

CLAWS Newsletter



Jammu & Kashmir Lens | Vol. 1 | No. 5

by Nomita Chandola

JAMMU AND KASHMIR NEWS

1. CM on Home Minister's visit to J&K ([State Times, 1st April 2025](#))

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized that Union Home Minister Amit Shah's April 7–8 trip to Jammu and Kashmir was scheduled well before the recent Kathua counter-terrorism operation and bears no direct link to it. While Shah will review security and counter-insurgency efforts, his agenda also includes a public meeting in Jammu and the inauguration of development projects in Srinagar. Meanwhile, security forces—comprising the Special Operations Group, army and CRPF—are conducting a multi-agency combing operation in Kathua's forests on the tenth day of their search for three militants who escaped earlier encounters that left two terrorists and four policemen dead.

2. Pakistani Ceasefire Breach ([Kashmir Observer, 2nd April 2025](#))

On April 1, Pakistani troops intruded across the Line of Control in Poonch's Krishna Ghati sector, triggering a mine blast at around 1:10 pm followed by unprovoked firing on Indian forward posts; the Indian Army responded in a controlled and calibrated manner, inflicting injuries on five Pakistani soldiers and bringing the situation swiftly under control. Lieutenant Colonel Suneel Bartwal reaffirmed the importance of upholding the February 2021 DGsMO ceasefire understanding to maintain peace along the LoC.

3. Katra Stop Required for Vande Bharat to Srinagar ([India TV News, 5th April 2025](#))

The first Vande Bharat Express service into the Kashmir Valley will begin with an inaugural Katra–Srinagar run on April 19, flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while direct Delhi–Srinagar operations are slated for a second phase around August–September 2025. Due to security and health concerns, every Delhi-bound Vande Bharat will terminate at Katra, where passengers—covered by a single through-ticket—undergo luggage rechecks, security screenings, and a 2–3-hour acclimatization pause in dedicated waiting areas before boarding the onward train to

Srinagar. This phased rollout underscores Indian Railways' effort to bolster high-speed connectivity and ensure traveler safety on the sensitive, high-altitude route.

4. Review of the ban on two J&K-based Parties [\(The Tribune, 5th April 2025\)](#)

The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, led by Delhi High Court Judge Justice Sachin Datta, to review the recent five-year ban on two Jammu and Kashmir-based parties—Awami Action Committee (AAC) headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM) led by Masroor Abbas Ansari. The Centre declared both organisations as unlawful on March 12, citing their alleged involvement in terrorist activities, anti-India propaganda, and secessionist efforts. As per the UAPA, the ban will be confirmed only after the tribunal finds sufficient cause. The Home Ministry accused both groups of mobilising funds for unlawful acts, while Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated the government's tough stance against activities threatening national security.

5. Pak Intruder killed along IB [\(Kashmir Observer, 5th April 2025\)](#)

A Pakistani intruder was shot dead by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel along the International Border in Jammu's RS Pura sector on the night of April 4–5, 2025. The BSF observed suspicious movement near the Abdulian border outpost and, after the intruder ignored warnings, neutralized him. The individual's identity and motive are under investigation. Following the incident, the BSF lodged a strong protest with the Pakistan Rangers, who refused to accept the body during a flag meeting. Consequently, the deceased was given an Islamic burial in the Agra Chak area of RS Pura, with local Muslim community members participating in the rites.

6. Transformational Infrastructure Boost in J&K [\(Social News XYZ, 8th April 2025\)](#)

Major progress is underway on the Jammu–Rajouri–Poonch Highway, with the Border Roads Organisation widening the 180 km route, building five tunnels, and key bridges like the 250-metre Bathuni Bridge, now 40% complete and expected to finish by December 2025.

Locals have welcomed the transformation, noting improved safety, reduced travel times, and enhanced connectivity. Projects like the Pir Panjal tunnel and the Chenab Rail Bridge are seen as milestones, with rail links now reaching Srinagar. Travel from Poonch to Jammu is expected to drop from six to around three hours. The infrastructure push is set to boost the region's economy, accessibility, and strategic importance.

