

**Omar resumes office, seeks co-operation from opposition
Daily Excelsior, 1 August 2009**

SRINAGAR, July 31: A day after Governor N N Vohra absolved him of the sex slur, Omar Abdullah today resumed work as Chief Minister of the State by attending office and chairing a Cabinet meeting. Omar had tendered a conditional resignation to Vohra on Tuesday after opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Muzaffar Hussain Beigh claimed on the Floor of Legislative Assembly that the Chief Minister's name had figured in the infamous sex scandal case of 2006

**Militants shoot cop dead; 2 CRPF jawans critically hurt in simultaneous strike
Tribune, 2 August 2009**

Militants carried out coordinated strikes in the heart of the summer capital today, first time this year, and shot at two CRPF personnel on duty on the busy Residency Road and a policeman in Batamaloo. While the policeman died on the spot, both CRPF jawans, who received bullet injuries in vital body parts, were critical. An injured CRPF jawan, BD Ghosh from West Bengal, was in the ICU, while another jawan Firdous Bhat from Kashmir was also battling for life. A Congress convention presided over by its state president Saifuddin Soz was underway at a nearby hotel and went on uninterrupted

**Hoteliers back protesting students
Tribune, 2 August 2009**

The All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association has extended its support to various student organisations in Jammu who have been demanding the setting up of the central university in Jammu. They demanded the setting up of the university in the Jammu region where the land has already been identified for the purpose, and warned the government of serious consequences if it intended to shift the university from Jammu to Kashmir valley

**Massive increase in Vaishno Devi, Shiv Khori yatra
Daily Excelsior, 2 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 1: Pilgrimage to holy shrines of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji and Lord Shiva in Shiv Khori, both in Reasi district, has shown an impressive increase during first seven months of this year as compared to corresponding period in 2008. According to official figures, yatra to Goddess Vaishno Devi shrine in Trikuta hills of Katra has gone up by 4.01 lakh while it has registered an increase of 1.79 lakh in Shiv Khori shrine in Ransu this year so far as compared to same period last year. Pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi shrine has gone up by 3.79 lakh in the month of July alone. In first half of the year i.e. up to June, the yatra was marginally up by 22,000 from last year. However this month's massive increase of 3.79 lakh has taken the increase to 4.01 lakh. By the end of July, 48.23 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance to the Goddess Vaishno Devi ji while the number during first seven months of last year was 44.22 lakh

Militancy finding foothold in Valley again

Daily Excelsior, 4 August 2009

SRINAGAR, Aug 3: Even as the security establishment in J&K and in Delhi are making claims that militancy was on the wane, the militants have once again proved that they are just lying low and can strike anywhere in the Valley as was evident in recent incidents of violence across Kashmir including the Srinagar city. In the latest incident, a gun battle broke out in the wee hours today between militants and security forces in Hafruda forests of Handwara area - where a major encounter took place in March this year in which 17 militants and eight Army soldiers were killed

Apple production may drop by 60 pc in Valley

Daily Excelsior, 5 August 2009

Srinagar, Aug 4: Scab, hailstorms and erratic pattern of rainfall have severely affected horticulture produce in Kashmir valley as fruit growers say they are expecting only 35 to 40 per cent of the normal production of fruits, particularly apple, in the Valley this season. "We will be lucky if we get 35 to 40 per cent of yield we normally get from the orchards of the Valley. The problems faced by the horticulture sector are immense this year," president Fruit Dealers Association Mohammad Yousuf told

Bodies of 2 LeT militants recovered

Daily Excelsior, 5 August 2009

Srinagar, Aug 4: Security forces recovered bodies of two more militants of the banned Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit who were killed in an encounter at Bungus valley in Kupwara district earlier this week. Out of the four LeT militants who were killed during an encounter between Handwara police and 11 Raj Rifles at Lokut Bungus Satnari Badibehak, two more bodies were recovered from the encounter site, a police spokesman said here

