

Daily Excelsior, 1 May 2008

**Pak-based militant outfits continue to target J&K: US**

WASHINGTON, Apr 30: India was among the countries worst affected by terror with militant attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and in the Northeast, strikes by Naxalites and attacks elsewhere in the country taking a toll of more than 2,300 lives in 2007, the US State Department said. The State Department, in its annual report on terrorism, said terrorist activities along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir are on the decline but Pakistan-based militant outfits like the Lashkar-e-Toiba and other terrorist groups continue to plan attacks in the Valley

Indian Express, 5 May 2008

**209 Kashmiri Pandits killed since 1989, say J-K cops in first report**

SRINAGAR, MAY 4: In the first such report compiled since the outbreak of militancy in the Valley, a Jammu and Kashmir Police report says that 209 Kashmiri Pandits were killed by militants since 1989. Chargesheets have been filed in 24 cases while killers in 115 cases remain unidentified or untraced. The police report a copy of which is with The Indian Express says that 140 cases of killing of Kashmiri Pandits by militants have been registered at police stations across the Valley

Daily Excelsior, 6 May 2008

**Hassan Mir to launch JKDP**

SRINAGAR, May 5: A new political party will be launched as an alternative to the People's Democratic Party and National Conference, expelled PDP leader Ghulam Hassan Mir said. "The PDP was launched in late 1990s as a democratic alternative to the National Conference but the party has turned into a prototype of the later. So there is still space for a democratic alternative in the State," Mir, who was expelled from PDP for anti-party activities earlier this year, told

Daily Excelsior, 7 May 2008

**Record crossing at cross-LoC point**

JAMMU, May 5: A new record was today set at Chakkan-Da-Bagh cross-LoC point on Poonch-Rawlakote road when an all time high 195 persons including more than a dozen overstaying people crossed Line of Control during fortnightly crossing in Poonch district. The new record was set as Chakkan-Da-Bagh, presently the only cross-LoC point in Jammu region linking two parts of divided State after the closure of Tata Pani, was about to complete two and a half years of its opening

Daily Excelsior, 8 May 2008

**Sewa-II to be completed by June 2009: Shinde**

JAMMU, May 7: Union Power Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde today said 120 mw Phase-II of Sewa Hydel Power Project will be completed by June 2009. He also announced sanction of a 1000 mw thermal power project for the State shortly. In an informal chat with reporters after inaugurating Rotar Rowering of three turbines of 40 mw each in Sewa Hydel Power Project Phase-II at Hat Mashka in Basohli area of Kathua district this afternoon, Mr Shinde said all efforts are being made by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) to complete Phase-II of the project by June 2009

Daily Excelsior, 8 May 2008

**Militant outfits reluctant to name new commanders**

JAMMU, May 7: With the elimination of top leadership of militants in Doda, Kishtwar, Reasi, Poonch and Rajouri districts besides several other arrest and surrenders, the militant outfits were now hesitant to name the successors of their slain commanders. The new militant commanders were not being named as outfits like Hizbul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) feared that new commanders would also be targeted by police, which has decided to go for the top guns first

Hindu, 9 May 2008

**25 die as bus falls into Chenab**

JAMMU: Twenty-five passengers died and three were injured on Thursday when a Kishtwar-bound bus skidded and fell into the Chenab river. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad ordered relief teams to the site

Hindu, 10 May 2008

**BSF foils infiltration bid in J&K Samba: Border Security Force personnel foiled an infiltration attempt**

BSF foils infiltration bid in J&K Samba: Border Security Force personnel foiled an infiltration attempt by 10-15 militants in the Suchetgarh-Gallard area in Jammu and Kashmir late on Thursday evening. A party of the 112 battalion deployed in Samba saw the militants trying to tamper with the fence opposite the 6 R outpost at 10.40 p.m. The jawans opened fire and the militants retaliated. The exchange lasted 10 minutes

Daily Excelsior, 10 May 2008

**J&K seeks 63 coys of Central forces**

JAMMU, May 9: Police have sought 63 companies of Central forces to provide security to pilgrims of Shri Amarnath shrine during two month long annual pilgrimage beginning from June 18. In addition to Central forces, nearly 30 companies would be mobilised from local police to provide security cover to the yatris from Lakhanpur in Kathua district to Amarnath ji shrine in Anantnag district of South Kashmir Himalayas

