

Cricket 145

Chapter 145

[Innings Break – Expert Panel Discussion]

Jatin Sapru: "Welcome back, folks! What an incredible first innings we've just witnessed! Royal Challengers Bangalore have absolutely lit up the scoreboard with a mammoth 240 runs in their 20 overs. It was a batting masterclass, and one name stands out—Aarav Pathak! 70 off just 26 balls! Mathew Hayden, Sunil Gavaskar, Harsha Bhogle—we've seen some insane knocks in the IPL, but this one was something special."

Matthew Hayden: "Jatin, special is an understatement! This was brute force combined with pure class! The way he dismantled Rashid Khan and then kept going after every bowler he faced—this was fearless batting. His strike rate was an unbelievable 270! That's T20 cricket at its finest!"

Harsha Bhogle: "And it's not just the numbers, Hayden. It's the impact! RCB were off to a flying start, but what Aarav did was take the game away from SRH within the first 10 overs. When you see a young player stepping up in such a massive game, playing like an experienced campaigner, it tells you something. This isn't just talent—this is a future superstar in the making!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "Exactly, Harsha! The biggest thing I noticed? His ability to read the bowlers! He wasn't just swinging blindly—he was calculating. You see how he handled Rashid Khan? He gave him respect initially, got a feel for the turn, and then—BOOM—two massive sixes to finish the over! That's cricketing intelligence! And let's not forget how the rest of the RCB batting lineup backed him up."

Jatin Sapru: "Absolutely, Sunil sir! Kohli played a perfect anchor role with his 56 off 42 balls, ensuring stability at one end. And then the cameos—AB de Villiers, Moeen Ali, and Shivam Dube—everyone contributed to this massive total. It was a team effort, but you cannot ignore the statement made by

Aarav Pathak. And speaking of statements, he had something to say after walking off the field. Let's hear it!"

[Aarav Pathak's Post-Innings Interview]

Aarav Pathak: "First of all, what an atmosphere! (He laughed seeing the empty stadium), but in reality, fans on the other side of the screen, the support they had shown us for last several years and for my game today, I had one goal today: attack. I knew the pitch was good, I knew the bowlers would come hard at us, but I also knew that if we played positively, we could put up a huge total. I just wanted to keep the momentum going."

Reporter: "You dominated one of the best spinners in the world, Rashid Khan. What was your mindset?"

Aarav Pathak: "Rashid bhai is world-class. There's no doubt about it. But in T20s, you have to back yourself. I watched his first few balls carefully, picked up his lengths, and when I got the opportunity, I cashed in."

Reporter: "RCB have set a massive total. Do you think you've already won 70-75% of the game?"

Aarav Pathak: [Smiles] "Cricket is unpredictable, but let's be honest—240 is a massive score. We've done our job with the bat. Now it's up to the bowlers to seal the deal. And make no mistake, the entire RCB squad is backing this effort. We want to finish this game on a high!"

Jatin Sapru: "Strong words from a confident young man! And rightfully so! Now, let's break down this innings further. Haydos, Sunil sir, Harsha—what made this RCB innings so devastating?"

Matthew Hayden: "Three things, Jatin. One—intent. From the first ball, they were looking to attack. Kohli, Aarav, ABD, Moeen, and Dube—they all played with aggression. Two—execution. They didn't just swing wildly; they placed their shots beautifully. Three—depth. Even when wickets fell, the runs kept flowing. RCB never lost momentum!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "And don't forget the running between the wickets! Aarav and Kohli rotated strike so well. That's what great teams do—they don't allow bowlers to settle. It was a complete performance!"

Harsha Bhogle: "And what I loved most? The way they accelerated! That's what made the difference between a big total and an unchaseable total. SRH are in deep trouble now!"

Jatin Sapru: "Speaking of SRH, how do they approach this? Is there any hope?"

Matthew Hayden: "Look, they need a miracle. To chase 240, you need someone to play a blinder. David Warner and Jonny Bairstow will have to go all guns blazing. But RCB have world-class bowlers too! Aarav, Chahal, Dale, Siraj—it won't be easy!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "I agree. If SRH have any chance, they need a powerplay score of at least 70-80 without losing wickets. Anything less, and the required rate will go out of control."

Harsha Bhogle: "Exactly, Sunil! But let's not forget, cricket is a funny game. We've seen miracles before. But realistically, RCB are in a commanding position. They have 70-75% of this match in their bag!"

Jatin Sapru: "Alright, folks! That was our innings break analysis, brought to you by Campa—India's number one drink! We're heading for a short break, but don't go anywhere. The second innings is about to begin, and SRH have a mountain to climb! Can they pull off the impossible, or will RCB complete their domination? Stay tuned!"

