100/=	PRI
3	L/F of pipes 20,25,40mm dia at Yarikhah A panchayat Halqa Yarikhah "A" under PRI	0.56	1120/-	DEE	10 days	100/=	PRI
4	provision of water supply pipes at panchayat Halqa Yarikhah "C" (under PRI)	0.68	1360/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	PRI
5	Impvmts of water supply pipe facilities in Dhpora A by providing new water supply pipes at different spots at Dhpora A panchayat Halqa Dhpora "A" (under PRI)	1.06	2120/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	PRI
6	water supply pipes for ganie Mohalla Panchayat Halqa Dhpora "B" (under PRI)	0.39	780/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	PRI
7	Impvmts. of PHE pipes at Dhpora (under DDC)	1.34	2680/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	DDC
8	Providing of water supply pipes in whole Manzgam Block (under DDC)	1.16	2320/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	DDC

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: WWW.jktenders.gov.in As per the Schedule of dates given below:

I. Publishing date of NIT	25-05-2022	9.am
II. Download start date	25-05-2022	9.am
III. Bid submission start date	25-05-2022	9.am
IV. Bid submission end date	06-06-2022	4pm
IV. Bid opening date	07-06-2022	10am

DIPK-2623/22
 Executive Engineer
 Spl.PHE Division Kulgam

PUBLIC NOTICE
 I have lost the RC of my vehicle Bearing registration No JK03G-3301 Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
MOHD NAVEED SHAH S/O: MOHD ABDULLAH SHAH
 R/o: AMIRPORA NAMBAL MATTAN ANANTNAG
 ma

E-mail:- techrbpu1786@gmail.com Phone:-01933-295302,
 Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE
 E-NIT No :- 58/EEP/RNB/of 2022-23/2345-2355
 Dated: 24/05/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in (Rs. Lacs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Approval No:
1.	Construction of Office Complex Near Town Hall at Khrew.	176.65	2600/- 2% of Adv. cost	180 Working Days	Aay	FC-Grants-2021-22	DULB/Plg/592 of 2021 dt: 23.10.2021 TS:CE(R&B)/K/TS/1150 of.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24/05/2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24/05/2022 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	24 /05/2022 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06/06/2022 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07/06/2022 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama Shopian HQ, Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 3% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 3% Performance security.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected outrightly and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama-Shopian HQ Pulwama.
 2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama Shopian HQ, Pulwama.
 3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman
DIPK-2648/22

Technical Officer
 Executive Engineer,
 R&B Division Pulwama

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvserver.net

K O V I E W

Congress desertions

Congress has suffered another jolt with the exit of the senior leader Kapil Sibal. He has now been supported by Samajwadi Party in his nomination for Rajya Sabha. Talking to reporters, Sibal said he had quit the Congress on May 16, a day after the party's Chintan Shivir (Strategy Meet). He had been left out of the big meet and was no longer a part of the Congress' advisory groups. This is the latest high-profile exit from the Congress and the fifth in five months. And all of them were very senior leaders.

Sibal's resignation should certainly be a moment of deep reflection for the Congress. The party which ruled India for over fifty years after independence is now finding it difficult to even win state elections. For example, it was not even in the distant reckoning in the recent all-important election in Uttar Pradesh. And it had no chances in other four states which went to the polls. In fact, Congress even lost Punjab where it was expected to perform well. This is why a breakaway group led by Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma and calling itself G-23 is seeking serious reforms in the party. But this has split the Congress down the middle with Gandhi family supporters and opponents at loggerheads with each other.

However, G23's rebellion marks a break from the passivity of the last seven years with the party apparently seeming to have resigned to its current lot. But it won't also be easy to elect a non-Gandhi president. And the party has its own reasons for this: a Gandhi not being at the helm will run the risk of breaking the party up. Also, in the present circumstances, Congress doesn't boast of many a mass leader -albeit, there are many senior politicians who can be worthy successors to Gandhi. Gandhi's term at the helm has shown that he is not just up to the task.

