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Modi speaks to...

tensions taking into account the legitimate security interests of all countries. The situation in Ukraine deteriorated after Putin announced the military operation against the country.

The Modi-Putin telephone talk came hours after Ukraine sought India's support in defusing the crisis following the Russian attack on the country and said it was "deeply dissatisfied" with New Delhi's position on the deteriorating situation.

Ambassador of Ukraine to India Igor Polikha said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among a very few global leaders to whom President Putin listens to and New Delhi can leverage its proximity with Moscow to control the situation.

Russia launched a wide-ranging attack on Ukraine on Thursday, hitting cities and bases with airstrikes or shelling, as civilians piled into trains and cars to flee. Ukraine's government said Russian tanks and troops rolled across the border in a full-scale war that could rewrite the geopolitical order and whose fallout already reverberated around the world.

Ukraine's president said Russian forces were trying to seize the Chernobyl nuclear plant, site of the world's worst nuclear disaster; and Ukrainian forces were battling other troops just miles from Kyiv for control of a strategic airport. Large explosions were heard in the capital there and in other cities, and people massed in train stations and took to roads, as the government said the former Soviet republic was seeing a long-anticipated invasion from the east, north and south.

Following the attack, Ukraine sought India's support in defusing the crisis following the Russian attack on the country and said it was "deeply dissatisfied" with New Delhi's position on the deteriorating situation.

Ambassador of Ukraine Igor Polikha said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among a very few global leaders to whom President Vladimir Putin listens to and New Delhi can leverage its proximity with Moscow to control the situation.

"I am following all the reports on the site of your ministry and the latest advisory to your citizens in Ukraine," Polikha told the media.

"We are deeply dissatisfied with the Indian position. We are asking, pleading for the strong voice of India. In this case, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji can address Putin," he added.

Pleading for India's help, the ambassador said Ukraine is expecting a much more favourable approach from India.

"We are expecting a much more favourable approach of the Indian government in this crisis situation. It is the moment of truth. The moment of destiny. We are waiting, asking, pleading for the assistance of India," he said.

The ambassador particularly sought Prime Minister Modi's assistance.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji is one of the most powerful, respected world leaders. I don't know how many world leaders Putin listens to. But the status of Modi ji makes me hopeful that in case of his strong voice, Putin would think over," he said.

After Putin ordered a "military operation" in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, Russia launched multiple attacks on several areas in central and eastern Ukraine that attracted severe condemnation from the US and its allies.

The Ukrainian foreign ministry alleged that goal of the Russian offensive is to destroy the Ukrainian state and to seize by force the territory of the country.

It said the Russian armed forces are launching attacks on peaceful Ukrainian cities from different directions, including from the territory of Donbas and Crimea.

"This is an act of war; an attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, a brutal violation of the UN Charter and basic norms and principles of the international law," the Ukrainian foreign ministry said.

The Ukrainian embassy in India also released the statement.

"Ukraine calls on the international community to act immediately. Only united and decisive actions can stop Vladimir Putin's aggression against Ukraine," it said.

India has been pressing for de-escalation of tensions taking into account the legitimate security interests of all countries.

The situation in Ukraine deteriorated after Putin announced the military operation in Ukraine. Following Putin's announcement, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said an "invasion" could be the beginning of a "big war" in Europe.

Will take all...

of Indians and their evacuation from Ukraine.

The foreign secretary said around 4,000 Indian nationals out of 20,000 have already left Ukraine in the past few days. "The situation on the ground is difficult and rapidly evolving," he said. "I want to assure all Indian citizens including students in Ukraine that we will take all possible steps to bring you back safe and sound," he said. Shringla said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will speak to foreign ministers of Romania, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary on the Ukraine crisis.

ADG BSF visits...

situation, they said. Boora gave a detailed presentation to the ADG covering all critical aspects of border security and domination on the IB and the LoC, they said.

The IG described the general security scenario covering the deployment pattern of BSF battalions and their robust domination on the Jammu IB.

He also informed Sastry about the threats being faced by the BSF, ranging from tunnelling and cross-border smuggling by Pakistan-based elements.

A special emphasis was laid on the threat posed by the drones from Pakistan abetting smuggling of weapons and narcotics to the Indian territory, they said.

The ADG was made aware of the challenges faced by BSF troops due to rainy season, foggy weather and high-altitude. Boora highlighted the recent achievements of BSF Jammu like seizure of narcotics on the border; neutralising intruders from the neighbouring country and detection of tunnels along the border.