7. Advanced Electronic Surveillance System along the Borders ([Rising Kashmir, 8th April 2025](#))

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the deployment of advanced electronic surveillance systems along India's borders, starting with the India-Pakistan frontier, to enhance security and detect underground tunnels used for terrorist infiltration. Over 26 technological initiatives, including anti-drone systems, are being tested to bolster the capabilities of border forces. The project aims to cover the entire Pakistan border within the next three to four years, followed by the India-Bangladesh border.

8. J&K Assembly erupts over Waqf Act Debate ([Kashmir Observer, 8th April 2025](#))

On April 8, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly descended into chaos as National Conference (NC) and opposition MLAs clashed over the Waqf Amendment Act. NC members demanded a discussion through an adjournment motion, while opposition parties pushed for a resolution against the Act. PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para was marshalled out after storming the well of the House, and People's Conference leader Sajad Lone engaged in a verbal duel with NC legislators. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather ruled out any debate, stating the Assembly cannot undo Parliament's decisions, leading to a 30-minute adjournment.

9. Mysterious Deaths Spark Fear ([AlJazeera, 8th April 2025](#))

A string of mysterious disappearances and deaths in south Kashmir's Kulgam and Kathua districts has alarmed the Gujjar community, with families rejecting official claims of drowning or suicide. The bodies of young Gujjar men, including brothers Riyaz and Showkat Ahmad, were found in canals weeks after they went missing in

February 2025, showing signs of alleged torture. A third man, Mukhtar Awan, remains missing. Despite forensic reports citing drowning, families suspect foul play, citing historical distrust of authorities and past custodial killings of Gujjar men. Protests have erupted demanding an independent investigation, with incidents of police excess adding to public anger. The community remains gripped by fear, alleging systematic neglect and abuse by the state, and calling for justice and accountability.

10. J&K Startups at Startup Mahakumbh 2025 ([KNS News, 9th April 2025](#))

Two Jammu and Kashmir ventures, Genetico Pvt. Ltd. and GR8 Sports Pvt. Ltd., secured top honours—₹20 lakh in the HealthTech & BioTech category and ₹5 lakh in Gaming & Sports—at the DPIIT's Startup MahaRathi Challenge, outshining 2,400 competitors during Startup Mahakumbh 2025 in New Delhi. Backed by the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute under the J&K Startup Policy 2024, their victories highlight the Union Territory's emerging innovation landscape, further strengthened by a ₹50 crore government allocation for FY 2025-26 to fuel seed funding, incubators, mentorship and related startup initiatives.

11. One more disassociation from Hurriyat ([Greater Kashmir, 10th April 2025](#))

Fareeda Behan Ji, Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Mass Movement (JKMM), publicly declared her disassociation from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and similar separatist groups. In an affidavit, she emphasized that neither she nor her organization has any affiliation with APHC or any entity pursuing separatist agendas. Affirming her loyalty to India, Behan Ji stated, "I am a loyal citizen of India," and warned of legal action against any attempts to link her or her organization with such groups.

12. Employees dismissed over Terror Links ([The Kashmiriyat, 10th April 2025](#))

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has dismissed two Jammu and Kashmir government employees for alleged involvement in anti-national activities. The individuals are Basharat Ahmad Mir, an assistant wireless operator in the police department, and Ishtiyak Ahmad Malik, a senior assistant in the Public Works Department. Mir was reportedly in contact with Pakistani intelligence operatives, sharing sensitive information, while Malik was linked to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami

and Hizbul Mujahideen, providing logistical support to militants. These terminations, executed under Article 311(2)(c) of the Indian Constitution, bring the total number of government employees dismissed for similar reasons since 2019 to nearly 80.

13.3 terrorists killed, one JCO Martyred ([Kashmir Observer, 12th April 2025](#))

In Jammu and Kashmir, two separate encounters resulted in the elimination of three terrorists and the martyrdom of an Indian Army Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO). In Kishtwar district's Chhatru area, a joint Army and police operation led to the neutralization of three terrorists affiliated with the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) group. The operation, initiated on April 9, continued into April 12, with the forces employing drones and night-vision equipment to track the militants. A significant cache of weapons, including AK and M4 rifles, was recovered from the terrorists. Concurrently, in the Akhnoor sector along the Line of Control (LoC), Subedar Kuldeep Chand of the 9 Punjab Regiment was killed during a counter-infiltration operation. The terrorists, attempting to breach the LoC, engaged in a gunfight with the Army. Subedar Chand sustained fatal injuries and succumbed to them despite immediate medical evacuation. He was posthumously honoured in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tanda military garrison in Jammu. These operations underscore the ongoing efforts of Indian security forces to maintain peace and counter terrorism in the region.