Daily Excelsior, 10 May 2008

**Militants waiting to enter J&K: BSF DG**

CHANDIGARH, May 5: BSF today said that militants across the border are waiting to enter the country once mountain passes in Jammu and Kashmir open with the melting of snow. "The BSF has strong inputs that militants are waiting along the border to enter the country," BSF Director General A K Mitra told reporters on the sidelines of a foundation stone laying ceremony for a BSF building here. He said along the Western border, the infiltration is presently low

Asian Age, 11 May 2008

**Border firing: India seeks Pak flag meet**

Srinagar, May 9: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday sought an urgent commandant-level flag meeting with the Pakistan Rangers to discuss a firing incident

along the border with the neighbouring country in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba sector overnight. "We'll lodge a strong protest with them over the serious incident," a senior BSF official in Jammu said. The official said the BSF troops came under heavy fire from across the border in Samba sector, about 50 km southwest of Jammu, late on Thursday night while foiling a major infiltration bid by militants. They said about 10 to 15 militants tried to cut through a 12-foot-high fence along the dividing line in their attempt to sneak into the Indian side of the border. When challenged, they opened fire at BSF troops with rifles and also tossed more than 15 hand grenades towards the Indian side

Daily Excelsior, 11 May 2008

**Musharraf's 4-point formula rejected: Gilani offers to go beyond UN resolutions**

ISLAMABAD, May 10: Sending an encouraging signal ahead of the first high-level contact with Indian leadership, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has suggested a "rethink" on the Kashmir issue and offered to go "beyond" the UN resolutions to settle it. "I think (the Kashmir issue) needs to be debated, there should be a rethink about it," he told Karan Thapar on CNN-IBN's programme "Devil's Advocate". Gilani's remarks come days before External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee travels to Islamabad for talks with the new regime

Daily Excelsior, 11 May 2008

**PM deposes Shyam Saran to assess border situation**

NEW DELHI, May 10: Keen to ensure upgradation of the border infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has deposed his special envoy Shyam Saran to undertake a survey of the frontier areas of the State and suggest measures to improve it. Saran, PM's special envoy on nuclear issue and climate change, will visit border areas of Kashmir valley and Jammu region from tomorrow to see what needs to be done to improve the infrastructure along the Line of Control (LoC) and border with Pakistan

The Tribune, 11 May 2008

**Infiltrations witness upswing after lull**

Infiltrations witness upswing after lull Srinagar, May 10 The infiltration bid by militants across relatively calmer borders in Jammu division may have been foiled, but ultras launched from Pakistan have been frequently successful in sneaking across the Line of Control, especially in the valley, in recent times. Official sources told The Tribune that infiltration figures have seen an upswing from 2006 after a relative lull of few years when Pakistan engaged with India in peace talks and was under international pressure to clamp down on terror camps

Hindu, 12 May 2008

**Package ready for Kashmir migrants**

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it had prepared a Rs. 1,618-crore package for return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits and other migrants, forced to move out of their land. Solicitor-General G.E. Vahanvati told a Bench comprising Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan and Justices R.V. Raveendran and M.K. Sharma that the package covering housing, cash relief, scholarship for students,

employment and waiver of interest on loans would be placed before the court. The Bench granted four weeks for filing the affidavit

Indian Express, 12 May 2008

**Militants sneak into Samba, kill six before being gunned down**

SAMBA, MAY 11: Striking in a big way as Jammu and Kashmir gears for the Amarnath Yatra and the approaching Assembly elections, heavily armed militants, clad in Army fatigues, sneaked into a residential colony in Samba today and killed six persons, including a local politician, his wife and the chief photographer of the Daily Excelsior. The firefight with security forces ended more than 12 hours later when two militants, holed up inside a house, were gunned down

