Tragic mishap exposes non-adherence to CM’s directions, 31 killed, 5 injured as mini-bus plunges into

**Daily Excelsior, 5 May 2009**

JAMMU, May 4: In the second most tragic accident of the current year, 31 persons including 14 teachers were killed and five others sustained severe injuries when an over-loaded mini-bus plunged into mighty Chenab river at Bhandarkote, 10 kilometres from Kishtwar town early this morning. While bodies of 30 victims were recovered from the bank of river after hectic efforts, one Lecturer remained untraceable till late this evening and he is feared to have drowned.

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Decks cleared for RTI era in J&K

**Daily Excelsior, 5 May 2009**

JAMMU, May 4: Decks have been cleared for setting up of State Information Commission (SIC) at par with Central Information Commission with Governor N N Vohra giving his assent to Right to Information Act (RTI) passed by both Houses of the Legislature in its brief February-March session. Law & Parliamentary Affairs and Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather told the Excelsior that the Law Ministry has received assent of the Governor to RTI Act, which has been made at par with the Central Act.

http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/

LeT Div Cdr among two killed in Doda

**Daily Excelsior, 9 May 2009**

JAMMU: A top commander Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit and his local militant associate were killed in a fierce gun-battle with security forces in the mountainous Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir early today, an official spokesman said. LeT’s self-styled ‘divisional commander’ Abu Sumama, resident of Pakistan, and his local aide Barkat Ali alias Yasir were killed by the counter-insurgency forces in Dhar Dashnan hills near Doda town early this morning, the spokesman said.

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LeT’s computer savvy comdr shot dead with body-guard

**Daily Excelsior, 10 May 2009**

JAMMU, May 9: In a major success, police, Army and CRPF gunned down a Graduate and computer savvy commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), hailing from Faridkot area of Pakistan’s Punjab province along with his body-guard at village Beli in Bharat area of Doda district this morning. An Army jawan was injured in the operation. In addition to arms and ammunition, police have also recovered a number of identity cards including an EPIC from the possession of Pakistani militant which he had fabricated with the help of computer and used to circulate them among the militants.

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Gujjars evicted from Govt land after police action

**Daily Excelsior, 10 May 2009**

JAMMU, May 9: Police fired teargas shells as a number of Gujjars resorted to heavy stone pelting on police and Social Forestry personnel who had gone to evict about 10 hectares Government land encroached upon by the Gujjars at Karnaila Chak in
Phalayan Mandal area under the jurisdiction of Satwari police station today. About a dozen police and Social Forestry personnel were injured in stone pelting by the Gujjars. After three rounds of operation, police and Social Forestry officials and jawans succeeded in evicting all illegal Gujjar occupants from the Government land this evening. Possession of the land has been taken over by the Social Forestry Department once again

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Kashmir Sikhs concerned over Taliban action
Tribune, 11 May 2009
Sikhs in Kashmir have expressed concern over the dislocation of members of the community from the Swat and Buner areas of Pakistan under threats from the Taliban


Women dare LeT ultras to save honour
Tribune, 11 May 2009
As the atrocities being committed by the militants cross all limits, woman folk in violence-plagued areas of the state have now started daring terrorist threat to protect their dignity and honour from the gun-totting youth. One month back it was Shah Bano, who had shown courage in the Bhaderwah area and had lodged complaint against four Laskhar-e-Toiba (LeT) men for raping her. Now, Shama (22) and her mother Taja Begum (60) became a source for inspiration for other women who have been silently bearing the brunt of the atrocities of militants


Baramulla, Ladakh go to polls today in last phase
Daily Excelsior, 13 May 2009
SRINAGAR, May 12: Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency is all set to go to polls tomorrow amidst stringent security arrangements as the curtains will be drawn tomorrow on five-phase Lok Sabha elections. Ladakh Parliamentary seat is also going to polls in the final phase of polling. Thousands of security force personnel drawn from Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, CRPF, BSF and CISF have been deployed in and around 1470 polling stations set in Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara districts, which constitute the North Kashmir Lok Sabha seat, official sources said

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Strike paralyses life in Kashmir valley
Daily Excelsior, 13 May 2009
SRINAGAR, May 12: Life in Kashmir valley once again came to a complete standstill due to a strike call given by the hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani ahead of fifth and final phase of Parliamentary elections tomorrow. Moreover, with thousands of police and paramilitary personnel being deployed all over the city restricting the movement of people in certain areas, the summer capital of the State wore a deserted look
Cong retains Jammu, Udhampur LS, Bhaderwah Assembly seats
Daily Excelsior, 17 May 2009
JAMMU, May 16: In a replica of 2004 Lok Sabha elections, Congress today won the two Lok Sabha seats of Jammu region with its sitting candidates Madan Lal Sharma and Choudhary Lal Singh defeating their nearest BJP rivals Leela Karan Sharma and Dr Nirmal Singh in Jammu-Poonch and Udhampur-Doda constituencies respectively. Bhaderwah Assembly seat, where by-poll was held due to resignation of former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad after his election to Rajya Sabha, was also retained by Congress candidate Mohd Sharief Niaz, although with a very reduced margin as compared to the Assembly election just six months back.