14. Allocation of Rs. 1Cr. for Multipurpose Marketing in Nagrota ([Kashmir Horizon, 13th April 2025](#))

Minister Javed Ahmed Rana has announced a ₹1 crore allocation for establishing a multipurpose marketing centre at Nagrota, under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA). This initiative aims to enhance local trade, support tribal communities, and boost employment opportunities. Rana emphasized the government's commitment to holistic development and instructed officials to address issues related to water supply and contractor performance. He also highlighted plans to implement the Forest Rights Act across Jammu and Kashmir.

15. Tensions Rise Along LoC ([The Tribune, 15th April 2025](#))

Tensions have escalated along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu following an infiltration attempt by Pakistan-based militants that led to the death of Subedar Kuldeep Chand of 9 Punjab in the Keri Battal sector of Akhnoor. The infiltration, facilitated by Pakistani forces using small arms fire, occurred shortly after a flag meeting between Indian and Pakistani armies in Poonch. Indian forces retaliated, and the LoC remains on high alert, especially ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the region on April 19, now postponed. Intelligence sources report multiple recent infiltration attempts, likely aimed at spreading fear or replenishing militant ranks. Army leadership has reviewed preparedness, and surveillance has been intensified with modern detection systems.

PoK NEWS

16. China-Pakistan Pact in Gilgit-Baltistan ([Pamir Times, 8th April 2025](#))

China and Pakistan have signed an MoU to jointly explore lithium and other minerals in Gilgit-Baltistan, with activities including field expeditions, sampling, training, and exchange visits. The agreement was finalized during the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025 in Islamabad, attended by top officials including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and provincial chief ministers. Sharif highlighted the vast value of Pakistan's mineral resources and stressed the need for domestic processing to boost economic gains and reduce reliance on institutions like the IMF.

17. Pakistan's Mineral Drive Sparks Backlash in Balochistan ([TOI, 11th April 2025](#))

Pakistan's push for foreign investment in its mineral sector, showcased at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025 in Islamabad, has triggered protests in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. While the event aimed to attract global stakeholders to tap into trillions of dollars in mineral wealth, local communities accuse the central government of exploiting regional resources for the benefit of foreign powers and the elite. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's claim that mineral revenues could free Pakistan from global lenders was met

with skepticism, especially in Balochistan, where the Reko Diq mine remains a symbol of long-standing grievances.

18. PoK to Establish 1,000-Strong Rangers ([The Express Tribune, 12th April 2025](#))

Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwaarul Haq announced the formation of a 1,000-member Rangers Force to secure strategic installations and address the region's lack of a reserve law enforcement unit. Amid a Rs71 billion fiscal deficit, he stated that development continues and dismissed reports of budgetary issues with the federal government. He accused India's intelligence agency RAW of using fake social media accounts to destabilize the region and emphasized that Jihad remains central to Kashmir's liberation struggle. He also highlighted ongoing human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir, contrasting them with the situation in PoK.

19. Feasibility Study for International Airport in Mirpur ([Radio Pakistan, 13th April 2025](#))

PoK Government has officially launched a feasibility study for the establishment of an international airport in Mirpur. The initiative comes as part of efforts to improve connectivity for the region and address the long-standing demand for direct international access. Yasir Sultan Chaudhry, PoK Minister for Physical Planning, confirmed the development, emphasising the importance of Mirpur's large diaspora of over a million Kashmiri expatriates in the UK. The airport is expected to greatly benefit the local community and provide enhanced access to international destinations, fulfilling a need that has gained significant momentum in recent years. A group of 20 British lawmakers, led by Labour MP Tahir Ali, allegedly sent a joint letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif advocating for the airport's establishment. Their letter points out that the significant number of British Kashmiris has raised concerns about the current travel time to Mirpur, with most travellers needing to land at Islamabad International Airport, which is over 120 kilometres from the city. This project is also gaining traction amid Pakistan's ongoing talks with British authorities for the resumption of direct flights from Pakistan, following a ban on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) due to safety concerns/

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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