

J-K infiltration sends tremors; high-level meeting tomorrow

Daily Excelsior, 1 April 2009

NEW DELHI : Amid reports of large-scale infiltration by militants mainly belonging to Lashker-e-Taiba, a high-level meeting to be chaired by Union Home and Defence Secretaries will be held in Kashmir tomorrow to review the security situation. Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta and Defence Secretary Vijay Singh will discuss with the state government officials about the recent long encounter taking place along the Line of Control in North Kashmir and the preparedness in meeting the challenge ahead of general elections

Army Commander briefs Guv about security situation

Daily Excelsior, 1 April 2009

JAMMU : General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Northern Army Command Lt Gen P C Bhardwaj today met Governor N N Vohra and briefed him about the overall security situation in the State, an official spokesman said. The Army Commander and the Governor reviewed issues relating to the recent attempts of infiltration from across the Line of Control (LoC) and discussed other significant developments having a bearing on the overall security environment in the State, the spokesman said

Security being reviewed for Azad, Mufti, besides Abdullahs

Daily Excelsior, 2 April 2009

JAMMU : Security was being reviewed for protection of Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and Farooq Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said today. The review comes in the backdrop of the Centre writing to all states to ensure tight security for nearly 40 VIPs and asking these leaders not to conduct any surprise visits during the electioneering

Mumbai terror architect crafts infiltration surge

Hindu, 2 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Ever since the massacre in Mumbai in November 2008, intelligence services across the world have searched, without success, for one of its architects: a Lashkar-e-Taiba commander known only by the twin aliases Muzammil and Yusuf. Now, highly-placed police and intelligence sources have told The Hindu, the man who had hands-on responsibility for the tactical training of the terrorists as well as pre-assault reconnaissance, has resurfaced in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir. And he has been commanding a surge in infiltration that has sparked off some of the most intense fighting seen along the Line of Control in years

400 terrorists waiting to sneak into J&K ahead of polls: Army

Daily Excelsior, 4 April 2009

NEW DELHI: Amidst reports that 400 trained terrorists were waiting to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir to disrupt coming Lok Sabha polls, the Government has ordered stepping up of security in the border State to thwart any attempts to cause violence ahead of the elections. After a visit by Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta and Defence Secretary Vijay Singh to meet top State officials this week, the order for heightened vigil was issued, Army sources said here today. There are intelligence inputs that 400 trained terrorists of Lashkar-e-Toiba are waiting to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir to disrupt the polls. We have stepped up our alertness to prevent both infiltration and attacks, the sources said

Intercepts suggest Taliban presence in Kashmir valley

Daily Excelsior, 5 April 2009

NEW DELHI : The militancy scenario in Jammu and Kashmir may change as wireless and

satellite intercepts suggest presence of a group of nearly 15 'Taliban' militants in higher reaches of Kupwara in north Kashmir. While all central security forces and agencies and the Army are tight-lipped over the development, sources in the Home Ministry said wireless messages of a group of militants holed up in Chowkibal area of Trehgham in Kupwara were intercepted. Another such communication was heard in Lolab area, also in Kupwara, they said. The intercepts, the sources claimed, were enough to "shock" the security agencies as one group identified itself as being part of the Taliban which had crossed the Line of Control using the Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled maps

Omar Abdullah plans to draw UK link to transform Kashmir

Daily Excelsior, 5 April 2009

LONDON : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah plans to draw on his British links to transform the image of the State and reinvent it as a beautiful tourist destination. While urging the international community to support democracy in Pakistan and Washington to facilitate peace between Islamabad and New Delhi, Abdullah, the youngest Chief Minister in the country, sees his role in "keeping things on an even keel.

Landslides suspend weekly trade between Srinagar-Muzaffarabad

Daily Excelsior, 7 April 2009

SRINAGAR : Landslides triggered by incessant rains across the border today forced Jammu and Kashmir government to suspend weekly trade between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), official sources said. "There was no trade along the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road which was blocked at several places by landslides triggered by incessant rains on the other side," the sources said

Alertness along J&K will neutralise infiltrators

Daily Excelsior, 7 April 2009

NEW DELHI : Terror groups aided by Pakistan's state agencies are making determined efforts for infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir and security forces are maintaining a "heightened sense of vigil" to thwart those attempts, Home Minister P Chidambaram said here today. "There is a determined effort to infiltrate across the international border and the Line of Control ... But our security forces are on alert and have been able to neutralise these infiltrators in the last three or four weeks," he said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here

No information about presence of Taliban in Kashmir: Army spokesman

Daily Excelsior, 8 April 2009

SRINAGAR: There was no information about the presence of Taliban in any part of the Kashmir Valley, including frontier district of Kupwara, a Defence Ministry spokesman said here today. He told UNI that so far there was no information that any Taliban militant had infiltrated into this side from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)

Militant plan to blow up railway track foiled, IED defused

Daily Excelsior, 8 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Security forces today thwarted militants plan to blow up railway track in south Kashmir when they detected and defused a powerful 25 kg liquid Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Official sources told UNI a security force party on routine patrolling noticed a cylindrical shell near the track at village Khelan in Pulwama district several hours before a train was to pass the area.

