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Manipur police arrest 6 cadres of proscribed groups

New Delhi: The petitioners told the Supreme Court on Monday that the NEET-UG exam was held, without following any procedures and was “a complete systemic failure,” with “no address verification and no CCTV camera monitoring” at any of the locations. “In this exam, there was a complete systemic failure. No address verification.. there was no CCTV camera monitoring at any of the locations.. there has been a live monitoring they say.. but I demolish it by saying that a wrong question paper was distributed in Sawai Madhopur and there was no surveillance.. it was on social media they got to know about the wrong question paper.” senior lawyer Narendra Hooda, appearing for the petitioners told the three-judge bench, led by the Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud. Hooda told the Supreme Court that the investigation by Bihar police have found that the leak happened on May 4, prior to the deposit of question papers in the respective banks. “The statements of the accused indicate that the students gathered to memorize the question paper



on the evening of May 4 and that means leak happened before May 4,” the apex court said. Hooda further argued that the manner of conducting the entire exam was brittle that it did not inspire confidence and that at every stage there was a possibility of leak. “They admit that there was a leak, they admitted that dissemination happened on WhatsApp,” he said. Hooda also pointed out that while the NTA published centre wise results of the exam, complying with the court’s direction, all India ranks were not given. Exam centre wise seriatim

was also not published, he noted. Supreme Court is hearing a batch of petitions by students who have appeared in the National eligibility cum entrance test (NEET UG) on May 5 and have sought re-test and proper investigation into the alleged paper leak. There are more than 50 petitions -- including students, various educational institutions -- filed in the case. A group of 20 students, who had appeared in the medical entrance exam, also sought a direction for scrapping of the NEET-UG 2024 exam and an apex court-monitored probe by the CBI (Central

Bureau of Investigation) or any other independent agency into the alleged irregularities in the test. One of the petitioners, Rajan, who had taken the medical entrance exam, filed the plea in the top court and alleged that his OMR sheet was swapped. The NEET-UG examination, conducted by NTA, is the process for getting admitted into MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country. The hearing is underway as other petitioners are arguing in the top court.

Kanwar Yatra order ‘discriminatory’: Jamiat

New Delhi: Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani on Saturday slammed as “discriminatory and communal” the Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments’ order to all eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their owners’ names, and said the Muslim body will examine the legality of the directive. Maulana Arshad Madani, who heads one of the two factions of the Jamiat, said the order was part of a “new game of politics under the guise of religion”. “will get an opportunity to benefit from this,” Madani said in a statement. There is fear of serious damage to communal harmony due to this new decree which violates the fundamental rights of citizens as enshrined in the Constitution, he said. Madani said the Jamiat has called a meeting of its legal team on Sunday to discuss the legal aspects of this “unconstitutional and illegal” order. “This is not the first Kanwar yatra, it has been going on for years but never before has a citizen been forced to reveal religious identity. Rather, during the yatra, it is seen that Muslims have been arranging water and langar for the Kanwar pilgrims,” Madani said. This is the first time that a deliberate attempt has been made to isolate a particular community, and spread discrimination and hatred among citizens, Madani said. Days after the Muzaffarnagar Police asked all eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their owners’ names, the Uttar Pradesh government on Friday extended the controversial order across the state. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said similar instructions are already in place in his state as well.

Ahead of budget, Cong demands legal guarantee for MSP

Mumbai: A day before the presentation of the Union budget, the Congress on Monday said the Centre must make three important announcements of making MSP a legal guarantee, fix MSP based on the Swaminathan formula and establish a permanent commission to monitor the implementation of farm loan waivers. Congress general secretary in-charge Jairam Ramesh said that of all the “failures” of the central government, the “incompetence and ill-will” of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare is the most damaging. “While the UPA had raised the MSP of wheat by 119% and that of rice by 134%, the Modi government has raised it by 47% and 50% respectively. This is not at all enough to keep up with inflation and the rising prices of agricultural inputs,” Ramesh said in a statement. He pointed out that farmers’ debt has increased tremendously. According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), outstanding loans have increased by 58 per cent since 2013, he said. “More than half of the farmers are debt-ridden. Since 2014, we have seen more than 1 lakh farmers die by suicide,” Ramesh said. “The Central Government needs to make three key announcements for

