

Supreme Court Calls Pilot-Error Narrative in Air India Crash 'Unfortunate'

New Delhi, 7 June: The Supreme Court of India has termed the narrative that the recent Air India crash was primarily caused by pilot error as "unfortunate," highlighting the need for a careful and evidence-based approach in assigning blame. The remarks were made during a hearing concerning the investigation into the incident, which has drawn widespread attention due to its tragic consequences and the public interest in aviation safety. During the proceedings, the bench emphasized that preliminary reports and media speculation should not shape the public perception of the crash. The



often involve multiple variables, including mechanical failure, weather conditions, air traffic control instructions, and operational protocols, any of which could have played a role in the Air India crash. The court's remarks signal a push against hasty conclusions that might unfairly single out individuals before a comprehensive technical analysis is complete. The Air India crash has sparked intense scrutiny from regulators, media outlets, and the general public. Early reports circulated in the media suggesting pilot error as a primary cause, a narrative that has since generated controversy and concern among airline professionals. The Supreme Court's statement seeks to temper such narratives and reaffirm the importance of due process and factual accuracy in ongoing investigations. During the hearing, the court also highlighted the role of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other investigative bodies in conducting a meticulous and transparent examination of the crash. The judges stressed that all stakeholders, including media, regulators, and the airline, must cooperate to ensure that findings are grounded in verified evidence rather than conjecture or sensationalism. This approach, the bench

court underscored that attributing the cause of the accident solely to the actions of the pilots without a thorough investigation undermines both the integrity of the inquiry and the reputation of professionals involved in civil aviation. The judges cautioned that the narrative around pilot error must be approached with sensitivity, given the complex factors that typically contribute to aviation accidents. Legal experts observing the hearing noted that the Supreme Court's intervention reflects the judiciary's commitment to ensuring that investigative processes remain impartial and methodical. Aviation accidents, they explained,

noted, is essential not only for delivering justice but also for maintaining public confidence in aviation safety standards. Experts in aviation safety have supported the court's caution, emphasizing that pilot error, while a possible factor, is rarely the sole cause of accidents. Investigations typically involve a detailed assessment of aircraft systems, maintenance records, weather data, and human factors. By discouraging premature narratives, the Supreme Court reinforces the principle that aviation incidents must be examined holistically to identify systemic improvements and prevent future tragedies. The court's observations also carry implications for media reporting, legal accountability, and the treatment of aviation personnel. By describing the pilot-error narrative as "unfortunate," the bench implicitly cautioned against reputational harm to pilots and crew members, many of whom operate under high-pressure conditions and adhere to strict regulatory standards. The remarks serve as a reminder that responsible reporting and public discourse are crucial, particularly in cases involving high-risk professions. Families of the victims, airline staff, and civil aviation authorities are closely following the proceedings, recognizing the significance of the Supreme Court's statements. The court's guidance may influence both the tone and direction of ongoing inquiries, as well as future policies related to aviation safety, crisis communication, and regulatory oversight. The Supreme Court's characterization of the pilot-error narrative in the Air India crash as "unfortunate" underscores the necessity of careful, evidence-based investigation in aviation incidents.

Bihar Assembly Elections Likely to Be Held in Three Phases After Chhath Puja

New Delhi, 7 June: The Bihar Assembly elections are expected to be conducted in three phases, scheduled to take place after the festive period of Chhath Puja, according to sources close to the Election Commission. This decision reflects the Commission's ongoing preparations to ensure smooth, safe, and efficient polling across the politically significant state, which has 243 assembly constituencies and a history of high-stakes electoral battles. Officials indicate that the three-phase polling schedule has been designed to manage security arrangements effectively, coordinate logistics, and facilitate a smooth voting process. Bihar, with its diverse population and complex political