3 infiltrators among 7 killed in Kashmir

Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2009

SRINAGAR, Aug 5: Seven militants were killed in three separate operations, including a foiled infiltration bid near the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdhar sector, launched by the security forces in Kupwara district of Kashmir valley, officials said here. Alert Army troops foiled an infiltration bid by militants, who had managed to sneak in to Tangdhar sector from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), after noticing the movement of the heavily armed ultras, Defence Spokesman Lt Colonel J S Brar said. He said three militants had been killed in the exchange of gun fire with the security forces till reports last came in. Brar said the operation was still going on

Rs 1.96 cr worth cross-LoC trade

Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2009

JAMMU, Aug 5: Thirty eight trucks today exchanged sides at Chakan-Da-Bagh on weekly Poonch-Rawlakote route in which trade worth Rs 1.96 crore was conducted. Official sources said 10 trucks left Poonch for Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) carrying coconut,

kernil, brown cardamom and dry coriander worth Rs 46.89 lakh. From PoK, 28 trucks reached Poonch carrying dal moong, almonds, chuhhara and Peshawari sandals worth Rs 1.49 crore

**After SIMs, Pak trial to smuggle arms, explosives
Daily Excelsior, 6 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 4: Pakistan's SIM Even as there was no let up in smuggling of mobile phones and cards by the truckers and civilians from across the Line of Control (LoC) to Poonch, Pakistan army today appeared to have conducted a trial to smuggle arms and explosives in the trucks by sending iron rods, empty cold drinks, nut and bolts etc in the bags of dal moong during weekly trade on Poonch-Rawlakote route. While three truck operators were detained with mobile telephones, Nokia batteries and SIM cards of Pakistan telecom company U Fone, another truck operator was found smuggling pieces of iron rods, empty cold drink bottles, nut and bolts in six large bags mixed with dal moong

**Govt assurance an eyewash: CUAS
Daily Excelsior, 7 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 6: Terming the assurance of Group of Ministers (GoM) to the people of Jammu over the establishment of Central University (CU) in this region as a mere eyewash, the Central University Andolan Samiti (CUAS) has rejected all their statements and called for Jammu bandh on August 10 in protest. Addressing a press conference here this evening, former Judge and CUAS Convenor Pavitar Singh claimed that all those Ministers who had gone to Delhi along with Chief Minister and met there with the Prime Minister and HRD Minister have returned empty-handed over their demand for two Central Universities in the State and now misleading the people with contradictory statements

**Amarnath yatra down by 1.52 lakh
Daily Excelsior, 7 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 6: Annual pilgrimage to holy cave shrine of Amarnath ji in South Kashmir Himalayas this year has registered a decline of 1.52 lakh yatris as compared to last year mainly due to delayed start and initial restrictions on unregistered pilgrims which were, however, later withdrawn. In 2008, 5,33,368 pilgrims had paid obeisance to holy Ice Lingam of Lord Shiva in Amarnath shrine despite trouble in both regions of Jammu and Kashmir due to Amarnath land row agitation. The number this year came down to 3.81 lakh. The number of 5.33 lakh yatris, recorded last year, was highest so far in the history of the shrine, official figures revealed. Besides 2008, there were two occasions when yatra to Amarnath ji shrine was more than the current year.

**155 cross sides on LoC
Daily Excelsior, 7 August 2009**

SRINAGAR, Aug 6: As many as 155 people, including 57 women and 23 children, crossed sides in the Karvaan-e-Aman bus operating between here and Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) today. However, the number of guests from PoK

remained higher against that of the residents of this side visiting other side of the border. Official sources said that 51 residents of PoK, including 21 women and ten children arrived here to meet their relatives. They arrived at Aman Setu after crossing the bridge on foot, the last Indian military post on this side

**3 militants killed in Bandipore
Tribune, 8 August 2009**

At least three unidentified militants were killed in an encounter with the Army in the forest area near Athwato in Bandipore district today. The police said searches were launched in the forest areas in the upper reaches of Bandipore town yesterday. The police and the Army established contact with the hiding militants today and an encounter ensued.

