



Indian Express, 1 June 2007

**Stay away from shrines: Mirwaiz to Army (Riyaz Wani)**

Srinagar, MAY 31 : In a sign that the Army's bid to renovate Muslim shrines and mosques in the Valley is snowballing into a major public issue, the Mutahida Majlis Ulema, a group of leading Islamic scholars and Ulemas led by Hurriyat Chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, today warned the Army against expanding its activities into the religious domain. It also urged President A P J Abdul Kalam and PM Manmohan Singh to intervene and direct the Armed forces in Kashmir not to interfere in Muslim religious affairs. The Army is indulging in denigration of Muslim religious places under the guise of Operation Sadbhavana. But we want to make it clear that Muslims won't tolerate this move, the Mirwaiz said. We believe that the Army has a hidden political design. Renovation of shrines is not a goodwill gesture as it is being made out to be, he added..

Daily Excelsior, 1 June 2007

**Opinion: Role of Armed Forces in Jammu and Kashmir (Major General Raj Kaushal SM, VSM Rtd.)**

Role of the Armed Forces encompasses the full spectrum of conflict continuum in J&K since the dawn of independence. Their mandate encompasses, maintaining the sanctity of the international border and the lines of control, keep the level of internal strife and proxy war in the manageable limits, and peace keeping. Simple though it may seem, this mandate is full of challenges, complexities and contradictions. On one end of the scale, peace keeping means winning the hearts and minds of people, whereas counter proxy war strategy manifests in so called low intensity operations and on top of the escalation ladder, a full fledged conventional war in the Nuclear Back Drop. In the conventional role armed forces rely on their fire power to soften the intended objectives, before the final assault, however, in the low intensity operations they have to exactly the opposite and use minimum force..

Dawn, 1 June 2007

**Opinion: A retreat on Kashmir? (Javid Husain)**

THEY say that a clever general in the face of a defeat declares victory and retreats. General Musharraf's handling of the Kashmir issue in the aftermath of the setback at Agra and 9/11 reminds one of this well known saying. Since 9/11, General Musharraf's policy on Kashmir has been marked by a series of retreats from Pakistan's historically recognised position so that it is now quite close to India's position which basically has remained unchanged. At this rate we should get ready in the near future for a settlement of the Kashmir dispute on Indian terms. The irony is that General Musharraf and those around him will try to sell it to the nation as a historic achievement. This sell out, of course, would be a tragedy of historic proportions. Let us see the developments on

Kashmir in perspective since the Lahore declaration to which Pakistan's military brass apparently had taken umbrage..

Greater Kashmir, 1 June 2007

**Opinion: India must respond (Naseer A Ganai)**

..Kashmir after Mushraf: Mushraff is the only Pakistani president to have given up everything for which Pakistans Kashmir policy stood for the last 60 years. He gave up UN resolutions on Kashmir, he ruled out independence and talked about inter-dependence. The change in Mushraffs Kashmir policy brought no change in Pakistan but reference against the Chief Justice Chowdhury changed everything. This indicates that Pakistan is not subservient to Kashmir. It can take any U turn on Kashmir and get away with it. If today it has guts to rule out UN resolutions and next day it can lay thrust on UN resolution on Kashmir. Pakistans Kashmir policy, it seems, depends upon geopolitical realities of the region and with the change of situation it could adeptly change its policy..

The Tribune, 1 June 2007

**Opinion: Ladakhi students come together to tackle problems (Kavita Suri)**

Jammu: It is rare indeed for hundreds of Ladakhi students from all over Ladakh Leh, Kargil, Dras, Turtuk, Zaskar, Nubra, Changthang and other places cutting across strong religious and ethnic lines, to come together on a single platform. But when they do, they unite to try and find solutions to the various problems and issues that this over 3,000 member strong student community in Jammu is facing. The Ladakhi students discussed such issues with the vice chancellor of Jammu University, Professor Amitabh Mattoo. Many such interactions have taken place in Jammu in the past. What made this one special? Four students organisations of Ladakhi students in Jammu the All Ladakhi Students Union, the Students Association of Ladakh, the All Zaskar Students Union and the All Kargil Students Union joined hands to bring together students from far flung areas of Ladakh on a single platform under the All Ladakh Joint Students Federation ALJSF.

Indian Express, 2 June 2007

**Kashmir clergy threaten protests over mosque aid**

June 1: Kashmirs top Muslim clergy said on Friday they would launch a massive campaign against the Indian Army renovating mosques and shrines in the region if the Prime Minister and President did not stop it. Muslim leaders in the region have taken offence to an Indian Army programme to repair Islamic holy places as part of a campaign that aims to win the hearts and minds of the local population. They say only Muslims could carry out such work and an influential Muslim cleric issued a fatwa this week against using money from the army..

Greater Kashmir, 2 June 2007

**Hakeem wants separate RTC for separatists**

Srinagar, June 1: Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front PDF and Minister for Transport Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen has suggested that a separate roundtable conference be convened with separatists on the Kashmir problem so that their viewpoint could be ascertained. Addressing a one day workers convention here, Hakeem said the PDF also supports the reduction of troops in phased manner if the situation

allows. The issue should not be made a slogan for vote bank politics, he said. Reacting to reports regarding disbanding of Peoples Democratic Forum and formation of Peoples Democratic Front, Hakeem clarified that the PDF was already there as an amalgam of like-minded political and democratic forces..

Kashmir Times, 2 June 2007

**Editorial: Avoidable bloodshed**

In an unequal society reservation is one of the approaches to social engineering seeking to slowly set right the balance of past injustice. Most state governments and the centre so far have done precious little for the disadvantaged sections of our population beyond fixing quotas for different social groups, like SCs, STs and OBCs. But though essential it is not enough...Any attempt at assuaging the grievances of the Gujjars may bring the Minas out in the streets and lead to inter-community bloodshed. Obviously, both the groups cannot be satisfied and the caste cauldron of Rajasthan will continue to boil in blood. Evidently, it was the BJP's broken promise which is at the root of all these clashes and bloodshed, while the police repression to deal with protesting Gujjars has only precipitated the crisis with Gujjars in other states including Jammu and Kashmir coming out in support of their community members in Rajasthan. The issue needs to be resolved through a process of dialogue to avoid further bloodshed.

Kashmir Times, 2 June 2007

**MMU seeks peoples approval over objections to operation Sadhbhawana**

Srinagar, June 1: Muttahida Majlis e Ulema MMU today said that the Ulema in different Jamia mosques sought approval of the people for the resolutions passed by MMU during their conference on Thursday which was convened by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to evolve a strategy regarding operation Sadhbhawana which according to them is used by army to make inroads in religious affairs of Kashmiris. In a statement, MMU said that Ulema at the Jamia mosques of the state today presented the resolutions before the people who approved them. These resolutions include: Army should stop interfering in the religious affairs without any delay since it hurts the religious sentiments of the Kashmiris, the religious scholars of Islam express deep anguish and concern over the attempts to introduce sex education in the school curriculum and warns the authorities to refrain from such attempts since they are bound to give rise to many problems and could lead to spread of perversity among the students..

Kashmir Times, 3 June 2007

**Barbed wire mentality in Kashmir (Anuradha B Jamwal)**

Srinagar, June 2: The highest seat of academic learning in the Valley, Kashmir University, reflects the greatest tragedy of this conflict zone aptly. The barbed wire mentality that people of Kashmir are trapped in, restricting free movement, expression or even thinking, is equally an accepted norm in a campus where academic freedom should have ensured free exchange of ideas, apart from just the process of attending classes and scoring marks, and inspired students to don the mantle of free thinkers and conscious, responsible citizens. As part of a group campaigning to save the Naseem Bagh, a heritage site famous for its Chinar trees and now appended into the campus area, from being destroyed, these lessons came as a rude shock making me wonder whether the denial of

autonomous, democratic space within the campus was a more significant issue to be tackled..

Daily Excelsior, 3 June 2007

**Infiltration up again, officials fear a hot summer ahead**

Srinagar, June 2: Even as the number of militancy related incidents and the casualties suffered by civilians and armed forces have decreased in Jammu and Kashmir, number of the militants, who have successfully infiltrated from across LoC or have been arrested, have substantially increased in the last five months of the current year. With remarkable upswing in infiltration, authorities are apprehensive of a hot summer. Number of infiltrators, which was 140-160 from January 1, 2006, to May 31, 2006, has gone up to 160-200 from January 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007. While around 150 militants are believed to have infiltrated into the Valley, some 30-40 are estimated to have crossed the LoC and International Border in Jammu division..

Greater Kashmir, 3 June 2007

**Salahuddin responds to grievances of Pandits**

Muzaffarabad, June 2: United Jihad Council chairman Syed Salahuddin on Saturday called upon all pro freedom people to take personal interest in addressing the problems of Kashmir based Pandit community. In a statement, he expressed solidarity and sympathy with the Kashmir based Pandits and said the profreedom youngsters and elders, particularly Syed Ali Shah Geelani, should establish personal contacts with them and get their problems resolved at the earliest. We are duty bound to watch and protect the lives, properties, honour and every legitimate interest of 952 families of Pandits, comprising around 4000 people, who have not left their motherland, Salahuddin said.

Daily Excelsior, 3 June 2007

**Opinion: Hurriyat versus NC, PDP (Dr Jitendra Singh)**

According to Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Chairman of the Hurriyat Conference, Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are only meant for parties like National Conference NC and Peoples Democratic Party PDP which are hankering after what he describes as 'mundane privileges' that include capturing power and forming a Government in the State by hook or crook with the concurrence of New Delhi. Having said that, Mirwaiz has tacitly and atleast apparently dissociated himself from the race for power in the State even though his statement does not answer several other questions which the Hurriyat leadership has been over the years unable to answer in the context of Kashmir and particularly in relation to Hurriyat's own credibility as representative voice of the people of Kashmir..

The Tribune, 3 June 2007

**Opinion: Women who carry on despite militancy (Kavita Suri)**

Long ago before the violence erupted in Kashmir, Haseena Bano lived with her parents in a peaceful, picturesque village of Wangama in South Kashmir district of Anantnag. She would partly spend time by attending a nearby school and then help her mother in household chores. Her father Ghulam Nabi Shiekh was working in the postal department. But as destiny had it, Haseena's mother died young and her father became so protected

about her that he made her discontinue her studies. A few years later, Haseena was married off to Amin Shah, a carpenter. But her family could not remain untouched by the winds of change in the early 90s. Amin quit his work, picked up the gun and joined the Harkat ul Mujahideen.

Kashmir Times, 3 June 2007

**Opinion: Kashmir peace process, steps backward (Imtiaz Mir)**

With some intense bilateral and back channel efforts going on for the last 5 to 6 years between India and Pakistan, over Kashmir, one could expect nearing a permanent solution of the problem in the near future. But the recent turn of events and the sudden change in New Delhi's mood is more than discouraging. There is a wavering shift in New Delhi's attitude towards the dialogue process, Government of India has suddenly sought to apply breaks by not allowing the debate to carry on with the required pace and transparency, thereby sending confusing signals, this all tends to harm the prospects of the on going reconciliation process over Kashmir. Government of India in a surprise move has shot down a proposed Pugwash Conference on Kashmir, which was to be held in Mumbai.

Daily Excelsior, 4 June 2007

**Indo-Pak MPs clash over draft declaration on Kashmir**

Shimla, June 3: A verbal duel between Indian and Pakistani Parliamentarians broke out at a conference of South Asian mediapersons here today on a draft declaration on Jammu and Kashmir with lawmakers of the host country strongly protesting move to involve people of Jammu and Kashmir. After South Asian Free Media Association SAFMA secretary general Imtiaz Alam read the draft of Shimla declaration, Trinamool Congress MP Dinesh Trivedi objected to the wording that the meet welcomed current peace process between India and Pakistan with its objectives of exploration of all options for a final settlement of Kashmir issue agreeable to people of J&K, India and Pakistan..

