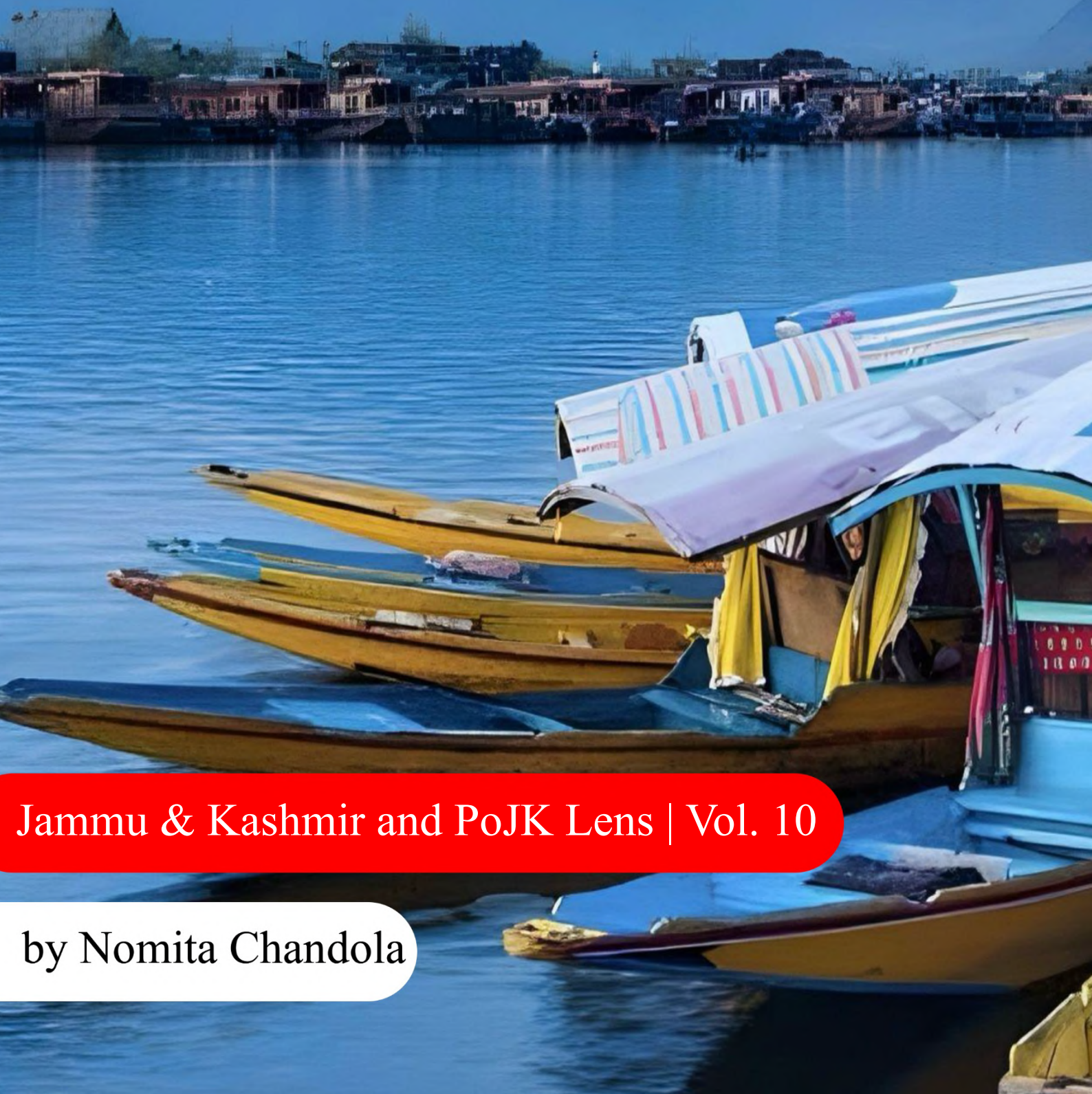


CLAWS Newsletter



Jammu & Kashmir and PoJK Lens | Vol. 10

by Nomita Chandola

JAMMU AND KASHMIR NEWS

1. New party launched in Kashmir seeking restoration of Article 370 ([The New Indian Express, 1st July 2025](#))

Three Kashmir-based parties have formed the Peoples Alliance for Change to demand restoration of Article 370, 35A, and statehood. Led by Sajjad Lone, Hakim Yasin, and Shamim Thoker, the alliance calls for youth empowerment, political unity, and an end to double-speak in Kashmir politics.

2. Search Operation Resumes After Gunfight with Terrorists in Kishtwar ([NewsOnAir, 3rd July 2025](#))

Security forces resumed a search operation in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, after a nightlong gunfight with terrorists in a dense forest area. The encounter began when police, Army, and CRPF launched an operation based on intel about terrorist presence. The terrorists opened fire, triggering a prolonged exchange that continued into the night. No fresh firing was reported the following morning as the operation resumed to locate the suspects.

