

Daily Excelsior, 1 October 2008

**Mari's kadam, Mirpur's honey, Kandi's moong figure in trade**

JAMMU, Sept 30: Mari's 'kadam', Mirpur's honey and Peshawari chappal while Kandi belt's 'moong dal' and Pahari areas 'imli' are among about two dozen items approved for trade on Poonch-Rawlakot route in Jammu region. While the State administration had been sounded yesterday about the items to be traded on Uri-Muzaffarabad cross-LoC trade route, authorities in Poonch were submitted a list of items which will be exchanged between two divided parts of the State on Poonch-Rawlakot route. The items for trade on the two routes were cleared by Joint Working Group (JWG) of India and Pakistan which met in New Delhi on September 22. Cross-LoC trade is scheduled to begin on October 21. Initially, trucks will move on the two routes twice a week i.e. on every Tuesday and Wednesday but depending upon requirement their frequency could be increased later

Daily Excelsior, 2 October 2008

**After firing, Indo-Pak Army officers exchange sweets**

JAMMU, Oct 1: Series of cease-fire violations and infiltration attempts (by militants) backed by Pakistan army, both on Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) notwithstanding, Indo-Pak Army officers today exchanged sweets on the occasion of Eid at cross-LoC point of Chakkan-Da-Bagh in Poonch district from where trade is also scheduled to begin between two divided parts of the State later this month. Even when Lt Col Munish Kumar of Poonch Brigade and Lt Col Asad Khan of Pakistan army were shaking hands and exchanging sweets at Chakkan-Da-Bagh this morning, BSF officers were waiting for the Rangers at Kanachak to turn up for a flag meeting called by the BSF to discuss latest attempt of infiltration by the militants under covering fire of Rangers

Daily Excelsior, 2 October 2008

**Despite Pak protests, Army launches trekking to Siachen**

NEW DELHI, Oct 1: Notwithstanding Pakistan's vociferous protests, Indian Army today launched a civilian mountaineering and trekking expedition to the forbidding Siachen Glacier for the second year in a row. The 21-day expedition is meant to show to the international community that Indian troops hold the 72-km-long Siachen Glacier in the Salto Ridge region of Jammu and Kashmir, and Pakistan was nowhere near it. However, the aim of the trekking trip for 42 civilians-including women, journalists, DRDO scientists, and Defence personnel-is to promote adventure tourism among civilian youth of the country, Army sources said

Daily Excelsior, 3 October 2008

**Two Hurriyat leaders detained under PSA**

JAMMU, Oct 2: With holy month of Ramzan over, the authorities today began the process of detaining Hurriyat Conference leaders under Public Safety Act (PSA) to thwart their attempt to create trouble before and during the ensuing Assembly elections in Kishtwar and Doda districts. Besides Hurriyat Conference, leaders of some other organisations were also on target of the administration. As soon as two Hurriyat Conference leaders were arrested from their houses in Kishtwar town this morning, they along with their supporters shouted pro-Azadi slogans as tension gripped Kishtwar with hardliners among majority community downing their shutters. Anticipating trouble, authorities deployed Army in Kishtwar town and outskirts.

Daily Excelsior, 3 October 2008

**BSF, Rangers trade firing on IB; Militant killed, others sneak-in from RS Pura**

JAMMU, Oct 2: In yet another infiltration attempt by militants backed by Pakistan Rangers, the third during last six days in Jammu sector, one militant was killed and a group of three to four others was reported to have succeeded in infiltrating into this side from forward village of Kunara Tana Khurd near Bhaspur Bungalow in RS Pura sector tonight. Following reports of successful infiltration, police have sounded a red alert in entire Jammu district especially the areas leading from RS Pura and Suchetgarh borders to Jammu

Tribune, 4 October 2008

#### **Allow Pandits to visit PoK temple**

Our Correspondent Jammu, October 3 At a time when India and Pakistan are keen to open the trade routes between the two parts of Kashmir, a leading socio-cultural organisation of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits has reiterated its demand for allowing the community members to visit the Sharda Temple in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Ever since the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road was opened for public, we have been impressing upon both the governments of India and Pakistan to allow Pandits to visit the temple, since the shrine is a symbol of our religious and cultural identity, Ramesh Hangloo, president of the Pir Panchal Cultural Organisation said at a function held here today

Daily Excelsior, 5 October 2008

#### **Top Lashkar commander shot dead in Budhal**

RAJOURI/POONCH, Oct 4: A top militant commander of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) was gunned down by Special Striking Reserve (SSR), police and SOG in a fierce encounter at Dodimal in Targain area of Budhal in Rajouri district in wee hours of this morning while troops thwarted an infiltration attempt by the militants on Line of Control (LoC) at Sabra Gali in Mendhar sector of Poonch district last night

Daily Excelsior, 5 October 2008

#### **Curfew to be imposed to thwart Lal Chowk march**

SRINAGAR, Oct 4: Government tonight said it would impose curfew to thwart a march by separatists to Lal Chowk here on Monday. Principal Secretary (Home) Anil Goswami went on Doordarshan tonight to announce that curfew will be imposed and appealed to the people to cooperate with the authorities. He warned the people that if they attempt to violate the curfew, security forces would have to respond to ensure that they do not so

Indian Express, 6 October 2008

#### **Opinion: A tall order By Ejaz Haider**

Did President Asif Ali Zardari call the militant Islamist groups operating in Kashmir 'terrorists' while speaking with the US newspaper The Wall Street Journal? To begin with, we don't have a direct quote from Zardari on the issue. This is how the report puts it: 'He speaks of the militant Islamic groups operating in Kashmir as 'terrorists' - former President Musharraf would more likely have called them 'freedom fighters'.' Zardari has been castigated in Pakistan for putting it thus but what did he actually say and what was the context? We don't know. Did Bret Stephens, the interviewer, ask him, 'Mr President, do you think the groups fighting India in Kashmir are terrorists?' Did Stephens differentiate between this and that group?

