

Cricket 158

Chapter 158

Score: RCB 177/9 | Target: 200 | 23 needed off 6 balls | Aarav 96(54)*

Ravi Shastri (booming with energy):

"HERE WE GO, FOLKS! FINAL OVER! 23 to WIN, ONE wicket remaining, and AARAV — the man who has carried this innings on his shoulders — is on strike at 96! What. A. Situation. THIS IS WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF!"

Sunil Gavaskar:

"It's been a rollercoaster of an innings. Aarav, not just batting for the win, but for history. One more run and he breaks King Kohli's all-time IPL season record. But all of that will mean little if RCB doesn't get across the line. What composure he's shown today."

Aakash Chopra:

"What a story this is turning out to be. From rebuilding the innings after a mid-innings collapse to now standing at the precipice of immortality. But it's not done yet. This over could define careers, break hearts, or etch legends."

Nathan Coulter-Nile has the ball.

The floodlights above glisten down like stage lights at a grand finale. The pitch, now worn and dry, bears the bruises of battle. The tension in the stadium is so thick, it feels like the air itself has stopped breathing.

Ravi Shastri:

"Coulter-Nile runs in... BALL ONE... it's full and wide... TOO WIDE! The umpire stretches his arms and signals WIDE!"

Sunil Gavaskar:

"That's pressure. Even international bowlers feel it. First ball nerves. And Rohit Sharma is not amused. He walks up to his bowler, has a quick word, probably telling him to stick to the plan."

Aakash Chopra:

"22 now off 6. Still doable. But they need a boundary early. Aarav needs to pick the gap and pick it fast."

Ball 1 (Legal):

Coulter-Nile takes a deep breath, adjusts his grip, and starts his run-up again. Aarav, still and composed, eyes like a hawk.

He bowls — it's a low full toss on the pads.

THWACK!

Aarav doesn't miss.

He whips it off his legs and sends it sailing over the fine-leg boundary. The ball disappears into the Dubai sky before crashing into the stands.

Ravi Shastri (shouting):

"AND HE'S LAUNCHED IT INTO THE NIGHT! SIX RUNS! WHAT A SHOT! What wrists, what timing, WHAT A PLAYER!"

Aakash Chopra:

"And with that, he brings up his CENTURY! Aarav — 102* now! And with that, he Breaks Kohli's record and is standing at the alone."

Ravi Shastri: "He's gone past the King himself — Virat Kohli's 973... broken. I repeat — broken. This is not just cricket, this is a CARNIVAL of runs!"

Sunil Gavaskar:

"Well, well, well... records, as they say, are meant to be broken. But this one? We thought it might just stand the test of time."

"To go past 973 runs in a single IPL season — that takes incredible consistency, temperament, and class. Hats off to the young man. Even Kohli would be proud."

Aakash Chopra :

"I mean, just think about it — 973 runs was a mountain. A once-in-a-lifetime kinda thing. And now... someone's climbed Mount Kohli and planted their flag. Incredible."

Sunil Gavaskar:

"He's done it in a high-pressure final, under lights, with the entire weight of the franchise on his back. This is not just batting, this is storytelling with a bat."

Aarav walks toward the non-striker's end, bat in one hand, the other clasped to it. He gently bows at the waist — his signature celebration. A quiet gesture of gratitude and calm. Then, turning towards the RCB dugout, he flashes a thumbs up. His lips move, and the cameras pick it up:

"Don't worry. I've got this."

{The above is the best way I could describe Calma Celebration! if you could upload a GIF of it}

The RCB camp erupts. All the RCB camp was sitting near the boundary line!

Virat Kohli is on his feet, fists pumping, mouth open in a celebratory scream. But behind the eyes, there's worry. A dream is close, but not yet real.

Meanwhile, the MI camp is lined up too — Players in MI dugout, biting their nails!.

This is not just a match. This is war.

Current Equation: 16 Needed Off 5 Balls

Ravi Shastri:

"If he pulls this off, it'll go down as one of the greatest finishes in IPL history. Mark my words!"

Aakash Chopra:

"This is no longer just about the trophy. This is about legacy. About a boy becoming a legend."

Sunil Gavaskar:

"He needs to play every ball on its merit now. One more big shot and MI might panic."

The pressure is unbelievable.

Coulter-Nile turns back to his mark, wiping sweat from his brow. Aarav plants his bat, takes guard, and glances once again toward deep midwicket.

[RCB: 184/9 | 19.1 overs | Target: 200]

Ravi Shastri: "Alright folks, strap in! Five balls left. Sixteen needed. Aarav—on strike. The man with 100 to his name. Coulter-Nile has the ball. Can he hold his nerve?"

Ball 2:

Coulter-Nile steams in. Slower delivery... but Aarav waits, waits... then SLAPS it! Over deep cover, across the turf, rockets to the boundary for a four!

