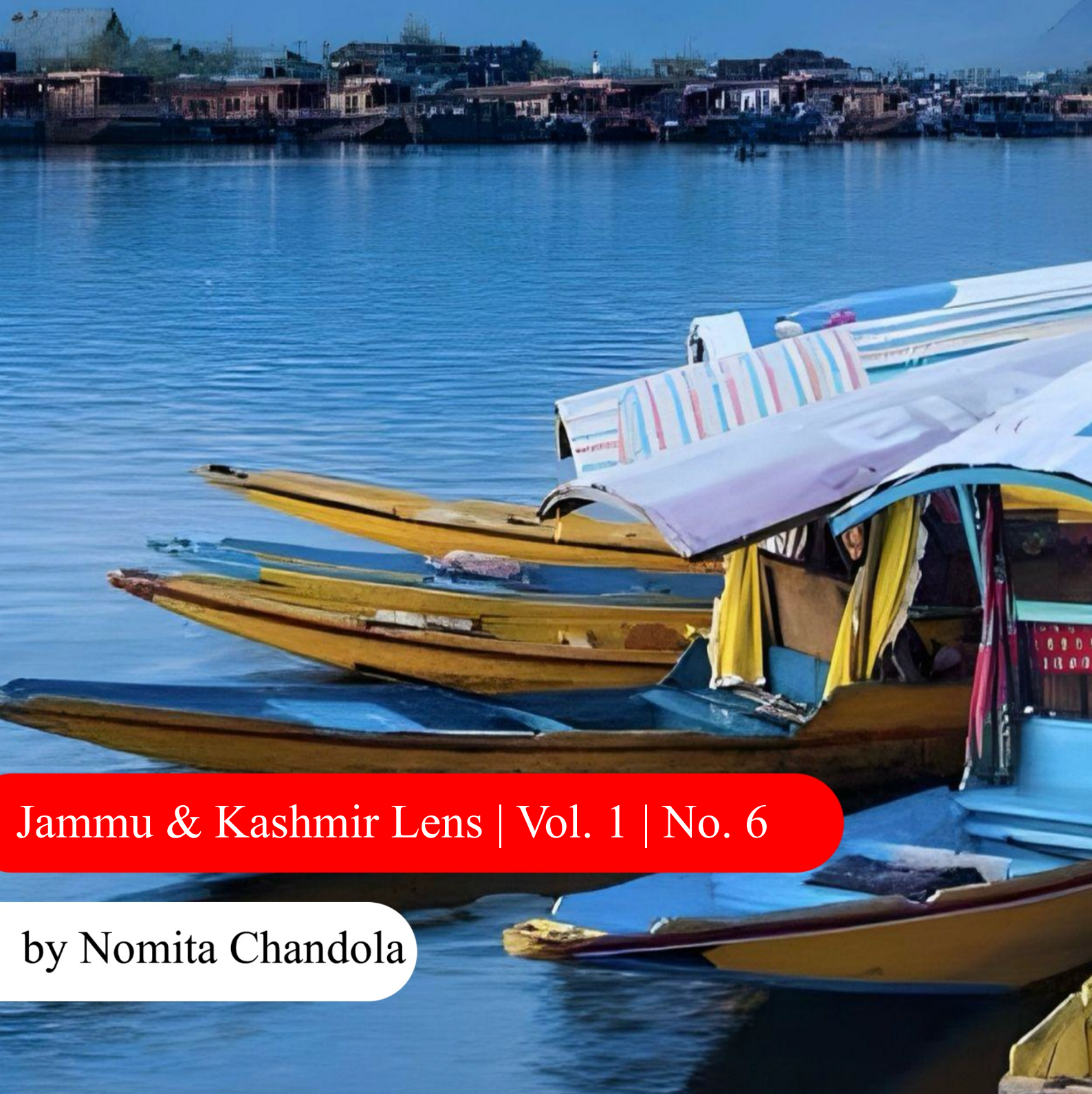


# CLAWS Newsletter



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by Nomita Chandola

## **JAMMU AND KASHMIR NEWS**

### **1. 'Azmat-e-Hind' Initiative boosts border tourism [\(ANI News, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025\)](#)**

The Indian Army's 'Azmat-e-Hind' initiative in Teetwal, Kupwara, has transformed the once tense LoC area into a growing tourist destination. Centered around a 104-ft high national flag, the project showcases military valour, local resilience, and border beauty. The Army has supported infrastructure, homestays, and community training to promote tourism and patriotism. Locals report economic benefits, and visitors are encouraged to explore the region's rich history and sacrifices.

