

Inculcate passion for sports & discipline in life: LG Kavinder

Flags off Ladakh Under-17 Boxing Team for National School Games 2025

Urges young minds to build character through sports

Asks officials to work tirelessly to identify & nurture young sporting talent across Ladakh

KARGIL : The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, has called upon the youth of the Union Territory to inculcate a passion for sports and embrace discipline in all aspects of life.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking after flagging off the Ladakh Under-17 Boxing Team for the National School Games 2025, to be held at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, from October 28 to November 3. He also felicitated the team members with traditional khataks, extending his best wishes for their performance at the national stage. Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Smt Bhanu Prabha; Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; Joint Director, YSS, Tahir Hussain; officials from YSS and other government officials were present during the event.

The Lieutenant



Governor emphasised that sports play a vital role in shaping not just physical fitness, but also character, resilience, and leadership qualities among young individuals. He encouraged the young athletes to compete with dedication,

integrity, and a sense of responsibility, highlighting that representing Ladakh on a national platform is both an honour and a chance to showcase the region's talent. "Sports instill perseverance, team-work, and mental

strength—qualities that are essential not only in the sporting arena but also in life," he added.

The Lt. Governor also acknowledged the efforts of the Sports Department, coaches, and mentors who have been working tire-

lessly to identify and nurture young sporting talent across Ladakh.

He assured that the UT Administration remains committed to providing robust support and infrastructure to promote sports at the grassroots level,

ensuring that budding athletes have the necessary resources and guidance to excel.

Highlighting the broader significance of sports, Kavinder Gupta urged students to balance academics with physical activities, stressing that a disciplined lifestyle, coupled with a passion for sports, prepares youth for challenges in every sphere of life.

He expressed confidence that the Ladakh U-17 Boxing Team would perform with determination and bring laurels to the Union Territory, inspiring other youngsters to pursue excellence in sports. Concluding the event, he reiterated that fostering a culture of sportsmanship and discipline among students is key to building a confident, resilient, and self-reliant generation, capable of contributing positively to the growth and progress of Ladakh.

F1 Team Red Bull Fined 50,000 Euros After Team Member Tried To Remove McLaren Grid Tape



Formula One side Red Bull Racing was handed a €50,000 fine by the FIA after a team member attempted to remove a visual marker (tape) from McLaren driver Lando Norris' grid slot just as the formation lap started at the United States Grand Prix. The incident occurred when a Red Bull team member re-entered a prohibited area of the grid, near the second position, after the cars had pulled away. Stewards issued the fine for breaching the International Sporting Code by failing to adhere to safety instructions. The team member reportedly ignored warnings from pit marshals to stay off the track. A fine of €25,000 was suspended for the rest of the season.

As the matter escalated, it was reported that the team member's objective was to peel off a piece of tape stuck to the wall next to Norris' grid slot, which the British driver would have used to line up his car perfectly. While both placing the tape and attempting to remove such a visual aid are legal under F1 sporting regulations, the sanction resulted solely from personnel returning to the live track after the formation lap began.

A report in the New York Times quoted a source saying that McLaren had recently started using tamper-proof tape due to previous removals, which may have necessitated the dangerous timing of the Red Bull member's attempt.

Red Bull F1 chief Laurent Mekies described the issue as a "misunderstanding".

"We went to see the video with the FIA, and for sure it's something we can do better in the future. But certainly on our side we do not feel that we have ignored any instructions. We did not get any specific instructions, so I think it's a very small thing, but nonetheless, something we will address in the future," Mekies said.

NBA on NBC returns after 23 years, but Gen Z players are clueless: 'I wasn't alive, man'



The 2025-26 season of the NBA is back, and the league is back on the airwaves of NBC. This is a major development as the last time the NBA was on the network was back in 2002, for that year's Finals. The Athletic reports.

'NBA on NBC' was the network's telecast of the league from 1990 to 2002. The coverage had as its theme music 'Roundball Rock' — a composition by musician John Tesh. So, on October 21, when NBA on NBC made a grand comeback, no effort was spared to increase the nostalgia component of the telecast. The network started the telecast with a tribute montage featuring the great names from the 1990-2002 era — Michael Jordan, Reggie Miller, Patrick Ewing, and Magic

Johnson. Then, they played the iconic 'Roundball Rock'.

This should have brought on a full-blown nostalgia fever. Except, the stars on court have no recollection of the era, and for good reason. They were not old enough to remember any of it, some even being born after NBC lost the rights, like Victor Wembanyama (born 2004). The Athletic reported.

Players' reaction to queries about NBA on NBC memories

As per The Athletic, reactions of various players to being asked about the NBA on NBC in the good old days were given. And they were uniform in being clueless about the whole thing.

The reigning MVP of the league, Shai Gilgeous-

Alexander of the Oklahoma City Thunder, simply said, "The NBA and NBC? I have no ... none, zero."

