

# Punjab Kings open coffers to get Livingstone, ‘futuristic’ MI invest million dollar on injured Archer

■ **AGENCY**  
BENGALURU: Punjab Kings decided to break the bank to sign England's T20 specialist Liam Livingstone, paying a staggering Rs 11.50 crore for him while Mumbai Indians, purely based on leap of faith, paid a whopping Rs 8 crore for an injured Jofra Archer despite his unavailability for the 2022 edition of the IPL.

The teams went going big on current India players and largely based their decision on the form players from overseas with more focus on fast bowlers, not caring about reputations as the likes of Steve Smith, Aaron Finch, Suresh Raina, Ishant Sharma found out.

The two-day IPL auction ended on Sunday with Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings predictably making the hefty pay-outs with bigger purses in store while Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals now look formidable on batting front but slightly short in bowling arsenal.

Having roped in Livingstone, Punjab Kings also used its deep pockets to pick up West Indies all-rounder Odean Smith for Rs 6.5 crore. He was impressive in the recently concluded ODI series against India.

Sunrisers weren't going to be left behind in bidding frenzy, roping in CPL sensation from the West Indies Romario Shepherd for Rs 7.75 crore based on his all-round skills.

Mumbai and Delhi look good in batting not so in bowling.

Delhi's bowling attack where Anrich Nortje will be partnered by Shardul Thakur, Khaleel Ahmed, Chetan Sakariya and Kuldeep Yadav doesn't inspire highest confidence.

Having lost Kagiso Rabada on the first day to a rampaging Punjab Kings, Delhi invested 5.25 crore on Khaleel Ahmed, who is known to leak runs in slog overs and Rs 4.20 crore on left-armner Sakariya who pace is limited to 130s.

The duo cumulatively cost them Rs 9.45 crore which is more than what Punjab paid for Rabada.

Similarly for Mumbai Indians, Tymal Mills despite his T20 exploits, has been a big flop in Indian conditions as he gets ready to partner Jasprit Bumrah and Daniel Sims in absence of Archer for the year.

"So happy to have got him (Archer). So happy to have Jof and Boom making a lethal bowling attack although next year," MI owner Akash Ambani confirmed that Archer indeed won't play this edition.

MI is looking at Archer being one of their legends in the space vacated by Lasith Malinga and stay on for the next five to six years and are ready to sacrifice one year.

But Mumbai Indians' x-factor player certainly was Singapore international of Australian origin, Tim David who was bought for Rs 8 crore.

David, who has played for RCB, is an all-rounder but

known more for his big-hitting abilities. He produced 19 sixes in seven games for Multan Sultans in Pakistan Super League.

"Tim David is going to partner Kieron Pollard at number 5 and 6. Fortunately, he got a spell at RCB last year, so he has got experience of IPL."

Lucknow Supergiants have prepared a good first eleven with likes KL Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Marcus Stonis, Manish Pandey, Krunal Pandya, Jason Holder, Mark Wood and Avesh Khan but look short on back-up in terms of batting reserves.

Manan Vohra isn't simply good enough having failed in IPL for ages now. But if their first XI clicks, they are the team to watch out for. It is understood that Gautam Gambhir will speak to sworn enemies Krunal Pandya and Deepak Hooda to ensure harmony in the teams.

Hooda had left his first-class team Baroda, alleging that Pandya senior had bul-

lied him and threatened to destroy his career.

Rajasthan Royals in terms of bowling talent has the best resources with Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal as spinners along with Prasidh Krishna and Trent Boult as their first choice pacers.

With Navdeep saini as back-up, the bowling attack looks good and so does the batting where Jos Buttler, Sanju Samson, Shimron Hetmyer and Devdutt Padikkal pack quite a punch. The only weak link is lack of a genuine all-rounder.

CSK spent heavily (around 4 crore) on big-hitting batting all-rounder Shivam Dube but got New Zealander Devon Conway for a steal amount of Rs 1 crore base price and little known Sri Lankan spinner Mahesh Theekšana.

They have their core in place and Dhoni will perhaps depend on Adam Milne to do the job alongside Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo and Ravindra Jadeja.

# Delimitation draft proposal to create political equality between two regions of J&K: Dr Darakhshan

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

ANANTNAG: "Looking at delimitation proposals through myopic lenses is divisive. It is shameful to see the advocates of regional discrimination continuing with the rhetoric of communal exploitation for petty political interests. This is a positive proposal to usher a new era of political equality between two regions of the same unit called J&K," said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi while addressing a press conference at Dak Bungalow Anantnag.

She was accompanied by Party Incharge South Kashmir Veer Saraf, District President Anantnag Adv Syed Wajahat Qadiri, District President Kulgam Aabid Hussain Khan & District President Pulwama Sajjad Raina.

