

Cricket 110

Chapter 110

Dear Readers,

What an incredible journey it has been! With the release of 100 chapters, we've reached an exciting milestone together, and I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your unwavering support. Your enthusiasm, feedback, and encouragement have been the driving force behind everything I do.

Reaching this point wouldn't have been possible without all of you who've been with me from the very beginning, and those who joined along the way. Your passion for the story and characters is what makes this journey so special.

I am filled with hope and excitement for what lies ahead, and I can't wait to continue this adventure with you. There are more chapters to come, more stories to unfold, and so much more to discover together.

Thank you once again for being a part of this milestone. Here's to many more chapters, and to even greater moments in the future!

With all my gratitude,

Kynstra

Sheldon Cottrell steams in, his eyes locked onto the batter, knowing he is up against a man in sublime form. Aarav taps his bat on the crease, his eyes scanning the field. He sees the point fielder slightly inside the circle, mid-off a few steps deeper, and a square leg waiting for a miscued shot. He knows a single is enough to rotate the strike and keep the momentum flowing. The ball comes in at a good length, angling slightly in. Aarav shifts his weight forward, punches it with soft hands towards mid-off, and calls for a quick single. The timing is crisp, the run is comfortable, and he gets Pant back on strike.

Cottrell turns back, frustration evident on his face as he charges in again. Pant, on 92, has been striking the ball beautifully but is cautious now. The delivery is short and outside off, and Pant reacts instinctively. He swings his bat, eyes widening as the thick edge flies past the vacant third man region. The ball races away to the boundary! Four runs, but not convincing. The crowd erupts, and Pant exhales deeply. Aarav walks up to him with a grin.

"Bhai, thoda control rakh, century bas chaar run door hai. Kahin out na hojaaye!" Aarav chuckles.

Pant smirks, wiping sweat off his forehead. "Bas thoda sa excitement hai, century ke bilkul kareeb hoon."

("Bro, keep some control, the century is just four runs away. Don't get out now!" Aarav chuckles.

Pant smirks, wiping sweat off his forehead. "Just a little excitement, I'm so close to the century.")

Cottrell doesn't look pleased. He takes his mark again, knowing Pant is eager to reach the three-figure mark. He delivers a full ball, and Pant doesn't hold back. He swings hard, sending the ball high up in the air. Time seems to slow as the ball soars into the night sky. Evin Lewis settles under it at deep mid-wicket. The entire stadium holds its breath. Aarav watches intently, ready to rush forward if needed. The ball dips, Lewis gets both hands to it—and it slips out! A massive let-off for Pant! The ball thuds to the ground as Pant rushes back for a second run.

"Ooooh, yeh kya ho gaya! Century ke itne kareeb aur yeh catch chhoot gaya! Jeet gaye Pant!" Aakash Chopra's voice booms in excitement.

("Ooooh, what happened here! So close to the century and he dropped that catch! Pant wins!" Aakash Chopra's voice booms in excitement.)

Pant takes a deep breath, his heartbeat racing. He looks at Aarav, who just shakes his head with a knowing smile. "Lucky tha bhai! Ab bas doaur chahiye."

The next ball, Pant shows why he is one of the most fearless batters. Cottrell fires one outside off, and Pant decides to improvise. He gets low, flips the bat over, and executes a perfect reverse sweep! The ball races past the fielders at point and runs away to the boundary.

"Aur ye raha woh moment jiska sabko intezar tha! Risabh Pant ne apna shatak pura kar liya! 100 runs in style! Kya kamal ka reverse sweep! Yeh hai naye daur ka cricket, yeh hai India ka fearless approach!" Aakash Chopra roars.

("And here's the moment everyone was waiting for! Rishabh Pant has completed his century! 100 runs in style! What a brilliant reverse sweep! This is the new era of cricket, this is India's fearless approach!" Aakash Chopra roars.)

Jatin Sapru joins in, "What a knock! Hundred in just 90 balls! This has been a Pant special, and he's not done yet. Take a bow!"

