

## KL Rahul reveals message from DC management which has fuelled his IPL 2026 success

**NEW DELHI:** KL Rahul seems to have turned a corner with regards to his approach to batting in T20 cricket in the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The Delhi Capitals star has scored 433 runs in nine matches but it is his strike rate of 185.84 that stands out. The highest strike rate that he has finished with in his previous seasons in the IPL is 158.41 in 2018 and Rahul has often been heavily criticised for seemingly failing to keep up with the big-hitting standards of the day in T20 cricket.



Rahul, who opens the batting for the Delhi Capitals, said that his changed approach this season is reflective of the way T20 cricket itself has transformed in recent years. "T20 cricket has evolved over the last two or three years, especially in the IPL. You can see patterns in how teams are winning, and recently, teams that win the Powerplay often go on to win the game. A few years ago, games were usually decided between the 14th and

20th overs. The Powerplay was always important, but now it carries even more weight," KL Rahul said in JioStar. Rahul said that the DC team management told him clearly that they want to maximise the runs they can get in

the powerplay, for which he will be given the freedom to go on the attack all the way through. "For me, personally, it's something I've had to adapt to for the team. This season, the messaging from the team management was very clear. They spoke to me before the IPL and wanted me to bat at the top of the order and play with freedom. Teams are aiming for upwards of 60 in that phase. Having that clarity gave me time to think about how to achieve it within my skill set. I've tried to go out each game with that intent. You won't always succeed, but the idea is right. My focus is on maximising the Powerplay, because that's the demand of the team and of T20 cricket right now," he said.

## 'BCCI control the ICC': Simon Harmer on SA's WTC final win and global cricket balance

**JOHNSBURG:** South African off-spinner Simon Harmer said that India's dominance in world cricket was underpinned by its commercial and administrative power, arguing that South Africa's World Test Championship (WTC) triumph had not significantly altered the global balance. South Africa defeated Australia by five wickets to win the WTC final at Lord's last year, their first major red-ball crown since readmission in 1991-92. "Because of their commercial power, they have all of the power," Harmer told The Guardian. "The BCCI control the ICC. But what can we do? As a player, you just control

the controllables. The only thing that changes the narrative is winning trophies." Harmer was part of the South African side that defeated India 2-0 at home last year to inflict a second consecutive series loss at home on the Shubman Gill-led side. He expressed admiration for the current South African setup under head coach Shukri Conrad and captain Temba Bavuma, describing it as a side built on collective strength rather than star power. "That team is more than the sum of its parts with only a couple of superstars," he says. Conrad, in particular, has earned Harmer's respect for his blunt, no-nonsense approach. "If he thinks you're shit, he'll tell you straight. I rate that. I've not always had that."

On English spinners, Harmer was more sympathetic, suggesting that conditions and the structure of county cricket often limited their impact and pushed them into supporting roles rather than leading ones. "In England, generally your spinners are a bit of an afterthought," he says. While he acknowledged the quality of individuals like Liam Dawson and Jack Leach, he believed their effectiveness was often shaped by the system around them. "It's not a lack of resources, you've got 18 counties," Harmer says. "But how many

have a spin-bowling coach? Probably two or three." For Harmer, the issue extended beyond resources to mentality and competitive edge under pressure. "Somebody can have all the skills in the world, but when it hits, if they run for the hills, it doesn't matter how good they are," he says. "I think English cricketers don't always have that fight in them." He also criticised the county system for allowing stagnation to exist. "With 18 teams, there's definitely a place for mediocrity," Harmer says. "There are loads of guys just plodding along, doing enough to keep their average contracts."



### LG's Diary CM's Diary

**Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLJandK**  
Today participated in Padyatra in Budgam. I appealed to every family, social organization, spiritual & political leaders in Budgam to intensify this campaign across the district & assured them that every arm of administration & its full strength is committed to eradicating drugs.

**Lok Bhawan Jammu & Kashmir @LokBhawanJandK**  
Lieutenant Governor announced an informal 'Parents Brigade' in every village and city wherever possible. Our aim is to create a voluntary network of parents, women, youth who will be trained & empowered to identify early signs of drug use in villages or wards and immediately connect families with resources: Lieutenant Governor

**Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM\_Jnk**  
Chief Minister today chaired a high-level review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to fast-track the implementation of key announcements of Budget 2026-27, with a focus on the timely delivery of welfare schemes for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister, all Ministers, Advisor, Chief Secretary, and Administrative Secretaries attended the meeting.

**Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM\_Jnk**  
Chief Minister has expressed deep sorrow over the untimely demise of Aman Zahoor, son of Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Wani, Director Finance. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for strength and fortitude for them in this hour of grief.

## Dinesh Karthik on why he ranks RCB's IPL win 'right up there' with 2007 T20 World Cup triumph

**BANGALORE:** Just under a year after lifting the IPL title with Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Dinesh Karthik has admitted the win sits right at the top of his career achievements along with winning the 2007 T20 World Cup with India. The 40-year-old also said that he ranks this IPL victory slightly above the won that he had won with the Mumbai Indians in 2013. Speaking about the emotional weight of the triumph, the 40-year-old said the RCB title "just pips" the 2013 win because of the long wait and the connection with the fans. "A few days ago, somebody asked me what my highlight in a cricketing career was," Karthik said on the RCB Podcast. "Obviously, the World Cup I was part of is right up there, but the RCB win was also right up there."



