

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!**2 soldiers injured...**

they said. The cause of the fire is not known immediately but fire incidents in forests across Jammu region have witnessed manifold increase due to the prevailing heatwave conditions and scant rainfall this season.

J&K ranks highest..

2021 Report which provides suggestions for governments to further enhance their e-Governance service delivery systems.

In the Union territories category, Jammu and Kashmir was assessed for the first time in NeSDA 2021 and scored the highest amongst all UTs for six sectors, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions said in a statement.

Meghalaya and Nagaland are the leading State Portals with an overall compliance of more than 90 per cent across all assessment parameters among the northeast and hill states, it said.

Among Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir ranked the highest with an overall compliance of nearly 90 per cent, according to the report.

Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85 per cent among the Remaining States category, it said.

According to the report, Kerala had the highest overall compliance score amongst all the States and UTs.

Among the Services Portals for North-East and Hill States, the highest-ranking states of Meghalaya and Tripura showed improvement across all six sectors compared to NeSDA 2019, the report said.

Among the Remaining States, the overall score of Tamil Nadu increased the most in 2021 compared to 2019.

Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Goa, and Odisha also improved the compliance of their Services Portals by 100 per cent.

Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan are the leading states with compliance of more than 75 per cent across all parameters for their Services Portals.

The second edition of the NeSDA has been prepared covering the assessment of states, Union Territories. It focuses on Central Ministries on their effectiveness in delivering online services to citizens.

The biennial study also provides suggestions for governments to further enhance their e-Governance service delivery systems.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) had constituted the NeSDA in 2019 as part of its mandate to boost the e-government endeavours and drive digital government excellence.

NeSDA helps the respective governments improve their delivery of citizen centric services and shares best practices across the country for all States, UTs and Central Ministries to emulate.

DARPG embarked on the second edition of NeSDA study in January 2021.

The NeSDA 2021 framework was finalised after multiple consultative workshops with States, UTs and Central Ministries from March 2021 to May 2021.

The NeSDA 2021 Portal was formally launched in June 2021 to conduct the entire assessment process online.

The data collection, synthesis and analysis processes spanned the next 12 months till May 2022.

Regular review meetings were held during this period to provide necessary guidance to stakeholders.

In addition to the DARPG team supported by NASSCOM and KPMG, 36 nodal officers from State and UTs and 15 nodal officers from Central Ministries came together to ensure the successful conduct of NeSDA 2021.

More than one lakh responses from across the country were reviewed to finalise the findings of NeSDA 2021 report.

The report covers services across seven sectors finance, labour and employment, education, local governance and utility services, social welfare, environment and tourism sectors.

The assessment covered 56 mandatory services for each state and UT and 27 services for the focus Central Ministries.

The second edition of NeSDA added eight State/UT level services and four Central Ministry services.

Five of the State/UT level services assessed in NeSDA 2019 are now offered through Central Ministries and hence were not considered for the 2021 assessment.

The portals assessed were classified into one of two categories.

State/UT/Central Ministry Portal, the designated portal of the respective government that provides a single window access to information and service links, is the first category.

These portals were assessed on four parameters, viz., accessibility, content availability, ease of use, and information security and privacy.

The second category comprises of the State/UT/Central Ministry Services Portals which focus on the digital delivery of services and provide service-related information.

The Services Portals were assessed on an additional three parameters, viz., End-service Delivery, Integrated Service Delivery, and Status and Request Tracking.

To facilitate comparative assessment of the progress in e-services across the country, the assessment parameters have remained the same as in the 2019 study.

NeSDA has followed the Good Governance Index 2021 grouping of the States and UTs.

North-East and Hill States make up the first group while Union Territories make up the second group.

The remaining states of India have been classified into two states as Remaining States Group A and Remaining States Group B.

NeSDA 2021 has shown clear progress for e-Governance services across the country.

States and UTs have strived to implement to the recommendations of NeSDA 2019 for creation of integrated State/UT Portals and enhancing the number of services provided on their services portals.

Further, governance in the times of the pandemic necessitated operationalisation of security measures such as VPNs, flexible working policies including work-from-home, and development of several new apps that brought citizens and governments closer through use of technology inter alia providing timely services at the doorstep.

Improvement in the country's e-Governance landscape may be summarised in the following key takeaways increase in e-Service Delivery, rise in use of integrated/centralized portals for delivery of e-Services, improvement across assessment parameter scores.

In NeSDA 2021, 1,400 services across all states and UTs were assessed as compared to 872 in 2019, an increase of over 60 per cent.

Seventy-four per cent respondents of the nation-wide citizen survey conducted

during the study had stated that they are satisfied with the e-Services provided by the States and UTs.