Sastry visited LoC areas of Sunderbani Sector in Rajouri district accompanied by the IG and took stock of the situation, they said. During his visit to the Jammu IB, he visited Makwal, R S Pura, Samba and Kathua border areas where he was briefed by sector commanders and battalion commanders. The ADG visited BoPs and interacted with the officers and men deployed there.

He reviewed the border domination plan and held discussions with the battalion commanders. The ADG also held a meeting with farmers in R S Pura area and exhorted them to practice agriculture clear of BSF fencing. He also patiently heard their concerns and assured of all possible assistance from the BSF. Sastry also interacted with the jawans and praised them for their dedication and professionalism.

Major terror plot...

LET and the TRF, which has been foiled, the police officer said.

An FIR under relevant sections law has been registered at police station Arnia and further investigation into the matter case is on, the officials said.

ACB books XEn...

aforesaid work, the allotment of work for Construction of Lane/ drain from Main Road to House of Om Parkash Sharma (Shakti Studio) W. No. 09 Kishtwar for Rs 9 lakh was also issued with same number in favour of Suvani Construction, however the work was taken up by JRJ Constructions vide allotment dated October 15, 2016 amounting to Rs 2.75 lakh, meaning thereby the allotment of work to two different contractors with same CDR amount / number but different allotted amount.

The verification further revealed about the falsification of documents like different copies of NIT No. 79 and other instances, which reflect favouritism bestowed upon

EJAC leaders call on Chief Secretary, highlight issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of leaders of Employees' Joint Action Committee (EJAC), led by its President Fayaz Ahmad Shabnum, Chairman Ganesh Khajuria, Chairman SEECC Dr Manzoor Ahmad Rather and UT President Muhammad Akbar Khan called on Chief Secretary of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta in Jammu on Thursday and highlighted a number of issues including implementation of agreement dated July 8, 2012 between High Power Committee and JCC/EJAC; regularisation of all type of temporary workers, one time relaxation to employees working in Health Department, regu-

larization of services of CAMPA workers, full-fledged Director for SCERT, restoration of non-vocational status in favour of Hr Sec School Principals and High School Head Masters, ACP/ assured career progression, snapping off Incharge culture, provision of leave salary/ leave encashment at time of retirement to all cadres of teachers etc. Others present on the occasion included Altaf Handoo, Muzaffar Ganie, Arsalan Habib, Surat Singh Toofani, Jamait Ali Aga, Deepak Sharma, Mohd Shafi Rather, Bashir Ahmad Thokar, Rukhsana, Kuldip Raj, Khan Saleem, Ab Gani Malik, Mohd Akbar Dar, Manjeet Singh, Gh Nabi Kralpuri and Mohd Saleem.



Outgoing SSP Shailendra Singh handing over charge to Amit Gupta.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Amit Gupta takes over the reins of Reasi Police replacing Shailendra Singh on Thursday. Gupta a JKPS officer of 2001 Batch remained on various prestigious posting before being posted as Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi. Immediately after taking over as SSP Reasi the officer reviewed the functioning of district police Reasi.

Suvani Constructions by then Executive Engineer Urban Local Bodies Div-II Jammu who by abuse of his official position and in violation to norms and conditions has given undue benefit in the allotment of work to beneficiary. The aforementioned facts constitute commission of offences punishable under section 5 (1) (d) read with 5(2) J&K PC Act Svt 2006 and sections 467, 468, 471 & 120-B of RPC against Raman Uppal, Executive Engineer Urban Local Bodies Div-II Jammu, beneficiary namely Atul Mahajan and others.

Court rejects bail ...

case is at preliminary stage and release of petitioner would impede the same besides encouraging petitioner to re-indulge in similar activities etc.

2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Rajinder Sapru after hearing APP D P Singh and Adv Anjali Khan for the applicant, observed that modus operandi adopted by the applicant/accused, the fact that he has indulged in similar crime after being granted bail in a case based on identical facts earlier and that many other people have already started approaching the investigating agency with similar allegation against applicant/accused, the Court is of the considered opinion that right of personal liberty of the applicant/accused has to yield to larger interests of the society, as there is every chance that if applicant/accused is given the concession, he will repeat the similar crimes again and may even try to influence and intimidate the witnesses who allegedly have started approaching the investigating agency with their grievances against the applicant/accused, to save himself. With these observations Court rejected the bail application.

