

# CLAWS Newsletter



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by Nomita Chandola

## **JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

### **1. J&K Budget 2025-26** ([The Tribune, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presented the 2025-26 Budget, outlining economic and tax reforms to enhance revenue, infrastructure, and social security while ensuring fiscal discipline. He projected a 7.5% economic growth for 2024-25 and 9.5% GSDP growth for 2025-26.

Key measures include a 12% road and token tax and a 3% green cess on non-transport vehicles registered in J&K but purchased outside. Fuel tax adjustments aim to promote clean energy. Tax revenue has increased to ₹11,650 crore, with non-tax revenue reaching ₹5,824 crore.

The government is working to reduce fiscal stress by improving tax compliance, digital tracking, and debt management. Infrastructure development remains a priority, with continued central financial support, including an additional ₹5,000 crore grant and shifting J&K Police funding to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Abdullah expressed gratitude to the central government for its assistance in stabilizing J&K's economy.

### **2. CM on terrorism after abrogation of Article 370** ([The Tribune, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah accused the BJP of inconsistency on terrorism and Article 370, questioning their claims that its abrogation would end militancy. He pointed out that terror activities have increased in Jammu post-Article 370, contradicting BJP's narrative.

Abdullah also demanded clarity on how the revocation changed development in the region, asserting that his party would continue fighting for J&K's statehood, people's rights, and dignity.

### **3. Mysterious killings in Kathua** ([Rising Kashmir, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

The gruesome killing of three people in Kathua's Billawar area has caused panic in Jammu and Kashmir. Their bodies were found in a river, raising suspicions of terrorist involvement. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh suggested the killings were part of a larger conspiracy to destabilize the region.



The victims, relatives of an army jawan, had gone missing from a wedding, triggering a search operation. Given past terrorist activities in Kathua, including attacks on security personnel, suspicion points towards cross-border terror networks. Reports also suggest two minors have been missing for 12 days.

Authorities are urged to intensify security measures to prevent further incidents and ensure peace in the region.

#### **4. Search operation in Poonch ([Greater Kashmir, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))**

A joint search operation by the Army, Police, and CRPF was launched in Poonch district following reports of suspicious movement in the Mandi area. The operation, conducted in response to information about suspicious individuals, took place after two days of monitoring. On Sunday, a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) was also carried out in the Dehra Ki Gali and Chamrer areas, including the dense forest cover. Additional security forces have been deployed to strengthen the region's security.

#### **5. Gulmarg fashion show controversy ([The Hindu, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))**

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah addressed the controversy surrounding a fashion show held in Gulmarg on March 7, 2025, during the month of Ramzan. Speaking in the Assembly on March 10, he stated that his government would not have allowed such an event at any time of the year, not just during Ramzan. The show, which took place at a private hotel, has been criticized as "obscene" and sparked protests in the Assembly.

Omar Abdullah clarified that the event was privately organized, with no involvement of the government in terms of funding, permissions, or infrastructure. However, he acknowledged that the concerns raised by the public and Assembly members were valid, as the event disregarded local sensitivities. An inquiry has been ordered, and if any legal violations are found, the case will be handed over to the police for further action.

Prominent religious leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also condemned the event, stating that such acts in the name of tourism promotion are unacceptable in Kashmir, which has a deep-rooted religious and Sufi culture. In response, the Chief Minister assured that he had sought a detailed report within 24 hours and that appropriate action would follow based on its findings.

**6. More civilians go missing in Kathua** ([The Tribune, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

Two boys, Deen (15) and Rehmat Ali (12), have gone missing in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district after going to graze cattle on February 27. Their disappearance follows the recent mysterious deaths of five civilians in the region. Police have launched a search operation, coordinating with officials in nearby districts.

Kathua has been tense after the bodies of three missing civilians were found on March 9, while two others were discovered last month, with postmortem reports indicating strangulation. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated that investigations are ongoing, while Union Minister Jitendra Singh suggested a possible terrorist link. The incidents have sparked protests and a shutdown in the area.

**7. Suspected movement along International Border in J&K's Samba** ([Daily Excelsior, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

Border Security Force (BSF) troops opened fire on suspected movement near the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district late at night on March 11. The incident occurred in the Ghagwal area around 1 AM when a BSF sentry spotted suspicious activity and fired multiple rounds in response.

Following the gunfire, a search operation was launched to rule out any security breach. Senior BSF officials, including the DIG, arrived at the scene to assess the situation.

**8. Uproar in J&K Assembly** ([Greater Kashmir, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed chaos as the opposition raised concerns over the use of force against protesting daily wagers. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called the issue "humanitarian," emphasizing that his government doesn't control the police. He criticized the police's actions, stating the protesters, who are government employees, should have been treated with compassion, not force. He further clarified that the police did not act under the government's directions. The ruling party MLAs countered by questioning the opposition's failure to regularize the workers over the past decade. The debate led to heated exchanges, with BJP MLAs staging a walkout in protest.