**Rs 340-cr Wullar project okayed
Tribune, 8 August 2009**

The Centre has sanctioned Rs 340 crore Wullar Conservation Project to restore the glory of this world famous water body in north Kashmir. Nawang Rigzin Jora, Minister for Tourism, said this while replying to questions in the state Assembly here today. He said tourism promotion was a critical component for encouraging economic and resource mobilisation in the state. He added that the government had created 19 Tourism Development Authorities to exploit the vast tourism potential in the state

**HM comdrs plotting massacre of minorities gunned down
Daily Excelsior, 10 August 2009**

HM comdrs plotting massacre of minorities gunned down
JAMMU, Aug 10: Three Hizbul Mujahideen commanders, plotting a massacre of minorities in Mahore area of Gulabgarh in Reasi district, were gunned down by Army in a swiftly planned operation at Gajna Top in early hours of this morning while a Pakistani, awaiting repatriation to his country after the completion of jail term, escaped from the custody of Khour police station last night

**Forensic evidence in Shopian case fabricated
Hindu, 11 August 2009**

NEW DELHI: Key forensic evidence in the ongoing investigation of the alleged rape-murder of two women at Shopian appears to have been fabricated, highly placed police sources told The Hindu. Experts at the Central Bureau of Investigation-managed Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory (CFSL) have determined that the DNA profile of tissue cells present in the slides sent by the Jammu and Kashmir police do not match with the samples from the victims' blood and viscera. Put simply, the slides supposed to have been prepared from vaginal swabs of the victims were drawn from other women

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/11/stories/2009081158310100.htm>

**Rather presents first deficit budget in 7 years, fiscal deficit at
Rs 2081 cr**

Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2009

SRINAGAR, Aug 10: Petrol will be dearer by Rs 2 a litre, diesel by Re 1, chicken by at least Rs 3 per bird while booze lovers will have to pay five per cent extra to satiate their urge to drink. Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather, who presented the full budget in the Legislative Assembly today, announced new levies and sops on some products with the dual aim of generating revenues and preventing flight of capital from the State

BJP leaders court arrest, CUAS activists lifted**Daily Excelsior, 11 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 10: A complete and peaceful bandh was observed in several districts of the Jammu province over the demand of setting up of Central University at Samba, on the call given by Central University Andolan Samiti (CUAS) and supported by various organisations. There was spontaneous response to the bandh call with traders keeping their business establishments closed throughout the day and majority of public transport vehicles remaining off the roads

Four killed, 4 injured as bus plunges into Chenab**Daily Excelsior, 12 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 11: Four persons were killed and four others sustained injuries when a bus, they were travelling in, plunged into River Chenab at Nihad, three kilometres short of Ramban on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway this afternoon. The ill-fated State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) bus bearing registration number JK01Y-432 was on its way from Jammu to Srinagar when near Ramban it plunged into River Chenab. On the receipt of information about the accident, a police party from Ramban Police Station immediately swung into action and started rescue operation

Andolan samiti begins awareness drive today**Tribune, 12 August 2009**

The Central University Andolan Samiti (CUAS) has decided to start an awareness campaign and burn the effigies of ministers from tomorrow over the central university issue. While addressing a press conference here today, Pavitra Singh, convener of the CUAS, said the andolan samiti in its core committee meeting decided to make people aware about the issue by starting an awareness campaign

Shopian case to be handed over to CBI**Hindu, 13 August 2009**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to hand over the probe into the alleged rape and murder of two women at Shopian to the Central Bureau of Investigation. Finance Minister Abdur Rahim Rather told the Assembly on Wednesday that the government intended "handing over the case to the CBI after consultation with the High Court."

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/13/stories/2009081358870100.htm>

Govt decides to hand over Shopian case to CBI

Daily Excelsior, 13 August 2009

Srinagar, Aug 12: In a dramatic turn of events in the Legislative Assembly, the State Government today decided to hand over the Shopian rape and murder case of two women in May this year to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) and some members from the ruling National Conference raised questions over the credibility of the police investigations into the case. The decision to hand over investigations of the case to the CBI was announced by Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather in the Assembly in second sitting of day's proceedings. Rather, however, said since the Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by IGP Kashmir Farooq Ahmad was constituted on the orders of the Division Bench of the High Court, the Government will seek permission from the court to transfer the case to premier investigating agency of the country

Goods worth Rs 30 cr exchanged on Poonch route

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2009

SRINAGAR, Aug 13: Goods worth over Rs 20 crores (Pakistani currency) have been imported from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) through Poonch-Rawlakote while items worth nearly Rs 10 crore have been exported from Chakan da Bagh since the beginning of cross-LoC trade till ending June this year

