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Modi to lead...

growth while promoting societal harmony. The enthusiastic participation of millions in recent years reflects the profound impact of yoga on communities," the minister said.

He also announced that the PM has written to each gram pradhan, encouraging grassroots participation and the spread of yoga in rural areas.

Jadhav launched a 'Common Yoga Protocol Book in Braille' script to support visually impaired people in learning and practising yoga with convenience. The minister also launched Professor Ayushman comic on yoga. This book will help children to learn and practice yoga with interest and entertainment.

The United Nations General Assembly, heeding to a call by Prime Minister Modi, had made a declaration in December 2014 to observe June 21 every year as IDY.

The IDY resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2014 came at the initiative of PM Modi and was passed unanimously.

Since 2015, the IDY has evolved into a mass movement around the world, Jadhav said.

Ayush Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said that IDY is not only a celebration but also a concerted effort to bring about a behavioural change so that people adopt yoga in their lives so that they can get the benefits of yoga.

He further highlighted the 'Whole of Government' approach to the IDY celebrations, emphasising the coordinated efforts across various government departments and the active participation of state governments to ensure an inclusive and widespread observance each year.

Along with state governments, union territories are actively participating in the IDY 2024. The National Ayush Mission team across the nation is also engaged in organising IDY events, he said.

This year, the IDY will witness several events including the 'Yoga for Space'. With support of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the unique initiative is being organised wherein all ISRO scientists/officers will perform Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) on the day.

The Gaganyaan project team will also be participating in IDY 2024.

The Ayush ministry has also launched a video contest through MyGov and MyBharat portals to raise awareness about yoga and to inspire people to prepare for and become active participants in the observation of IDY 2024.

Families have to record up to one-minute harmonious yoga demonstration short video as a part of the contest.

To promote technology and start-ups in the field of yoga, the ministry has organised Yoga Tech Challenge on MyGov portal and MyBharat portal which aims to identify and promote those start-ups or individuals who have developed yoga related tools.

Last year, the global celebration of IDY was led by Modi at the United Nations headquarters in New York, USA, while the national celebration was led by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.

The IDY celebration is done by a harmonious 45 minutes yoga demonstration called Common Yoga Protocol (CYP). Videos of CYP demonstrations are available on YouTube in 22 Indian languages, six UN languages and nine other foreign languages.

Police bans operation...

quadcopters as per provisions of Rule 24(2) of Drone Rules, 2021 with immediate effect," Srinagar Police said on X. The police said all unauthorised drone operations in the 'red zone' are liable to being penalised according to provisions of the drone rules.

It appears Maa...

was about 4.8 lakh. "The people of Varanasi have not only chosen me as MP for a third time but also as prime minister," Modi said at the event where he released the Rs 20,000-crore 17th installment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KSN) for more than 9.26 crore farmers.

After being sworn-in as prime minister, Modi signed his first file authorising the release of this installment of the scheme.

Referring to his reelection from the constituency in Uttar Pradesh, he said, "With the blessings of Baba Vishwanath and Maa Ganga, and the immense love of the people of Kashi, I have got the privilege of becoming the country's 'pradhan sevak' for the third time."

He said the people of Kashi have blessed him by electing him as their representative for the third consecutive time and added that "ab to Maa Ganga ne bhee jaise mujhe god le liya hai, main yaheen ka ho gaya hoon (Now, it seems as if Mother Ganga has also adopted me, I have become part of this place)".

It is very rare in democratic countries for governments to be elected for a third consecutive term but the people of India did this, he said.

More than 64 crore people voted in this election, Modi said and added that there is no bigger election than this in the whole world.

"I recently went to Italy to attend the G7 meeting and even if we add all the voters of all these G7 nations, the number of voters in India is one and a half times more than that number," he said.

"Even if we add all the countries of Europe, the number of voters in India will be two and a half time more than that number," the prime minister said.

He said more than 31 crore women participated in this election, the highest anywhere in the world. "This number is close to the entire population of the US," Modi said.

