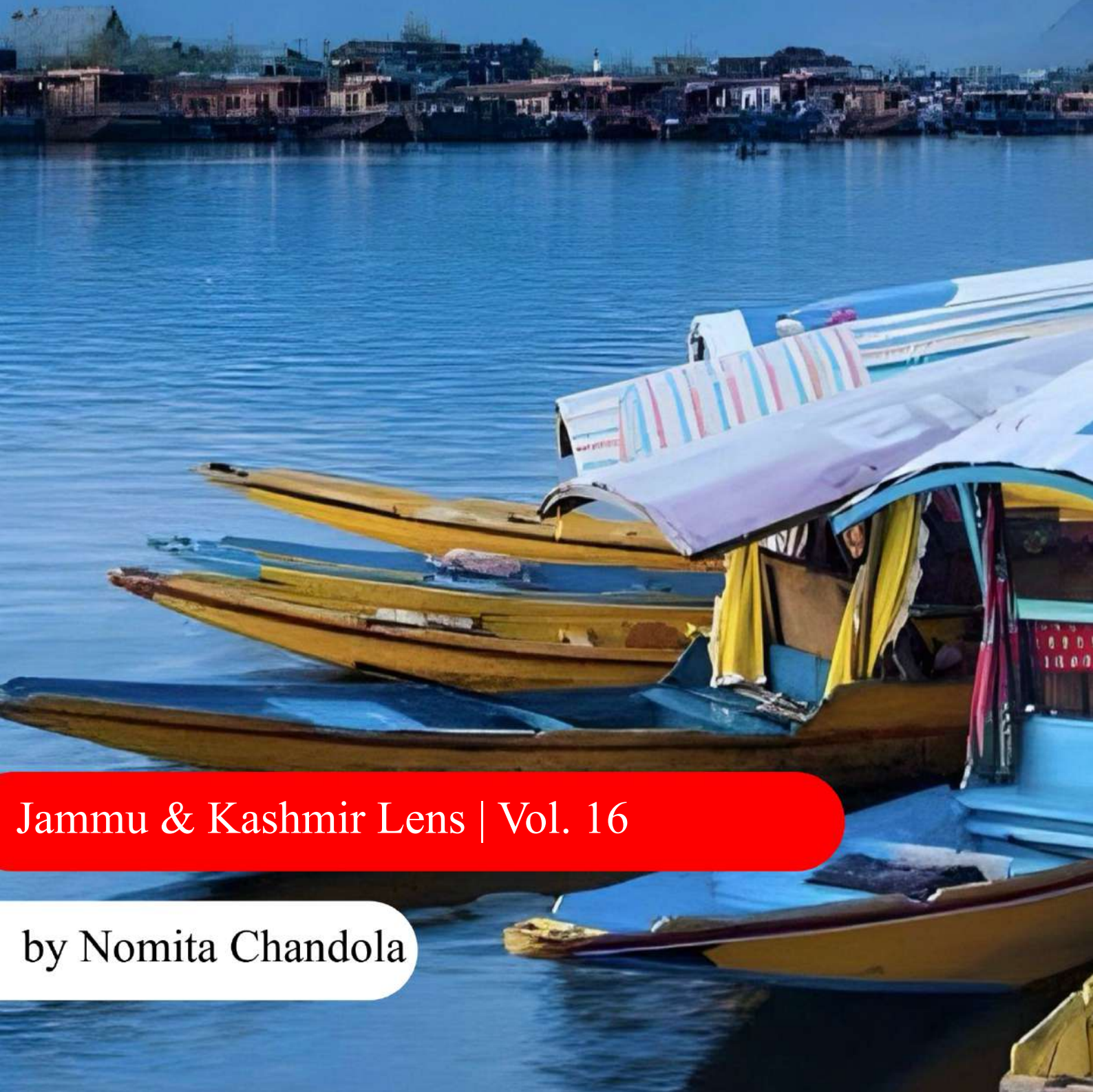


CLAWS Newsletter



Jammu & Kashmir Lens | Vol. 16

by Nomita Chandola

JAMMU AND KASHMIR NEWS

Climate and Environment

1. Landslide Collapses Hotel and Shops on Jammu–Srinagar Highway **(Geoengineer.org, 12th October 2025)**

On October 12, 2025, a major landslide near Narsoo–Samroli in Udhampur district caused a hotel and shops along the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) to collapse. Early evacuation prevented loss of life. Heavy rain and saturated slopes triggered the slide, blocking the highway and disrupting traffic between Nashri and Banihal, a critical route for Kashmir Valley supplies. Rescue teams are clearing debris and assessing slope stability amid ongoing rains and snowfall, increasing further landslide risks.

Security and Conflict

2. **UAPA Crackdowns** (Greater Kashmir, 1st October 2025): Police conducted major searches in *Sopore* and *Budgam*, targeting *Jamaat-e-Islami* and *Tehreek-e-Hurriyat* offices and associates. Several properties were sealed under the *Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act*.
3. **Terror Financier's Property Seized** (Daily Excelsior, 3rd October 2025) : Police attached land of *terror handler Nazir Ahmad Ganai* in *Handwara*, who operates from *PoJK*.
4. **Pahalgam Attack Link Arrest** (Mint, 5th October 2025): OGW *Mohammad Yousuf Katari* arrested for aiding the April 22 Pahalgam attackers.
5. **Major SIA Raids & Pakistan's Infiltration Push** (Rising Kashmir, 8th October 2025)
 - SIA raided *eight locations* across *seven districts* in a *terror-financing and sleeper-cell case*.
 - BSF confirmed *100–120 terrorists* are stationed at *PoK launch pads*; multiple infiltration attempts foiled.