landscape, presents unique challenges for election management, making phased polling a practical approach. The Election Commission is reportedly considering factors such as law and order, voter turnout, and administrative efficiency while finalizing the dates. The timing of the elections after Chhath Puja—a major festival in Bihar and neighboring states—is expected to allow voters to participate without clashing with religious and cultural observances. Chhath Puja, which sees millions of devotees offering prayers to the Sun God along riverbanks and water bodies, is one of the most important festivals in Bihar. By scheduling polling after the festival, authorities aim to

maximize voter participation while respecting local customs and traditions. Political analysts note that the post-festival timing could also influence campaigning strategies. Parties are likely to intensify their outreach immediately after Chhath, engaging with voters in rural and urban constituencies alike. Bihar's political scene is highly competitive, with major parties including the Janata Dal (United), Rashtriya Janata Dal, Bharatiya Janata Party, and Indian National Congress vying for influence, along with smaller regional players and alliances that can sway results in key constituencies. Security arrangements for the elections are expected to be robust, given Bihar's size and the lo-

gistical challenges associated with phased polling. The Election Commission is coordinating with state law enforcement agencies, paramilitary forces, and administrative officials to ensure that polling is conducted smoothly and without incidents. Special attention is being given to sensitive constituencies where electoral tensions are historically higher. The three-phase schedule is also likely to help in deploying resources efficiently. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), security personnel, and polling staff can be rotated across constituencies to manage the extensive scale of the election. This approach has been successfully implemented in previous state and national elections in India.

West Bengal Government Files Affidavit in Supreme Court on Dearness Allowance Issue

New Delhi, 7 June: The West Bengal government has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court regarding the ongoing Dearness Allowance (DA) dispute, signaling the state's proactive approach to addressing employee grievances and clarifying its stance on the matter. The affidavit comes in response to a petition seeking intervention in the timely disbursement and revision of DA for state government employees, a topic that has been a point of contention for months. According to sources familiar with the development, the affidavit outlines the state government's position on the calculation, release, and adjustment of Dearness Allowance for its employees. The document emphasizes the government's commitment to ensuring that employees receive their entitled benefits, while also highlighting the financial and administrative considerations involved in implementing DA revisions. By submitting the affidavit, the state aims to provide clarity on the legal and procedural

aspects of the matter, ensuring transparency and adherence to existing regulations. The Supreme Court had earlier sought a detailed response from the West Bengal government following petitions highlighting delays and inconsistencies in the disbursement of DA. The petitions cited concerns among employees regarding the impact of inflation and rising costs of living, arguing that the government must expedite the process to ensure fair compensation. In its affidavit, the West Bengal administration responded to these concerns, presenting a structured explanation of the mechanisms in place for calculating and disbursing DA. The matter of Dearness Allowance has been particularly sensitive, given its direct impact on the livelihood of thousands of state government employees and pensioners. Employees have been waiting for revised DA payments, which are linked to the cost of living index, and any delay or uncertainty in the process has led to mounting

anxiety and calls for prompt resolution. The state government, while acknowledging these concerns, cited budgetary constraints and procedural formalities as factors influencing the timing of DA revisions. In its submission, the West Bengal government also highlighted past efforts to address employee concerns, pointing to previous revisions and timely adjustments made whenever possible. The affidavit reportedly stressed that the government remains committed to balancing fiscal responsibility with the welfare of its employees, aiming to ensure that DA adjustments are both sustainable and equitable. Legal experts observing the case note that the Supreme Court's involvement reflects the seriousness of the issue and the potential implications for employee rights and state financial management. By filing the affidavit, the West Bengal government seeks to demonstrate both compliance with legal norms and a willingness to engage constructively with the judiciary.