### **2. Kashmir IGP reviews security [\(State Times, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025\)](#)**

IGP Kashmir V K Birdi chaired a high-level security review meeting in Srinagar, emphasizing enhanced vigilance, stronger intelligence networks, and inter-agency coordination. Senior officials from the Police, Army, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, and SSB attended. Birdi called for intensified patrolling, securing vulnerable areas, and ensuring preparedness for upcoming high-profile events in the Union Territory.

### **3. NIA charge sheets Pakistani Handler in a J&K Terror Case [\(News on Air, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025\)](#)**

The NIA has charge-sheeted Pakistani handler Nazir Hussain and two locals, Abdul Aziz and Munawar Hussain, in a terror conspiracy case in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir. They are charged under the BNS, UAPA, and Arms Act. Nazir, an operative of the banned JKGF based in PoK, allegedly directed the others to carry out terror activities to disrupt peace in the region. The case began with Aziz's arrest in October 2024, leading to the recovery of arms and the arrest of Munawar, exposing a cross-border terror plot.

### **4. BJP MLA calls for deportation of Rohingyas [\(Greater Kashmir, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025\)](#)**

BJP MLA Choudhary Vikram Randhawa has demanded the immediate deportation of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis from Jammu, citing security and demographic concerns, particularly in his Bahu constituency. He accused locals of illegally sheltering them,

called for cutting utilities to such settlements, and urged action against those involved. Randhawa also claimed these groups are linked to criminal activities and have illegitimately accessed government services. He said the issue was raised with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who assured intervention.

**5. Kathua Encounter expose major infiltration** ([India TV, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Four recent encounters in J&K's Kathua district have exposed a traditional infiltration route used by terrorists from across the International Border, according to SSP Shobhit Saxena. Security forces killed two terrorists and seized arms, explosives, and Pakistan-made supplies, preventing major IED attacks. Three to four terrorists remain at large. Police praised civilian cooperation and confirmed 30 locals have been booked under the PSA for aiding terrorists.

**6. CRPF to raise CoBRA Battalion for Counter-Terrorism** ([News On Air, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

The CRPF will raise its 11th CoBRA battalion specifically for counter-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on forested areas. Announced by CRPF DG Gyanendra Pratap Singh on the force's 86th Raising Day, the move comes under the directive of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to boost anti-terror capabilities in the region.

**7. Army and DECC Baramulla on Youth Employment** ([Rising Kashmir, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

The Indian Army's Chinari Corps and DECC Baramulla held a Mega Job Fair on April 17 at the Chinari YUVA Centre, connecting Kashmiri youth with 28 top companies. The event featured interviews, counselling, skill workshops, and self-employment schemes, aiming to boost job opportunities and youth empowerment in the region.

**8. Ladakh leaders prepare for MHA meeting** ([Rising Kashmir, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

In a key political development, leaders from the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and the Leh Apex Body are set to meet the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on May 20 to discuss pressing issues including Ladakh's demand for statehood, domicile rights,



reservation policies, and recruitment rules. Haji Asgar Karbalai, Chairman of the United Ladakh Territory Coordination Committee (UTCC), expressed hope for a positive outcome but warned that failure to meet demands could lead to mass public agitation. The meeting, to be chaired by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, is seen as a critical moment in the region's quest for constitutional safeguards following its separation from Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.

**9. Bandipora Police bust OGW modules** ([The Tribune, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Bandipora Police in north Kashmir have busted two overground worker (OGW) modules linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and arrested four individuals—Mohammad Rafiq, Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, Rayees Ahmad Dar, and Mohd Shafi Dar. Illegal arms, including a Chinese grenade, were recovered. The arrested men were allegedly plotting attacks on security forces and non-locals under directions from LeT handlers.

**10. Police raid homes of 64 terror associates** ([The Kashmiriyat, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Srinagar Police conducted raids at the residences of 64 overground workers and associates of banned terrorist outfits across the city as part of investigations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), aiming to dismantle the terror support network.

**11. Former Jel members launch Justice and Development Front (JDF)** ([The Hindu, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Prominent former members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel) have launched a new political party, the Justice and Development Front (JDF), in Jammu and Kashmir. Led by Sayar Reshi and Shameem Ahmad Thokar, the party aims to contest upcoming elections and focus on justice, development, and public welfare. The move has split the Jel into two factions, with JDF positioning itself as a grassroots alternative amid continued UAPA restrictions on Jel.

