

Sachin Pilot vs Ashok Gehlot, Round 2 : Battle For Rajasthan Congress Narrative

Jaipur, 8 June: Ashok Gehlot has muddled political waters in Rajasthan, again. The Congress leader raised eyebrows this week with remarks about colleague Sachin Pilot and his version of the September 2022 showdown that did not allow a change of guard in the state.

Back in 2022 Gehlot was supposed to shift to Delhi to take over as chief of the Congress party and a new face—possibly Pilot—was supposed to take over his job in Rajasthan. That switch did not happen because over 100 MLAs refused to support the party high command's decision.

But the Congress leader

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 court underscored that attributing the cause of the accident solely to the actions of

ables, 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 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.



stressed this week that the rebellion was not against the party's leadership decision but against the choice of Pilot as his successor.

While the Pilot camp has not reacted, sources have contested this version of events.

In fact, highly-placed sources in the Congress told the Gandhi family—the de facto decision-makers in the party—wanted very much to see Gehlot succeed Sonia Gandhi—then the Congress chief—and that such a switch obviously needed the Rajasthan leader's sign-off too.

The Supreme Court of India has termed the narrative

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, often involve multiple vari-

'Got Offer To Join BJP, I Rejected It': Trinamool MP's Claim Amid Crisis

New Delhi, 8 June: Trinamool MP Saugata Roy has claimed that the BJP had offered him a switchover, but he rejected it. Speaking to news agency ANI, the veteran politician asserted that he will stay with Mamata Banerjee. "Yes, I got an offer to join (the BJP). But I rejected it. I will stay in the party on whose symbol I won the election," he added.

Roy's remarks came after a senior Rajya Sabha MP quit the party after making bombshell corruption allegations. Sukhendu Sekhar Ray has also resigned as an MP and visited a BJP leader's home, sparking speculations that he may soon join the saffron fold.

Saugata Roy brushed aside any concern over Ray's

exit. "This is not important. The MP of Rajya Sabha who has never won in an election...what is the value of his opinion?" he asked.

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 logistical 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.

Pre-Marital Physical Relationship Not A Mark On Character: Supreme Court

New Delhi, 8 June: The Supreme Court has held that a physical relationship between two consenting unmarried adults cannot, by itself, be a ground to draw an adverse impression about a person's character, while setting aside the cancellation of a police constable candidate's selection in Telangana.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Manoj Misra made the observation while hearing the case of a candidate whose provisional selection as a Stipendiary Cadet Trainee Police Constable was cancelled by the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board over a criminal case registered against him in 2014.

The case stemmed from allegations of sex on the false promise of marriage involving a woman known to the candidate. The matter was later settled before a Lok Adalat in 2015. The candidate had disclosed the case in his application form.

"Physical relationship between two

consenting unmarried adults cannot and should not by itself be a ground to draw an adverse impression about the character of the person in that relationship. There is no law which prohibits two consenting unmarried adults to have a relationship of their choice," the court said.

The bench emphasised that not every relationship culminates in marriage and authorities must be sensitive to changing social realities.

"Not every relationship culminates in marriage. Therefore, merely because the relationship did not culminate in marriage is no ground to believe that one party has cheated the other," the judgment said.

The court also clarified that a compromise of a rape-on-promise-of-marriage case before a Lok Adalat does not amount to an admission of guilt. It said an employer cannot draw an adverse inference merely because a criminal case ended in a settlement, unless there is ma-

terial to suggest that the compromise was forced upon the complainant.

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.