It is now clear that the wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains alive and kicking. After a few reverses here and there over the last seven years, Modi's appeal has only grown stronger. He looks favourite to win many more Assembly polls, more so, the general election of 2024 unless wider opposition gets its act right. That is, if no credible opposition emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect that looks bleak. While Chintan Shivir was an important deliberation, its outcome will depend on how Congress implements it.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

Honouring ASHA

When WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the names of six Global Health Leader awardees at the opening session of the World Health Assembly, over one million ASHAs and eight volunteer polio workers found themselves being counted amidst people leading from the front. The other awardees are Paul Farmer, co-founder of the NGO Partners in Health, Ahmed Hankir, a British-Lebanese psychiatrist, Ludmila Sofia Oliveira Varela, a youth sports advocate, and Yhei Sasakawa, WHO's Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination. Dr. Tedros who picks the awardees himself, said that the award recognises those who have made an outstanding contribution to protecting and promoting health around the world, at a time when the world is facing an unprecedented convergence of inequity, conflict, food insecurity, climate crisis and a pandemic.

The ASHAs were honoured for their "crucial role in linking the community with the health system, to ensure those living in rural poverty can access primary health care services..." These workers, all women, faced harassment and violence for their work during the pandemic, well documented in the media. While the pandemic rewrote the rules, creating danger where mere routine existed, it must be stressed that in general, their job, which takes them into difficult-to-reach places and hostile communities, confers a measure of privations. Even as they contribute to better health outcomes, this workforce continues to protest across the country, for better remuneration, health benefits and permanent posts. The eight volunteer polio workers of Afghanistan (four of them women) were shot and killed by gunmen in Takhar and Kunduz provinces in February 2022. Their work was crucial in a country where wild polio virus type 1 is still circulating, WHO recorded. Clearly, certain kinds of basic public health work are fraught with perils in several continents across the world. It is the duty of the governmental agencies that employ them to ensure their welfare, safety and security. While cheerleading about the award is rightfully reaching a crescendo, what matters is how the Indian government serves its last mile health workers who are its feet on the ground, once the dust raised by their unexpected recognition has settled down.

The Hindu



J&K Needs a National Law University

Ummar Jamal

Twenty one states in India have already established NLUs. J&K, despite being the 12th largest among the 37 State/UT in terms of geographical area and 19th in terms of population with more than 14 million people, is yet to have its own National Law University.

In 2018, people of J&K especially law students were hopeful when PDP-BJP coalition government, the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly passed the J&K National Law University Bill. After the act was passed by the legislative assembly, it needed the governor's nod. The then governor N. N Vohra raised certain clarifications over the legislative proposal, owing to which, no progress was made during his tenure. However, on October 1 2019, Governor Satya Pal Malik gave assent to the bill for the establishment of a National Law University in Jammu and Kashmir.

Soon after the bifurcation of the erstwhile State into two Union Territories, after some amendments in J&K National Law University Act, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs formally adopted the Act. There has been an interlude of nearly two years since the Act was formally adopted by Ministry of Home Affairs but due to the Government's dawdle, the establishment of National Law University in Jammu and Kashmir is still on the drawing board.

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It is pertinent to mention here that while Karnataka got its National Law University in 1988, J&K is yet to get one even after an interlude of 34 odd years after the establishment of the first NLU, the National Law School of India University (NLSIU).

Currently, there are a total of twenty three national law universities in India. Maharashtra has two National Law Universities; one in Mumbai and one in Nagpur. The state of Uttar Pradesh is set to establish its second National Law University. However, J&K is one of

the eight disadvantaged (vis-avis legal education) states/UT in India including Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Manipur, which are yet to establish a National Law University.

The proposal for the establishment of National Law University in J&K traces its origin to the resolution moved by the "All India Law Ministers Conference" in 1995. It was unanimously resolved to establish a law school in each state modelled on the National Law School University for raising the standard of professional legal education across country. It

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was done with the aim to make the states without National Law Universities much the same as with other states where they already had the national law universities.