U.S. concerned over reports of Taliban trying to enter India

Hindu, 8 April 2009

New Delhi (PTI): The U.S. on Wednesday voiced "grave concern" over reports that

Pakistani army is helping Taliban to infiltrate into Kashmir and said Washington was making efforts to address issues related to support for terror groups."I have seen the same reports which you speak about ... Those are grave concern and we continue to address those," U.S. Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen told reporters here when asked to comment on reports that Taliban fighters are trying to cross over into Jammu and Kashmir with the help of Pakistan army.

Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service suspended due to landslides

Daily Excelsior, 9 April 2009

SRINAGAR: The weekly 'Carvan-e-Aman' bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad was cancelled today in view of landslides triggered by incessant rains in the area, official sources said. The bus service was cancelled following information that landslides blocked the road at Chakoti in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and at Lagama, Johla and Aman sethu on the Indian side

Number of militants up in Doda zone ahead of polls

Daily Excelsior, 10 April 2009

JAMMU, Apr 9: Already faced by shortage of para-military forces for Lok Sabha elections, the problems of authorities in Doda belt comprising three districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban have been further compounded by the confirmed inputs that 20 fresh and dreaded infiltrators of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) have reached the upper reaches and could disturb the Lok Sabha elections. Three districts of Doda belt are part of Udampur-Doda Parliamentary seat which will go to polls in second phase on April 23. Three other districts, which are part of the same constituency, include Udampur, Reasi and Kathua.

Separatist leader Sajjad Lone to contest LS polls

Daily Excelsior, 11 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Breaking away from the separatist ranks, People's Conference leader Sajjad Lone today announced his decision to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, becoming the first secessionist to join the democratic process. Making the announcement at a press conference here, 42-year-old Lone said that he was aspiring to enter Parliament to raise the voice of Kashmiris

Kashmir's 'Kasab' story casts light on NWFP threat

Hindu, 11 April 2009

NEW DELHI: For the past week, prime-time television news has been saturated with lurid speculation on the prospect of an invasion by the Taliban, fuelled by an early spring surge in infiltration across the Line of Control. Now, the Jammu and Kashmir police have found one of the hundreds of jihadists who have made up that surge: a 15-year-old boy with only the beginnings of a beard, hiding, paralysed by fear, behind a clump of rocks in the north Kashmir mountains.

Infiltration to rise due to polls; women trained across LoC: Gen Kapoor

Daily Excelsior, 14 April 2009

NEW DELHI : Cautioning that infiltration attempts from across the border were expected to rise before the general elections, Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor today said there were reports of women being trained on the other side of the Line of Control. However, a three-tier defence system had been put in place on the Line of Control (LoC) to deal with any situation as the Army was aware of plans to escalate infiltration bids in the run-up to the polls, Gen Kapoor told on the sidelines of an international seminar here

J&K witnesses record 893 incident-free election rallies

Daily Excelsior, 15 April 2009

JAMMU : Amid apprehensions of terrorists targetting polls, Jammu and Kashmir has hosted record 893 rallies free of violence till the end of campaigning for the first phase of the elections, with the Congress accounting for most of them. Earlier, the state had hit record with just over 600 violence-free rallies in the entire Parliament elections in 2004

70 cross sides at PoK

Daily Excelsior, 16 April 2009

SRINAGAR: As many as 70 people cross sides in the Karvan-e-Aman bus operating between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Official sources said 29 guests from PoK arrived here to meet their relatives for the first time after 1947

27 injured in clashes during polling in Poonch, Rajouri

Daily Excelsior, 16 April 2009

JAMMU : At least 27 people were injured, six of them seriously, in clashes between the supporters of rival political parties during polling in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri today, official sources said. Election was in progress for the Jammu Lok Sabha seat covering 20 Assembly segments spread over four border districts of Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch

Terror camps still 'existing' on other side of LoC: Army

Daily Excelsior, 17 April 2009

NEW DELHI : The Army today said that terror training camps are still "existing" on the other side of the Line of Control and Pakistan is continuing its "support" for infiltration into India. "The camps, which were there on the other side are still existing ... There is definite support for infiltration from the other side," Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor said

