

# Sonia, Rahul hand-in-glove with Soros to spread anti-national agenda in India: Chugh

‘BJP will expose nefarious designs of Congress in J&K’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday took strong exception to the manner Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have joined hands with the George Soros Foundation to foment and ignite anti-national activities in the country, more particularly in the region of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a strongly-worded statement, Chugh said it is



alarming to see the Gandhi family being hand-in-glove with foreign disruptive

forces to create a national crisis across the country.

Chugh, who is also the party incharge for J&K, particularly slammed Sonia Gandhi, who as the co-president of the Forum of the Democratic Leaders in Asia Pacific (FDL-AP) Foundation, which is linked to an organisation financed by the George Soros Foundation, has been fomenting anti-India sentiments among people in J&K.

He said it was alarming that the FDL-AP Foundation has been a major proponent of igniting people's sentiments to treat Kashmir as a separate entity.

Chugh reiterated that it has now exposed clearly that the Congress has been following the agenda of foreign forces, including the Pakistan ISI, to create trouble in J&K.

The BJP, he said, would expose anti-national cre-

dentials of the Gandhi family for the nation to understand the Congress agenda of subverting the mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a leading nation in the world.

He said the poison the Congress has been spreading in J&K at the behest of the Soros Foundation will also be exposed now so that J&K keeps going up on the path of development and progress.



## Rohingya settled in Jammu cannot be allowed to die of starvation, cold: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the Centre should decide the fate of the Rohingya population settled in Jammu, asserting that they could not be allowed to die of starvation or cold.

He also expressed concern over the "tense" relationship between Bangladesh and India, saying the foreign secretary was holding meetings with his counterparts in the neighbouring country and efforts were being made to improve the situation.

"It is a humanitarian issue. The central government should decide about them (Rohingyas). If they are to be sent back, do that. If you can, send them back. If you cannot send them back, we cannot starve them to death. They cannot be allowed to die of cold," Abdullah told reporters.

"The government of India should tell us what we have to do with them. As long as they are here, we need to take care of them," the chief minister added.

Abdullah, the National Conference vice-president, also asserted that they did not bring the Rohingya to Jammu or settle them there.

"They have been brought and settled here. If there is a change of policy at the Centre, take them back. As long as they are here, we cannot treat them like animals. They are



humans and they should be treated as such," he said.

The BJP on Monday called the settlement of Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals in Jammu a major "political conspiracy" and demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe to identify those involved in bringing and settling them in the city.

Hitting out at the National Conference government over granting water and power connections to the settlers, the BJP alleged it was being done to protect them as they belonged to a particular community.

Replying to a question about attacks on the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh, Abdullah said there was tension in the relationship between India and its neighbouring country.

"Now, the foreign secretary is holding meetings with them and efforts are being made to improve the situation. Atal Bihari Vajpayee sahib had said

that we could change a friend, not a neighbour. It is our compulsion to ensure good relations with our neighbours," he said.

Abdullah was also asked about West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressing dissatisfaction with the functioning of the INDIA bloc, signalling her intent to take charge of the alliance.

"There has been no meeting of the INDIA bloc after the general elections. So where is the question of a change in leadership? Let the meeting take place. If Mamata Banerjee wants to take over the leadership, let her stake a claim in the meeting," the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

In an interview with a Bengali news channel on December 7, Banerjee said, "I had formed the INDIA bloc, now it is up to those leading the front to manage it. If they can't run the show, what can I do? I would just say that everyone needs to be taken along."

## BJP demands CBI probe into settlement of Rohingyas, Bangladeshis in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP on Monday termed the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in the Jammu city a major "political conspiracy" and demanded a CBI probe to identify those involved in facilitating it.

Hitting out at the National Conference (NC) government over remarks on granting water and power connections to them in Jammu, the BJP alleged it was done to protect them as they belong to a particular community.

"The BJP will urge the lieutenant governor to initiate a CBI probe and lodge an FIR to comprehensively investigate this conspiracy. It must be determined who brought and settled the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Jammu, and stringent action, including prosecution and imprisonment, should be taken against them," Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief spokesperson advocate Sunil Sethi told reporters here.