Flight operations resume...

Earlier in the morning, all flights were delayed while at least two flights were cancelled. The Kashmir valley received heavy snowfall on Wednesday. It was this season's heavy snowfall in the plains that threw life out of gear and led to the disruption of flight operations. All the flights at the Srinagar airport were cancelled on Wednesday due to the very poor visibility.

Export registration in...

as Export Hub' of Government of India, JKTPO in collaboration with DGFT has organized various registration drives, training cum capacity building workshops for strengthening the Export scenario of J&K.

More than 40 ODOP items from all 20 districts of J&K have been selected and finalized by APEX Level Export Promotion Committee. A series of Buyer seller meets has been organized in association with different Consulates in order to promote various products from Agriculture & Handloom and Handicraft Sector and intends to do the same in near future also. JKTPO intends to create an international brand for all the identified local products and will give all the necessary support to interested exporters for promotion of their products and making connections with interested importers.

In a statement, Managing Director JKTPO, Ankita Kar said that, "As per the vision of Prime Minister each district of our country has a diverse identity and potential for global market and we from the Department of Industries and Commerce have reached out to existing and potential Exporters. The UT of J&K under the active guidance of Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir is now on a fast transition path for opening global markets for the UT's products and services". Furthermore, Suvidh Shah, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade said, "We are extremely happy to share that there is a big hike in registration of Importer-Exporter Code from UT of Jammu and Kashmir in this year as compared to previous year".

Three active terrorists...

of Allahpora Budgam. Incriminating materials of proscribed terror outfit LeT, arms & ammunition including 01 Chinese grenade, 01 AK Magazine and 30 AK rounds were recovered from their possession.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested terrorist had joined terror folds recently and the arrested terrorist associate was providing the logistic support to him. Accordingly, a Case vide FIR No. 44/2022 under relevant sections of laws has been registered at Police station Budgam and further investigation into the matter is in progress.

Moreover, Police in Baramulla along with 32RR arrested two hybrid terrorists identified as Muzamil Ahmad son of Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh and Mohammad Yaseen son of Ghulam Nabi Sofi both residents of Chakloo Baramulla. As per police records, the duo was missing since 16/02/2022. On their disclosure, 02 Chinese Pistols, 02 Magazines and 12 Pistol rounds were recovered. Preliminary investigation revealed that, the arrested duo was in close contact with handlers of proscribed terror outfit LeT across the border and on their directions they left their homes on 16/02/2022 to join proscribed terror outfit LeT. It was also revealed that they were tasked to carry out attack on Police/SF and soft targets in coming days. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 31/2022 under the relevant sections of law has been registered in PS Baramulla and investigation is in progress. Their involvement in other terror acts is also being investigated.

Four HM OGWs...

Haji Khan, resident of Pyas Padyana; Zubair Ahmed, son of Mohd Shafi, resident of Pyas Padyana and Ismaiel, son of Peerya, resident of Chhichha, Nagseni. During their personal search, Arms/Ammunitions were recovered which include two UBGL Grenades; 120 Live Rounds of AK 47; 2 empty magazines of AK 47 and Posters of HM outfit. A case FIR No. 35/2022 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Kishtwar and investigation taken up into the instant case.

J&K Admn sets...

initiatives included Rs 90,000-crore liquidity infusion to distribution companies as a concessional loan offering by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Ltd; tariff policy reforms encompassing consumer rights, promotion of industry and sustainability of power sector and distribution reforms in the power sector;" he added.

Reforms in the power sector were rolled out in the UT in 2019, with the formation of separate transmission and distribution corporations for Kashmir and Jammu divisions, he said. The administration has planned new projects of 3,300 MW which include four projects of Kirthai II (930 MW), Sawlakote (1856 MW), Duhasti stage II (258 MW) and Uri-I stage II (240 MW) to be executed soon.

