

Army GOC Directs All Ranks To Remain Alert, Proactive During Visit To Kishtwar



JAMMU, MAR 2: Days after security forces eliminated three Pakistani terrorists affiliated with the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit in an encounter in Kishtwar district, a senior army officer on Monday directed all ranks to remain alert, proactive and mission-focused.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's White Knight Corps Lt Gen P K Mishra passed the directions while reviewing the security situation and ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the hilly district, the army said.

He was accompanied by General Officer Commanding of Counter-Insurgency Force (Delta) Maj Gen Ajai Singh Dabas who recently took over the command from Maj Gen A P S Bal. "...the GOC lauded Delta Force for their unwavering dedication, sharp operational focus and steadfast commitment to duty. He directed all ranks to remain alert, proactive

"In the hinterland, vigilance is victory; firm resolve, proactive dominance and relentless action will secure lasting peace and stability," the army said in the post.

Meanwhile, police have intensified their crackdown to identify and apprehend the overground workers (OGWs) who allegedly provided logistical and material support to Saifullah and his group, enabling them to remain active and evade security forces in the higher reaches over the past couple of years.

Officials said that multiple teams have been constituted to track down suspects believed to have facilitated the movement of the group by arranging food supplies, shelter, communication channels and financial assistance.

Police maintained that action will be taken against anyone found involved in providing direct or indirect support to terrorists, reiterating their commitment to curb militancy and ensure lasting peace in the region.

and mission-focused, and to uphold the highest standards of professionalism in every action," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Three Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists including self-styled commander Saifullah were killed in a day-long operation in the Chatroo area of Kishtwar on February 22.

Saifullah had escaped over a dozen encounters in the past one year during various operations in the high-altitude areas.

Tribal Affairs Minister emphasizes evidence-based policy, cultural preservation for G&B welfare

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 02

In a move towards intensifying tribal welfare initiatives, Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today discussed with the trustees of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT) the ongoing efforts aimed at the welfare and upliftment of Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe.

The meeting featured in-depth deliberations on the preservation and promotion of Gojri culture, art and language. Besides, discussion was held on the Trust's expanding initiatives in education, tribal welfare and community development.

Emphasizing the importance of safeguarding indigenous identity, the Minister underlined that cultural preservation must go hand in hand with socio-economic empowerment.

During the consultation, the Minister also highlighted key interventions undertaken by the Tribal



Affairs Department to accelerate the socio-economic advancement of tribal communities across J&K.

Emphasising the need for synergy between civil society and government institutions, Rana stressed that coordinated efforts are essential to achieving inclusive and sustainable development. He urged the Trust to strengthen its collaboration with the Tribal Research Institute to undertake high-quality, evidence-based research on various dimensions of

tribal life including traditions, language, cultural practices and contemporary socio-economic challenges.

"Policy must be rooted in credible data and field-based research," the Minister observed, adding that evidence-driven insights would enable the government to design the targeted interventions and formulate responsive policies that genuinely address the needs of tribal communities.

Chairman of the Trust, Arshad Choudhary briefed

the Minister on the Trust's ongoing programs and future roadmap, particularly initiatives focused on educational outreach, youth empowerment and cultural documentation.

The meeting was attended by Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, Director Tribal Affairs and Dr. Abdul Khair, Director, Tribal Research Institute, J&K besides trustees of GDCT including Dr. Showkat Choudhary, General Secretary Sadiq Azad and Advocate Zulkarnain Choudhary.

Shailendra Kumar Appointed Government Nominee Director On J&K Bank Board

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 02

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited has appointed Shailendra Kumar, IAS, as Government Nominee Director on its Board of Directors with effect from Mar 2, 2026.

According to a regulatory filing made by the bank with the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited, the nomination was



made by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir through an order issued on Mar 2, 2026.

Shailendra Kumar (DIN: 07352828) has been nominated in place of Santosh Dattatraya Vaidya, IAS (DIN: 05340193), whose tenure as Government Nominee Director ended on the same date.

The bank stated that the appointment will remain effective until the Government of Jammu and Kashmir withdraws the nomination.

