

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P4 THINK

## AUKUS VS. QUAD: A REALITY CHECK

The past week saw the US's hard push to contain China in its own backyard, by the formation of a new defence agreement known as AUKUS, with no precedent in diplomatic world, as the regional might of the new alliance is already covered by an old

P5 REINTEGRATING MULTILATERALISM

MADRID - Last year, the United Nations conducted a worldwide consultation involving more than one million people from 193 countries. The feedback pointed to some important facts. And this year's UN General Assembly must respond by bolstering rules-based multilateralism...



P7 SPORTS

## WARNER WARNS SRH WON'T SEE HIM AT STADIUM 'AGAIN'

Sunrisers Hyderabad's big-hitting opener David Warner, who has been dropped from the playing XI because of poor form, has said that he won't be seen at the stadium



**Quote!**  
Today's opportunities erase yesterday's failures.  
- Gene Brown

### NEWS DIGEST

#### Army Man Detained At Srinagar Airport

**SRINAGAR:** A soldier was detained at the Srinagar International Airport on Tuesday after a bullet was recovered from his baggage. Hawaldar Pawan Singh of Army's 17 Raj Rifles was detained by the security personnel at the police post Humhama on Tuesday after one live round of Insas rifle. **More On P6**

#### Minor Dies After Falling Into Trench

**SRINAGAR:** In a tragic accident, a minor boy on Tuesday died after falling into a trench in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Four-year-old Haider Iqbal Mir, son of Mohammad Iqbal Mir was playing outside his home in Pringroo village of Mawar when he fell into a newly- **More On P6**

#### Soldier Killed After Vehicle Overturns

**SRINAGAR:** An army man on Tuesday was killed while his colleague sustained injuries when their vehicle overturned in the Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Dharmendra Singh of army's 4th Sikh Unit was killed while his colleague Sukhpal Singh suffered injuries when their **More On P6**

#### Hideout Busted After 2 OGWs Held

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested two alleged militant associates in south Kashmir's Pulwama district and on their instance busted a hideout in the Old City here. Police and army's 50 RR in a joint operation arrested two alleged over- **More On P6**

#### Man Gets Five Years In Jail For Fraud

**JAMMU:** An anti-Corruption court here on Wednesday convicted a person in a fraud case and awarded him a jail term of five years and a fine of Rs 1 lakh, a spokesman of the Crime Branch, Jammu said. Rajinder Kumar alias Shinda, a resident of Vikas Nagar, was booked in a case under various

## UN Chief 'Hopeful' About India-Pakistan Dialogue

Press Trust Of India

**UNITED NATIONS:** Despite the tone and the content of the remarks made by India and Pakistan against each other during the UN General Assembly, we always remain hopeful that dialogue can happen between the two nations, a spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said.

India slammed Pakistan at the UN after Prime Minister Imran Khan raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his address to the 76th UN General Assembly session on Friday. We heard the remarks, and I think, despite the tone and



the content of the remarks, we always remain hopeful that dialogue can happen, maybe in a place that is not under the spotlights, Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said at the daily press briefing on Monday. Dujarric was **More On P6**

## Top US Diplomat To Visit India, Pak Next Month

**A** top American diplomat will visit India next month to hold talks with her Indian counterpart on bilateral and regional issues, the US State Department has said, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral summit with President Joe Biden. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R Sherman will travel to New Delhi on October 6 and to Mumbai on the next day, the State Department said on Monday. Sherman will be in New Delhi on **More On P6**

**WE HEARD THE REMARKS,** and I think, despite the tone and the content of the remarks, we always remain hopeful that dialogue can happen, maybe in a place that is not under the spotlights."

## BJP Misleading People On Art-370: Soz

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Alleging that BJP leaders have resorted to spreading falsehood on Kashmir, especially on the abrogation of Article 370, former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Prof Saifuddin Soz said people of the Union Territory (UT) will continue their struggle for restoration of autonomy. "The people of UT, especially in Kashmir, have taken notice of

the fact that the BJP leaders at the Centre have taken recourse to spreading untruth on the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, Soz said in a statement issued here Tuesday.

He said these leaders, including Union Ministers Smriti Irani, Anurag Thakur and Jitendra Singh, perhaps feel that repeatedly speaking untruth could catch minds of Kashmiris and others. He said the fact **More On P6**

## Govt Forms Poplar Commission

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Government on Tuesday constituted the Poplar Commission on various aspects of introduction, cultivation, utilization and regulation of poplars in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Commission headed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) had been formed in light of the recommendations made by the Committee constituted by the government on 14 April last year, reads a government order.

Besides advising the Government on various aspects of introduction, cultivation, utilization and regulations of Poplars in Jammu and Kashmir, the Commission has been also asked

## Mehbooba Accuses Forces Of Thrashing Civilians In Tral

Police Says 'Miscommunication Caused Tral Commotion'

Auqib Javeed

**SRINAGAR:** Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday accused army of ransacking houses and thrashing members of a family in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, a charge strongly contested by police.

Taking to micro-blogging site twitter, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief hit out at the army for allegedly beating the civilians in the village.

"Army from Yagwani camp in Tral ransacked homes &

Complete Tunnel by Dec 2023, Gadkari Tells MEIL

## Work On Zojila Tunnel To Continue Even In Winter



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

**SONMARG:** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has urged the contractors to

expedite work on the 14.15-km Zojila Tunnel, and to take it up as a "challenge and complete the project three years ahead of the 2026 deadline.

The Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd (MEI) is expediting the execution of the 4,600-crore project, connecting the **More On P6**

## 'Development Scenario Will Change In 2 Years'

**O**ver Rs one lakh crore is being spent only for tunnels in Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir and in the next two year the Centre will change the development scenario in the two Union territories, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday. The Union minister for road transport and highways inspected the eastern portal of the under-construction Zojila tunnel and said the work is being carried out on a war footing and the tunnel will be an economic corridor for Ladakh and Kashmir.

"Within two years, we will change the scenario of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. We will provide more infrastructure facilities within two years. Availability of funds is not a problem, we need cooperation for land acquisition and other works," he said.

The minister said the centre is spending more than Rs one **More On P6**

## Pakistani Militant Captured In Uri: Army Operation Over, 7 Militants Killed Since Sept 18: Maj Gen Vats

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** A 19-year-old Pakistani militant belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba was captured alive during an anti-infiltration operation along the Line of Control on Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir in which one militant was killed and three Indian soldiers sustained injuries, the Army said on Tuesday.

The operation was launched on September 18 after the Army noticed suspicious movement along the LoC, GoC 19 Infantry Division, Major General Virender Vats told reporters at a briefing in Baramulla district.

He said an encounter took



place when the infiltrators - believed to be six - were challenged. While four of them were on the other side of the fence, two had come on our side of the territory. "The four terrorists, who were on the other side, took

advantage of the dense foliage and retreated back into Pck. The remaining two sneaked in. "One of the infiltrators was killed in the encounter on the morning of 26th while another one pleaded **More On P6**

## Teen Militant Hopes To Return Home

The teenage militant, who was apprehended at Salamabad Uri by army, said on Tuesday that he was hopeful to see his mother back home in Pakistan one day soon. Ali Babar, aged 19, son of Lt. Muhammad Haneef, a resident of Okara district in the Punjab region in Pakistan was apprehended by the Indian Army during a nine-day long counter-militancy operation at Salamabad Uri in which seven **More On P6**

## Sidhu Quits As Punjab Chief, Cong In Crisis

Press Trust Of India

**CHANDIGARH:** Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday resigned as the chief of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, plunging the party into a fresh crisis just months ahead of the assembly elections in the state.

Sidhu quit the post shortly after the allocation of portfolios to the members of the new state Cabinet.

In a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, he said he will continue to serve the party.

Sidhu had taken over as the state party chief in July amid a leadership tussle with Amarinder Singh, who stepped down as CM 10 days **More On P6**

## ...SACKING SPREE

## Dr Farooq To Govt: 'Stop Terminating Employees'

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday warned the government against sacking employees on the grounds that they had links to militants, saying the move will create more problems.

"The government should stop it. The militancy will not reduce, it will only increase and create more problems for them (government)," Abdullah told reporters here.

He was responding to questions about the sacking of government employees on various grounds, including links to



militancy and separatism.

Six government employees, including two policemen, were dismissed from service on September 22 for their alleged links to militants in Jammu and Kashmir.

Asked about the **More On P6**

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# Arbaeen Processions, Majalis Held In City



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A number of majalis were held across Kashmir on Tuesday to mark the Arbaeen (Chehlum) of martyrs of Karbala. Processions were taken out following majalis where zakireen recited classical marsya and Ulama delivered sermons highlighting the significance of Arbaeen and the relevance of message of Imam Hussain (AS) today. At Sajjadabad Chattabal, Maulana Masroor Abbas An-

Agha Syed Hadi Moosavi, president of Anjuman Sharie Shiyayan delivered a sermon at the Imambargah Agha Syed Yusuf. In nearby Budgam a big mourning procession was led by Agha Syed Hassan al Safvi from Mirgund. The procession culminated at Imambargah Budgam. A large gathering was held at Zaildar Mohalla, Saida Kadal, where Agha Syed Mujtaba Abbas Mosavi addressed the mourners. Later, a procession was taken out from Zaildar Mohalla that passed through different areas before culminating at Imam Bara Hassanabad. Reports of Arbaeen gatherings were also received from Imam Bara Chattargam, Imam Bara Yagipora Magam, Imam Bara Gamdu Sumbal Sonwari, Sumbal Nougam in Bandipora District Arbaeen related congregations were also held in Baramulla, Pulwama and Anantnag Districts. However, no Majlis was held at Imam Bara Zaidal in view of the lockdown imposed by the authorities to contain the spread of coronavirus.