Aakash Chopra: "What placement! What poise! He read that slower one like an open book and placed it perfectly. Textbook shot under pressure!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "The footwork was subtle, but the intent clear. Didn't try to overhit. Just guided it. That's class."

Ravi Shastri: "TWELVE OFF FOUR NOW! Aarav is not just playing... he's composing poetry in motion!"

Ball 3:

Coulter-Nile and Rohit Sharma adjusts his field. Deep extra cover in place. Charges in again... full yorker attempt. Aarav steps across... LIFTS it! Over extra cover... FOUR MORE!

Ravi Shastri: "BOOM! BACK-TO-BACK FOURS! The RCB dugout is going wild, and so am I! RCB now needs EIGHT from THREE!"

Aakash Chopra: "If calm had a face tonight, it's Aarav. That was surgical precision. Didn't try to muscle it. Just pure timing."

Ball 4:

Coulter-Nile, visibly sweating now, runs in. Short of length. Aarav pulls—grounded to long-on. Fielder: Pollard! He throws at the keeper's end—Aarav DIVES. Taken 2 runs!

Ravi Shastri: "OH MY WORD, THAT'S COMMITMENT! That man just flew like Superman! Two vital runs taken. SIX OFF TWO!"

Aakash Chopra: "That dive may just win them the title. A run-out there, and it's game over. Aarav's hunger—unreal."

Sunil Gavaskar: "Great awareness by both batters. They knew Pollard's arm was sharp. But they backed Aarav's running pace. Brilliant running!"

Ball 5:

Coulter-Nile now walks back slowly. The field spreads. Deep third man back. Bowls short... Aarav goes for the uppercut... EDGED! It flies over the keeper... FOUR!!!

Ravi Shastri: "OH IT'S EDGED! IT'S FOUR! LADY LUCK SMILES ON AARAV! TWO OFF ONE NOW! ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A SUPER OVER OR A LEGENDARY WIN?"

Aakash Chopra: "Sometimes destiny writes its own script. That was not from the middle, but it counts!"

Sunil Gavaskar: "Cricket is a game of fine margins. A centimeter here or there and that's a catch. Today, it's a boundary."

Final Ball – 2 to Win, 1 for Super Over, 1 Wicket Remaining

The entire RCB dugout is on the edge. Virat Kohli is pacing. Rohit Sharma stands shouting at his players to keep their mind in the game. Silence before the storm.

Ravi Shastri: "This. Is. It. This ball will decide the fate of the IPL 2020. Coulter-Nile breathes deep. Here he comes... Full... on off... AARAV CLEARS HIS FRONT LEG... SWINGS WITH EVERYTHING HE'S GOT!"

Time slows. The bat connects. A clean crack echoes. The ball soars... soaring... flying through the Dubai night sky...

Sunil Gavaskar: "It's going, going... LONG OFF WATCHING... BUT HE WON'T REACH IT!"

Aakash Chopra: "THAT'S THE MATCH! THAT'S THE TOURNAMENT! THAT'S HISTORY!"

Ravi Shastri (voice at its peak): "AARAV FINISHES OFF IN STYLE AND FILLS THE RCB DROUGHT WITH A CUP! THEY HAVE FINALLY DONE IT! AFTER YEARS OF HEARTBREAKS, RCB... ARE CHAMPIONS OF THE IPL 2020!"

The ball lands in the stands. Fireworks explode. Aarav punches the air, slams the back of his jersey, roars like a lion. He points toward the RCB camp—who are already running onto the field.

Kohli leads the charge, arms spread, screaming in jubilation. AB de Villiers is in tears. Chahal is dancing. Mike Hesson throws his cap high in the air.

Aarav, surrounded by teammates, is lifted onto shoulders. The man who scored 122* off 55. The man who broke King Kohli's record of 973 runs by ending the season with 994 (tell me if there is error in this total).

Aakash Chopra: "What a player. What a season. What a moment. This isn't just victory. This is vindication."

Sunil Gavaskar: "This final over will go down in IPL folklore. A young player carrying the weight of a franchise's dreams—and delivering."

Ravi Shastri: "Tonight, RCB fans can sleep with a smile. The trophy is theirs. Aarav is theirs. And cricket, my friends, is the winner."

Within minutes, #Aarav122*, and #RCBChamps2020 were trending worldwide. The internet exploded. Cricket Twitter was a war zone — in the best way possible.