Zendaya and Tom Holland are married, stylist reveals at Actor Awards event

LOS ANGELES, MAR 2: Hollywood star Zendaya has quietly tied the knot with longtime boyfriend, actor Tom Holland, her stylist Law Roach has claimed.

Roach broke the news to Access Hollywood during the Actor Awards ceremony on Sunday.

"The wedding has already happened. You missed it. It's very true," he told reporters.

The couple, who met on the set of Marvel's "Spider-Man: Homecoming" in 2016 and went public with their relationship in 2021, are yet to officially announce their wedding.

Engagement rumours had been swirling since Zendaya, 29, was spotted wearing a diamond ring on her left hand at the Golden



Globes ceremony in 2025.

Later, Holland, 29, appeared to confirm the engagement when he corrected a reporter who referred to Zendaya as his girlfriend. The actor was laughing as he clarified, "Fiancee."

The pair are known for their intensely private approach to their personal life, though both have spoken warmly about the experience of working together.

"It's a saving grace. The best thing that's ever happened to me," Holland said in 2024, describing the comfort of sharing a set with his partner.

Zendaya echoed the sentiment in a 2025 interview with Vanity Fair.

"It's like second nature, if anything. You feel extra safe with the person you're acting beside. I love working with him. He's so talented, and so passionate about what he does. He always gives things one thousand percent, even if he's absolutely worn down. I really appreciate that about him. It feels pretty normal," she said.

The two stars are set to share the screen twice in 2026 — first in "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" in June, followed by Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey" in July. (PTI)

Symbolic Political Critique: Delhi Court Grants Bail To 9 IYC Workers In AI Summit Protest Case

NEW DELHI, MAR 2:

A court here has granted bail to nine Indian Youth Congress workers who were arrested in connection with the "shirtless" protest at the AI summit, saying the protest constituted symbolic political critique and pre-trial detention could "illicit pre-emptive punishment".

Judicial Magistrate First Class Ravi passed the order on Sunday while hearing the bail pleas of the nine accused — Krishna Hari, Narshimha Yadav, Kundan Kumar Yadav, Ajay Kumar Singh, Jitendra Singh Yadav, Raja Gurjar, Ajay Kumar Vimal alias Bantu, Saurabh Singh

and Arbaz Khan.

"The protest, at highest, constituted symbolic political critique during a public event: T-shirts with leadership imagery, non-inciteful slogans bereft of communal/regional taint, and transient assembly. No evidence discloses property defacement, or delegate panic; exit was orderly via escort," the court said.

It noted that the pre-trial detention, severed from any imperative necessity and devoid of persisting investigative demands, could illicit pre-emptive punishment antecedent to conviction. "(This would be) a pro-

found aberration fundamentally at odds with the bedrock axioms of criminal jurisprudence, which exalt liberty as the governing norm and incarceration as the narrowly circumscribed exception," the court said.

Oposing the bail pleas, Delhi Police submitted that the Constitution grants the right to peaceful protest, but there are also certain conditions.

It argued that the accused Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers raised slogans calling the India-US trade deal a compromise in the presence of international media.

When police tried to stop the accused, they attacked the police personnel, who sustained injuries. There is medical evidence of the same, Delhi Police said.

IYC workers entered the AI summit venue on February 20, wearing or holding white T-shirts with images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump printed on them, along with slogans such as "India-US Trade Deal", "Epstein Files" and "PM is compromised".

The protesters also scuffled with security personnel and police staff deployed at the venue. (Agencies)

Science knows of 21,000 bee species, There are likely thousands more

WOLLONGONG, Mar 2: It's a question that has sparked the curiosity of scholars and bee lovers for decades: how many species of bees are there in the world?

This might, at first, seem like a silly question. But it is a topic of genuine importance — especially if we want to protect our pollinators.

Now, in a new paper published in Nature Communications, we provide the first statistically derived estimate of bee species richness around the world. But this work isn't just about bees. It provides the tools needed for scientists to estimate the number of all species on Earth.