Pant lifts his bat, soaks in the applause, and walks towards Aarav. They share a warm hug, a moment of mutual respect and admiration. Aarav pats his back, whispering, "What an inning champ!."

Pant grins. "Ab tu bhi double century ke liye daud lagaa de."

("Now you go for a 200!")

The celebrations settle, and Cottrell returns to bowl. The energy in the stadium is electric. The crowd is on its feet, chanting Pant's name. Cottrell, visibly frustrated, tries to regain composure. He angles the next ball into Pant's pads, and Pant flicks it gently towards square leg for an easy single.

Aarav takes his guard again. He notices the field slightly changing; deep square leg has been moved wider, and long-off has been placed deeper, expecting a big shot. Cottrell runs in, delivers a back-of-a-length ball, and Aarav steps across, angling it towards mid-wicket for a single.

With that, the over comes to an end. The scoreboard now reads: India - 278/3 after 35 overs. Aarav stands tall at 112*, while Pant is at 102*. The two batters have built a brilliant partnership, setting India up for a massive total. The West Indies bowlers are running out of ideas as the Indian duo continues their rampage.

Jatin Sapru: "Here comes an unusual move! Chris Gayle has been handed the ball. Not someone you'd expect to bowl in this situation, but looking at how ineffective the main bowlers have been, West Indies are turning to their big man. He's an all-rounder, and every now and then, he produces something magical! Can he get the breakthrough here?"

Aarav adjusted his gloves, took a deep breath, and tapped his bat on the pitch. He knew Gayle wasn't a regular bowler, but unpredictability was dangerous in itself. The first ball—yorker length. Aarav read it early and brought his bat down in time, defending it solidly. He looked up at Gayle, who gave him a cheeky grin.

Gayle took his time, setting the field. A slip came in—Nicholas Pooran stationed himself there. The second ball—another yorker! But Aarav was waiting for it. He transferred his weight forward, met the ball perfectly, and sent it rocketing over long-on!

Jatin Sapru: "Oh, what a shot! Aarav Pathak was ready for it! That's gone long, huge, into the stands! He sent that like a tracer bullet! This young man is playing an absolute blinder here!"

Aakash Chopra: "Bhai sahab, Gayle ne daali chalakiyon ki gend, par yahan toh Pathak sahab ne usko patak diya! Seedha long-on ke upar se mandir ke ghante ki tarah baja diya! Yeh chhakka nahi, yeh toh gend ke swarg yatra thi!"

("Oh my! Gayle bowled a cunning delivery, but here Pathak sir hit it out of the park! Straight over long-on, ringing like the temple bells! This wasn't just a six, it was a heavenly journey for the ball!")

Aarav smiled. He had read Gayle well. He took his stance again, focusing entirely on the next ball. Gayle tossed it up—this one was slower. Aarav wanted to just defend, but he was slightly late on the shot. The ball kissed the outside edge and flew straight into the waiting hands of Nicholas Pooran at slip.

Silence. A moment of disbelief.

Jatin Sapru: "Oh, he's edged it! Nicholas Pooran takes it, and that's the wicket! West Indies erupt in celebration! Gayle has done it! The man who wasn't supposed to bowl gets the big one! Aarav Pathak is gone for a spectacular 118!"

Aakash Chopra: "Arre arre arre! Yeh kya hogaya! Pathak sahab ko kya yeh sapne mein bhi socha tha ki Universe Boss unko out karenge?! Pooran ke haathon mein ball chipak gayi aur dekho yahan celebration ka mahaul ban gaya! Yeh cricket hai bhai, yahan kuch bhi ho sakta hai!"

("Oh oh oh! What just happened! Did Pathak sir ever imagine in his dreams that Universe Boss would get him out?! The ball stuck in Pooran's hands and look, the celebration atmosphere is here! This is cricket, bro, anything can happen here!")

Aarav stood still for a second, staring at the pitch. He gritted his teeth, his frustration visible. He banged his bat against his pad, muttered something under his breath, and looked towards Pant, who walked up and gave him a reassuring pat on the back.