Tweets from Legends 📝✍️

Sachin Tendulkar (@sachin_rt):

"What a knock under pressure! Aarav, you are a special talent. Reminded me of 1998. Keep going! 100🔥
#RCB #IPLFinal2020"

MS Dhoni (@msdhoni):

"Calm. Calculated. Clutch. Aarav, take a bow. 🙌🏻👏 #Respect #RCBChamps"

Shane Watson (@ShaneRWatson33):

"Aarav's innings was one of the best I've seen in a final. That was pure class. 🙌 #IPL2020 #RCBWin"

Chris Gayle (@henrygayle):

"122* from my little bro!! That's KING stuff 🏆. RCB finally lift di cup! Whaaat a vibe! 🔥🔥🔥
#Champion"

KL Rahul (@klrahul):

"The new prince of Bangalore 🏆 Take a bow @Aarav4! What an innings!"

Travis Head (@travishead34):

"Genuinely speechless. Aarav has ice and fire in his veins. Super proud. 🤔👊"

Memes and Madness 😊

@ThalaForLife007:

"Aarav's bat has more heat than Chennai's summer 🔥 #KingStuff"

@RCBianTillIDie:

Photo of Aarav walking off like a boss with caption: "Mood for the next 365 days 🤖👑 #AaravEra #RCBChamps"

@MI_Loyal_123:

"Even Thanos would've been scared of Aarav with 16 off 5 💀"

@DelhiCapstan:

"RCB finally wins. Can we uninstall IPL now? 😄😄"

@RCB_SinceBirth:

"Me explaining to my grandkids how Aarav ended 13 years of pain with one SIX 🏏¹⁰⁰"

The Fan Wars Begin 🌟🔥

@HardikForLife:

"Fixed game! Too filmy. No way that happens IRL. 😊 #Scripted"

@NotABot_XD:

"MI bottling it like Arsenal. Aarav better than prime Kohli confirmed? 🤔"

@RCBForever_18:

"Cry harder haters 😏 Your team can't stop Aarav. He's HIM! #NextKing"

@CricketMemes69:

Meme of Trent Boult looking confused — "When you bowl a yorker and still get hit for 6 🤔🤔
#AaravTheGOAT"

@VIRAT_SUPREMACY:

"Kohli walked so Aarav could run. Now they're running together! 🐾🐾 #RCBLegends"

Bengaluru Erupts 🏰🔥 (Even in the COVID)

As the winning shot played over and over on screens across India, the streets of Bengaluru were uncontrollable. Fireworks lit the sky. Fans danced atop cars, waved RCB flags, and chanted Aarav's name until dawn.

In one corner of MG Road, a group of fans unfurled a massive banner:

"From Prince to King — Aarav Reigns Supreme! 🏰❤️👑❤️"

Everywhere you looked, people were either in tears or screaming with joy. Auto rickshaws had "RCB Champions" flags on the back. Chaiwalas were offering free tea. It wasn't just a win, it was a rebirth.

The Viral Moment 📸💥

A video Reel of Aarav's final six, followed by him punching the jersey and roaring like a lion, got over 10 million views in just two 20 minutes. The caption?

"From silence to storm. Aarav ends the drought. 🏆 #Ee_Sala_Cup_Namdu"

The glimmering Dubai International Stadium stood bathed in red and gold as the confetti cannons readied for their moment. The stage was set at the center of the pitch, where trophies shimmered beneath dazzling lights. Ravi Shastri, mic in hand, stood tall in his iconic blue blazer, his voice ready to echo across cricketing history.

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! WHAT. A. FINAL! The drought is over. RCB ARE YOUR IPL 2020 CHAMPIONS!"

Fireworks burst in the sky. The fans, across the globe, erupted once again. It was time for the post-match presentation ceremony.

Player of the Match:

Ravi Shastri stepped forward with Campa Cola's Marketing Chief, Mr. Manoj Kumar, beside him.

"For a truly once-in-a-generation performance—an innings of 122 runs and three key wickets—PLAYER OF THE MATCH goes to... AARAV PATHAK!"

Mr. Manoj Kumar handed the golden trophy to Aarav, who lifted it high. Flashbulbs burst. clapped proudly from the sidelines.

Fair Play Award:

Next up, a representative from RuPayee stepped forward.

"The Fair Play Award, for exemplifying the spirit of the game, goes to the Mumbai Indians!"

The Fair Play Award was handed to Mumbai Indians, presented by Rupayee to Rohit Sharma. The Mumbai captain walked up with a smile, shaking hands with presenter as he accepted the trophy.

"Congratulations, Rohit. Another fantastic season for MI, but today was RCB's day. What are your thoughts?" Ravi asked, his voice filled with respect for MI's consistency.

"We played hard, and that's all we could do," Rohit said. "But credit to RCB, they've been excellent throughout. Aarav, in particular, was the difference today."

Ravi Shastri continued, handing out accolades with increasing excitement:

Super Striker of the Season: Kieron Pollard (MI)

Powerplayer of the Season: Trent Boult (MI)

Emerging Player of the Season: Ruturaj Gaikwad (CSK)

Game Changer of the Season:

Ravi grinned wide.

