

Cooperatives significant for women's empowerment: HM

KOLLAM: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday said women's empowerment through cooperatives was one of the core objectives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He was speaking after inaugurating various initiatives of cooperative societies under the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) aimed at strengthening and promoting women's empowerment in the cooperative sector at Kundara here.

Before starting his speech, Shah recalled that it was his first visit to the state after Kerala was renamed Keralam following the passage of a Bill in Parliament.

Shah said farmers and people associated with the co-operative sector had been demanding the creation of a separate union ministry for cooperation since ► **P11**



LoP meets Amit Shah, to discusses key J&K issues

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, called upon Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and held detailed discussions on a range of important issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir. During the meeting, Sharma apprised the Union Home Minister of matters related to the ► **P11**

RSS expands “footprint” with new office opening

KOLKATA: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Saturday formally inaugurated its new five-storey office, 'Keshav Smriti', in New Town near Kolkata, nearly four decades after its existing state headquarters, 'Keshav Bhavan', was established in the metropolis.

RSS national general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale inaugurated the new building, which has been conceived as an additional organisational centre to accommodate the Sangh's expanding activities in West Bengal.

The new facility will function as an annex building of 'Keshav Bhavan' located in Maniktala, which will continue to serve as the South Bengal divisional headquarters, according to Sangh functionaries.

The five-storey building, designed with a mix of modern facilities and traditional organisational requirements, has been equipped with dedicated spaces for meetings, accommodation, dining, archival preservation and digital communication.

The new office comes 37 years after Keshav Bhavan was established in 1989 in Maniktala area of Kolkata. RSS functionaries have said the new facility was necessitated by the expansion of organisational and social activities in the state and the increasing pressure on the existing headquarters.

The development comes against the backdrop of a significant expansion claimed by the RSS in West Bengal following the BJP's ► **P11**

Maintain constant vigil, step up intel-led Ops in J&K: Army Chief

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth has stressed the need for constant vigilance and sharper intelligence-led operations to stay ahead of emerging terrorist threats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gen Seth, who visited forward areas in north and central Kashmir, including Kupwara and Budgam, on Friday, reviewed the operational preparedness of the forces deployed in the region.

"General Seth visited Rashtriya Rifles sector headquarters under Srinagar-based Chinara Corps and reviewed operational preparedness for counter-terrorist operations," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) said in a post on X.

The Army chief was briefed on the prevailing security situation and the measures instituted to "detect, deter and decisively" respond to terrorist threats.

Commending all ranks for their professionalism, commitment and ► **P11**



paredness for counter-terrorist operations," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) said in a post on X.

The Army chief was briefed on the prevailing security situation and the measures instituted to "detect, deter and decisively" respond to terrorist threats.

Commending all ranks for their professionalism, commitment and ► **P11**

220 regain eye-sight; LG praises Army docs

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

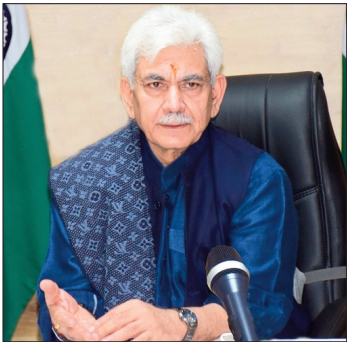
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday lauded the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) teams for restoring eyesight to over 200 people in Kupwara district.

AFMS doctors carried out over 220 sight-restoring surgeries during a two-day camp near the Line of Control (LoC) in J-K's Kupwara district, an official spokesman said on Friday.

The sight-restoring surgeries were conducted during the 10th edition of a first-of-its-kind mega eye surgical camp, held under Operation Drishti, at an underground operation theatre in Tangdhar in Kupwara -- a shelling-prone zone, along the LoC in north Kashmir on Thursday and Friday.

The lieutenant governor described it as a remarkable achievement.

"Kudos to surgeons and personnel of Armed Forces Medical Services for successfully conducting ► **P11**



DGP Prabhat reviews ongoing Ops along Udhampur-Kathua faultline

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday visited Udhampur and took stock of the ongoing anti-terror operations in the higher reaches bordering Kathua, a route used by infiltrating terrorists in the past to penetrate the hinterland, officials said.

The visit of the police chief comes days after two Pakistani terrorists affiliated with proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit were killed in a joint operation by army, police and CRPF in Soan area of Majalta on September 17.

Accompanied by Inspector General of police, Jammu range, brave personnel, whose extraordinary efforts fructified in neutralisation of two Pakistani Jaish terrorists, in Operation Soan.

Meanwhile, Army's northern commander Lt Gen ► **P11**



Tejinder Singh, the DGP reviewed the ongoing operations on Udhampur-Kathua faultline, Udhampur police said in a post on X.

In another post, the police said the officers also felicitated the

The Autonomy Report's Missing Half: How a Political Narrative Became J&K's “History”?

INKING THE TRUTH



Shivang Satya Gupta
Editor-in-Chief

The State Autonomy Committee Report of 2000 deserves to be read again—not merely for what it says, but equally for what it leaves unexplored.

Read carefully against the documents reproduced in the report itself, an important question emerges: Was the constitutional history of Jammu and Kashmir gradually interpreted through the political worldview of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and the National Conference, until that interpretation itself began to be treated as history?

This question must be examined through records, not slogans.

The report presents a recognisable historical sequence: Dogra rule as autocracy; National Conference as the principal vehicle of popular emancipation; the accession as creating an exceptionally limited relationship with India; Sheikh Abdullah as one of the principal architects of that relationship; his dismissal in 1953 as the great constitutional rupture; and subsequent extension of the Indian Constitution as the “erosion” of autonomy.