Mamata Welcomes Goddess with Song on Pratipad, Shares Her New Composition Sung by Nachiketa

Kolkata, 7 June: The arrival of Pratipad on Monday brought with it the unmistakable fragrance of festivity in the air as Bengal stepped fully into the rhythm of Durga Puja. Marking the beginning of Devi Paksha, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee extended her greetings to the people of the state in her own characteristic way — through poetry and music. Taking to her official X handle, the Chief Minister wished everyone at the dawn of the festival and shared a brand-new song that she had both written and composed, this time brought to life in the voice of noted singer Nachiketa Chakraborty. Mamata Banerjee wrote evocatively, "Autumn sky in the blue sky / Maa is coming to Durga Angane." The line captured the essence of the season, when the golden sunlight, the crisp blue skies, and the rustling kash pool together signal the Goddess's return to her earthly home. The post was accompanied by the release of her fresh musical composition — a song that quickly captured attention, with thousands of people streaming it within hours of its release. The three-minute, 16-second-long track is rooted in a poem first published in Banerjee's anthology *Kathanjali*. The lyrics, suffused with hope and awakening, reflect not just the spirit of Durga Puja but also an appeal to shake off inertia and embrace a new dawn. "When your sleep breaks, then your morning / dream flowers will spread on your shoulders

/ the ages will laugh / come and wake up this world / it is not too late today / come and remove this dilapidation / dress up in new clothes," goes the song. Both the tune and the words are credited to the Chief Minister, while Nachiketa's voice lends it an emotional resonance. The theme, Mamata explained in her message, is broader than just the festival. It is a call to awaken — not only for Bengalis celebrating Puja but for the wider world as well. The festival becomes a metaphor, an occasion to urge people to rise above despair, embrace renewal, and celebrate life's possibilities. Listeners have responded warmly to the sentiment, with the track already being described as a "song of hope." This is not the first time that Mamata Banerjee has shared her art with the public during the festive season. Over the years, she has established a tradition of releasing new songs and poems around Durga Puja. These creative works often find their way into pandals and cultural programmes, becoming part of the season's soundtrack. This year, she has prepared several songs, all set to music and sung by prominent artists including state minister Indranil Sen, veteran singer Sriradha Banerjee, and Nachiketa. On Sunday, during Mahalaya, Banerjee had unveiled another song of hers — written and composed at the request of puja organisers. That track was sung by Indranil Sen and also released on her social media ac-

count. With Monday's Pratipad release, she continued the festive chain, gifting her audience a second song, this one carrying the powerful voice of Nachiketa. The pairing of her words with his singing has been widely appreciated, with many praising the collaboration as symbolic of Bengal's cultural identity. For Banerjee, music and literature have long been parallel outlets alongside her political life. Her collections of poetry, art exhibitions, and musical releases reflect an effort to engage with people through creativity, not merely through policy. On this festive morning, as pandals in Kolkata and across the state opened their doors to worshippers and visitors, her words and melodies became part of the shared celebration. Durga Puja in Bengal has always been more than ritual — it is an expression of culture, artistry, and togetherness. By releasing her song at the very outset of Devi Paksha, Mamata Banerjee ensured that her voice, both literal and poetic, joined the chorus of festivities. For many, her song on Pratipad has set the tone of this year's Puja: one of awakening, renewal, and joy, welcoming the Goddess into every heart. Speaking passionately at the event, Mamata highlighted the significant role played by states in conceptualizing, negotiating, and implementing the GST framework. She stressed that the policy, which unified multiple indirect taxes into a single system, required

extensive coordination among state governments, careful planning of revenue-sharing mechanisms, and meticulous groundwork to ensure smooth execution. According to her, the Centre's involvement, in contrast, amounted mostly to "giving speeches" and promoting the initiative as a hallmark of its governance, while real operational and structural work fell squarely on the states' shoulders. Mamata's remarks come amid ongoing political discourse over the economic and administrative performance of the Modi government. By framing GST as a state-driven achievement, she sought to emphasize the proactive role of state governments in addressing fiscal reforms and protecting the interests of their constituents. She also underscored that West Bengal, in particular, had made concerted efforts to streamline tax collection, facilitate compliance among businesses, and ensure that revenue policies were equitable, despite facing challenges such as differing rate slabs and inter-state disputes. The Chief Minister's critique did not stop at GST administration. She accused the central government of using the policy as a political tool, portraying it as a singular success of the Union government while overlooking the contributions of individual states. "When reforms like GST succeed, it is the states that manage the complexities on the ground.