Daily Excelsior, 4 June 2007

**Govt ready to treat PRC as travel document across LoC**

Jammu, June 3: The State Government has agreed to simplify procedure for cross LoC movement of people including treating Permanent Resident Certificates PRCs of the people as a basic document for travel instead of permit. The Government was also ready to facilitate visits of tourists in groups, visits to religious places and availing medicare for the people of divided State. The suggestions were made by Working Group No. II, headed by R S Rasgotra, which was set up to study Strengthening of Relations Across LoC in its report submitted to Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in third roundtable conference on Kashmir, which was held in New Delhi in April this year. In a follow up on the recommendations, the Government has said that it was not averse to the proposal to replace PRC as a permit to facilitate people's travel across LoC through 5 points opened for trans LoC movement every fortnight.

Indian Express, 4 June 2007

**J-K Paharis may follow example (Shafiq Mir)**

Rajouri JUNE 3 : Taking a cue from the Gurjars of Rajasthan, the Pahari community in

Jammu Kashmir is planning to intensify their agitation for Schedule Tribe status. Sources said leaders of the community convened a series of secret meetings in Rajouri and Poonch over the past week to chalk out an agitation that can take their demand to its logical conclusion. It was decided to launch a Rajasthan like agitation to compel the government to agree to their demand. Shahbaz Khan, a top leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Pahari Forum, confirmed that meetings had been convened, but refuse to divulge details.

Daily Excelsior, 4 June 2007

**Editorial: Violence in the air**

Last week has ended with spurt in terrorist violence in the State. The militants have specifically targeted the security forces in the Kashmir region in particular. They have carried out their first major strike so far of 2007 by blowing up an Army bus with an improvised explosive device IED in the posh Rajbagh locality in the Summer Capital. In all there have three incidents on Thursday and Friday, the other two being in Pulwama and Baramulla districts in which the terrorists have directly engaged the uniformed men. By the time this editorial appears it is possible that there may have been more such occurrences. It has been usually seen that the militants don't relent easily once they succeed in opening their murderous account. Their focussed attacks on the Army vehicles show that their information network is partially intact. In any event they have the advantage of choosing the time of their liking while executing their wicked task..

Greater Kashmir, 4 June 2007

**Yasin Malik says no to readymade solution**

Srinagar, June 3: Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Muhammad Yasin Malik has reiterated that only people of Kashmir can decide their fate and no readymade solution would be acceptable to them. We cannot let anybody decide our future and destiny. People of Kashmir have got full right to decide their destiny and without their inclusion, Kashmir issue cannot be resolved, Malik said addressing a gathering at Damhal Hanji pora in south Kashmir on Sunday..

Daily Excelsior, 5 June 2007

**Bid to involve J&K people as third party rebuffed**

Shimla, June 4 : Pakistani Parliamentarians attempt to involve people of Jammu and Kashmir in finding a solution to the Kashmir issue was rebuffed at a conference of SAARC MPs and journalists which said it was a bilateral matter between New Delhi and Islamabad. The conclave, attended by 87 MPs from eight SAARC nations, also emphasised that no member country should give shelter or train terrorists, reflecting India's concern over cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. After two days of deliberations on how relations among SAARC countries could be strengthened overcoming differences, the conclave suggested a slew of measures including effective implementation of SAFTA, increasing investment, enhancing energy cooperation and efficient connectivity..

Indian Express, 5 June 2007

**Army assures of not hurting peoples sentiments**

Srinagar, June 4: In the backdrop of a fatwa issued by a top Muslim cleric against construction and renovation of Islamic shrines in Jammu and Kashmir, the force on Monday said it would not hurt the sentiments of the people and whatever has been done was in good faith and on the request of the local people. Whatever army has done was in good faith and on the request of local people. We will not undertake anything that will hurt the sentiments of the people, Lt Gen A S Sekhon said. Sekhon, who is also General Officer Commanding at Srinagar based 15th corps, was speaking to the reporters after declaring open a cataract cancer detection and blood donation camp under Operation Sadbhavana at Ganderbal on Monday..

Kashmir Times, 5 June 2007

### **Thousands join Yasin, Safre Azadi defying rains, hailstorm**

Srinagar , June 4: JKLF chairman Yasin Malik. Safre Azadi caravan reached Noorabad area in South Kashmir today. While addressing people during the march of his Safr e Azadi at different places, he said that Kashmir issue can only be resolved by the direct participation of Kashmiri leaders in the dialogue process. Braving hailstorm and rain, people welcomed JKLFs Safre Azadi caravan at Noorabad area with pro freedom slogans. People threw flower petals towards JKLF chairman, Mohammad Yasin Malik and the leaders accompanying his Safre Azadi caravan. The Safre Azadi caravan passed through Shatru, Chancar, Mirhama, Gopalpora, Chowgal and other areas in Noorabad and Kulgam areas.

Kashmir Times, 5 June 2007

### **Editorial: Neglected quake victims**

Notwithstanding its tall claims, the state government has not been able to streamline the process of relief and rehabilitation of the quake victims even after the lapse of almost two years the fact is a pointer towards the contemptible apathy of those at the helm of affairs towards the distressed lot. The citizens, who lost their homes and hearths in the killer quake of October 8, 2005, are still awaiting resumption of water and power supply. Many such affected villages in the Valley are still devoid of proper health care, education infrastructure and road connectivity, which badly suffered in wake of devastating temblor. Particularly, one is really pained to see the small children studying under open sky as their schools, damaged in the quake could not be reconstructed even till date. In Uri and Jula blocks, consisting of over 50 villages, 100 percent school buildings were destroyed in the quake, but no building has been fully reconstructed so far.

Greater Kashmir, 5 June 2007

### **Opinion: Accession is final (ML Koul)**

There has been much disinformation and propaganda about the legality of Kashmirs Accession to India. Strong contrary views are held by people on this issue. Facts are quoted selectively behind motivated interpretations. They have even been mutilated and concocted to suit a particular point of view. India was partitioned on the basis of religion. There is therefore much logic in the argument that a Muslim majority State contiguous to Pakistan should legitimately have been merged with Pakistan. This sounds convincing. No wonder this view found many takers both on the SubContinent and the world at large. However, this matter should not be viewed in isolation, ignoring other connected and

relevant facts. The two Nation theory propounded by Jinnah had not been accepted by the Congress or the National Conference..

The Nation, 5 June 2007

**Editorial: Explain it now**

INDIAN External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjees assertion that New Delhi cannot set a timeframe for resolving the Kashmir dispute is no surprise as the Indian leadership has been shying away from making any commitment in this regard. Talking to journalists after addressing the concluding session of a two day South Asian Parliamentarians Conference in Simla on Sunday, he also rejected the proposed demilitarisation of Kashmir. There will however be few takers for his view that security forces are maintaining law and order in the valley to restore normalcy. Human rights bodies and informed world opinion are well aware that the Indian armed forces are perpetrating brutalities to suppress the peoples aspiration to free themselves of their stranglehold..

Indian Express, 6 June 2007

**Pak offers to pullout LoC troops**

June 5: Pressing for demilitarisation of J&K, Pak President Pervez Musharraf has offered to withdraw his troops from the Line of Control as part of an overall settlement of the Kashmir issue and favoured implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution. Musharraf, in an article in the latest issue of Kashmir Affairs magazine published in London, emphasised on the four point proposal, including setting aside options unacceptable to either side, to resolve the vexed issue. The other proposals are acceptance of the dispute of Kashmir, meaningful and sustained dialogue process and examining other possible solutions acceptable to all parties, mainly to the people of Jammu and Kashmir..

The Tribune, 6 June 2007

**Parties reject trifurcation**

Jammu, June 5: Rejecting the move of trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, the Jammu province leadership of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front JKLF, both Geelani and Mirwaiz factions of the All Party Hurriyat Conference APHC, the Jamaat e Islami and the JK Democratic Freedom Party have signed a joint declaration advocating a meaningful dialogue to resolve of the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir. The bifurcation, trifurcation or quadrification of the state of Jammu and Kashmir is categorically rejected and it is resolved to forge unity of this former princely state, may be under a democratic federal structure, the joint declaration stated, which was also signed by the Internationalist Democratic Party, the Dogra Front and the Peoples Conference..

Kashmir Times, 6 June 2007

**Editorial: Avoidable confrontation**

The simmering discontent of the religious and articulate sections of Kashmir with the uncalled for helping hand the army is extending there in repairing and restoring old dilapidated mosques has fast snow balled into an easily avoidable explosive confrontation. 70 members of the hastily constituted Muttahida Majlis e Ulema, representing virtually all sections of local Muslims, Shias and Sunnis both Deobandis and

Bahrelvis, met at the residence of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on 31 May, warned the army not to hurt their feelings by interfering in the present state of the mosques and sent messages to both the president and the prime minister for their intervention in defusing a potentially explosive situation. They referred to the army's Sadbhavana activities vis a vis the mosques as a blatant interference in religious affairs..

Daily Excelsior, 6 June 2007

**Editorial: Another fratricide**

Hardly a week passes without a fratricide or suicide not taking place in the Army deployed in the State. The latest incident has occurred in Bhimber Gali in Poonch district. There is a difference between this and the similar earlier happenings. A senior officer this time has shot his junior a Lance Naik killing a sepoy after a verbal duel. So far to the best of our information it has been the other way round: subordinates have eliminated their bosses on one pretext or the other. According to a report in this newspaper this is the fourth instance of fratricide this year in the elite force in the State. Besides, there have been ten suicides. The country as a whole has been exposed to 21 suicides till April 16 against a total of 146 in 2006. It is to be welcomed that our Army has been quite candid in releasing these figures.

The Tribune, 6 June 2007

**Editorial: Pulling out troops**

External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee rightly made it clear at Shimla on Sunday that demilitarisation in Jammu and Kashmir was not possible under the present circumstances. The troops were needed because cross-border terrorism continued to remain a serious threat to peace in the state. Demilitarisation had figured in General Pervez Musharraf's four point formula which he floated some time ago. India's position has been that it cannot allow any laxity in its security arrangements as Pakistan is yet to fulfil its commitment on not allowing any territory under its control to be used by terrorists. Adequate deployment of security forces is, therefore, in the interest of the people of the state..

Greater Kashmir, 7 June 2007

**Geelani for total withdrawal of troops**

Srinagar, June 6: Chairman of Hurriyat Conference G Syed Ali Shah Geelani on Wednesday accused India of suppressing Kashmiris by deploying eight lakhs troops in Jammu and Kashmir and called for complete withdrawal of the soldiers. Indian Army is the biggest enemy of Kashmiris and it cannot be their friend. Undertaking of development works by the Army is a deep rooted conspiracy to strengthen their occupation of Kashmir. There should be immediate demilitarization of Kashmir and people should be given right of self determination, Geelani said after leading Gayabana Jinazah of Ayaz Ahmad Malla of Bandipora who reportedly died fighting the US troops in Afghanistan a few days ago.

Daily Excelsior, 7 June 2007

**Justice Aftab Alam sworn in as acting CJ of J&K HC**

Srinagar, June 6: Justice Aftab Alam was sworn in today as a Judge of Jammu &

Kashmir High Court. Being the seniormost Judge, Justice Alam has replaced Mr Justice Nisar Ahmed Kakroo as acting Chief Justice of the J&K High Court. Swearing in ceremony took place at Raj Bhawan here this evening where Governor Lt Gen Retd S K Sinha administered oath to the incoming acting CJ. Justice Aftab Alam will be the acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir as per a communique issued from the Rashtrapati Bhawan, which was read out by Registrar General of J&K High Court Mr Ghulam MohiunDin Dar..

Kashmir Times, 7 June 2007

**Editorial: Resurgence of violence**

The recent series of blasts and militancy related acts in the Valley, first the three incidents on Saturday including the powerful IED blast at Rajbagh in Srinagar, and then the Habbakadal grenade blast that resulted in injuries to several civilians, is a grave indicator that all is not well with the Kashmir situation. The officials, of late have been maintaining that infiltrations and militancy related violence is on the rise, though there is no authentic statistics to corroborate this theory. Yet, the probability of the same cannot totally be ruled out. But before jumping to conclusions, it is important to bear in mind that there may evidently be two reasons for this sudden resurgence of militancy related violence after a long gap of lull..

