

Cricket 156

Chapter 156

"Ladies and gentlemen, take a deep breath, because we are now entering the second act of this grand symphony under the Dubai night sky! The Mumbai Indians have put up a formidable 199 for 6 on the board—Rohit Sharma, the Hitman, leading from the front with a captain's knock. But now, the spotlight shifts. Can the Royal Challengers Bangalore chase history tonight? Can they lift their maiden IPL trophy, or will Mumbai cement their legacy with a fifth crown?"

The atmosphere was electric. Fireworks still crackled faintly in the distance, shadows flickering across the pavilions.

And here come the RCB openers! Aaron Finch and Virat Kohli, the two veterans, jog onto the field with purposeful strides. Kohli, leading with intensity in his eyes, was visibly mouthing words to himself—perhaps a prayer, perhaps a promise. Finch, a little more relaxed, was cracking his knuckles, flexing his arms, trying to absorb the pressure of a stage this big.

The chase begins. Trent Boult has the new ball, and oh boy, there's a glint in his eye that tells you he's been waiting for this moment all night. Experience, poise, and a hint of menace—that's Boult for you.

Boult begins his run-up. The first ball of the innings. The final's defining half. He's in... smooth, rhythmic strides, releasing with a perfect wrist flick. It's full, it's angling away...

EDGE! CAUGHT!

Would you believe it?! First ball! First wicket! Aaron Finch has nicked it—clean edge, flying low to the right of Ishan Kishan who cups it beautifully with soft hands! Gone! Finch is gone!

The MI dugout is on its feet, and Boult lets out a primal roar. He points to the heavens, then punches the air. A dream starts for Mumbai! RCB 0 for 1 after just one delivery!

The big screen replays the dismissal in glorious slow motion. The seam of the ball rotating like a hypnotic pendulum, Finch's bat just away from the body, and then the kiss of death. Behind the stumps, Ishan's calm hands do the rest.

And now, look at this—Kohli! Oh, he's furious. He slams his bat against his pads in frustration. Not at Finch, perhaps at fate, perhaps at the pressure. Finals do strange things to even the greatest.

As Finch walks off, eyes down, shaking his head, a new figure strides in.

It's Aarav.

The same Aarav who stunned the world in this IPL season. This man had made miracle this year, broke records and records and holder or now we could say winner of both the Orange and Purple Cap. The young man is now walking out as a warrior for the RCB.

He jogs towards the center, breathing deep, eyes scanning the outfield. The pressure is unimaginable—but you wouldn't know it from his face.

He meets Kohli halfway. The crowd quiets, trying to eavesdrop on what's being said.

"The ball's holding up a bit," Virat says, voice steady. "Coming slower off the pitch. Don't rush it. We'll get there."

Aarav just nods.

And now, Aarav on strike. First ball for him. Boult charges again, the white ball gleaming under the floodlights.

It's on the pads.

Aarav steps inside the line the crease line—textbook! And flicks!

That's going! That's going!! SIX!

Into the stands over backward square leg! What composure! What audacity! First ball in an IPL final and he's launched Boult into orbit!

The camera cuts to Kohli at the non-striker's end—he's facepalming! Shaking his head, a smile creeping despite himself. That's classic Kohli—emotionally tethered to every delivery.

Ravi Shastri: Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen! You're watching the grand finale of IPL 2020, and it's game on here in Dubai! RCB chasing 200 to lift their maiden IPL trophy, and MI aiming for their glorious fifth! The stadium might be less packed due to protocols, but the energy? Absolutely through the roof! And look who's on strike — it's the young sensation, the rising star, The Prince himself — Aarav!

Sunil Gavaskar: That's right, Ravi. After that early jolt with Finch falling on the very first delivery, RCB needed composure, and Aarav delivered. That flicked six off Boult's first over was not just about runs — it was about intent, relieving the pressure, calming nerves. And since then, it's been a smart rebuild between him and Kohli.

Aakash Chopra: Absolutely! Bumrah came in for the second over, and what did Aarav and Virat do? Played the over like seasoned pros — six singles, one on each delivery. Risk-free, percentage cricket. Textbook stuff. RCB 15/1 after 2 overs. Solid response!

Ravi Shastri: Right then, here comes Rohit Sharma, and he's changing things up early! Third over — and he brings in Jayant Yadav. Interesting move!

Sunil Gavaskar: It's a tactical play. Jayant can bowl tight lines, and Rohit knows the importance of breaking this rebuilding phase before it grows into a storm.

Aakash Chopra: But here we go, Jayant to Aarav...

Ravi Shastri (Loud): Flipper, AND THAT'S GONE MILES!!! Aarav steps down the track and sends it straight back over the bowler's head — SIX RUNS! The Prince doesn't care who's bowling — he's playing to rule tonight!

Gavaskar: Controlled aggression, that's what that was. He saw the flight, committed early, and didn't try to overhit. Just clean timing.