"Awakening of Women's Power": Abhishek Banerjee and Mamata Banerjee Extend Navratri Greetings as Devi Paksha Begins

Kolkata, 7 June: Political and cultural leaders of the state extended warm greetings to mark the beginning of Navratri, celebrating the divine feminine energy that is central to the festival. Monday's Pratipada heralded the official start of the Puja season, with streets and pandals already brimming with devotees and enthusiasts, creating a vivid tapestry of lights, flowers, and prayers. Trinamool All India General Secretary and Diamond Harbour MP, Abhishek Banerjee, took to social media to convey his greetings to the public, emphasizing the awakening of women's power as the essence of the festival. In his message, Abhishek highlighted the symbolic significance of Devi Paksha, describing it as a celebration of courage, truth, and the triumph of goodness over darkness. He wrote, "This festival is the worship of power. This festival is a celebration of the infinite power of the divine woman. It is a reminder that truth, courage and honesty always rise above darkness." He prayed for the well-being of society, writing, "May all shadows be removed by the power of Maa Durga. May she lead us forward on the path of peace, prosperity and justice." The MP's message resonated with many followers online, reflecting both the cultural importance of Navratri and the broader social message of empowerment and righteousness. The Navratri greetings came amid widespread excitement across the city. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated several pujas, including major pandals, over the weekend and on Monday morning. Streets were alive with devotees thronging the pavilions, witnessing the elaborate decorations and cultural performances that are the hallmark of Bengal's Durga Puja festivities. Mamata Banerjee herself extended her greetings on social media, posting an evocative couplet: "Autumn sky in the blue sky / Maa is coming to Durga Angane." Mamata Banerjee also shared a new song she had composed, which was performed by noted singer Nachiketa Chakraborty. The three-minute 16-second track is based on her poem from *Kathanjali* and is imbued with the theme of awakening, renewal, and hope. She described the song as a message urging people to rise from slumber, embrace a new day, and bring light and positivity into the world. The lyrics — "When your sleep breaks / then your morning / dream flowers will spread on your shoulders / the ages will laugh / come and wake up this world / it is not too late today / come and remove this dilapidation / dress up in new clothes" — combine the festive spirit with a social message, appealing to both cultural sensibilities and moral consciousness. The Chief Minister's musical offerings have become a hallmark of Bengal's Durga Puja celebrations. Each year, she composes and releases several songs during the festive season, collaborating with prominent artists such as Indranil Sen, Sriradha Banerjee, and Nachiketa Chakraborty. These songs not only celebrate the festival but also reinforce themes of hope, resilience, and community spirit. This year, her contributions have already captured significant public attention, with thousands streaming the song on her social media handles within hours of its release. As Devi Paksha progresses, the combined greetings from political leaders highlight both the cultural and social dimensions of the festival. While Abhishek Banerjee focused on the empowerment of women and the enduring message of truth and justice, Mamata Banerjee intertwined artistry, music, and cultural expression to engage citizens in celebration. Together, their messages underline the dual character of the festival — reverence for the Goddess and reflection on moral and societal values. With streets crowded and pandals illuminated across Kolkata, the city is now fully immersed in the spirit of Puja. The messages from both leaders not only set the tone for the nine-day festival but also remind citizens of the enduring significance of Devi Paksha as a time for awakening, celebration, and renewal. As Bengal enters the heart of the festive season, the combination of cultural displays, devotional music, and political engagement ensures that the festival resonates with communities across the state, reinforcing both tradition and contemporary social values. Police have arrested the three accused for their alleged involvement in the crime and the security guard for lapses in carrying out his duty.