The e-Services of Finance and Local Governance and Utility Services sectors were the most widely used by citizens.

The rising trend of e-Services delivery shifting from single silo departmental portals to integrated/centralised portals has resulted in higher citizen satisfaction.

The NeSDA 2021 findings demonstrate the journey of e-Services towards citizen centricity and benchmarking governance.

Governments across the country have put a stronger emphasis on integrated service delivery which has led to a greater number of e-Services being offered through integrated/centralised portals.

These portals also provide unified access to services, improving accessibility and usability.

They also provide a uniform digital experience to users, creating ease of use through intuitive navigation, uniform look and feel, improved content availability, robust information security, and privacy mechanisms.

These factors have led to increase in scores across all assessment parameters.

An overall improvement has been seen in scores across all parameters and at all levels with Information Security and Privacy being the most improved parameter across all portals.

Among the Central Ministry Portals, scores have improved for four portals.

Among the Central Ministry Services Portals, scores have improved for 6 portals while among States and UTs, scores have improved for 28 of the State / UT Portals and for 22 of the State / UT Services Portals.

5 LeT terrorists...

the encounter, the spokesperson said.

He identified the slain terrorists as Junaid Ahmad Sheergozi of Gadoora in Pulwama, Fazil Nazir Bhat of Drabgam in Pulwama and Irfan Ahmad Malik of Arabal Nikas in Pulwama.

According to police records, all three were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases, including attacks on police and other security forces and civilian atrocities, the spokesperson said.

Sheergozi, along with his associate Abid Hussain Shah of Monghama in Pulwama, who was killed on May 30, was involved in the killing of police personnel Reyaz Ahmad at his house on May 13, he added.

"He was also involved in the June 2 attack on labourers at a brick kiln in Chadoora on the outskirts of the Pulwama-Budgam axis, in which one labourer was killed and others were injured," the spokesperson said.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including two AK-47 rifles and a pistol, were recovered from the encounter site. All the recovered materials have been taken into the case records for further investigation, the spokesperson informed.

Kumar congratulated the security forces for carrying out the anti-terrorist operation in a professional manner and without any collateral damage.

He also lauded them for tracking and neutralising the terrorists involved in the recent killing of police personnel in Pulwama.

Earlier, the IGP said 99 terrorists were killed in the valley so far this year. With Paray's killing, the number has gone up to 100.

Will ensure honourable...

the Kashmiri Pandits living in Jammu and different parts of the country and outside. The central and Union Territory governments are working together to ensure your honourable return and rehabilitation in the valley within a time frame, the minister said.

Referring to the targeted killings by terrorists in the valley, he said there is no need for a major concern as the government and the security agencies are alert and are giving a befitting reply to them.

Patel said the central government under the leadership of Modi had shown to the world that the party is capable of doing anything.

We have restored grass-roots democracy (by holding elections to panchayat and urban bodies), fast forwarded development, protracted the benefits of central schemes to the poor, completed delimitation and also provided reservation to the deserving communities, he said.

Asked about communal tension prevailing in different parts of the country including J&K following remarks by two now-suspended BJP leaders, he said since the country under the leadership of Modi is growing in popularity, there are certain forces who are jealous and do not want peace to prevail.

These forces are a handful and the government and its agencies including police and intelligence are alert and will be dealing with them as per the law, he said.

Earlier addressing the function, he said the protests over the past 48 hours in different parts of the country cannot be ignored.

It is evident that those behind these protests are jealous of Modi since his return to power for the second time, Patel said.

Referring to the revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, the minister said he had joined BJP only because he wanted removal of this article.

I have not imagined that Article 370 will go before our eyes...It was not an easy task, he said, adding the same was the case with the construction of Ram temple and triple talaq and said most of the central government schemes are women-centric.

He said while most of the issues were addressed by the Modi-led government, there are still some pending issues which are linked to the heart and need to be addressed.

The crown of India is incomplete without PoK which will be ours one day...without this, our progress is incomplete, he said as he spoke about various achievements made by the BJP-led government in the country after Modi came to power in 2014.

He assured Pandits that all their pending demands like adequate space in flats, enhancement of monthly relief and employment opportunities for the youth will be addressed.

Kashmiri Pandits United Front, meanwhile, handed over a memorandum to the minister highlighting various demands including permanent solution and rehabilitation of the community at a single place.

It also appealed to the government to acknowledge that Kashmiri Pandits are victims of genocide and pleaded for passage of a bill in the parliament in this connection with a provision to identify those behind their genocide to bring them to justice.

Sonia admitted to...

had sought more time from the probe agency, which has now issued a fresh summons for her to appear on June 23. The ED has registered an FIR in a money-laundering case pertaining to the National Herald-AJL case.