**12. Mushrooming of Illegal Medical Shops in Bandipora** ([KNS, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Numerous unlicensed medical shops and unregistered private clinics are operating openly in Bandipora, north Kashmir, violating health norms. Unqualified individuals,

including government employees, are running chemist shops and even conducting diagnostic procedures like ultrasounds without proper credentials. Many outlets lack required licenses, records, and infrastructure, leading to safety risks and black marketing of sedative drugs. Despite some raids and license cancellations, a shortage of enforcement staff hinders effective regulation.

### **13. Manpower shortage in Healthcare Facilities** ([Rising Kashmir, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Healthcare services across Baramulla district in north Kashmir are severely impacted by a shortage of doctors and paramedics. Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla lacks key specialists like cardiologists, nephrologists, and neurologists, forcing patients to travel to Srinagar. Sub-District Hospitals in Sopore and Kreeri, as well as PHC Kalantra, are also understaffed, affecting service quality. While recruitment efforts are underway, delays in postings continue to strain patient care.

## **PAHALGAM ATTACK HIGHLIGHTS**

### **14. PDP condemns Pahalgam attack** ([TOI, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025](#))

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti strongly condemned the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 28, mostly tourists, calling it a shameful assault on Kashmiriyat and innocent civilians. Expressing deep remorse, she urged the Union Home Minister to ensure swift punishment for the perpetrators. Mufti led a protest march in Srinagar and stressed the need for stronger security measures to protect visitors and uphold Kashmir's tradition of hospitality.

### **15. Valley on High Alert** ([News On Air, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025](#))

Security has been tightened across Kashmir following the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that killed several tourists. A massive joint combing operation involving the Army, CRPF, and J&K Police is underway within a 5-kilometre radius of the attack site in Anantnag. Additional checkpoints, frisking at tourist hubs like Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg, and deployment of quick reaction teams have been enforced. Special forces and sniffer dogs are aiding the search, while hotel security has also been strengthened amid fears of further attacks.

**16. Amarnath Yatra after Pahalgam Attack** ([NDTV, 26<sup>TH</sup> April 2025](#))

The Amarnath Yatra is set to begin on July 3 and conclude on August 9, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan. The pilgrimage will proceed through both traditional routes—the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and the Baltal route in Ganderbal district. Registrations for the Yatra began on April 15 across 533 branches of Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, J&K Bank, and Yes Bank nationwide. Despite the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Union Minister Piyush Goyal assured that the Yatra will be conducted successfully, reaffirming the government's commitment to restoring normalcy and reviving tourism in Kashmir.

**17. Kashmir crackdown intensifies after attack** ([The Kashmiriyat, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, security forces in Kashmir have launched a widespread crackdown, demolishing homes of suspected terrorists and detaining hundreds of overground workers. Explosions destroyed the houses of two suspects, Aadil Thoker and Asif Sheikh, during raids. In Bandipora, an alleged OGW was killed and two policemen injured after militants opened fire during an operation. Raids have expanded to Srinagar, with heightened security and checkpoints in Anantnag as authorities work to prevent further violence.

**18. NIA takes over the case** ([NDTV, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has officially taken over the probe into the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 tourists, including a Nepali national. Acting on the Ministry of Home Affairs' directive, the NIA registered a fresh FIR after visiting the attack site and began collecting forensic evidence. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility. Investigators have identified 14 local terrorists, aged 20–40, linked to major terror outfits including LeT, JeM, and Hizbul Mujahideen, suspected of aiding foreign attackers. These operatives are active mainly in Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag, and Kulgam. Security forces have intensified operations across South Kashmir, hunting for links between these local aides and the five attackers—three of whom are Pakistani nationals. A reward of Rs 20 lakh has been announced for each of the identified terrorists.

**19. 48 Tourists Spots closed in Kashmir** ([India Today, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

In response to fresh intelligence warnings after the Pahalgam terror attack, the Jammu and Kashmir government has shut 48 tourist destinations. Sleeper cells have reportedly been activated, with plans for targeted killings and a major retaliatory strike. The ISI is believed to be behind threats against non-locals, security forces, and minorities. Anti-fidayeen squads have been deployed to key locations, and the NIA has begun a detailed probe into the April 22 attack that killed 26 people.