Aakash Chopra: Now he walks to Kohli, little glove punch, soaking in the moment — but back to focus. Second ball coming up...

**Jayant to Aarav — flicked calmly for a single. Smart cricket again. Now Kohli takes strike. Big moment.

Jayant to Kohli...

Ravi Shastri: OH NO! EDGED! TAKEN BEHIND BY ISHAN KISHAN! KOHLI IS GONE! THE KING HAS FALLEN!

Gavaskar: Oh dear, Kohli tried to cut that too close to the body, got the edge, and Ishan doesn't miss those. That's a massive moment in the match!

Aakash Chopra: And you can feel the frustration — Virat throws the bat on the turf, kicks the ground, eyes blazing. He knows how big this was. RCB now 22 for 2.

Ravi Shastri: And just look at the MI camp — they're buzzing! High-fives, hugs, chest bumps — they can feel the momentum shifting. But wait, the man walking in now... it's AB de Villiers! If anyone can steady the ship and accelerate, it's Mr. 360!

Gavaskar: Indeed. And this is where Aarav's maturity will be tested. With the captain gone, it's up to him and AB to rebuild again. He's got to play the anchor, rotate the strike, and let AB take the bigger risks when needed.

Ravi Shastri: Well said, Sunny G! Fourth overs starts and — the scoreboard reads 22 for 2. The pressure is right up there.

Aakash Chopra: And that's what Aarav does — smartly slows things down. No rash shots. Some dot balls, a couple of singles. At the end of the powerplay, RCB at 36/2. Not ideal, but not out of the race either.

Ravi Shastri: Here we go, 7th over — Krunal Pandya into the attack now. AB on strike.

First ball — AB cuts hard, through point, FOUR RUNS!

Gavaskar: That's vintage AB. Early use of wrists, finds the gap, and keeps the scoreboard moving. That's the confidence RCB needs.

Second and third balls — no run. Krunal tightens the line.

Fourth ball — AB takes a single, quick as lightning between the wickets. Aarav back on strike.

Fifth ball — Aarav defends solidly. Bat face straight.

Ravi Shastri (Voice Rising): Last ball of the over... Krunal floats one short... Aarav rocks back, transfers the weight... AND PULLS IT! SIX RUNS! WHAT A SHOT! Controlled, clean, crisp!

Aakash Chopra: That's just elegant power. Not brute force. The Prince is building his innings brick by brick, and now, brick by sixes!

Gavaskar: He's showing maturity beyond his years. Reading the situation, adjusting the tempo. That's what the best do.

Ravi Shastri: After 7 overs, RCB is 47 for 2. Still a long way to go — but these two, Aarav and AB, are the key. If the Prince wants to become the next King, tonight's his night. He's got to seize it.

Ravi Shastri : "It's been a rollercoaster of an IPL 2020 Final so far, and right now the weight of an entire franchise rests on one young man's shoulders. It's the ninth over, RCB at 58 for 2, chasing 200. It's the prince versus the pressure. And it's Jayant Yadav again into the attack. Aarav, the man with fire in his bat, takes strike."

Sunil Gavaskar : "Jayant will look to keep things tight here. He's mixing it up well. The field has spread out a little but the slip is still in."

Aakash Chopra : "Here comes Jayant, bowling from over the wicket. It's a googly! Aarav spots it early—steps forward, leans into the drive—oh, what a shot! Pierces the gap between extra cover and mid-off. FOUR! That is class, gentlemen! That's a man playing with calmness and clarity."

Ravi Shastri: "That boundary brings some breathing room for RCB. Pressure? What pressure? The prince is keeping that run rate in check. Smart cricket, hitting a boundary and then what does he do? Takes the single. Next-level maturity from the youngster!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "That's good awareness. Keeping the scoreboard ticking, not letting the bowler settle. That's the hallmark of a batsman who's both confident and composed."

Aakash Chopra: "Now it's AB de Villiers on strike. Jayant again. Tosses it up... it's the googly again—AB goes for the sweep... he's missed it! Bowled him! Bowled him! Oh no! This is a massive, massive blow to RCB!"

Ravi Shastri (voice dips): "And the silence says it all. AB de Villiers is gone. Middle stump uprooted. The MI camp explodes in celebration, but the RCB dugout—you can hear a pin drop."

Sunil Gavaskar: "Jayant Yadav has picked up a huge wicket here. That was a classic googly, deceptive in flight, dipped right at the end. AB completely misjudged it."

Aakash Chopra: "Look at AB—visibly frustrated. He kicks the turf as he walks back. But wait, he's just turned back to look at Aarav. That gaze... it's as if he's passing the baton. The last hope."

Ravi Shastri: "And Aarav? He just nods. Eyes full of fire. Says, 'Don't worry.' Ladies and gentlemen, this young man's courage tonight is something special."

Sunil Gavaskar: "Now Moeen Ali comes in. Bit of a surprise, considering the situation. He needs to be cautious here. Build a partnership."