"This the beauty of India's democracy and this power of India's democracy attracts the entire world as well as impacts it," he said.

Thanking people for gathering in large numbers for the event, Modi said, "This election for the 18th Lok Sabha in India presents with full strength to the world the vastness of the Indian democracy, the strength of the Indian democracy, the comprehensiveness of the Indian democracy and the depth of the roots of the Indian democracy."

On his government being given a third term, he said this happened in India 60 years ago. Since then no government in India has scored a hat-trick like this, Modi said.

"In a country like India where the youth's aspirations are so high, where the people have so many dreams, if people give a government an opportunity to serve after 10 years of work, then it is a great victory, a great trust," the prime minister said.

"This trust of yours is my biggest asset. This trust of yours inspires me to work hard to take the country to new heights," Modi said.

He added, "I will work hard day and night. I will make every effort to fulfil your dreams and your aspirations."

Modi also asserted that agriculture will play a big role in making 21st century India third largest economic power in the world.

"Decisions like building more than three crore houses for poor families or extending the PM Kisan Samman scheme across the country will help many. Today's programme will strengthen the path to 'Viksit Bharat'," Modi said.

He said the Rs 20,000 crore of the PM-KSN installment has reached the accounts of the crores of farmers across the country through direct benefit transfer (DBT). "Today, the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi has become the biggest DBT scheme in the world. Till now, Rs 3.25 lakh crore has been deposited in the bank accounts of crores of farmers of the country, and Rs 700 crore has been transferred to families of farmers in Varanasi alone. I am happy that technology was used to better deliver the benefits of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi to beneficiaries," Modi said. Today, a big step has also been taken towards making three crore women 'lakhpati didis', Modi said and added that "the new role of our sisters as Krishi Sakhi will not only ensure them a source of income but also respect".

He also credited the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra that enabled more than one crore farmers to register themselves under the PM-KSN. Rules and regulations have been simplified to increase accessibility to the scheme, Modi said.

To serve the people and take the country to new heights, he said he will work hard and make every effort to fulfil "your dreams and aspirations".

Modi was welcomed by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, and deputy chief ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak among others at the event. In the evening, Prime Minister Modi took part in the Ganga aarti at the Dashashwamedh Ghat here.

Rajnath meets senior...

Radha Mohan Singh, D Purandeshwari and Bhratruhahi Mahtab as possible successor to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla are doing the rounds.

Senior Congress leader K Suresh, an eight-term Lok Sabha member, is the senior-most in terms of parliamentary experience and in contention for the role of Protem Speaker.

Bandipora encounter: Slain...

conference at the headquarters of the Army's 3 Sector Rashtriya Rifles (RR) at Manasbal here, commandant 3 Sector RR, Brigadier Vipul Tyagi, said on Tuesday that security forces had been continuously monitoring the area after some intelligence inputs suggested movement of terrorists in Aragam area of the north Kashmir district.

"Based on certain specific intelligence inputs, a joint operation was launched by the Army, JK Police and CRPF on June 16 night. An ambush party of the forces observed suspicious movement and after confirmation of the presence of terrorists, the ambush brought down effective fire and in the ensuing fire fight one hardcore terrorist was neutralized," he said.

Brigadier Tyagi said the slain ultra is a resident of Wussankhui area in Baramulla district.

Lone was a category "A" terrorist who was active since April 2018 and was associated with LeT/TRF. TRF or The Resistance Front is an off-shoot of the LeT.

Terrorists in J-K are categorised as A, B or C depending on their involvement in militancy activities.

Lone was involved in numerous terrorist-related activities such as recruitment, illegal killings and the expansion of over ground worker (OGW) network, the Army officer said.

"His elimination is a significant achievement for the security forces. Over the last few weeks the Indian Army along with other police and paramilitary forces has maintained a high-operational momentum which has resulted in tremendous success and eroded the terror ecosystem in a systematic manner," he added.

The officer said security forces will continue to strive and maintain this momentum towards ensuring peace and stability in Kashmir.