**REPORTS OF ARBAEEN GATHERINGS WERE ALSO** received from Imam Bara Chattargam, Imam Bara Yagipora Magam, Imam Bara Gamdu Sumbal Sonwari, Sumbal Nougam in Bandipora District Arbaeen related congregations were also held in Baramulla, Pulwama and Anantnag Districts.

# Will Develop Industrial Estates Khunmoh On Modern Lines: Govt

KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of SIDCO Industrial Estate Khunmoh and inspected various Industrial units operating there, besides assessing the infrastructure facilities available to the unit holders. During his visit, the Advisor had a detailed interaction with business unit holders, giving patient hearing to the issues and grievances they placed before him. He assured them appropriate consideration of their issues and suggestions. Advisor, while emphasizing the need for development of Industrial Estates Khunmoh on modern lines, instructed the authorities to devise a comprehensive development plan, component wise, including all facilities like Common Facility Centre, Medical facility, Recreation facilities, cademization and beautification of internal roads of the estate, Dumping yard, Drinking water facility, Drainage, Scientific garbage disposal, Parks, Street lights, and other allied utilities. He said that Khunmoh being a prestigious Industrial area should fulfill all the basic parameters of a robust Industrial set up to be emulated in other estates of the UT. He directed the authorities to earmark land for the development of basic amenities there. He further directed the concerned officers to come up with a plan in this regard so that the same is taken to its logical conclusion in a time bound manner.



During his visit, the Advisor inquired about the employment generated by the units and the feasibility of the established units. He further enquired about the number of functional and stressed units in the area. Advisor visited various industrial units including M/s Real Tech, M/S Polytech Industries, M/S Asian ply and Laminates and assessed the overall functioning of these units. Later, Advisor Baseer Khan held detailed deliberations with the representatives of FCIK and the Industrial Association Khanmoh. He interacted with a group of Industrial unit holders of the estate. The Industrial unit holders while appreciating the government's proactive approach towards the Industrial sector especially the steps taken to ease out the procedural difficulties highlighted certain issues in implementation of the schemes and their smooth facilitation of 'Ease of Doing Business', time bound clearance of files, pending payment with various departments, obtaining NOCs from various departments.

## DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

## AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

## RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

## HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

## This Day in History

- 1678 - France & Brandenburg signs peace treaty
- 1848 - Battle of Pákozd: Hungarian forces defeat Croats at Pákozd; the first battle of the War of Independence
- 1875 - US-Spanish relations decline in wake of Cuban rebellion.
- 1885 - The first practical public electric tramway in the world is opened in Blackpool, England.
- 1911 - Italy declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- 1913 - The Treaty of Constantinople between Turkey and Bulgaria restores peace; the Turks recover Adrianople and Maritza River line
- 1915 - British army conquers Chilly al Imara, Mesopotamia.
- 1918 - WWI: Allied forces scored a decisive breakthrough of Hindenburg Line
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini ask Vatican for support of fascist party program
- 1927 - Telephone service begins between US & Mexico
- 1936 - Radio used for 1st time for a presidential campaign
- 1944 - Soviet troops invade Yugoslavia
- 1953 - US government gives France \$385 million for combat in Indo-China.
- 1959 - Sultan of Brunei promulgates a constitution
- 1964 - Greece & Bulgaria close boundaries
- 1971 - Orbiting Solar Observatory VII launched
- 1973 - Soyuz 12 returns to Earth
- 1976 - Syria drives Palestinian guerrillas out of Lebanon
- 1977 - Soviet space station Salyut 6 launched into Earth orbit
- 1988 - 26th Space Shuttle mission, Discovery 7 launched
- 1988 - UN peacekeeping forces win Nobel Peace prize
- 1995 - US space probe Ulyssus completes 2nd passage behind Sun
- 2004 - The asteroid 4179 Toutatis passes within four lunar distances of Earth.
- 2005 - Amnesty referendum in Algeria.
- 2009 - MESSENGER spacecraft performs a third and final Mercury flyby
- 2013 - 42 people are killed by Boko Haram in a college attack in Gujba, Nigeria
- 2013 - 16 people are killed by a Syrian Army air strike that hit a secondary school in Raqqa, Syria
- 2014 - Ashraf Ghani becomes President of Afghanistan

HIJRI CALENDAR  
**21**  
SAFAR -UL- MUZAFFAR  
**1443**

PRAYERS  
FAJR 5: 02  
ZUHR 12: 22  
ASR 4:38  
MAGRIB 6:24  
ISHA 7:44

# Science & Tech Deptt To Develop Renewable Sources Of Energy



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the development of renewable sources of energy in Jammu and Kashmir. Administrative Secretaries of departments of Power Development, Science & Technology,

General Administration, and Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs participated in the meeting. The Chief Secretary emphasized on the need to lay special attention on the development of biomass energy which has a huge potential in Jammu and Kashmir. The Science & Technology Department was asked to organize a workshop on development of biomass energy in consultation with reputed domain experts. The Chief Secretary further observed that the solar and wind energy potential has to be fully utilized by deploying the latest technology in the field. Dr. Mehta entrusted the Science & Technology Department to develop roof top photovoltaic solar projects in the two Secretariats as a pilot project and undertake net metering thereof to evaluate the energy efficiency of these projects.

# Info Dept Employees Protest Against 'Salary Halt' In Sgr, Boycott Work



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The employees at Directorate of Information and Public Relations on Tuesday went on a strike and staged a protest in Srinagar after the Director Information Jammu and Kashmir ordered a 'salary halt' for unknown reasons.

Vice President employees union, Bilal Ahmad said that the employees have been working around the clock every year, despite all this we are being treated like absconders. "We have a work schedule of 15 hours, we have employees who have been deputed to Sonamarg for union minister

Nitin Gadkari's event. They left Srinagar at around 5:30 in the morning and will return late in the evening. Still we are underpaid, he said adding that salaries of 52 employees have been halted for unknown reasons." The employees while protesting at Rambagh office said that we have halted all the work of the Information division Kashmir until the order is revoked and our salaries be released. As such there will be no advertising services also. The employees have appealed to the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Commissioner Secretary Information to look into the matter and ensure order be revoked and salaries be released at an earliest.

# J&K Youth See No Light At The End Of Tunnel: Farooq Agencies



**SRINAGAR:** National Conference President and Member of Parliament Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday stressed on partnering with J&K youth to achieve their dreams and protecting their emotional and mental health.

Dr Farooq said this while interacting with the young entrepreneurs, who had called on him here at party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar from different parts of Kashmir division. The visiting delegation of budding entrepreneurs apprised the Party President about the lack of appropriate entrepreneurship ecosystem as a main deterrent to the motivation of the upcoming entrepreneurs and a major hurdle in the growth of those who have already established their ventures. The visiting delegation said that in wake of the lack of government jobs and scant private sector, they started their own ventures with little to support from the administration. They maintained that the tedious paperwork involved in starting a business and absence of incubation centers that can provide right direction and support with regard to the necessary marketing, infrastructure, easy banking and information have had a negative impact on their growth.

# Complaint Against Apple Centre Motivated: Infahs

Observer News Service

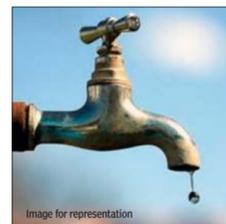
**SRINAGAR:** The Authorised Apple service provider in Srinagar has refuted the allegations of cheating and overcharging made by a customer. Infahs Private Limited in a statement on Tuesday stated that upon investigating the complaint, it was found to be baseless and fabricated. "The whole fuss was created as the customer's intention was only to malign the image of the service centre," the statement reads. The statement further said that the company has been providing service from 2009 and had ever-since been ca-



tering to the needs of thousands of their customers. "We are committed to serving our customers. We have ensured our services even in the tumultuous times of the pandemic," Infahs Private Limited stated. The company also said it was available to their customers through WhatsApp: 8715829024 and Email ID: ip@infahs.co.in for any support and assistance.

# Eidgah Face Shortage Of Drinking Water For Past Two Years

Will Resolve Issue Next Month For Sure: AEE



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The residents of Shalimar lane in Eidgah are facing acute water scarcity from the last two years. The residents living in lane 3, said that over the years they

**WE ARE NOW** using rubber pipes to get water from other colonies for drinking and other household purposes," have tried their best to reach out to the officials to resolve the matter, "but all in vain". "We are now using rubber pipes to get water from other colonies for drinking and other household purposes," they said. Concerned AEE Isfaq told news agency, that there was an issue with the contractors and assured better supply of drinking water in coming month for sure—(KNO)

# NGO Organises Free Medical Camp At Bemina



KO NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** A free medical camp was organized by NGO Helping Hands care Foundation J&K In-collaboration With Indian system of Medicine (AYUSH) on Tuesday at Bemina on the eve of 40th Muharram Ul Haram. The health check-up camp was counted by the Experts of the ISM. "More than Thousand of patients including Women and elderly people were among the beneficiaries who received the immunity boosters and free medicines in the camp. The people were also explained in detail about the Third wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic. On the occasion, while speaking to media persons, Nasir Hussain stressed the General Public to follow Covid-19 Guidelines prescribed by govt to fight this dreadful corona Virus. Further asked the public to go for vaccination as the only way to fight the dreadful virus. The people were also explained in detail about the Third wave of

the COVID-19 Pandemic. A large number of old age men, women took part in this free medical camp to take advantage of the facilities provided by the NGO Helping Hands Care Foundation J&K. The people of this area appreciate the efforts of the NGO Helping Hands care Foundation J&K in conducting this medical camp. The locals said if they would have bought these medicines from the market it would cost huge money but in this camp, they get all medicines free of cost. Nasir Hussain, President of the NGO Helping Hands Care Foundation said, "that we have been organizing these camps for the last many years and in these camps, free medicines have been provided to patients and it has also created a relationship between us and locals." Nasir Hussain also said that they are organizing these free medical camps in future for the welfare of the people. Nasir Hussain also assured the people that the NGO will continue to serve humanity irrespective of colour, caste and religion.