As he started his slow walk back, the West Indies players clapped in appreciation. The crowd, too, stood up, applauding a sensational innings. Aarav took a deep breath and, just before crossing the boundary, raised his bat towards the crowd. The dugout stood up, clapping, acknowledging the brilliance of his innings.

Jatin Sapru: "A standing ovation for the young man! What an innings he has played today! He took India from a tricky position to a dominant one, and though he'd have loved to continue, this knock will be remembered for a long time!"

As Aarav stepped off the field, Kedar Jadhav walked in, tapping his helmet in acknowledgment. Aarav sat down in the dugout, his heart still racing. He closed his eyes for a moment, replaying the shot in his head. It was a moment of frustration, but also of pride. He knew he had played a knock to remember.

Jatin Sapru: "Here comes Sheldon Cottrell, charging in, left-arm over the wicket. Rishabh Pant on strike, standing tall at 112. Cottrell steams in... and it's a beauty! The ball lands just outside off, straightens a fraction, and crashes into the top of off-stump! Absolute peach of a delivery! Cottrell salutes, the West Indies fielders erupt in joy, and India loses another big one here! Rishabh Pant departs after a stunning 112 off 89 balls, but what an innings it was! Pure entertainment, aggression, and fearless strokeplay."

Kedar stood at the other end, watching as Pant, still with a wry smile, looked back at the shattered stumps. Aarav gave him a nod as Pant walked past. "Tough one," he muttered. Pant walking off to a standing ovation.

With two new batters at the crease, Kedar Jadhav and Ravindra Jadeja knew they had a task at hand. The West Indies bowlers had found a rhythm, getting two quick wickets, but India was still in a commanding position. Kedar, always known for his unorthodox play, got into his groove quickly, rotating strike well and capitalizing on anything short. Jadeja, calm and composed, played his usual elegant strokes and punished the bad deliveries with finesse.

Jatin Sapru: "And now, Jadhav and Jadeja, two experienced campaigners, are rebuilding this innings smartly. Kedar has found his touch, picking gaps beautifully, and Jadeja is playing risk-free cricket, guiding India towards a massive total."

With some excellent strokeplay, the pair took the total past 350. Jadhav, playing the perfect supporting role, chipped in with a solid 46 off 38 balls before falling to a slower ball. But Jadeja, ever the finisher, carried on and brought up his fifty in style, smashing a four over covers.

Jatin Sapru: "Fifty up for Ravindra Jadeja! India crosses 380, and what a fantastic recovery this has been after losing two quick wickets! This is a statement from Team India!"

Aakash Chopra: "Bhai sahab! Yahan toh fireworks ho rahe hain! Pehle PP yani Pathak-Pant ka dhamaka, phir Kedar-Jadeja ka tehelka! India ne West Indies ko bata diya ki yeh match sirf ek team ke liye nahi hai, yeh ek mission hai! 382 runs ka pahaad khada kar diya hai!"

("Oh my! There's fireworks happening here! First PP, that is Pathak-Pant's explosion, then Kedar-Jadeja's storm! India has shown West Indies that this match isn't just for one team, it's a mission! They've set up a mountain of 382 runs!")

The innings came to a close at 382/5, a monumental total. As the players walked off, the Indian dressing room stood up to applaud the play. The West Indies bowlers had shown heart in the final overs, but India had set a mighty challenge.

Jatin Sapru: "So, India finishes at a staggering 382/5 in 50 overs! The crowd is on their feet, and we are in for an exciting chase. Stay tuned, folks! A short break of 35 minutes before we return with the West Indies innings!"

Jatin Sapru: "What a day of cricket we are witnessing! This has been an absolute masterclass in modern-day batting, led by none other than the young sensation Aarav Pathak and the explosive Rishabh Pant. India has posted a massive 382 on the board, and the West Indies bowlers will be breathing a sigh of relief now that the innings has come to an end. But let's rewind and relive the magic these two produced today!"