Bees are the most important animal pollinators, so

it's crucial to know how many species there are in the world.

Globally, and corrected for inflation, pollination of crops is worth roughly A\$745 billion per year. Pollination is also crucial for our diet and wellbeing with 75% of food crop diversity and 35% of total food production benefiting from animal pollination.

Bees are what's called a "keystone" group. That is, just like the keystone in a stone arch, removing that group would result in cascading ecological impacts — and potentially, as implied by the analogy, collapse.

Recent estimates have suggested that 90% of flowering plants (roughly 307,000 species) are pollinated by animals.

IIMC Jammu's 6-day capacity building programme for DIPR staff concludes

JAMMU, MARCH 02:

The six-day Capacity Building and Skill Enhancement Training Programme for officers and officials of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) concluded at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) here today.

The training programme was attended by around 50 staff members of DIPR, who received intensive training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications and contemporary media practices.

Addressing the valedictory session of the programme, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu, Dr. Dilip Kumar congratulated the participants for successfully completing the training and encouraged them to apply the newly acquired skills in their professional responsibilities. He appreciated their enthusiasm in learning AI Fundamentals and Applications, Advanced AI & Practical Applications, Print Media Ba-

sics and Advanced Practices, as well as Electronic Media Basics and Advanced Practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director (Hq) DIPR, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina congratulated the participants and expressed confidence that they would implement their learning in a professional and effective manner within the department.

Prof. Anil Saumitra and Information Officer DIPR, Alka Misra were also present at the valedictory session and extended their best wishes to the participants.

During the session, Course Coordinator of the training programme, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal presented the comprehensive training report.

The participants also received certificates during the valedictory session of the training programme.

Pertinently, the programme commenced on 23rd February, 2026 and was designed to strengthen the institutional communication capacity of DIPR personnel by equipping



them with modern media skills aligned with evolving public information needs and governance requirements.

The training programme was structured into three batches.

The first batch underwent training in 'AI Fundamentals and Applications and Advanced AI & Practical Applications'. The second batch focused on 'Print Media Basics and Ad-

vanced Practices' while as the third batch received training in "Electronic Media Basics and Advanced Practices" between February 27 and March 2, 2026.

On the first day, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal spoke about the changing patterns of government communication. Shri Bhawani Singh conducted sessions on fact-checking, digital

verification tools, and AI-based multilingual drafting and speechwriting. Shri Rajeev Kumar delivered a session on AI-enhanced multimedia and visual public relations.

On the second day, Dr. Rajendra P. Misra delivered a lecture on government communication in an AI-driven digital media ecology. Shri Divyvasu Sharma trained participants in

AI-powered crisis communication and guided them in developing AI-based projects. Dr. Dilip Kumar concluded the day with a session on AI ethics and cyber safety in government organizations.

The third day focused on content creation and print media practices. Shri Divyvasu Sharma conducted a session on content creation and linguistic design using AI tools. Shri Vishav conducted practical classes on print media basics, layout principles, and QuarkX-Press. Shri Gulshan Kumar trained participants in graphics and image editing basics.

On the fourth day, Prof. Anil Saumitra delivered a lecture on press release writing with AI integration. Dr. Ravinder Singh discussed the basics of feature writing and success stories. Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal trained participants in print production using MS Word, while Bhawani Singh conducted a session on fact-checking and verification in print media.

The fifth day was dedicated to electronic media. Ramesh Ku-

mar Raina, former officer of Doordarshan Jammu, and Vinod Cheervi delivered sessions on the introduction to electronic media and camera basics.

Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal trained participants in AI-assisted news packaging and editing. Bhawani Singh conducted a session on AI applications for social media reels and short videos.

On the sixth day, Dr. Rajendra P. Misra trained participants in government communication within an AI-driven digital media ecology, along with scripting, packaging, and voice-over techniques for electronic media. Divyvasu Sharma conducted sessions on fact-checking, deep-fake detection, and emerging trends such as live AI streaming and digital archiving.

The initiative reflects IIMC Jammu's continued commitment to enhancing professional competencies in government communication through structured, technology-driven training programmes.