## From KO Archives

# 24 Killed In 24Hrs

Observer News service

**SRINAGAR** Twenty-four people including 18 militants and four security personnel were killed in different gunbattles in Jammu and Kashmir over past 24 hours, a defence spokes-man said today. Five foreign militants of Jaish-e-Muham-mad were killed in an encounter with security forces at Hill Kaka sector (Surankote) The deceased were identified as Shaheen R/o Multan, Abdul Rouf R/o Sahiwal, Pakistan, Chacha Sadiqi R/o Multan, Jameel Muhammad R/q Kotli and Abdul Rasheed R/o Nakyal, Pck, official sources said. "Five more unidentified militants were killed at Kam-alHump post, Tangdhar in Knpwara district. Three AK-47 rifles, 3 magazines and 6 hand grenades were recovered from their possession, official sources said. He said the army gunned down two more militants in an encounter at Chowkibal in Kupwara district last night, adding some arms and ammunition were recovered from the killed militants. Security forces last night cordoned village Manwani, Achabal in Anantnag district, police sources said adding militants hiding there fired upon the search party belonging to 7 Rashtriya Rifles (RR). The fire was returned and in the ensuing encounter one jawan and one militant were killed. The army jawan has been identified as Gurmil Singh and the militant as Shah Din alias Shaheel of Pakistan. An SPO namely Inayatullah Mir of Chitti Bandy in Bandipore area of Baramulla district was killed when militants fired upon security forces during the preceding night, police sources said. One army jawan lost his life and three others sustained injuries when militants triggered off a mine blast at Pather Post area, sector Drass in Kargil. "The vehicle they were travelling in also was damaged in the blast, defence sources said. An Ikhwani was killed in Pattan today when suspected militants sprayed bullets on him in bazar. The deceased was identified as Nazir Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Ahmad Wani. Five more militants were killed in different incidents of violence in Poonch sector. Two of them were affiliated with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen while one of Lashkar-e-Taiba. The identity of two others could not be ascertained. Unidentified gunmen shot dead one Nissar Ahmad S/o Gulab Din of Hill Top, sector Darhal in Kargil, Police has taken cognizance.

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## K O V I E W

### Talk To Farmers

**B**harat Bandh called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the umbrella body of over 40 farm unions spearheading the farmers' agitation, to mark the first anniversary of the enactment of the three controversial farm laws on September 27 generated good response across the country. The bandh was held from 6 am to 4 pm during which all government and private offices, educational and other institutions, shops, industries and commercial establishments as well as public events and functions were closed in many parts of the country. The opposition political parties and the governments of Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Punjab, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh extended their support to the bandh, and the protest evoked response in these states. The Bandh also garnered support from more than 500 farmer organizations, 15 trade unions, and varied sections of society.

Farmers held rallies and the major mandis and markets remained shut. The protesting farmers were seen squatting on railway tracks at many places.

The farmers' protest began last year on November 26 against the three farm laws: Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers Empowerment and Protection Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. While the centre has defended the laws as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove the middlemen and allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country, the farmers contend that the legislations would eliminate the safety cushion of Minimum Support Price and do away with the "mandi" system. They also fear that the laws would bring on the scene the corporates who would monopolize the trade and feel empowered to determine the market prices.

The farmers leader Rakesh Tikait termed the bandh successful, saying it had the support of all farmers. He added that the farmers were ready for talks with the central government, but no talks were happening right now.

But the government, on the other hand, is showing no signs of backing down. Early this year, the central government had offered to suspend the farmer laws for one and a half years. Farmers, however, rejected this offer. They want nothing short of the repeal of the laws. It remains to be seen how the government responds to the bandh and mounting protests. It would be great if the government shelves the laws and then engages farmers in a discussion about them to mobilize support for their re-enactment in future.

## OTHER OPINION

### On PM Modi's Speech At UNGA

**F**or the third consecutive year in a row, and his fourth such speech since he was elected in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the UN General Assembly, outlining his outlook on India's place in the world. Referring to India's large population, he said that the world grows when India grows, and transforms when India reforms, pointing to examples of the country's progress and impact: in the area of vaccines and pharmaceuticals, particularly to counter COVID, green technology and the promise of 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030, and poverty alleviation. He also enumerated how many Indians had been provided water connections, banking access, insurance coverage, health services and homes, although his claim that these "all-inclusive" development goals had been achieved only in the "last seven years", struck a politically partisan note that was out of place. Moving to regional matters, Mr. Modi pointed to the contrast between India's actions and those of Pakistan and China in veiled references. In an apparent message to Pakistan, he linked events in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have taken control, to the problem of "regressive thinking" that leads to the use of terrorism as "a political tool". He also called for safeguarding the maritime sphere from the "race of expansion and exclusion" and referred to the need for investigating the "origins of the coronavirus", subjects China is sensitive about. Addressing the UN directly for its own shortcomings, the PM said that time waits for no one, urging the UN to speed up the reforms process that has been flagging for more than a decade, which would include an expanded Security Council. This, he explained, is the only way to restore the credibility of global governance institutions.

Mr. Modi's strongest words came at the beginning of his speech, where he launched a defence of the state of Indian democracy, which has come in for some criticism over the past few years. He said India had been named the "mother of democracy" for its adherence to democratic values, symbolised by its diversity, pluralism, inclusivity, and equality, that allowed someone like him, who had once worked at his father's tea stall, to become the country's leader. The PM's words appeared to be a response to comments made during his Washington visit, where U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris stressed the need to strengthen democratic processes internally. Even as he addressed the UN, protesters outside criticised his government for actions against activists, NGOs, the laws on agriculture and citizenship, and incidents of lynching and mob violence. While the PM's commitment to India's "great tradition of democracy" was heartening, it will be measured not by words at the world body, but by answers and actions on the ground in India.

The Hindu

# AUKUS vs. QUAD: A Reality Check

## India It Seems Has Been Left Out In The Cold On The Issue Of Maintaining Regional Security In The Asia-Pacific Region After The Formation Of AUKUS By The US

Asad Mirza

**T**he past week saw the US's hard push to contain China in its own backyard, by the formation of a new defence agreement known as AUKUS, with no precedent in diplomatic world, as the regional might of the new alliance is already covered by an old alliance named Quad.

AUKUS-named after Australia, United Kingdom and United States proclaims to bring hard military power to support the order built by the United States in Asia, and "sustain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region", as per a statement by the White House.

Observers are quite perplexed by this new American action, as it has no parallel in the modern day diplomatic history. Some describe it as Anglo-phonic camaraderie. Through AUKUS, for the first time in history the US will share its nuclear technology with any country. The new agreement will deliver 60 attack submarines, including six nuclear attack submarines to be built by the UK and technology provided by the US.

In fact, AUKUS demonstrates the seriousness with which the US views the Chinese activities in the South China Sea and adjoining islands, China has claimed most of the territories in the South China Sea, defying a 2016 decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague declaring it as without legal basis.

It has also built artificial islands in the South China Sea and constructed massive runways and shipping docks, while also reportedly installing missile systems on the Spratly Islands. It has rejected competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam in the South China Sea.

### Chinese Reaction

Chinese President Xi Jinping has warned against "interference from external forces" in the region, as Australia shrugged off Beijing's growing anger about AUKUS. In an address before the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Xi urged heads of state to "absolutely resist external forces to interfere [in] countries in our region at any excuse, and we hold the future of our countries' development and progress firmly in our own hands".

China's state-owned publication Global Times also described Australia as "a pawn of the US" and called it "naive" for financing "America's cold war gambit". "Australia could face the most dangerous consequence of being cannon fodder in the event of a military showdown in the region."

### French Reaction

AUKUS has caused much consternation and anger in France—because Australia terminated an earlier deal with Naval Group, a state-controlled French company, to build a dozen diesel-powered submarines.

French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who laid out his own vision for the Indo-Pacific in a July visit to Washington, called the announcement a "stab in the back" and ordered a recall of the French ambassadors from Washington and Canberra.

In their responses, French officials and some commentators have cast the announcement as an indication of a major strategic shift, particularly on the part of Washington. The move, they assert, represents a kind of geopolitical infidelity by the United States that demonstrates it does not take France (and by extension, they hasten to add, Europe as a whole) seriously as a partner.

The announcement has also fuelled fears that Europe is being cut out by Washington, with EU nations still smarting over the way the US handled the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The EU has complained that it was kept out of the loop on a new military partnership between the US, UK and Australia, as Brussels was planning to lay down its own strategy for the Indo-Pacific on 17 September.

"We regret not having been informed, not having been part of these talks," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

The 27-nation bloc is looking to strengthen ties in the vast region where it says it is "already the top investor, the leading development cooperation partner and one of the biggest trading partners".

But Borrell insisted the strategy was "one of cooperation, not confrontation" with China.