His teammate Chet Holmgren was blunt and said, "I wasn't alive, man." New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson, too, was clueless: "I wasn't old enough."

Detroit Pistons' Cade Cunningham simply asked: "Oh, I need a memory from then?" Wemby was stunned by the question and asked, "You're joking, right?"

Verdict on NBC's coverage on opening night

As per Awful Announcing, the return of NBA on NBC was not as great as expected. The nostalgia factor was there, and Michael Jordan made an appearance during halftime. But there were audio issues at the start of the coverage.

The expert panel on the pre-game show consisted of Tracy McGrady, Vince Carter, and Carmelo Anthony. Maria Taylor was the host. After a few stumbles, the conversation got going but wasn't as riveting as fans would have wanted it. Awful Announcing said.

Rohit Sharma Set To Be Replaced? Gautam Gambhir's Act In Nets Triggers Speculations: Report



No longer India's ODI captain, Rohit Sharma was once again the first to arrive in the optional nets session on the eve of the second match against Australia at the Adelaide Oval. Rohit sweated it out in the nets, also took throwdowns, but there were a few worrying signs for the 'Hitman' and his fans if the complete practice session is looked at. A report has claimed that Rohit Sharma did not look like his usual self as he walked to the team hotel after the conclusion of the practice session. At that very moment, India head coach Gautam Gambhir and selection committee

chief Ajit Agarkar had a lengthy chat with Yashasvi Jaiswal, the man competing with Rohit for the second opening spot and is also seen as his long-term replacement.

With Shubman Gill being named the skipper of India's ODI team, Rohit is

not guaranteed a spot in the playing XI. Though the management is not expected to bench him after failure in the first game, Rohit does face long-term competition from Jaiswal for the opening role alongside Gill.

According to a report by RevSportz, Rohit appeared noticeably different in mood, described as "off" and not his usual self during the nets session. Usually, Rohit is a man who engages with media, fans with a smile on his face during such practice sessions. But on Wednesday, that was not the case.

Rohit was seen walking off alone after the nets session, as Agarkar, selector Shiv Sunder Das, and coach Gambhir held an animated discussion with Jaiswal, sparking speculation about a potential transition in India's ODI team, possibly signalling a post-Rohit era.

Neeraj Chopra conferred honorary rank of Lt Colonel by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

Ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on Wednesday, adding another milestone to his stellar career. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded the Olympic gold medalist as the "epitome" of perseverance and a true symbol of national pride.

The Defence Minister presented the honorary rank insignia of Lieutenant Colonel to star javelin thrower Chopra, who serves in the Territorial Army, during a pipping ceremony in New Delhi attended by Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi and several senior military officials.

"This is more than an honour - it is a responsibility towards my country. Thank you Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh ji and the Territorial Army for conferring upon me the honorary rank of Lt Col. Proud to wear this uniform. Jai Hind," Chopra wrote on Instagram.

Chopra began his journey with the Indian Army as a Naib Subedar on August 26, 2016, earning promotions to Subedar in 2021 and Subedar Major in



2022. Hailing from Khandra village in Haryana's Panipat district, Chopra made history by claiming India's first Olympic gold in athletics in the men's javelin at Tokyo 2020.

He followed this with a silver at the 2024 Paris Olympics and a gold at the 2023 World Athletics Championships.

Chopra has also dominated regional and international competitions, winning multiple golds at the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and Diamond League meets. His record-breaking personal best throw of 90.23 metres in 2025 remains a landmark achievement in Indian sports.

Interacting with Chopra and his family members, Defence Minister Singh described him as an "epi-

me of perseverance, patriotism and the Indian spirit of striving for excellence".

"Lt Col (Hony) Neeraj Chopra embodies the highest ideals of discipline, dedication and national pride, serving as an inspiration to generations within the sporting fraternity and the Armed Forces alike," Singh said.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and exemplary service to the nation, Lt Col (Hony) Chopra was granted an honorary commission in the Territorial Army by President Droupadi Murmu on April 16, the defence ministry said.

Chopra is also a recipient of many coveted awards, including Padma Shri, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

India vs Australia 2nd ODI, Adelaide Weather Report: Rain To Play Spoilsport?



Two of the biggest superstars of the Indian cricket team — Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma — need one big innings in Australia amid growing murmurs over their form. Nobody can question the star batters' class, and in the last decade, both have led India to crucial victories. However, both now play only ODIs, and with the next major ODI tournament — the World Cup — two years away, even Kohli and Rohit need to prove themselves yet again to keep getting selected until the marquee event. The start to that campaign was poor, as Kohli was out for 0 while Rohit was dismissed for 8 in the first ODI, a rain-curtailed match. Will the second ODI in Adelaide be affected by rain too? Here's what AccuWeather.com says. The clock is ticking for Indian cricket's most

celebrated pair. After a faltering comeback in Perth, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli head into Adelaide with both form and future under the spotlight. The second ODI against Australia on Thursday offers not just a chance for India to level the series, but for two icons to remind the world that class never fades — even after time away from the game.