NEET-UG exam...

are prepared to sit up to evening," it observed.

While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the NEET-UG 2024, the apex court had last week sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

The Centre and the NTA had on June 13 told the top court that they had cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses.

They will have the option to either take a retest or forgo the compensatory marks awarded to them for the loss of time, the Centre had said.

The examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier.

There have been allegations of question paper leaks in states like Bihar and other irregularities in the prestigious exam.

The allegations have led to protests in several cities and filing of petitions in several high courts as also the Supreme Court. Scores of students protested in Delhi on June 10 seeking a probe into alleged irregularities.

As many as 67 students scored a perfect 720, unprecedented in the NTA's history, with six from a centre in Haryana's Faridabad figuring in the list, raising suspicions about irregularities. It has been alleged that grace marks contributed to 67 students sharing the top rank.

The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

CDS Gen Chauhan...

government looked at rolling out theatre commands to bolster India's military might.

The defence ministry said operations in cyberspace need to be "dovetailed" into the national security fabric, to evolve the 'ends', 'ways' and 'means' to "create advantage and influence events in all other operational environments and across all instruments of power".

Gen Chauhan released the joint doctrine for cyberspace operations' during a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

The defence ministry said the doctrine will guide commanders in "conducting cyberspace operations in today's complex military operating environment".

It described unveiling of the joint doctrines as an important aspect of "jointness and integration, a step which is being actively pursued by the Indian armed forces". "The joint doctrine for cyberspace operations is a significant step to give impetus to the ongoing process. In addition to the traditional domains of warfare including land, sea, and air, cyberspace has emerged as a crucial and challenging domain in modern warfare," it said.

"Unlike territorial limits in the domains of land, sea, and air, cyberspace is a global common and hence has shared sovereignty," it said.

"Hostile actions in cyberspace can impact the nation's economy, cohesion, political decision making, and the nation's ability to defend itself," the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also explained the significance of cyberspace and the need for a policy approach to link it to national security.

"Operations in cyberspace need to be dovetailed into the national security fabric, to evolve the 'ends', 'ways' and 'means' to create advantage and influence events in all other operational environments and across all instruments of power," it said.

It said the doctrine lays emphasis on understanding military aspects of cyberspace operations and provides conceptual guidance to commanders, staff and practitioners in the planning, and conduct of operations in cyberspace.

The document also seeks to raise awareness in "our warfighters at all levels", it added.

41 airports across...

recommendations of their respective Bomb Threat Assessment Committees, the sources said. At the Chennai airport, a Dubai-bound flight with 286 passengers was delayed as a result of the hoax threat.

Soon after receiving the email warning of a bomb on the aircraft, security agencies conducted a thorough search of the flight but found nothing suspicious. The flight was later cleared to proceed to its destination.

The Jaipur international airport authorities too mounted an inspection after receiving the bomb threat email. Police and CISF personnel searched the premises but did not find anything.

Sources at the Mumbai airport said there was no impact on services as the threat was "non-specific". Authorities at the Nagpur and Patna airports also conducted thorough searches on their premises after receiving the hoax threat. Patna airport director Anchal Prakash said, "A bomb threat through email was received at the Jayaprakash Narayan International Airport, besides 41 other airports. The Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) Meeting was convened and it found the threat to be non-specific."

All the airports reported the threat to be a hoax and passenger movements were kept unhindered to the best of the capacities, the sources said.

On Monday, the Delhi airport received an email around 9.30 am that warned of a bomb threat on a Dubai-bound flight but nothing suspicious was found during inspections. Similar hoax emails were sent to several airports in April too, and Indian cyber security agencies are working to find the origin of these emails that have been sent from abroad.

"Took more than..."

section, was inaugurated in October 2009. Subsequent phases saw the inauguration of the 18 km long Banihal-Qazigund section in June 2013 and the 25 km long Udhampur-Katra section in July 2014.