Daily Excelsior, 7 June 2007

**Editorial: Child and terrorism**

On the face of it, the death of a 14 year old boy while fiddling with a grenade in Bandipore district in the north of the Kashmir Valley on Tuesday may appear to be an isolated occurrence. Apparently he was under the impression that he was playing with a ball when the lethal substance exploded. A grim reality is that there are not only children but also elderly persons who continue to die in this manner in different parts of the State. The reports emerging from time to time indicate that there are several unused explosives floating around. They are apart from the reserves that the militants hide at selected places. Some volatile material is generally left behind after encounters between the security forces and the militants. Evidently it is taken as having been consumed while in reality it may be live..

Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2007

**Imam slams fatwa against Army**

Jammu, June 7: Decrying the Fatwa issued against the construction and renovation of Islamic shrines in the Valley by the Army, an Imam of a revered shrine today described the move as politically motivated. Stating that renovation and maintenance of Muslim shrines in the State by the Army was not a new thing, Mohammad Azam Ali, Imam of the Baba Budan Ali Shah Shrine near Jammu Air Force Station, told reporters till recently the shrine was being maintained by the Army for over five decades but now it is being looked after by the AUQAF trust..

Kashmir Times, 8 June 2007

**Geelani asurance to Kashmiri Pandits**

Srinagar, June 7: A delegation of Kashmiri Pandits today met Hurriyat Conference G

chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani at his Hyderpora residence. Geelani assured the delegation members that Muslims in Valley would safeguard the lives and property of the Pandits. A local news agency, KNS, reported that a three-member delegation of Kashmiri Pandit group, Kashmir Sangarsh Samiti led by S Kumar visited the Hyderpora residence of Geelani today. The meeting, according to the news agency, between the KP leaders and the Geelani lasted for more than two hours during which the participants exchanged their views on different issues related to Kashmir issue. According to news agency, Geelani told the KP delegation that the mainstream parties have always exploited Pandits.

Indian Express, 8 June 2007

**Jammu is getting undue preference: Lone**

Srinagar, June 7: Separatist leader Sajjad Gani Lone on Thursday alleged Jammu was getting undue preference despite the Prime Ministers economic reconstruction agency for Jammu and Kashmir and suggested divisional rather than state basis for filling up bureaucratic posts. He said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had constituted an economic reconstruction agency for the state but again, Jammu is being undue preference over Kashmir, which reflected a regional bias. Reconstruction means building what has been destroyed. Everybody knows where the destruction has taken place..

Greater Kashmir, 8 June 2007

**Major developments in offing: Attique**

Muzaffarabad, June 7: Pakistan administered Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan on Thursday predicted major developments on Kashmir in the days ahead and called for demonstration of greater responsibility by the Kashmiri leaders on both sides of the divide. It gives me immense satisfaction that the interest in settlement of Kashmir issue is multiplying in the outside world and this has necessitated unity and harmony among the ranks of Kashmiri leaders on both sides of the divide, he said. Our responsibilities have increased manifolds and we will have to devise a unanimous course of action to combat the challenges and achieve the targets, he added.

Daily Excelsior, 8 June 2007

**Editorial: A problem**

There have been 42 suicides in the Kashmir region during the first five months of the current year. This shows an upward trend if one takes into account a total of 61 suicides in 2006. The majority of the victims in both the cases are women. These figures circulated by a news agency convey that violence does take its own toll of the patience and stamina of the people at large. Who will deny this? It will, however, be a simplistic interpretation to say that this is the solitary reason. Even those societies that are free from bloodshed are exposed to these dastardly occurrences. The relevant statistics of the country and the world as a whole present it as a psychological and socio economic phenomenon. Fortunately Jammu and Kashmir does not figure anywhere among the major suicide-prone states in the country.

Daily Excelsior, 9 June 2007

**High level Israel military delegation to visit J&K**

New Delhi, June 8: A high level Israeli military delegation is slated to visit India next

week to discuss counter terrorism and anti-infiltration strategies in Jammu and Kashmir. Sources in the Defence Ministry preferring to keep the upcoming visit hush hush said the delegation to be led by Israeli Deputy Chief of General Staff Major General Moshe Kaplinsky will be visiting some places in Jammu & Kashmir, including the Nagrota headquarters of the 16 Corps responsible for guarding the Line of Control south of the Pir Panjal range. The Israeli visit comes at a time when the LoC has suddenly become hot with terrorists making concerted efforts to sneak into India from across the border..

Kashmir Times, 9 June 2007

### **JKLF for result oriented dialogue process**

Srinagar, June 8: To resolve the Kashmir issue amicably and peacefully, it is important to include people of Jammu and Kashmir in the result oriented dialogue process. This was stated by JKLF chairman, Mohammad Yasin Malik while addressing people at Bichroo in South Kashmir during his Safr e Azadi caravan. Malik's Safr e Azadi caravan passed through Badroo, Bihcroo, Tarigam, Bolus and other areas in South Kashmir. People in these areas welcomed the caravan by showering flowers on Malik and other JKLF leaders accompanying Safr e Azadi. Addressing people, who were raising pro freedom slogans, Malik said that when the atrocities reach to the peak, they the atrocities and excesses are bound to end..

Greater Kashmir, 9 June 2007

### **Editorial: Why're centrists angry?**

After four years of Indo-Pak peace process skepticism has started creeping into J&K's common political discourse. From secessionist groups including Mirwaiz Umar and Muhammad Yasin Malik and Mahbooba Mufti to Omar Abdullah, politician of every hue has loudly expressed displeasure over New Delhi's lack of political will to grab the gauntlet Pakistan's military ruler General Musharraf has thrown. Significantly, the leaders until recently considered soft toward New Delhi have accused India of tiring out Kashmiri Muslims in the name of CBMs while not undertaking any substantive CBMs like demilitarizing the society. While Mirwaiz Umar Farooq who heads a faction of Hurriyat Conference fears a reversal to 1989 situation in case Delhi persisted with perpetual denial, another young and popular leader Sajad Gani Lone has alleged that India was orchestrating what he described as ethnic engineering to crowd out Muslim majority from J&K governance..

Kashmir Times, 9 June 2007

### **SC ruling on custodial killing: AFSPA interpreted in new light**

Jammu, Jun 8: Having a far reaching consequence for numerous cases of custodial killings pending in the court of law, the judgement of the Supreme Court, wherein it apex court has for the first time interpreted the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Forces Special Power Act AFSPA, 1990 while dismissing a writ petition filed by the widow of a custodial killing victim, is being perceived by the human rights activists across the country as a decision setting a very dangerous and distressing precedent for future. Close on the heels of severe opposition to AFSPA and other draconian laws tilted heavily in favour of armed forces thus depriving the citizens of their fundamental rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India, this judgement of the Apex court in case of

Masooda Parveen Versus Union of India & Others has shocked all those spearheading civil liberties movements across the nation..

Greater Kashmir, 10 June 2007

### **Valley citizens protest discrimination**

Srinagar, June 9: It was a novel protest by a group of senior citizens of Srinagar on Saturday. With lanterns in their hands they marched through the busy markets in a rally organised to expose, what they called, successive governments deliberate policy to ignore the capital city. People from different walks of life joined the Conscious Rally under the banner of Valley Citizens Council VCC, a newly launched NGO, from Nehru Park to Lal Chowk. The Srinagar city is being treated like a rented house by most of the politicians and bureaucrats who are uninterested in its development. Government claims crores of rupees are being spent on the development of the city, but these claims are restricted to office files. Nobody knows when and where the funds are spent, Imdad Saqi, the VCC's general secretary told Greater Kashmir.

Greater Kashmir, 10 June 2007

### **No place for Al Qaeda in Kashmir: UJC**

Islamabad, June 9: The United Jihad Council, an amalgam of militant groups fighting in Kashmir, has strongly ruled out the purported presence of Al Qaeda in Jammu and Kashmir and termed it as a plot of Indian secret agencies to malign indigenous character of Kashmiris ongoing liberation struggle. In a statement, the UJC spokesman Syed Sadaqat Hussain said, There is no Al Qaeda operative in Jammu Kashmir and there is no reality in such baseless and fabricated reports which also came out on July 13, 2006. There is no need of Al Qaeda at all, and by the grace of Almighty Allah, for the past 18 years a nation wide, strong and well organized Jihadi movement is going on in Indian held territory as a result Kashmir dispute was highlighted on international level, the spokesman said..

Daily Excelsior, 10 June 2007

### **Opinion: Northern Areas: Separating Fictions from Facts (D Suba Chandran)**

Three statements were made recently relating to Northern Areas by leaders from PoK, Pakistan and EU. The first two were on the history of Northern Areas and its linkages with the rest of Jammu and Kashmir, by Attique Ahmed Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan occupied Kashmir PoK and Saeed Khalid, Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium. The third statement was made by Emma Nicholson, on the current status of Gilgit and Baltistan referring them as black holes. Attique, according to news reports, in a conference held in Islamabad, stated that every inch of Gilgit and Baltistan is as important as any other part of the State. The future of 28,000 square miles of Northern Areas and 12,000 square miles of areas that are under the control of China is to be decided. Saeed Khalid's observations in his letter to Baroness Emma Nicholson are even more important.

Kashmir Times, 11 June 2007

### **UN working group registers first case in Kashmir**

Srinagar, June 10: Working group in United Nations investigating the enforced

involuntary disappearances has registered a case regarding the custodial disappearances of a Kashmiri youth. This is the first case related to Kashmir. This was stated by Hafizullah Mir, legal advisor of Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons APDP, during a meeting of the Association here today. APDP president Parveena Ahangar along with over hundred members of the Association was also present. The working group registered the case of Manzoor Ahmad of Dragpora Sopore, who was allegedly arrested by 28 RR in 2001. The youth is untraced after his arrest. APDP had submitted the case to the working group which responded positively after the investigation and registered the case. Mir described the registration of case as a major development..

Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2007

**Stop emotional blackmailing of people: PCC to Hurriyat**

Srinagar, June 10: Pradesh Congress Committee PCC today asked separatist organisations, including both factions of Hurriyat Conference, to stop emotional blackmailing of people. It also rejected the coalition partner PDP's demand for troop reduction, saying the party is in favour of troops going back to their barracks but the time is not ripe for it. Infiltration from across the border was going on and 147 militants have managed to sneak into the State over the past three months, PCC said in a resolution adopted at a one-day convention here today. It said the Centre is talking to Pakistan and with several political and social organisations here to solve the internal and external dimensions of the Kashmir issue. Congress criticised moderate faction of Hurriyat for non-participation in the round table conferences..

Greater Kashmir, 11 June 2007

**Israeli officers visit dangerous: NC,PDP**

Srinagar, June 10: Two mainstream parties, the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party PDP have strongly reacted to Government of Indias collaboration with Israel in fighting militancy in the state. The NC provincial president Mehboob Beg said, On one hand the government is talking about the dialogue process and on the other hand militarily moves are being made. This is unfortunate; in the era of friendship, military cooperation with Israel and inviting Israeli Army officers to Kashmir will have negative impact on the whole thing, Beg told a local news agency KNS on Sunday..

Daily Excelsior, 11 June 2007

**Editorial: Politics of fatwas**

Why has there been no fatwa in the State against those who kill sons of the soil inside mosques? This question baffles one and all. It is not our case that we condone the acts of terrorism outside the places of worship. In fact, we condemn violence of every kind whether it is carried out in the name of jihad or under any other banner. If we have made a specific reference to shrines it is because at least these pious places are expected to be free from the blood of innocents. Instead, we have been exposed to an utterly dastardly phenomenon. Grenades have been hurled on mosques. The militants have used them as hideouts. Worse still, the devout Muslims have been eliminated in sanctum sanctorum while they were offering prayers. Some of our finest citizens have been done away with in such cruel fashion. These instances have moved the ordinary citizens. Why have they not made any impact on our clergy?

Kashmir Times, 11 June 2007

**Opinion: Kashmir-political upsurge gains momentum (MD Gilkar)**

The much talked about demilitarisation in the Valley of Kashmir which constitutes an important component of the peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue is an important topic for discussion among the people and the political elite of different hues. An important aspect of this matter is the variation between the coalition partners to solve this issue. This became evident recently at a marathon press conference addressed by the State Chief Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad who declared in unequivocal terms that the present is not the appropriate time to introduce the element of troop cut as the insurgency goes on unabated. Mr. Azad dished out figures suggesting that the graph of militancy in the state and especially in the border areas of Jammu has again gone up..