**20. CRPF's quick action contained the attack** ([News 18, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

The CRPF's Quick Action Team was the first to reach the Pahalgam attack site, arriving within 45 minutes after being alerted by locals. They rescued injured tourists, secured the area, and coordinated with police to stabilize the situation. Assistant Commandant Rashi Sikarwar led aid efforts for women and children. The attack exposed the lack of dedicated security at Baisaran, prompting intensified patrols and heightened vigilance across the valley.

**21. Tourists embrace Sonamarg's Peace after attack** ([Rising Kashmir, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Despite the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people and caused a dip in tourism, visitors continue to arrive in Sonamarg, showing resilience and solidarity with locals. Tourists praised the hospitality and safety in the region, refusing to let fear dictate their lives. Locals welcomed their presence as a vital support to livelihoods and a message of hope. Authorities have tightened security across the Valley, and tourism officials remain optimistic about recovery.

**22. UN Chief calls for de-escalation** ([TOI, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

UN Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and called Indian and Pakistani leaders to urge accountability and offer de-escalation support. Jaishankar emphasized justice, while Sharif asked the UN to counsel India to show restraint.

**23. Pakistan continues unprovoked LoC firing** ([TOI, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

For the seventh consecutive day, Pakistani forces have engaged in unprovoked firing across the LoC in Kupwara, Uri, and Akhnoor, prompting proportionate retaliation from the Indian Army. Despite recent DGMO-level talks, Pakistan persists in ceasefire violations. Following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, India has taken stern diplomatic and military measures, including suspending the Indus Water Treaty, scaling down diplomatic ties, and granting the armed forces full operational freedom.

**24. OGW network in Pahalgam Attack** ([Cescube, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025](#))

The NIA has identified around 20 Overground Workers (OGWs) who allegedly supported the foreign terrorists behind the Pahalgam attack. Four key OGWs reportedly aided in reconnaissance and logistics. Evidence from three satellite phones, with two successfully traced, has provided critical leads. Over 2,500 individuals have been interrogated so far, with 186 still in custody. In response, security forces have conducted widespread raids across several Jammu and Kashmir districts, targeting associates of banned groups like Hurriyat and Jamaat-e-Islami.

**PoK NEWS**

**25. British MPs push for airport in PoK** ([OpIndia, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025](#))

A group of British MPs, including Tahir Ali and Tan Dhesi, urged Pakistan's PM to build an international airport in Mirpur, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), citing economic benefits and convenience for British Kashmiris. Tahir Ali posted on X that his constituents face long travel times due to the lack of an airport. The move was criticised as interference in India's internal matters, with India reaffirming that PoK is its integral territory, citing constitutional and historical claims. Indian ministers Amit Shah and S. Jaishankar have reiterated India's sovereign rights over PoK.

**26. Army tracks launch pads in PoK after attack** ([India Today, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

After the Pahalgam attack, Indian intelligence found 42 terror launch pads in PoK with 130+ terrorists. The Army briefed the Defence Minister and is weighing action as



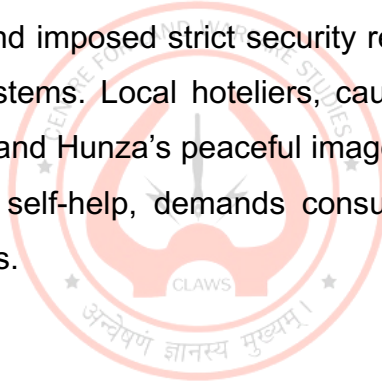
Pakistan remains on high alert. Around 150–200 militants are ready for infiltration; recent clashes caused heavy losses to Pakistan forces.

**27. Water release sparks panic in PoK** ([The Economic Times, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))\

A sudden surge in Jhelum river levels after India reportedly released water from the Uri Dam without prior notice caused panic and evacuations in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Hattian Bala district. Pakistan accused India of violating the Indus Waters Treaty, which India had suspended following the recent Pahalgam terror attack. India has not officially responded, though reports cite heavy rainfall as the reason for the dam's discharge.

**28. Hunza's tourism under danger** ([Pamir Times, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025](#))

Hunza's tourism industry faces disruption after authorities restricted foreign tourists to only 45 "Low-Risk" hotels and imposed strict security requirements, including armed guards and surveillance systems. Local hoteliers, caught off guard, say the move threatens small businesses and Hunza's peaceful image. The community, which built the tourism sector through self-help, demands consultation and support to avoid undoing decades of progress.



## 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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