

Cricket 109

Chapter 109

Commentary & Aarav's POV

Jatin Sapru: "Alright, folks, we're into the 21st over here, and it's Roston Chase coming in to bowl. The West Indies have just broken a crucial partnership, getting rid of Virat Kohli, and now, India has Aarav Pathak and Rishabh Pant at the crease. The scoreboard reads 132 for 3, and it's all about rebuilding from here."

Aakash Chopra: "Bilkul! Virat Kohli ka wicket girna ek bada jhatka hai, lekin yeh dono young players hai—Aarav Pathak aur Rishabh Pant—jo match ko set kar sakte hain. yaha se dono kaise khelenge yeh dekhna interesting hoga!"

Apologies for missing that! Here's the correct format:

("Absolutely! Virat Kohli's wicket falling is a big blow, but these two young players—Aarav Pathak and Rishabh Pant—are the ones who can set the match. It will be interesting to see how they play from here!")

Aarav's POV:

I took a deep breath as Roston Chase marked his run-up. The West Indies had their tails up after Virat Bhaiya's dismissal. The fielders were chirping, and I could sense their energy. This over was crucial. We couldn't afford another quick wicket.

Pant was on strike, and I knew he liked to take his time against spinners before going after them. Chase bowled with good control, not giving anything away. Dot ball after dot ball. A maiden over.

22nd Over: Kemar Roach to Bowl

Jatin Sapru: "Maiden over from Chase, and now here comes the experienced Kemar Roach steaming in! He'll be looking to make early inroads here, especially with a relatively new batter at the crease."

Aakash Chopra: "Haan, aur yahan Aarav Pathak ke liye ek badi responsibility hai. No. 4 pe aana matlab innings ka anchor banna. Roach is fast and aggressive, and it'll be a big test for this young man!"

("Yes, and here Aarav Pathak has a big responsibility. Coming in at No. 4 means becoming the anchor of the innings. Roach is fast and aggressive, and it'll be a big test for this young man!")

First Ball: Bouncer! Left alone.

Aarav's POV:

I saw Roach charging in, his eyes locked onto me. First ball—short and sharp. The ball whizzed past my helmet, but I had already made up my mind. No unnecessary risks. I let it go.

Jatin Sapru: "Oho! That's a fiery bouncer from Roach! Aarav Pathak watches it closely and lets it go. Smart decision, no need to chase that one."

Aakash Chopra: "Bilkul sahi, patience zaroori hai! Bouncer pe fasaane ki koshish thi, lekin Aarav ne achha decision liya!"

("Exactly right, patience is important! It was an attempt to trap him with a bouncer, but Aarav made a good decision!")

Second Ball: Punched to the fielder for no run.

Roach bowled one outside off, not too full. I stepped into the shot and punched it sweetly—straight to the cover fielder. No run.

Jatin Sapru: "Good looking shot from Pathak, but straight to the fielder! He looks composed, taking his time."

Third Ball: Dot!

This time, Roach tightened his line—back of a length, angling in. I shuffled across but decided to defend solidly.

Jatin Sapru: "Another dot ball. Pressure building here, but Pathak is holding his ground."

Fourth Ball:

Roach went for a yorker, trying to sneak one through. But I had anticipated it. As soon as I saw the length, I quickly stepped out, got under the ball, and boom! A clean strike straight over the bowler's head!

Jatin Sapru: "AND HE GOES BIG! Aarav Pathak steps down the ground and launches it straight down the park for SIX! What a shot!"

Aakash Chopra: "Wah! Kya badhiya execution tha! Kemar Roach ne yorker daalne ki koshish ki, lekin Pathak ne usko pad liya aur seedha boundary ke bahar bhej diya!"

("Wow! What a fantastic execution! Kemar Roach tried to bowl a yorker, but Pathak read it and sent it straight over the boundary!")

Pant walked up to me, laughing. "Bro, and you were telling me to play slow and what is this?"

I just grinned!

Roach went short again, trying to bounce me out. But I was ready this time. I arched back and played a controlled upper cut, guiding it to third man for an easy single.

Jatin Sapru: "Smart cricket from Aarav Pathak! Upper cut, but keeps it down and takes a single. He's showing good maturity here."

Pant took strike for the last delivery. Roach bowled a hard length, and Pant just defended it back to the bowler, nodding to himself.

