

Dr Jitendra visits Kishtwar disaster site, lauds integrated efforts of government, people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHOSITI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday visited the cloudburst disaster site in Chositi of district Kishtwar. He lauded the integrated joint efforts of the government and the people in carrying out the rescue and the relief operation.

Earlier, Dr. Jitendra Singh had tried to reach the site in an Air Force Helicopter but when the air sortie got suspended because of the inclement weather, he took the road route and could reach the exact site only by midnight. "After a long tedious uphill drive, managed to reach the site of cloudburst disaster in Chositi, Kishtwar.... very late around midnight", Dr. Jitendra tweeted past midnight".

The Minister was received at the site by Lop J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma and senior officers of administration, including Director General of Police Jammu & Kashmir, Nalin Parabhat, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, DIG Sridhar Patil, senior officers of the Kishtwar District Administration. They took him around the site and also explained to him the enormity of the damage caused.

Later, talking to media persons on the spot, Dr. Jitendra said, he deeply appreciated the courageous efforts of the military, Paramilitary forces, J&K Police, and the administration, who have left no stone unturned in doing whatever best they could do in this precarious situation, marked by natural calamity coupled with natural constraints of difficult hilly terrain, inadequate connectivity and inclement weather.

Dr. Jitendra said, equal appreciation is also due to the local residents, who were



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh visiting the cloudburst disaster site in Chositi village of district Kishtwar.

the first to swing into action when everyone was taken by surprise by a massive fatal cloudburst on the afternoon of 14th August.

When asked about the support being provided by the government, Dr. Jitendra said, "what can be more reassuring than the thought that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is personally monitoring the situation". He said, Prime Minister Modi immediately tweeted and then held a review meeting. Later, he has been in touch both with the Chief Minister as well as the Lieutenant Governor.

The Minister said that all help is being provided to the affected area in spite of the constraints of weather and situation not allowing air flights to operate. He informed that for the last two days, two helicopters carrying necessary equipment are stationed at Udhampur waiting for the weather to improve.

However, he appreciated the efforts of the SDRF, the NDRF, the Paramilitary, the Air Force and the Army for having transported all the necessary equipment overnight in vehicles by road.

He said, when a suggestion came that BRO equipment was required to clear the debris through the equipment used in the road construction, that too has been made available from today.

Dr. Jitendra said, as the

Parliament from this area was also particularly pained, because before 2014, this holy place carrying Machail Yatra was fully neglected and it was only after Prime Minister Modi came that our request was accepted to provide basic amenities over here. He recalled that only in the last 10 years, this area got road connectivity, mobile towers, electricity, drinking water, toilets, etc. In fact, one new bridge which had been recently constructed, also got washed away in the

floods.

When asked about the casualties, the Minister said that officially, the figure that can be given is 53 because these are the dead bodies which we have actually been found from the debris. But at the same time, he hastened to add that it is scary to predict how many more may be lying buried under the debris and how many might have got washed away in the rapidly flowing waters within those 15 deadly seconds.

Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild celebrates 79th Independence Day with patriotic fervour, solemn tribute

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild (JNEG) celebrated the 79th Independence Day with patriotic enthusiasm and heartfelt reverence at a simple yet meaningful ceremony held at Hotel Lemon Tree, Jammu. The event commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by all attendees.

Prominent media personalities graced the occasion, including JNEG Chairman Raj Daluja (Editor-in-Chief, State Times), President A.K. Sawhney (Chief Patron, Journey Line), Vishal Chopra (Editor-in-Chief, Jammu Metro), Ram Dubey (Editor, Kattu Satya), Iqbal Qazmi (Editor, Daily Udaan), Vinod kumar (Editor, Truly Times), Amit Sawhney (Editor, Journey Line), Sanjeev Chadha (Editor-in-chief, Zindasach), Abhishek Kapoor (Editor-in-Chief Daily Reality Speaks), Sarfraz Ahmed (Editor-in-Chief Urdu Newspaper) among others.

The Guild observed the cel-



Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild members during 79th Independence Day celebration at Jammu.

bration with a solemn spirit, refraining from any social gatherings or festivities as a mark of respect for the tragic cloudburst disaster in Kishtwar, where many lives were lost and approximately

250 individuals remain untraceable.

Addressing the gathering, Advocate A.K. Sawhney, President of JNEG, paid homage to the victims of the Kishtwar tragedy and

recalled the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam. He strongly condemned the act and lauded the Indian Army and Air Force for the successful "Operation Sandoor," stating, "Our forces have

done a commendable job in eliminating terrorist camps across the border in Pakistan." A two-minute silence was observed in memory of all the lives lost to terror and natural disasters.

Speaking further, Sawhney emphasized the significance of Independence Day, stating, "On this historic occasion, we must take immense pride in saluting our beloved Tricolour and remember, with gratitude, the supreme sacrifices of our freedom fighters. It is also a moment to bow our heads in respect for the brave soldiers and citizens who laid down their lives for the unity, integrity, and progress of our great nation."