Hindu, 6 October 2008

#### **Zardari calls J&K militants terrorists**

New York: Declaring that India is not a 'threat' to his country, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has described the militants operating in Jammu and Kashmir as

'terrorists,' the first such admission by any top Pakistani leader. 'India has never been a threat to Pakistan. I, for one, and our democratic government is not scared of Indian influence abroad,' Mr. Zardari told Wall Street Journal in an interview. He spoke of the militant groups operating in Kashmir as 'terrorists,' the paper said, noting that former President Pervez Musharraf would more likely have called them 'freedom fighters.'

Daily Excelsior, 6 October 2008

### **Kashmir under curfew to block Hurriyat's march**

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: Government has yet again decided to foil the separatist Hurriyat Conference's scheduled march to Lalchowk on October 6th with imposition of curfew in all major towns in Kashmir valley. No incident of violation of curfew, clashes or demonstrations was, however, reported from anywhere on day one of the near-total freeze of life. After a series of hectic meetings on Saturday, authorities decided to impose curfew in the entire capital city of Srinagar as well as all other district headquarters and major townships across the Valley late last night. Senior Government functionaries said that in follow up to the decisions taken at the highest level, all the 10 District Magistrates ordered imposition of curfew at midnight last. Later, PAS-fitted Police vehicles asked people to stay indoors and avoid any kind of movement outside without duly issued curfew passes as indefinite curfew had been clamped on major towns "only to protect human life and public properties"

News, 7 October 2008

### **Editorial: Terrorists or freedom fighters?**

In an interview to a leading US magazine, President Asif Ali Zardari has described militants operating in Kashmir as 'terrorists'. Till now, every Pakistani leader has described these people as 'freedom fighters'. In yet another diversion from the past, Mr Zardari has stated that India poses no threat to Pakistan and that Islamabad was not intimidated by its international influence. If these words mean a change in Pakistan's policies vis-a-vis its neighbour to the east, they could be immensely significant (not least the fact that in all likelihood it runs counter to the thinking still in currency at GHQ). For the past many decades, indeed since 1947 and the violent birth of the country, Pakistan's strategy in Kashmir has revolved around backing the freedom struggle in the Indian-held territory. A number of 'jihadi' groups have taken centre stage in this. The Pakistani establishment has always distinguished these forces from militants engaged in terrorism, although the line of distinction has become increasingly hazy over time. Certainly, Asif Ali Zardari seems to be lumping Al Qaeda, the Taliban and the 'jihadis' all together when he uses the term 'terrorist'. Although these organizations have maintained a lower profile since 2003, following a pact between Islamabad and New Delhi, the outfits themselves have been allowed largely to remain intact. Indeed, India has recently complained militants are again being sent across the LoC

Asian Age, 7 October 2008

### **Editorial: Has Zardari really changed Pak line?**

There will naturally be careful efforts in New Delhi to read the tea leaves in the light of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari's extraordinary remarks in a recent interview to the Wall Street Journal. The Pakistani leader said India had never been a threat to Pakistan, and that the militants operating in Jammu and Kashmir were "terrorists". If Mr Zardari were a stable, strong leader, the sentiments he has given expression to could quite appropriately have been termed revolutionary. They mark an absolute departure from any paradigm that has operated in India-Pakistan relations; and if taken to their logical conclusion, together the two statements offer a formulation that

can be a firm foundation for building sturdy, good ties between the two countries. This sense is only reinforced when seen in conjunction with Mr Zardari's March statement as PPP chief that India-Pakistan relations should not be made "hostage" to the Kashmir issue, which should be left for future generations to resolve

Tribune, 7 October 2008

### **Separatists take exception to Zardari's remarks**

Separatist leaders in Kashmir have resented and strongly reacted against the statement of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, wherein he had described the Kashmir militants as 'terrorists' and that India was no threat to Pakistan. The hardline Hurriyat Conference chairman, Syed Ali Geelani, said it was wrong on Zardari's part to say that India was no threat to Pakistan. 'This is against the historical facts', he said, claiming that the three Indo-Pak wars and the Kargil war had taken place only on 'India's initiative'. 'Friendly countries do not fight', Geelani commented and added that India had celebrated the creation of Bangladesh after the 1971 war.

Tribune, 7 October 2008

### **Zardari's effigy burnt**

Srinagar, October 6 Defying curfew, protesters today set afire an effigy of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in Baramulla town of Jammu and Kashmir, for terming militants operating in the state as 'terrorists'. More than 400 protesters defied curfew, which was imposed in the valley yesterday, gathered in Baramulla town and raised slogans against Zardari for his remarks on Kashmiri militants in an interview to the Wall Street Journal recently, official sources said. The agitators burnt an effigy of the Pakistani president before dispersing peacefully, sources said

Tribune, 7 October 2008

### **Editorial: Zardari speak; Begin a new era in India-Pakistan relations**

WHATEVER may have prompted Pakistan President Asif Zardari to tell some truths, they are indeed welcome. In an apparent turnaround of the Pakistani position, the civilian President has, for the first time, admitted that India has never been a threat to his country. More interesting, he has described the Kashmiri militant groups operating from Pakistan as 'terrorists', instead of 'freedom-fighters' as his predecessor General Pervez Musharraf had once described them. He has also spoken strongly in favour of better trade relations with India and identified some items like cement and cotton, which can be exported to India. All this is music to the Indian ears used as they are to hearing threats of 'thousand-year wars' and 'jehads' from across the border

Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2008

### **First Indian Mujahideen cadre killed in Kashmir?**

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: While a militant, killed in an encounter with Army in Lolab valley of Kupwara district, is believed to be the first Indian Mujahideen (IM) casualty in Kashmir, two gunbattles were underway till late tonight. Meanwhile, second and the last day of curfew has passed off peacefully as no major incident of violation took place anywhere in the Valley. Authoritative sources told EXCELSIOR that troops of 9 Para and Special Operations Group of J&K Police swooped on a militant hideout at Dever Mirgi, under jurisdiction of Police Station Lalpora in Lolab valley of Kupwara district, on the basis of intelligence inputs on Sunday. During the 36-hour-long operation, an encounter took place between the holed up militants and security forces in which one militant got killed. A photo identity card recovered from his pocket identified the slain militant as Shakeel Mohammad, resident of 383 Chowk

Kovalam, Kerala. One AK rifle with two magazines, 52 rounds of ammunition and a pouch was recovered from his possession