Dr Andrabi presented the sketch of the draft proposal of Delimitation Commission in the Presser and spoke about its huge significance in framing a new political order in J&K.

Dr Andrabi said that those who spoke about regional equality in political rallies for decades never allowed this to happen.

"For all types of co-existence including political co-existence, we need to assure & implement equal democratic representation within a political unit. This draft proposal of Delimitation Commission is to rectify regional democratic imbalance within J&K. Those who are hell bent upon dividing people on communal grounds on this issue



BJP National Executive Member, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi addressing a press conference at Anantnag.

are going to lose this battle of divide-and-rule," said Dr Andrabi.

BJP National Executive Member hailed the Commission for addressing the aspirations of the politically marginalized areas & also proposing political reservations to the scheduled tribes & castes in the Union Territory.

"On rotational grounds, we need to reserve seats for women and I am hopeful that the Commission will take note of this proposal of BJP too. We are receiving regular feedback from people and new suggestions are propping up which we are going to share with the Commission for consideration. "Exploiters in the garb of politicians are pointing fingers at the working of the Commission and blaming our party for influencing the working of the empowered independent body. I want to tell them that the Delimitation Commission is an independent Constitutional body headed by a former Supreme Court Judge. It is disgusting to level charges on the working of a constitutional body which is condemnable," said

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

In reply to a question, BJP National Executive Member said that just after the completion of delimitation process in J&K, we expect Assembly elections here so that a democratic government is set-up soon to complete the all-tier model of democracy for the first time in J&K from a local village representative to the representative in the J&K Assembly in the UT.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that in a democratic set-up discrimination on regional, linguistic, ethnic or religious grounds is not welcome and the 'Exploiter's Brigade' of J&K politics are habitual of doing such communal, regionalist politics for their power game.

"Now we have landed into a positive political environment in J&K and we have to correct the fault lines so that in future, no fingers are pointed on our democratic set-up," said Dr Darakhshan.

She appealed to people to come up with some more positive proposals so that we are able to suggest them to the delimitation body for consideration.

# Samba-XI thrashes KKR in Cricket



Winner team posing for a photograph.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Samba XI thrashed Kathua Knight Riders (KKR) in one side encounter in the ongoing 3rd Jai Sajyoti Mata T-20 Cricket Tournament being organized by Chani Cricket Club (CCC) at Rai near ITBP 47th Bn of district Samba.

Batting first after winning the toss, Samba XI scored 160 runs. Romi was the leading scorer with 41 runs of 18 balls.

Chasing 161 to win in penultimate 20 overs, Kathua Knight Riders

(KKR) never seemed to be in race as they lost their wickets at regular intervals and managed to score only 146 runs for the loss of ten wickets in 18.5 overs and thus lost the match by 15 runs. Romi grabbed two wickets.

For his all-round performance, Romi was declared as Man of the Match.

The match was officiated by Ashwani Verma and Gautam Dubey as Umpires.

This tournament is being organized by Lovely Singh, Ashwani Verma, Rohin Lalotra and Gautam Dubey.

# KC Public School delegates attend virtual round square annual general meeting 2022

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Virtual Annual General Meeting 2022 of Round Square (South Asia & Gulf Region) was held on Feb 12. Arti Chowdhary, Managing Director of the KC Public School and Sonia Thakur, Round Square Rep, attended the online event.

Arti Chowdhary is among leading resource persons from Round Square global fraternity with specialization in Round Square Discovery Framework (RSDf) & has been giving presentations on the implementation of RSDf at KC Public School since 2018.

In the virtual AGM 2022, she once again made an impressive presentation on 'RSDf Dynamics at KCPS in Virtual Times'.

She asserted that as KCPS rose to the challenges of new norms of life in a global pandemic, it felt the imperative need to focus more on the implementation of 12 tenets of RSDf. The teachers were thoughtful about creating space for all students to reflect on their strengths and their challenges, learn



KCPS delegate during virtual round square annual general meeting.

more about each other, their teachers and parents to navigate future challenges, explore their curiosities, pursue their passions, help those in need and grow into being the best versions of themselves through a series of workshops conducted by counsellors and experts.

A plethora of activities through art and craft, music, prayers, inspirational videos, talk shows, role-play and panel discussions were conducted online to implement the true spirit of the RSDf.

Appreciating the spirit of compassion among students, she spoke about a series of student-led fundraising

events initiated as part of service programme that included a marathon, the 'Power of Ten' donation system and organization of a virtual Winter Carnival.

Funds generated through these events were donated to a local orphanage and to 'Raunak' - a social service initiative started by KCPS students for the welfare of slum children.

Rachael Westgarth, CEO of Round Square and other educationists attending the AGM praised Arti Chowdhary for delivering a wonderful and uplifting presentation about the work being done at KC Public School.