farm welfare in the upcoming Budget: Raise MSP for 22 crops that come under MSP, in line with the C2+50% formula as recommended by the Swaminathan Commission,” he said. Ramesh said the government must give legal status to MSP and establish a system to implement it firmly, including strategic procurement, better regulation and price differential compensation. “All it takes is determination and courage,” he said. Ramesh also called for the establishment of a permanent commission to assess the need for, assess the magnitude of, and monitor the implementation of farm loan waivers. This much-needed step will provide relief to debt-ridden farmers, he said in his statement in Hindi. “Remember that the central government has all the power to take all three of these steps. It is just waiting for the self-proclaimed non-biological Prime Minister to show some courage and give up his stubbornness and take a decision in the interest of farmers,” Ramesh said. “In November 2021, after the withdrawal of the three black farm laws, the self-proclaimed non-biological Prime Minister announced the formation of a committee to review matters related to MSP. It took the

government eight months to form the committee - and two years later, it has still not released an interim report,” he said, attacking PM Narendra Modi. Had the government wanted, the report would have been released by now and MSP would have gotten legal status, he argued. The Congress government in Telangana has started waiving farm loans for farmers in the state, he said. “This will provide relief to a total of 40 lakh farmers on loans up to Rs 2 lakh. This much-needed step will provide relief to debt-ridden farmers, he said in his statement in Hindi. “Remember that the central In 2008, the UPA led by Dr. Manmohan Singh had waived off farm loans worth Rs 72,000 crore. This benefited a large number of farmers, including 54 lakh farmers of UP, 42 lakh farmers of Maharashtra, 8.9 lakh farmers of Haryana, 17.6 lakh farmers of Bihar and 6.66 lakh farmers of Jharkhand,” Ramesh said. “The government of the non-biological Prime Minister has waived off bank loans of Rs 16 lakh crore of capitalists. But on the other hand, despite receiving a record Rs 2.11 lakh crore dividend from the RBI this year, it has not waived off even a single rupee of the agricultural loan of the farmers,” he alleged.

Gauhati HC orders CBI probe into areca nut smuggling in Mizoram

Guwahati: The Gauhati High Court has directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe into the alleged smuggling of dry areca nuts from Myanmar into India through Champhai district of eastern Mizoram. Based on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by activist Vanramchhuan-gi, a division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Michael Zothankhuma and Justice Marli Vankung said: "This direction (for CBI probe) has been passed due to the stand taken by the state police that they are unable to investigate the said matter thoroughly as it involves international smuggling, originating from Myanmar."

In the PUL, the petitioner alleged that the state government has not taken any steps to curb the smuggling of dry arecanuts and that fake/forged e-way bills have been issued by the state GST and Central GST authorities. The petitioner sought appropriate orders from the court directing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take up the matter, as the state government is playing a passive role in curbing the menace of smuggling of dry arecanuts from Myanmar, through Champhai district. It was submitted in the court that due to the rampant smuggling of dry arecanuts from Myanmar into India, the local growers of arecanuts in Mizoram and in other parts of India are also suffering a huge loss. The smugglers are not paying the import duty on the smuggled arecanuts and are thus selling their smuggled items at a lesser rate, compared to the rates offered by the local growers. Thus, to protect the interest of the local growers



of arecanuts, the international smuggling of arecanuts has to be stopped. On July 13, 2022, the Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Customs (Preventive) Division stated that as per the data provided by the Directorate of Horticulture, Mizoram, the total production of arecanuts in Mizoram was 33,540 MT in 2019-2020. The production of arecanuts in Champhai district was nil. However, as per the data available in the website of Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Development (DASD), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Development of Agriculture Co-operation & Farmers Welfare), the arecanut production in Mizoram in 2019-2020 was only 10,840 MT and there was no arecanut production in Manipur. As per the study carried out by DRI, Guwahati Regional Unit, there is no arecanut drying/processing unit in Mizoram and the locally produced arecanuts of Mizoram are sold as freshly harvested