Daily Excelsior, 7 October 2008

### **Editorial: This Zardari**

This Asif Ali Zardari sounds positive and helpful. He has made certain significant statements in an interview to Wall Street Journal. According to the Pakistan President, the militant groups operating in Kashmir are "terrorists". He has made it clear that he has no objection to the India-United States nuclear cooperation pact so long as Pakistan is treated at "par". "Why would we begrudge the largest democracy in the world getting friendly with one of the oldest democracy?" he has asked. He is rather categorical: "India has never been a threat to Pakistan. I, for one, and our democratic government is not scared of Indian influence abroad." He comes out as an extremely realistic politician: "There is no other economic survival for nations like us. We have to trade with our neighbours first." He has responded with a "string of welcome, perhaps even historic surprises", to quote the newspaper, to a query whether he would consider a free-trade agreement with India

Hindu, 8 October 2008

### **2 militants from Kerala killed in Kupwara**

Srinagar: Two militants from Kerala were killed in a fierce gunbattle in Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Kupwara, the police said. However, it is not known to which outfit they belonged. The police said the militants, identified by their aliases Yasin and Fayaz, were killed in the Dever Migri forest area after Army personnel cordoned it off on a tip-off that a group of ultras was hiding there. During the search operation by the troops, the militants opened fire on them, resulting in a fierce battle. Arms and ammunition were recovered from the slain militants' person, the police said. The bodies were sent to Srinagar

Daily Excelsior, 8 October 2008

### **PSA on another Hurriyat leader**

JAMMU, Oct 7: Another leader of Hurriyat Conference, who was arrested by police a day before, has been booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) while dossiers of 18 other Hurriyat leaders and Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of militants have been sent to the District Magistrate for issuance of PSA warrants in Doda district. Dossiers of 12 other separatists and OGWs are being pursued, official sources said. A number of active leaders of Hurriyat Conference and some other separatists have gone underground in Doda and Kishtwar districts after two Hurriyat leaders were arrested and booked under PSA in Kishtwar last week. The Hurriyat leaders, who have deserted their houses in the two districts, were apprehending their arrest

Times of India, 9 October 2008

### **Army jawan killed as troops foil infiltration bid in J&K**

JAMMU: An Army jawan was killed as troops foiled yet another bid by militants to infiltrate under the cover of firing from Pakistani side along Line of Control in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior army official said on Thursday. This is the fourth infiltration bid in past 12 days and sixth in the last three weeks along the Indo-Pak border in J&K. A group of unidentified militants entered Indian territory under the cover of cross-border firing along LoC in Keri sub-sector of Rajouri district late Wednesday night, he said

Daily Excelsior, 9 October 2008

### **NC, PDP stress on pre-poll CBMs in Valley**

SRINAGAR, Oct 8: Even as the two national political parties, Congress and BJP, which have a sizable base in Jammu, expressed their preparedness for contesting the Assembly elections in November-December, Kashmir-based National Conference as well as Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) today stressed on initiating certain confidence building measures (CBMs) before holding of the six-yearly democratic exercise in Jammu & Kashmir. After a series of meetings with Governor and senior Government functionaries on Tuesday, Election Commission of India (ECI) today interacted with delegations of seven national-level and three state-level political parties to take their views with regard to holding of Assembly elections in the turbulent border State

Hindu, 10 October 2008

### **Terror trail links Kerala with Kashmir**

NEW DELHI: Investigators believe two Kerala men shot dead near the Line of Control in northern Jammu and Kashmir earlier this week were on their way to a Lashkar-e-Taiba-run training camp in Pakistan. Little headway has so far been made towards identifying the two killed men, but circumstantial evidence - including a forged election identification card and handwritten religious texts in Malayalam - suggests they were indeed from Kerala. Based on reports from informants, the Jammu and Kashmir police believe the killed men were part of a group of at least five men from Kerala's Malappuram district who had been holed out with a Lashkar unit in the Lolab mountains this past month, waiting for an opportunity to cross the LoC safely

Daily Excelsior, 10 October 2008

### **Baglihar to reduce J&K's power purchase bill by Rs 400 crore**

By Mohinder Verma JAMMU, Oct 9: With the commissioning of 450 Mega Watt (MW) Baglihar Hydro Electric Project (BHEP) on River Chenab at Chanderkote in Ramban district tomorrow by the Prime Minister and subsequent commercial generation of electricity, the power purchase bill of Jammu and Kashmir will get reduced by about Rs 400 crore. This is third power project commissioned on River Chenab after Salal in Reasi district and Dul Hasti in Kishtwar district and second by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh this year. The PM had commissioned 360-MW Dulhasti Project in Kishtwar on April 26, 2008

Hindu, 10 October 2008

### **Manmohan offers dialogue**

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday said the government was ready for a dialogue with all sections but did not specify any group or individual. He said the elections in the State would be free and fair and that was the best way in a democracy to test the popularity of any group. Addressing a press conference here, Dr. Singh said: 'It has always been our belief that even the most difficult issues can be resolved through dialogue. This is the reason why we started a series of round table conferences. The government will welcome dialogue with all sections of people. This also includes those who have so far opted to stay out of the political process

Hindu, 10 October 2008

### **We can make borders irrelevant: PM**

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told a press conference here on Friday that good relations with Pakistan, 'our very important neighbour to the North are an essential part of our policy.' 'My vision of India-Pakistan relations is that both countries situate their bilateral relations in a cooperative framework of mutual understanding. We seek the normalisation of our relations with Pakistan, a solution of all issues that cause estrangement, including Jammu and Kashmir through

dialogue and peaceful negotiations in an atmosphere free of violence. While we cannot change borders, we can make them irrelevant,' he said

Hindu, 10 October 2008

### **Pakistan voices concern over Siachen**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday reiterated its commitment to the peace process with India but also flagged 'serious concerns' over Siachen and the sharing of river waters as the country's new National Security Adviser Mahmud Ali Durrani prepared to leave for New Delhi for talks with his counterpart M.K. Narayanan. The top Pakistani official, who retired from the Army as a major-general and served as ambassador to the U.S. in the Musharraf regime, will arrive in the Indian capital on Saturday for the first ever talks between the National Security Advisers of the two countries

Hindu, 10 October 2008

### **Baglihar project commissioned**

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday appealed to Pakistan to work jointly to address the problems faced by the people of the two countries. He said the Baglihar power project had been constructed within the parameters of the Indus Water Treaty. Inaugurating the 450 MW Baglihar power project at Chanderkote in Ramban district of Jammu region, Dr. Singh said India and Pakistan should learn to help each other. Referring to Pakistan's objection on the Baglihar project, he said, 'We have acted as per the treaty concerning Baglihar.'