Indian Express, 12 June 2007

**PDF supports Cong on demilitarisation issue**

Srinagar, June 10: The wedge between the Jammu and Kashmir coalition partners on demilitarization issue deepened on Monday with Peoples Democratic Front chairman Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen siding with the Congress, a stand that evoked a strong reaction from the PDP. PDF, which is a constituent of the coalition government, would continue to support the Ghulam Nabi Azad led government for restoring peace, development and prosperity besides implementing the common minimum programme, Yaseen told a public meeting at Khansahib in Budgam. Yaseen, who is Transport Minister, expressed satisfaction over the working of the coalition government under the dynamic leadership and said the government would strive for implementing its the CMP in full..

Daily Excelsior, 12 June 2007

**Political panel fails to take decision as 3 members abstain**

Jammu, June 11: For the third straight time, the Peoples Democratic Party PDP, the main coalition partner in Congress led Government, boycotted meeting of a political committee, set up by Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, on delimitation of Assembly constituencies, rotation of reserved segments and working out problems of refugees from Pakistan occupied Kashmir PoK and West Pakistan. As National Conference and Panthers Party representatives, Abdul Rahim Rather Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and Prof Bhim Singh also didnt turn up, the meeting held in Srinagar under the chairmanship of Health and Medical Education Minister Mangat Ram Sharma, was virtually reduced to a farce. However, as agreed in the previous meeting on June 5, Mr Sharma, who heads the eight member political committee, circulated draft of a proposed legislation on delimitation of Assembly constituencies and rotation of reserved segments..

Kashmir Times, 12 June 2007

**Yasins Safr e Azadi rolls on, attracts crowds**

Kanelwan, June 11: As the dusk sets, Mashals are lit and the SafreAzadi SA caravan of JKLf chairman, Malik Mohammad Yasin moves on. It is 22nd day of the campaign, and the people of Srigufwara and its adjoining hamlets are anxiously waiting to see the procession of torch bearers. The procession marches from the village to village to garner

huge public support; thereby the public opinion, through the active participation of the people in this movement that is reaching the doorstep of every villager. The torches in the hands of JKLF workers are adding a new colour to Yasin's Safr-e-Azadi movement, which as per him is the highest spiritual protest..

Indian Express, 12 June 2007

**Pak: No unilateral pullout from LoC**

Islamabad, June 11: Pakistan on Monday ruled out any unilateral demilitarisation along the Line of Control LoC and said President Pervez Musharraf's offer to withdraw troops should be seen in the overall context of his proposal to resolve the Kashmir issue. Elaborating on Musharraf's article in the journal Kashmir Affairs published from London, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam told a media briefing here that the General's reference to demilitarisation was only one of his proposals. Our position is very clear. There will be no unilateral demilitarisation. He also talked about certain ideas in the context of resolving Kashmir dispute. He talked about identifying the regions, demilitarisation, self-governance and joint management, she said.

Kashmir Times, 12 June 2007

**Editorial: NOT A BILATERAL ISSUE**

Recent statements made at the official level by India and Pakistan on resolution of Kashmir dispute seem to be complicating rather than resolving the vexed issue. Of greater concern is the statement made by Pakistan president General Pervez Musharraf that Kashmir can be amicably resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan. Close on the heels of this statement made last week, minister for health in Jammu and Kashmir, Mangat Ram Sharma, maintained that India and Pakistan are inching closer to an agreement on Kashmir. Whether Mangat was prompted by his ignorance of the issue or whether he had information about the inside story of what goes on in New Delhi, the statement has surely not augured well with the common masses in Kashmir who have already begun looking at the ongoing peace process with skepticism. Even if this statement could be dismissed as a wayward imagination, Musharraf's outburst cannot..

Greater Kashmir, 12 June 2007

**Opinion: There is No Accession (Shabir A Qadri)**

Shabir A. Qadri reacts to the article of M L Koul. M L Koul's argument, Accession is Final GK June 5, 2007, is precisely what he accuses others of disinformation and propaganda. I sympathise with him for his views as these represent the section of society he comes from. However, it is unacademic of a lecturer of political science to completely shut his eyes on political history and build a thesis on half truths and wishful thinking. There is need to place things in perspective while trying to establish how wrong Mr. Koul is in his premise. I would not invoke Alaister Lamb who, through his painstaking research, Kashmir A Disputed Legacy, has disproved that any document of Accession was at all signed by Maharaja Hari Singh and that on October 26, 1947, the purported date of signing of Accession at Jammu, the fleeing ruler of Kashmir was actually travelling via Banihal Cart Road to Jammu.

Greater Kashmir, 13 June 2007

### **Peoples involvement in peace process inevitable: Yasin Malik**

Waghama Bijbehara, June 12: As JKLFs SafareAzadi Freedom March reached this South Kashmir village late Monday evening it relived older memories. People greeting the JKLF Chief Muhammad Yasin Malik's caravan with traditional torch lights were so much excited that the locals even defied undeclared restrictions imposed by armed forces on night movement. On 23rd day of their Freedom March, the enthusiasm of people was very high with people moving out of their houses despite threats from army personnel to welcome the front leadership led by Muhammad Yasin Malik who stood atop the decorated lorry that depicted various symbols of Kashmir movement particularly the JKLF founder Muhammad Maqbool Bhat..

Kashmir Times, 13 June 2007

### **Unity moves among separatists gather pace**

Srinagar, June 12: If the ongoing efforts for unity move with the same pace, the divided separatist camp may be united again in future. The efforts were initiated by Democratic Freedom Party DFP Shabir Ahmad Shah some three months back. According to the reports he has met leaders of almost all the separatist groups, advocating freedom. Hurriyat Conference G chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani during his press conference last month acknowledged that efforts were going on for the unity. He in this connection referred to a meeting between him and Shabir Shah. The Hurriyat G chairman stated the DFP president did not return to him after the meeting. According to reports both leaders did meet again after the press conference and shared their views on unity. JamateIslami also acknowledged that efforts for unity were on.

Indian Express, 13 June 2007

### **Opinion: It runs through Lahore (C. Raja Mohan)**

..Although negotiations on Kashmir are at an advanced stage, the peace process has clearly come under the shadow of Pakistan's current political crisis. As Musharraf struggles to reassert his primacy, New Delhi is aware that the peace talks must take the back stage for the moment. That brings us to the other recent pointer to the new tension between peace process and the democratic movement in Pakistan. Last week, Dawn newspaper in Pakistan reported that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had offered to visit Islamabad in late March. Dawn also said that this could have allowed Musharraf to join the SAARC summit in New Delhi in early April..

Kashmir Times, 13 June 2007

### **Editorial: Creating fear psychosis**

It seems hawks in the administration and politics both at the centre and in the state, have begun to bank on propagandist tactics to vitiate the atmosphere and create an impression that Kashmir cannot be normalised without use of strong arm methods. Ever since the demand for demilitarization has started gaining ground, the hawks have begun to look for new ways to stall any such process to ensure that the bullet for bullet policy continues. The demand for demilitarization of civilian spaces, in view of the growing level of human rights violations and the highly disproportionate presence of troops in Jammu and Kashmir with unlimited powers to the security forces, was first taken up by human rights groups. Even the United Jihad Council, the umbrella organization of Kashmiri militant

groups, while expressing willingness for talks had maintained in the recent past that efforts to begin a process of demilitarization and consequent ceasefire were essential to enable the militant groups to respond..

Kashmir Times, 13 June 2007

**Opinion: Article 370-the only bridge between J&K and Union of India (Bashir Assad)**

Some two years back I had written an article titled Secondary of Secondary Citizens with reference to the Kashmiri people and the treatment meted to them by the Indian establishment which itself had restricted to the secondary citizenship of Imperial powers. Under the scheme of things one has to face this stark reality that Indian nation subservient to the US interests has accorded secondary citizenship to the state of Jammu and Kashmir while resorting to all the illegal and unconstitutional practices aimed to erode the special status granted to the state under Article 370 which was embodying the term of acceptance of the Instrument of Accession. Immaterial of whether or not central Government in Delhi has emerged well built as for as its relationship with US was concerned, the fact remains that the structure of the Union that emerged out of Independence was formally federal but substantively unitary: a strong centre with weak federating units.

Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2007

**Home Secy meets CM, reviews security situation**

Srinagar, June 13: Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta arrived here on a maiden visit today to review the security situation in the State in view of the recent spurt in infiltration from across the Line of Control LoC and the Amarnath pilgrimage. Mr Gupta called on Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad here this evening and discussed the overall security situation in the strife torn State. The two also discussed various measures to counter militancy and sudden increase in infiltration from across the LoC. They also discussed some of the recommendations made by the four Working Groups set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the second Round Table Conference on Kashmir here in May last year. This was Mr Guptas maiden visit to Kashmir since he assumed office earlier this year.

Greater Kashmir, 14 June 2007

**Protesters vent ire on Sadhbavana signboards, Kukka Parrays son**

Hajan, June 13: Army atrocities sparked off massive and violent protests in this north Kashmir town, once a bastion of pro-government gunmen, on Wednesday. Besides demolishing hoardings highlighting Armys civic activities under Operation Sadhbavana Goodwill, the protesters smashed vehicle of Khursheed Parray, the son of slain counterinsurgent leader Kukka Parray. People came out on streets this morning chanting slogans against the Army and the pro-government gunmen, who they charged have had made their lives hellish. For the past two weeks, the gunmen posing as militants have been barging into our houses and demanding food and shelter, the locals said.

Daily Excelsior, 14 June 2007

**Editorial: Deafening echo**

Surely the echo of more than 200 landmine explosions along the Line of Control in Poonch district last weekend has been heard across the globe. Let there be no doubt about this. These blasts have been triggered by forest fires that in turn have been caused by excessively scorching temperature. One can imagine the fear they must have generated on either side of the LoC. It is not without a touch of irony that such deafening noise has been heard at a time when the two neighbouring countries are faithfully observing the mutually agreed truce. It is the burden of their hostile past. Both of them have planted anti-personnel mines in large numbers along the LoC. Generally they have taken care to mark the mined fields and hills. There have been demining operations as well in certain pockets in the wake of new found bonhomie..

Greater Kashmir, 14 June 2007

**Opinion: Peace process in deep freeze (Shakeel Akhtar)**

..Political crisis in Pakistan developed at a time when negotiations were on for reaching a final solution of Kashmir problem. There were also suggestions that demilitarization in Indian Kashmir will soon begin. Analysts believe that there is a paradigm shift in the approach of the two countries in recent months. Now both the leaders have a similar stand on border, that there should be a soft border, people on both sides of LoC should have freedom to walk freely on both sides and administrative machinery should work together. It will take some more time to implement it and no one is opposing them. It is believed that Indian and Pakistani officials are constantly in touch and back channel is also open. Once Pakistans political situation gets a little stabilized, the peace process is expected to be back on track again..

Indian Express, 15 June 2007

**J&K scene improved but challenges exist**

Srinagar, June 14: Asserting the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved, Union Home Secretary Madukhar Gupta on Thursday said security agencies, however, couldnt afford to be complacent, as challenges still exist. What I have gathered from the series of meetings since Wednesday, the situation has definitely improved in the state. However, the security agencies have to be alert and cannot afford to be complacent, Gupta told reporters here at the end of his two day visit. He said the nature of the challenges remains the same but the capabilities of the security forces to deal with these challenges had improved..

Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2007

**Israel military delegation visits Northern Command**

Jammu, June 14: A high level Military delegation from Israel today visited Northern Command Army's 16 Corps headquarters at Nagrota to discuss counter-terrorism and anti infiltration strategies in Jammu and Kashmir. Well placed sources told the Excelsior that the Israeli delegation's visit is being kept as guarded secret by the Northern Army Command officials, who preferred to remain tight lipped when contacted. Led by Israeli Deputy Chief of General Staff, Major General Moshe Kaplinsky the delegation arrived at the Nagrota Corps headquarters here this morning..The foriegn Military team visited several forward areas along the LoC in Poonch Rajouri to check the functional compatibilities of a large number of military equipment, procured from Israel, installed in

the hilly terrains close to Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir..