NC-Congress reaffirm supremacy in valley
Tribune, 17 May 2009
With its victory in all three LS constituencies in the Kashmir valley, the ruling NC-Congress coalition has reaffirmed its mandate within six months after the Assembly elections even as the PDP has given a tough fight to the NC candidates. The NC today won the Sonwar Assembly seat where byelection were held after it fell vacant due to the election of NC president Farooq Abdullah to the Rajya Sabha. NC candidate Mohammad Yasin Shah defeated PDP candidate Mohammad Ashraf Mir by a slender margin of 50 votes Farooq Abdullah, who got elected from the prestigious Srinagar constituency, contested the Lok Sabha elections for the first time after 1980 when he was elected unopposed.

Sajjad ends a distant third
Tribune, 17 May 2009
The much-hyped decision of former separatist Sajjad Lone to fight the parliamentary elections has ended in disappointment for the young leader as he came a distant third in the Baramulla constituency. Though the Election Commission had not come out yet with the final tally of votes, sources said Sajjad received a little around 65,400 votes. NC candidate Sharif-ud-Din Shariq emerged victorious with over 2 lakh votes, while PDP's Dilawar Mir bagged over 1.38 lakh votes, leaving Sajjad far behind.

Get ready for talks with Delhi: Farooq to Hurriyats
Greater Kashmir, 17 May 2009
Srinagar, May 16: Minutes after National Conference patron and president Dr Farooq Abdullah was declared winner for Srinagar parliamentary seat, he asked the pro-freedom leadership to prepare themselves for talks with New Delhi on the Kashmir dispute. “National Conference is very serious about resolving Kashmir issue. Hurriyat should get ready for talks. The process will be started soon after the formation of new government at center,” said the jubilant Abdullah after he defeated his nearest rival Molvi Iftikhar Ansari of the PDP by over 30,000 votes.
South Kashmir slipping out of PDP hands
Daily Excelsior, 18 May 2009
SRINAGAR, May 17: Opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP), which lost all the three Lok Sabha seats in the Parliamentary elections, has maintained its grip over almost the same number of Assembly constituencies as it had won in the State elections but its South Kashmir bastion seems to be slipping out as both Assembly segments represented by Mehbooba Mufti and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed gave it a thumbs down. In the Assembly elections held in the State in November-December last year, the PDP emerged as the second largest party, winning 19 of the 46 Assembly seats in Kashmir Valley. In the just concluded Lok Sabha polls, it has emerged as leader in 17 Assembly seats in the Valley

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Omar promises allround development
Tribune, 18 May 2009
Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said today that the coming five and a half years of his government would be dedicated to public cause and allround development of the state would be the guiding factor for governance. He said the return of the UPA to power at the Centre was a good omen for peace and development in the state. He was addressing a large gathering of people that had come to his Gupkar residence here today to felicitate him on the victory of the NC-Congress alliance in the parliamentary elections in the state


Valley Rly track to be completed in July
Daily Excelsior, 19 May 2009
JAMMU, May 18: Though the dream of chugging trains in the length and breadth of Kashmir valley is being fully realised in the month of July when new Railway Minister will inaugurate last leg of the project yet Valley’s rail connectivity with rest of the country continued to be a distant dream. The 119 kilometre long railway project in the Kashmir valley from Qazigund to Baramulla was basically formulated with the vision to connect Kashmir with Kanyakumari via train services but despite the lapse of several years this connectivity is nowhere in sight as the fate of two vital sections—30 kilometre long Udampur-Katra and 147 kilometre long Katra-Qazigund, continued to hang in balance

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Kashmir train running 7 yrs late
Indian Express, 20 May 2009
A UPA government at the Centre — with six UPA MPs at all Jammu and Kashmir’s six seats — may not be enough to power the Indian Railways into the Valley. Major engineering problems have already resulted in the suspension of work on the Katra-Qazigund section of the link to Kashmir; the Railways now find themselves struggling to take the line up to even Katra. The 25.2-km line connecting Udampur and Katra — sanctioned 14 years ago — will not be operational before 2012, The Indian Express has now learnt