Presently, J&K has total number of three government Universities and seven private law colleges which offer the law course like LLB and BA.LL.B etc. Government universities include, university of Kashmir, University of Jammu, central university of Kashmir, and private law colleges include Kashmir law college, Vitasta School of Law and Humanities, Kashmir Creative Education Foundation (KCEF) Law College, Sopore Law college in Kashmir division and KC Law college, Dogra Law College and Ashoka Law College in Jammu division.

But the aforementioned government universities and private law college in J&K are in no way comparable with the National Law Universities. The government universities and private law colleges here are more focused on teaching theo-

ry and hardly give any training for mootings, debating and stuff. Their pedagogy and teaching method are antiquated. Here in most of colleges internship is an unheard concept. Thus, J&K is in desperate need of an NLU.

Studying in an NLU student gives a student an edge over a non-NLU students. When it comes to placement in big law firms, students who acquire education in NLUs are given preference. NLUs have finest infrastructure and sprawling campuses. They are far more student-friendly than traditional universities because student bodies in NLUs elected by students themselves help students

to put their needs and demands before the administration.

It is high time to improve legal education here in J&K. We need a National Law University to cater to the needs of the legal profession.

Recently, in January, the result of 07 district judges posts was declared. None of the 217 appearing candidates from J&K were able to qualify the exam. This points towards the fact that the standard of legal education in J&K is not good.

It is an earnest request to the government of union territory of J&K to hasten up and set up a National Law University here, in order to bring J&K at par with other states.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is law student at Kashmir University. He can be reached at umarjama1968@gmail.com



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Long Term Strategy for Digital Payments

Online commerce and digital payments are expanding all over the world. Recent years have witnessed a surge in the number of people handling digital payments. Digital payments in India have seen innovation in recent times. Digital banking is becoming more popular in India. The number of people using cashless transactions is increasing rapidly across the country. Covid-19 has played a significant role in accel-

erating the adoption of digital payments in India, as lockdowns and movement restrictions encouraged consumers to switch to cashless payment alternatives. Digital banking is being used by more than 20 crore Indians. India's rapid growth of digital payments has resulted in an innovative financial ecosystem that benefits ordinary people. The progress is the consequence of a mix of changes to the payment regulatory environment and extensive use of technol-

ogy to meet customer needs. According to a recent report, India ranks number 1 in recording the highest number of real-time payments in 2021 among businesses across the world. It made 48.6 billion real-time payments last year, surpassing China. To encourage digital transactions in rural and semi-urban regions, the reserve bank of India has unveiled a framework that allows offline payments of up to Rs200 per transaction, subject to a total limit of

Rs 2,000, without the need for internet access. India continues to push the boundaries of digital payments. According to experts, the value of digital payments in India will triple by 2026, reaching \$1 trillion. Newer technologies that assure digital payments in a more secure, safe and sustainable environment are badly needed to satisfy consumers.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Please, Don't Forget Rohingya Refugees

Kyaw Min

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, escalating the Russo-Ukrainian War, which had started in 2014. With more than 6.5 million Ukrainians fleeing the country and a third of the population

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The international community's plea for repatriation to Myanmar must be louder, more visible, and more frequent. Bangladesh's government must continue to ensure that any transfers are entirely voluntary. Any long-term solution must take into account the local and national context. But flow of humanitarian assistance must be ensured till then because they need to fulfil their basic needs

Illustration credits: Ellie Foreman-Peck/TNH



displaced, the invasion has triggered Europe's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II.

While the Bangladesh's Rohingya's plight has been overshadowed by the Covid-19 outbreak, Myanmar's military coup in February, Afghan refugee crisis, now the Ukraine crisis, the community remains in limbo, with many of its members missing citizenship and the rights that come with it. Around a million Rohingya refugees has been living in Bangladesh since 2017, while others have sought sanctuary in nations all over the world.

When the Myanmar military began a clearance operation against them in 2017, several members of the community were forced to flee. Rakhine state was particularly tense, with tales of rape and murder against Rohingyas abounding. The International Court of Justice has charged Myanmar with genocide over these atrocities. Meanwhile, the community's living conditions in refugee camps are deteriorating.

