

“One Can Only Feel Bad”: R Ashwin Slams India’s Playing XI Call Against England

NEW DELHI: Former Indian cricket team spinner R Ashwin questioned the decision to not include Kuldeep Yadav in the playing XI for the third ODI encounter against England on Sunday. Kuldeep did not feature in any of the three matches against England and even during the home ODI series against Afghanistan, he played just one game where he went wicketless. Ashwin said that such exclusions can end up impact Kuldeep’s rhythm and confidence before pointing out that India’s batting looked quick even after not including Kuldeep. India went with four fast bowlers and only one spin bowling all-rounder in Axar Patel. “The only defense for not playing Kuldeep usually is that the batting finishes at number 7, wonder how it feels to have Arshdeep at number 8 today! Adding Bumrah’s absence to that, one can only feel bad for Kuldeep. Trust me, this can affect the rhythm and confidence of a bowler,” he post-



ed on X (formerly Twitter). The Indian team management has usually preferred Axar and Washington as they bolster batting depth. While Axar and Washington have justified their selection with all-round performances, Kuldeep’s primary skill continues to be overlooked due to his lower-order batting limitations. The left-arm wrist-spinner has endured a tough run

lately after having a challenging IPL 2026 campaign for Delhi Capitals. Post the tournament’s end, Kuldeep made a switch to Lucknow Super Giants via a trade deal which saw Rishabh Pant moving back to Delhi Capitals. While Kuldeep boasts an incredibly impressive career record of 194 wickets in 121 ODIs, his continuous non-selection still leaves many people curious.

India (Playing XI): Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill(c), Virat Kohli, Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul(w), Axar Patel, Gurnoor Brar, Prince Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna England (Playing XI): Ben Duckett, Jacob Bethell, Joe Root, Harry Brook(c), Jos Buttler(w), Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Gus Atkinson, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Josh Tongue.

Europe Human Rights Body Questions Integrity Of FIFA World Cup 2026: “Money And Power”

LONDON: Europe’s top human rights body questioned the integrity of the World Cup and urged FIFA on Sunday to help build a stronger framework for the 2030 edition being played mostly in Spain and Portugal. “The next crisis has already begun. It has two names: money and power,” the head of the 46-nation Council of Europe wrote Sunday in an open letter to its formal working partner FIFA hours before the final between Spain and Argentina in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Swiss politician Alain Berset cited FIFA suspending a ban for United States forward Polarin Balugun while under pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump and the risk of fraud in the soccer body signing a prediction market as a World Cup sponsor. When the rules bend under pressure, every result is open to doubt,” Berset wrote about Balogun being freed from a mandatory one-game ban to face Belgium with a quarterfinals place at stake. Belgium won 4-1. “Political influence has also moved onto the field,” said Berset, who was twice a president of FIFA’s home country Switzerland. “The sanction suspended mid-tournament came after a head of state called the president of FIFA.” FIFA signed a prediction market sponsor deal in April worth a reported \$150 million with ADI Predictstreet, one week after the Abu Dhabi-backed company was formally created. FIFA also has other commercial deals with the gambling industry for this World Cup. Prediction betting has been criticized as rewarding insider trading, and Berset noted that in soccer it allowed wagers to be won on “moments a single player can produce without changing the score.”

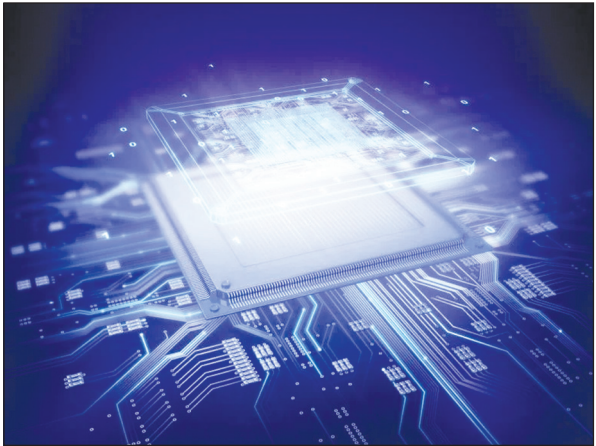


is an open door to fraud,” he wrote. “And this World Cup has opened the door wider.” The Council of Europe (CoE) aired its concerns publicly despite having a formal working agreement with FIFA signed by its president Gianni Infantino in 2018. The inter-governmental body, which created the European Convention on Human Rights, has a stated mission: “To promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe and beyond. When signing the FIFA-CoE memorandum of understanding eight years ago, Infantino said: “It is a natural relationship, as we share common values and goals: transparency, accountability, integrity, safety in sport and respect for human rights, for children’s rights.” Infantino and Berset met in 2024 on the sidelines of the United Nations general assembly in New York. FIFA’s disciplinary ruling on Balogun was fiercely criticized by European soccer body UEFA, which said the de-

cision “crossed a red line” in soccer’s rule of law and transparency. FIFA has yet to publish documents explaining the reasoning of its disciplinary judge from the United Arab Emirates. “A sanction suspended under pressure, within days, with no reasons given,” Berset wrote, before adding other concerns about the first 48-team, 104-game World Cup. “The authority of referees called into question. Racist abuse of players, some of it from elected officials. Betting on every pass, every card, every corner.” The next men’s World Cup will be staged mostly in Europe, with Morocco also co-hosting. Three South American neighbors, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, are currently scheduled to host one game each at the start of the centenary edition in June 2030 to mark the original 1930 World Cup host Uruguay. “So here is my proposal to FIFA,” Berset wrote. “A working dialogue that starts tonight, to build the integrity framework of the 2030 World Cup before it is played.”