6. Srinagar Raids & Winter Strategy

- Police raided 21 Srinagar locations targeting OGWs and banned-outfit sympathisers.
- BSF announced *enhanced winter counter-infiltration plan* along the Jammu border.

Politics and Governance

7. SC Asks Centre to Respond on J&K Statehood Restoration ([The Tribune, 10th October 2025](#))

The Supreme Court has given the Centre four weeks to respond to petitions seeking the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai that while there has been significant progress and peaceful elections were held last year, security concerns, including the Pahalgam attack, require careful consideration before restoring statehood. Petitioners argue that the delay violates federalism and democratic rights. The Court's December 2023 verdict upheld the abrogation of Article 370 but directed statehood restoration "at the earliest" after elections. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is considering joining the Supreme Court plea for statehood restoration but rules out alliance with BJP, citing past political alliances' adverse effects.

8. 'Know Your Artisan' Initiative Launched at Jehlum Riverfront, Srinagar ([The Tribune, 12th October 2025](#))

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, launched the "Know Your Artisan" initiative at the scenic Jehlum Riverfront in Srinagar. The event, inaugurated by Commissioner Secretary Vikramjit Singh, begins a series of cultural programs scheduled over the next two months under the "Soulful Kashmir" brand. The initiative aims to bring artisans and consumers together, showcasing Kashmir's rich craft heritage and its human stories, while facilitating direct market linkages to empower artisans. Showcasing seven eminent artisans with GI-registered crafts, the program features live craft demonstrations, interactions, and sales counters, aiming to boost artisan visibility, market access, and livelihoods, while engaging locals and tourists alike.

9. Restrictions Lifted in Leh After 22 Days of Statehood Protest Violence **([Business Standard, 15th Oct 2025](#))**

Authorities in Leh have lifted restrictions 22 days after they were imposed following violent statehood protests that left four people dead and over 80 injured. The district administration had enforced prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) on September 24, banning gatherings of five or more people. District Magistrate Romil Singh Donk announced the withdrawal of these restrictions after police confirmed no further threat to public order. The curbs were initially imposed to prevent unrest after clashes during the agitation for Ladakh's statehood and Sixth Schedule status. Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, a key leader of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), was arrested on September 26 under the National Security Act for allegedly inciting the violence and remains detained in Jodhpur jail.

10. Ladakh Leaders Call Silent March, Blackout ([Kashmir Life, 15th October 2025](#))

Ladakh's Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) announced a two-hour silent march and three-hour evening blackout to protest the Centre's inaction after the September 24 violence that killed four and injured nearly 100. The groups demand a judicial probe, compensation, release of detainees including Sonam Wangchuk, and talks on statehood and Sixth Schedule status. Wangchuk remains detained under the NSA as protests grow and dialogue with Delhi remains stalled.

11. Ladakh Administration Defends Sonam Wangchuk's Detention Under NSA ([The Tribune, 15th October 2025](#))

The Ladakh administration told the Supreme Court that climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act for "activities prejudicial to the security of the state." In an affidavit, Leh District Magistrate Romil Singh Donk said the September 26 detention order was issued lawfully after reviewing all materials under Section 3(2) of the NSA. He dismissed allegations from Wangchuk's wife, Gitanjali Angmo, that the arrest was illegal or involved mistreatment.

The affidavit stated Wangchuk was informed of his detention and transferred to Jodhpur Central Jail, where he remains medically fit and not in solitary confinement. Jail officials confirmed visits from his family, lawyers, and that he was provided a laptop. The Supreme Court Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria will hear the case next on October 15. Wangchuk was detained two days after the violent September 24 protests in Ladakh that left four dead and nearly 100 injured.

Economy and Development

12. Power Demand in Kashmir Rises by 200 MW as Temperature Drops ([Kashmir Life, 7th October 2025](#))

With the falling mercury in early October 2025, Kashmir's power demand surged by nearly 200 Megawatts, increasing from around 1,350-1,400 MW to about 1,550-1,600 MW in just two days. Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is working to improve power supply amid higher winter demand. However, a government study warns that even with current and planned Power Purchase Agreements, Jammu and Kashmir may face a capacity shortfall over the next nine years, especially during high-demand winter months. The region's increasing power needs are driven by population growth and rising per capita consumption.

13. Centre Approves Long-Stalled Sawalkote Hydropower Project ([Greater Kashmir, 9th October 2025](#))

The Indian government has approved the long-delayed Sawalkote Hydropower Project on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant step after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in April 2025. The project, worth around ₹31,380 crore, will generate 1,856 MW and involves constructing a concrete dam and underground powerhouses. The Environment Ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee granted environmental clearance in September 2025, with the project now fast-tracked following renewed focus on hydropower and strategic importance. It will impact forest land and displace around 1,500 families, but promises enhanced power security for northern India.

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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