Jatin Sapru: "And that's the end of the over! A good contest between bat and ball. Pathak with a stunning six and a smart single, but Roach keeps it tight otherwise!"

Aarav's POV:

As I walked to the non-striker's end, I took a deep breath. That six felt good, but I knew the job wasn't done.

I glanced at the scoreboard.

India: 139/3 in 22 overs.

Pant and I shared a quick fist bump. We both knew this was our time to take control. The battle had only just begun.

Jatin Sapru: "Back comes Roston Chase, continuing his spell. Aarav Pathak on strike, looking settled after that six in the previous over. Can he build on that momentum?"

Aarav's POV:

I tapped my bat twice on the pitch. Chase had kept it tight last time, but I needed to find gaps now.

First ball... defended solidly.

Jatin Sapru: "Good, compact defense from Pathak. He's not in a rush, playing the situation well."

Second ball... edged!

Jatin Sapru: "Ohhh, almost gone! Aarav gets a thick edge, and—oh dear! The slip fielder spills it! A huge chance goes begging!"

Aakash Chopra: "Arre bhai! Yeh kya kar diya? Pathak ko ek naya jeevan mil gaya hai! Cricket mein kehte hain, 'Jo chhodta hai, woh rota hai!' Dekhna hogा, kya yeh chhutti mehngi padegi Windies ko?"

Aarav's POV:

I took a deep breath. That was close. I looked at Pant, who grinned.

I adjusted my gloves, steadied myself. Focus. Next ball.

Third ball... swept hard! Two runs!

Jatin Sapru: "Nicely played! Aarav sweeps that cleanly, finds the gap, and they'll come back for two! Good running between the wickets!"

Aakash Chopra: "Yeh hui na baat! 'Ball ka izzat, phir attack ki izhaar!' Pehle bacha, ab badha! Pathak aur Pant ki jodi pitch pe jam rahi hai!"

Aarav's POV:

That felt good. But now, time to find the boundary.

Fourth ball... inside-out cover drive... FOUR!

Jatin Sapru: "Ohhh, stunning shot! Aarav Pathak makes room, opens up, and drives it inside-out through covers for FOUR! Magnificent timing!"

Aakash Chopra: "Bhai sahab! 'Kamar toda, ghumaya, aur chauka le gaya!' Kya badhiya shot tha! Chase ka samay bura, aur Pathak ka form hai mast!"

Aarav's POV:

That one felt perfect. The timing, the placement—it was all there.

Pant walked up and gave me a tap on the helmet. "Aise hi chalte reh, bhai!"

Fifth ball... punched, but straight to the fielder. Dot ball.

Jatin Sapru: "That was well struck, but straight to the fielder. No run."

Aarav's POV:

I nodded to myself. Just needed to keep the momentum going.

Sixth ball... single taken!

Jatin Sapru: "Quick single to end the over! Smart batting from Pathak, keeps the scoreboard moving!"

Aakash Chopra: "'Ek aur daud, ek aur chhoti jeet!' Pathak ka dimaag tez, aur yeh pariksha mein pura utar raha hai! Chase abhi tak chakravyuh mein fas gaya hai!"

Aarav's POV:

As I reached the non-striker's end, I exhaled. I was in the zone now. The scoreboard ticked ahead. The crowd buzzed. The game was alive.

26th Over – Aarav Pathak's 50 in 56 Balls!

⌚ Jatin Sapru: "Carlos Brathwaite comes in to bowl, and Aarav Pathak is on strike, sitting on 49. Here he goes... full delivery, nudged towards square leg... and there it is! A single to bring up a well-crafted half-century for the young sensation, Aarav Pathak!"

🔥 Aakash Chopra: "Yeh dekho! Aarav Pathak ka yeh shandaar ODI fifty! Mazboot iradon ka hai yeh ailan, halke nahi padenge yeh ballebaaz ke balwaan! 56 gendon mein zabardast patience aur aggression ka mix! Yeh ladka sirf batting nahi kar raha, ek kahani likh raha hai!"

✍ Jatin Sapru: "He has shown immense maturity in this innings! Coming in at a tricky stage and playing with such control—India has found a solid middle-order batsman in him. The dugout stands up to applaud this young man!"

(Aarav raises his bat to acknowledge the cheers, Pant walks up to fist-bump him.)