Sethi claimed the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Jammu and Kashmir began around the same time militancy started in the region in the 1990s. "This is a major conspiracy that warrants a CBI probe. All forces behind this should be exposed and punished. The BJP condemns those who support these individuals on religious grounds," he said.

He said that NGOs played a significant role in resettling



J&K BJP chief spokesperson Advocate Sunil Sethi addressing a press conference.

Rohingyas and questioned the sources of funding for these organisations. "Was the funding sourced domestically or from abroad? The BJP believes the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Jammu, an area close to the international border, was done under a conspiracy," Sethi said.

He called for a detailed investigation to identify those who facilitated the settlement of these individuals on government lands, provided them with water and electricity connections, and helped them obtain Aadhaar cards. "These people have even cast votes in local elections. These facts have now come to light," he added.

Hitting out at political parties supporting them, Sethi said, "Ironically, these are the same individuals who opposed the abrogation of Article 370 and claimed that no Indian could settle in Jammu and Kashmir. Yet, they facilitated the settlement of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in Jammu. Indians residing in other parts of India cannot settle in

Jammu and Kashmir; but these illegal immigrants were allowed to settle here based solely on religion."

Sethi alleged that these individuals pose a threat to national security as they have settled in areas close to the international border. "They were settled as part of a political conspiracy to create a vote bank," he claimed.

The BJP leader said the nation should know which forces are working against its interests and prioritising political gains over national welfare. "The BJP demands the eviction and deportation of Rohingyas residing in Jammu, who have formed large settlements in the city. Illegally settling on the land of Jammu and Kashmir is a crime," he added.

Sethi further said that evidence suggests Rohingyas and Bangladeshis are allegedly involved in local crimes, drug trafficking, and even cross-border terrorism.

Replying to a question about NC minister Javid Rana's

directive to provide water supply to Rohingya settlements, Sethi said, "I want to ask the NC government and its minister Javid Rana whether they will follow the law or if the law does not matter to them. As per the rules in Jammu and Kashmir, obtaining water or electricity connections requires a domicile certificate and legal possession of land. Are they unaware of this?"

Criticising Rana, Sethi said, "Under the UN charter, decisions are made about who qualifies as a legal immigrant, but these individuals are illegal. There is no justification for providing them with water and electricity. Removing them from Jammu is essential for national security and efficient governance."

Sethi said that Rana supports these individuals based on their religion. "If they belonged to another religion, would his stance remain the same? This protection based on religion is part of a political conspiracy," he said.

He referred to Pakistani

refugees, Valmikiis, and Gorkhas, who were denied citizenship for 70 years by Kashmir-centric rulers.

The BJP leader said the Rohingyas should have been restricted to areas near the Assam or Myanmar borders. "What justification is there for them to travel thousands of kilometres to settle in Jammu and Kashmir? This appears to be a well-orchestrated conspiracy to settle them close to the international border in Jammu," he said, adding that this conspiracy must be exposed, and those involved punished.

According to government data, more than 13,700 foreigners, most of them Rohingyas (illegal immigrants from Myanmar) and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in Jammu and other districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Their population increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016.

In March 2021, police found over 270 Rohingyas, including women and children, living illegally in the Jammu city during a verification drive and lodged them at a holding centre inside the Kathua sub-jail.

On November 25, SSP South Jammu Ajay Sharma said 18 FIRs were registered during a drive against landlords renting out properties to Rohingyas and other illegal immigrants without informing police as mandated by the district magistrate's orders.

## Div Com, ADGP review preparations for Republic Day Celebrations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar along with Additional Director General of Police, Anand Jain on Monday reviewed preparations for the celebration of Republic Day-2025.

Chairing the meeting of Heads of Departments and stakeholders, the Divisional Commissioner and ADGP discussed in detail all the necessary arrangements to be ensured by different departments.

During the meeting threadbare discussions were held on facelifting of venue, selection of contingents, cultural program, provision of amenities at the venue, transportation, parking, sanitation, cleanliness, decoration, seating arrangements and other aspects for smooth conduct of the Republic Day celebrations.

