

## Cricket 100

### Chapter 100

Andrew Tye stood at the top of his mark, gripping the ball tightly, sweat forming on his forehead. The stadium buzzed with anticipation. The crowd knew it. The dugout knew it. Even Tye himself knew it—this was the moment.

I was on 94 off 38 balls.

One shot away from my first IPL century.

Tye took a deep breath and ran in. The ball left his hand, angling towards my off-stump, fast and full. But I was already one step ahead.

I shuffled back, made space for myself, and unleashed my full power into the shot.

CRACK!

The sound of pure timing echoed through the stadium as the ball launched into the night sky.

Time seemed to slow down.

The ball soared high, clearing the boundary with ease.

I didn't need to wait for the umpire. I already knew.

SIX!

Before the ball even landed in the stands, I was already running down the pitch.

I removed off my helmet, lifted my bat high into the air, and let out a roar.

The entire stadium erupted.

"AARAV! AARAV! AARAV!"

I turned to the RCB dugout.

Virat bhaiya was punching the air, his face beaming with pride.

ABD was clapping furiously, laughing and shouting.

The rest of the team was on their feet, banging on the dugout walls.

I turned towards the crowd, raised my bat high, and then bowed like a gentleman.

The commentators were losing their minds.

"Kya shot maara hai! Kya innings khela hai!"

(What a shot! What an innings this has been!)

Another shouted,

"Aarav Pathak – naam yaad rakhna! Yeh ladka aag lagane aya hai!"

(Remember this name! This boy is here to set the stage on fire!)

Ashwin, standing in the field, just sighed, shaking his head in disbelief.

I took one last look at the scoreboard—100 off 39 balls—and soaked in the moment.

This was it.

My first IPL century.

But the job wasn't done yet.

I put my helmet back on, gripped my bat tighter, and locked eyes with Tye again.

"Let's go again."

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As the innings continued, RCB kept the momentum going, breaking their own previous record and setting a massive total of 268.

But for me, my blistering knock came to an end at 111 off 44 balls.

Andrew Tye, determined to get me out, pulled off a well-disguised slower ball. I had already committed to the shot, aiming to launch it over long-off. But the ball held up just enough, and instead of clearing the ropes, it found the safe hands of Sam Curran at long-off.

The moment the ball landed in his hands, the stadium fell silent for a second—before erupting into applause.

I stood there for a moment, taking it all in.

Then, I raised my bat to acknowledge the standing ovation from the Mohali crowd.

The Punjab players surrounded me, one by one, offering their handshakes and pats on the back.

KL Rahul was the first one there.

"Well played, champ. That was a hell of a knock."

Chris Gayle, with his signature laugh, grinned.

"Maan, you remind me of a younger me! That was insane hitting!"

Even Ravi Ashwin, their captain, nodded.

"You destroyed our attack today, Aarav. Keep playing like this, and you'll break many more records."

I thanked them all, giving one last look at the giant scoreboard displaying my score—111 off 44—before walking off the field.

As I crossed the boundary rope, AB de Villiers walked past me. He gave me a quick fist bump, a proud smile on his face.

"Brilliant innings, mate. Now, let me finish this off."

I nodded, took a deep breath, and walked into the dugout, where my teammates were on their feet, clapping and cheering.

I sat down, still catching my breath, watching the rest of the innings unfold.

AB took charge, playing with his usual elegance and power, scoring an unbeaten 58.

Virat bhaiya continued his fluent innings, but in the 17th over, Sam Curran bowled a perfect delivery, sneaking through and clean bowling him for 66.

The crowd rose again to applaud the RCB captain, who acknowledged them with his bat before walking off.

With only a few overs left, Heinrich Klaasen joined AB, smashing a quick 28 runs, ensuring RCB finished strong at 268/4—a record-breaking total.

As the innings came to a close, I sat back, still buzzing with adrenaline, knowing we had set the biggest targets in IPL history.

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[This is a New Segment I added, do you think, should I add this in future or not?? Please tell me in comments!]

IPL Inning Break Live – Discussion on RCB's Record-Breaking Innings & Aarav Pathak's Knock

🎥 [The camera pans to the IPL Inning Break Live studio, where the three hosts—Aakash Chopra, Navjot Singh Sidhu, and Jatin Sapru—are seated at the desk. The energy in the studio is electric, with the excitement of witnessing a historic IPL innings still in the air.]