Security conference focuses...

Director General of Police, Jammu Mukesh Singh, was held at the Dharmund

Army Garrison in Ramban district on Saturday, he added.

The spokesperson said the meeting with the civil administration and police officials from Ramban and Kishtwar districts was held with the aim of increasing synergy, interaction and coordination between the civil and military agencies for the forthcoming pilgrimage.

The 43-day-long yatra to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath is scheduled to start on June 30 from two routes -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan route in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and the 14-km shorter Baltal route in central Kashmir's Ganderbal. The pilgrims pass through Ramban along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway to reach the base camps in the valley.

Among others who attended the meeting were the deputy inspector general of police, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban, the Ramban SSP, the SSP (Traffic), the assistant commissioner (R&AW) and senior military officers of the region, the spokesperson said.

He said the interaction provided an opportunity for deliberations on important issues of mutual interest impacting the security of the region.

"All officials stressed the need for harmonious functioning of the government agencies to make the event successful," the spokesperson said.

In view of the prevailing internal security situation, he said "an overview of the security was also undertaken to ensure complete synergy between all security agencies and the civil administration for a coordinated effort towards the achievement of the laid down goals".

Lightning strike takes...

administered first aid at the post. He was then taken to a medical facility, where he was declared dead at 11.45 pm, he said.

Meanwhile, the Army on Sunday paid tributes to the rifleman.

In a solemn ceremony at BB Cantonment, Corps Commander, Chinar Corps, Lt Gen ADS Arjula and all ranks paid homage to the soldier on behalf of the nation, the spokesperson said.

Singh had joined the Army in 2011 and belonged to Bhadravali village of Bah Tehsil, Agra in Uttar Pradesh. He is survived by his wife, two children, the spokesperson said.

"The mortal remains of Rifleman Lokendra Singh are being taken for last rites to his native place, where he would be laid to rest with full military honours," the spokesperson said.

"In this hour of grief the Army stands in solidarity with the bereaved family and remains committed to their dignity and well-being," he said.

Aadil arrested for...

On the basis of the provocative speech, police have registered a case under section 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 506 (Punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Ganai is the first person arrested in the case although raids were also conducted at several other places in the town to apprehend other accused including right wing activists who also stand booked in separate cases registered at the local police station, the officials said.

A police official said there was no untoward incident reported from anywhere in both Doda and Kishtwar districts.

There was no relaxation in curfew in Bhaderwah town, while strict restrictions under section 144 Cr PC also continued in Gandoh, Thathri and Doda towns besides Kishtwar town. Similarly restrictions under prohibitory orders were lifted from Ramban district on Saturday, the official said.

He said the authorities are monitoring the situation and a decision to relax the curfew and restrictions will be taken later in the day.

Prominent citizens of both the communities are actively engaged with police and efforts are on to normalize the situation, the official said.

The protests started in Bhaderwah town of Doda on Thursday when hundreds of people staged a sit-in against the controversial remarks against the Prophet Mohammad.

After intense negotiations, the protesters agreed to clear the road and entered the neighbouring Jama Masjid. Purported video clips of the inflammatory speeches went viral on social media.

Broadband and mobile internet services remained suspended in several areas, including Bhaderwah and Kishtwar towns, as a precautionary measure.

PM personifies true...

only national level projects like Devika River Project and Pakal Dul Hydro Power Project were initiated, but several stalled projects like Shahpur-Kandi Project and Ratla Project were restarted.

At the same time, north India's first industrial biotech park and express corridor from Katra to Delhi were initiated besides, he said, adding that the constituency also got three government medical colleges.

Land acquired after...

taken over and the payment of compensation under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 paid.

"In that view of the matter, the petitioner has no right to occupy and/or continue with the possession, as after the acquisition, the land absolutely vests with the state government. The high court has rightly refused to interfere and we are in complete agreement with the view taken by the high court.

"Therefore, we see no reason to interfere with the impugned order in exercise of our powers under Article 136 of the Constitution of India. The Special Leave Petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the bench said.

The high court had said after the acquisition of land and passing of award, the land vests with the State, free from all encumbrances.

The Uttar Pradesh government had contended that the possession of the land in question was taken in 1996 and even the entry of the revenue record was changed. However, the petitioner had encroached the area again, it had said.

"Any person retaining the possession thereafter has to be treated as a trespasser. When a large chunk of land is acquired, the State is not supposed to put some person or police force to retain the possession and start cultivating on the land till it is utilised. The government is also not supposed to start residing or physically occupying the same once the process of the acquisition is complete.

"If, after the process of acquisition is complete and land vests