Navjot Singh Sidhu: "Oye hoye! Yeh toh aag laga di Pathak-Pant ki jodi ne! Ek taraf shaant, samvedansheel, toh doosri taraf ekdum taabar-tod! Yeh dono ek doosre ke Ram aur Lakhan hain! Pathak ne shuruwaat aaram se ki, samay liya, pitch ko samjha, aur jab mauka mila toh chakke jad diye! Pant ka kya kehna, woh toh maut ka saudagar nikla! Catch drop ho gaya 92 pe, bas phir unhone bhi chhodo nahi!"

("Oh wow! Pathak-Pant's pair has set the field on fire! On one side calm, composed, and sensitive, while on the other side, total firepower! These two are like Ram and Lakhan to each other! Pathak started slow, took his time, understood the pitch, and when the opportunity came, he hit sixes! And Pant, what can I say, he turned out to be a dealer of death! The catch was dropped at 92, and after that, he didn't let go!")

Sunil Gavaskar: "This is what maturity in young players looks like. Aarav Pathak paced his innings beautifully—he reached his fifty in 56 balls, showing patience and awareness of the game situation. But then, after that, he shifted gears so effortlessly, scoring the next 54 runs in just 18 balls. That is the mark of a future great. He was clinical with his shot selection, never reckless but always aggressive when needed."

Aakash Chopra: "Absolutely, Sunil bhai! And let's talk about the drop catch at 92. Rishabh Pant was given a life by Evin Lewis, and he made sure to make West Indies pay for it. That reverse sweep for four to reach his hundred was just the cherry on top! Both Pant and Pathak played their roles to perfection—one anchored, one attacked, and then both attacked and put India in a dominant position."

Jatin Sapru: "Let's go back to that magical moment when Pathak reached his century. It was the 33rd over, and Carlos Brathwaite was under pressure. He tried to intimidate Pathak with a short ball, but what did Pathak do? Moved two steps back and—BAM! No-look six over third man! The crowd erupted, and with that shot, he reached his second international hundred. 104 off 74 balls, pure class!"

Navjot Singh Sidhu: "Kya swag tha! Kya confidence tha! Beta, yeh hai asli cricket! Jis tarah se Pathak ne apni soch dikhayi, yeh toh ek bade khiladi ki pehchaan hai! Pehle patience, phir acceleration—yaani dono taraf se barabari ka gyaan! West Indies ke bowler bas dekhte reh gaye, aur ye Pathak ne haath se match kheench liya!"

("What swag! What confidence! Son, this is real cricket! The way Pathak showed his thinking, this is the mark of a great player! First patience, then acceleration—both sides of the game in balance! The West Indies bowlers were left watching, and Pathak pulled the match away with his hands!")

Sunil Gavaskar: "And let's not forget, he wasn't just slogging. Every shot was calculated. He was watching the field, analyzing the bowler's plan, and then executing his shots perfectly. That's what separates an aggressive batsman from a reckless one."

Aakash Chopra: "And let's not forget the crucial support from Pant. The moment he reached his hundred, the way Pathak ran to him and hugged him—it was a moment of pride, of brotherhood, of knowing they had done something special today. Their partnership was worth gold."

Jatin Sapru: "Now let's talk about the final moments of the innings. Pathak was eventually dismissed for 118, edging one off Chris Gayle to Nicholas Pooran. Frustrated, he tapped his bat against his pad but raised his bat to acknowledge the standing ovation from the crowd. Kedar Jadhav walked in next, and Pant soon followed Pathak back to the pavilion after being bowled by a beauty from Sheldon Cottrell. Hits the top of off! That's what we call a perfect delivery!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "Even after the dismissals, India finished strong. Kedar Jadhav and Ravindra Jadeja showed great composure and took the score to a mammoth 382. Kedar contributed 46, Jadeja 51—amazing scores, that ensured India kept up the momentum until the last over."

Aakash Chopra: "West Indies bowlers did try to make a comeback, especially in the final overs, but the damage was already done. Cottrell, Brathwaite, and even Gayle got wickets, but they couldn't stop the carnage from Pathak and Pant."

Jatin Sapru: "And now, the challenge is set for the West Indies. They need 383 to win, and it's not going to be easy. A small break, and we'll be back for the chase. But for now, let's just soak in what we witnessed—an unforgettable display of batting from India's young guns!"