

# Kuldeep, Vipraj & Rahul guide Delhi Capitals to 6-wkt win

PTI



**SCOREBOARD**  
**Royal Challengers Bengaluru:** Philip Salt run out (Nigam) 37, Virat Kohli c Starc b Nigam 22, Devdutt Padikkal c Patel b Kumar 1, \*Rajat Patidar c Rahul b Yadav 25, Liam Livingstone c Sharma b Mohit 4, Jitesh Sharma c Rahul b Yadav 3, Krunal Pandya c Sharma b Nigam 18, Tim David not out 37, Bhuvneshwar Kumar not out 1. **Extras: 15. Total: 163-7. Fall of Wickets:** 61-1, 64-2, 74-3, 91-4, 102-5, 117-6, 125-7. **Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 3-0-35-0, \*Axar Patel 4-0-52-0, Vipraj Nigam 4-0-18-2, Mukesh Kumar 3-1-26-1, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-17-2, Mohit Sharma 2-0-10-1. **Delhi Capitals:** Faf du Plessis c Patidar b Dayal 2, Jake Fraser-McGurk c Sharma b Bhuvneshwar 7, Abhishek Porel c Sharma b Bhuvneshwar 7, KL Rahul not out 93, \*Axar Patel c David b Sharma 15, Tristan Stubbs not out 38. **Extras: 7. Total: 169-4. Fall of wickets:** 9-1, 10-2, 28-3, 56-4. **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-26-2, Yash Dayal 3.5-0-45-1, Josh Hazlewood 3-0-40-0, Suyash Sharma 4-0-25-1, Krunal Pandya 2-0-19-0, Liam Livingstone 1-0-14-0. **Man-of-the-match:** KL Rahul

Delhi Capitals' KL Rahul celebrates after winning an Indian Premier League match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, on Thursday

**PTI, BENGALURU:** The craftiness of spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Vipraj Nigam echoed in the assiduous unbeaten 93 of KL Rahul as Delhi Capitals overcame a top-order meltdown to score a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their IPL match here on Thursday.

Once the Royal Challengers were restricted to 163 for seven, the Capitals just needed to bat with common sense but it was a rare commodity in their frontline batters on the night.

But player of the match KL Rahul, whose knock came off 53 balls with seven fours and six sixes, added 111 runs for the fourth wicket with an equally level-headed Tristan Stubbs (38 not out) to score their fourth victory on the bounce. DC made 169 for four.

Rahul's innings was a prime example of risk management as he started at a slower tempo before shifting the gears seamlessly.

The way Rahul, who was dropped on five by Rajat Patidar off Yash Dayal, dealt with leg-spinner Suyash Sharma and pacer Josh Hazlewood underlined his intelligent approach.

He was prudent against Suyash, waiting for his chances to score runs on a

sluggish track and carted him for a lone six a sweep over mid-wicket. But once Hazlewood returned for his second spell, Rahul used the extra pace to good effect to manufacture big shots such as a scorching six over the bowlers' head.

Stubbs too joined his partners with a couple of lovely straight hits off Bhuvneshwar to the fence as DC strolled home.

However, they had a horror start to the chase as Faf du Plessis, who came back for this match after missing

the game against Chennai Super Kings with a niggle, skied Dayal for Rajat Patidar to complete a fine catch. The mode of dismissal echoed twice soon as Jake-Fraser McGurk and Abhishek Porel walked back to the shed in the same manner.

The visitors were in a quagmire at 30 for three well inside the Power Play, which they eventually finished at 39 for three.

Rahul and captain Axar Patel (15) added 28 runs for the fourth wicket, and the DC innings seemed to have

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 ■ Once the Royal Challengers were restricted to 163 for seven, the Capitals just needed to bat with common sense but it was a rare commodity in their frontline batters on the night  
 ■ Kohli, who began to unshackle himself with a six off Nigam over long-

on, soon fell to the same bowler while trying to clobber a delivery wide on the off-stump

■ Rahul's innings was a prime example of risk management as he started at a slower tempo before shifting the gears seamlessly to remain unbeaten 93

■ Delhi Capitals' decision to field looked utterly obtuse as Royal Challengers went off the blocks like a galloping horse, going past the 50-run mark in just three overs



gotten back on the track.