Social Media – The Battle of Words

@aarav_goat 🦁: "The LEGEND has already spoken! RCB fans, Aarav Pathak has given us his word! We are lifting the IPL trophy this year! #EeSalaCupNamde #AaravGOAT"

@rcb_fan 🎶: "The way Aarav Pathak destroyed SRH's bowling attack today... This guy is built different! 70 off 26 in a first game? UNREAL. #princeAarav"

@SRHforLife ✨: "RCB fans are celebrating too soon. 240 is big, but the game is NOT over yet! Don't forget, Warner and Bairstow are still to bat! #OrangeArmy"

@ABD_wife 💋: "Aarav just promised to win this for Virat bhaiya and AB bhaiya! This man is making us emotional already. #EeSalaCupNamde"

@aarav_ke_baccho_ki_ma ❤️: "Forget the title, can I just marry Aarav Pathak already?! This man is a KING on and off the field. 😊 #AaravPrince"

@Anushka_rcb_kohli ❤️: "Aarav Pathak has the confidence of a lion! RCB finally has the missing piece we've been waiting for! Our time has come. 🏆 #RCBForever"

@srh_warriors 😐: "Typical RCB arrogance. Talking about the title before even winning one game? SRH is coming for you in the second innings! #SRHvsRCB"

Instagram – Memes and Reels Fan Edits Galore

If Twitter was all about debates, Instagram became the home of memes and viral fan edits.

❖ Post by @ipl_memes_universe

❖ "RCB fans after Aarav Pathak's statement:" (Attached: a meme of Leonardo DiCaprio raising a toast)

❖ Post by @rcbforever

❖ "Aarav Pathak: 'Ee Sala Cup Namde!' 🎤 ➡️ Virat Kohli & AB de Villiers watching: 😊 ➡️ SRH fans: 😂

❖ Post by @srh_memes_official

◆ "Aarav Pathak said 70-75% of the game is already in RCB's bag. SRH after scoring 241 in the chase:"
(Attached: Meme of Undertaker rising from a coffin)

❖ Story by @cric_fever

◆ "RCB fans are going crazy after Aarav Pathak's innings! This man has single-handedly started the biggest fan war of IPL 2020! Comment below—RCB or SRH? 🙏🔥"

Comments Section:

💬 @rcb_fanatic: "RCB ALL THE WAY! SRH has no chance! 🙏🔥"

💬 @srh_lad: "Warner is coming. RCB fans, don't celebrate too early. Don't you remember 2016 final 😊💀"

💬 @ipl_addict_07: "No matter who wins, Aarav Pathak is BOX OFFICE. What a player!"

In the RCB dugout players huddled together, listening intently to Virat Kohli and Mike Hesson, who were finalizing the strategy before stepping onto the field.

Mike Hesson: "Alright, our game plan is simple. We keep it tight in the powerplay, restrict runs, and look for early wickets."

Virat Kohli: "In the powerplay, we start with Aarav for an over or two, then bring in Siraj, Steyn, and Umesh. Siraj, you will bowl in the middle overs along with Chahal and Sundar. And in the death, I want Aarav, Steyn, and Umesh to finish strong."

Mike Hesson: "Aarav, you'll bowl the opening over, one in the middle if needed, and then be our key weapon in the death. We trust your yorkers."

Aarav, nodding, clenched his fists in determination.

With a final clap on the shoulders and a motivational roar from Kohli, the RCB players took the field.

The stadium was eerily silent due to the lockdown restrictions, but millions of fans around the world were glued to their screens.

Over 1: Aarav Pathak to David Warner

Ball 1: Aarav ran in, smooth and controlled. As soon as the ball left his hand, it reversed slightly, dipping onto Warner's toes. A perfect yorker! The stumps went flying before the scoreboard graphic even appeared.

GONE! David Warner BOWLED for 0! SRH: 0/1

Virat Kohli erupted in joy, pumping his fists and running toward Aarav. "Benstokes" he shouted.

The commentators were stunned.

Harsha Bhogle: "What a ball! Absolute peach! That's a dream start for RCB. Aarav Pathak—you beauty!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "This young man is something special. To clean up Warner like that on the very first ball—it takes skill and nerve!"

The RCB players surrounded Aarav, patting his back, while Warner walked back, shaking his head in disbelief.

Despite the early loss, SRH stabilized with Manish Pandey and Jonny Bairstow building a strong partnership. The game progressed steadily, and Kohli decided to bring Aarav back into the attack in the 14th over.

Over 14: Aarav Pathak to Jonny Bairstow

Ball 3: Aarav adjusted his field and delivered a full-length delivery that swung late. Jonny Bairstow attempted a flick but got a leading edge—straight to Kohli at cover! GONE! Kohli roared in celebration as he clutched the ball.

Kane Williamson OUT for 47! SRH: 128/4

RCB had their opening, and they capitalized on it quickly.

Over 16: Aarav Pathak to Abhishek Sharma

Ball 5: A slower ball deceived Abhishek Sharma completely as he attempted a wild slog. The ball crashed onto his pads—loud appeal! The umpire raised his finger instantly.

LBW! Abdul Samad OUT for 10! SRH: 145/6

Aarav finished his spell with figures of 4 overs, 19 runs, 3 wickets—a match-winning performance.

