Operation Drishti: 412 free eye surgeries at Military Hospital, Meerut

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News

In the 13th edition of "Operation Drishti", the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) performed 412 free eye surgeries at the Military Hospital, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), between 22 and 24 November 2026 – a record number. 197 of the beneficiaries were civilians, and about 5,000 people were screened.

Background

- Operation Drishti is a series of mega eye-surgery camps run by the AFMS for ex-servicemen, their families and local people. Earlier camps were held at Udhampur and Tangdhar (Kupwara) in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Cataract (clouding of the eye lens) is the leading cause of blindness in India. The National Programme for Control of Blindness (1976) is now the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI).
- Meerut is where the Revolt of 1857 began on 10 May 1857.

Tamil Nadu link: Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai (1976), founded by Dr G. Venkataswamy, is a world model for low-cost cataract surgery; Sankara Nethralaya (Chennai, 1978) is another leading eye hospital.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. 'Operation Drishti' is related to what?

A) Free eye surgeries

B) Counter-drone operations

C) Overseas evacuation

D) Flood relief

Answer: A – Explanation: Free eye surgeries were done at Military Hospital, Meerut, under Operation Drishti.

2. Which body conducts the Operation Drishti camps?

A) ICMR

B) Indian Red Cross Society

C) Armed Forces Medical Services

D) AIIMS

Answer: C – Explanation: AFMS runs these camps for ex-servicemen, families and local people.

3. What is the leading cause of blindness in India?

A) Cataract

B) Trachoma

C) Myopia

D) Glaucoma

Answer: A – Explanation: Cataract, clouding of the lens, is the leading cause and is curable by surgery.

4. Where did the Revolt of 1857 begin?

A) Meerut

B) Lucknow

C) Kanpur

D) Jhansi

Answer: A – Explanation: On 10 May 1857, sepoys rose at Meerut and marched to Delhi.

5. Who founded Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai?

A) Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy

B) Dr S.S. Badrinath

C) Dr V. Shanta

D) Dr G. Venkataswamy

Answer: D – Explanation: Dr V (Venkataswamy) founded Aravind in 1976; Badrinath founded Sankara Nethralaya.