🎧 Jatin Sapru:

\*\*"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome back to IPL Inning Break Live! What an explosive first innings we just witnessed! Royal Challengers Bangalore has rewritten the record books by posting the highest total in IPL history—268/4! And the man leading this destruction? None other than Aarav Pathak, the young sensation, who smashed 111 off just 44 balls!

Tonight, we witnessed a special knock, a performance that will be remembered for years. Let's dive straight into it—Aakash, what did you make of this innings?"\*

 Aakash Chopra:

\*\*"Arre bhai sahab! What did we just witness? Yeh toh tabahi macha di is ladke ne! (He has absolutely wreaked havoc!)

Mere bhai, yeh koi aam innings nahi thi, yeh ek guldasta tha—har shot ek phool ki tarah khilta gaya!

(My brother, this was no ordinary innings; it was a bouquet—every shot bloomed like a flower!)

RCB played fearless cricket, but Aarav Pathak stole the show!

Shuruat se hi intent dikhaya (From the start, he showed intent). First ball slog six, second ball flicked four—he didn't just bat, he dominated!

And let's not forget the 360-degree shots against Sarfaraz Khan! Usne toh aise kheli jaise samundar mein macchar ud raha ho!

(He played like a mosquito flying over the ocean—untouchable!).

Hitting those reverse-flick sixes, playing fearless cricket—this was next-level batting!

Yeh ladka sirf run nahi bana raha, yeh naye daur ka pehla suraj hai!

(This boy isn't just scoring runs; he is the first sunrise of a new era!)"

🗣 Jatin Sapru:

"Absolutely, Aakash! And Sidhu paaji, you always talk about big players delivering on the big stage. This was Aarav's first must-win game, and he stepped up like a superstar! Your thoughts?"

🗣 Navjot Singh Sidhu:

\*"Bhai sahab, RCB ka sher jaag gaya hai!"

(RCB's lion has awakened!)

Aarav Pathak khelta nahi, dharti hila deta hai! (Aarav Pathak doesn't just play; he shakes the earth!)

Dekho bhai, cricket ka asli maza tab aata hai jab balle ka jawab balle se diya jaye! (The real fun of cricket is when the answer to one bat is another bat!) And today, Aarav gave Punjab a reply they will never forget!

Main bata raha hoon, is ladke mein ek alag junoon hai! (I'm telling you, this boy has a different kind of passion!) The way he was timing the ball, the confidence, the fearless hitting—yeh toh Sachin, Kohli, ABD ka combination lag raha tha! (It felt like a combination of Sachin, Kohli, and AB de Villiers!)

And one thing I loved—his celebration!

Jo mardon ki tarah khelega, wo sher ki tarah dahadega! (The one who plays like a warrior will roar like a lion!)

The way he took off his helmet, raised his bat, bowed to the crowd—kya swag hai! (What a swag!)

Aarav Pathak sirf ek naam nahi, ek dastaan banne ja raha hai! (Aarav Pathak is not just a name; he is becoming a legend!)"

✍ Jatin Sapru:

"Wow, that's some high praise, and well deserved! Let's take a look at some key stats from Aarav Pathak's knock."

### Aarav Pathak's Batting Performance

Runs: 111 Balls: 44 Fours: 9 Sixes: 9 Strike Rate: 252.27 Fastest IPL Century: 38 balls (3rd fastest in IPL history)

 Jatin Sapru:

\*"Gentlemen, if I may say—this was one of the best innings of this IPL. and I think we got the face of next generation players!"\*

Now, Aakash, we have to talk about that over from Sarfaraz Khan—the 360-degree shots, 4 sixes in an over. It was pure genius!"\*

 Aakash Chopra:

\*"Oh, Jatin, puch mat! Woh over nahi, ek horror movie thi Punjab ke liye!"

(Oh Jatin, don't ask! That was not an over; it was a horror movie for Punjab!)

Sarfaraz Khan must be wondering what crime he committed to be asked to bowl that over!

First ball: Reverse 360° flick six Third, fourth, and fifth balls: Back-to-back sixes!

Mujhe samajh nahi aaya ki ball jaa rahi thi ya goli chal rahi thi!

(I couldn't tell if it was a ball or a bullet flying!)

Sidhu paaji, aaj toh RCB ki batting aisi lagi jaise upar se koi atma aayi ho!

(RCB's batting today looked like they were possessed by a supernatural force!"

👉 Navjot Singh Sidhu:

\*"Bilkul, bilkul! Bhai sahab, yeh RCB ki innings ek misaal hai! (This RCB innings is an example for the ages!)