Asian Age, 12 May 2008

**J&K tour operators focus on Gulf visitors**

Srinagar, May 11: With not many Western tourists these days choosing Kashmir as a destination for varied reasons ignorance about the changing ground realities seemingly playing a major role in keeping them away from one of the most spectacular locations in the world the hosts who would take pride in serving them in the good old days now look towards the Gulf and Central Asian countries. Tourism officials here believe that the potential guests from these countries would find Kashmir more attractive than America and the Europe for diverse reasons, including cultural affinity. As claimed, the travel trade in the Gulf and Middle East are searching for areas where the Arab traffic could be diverted because after 9/11 their visit to favourite destinations in the West gets on their nerves. "Hence, Kashmir is the only destination which is very near and appropriate from the point of view of climate, cultural affinity and not being overrun," said one of them

Hindu, 13 May 2008

**Militants infiltrated from Sialkot**

Samba: Wireless intercepts and a fence cutter recovered from the militants killed in Sunday's 12-hour-long encounter in Samba proved that they penetrated the border fence from the Sialkot district of Pakistan. Another militant, believed to have escaped, was shot dead on Monday

Daily Excelsior, 13 May 2008

**Infiltration by 9-10 militants suspected**

JAMMU, May 12: With third militant gunned down by Army in Samba this morning during last two days, Intelligence agencies have sounded that a group of at least 9-10 militants might have succeeded in infiltrating into this side after cutting fencing from Regal in Samba sector on Thursday night when the BSF claimed to have foiled the intrusion bid by a big group of ultras. Intelligence sources told the Excelsior that at least 9-10 militants had succeeded in crossing the international border from Regal in Samba sector after cutting the fencing with a wire cutter. As the infiltration attempt was detected and there was a heavy exchange of firing between BSF and militants, a group of five ultras appeared to have succeeded in leaving the area along with their guide, which had to take one group to Lohai Malhar in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district

Daily Excelsior, 13 May 2008

**We are ready for cross-LoC trade: Azad**

Uri, May 12: Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today said that India had made all arrangements for cross-LoC trade with Pakistan and it was now for the neighbouring country to decide when it wanted the trucks to ply on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road. "So far as we are concerned, we have made all arrangements including construction of godowns and customs office and double-laning Baramulla-Kaman Post road. It is now for Pakistan to decide when it wants the cross-LoC trade to take off", he said while addressing a public meeting here today, adding, "if Pakistan agrees, we are ready for cross-LoC trade to start tomorrow"

Daily Excelsior, 14 May 2008

**Sophisticated fencing cutters make militants' task easy**

JAMMU, May 13: New sophisticated fencing cutters have made the task of militants quite easy. These new instruments were reported to have been provided to infiltrators by Pakistan army and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The barbed wire fencing cutters have been specially managed by Pakistan army to ensure immediate cutting of fencing to help Pakistani and other militants to infiltrate, official sources said

Daily Excelsior, 14 May 2008

**Militants on way to receive infiltrators gunned down**

Militants on way to receive infiltrators gunned down JAMMU, May 13: Police tonight gunned down two hardcore militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit, who were heading to receive the group which had infiltrated from Samba sector, at village Pallai in Gandoh area of Doda district. One of the slain militant has been identified as LeT commander Farhat Hussain alias Mochi R/o Chanti Gandoh while another ultra was unidentified Pakistani

Indian Express, 16 May 2008

**In first for Valley, J&K schoolgirls set the football rolling**

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: It's not a sight that has been seen in Srinagar before a group of 45 schoolgirls, some even attired in hijabs, sweating it out on a football field, dribbling and jostling past each other to safely net the ball into the goal-post. Their dream: to represent the state in the Under-19 category football tournament at the national level

Daily Excelsior, 16 May 2008

**Kashmir, terror to top Pranab's Pak visit agenda**

ISLAMABAD, May 15: Pakistan today said terrorism and the "core issue" of Jammu and Kashmir will be high on the agenda when External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi meet here next week to review the composite dialogue. Describing terrorism as a "common threat" to the two countries, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Sadiq said there is a need to eliminate the menace from the region

Daily Excelsior, 16 May 2008

**33 kg RDX, 5 IEDs seized in Rajouri: Two SPOs among 8 held for LeT links**

JAMMU, May 15: Doda police today arrested eight persons including two Special Police Officers (SPOs) for their links with militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen outfits while security forces and police today recovered a large quantity of explosive devices including 33 kg RDX and five IEDs in Rajouri district. Twenty seven kg RDX, 3 kg aluminum and two IEDs were recovered by security and police from Garyal, Kandi in Rajouri district by troops of 17 Punjab and police. Six kg RDX, three IEDs, one AK-56 rifle with 10 rounds and two magazines were seized by security forces and police from village Panihal, Taryath in Kalakote tehsil during a search operation, official sources said