Due to the extended ambiguity surrounding their repatriation

to Myanmar, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are becoming frustrated. Such ambiguity poses a significant risk because it tempts many people to engage in illicit activity.

Bangladesh confronts increasing difficulty in managing the displaced people as foreign support for the Rohingyas dwindle, with little hope of repatriation in the near future.

Following the ongoing Ukraine crisis, the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, which has already displaced millions of Afghans both inside and outside the nation, another humanitarian crisis has emerged.

While many in the world community have correctly condemned Myanmar's junta for deposing an elected government, the Rohingyas's situation must not be overlooked. The international community must demand justice for the Rohingyas in addition to a restoration to representative rule in Myanmar. Despite the fact that members of the Muslim Rohingya population claim generations of roots in the country formerly

known as Burma, Myanmar's ruling generals have long promoted the xenophobic stereotype that they are "outsiders" in the Buddhist-majority country.

Bangladesh is home to nearly 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas, the majority of whom arrived on August 25, 2017, following a murderous crackdown by Myanmar's army described as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing." International community should have always taken the safe repatriation of refugees seriously. Bangladesh's administration began diplomatic attempts to return them and negotiated agreements with Myanmar. However, even five years later, not a single Rohingya has returned to their homeland for fear of persecution. It appears that Bangladesh is paying the price for expressing sympathy for a persecuted minority community in another country.

Bangladesh wants to resolve the Rohingya situation through peaceful negotiations, and Myanmar and

the international community should do the same. Myanmar has been attempting to mislead the international community in order to avoid fulfilling its duties for the repatriation and reintegration of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas.

The host country has done everything. It wants ensure Rohingyas return through peaceful means, but nothing has worked out so far. It goes without saying that voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas is the most sustainable and long-term solution to the situation. However, because to the Rohingyas' lack of faith in the Myanmar government, repatriation attempts failed twice in November 2018 and August 2019.

Myanmar must ensure that Rohingya refugees are not persecuted upon their return in order to facilitate voluntary repatriations. To this aim, the international community and the United Nations should increase pressure on Myanmar to create a safe, secure, and dignified environment for the Rohingya refugees

to return home. World anticipate the international community should play a more assertive diplomatic role in pressuring Myanmar to return the Rohingyas.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, has stated recently during his visit to Bangladesh that while focusing on the "catastrophic disaster" in Ukraine, they must not forget about other challenging situations across the world, such as the Rohingya crisis, which require attention and resources.

Despite new financing to Ukraine in response to an "exceptional humanitarian situation," the US is committed to continuing to support Bangladesh in the Rohingya crisis, according to a top USAID official who visited Rohingya camps in Bangladesh in May 11, 2021.

"We are dedicated to maintaining our support for the Rohingya response," USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman told a small group of journalists at an American Centre press conference in the capi-

tal before ending off her 5-day visit to Bangladesh. She continued, "We have a very fundamental approach to humanitarian response, and ensuring that the refugees (Rohingyas) who are here receive the basic necessities to meet is a priority for us."

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, as well as Rohingya and other conflict-affected persons in Myanmar, will benefit from an additional €22 million in humanitarian help from the European Commission. Protection services, food aid, nutrition, health, and shelter will all benefit from the investment.

Since 2002, the EU has been actively assisting people in Bangladesh (since 2002) and Myanmar (since 1994), with a particular focus on disaster preparedness and emergency response activities, providing life-saving assistance to Rohingya refugees, and funding emergency aid to people affected by natural disasters.

Rohingyas need more assistance of the international community. They've spent the last five years telling the world about their situation and repeating the same stories. They've gotten nothing but compassion and hollow promises in exchange.

With the world's attention focused on the migrants in Ukraine, we hope the world should not overlook the misery of 1 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The international community's plea for repatriation to Myanmar must be louder, more visible, and more frequent. Bangladesh's government must continue to ensure that any transfers are entirely voluntary. Any long-term solution must take into account the local and national context. But flow of humanitarian assistance must be ensured till then because they need to fulfil their basic needs. They have right to survive with dignity because they are also human being. But peaceful and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas in Myanmar is the final solution. But till then, they need to survive! survive! survive! Please don't forget them.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and don't necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a writer and activist*

Why Do We Mimic Accents?