# DYSS hosts different activities at Pulwama

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) in support with the district administration involved staff and local youth in different activities.

While the staff, especially the Physical Education Teachers (PETs) have been involved in orientation courses in different disciplines, those local youth have been engaged in sports activities.

In view of the play fields covered with snow, the organised Kabaddi matches on the snow fields as part of the



A Kabaddi match in progress on snow-covered playfield.

week-long snow carnival at Bhag I Sangerwani.

On the other hand, orientation cum refresher courses

for the physical education staff took place at two different venues within the district.

# NSS unit of GGM Science College celebrates National Women Day

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: NSS unit of Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College under the patronage of Principal, Dr. Ravender Tickoo and guidance of NSS PO Dr. Deepali Mahajan as a part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrated National Women Day with the theme 'women Empowerment' under Beti Behao Beti Padao.

Every year February 13th is dedicated to National Women's Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, a key figure during India's independence struggle.

Through her mind-bendingly passionate writings in the form of poems, she transformed the freedom movement, NSS PO stated.

NSS volunteers made sketches on empowering women through literacy showing there's no field where women can't be successful.



# JKTF welcomes Govt's decision to reopen schools for offline education

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A meeting of central and district bodies of Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) was held in Jammu under leadership of its Chairman Ganesh Khajuria and Mohd Akbar Khan, President, which was attended by more than 200 members belonging to various parts of UT, to discuss various burning issues of teaching community. The participants appreciated the Govt's decision to reopen schools for offline teaching and assured full support to the administration in this regard. They urged the teaching fraternity for their sincere and active participation to cover-up the losses of studies faced by children due to COVID-19 pandemic by burning mid-night oil.

While speaking on the occasion, Ganesh Khajuria urged Government, especially Principal Secretary, School Education

Department to maintain previous routine while effecting transfers of different cadres as it is desirable that District cadre post transfers be effected by District Officers and Provincial Cadre posts i.e., Masters and others be made at Directorate level and all other gazetted posts from Secretariat level, for ensuring transparency and justice to cadre besides avoiding unnecessary complications. The leadership further urged Government the releasing UT grades to all Government employees of J&K UT on pattern of other UTs. The leaders also requested for removal of Master Grade pay anomaly besides filling up all vacant posts i.e., Principals, ZEOs, Lecturers, Headmasters and Masters by promoting the eligible cadres.

Prominent members who attended the meeting included Mohd Shafi Rather, Surat Singh Toofani, Darshan Sharma,

Gopal Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Sharif-ud-Din, Gulam Navi Kralpori, Jamayat Ali Agah, Ravinder Singh, Raj Singh, Kuldeep Singh Bandral, Mohd Akbar Dar, Ishaq Rashid, Subash Singh, P D Singh, Goutam Singh, Abdul Mazid Rizvi, Subash Sharma, Mohd Javed Bhat, Surinder Sharma, Muneer Ahmed Khan, Mohd Yasin, Yash Paul Sharma, Gulam Ahmed Dar, Gurnam Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Satbir Choudhary, Omkar Singh, Ajit Verma, Sat Paul Chowhan, Bishan Sharma, Viney Gupta, Sanjay Sharma, Surinder Sharma, Daya Krishan Sharma, Rashpal Singh, Surinder Choudhary, Ashwani Sharma, Joginder Singh, Mohinder Singh, Zaqir Hussain, Anil Kumar, Nazakat Ali, Jatinder Sharma, Tarlochan Singh, Rajnish, Baz Hussain, Rangil Singh, Abhishek Khajuria, Iqinder Paul Singh and Parvez Ahmed.

# Dogra Youth holds protest seeking construction of play-ground

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A number of youth of Jammu City along with leaders of Dogra Youth held a protest in Jammu on Sunday demanding construction of a play-ground at Bhagwati Nagar. Held under the leadership of Partap Singh Jamwal and Bhanu Partap Gorla, the protest was attended by a number of youth who raised slogans against the Government and JDA besides highlighting demand for construction of playground to promote sports among youth of Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Pratap Singh Jamwal regretted that land allotted for the play-ground at Bhagwati Nagar has turned into a filthy place where garbage of adjacent areas is being dumped, to cause nuisance to people's health and hygiene. "Children have no place to play as most of them come from poor families. Nobody from BJP including the ex-MLA & former ministers both-

ered to pay any heed towards issue while in power. Youth of Jammu faced the worst ever discrimination under BJP's rule. Besides facing obnoxious biased treatment in employment, the youth are trapped in drug addiction by rampant mafia operating in the entire province," he asserted.