Scientists Overcome a Major Electrical Bottleneck in Next-Generation Semiconductors

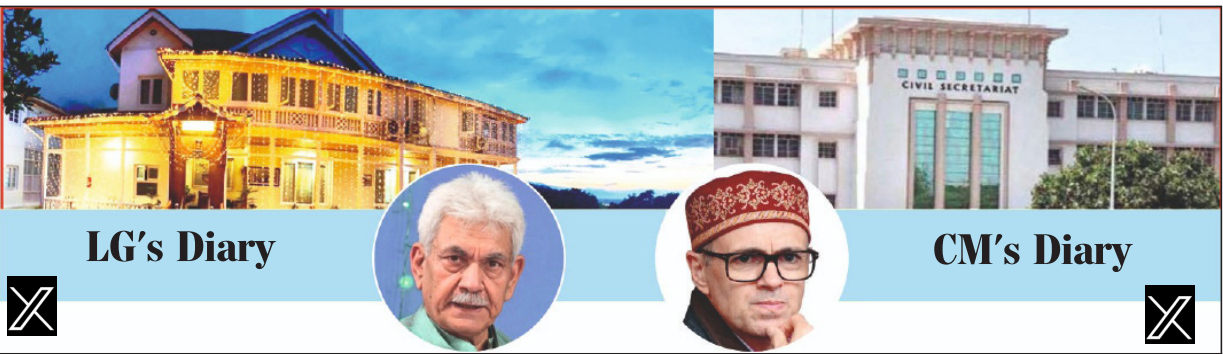
The shrinking of computer chips has exposed a stubborn problem: even when a semiconductor can carry electricity efficiently, getting that electricity into the material can waste power and slow the device down. Researchers in South Korea have now demonstrated a possible way around this obstacle. Their design allows electrical current to move smoothly from a conductive region into a semiconducting region without crossing the conventional junction between two separate materials. The team also directly mapped the movement of charges at the nanometer scale, providing experimental evidence that the new interface does not disrupt the current. The advance could support the development of smaller and more energy-efficient electronics, including AI processors, low-power devices, and future logic chips. The research was led by Professor Seungbum Hong of KAIST’s Department of Materials Science and Engineering, in collaboration with Professor Kibum Kang at KAIST and Professor Sung Beom Cho’s team at Sungkyunkwan University.



Why Contact Resistance Holds Back Smaller Chips transistors depend on metal electrodes to deliver electricity into a semiconductor. However, the boundary where those materials meet can resist the movement of electrical charges. This contact resistance consumes energy, produces heat, and limits how much performance engineers can gain by making transistors smaller. The problem is particularly important for two-dimensional semiconductors. These materials can be only one or a few atomic layers thick, making them attractive for electronics that may eventually need

to operate at dimensions beyond the practical limits of conventional silicon. Yet their extreme thinness also makes it difficult to create efficient electrical contacts without damaging or altering the semiconductor. Instead of placing a separate metal electrode on top of the semiconductor, the researchers created conductive and semiconducting regions inside one continuous sheet of platinum diselenide (PtSe2). PtSe2 is especially useful for this approach because its electronic behavior changes with thickness. Thicker regions can act as a semimetal, while thinner

regions behave as a semiconductor. This allows different electronic functions to be built from the same underlying material rather than joining two unrelated materials together. The resulting structure was monolithic, meaning the PtSe2 film continued across the boundary without a physical break. In principle, that seamless connection should give charges a more direct route into the semiconductor and avoid some of the resistance created by conventional metal contacts. Watching Current Flow at the Nanoscale test whether that was actually happening, the team used Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM). The technique moves an extremely fine probe across a surface to measure its physical and electrical properties at very small scales. The researchers combined this approach with in-plane current detection, allowing them to map how charges traveled from the semimetallic section into the semiconducting section of the PtSe2 film. The study was published in the journal Matter.



Manoj Sinha @manojsinha_ Today, visited the ancient shrine of Vichar Nag. For millennia, this sacred temple has anchored India’s spiritual, intellectual, and philosophical journey. Its revival serves as a historic bridge, connecting our past, present, and future. It marks the return of a consciousness that, for centuries, nurtured an unbroken tradition of reflection, dialogue, and learning. Restoring Vichar Nag is a vital step toward preserving the rich, diverse cultural heritage of Jammu Kashmir.