"An MI win as a player was a great one too, but the RCB win just pips it because of the fact that we waited 18 years for it. It's a long wait. We all know how passionate the fans are. You almost feel a sense of yearning and giving back when you finally win," he added. For Karthik, the victory was not just about lifting a trophy, but about delivering for a fanbase that had stayed loyal through nearly two decades of disappointment. "The first one was for the fans. They've been with us through thick and thin, constantly supporting us. It was said in the dressing room as well - if we cross the line, it's for the fans. That was a very special feeling." He also spoke about the broader journey of the team through the season, which in-

cluded disruptions and challenges before they eventually found their rhythm. "We went through a lot last year. The country itself went through a bit towards the back end of the tournament, and we had to reassess, regroup and start again in many ways." "It's one thing having momentum on your side, and then there's a sudden break, and you come back. The way we managed to get past a couple of games and play solid cricket - all teams played good cricket - the standard of the IPL is unparalleled right now," Karthik said. "To win a tournament like that is never easy. It felt ecstatic, ethereal. I'm very proud to have been part of that moment." Karthik said one of the most powerful images from the night was seeing Virat Kohli overcome with emotion after finally winning the title with RCB - a franchise he has represented for more than a decade. "It was great to see Virat Kohli in tears, the greatness of AB de Villiers and Chris Gayle being there with us, and the likes of Andy Flower and Mo Bobat putting a team together and doing something very special."

## First time in 8 years - North Korean football team to play match in South

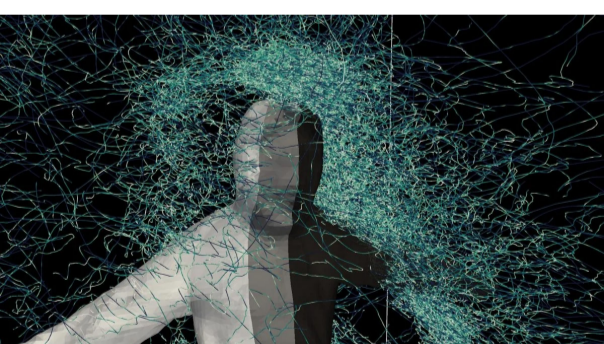
**PYONGYANG:** A North Korean women's soccer team is scheduled to play at a regional tournament in South Korea later this month, in a rare sports exchange between the war-divided rivals. The South's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said Monday that the Pyongyang-based Naegohyang Women's FC is expected to face Suwon FC Women on May 20 in the semifinals of the Asian Football Confederation Women's Champions League in Suwon, south of Seoul. The AFC notified South Korea's soccer body that the team's participation in Suwon had been confirmed, the ministry said in a statement. However, North Korea's state media has not reported on the soccer club's expected trip.



North Korea last sent athletes to South Korea in December 2018 for a table tennis event, continuing a period of diplomatic engagement highlighted by the participation of North Korean athletes alongside a high-level delegation at the Winter Olympics in the South earlier that year. North Korea also sent its national women's soccer team to the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, which was the last time its female soccer players competed in the South. Since 2019, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has suspended meaningful diplomacy with Washington and Seoul and has pushed a domestic campaign to eliminate the influence of South Korean culture and language among his population.

## This Is What Makes You Irresistible to Mosquitoes

After observing hundreds of mosquitoes circling a human subject and analyzing roughly 20 million data points, researchers from Georgia Tech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology developed a mathematical model that predicts how female mosquitoes locate and approach people to feed. This work provides the first detailed visualization of mosquito flight behavior and offers measurable insights that could improve trapping and control methods. Mosquitoes are more than just a nuisance. They spread diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, and Zika, which together lead to more than 700,000 deaths each year. The team also created an interactive public website that allows users to explore mosquito movement and behavior. Tracking Mosquito Movement With 3D Cameras study how mosquitoes navigate, the researchers used 3D infrared cameras to monitor how the insects responded to visual signals and carbon dioxide around objects. They then placed a person inside a controlled chamber, changed his clothing colors, and recorded how mosquitoes moved around him.