127 cross sides in Karvan-e-Aman

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2009

SRINAGAR, Aug 13: As many as 127 persons crossed sides in the Karvan-e-Aman bus operating between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). The number of guests from Pakistan has come down to 29 today against more than 50 on every weekly bus during the past one month. Official sources said that 29 fresh residents of PoK, including nine women and three children arrived here this afternoon to meet their relatives here

Rs 3.07 cr worth items exchanged

Daily Excelsior, 14 August 2009

JAMMU, Aug 12: Trade worth Rs 3.07 crore was conducted through weekly Poonch-Rawlakote route on cross-LoC Chakan-Da-Bagh route in Poonch district during two days. As against Rs 1.53 crore worth items exchanged by the traders yesterday, the trade today stood at Rs 1.54 crore, official sources said. A total of 29 trucks today exchanged sides from Chakan-Da-Bagh. For second day today, the number of trucks leaving for Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) was far less than the trucks coming to Poonch from other side of LoC. Today, only four trucks left for PoK from Poonch while 25 trucks reached Poonch from PoK. Yesterday, 32 trucks had exchanged sides at Chakan-Da-Bagh with seven leaving for PoK and 25 reaching Poonch. Coconut, kernil, brown cardamom and herbs worth Rs 17.54 lakh were exported by the traders of Kashmir, Jammu and Poonch to their counterparts in PoK

Omar Abdullah apologises for Shopian incident

Hindu, 16 August 2009

Srinagar: Admitting that his government committed some mistakes in the Shopian case, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday tendered an unconditional apology and assured the people that such incidents would not recur. "I cannot sideline the Shopian incident. We have not concealed anything. Initially the government did commit some mistakes. I tender an apology," he said, after unfurling the tricolour at the Bakshi stadium here on the occasion of Independence Day

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/08/16/stories/2009081657260100.htm>

**Sweets, gifts exchanged at LoC, IB for 2nd day
Daily Excelsior, 16 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 15: For the second day today, Army officials of India and Pakistan exchanged sweets, juice and pleasantries at Line of Control (LoC) at Chakan-Da-Bagh in Poonch district. While yesterday, the LoC was opened to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day, today the Independence Day of India was celebrated at Chakan-Da-Bagh zero line. On the International Border (IB), it was the turn of BSF officers and Rangers to exchange greetings and sweets at Octroi post in Suchetgarh sector today.

BSF foils infiltration bid, heavy firing across border near Jammu

Times of India, 17 August 2009

JAMMU: Heavy exchange of fire erupted on the Indo-Pak border in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday as BSF troops foiled a pre-dawn infiltration bid by suspected militants in Ramgarh in Samba district, official sources said. A group of suspected militants entered into the Indian side via the international border and the movement was picked up by the BSF troops near the Border Out Post in Palhad belt of Ramgarh at around 0105 hours, they said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/india/BSF-foils-infiltration-bid-heavy-firing-across-border-near-Jammu/articleshow/4898764.cms>

**After sweets, Rangers try to push militants
Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 16: Within few hours after shaking hands with Army and BSF at Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) respectively to celebrate Independence Day, Pakistan army and Rangers tried to push two groups of trained militants into Indian territory from Ramgarh in Samba sector and Rattan Pathri, Sabjian in Mandi sector of Poonch district last night. An alert was sounded all along the Jammu-Pathankote national highway and Jammu-Lakhanpur railway track following unconfirmed reports that a couple of militants might have succeeded in intruding into the Indian side during heavy exchange of firing with the Border Security Force (BSF) though senior officers of the BSF categorically denied that any militant had infiltrated from the IB

IRP bn arrives to replace CRPF

Daily Excelsior, 17 August 2009

JAMMU, Aug 16: Ahead of the withdrawal of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) battalions from the State, a battalion of Indian Reserve Police (IRP) from Haryana is getting "pre-induction" training, including on human rights, to adapt to the conditions in the State. "A battalion of IRP from Haryana has come to the State to replace Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Kathua and Jammu districts," a senior police officer said, adding around 800 personnel of the Haryana IRP are undergoing pre-induction training at Police Training School (PTS) in Kathua.

