

# Matheesha Pathirana Sold to KKR for ₹18 Crore in the IPL 2026 Auction

The **IPL 2026 Auction** delivered one of its biggest headline moments when **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** secured Sri Lankan speedster **Matheesha Pathirana** for a staggering **₹18 crore**. Known for his slinging action and deadly yorkers, Pathirana has quickly become one of the most feared death-over bowlers in T20 cricket. His move to KKR signals the franchise's intent to build a ruthless bowling attack for the upcoming season.



## The Auction Moment That Turned Heads

As soon as Matheesha Pathirana's name came up, a fierce bidding war erupted among multiple franchises. Teams were eager to add a proven death-over specialist to their lineup, driving the price sky-high. Eventually, KKR outbid the competition, making a bold statement with their ₹18 crore investment.

The transfer, officially confirmed as [Matheesha Pathirana sold to KKR](#), instantly became one of the most talked-about deals of the auction.

## Why KKR Went All-In on Pathirana

KKR's decision to spend big on Pathirana is rooted in strategy rather than hype. The Sri Lankan pacer brings something rare – the ability to consistently nail yorkers under pressure. His unique bowling action makes him difficult to read, often unsettling even the best batters.

KKR struggled at times in the death overs in recent seasons, and Pathirana's inclusion directly addresses that weakness. At just 23 years old, he also fits perfectly into KKR's long-term plans.

## Is Pathirana Among the Most Expensive Overseas Players?

With a price tag of ₹18 crore, Pathirana's name now features prominently in discussions around the [Most Expensive Overseas Player In IPL History](#). While records may shift over time, this deal underlines how highly franchises value elite T20 bowlers who can defend totals and control the final overs.

## How Pathirana Strengthens KKR's Bowling Unit

Matheesha Pathirana's arrival gives KKR a genuine match-winner with the ball. He can be used strategically – either as a wicket-taker in the middle overs or as a specialist finisher at the death. His presence also allows other bowlers to operate with more freedom, knowing the final overs are in safe hands.

Additionally, Pathirana's experience in high-pressure games adds maturity to KKR's bowling attack, which features a mix of youth and experience.

## What This Means for IPL 2026

KKR's acquisition of Matheesha Pathirana could be a game-changer in IPL 2026. If he maintains fitness and form, the Sri Lankan pacer has the potential to single-handedly win matches for his team.

As the tournament approaches, all eyes will be on Pathirana to see if he can justify his ₹18 crore price tag and lead KKR's charge toward IPL glory.