Daily Excelsior, 10 October 2008

### **Pak troops change strategy on LoC to push intruders**

JAMMU, Oct 10: Following series of protests lodged by India at various levels over cease-fire violation by Pakistan army and Rangers at Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) mainly with a view to give covering fire to infiltrators, the troops across LoC and border have started mixing up with infiltrators to push the latter instead of opening direct firing on Indian posts. Official sources said the new strategy of Pakistan army has been witnessed in three to four intrusion bids last week on LoC in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri. "Instead of directly opening fire on troops on this side from their posts, Pakistan army soldiers have been mixing up with infiltrators to target forward posts of Indian positions and helped the militants to cross LoC", sources said referring to the new trend witnessed on LoC during three-four intrusion bids last week which had reportedly been foiled

Tribune, 11 October 2008

### **PM's olive branch to separatists**

Srinagar, October 10 In an effort to resolve the prevailing stalemate in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today sent out an open invitation to all separatist elements in the state to come forward for talks, giving an assurance that all matters could be worked out through dialogue. Taking a break from a prolonged all party meeting here at the Shere Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), the Prime Minister also sent out clear signals that elections in the state could be held in the near future. While appealing to all people to participate in the election process, the Prime Minister pointed out that elections were a process to test the popularity of any party and that the government was committed to free and fair polls in the state

Hindu, 12 October 2008

### **Historic day as Kashmir is put on rail map**

SRINAGAR: Amid a complete shutdown called by separatists, Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh on Saturday flagged off the first ever train in the Kashmir Valley at the Nowgam station on the outskirts of Srinagar. In the first phase, it will cover 66 km from Anantnag in the south to Rajvansher in central Budgam district. The train is part of a Rs. 11,200-crore project, which will connect Kashmir with the rest of the country. The flower-decked train carrying schoolchildren initially covered 1 km and returned to the station. United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Railway Minister Lalu Prasad, Union Ministers Saifuddin Soz and R. Velu and Governor N.N. Vohra were present. Mr. Yadav said it was a historic day for Kashmir. The train would usher in a new era of development in the State. 'For development, infrastructure is important and with the commissioning of this train, people will feel relief.'

Daily Excelsior, 12 October 2008

#### **Muzaffarabad delegation interacts with Governor**

SRINAGAR, Oct 11: Governor, N N Vohra, today welcomed the idea of floating an umbrella organisation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries, PoK, Kashmir and Jammu, and expressed the hope this will pave the way for better understanding and cooperation between trading fraternity of the two parts of the State. The suggestion for floating an umbrella organisation came from Zulfikar Ansari, leader of the Muzaffarabad delegation, during an interaction with the Governor here this evening. Mr Vohra expressed optimism about things falling in place for better and feasible trade links once a conducive atmosphere is generated. "As of now, our emphasis should be on giving a kick start to cross-LoC trade without getting excessively overawed by the procedural aspects", he said, adding that further refinements in the system will keep taking place as the trade progresses. He stressed for developing a spirit for emerging in mutually profitable trade, saying that this is crucially important for generating an atmosphere of trust, cooperation and goodwill

Daily Excelsior, 12 October 2008

#### **4 LeT militants killed in Valley**

SRINAGAR, Oct 11: Four militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit were killed in two separate encounters in Kupwara and Pulwama districts today. A police spokesman said that acting on a specific information that some militants were hiding at Badli Beri near Sogam in the Kupwara district, a joint operation was launched by troops of 18th Battalion of Rashtriya Rifles, 9 Para and Special Operations Group (SOG) Lolab on the intervening night of October 10 and 11. When the troops were carrying out search operation in the area, the hiding militants fired upon them. The security forces personnel immediately took the position and started effectively retaliating the fire. In the night-long gunbattle, three Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants were killed. They have been identified as Abu Hafiz, Hafiz and Saqib, all the residents of Pakistan

Tribune, 12 October 2008

#### **A train to nowhere, feel Kashmiris**

'Train politics' of the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government failed to enthuse the people of the valley with protests and a complete shutdown (civil curfew) announced by the 'separatists coordination committee' greeting the dignitaries from Delhi. The Prime Minister, flanked by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, railway minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, J&K Governor N. N. Vohra, former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and member of Parliament Mehbooba Mufti, flagged off the luminous red DEMU train at 10 am. The enthusiasm that was seen during the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus flag-off more than a year ago was missing

Hindu, 13 October 2008

### **Cross-LoC trade set to take off despite hurdles**

SRINAGAR: The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AJKCCI), Zulfiqar Abbasi, on Sunday called for immediate steps to remove impediments in facilitating the trade across Line of Control (LoC) from October 21. He said absence of a direct telecommunication link between the two parts was the biggest hurdle. Mr. Abbasi told The Hindu that so far their visit had been very successful and they were looking forward to having a similar meeting with the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry. 'We discussed the modalities for the trade. We have identified all the issues and impediments on which we are making recommendations to both the governments,' he said adding that both sides had agreed to set up a joint platform to address all these issues

Asian Age, 13 October 2008

### **Kashmir train draws big crowd**

Oct. 12: The first commercial train in Kashmir chugged on the tracks of the Valley on Sunday with thousands of people turning up at the eight railway stations to experience the ride. People were seen at almost all railway stations between Rajwansher in Budgam district and Anantnag district from very early on Sunday morning to get the tickets and be among the first ones to witness the historic moment. Ali Mohammad Wani had reached Srinagar Railway station at Now-gam at 7 am although the train was scheduled to arrive much later