The Chenab Rail Bridge constructed 359 metres (around 109 feet) above the Chenab River in the Jammu and Kashmir region, is some 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower. The 1,315 metre-long bridge is part of a broader project which aims to make the Kashmir valley accessible by the Indian Railway network.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on Sunday that the first trial run of the Sangaldan-Reasi train was completed, a significant milestone in crossing the world's tallest railway bridge, Chenab.

As the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project is almost completed, Indian Railways is edging closer to connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the railway network. (ANI)

Defence ministry issues...

LCH is armed with various weapon systems and is capable of destroying enemy tanks, bunkers, drones and other assets in high-altitude regions.

The helicopter possesses modern stealth characteristics, robust armour protection and formidable night attack capability, and it is fully capable of even operating in Siachen, the world's highest battle-field.

SS Innovations unveils SSI Mantra 3 Robotic System

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SS Innovations, the developer of India's first Indigenous surgical robotic system - SSI Mantra, has achieved significant milestones with the launch of SSI Mantra 3 and the successful completion of India's first human trial in telesurgery. The SSI Mantra 3 represents a leap forward in surgical robotics, designed to enhance surgical precision, efficiency, and patient outcomes. It features advancements such as slimmer robotic arms, an immersive 3D HD headset for surgeons, and a vision cart providing 3D 4K vision to the entire surgical team.

The launch of SSI Mantra 3 underscores SS Innovations' commitment to revolutionizing healthcare by making advanced surgical technologies accessible and affordable globally. This initiative aligns with India's Make in India initiative, showcasing indigenous innovation on a global stage.

Dr. Fredric Moll, renowned as the Father of Surgical Robotics and founder of Intuitive Surgical, has joined SS Innovations as Vice Chairman and Board Member. His involvement highlights SS Innovations' dedication to excellence and innovation in the medical device industry.

Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of SS Innovations, hailed these achievements as pivotal moments in advancing healthcare excellence. He emphasized the transformative impact of SSI Mantra 3 and the successful telesurgery trial on global healthcare accessibility and innovation.

Leaders in the medical community, including Dr. Mylswamy Annaduari and Dr. Naresh Trehan, have praised SS Innovations for its groundbreaking advancements. They foresee SSI Mantra 3 as a game-changer in enhancing medical capabilities and patient care across the globe.

Overall, SSI Mantra 3 sets a new standard in surgical robotics with its advanced capabilities, affordability, and potential to revolutionize healthcare delivery worldwide.

Haier India expands its Direct Cool Range with Phoenix

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Haier Appliances India, the No.1 global major appliances brand for 15 consecutive years, continues its legacy of innovation in the direct cool range with the introduction of Phoenix - a series of premium glass door refrigerators. Being the industry's only brand to offer the widest range of Direct Cool Glass Door refrigerators, new series sports a sleek and premium glass design, adding a touch of sophistication to any kitchen space. The new refrigerators come in 185 Lts and 190 Lts and will be available across all retail channels.

The newly launched refrigerators are crafted to seamlessly blend style with functionality, catering to the needs of modern Indian homes. The Phoenix refrigerators come with a base drawer for convenient storage, Diamond Edge Freezing Technology (DEFT) for efficient cooling, and Stabilizer-Free Operation for uninterrupted performance, even during voltage fluctuations.

Wynk Studio artists' songs surpass 1.7+ billion streams on Wynk Music

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Wynk Music, India's number one music streaming app by downloads and daily active users, has achieved an industry-leading milestone of an impressive 1.7+ billion streams for songs by independent artists of Wynk Studio - the launch pad for budding music artists taking their songs to a nationwide audience.

These songs have, remarkably, crossed this milestone within two years of Wynk Studio's launch, underscoring Wynk's commitment to promoting independent music and supporting talented and upcoming artists.