Greater Kashmir, 15 June 2007

**Opinion: From Mainstream to Separatist (Dr MA Beg)**

Since the status of Jammu and Kashmir was left undecided at the time of independence and subsequent partition of India, the politicians in the state remained dancing between India and Pakistan as well. The first group of leaders in J&K who had fought against the autocratic rule under the banner of National Conference remained mainstream. Until, of course, they asked for the final settlement to the Kashmir problem. At that point, they were immediately branded as separatists, charged as conspirators and subsequently as enemy agents. One fine morning they once again were baptized as nationalists and then within a couple of years they were untouchables once again. Looking at the political scenario in the state retrospectively, one can easily see that all political parties from Jamati Islami and BJP on one end, to National Conference and Congress on the other end directly or indirectly joined the electoral process at one point or another..

Daily Excelsior, 15 June 2007

**Anti US protests rock Valley**

Srinagar, June 14: Protest demonstrations against the bombing of Shia shrines in Iraq were held in different parts of the Valley today. Most of the demonstrations took place in areas with substantial shiate presence. People shouted anti-American and anti Israel slogans and burnt effigies of US President George W Bush. In Budgam, people came out on the streets and took out a procession shouting America murdabad Israel murdabad. Angry agitators alleged that America had launched a war against Muslims throughout the world. Protests were also held in different parts of Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag. The agitating Muslims held America responsible for the bombing of the shrines of Imam Ali Naqi and Imam Hassan Askari in Samara, Iraq..

Kashmir Times, 15 June 2007

**Editorial: Neglected lot of farmers**

..This is really sad that the agriculture, which is considered to be the mainstay of state's economy, and those associated with it are being treated with despicable contempt by the governments both at the state and at the central level. Harrowing news reports about the farmers committing suicides in different parts of the country are an indication that the successive governments have badly failed in their responsibility to safeguard the interests of farming community, upon which the prosperity of the entire nation is dependant...Non availability of quality seeds, fertilizers in time, near total absence of satisfactory irrigation facilities are some of the common problems being confronted by the farmers all across the country with J&K being no exception. But the politicians do not move beyond mouthing platitudes which definitely do not serve the purpose of farmers, who move heaven and earth in the fields yet without accruing any benefit..

Daily Excelsior, 16 June 2007

**Home Ministry for e-linking Srinagar, Muzaffarabad**

New Delhi, June 15: The Home Ministry has asked the External Affairs Ministry to speedily take up with Pakistan a proposal for e linking Srinagar and Muzaffarabad for

quick clearance of documents of people travelling between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir PoK. Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta, during a high level meeting held in Srinagar yesterday, asked External Affairs Ministry officials to take up the matter with their Pakistani counterparts at the earliest as it could be seen as a confidence building measures initiated by the two countries on Kashmir, official sources said. The proposal, which came from the Jammu and Kashmir Government, will do away with cumbersome and time consuming procedures due to which applications for travel get delayed for months together, they said..

Daily Excelsior, 17 June 2007

### **Sena, refugees disrupt Mehboobas rally**

Jammu, June 16: Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Muftis public rally at Jhiri near Kanachak along Jammu Akhnoor road remained disrupted for about 20 minutes as agitated Shiv Sena Bal Thackeray Group activists and West Pakistan refugees tried to break the police cordon to storm into the rally venue protesting the PDP stand on demilitarisation and opposition to West Pak refugees demand for PRC rights respectively. Nearly a dozen protesters were injured as police resorted to lathicharge to chase away the protesters who tried to reach to the dais to gherao Ms Mufti. Later, Shiv Sena, State unit president, Annan Sharma and West Pak refugees leader Labba Ram were taken into preventive custody by police but released after few hours. Trouble erupted when Shiv Sena activists and West Pak refugees in support of their respective demands gathered at Jhiri road at 10 am, about an hour before the arrival of Ms Mufti to address a well attended public meeting at Jhiri under the jurisdiction of Kanachak police station.

Kashmir Times, 17 June 2007

### **Mirwaiz ready for reunification with other Hurriyat faction (Yasir Saeed)**

Pattan, June 16: The chairman of Mirwaiz faction of Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq today said that his faction is ready for reunification with other faction of Hurriyat led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani. He said that any move which could lead to the resolution of Kashmir issue is acceptable to the faction. Mirwaiz was addressing an impressive gathering at Pattan. He stated that the aim of conducting various public meetings is to inform people about the latest developments occurring as a result of dialogue process between India and Pakistan for finding peaceful solution of Kashmir issue. We fully support the four point formula of Pakistan president Gen Pervez Musharaf regarding the resolution of Kashmir issue. The negative attitude of Indian government is becoming a big hurdle for final settlement of the dispute, he said..

Greater Kashmir, 17 June 2007

### **Opinion: A State of Jammu: How workable is the idea of a true federal state? (M Ashraf)**

The President of the State Unit of the BJP has been promising people of Jammu that he will give them a Hindu Chief Minister from Jammu if BJP gets over 25 seats in the next election. He has also been extending support to the demand for a separate State of Jammu. Recently he has been advocating stoppage of all funds to Kashmir. Jammu Mukti Morcha had been demanding for a long time the creation of a separate State of Jammu. There were many other groups overtly or covertly sympathetic to this idea. However, all

these groups including the main opposition party in Jammu, the BJP, have now joined together to form a Jammu State Progressive Morcha. Their unified demand is the creation of a separate State of Jammu. The main cause of action for this demand is so called perennial neglect of Jammu by the Valley Rulers.

Daily Excelsior, 18 June 2007

**No reason to pull out troops: Lt Gen Panag**

Udhampur, June 17: As the militant training camps in Pakistan are still intact and the perpetrators of Jihad across the border have not changed their agenda, there is no reason to pull out troops from the State, Northern Command's General Officer Commanding in Chief Lt Gen H S Panag said here today. Maintaining that Army was having no individual interest in deployment of troops in the State, Lt Gen Panag told mediapersons that the deployment of forces would automatically reduce when the security situation improves. Since the perpetrators of Jihad are making statements of United Jihad Council UJC chief Syed Salahuddin that there is no change in their agenda and also the presence of 52 militant training camps across the border, we cant say situation is appropriate for troops withdrawal, the Army Commander said..

The Hindu, 18 June 2007

**Talks should be result oriented: Hurriyat**

Srinagar: The moderate Hurriyat Conference is for resolution of the Kashmir issue through dialogue. It wants the talks process result oriented and no stress laid on formation of government or giving concessions to Kashmiris. The Hurriyat believes in resolution of the Kashmir issue through talks. We are not afraid of talks; ours is a strong case. We will readily accept talks if serious efforts for resolution of the issue is initiated, chairman of the group Mirwaiz Umer Farooq said at a public meeting in Pattan, Baramulla district, on Saturday. This was the first public meeting in Pattan after nearly 18 years. Mr. Farooq said, If the talks focus on participation in elections, government formation or giving concessions to Kashmiris, then pro-India parties are appropriate for that..

Greater Kashmir, 18 June 2007

**Opinion: If Accession is final? (NA Ganai)**

Sir Zafrullah Khan, who was Foreign Minister of Pakistan, performed brilliantly as Pakistans advocate before the Security Council on Kashmir issue. Some historians say he was judicious, articulate and often eloquent in presenting his case while refuting Indias charges. Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah too was impressed with his articulation and arguments. When Sheikh was released in January 1958 from Kud Sub jail, he addressed a press conference at Dak Bungalow Kud. I dont know why I was jailed and now why I was released, Sheikh said in response to a question. A reporter asked him about his comments on Krishna Menons long speech in Security Council. Sheikh said, If Kashmir issue could be solved through legal jugglery, Chowdary Zafrullah Khan would have then won it long back..

The Tribune, 18 June 2007

**Tackling terrorism the Azad way (SP Sharma)**

Jammu, June 17: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has launched a campaign to wipe out

terrorism from his home district of Doda by motivating the surrender of militants and following the bullet for bullet policy for the foreign terrorists. More than 20 top militants have surrendered before the Army and the police in the past . A team of top Israeli military officers visited here on Thursday to give lessons on tackling terrorism to security personnel as Pakistan again has started pushing in militants from launching pads. The biggest surrender came on June 5 when 10 top Harkatul Mujahedin HUM militants laid down arms before Azad at a ceremony at Doda district headquarters.

Daily Excelsior, 19 June 2007

**No proposal of any demilitarisation: Antony**

New Delhi, June 18: Ruling out demilitarisation and troop reduction in Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister A K Antony today said the two committees constituted by the Centre were assessing the situation about the reconfiguration of security forces in the militancy hit State. The two committees are functioning. They are assessing the situation. Whatever decision has to be taken will depend on professional advice ... As of now there is no proposal of demilitarisation, Antony told reporters on the sidelines of the inaugural day of the two-day conference of Unified Commanders in Chief Conference here. The statement of Antony could further distance Congress from its ally PDP, which has been holding rallies across the Valley demanding troop reduction and withdrawal of Armed Forces Special Powers Act. The Centre had constituted two expert panels to go into the issues..

Indian Express, 19 June 2007

**Pak demands total pullout of troops from J&K**

Islamabad, Jun 18: Demanding total pullout of troops from Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan has warned of continued activities by 'jihadi' groups if there is no tangible move forward on resolving the vexed issue. Pakistan's Kashmir Affairs Minister Tahir Iqbal also said that President Pervez Musharraf's four point formula to resolve the Kashmir problem was not the final proposal and there might be a better proposition for arriving at a mutually acceptable solution of the Kashmir dispute. Nevertheless, President Musharraf has provided valuable suggestions to end the 60 year old dispute and bring about peace between the two countries that would lead to overall peace and prosperity in the region, he said in an interview to Pakistan Observer newspaper..

Kashmir Times, 19 June 2007

**Barring RTC, all routes of engagement with separatists closed**

Srinagar, June 18: The only visible sign of New Delhi's communication with the separatists in Kashmir - the so called back channels has suddenly disappeared , fuelling the impression that there is a deadlock with little hope of an early resumption of the dialogue process. These channels had become quite active in December, 2006 and early this year coinciding with renewed efforts towards putting the process back on the rails. Noted Gandhian, Nirmala Deshpandey and some other prominent persons, both official and non-official, paid several visits to Kashmir last winter and met the separatists to persuade them for further talks with the prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh. The separatist groups including the Hurriyat Conference A had expressed their willingness to restart the dialogue. Behind the scene efforts got underway amid indications that Dr

Singhs long pending Pakistan visit might materialize soon.

Greater Kashmir, 19 June 2007

**Opinion: Generals take on Kashmir (Dr Gul Muhammad)**

All conflict resolution formulations in any part of the world are contextual and grounded in existential realities. The Jammu and Kashmir constitutes no political exception. When dogs from different neighbourhoods meet, they smell each others tail. India and Pakistan have done it so often in the post partition era. One of the great puzzles of India Pakistan relations is not why smaller Pakistan feels insecure but why the larger India does so. Prof. Stephen Cohen widely respected expert on South-Asia argues that the worlds most intractable disputes are psychologically paired minority conflicts. It is only for this reason that earlier on in a seminar on South-Asia in the University of Kashmir, I had argued that South Asia needs to be looked at more as region of regions rather than as a region of states. Regions are more natural and historically more deeply planted. The state centric paradigm with excessive obsession with national interest has vandalized the social and economic life of the people of sub-continent in particular and that of SouthAsia in general.

Kashmir Times, 19 June 2007

**Editorial: Fake encounters, false slogans**

Yet another fake encounter seems to have been unearthed in Chankipoa-Nowgam, just fifteen kilometers away from the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir . While the police has stated that the Special Operations Group SOG men killed two Lashkar fidayeen in an encounter, the villagers, where the encounter took place have alleged that the two men were first dragged to the fields and then killed after staging a fake encounter. There is one official version that the two fidayeen were arrested a day before the staged encounter in the wee hours of Friday morning. Though this argument may be used to counter the people's allegations that the two people killed on Friday were not killed in an encounter since they were brought by the SOG men and then dragged to the orchard where they were killed, the official version itself hardly says much.

Daily Excelsior, 19 June 2007

**Editorial: Advice and action**

The Army is against demilitarisation in the State. It is only too well known. Time and again the countrys elite uniformed force has given professional advice in this behalf. Lt Gen H.S. Panag, General Officer Commanding in Chief, Northern Command, has done so again at a press conference in Udhampur on Sunday. What invest his utterances with some interest are certain figures that he has mentioned. According to him, a total of 337000 Army personnel are deployed in Jammu and Kashmir. Only 25 per cent of them are into in depth counter insurgency areas. Of the remaining the majority 45 to 50 per cent is deployed along the Line of Control and Actual Line of Control. The remaining are at permanent locations garrisons. They include those handling support services..