Gun Violence Shadows Kolkata Festivities: Young Man Killed in Garden Reach Shootout

Kolkata, 7 June: As the city of Kolkata prepares to welcome the festive celebrations of Durga Puja, a wave of unease has gripped residents following a deadly shooting in Garden Reach on Monday morning. The incident, which occurred near the DC Port office, claimed the life of a young man and has raised concerns about rising gun violence in the city during the festive season. This comes just days after a separate shooting incident in Charu Market, intensifying fears of public safety during one of Bengal's most celebrated festivals. According to reports, local residents heard the sound of gunshots near the Garden Reach area around 9:45 a.m. and rushed to investigate. They discovered the body of a young man lying near the port office, partially covered with a plastic sheet. Acting swiftly, the witnesses alerted the West Port police, who reached the scene promptly. Upon arrival, the authorities noted that a revolver and a bag were found beside the deceased, prompting the police to examine the contents of the bag to gather clues about his identity. The deceased has been identified as Shrestha Dhurka, son of Pradeep Dhurka, a resident of Hastings. Shrestha, also a resident of St. George's Terrace in Hastings, was unmarried and lived with his parents. According to family members, he had been employed with a company near Bhavanipur for the past six months and had primarily been working from home. The

family described him as a responsible young man, adding to the shock of the tragic event. Initial reports from the police suggest that Shrestha sustained a gunshot wound to the head. The body has been sent for autopsy to determine the precise cause of death. Investigators are exploring multiple angles, including whether the shooting was a deliberate homicide staged to appear as a suicide or an actual case of self-inflicted gunshot. Officials have noted that in both scenarios, questions remain about the origin of the weapon, raising suspicions that firearms may have been transported into the city from other regions during the Puja festivities. The Garden Reach shooting has sent ripples of concern through the local community, particularly given the timing of the incident at the beginning of Devi Paksha, when Kolkata is usually abuzz with devotees and festival preparations. Residents expressed fear and unease, noting that such violence threatens the festive spirit and public safety in the densely populated areas of the city. This incident follows a previous case of gun violence in Kolkata just a day before Mahalaya, in the Charu Market area. On that morning, two men reportedly wearing raincoats entered a local gym and fired two rounds at the gym owner. Though the owner survived the attack with difficulty, the incident created widespread panic in a busy neighborhood. A large contingent of police personnel

responded immediately, highlighting both the severity of the incident and the challenge of ensuring public safety in crowded urban areas during the festive season. Authorities have indicated that investigations are ongoing, with teams examining CCTV footage, speaking to witnesses, and scrutinizing the provenance of the firearm found at the Garden Reach site. While initial speculation revolves around either a suicide or a staged homicide, the broader question of gun trafficking and the presence of illegal weapons in Kolkata during Puja remains under scrutiny. For residents and festival-goers, the juxtaposition of celebration and fear underscores the challenges urban authorities face in maintaining safety during one of Bengal's most culturally significant times. The city, known for its elaborate pandals, cultural performances, and vibrant crowds, is being reminded that vigilance is necessary to prevent criminal elements from undermining the festive spirit. Meanwhile, police have appealed to citizens to report any suspicious activity, especially in areas around crowded markets and puja pandals. Enhanced patrolling and surveillance measures are reportedly being put in place in sensitive zones, including Garden Reach, Charu Market, and other high-footfall areas, to prevent further incidents during the Puja period. As Kolkata moves forward into the heart of the festival.

Emergency Nos.

Airlines
Air India : 2211-6869 Dum
Dum airport : 2511-8787

Railway
Howrah Station Old Complex : 2638-7412 New Complex : 2638 2217 Sealdah Station : 2350 3535/3537 Reservation : 139, Women Security : 182

Emergency Services
Lalbaraz Police Control Room : 2214- 3230 Bengal Police : 2214 3230 South 24 Parganas Police : 2479 1870 Fire Brigade: 2252 6666 Bhabani Bhavan : 2479 1761 Missing : 2450- 6100

Night Medicine, Oxygen
Life Care : 2475 4628 Nandan Medical : 2358 1723 Jivandwip : 2455 0962 South Kolkata Bureau : 2484 4322.