**9. Revival of Border Tourism** ([Greater Kashmir, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced that tourism in border areas has revived due to the ceasefire along the LoC and international border. He highlighted Uri's tourism potential, with growing interest in locations like Aman Setu. The government plans to improve infrastructure and explore projects like Zipline in Uri. The Tourism Department is also focusing on adventure tourism, developing key spots, and supporting private operators for activities like paragliding.

**10. Army jawan injured along LoC** ([Deccan Herald, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024](#))

On March 12, 2025, an Indian Army soldier was injured by suspected sniper fire from across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kalsiyan area of the Nowshera sector, Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir. The soldier received first aid before being evacuated to the military hospital in Udhampur for specialized treatment. This incident is part of a series of cross-border firings, with previous incidents reported on February 10 in Rajouri and February 14 in Poonch, resulting in injuries to two Army personnel.

**11. 35 Lakh Houses Built Under PMAY-G in J&K in 2 Years** ([Greater Kashmir, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

The Jammu and Kashmir government announced the completion of 135,925 houses under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Awaas Yojana (PMAY-G) in the past two years. The Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister highlighted that, based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 and AwaasPlus database, there is no new target for the 2024-25 financial year. However, the remaining 140,021 houses from earlier phases will be completed in the current financial year. Of the total houses built, 109,412 were in Jammu Division, and 26,513 in Kashmir Division.

**12. Centre bans AAC and JKIM** ([The Tribune, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has declared two Jammu and Kashmir-based political parties—Awami Action Committee (AAC) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM) led by Masroor Abbas Ansari—as unlawful associations

under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The ban is effective immediately for five years.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that these organizations were involved in inciting law and order issues, promoting secessionism, and posing a threat to India's unity and integrity. The Home Ministry's official order accused JKIM of engaging in unlawful activities that endanger national security and sovereignty. It alleged that its members have supported terrorist activities, spread anti-India propaganda, and fueled separatist sentiments in Jammu and Kashmir. Similarly, AAC has been accused of mobilizing funds for unlawful activities, backing separatist and terrorist actions, and advocating secessionism.

The government noted that several FIRs have been registered against Mirwaiz Umar Farooq for making anti-India speeches, supporting bandh calls, and urging election boycotts. The Centre asserted that if not curbed, these organizations would continue working against India's interests by promoting discontent and attempting to destabilize the region. The decision reflects the government's strict stance against separatism and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **13. No Special Power Bill Waiver for Terminally ill or Fishermen in J&K ([Kashmir Life, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))**

The Jammu and Kashmir government has ruled out any special electricity bill waiver for households with terminally ill patients or those from the fishermen community. In response to a query by MLA Hilal Akbar Lone, the government clarified that while there is no such provision, 275,081 domestic consumers have benefited from a 100% waiver on interest surcharges under an ongoing amnesty scheme.

Additionally, under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) category, domestic consumers will receive 200 units of free electricity as recently announced. The government reiterated that beyond this, no specific exemptions exist for particular groups.

### **14. Centre drops a rail project ([Kashmir Life, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))**

The Union government has scrapped the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh rail project due to high costs (₹55,896 crore) and low demand. The Jammu-Poonch rail project also remains stalled over feasibility concerns.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw confirmed no plans for a Ganderbal-Kargil rail link but stated that the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh rail line (₹1,31,000 crore) has completed its survey.

Meanwhile, five new railway surveys are underway in J&K, including Baramulla-Uri, Sopore-Kupwara, Anantnag-Pahalgam, Avantipore-Shopian, and Banihal-Baramulla doubling.

Rajouri and Poonch remain without rail connectivity, with no immediate expansion plans. The government cited feasibility, traffic projections, and financial constraints as key factors in railway planning.

#### **15. Govt. sources on terrorist presence** ([India TV, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

Government sources report that Jammu and Kashmir currently has the lowest number of active terrorists. A total of 59 Pakistani militants from Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) are operating in the region, along with 17 local terrorists.

Among the Pakistani terrorists, 3 belong to Hizbul Mujahideen, 21 to Jaish-e-Mohammed, and 21 to Lashkar-e-Taiba. The number of active local terrorists in Jammu is 3, while in the Kashmir Valley, it stands at 14. The government remains focused on counter-terror efforts to eliminate militant threats.

#### **16. Terror associates arrested in Bandipora** ([The Tribune, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested two terror associates in the Hajin area of Bandipora district. The suspects, Naseer Ahmad Parray and Mudasir Ahmad Parray, were detained at a checkpoint on Gandbal-Hajin Road. Security forces recovered arms and ammunition, including two Chinese grenades and mobile phones, from their possession. A case has been registered under relevant legal provisions.