"A name you've heard all night. This man has changed games with both bat and ball. The Tata Game Changer of the Season: AARAV PATHAK!"

Most Valuable Player (MVP):

"The Most Valuable Player of IPL 2020—who else but the man with both the orange and purple caps. With 33 wickets this season and 994 runs topping the charts—AARAV PATHAK!"

The crowd was now chanting his name.

Orange Cap: "Most runs this season—994! Orange Cap: Aarav Pathak!"

Purple Cap: "Most wickets this season—33! Purple Cap: Aarav Pathak!"

He now stood with three trophies in hand, two caps on his shoulders, and a smile that stretched across Dubai.

Ravi stepped forward, now smiling like a proud elder statesman of the game.

"Aarav, my boy, this was one for the ages! Take us through that final over—what was going through your head when you needed 2 off 1?"

Aarav grinned, sweat still glistening on his forehead.

"Honestly, Ravi sir, I just told myself—if it's in the arc, it's out of the park. I had the support of the fans, my team, and everything I've ever worked for behind me. That six... it was for every RCB fan who waited all these years."

Ravi chuckled, "Well, you didn't just finish it in style—you brought the cup home. Tell us, what does this moment mean to you?"

Aarav paused, emotion glimmering in his eyes.

"Everything. I grew up watching legends like Kohli, AB, and Gayle. To now stand here, lifting this trophy, it feels like a dream... but it's real. And it's just the beginning. Ee Sala Cup Namdu"

Ravi shouted into the mic one last time:

"AND WHAT A BEGINNING IT IS! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOUR CHAMPIONS—ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE!"

As Aarav walked back to his team, surrounded by medals, cheers, and love from every corner of the cricketing world, one thing was clear—this night would be remembered forever. And so would the name: Aarav Pathak.

Now, the moment everyone had been waiting for—The IPL Trophy.

Ravi Shastri invited Virat Kohli, RCB's captain, onto the stage for a brief interview before the final celebration.

"Virat, 13 years in IPL, and you've finally done it! How does it feel to lift the trophy?" Ravi asked, his voice filled with admiration.

Virat smiled, his eyes sparkling with pride. "I can't even describe it, Ravi. It's been a long journey, but we've finally achieved it. This win is for the fans, for everyone who supported RCB through thick and thin. Aarav's performance today was beyond belief. He's a true gem!"

The atmosphere was electric. It was almost like a dream for the RCB camp. The players were still in disbelief, but now it was their time to revel in the joy of what they had achieved.

Then, the moment of triumph—Sourav Ganguly, the BCCI Chairperson, handed over the IPL 2020 Trophy to Virat Kohli. The RCB players erupted as Virat stood tall, holding the golden trophy high above his head. He turned to face the RCB Players, where his teammates were waiting, ready to join him in the moment.

With deliberate, almost robotic steps, Virat walked towards his teammates. Each step seemed to carry a weight of history, a weight of the years of hard work, and finally, the weight of the trophy that meant so much. The players were already on their feet, waiting, some with tears in their eyes, some jumping with joy.

As Virat reached them, he lifted the trophy and turned towards the crowd, raising it as a symbol of victory. The cheer that followed was deafening. The players surrounded him, their hands on the trophy, lifting it together. (Messi Celebration or Rohit/Iyer celebration!)

A moment of pure triumph.

The celebration wasn't over. As they stood together, Kohli handed the trophy to Aarav with a proud smile, pushing him in front of the team. The young prodigy held it high, his face glowing with pride. The moment was captured in a group photo, a picture that would be remembered for years to come.

The joy was overwhelming. Each player took the trophy into their hands, one by one, feeling its weight, knowing that it represented their dreams, their sacrifices, their hard work. And as they celebrated, the fans in the stadium roared, their energy lifting the team even higher.

Aarav wasn't done yet.

As the celebrations began to settle down, Aarav walked over to RCB's PR team. He asked for a quick photo—one that would immortalize this victory.

Standing with the trophy in his hand, Aarav posed with his teammates. The smiles were infectious, the joy of a dream realized, captured forever in that picture.

{Check this Image -> Please check this!}

But Aarav had one more photo in mind.

He walked out onto the pitch, holding the IPL trophy. With a playful smirk, he placed the trophy on the ground and struck a pose. His arms were outstretched, palms up in a shrug-like gesture, as if saying, "What can I say? We did it!" The gesture was full of confidence and swagger, a symbol of the young man who had just led his team to glory.

And then, another shot—Aarav with the Orange and Purple Cap on his head, the IPL trophy slung over his shoulder, a king in his own right. The photo would become the fastest to reach 1 million likes on Instagram.

The photo would go viral in seconds.

RCB's victory was sealed, not just in the trophy they lifted, but in the hearts of every fan, every player, every supporter who had longed for this moment.