**Australian Defence**

In a series of media interviews, Morrison said his government was reacting to changing dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region, where territory is increasingly contested and competi-



PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga attend Quad Leaders Summit at the White House in Washington | PTI

**FOR NEW DELHI, AUKUS ISN'T GOOD news, either. The new accord raises questions about the importance of the Quad—the four-nation alliance of the United States, Australia, Japan and India. In particular, New Delhi will worry that the United States is concerned only with pushing back against China, leaving its concerns about Pakistan and the western Indian Ocean unaddressed**

tion is rising. Morrison said Australia is "very aware" of China's nuclear submarine capabilities and growing military investment, he told Channel Seven television. "We are interested in ensuring that international waters are always international waters and international skies are international skies, and that the rule of law applies equally in all of these places," he said.

Morrison told Australian media that the defence alliance had been "well-received" in his discussions so far with leaders in Japan, India, Singapore, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

**India's Predicament**

For New Delhi, AUKUS isn't good news, either. The new accord raises questions about the importance of the Quad—the four-nation alliance of the United States, Australia, Japan and India. In particular, New Delhi will worry that the United States is concerned only with pushing back against China, leaving its concerns about Pakistan and the western Indian Ocean unaddressed. India also felt left out of the regional political dynamics when it was not invited to join the Doha talks with Taliban alongside the US, Pakistan and Qatar.

**Indian PM in the US**

Meanwhile the Indian Prime Minister Modi met the US President Biden and Japanese and Australian PMs at the

White House in Washington for the first Quad summit on 23rd face to face and discussed the priority areas for Quad.

Biden said this is a grouping of "democratic partners who share a world view and have a common vision for the future" and are "coming together to take on key challenges". Evolving a common approach to emerging technologies, cyber security and addressing the challenge of climate change and space cooperation, and Covid vaccination. This means that Quad will act as a socio-economic organisation and the region's defence will be led by AUKUS, which leaves India in the cold regarding its concerns of Chinese aggression in the North China Sea and Indian Ocean.

Before the Quad meeting Biden and Modi met separately to discuss bilateral issues, Mr Modi laid stress on issues such as trade, technology, climate challenge and Covid management.

However, Mr Modi's bilateral meetings with the POTUS and the VP regarding AUKUS and Quad didn't result in any benefit for India. Instead, he got lessons on maintaining democracy, democratic traditions and democratic institutions by both the American leaders, whatever little the US media reported revealed and that might have forced him to change his address at the UNGA on the theme of democracy in the region.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai.

He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs.

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## Cabined Career Options

**T**he career choices given to a child by parents are cabined into two options—medical and non-medical. In Kashmir, as stereotype dictates parents either want their kids to become a doctor or an engineer, other than these two streams all the others are considered inferior. There is growing subject chauvinism in homes and schools whereby, the above-mentioned subjects are considered superior and other subjects are chosen only if the kids are not considered very smart. Growing up, I witnessed this stereotype very closely, my friends who were passionate about "humanities" were ridiculed by parents by saying "why did we send you to DPS, if you had to study arts", in this amalgam of superiority and ego, dreams are killed and students have to suffer by studying subjects they have no interest in.

No subject is superior or inferior, be it commerce or non-medical, be it medical or humanities, all the subjects are placed at the same pedestal of importance. The point worth discussing is not about the superiority and inferiority of subjects, but about the mindset and at-

## UNDOUBTEDLY, PARENTS WISH

to see their children prosperous and happy, and career choice is one of the elements that impact their happiness and success. Studies state that when children feel supported and loved by parents, they have greater confidence in their abilities to explore occupations and select one that appears interesting and exciting to them.

Attitude of parents towards choices made by their kids. Parents and sometimes the family members put their decisions over the choices of their kids, these de-

isions often being demands coerce the students into giving up their passion and interest, resulting in eternal suffering in a hell loop made by bad decisions.

Parents have paramount importance in the professional growth and career decisions of students. Undoubtedly, parents wish to see their children prosperous and happy, and career choice is one of the elements that impact their happiness and success. Studies state that when children feel supported and loved by parents, they have greater confidence in their abilities to explore occupations and select one that appears interesting and exciting to them. Choosing a career is a very significant step of one's life, it needs to be taken by keeping in mind the passion, interest, and aspiration of an individual. Parents can become stressed nevertheless, the decision taken by the child should be given utmost importance. Undue interference and coercion by parents might make the future terrifying and dark for the child. Future professional ambitions of children should not be dismissed by parents as it will halt the process of exploration.

Encouragement should be given to children to enquire and study about their professional interests. It must be realized by the parents that their role is to facilitate the career journey of their child by allowing them to make informed and smart choices about it.

We have had enough doctors and engineers; our society is longing for students from different career fields. It is a famous myth that certain career options have no scope in Kashmir, but we have asked the question, why? Why do numerous degrees have no scope in Kashmir? This is because a very little part of the population pursues degrees in nonconventional and out-of-the-line career paths, if this percentage increases innumerable job opportunities would be created. A career choice is to be made after a self-assessment of an individual, by analyzing skills or values or interests, a career choice is not and should not be dependent on the scope of job in a particular area, parental or societal influence.

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# Reinvigorating Multilateralism

The United Nations' Global Consultation Last Year Showed That The Vast Majority Of People Want More International Cooperation To Address Problems Like Pandemics And Climate Change. To Meet That Demand, World Leaders Must Commit To Strengthening Multilateral Institutions, Starting With The UN Itself.

CARLOS ALVARADO QUESADA

**M**ADRID – Last year, the United Nations conducted a worldwide consultation involving more than one million people from 193 countries. The feedback pointed to some important facts. And this year's UN General Assembly must respond by bolstering rules-based multilateralism.

For starters, the consultation found that the expectations and hopes of the world's women, men, girls, and boys are strikingly

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**, which we are still battling at the global level, has driven home the message that we live in an interconnected and interdependent world. Moreover, in the last few months, we have seen record numbers of people affected by heat waves, devastating floods, and some of the largest wildfires in recent history, confirming once again the unparalleled threat posed by our changing climate

similar. People want better access to basic health care, sanitation, and education. They also want to see more solidarity with those hit hardest by the pandemic and with those living in poverty. Respondents' top concern over the longer term is the twin crisis of climate change and accelerating biodiversity loss. Almost 90% of participants agree that global cooperation is vital to deal with today's challenges, and a majority believe that



the pandemic has made international cooperation even more urgent. Especially encouraging is that young people worldwide clearly want more international cooperation.

Last year's consultation was a call to action. Now, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has released Our Common Agenda, which follows on the UN75 Political Declaration adopted by all UN member Heads of State and Government one year ago. The new agenda sets out a bold plan for how we can tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The threat of breakdown must be viewed as an opportunity for a breakthrough. That is why we are committing to step up our countries' support for the secretary-general's efforts to translate the UN's ambitious agenda into reality.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which we are still battling at the global level, has driven home the message that we live in an interconnected and interdependent world. Moreover, in the last few months, we have

seen record numbers of people affected by heat waves, devastating floods, and some of the largest wildfires in recent history, confirming once again the unparalleled threat posed by our changing climate.

The UN is the heart of the international system. The fact that the world came together 76 years ago to create an organization to "achieve international cooperation in solving international problems" is extraordinary in itself. But even more striking is that this organization, despite its challenges and shortcomings, has endured. It has shown that the path to a better, more peaceful, and sustainable future is paved with cooperation, not zero-sum competition. However, the world's international organizations were built primarily to resolve inter-state challenges, not problems that transcend borders, such as financial crises, pandemics, terrorism, crime networks, threats to our oceans, or climate change. We therefore must

modernize our multilateral institutions, making them fit for purpose and better equipped to deal with the global and cross-generational challenges we face.

Having observed the stark differences between the world of the UN's founding generation and the world of today, we decided last year to revive the debate about reforming the UN Security Council, and to continue the work of revitalizing the General Assembly and strengthening the Economic and Social Council. In line with the Joint Statement that we signed on November 10, 2020, in Madrid, we see three areas of action that should be emphasized in order to advance our common goal of reinforcing multilateralism.

First, we need a renewed commitment to international cooperation. Multilateral organizations must be furnished with the means and the mandate to make a difference on the ground. Cooperation among the UN, regional organizations, and international financial institutions must im-

prove at both the policy and the operational level. The multilateral system needs to be more open and inclusive to give young people, civil society, the private sector, academia, and others a spot at the table.

We are already putting this into practice. On the margins of this year's General Assembly, we have organized the virtual event "Delivering the UN Common Agenda: Action to Achieve Equality and Inclusion" in collaboration with the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies initiative. We intend to ensure that all voices are heard.

Second, we must act on the secretary-general's agenda of bold steps to revive and strengthen our capacity to tackle poverty and inequality; ensure inclusion, equal participation, and justice; address the climate crisis and accelerating biodiversity loss; and equip ourselves for future threats of pandemics.

We have learned from the COVID-19 crisis that we need to strengthen our collective ability to anticipate, prevent, and manage complex risks such as disease outbreaks, new wars, massive cyberattacks, environmental disasters, or other unforeseen events. We therefore welcome the secretary-general's suggestions for how to strengthen global foresight and risk-management capacity, including the proposal for a new global "Emergency Platform." Lastly, we welcome the proposal for a Summit of the Future in 2023, and we should use that opportunity to step up our efforts to strengthen international cooperation. In today's world, with so many issues reverberating across borders and generations, we must seize this moment to create a more agile, effective, and accountable multilateral system that delivers for all citizens and enables us to tackle the global challenges we face.

We want to be at the forefront of this endeavor. Together, we can and must reinvigorate rules-based multilateralism, with a stronger and more inclusive UN at its core. This is the great political task of our times.

