



Place in News - Kishtwar District

Context: A significant cloudburst occurred in Chosoti village within Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir, resulting in the deaths of at least 12 individuals. The Machail Mata Yatra has been halted as rescue and relief efforts are ongoing.



About Kishtwar District:

- A town, municipality, and the administrative center of Kishtwar district in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Location:** Located in the Jammu division, approximately 209 km from Srinagar and about 211 km from Jammu.

Region & Geography:

- Characterized by mountainous terrain, similar to the regions of Himachal and Ladakh.
- Shares borders with Himachal Pradesh (southeast) and Doda district (southwest).



- Experiences considerable snowfall during winter, with settlements found at elevations reaching up to 9,500 ft.

Features:

- Referred to as the “Land of Saffron, Sapphire, and Shrines.”
- Abundant in forests, tourist attractions, health resorts, and historical sites.

About Machail Mata:

- A highly regarded Hindu shrine dedicated to Goddess Durga, situated in Machail village, Sub Division Paddar, Kishtwar district.
- **Location:** Positioned near the tributaries of the Chenab River, an area also populated by Buddhist and Thakur communities (worshippers of serpents).

History:

- First visited in 1981 by Thakur Kulveer Singh from Bhaderwah.
- Since 1987, the annual ‘Chhadi Yatra’ (holy mace procession) has been held, commencing from Chinote in Bhaderwah and proceeding to Machail in Paddar.