

COVID crisis, attacks on civilians in JK, ambush on forces in NE, Chhattisgarh kept MHA busy in 2021

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NEW DELHI: Battling the COVID-19 crisis, handling the situation arising after attacks on civilians in Jammu and Kashmir, ambush on security forces in Chhattisgarh and Manipur and a host of other issues kept the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) busy in 2021.

Bringing in high-capacity cryogenic tankers from abroad to deal with oxygen shortage during the brutal second wave of the pandemic, tussle with the West Bengal government over political violence in the state and actively supporting the states which bore the brunt of natural disasters are some of the other key issues that the home ministry handled during the year.

Like the previous year, in 2021 too, the MHA was the nodal authority in regulating the COVID-19 curtailment measures -- imposing restrictions where required and relaxing them when the situation improved.

Every month, throughout the year, the Union Home Secretary issued pandemic guidelines to the states and Union Territories -- on what to do and what not to depending on the COVID-19 situation.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was instrumental in importing high capacity cryogenic tankers from countries like Singapore and UAE for transportation of oxygen from one part of India to the other when the country was fighting the second wave and oxygen shortage.

SUF condemns sacrilegious incidents occurred in Punjab, seeks constitution of SIT

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JAMMU: To condemn recent sacrilegious incidents occurred at Darbar Sahib Amritsar and Nizampur Mor, Kapurthala road (Punjab), a meeting of various Sikh organizations of Jammu & Kashmir was held on Sunday under the leadership of Sudarshan Singh Wazir, Chairman, Sikh United Front (SUF) J&K, which was attended by a number of representatives of various Sikh organizations and members of Sikh community.

Speaking on the occasion, the participants urged Chief Minister of Punjab, Charanjit Singh Channi to appoint a SIT to investigate and punish all the culprits who perpetrated the heinous crimes. The participants further asked the Chief Minister of Punjab to provide adequate security to all worshipping places so that such incidents may not happen in future. "Such mis-happenings are aimed to disturb the communal harmony and brotherhood in Punjab. As such, all the citizens should

Naqvi calls PM Modi 'trouble-shooter' who fought from front during COVID-19 pandemic

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MUMBAI: Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "trouble-shooter leader" who fought from the front to get the world's largest democracy out of the "biggest calamity of the century". Speaking after inaugurating various development projects at Dhule in Maharashtra, Naqvi said PM Modi ensured adequate facilities and resources for the health and well-being of people during the COVID-19 related challenges.

People's self-restraint and precautions reflected their faith in the leadership of Modi, he said. "By the grace of God, we have a trouble-shooter leader like Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has fought from the front to get the world's largest democracy out of the biggest calamity of the century," he said. Naqvi claimed some political parties were trying to commit the sin of derailing the country's progress, prosperity and unity through "post-paid political pretence".

"We have to be remain cautious of such players, who are leaving no chance to harm India's growing prestige across the world through their 'eaves of conspiracies', he said. Prime Minister Modi is taking the country forward on the highway of good governance by demolishing the speed breaker of cut, commission, corruption, crime and communalism, the senior BJP leader said.

The Modi era has dissipated the politics of danga and dabangs with the determination to development with dignity, he said.



Shah was also involved in assisting the states in whatever way possible to handle the situation, including asking them to revive defunct oxygen plant for augmenting production of the essential public health commodity.

The MHA was on tenterhooks when the terrorists carried out multiple attacks on civilians and policemen in Jammu and Kashmir since October.

Jammu and Kashmir, which has been on the edge since August 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two Union Territories, also saw a visit by Shah in October, amid the civilian killings.

Killings of 22 security personnel in Chhattisgarh in April by Naxals and a Colonel, his wife, son and four security personnel in Manipur on November 14 by the Naga insurgents also reminded everyone that the violence perpetrated by the extremists continued unabated in some parts of the country.

A bitter feud began in May between the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal

government and the Centre when the MHA had summoned the state's then chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay to serve in the central government after he remained absent at a review meeting on cyclone 'Yas' chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28 May.

The tussle between the West Bengal government and the Centre also witnessed in the run-up to the West Bengal assembly elections held in April-May over the political violence.

The MHA and the home minister were also seen busy in dealing with the situation arising due to the clashes along the Assam-Mizoram border in July in which six Assam Police personnel were killed and 50 others, including the district SP, injured.

Assam's Barak Valley districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi share 164-km-long border with Mizoram's three districts of Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit.

Following a territorial dispute, there were clashes along the inter-state border in August 2020 and February this year before the

massive flare-up in July.

Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra has been facing opposition onslaught ever since his son Ashish was allegedly involved in mowing down four protesting farmers in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri in September.

Even though the opposition disrupted the proceedings of both houses of Parliament during the just concluded winter session, Mishra continued to function normally, attending his North Block office regularly.

Shah was also seen leading the government's strong defence in the wake of Pegasus snooping controversy.

Hitting out at opposition Congress and international organisations, he denied government's any involvement of surveillance on politicians, journalists and others saying such "obstructors" and "disruptors" were only aiming to humiliate India at the world stage. Maintaining that such issues will not be able to derail India's development trajectory with their conspiracies, Shah said those who intend to derail India's progress were peddling the same old narratives about the country.

Shah also questioned the timing of the "selective leaks" ahead of the Monsoon session. "People have often associated this phrase with me in lighter vein but today I want to seriously say - the timing of the selective leaks, the disruptions Aap chronology

in a notification, the home ministry said people of India while celebrating "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" salute those sons and daughters of the country who had to sacrifice their lives during the partition of India".

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bad. It committed acts of terrorism in Uri and Pulwama," the defence minister said.

"And then our prime minister took a decision and we went to the soil of that country and destroyed terrorist hideouts and when there was a need for airstrikes, we did that successfully," he said.

"We gave the message that if somebody dares to cast an evil eye on us, then not just on this side of the border, but we can go to the other side and hit them. This is India's strength," Rajnath said.

Speaking on the occasion, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the stand of the country is clear that it does not provoke first but also does not "spare anyone who provokes it".

India shares about 1,700-km-long porous border with Myanmar, where mass demonstrations are being held in protest against the declaration of a year-long emergency by the country's armed forces.

For the first time since independence, the MHA

declared that August 14 will be observed as the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives during the country's partition.

Before the MHA announcement, Prime Minister said that the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day will be observed every year in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people as the pain of partition can never be forgotten.

"India should have nuclear deterrents so that no country in the world attacks us, and we have shown this," Rajnath said after laying foundation stones of the Defence Technologies and Test Centre and the BrahMos Manufacturing Centre here.

He also slammed Pakistan of carrying out terror attacks in the country.

"There is a neighbouring country. It got separated from India sometime back. I don't know why its intentions vis-a-vis India are always

Night curfew in Delhi from today

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NEW DELHI: In the wake of the rising COVID-19 cases, the Delhi government has decided to impose night curfew from Monday, according to sources.

Night curfew will commence from 11 PM and last till 5 AM.

Delhi reported 290 fresh coronavirus cases on Sunday, the highest since June 10, and one fatality, while the positivity rate rose to 0.55 percent, according to data shared by the Delhi government's health department here.

On June 10, the national capital had reported 305 cases and 44 deaths.

The cumulative tally has now risen to 14,43,352 while the death toll is 25,105. The number of active cases stands at 1,103, of which 583 patients are in home isolation. States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Karnataka have also reimposed night curfew.

Power shutdown

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JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to the areas being fed from Gris Stations- Pounichak Grid, Canal Grid, Rajouri and Katra Grid shall remain affected on December 27 from 9 am to 1 pm.

On the other hand, the

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