Indeed, the report describes autonomy as having remained the “heartbeat” of the people of the erstwhile State and identifies its erosion as a primary cause of Kashmir's discontent. (State Autonomy Committee Report)

But Jammu and Kashmir was never Kashmir Valley alone. Its constitutional history belongs equally to Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and the territories lost in 1947. Any historical account claiming to speak for the entire erstwhile State must therefore withstand examination from all these perspectives.

Who Actually Acceded J&K to India?

The first fact is beyond ambiguity. The State Autonomy Committee itself records that Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India on 26 October 1947 when Maharaja Hari Singh Ji signed the Instrument of Accession.

The Instrument reproduced in the same report begins with Maharaja Hari Singh Ji acting in exercise of his sovereignty over the State and declaring accession to the Dominion of India.

Yet elsewhere, the Committee describes Jawaharlal Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah as the “two foremost architects” of the State's accession to India. (State Autonomy Committee Report)

This distinction matters. Sheikh Abdullah's political support for India was historically important. Nehru's role was enormously consequential. But the constitutional act of accession was performed by Maharaja Hari Singh.

Without his signature there was no Instrument of Accession.

A political leader supporting accession and the sovereign authority legally executing accession are not the same constitutional act.

That elementary distinction has too often disappeared from the political

telling of J&K's history.

The Maharaja, Who Is Called an Autocrat Also Initiated the Constitutional Transition

There is an even deeper contradiction inside the report.

The document acknowledges that on 30 October 1947 Maharaja Hari Singh appointed Sheikh Abdullah head of the Emergency Administration and that his proclamation of 5 March 1948 replaced it with a popular interim government pending the creation of a democratic constitution.

The proclamation went further.

The report itself records the Maharaja's direction that a National Assembly based upon adult suffrage should be convened and that representation should, as far as practicable, be proportionate to population.

Therefore, another question must be asked.

If Mahaja Hari Singh Ji was merely the obstacle to democracy portrayed in later National Conference political literature, why does the documentary record show him formally creating the constitutional machinery through which representative government was to emerge?

The answer need not be that Mahaja Hari Singh Ji was a modern democrat in today's sense. He was a hereditary ruler in an age when hereditary rule was disappearing across India.

But the opposite caricature is equally inadequate.

The transition from monarchy to representative government in J&K was not simply a revolution in which the National Conference wrested sovereignty from an unwilling ruler. It also proceeded through constitutional acts of the Maharaja himself.

That part of the story deserves restoration. ► **P11**

CM's Satehood Resolution Pre-1953 Autonomy demand has huge implications: J-K BJP

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Former MLC and BJP JK-UT spokesperson Girdhari Lal Raina today questioned Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's decision to link the September 25 resolution seeking restoration of statehood with the National Conference government's June 26, 2000 Autonomy Resolution.

"The people of Jammu Kashmir deserve a clear answer: why is a demand for restoration of statehood being formally linked to a resolution that sought restoration of the constitutional position prevailing before 1953?" Raina asked.

He said the 2000 Autonomy Resolution was not merely an administrative proposal but sought substantial restoration of the pre-1953 constitutional arrangement, including greater limitations on the Union's jurisdiction and revival of the earlier constitutional nomenclature.

"This is not routine political language. Constitutional resolutions ► **P11**

olution that sought restoration of the constitutional position prevailing before 1953?" Raina asked.

He said the 2000 Autonomy Resolution was not merely an administrative proposal but sought substantial restoration of the pre-1953 constitutional arrangement, including greater limitations on the Union's jurisdiction and revival of the earlier constitutional nomenclature.

"This is not routine political language. Constitutional resolutions ► **P11**

1st Aarogya Shikhar Samman India poised to globally lead next gen of medical practices: Dr Jitendra Singh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said India is poised to globally lead the next generation of medical practices, with the country making rapid advances across the life sciences and emerging areas of medical research and technology.

Describing the present phase as an exciting time for medicine, the minister of state in the prime ministers office said the emergence of new technologies is opening up new possibilities in healthcare, but the challenge would be to achieve an optimum synergy between technology-driven practices and clinical medicine.

He said the future of medical practice would require an optimum synergy between technology-driven practices



and clinical medicine, with Artificial Intelligence (AI), genomics, quantum technologies and other emerging technologies opening new frontiers in healthcare.

Addressing the first Aarogya Shikhar Samman – A Medical Investiture Ceremony organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Chapter of the International Medical Sciences Academy (IMSA) here, the minister said AI is proving to be a major boon in several therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

He referred to its ability to reduce the time ► **P11**

Sitharaman: Country can cross 10 pc growth mark

BENGALURU: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday expressed confidence that India could achieve economic growth of more than 10 per cent, stressing the need for greater adoption of technology and innovation, while cautioning against excessive scepticism about the country's prospects.

Speaking at a fireside chat organised by the IIT Madras Alumni Association here, she said higher economic growth would help accelerate ► **P11**

EC asserts all SIR decisions unanimous; Cabinet Secy letters not policy-related

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Saturday asserted that all SIR orders received unanimous consent from all three Commissioners and that the updates to Form 6 for voter enrolment were upheld by the Supreme Court, as it sought to address issues at the centre of a raging row over decision-making in the poll panel and concerns of voters who have been issued notices or have been left out.

After its first meeting following reports claiming differences between Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the two Election Commissioners, the EC said the letters sent by commis-



sioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi to the Cabinet Secretary pertained to an officer on deputation, rather than policy or IT division matters.

The Indian Express had reported that Sandhu and Joshi wrote separately to Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan after issuance of a work allocation order within the poll body that "threatened to concentrate ► **P11**