Final SRH Score: 180/8

Bowling Figures - RCB:

Aarav Pathak: 4 overs, 19 runs, 3 wickets

Dale Steyn: 4 overs, 26 runs, 1 wicket

Yuzvendra Chahal: 4 overs, 30 runs, 3 wickets

Md Siraj: 4 overs, 42 runs, 0 wickets

Umesh Yadav: 2 overs, 38 runs, 1 wicket

Washington Sundar: 2 overs, 21 runs, 0 wickets

Twitter exploded with reactions to Aarav's fiery spell.

@rcb_fanclub: AARAV PATHAK—THE FUTURE OF RCB! 🔥🔥🔥

@abd_wife: Three wickets, one of them Warner?! Absolute legend!

@Anushka_rcb_kohli: Aarav is a gem! That yorker to Warner—unreal!

Reddit threads were filled with debates:

u/aarav_goat: "RCB finally found their death-over specialist! Aarav's yorkers are 🔥🔥"

u/srh_fan_27: "Okay, that was brutal. Warner didn't even get a chance."

The moment the final ball was bowled, confirming RCB's emphatic victory over SRH, Twitter exploded. Fans flooded social media, chanting Aarav Pathak's name, celebrating his heroics, and making him trend worldwide. Memes, edited videos, and even fan-made posters circulated across platforms, elevating Aarav's status to an overnight sensation.

Twitter Trends:

#AaravGOAT

#PrinceAarav

#EeSalaCupNamde

#DeathOverSpecialist

#NextKingAarav

#RCBOnTop

#AaravTheSavior

#MVP2020

#PathakPower

Fan Reactions:

@aarav_goat: 70 off 26 balls, 3 wickets for just 19 runs, economy 4.75! Death over specialist! Are we witnessing the birth of a legend?! 🔥🔥🔥 #AaravGOAT

@aarav_prince: Prince Aarav, Next King Aarav! 🤘 This man is BUILT DIFFERENT! What a performance!
#NextKingAarav

@aarav_ke_baccho_ki_ma: Aarav, can you adopt me? Asking for the entire RCB fanbase. 😊😊😊

@rcb_fan: Aarav Pathak is the gift that keeps on giving! IPL 2020 has found its MVP already!
#EeSalaCupNamde

@Abd_wife: Dear Aarav, thank you for making my day, my week, my YEAR! Take a bow, young king!
🏆 *

@Anushka_rcb_kohli: I haven't screamed this loud for a match in years! Aarav, you are HIM!
#RCBOnTop

@pathak_parivar: Every RCB fan right now: "Aarav, my love, my heart, my soul, my EVERYTHING!"
❤️ 📱 😊

@deathoversgod: I swear if Aarav was in Avengers, Thanos would have been out on the first ball. ✂️💀

@ipl_memes: SRH fans right now watching Aarav's highlights on repeat like: "Did this really happen?!"
😊

Media Buzz:

Sports pundits and cricket legends couldn't stop talking about Aarav's performance. Former cricketers lauded his composed innings and match-winning contributions in both batting and bowling.

Harsha Bhogle: "The kind of performance that makes headlines! Aarav Pathak has showed the confidence following his statement before the IPL start."

Michael Vaughan: "That's how you take the IPL by storm! Sensational hitting and pinpoint bowling from the youngster."

Virender Sehwag: "Destruction mode: ON! This is what RCB needed! The next superstar has arrived."

Sunil Gavaskar: "When I saw Aarav play today, I was reminded of some of the greatest all-rounders. What a composed innings under pressure!"

Kevin Pietersen: "RCB has found a diamond. This boy is fearless, aggressive, and calculated. What an asset to have!"

Aarav's Post-Match Interview:

When asked about his performance, Aarav humbly responded:

"I just played my natural game. It was a team effort. Virat bhaiya and AB bhaiya backed me, and that gave me confidence. I dedicate this win to the RCB fans who couldn't be in the stadium today."

Virat Kohli: "I knew he was special, but today he showed the world why. He's a match-winner, and we are lucky to have him."

AB de Villiers: "I've played with many greats, but watching Aarav today was something else. He's got that X-factor."

The IPL 2020 had only just begun, but Aarav Pathak had already cemented himself as the next big thing in cricket. Fan pages dedicated to him popped up overnight. His follower count on Instagram skyrocketed. Major brands started lining up for endorsements, sensing a new marketing sensation.

IPL's official handle released a video montage of Aarav's highlights from the match, captioned: "Aarav Pathak: The future of RCB is NOW!"

Meanwhile, fans had already made bold predictions:

"If RCB doesn't win the IPL this year, I will eat my shoe. Aarav won't let us down!"

"Aarav Pathak is not just a cricketer; he's a phenomenon."

"BCCI, book this man's ticket for the T20 World Cup already!"

The cricketing world had found its newest superstar, and this was just the beginning. The legend of Aarav Pathak had begun.