Chairman Raj Daluja highlighted the patriotic mission of the Guild, asserting that JNEG stands united on issues of national interest. "We are committed to responsible journalism and fair reporting that aligns with and promotes the interests of the nation," he said.

As part of the day's observance, a plantation drive was also conducted within the hotel premises. Guild members, along with members of the public, enthusiastically participated, reaffirming their commitment to environmental consciousness and national development.

DIPR celebrates 79th Independence Day with patriotic fervour



Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey hoisting National Flag.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Friday celebrated the 79th Independence Day with patriotic fervour at its Rail

Head Complex office Jammu.

Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey hoisted the National Flag, which was followed by the rendition of

the National Anthem by all officers and officials.

Greeting the staff on the occasion, the Joint Director congratulated everyone and called for upholding the spirit of

unity, integrity and dedication towards the nation.

The event was attended by Deputy Director Central Sunil Kumar; Deputy Director Information Jammu Ashu Kumari along with other officers and officials of the department.

On the occasion, floral tributes were offered to the martyrs of the department - Late Sh. Anil Kumar Abrol (Field Publicity Officer), Late S. Harbans Singh (Project Operator) and Late Sh. Anchal Singh (Project Operator) - in recognition of their dedicated service and sacrifice.

AIIMS Jammu secures 7th Rank in Outlook Magazine's 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu has achieved a landmark recognition in the Outlook Magazine Government Medical Universities Ranking 2025, securing an outstanding 7th position nationwide and emerging as the second-highest ranked institute after AIIMS Delhi. This achievement reflects the institute's rapid growth in infrastructure, academic excellence, research, governance and outreach.

According to Outlook Magazine, AIIMS Jammu scored an impressive 385.62 out of 400 in Academic and Research Excellence, underscoring the quality of its teaching, advanced curriculum, and the strength of its 130-plus research projects. In Industry Interface and Placement, the institute achieved 188.58 out of 200, highlighting successful collaborations with global institutions such as the University of Alabama, IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, and CSIR-IIIM, and producing graduates ready to excel in leading healthcare and research positions. In Infrastructure and Facilities, AIIMS Jammu scored 133.05 out of 150, reflecting the completion of 43 state-of-the-art buildings in a record three-and-a-half years, a 1,000-seat conven-

tion centre, advanced modular operation theatres, and a fully equipped digital library with over 13,000 e-journals. The Governance and Extension parameter saw 132.65 out of 150, demonstrating effective management and impactful outreach programs, while the Diversity and Outreach score of 70.82 out of 100 affirms its commitment to inclusivity and community health initiatives. With an overall score of 910.22 out of 1000, AIIMS Jammu has emerged as a benchmark for new AIIMS institutions across India.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, expressed deep pride and gratitude, crediting this success to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose mission to establish AIIMS in every state under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana has transformed India's healthcare landscape.

"AIIMS Jammu is not just a hospital," he said, "it is a beacon of hope, knowledge, and compassionate care for generations to come." Rooted in the principle of equitable access to world-class healthcare, the institute has bridged critical gaps in specialty care, nurtured future medical leaders, and

strengthened regional healthcare infrastructure.

In its journey so far, AIIMS Jammu has treated over 2.6 lakh patients in its outpatient departments, admitted nearly 4,000 patients for inpatient care, and managed more than 15,000 emergency cases. The institute has performed over 1,800 surgeries in eight advanced modular operation theatres, and conducted over 30,000 X-rays, 20,000 ultrasounds, 7,000 CT scans and 2,300 MRIs. It is the first among the new AIIMS to set up a high-end Transfusion Medicine Unit, introduce a Green Smart Waterless Lab, and establish the only Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine across all AIIMS, eliminating the need to send high-end genomic samples abroad.

On the academic front, AIIMS Jammu has grown from one MBBS batch of 50 to 100 students annually, launched B.Sc. Nursing with 60 students, and introduced MD/MS, MDS, and M.Ch. in Paediatric Surgery programs. Its state-of-the-art digital library offers thousands of resources for students and faculty, while the 1,000-seat convention centre has already hosted multiple national and international conferences,

cementing AIIMS Jammu's role as a growing academic hub.

AIIMS Jammu's rapid progress has been recognised nationally. AIIMS Jammu was honoured with the Best Project Award during its 170th Annual Day for the institute's infrastructure, presented by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar.

Eminent dignitaries including the Prime Minister, Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Lieutenant Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha, and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have visited the campus, each acknowledging its scale, quality and transformative impact.

Looking ahead, AIIMS Jammu is being developed as a "Global Village" for Healthcare, Education, and Research, with approved Centres of Excellence in Cancer, Ophthalmology, Robotic Surgery, Dentistry and Telemedicine, alongside proposals for a CBRN Emergency Centre and an Institute of Paramedical Sciences. Prof. Gupta emphasised that while the institute takes pride in its achievements, it remains grounded in its values and committed to its motto, "Patient First."

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