Bhanu Partap Gorla said that the people were requesting authorities to convert a piece of JDA land available in ward-14 of Bhagwati Nagar into a play-ground and an application has already been submitted to administration, but it seems that none is serious over the matter. Lambasting JDA for spreading a mess over the land, Bhanu sought cleaning of land within a week failing which youth would be forced to adopt path of agitation. He also urged LG to take serious cognizance of proposal regarding establishing a Play-ground in Bhagwati Nagar, which failed to see light of day.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) held a meeting in Jammu on Sunday wherein members of Guidance Council-an apex body of Graduate Engineers of Power Development Department participated in full strength with Mumsh Majid Ali, President JKEEGA among other Chief Engineers/Superintending Engineers from JKEEGA Kashmir unit participating via online mode, as special invitees.

Speaking during the meeting, JKEEGA Jammu unit members led by General Secretary, Sachin Tickoo expressed strong resentment over purported move of the Government to induct retired or a retiring professional on his superannuation as Executive Director JKPD. It is pertinent to mention that Executive Director is a position that is a Gazetted Engineering cadre promotion vacancy existing in cadre strength of Gazetted

services in JKPD and three more positions of Executive Directors have been created vide GO No 11-JK(PDD) of 2022 dated-February 8, 2022 after long battle between association and Government since last two years.

It is astonishing that despite no dearth of senior engineers, who are working as Executive Directors/Chief Engineers for nearly more than 5 years as Executive Director/Chief Engineers and performing well, what are compulsions that Government is contemplating to induct a retiring/retired person as Executive Director at the cost of usurping promotion opportunity of a serving engineers, majority of whom have rendered more than 30 years of service. "It is beyond any comprehension that how a person who is retiring and was Junior most in seniority among the serving lot of the Chief Engineers is given re-employment as Executive Director on contractual basis. This shall invite strong stir across Jammu

and Kashmir from all rank and file of the department," they asserted.

The guidance council resolved that all official information/correspondence, through all means, including WhatsApp groups and other social media handles, shall be immediately stopped for 72 hours from midnight of February 14, 00:00 Hours. Further, the executive body has been mandated to chalk-out protest programme whatever deemed fit in consultation with other associations, so that the proposal is shelved in nascent stage itself and confrontation is avoided.

JKEEGA Guidance council appealed to the Government to kindly shelve such controversial issues and take up promotion at all levels from AE to CE as hundreds of vacancies are lying idle in department and the administrative efficiency is being compromised on account of the additional charge. It further resolved that all vacant positions of Executive Director be filled from amongst senior most sitting Chief Engineers.

# Fencing trials from Feb 18

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Adhoc Committee of Jammu and Kashmir Amateur Fencing Association shall be holding selection trials to raise UT teams for the upcoming Senior (men and women) and Sub-Junior (under-14 boys and girls) National Fencing Championships.

The four-day selection process shall take place at Fencing Hall, MA Stadium, here from February 18, a handout issued here on Sunday informed. Fencers need to come in fencing kit and bring along electric

weapons and allied accessories at the time of trials.

While the sub-junior players must be less than 14 years of age as on March 31, 2022, those born on or after 01.04.2008 are only eligible for participation in the selection process.

Those eligible players are advised to bring along Aadhaar card and Date of Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority.

Any Fencer found violating the SOPs and guidelines will be debarred from participation in the trials, the handout mentioned.

# Kisan Sabha urges Admn to fulfill farmers' demands

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Highlighting a number of issues being faced by farming community in Jammu & Kashmir, the Kisan Sabha has urged the administration to initiate necessary measures for fulfilling all pending demands of the farmers, without any further delay.

While addressing a press conference in Jammu on Sunday, President Kisan Sabha, Adv Hari Chand Jalmeria said that farmers comprise over 75 per cent of J&K's population but even then they are neglected since decades. At every step, they are subjected to exploitation in hands of bureaucracy and business class. "Politicians have simply been using them for forming crowds in rallies and as vote-bank. Farmers, who are the real backbone of country, are prone to suffer losses due to vagaries of weather and natural calamities. Being food producers, they need support not neglect or exploitation," added Jalmeria.

Various issues highlighted on the occasion included immediate and adequate compensation to farmers of both regions affected due to unprecedented hailstorm on October 23, 2021; adequate and proper de-silting of Ranbir canal and all other canals in J&K under the supervision of beneficiary farmers through respective Panchayats, procurement facilities for farmers at village level, ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP), creation of research centers in different climate zones, removing monkey menace, compensation to farmers against all natural calamities, pension for old-age farmers after 60 years of age, opening of milk ATMs and dairies in all villages, no diversion of agricultural land, providing reservation facilities to wards of farmers in jobs etc.

Others present during the press conference included Dr Ghanisham Singh Charak, Uday Chand, Sayed Raffiq Shah, Balwant Singh, Dewan Chand, Shanker Singh Chib, Maqbool Malik and Arvind Singh.