Daily Excelsior, 13 October 2008

### **Two more slain ultras hailed from Kerala; Police launches probe to unravel LeT designs**

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: State Police and Central security agencies have launched a probe to unravel the designs of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba of recruiting people from various parts of the country especially Kerala as police and Army shot dead two militants hailing from Kerala in Lolab valley of North Kashmir yesterday. Sources in the State Home Department said that following the killing of three militants including two hailing from Malappuram district in northern Kerala, where the Calicut airport is located, both the State Police and their counterparts in Kerala were working to ascertain their actual identity as the documents recovered from them about their identity could be misleading

Daily Excelsior, 13 October 2008

### **Hundreds queue up for joyride**

SRINAGAR, Oct 12: A 65-year-old man was among hundreds of people, including women and children, waiting since early this morning along with his grandson and granddaughter at Nowgam railway station for a joyride on the first day of the maiden run of the train which was flagged off by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday. "We have left our Natipora house at 0620 hrs to catch the first train on its maiden run," Nazir said at the railway station. Recalling his childhood days, he said he and his elder sister were also taken to Hazuri Bagh (now called Iqbal and Children Park) near the Bakshi stadium by his grandfather to have joyride on train in 70s and 80s

Tribune, 13 October 2008

### **PoK delegation explores Jammu's trade potential**

Jammu, October 12 A 19-member delegation of the PoK traders, headed by Zulfiqar Abbasi, arrived here today. The delegation was accorded a warm welcome by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Industries. Addressing a meeting of the traders from both the sides, Abbasi stressed on the need for better

infrastructure and communication modes for the success of the cross-LoC trade. He supported the idea of opening all the historic routes for trade. He said they could only exchange gifts in such vehicles

Hindu, 14 October 2008

### **No decision yet on J&K elections**

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission is yet to take a decision on holding the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The Full Commission, comprising Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami and Commissioners Navin Chawla and S.Y. Qureshi, has been holding talks since Friday last. But no decision is forthcoming, Commission sources said. In Jammu and Kashmir, which is under President's Rule, elections will have to be held by January 10, 2009. The sources said an announcement on holding the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Mizoram was likely to be made on Tuesday

Daily Excelsior, 14 October 2008

### **117 cross over from Chakkan-Da-Bagh; PoK elders throng Poonch**

JAMMU, Oct 13: Despite suffering from ailments, several elderly citizens of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) today crossed over to this side from Chakkan-Da-Bagh cross-LoC point in weekly Poonch Rawlakot bus services in Poonch district hoping to see their divided family members at the fag end of their lives. The elders were among 117 civilians who crossed LoC from Chakkan-Da-Bagh today. Deputy Commissioner, Rawlakot, Muzaffar Mohd today also travelled upto cross-LoC point reportedly to review arrangements ahead of the launch of trade between two parts of the State from October 21

Tribune, 14 October 2008

### **Cross-LoC trade in dual currency**

The trade bodies from both parts of undivided Jammu and Kashmir have decided to use dual currency (Indian and Pakistani) for cross-LoC trade while the US dollar will be the reference currency, stated Zulfiqar Abbasi, president of the PoK Chamber of Commerce and Industry, here today. Interacting with mediapersons on the sidelines of an exhibition of industrial products, Abbasi said they had formed working groups in which people affiliated with same businesses would sit together and explore trade possibilities

Daily Excelsior, 15 October 2008

### **EC defers decision on J&K Assembly polls**

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: Reported differences among the Election Commissioners today appeared to have stalled a decision on holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which witnessed large scale violence triggered by the controversy over the Amarnath land row. The Commission, which announced the Assembly poll schedule for five States, did not give any decision on whether elections will be held in the troubled border State before the expiry of Governor's rule on January 10

Daily Excelsior, 15 October 2008

### **Two top LeT ultras, jawan killed in Mendhar**

JAMMU, Oct 14: Two hardcore militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and an Army soldier were killed in a fierce encounter at village Sangiot in Kalaban area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch district this morning. With a spurt in infiltration attempts ahead of winter, Army and police intercepted a a group of militants, at Sangiot, about a couple of kms from Line of Control (LoC) in the wee hours of this morning, official sources said

Tribune, 15 October 2008

### **Opening of trade route to strengthen Indo-Pak ties**

A delegation of the Muzaffarabad (PoK) Chambers of Commerce has said the opening of the trade route between the two parts of the undivided state would pave way for building strong bonds between India and Pakistan and would help in strengthening the ongoing peace process. While speaking in the interaction session with the media, the PoK chamber president Zulfikar Abbasi said the opening of the trade link between the two countries should be looked upon as a first milestone towards 'thousand miles journey' that may lead to strong bonds between the two nations besides helping in building up of peace process

Hindu, 20 October 2008

### **7-phase J&K polls from November 17**

NEW DELHI: Assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir in seven phases from November 17 to December 24. The counting of votes will be on December 28 and the election process will be completed by December 31. The State has 87 Assembly constituencies, including seven reserved for Scheduled Castes. Altogether 65,38,111 electors are eligible to exercise their franchise through 8,109 polling stations to be set up in various areas of the State, including in snow-clad Leh and Kargil regions. The notification for the first phase will be issued on October 24

Times of India, 21 October 2008

### **58 ceasefire violations by Pak since 2003: Antony**

NEW DELHI: Pakistan had violated the five-year-old border ceasefire as many as 34 times since January but the Army has managed to thwart a majority of the infiltration bids across the Line of Control this summer. "A total of 58 incidents of ceasefire violations by the Pakistani side have taken place since the ceasefire came into effect in November 2003. Our troops suffered four fatal and 13 non-fatal casualties in them," defence minister A K Antony told Lok Sabha on Monday

Hindu, 22 October 2008

### **Apples, honey cross LoC**

SALAMABAD (URI): The much-awaited cross-LoC trade began on Tuesday with Jammu and Kashmir Governor N.N. Vohra flagging off a caravan of 13 trucks carrying goods on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road. At the Chakan Da Bagh crossing point on Poonch-Rawalakote road, Governor's Adviser H.H. Tyabji flagged off the first consignment of three trucks at Poonch. Describing the cross-LoC trade as an important confidence-building measure aimed at normalising India-Pakistan relations, Mr. Vohra said the people of Jammu and Kashmir would benefit as the trade links would open up new vistas of economic progress in the region