Koi chhoti-moti rangbaazi nahi thi, yeh toh tabahi thi! (This was not a small display; this was absolute destruction!)

Aur dekho, agar RCB 268 runs bana sakti hai, toh Punjab bhi chase kar sakti hai! (And look, if RCB can score 268, then Punjab can chase it too!)

Ab sawal yeh hai—kya RCB ki bowling bhi utni hi zabardast hogi? (Now, the question is—will RCB's bowling be just as strong?)

Kyunki agar nahi, toh Chris Gayle, KL Rahul, aur Sam Curran ke haathon mein talwar hai! (Because if not, then Chris Gayle, KL Rahul, and Nicholas Pooran are holding swords!)"

🎧 Jatin Sapru:

\*"Absolutely, Sidhu paaji! That's exactly what we are going to discuss next—Can Punjab pull off a record chase, or will RCB finally get their first win?"

Stay tuned, we'll be back right after the break for Punjab's run chase. Don't go anywhere!"\*

🎥 [Camera zooms out, showing the excited panel as the show goes into a commercial break.]

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Should I do something like this  in FUTURE. do COMMENT!!

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The atmosphere at Punjab Cricket Association IS Bindra Stadium, Mohali, was electrifying. The crowd was buzzing, the RCB players were in a huddle, and the stakes were higher than ever. After setting a record 268-run total, it was time for RCB's bowlers to step up.

As we stood in the team huddle, Virat bhaiya clapped his hands, looking around at each player with determination in his eyes.

"Boys, we have to defend this. We cannot let this slip. Play aggressive, play smart, and let's get that W tonight!"

Everyone shouted in agreement, fists pumping. Our replacement players, Umesh Yadav and Moeen Ali, had joined the squad to bolster our bowling attack.

"Aarav, you start. First over is yours."

I walked towards my bowling mark, rubbing the ball on my palm. KL Rahul and Chris Gayle stood at the crease. Two of the most dangerous batters in T20 cricket. The lights shone brightly over the stadium as I took my stance.

Before running in, I closed my eyes for a second.

"System, activate Super Gun."

DING!

[Super Gun Activated]

My muscles tensed, my focus sharpened. The ball felt lighter yet more powerful in my hand. I could feel the energy coursing through me.

I took my run-up, my heart pounding as I came charging towards KL Rahul. First ball of the innings.

YORKER.

A lightning-fast delivery at 144 km/h, swinging in late. KL Rahul reacted late, his bat coming down hurriedly. But it was too late.

SMASH! The stumps went flying!

BOWLED! KL RAHUL GONE FOR A DUCK!

The crowd erupted in absolute chaos!

Aakash Chopra (Commentary Box):

"Oh my goodness! First ball, bowled him! KL Rahul has been cleaned up by Aarav Pathak! What a start for RCB! What a moment for this young man! whatever he touches becomes gold today!"

Navjot Singh Sidhu (Excitedly):

\*\*"Bhai sahab, yeh toh teer nikal gaya nishane pe! (Brother, this arrow has hit the target perfectly!)

KL Rahul ko toh samajh hi nahi aaya—yeh ball thi ya bijli gir gayi Mohali pe?! (KL Rahul had no idea—was that a ball or a bolt of lightning in Mohali?!)

Pathak ne pehla vaar kiya, aur Punjab ki naiyya doobti nazar aa rahi hai! (Pathak has struck the first blow, and Punjab's ship is already sinking!)\*

As I turned back after my follow-through, I saw Virat bhaiya sprinting towards me like a madman, shouting something like 'Ben Stokes!' at the top of his lungs.

I couldn't hold back my aggression—I let out a loud roar, punching the air with my fists. My teammates ran toward me, surrounding me, patting my back, rubbing my head. The energy was electric!

Virat bhaiya hugged me tightly and laughed, "Kya ball daali bey! BEN STOKES!!"

I smirked, my adrenaline pumping. This was RCB's night. This was my night.

The crowd kept roaring. The RCB fans in the stands were jumping, waving their flags, chanting my name.

"AARAV! AARAV! AARAV!"

As I walked back to my mark, I locked eyes with Next Batsman Mayank Aggarwal.

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As the final wicket fell, the entire RCB dugout erupted in celebration! The Mohali crowd, though disappointed with Punjab's loss, was on their feet, appreciating the dominant performance from us. RCB had finally won the match —and we didn't just win, we crushed Punjab by 95 runs!

The energy in the stadium was surreal. I looked up at the giant screen—Punjab all out for 173.