The HoDs and representatives of concerned departments and stakeholders organisations were allotted different tasks with instruc-



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar reviewing preparations for R-Day 2025 celebration.

tions of accomplishing the assignments with precision and planning.

The Public Works Department was directed for the repair and renovation works and white wash of the MA Stadium, where the UT level event shall be organised.

The Div Com also directed Departmental Heads to appoint nodal officers of their respective departments for coordinating and finalising the arrangements.

The Divisional Commissioner directed for establishment of a Control Room at the venue with representatives of all the concerned

departments.

The School Education Department and J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages were asked to furnish the lists of student contingents and cultural presentations, while Army, Police were also told to share the lists of respective contingents.

The Divisional Commissioner impressed on the stakeholders to finalize the cultural items and start rehearsals at the earliest.

The JMC functionaries were told to ensure sanitation, water tanker, and mobile toilet facilities at the main venue and other spots during the

rehearsals.

Health department and Fire and emergency services shall ensure availability of Ambulances and fire tenders at the venue, respectively.

Necessary directions were also issued to the concerned departments for installing barricading, security checkpoints, parking spaces, transportation facilities for participants, traffic management, illumination of government buildings, Shelnai Vadan and other important arrangements for celebrating the national festival.

The Div Com and ADGP also issued necessary direc-

tions and instructions for smooth Republic Day celebration in the districts. The DCs were asked to ensure smooth celebrations at District, Sub Division and Block level with flag hoisting in all government institutions buy their heads.

ADGP instructed SSPs to ensure adequate deployment at the venues.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forest, Jammu, DIGs of Police, CRPF, SSB, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Director Social Welfare, SSP Jammu, SSP Security Jammu, SP Traffic besides senior officers of Police, Army, CRPF, BSE, SSB, Air Force, Traffic, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, PWD, JMC, Health Services, Information, Education, Cultural Academy, Youth Services and Sports, Hospitality and Protocol, JKRTC and other concerned departments while Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu division participated through virtual mode.

## DB asks UOI to explain how Sr IAS officer, whose allocation to J&K cadre stands struck down, still continues to serve in UT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Puneet Gupta, directed Union of India (Uoi) to file an affidavit on behalf of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to indicate as to how they have complied with the judgment of the Tribunal dated September 13, 2007, impugned in this petition and shall also explain as to how the Senior IAS Dheeraj Gupta, whose allocation to the J&K cadre stands struck down, is still continuing to serve in the Union Territory of J&K.

Affidavit shall also indicate as to whether respondent is allocated to AGMUT cadre. DB grants two weeks time to file affidavit.

This significant order has been passed in a petition filed by Union of India challenging the order dated September 13, 2007 passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench {'the Tribunal'} in O.A. No.116-JK of 2000 in case titled Dheeraj Gupta Vs. Union of India and Ors., whereby the Tribunal has struck down the allocation of the respondent to the J&K Cadre and directed the petitioners herein to allocate him to Haryana cadre. The direction was directed to be complied with by the Union of India within a period of three months. The impugned order of the tribunal is under challenge before this Court in the instant writ petition since the year 2011. We have gone through

the proceeding sheet and perused the orders passed in this petition from time to time.

After gone through the proceedings, DB does not find any order staying the impugned judgment of the Tribunal. Resultantly, it can be safely said that respondent does not belong to J&K cadre and, therefore, prima facie cannot hold any post borne on the J&K cadre /now AGMUT cadre unless he is allocated to such cadre. During the proceedings it was told to Division Bench that respondent is still working in J&K despite his allocation to J&K having been struck down by the Tribunal. The respondent is also not coming forward to assist this court.

DB observed that before we proceed to decide this petition on merits, we would like to know the position with regard to the implementation of the judgment dated 13.09.2007 by the Union of India. DB directed Vishal Sharma, DSGI shall file an affidavit on behalf of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to indicate as to how they have complied with the judgment of the Tribunal dated 13.09.2007, impugned in this petition and shall also explain as to how the petitioner, whose allocation to the J&K cadre stands struck down, is still continuing to serve in the Union Territory of J&K. Affidavit shall also indicate as to whether respondent is allocated to AGMUT cadre. He prays for and is granted two weeks time to do the needful.