Insurgents could exploit CRPF absence; replacement needed:**Omar****Times of India, 18 August 2009**

NEW DELHI: Cautioning that withdrawal of CRPF deployed for counter-insurgency operations in sensitive districts would leave a vacuum that could be exploited by insurgents, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah sought an "immediate replacement" for the paramilitary forces in the state. Speaking at the chief ministers' conference on Internal Security, Omar said, "The ministry of home affairs has ordered the withdrawal of five CRPF battalions from the state. Four IRP battalions from Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Uttarakhand which were meant to replace the CRPF battalions have not reported as yet except for one battalion."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/india/Insurgents-could-exploit-CRPF-absence-replacement-needed-Omar-/articleshow/4903017.cms>

Withdraw AFSPA partially: Omar**Daily Excelsior, 18 August 2009**

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Pressing for partial withdrawal of special anti-terror laws from Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today appealed to the Centre and political parties to take a "pragmatic view" on lifting AFSPA from the districts where terrorist activities are "minimal". The Armed Forces Special Powers Act played an important role in providing legal protection to Army and paramilitary forces during the years when insurgency was at its peak in the State, but now it is time for shunning the "extreme positions" on the issue keeping the changed situation in view, he said at the Chief Ministers' conference on internal security

Two militants killed in Kupwara**Tribune, 21 August 2009**

A joint team of the police and the Army shot dead two militants in the frontier district of Kupwara today, while the body of a militant killed in a previous encounter in Keran was also recovered. Abdul Qayoom Manhas, DIG, Baramulla range, said they had surrounded the hideouts of militants in Dangwari and Kasab forests and both militants were killed in the encounters

State to have country's longest tunnels**Tribune, 22 August 2009**

The Jawahar Tunnel will lose the distinction of being the longest road tunnel in the country as the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is constructing two new tunnels to reduce distance between Jammu and Srinagar. While one tunnel, 9.2 km long, is being constructed from Chenani to Nasri, the other, 8.2 km long, will run through the Pir Panjal, parallel to the Jawahar Tunnel.

Protests continue for central varsity

Tribune, 22 August 2009

Students of various colleges continued with demonstrations under the banner of the Central University Andolan Samiti (CUAI) in favour of the demand for setting up of a central university in Jammu. Routine class work remained affected as students of GGM Science College, SPMR College of Commerce and MAM College, boycotted classes and protested in the front of their colleges

Dalai Lama emphasises on communal harmony

Tribune, 22 August 2009

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said here today that universal values like peace and respect among people of different castes were the only way to lead harmonious life in society. He was addressing members of the Shia and Sunni Muslim communities here. Anjuman Imamia and Moin-UI-Islam had organised a luncheon for the Dalai Lama, who is on a 20-day visit in Ladakh at the invitation of the Ladakh Buddhist Association for Buddhist teachings

Slathia invites industrialists to invest in J&K

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2009

SRINAGAR, Aug 22: Admitting that the industrialists who had wished to invest in the State had returned disappointed in the past, Industries and Commerce Minister Surjit Singh Slathia today renewed an invitation to the industrialists of the country as well as the local entrepreneurs to invest in the State saying the Government will provide all the facilities they would need for setting up their projects. The Industries and Commerce Minister, replying to the debate on demand of grants for departments under his charge, said the "big houses" will only come here if they got the necessary facilities and promised to extend all possible help to them for promoting "industrial culture" in the State

Omar calls for development of far off areas

Daily Excelsior, 23 August 2009

GUREZ, Aug 22: Asserting that his Government is keen for devolution of power to public representatives at grassroots, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today said that people should be taken on board in the process of plan formulation and execution of works according to the requirement of a particular area. Addressing public meetings at Tulail and Dawer in Gurez Assembly segment of Kashmir, Abdullah said that involvement of people in the process of planning and development is sine-qua-non to meet their development aspirations especially in remote, far-flung and cut-off areas like Gurez, Tulail, Tangdar, Drass, Zanskar, Karnah, Padder, Marwah, Dachhan, Warwan, etc