#### **17. India slams Pakistan for “Unjustified” J&K reference to UNGA** ([News 18, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

India strongly criticized Pakistan for its reference to Jammu and Kashmir at the UN General Assembly, calling it an example of a "fanatical mindset" and a "record of bigotry." India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P. Harish, asserted that such remarks will neither validate Pakistan's claims nor justify its cross-border terrorism.

The response came after Pakistan's former foreign secretary, Tehmina Janjua, raised the Kashmir issue during a UNGA meeting on combating Islamophobia. Harish reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir was, is, and will always be an integral part of India.

**18. UK declines mediation role in Kashmir issue** ([TOI, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

UK parliamentary under-secretary Hamish Falconer stated that the United Kingdom will not act as a mediator in the Kashmir dispute, emphasizing that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political resolution, considering the wishes of the Kashmiri people. He acknowledged human rights concerns in both India-administered and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. This statement follows recent debates in the British House of Commons led by Labour MP Tahir Ali, which criticized India for alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

**PoK**

**19. J&K Police Attach Properties of Three PoK-Based Terrorists** ([The Tribune, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025](#))

Jammu and Kashmir Police attached 14.8 kanals of land worth over ₹28 lakh in Poonch district, belonging to three terrorists currently operating from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The action aims to dismantle the terror ecosystem in the region.

The terrorists—Najab Din, Mohd Latif (both from Kirni), and Mohd Bashir alias “Tikka Khan” (from Qasba)—had fled to PoK and were involved in promoting terrorism and disturbing peace in Jammu and Kashmir. The attachment was carried out per a court order linked to a 2022 case. Police and revenue officials executed the proceedings, reinforcing the administration's firm stance against terrorism.

**20. Rajnath Singh on PoK merger with India** ([NDTV, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh predicted that people in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) would eventually push for joining India due to India's rapid economic growth and global stature. He asserted that Pakistan would not voluntarily relinquish PoK, but its residents may not need Pakistan's consent for assimilation.



Addressing other political issues, Singh dismissed concerns over the 2026 delimitation, stating that seat increases would occur across all states. He also emphasized India's commitment to maintaining good relations with Bangladesh.

Regarding *One Nation, One Election*, he supported the idea, highlighting significant cost and time savings. Singh also acknowledged the Delhi government's Mahila Samridhi Yojana and reiterated the BJP's commitment to fulfilling promises.

## **TERRORISM**

- Security Forces (SFs) conducted a search operation in Dandesar village, Rajouri District, J&K, based on reports of suspicious movement.
- Jalandhar Police arrested two associates of the USA-based Sonu Khatri gang for their involvement in the killing of J&K Police Sub-Inspector Deepak Sharma. Two weapons were recovered.
- Police attached properties of three terrorists operating from Pakistan and PoJK in Poonch District. The seized land was valued at INR 2.8 million.
- Police attached a double-storeyed residential property belonging to militant associate Ilyas Ahmad Dar in Shopian District. The property was valued at over INR 24 lakh.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed SFs to set a timeframe for making J&K terror-free. New Quick Action Teams (QATs) and specially trained CRPF, Assam Rifles, and NSG troops will operate in hilly areas. CRPF will deploy five new Valley QATs in Kashmir.
- Police arrested an Over Ground Worker (OGW), Manzoor Ahmed alias Furqan, in Ramban District for anti-national activities.
- Terrorists hurled a grenade at a police post in Baramulla District; no casualties or property damage were reported.
- J&K DGP Nalin Prabhat equated the threats of terrorism and drug abuse, emphasizing a collective societal effort to tackle both issues. He highlighted concerns over schoolchildren being involved in drug trade.
- A Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) terrorist, Ulfat Husain, was arrested in Poonch District after evading authorities for 17 years.

- Police arrested six individuals in Budgam District for creating fake social media accounts to glorify terrorism. Legal action was initiated under preventive detention laws.



## About the Author

**Nomita Chandola** is a dedicated scholar in International Relations, with a strong academic foundation and a passion for understanding complex global issues. She recently earned her master's degree in International Relations from the University of Leeds, where she focused on modules such as global governance and climate security. Prior to this, she completed her bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Economics from Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi.

Currently, Nomita is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, where she delves into critical issues of strategic affairs and geopolitical dynamics. Her primary area of interest lies in South Asian studies, emphasizing security dynamics and their intersections with global politics. She aspires to pursue a PhD to further explore these themes. With a keen eye for policy analysis and research, Nomita aims to contribute meaningfully to the academic and policy discourse on international security and regional stability.



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