Hindu, 22 October 2008

### **'LoC trade will lead to closer ties'**

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) declared Tuesday as the Day of the Commerce Caravan to mark the inauguration of the first trade between the two sides of Kashmir since 1947. PoK Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, who was at Chakothi to receive the trucks that came in from the Indian side and send off the PoK trucks, expressed the hope that cross-LoC trade would help towards a resolution of the Kashmir problem

Daily Times, 22 October 2008

### **Editorial: Making the borders 'irrelevant'?**

As fifteen trucks laden with 'gift items' cross the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir today, a first step will have been taken in 'making borders irrelevant', a policy agreed between Pakistan and India. The decision on this policy was taken last month by the PPP coalition government and agreed to by New Delhi. The idea is to replace an earlier policy of confrontation in which neither party was making headway with a lateral attempt to 'to solve the Kashmir dispute by creating 'soft borders' and allowing free movement of goods and people'

Daily Excelsior, 23 October 2008

**PoK traders reciprocate with grapes, figs, spinach, garlic; Commercial business too begins with Rs 35,000 consignment**

JAMMU, Oct 22: While traders from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) today reciprocated with three lorries full of locally produced vegetables, fresh fruits and basmati rice etc as gift items for Poonch traders, commercial trade on Poonch-Rawlakot route also began with goods worth Rs 35,000 purchased by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu from their PoK counterparts. Contrary to a low key function in Poonch yesterday during launch of cross-LoC trade on Poonch-Rawlakot route in view of model code of conduct imposed in the State for Assembly elections, it was a high profile function at Zero Line at Titrinote in PoK today with PoK 'President' Raja Zulkarnain Khan, a host of Ministers, bureaucrats, political leaders, journalists, Advocates and school students turning up to flag off three lorries full of gift items for Poonch signaling launch of cross-LoC trade from Rawlakot

Daily Excelsior, 23 October 2008

**Omar launches election campaign from Budgam**

SRINAGAR, Oct 22: In three days of the Election Commission of India's announcement of the polling schedule, National Conference (NC) President, Omar Abdullah, and Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman, Yasin Malik, have taken the lead respectively in the Valley's mainstream and separatist camps in launching their campaigns in favour of and against holding of the democratic exercise of Assembly elections in the strife-ravaged Jammu & Kashmir. While Omar jumped into the challenging mission of his 11-year-long political career in Budgam, Malik organized the Valley's first anti-election rally from one-time counter-insurgent bastion of Hajjan, Sonawari, in north Kashmir

Tribune, 23 October 2008

**Poll fever gaining momentum; BJP finalises 10 candidates for first two phases**

Jammu, October 22 With only a couple of days left for the filing of nominations for the first phase of the Assembly polls in the state, political parties have announced the names of candidates for the constituencies going to the polls in the first two phases - November 17 and 23. Among the mainstream parties, the BJP has announced the names of its candidates for the 10 Assembly seats which will go to the polls in the first two phases

Rising Kashmir, 23 October 2008

**Editorial: Move Beyond Trade**

Trucks laden with merchandise from both parts of Kashmir have finally rolled on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road thus fulfilling the long pending desire as well as demand of the people on both sides Though it has begun on a symbolic note with handful of trucks reaching Chakothi trade centre on other side and Salamabad on this side but the beginning in itself is the major achievement for the people. The trade across LoC has not come without a cost. It is the huge investment of 61 years which has been

made mostly on this side for this thing to happen. It is unfortunately the precious blood which has spilled over the roads in Kashmir for the last so many years. The people have not laid down their lives only for the trade or the movement of civilians but for a larger goal. But the fact remains that it is a good beginning for a process which can culminate in finding a durable, peaceful and amicable solution to the people. Opening of the road for trade comes after three months of Muzaffarabad chalo called by traders of Kashmir in wake of economic blockade in Jammu

Daily Excelsior, 24 October 2008

**Poll process being set into motion for 1st phase today**

JAMMU, Oct 23: The Election Commission will set into motion over two month long poll process in the State tomorrow with issuance of election notification for four districts involving 10 constituencies, which will go to polling in first phase on November 17. The State will go to polls in a total seven phases with counting scheduled for December 28. Both districts of Ladakh region and one district each in Jammu and Kashmir regions will be covered in first phase of polling. The districts include Bandipora in Kashmir, Leh and Kargil in Ladakh and Poonch in Jammu region

Daily Excelsior, 24 October 2008

**Farooq NC's candidate for CM: Omar**

JAMMU, Oct 23: Announcing Dr Farooq Abdullah as National Conference's Chief Ministerial candidate in the Assembly elections beginning from November 17, party president Omar Abdullah today claimed that National Conference is better placed to form stable Government and address the concerns of people in all the three regions of the State. "My father and party patron, Dr Farooq Abdullah is National Conference's Chief Ministerial candidate in the elections and since elections are being fought under my leadership I am facing a biggest challenge to get installed Dr Abdullah as next Chief Minister of the State", Mr Omar Abdullah said while talking to the media-persons at party headquarters here this afternoon

Daily Excelsior, 24 October 2008

**Opinion: JK elections are welcome By Arun Nehru**

Assembly elections in J&K are very welcome and good to see both the Congress and the BJP in agreement and along with the other five States we are virtually having a Mini General election and trends in these elections will determine 'final' alliances for the future and the type of Coalition for the future. Delhi and the BJP will be easy winners but in all the three states [MP, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh] there is a contest and whilst in theory the BJP has a advantage in MP, the Congress can well win the battle in Rajasthan and Chattisgarh and in all three cases there will be a very tough fight and winning and losing may well be determined by the choice of candidates

Rising Kashmir, 24 October 2008

**Opinion: Elections and the Self-determination By Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani**

Seven-phase elections starting from 17 November to 24 December have been announced to elect an 87-member assembly in Jammu and Kashmir. Hurriyat Conference had decided to pursue the election boycott campaign in the state. A formal trade between Muzaffarabad and Srinagar started on 21 October 2008 after 61 years. The restart of trade between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad is a welcome beginning. The current political habitat would have to surrender a substantial part of its jealously guarded territory to the economic interest of the common man. The only commodity that has prospered during the last 16 years has been politics, and the economic sapling of the common man has sapped badly