Manoj Sinha @manojsinha_ Today, addressed Interfaith Dialogue for Harmony in Baramulla, organised by the Save Youth Save Future Foundation. I commended the Save Youth Save Future Foundation for their contribution to the drug-free Jammu Kashmir campaign. The young volunteers worked selflessly and took on a great responsibility for a better future for UT. Through this campaign, we have strengthened trust within our families and institutions, reinforced youth’s confidence in their future, and sent a message across the country that when a society rises up on its own, it can overcome biggest challenges. I also highlighted that this land embodies harmony and brotherhood. For generations, people of different faiths received respect and experienced spiritual peace. It is the lasting legacy of the saints, Sufis, and Rishis who spent centuries teaching our people the power of love, compassion, and unity.



Manoj Sinha @manojsinha_ I spoke to the senior officials and reviewed the situation in Rajouri and Poonch affected by incessant rain and flash floods. In Rajouri, rescue teams from the civil administration, police, army, SDRF, and local volunteers are actively working on the ground. Affected families have already been moved to safety. All departments are on high alert, and they are prioritizing immediate relief and repair work. I urge residents to stay calm and follow official updates. I am deeply saddened by the loss of lives in Rajouri and Poonch’s Haveli and Surankote areas. My heart goes out to the grieving families. The heavy rains have also damaged several homes across Rajouri and Poonch. I have directed officials to provide immediate aid to all affected families in both districts and ensured that emergency teams remain fully prepared for any situation.

On Sunday, LG Manoj Sinha attended the Mahayajna Dharma Sammelan in Baramulla. In the Sanatan tradition, a yajna represents selfless sacrifice and shared responsibility aimed at fostering global peace. The Sammelan marks a spiritual rebirth for the region. It sends a powerful message of harmony and national unity from Baramulla across Jammu Kashmir and the entire country.



Office of Chief Minister, J... @CM_JnK Chief Minister chaired a high-level meeting at Civil Secretariat, Jammu today to review the situation arising from incessant rains and assess preparedness across J&K. The Divisional Commissioners of Jammu/Kashmir briefed on the prevailing situation and the measures being undertaken to address weather-related challenges.

The Chief Minister reviewed the availability of essential supplies across all districts, including food, medicines and drinking water. He directed the administration to remain on high alert, closely monitor vulnerable areas, ensure a prompt response to emergencies, and keep men, machinery and essential services ready to safeguard lives and property.

He also called for effective inter-departmental coordination, immediate outreach to affected families, timely relief and all possible assistance, besides the expeditious restoration of road and power connectivity wherever disrupted.



Office of Chief Minister, J... @CM_JnK Chief Minister has expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of lives caused by flash floods/landslides in Poonch. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured.

The Chief Minister said the administration, SDRF, Police and all concerned agencies are fully engaged in rescue and relief operations and has directed the authorities to ensure that all possible assistance reaches the affected families without delay

Office of Chief Minister, J... @CM_JnK Chief Minister has expressed profound anguish over the massive flash flood in Rajouri, which has caused extensive damage to public and private property, including the bus stand, and disrupted countless lives.

He is closely monitoring the situation, while his office remains in constant touch with local representatives and district officials. He has assured all possible assistance to every affected family.

“Lionel Messi Will Reclaim Record”: Kylian Mbappe’s Stunning Remark Ahead Of FIFA World Cup 2026 Final

PARIS: France captain Kylian Mbappe believes Lionel Messi will reclaim the FIFA World Cup’s all-time scoring record in Monday’s final against Spain, just hours after overtaking the Argentina legend on the competition’s overall scoring charts. Mbappe moved to the top of the all-time World Cup scoring list after netting twice in France’s thrilling 6-4 defeat to England in the third-place play-off on Saturday. The brace took the 27-year-old to 22 World Cup goals from just 22 matches, one ahead of Messi’s tally of 21. However, with Argentina set to face Spain in the final, Mbappe is convinced the eight-time Ballon d’Or winner will respond immediately. “Leo, he scores all the time. Tomorrow he will score, for sure,” Mbappe told Fox Sports after the match. Both Messi and Mbappe began the 2026 FIFA World Cup chasing former Germany striker Miroslav Klose’s long-standing record of 16 World Cup goals. Messi first equalled and then surpassed Klose during Argentina’s campaign before reaching 21 goals, only for Mbappe to leapfrog him with his double against England. Mbappe has enjoyed a sensational tournament in North America, taking his tally to 10 goals in eight matches. His overall World Cup tally now stands at 22 goals, having scored 12 across the 2018 and 2022 editions before adding 10 more in Canada, Mexico and the United States. His latest strikes also strengthened his grip on the Golden Boot race, leaving him two goals clear of Messi heading into Monday’s final. Despite the personal milestone, Mbappe admitted the record offered little consolation after France missed out on a podium finish. “I just try to help my team every time. It’s certain that when you score so many goals in the World Cup, it elevates you to certain levels. But I would have preferred not to be the top scorer in history and play the match tomorrow,” he said. France’s defeat to England ended Mbappe’s hopes of appearing in a second successive World Cup final, but the French captain will now watch with interest as Messi gets one last opportunity to reclaim the title of the tournament’s most prolific scorer. If the Argentina captain finds the net against Spain, as Mbappe expects, he will once again move ahead of the Frenchman atop the World Cup’s all-time scoring charts.