Lacey Wade

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Convergence refers to the shifts people make to their speech to approximate that of those around them. This is an intentionally broad definition meant to encompass all sorts of adjustments, whether intentional or inadvertent, prominent or subtle, or toward entire dialects or particular linguistic features

Have you ever caught yourself talking a little bit differently after listening to someone with a distinctive way of speaking?

Perhaps you'll pepper in a couple of y'all's after spending the weekend with your Texan mother-in-law. Or you might drop a few R's after binge-watching a British period drama on Netflix.

Linguists call this phenomenon "linguistic convergence," and it's something you've likely done at some point, even if the shifts were so subtle you didn't notice.

People tend to converge toward the language they observe around them, whether it's copying word choices, mirroring sentence structures or mimicking pronunciations.

But as a doctoral student in linguistics, I wanted to know more about how readily this behavior occurs: Would people converge based on evidence as flimsy as their own expectations of how someone might sound?

Three years of experimentation and an entire dissertation later, I had my answer, which was just published in the academic journal *Language*.

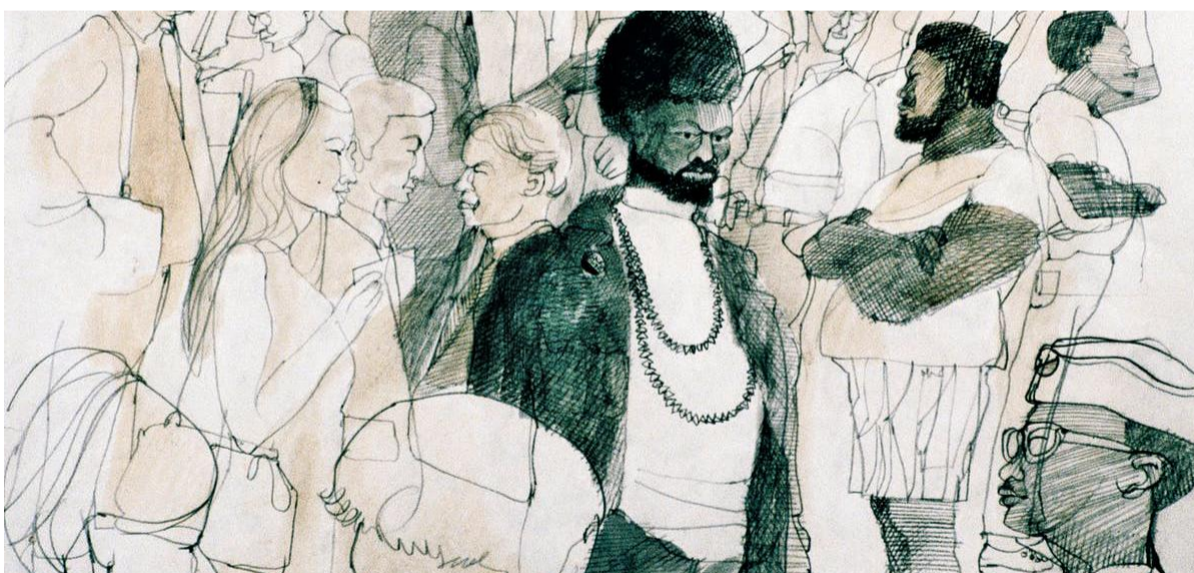
People do, in fact, converge toward speech sounds they expect to hear – even if they never actually hear them.

WHAT, EXACTLY, IS CONVERGENCE?

But before getting into the specifics, let's talk about what convergence is and how it's related to other speech adjustments like code-switching, which refers to alternating between language varieties, or style-shifting, which happens when a person uses different linguistic features in different situations.

Convergence refers to the shifts people make to their speech to approximate that of those around them. This is an intentionally broad definition meant to encompass all sorts of adjustments, whether intentional or inadvertent, prominent or subtle, or toward entire dialects or particular linguistic features.

You could imitate aspects of speech you actually observe. Or maybe you throw in some words you think kids these days



use, only to have your use of "bae" and "lit" be met with teenage eye rolls.