Gayle stood unbeaten at 99. The Universe Boss had fought alone, but our bowlers had been relentless.

Aarav Pathak – 3 wickets Yuzvendra Chahal – 4 wickets Mohammed Siraj – 2 wickets Umesh Yadav – 1 wicket

Our fielding had been sharp, our bowling clinical, and our batting explosive.

As soon as the last wicket fell, the entire RCB squad stormed onto the field.

Virat bhaiya ran straight at me, lifting me off my feet.

"YES BOY! THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT!" He shouted, shaking me like a madman.

ABD hugged me, patting my back. "What a performance, champ! You're a beast!"

Chahal was spinning around like a madman, doing his signature "Chahal Dance" while Umesh bhai and Siraj were chest-bumping.

The RCB fans in the stands were chanting "RCB! RCB! RCB!"

The dugout was buzzing with energy. We had finally gotten that winning momentum.

As we lined up for the handshake event, I spotted Chris Gayle walking towards me.

His usual playful smile was there, but there was a hint of frustration too—he was left stranded on 99.

He extended his massive hand, and as I shook it, he chuckled.

"Kid, you got me stuck on 99," he said with a wink.

I laughed nervously.

I saw KL Rahul approaching, and he gave me a quick handshake.

"First-ball wicket, huh?" he smirked. "Next time, I won't let you get away with it."

I grinned, "We'll see, bhaiya!"

### Post-Match Presentation – Man of the Match!

As the team celebrated, I suddenly heard my name being called for the Man of the Match award.

I was stunned for a second as it was too sudden and then went to receive the award.

I took a deep breath and walked up to the presentation area, where Harsha Bhogle was waiting with the microphone.

Harsha Bhogle: "And now, the Man of the Match award goes to... AARAV PATHAK! What a game for the youngster! A blistering century and three crucial wickets!"

The crowd erupted as I received the trophy. I adjusted the mic, trying to steady my nerves.

Harsha Bhogle: "Aarav, first of all, congratulations! What an all-round performance today! Take us through your mindset during that incredible innings."

I smiled, taking a deep breath. "Thank you. Honestly, after all the losses, we just wanted to fight back. We were at rock bottom, and we knew this was a do-or-die match. So, I told myself—no holding back today."

Harsha Bhogle: "You scored the fastest century of the season and played some outrageous shots, including those 360-degree sixes. Where does that confidence come from?"

I chuckled, "I think a lot of it comes from playing alongside Virat bhaiya and ABD. I learn every day from them. I just backed myself, and it worked out today."

Harsha Bhogle: "And with the ball, you set the tone early by dismissing KL Rahul first ball. What was the plan?"

I smirked, "The plan was simple—bowl fast and target the stumps. KL bhaiya is a world-class batter, so I knew I had to bring my best delivery. Thankfully, it worked!"

Harsha Bhogle: "Lastly, RCB has struggled this season, but this was a dominant win. What's the mood in the camp now?"

I smiled, "We're pumped! This is just the beginning. We know what we're capable of, and this win gives us confidence. The fans deserve more wins, and we're going to give it our all!"

As I finished, the crowd erupted in cheers.

Harsha smiled, "Well played, young man! Keep this going!"

I raised the trophy toward the RCB dugout, where Virat bhaiya, ABD, and the entire team were cheering.

As I walked back into the dressing room, chaos erupted.

Music was blasting, players were shouting, and before I knew it—I was being showered with energy drinks!

Virat bhaiya grabbed me.

"Aarav! tune toh tabahi macha di bhai!" (Aarav, you absolutely destroyed them today!)

Chahal ran up to me, grabbing a RCB logo mic.

"WELCOME TO CHAHAAAL TV! AARAV, TELL US—HOW DOES IT FEEL TO SMASH 111 OFF 44 BALLS?!"

I laughed, "Feels great, but can you let me breathe first?!"

"NO! TELL ME, WHAT DID YOU HAVE FOR BREAKFAST?! HOW DID YOU DESTROY PUNJAB TODAY?!"

I smirked, playing along, "Special diet, Chahal bhaiya. Lots of protein, a bit of aggression, and a pinch of talent."

Everyone burst out laughing.

Chahal grinned, "RCB fans, bas ek baat yaad rakhna—Pathak naam yaad rakhna! Yeh banda chhodega nahi kisi ko!" (RCB fans, remember one thing—remember the name Pathak! This guy won't spare anyone!)

As the celebrations continued, I closed my eyes for a moment, soaking it all in.

This was what I had worked for.

But this was just the beginning.

The comeback was on.