3. J&K Accelerates 7,768 MW Hydropower [Push](#) ([Kashmir Life, 5th July 2025](#))

Jammu and Kashmir has unveiled an ambitious plan to boost its hydropower capacity by 7,768 MW amid rising energy demand. With only 3,540 MW currently harnessed from an identified potential of 15,000 MW, the government is fast-tracking 15 major projects, including Pakaldul (1,000 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kwar (540 MW), and Ratle (850 MW), many of which are nearing significant construction milestones. Additional large-scale projects are in the tendering or appraisal stages, and solar initiatives are also underway. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo emphasized timely completion, local employment, and sustainable development, positioning hydropower as a cornerstone of J&K's economic future.

4. Indus Water Diversion Plan Triggers National and International Uproar

[\(Kashmir Post, 8th July 2025\)](#)

The Indian government's plan to divert water from Kashmir's Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers to Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan has sparked political, legal, and diplomatic turmoil. Announced amid the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the move has drawn sharp criticism from Kashmiri leaders, environmentalists, and Pakistan. While the Centre justifies it as a national security and development measure, Kashmir calls it resource exploitation. Pakistan sees it as a treaty violation and potential cause for war. Legal battles loom, ecological concerns rise, and federal tensions deepen, making water not just a resource but a flashpoint.

5. Assets of 3 PoK Terrorists Seized [\(Greater Kashmir, 12th July 2025\)](#)

In a major crackdown, police in Ganderbal have attached properties belonging to three Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)-based terrorists. The action is part of ongoing efforts to curb terrorism and target its ecosystem by hitting financial and logistical support structures.

6. Megha-Budhal-Mahore-Gool Road Project [\(The Tribune, 15th July 2025\)](#)

The BRO is swiftly developing the 114 km Megha Budhal-Mahore-Gool road in Rajouri, aiming to convert it into a double-lane highway. Despite tough terrain and weather, construction on the first 50 km is progressing rapidly. Once complete, the road will cut travel time, improve connectivity across Rajouri, Gool, and Reasi, and promote tourism. The project is also generating local employment and includes four major bridges to ensure all-weather access.

PoJK and GILGIT- BALTISTAN NEWS

7. Alternative KKH Section Nears Completion to Boost CPEC Connectivity

[\(DAWN\)](#)

An alternative 62km section of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) in Upper Kohistan, built by Chinese engineers for the Dasu hydropower project, is set for completion by 2026. The new route, part of the Thakot-Raikot corridor under CPEC, includes 15 tunnels

and nine bridges to meet international standards. Designed to replace the submerged stretch of KKH due to the Dasu dam, it will ensure safer, uninterrupted travel between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, even during floods or landslides, and link directly to the Hazara Expressway at Thakot.

8. EPA Calls for 5-Year Ban on New Hotels in Hunza to Avert Ecological Crisis ([Pamir Times, 3rd July 2025](#))

The Gilgit-Baltistan Environmental Protection Agency has urged a five-year moratorium on new hotel construction in Central Hunza, Duikar, Attabad, and Borith Lake, citing severe environmental degradation from unregulated tourism. The agency warns of water contamination, air pollution, habitat loss, and strain on local resources. Borith Lake, a critical wetland, faces ecological collapse, while Attabad Lake's water quality is under threat. Backed by legal provisions under the GB Environmental Protection Act and ESCA Rules, the EPA advocates a shift from mass to eco-tourism to preserve Hunza's environment and public health.

9. GLOF Alert for GB and KP Amid Rising Heat ([Business Recorder, 4th July 2025](#))

NDMA has issued a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) alert for Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to rising temperatures and an incoming weather system. Authorities warn of increased glacier melt and potential flash floods in vulnerable valleys. Federal and provincial departments have been directed to stay on high alert, conduct evacuation drills, and ensure emergency preparedness. Citizens are advised to avoid streams and glacier areas, while tourists are warned against trekking near glaciers. A detailed GLOF vulnerability map has been shared for coordinated response efforts.

10. Gilgit-Baltistan Rises Against Pakistan's Land Reforms ([Morung Express, 5th July 2025](#))

Mass protests have erupted in Gilgit-Baltistan over Pakistan's Land Reforms Act 2025, which locals say enables state land grabs and forced evictions. Critics argue the law centralizes land control under bureaucrats, threatens indigenous rights, and serves

strategic and economic interests, including CPEC. Despite crackdowns and arrests, residents continue to resist what they call decades of occupation and exploitation.

11. PoJK Bank Signs Deal for Digital and Core Banking Overhaul ([Dawn, 13th July 2025](#))

The Bank of PoJK has signed a major agreement with the iConsult Consortium—comprising Silverlake, iConsult, Mega Plus, and ITANS—to implement advanced core banking and digital systems. The move aims to enhance operational efficiency, customer experience, and financial inclusion. Supported by PoK's government, the upgrade marks a significant step in PoK's modernization, aligning it with global banking standards and paving the way for its expansion and transition into a scheduled bank.



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, emphasising 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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