Daily Excelsior, 17 May 2008

**1000 addl troops to be deployed on IB: DG BSF: 41.5 km fence being realigned**

KHORA (INTERNATIONAL BORDER, SAMBA SECTOR), May 16: Admitting that the border guards could not fully foil the intrusion bid by the Pakistani terrorists in this sector on May 9, the Director General of Border Security Force (BSF), A K Mitra, today said that 1000 additional troops would be immediately deployed on the International Border (IB) with Pakistan to plug the vulnerable areas

Asian Age, 18 May 2008

**Centre talks with Hurriyat likely in 2 months**

New Delhi, May 17: The stalled talks between New Delhi and Hurriyat leaders are expected to resume in the next two months, a senior official negotiating between the two sides said on Saturday. The last talks between the moderate faction of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and the government were held in 2006 at which both sides had agreed on the need for an "institutional framework" to conduct future dialogue. Proposals for this framework are apparently now ready

Daily Excelsior, 18 May 2008

**Cop was regular supplier of SIM cards to militants**

JAMMU, May 17: A former police constable, who was arrested by police a day before from Belicharana, was a regular supplier of SIM cards to the militants to strengthen their network in remote and upper reaches of Kathua district, a route used by militants for reaching Udhampur and Doda districts after their infiltration from the international border. The constable, who was actively working for Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit for last four years, is being detained afresh under Public Safety Act (PSA) and his case for dismissal from the services is being prepared, official sources said

Daily Excelsior, 18 May 2008

**LeT, Jaish "Distt Commdrs" among 7 ultras killed: 6-member Jaish group wiped out in Tral**

SRINAGAR, May 17: Police and security forces have wiped out a six-member group of Jaish-e-Mohammad militants in Tral area as also a "District Commander" of Lashkar-e-Toiba in Bandipore since last evening. Informed sources told EXCELSIOR that a chance encounter took place between a thick group of militants and security forces in the hilly terrain of Laru Jageer in Tral of South Kashmir in the wee hours today. Sources said that with the back-up support of CRPF 185 Bn, Police had launched a search operation in

Laru area late last night. Immediately after the shootout occurred, reinforcement from Rashtriya Rifles 42 Bn reached the spot and joined the operation. Even as at least four militants were believed to have escaped---two of them in injured condition---Police and security forces killed six militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit

Daily Excelsior, 18 May 2008

**After many years, terrorism to again dominate talks**

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI, May 17: Ahead of next week's talks with India, Pakistan's new Government today briefed leaders from Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir on its stance at the meetings to review the composite dialogue process. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who is set to meet his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee here on May 21 to review the fourth round of the composite dialogue that ended last year, assured a group of leaders from PoK that the Kashmir issue will be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir

Hindu, 19 May 2008

**In and out of militancy in Reasi hills**

Reasi: They grew up together in the remote hills of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir and then got involved in militancy. But while one bid goodbye to militancy, the other decided to stay on and paid the price. This is the story of two young men smitten by militancy in the early 1990s. Abdul Haque alias Jehangir joined the Hizbul Mujahideen and rose to become battalion commander. A few years later, his friend Mohammad Aslam joined the ranks and was trained in various camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. It was in a militant camp in the Kotli area of Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in 1998 that the two met again

Indian Express, 19 May 2008

**After recent infiltration, Govt tells nomads to avoid traditional routes**

JAMMU, MAY 18: The recent infiltration and spurt in militant activities has not only made authorities, police and armed forces wary of attacks in the state ahead of the polls and the Amarnath yatra, the government for the first time has restricted movements of the nomads of the Gujjars-Bakerwal tribes to the upper reaches of the Himalayas. Nearly two lakh nomads of the two tribes, along with their cattle, migrate to the higher reaches each summer. But as a precautionary measure, official sources said, they have been asked not to take their traditional routes which is also accessed by militants