But Axar's attempt to find the boundary over covers off Suyash could not progress beyond the running-in Tim David.

However, that was the last of the blips in the DC innings as Rahul marked their triumph with a six off Dayal which he celebrated with a sword-on-the-ground celebration.

Earlier, the wizardry of Kuldeep and Nigam helped the Capitals stage a stirring comeback to restrict RCB to a below-par 163 for seven.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep (2/17) and leg-spinner Nigam (2/18) adjusted their lengths beautifully to halt RCB after the Capitals chose to bowl first.

But Delhi's decision to field looked utterly obtuse as Royal Challengers went off the blocks like a galloping horse, going past the 50-run mark in just three overs.

Central to that charge was opener Phil Salt's turbo-charged innings of 37 off 17 balls.

## TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

**Chennai Super Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders, at the M A Chidambaram cricket stadium, Chennai, at 7.30 pm**

## Raphinha, Lewandowski lead Barca to a 4-0 win

**AP, BARCELONA:** Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski struck again to lead Barcelona to a commanding 4-0 win over Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of the Champions League quarter-finals.

Lewandowski scored twice and Raphinha had a goal and an assist, leaving the Catalan club in a strong position to reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2019. Lamine Yamal also scored as Barcelona dealt a commanding blow to the German side's hopes of advancing.

Paris Saint-Germain won the first leg of their quarter-final 3-1 at home to Aston Villa after brilliant goals from Desire Doue, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Nuno Mendes. Morgan Rogers gave Villa the lead at the Parc des Princes, but the



FC Barcelona's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski (left) celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's third goal during the UEFA Champions League quarter-final first leg match against BVB Borussia Dortmund at the Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys in Barcelona

French champions levelled ahead early in the second through Doue before half half and Mendes added a time. Kvaratskhelia put PSG late third.

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

Quarter-finals, first leg

**Barcelona 4 (Raphinha 25, Lewandowski 48, 66, Yamal 77) Borussia Dortmund 0. Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Doue 39, Kvaratskhelia 49, Mendes 90+2) Aston Villa 1 (Rogers 35)**

## Dhoni to captain CSK, Gaikwad ruled out

**PTI, CHENNAI:** Chennai Super Kings were dealt a severe blow on Thursday as regular skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was ruled out of the IPL due to an elbow injury, a development that has brought back Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the leadership role.

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming confirmed the development.

"We have an uncapped player, MS Dhoni, who will take over as captain for the remainder of the IPL," Fleming told mediapersons ahead of the match against KKR on Friday.

Dhoni had previously captained CSK from 2008 till 2023 and won five IPL titles. He handed over the captaincy to Gaikwad ahead of the 2024 season. Gaikwad sustained the

blow when he was hit by a short ball from Jofra Archer on March 30, and since then he has played two games.

"He got hit in Guwahati (vs RR). He's been operating with an amount of pain. We got an X-ray, which was inconclusive, and we had an MRI, which revealed a fracture in his elbow, in the radial neck," Fleming said.

While Gaikwad played through pain against Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings, the CSK medical team could only get his MRI done after the swelling subsided.

"So we're disappointed and feel for him. We appreciate the efforts that he's gone to in terms of trying to play, but he will be out of the tournament."

The head coach also said that Gaikwad wanted to "continue" but the call to

replace him had to be made.

While Gaikwad has easily been the best batter in the last five games, he has often been left frustrated by a floundering top order and below-par show by the middle order, where CSK haven't been able to chase anything in excess of 180.

CSK doesn't have too many options now apart from bringing back Rahul Tripathi in the top-three although he has looked terribly out of place so far.

Deepak Hooda, one of the seasoned CSK players, can come in the middle order.

CSK can also look at the untested Delhi boy Vansh Bedi to do some power hitting. The Chennai team is entitled to a substitute player and it could be Mumbai teenager Ayush Mhatre filling in that slot.