Govt may face agitation while taking up 6 new power projects

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2009

JAMMU, Aug 23: The State Government may face major agitation from the people of Kishtwar district at a time when it is planning to take up six new power projects on River Chenab in the district as resentment over non-implementation of commitments made during the commissioning of 390 Mega Watt (MW) Dul Hasti Hydro Electric Project is crossing all barriers. Sources told the EXCELSIOR that ever since the people of Kishtwar district have heard about the Government's plans to immediately take up six new power projects—Karthai, Kowas, Cheeru, Pakul, Bursar and Raitley, all on River Chenab in the remote and backward district of Kishtwar, their resentment has crossed all barriers owing to bitter experience about failure of the State Government and Dul Hasti authorities to implement the commitments made at the start of project

27 members of 4 families try to cross over to PoK

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2009

JAMMU, Aug 23: The Army authorities foiled an attempt of nearly 27 villagers to cross over to Pak Occupied Kashmir (PoK) from Balakote area of Mendhar sub-sector in district Poonch today. Sources said these villagers belonging to four Gujjar families are residing at a hamlet- Dhar Galoon, which is closer to the Line of Control in Balakote block of Mendhar tehsil. During early morning, the families of Mohd Hussain, Mohammed Din, Mohd Khalid and Mohd Akbar alongwith their wives and children picked up some of their belongings and started moving towards the Line of Control.

Al Badr chief arrested from Sopore

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2009

Srinagar, Aug 23: The Special Operations Group (SOG) of police has arrested the self-styled chief commander of Al Badr militant outfit in Sopore area of Baramulla district in North Kashmir, police said here today. Zeenat-ul-Islam, a resident of Shopian district in South Kashmir, was operating under various codenames including Zahid and Junaid during his four-year stint as the operations chief of the outfit, the sources said

Uproar in Assembly over food crisis in J&K

Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2009

SRINAGAR, Aug 24: The grants for meeting the expenditure of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) and Transport departments for 2009-10 were passed amidst din in the Legislative Assembly even as CAPD Minister Qamar Ali Akhoun announced an interim increase of 15 kilograms in ration supply per family for the holy month of Ramadhan. The CAPD Minister announced that the ration supply per family will be increased from 35 to 50 kilograms for the fasting month after the Speaker Mohammad Akbar Lone insisted on a "specific" statement from the Minister following the second walk out of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) MLAs protesting against the scarce availability of ration in the depots

**Two TA jawans held with Rs 1.7 lakh fake currency
Daily Excelsior, 25 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 24: With the arrest of two Army jawans from border area of Poonch late last evening, the Police cracked a network of ISI to push fake Indian currency into this side and recovered Rs 1.70 lakh from their possession while Poonch police registered an FIR against officiating Commanding Officer and an Army Major for allegedly beating SHO Poonch, who had gone to a border village today alongwith a police party to arrest another accused connected with the racket.

**2,384 lodged in state jails: Govt
Tribune, 27 August 2009**

The government has said 2,384 persons were lodged in various jails in the state, and 65 outside the state. The separatist Hurriyat Conference, however, contested the government claim saying the government's disclosures about the number of prisoners was totally false and aimed at hiding facts about the actual number. A spokesman for the APHC here said 6,200 Kashmiris were languishing in the state jails, interrogation centres and police stations, while 195 Kashmiris were in Delhi's Tehar Jail

**State has huge renewable energy potential: Farooq
Tribune, 27 August 2009**

Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, accompanied by a team of senior officers of his ministry, met Governor NN Vohra here today. During the hour-long meeting, Farooq discussed with the Governor the scope for optimal exploitation of the vast potential of non-conventional energy sources, including solar energy, wind energy, geo-thermal energy and mini and micro-hydel projects, in the state. It was felt that timely initiatives would provide enormous relief to the state in meeting its energy requirements, especially in the far-flung and remote areas, and also give a fillip to economic development

**Situation in JK improves since Jan 2009: Omar
Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2009**

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: Calling for a dialogue between India and Pakistan and Centre and the State to address the various dimensions of Kashmir issue, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today dismissed the opposition charge of worsening security situation in the State saying the situation had improved since the National Conference-Congress coalition Government took over early this year. Using statistics to buttress his argument, the Chief Minister, in a 110-minute speech in the Legislative Assembly, said the record of the present Government was far better than that of the PDP-led coalition Government