Amit Tripthai, Chief Marketing Officer - Bharti Airtel, said, "We launched Wynk Studio because we wanted upcoming artists to have a platform to monetise their music while we delivered an eclectic music library for our customers to choose from. The 1.7 million streams for these songs establishes how much our customers are enjoying the content while we help the artist. In less than two years, Wynk Studio has become so popular that we are signing artists from across the length and breadth of the country even as we champion language diversity on Wynk. We promise to continue diversifying and enabling more artists to build thriving music careers".

Wynk has also supported the distribution of independent singles like "Love Token" from Manj Music and Anusha Dandekar; along with supporting independent producers like L&F Studios for the promotion of their movie "Love All" starring Kay Kay Menon and Swastika Mukherjee.

Crackdown on illegal mining, 11 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Jammu Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

In an operation which was carried out at different locations in South Zone of District Jammu, PP Belicharana detained 03 dumpers, PP Phallain Mandal detained 03 dumpers and 01 tractor trolley loaded with sand seized under illegal mining. PP Nehru Market detained 03 dumpers with illegally mined river bed sand and PP Chatha detained 01 tractor trolley with improper Form "A".

In all, 11 vehicles have been seized in jurisdiction of PS Satwari and PS Gandhinagar of South Zone by JKP. After detaining of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal actions.

Gambhir, Raman interviewed by CAC, former set to be named India coach

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former India openers Gautam Gambhir and V V Raman were on Tuesday interviewed by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) for the national team's head coach's position.

The interviews took place over a zoom call with Gambhir, Raman and CAC head Ashok Malhotra attending it virtually.

"Yes, Gambhir appeared for the interview with the CAC. One round of discussions happened today. There is another round expected tomorrow," a BCCI source told PTI.

"Raman was interviewed after Gambhir. It was also on zoom. He also gave his presentation on his vision and road map on Indian cricket. The interview went for around 40 minutes. There were some initial questions by the committee before they looked at the presentation," the source informed.

Gambhir is believed to be the only candidate who is in contention and the announcement of his name is a mere formality, which could happen in the next 48 hours. The specifics of his interaction with CAC chairman Malhotra and his colleagues Jatin Paranjpe and Snakshana Naik were not immediately known. Both Paranjpe and Naik are based in Mumbai. The discussion, it is believed, was focussed on the road map he has in mind for the next three years, which will feature three ICC tournaments across formats. There is an Apex Council meeting on Tuesday evening and it is understood that BCCI secretary Jay Shah will apprise the members of the coach selection process before the final announcement is made.

The CAC is also interviewing a few interested candidates for the North Zone selector's position. The 42-year-old Gambhir recently guided Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL trophy as the team's mentor. Current India coach Rahul Dravid will be stepping down at the end of the team's T20 World Cup campaign in the Americas.

The side is currently in Barbados for the Super 8 matches after remaining unbeaten in the group league stage. It will take on Afghanistan on Thursday.

Shubhankar Sharma, Gaganjeet Bhullar qualify for Paris Olympics

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's number one male golfer Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar will be teeing off for the country at the prestigious Golf National course in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, come the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. This was confirmed after the International Golf Federation revealed its Olympic qualification list of 60 men and women golfers for the Olympic Golf tournament, scheduled from August 1-4. Both Sharma and Bhullar will make their Olympic debuts. Sharma whose Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) is 222, qualified with an Olympic rank of 48. Bhullar qualified with an Olympic rank of 54. Aditi Ashok (24th) and Diksha Dagar (40th) are likely to make the cut from the women's when the final list is announced on June 24. The 27-year-old Sharma is a two-time winner on the DP World Tour (formerly the European Tour) and has eight career titles to his name. He will be seen in action next at the KLM Open in Amsterdam and the Italian Open this month, which are both part of the DP World Tour. Sharing his thoughts on the moment, Sharma said, "It's a dream come true obviously. I have been preparing for this day for a while now, and am planning my schedule on the European Tour, accordingly. "We have a very good and experienced team in Gaganjeet, Aditi, Diksha and self. We have depth and experience behind us. All are playing solid golf at the moment, on our respective tours too, and that's a good sign. "If Olympic week turns our way, any medal is possible for both men and women's teams.