## sportspopup

### Suruchi-Saurabh bag bronze in Shooting WC

**BUENOS AIRES:** Suruchi won her second medal of the competition while former Asian Games champion Saurabh Chaudhary bagged an ISSF medal after two years, as the pair claimed the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze after beating compatriots Manu Bhaker and Ravinder Singh 16-8 in the World Cup here. With two Indian Olympians on either side of the competitive divide, Saurabh emerged as the most consistent of the four shooters to help seal the deal with a 10.7 in the 12th series.

### Sindhu, Rajawat lose; Kapila-Crasto in quarter-finals of Badminton Asia C'ships

**NINGBO (China):** Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and Priyanshu Rajawat crashed out in the pre-quarterfinals of their respective events at the Badminton Asia Championships, here, on Thursday. The 29-year-old Sindhu fought hard before going down 12-21, 21-16, 16-21 to World No. 4 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in women's singles contest that lasted one hour and six minutes. Rajawat lost in straight games 14-21, 17-21 against World No. 7 Kodai Naraoka of Japan in the men's singles competition. It was curtains for Kiran George as well in the men's singles event, as he lost 21-19, 13-21, 16-21 against World No. 5 Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand. The mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto entered the quarter-finals, beating Ye Hong Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan of Chinese Taipei 12-21, 21-16, 21-18.

### Indian women's hockey team to tour Australia for five-match series

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian women's hockey team will tour Australia for a five-match series scheduled from April 26 to May 4. Hockey India said on Thursday. India will open the series with two matches against Australia A, followed by three games against the senior Australian team. The tour will begin with back-to-back matches against Australia A on April 26 and 27, followed by three high-intensity games against the world No.5 ranked Hockeyroos on May 1, 3 and 4. All fixtures will be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium. The tour will serve as vital preparation ahead of their European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, which kicks off in June.

### Crickets to feature 6 teams in 2028 Olympics, NEW DELHI:

Crickets will feature six teams battling for top honours when the sport returns to the Olympics at the 2028 Los Angeles Games after a gap of 128 years. This was confirmed by the organisers on Wednesday. Cricket last featured at the Olympics in the 1900 edition of the Games in Paris, where a one-off, two-day match between Great Britain and France was held, which is now recognised as an unofficial Test. At LA 2028, cricket will be played in the T20 format, with six teams competing in both the men's and women's competitions. Every team will be able to name a 15-member squad as a total of 90 athlete quotas have been allocated for each gender.

### Erigaisi loses to Nakamura, Carlsen through to semis

**PARIS:** Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi tried hard but succumbed to Hikaru Nakamura's experience as the American won hand-somely to proceed to the last-four of the Freestyle chess tournament, here, on Thursday. Magnus Carlsen of Norway needed a draw to proceed to the next stage against Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and the world No.1 achieved just that to move into the last-four stage along side Fabiano Caruana of the United States, who came up with a fine effort to crash through the defences of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France. Result Game 2 (Quarter-finals with final result): Arjun Erigaisi (Ind) lost to Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 0.5-1.5; Fabiano Caruana (USA) beat Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 1.5-0.5; Magnus Carlsen (Nor) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) 1.5-0.5, 9-12 place: R Praggnanandhaa (Ind) beat Vidit Gujrathi (Ind) 1.5-0.5; Richard Rapport (Hun) beat D Gukesh (Ind) 1.5-0.5.

### Former India basketball captain Hari Dutt dies

**PITHORAGARH:** Ace basketball player and former captain of the Indian team Hari Dutt Kapri has passed away at his residence here. He was 83 and breathed his last on Wednesday. Kapri is survived by his wife and two sons. His mortal remains were consigned to flames at Rameshwar Ghat on Thursday. He was conferred with the Arjuna award in 1969 and was also honoured with a lifetime achievement award by the Uttarakhand government.

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Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) announced an increase of prices up to 3% which will be effective in April 2025. The company announced the price increase owing to rising input cost, increased commodity prices and higher operational expenses, amongst other reasons. The quantum of price increase will vary basis the variants and models.

\*Offer valid till 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

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