*The article was originally published by Project Syndicate*

**O**ne in three of the world's tree species are at risk of becoming extinct, according to a recent report by the Global Tree Assessment – the first attempt to estimate the conservation status of all of Earth's trees.

Well-known species, including magnolias, oaks and maples are among those at risk. More than 400 species have fewer than 50 individuals remaining in the wild, and 142 tree species are already extinct. Human activity is the overwhelming culprit, especially forest clearance for farming, logging for timber and the spread of invasive pests and diseases.

When myself and colleagues first came up with the idea of a worldwide assessment of tree species in 2015, it seemed like an impossible task. Back then, nobody even knew how many there were, let alone how they were all faring. The first task was to make a list of all tree species that have been described in scientific literature. It turns out there are nearly



60,000, most of which live in tropical forests, and scientists continue to describe new species each year.

We then had to determine which of these are under threat of extinction. Given the huge number of species, this was a much bigger task than any conservation assessment undertaken previously. We created a global network of more than 500 experts, each assessing the species they were most familiar with, and the report is the result of that enormous collaborative

effort which took five years to complete.

There are twice as many threatened tree species globally than threatened mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles combined. But trees are also food and habitat for at least half of the Earth's known land-based plants and animals. Losing tree species can cause cascades of extinction among the many species that depend on them.

Trees are very valuable to people too. More than one-fifth are used as a source of food, fuel, timber or medicine. Others have important cultural and religious value. Worryingly, some of the most useful and significant species are among those facing extinction. Here are five of them.

#### Dipterocarps

Dipterocarps belong to a large family of timber trees, comprising 680 species, most of which are found in the tropical forests of south Asia. Related to hibiscus plants, most dipterocarps are tall with evergreen leaves and winged seeds. They are often the most abundant trees in the canopy of forests where they occur. These trees possess high-quality timber, worth around US\$170 per cubic metre (£123). Over US\$3.5 billion worth of dipterocarp timber is exported each year

## Trees At Threat

Misha Ketchell

**THERE ARE TWICE** as many threatened tree species globally than threatened mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles combined. But trees are also food and habitat for at least half of the Earth's known land-based plants and animals. Losing tree species can cause cascades of extinction among the many species that depend on them

from the island of Borneo alone, where 182 species are threatened with extinction, including the tallest known tropical tree, *Shorea faguuetiana*.

#### Agarwood

Agarwood is fragrant and produces a highly valuable resin called aloes, used in perfumes and incense. It is one of the most valuable raw materials in the world, worth up to US\$100,000 a kg and with a global trade valued at US\$32 billion.

The production of this resinous wood is stimulated when these trees are attacked by a fungus. Overharvesting of the resin has led to more than 20 species being threatened, including the main source of agarwood, *Aquilaria malaccensis*.

#### African Cherry

*Prunus africana* has bark containing a range of compounds which can reduce inflammation, making it useful for treating a range of diseases, including malaria, kidney disease and prostate disorders. The international trade in the bark is valued at US\$200 million, but overharvesting has meant this species is threatened throughout its range in central and southern Africa.

#### Mahogany

*Swietenia macrophylla* is one of the most valuable tropical hardwoods, valued for making furniture and musical instruments such as guitars. Mahogany wood is durable and has a beautiful colour. A single tree can be worth many thousands of dollars.

Native to the tropical forests of the Americas, mahogany was one of the first



trees to be listed as an endangered species, owing to widespread illegal logging.

#### Pacific yew

*Taxus brevifolia* is the source of the anti-cancer drug Paclitaxel, which has a global trade worth over US\$100 million. Native to the Pacific Northwest of North America, this evergreen conifer is now categorised as Near Threatened by the International



Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), primarily because of logging. Other yew species, which are also a source of this drug, are even more threatened, such as *Taxus contorta* in the Himalayas.

While individual trees are important for both humans and wildlife, the collective value of forest ecosystems is far higher. Forests cover approximately 31% of the

world's land surface and their total economic value has been estimated at around US\$150 trillion. Forests contain around 50% of the world's terrestrial carbon and help provide 75% of its accessible freshwater. These benefits could be lost if tree species go extinct.

As well as supporting wildlife and people, tree diversity can help forests cope with disturbance. For example, having a diverse range of tree species in a forest reduces the damage that plant-eating insects can do, and makes the ecosystem more resilient to drought.

As tree species die out, forest ecosystems are placed at greater risk of collapse. Con-

serving both forests and the tree species they contain can combat climate change and preserve biodiversity. The world must urgently protect threatened trees, restore degraded forests and ensure that the harvesting of useful tree species is sustainable.

*By arrangement with The Conversation*

## JCCI Meets Union Minister; Bats For Setting Up Of New PSUs In Railway, Defence In Jammu Region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**JAMMU:** The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) on Tuesday met Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Choudhary here and batted for establishing new public sector undertakings in railway and defence sectors in the Jammu region.

A delegation of JCCI met Choudhary here and submitted a memorandum, which, among other things, demanded setting up of new public sector undertakings by the government to generate employment and give fillip to the economy of the Union territory.

Led by JCCI President Arun Gupta, the delegation also sought refund of SGST to industrial units and benefits of

new industrial policy to existing unit holders while opposing any move by big companies to open stores in the retail sector in the Jammu region.

"There is a dire need for establishing new public sector undertakings in the Jammu province; and in this regard, the industries of railway and defence sectors are the best options.

"Such units should be established by the central government as it will undoubtedly generate huge employment opportunities for the youth besides giving a fillip to the UT's economy," Gupta told the minister.

The Union minister reached Jammu on Monday as part of the central government's public outreach programme and held a series of meetings with

government officials besides interacting with BJP leaders and various delegations.

On September 22, the JCCI sponsored a strike in the Jammu region against alleged "directionless policies" of the government detrimental to the interests of the business community.

Among other things, the chamber expressed its resentment against the decision of the lieutenant governor administration to stop the 'Darbar move' under which the government used to rotate its seat between the twin capitals for six months each.

The Gupta-led delegation sought refund of SGST to industrial units of UT of J&K and also demanded the benefits of the recently announced New

Industrial Policy to the existing industrial units of the Jammu region, the JCCI said in a statement here.

Expressing resentment over the opening of retail stores by big companies in Jammu, the JCCI said "if this happens then the small shopkeepers of Jammu will be ruined and their shops will be closed".

The delegation also pitched for tapping of the huge tourism potential in Jammu province, the statement said.

The JCCI said the delegation also discussed various other issues, including stopping of darbar move, clarity on land and labour policy, completion of pending projects, delay in payment to contractors, issues of wine traders, sand mining and crushers and brick kiln trade.

## Sebi Clears Frameworks For Gold, Social Stock Bourses, Changes To Delisting Norms

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Sebi on Tuesday approved frameworks for gold and social stock exchanges, and changes to delisting norms to make M&As more rational as well as to superior voting rights and various other proposals, mainly aimed at deepening the securities market.

The Sebi board at its meeting here decided on a framework for the social stock exchange (SSE) for fundraising by social enterprises.

After the board meeting on Tuesday, Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said that SSE will be a separate segment of the existing stock exchanges.

Social Enterprises (SEs) eligible to participate in the SSE should be entities -- Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and for-profit social enterprises

-- having social intent and impact as their primary goal.

The framework for the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) has been developed on the basis of the recommendations of a working group and technical group constituted by the regulator.

The Sebi board also cleared a proposal for setting up a gold exchange wherein the yellow metal will be traded in the form of electronic gold receipts and the bourse will help in having a transparent domestic spot price discovery mechanism.

The instruments representing gold will be called Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) and will be notified as securities, Tyagi said.

"EGRs will have the trading, clearing and settlement features akin to any other securities," he said.

Any recognised stock

exchange, existing as well as new, can launch trading in EGRs in a separate segment. The denomination for the trading of EGR and conversion of EGR into gold can be decided by the stock exchanges with the approval of Sebi.

The gold exchange, encompassing the entire ecosystem of trading of EGR and physical delivery of gold, is expected to create a vibrant gold ecosystem in India, Sebi said in a statement.

In a move to help new-age technology companies, the market regulator decided to relax the framework governing the issue of shares with superior voting rights (SR shares).

Sebi said promoters who have a net worth of over Rs 1,000 crore can have superior voting rights in their companies, raising it from the current Rs 500 crore.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### UN Chief 'Hopeful'

responding to a question that in the wake of the heated exchanges witnessed between India and Pakistan during the high level UN General Assembly session last week, is the UN concerned about peace in the region and if the Secretary General is planning to speak to leaders of the two countries.

Exercising the Right of Reply, First Secretary Sneha Dubey said in the UN General Assembly that Pakistan, where terrorists enjoy free pass, is an "arsonist" disguising itself as a "fire-fighter", and the entire world has suffered as it nurtures dreaded terrorists like Osama bin Laden in its backyard.

We exercise our Right of Reply to one more attempt by the leader of Pakistan to tarnish the image of this august Forum by bringing in matters internal to my country, and going so far as to spew falsehoods on the world stage, Dubey had said.

While such statements deserve our collective contempt and sympathy for the mindset of the person who utters falsehood repeatedly, I am taking the floor to set the record straight, the young Indian diplomat said.

Khan, in his address, had spoken about the August 5, 2019 decision of the Indian government on the abrogation of Article 370 as well as the death of veteran Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Dubey strongly reiterated that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh "were, are and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. This includes the areas that are under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. We call upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation.

Pakistan too had then exercised its Right of Reply to the remarks made by Dubey.

Khan and other Pakistani leaders and diplomats have consistently raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and other internal matters of India in their addresses to the UN General Assembly and other forums of the world organisation.