"Also, back in January 2021, in a historic moment for energy sufficiency in Jammu and Kashmir; memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed for implementation of much-awaited mega hydro power projects, including 850 MW Ratle HEP and 930 MW Kirthai-II HEP," he said. On that occasion, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the vision of the government was to harness hydro energy resources of J&K with a goal to double the energy generation by 2024 and also to prepare a strategy for efficiency through policies, monitoring mechanisms to ensure energy security for economic and social benefits. On the transmission front, the spokesman said Rs 7,500 crore are being invested on system strengthening projects, which include 1,000 MVA transformation capacity already added at 220 KV level; creation/ argumentation of six 220/132 KV grid stations and 875 MVA transformation capacity added at 132 KV level.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has achieved 100 per cent household electrification under SAUBHAGYAM before the target date. Over 3,57,400 beneficiaries were covered under the scheme. Under Smart Prepaid Metering project, 40 per cent of energy consumed will be metered via smart metres by March 2022, during which two lakh metres will be installed while eight lakh metres will be installed by March 2023 across the UT, he added.

Mobile governance in...

expectations from them especially, as there is still lot of work to be done in making J&K litter free, garbage free and debris free.

Earlier, Director Expenditure Div I, P Bhat made a brief presentation on the financial and physical achievements under district capex made by the various districts in J&K.

Bhat informed that the expenditure performance of all the districts has improved since the last review and 16500 works have been completed till date.

Finance Secretary, Atal Dullo said that DDCs have been regularly asked to improve the pace of execution of works so that annual physical achievement targets are met.

The Chief Secretary asked the DDCs to ensure that the set financial and physical targets for the current year are fully met and advised against allowing works costing up to Rs 20 lakhs to spill over to the ensuing year.

Saying that every person in the districts should be given a golden card, Dr Mehta asked DDCs to ensure that there is cleanliness in all government hospitals and that all the toilets are nice and clean and fully functional.

He urged DDCs to personally visit the schools in their districts to see the arrangements made by the school managements as they have reopened after a long hiatus.

Raising concern on the rising anaemia cases amongst women and children J&K, the Chief Secretary said that a concerned campaign needs to be immediately launched to educate people about the menace besides taking measures in collaboration with health department to supplement nutrition of the anaemic persons.

He asked the Health Secretary and Social Welfare Secretary to coordinate the campaigns against anaemia with the DDCs.

Dr Mehta asked DDCs to ensure saturation of all farmers with soil health cards by 15th March, 2022 and directed that revenue department to immediately assign the responsibility of distribution of land pass books to the patwaris so that they could be distributed to one and all by 15th of August.

He expressed concern on plastic waste menace in J&K and asked the DDCs to mount plastic cleanliness and litter/debris/garbage free drives in their districts in close concert with the urban development department immediately.

Terming people connect as an important aspect of the public service, the Chief Secretary asked the DDCs to hold block divas regularly on identified days as the covid pandemic has abated and the life in the UT has considerably normalised.

Oppn driven by...

people visited Mecca and around one crore visited Vatican City in Rome in 2019.

These countries have given facilities for the visiting devotees, he said.

"But, if we do the same in India, these people see this through the lens of communalism," he said attacking the rivals.

Modi appealed to the youths to remain beware of dynasts who are "hostage" to vote bank politics. He also sought to puncture the euphoria of opponents over voting in the first four phases of the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, saying "people have showered blessings on the BJP in abundance, proving that the rivals' math on division of votes has gone wrong". Assembly constituencies of Sultanpur were included in the first rally, while BJP candidates of Pratapgarh were also present in the second meeting.

All the assembly segments for which PM Modi held rallies during the day will go to vote in the fifth phase on February 27.

The prime minister fondly remembered February 24, saying on this day, he had launched PM Kisan Yojna three years back and also became an MLA for the first time 20 years ago from Rajkot in Gujarat.

Before independence, there was inner party democracy in the Congress and different people headed it but after the independence, the leadership of the party rested with only one family, the prime minister said at the rally in Amethi.

"Other parties, including the SP, have copied this and the sequence of power transfer from father to son continues. The dynasts care only for their family interest and giving the interest of the poor and the country a go-by," Modi said.

"Whereas in the BJP, since the days of the Jana Sangh, has never been a 'father-son' Ltd company' and different people hailing from varied regions have held the chair of party president," he said.

Modi said he took the Covid vaccine only after the jabs were given to health workers and others and so had his elderly mother.

"Neither me nor my 100-year-old mother jumped the line and took the jab. When the government started giving booster doses, my mother who has no co-morbidity did not take it," he said giving some examples. He further said during rules of the "dynasts" in Uttar Pradesh, ministers had not much relevance as the man at the helm used to "distribute districts and departments among family members". "The officials knew very well that the ministers had not much importance and would follow the instruction of 'super ministers' (family members) to improve their CR so that they can get plum posting," he