Rs 1.07 crore worth cross-LoC trade
Daily Excelsior, 20 May 2009
Rs 1.07 crore worth cross-LoC trade
JAMMU, May 19: Cross-LoC trade today touched Rs 1.07 crore as 39 trucks crossed sides from Chakan-Da-Bagh on Poonch-Rawlakote route during weekly trade between two parts of divided State today. Traders from Poonch and Jammu exported items worth Rs 54.45 lakh to their counterparts in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). Businessmen from this part of the State, mostly Jammu and Poonch, imported tradable items worth Rs 52.59 lakh from PoK, official sources said. However, garlic didn’t figure in the list of items imported by the traders of Poonch and Jammu from PoK following a ban imposed by the Centre after Agriculture Department’s Plant and Quarantine wing had detected infusion in it

http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/

Mirwaiz Farooq’s death anniversary today
Tribune, 21 May 2009
The separatist APHC is organising an “election rejection rally” here tomorrow on the occasion of the nineteenth death anniversary of founder leader of the Awami Action Committee (AAC) Mirwaiz Moulvi Mohammad Farooq, who was killed on May 21, 1990. It is also paying tributes to senior APHC leader Abdul Ghani Lone, who fell to the bullets of unidentified gunmen while paying tributes to the Mirwaiz on May 21, 2002, at Eidgah


Mirwaiz Umar for Kashmir’s economic independence
Greater Kashmir, 21 May 2009
Srinagar, May 20: Chairman of Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Wednesday said Kashmiris should stress on self-reliance, and urged the people to protect Valley’s natural resources from exploitation by outsiders. Mirwaiz also called for a complete shutdown on May 21 and appealed people of the Valley to make the Eidgah rally successful. “Achieving political freedom will be futile unless we become self-reliant. While fighting for right to self-determination we have to concentrate on attaining economic independence,” Mirwaiz said while addressing a gathering at Jamia Masjid during a blood donation and medical camp in memory of his late father, Moulana Muhammad Farooq

http://greaterkashmir.com/today/full_story.asp?Date=21_5_2009&ItemID=67&cat=1

26/11: prosecution seeks to include Kashmir
Hindu, 22 May 2009
Mumbai: The prosecution in the Mumbai terror attacks case moved an application in court on hursday asking for the inclusion of the objective of capturing Kashmir in the final charges. The charges in the case were framed on May 6. The move by Special Public Prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam comes a day after media reports indicated that there was no reference to Kashmir in the final charges, whereas the prosecution had mentioned it while proposing the charges
Take steps for ‘resolving’ Kashmir in 2 months
Tribune, 22 May 2009

APHC chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has asked the Central government to take concrete steps for the resolution of the Kashmir issue within two months. He threatened to launch a mass agitation from July 13. In case no concrete steps were taken for initiating a dialogue process with Pakistan and the separatist leadership in Kashmir, the APHC would launch a “peaceful agitation” beginning with a march from the martyrs’ graveyard to Lal Chowk here on July 13, the Mirwaiz said while addressing a largely-attended rally at Eidgah here today.

Srinagar largely shut
Tribune, 22 May 2009

Srinagar was largely shut on the death anniversaries of Mirwaiz Moulvi Farooq, father of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and Abdul Gani Lone, but did not witness any serious incident of violence. The main markets in Lal Chowk and downtown were closed, but many shops in other areas were open. Some Hurriyat leaders, including Zafar Akbar Bhat, were detained by the police and many vehicles carrying separatist supporters for the rally were forcibly stopped by the security forces, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq alleged.

Fathers, sons and Kashmiri politics By Praveen Swami
Hindu, 23 May 2009
Can Kashmir’s major political parties rebuild a relationship with their secessionist adversaries? Back in the summer of 1986, the Lions and the Goats met at Srinagar’s Jamia Masjid, and vowed to work together to secure Kashmir’s future. National Conference president Farooq Abdullah was the heir to the legacy of Shér-i-Kashmir [‘the Lion of Kashmir’], his father Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. His new-found ally, the powerful Srinagar cleric Maulvi Mohammad ad Farooq, led the Bakras, or goats, derisively nicknamed so for their long beards. Much of modern Kashmir’s history was shaped by the often-violent clashes between the Shér and the Bakra: between the radical party of the peasants and workers and the cleric-led pious, often pro-Pakistan urban petit bourgeoisie.