Daily Excelsior, 20 June 2007

**Indo Pak ties important than polls: Omar**

Srinagar, June 19 : Asserting that National Conference was ready for elections, Party

president Omar Abdullah today said it was, however, more interested in early resolution of Kashmir issue and improvement in relations between India and Pakistan. We are ready to contest the elections but more than that we are interested in quick resolution of the Kashmir issue and improvement in relations between India and Pakistan, Omar told a public meeting at Wadipora Handwara today. He said people of Jammu and Kashmir were going through turbulent times and facing immense hardships due to the rumblings within the ruling alliance. While Congress and PDP are at loggerheads over the issue of troops reduction and revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act, the latter and another alliance partner PDF are charging each other with using renegade militants to harass their workers..

Indian Express, 20 June 2007

**Opinion: What about Kashmir's Gurjjars (Zafar Choudhary)**

No conclusive research has been done on the origin of the Gurjjars, who are currently in the news because of the recent agitation in Rajasthan. Historical accounts say that Gurjjars once dominated central India, with Gurjashtra present day Gujarat as their area of influence. Although today Gurjjars are also found in Pakistan and Afghanistan, they are mainly concentrated in Kashmir on both sides of the LoC. The community as a whole is made up of both Hindus and Muslims, but Kashmir's Gurjjars are overwhelmingly Muslim. In J&K, Gurjjars make up the third largest ethnic group after Kashmiri-speaking Muslims and Dogra Hindus. Over the years, they have emerged as a significant political entity in J&K, wielding considerable electoral influence in a quarter of the constituencies..

The Tribune, 20 June 2007

**Opinion: Refugees in J and K (Balraj Puri)**

A fierce controversy is raging in J&K over the issue of refugees or migrants, often taking a regional or a communal form. Does anybody engaged in this controversy know what is the number of refugees and migrants in the state. Bulk of these refugees reside in the Jammu region. What are the categories to which they belong? What precisely are their respective problems and solutions. The issue was raised in the report of the working group on confidence building measures across segments of society in J&K presented at the third roundtable conference in New Delhi on April 24, 2007. It just mentioned problems of some of them without suggesting their solution. For instance, the group recommended that the rights of Kashmiri Pandit migrants to return to the places of their original residence should be recognised and a comprehensive package devised in consultation with their representatives. .

Daily Excelsior, 20 June 2007

**Editorial: Precisely the reason**

The latest utterances of Pakistan's Kashmir Affairs Minister Tahir Iqbal are precisely the reason why we in this country have to be doubly cautious. He has warned of continuing activities by jihadi groups if there is no tangible move forward on resolving the Kashmir problem. He has gone to the extent of calling for their association with the dialogue process between India and Pakistan. He has demanded total pull out of troops from Jammu and Kashmir. He has also reiterated that Northern Areas are part of Pakistan. On

the other issues like Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's four point formula he has taken a familiar stance. Much in the language of his boss he has said the formula per se was not the final solution and there might be a better proposition for arriving at a mutually acceptable solution of the Kashmir dispute..

Kashmir Times, 20 June 2007

**Editorial: Confused voices**

If the statement, the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing, is true anywhere it is certainly so with the government of India and their proteges in Jammu and Kashmir. In recent years and more so now with increasing frequency, whenever someone in authority in the state or in one ministry of the central government goes public with a certain view about the prevailing situation in J&K, it comes its virtual rebuttal within a week from someone in authority somewhere in Delhi or in Srinagar. The man in the street, who normally puts some trust in and depends on the official assessments and announcements, is left absolutely confused both about the present and the future. Unfortunately, their differences concern not only subjective questions, like the level of alienation, but also objective facts, like the number of attempted cross border infiltration, the number of attacks on security personnel and the number of mujahedeen accounted for.

Greater Kashmir, 21 June 2007

**No need of 5 lakh troops for 1500 militants**

Srinagar, June 20: Senior leader of Peoples Democratic Party PDP and former Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig on Wednesday urged the political parties, including Hurriyat to take a united stand on the issue of troop reduction from the state and asked Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad to lend a helping hand in Kashmir resolution. There is no need to keep five lakh troops to fight 1500 militants in the state and we want police to take over the internal security of the state, Baig told Greater Kashmir. Asking the entire Kashmiri leadership to take a collective stand over the issue of troop reduction from the state, the former Deputy Chief Minister said, Instead of raising the issue of troop reduction separately we should collectively voice our concern and I urge all the Kashmiri leaders including Hurriyat to take a united stand over the issue..

Kashmir Times, 21 June 2007

**Immunity coupled with flouting of norms encourages high rate of HR abuse (SJ Hashmi)**

Jammu, June 19: It may not only be immunity that security forces enjoy that lies at the root of cases of torture, humiliation and human rights abuse once any person is arrested on the slightest of suspicion. Even procedural safeguards designed to prevent torture of persons in custody are flouted to give the security forces an edge; the most common method of doing so is the failure in producing the detainee before a magistrate within 24 hours of the arrest, as is the prescribed norm. Annual report of an international human rights organization Human Rights Watch maintains that the law requires that everyone taken into custody must be produced before a magistrate within twenty four hours.

The Tribune, 21 June 2007

**Opinion: J&K needs more roads (SP Sharma)**

The Working Group or WG on economic development of the terrorism ravaged Jammu and Kashmir has asked the government to accord high priority to development of the road network and also take steps to remove the huge inter district variations in road density, so as to open the landlocked areas. The WG headed by C. Rangarajan was one of the five Working Groups on Kashmir appointed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the Roundtable Conference at Srinagar in May last year. The Working Group was hopeful that by taking these steps J&K would be in a position to remove the unique economic disadvantages arising out of remoteness, poor connectivity and inhospitable terrain. It has stressed that the rural roads should be the focus area of the state and all efforts must be made to leverage the funds available under the Bharat Nirman and other such schemes of the centre..

The News, 21 June 2007

**Opinion: A battle over Kashmir in the EU (Ershad Mahmud)**

After a long and heated debate within the various committees and forums, the European parliament has approved a final report on Kashmir recently. The report went through three stages before getting a final nod in the EU parliament on November 25, 2006. There is no doubt that the initial draft report, penned down by the British parliamentarian Baroness Nicholson, was not only one sided but was also toeing largely the Indian line of argument on Kashmir...No doubt, the EU parliament report is very significant, as it would define EU countries future policy on Kashmir. It is matter of fact that wherever United States does not like to get involved directly in any issue it encourages EU and NATO forces to play the leading role on its behalf. In this context, though EU has included major Kashmiri concerns, it must be clear that the EU is not going to play any mediatory role in any way or it would put pressure on India to enhance the pace of the dialogue process or on the human rights violations.

Greater Kashmir, 21 June 2007

**Opinion: The ultimate insult (Ather Zia)**

Rape. A word that sends shudders in any sane persons mind. This act has the vile power to put the entire humanity to shame. We fail to understand it when an individual attempts it; we condemn, we imprison, we repent; yet when governments choose to use it against people, we rationalize by saying its an instrument of coercive power. Therein we miss the larger implications of this act. Wherein a normal society there are strong efforts to prohibit and penalize wrong doers, also rehabilitate the victims; in a situation like Kashmir, they are lumped with the human right abuses statistics if they are ever reported which in the larger scheme of the conflict does not get the attention it should. Rape in Kashmir has come to manifest just a statistic, which sometimes grabs headlines but most of the times, entire vicinities shirk from talking about it or reporting to police, sometimes for the sake of the girl or the family, out of shame or cultural bindings and most of the times for the safety of their own lives..

Daily Excelsior, 22 June 2007

**Mehbooba, Dilawar question heavy troops for just 1,000 militants**

Srinagar, June 21: Peoples Democratic Party has upped its ante for reducing presence of

troops in Kashmir. The PDP leaders including president Ms Mahbooba Mufti and Tourism Minister Mohammad Dilawar Mir today questioned the heavy presence of security forces when there are just 1,000 militants in the State. Addressing a one day convention of party delegates at Sopore, the PDP leaders said that earlier there were around 10,000 militants operating across the State, which could have justified the heavy presence of troops. Now if the militants have come down to just 1,000 there is no need to keep the same number of troops around..

The Hindu, 22 June 2007

### **War on secular schools gathers pace in Kashmir (Praveen Swami)**

SOPORE: Why are you behaving like a bad boy, reads the neat Urdu text someone chalked on to a blackboard in the Alamdar High School, just hours before it was destroyed. The whitewashed walls of the classroom have turned the same colour as the blackboard, and the stink of charred wood and paper still sits heavy in the air. Last week, a violent mob set fire to one of north Kashmir's most prestigious educational institutions after rumours spread that the head of its managing trust had abused the Prophet Muhammad. A computer centre, science laboratory and library were gutted after Wasim Bacha, the head of the Muslim Musafirkhana Foundation MMF, was accused of blasphemy notably by asking schoolchildren to sing the National Anthem..

Indian Express, 22 June 2007

### **Encroachment over others properties un islamic**

Jammu, Jun 20: A senior separatist Kashmiri leader on Thursday assured Kashmiri Pandits of help in getting encroachments on their properties and temples removed. We will help them Pandits in eradicating encroachments by Muslims on the properties of Pandits, their temples and other religious places, Hurriyat leader Saleem Geelani said here. After an interaction with Kashmiri Pandit leaders, he said occupation of properties of others was un islamic and against Shariat rules. Another separatist leader Hashim Qureshi said the genocide faced by Kashmiri Pandits in early 1990s was the result of a situation created by emotional people blinded by the power of gun..

Greater Kashmir, 22 June 2007

### **Protests over knighthood to Rushdie**

Srinagar, June 21: Activists of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League today took out a march here in protest against the award of a British knighthood to India born author Salman Rushdie, whose 1988 novel The Satanic Verses outraged Muslims worldwide. The activists gathered at the Hari Singh High Street and marched toward Ghanta Ghar Clock Tower in Lal Chowk area here. Carrying banners and placards, the protestors denounced Rushdie, Britains Queen Elizabeth and her government.

Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2007

### **Patil to visit J&K next week, review situation**

New Delhi, June 22: Amid reports of increase in infiltration, Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil will be visiting militancy-torn Jammu and Kashmir next week to review the security situation in the State. Patil, who will be accompanied by some of the senior officials of the Ministry, would meet officials from the Army, police, intelligence

agencies and local heads of para military forces to chalk out the future strategy for countering the influx from across the border, official sources said here. The visit comes at a time when infiltration figures for May and June show a considerable increase over the corresponding period last year. The Army, during its recent meeting with the Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta, had said that the border fence in north Kashmir will be repaired by end of this month as the area was being regularly used by militants to sneak into Indian territory..

Indian Express, 23 June 2007

**Pak Army officer, now militant, held in Valley (Muzamil Jalel)**

Srinagar, New Delhi, JUNE 22: In what is the first such arrest in the 18 years of militancy in the Valley, the Jammu and Kashmir police have picked up Shahzad Khan, a militant commander who they believe was a Captain in the Pakistan Army and served in the Kargil war before he moved across along with a group of militants in the spring of 2001. Although the top brass of the JK Police deny the arrest, sources in security agencies have confirmed to The Indian Express that the former Pak Army officer was arrested from Batapora locality and has gone through sustained interrogation in police custody. Khan, sources said, was in active combat during the Kargil war in 1999 when he was serving as a Second Lieutenant..

Kashmir Times, 23 June 2007

**Hurriyat factions should unite, talk to India & Pak : Omar**

ARICHANDERHAMA, BUDGAM, June 22: National Conference NC president Omar Abdullah today asked both factions of Hurriyat Conference to unite and then hold talks with governments of India and Pakistan. He was talking to newsmen on the sidelines of a public gathering which he addressed here today. They must unite and talk openly with India and Pakistan, Omar said. Commenting on the previous round of talks between New Delhi and Hurriyat, he said I do not know what Hurriyat talked to Delhi people. They talked in closed rooms. Omar asked Hurriyat not to abstain from Round Table Conferences (RTC) as he said, If they are talking to Pakistan President and why do not they come and put their demand in RTC. He said Hurriyat must unite and in one voice should talk to India and Pakistan. Omar said that there is no time frame of solution for Kashmir issue with Pakistan ..