Hindu, 22 May 2008

**Kashmir: Pakistan open to 'innovative ideas'**

ISLAMABAD: Without specifically committing itself on President Pervez Musharraf's four-point proposals for Kashmir, Pakistan's new government is saying it is open to 'innovative ideas' on resolving the issue. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said at a joint press conference with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee after their talks on Wednesday that his government 'was open to innovative ideas that can facilitate movement' on resolving Kashmir

Hindu, 22 May 2008

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Daily Excelsior, 22 May 2008

### **Mirwaiz spits on elections, wants Indo-Pak talks in Srinagar**

SRINAGAR, May 21: Chairman of the so-called moderate faction of Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, today ruled out his separatist conglomerate's participation in Assembly elections and invited three of his estranged colleagues---Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mohammad Yasin Malik and Sajjad Gani Lone---back to join his organisation in "larger interest of the freedom movement". Addressing a remembrance congregation on occasion of the death anniversary of his father Mirwaiz Maulvi Mohammad Farooq and prominent separatist leader Abdul Gani Lone at Mazaar-e-Shuhada (Martyrs' Graveyard) today Mirwaiz Umar made it emphatically clear that there was no question of the Hurriyat's participation in any elections until held for right of self-determination in Jammu & Kashmir. He said that Hurriyat would establish its offices on all District and Tehsil headquarters and revitalise its struggle for "freedom"

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Daily Excelsior, 22 May 2008

### **Ease restrictions on LoC travel: Farooq**

Mendhar, May 21: Former Chief Minister and patron National Conference Dr Farooq Abdullah today called upon both India and Pakistan to ease restrictions on travel between Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawlakote to provide relief to thousands of divided families on both sides of border. "I urge both India and Pakistan to ease travel restrictions and formalities so that the people can be benefited at large", he said adding that the people of both countries should come closer to understand each other so that atmosphere of peace, goodwill and confidence could be created. "We want travel between the two parts to be eased on the pattern of European Union without any restrictions ", he said

adding instead of travel permit the visitors on both side of border should be allowed to move freely across the border by using their Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC)

Daily Times, 22 May 2008

**Editorial: Talking about Kashmir**

It was rather disappointing on Tuesday to see 'expert discussions' on most TV channels about Kashmir against the backdrop of the ongoing round of talks between the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan in Islamabad. No effort was made to put the Indo-Pak talks in perspective and study the present state of the Kashmir issue in the light of the regional and global changes that have come about; nor were the post-Kargil internal changes in Pakistan objectively studied. Indeed, no 'expert' was willing to fairly interpret Pakistan's decision not to link the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project with the resolution of the Kashmir dispute

Hindu, 23 May 2008

**Zardari for troop reduction in J&K**

ISLAMABAD: Following up on Pakistan's commitment of working for a 'grand reconciliation' with India, the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on Thursday made two proposals - reduction of the Army's presence in Jammu and Kashmir and creation of economic zones along the border. The PPP, however, suggested that any cut in Army deployment could be compensated by India by posting more paramilitary forces and police which would be 'more humane.'

Daily Excelsior, 23 May 2008

**Salah-ud-din to Pak Govt: Stop this Junoon: 10,000 Kashmiri students to dance to a new tune from Pakistan**

SRINAGAR, May 22: Even as the United Jihad Council (UJC) chief Syed Salah-ud-din as well as the hardliner separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani have called for a shutdown in Kashmir on Saturday against the visit of the SAARC civil society delegation, preparations are underway to arrange a huge assembly of 10,000 Kashmiri students for a controversial concert by Pakistani artists at SKICC on Sunday. And the band performing in open air on the lush green SKICC lawns will be none other than Lahore-based Junoon which had begun value addition to the people-to-people contact between India and Pakistan with Urmila Matondkar's song-and-dance sequences in Lahore three years ago

Tribune, 24 May 2008

**J-K security funds go to wrong hands**

New Delhi, May 23: Crores of rupees spent as secret service funds in Jammu and Kashmir every year are being misused. These funds, controlled by the Intelligence Bureau and the Army, are never subjected to any audit so far and are going to wrong hands from television stations to 'funds channelled to militant informers'. Consider the magnitude of the problem. An IB operation traced the leakage of funds from corpus meant for the government all the way to Afghanistan where it was used to purchase rocket launchers, which were then used to target the Army in Poonch sector. This is not all. An NSA report says that this money has even funded militants' love affairs and