😊 Jatin Sapru: "Well played, young man! The job isn't done yet—big runs still to come!"

28th Over – Rishabh Pant's 50 in 44 Balls!

🎧 Jatin Sapru: "Here comes the next delivery from Roach... outside off... Pant cuts it behind point... AND THERE IT IS! Fifty for Rishabh Pant! A dynamic knock filled with fearless strokeplay!"

🔥 Aakash Chopra: "Yeh toh asli masti ka badshah hai! Bina dare, bina rukhe, Pant ne apni sharton pe kheli yeh pari! 38 gendon mein pachaas, balle ki gati aur josh ka aisa mel ki bowlers ko lag rahi hai badi bhari rail!"

Jatin Sapru: "Pant has once again brought that X-factor into the innings! He never lets the bowlers settle, and this fifty just proves why he is such a dangerous batsman in limited-overs cricket!"

(Pant jumps in the air, punches his gloves together, and points towards the dressing room. Aarav pats him on the back.)

Jatin Sapru: "Top-notch batting! The left-hand-right-hand combination is working wonders for India today!"

Team Total After 28 Overs:

◆ India - 206/3 in 28 Overs

Aarav Pathak: 54 (59 balls)* Rishabh Pant: 51 (45 balls)* Partnership: 81 runs and going strong!

India is in a commanding position, and the duo is looking set to take the team to a massive total! 

Jatin Sapru: "Oshane Thomas steaming in... and hold on, folks! Aarav Pathak is looking dangerous now! Fasten your seat belts because this young gun is about to launch!"

First ball of 29th Over: - "Helicopter shot! Is this Dhoni reincarnated? Aarav brings out the signature shot and smashes it straight into the stands! What a way to announce his intent!"

Second ball – CRACK! "Room banaya... aur chaar run mil gaye! This is fearless batting from the youngster, piercing the off-side gap like a knife through butter!"

Third ball – "Flat six! Straight to covers, and it's gone like a bullet! No height, all power!"

Jatin Sapru: "Aarav is showing the world why he's the next big thing! This is controlled aggression at its finest!"

Fourth ball – Sensible batting, flicked for a single to keep the scoreboard moving.

Fifth ball – Now it's Pant's turn! A one-handed whip, a touch of Rishabh magic, and it races to the boundary for a wonderful four!

Sixth ball – A solid defensive stroke, and the over ends with absolute fireworks!

Jatin Sapru: "This is the kind of batting that can destroy bowling attacks! India is now in overdrive!"

India After 29 Overs:

Aarav Pathak: 71 (65 balls)*Rishabh Pant: 55 (47 balls)*

The momentum is shifting fast, and the West Indies bowlers are feeling the heat! 🔥💥

Jatin Sapru: "Carlos Brathwaite runs in, but you can see it on his face—he knows he is up against something special today. The energy in the stadium is electric! Aarav Pathak, standing tall on 98, eyes locked on the bowler. Pant at the other end, playing his own explosive knock, but right now, the moment belongs to Aarav!"

Aarav took a deep breath, adjusted his gloves, and tapped his bat twice on the pitch. The field was spread out, deep third man and deep square leg were set, fine leg up, mid-off inside the circle. He smirked. He knew what was coming—a bouncer. The short-leg fielder's stance gave it away. Brathwaite wasn't going to pitch it up.

As the bowler charged in, Aarav widened his stance slightly, ready for the short ball. The moment it left Brathwaite's hand, he saw it—a well-directed bouncer, rising towards his head. His instinct kicked in. No foot movement, just a slight shuffle back, and in a flash, he got under the ball. He tilted his head, angled his bat just enough, and sent it flying over third man. It was a no-look shot, pure arrogance, pure class. The ball sailed into the stands, and as soon as it disappeared, Aarav turned around, raising his bat before even seeing the ball land. He knew. He didn't need to see it. The crowd erupted.

Aakash Chopra: "Arey bhai! Yeh kya dekh liya humne? No-look six! Puri shaan se maar diya! Yeh sirf confidence nahi, yeh level alag hai! Aarav Pathak ki dusri shatak, aur kya hi style hai is ladke ka! 50 banane mein 56 gend li, lekin agli 54 sirf 18 gendon mein! Kya yeh T20 cricket chal raha hai?!"