PoK truck drivers smuggle SIM cards
Daily Excelsior, 23 May 2009
JAMMU, May 22: For the first time since the launch of cross-LoC trade on October 22 last year, two truck drivers from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) have been quizzed for their suspected militant links after the recovery of four SIM cards of two different
telecom companies of Pakistan from their possession. Recovery of SIM cards from the PoK drivers which led to their detention for several hours on Wednesday has sent alarm bells ringing among the security and Intelligence agencies with a direction going to concerned authorities not to allow drivers from other side of Line of Control (LoC) to mix up with local population and keep them segregated till their trucks are unloaded and they return to PoK

http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/

Pok truck drivers smuggle SIM cards
Daily Excelsior, 23 May 2009
JAMMU, May 22: For the first time since the launch of cross-LoC trade on October 22 last year, two truck drivers from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) have been quizzed for their suspected militant links after the recovery of four SIM cards of two different telecom companies of Pakistan from their possession. Recovery of SIM cards from the PoK drivers which led to their detention for several hours on Wednesday has sent alarm bells ringing among the security and Intelligence agencies with a direction going to concerned authorities not to allow drivers from other side of Line of Control (LoC) to mix up with local population and keep them segregated till their trucks are unloaded and they return to PoK

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92 detainees released since Jan '09
Greater Kashmir, 23 May 2009
Srinagar, May 22: The state government has released 92 detainees ever since Omar Abdullah-led coalition assumed power in January this year, officials sources said on Friday. They said that Omar Abdullah after taking over as the chief minister had said that the government would review the cases and consider release of prisoners against whom there were no serious charges. "Those released so far include 40 who were detained under Public Safety Act. Thirty-two were released following revocation of detention orders. Ten detainees were released through Joint Screening Committee and eight others through high-level meeting. Two were released on parole. On May 14, the government had released 36 detainees, including eight who were held under PSA,” they added

http://greaterkashmir.com/today/full_story.asp?Date=23_5_2009&ItemID=46&cat=1

Hoteliers want parity with industrial units
Tribune, 24 May 2009
The All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association has demanded electricity tariff on hotels and lodges to be reduced and brought on a par with what being charged from industrial units in the state. “Since we are also associated with tourism, a sector which had been declared as an industry by state and Central governments, we too should be given benefits similar to manufacturing industries,” association president Inderjeet Khajuria told The Tribune


200 CPF companies for Amarnath yatra
Daily Excelsior, 24 May 2009
JAMMU, May 23: The State administration has sought 200 companies of Central
Police Force (CPF) from the Union Home Ministry for making fool proof security arrangements for annual two month long Amarnath yatra scheduled to begin on June 7. The CPF and local police will provide security at Bhagwati Nagar base camp, 20 other places of accommodation for yatris within the City, two forward base camps of Baltal and Nunwan and both tracks leading to holy cave shrine of Lord Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas

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**Govt nod to double number of trucks**
**Daily Excelsior, 24 May 2009**
JAMMU, May 23: Following a massive jump in cross-LoC trade on Poonch-Rawlakote route, the authorities on both sides proposed to raise infrastructure at Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs) in both parts of divided State to facilitate movement of 40 trucks from each side every Wednesday and Tuesday. Similar capacity for another cross-LoC trade route on Uri-Muzaffarabad route is proposed at 50 trucks each

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**More ultras manage to sneak into valley**
**Tribune, 25 May 2009**
Even as the Army is trying hard to check infiltration, at least two or three attempts were made by terrorists from across the border in the recent past and more than 12 militants are believed to have sneaked into the higher reaches of the valley. While some militants sneaked into the periphery of Srinagar city like Ganderbal, a majority of them were holed up in the higher reaches of Lolab and Bandipore in north Kashmir, sources in the state Home Department said