Abdullah says he had opposed release of militants

Daily Excelsior, 17 April 2009

NEW DELHI : In the midst of the Congress blasting BJP over handling of the Kandahar hijack episode, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah has said that he had "opposed" the release of the militants in the 1999 incident. "I opposed it and I (had) said this is going to be very costly and we will pay a heavy price in days to come and we did," Abdullah, whose party NC was part of the NDA regime during the hijack, said

Top LeT commander among two militants killed in Doda

Daily Excelsior, 18 April 2009

Jammu : Two militants, including a self-styled commander of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), were killed by Army in Doda district today, an official source said. The slain militants, identified as Shabaz, a self-styled battalion commander of LeT, and Kuber, were shot dead by Rashtriya Rifles in Bharat area of mountainous Doda district, the sources said

Lashker militants abduct two persons

Daily Excelsior, 19 April 2009

JAMMU : Lashker-e-Toiba militants today abducted a man and his son from the forest area in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Prem Nath (35) along with his son Suresh Kumar (10) had gone to the forest early this morning in Pakkharkote Tanga area of the district when militants intercepted and abducted them, a police officer said. On

getting the information, police and army troops jointly launched a search operation, the officer said

Centre admits around 50 militants infiltrate into J and K

Daily Excelsior, 22 April 2009

NEW DELHI : The Centre today admitted that around 50 terrorists had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir through the Gurez sector and said the entire security apparatus was alert to ensure peaceful Lok Sabha elections in the border state. The extent of the infiltration was given by the Home Ministry while dismissing as "grossly exaggerated" reports that 158 terrorists had sneaked into the state through the Gurez sector in North Kashmir

Voters defy militants' threat

Daily Excelsior, 23 April 2009

NAWAPACHI (Kishtwar, J-K) : Posters by Lashker-e-Taiba and other militant outfits warning people against voting today failed to deter residents of Nawapachi, dubbed as a hotbed of foreign mercenaries, with people exercising their franchise in the hope of bringing "peace and development" to this remote area. "I voted again today. I do not care about the militants' threat. My vote is for peace and construction of road communication to this area," 90-year-old Ashiya Begum told

Antony to visit JK to review security for LS polls

Daily Excelsior, 24 April 2009

NEW DELHI : With a spurt in infiltration by militants into Jammu and Kashmir from across the border, Defence Minister A K Antony will go on a whirlwind day-long visit to Rajouri sector along the Line of Control on Monday to review security for the Lok Sabha polls. Defence Ministry sources said Antony, accompanied by Defence Secretary Vijay Singh and Army chief General Deepak Kapoor, would go to the forward areas to meet and interact with soldiers guarding the LoC

Two militants killed in an encounter in Baramulla

Daily Excelsior, 24 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Two militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces at Wakanpora-Sopore, 55 kms from here, in Baramulla district of north Kashmir today, police said. The encounter broke out between the ultras and the security forces in the wee hours today, when a team of 29 Rashtrīya Rifles and special operations group of local police has launched a search operation after getting specific information that the militants were holed up in a house

40 infiltrators killed in Kupwara, Gurez: Army

Hindu, 26 April 2009

SRINAGAR: Forty militants, who infiltrated the Line of Control, have been killed in the Kupwara and Gurez sectors in the past few days. But more are waiting to cross over, Army authorities said on Saturday. Two major infiltration bids had taken place in the two areas. A massive combing operation was on in the Gurez sector. "You will soon come to know of the details," Brig. Gurmeet Singh, Brigadier-General Staff at the Srinagar-based 15 Corps headquarters, told a press conference.

Foreign LeT militant killed in Poonch

Daily Excelsior, 27 April 2009

JAMMU : A foreign militant of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit was today killed by Rashtrīya Rifles (RR) in an encounter near the Line of Control (LoC) at Mendhar in Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The LeT militant, identified as self-styled

'divisional commander' Abu Babar, was killed in an encounter with the troops of 37 RR at Dorimal in Mendhar, official sources said

Thousands defy separatists to vote in Kashmir Valley

Hindu, 30 April 2009

Anantnag (Jammu and Kashmir) (IANS) Tens of thousands defied death threats from Pakistan-based terrorists to vote on Thursday in the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency in the Kashmir Valley. Nearly 15 percent of Anantnag's 1.16 million electorate had voted by 1 p.m. across the southern Kashmir constituency despite a shutdown called by the separatists to trip the electoral process, officials said.