#### Top US Diplomat

October 6 for a series of bilateral meetings, civil society events, and the India Ideas Summit. On October 7, she will travel to Mumbai for her engagements with business and civil society, it said.

From Mumbai, she will fly to Islamabad to meet with senior officials in Pakistan, the department said.

Before arriving in Delhi, Sherman will also visit Switzerland and Uzbekistan, beginning September 29.

India and the US are scheduled to hold their first 2+2 summit under the Biden administration in November.

According to a report in Pakistan's The Nation newspaper, Sherman's visit from October 7-8 will be one of the first high-level official visits under President Joe Biden to visit Pakistan after CIA chief Bill Burns visit to the country on September 9.

Sherman will meet senior officials in Islamabad during her visit, the report said.

The visit comes days after Prime Minister Imran Khan blamed the US for the situation in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Khan, while delivering his UNGA address on Friday, said that Pakistan has been blamed for the turn of events in Afghanistan, by politicians in the United States and some politicians in Europe.

Last week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken had met Pakistan's Foreign Minister Mahmood Shah Qureshi on the sidelines of the 76th UNGA and discussed the way forward in Afghanistan.

#### BJP Misleading

is that the general run of Kashmiris denounces the statements of the BJP's top brass to the effect that things had improved in Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370. These are white lies spoken by the BJP leaders, he said.

Soz said the fact is that there is widespread anger in J&K on the abrogation of this Article. The people of the state can never ever compromise their position on the question of Internal Autonomy granted to the J&K through the Article 370 of the Constitution of India.

He said that one thing is clear that the people of the state will continue their struggle for restoration of Autonomy, democratically and constitutionally.

Another thing is also certain that the relationship between the people of the state and the Union of India can never be smooth and cordial, unless the Internal Autonomy is restored to the state, he claimed.

Soz said the people of the J&K State will prove the fact that the will of the people is supreme and ultimately it is going to prevail.

#### Work on Zojila

Leh-Ladakh region to Srinagar.

Termining the Zojila tunnel of significant importance for both Kashmir and Ladakh, Gadhkari said that extensive road networks in the Himalayan region will help boost the tourism sector in the area.

The minister, who is on a two day visit to Jammu & Kashmir, made these remarks while addressing media persons here on Tuesday.

The Minister gave the detailed information about the two tunnel projects and said that the Central Government has given a new impetus to the construction of new highways, tunnels and bridges which will bring transformative changes in the lives of people and will create huge employment opportunities to the local people.

"He said that the Zojila tunnel project will provide all weather connectivity to Ladakh. He assured that work on the Zojila Tunnel is in full capacity and NHIDCL is geared up to continue the work in winter months. He stressed for putting in every effort in place to complete the project well before the scheduled date," the official spokesperson said.

Gadhkari, he said, expressed his satisfaction on the work progress and said that the Zojila tunnel is of a significant importance to the development and tourism for both UTs of J&K and Ladakh as it will provide round the year connectivity to Ladakh region.

Pertinent to mention that, once completed the Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. Several bridges are being constructed along this route and a connecting tunnel from Z-Morh in the National Highway-1 to Zojila tunnel will be constructed in the Zojila Ghats between Sonamarg and Kargil. The entire work is divided into two divisions in the 33 km span.

This project coming up at an altitude of 11,578 ft will provide all-weather connectivity to Ladakh against just five months access with the Srinagar-Kargil highway closed from mid-November to April, cutting off this entire region from the rest of the world.

This pass will also provide easy movement of the Army vehicles.

Stressing upon the state of art infrastructure in the tunnel projects, Gadhkari said that appropriate security measures have been kept in place including vertical shafts at three places and adequate security and lighting measures with CCTV, fire alarm and heat detection systems at par with international standards.

"He further highlighted various important tunnel, rail and road projects of the country that were completed on priority by the Government keeping in mind border security alongside development and said various infrastructure development projects are going on in full swing throughout Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Giving details of the under-construction projects, the official spokesperson said that the project site of Zojila tunnel is located at existing highway (NH-01) starting from Sonamarg (J&K) and ending at Minamarg (UT of Ladakh) at an elevation ranging from 2700m to 3300m, thus making the Zojila Tunnel (13.2 km) the longest tunnel at this elevation in Asia region. T

"The present site location falls into seismic zone IV and all precautionary measures have been provisioned to safeguard the structures provisioned in the project," he said.

He further said that earlier the Minister also reviewed the progress on Tunnel 1 and Tunnel 2 at Nilgrar site and Z-Morh site.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen. V.K. Singh, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P.K. Pole, IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, DDC Chairperson Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Kritika Jyotsna and officers/ Officials of NHIDCL were present on the occasion.

#### 'Development Scenario

lakh crore only for tunnels in Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir and in the next phase another project worth Rs one lakh crore would be sanctioned.

Earlier, Ladakh Lt Governor Radha Krishna Mathur and Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan along senior officers of local administration and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) received Gadhkari on his arrival at the eastern portal of the Zojila tunnel.

Accompanied by the Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, Gen V K Singh (retd), Gadhkari inspected the pace of ongoing works of the tunnel.

"Zojila tunnel is supposed to be the longest tunnel in Asia and this is the first time that the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to start its work," Gadhkari said.

He said the tunnel construction work at Zojila is very difficult.

Exuding confidence that the tunnel will be completed before the stipulated time, the minister said, "We can overcome all problems." Gadhkari said efforts are being made to complete the work by end of 2023.

"When Ladakh and Kashmir get good roads, good tunnels, it will kickstart the socio-economic progress of this area. It is going to create employment," the Union statement said.

"We are going to create more employment potential for the local youth of Ladakh and Kashmir. We will give the highest priority for employment to local people. It is going to eradicate poverty. It would be a great socio-economic transformation," he said.

Gadhkari said apart from financial audit, the performance of any project is very important. "People who are working fast and in a time-bound, result-oriented and corruption-free manner, we will give them a priority for allocating more work."

"But we need speed, quality and use of best technology. We do not want to compromise with the quality and also want to reduce the cost," the Union minister said.

#### Pakistani Militant

that his life be spared. As is the ethos of the Indian Army, after taking due precautions, he was taken into custody alive," the official said.

The apprehended infiltrator has given his identity as 19-year-old Ali Babar Parra, resident of Okara district in Pakistan's Punjab province. "He has admitted to be a member or Lashkar-e-Taiba and was trained in Muzaffarabad," he added.

He has revealed that he was trained for three weeks at Khyber camp, Ghadiwala in Muzaffarabad in 2019, the officer said.

He was recalled this year for some important task and was told by his handlers that he has to do drop supplies at Pattan. But when we went through the recoveries and modus operandi, it shows that they had come here for some kind of a strike which went beyond the drop of supplies, the official said.

The Army official said the infiltration attempt was made along the Salamabad Nala, which was the same route used for the 2016 suicide attack on the Uri garrison.

"The infiltrating column was supported by the Pakistani side with three porters bringing supplies till the LoC," he said.

The official said movement of such large number of people cannot take place without active complicity of the Pakistan Army deployed on the other side.

Major General Vats said there has been an increased movement at the launch pad across the LoC.

"This shows the desperation of Pakistan that when they see peace in Kashmir, they send in terrorists to disturb peace by sensational strike. Seven terrorists have been neutralised in as many days while one has been nabbed alive," he added.

#### Teen Militant

militants were killed.

Talking to reporters at Uri brigade, the apprehended infiltrator said that he took three week arms training in Muzaffarabad in 2019 and was recalled by one of the LoC commanders saying that he was to take part in an important operation un-known to him in April in the ensuing year.

He said that he has a mother and elder sister at home while his father passed away a couple of years ago and they have no one other than him to earn for living and survival.

"I am hopeful to see my mother and sister back home in Pakistan one day soon," he said.

Babar stated that no infiltrator can cross the Line of Control (LoC) without support from across the border saying that it is impossible to cross the massive cover of the two armies on the LoC.

He said that his group was tasked to enter Kashmir through the route they sneaked in and remain in the Baramulla district at Pattan area. "We were told to reach Pattan and the LeT handler there will get in touch with us (the infiltrator's group) and that he will give directions about the plans ahead," he revealed.

Babar said that they were told by handlers on leaving that their immediate task is to motivate the local youth of Kashmir valley and get them in their folds.

About the communication, he revealed that they have a device through which they send voice SMS directly and the directions are issued in the same medium to carry out the tasks given to them.

The apprehended militant claimed to have attained the arms training along with nine others and he was the youngest among them and was chosen by one of the handlers for this particular operation earlier this year to drop the supplies in north Kashmir besides to motivate

local youth--(KNO)

#### J&K Reports

In the winter capital, Jammu reported highest 10 cases, Ramban 9, Rajouri 5, Kathua 2 and one each new case from Doda and Poonch districts. Udhampur, Samba, Kishtwar and Reasi reported no new case of coronavirus, officials said.

Also, the officials said, that no coronavirus related death was reported from J&K on the second straight day. So far 4422-2173 in Jammu and 2249 in Kashmir have succumbed to the virus.

#### Govt Forms

to formulate a policy on poplar cultivation in keeping the direction by the High Court on 26 March 2019.