**Freshly infiltrated groups observed in Hill Kaka**
**Daily Excelsior, 25 May 2009**
JAMMU, May 24: Despite the arrest of 14 over ground cadre of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) involved in blasting a TATA Mobile in which five persons were killed and a couple of others injured, the militants appeared to have stepped-up their movement once again in Hill Kaka, a hub of militancy till 2003, in Pir Panjal range of Surankote in Poonch district. Twin factors are being attributed to the militants again making their presence felt in Hill Kaka. First, the withdrawal of Army pickets from some villages and secondly the lack of co-operation to Village Defence Committee (VDC) set up in 2003 when Army under ‘Operation Sarp Vinash’ had wiped out militancy in the area killing 63 ultras and capturing a dozen others

http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/

**4 more Pakistani SIM, memory cards seized from PoK visitor**
**Daily Excelsior, 26 May 2009**
JAMMU, May 25: Within a week after the recovery of four SIM cards— two each from two truck operators of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), who had come to Poonch carrying items for the traders, police today detained another PoK citizen soon after he reached Poonch from weekly Poonch-Rawlakote bus service and seized three SIM cards of a Pakistan mobile company and a memory card from his possession. Once again, there was no visitor from this part of the State to PoK in the weekly bus service with Pakistan’s Ministry for Home Affairs not issuing permits to the aspirants
even after the new policy under which not only the divided families but even general public can seek permits for cross-LoC visit

http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/

‘All except Geelani supported K-deal’
**Greater Kashmir, 26 May 2009**

Lahore, May 25: Former Pakistan foreign minister, Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri, has said India and Pakistan had reached an agreement on Kashmir in 2006 and the Kashmir leadership had also supported the deal, except Syed Ali Geelani. “We agreed on how to define Kashmir units on both sides, the de-militarization of borders, and formation of a mechanism that included Pakistan, India and Kashmiris. All Kashmiri leadership was with us on this issue, except Syed Ali Geelani,” Kasuri said in an interview with Najam Sethi on Dunya News

http://greaterkashmir.com/today/full_story.asp?Date=26_5_2009&ItemID=55&cat=1

Death sparks protests
**Tribune, 29 May 2009**

A youth was killed today when his motorcycle was hit by an Army vehicle near Badami Bagh cantt. Shafat Ahmad’s death sparked another round of protests against the security forces in parts of the city. Locals said Shafat Ahmad and his friend Mohammad Ashraf were on the bike when the Army vehicle hit it. Some of them alleged that the Army wasted some time in clearing its vehicles of road before it could rush the injured to the hospital, resulting in the death of Shafat. Ashraf is admitted to the cantt hospital


CM urges PM for meet on Working Group reports
**Daily Excelsior, 30 May 2009**

NEW DELHI, May 29: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today suggested that Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh should convene a meeting to review implementation of recommendations of four Working Groups set up for the State. The request was made by the Chief Minister when he called on the Prime Minister this morning and apprised him of political and security situation in the State. He also felicitated Dr Singh on becoming Prime Minister for the second successive time

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Lahore court bench poser to A-G: Why was India not bound to implement UN resolutions on Kashmir?
**Hindu, 31 May 2009**

ISLAMABAD: If Pakistan was bound to implement the UN Security Council resolution on Jamat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed, why was India not bound to implement UN resolutions on Kashmir, a full bench of the Lahore High Court wanted to know from Pakistan Attorney-General Latif Khosa on Saturday. The observation came during the hearing of a petition by Mr. Saeed and another JuD leader Colonel (retired) Nazir Ahmed against their house arrest since December 2008
Khirbhawani mela draws Kashmiri Pandits to Valley
Asian Age, 31 May 2009
May 30: Thousands of Kashmiri Pandits have, once again, turned to their homeland-the scenic Valley—which they quit amidst separatist campaign bursting into major violence way back in 1989-90 to join their brethren at the annual Khirbhawani mela. The festival is being held at Tulla Mulla, 27-km north of here, and on Saturday, a day ahead of the main rituals, scores of buses, cars and other vehicles drove through summer capital Srinagar with the devotees to relocate to the picturesque village. Majority of them were travelling into the Valley from Jammu and various other parts of the country. Many more were on way to Srinagar, the traffic police officials here said

6 hurt in protests over death of 2 women
Tribune, 31 May 2009
The police lobbed teargas shells and resorted to cane charge when residents of Shopian town in south Kashmir held protests over the mysterious death of two women, whose bodies were recovered from a nullah in the district this morning. Several protesters were injured in the clashes with the reports of angry demonstrators attacking some government buildings, including the district hospital, following the recovery of two bodies. The police said six persons were injured in the clashes and strict restrictions were imposed on the movement of people in the town to avoid any further disturbances

‘Only 2 pc cases’ against Army genuine
Tribune, 31 May 2009
Though the Army has admitted that three of its soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer, were responsible for the killing of two civilians in Bomai in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district and a disciplinary action has been ordered under the General officer Commanding of counter insurgency force immediately, the exclusive details available with The Tribune regarding the past two decades of turmoil in the state of Jammu and Kashmir show that the army has punished 100 or its soldiers and officers for the violation of human rights