Nurses / Nurse Assistant
South Kolkata Nurses : 2484 4322 City Point : 2567 4113 Janakalyan : 2867 5012 Health Care : 2416 4675 Alo : 2472 1039 Sister: 2442 6385 Loknath : 2372 2763 Life Care : 2578 8720 Nivedita : 2284 7810 Anandamoyee : 2464 7294 Relief : 2289 7362 Care : 2334 7068 Sanjibani : 2360 7881 Trend Nurses : 2554 2757 Nurses Association : 2241 682

Ambulance
Garpar Srijan : 2354 5847 South and Policlinic : 2466 2433 Life Care : 2475 4628 Okhaid : 2475 4320 Diganta : 2474 5455 Sisir Kumar Institute : 2533 0382 Rani Rashmoni Mission : 2431 9885 Janmangal : 2466 2879 Medical : 2554 0810 Alipora Chetla Basti Unnayan : 2449 0286 Meera Seva : 2411 8316 Matri Sangha Janakalyan Ashram : 2475 4527 Dr. Bidhan Roy Memorial : 2574 9738 Kumartuli Institution : 2530 5561 Taltala People : 2265 3239 MAR Care : 2320 3181

Blood Bank
Central Blood Bank : 2351 0619 Peoples Blood Bank : 2455 5164 Lions : 2248 5780 Life Care : 2284 6940 Ashok Lab : 2472 0333 Hemophilia Society : 2426 3739 Ramkrishna Seva Pratishan : 2475 3636-9

Hospital
SSKM : 2204 1100 Vision Hospital : (033) 71-222-000 R N Tagore : 2436 4000 Thakurpukur Cancer Research : 2453 2781 CMRI : 2456 7700 NRS : 2265 3216 Ram Krishna Mission Seva Pratishan : 2475 3636 National Medical College : 2289 7122 R G Kar : 2555 7675 Shambhunath Pandit : 2302 2800 Nitangle : 2282 7462 Peerless : 2462 2394 Priyamabada Birla Aravind Eye : 2289 4343 Ruby General : 3987 1800 B M Birla : 2456 7890 Renaissance : 4014 4014 Medical College : 2241 4901 Matribhavan : 2464 4189 Kalpataru : 2562 2280 West Bank : 2454 5516 Bangur : 2473 3354 Balananda Brahmachari : 2478 7801 Sushrut : 2358 0201 Apollo Glanigles : 2320 2122 Eye Care : 2287 2809 North City : 2321 1101 B P Poddar : 2445 8901 Barasat Cancer Research : 2552 2222 Escarg Sanjiboni : 2554 1818 Med Rebab : 2451 7881 Vinayak Health World : 2532 9950 Dafodil : 2534 6649 Mission Hospital, Durgapur : (0343) 2535 555

Nursing Home
EEDF : 2473 3601 Speed Edge : 2534 3170 Repose : 2287 1442 Mind Care : 2534 6220 Belle View : 2287 2321 New Life : 2570 8090 Woodlands : 2456 7079 Capital : 2350 7272 Ekbalpore : 2449 5151 Medica ENT : 2426 4901-03 Dr. Nihar Munshi Eye Foundation : 2461 8733

Dead body Carriage
Hindu Satkar : 2241 3849 New Alipore Suruchi Sangha : 2400- 9950 Garpar Srijan : 2354 5847 Park Circus Puja : 2287 1793 Sarkar Bagan. : 2554 1881 Baranagar Karmisangha : 2558 7526 Meera : 2411 8316 Rajib Memorial : 2454 9550 Lake Town Committee : 2521 9578 Kumartuli Institute : 2530 5561 Sribhumi Sporting : 534 0002 Udayer Pathe : 3250 1089

Burning Ghat
Keoratala : 2466 6602 Siriti : 2403 2013 Kashipore R K Mahasman : 2558 3484 Kashi Mitra : 2554 2967 Nimtala : 2269 1955