In the rain-hit first ODI, India's batting rust was evident. Returning to 50-over cricket after more than seven months, Rohit and Kohli struggled to find their rhythm — the Mumbaier falling for 8, while India's fittest cricketer perished for a duck. In Perth, India limped to 136/9 in 26 overs — a target Australia chased down comfortably in just 22 overs — to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Captain Rishabh Pant's Return The Reason Behind Sarfaraz Khan's India A Snub: Report

The Indian cricketing fraternity is still scratching its head upon seeing Sarfaraz Khan snubbed for the two four-day matches between India A and South Africa A. A giant in domestic cricket, Sarfaraz was picked for the India A side on the tour of England, but his absence from the two matches against South Africa A has raised questions over the selectors' long-term plan for the middle-order batter. As per a report, the return of Rishabh Pant, who has been named the India A captain for the two matches, played a big role in Sarfaraz's absence from the team.

Looking to force his way back into the national team, Sarfaraz reportedly dropped 117 kg of weight, but his determination still does not seem to have impressed the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee.

As per agency, Pant, who is making a competitive comeback, will be batting at No. 5 in both games, a position that Sarfaraz was also competing for. Pant undoubtedly is a mainstay in the Indian team's plans for the longest format,



occupying the No. 5 spot. The plan, hence, is not clear for Sarfaraz at the moment.

There is a school of thought among selectors that Sarfaraz should only be tried in the slot where he can potentially play for the national team. That slot is the one-down position, currently occupied by B Sai Sudharsan.

Sudharsan is also a part of the India A team in both the games and is the deputy to Pant and will bat at No. 3 in these games. At present, the selectors have more

trust in the Gujarat Titans batter, hoping to groom him into a permanent No. 3 batter in the Test team. With the No. 4 spot held by skipper Shubman Gill, there is no definitive plan for Sarfaraz, who has not done much wrong either.

The Mumbai batter has reportedly been asked to take up the No. 3 spot in the Ranji Trophy team in order to boost his chances for India A and the senior national team selection.

"Sarfaraz should have a chat with the Mumbai team

management and also with their senior-most player, Ajinkya Rahane, and, maybe, try out batting at No. 3 where he might have to play the new ball. If he keeps batting at No. 5 or 6, it will not help. India has more all-round options for those slots.

"Pant, Washington, Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja and Nitish Reddy... if all are fit and available, they will occupy the middle-order, being multi-skilled players. When Pant is injured, it will be Dhruv Jurel batting at No. 5 or 6," a former national selector privy to the developments told PTI.

Truth be told, Sarfaraz's four consecutive failures against New Zealand on rank turners did become his undoing and have put him slightly behind in the pecking order.

With batting slot Nos. 1, 2, and 4 now locked in the Test team and Nos. 5-8 belonging to multi-skilled players (including batters), the only place left is No. 3 and, maybe, the gutsy Mumbai batter needs to take a leap of faith and try out a new slot.

Martand Singh to head 'Amar Singh Sports & Youth Initiative'

The young scion of the Dogra Royal Family, Rajkumar Martand Singh is all set to lead a new sports program; the Amar Singh Sports & Youth Initiative. This initiative shall function under the aegis of the Hari Tara Charitable Trust and was announced after approval by its Executor Trustee, Dr. Karan Singh as stated in a press release issued today.

The 'Amar Singh Sports & Youth Initiative', is a program dedicated to promoting and nurturing sports, youth talent, and skill development across Jammu & Kashmir. It aims to provide young people with opportunities to grow, excel, and represent the Union Territory on national and international sporting platforms. This Initiative is named in honour of the legendary figure of the royal Dogra dynasty, Raja Amar Singh (1864-1909), whose legacy of public service, institution building and commitment to the welfare of the region is widely respected across Jammu and Kashmir.

Martand Singh, Trustee of the Hari Tara Charitable Trust, will lead this program and serve as the Director of

the Initiative. Martand Singh, an alumnus of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland is a practicing advocate and has been actively leading the socio-cultural activities, heritage conservation, outreach programmes and traditional religious duties on behalf of the Hari Tara Charitable Trust at the Amar Mahal Museum in Jammu.

On this occasion, Martand Singh said, "with the launch of the Amar Singh Sports & Youth Initiative, we hope to provide a meaningful platform and tools for the youth of J&K to discover their potential and thrive through sports and skill development. This new Initiative reinforces the Hari Tara Charitable Trust's broader mission to support socio-cultural upliftment, education, and charitable development throughout Jammu & Kashmir." He further said, "the Hari Tara Charitable Trust was founded in 1970 by his esteemed grandfather, Dr. Karan Singh with the purpose of promoting socio-cultural, welfare and charitable activities centred around the iconic Amar Mahal Museum established in 1975.