Code-switching or style-shifting can also be examples of convergence, as long as the shift is toward an interlocutor – the person you're talking to. But people can also shift away from an interlocutor, and this is called "divergence."

Code-switching and style-shifting can occur for other reasons, too, like how you feel, what you're talking about and how you want to be perceived. You might drop your G's more and say things like "thinkin'" when reminiscing about a prank you played in high school – but switch to more formal speech when the conversation shifts to a new job you're applying to.

ARE EXPECTATIONS ENOUGH TO ALTER SPEECH?

To determine whether people converge toward particular pronunciations they expect but never actually encounter, I needed to start my investigation with a feature that people would have clear expectations about. I landed on the "l" vowel, as in "time," which in much of the southern U.S. is pronounced more like "Tom." This is called "monophthongization," and it is a hallmark of Southern speech.

I wanted to know whether people would produce a more Southern-like

"l" vowel when they heard someone speak with a Southern accent – and here's the crucial part – even if they never heard how that person actually pronounced "l."

So I designed an experiment, disguised as a guessing game, in which I got more than 100 participants to say a bunch of "l" words.

In the first part of the game, they read a series of clues on their computer screen – things like, "this U.S. coin is small, silver, and worth 10 cents."

Then they named the word being described – "dime!" – and I recorded their speech.

In the second part of the game, I had participants listen to clues read by a noticeably Southern-accented talker and instructed them to respond in the same way. By comparing their speech before and after hearing a Southern accent, I could determine whether they converged.

Using acoustic analysis, which gives us precise measurements of how participants' "l" vowels sound, I observed that Southerners and non-Southerners alike did, in fact, shift their "l" vowels toward a slightly more Southern-like pronunciation when listening to the Southern-accented talker.

They never actually heard how the Southerner produced this vowel,

since none of the clues contained the "l" vowel. This means they were anticipating how this Southerner might say "l," and then converging toward those expectations.

This was pretty clear evidence that people converge not just toward speech they observe but also toward speech they expect to hear.

SOCIAL ASSET OR FAUX PAS?

What does this say about human behavior?

For one, it means that people perceive accents as coherent collections of different linguistic features. Hearing accent features X and Y tells people to expect accent feature Z, because they know X, Y and Z go together.

But it's not just that people passively know things about others' accents. This knowledge can even shape your own speech.

So why does this happen? And how do those on the receiving end perceive it?

First, it's important to point out that convergence is usually very subtle – and there's a reason. Overly exaggerated convergence – sometimes called overaccommodation – can be perceived as mocking or patronizing. You've probably witnessed people switch to a slower, louder, simpler

speech style when talking to an elderly person or a nonnative speaker. This type of over-the-top convergence is often based on assumptions about limited comprehension – and it can socially backfire.

"Why are they talking to me like I'm a child?" the listener might think. "I understand them just fine."

For expectation-driven convergence – which, by definition, is not rooted in reality – such a faux pas might be even more likely. If you don't have an actual speech target to converge toward, you might resort to inaccurate, simplistic or stereotyped ideas about how someone will speak.

However, subtler shifts – in what might be called the "sweet spot" of convergence – can have a number of benefits, from social approval to more efficient and successful communication.

Consider a toddler who calls their pacifier a "binky." You'd probably be better off asking "where's the binky?" and not "where's the pacifier?"

Reusing the terms our interlocutors use is not just cognitively easier for us – since it takes less effort to come up with a word we just heard – but it often has the added benefit of making communication easier for our partner. The same could be said for using a more familiar pronunciation.

If people can anticipate how someone will speak even sooner – before they utter a word – and converge toward that expectation, communication could, in theory, be even more efficient. If expectations are accurate, expectation-driven convergence could be a social asset.

That's not to say that people necessarily go around consciously making these sorts of calculations. In fact, some explanations for convergence suggest that it is an unintentional, automatic consequence of speech comprehension.

Regardless of why convergence happens, it's clear that even beliefs about others play a major role in shaping the way people use language – for better or for worse.

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