**Oppn seeks resignation of Jammu Ministers
Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2009**

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: The Central University (CU) issue rocked the Legislative Assembly again during the Question Hour today even as

the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and National Panthers Party (NPP) legislators staged a walk out demanding resignations of the Ministers from Jammu region. The issue cropped up after the BJP and NPP legislators were dissatisfied with the reply of Higher Education Ministry to the questions of MLAs Harshdev Singh, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Mir Zahoor Ahmad, Yashpal Kundal and Ashwani Sharma (JSM) that were clubbed together regarding the establishment of CU, IIM and degree colleges in the State

**LeT militant killed, another injured
Daily Excelsior, 28 August 2009**

JAMMU, Aug 27: Army and police today gunned a tehsil commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit while a deputy commander of the outfit escaped in an injured condition in an encounter at Keshwan area in Kishtwar district. Official sources said troops of 11 Rashtriya Rifles and Kishtwar police launched a search operation in Sarawan forests of Keshwan area after developing an input that two militants of the LeT outfit were camping there

**Work to resume soon on Kashmir rail link project
Daily Excelsior, 29 August 2009**

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: A year after the suspension of construction activity on the Katra-Qazigund section of the Kashmir rail link project, work in the difficult terrain is likely to resume soon with the Railway Ministry giving its nod. "Ministry has accepted the report of the expert committee which has recommended re-commencement of the work in the Katra-Qazigund section which include the construction of the tallest bridge on the Chenab river," said a senior Railway Ministry officer involved with the project

**Omar for scientific environment policy
Tribune, 30 August 2009**

Expressing concern over climate change and global warming, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has laid stress on evolving a comprehensive environment protection policy based on scientific studies. Inaugurating a three-day seminar on global warming in Leh today, the Chief Minister said the bigger involvement of people was required to address environment-related problems. "We have to look for safeguarding the green wealth of the state by all means," he said.

**Gilgit-Baltistan gets internal, political autonomy
News, 30 August 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Saturday unanimously approved the new Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self-Governance Ordinance 2009 to give more internal and political autonomy to the Northern Areas. "All the stakeholders were taken on board prior to getting the approval from the cabinet to give internal and political autonomy to the Northern Areas, which shall be now be called Gilgit-Baltistan," said Prime Minister Syed Yousuf

Raza Gilani while addressing a press conference here on Saturday at the PM Secretariat after chairing a special cabinet meeting

http://www.thenews.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?Id=24191

J&K's Jawahar tunnel to remain open 24/7

Times of India, 31 August 2009

JAMMU: The two-and-half kilometres long Jawahar tunnel, connecting Kashmir with Jammu region on Jammu-Srinagar national highway, will remain open round the clock, J&K Traffic Department officials today said. "The Jawahar tunnel will remain open for vehicular traffic round the clock and arrangements for night traffic movement at the tunnel and security of vehicles on the highway has been made in this direction," they said

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/JKs-Jawahar-tunnel-to-remain-open-24/7/articleshow/4951550.cms>

State losing crores to provide power through generators

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2009

JAMMU, Aug 30: Notwithstanding the fact that cold desert region of the State has huge potential for solar power, diesel worth crores of rupees is being burnt every year to provide 'curtailed' electricity to the unelectrified areas of the Ladakh due to non-serious approach of the successive State Governments as well as Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Authoritative sources told the EXCELSIOR that Ladakh region has a total of 97000 square kilometres of area and about 60 to 70 per cent of the same has huge potential for generation of electricity using solar energy which if tapped can not only make this region power surplus but also help other parts of State upto certain extent

70% micro hydel power projects of Army defunct

Daily Excelsior, 31 August 2009

JAMMU, Aug 30: More than seventy percent micro-hydel power projects set up by Army under 'Operation Sadhbhavna' in Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Ramban and other parts of the State to meet the electricity needs of the people of remote areas are lying defunct. The brain child of a Dehradun (Uttanchal) based NGO Himalayan Environmental Studies & Conservation Organisation (HESCO) headed by Padamshree Dr Anil Joshi, this concept of generating electricity for meeting local needs of hamlets and small villages not only brought a major revolution in his home State but also did miracles in the neighbouring States of Himachal and the North East