

Op Drishti: Over 2,000 people screened & 400 surgeries performed during a first-of-its-kind advanced surgical eye camp at Command Hospital, Northern Command, J&K

Posted On: 22 NOV 2025 6:22PM by PIB Delhi

A first-of-its-kind advanced surgical eye camp ‘Op Drishti’ was organised by Command Hospital, Northern Command, Udhampur from November 18-22, 2025, in collaboration with the surgical team from Army Hospital (Research and Referral), New Delhi. The camp exceeded expectations as more than 2,000 people were screened and over 400 surgeries performed, including complex procedures for cataracts, glaucoma, and retinal ailments. People, including serving personnel, dependents, Veer Naris (war widows), and local civilians, came from far-flung areas of Jammu & Kashmir, including remote villages in Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Ramban etc.



The surgical team consisted of highly skilled and experienced ophthalmologists led by Brigadier SK Mishra, a distinguished ophthalmic surgeon and Head of the Department of Ophthalmology at Army Hospital (Research and Referral), who has the distinction of performing surgery on two Presidents of India.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh virtually addressed the closing ceremony and appreciated the efforts of the Northern Command and Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) for providing emergency medical care as and when required to the people of J&K. Chief of Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi also virtually addressed the gathering congratulating the AFMS and Northern Command for this unique endeavour. LG of J&K Shri Manoj Sinha attended the closing ceremony. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Northern Command Lt Gen Pratik Sharma was present on the occasion.



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; Prime Ministers' Office Dr Jitendra Singh visited the camp on November 20, 2025, and interacted with the patients. He toured the Department of Ophthalmology, where he was briefed on the hospital's state-of-the-art facilities, patient care programs, and ongoing free eye-screening initiatives. Dr Jitendra Singh lauded the Indian Army for its multifaceted role, stating that while the Army's service during wartime is exceptional, its contribution to humanity and dedication to serving society in times of peace is equally immense. He emphasised that the Armed Forces not only safeguard the nation but also extend critical healthcare and humanitarian services, reflecting their unwavering commitment to the welfare of citizens.



Among the beneficiaries is Shri Surinder Singh, a 72-year-old patriarch from Poonch. He was not merely battling blindness for 2-3 years, he was carrying the heavy, indelible scars of loss. He had witnessed the unfolding tragedy in his very neighborhood as Pakistan resorted to shelling during Operation Sindoor, leading to the loss of lives of his neighbors - the vital breadwinners, the pillars of their families.

Shri Surinder Singh transformed his gratitude into action, becoming a tireless champion who used his restored sight and his intimate understanding of grief to personally mobilise those fellow citizens paralysed by sorrow and hardship.

Similarly, Abdullah Shafeeq, a 56-year-old retired soldier from Mendhar, proved pivotal in coordinating and facilitating the provision of these specialised ophthalmological facilities to residents impacted by the recent conflict.

The camp delivered life-changing results, perhaps best exemplified by Rajkumari Devi, 96 years, having received the gift of clear sight, now has the precious ability to witness the world in full clarity.

The genesis of this impactful medical mission lay in a shared vision of service, conceptualised by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, following a request from the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha. Responding swiftly to this call for vital healthcare outreach, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi instructed the highest echelons of military medicine - DG, AFMS & DG Medical Services (Army) - to meticulously plan and execute the camp's operations. To guarantee clinical excellence, the Chief of the Army Staff further instructed the setting up of a specialised camp within the operational area of Udhampur.

VK/SR/Savvy