Jatin Sapru: "Absolutely unreal! What an innings this has been! Aarav Pathak, take a bow! The second century of his career, and look at the sheer dominance in that celebration. He just stood there, bat raised, soaking in the applause. The West Indies players look stunned!"

Aarav's heart pounded in his chest, but his face remained calm. He looked at Pant, who grinned and clapped, walking up to punch gloves. "Tu beast mode mein chala gaya hai, bhai," Pant chuckled. Aarav smirked. "Bas flow mein hoon. Field dekh, cover khula hai. Agli ball agar short nahi aayi, wahin maar raha hoon."

("I'm just in the flow. Look at the field, the cover is open. If the next ball isn't short, I'm hitting it right there.")

Brathwaite was rattled. He wiped the sweat off his forehead, took a deep breath, and ran in again. Aarav watched closely. He was expecting a correction—a fuller ball, maybe a wide yorker. But no, Brathwaite had gone for the classic change-up, a slower delivery, back of a length. Aarav read it early. He stepped out, opened up his stance, and with a clean bat swing, sent it flying over extra cover. The timing was perfect. One bounce, four runs. The crowd was on its feet.

Aakash Chopra: "Kya baat hai! Aarav ne dimaag bhi laga diya saath mein! Yeh sirf marna nahi hai, yeh soch samajh ke maarna hai! Yeh hai cricket ki chaturai, yeh hai cricket ki kala!"

("What a thing! Aarav has also used his mind along with his skills! It's not just about hitting, it's about hitting with strategy! This is the cleverness of cricket, this is the art of cricket!")

Aarav knew he was in the zone. He felt unstoppable. The pitch felt smaller, the ball looked bigger, his reflexes were razor-sharp. He stepped back, focusing on the next ball. Brathwaite looked frustrated. The next delivery was straighter, aimed at middle and leg. Aarav instinctively went deep in the crease and flicked it. It was effortless. The ball had elevation, it had distance, and it landed just beyond the mid-wicket boundary. Another six. He didn't celebrate. He just walked up to Pant, who shook his head in disbelief.

Pant: "Abe, mujhe bhi batting karni hai!"

("Hey, I also need to bat!")

Aarav chuckled, nodding. "Tu next over lele, main marne ke mood mein jaa chuka hoon."

("You take the next over, I'm in the mood to hit now.")

Brathwaite was visibly frustrated now. He rushed back to his mark, steaming in for the next ball. This time, he went for the yorker. But Aarav anticipated it. He shifted back just in time, adjusting his bat angle, and punched it to long-on for a single. The crowd cheered again, recognizing the intelligence in the shot.

Now it was Pant on strike. Brathwaite had no choice but to attack. He bowled it full, hoping to get an edge, but Pant was ready. He waited for the ball, dropped his bottom hand at the last second, and flicked it past short fine leg. The ball raced to the boundary, and the crowd roared once more.

Jatin Sapru: "Rishabh Pant joins the party! A one-handed flick, pure finesse! This duo is putting on a masterclass!"

Brathwaite ran in one last time, desperate to end the carnage. This time, he pulled the length back. Pant, reading the ball well, went on the back foot and defended it solidly.

Aakash Chopra: "Arrey, kya smart batting hai! Kab maarna hai aur kab rukna hai, yeh samajhna bhi ek kala hai! Yeh sirf balla chalane wale nahi hai, yeh game ko samajhne wale khiladi hai!"

("Wow, what smart batting! Knowing when to hit and when to hold back, that's an art too! These aren't just players who swing the bat, they are players who understand the game!")

Aarav took a deep breath, looking at the scoreboard. India: 267/3 in 33 overs. He looked over at Pant, who was on 92 now. "Tera century aane wala hai," Aarav muttered, tapping his bat. Pant smirked. "Aur tu ab 150 maarne ka soch." Aarav laughed, shaking his head.

("He looked over at Pant, who was on 92 now. 'Your century is coming,' Aarav muttered, tapping his bat. Pant smirked. 'And you're thinking of hitting 150 now.' Aarav laughed, shaking his head.")

West Indies looked clueless. The partnership had crossed 150, and they had no answers. The captain called for a strategic timeout, hoping to regroup. But in his mind, Aarav knew—this was his day. And he wasn't done yet.