raw arecanuts. On January 17, 2023, the Mizoram home department submitted that the arecanut plantations which started in 2021 & 2022 in both Champhai and Khawzawl districts are not yielding arecanuts. The additional affidavit further states that the owners of the arecanut plantations in both districts are not registered under GST. to note that while the Mizoram home department has clearly stated that arecanut plantations in Champhai and Khawzawl were not yielding arecanuts, the figure shows that e-way bills have been issued by the state government in respect of the assessable values of the arecanuts shows that e-way bills have been generated and issued to persons, despite no arecanut plantations yielding any arecanuts till January 17, 2023 in Champhai district. Similarly, it is not known as to how e-way bills could have been issued for 2023 – 2024 unless the plantations have suddenly started yielding areca-

nuts," the court observed. "There is something not quite right in the issuance of e-way bills for transportation of smuggled arecanuts from Champhai district, Mizoram to outside," the court bench further said. "The matter relates to cross-border smuggling of arecanuts with reports being made of seizures of the same even a few weeks back. As all the respondents have not objected to the investigation of smuggling of dry arecanuts in Mizoram to be undertaken by the CBI and given Notification No. C.31016/1/2020-VIG dated 28.12.2023 issued by the secretary to the Mizoram government, Vigilance Department, the CBI, represented by the Director, is directed to cause an investigation of the allegation of smuggling of dry arecanuts from Myanmar into India through Champhai district and the consequential transportation of the same, based on alleged fake/forged e-way bills/G.S.T certificates.

Meghalaya to build Rs 11.55 crore synthetic football turf in East Garo Hills

Shillong: Meghalaya's Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's administration has initiated a Rs 11.55 crore project to build a FIFA-standard synthetic football turf at Rongranggre Government Higher Secondary School, Williamnagar. The project aims to enhance sports infrastructure for the region's youth and athletes. A state-of-the-art synthetic football turf is set to be constructed at Rongranggre Government Higher Secondary School in Williamnagar, East Garo Hills district of Meghalaya. Public Health Engineering Minister Marcuse Marak laid the foundation stone for the project, which is valued at Rs 11,55,77,000. The initiative, spearheaded by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's administration, aims to provide top-notch facilities for the region's youth and athletes. The project includes a FIFA-standard turf, a VIP rostrum, and changing rooms, meeting international standards for football infrastructure. The ceremony was attended by key officials, including Vibhor Agarwal, the Deputy Commissioner of East Garo Hills, the school's Principal, and the District Sports Officer of East Garo Hills.

Good road, railway infra needed in Mizoram for growth of tourism, agriculture: Union Minister

Aizawl: Union minister Bhagirath Choudhary said that good road and railway infrastructure are needed in Mizoram to usher in development in the tourism and agriculture sectors. Union minister Bhagirath Choudhary said that good road and railway infrastructure are needed in Mizoram to usher in

development in the tourism and agriculture sectors. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and railway network fare, during his visit to Mizoram, said that the northeastern state has great potential for organic farming and is rich in natural resources. "Even though there are good ave-

nues for selling agro products of Mizoram in markets in other parts of the country, it will be difficult to take concrete steps if there is no proper road infrastructure and communication in the state," he told reporters here on Friday. Stating that farmers in Mizoram will face problems due to lack of proper road infrastructure

and railway lines, Choudhary said the Centre and the state must work concertedly to address the problem. "Inter-state as well as intra-state road and railway network should be improved in Mizoram to develop tourism and ensure that the farmers are economically uplifted," he said. Choudhary, who

arrived in Mizoram on Wednesday on a three-day tour, said that the Centre has developed schemes to assist farmers whose crops have been affected by natural calamities. he said. The Centre has also developed crop insurance schemes, which are yet to be availed in Mizoram, the Union minister added.

