

Mitchell Starc Hits Back at Critics and Apologises to Delhi Capitals for Delayed IPL 2026 Start



The IPL 2026 season began with unexpected drama as Mitchell Starc addressed criticism surrounding his delayed arrival and issued a public apology to Delhi Capitals. The Australian pace spearhead, known for his fiery spells, found himself in the spotlight even before delivering his first ball of the season.

Starc Responds to Criticism

Mitchell Starc faced backlash from fans and analysts after missing the initial phase of IPL 2026 due to personal and international commitments. Questions were raised about his availability and commitment to the franchise.

However, Starc responded strongly, stating that representing his country remains a top priority while also reaffirming his dedication to the IPL. He emphasized that balancing international cricket and franchise commitments is not always straightforward, especially for players involved in all formats.

Apology to Delhi Capitals

Understanding the impact of his absence, Starc issued a sincere apology to Delhi Capitals management, teammates, and fans. He acknowledged that his late arrival disrupted team plans and combinations during the early matches.

The Delhi Capitals had invested heavily in Starc, expecting him to lead their pace attack. His absence forced the team to reshuffle their bowling lineup, which may have affected their performance in crucial opening games.

Starc's apology reflects professionalism and respect for the franchise, which has backed him as a key player for IPL 2026.

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Impact on Delhi Capitals' Campaign

Delhi Capitals rely on experienced players to deliver consistent performances, and Starc's presence is crucial to their bowling strength. His ability to swing the ball at high pace and deliver under pressure makes him a match-winner.

Without him, the team had to depend on relatively inexperienced bowlers, leading to inconsistency in key moments. His return is expected to boost both the bowling unit and overall team morale.

What Starc Brings to the Team

Mitchell Starc is one of the most feared fast bowlers in world cricket. His ability to strike early in the powerplay and dominate the death overs makes him a valuable asset in T20 cricket.

With his return, Delhi Capitals will gain:

- Early breakthroughs with the new ball
- Experience in high-pressure situations
- Improved control in death overs

His presence could significantly improve the team's chances in IPL 2026.

Looking Ahead

As the tournament progresses, all eyes will be on Starc's performance and how he responds on the field. Fans will expect him to justify his reputation and deliver match-winning spells.

For Delhi Capitals, the focus will now shift to regaining momentum and making the most of Starc's experience in upcoming matches.

Conclusion

The controversy around [Mitchell Starc's delayed IPL 2026](#) start has added an interesting narrative to the season. While criticism was inevitable, his response and apology demonstrate accountability and commitment.