Greater Kashmir, 23 June 2007

**Top separatists invited to Kashmir meet**

Srinagar, June 22: Several senior separatist and political leaders have been invited to attend a two-day international conference on Kashmir in the United States from July 26. The conference, organised by the US based Association of Humanitarian Lawyers AHL and the Kashmiri American Council KAC Kashmir Center, would be held in Capitol Hill, Washington DC. The conference, the seventh such international Kashmir peace meet, has been titled: Peace Process in South Asia: Resolving Longstanding Kashmir Dispute. Chairpersons of both hard-line and moderate factions of the Hurriyat Conference Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front JKLF chief Yasin Malik and Democratic Freedom Party DFP president Shabir Ahmed Shah are some of the prominent separatist leaders invited to the conference..

Daily Excelsior, 23 June 2007

**Editorial: Educating nomads**

One of the most complex and toughest challenges on hand is educating nomads. First, there is need to understand their lifestyle. They are constantly on the move. Their identity is distinct and has a sophistication of its own as they pursue different professions. In our State they are mostly understood in the context of Gujjars and Bakarwals who literally walk from one place to the other along with herds of cattle in search of food and fodder. There is a viewpoint that educating them in the conventional way will amount to their domestication. If they are forced into classrooms they will lose their assured livelihood. This in turns means depriving society and the nation of an extremely valuable human resource. Education in this sense implies saving nomads from their centuries old time tested manner of living! Can there be anything more ludicrous? What is necessary instead is to encourage them to adapt to the latest techniques to enrich their respective occupations..

Daily Excelsior, 24 June 2007

**Mehbooba's meet with Corps Commdr ruffles feathers in Cong, NC, Hurriyat**

Srinagar, June 23: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's meeting with commander of Srinagar based 15 Corps, Lt Gen A S Sekhon, has ruffled feathers of a many political birds who have invariably dismissed the mainstream political partys demilitarisation slogan as an election stunt. Even as PDP has yet to come out with an official release on Mehbooba's meeting with the Corps Commander on Friday, hostile reactions have immediately poured in from varied ideological quarters. In a spontaneous and significant reaction, Chief Ministers party confidante Abdul Gani Vakil went to the extent of identifying a secret pact between the PDP and Army. Reality has begun to unfold and the Kashmiris have begun to spot a secret pact between the PDP chief and Army..

Kashmir Times, 24 June 2007

**Central agencies engineered divides in separatist leadership: Omar**

Srinagar, June 23: National Conference NC president Omar Abdullah today accused the agencies in New Delhi of dividing the Kashmiri leadership and creating leaders in every mohalla for their vested interests. He was speaking at a function after laying foundation stone of a community hall at Chalpan Kocha, Zaina Kadal in downtown here. The agencies in New Delhi do not want the rise of a strong and solid leadership in Kashmir as they consider it as a threat to them. These very agencies divided Hurriyat into two camps and JKLF into five groups, besides causing division in other separatist groups, Omar said.

Greater Kashmir, 24 June 2007

**Hizb rules out joining dialogue process**

Srinagar, June 23: Hizbul Mujahideen on Saturday ruled out any possibility of giving up armed struggle and joining dialogue process. Gun only can lead to the resolution of Kashmir issue. We will never accept Indias condition to shun the gun and then join the dialogue process. Struggle will continue till Kashmiris are given the right to self determination, local news agency CNS quoted operational commander of Hizbul Mujahideen Ghazi Misbaudin as saying. Indias offer to Mujahideen to leave the arms and

then hold dialogue is a part of India's policy, but Mujahideen know it very well that gun only will lead to the solution of the vexed Kashmir issue, he told CNS.

Greater Kashmir, 24 June 2007

**Opinion: Indian Media and Kashmir (M Ashraf)**

Any impartial and unbiased media coverage has two important elements. The first is the objective reportage of events. The second involves the unbiased editorship of the concerned medium, whether print or electronic. Kashmir has been an important focal point of Indian Media for last sixty years or even more. Unfortunately for the major part of this period, it has lacked both, the objectivity in reporting as well as impartiality in the editorship outside. Kashmir has suffered a concerted and continuous system of biased coverage. Before the partition of the sub continent, Kashmir got into news because of an egalitarian struggle of a down trodden peasantry against the tyrannical autocracy.

Kashmir Times, 24 June 2007

**Khair Bhawani again reunites Muslims, KPs; briefly so**

Tulmulla, June 23: The Mela Khair Bhawani again reunited the Kashmiri Muslims and migrants Pandits here today, though for a brief period. Not only thousands of migrants, Pandits and Muslims living in Kashmir but a sizeable number of politicians also reached here. The migrants arrived here in buses and cars from different parts of the country including Jammu and New Delhi. Like Hira Lal of Anantnag, large number of Pandits were visiting the Valley for the first time after the mass migration of their community in 1990. It was a dream come true for me to see my Kashmir again. Living a pathetic life of a migrant, I had given up the hope to come to Kashmir. I was seeing the chinars, the beautiful lakes, the meadows and snow bound mountains in dreams only, said Hira Lal.

Daily Excelsior, 25 June 2007

**Art 370 model of self rule: Mufti**

Srinagar, June 24: Senior PDP leader and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said that the Kashmir issue could be resolved with political sagacity and urged the people to actively get involved in the ongoing peace process between India and Pakistan. Enduring and workable peace in Kashmir could be restored only through sustained and bold political initiatives with active involvement of people. Both New Delhi and Islamabad have realised that Kashmir problem can be resolved politically, Mr Sayeed said while addressing a party convention in Anantnag. Pointing out that making peace was much tougher than waging war, he said that Kashmir issue could be resolved only when it is addressed with political sagacity. By not responding adequately to the positive ground realities, we would end up only in prolonging the problem, he said.

Dawn, 25 June 2007

**Opinion: New thinking on Kashmir (Mirwaiz Umar Farooq)**

FOR the greater part of its history, Kashmir has maintained an independent existence. Its individuality has been shaped by its distinctive natural setting, the diligence and craftsmanship of its people, its long experience of phases of growth and decline and its sustained traditions of amity and tolerance between the different religious or cultural communities. The conflict over the disputed territory of Kashmir is soluble only if a

pragmatic strategy is established to set the stage for a just and durable settlement. Since we are concerned at this time with setting the stage for settlement, it is both untimely and harmful to encourage controversies about the most desirable solution. We deprecate the raising of quasio pseudoquestions during the preparatory phase about the final settlement..

Greater Kashmir, 25 June 2007

**Editorial: Shell shocked**

A day when thousands thronged Tulmulla to pay obeisance at goddess Ma Ragynias abode, some ten kilometers away villagers of Chairavan enroute cave shrine of Shri Amarnath Jee took to streets demanding stern action against the erring CRPF troopers of 158 Battalion alleged to have molested defenseless and hapless dumb girl. The incident took place when thousands of troopers were busy securing the route to the Holy Cave shrine for the pilgrimage beginning 30th of this month. And here the devil in a uniform was found busy indulging in an act of sadism. The incident, on expected lines, lead to massive angry demonstrations by the villagers. It took a great deal of effort of the district administration, whose hands were already full with problems related to maintenance of order, to pacify the agitating crowds. The police did a good job by arresting the accused CRPF trooper. It remains to be seen as to whether the police and district administration takes the investigations to the logical conclusion or not?

Indian Express, 26 June 2007

**Free Trade Area on both sides of LoC soon**

Srinagar, June 25: Prime Ministers working group for strengthening relations across the Line of Control LoC has suggested creation of a free trade area between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The ultimate aim of recommendations would be to encourage, in stages, the creation of a free trade area comprising Jammu and Kashmir and PoK, modalities of the same being worked out between the two sides, said the group headed by M Rasgotra, which submitted its report to the third roundtable conference on Kashmir in April..

Daily Excelsior, 26 June 2007

**Rising infiltration attempts a cause for concern: Antony**

New Delhi, June 25: Describing rising incidents of infiltration attempts across the Line of Control LoC in Jammu and Kashmir as a cause for concern, Defence Minister A K Antony today said security forces were geared up to meet any eventuality. Infiltration is of concern to us, Antony told reporters on the sidelines of a Defence function here. But we are taking sufficient precautions, he added. Antony also said the armed forces were very alert and prepared to meet any eventuality. According to official figures, there has been a big spurt in attempts by militants to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said though there was a drop in infiltration during the winter months of December, January and February the onset of summer and melting of snow has seen a sharp jump in infiltration attempts.

Kashmir Times, 26 June 2007

**Opinion: J&K walks into ADB trap (AH Talib)**

When our State secured a loan from the Asian Development Bank ADB a couple of years ago, J&Ks ruling establishment had gone for a virtual political carnival, bursting crackers and massing largely illiterate people around beating drums to tell that we had got another big money into our kitty. As always, the loan we had got was presented as another kind of gift this time not from the government of India but from an international funding agency, the ADB, with hidden blessings of the government of India. Neither the authors of the proposal to the ADB nor a single politician in power at that time had the courage to tell the common people that what we had obtained was not a gift or a grant but a loan which we were to repay. Worse, no one in the ruling establishment has had the moral courage to tell the people that the loan had come at a big price in the form of many conditions that our State would have to abide by.

Greater Kashmir, 26 June 2007

### **Ulemas join hands with NGOs against suicides in Kashmir**

Srinagar, June 25: Concerned over the sudden spurt in suicide cases in the Kashmir valley, particularly by youths and married women, ulemas Islamic scholars have joined hands with social organisations to stem the trend. An senior cleric, addressing a large gathering in a mosque near the historic Lal Chowk, said it was the duty of everyone to stop this unIslamic act. Anyone who commits suicide will go to Jahanam hell, he claimed and urged people not to join the namaz Janazah the funeral prayer of anyone who commits suicide. He said the act was against Islamic principles and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad SAW..

Daily Excelsior, 26 June 2007

### **Editorial: Face of terror**

How does one react to the report of the arrest of a former Pakistani army regular in the Valley? He was not there on a pleasure trip. He was a participant and abettor in terrorist activities. Naturally the security forces are happy with their prized catch. Shahzad Khan had been a captain in the Pakistan Army and was on the most wanted list after Lashkare Toibas top commander Salahuddin alias Bilal had made an exit for the Pakistan occupied territory last year. It is said to be the first time that an ex Pakistani army person has been caught during the ongoing phase of militancy in the State. It will be wrong to say, however, that he is the first uniformed member retired or serving of the neighbouring countrys uppermost force to attempt to fish in the troubled waters of the Jhelum.

Indian Express, 27 June 2007

### **Militancy-affected people in J&K receive compensation**

Srinagar, Jun 26: An amount of Rs 5.89 lakh was on Tuesday distributed among militancy affected persons, widows and senior citizens in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir. The sum was handed over by the Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts Development Corporation, Abdul Rashid Dar, at Sopore, as part of the several welfare schemes initiated by the government to help militancy affected persons the state, an official release said..

The Tribune, 27 June 2007

### **1,500 more anganwari centres**

Srinagar, June 26: The central government has sanctioned 1,500 more anganwari centres for Jammu and Kashmir in addition to 6,711 anganwari centres sanctioned in the second phase of expansion of ICDS schemes. Addressing a press conference after the Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, minister Renuka Chowdhary said malnutrition among children in the state had come down. This, she said, was due to better implementation of ICDS schemes. The minister said about 18 lakh anganwari centres across the country would have own accommodation in the next two years..

Kashmir Times, 27 June 2007

**Editorial: Surrendering to belligerence**

The protests in Bandipora over the killing of a youth, passed off as an infiltrator trying to cross the Line of Control, have revealed the dangerous path embarked on by the security forces at the borders to inflate the figures of infiltrations and create panic about hiked up militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. The contradictory figures on infiltrations being churned out by different security and intelligence agencies had already sparked doubts about the authenticity of the claims of the kind of sudden and massive change in the situation. This particular incident further confirms the doubts. On Sunday, army claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid by killing three militants in Uri sector and maintained that the three were operatives of the militant organization Lashkar e Toiba..