Manipur police arrest 6 cadres of proscribed groups

Imphal: Manipur Police conducted multiple operations on July 21, resulting in the arrest of six cadres belonging to various outlawed groups across the state. In Imphal East District, police arrested Khoirom Ranjit Meitei, also known as Poirei or Rocky, a 44-year-old active member of the Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group). Meitei was allegedly involved in recruiting new members, procuring weapons, and orchestrating extortion activities.

Another operation in Imphal led to the capture of three members of the banned KCP (Taibangnganba) faction. The arrested individuals, identified as Soisenba Oinam (22), Lourebam Chingkeingnamba (21), and Ningombam Jerit Singh (23), were reportedly engaged in extortion within the Imphal area. Police seized three mobile phones during this arrest.

Vi Introduces Postpaid Roaming Packs for Indians Travelling to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Jordan

Guwahati: With more Indians travelling internationally and exploring new destinations in Central and West Asia, leading telecom operator Vi, has launched new Postpaid International Roaming packs for three new travel destinations - Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Jordan. Vi users can now stay seamlessly connected in 120 countries starting at just Rs 649. Vi has added Kazakhstan, home of the first human space flight Cosmodrome, Uzbekistan, highlighted by the historic city of Samarkand, and Jordan, with attractions such as the Dead Sea and Petra, driven by the growing popularity of these destinations amongst



Indian travelers.

Vi postpaid users have a wide variety of options to pick their roaming packs starting from 24-hour pack, a 10-day pack, a 14-day pack, and a 30-day pack to stay seamlessly connected while travelling abroad. Vi also has an 'ALWAYS ON' feature which protects users from high

International Roaming Charges for any usage after pack expiry.

Vi is committed to providing the best international roaming packs tailored to meet the needs of every traveler. Recently, Vi had introduced Postpaid Roaming Packs for Azerbaijan and Select African Countries as well. Ensuring both affordability and convenience, Vi Roaming packs provide tailored options with generous outgoing call minutes, sufficient data quota, and SMS, making it simple and cost-effective to stay connected throughout the journey while exploring the joy of discovering new horizons and diving into unique experiences.

Canara Robeco launches balanced advantage fund; new fundoffer opens July 12

Guwahati: Durgapur/ Patna: Canara Robeco Mutual Fund, India's second oldest asset manager, announced the launch of its Canara Robeco Balanced Advantage Fund, an open-ended dynamic asset allocation fund aimed at optimizing market gains while minimizing risks. The New Fund Offer (NFO) will be open from July 12 to July 26, 2024. The fund, which will allocate at least 65% to equities to benefit from equity taxation, also invests in debt and money market instruments to cushion against market volatility. CEO Rajnish Narula highlighted the fund's objective to dynamically adjust exposure to equities and debt, targeting long-term capital appreciation and income



generation. The asset allocation is guided by a proprietary three-factor model, using Trailing P/B, Equity Risk Premium, and Forward P/E to navigate various market conditions. Head of Equities, Shridatta Bhandwalder, emphasized the model's back-testing over 20 years to ensure robust performance. The fund employs a top-down approach for sector

allocation and a bottom-up approach for stock selection, blending compounders and cyclicals. The debt portfolio focuses on government bonds and AAA-rated corporate papers for stability and liquidity, managed dynamically to capture yield curve mispricing. National Head of Sales and Marketing, Gaurav Goyal, introduced special features like the Auto Switch facility to transfer investments into the NFO on its last day and the Smart STP for staggered investments. The fund is benchmarked against the CRISIL Hybrid 50+50 - Moderate Index and managed by a team of experts including Shridatta Bhandwalder, Ennette Fernandes, Suman Prasad, and Amit Kadam.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor hails Budget's balanced approach to growth and sustainability