The members include Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Director, Social Forestry Department, J&K; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu/Kashmir; Dean, College of Forestry, SKAUST, Kashmir/Jammu; Director, Forest Research Institute, J&K or his/her representative; Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla or his/her representative (Research Expert); Regional Director, Social Forestry Department, Kashmir; General Secretary, South Kashmir Wood Supplies Union President, Pencil Slats / Block Manufacturing Association, Kashmir Dr. R.C. Dhiman (Expert); Ms. Asifiah Padroo, Addl. Advocate General, J&K High Court, Srinagar (Legal Expert); Nadeem Qadri, NGO, Environment Lawyer beside two Farmers/Nursery Growers Associated with cultivation/production of Poplar (representing South and North Kashmir to be nominated by PCCF/ Director, Social Forestry Department Special Secretary (Technical), Forest, Ecology & Environment Department.

#### Mehbooba Accuses

relatives including the female members raised objection," the officer said, adding that "in the commotion, a lady fainted but she is doing fine."

The police officer also said that no arrests were made during the searches as the Police arrived at the spot and pacified people. Meanwhile, a video from the family alleging Army of beating them ruthlessly and ransacking their property has gone viral on social media websites like Facebook and Twitter.

"Govt forces ransacked my property and beat my whole family ruthlessly and injured my daughter Ishrat Jaan and now she is admitted to SD Hospital Tral", a man identifying himself as Ali Mohammad Chopan from Seer village says in the video.

Lt Col Emron Musavi, PRO Defence, Srinagar didn't respond to queries of this reporter.

#### Sidhu Quits

back while accusing the party high command of humiliating him.

The cricketer-turned-politician didn't elaborate why he has quit.

"The collapse of a man's character stems from the compromise corner, I can never compromise on Punjab's future and the agenda for the welfare of Punjab," he said in his letter to Sonia Gandhi.

"Therefore, I hereby resign as the president of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee. Will continue to serve the Congress," he wrote.

Amarinder Singh, who had called Sidhu "dangerous" and "anti-national", and said he will pit a strong candidate against him to ensure that he doesn't become the chief minister, was quick to react.

"I told you so... he is not a stable man not fit for the border state of Punjab," the former CM tweeted.

The abrupt resignation took place on a day Amarinder Singh was headed for Delhi.

Singh's travel plan had triggered speculation that he might meet some BJP leaders.

His media aide, however, said the Congress veteran had come to the capital on a personal visit and will vacate Kapurthala House, where the Punjab CM stays during trips to Delhi.

Sidhu's resignation has also prompted speculation over the next move of the politician, who was with the BJP before he joined the Congress.

In Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party claimed that Sidhu resigned because a poor person was made the chief minister.

Channi, who took charge last week, is the state's first Schedule Caste chief minister.

The opposition had, however, charged that he was being overshadowed by Sidhu, who they claimed would end up being the party face when the assembly elections are held.

#### Dr Farooq to Govt

sacking of employees on the grounds that they were appointed without following the laid down procedure, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the previous governments gave jobs to the people so that they

could earn a living.

"It is not as if we had taken money or there was corruption (in recruitment). We gave jobs to people so that they earn a living. Now, if they are sacking them, what will their children do? How will they meet everyday needs?" Abdullah said.

In response to a question, the Lok Sabha member from Srinagar said he has not received any information about the next meeting of the delimitation commission for Jammu and Kashmir.

"As a Member of Parliament, I have to sit in the delimitation commission but so far I have not received any information," he added.

Asked about restoration of statehood and special constitutional status to Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said "We want to do it in a Gandhian way".

"The case is before the Supreme Court. There has been no hearing. What can we do? We can't throw stones. We want to do it the Gandhian way," he said.

#### Army Man Detained

was recovered from his baggage at the airport's drop gate, reports said. The soldier, who is posted at Farkiyap, was taken into custody for questioning.

A police official said the soldier has been detained at police post Humhama and further investigation has been launched in this regard.

#### Minor Dies After

constructed trench, reports said Tuesday. The minor, reports said, was instantly removed to the NTPHC Qalamabad in unconscious condition. However, the doctors there declared him dead.

A pall of gloom descended in the village when the minor's body was brought back for last rites.

#### Soldier Killed After

vehicle turned turtle after embarking from the Unit stationed at Googeldara, Awoora in Lolab valley of the district on Tuesday morning, reports said.

The accident occurred after the driver lost control over his vehicle, reports added.

#### Hideout Busted

ground workers (OGWs) of Lashkar-e-Taiba from Pulwama district, a police officer said Tuesday. During sustained questioning, he said, an input regarding the presence of LeT commander Riyaz Sathrudand was developed.

On their information, a cordon and search operation (CASO) was launched by police and CRPF in Rajouri Kadal locality of the Old City here and a hideout was discovered.

"However the hideout was empty. House owner has been brought to the Police Station and questioning/investigation is going on," the officer said.

"Reportedly, Reyaz has asked them to build a hideout in Rajouri Kadal area of Srinagar," he added.

#### Man Gets Five

sections of law in 2007, following a complaint by Mangat Ram of Chumbian village of Samba. Ram had received a letter from J&K Finance Corporation, asking him to pay an amount of over Rs 15.49 lakh on account of loan for a vehicle registered in his name that he never purchased or owned, the spokesman said.

In his complaint, Ram had stated that he purchased a bus in October, 1988 in partnership with Kaka Ram but the business did not turn out to be profitable and as such the bus was sold by them to a party hailing from Uttar Pradesh while the route permit of the vehicle was deposited with the concerned Regional Transport Office (RTO).

In 1991, Kumar approached him along with one Jai Singh alias Raja Dalal for the Route Permit and accordingly a deal was struck, the spokesman said, adding the complainant alleged that he was made to sign various forms and documents brought to him by Kumar.

His passport size photograph was also taken on the pretext of transfer of route permit, the spokesman said.

After completion of investigation, the spokesman said a charge sheet in case was filed on April 23, 2013 against Kumar and five other persons including four officials of the State Finance Corporation (SFC), who are all now retired employees.

He said the Special Public Prosecutor contested the case vigorously in the court of additional Sessions Judge (Anti-Corruption) and Kumar has been convicted for simple imprisonment of three years each for the commission of the offences Under Section 420 and 468 Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) and for a term of five years each for offences Under Section 467/471 RPC and both the sentences would run concurrently.

## Former Court Road FC Footballer M.M Mir Passes Away

Suffers heart attack while exercising in a park

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Valley's football fraternity on Tuesday condoled the demise of veteran footballer and coach, M.M Mir.

In a statement, J&K Football Association (JKFA) said it deeply mourned the sad demise of M.M Mir, who passed away on Tuesday due to sudden cardiac arrest while doing practice and exercises at Municipal Park, Jawahar Nagar.

"Mir was ex-Physical Director, sports writer and football coach, and a famous footballer who worked very hard for the development of the sports particularly football. He was an outstanding football player and a referee and played for Court Road Football Club for a long time during yesteryears," the JKFA statement said.

"JKFA Football Association and the fraternity of Footballers condole the demise of this great man who was known for the virtues he possessed. JKFA shares the grief with the be-



reaved family at this said hour. We offer our heartfelt condolences on his bereavement and pray to almighty that the departed soul may rest in peace and best realms of heavenly abode and give forbearance to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss," the statement added.

## Inzamam Undergoes Angioplasty After Suffering Heart Attack



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**LAHORE:** Pakistan's former captain and most capped player Inzamam-ul-Haq had to undergo an emergency angioplasty at a private hospital here after complaining of heart-related issues and breathing difficulty.

A family member said that Inzamam felt uneasy and complained of having difficulty in breathing on Monday.

He was taken to a private hospital where, after several tests, it was revealed that he might have had a minor heart attack. Doctors advised him to undergo an emergency angioplasty and well-known heart surgeon, Professor Abbas Kazim, performed the procedure.

"Inzamam is now doing much better and will be released soon from hospital. He is okay now," one family member said.

The 51-year old, who played 120 Tests and 378 One-Day Internationals during an illustrious career, also served as chief selector between 2016-2019 and it was in his tenure that Pakistan won the ICC Champions Trophy final against India in 2017.

He was, however, unceremoniously told to step down in late 2019 after the World Cup by a new Pakistan Cricket Board management.

The former top batsman also coached the Afghanistan team in the 2016 World Cup T20.

Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar wished him a speedy recovery. "Wishing you a speedy recovery @Inzamam08. You've always been calm yet competitive, and a fighter on the field. I hope and pray that you'll come out stronger from this situation as well. Get well soon," he tweeted.

## Premier Division 2021: JKFA Announces Fixtures List

Sl.No	Date	Team/Club	Vs	Team/Club	Pool	Time
1	1-10-21	Downtown Hero's FC	Vs	J&K Bank Academy	A	4:PM
2	2-10-21	J&K Forest XI	Vs	Ali Jana FC	A	1:30PM
3	2-10-21	Food & Supplies XI	Vs	J&K Bank XI	B	4:PM
4	3-10-21	Kashmir Maharaja FC	Vs	J&K Police XI	A	1:30PM
5	3-10-21	Iqbal Sports	Vs	Sports Council F. Academy	B	4:PM
6	4-10-21	J&K SPDC XI	Vs	Arco Football Club	B	1:30PM
7	4-10-21	Kashmir Avenger FC	Vs	Food & Supplies XI	B	4:PM
8	5-10-21	J&K Bank Academy	Vs	J&K Forest XI	A	1:30PM
9	5-10-21	Downtown Hero's FC	Vs	Ali Jana FC	A	4:PM
10	6-10-21	J&K Bank XI	Vs	Sports Council F. Academy	B	1:30PM
11	6-10-21	Real Kashmir (R)	Vs	Ag's XI	A	4:PM

R. Elahi

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association on Tuesday announced the fixtures list for the much-awaited Premier Division Football League 2021 here.

Scheduled to begin from October 1 at Synthetic Turf TRC, the Valley's top footballing tier will witness 15 teams battle it out for the ultimate prize.