Greater Kashmir, 27 June 2007

**Editorial: Moves Towards Unity**

After demilitarization now the buzzword in political circles in Kashmir is unity among Kashmir leaders espousing resolution of Kashmir problem in accordance with wishes of the people of the state. Notwithstanding historical reality that schism and Kashmir leadership are made for each other and there has never been unanimity of thought and action amongst Kashmir leaders right from movement of reassertion was started in 1931, there was an effort by some well meaning people in the state to put Kashmir leaders under one umbrella. In the wake of breaking of violence in the state and some youth taking to guns there was deep realization both in New Delhi and Islamabad that to steer the state out of the crisis and to find an amicable solution to the problem there was need for a united political leadership and it was out of this deep realization that the All Parties Hurriyat Conference was born and after protracted discussions and debates this organization was in a position to draft a common programme and adopted a constitution..

Kashmir Times, 27 June 2007

**Opinion: Abdullaha: The inherited legacy of selective amnesia (Anuradha Jamwal)**

Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others. Perhaps, National Conference president, Omar Abdullah suffering from his usual bout of selective amnesia has also forgotten this basic law of nature that when you point an accusing finger at another person, four more are pointing back at you. No wonder that this friar, having a goose up his sleeve, believes he can take a high moral ground and indulge in bashing the present coalition government and its two successive chief ministers for all their follies, forgetting that the track record of his own party during the six years preceding the rule of the present Cong PDP coalition government has been rather dismal. No doubt, the present

coalition government has failed to deliver on many accounts..

Daily Excelsior, 28 June 2007

**Antonys remarks dilute PM's initiative on Kashmir: Mufti**

Srinagar, June 27: Former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today said Defence Minister A K Antonys continued adverse remarks on troop reduction in the troubled State not only diluted Prime Minister Manmohan Singhs initiative, but also undermined the States political and the constitutional authority. Addressing a gathering at Charar-e-Sharief in Badgam district, he said the Defence Ministers obstinate remarks tend to preempt the work of the two committees constituted by the Prime Minister for looking into his partys demand for troop reduction and revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act AFSPA in the State. It is very unfortunate that the Defence Minister is repeatedly jumping the gun even before receiving the formal inputs from the Defence Secretary, who is heading the two committees, he said.

Greater Kashmir, 28 June 2007

**BANDIPORE ON BOIL, PEOPLE WANT ARMY OUT**

Bandipore, June 27: Thousands of people on Wednesday demonstrated here for second consecutive day against two soldiers who they caught attempting to rape a 17year old girl in a Gujjar hamlet, Patti Kunan on Tuesday. The protesters were demanding stern punishment to the soldiers. People from Patti Kunnan, Sumlar, Arin, Kunnan Gundbal, Mander marched toward Bandipore and protested against atrocities by army. Leading the march was vice chairman of Gujjar Pahari Dehat Sudhar Forum Farid Ahmad Farid, uncle of the victim. People from all walks of life joined the protesters who marched peacefully and staged dharna in front of the office of the deputy commissioner.

Greater Kashmir, 28 June 2007

**Opinion: Regional discrimination & Muslim Kashmir (Naseer Ganai)**

Strong reaction came from State BJP and other parties when on May 22, 2007 Peoples Conference Chairman Sajjad Ghani Lone while addressing rally at Sher-e-Kashmir Park here said: if people of some parts of Jammu and Ladakh regions do not want to stay with us we should not stop them from getting separated. We should start a debate on this issue to generate consensus. There are people in parts of Jammu and Ladakh who term our sacrifices as terrorism. Let the aspirations of these sections be ascertained and addressed in proper perspective. There are regions like Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Gool, Bani, etc where aspirations would differ with those in other parts of Jammu. Let we ascertain the aspirations of people on either side of LoC and create a new Muslim Kashmir, Sajad said. No one can deny the fact that Kashmir is a political problem..

Kashmir Times, 28 June 2007

**Editorial: Reviving age old bond**

Overwhelming participation of Kashmiri Pandit migrants from different parts of Jammu region in Khir Bhawani Mela at Tula Mula in Kashmir is a positive portent. In fact, this is a great news for all those, who have been striving hard to reunite the hearts separated by the turmoil in Kashmir. It is often said that the faith binds the hearts, true to the spirit of this adage the faith brought the two estranged communities together after such a long

time. As the reports suggested the members of two communities made the optimum use of this opportunity to revive their age old bond of composite culture. If separated from their roots could get a chance to meet their old pals, for many youngsters accompanying the migrants, this was the first ever visit to the land of their ancestors. This is always a different experience to visualize the things from one's own perspective on the basis of first hand accounts than relying on opinionated mesh of images.

Daily Excelsior, 28 June 2007

### **International film festival begins with cultural bonanza**

Srinagar, June 27: With the inauguration of a film festival, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today urged the Union Information & Broadcasting Ministry and Planning Commission to set up a documentary film production centre for promotion of hundreds of Jammu and Kashmir based producers, directors and other talents associated with film making. While complaining that Films Division had been in a slumber for 60 years, Azad asserted that he would approach the Centre to seek creation of the production facility in Kashmir. Twenty seven documentary, animation and short films are being screened at the two day festival at SKICC which has been jointly organised by Films Division and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages..

The Tribune, 28 June 2007

### **Martyr cremated with honours**

Udhampur, June 27: Naib Subedar Chuni Lal, who attained martyrdom in Kupawara district three days ago while fighting Pakistani infiltrators at Line of Control, was cremated today at his Bhara village in Bhaderwah tehsil of Doda district. Senior Army officers and senior officers of the Bhaderwah police were present on the occasion. Hundreds of people participated in his funeral procession. Since morning people from far flung areas of Bhaderwah were thronging the house of the brave soldier who was awarded the Vir Charka.

Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2007

### **Grand Muftis fatwa against suicide**

Srinagar, June 28: The official Grand Mufti of the State, Mufti Bashir ud din Ahmed, today issued a fatwa edict, calling upon Muslims not to take part in the Nimaz e Jinazah funeral prayers of a person who commits suicide. Acting on a report, the Mufti said acts like suicide or inflicting an injury to oneself was strictly prohibited in Islam. Suicide is an un Islamic act. One who takes the extreme step would be in the same State till the Day of Judgement as revealed in the Holy Quran, he said. The Mufti expressed serious concern over the rise in the incidents of suicide in the Kashmir valley in the recent past.

Kashmir Times, 29 June 2007

### **Accused army men sent to police remand**

Srinagar, June 28: The two army soldiers, who made an attempt to allegedly rape a woman at Bandipora, have been sent to police remand till June 30. Meanwhile army has started inquiry into the incident. The counsel of the accused Major Joginder Singh and Naik Daljeet Singh presented a bail application before the judicial magistrate, Bandipora. The Bar Association lawyers, who represented the victim, filed objection to granting of

bail to the accused soldiers of 57 Rashtria Rifles. The pale looking victim was also present in the court. After hearing the arguments of lawyers of both the sides, the judicial magistrate sent the two accused to police custody till June 30.

Greater Kashmir, 29 June 2007

**Gujjars exploited, ignored: Poswal**

Srinagar, June 28: President Akhil Bharatia Gujjar Maha Shaba, Eshaf ul Rehman Poswal Thursday condemned the attempted rape of a Bandipora girl by soldiers on Tuesday. We condemn all human rights violation whether committed against the people of our community or any other community, Poswal told reporters at a press conference here. In the vein of other Gujjar leaders, Poswal accused successive governments of ignoring Gujjar community in respect of education, health, and other sectors. Asking the state authorities to establish Ministry for Tribal Affairs, Poswal said the ministry only could address the long pending demands of tribal people.

Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2007

**Opinion: Security review in Kashmir (S Handoo)**

Kashmir has been in the thick of militancy for the last 17 years now. It has seen the worst of times with the blood of innocent people flowing on the streets, old and infirm being dragged out of their homes and shot dead on charges of being informers and families separated without knowing each others whereabouts for years on end. In this situation a periodic review of security situation in Kashmir should have been a routine affair. But the Union Home Secretarys visit to the valley is much more than that. For two reasons. One it is the new Home Secretary Madhukar Guptas first visit to the state. Second, it is coming at a time when security situation in Kashmir is intriguing..

Greater Kashmir, 29 June 2007

**Opinion: The problem and the solution II (RP Saraf)**

The ethnic, linguistic and cultural aspirations and the political economic interests of JKs different regional zones be accommodated by giving maximum-possible constitutional autonomy or self rule and a regional legislature to each of the regional zones. The Ethnic Kashmiri Pandit community be settled in Kashmir valley and the entire settlement plan be put before the pandit community for its approval. The sixty-year old demand of the 1947 West Pakistan refugees will be met by recognizing them as permanent residents of Jammu Region. Some General Principles Concerning The Above Proposal, The first principle stresses that the trinity of Indian, Pakistani and JK people have the same root, they have a shared past, face similar problems at present and are destined to a common future.

Daily Excelsior, 30 June 2007

**Patil to chair review meet**

New Delhi, June 29: A high level meeting will be chaired tomorrow in Srinagar by Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil to review the situation in Jammu and Kashmir where violence has shown an upward trend for the past week. The meeting, to be attended by Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and top brass of the Army, BSF, CRPF and intelligence agencies, will discuss the sudden influx of militants from across the Line of

Control and the increase in militancy related violence. According to official figures, 20 militants have been killed since June 24 while five soldiers and two police personnel died in the same period. As many as 27 Army and police personnel were injured in the past six days. Five civilians were also killed by militants and 14 others injured during this period. Two major infiltration bids were also foiled in north Kashmir, official sources said.

Greater Kashmir, 30 June 2007

### **KUPWARA ERUPTS OVER 'FAKE ENCOUNTER**

Kupwara, June 29: Accusing the Special Operations Group SOG of Jammu and Kashmir police of killing three men and a woman in a fake encounter yesterday, thousands of people on Friday staged protests in this frontier district demanding a judicial probe into the incident. Police on Thursday had claimed that SOG men and troopers killed three militants on Hyhama Kupwara road who were planning to carry out a Fidayeen attack in the area. Police had said that a woman Fahmida daughter of Ghulam MohiudDin also died in the cross firing. According to a local news agency Kashmir News Service the SOG men on Thursday morning took into custody a Maruti van of Winning Edge Public School and a Tata Sumo.

Indian Express, 30 June 2007

### **SHRC seeks police report in Bandipora rape case**

Srinagar, June 29: The Jammu and Kashmir Human Rights Commission on Friday sought a detailed report from the Director General of police on the alleged attempt by two army men to rape a 17year old girl in Bandipora district. Taking a suo-moto cognisance in the case, chairman of the Commission Justice retd M Y Kawoos asked DGP Gopal Sharma to furnish a detailed report by or before July 30, a spokesman of the commission said. The two army personnel accused of attempting to rape a minor girl inside her house at Kunan in Bandipora on Tuesday are in police custody. The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Bandipora has ordered recording of the victims statement under Section 166 CrPC, who was medically examined and the report is awaited.

Greater Kashmir, 30 June 2007

### **Opinion: Where do we go from here? (Dr MA Beg)**

The last sixty years are a witness that the search for a final settlement of the state of J&K has passed through different phases. During the cold war era, the hunt for a solution was through U.N resolutions. Later on, it resulted in a couple of wars between India and Pakistan, followed by the present armed rebellion. Recently EU claims that she can speak too? In the mean time, different governments changed hands. Some came from the back doors, some through windows and the latest crash landed from the roof top. At the end of the day we have not been able to find a solution that would satisfy a common man..

Daily Excelsior, 30 June 2007

### **Aiyar to lead delegation to Pak**

NewDelhi, June 29: Adding a new dimension to people to people contacts, a 58 member Indian delegation will visit Pakistan to participate in a workshop on local self Government from July 1 and prepare a calender for cooperation in future. The delegation, headed by Union Minister for Panchayati Raj Mani Shanker Aiyar, also included his

State counterparts from Bihar, Sikkim, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra as also a number of MPs and MLAs from different States, Aiyar told reporters. A group of policy makers, intellectuals and elected representatives of panchayats from across the country and 10 delegates from the field of sports would also be part of the delagation leaving for Lahore tomorrow via Wagah Atari border.