Daily Excelsior, 25 October 2008

### **Mirwaiz under 'house arrest'; Shutdown in Valley on UN raising day**

SRINAGAR, Oct 24: On an anniversary of the raising day of United Nations Organisation (UNO), Kashmir valley observed shutdown for which senior separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani had issued a call earlier this week. Shops, business establishments, Government and private offices, banks and educational institutions remained closed in the capital city of Srinagar as well as most of the major towns in the Valley. Chairman of so-called radical faction of the separatist Hurriyat Conference, Syed Ali Shah Geelani had asked the Kashmiris' to observe total shutdown on the UN raising day in an attempt to divert the attention of the world body towards its J&K-related resolutions passed nearly sixty years back but never implemented. Strife-torn Valley has witnessed as many as 1400 days of shutdown on the calls of separatist political leaders and militant outfits in the last 19 years of armed turmoil

Hindu, 26 October 2008

### **Three militant hideouts busted**

JAMMU: Security forces have busted three militant hideouts and recovered a huge quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives in Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir, defence sources said here on Saturday. Two hideouts were busted in separate places in Budhal area of Rajouri district on Friday, they said, claiming to have recovered 245 rounds of AK ammunition, four AK magazines, one pistol with its two magazines and 17 rounds, one improvised explosive device (IED) weighing one kg. and 800 gm. of black coloured explosive

Asian Age, 26 October 2008

### **Opinion: How the Valley was won By Jagmohan**

At the time of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the political stage of Kashmir was crowded with a variety of actors. There was the National Conference, headed by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. It dominated the Valley but had limited influence in Jammu and Ladakh. It had developed close rapport with the leaders of the Indian National Congress, particularly Jawaharlal Nehru, but its equation with the Muslim League was marked by hostility. Mirwaiz Moulvi Yusaf Shah, who had wild and fanatical following in the downtown area of Srinagar city, was antagonistic both to the National Conference and to the Congress. Then, there was the Muslim Conference which had little following in the Valley but had acquired rapid strength amongst the Muslims of the Jammu region during the last two years on account of its ideological affinity with the Muslim League. The Maharaja was yet another force. The Dogra Rajputs of Jammu considered him their own kith and kin. The relations between him on the one hand and Sheikh Abdullah and Pandit Nehru on the other were marked by mutual distrust and dislike

Daily Excelsior, 26 October 2008

### **Top Buddhist leader Chhewang jumps into fray from Leh**

JAMMU, Oct 25: The battle of ballots in mountainous Ladakh region, which is going to polls in first phase on November 17, has become interesting with top Buddhist leader and Lok Sabha member from Ladakh, Thupstan Chhewang himself jumping into fray from Leh Assembly segment. "Yes, I have decided to contest from Leh constituency. There was an overwhelming pressure not only from the top brass of Leh Union Territory Front (LUTF) but also from the local people on me to contest the Assembly elections. I had no option but to honour sentiments of the people and the LUTF leaders", Mr Chhewang told the Excelsior on telephone from Leh after a meeting of the LUTF leaders

Daily Excelsior, 26 October 2008

**Opinion: PoK traders in Jammu By Jitendra Singh**

It has always been this column's considered view that over the issues of conflict, where politicians fail, professionals hold the prospect of success. This was evident once again last week when trade representatives from Jammu and Kashmir sat down with their counterparts from Pak occupied Kashmir (PoK) and managed a breakthrough that had eluded the conventional diplomatic channels. The Jammu visit by the office bearers of PoK Chamber of Commerce and Industries was marked by a firm resolve from both sides to work together for mutual economic growth and the trade leaders from PoK were treated with due hospitality even though with an undue or unwarranted bonhomie and excitement

Tribune, 26 October 2008

**Nexus between Kerala, Kashmir militants; State police terms it reality**

A day after the Kerala police agreed that two of the militants killed in an encounter with security forces in the Kupwara district on October 7 were the residents of Kerala, the Jammu and Kashmir police said the number of militants, hailing from the southern state, could be higher in the valley. According to police sources, a group of 70 people who have been trying to cross over to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir from Kupwara district comprises a number of Kerala residents

Daily Excelsior, 26 October 2008

**Mufti releases document on concept of 'self-rule' 9 years after floating his party; PDP wants elected Governor, rollback of Central laws, withdrawal o**

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: Over nine years after floating his regional party, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Patron and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today released a detailed document on the much hyped concept of 'Self Rule' in the politically embattled State of Jammu & Kashmir. Rollback of the Central laws--- including the most sensitive articles 356 and 249, that empower President of India to dissolve the State Assembly and the Indian Parliament to legislate on matters of the State jurisdiction---, appointment of Governor (who should be a Permanent Resident of J&K State) by general elections besides withdrawal of the Indian troops and All India Services like IAS, IPS and IFS, are the main features of PDP's "Self Rule" document

Daily Excelsior, 26 October 2008

**Mufti releases document on concept of 'self-rule' 9 years after floating his party; PDP wants elected Governor, rollback of Central laws**

SRINAGAR, Oct 25: Over nine years after floating his regional party, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Patron and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today released a detailed document on the much hyped concept of 'Self Rule' in the politically embattled State of Jammu & Kashmir. Rollback of the Central laws--- including the most sensitive articles 356 and 249, that empower President of India to dissolve the State Assembly and the Indian Parliament to legislate on matters of the State jurisdiction---, appointment of Governor (who should be a Permanent Resident of J&K State) by general elections besides withdrawal of the Indian troops and All India Services like IAS, IPS and IFS, are the main features of PDP's "Self Rule" document

Indian Express, 27 October 2008

**Five top Hizb militants killed in J-K**

Jammu, October 27: : A self-styled militant commander was among five top Hizbul

Mujaideen ultras gunned down on Monday in an encounter with the army in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, dealing a major blow to the Pakistan-based outfit. Mohammad Amin, a "section commander", who was active in the state since 1998, and four other Hizbul militants were killed in retaliatory action by troops after they came under fire during a search and cordon operation in Nawapachi forest belt early on Monday morning, an army officer said in Jammu