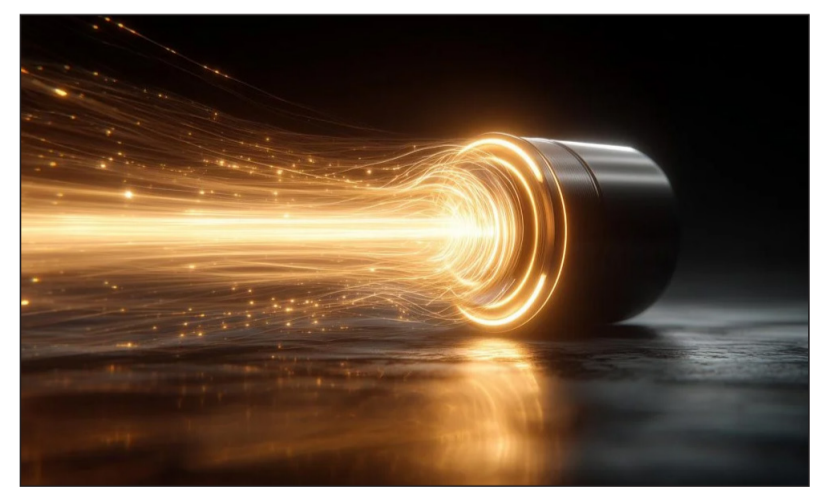
The findings, published in Science Advances, focused on female Aedes aegypti mosquitoes (also called yellow fever mosquitoes), a species found across the southeastern United States, California, and many regions worldwide. Mosquito Swarms Driven by Shared Signals data suggests that mosquitoes do not gather by following one another. Instead, each insect independently reacts to the same environmental cues, which leads them to arrive in the same place at roughly the same time. "It's like a crowded bar," said David Hu, a professor in Georgia Tech's George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering and the School of Biological Sciences. "Customers aren't there because they followed each other into the bar. They're attracted by the same cues: drinks, music,

and the atmosphere. The same is true of mosquitoes. Rather than following the leader, the insect follows the signals and happens to arrive at the same spot as the others. They're good copies of each other." Visual Cues and CO2 Create a Strong Attraction researchers conducted three experiments that adjusted visual targets and carbon dioxide levels. In the first test, a black sphere attracted mosquitoes only when they were already flying toward it. After reaching the object, they typically did not remain nearby and quickly moved on. When the black target was replaced with a white object and carbon dioxide was introduced, mosquitoes could locate the source, but only at close range. Hu observed them pausing briefly, as if doing a "double take," before gathering around it. When both a black object

and CO2 were present together, the effect was much stronger. Mosquitoes gathered in large numbers, remained in the area, and attempted to feed. "Previous studies had shown that visual cues and carbon dioxide attract mosquitoes. But we didn't know how they put those cues together to determine where to fly," said Christopher Zuo, who conducted the study as a Georgia Tech master's student. "They're like little robots. We just had to figure out their rules." Human Experiments Reveal Target Areas identifying the importance of stationary visual cues, Zuo tested the behavior on himself inside a mosquito chamber. He wore different outfits, including all black, all white, and combinations of both. Standing with his arms extended, he allowed dozens of mosquitoes to circle him while cameras recorded their flight paths. The data was later analyzed at MIT to determine the most likely rules behind their movement. The mosquitoes behaved as if Zuo were simply another object. The largest clusters formed around his head and shoulders, which are the areas this species tends to target.

## Scientists Just Built a Quantum Battery That Charges Almost Instantly

Australian researchers have achieved a major milestone in energy storage by designing and testing what is believed to be the world's first proof-of-concept quantum battery. Scientists say this emerging technology could reshape how energy is stored and delivered, potentially leading to devices that charge at extremely high speeds. First Quantum Battery Breakthrough The project was led by CSIRO in partnership with the University of Melbourne and RMIT, with the findings published in Nature Light: Science & Applications. Researchers from the University of Melbourne, including Associate Professor James Hutchison and Professor Trevor Smith, played key roles in the work. "Similar to conventional batteries, quantum batteries charge, store, and discharge energy. But while everyday batteries rely on chemical reactions, quantum batteries leverage properties of quantum mechanics," Associate Professor Hutchison said. "The advantage of quantum is that the system absorbs light in a single, giant 'super absorption' event and this charges the battery faster." Ultrafast Laser Experiments Confirm Charging Speed To verify the prototype's performance, the team conducted experiments at the University's Ultrafast Laser Laboratory in the School of Chemistry. Using advanced spectroscopy methods, they were able to observe and confirm the system's rapid charging behavior.



"The unique capabilities of our Ultrafast Laser Lab, including dual femtosecond laser amplifiers and tunable optical parametric amplifiers, were critical in enabling us to record ultrafast signals over orders of magnitude in time," Professor Smith said. CSIRO's Clean Lab for Engineering Prototype Quantum Batteries Quantum Energy Storage and Future Applications The results provide an early look at how quantum-based energy storage could power future technologies. Dr. James Quach, quantum science and technologies science leader at CSIRO, led the team that built the prototype. "The research and proof-of-concept validates the exciting potential of quantum batteries to achieve rapid, scalable charging and energy stor-

age at room temperature, laying the groundwork for next-gen energy solutions," Dr. Quach said. "Our findings confirm a fundamental quantum effect that's completely counterintuitive: quantum batteries charge faster as they get large. "While there's still much work to be done in quantum battery research, we've made an important move towards realizing the possibilities. The next step right now for quantum batteries is extending their energy storage time." Reference: "Superextensive electrical power from a quantum battery" by Kieran Hymas, Jack B. Muir, Daniel Tibben, Joel van Embden, Tadahiko Hirai, Christopher J. Dunn, Daniel E. Gómez, James A. Hutchison, Trevor A. Smith and James Q. Quach, 13 March 2026, Light: Science & Applications.