Imphal: In response to today's budget announcement, Mr. Vikram Gulati, Country Head and Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Governance at Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), expressed strong approval of the government's approach. He commended the budget for its balance between infrastructure development and social sector investments, while maintaining fiscal discipline with a projected fiscal deficit of 4.9%. Gulati highlighted the budget's emphasis on enhanc-

ing agricultural productivity and increasing women's participation in the workforce, noting these measures will broaden the benefits of economic growth. He also welcomed the targeted support for MSMEs and the manufacturing sector, which he believes will boost their contribution to the national GDP. Additionally, Gulati praised the government's commitment to energy transition and climate change mitigation, aligning with TKM's sustainability goals, including carbon neutrality by 2050. He also sup-

ported the increased focus on education and skill development, including the new internship scheme funded by CSR spending, which aims to enhance job opportunities for youth. "The tax rationalization will increase disposable incomes and stimulate consumption, which is essential for economic growth," Gulati said. "We look forward to the government's upcoming reforms and reaffirm our commitment to 'Grow in India, Grow with India' in support of the nation's development goals."

Pan Healthcare celebrates "SABKA SATH SABKA VIKAS"

Gnagtok: Pan Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., a premier hygiene product manufacturer, recently celebrated the success of its "SABKA SATH SABKA VIKAS" initiative in Lucknow. The event witnessed the participation of over 500 members, including more than 150 esteemed channel partners and winners, along with the dedicated sales team from the North region. Mr. Chirag Pan, CEO and Managing Director, emphasized the company's commitment to inclusive growth. "PAN Health was born out of a commitment to make superior quality hygiene products accessible to the masses at an affordable price. The rapid strides we have made over recent years would not have been possible without the unrelenting efforts of our PAN Health family," he stated. The initiative, focusing on the mantra of "reform, perform, and transform," aimed to foster growth, innovation, and excellence within the company. Pan Healthcare products gaining significant traction. Local distributors and retailers have reported increased demand for the company's baby diapers, adult diapers, and sanitary napkins. This reflects the broader market trend and Pan Healthcare's strong presence in the region, contributing to the initiative's success.

Amazon India's Prime Day to feature over 3,200 new products from small businesses

Guwahati: Amazon India's 8th Prime Day, scheduled for July 20th and 21st, will showcase over 3,200 new products from small businesses across various categories including home and kitchen, fashion, grooming, and handmade items. Brands such as Behoma, Dream of Glory, and Orika Spices will participate in the event, offering unique products to a nationwide audience. "Amazon Prime Day is one of the most anticipated shopping events in India, helping us deliver unparalleled value to our sellers and customers," said Amit Nanda, Director of Selling Partner Services at Amazon India. The event aims to enhance the visibility of small and medium businesses (SMBs) and enable them to tap into Amazon's extensive customer base across the country. Guwahati market is expected to see significant

participation, with local sellers gearing up to offer exclusive deals and new launches. This surge in e-commerce activity is anticipated to boost the local economy, providing customers with access to a diverse range of products. Amazon India has equipped SMBs with tools like the Sale Event Planner and the New Seller Success Centre to optimize their Prime Day sales. Additionally, the Amazon Seller App has been enhanced to allow seamless management of selling operations on the go. Prime members can look forward to big savings and exclusive deals during the event, with benefits like 10% savings on payments using ICICI Bank and SBI Credit/Debit cards. This year's Prime Day promises to deliver a comprehensive shopping experience, blending great deals with blockbuster entertainment and exclusive new product launches.

Dedhia Music Foundation launches groundbreaking talent hunt for Hindustani classical musicians

Guwahati: Dedhia Music Foundation (DMF) has announced the debut of Yuva Sur Sartaj 2024, an innovative platform aimed at discovering and nurturing young talent in Hindustani Classical Music nationwide. Founded by Aatish Dedhia, CEO of Zycus, DMF is committed to promoting and preserving India's cultural heritage through music. Yuva Sur Sartaj 2024 offers aspiring musicians aged 15-30 a prestigious opportunity to showcase their talent. Judged by esteemed artists Kaushiki Chakraborty, Rahul Deshpande, and Sanjeev Abhyankar, the competition aims to rekindle interest in Hindustani Classical Music among India's youth. "This initiative aims to restore focus to our country's rich musical traditions amidst a predominantly Western music landscape," said Aatish Dedhia. The competition spans three stages:



Call for Entries, Virtual Auditions, culminating in a Grand Finale on October 15, 2024, at Mumbai's Nehru Auditorium, with live-streaming across social media. Participants can register at Yuva Sur Sartaj to compete for significant cash prizes and mentorship. Winners in two age categories (15-22 and 23-30) will receive cash awards and funding for further classical vocal training, underscoring DMF's commitment to nurturing talent. Mrs. Kaushiki Chakraborty, renowned Hindustani classical vocalist, lauded the initiative for its role in inspiring future generations to embrace and excel in classical music.

India romp to 7-wicket win vs Pakistan in Women's Asia Cup



Sri Lanka: Contenders India started their Women's T20 Asia Cup title defence on a rousing note, demolishing arch-foes Pakistan by seven wickets here on Friday. India bundled out Pakistan for a below-par 108 after being asked to bowl and then chased down the target with as many as 35 balls remaining. Chasing 109, Indian openers Shafali Verma (40) and Smriti Mandhana (45) was at their best as they toyed with the Pakistani attack from the word go. It was an aggressive display of batting from both the Indian openers as they mostly dealt in fours and sixes. The duo of Mandhana and Shafali hit two fours and a six off Tuba Hassan to collect 15 runs in the sixth over. The seventh over bowled by Hassan yielded 21 runs with Mandhana hitting the bowler for five boundaries. Pakistan finally tasted success in the 10th over in the form of Mandhana who was caught by Aliya Riaz at mid-wicket off the bowling of Syeda Aroob Shah. Shafali departed in the 12th over, but by then, she and Mandhana had already done the damage. Dayalan Hemalatha (14) didn't last long, caught by Hassan off Nashra Sandhu. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues then ensured a comfortable win for the title holders. Earlier, India dished out a fine effort led by experienced off-spinner Deepti Sharma (3/20). India, after being asked to bowl first, tasted their first success in the second over

itself when pacer Pooja Vastrakar (2/31) dismissed Gull Feroza, caught by skipper Harmanpreet at mid-on. Vastrakar struck again, dismissing the other Pakistan opener Muneeba Ali with a short-pitched delivery, caught by Rodrigues at cover, reducing Pakistan to 26 for 2 after the fourth over. The Indians didn't allow Pakistani batters to settle down as off-spinner Shreyanka Patil (2/14) packed off Riaz, caught by Rodrigues at mid-wicket. The Pakistani batters struggled to score runs, let alone build partnerships as Indian bowlers continued to pick up wickets at regular intervals to derail their opponents. The next to depart was Pakistan skipper Nida Dar who holed out to Hemalatha at long-on off the bowling of Deepti as the batter went for her customary heave over the straight boundary. It was raining wickets for India as pacer Renuka Singh (2/14) struck twice in the last two deliveries of her spell. Renuka first accounted for Sidra Amin (25) and then trapped Iram Javed leg before in the next ball to reduce Pakistan to 61 for 6 in 13 overs. Thereafter Tuba Hassan (22) and Fatima Sana (22 not out) stitched together a valuable 31-run stand for the seventh wicket to take Pakistan forward. But their partnership came to an end in the 18th over when Hassan was caught by Radha Yadav at backward point off Deepti. The 18th over bowled by Deepti saw three dismissals -- Hassan, Syeda Aroob Shah and Nashra Sandhu.