Aakash Chopra: "First ball to Moeen. Jayant flights it. Fuller delivery. Moeen goes for the big one straight away... oh no! He's missed it completely and bowled!"

Ravi Shastri: "What was that? A wild swing first ball? That is poor, poor decision-making. In a final, with your team three down, you can't go for glory shots like that on the first delivery."

Sunil Gavaskar: "That was not a percentage shot. Not at all. You need to assess the conditions. Respect the bowlers."

Aakash Chopra: "And now, he's walking back. Clean bowled. What a waste. Moeen Ali goes for a duck. Jayant is roaring! He's got two in the over!"

Ravi Shastri: "RCB now in big trouble. 63 for 4. The MI fielders are buzzing. The lights are bright, but it's a shadow over the RCB dugout right now."

Sunil Gavaskar: "They need someone to stick around with Aarav. The prince cannot do this alone. He's holding the line, but he needs partners."

Aakash Chopra: "And here comes Shivam Dube. A strong lad, big hitter, but what matters right now is game sense. It's not about sixes. It's about survival and scoring."

Ravi Shastri: "The stage is set. Aarav remains. 36, but wickets have fallen like dominos. The chase isn't over, but MI are tightening the screws. Will the prince fight back? "

Ravi Shastri: " After the early fireworks and a flurry of wickets, it's the Prince himself — young Aarav — who's taken charge for RCB. He's keeping the chase alive, playing with maturity beyond his years! And now, as Shivam Dube walks in, the tension's right up there!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "Indeed, Ravi. Aarav has anchored the innings beautifully. The situation might look tough on paper — 199 to chase, and now four wickets down — but what impresses me is Aarav's composure. As Shivam Dube joins him, there's a crucial chat between the two. Aarav's telling him to slow things down, no unnecessary risks. This is what leaders do. They assess, they plan, and they execute."

Aakash Chopra: "And that fist bump! Simple, but symbolic. It says: 'We're in this together.' Now Dube on strike... and he's doing just what Aarav asked. A solid defense to start. No panic. That's excellent awareness. They need partnerships, not panic shots."

Ravi Shastri: "Alright then, 10th over coming up! And it's Krunal Pandya once again. Here we go, folks! Aarav on strike... Krunal rolls in... good length... AND SMACKED! WHAT A PULL SHOT! It's sailinggggg...

and GONE OVER DEEP MID-WICKET FOR A SIX! That's power! That's timing! That's the Prince making a statement!"

Aakash Chopra: "Pure class! Picked the length early and rocked back just in time. The balance, the execution, magnificent. And then he casually walks up to Dube, another fist bump. He's in the zone, Ravi. He's got the look of someone who's not just playing a good innings — he's building a legacy tonight."

Sunil Gavaskar: "Next ball... and Aarav defends. Good response after a boundary. He's not getting carried away, which is important. Rotating the strike, hitting only when it's safe. That's intelligent cricket."

Ravi Shastri: "Third ball coming up now... what's this? HE GOES FOR A REVERSE SCOOP! AND IT'S EXECUTED TO PERFECTION! FOUR RUNS BEHIND THE KEEPER! You've got to be kidding me! Who IS this kid?! That's audacity of the highest order under pressure!"

Aakash Chopra: "That's the kind of shot you associate with AB de Villiers, and tonight the Prince is donning the cape! Innovation, flair, and absolutely no fear."

Sunil Gavaskar: "Krunal looks rattled. Here comes the fourth ball of the over... Aarav steps out... AND STRAIGHT OVER THE BOWLER'S HEAD! THAT'S ANOTHER SIX! THIS IS STUNNING BATTING!"

Ravi Shastri: "Fifty for Aarav! The Prince raises his bat! What. A. Knock. 50 off just 38 balls in the most high-pressure final of the tournament! The stadium may not be full, but the electricity in the air is undeniable!"

Aakash Chopra: "And look at that gesture! He's looking at the RCB dugout, motioning with his hands to calm down... and then pointing to his chest. That's Aarav saying: 'Don't worry. I've got this.' Absolute goosebumps moment."

Sunil Gavaskar: "This is not just a half-century. It's a statement. Aarav's telling everyone watching across the globe that he's not here to survive. He's here to conquer. If the Prince wants to become the next King, this is the stage to prove it."

Ravi Shastri: "A true warrior in red and gold tonight! That over ends with 16 runs! And at the halfway stage of the chase, RCB are 86 for 4. Still a long road ahead, but with Aarav at the helm, anything is possible."

Aakash Chopra: "This partnership needs to grow. Dube has to stick around. Aarav is playing the innings of his life. Can the Prince carry the kingdom of RCB to their maiden title? The second half promises to be a thriller, folks. Don't even blink!"

Ravi Shastri: "Absolutely! The IPL 2020 Final is heating up, and we've got drama, emotions, and one young man standing tall amid the chaos. More to come after the break!"