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Hindu, 24 May 2008

### **Junoon set to perform amid protest**

SRINAGAR: The Lahore-based band 'Junoon' is all set to perform in Srinagar on Sunday amid protest by separatists who have expressed concern over opening Kashmir to delegates from SAARC countries. While Syed Ali Geelani has called for a shutdown on Saturday, the United Jihad Council, an umbrella group of militant organisations, has asked the Pakistani government to stop the band from performing in Kashmir

Hindu, 25 May 2008

### **Join our 'musical jihad': Junoon**

SRINAGAR: Brushing aside the reservations about their performing live in Kashmir, Pakistani Sufi-rock band Junoon has asked separatist groups to join them on Sunday in a 'musical jihad' to usher in peace and harmony in the State

Daily Excelsior, 25 May 2008

### **Rlys ready to open 60 km track in Valley after June 15**

JAMMU, May 24: The Railway Ministry has expressed its readiness to open 60 kilometre of track from Anantnag to Budgam anytime after June 15 and geared up mobilization of staff from the Ferozepur Division. Authoritative sources told the EXCELSIOR that the Railway Ministry has made all sorts of arrangements for chugging of first ever train in Kashmir valley anytime after June 15 and conveyed the same to the State Government. "The exact date for the inauguration of the track will be decided only after the State Government indicates that it has completed the supportive infrastructure particularly approach roads to all the railway stations on this track", they added

Hindu, 26 May 2008

### **Srinagar rocks to Pakistani band Junoon's music**

SRINAGAR: Despite threats from militant organisations, thousands of Kashmiris, mostly youth, turned up for a musical concert organised by the South Asia Foundation (SAF) here on Sunday. The star attraction was the Pakistani rock band Junoon, which performed in Srinagar for the first time and turned thousands of music lovers hysterical. The event was to mark the opening of the Institute of Kashmir Studies at the Kashmir University

funded by the Foundation. It was aimed at spreading the message of peace, love and harmony

Daily Excelsior, 27 May 2008

**New ideas on Kashmir: Pranab**

NEW DELHI, May 26: Fresh from his visit to Pakistan, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee today said a "lot of new ideas", including on Kashmir, had come up during his discussions there and expressed confidence that many of these proposals will take concrete shape. Mukherjee said these ideas were aimed at building confidence and improve relations for which both countries would be working

Hindu, 31 May 2008

**In Kashmir, a house divided**

NEW DELHI: 'We must speak with one voice,' All Parties Hurriyat Conference chief and Srinagar religious leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said at the grave of his father earlier this month. Eighteen years ago, Maulvi Mohammad Farooq was shot dead in the midst of a covert effort to seek a negotiated end to the violence in Jammu and Kashmir. In part, at least, his dream seems to have been realised

Daily Excelsior, 31 May 2008

**NC, PDP, Cong likely to contest elections independently**

SRINAGAR, May 30: Notwithstanding a minor tie-up between Congress and Hakeem Mohammad Yasin's PDF in Valley and possibility of an identical arrangement on a few seats between National Conference (NC) and BSP in Jammu, all the four major mainstream political parties---Congress, NC, PDP and BJP---are, by all indications, heading for contesting the forthcoming Assembly elections independently. Even as the elections appear to be visible not before October this year, Congress, PDP and NC have already launched separate election campaigns in Kashmir as well as in Jammu. Separatist hardliner Syed Ali Shah Geelani has, at the same time, triggered off his anti-election campaign with perfect punctuality. On the other hand, radical militant groups have characteristically begun to paint "moderates" like Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Sajjad Gani Lone as men of dubious integrity in the Azadi camp. This appears to be an attempt to prevent them from participating in the elections, directly or indirectly

Tribune, 31 May 2008

**Infiltration reports put Udhampur on high alert**

Udhampur, May 30: Amidst reports that some militants have managed to sneak into the villages of Udhampur district bordering Samba, people have been put on high alert and Village Defence Committees (VDCs) have intensified patrolling in the sensitive areas, including Mansar, Majalta, Manbal, Ramnagar and adjoining localities. Further more, taking precautionary measures after Samba attack, the District Magistrate, Udhampur, has imposed ban on the sale and purchase of combat dress with immediate effect which would remain in force for a period of two months