Paris welcomes athletes as Olympic Village opens

Paris: Athletes from around the world have begun arriving at their "home away from home" for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, as the Olympic Village officially opened its doors in the French capital. International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach welcomed some of the early arrivals. Approximately 10,500 athletes from the territories of 206 National Olympic Committee (NOCs) and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in the Games, with the majority staying in the main 54-hectare Olympic Village, located on the banks of the River Seine in the north of the host city. Additional athlete villages in Châteauroux, Lille, Marseille and Tahiti will also host those competing in shooting, basketball (preliminary round), handball, sailing and surfing, the organisers said. Bach was at the opening of the Olympic Village, along with Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet and IOC Coordination Commission chair Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant. The IOC president welcomed some of the athletes as they were entering the Village and attended the NOC Chefs de Mission meeting. "Finally, we are here," he said, as he praised the facilities that



will be available to athletes during the Games. "It has been a long journey these seven years, but it has been a hugely rewarding one thanks to our friends at the Organising Committee under the leadership of Tony Estanguet and his team, who have worked closely with our IOC Coordination Commission under the leadership of Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant. We have a wonderful Olympic Village, and all the ingredients for a great Olympic Games are here." The Olympic Village will serve as home for athletes during the Games, featuring a 3,200-seat dining hall, a 24-hour gym, a 3,500-square-meter polyclinic, and a small supermarket. To ensure the facilities meet athletes'

needs, the Paris 2024 Athletes' Commission invited representatives from five continents to provide feedback during the planning and construction phases, aiming to create an environment where athletes can focus on their competitions. Athletes can relax and communicate with each other at the Village Club while watching Olympic broadcasts. The "Athlete 365 Space" offers information on IOC support programs, enhancing awareness on issues such as anti-doping and match-fixing. Elections for the Athlete Commission members will also be held here. After the Games, the Village will become part of the surrounding region of Seine-Saint-Denis, with the site's housing, shops, public

facilities, workplaces, and green spaces set to meet the long-term living needs of 6,000 residents and provide jobs for 6,000 people. The new neighborhood will feature 2,500 new homes, a hotel, student residences, approximately seven hectares of gardens and parks, 120,000 square meters of offices and city services, and 3,200 square meters of neighborhood shops. The Village has also been designed to adapt to climatic conditions, with plants and water in public areas aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change in the future. The 2024 Paris Olympic Games will take place from July 26 to August 11. The Paralympic Games will then run from August 28 until September 8.

'I'm going to give my life to this club', vows Mbappe to Real Madrid fans

Madrid: Kylian Mbappe was overwhelmed by the incredible love showered by the Los Galacticos' fans after he was unveiled as a Real Madrid player and vowed to give his 'life for the club' in what was a heartwarming speech by the longtime club's fan. Kylian Mbappe and Real Madrid have been connected since the very beginning of the Frenchman's career. The superstar has been linked to the Spanish club since 2017 and finally completed his move ahead of the 2024/25 season and was unveiled to the Santiago Bernabeu on Tuesday. "It's an incredible day for me and I've always dreamed of playing here. I've been very fond of Real Madrid fans for a long time and I thank them from the

bottom of my heart. Now I have another dream: the dream to fulfil is to live up to the history of this club, the best in the world. I'm going to give my life for this club and for this badge," said an ecstatic Kylian Mbappe. It is no secret that Mbappe has been a longtime admirer of Cristiano Ronaldo and was inspired by the former Real Madrid striker. Photos of a young Mbappe having posters of Ronaldo in his room have surfaced time and time again. Mbappe recreated Cristiano Ronaldo's presentation as the 25-year-old shouted 'Uno, dos, tres, Hala Madrid!' and made the same pose made by Ronaldo during his unveiling. "Today I'm the one here, but next time it could be one of you. The biggest club

in the history of football. The Real Madrid president has been courting Mbappe for years and finally succeeded in snatching him away from PSG who did not want to let their prized asset leave the club. Perez recalled that Mbappe had previously come to train with the Real Madrid team when he was just 12 years old on the saying of Zinedine Zidane. "12 years ago, Zizou invited a boy to our training ground, and he is now the star who will help us to succeed in the future. Today we welcome Kylian Mbappe. I know what this means to you and your family. We saw how your eyes shone when you came here at the age of 13," said the Real Madrid president while presenting the player.