## Army jawan martyred in mine blast in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH/JAMMU: An Army jawan was killed in a mine blast during patrolling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday, officials said. The jawan was part of an area domination patrol in the general area of Thanedar Tekri along the LoC when he accidentally stepped on the mine, resulting in the blast, they said. In the explosion, Havildar V Subbaiah Varikunta of the 25 Rashtriya Rifles lost his life, they added. The General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the White Knight Corps Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva and all ranks paid tributes to the braveheart who made the supreme sacrifice.

"Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. We stand steadfastly with them in this hour of grief," the GoC said.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 9th Annual Conference of Research and Innovation in Pediatric Surgery (RIPSSCON) 2024, hosted by the Department of Pediatric Surgery, AIIMS Jammu, was conducted on December 6 and 7, 2024.

Held under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, the event marked a significant milestone in improving surgical outcomes for the pediatric population.

The conference, conducted at the Convention Centre of AIIMS Jammu, welcomed attendees including world-renowned pediatric surgeons, researchers, educators, and policymakers from across the country.

This conference was

## Department of Pediatric Surgery, AIIMS Jammu hosts Annual Conference of RIPSSCON 2024



Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta posing with other dignitaries.

organized under the aegis of Research and Innovation in Pediatric Surgery, a subsection of the Indian Association of Pediatric Surgery.

The two-day event featured a comprehensive agenda, including keynote addresses, prestigious orations, expert panel discussions, interactive workshops, and research presentations-all tailored to

address the evolving needs of Pediatric Surgery and Healthcare.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti K. Gupta delivered a keynote address on "Surgeons as Leaders: Navigating Administrative Challenges," highlighting the pivotal role that surgeons can play beyond operating theatres.

The conference included three prestigious orations- Amita Sen RIPSS Orator

2024 delivered by Dr. H.P.S. Miglani (Amritsar), President-elect of the Indian Association of Pediatric Surgeons; BHU Alumni RIPSS Orator 2024 delivered by Prof. (Dr.) A.N. Gangopadhyay (BHU, Varanasi); and Upadhaya Gupta RIPSS Orator 2024 delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Anurag Krishna.

The Chief Guest for the conference was Prof. (Dr.)

Sumitra Kumar Biswas, President of the Indian Association of Pediatric Surgeons. Prof. (Dr.) Shilpa Sharma, Chairperson of the Research and Innovation in Pediatric Surgery Society and a pediatric surgeon at AIIMS New Delhi, was the Guest of Honour.

Prof. (Dr.) D.K. Gupta, a globally renowned pediatric surgeon, Ex-Vice Chancellor

of King George's Medical University, Lucknow, and founding member of the Research and Innovation in Pediatric Surgery Society, graced the occasion.

Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Prof. (Dr.) D.K. Gupta, Prof. (Dr.) H.L. Goswamy, Prof. (Dr.) Yogeshwar Mengi, and Prof. (Dr.) Nasib C. Digma for their remarkable contributions to pediatric surgery and their lifelong dedication to the field.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta emphasized that such academic events offer an excellent platform for knowledge exchange, innovative ideas, and discussions on new advancements in the medical and surgical fields, ultimately contributing to improved patient care.

He reiterated that AIIMS Jammu is committed to becoming a center of excellence in clinical care and research and will continue to lead in organizing such impactful academic events.

The organizing team from the Department of Pediatric Surgery, including Dr. Vijay Kumar Kundal (HOD), Dr. Lucky Gupta, and Dr. Akshat Sudhanshu, highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary approaches to optimize patient care.

As part of the conference, the RIPSS Fellowship 2024 was awarded to Dr. Archika Gupta, Dr. Vijai Upadhyay, Dr. Vijay Kundal, Dr. Lucky Gupta, Dr. Shilpa Sharma, Dr. Subramanya Kattapuram, Dr. Roshan Chanchalani, Dr. Sunita Singh, Dr. Gurmeet Singh and Dr. Piyush Kumar.