

## UNION MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR FLAGS OFF 'OPERATION BLUE FREEDOM' TO CREATE A WORLD RECORD AT SIACHEN GLACIER

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Rights & Welfare of Persons with Disability including Mentally Ill People - Schemes & their Performance, Mechanisms, Laws Institutions and Bodies

On the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar today unfurled the national flag at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi in the presence of Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Sushri Pratima Bhoumik, Ms. Upma Srivastava, Member Secretary, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre and Shri Vikas Trivedi, Director, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre.



Participating in a series of events organised by Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, a premier autonomous research body mandated to research and provide policy feed to empower marginalised communities and to bring in Socio Economic transformation in the society, Dr. Virendra Kumar flagged off a pioneering expedition '**Operation Blue Freedom**'. A team of people with disabilities from across the country undertook an expedition till Siachen Glacier to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield.

Dr. Ambedkar International Centre has supported this world record expedition of people with disabilities to Siachen Glacier as part of its commitment towards the cause and betterment of Divyanjans of our country.

The team of people with disabilities, trained by '**Team CLAW**', a team of Armed Forces veterans, undertook this expedition till Kumar Post (Siachen Glacier) to create a new World Record for the largest team of people with disabilities to reach the world's highest battlefield. Recently, the Government of India had permitted a team of selected people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier.



This pioneering expedition has brought India on the global stage as a leader in empowering Divyangjan and set a benchmark for other nations to emulate. This expedition is in the line of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for Divyangjan and Ministry of Social Justice Empowerment's pursuit to harness the immense productive potential of people with disabilities. Simultaneously, it has also portrayed the skill and heart of India's Armed Forces not only on the Battlefield but off it as well.

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