On October 1, the inaugural match of Khyber Premier Division League 2021 will be played

between Downtown Heroes FC and J&K Bank Football Academy at 4:00 PM.

On October 2, J&K Forest XI will go head to head against Ali Jana FC at 1:30 PM. While J&K's football heavyweights, J&K Bank FC will play Food & Supplies XI the same day at 4:00 PM.

The teams have been divided into two pools, which include:

Pool A: Downtown Heroes FC, Ali Jana FC, Real Kashmir (Reserves), J&K Police XI, Kashmir Maharaja FC, AG's XI, J&K Forest XI, and J&K Bank Academy.

Pool B: J&K Bank FC, Kashmir Avengers FC, JK SPDC XI, Iqbal Sports FC, ARCO FC, Sports Council Football Academy, and Food & Supplies XI.

According to the fixtures list, a total of 11 matches will be played in the first round of the League that will last till October 6.

"All the matches of the Tournament will be telecast live on ANN News (TV channel) and their social media network with Frisk Film Productions," the Association had earlier revealed.

## 4 Matches Played In DFA Srinagar Football Leagues



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Four matches of the DFA Srinagar Annual Football League 2021 were played on Tuesday here.

In Super Division two matches were played at Synthetic Turf TRC. These matches were the last two games of the Super Division league's second stage round.

In the first match Galaxy FC defeated Towheed FC by a single goal margin. The three points helped Galaxy FC climb into second position in Pool-A

table. While Towheed FC took the fourth spot.

The second match of the day was played between Real Kashmir FC (U-18) and FC Views.

While the first half ended 0-0 between the two teams, the second half saw the only goal of the game scored by Real Kashmir Under 18 team's Faizan. The young Snow Leopards managed to see out the match against FC Views with a 1-0 win. The victory and three points lifted Real Kashmir FC (U-18) team up to the

first spot in Pool-B standings. While FC Views stayed fourth.

In A-Division League two matches were played at Gindun Ground, Rajbagh.

The first match played between Haroon FC and Blossom FC was won by Haroon FC by 2 goals to nil. The second game was a goalless draw between Majeed Bagh FC ad Al-Hilal FC.

The DFA Annual Football League in Srinagar, is being organised by DFA Srinagar under the aegis of JKFA and in collaboration with JKSC.

## Warner Warns SRH Won't See Him At Stadium 'Again'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** Sunrisers Hyderabad's big-hitting opener David Warner, who has been dropped from the playing XI because of poor form, has said that he won't be seen at the stadium "again", hinting that his stint with the struggling franchise could be over.

Warner was axed on Monday night from the game against Rajasthan Royals, which SRH won by seven wickets.

That win aside, the franchise has battled a poor run with only two wins from 10 matches, which has left them at the bottom of the points table and out of contention for a playoffs berth.

Warner's absence from the team dugout did not go unnoticed and fans wondered about his whereabouts underneath an Instagram post by SRH.

Responding to the queries, Warner posted, "Unfortunately won't be again but keep supporting, please."

Warner has been woefully out of form this season, having

accumulated just 181 runs in eight matches so far at an average of 24.37. His strike rate, at present, is the lowest in all his IPL stints, making it his worst season in the league.

The 34-year-old joined SRH in 2014 and captained the side to its maiden IPL title in 2016.

Dropped from the leadership role after the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, he came back as skipper in 2020.

He was again removed as captain during the first leg of this season due to the team's poor run and differences with Team Director Tom Moody and head coach Trevor Bayliss.

"We can't make the finals, so we made a decision that we want the youngsters to experience not just the matches, but time at the ground and around the set-up," Bayliss had said at the post match press conference on Monday when asked about Warner staying back at his hotel room.

IPL sources have revealed that he will be released at the end of the season and go back to the auction pool.

## BCCI Delay Domestic Season Due To Heavy Rain, Cyclone Alert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The start of India's domestic season has been delayed by two days with the Under-19 events for boys and girls pushed back to September 30 due to a cyclone alert in south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts.

The U19 Boys Vinoo Mankad Trophy and the U19 Girls One-Day tournament were scheduled to begin on Tuesday across seven venues.

Heavy rain is expected in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, that are among host cities for the matches along with Indore, Vizag, Surat, Rajkot and Nagpur.

"Owing to the incessant rain and the cyclone alert issued by MET, the BCCI is compelled to postpone the start of the group stage from 28.09.2021 to 30.09.2021," wrote Dhiraj Malhotra, BCCI General Man-

ager - Game Development - in his letter to the seven host associations.

Following this change in schedule, there will be no rest days and all matches will be played back-to-back from September 30 to October 4.

"There will be no change to the knockout stage and venue. This decision has been taken to ensure that all the matches are played and there is no loss due to the inclement weather."

"Keeping the upcoming ICC Under 19 World Cup 2022 in mind, we need to ensure that the players get maximum opportunity and exposure to showcase their talent and make an earnest effort to be selected for the country," he wrote.

The last domestic season was hit by COVID-19 with Ranji Trophy cancelled for the first time ever in 87 years history of the tournament while the age groups were also not held.

### NEWS MAKERS

## RCB Looks To Build Winning Momentum Against Struggling RR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**DUBAI:** A thumping win over defending champions Mumbai Indians boosting their confidence, Royal Challengers Bangalore would look to build on the momentum when they take on a struggling Rajasthan Royals in their Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

The Virat Kohli-led RCB are currently at third spot with 12 points from 10 matches and a win over RR will virtually put them in the play-offs.

On the other hand, with eight points from 10 matches, it will be a make-or-break outing for RR as a loss on Wednesday can put them in a tight situation in their bid for a last-four berth.

RCB did not have the best of starts after the IPL's resumption as they lost two consecutive matches, including the forgettable nine-wicket defeat to Kolkata Knight Riders where they made just 92 runs.

They were then outplayed by Chennai Super Kings though Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal came good with 53 and 70 respectively. The previous match against MI, however, gave them their first win after the IPL's resumption with Kohli hitting his second consecutive fifty - 51 -- and Maxwell also coming good (37-ball 56).

Kohli, who is stepping down from RCB captaincy after this season, would look to continue his good form.

South African legend AB de Villiers, on the other hand, needs a big one after scores of 0, 12, 11 while Maxwell will be keen to stay in good touch with the T20 World Cup not far.

On the bowling front, Harshal Patel is the star with six wickets from three matches, including a hat-trick in the last match, and Yuzvendra Chahal is also in fine form with five dismissals.

## Iran Book Historic Ticket For Women's Asian Cup Finals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Indonesia joined four other countries, including first-timers Iran, in qualifying for the AFC Women's Asian Cup to be hosted by India in January-February next year.

Indonesia topped Group C in the qualification tournament in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Monday to ensure their fifth appearance in the tournament while Iran emerged Group G winners for their debut participation.

Former champions Thailand, South Korea and the Philippines also qualified for the 12-team continental women's showpiece to be held in India for the second time after 1979.

The tournament, which will also serve as the final stage of Asian qualification for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, will be held in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Pune from January 20 to February 6.

South Korea, who had finished third in 2003 as their best performance, will be making their 13th appearance after topping Group E, while the Philippines won Group F for their 10th participation.

Thailand, who won the 1983 edition, topped Group H for their 17th appearance in the tournament.

## 2-Time Taekwondo Gold Medallist Arrested For Robbery In Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** A 28-year-old national-level two-time gold medallist taekwondo player, who also participated in TV show Indian Idol, was arrested in west Delhi for allegedly being involved in over 100 cases of snatching and robbery, police said on Monday.

The accused has been identified as Suraj alias 'Fighter', a resident of Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, they said.

On Wednesday, police were patrolling at Najafgarh Road, Rama Road, Moti Nagar and saw a suspicious person on a scooter, following which he was intercepted. Police checked and found the scooter was stolen from Kirti Nagar area, a senior police officer said.

During interrogation, he confessed to snatching many mobile phones and robbing of 2.5 kg gold articles from the area of Subzi Mandi police station in north Delhi, police said.

He committed robbery with his two associates by using a country-made pistol and a knife on a motorcycle. He also confessed to committing over 100 snatching in different parts of Delhi, especially in west, outer, central and north districts, the officer said.

One country-made pistol, along with one live cartridge, 55 mobile phones and five two-wheelers were recovered from his possession, police said.

Suraj has done graduation from Delhi University. He is a two-time national gold medallist in taekwondo. He is also a good singer and has participated in Indian Idol Season 4 in 2008 and reached in top 50 contestants, police added.

## Out Of Turn Land Allotment To Sourav Ganguly: Calcutta High Court Imposes 'Token Cost' On BCCI Chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**KOLKATA:** The Calcutta High Court on Monday imposed a token cost of Rs 10,000 on Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly and imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 each on the West Bengal government and a state-owned corporation over out of turn allotment of land to the cricketer hero in New Town area close to Kolkata to set up a school.

Passing the order, a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Arijit Banerjee said there is need to have a defined policy to guide on all issues so that there is no arbitrary exercise of power by applying pick and choose formula.

The bench, in its order, said though the plot of land had been returned by the allottees, for the conduct of the state in generating litigation by an arbitrary exercise of power which runs contrary to the law laid down by the Supreme Court, a cost of Rs 50,000 each was imposed on the state and West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBHIDCO).

The bench imposed a "token cost of 10,000" on the former India cricket captain and the Ganguly Education and Welfare Society "for the reason that even they should have acted in accordance with law specially considering the earlier judgement whereby arbitrary allotment of plot in their favour was set aside by the Hon'ble the Supreme Court."



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