Daily Excelsior, 27 October 2008

#### **Centre nod for 452 para-military coys**

JAMMU, Oct 26: The Union Home Ministry has approved 452 para-military companies for smooth conduct of Assembly elections in the State. The number will include about 100-odd companies already stationed in the State since Amarnath yatra. The State administration had projected a demand for 600 para-military companies. However, since elections in J&K were co-inciding with Assembly polls in five other States, the Union Home Ministry has approved 452 para-military companies for the State

Rising Kashmir, 27 October 2008

#### **Opinion: Drabu Formula: Think it over By Shuhab Hashmi**

On the face of it, the beginning of trade across Line of Control (LoC) is a giant step in the direction of bridging the gap between the two sides of Kashmir. A long pending desire and a demand from people have heralded a new change and it clearly indicates that how governments in Islamabad and New Delhi came under pressure to push forward the trade. It is a known fact that acute reservations from both sides had been always coming in the way of the process to take any final shape

Times of India, 28 October 2008

#### **Pak violates ceasefire, fires along LoC**

JAMMU: Less than a fortnight after Pakistan promised to stop cross-border firing, its troops on Tuesday shelled Indian posts, again violating the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani troops fired mortar shells and rocket projectile grenades and opened small arms firing on Indian posts along LoC in Sabzian area of Poonch district at around 11.45 pm last night, a senior army official said. Around ten shells were intermittently fired for nearly half an hour, he said adding that these shells exploded away from the forward posts and there was no casualty on the Indian side

Daily Excelsior, 28 October 2008

#### **6 top HM militants killed in Kishtwar**

JAMMU, Oct 27: Six top militants of Hizbul Mujahideen including a foreign mercenary were today gunned down by Army and police in a fierce exchange of gun-battle at Nithan, Gokund, about 30 kms from Navapachi in Kishtwar district. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from the slain militants. DIG Doda range Hemant Kumar Lohia told the Excelsior that Army and police teams trekked for two days to reach mountain locked Nithan village in Gokund area, about 30 kms from Navapachi and cordoned off about one square kilometer area last mid-night

Daily Excelsior, 28 October 2008

#### **Chhewang, Namgayal LUTF; Akhoon, Khan NC nominees**

JAMMU, Oct 27: The battle of ballot today hot up in Ladakh region and Poonch district of Jammu region, going to polls in first phase of polling on November 17 with top Buddhist leader Thupstan Chhewang filing his nomination from Leh as Leh Union Territory Front (LUTF) candidate and NC candidates Qamar Ali Akhoon, former Minister and ex-Chairman, Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil joining

fray from Kargil and sitting Councilor Feroz Khan from Zanskar. A 'tacit understanding' between LUTF and NC appeared to be on the cards for four Assembly segments of Leh and Kargil districts, the hints for which were dropped by leaders of both the parties

Daily Excelsior, 28 October 2008

### **Undeclared curfew, shutdown in Valley on Army day**

SRINAGAR, Oct 27: On the day of Kashmiri separatist leaders' shutdown call against the Army's first landing in Srinagar in 1947, Police and paramilitary forces today enforced undeclared curfew in most of the key townships in Valley. Police forced confinement of almost all the separatist leaders at their residential houses to prevent them from joining the High Court Bar Association-sponsored "human chain" in Srinagar Civil Lines and succeeded in arresting National Front (NF) President Nayeem Khan after looking for him for the last two month

Tribune, 29 October 2008

### **Unit II of Baglihar project starts**

Jammu, October 29 The second unit of the Baglihar hydroelectric project having a capacity of 150 MW power generation, started its commercial operation. With this, the project has started generating a peak power of 300 MW, a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) said on Wednesday

Tribune, 29 October 2008

### **Cross-LoC trade to benefit SAARC nations: NC**

Srinagar, October 29 NC patron and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah said the cross-LoC trade would not only help develop better relations between India and Pakistan, but would also benefit the SAARC countries

Daily Excelsior, 30 October 2008

### **Friends turned foes to fight it out in Leh**

JAMMU, Oct 29: Friends turned foes - Thupstan Chhewang, a prominent Buddhist leader and two time MP from Ladakh and Nawang Rigzin Jora, who held Works, Power, Industry & Commerce and other portfolios in previous coalition Government - are all set to fight it out for prestigious Leh Assembly segment, which is going to polls along with three other constituencies of Ladakh region in first phase on November 17. Another former Minister, Haji Nissar Ali, who held Social Welfare and Technical Education Departments in the previous Government, was also expected to face a straight contest in Kargil from NC nominee Qamar Ali Akhoun, a former Minister and ex-chairman Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil

Hindu, 31 October 2008

### **Normality returns to Baramulla**

Srinagar: Normal life resumed in Baramulla township of north Kashmir on Thursday after it had remained affected for six days against alleged highhandedness of security forces. Shops and business establishments opened in the morning in Baramulla district, 55 km from here, which witnessed violent clashes between mobs and the security forces over the past week, resulting in the killing of a youth and injuries to many others

Indian Express, 31 October 2008

### **As cross-LoC trade route opens, Kashmir fruit growers eye markets in the Gulf**

Srinagar, October 23 : On Tuesday, as a convoy of 12 pick-up vans carrying different varieties of fruits from the Valley crossed the Kaman Bridge, fruit growers lined up on the LoC to see off the vehicles. The mood was upbeat. After all, locals were witnessing trade between the Kashmir Valley and Pakistan occupied Kashmir after 61 years. India and Pakistan have agreed to start cross-border trade from Kaman in Uri and Chakanda Bagh in Poonch

Tribune, 31 October 2008

**Traders seek banking facilities, more routes**

The business community on this side has demanded certain measures to ease the trade process across the Line of Control (LoC), which began after a span of 61 years. First the community wants to do away with the barter system transaction. The traders want banking facilities and are waiting a decision on the use of currency. Secondly, instead of just two routes - Uri-Muzzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote - they felt the need of opening traditional trade routes of Suchetgarh-Sialkot, Nowshera-Mirpur and Pallanwala-Chamb