Calcutta University Sets 7.5 CGPA Cut-Off for Fourth-Year Honours with Research Programme

Kolkata, 8 June: University of Calcutta has fixed a minimum 7.5 CGPA requirement for students seeking admission to the fourth-year Honours with Research programme under the new undergraduate curriculum framework. The decision is aimed at ensuring that only academically qualified students pursue the research-intensive track introduced under the National Education Policy (NEP). According to university officials, students who secure a CGPA of 7.5 or above by the end of the third year will be eligible to enroll in the fourth-year research programme, which is designed to provide advanced academic training and prepare students for higher studies and research careers. The move is expected to encourage academic excellence while creating a clear pathway for students interested in pursuing postgraduate research. Colleges affiliated with the university have been asked to implement the new eligibility criteria as part of the ongoing rollout of the revised undergraduate structure. The announcement brings clarity for thousands of students preparing for the transition to the fourth year, with academic institutions now gearing up to accommodate the new research-oriented curriculum. 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 estab-

lished 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 Sri-radhha 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 account. 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.

Cool Relief, Sudden Chaos: Thunderstorm Ends Kolkata's Heatwave, Uproots Trees Across City

Kolkata, 8 June: Kolkata received much-needed respite from scorching heat and oppressive humidity as a powerful thunderstorm swept across the city, bringing cooler temperatures and strong winds. While residents welcomed the drop in temperature, the storm also left a trail of disruption, uprooting trees, damaging property, and affecting traffic movement in several areas. Heavy gusts accompanied by rain lashed different parts of the city, leading to waterlogging in low-lying pockets and temporary power interruptions. Emergency teams were deployed to clear fallen trees and restore normalcy as civic authorities monitored the situation. The sudden weather change offered relief after days of uncomfortable conditions, but officials urged residents to remain cautious as more thunderstorms and rain are forecast in the coming days. The storm highlighted both the benefits and challenges of Kolkata's pre-monsoon weather, bringing comfort from the heat while exposing vulnerabilities in urban infrastructure. 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 women. 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, Sri-radhha Banerjee, and Nachiketa Chakraborty. 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.

From 'Pushpa' Persona to Political Powerhouse: Jahangir Khan's Meteoric Rise and Sudden Fall in Bengal's High-Voltage Power Game

Kolkata, 8 June: Once a relatively low-profile political worker, Jahangir Khan shot into the limelight after reinventing himself with a larger-than-life "Pushpa"-inspired image that quickly became a talking point in West Bengal's volatile political theatre. Khan's rise was as dramatic as his public persona. Projecting himself as a defiant grassroots strongman, he gradually built influence within his constituency and emerged as a trusted aide in the inner political circle of a prominent regional leadership. His reputation for aggressive campaigning and street-level mobilisation earned him the label of a rising power broker in the party's local hierarchy.

However, the same flamboyant image that propelled him upward also drew intense scrutiny during the recent high-stakes electoral battle in Falta. As tensions escalated, rival political forces targeted him as a symbol of excess and confrontation in the campaign narrative. The situation intensified further when Khan's political fortunes began to slip amid allegations of mismanagement and internal factional rifts. The turning point came when he abruptly exited the electoral contest ahead of a crucial repoll, a move that stunned party workers and reshaped the constituency's political dynamics overnight.

While supporters described it as a strategic withdrawal, critics viewed it as a clear sign of diminishing influence within the organization. Once seen as a rising "right-hand man" in the regional power structure, Khan now finds himself at a crossroads, with his political future uncertain and his once-dominant image fading amid shifting al-

liances and mounting pressure within the party ecosystem.

The dramatic arc—from a cinematic-style political persona to a sudden fall from frontline relevance—highlights the volatile nature of contemporary electoral politics, where image, influence, and internal trust can change as quickly as the headlines that define them. 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.

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 Polyclinic : 2466 2433 Life Care : 2475 4628 Okhard : 2475 4320 Diganta : 2474 5455 Sisir Kumar Institute : 2533 0382 Rani Rashmoni Mission : 2431 9885 Janmangal : 2466 2879 Medical Bank : 2554 0810 Alipore 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 Pratishthan : 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 3214 Ram Krishna Mission Seva Pratishthan : 2475 3636 National Medical College : 2289 7122 R G Kar : 2555 7675 Shambhunath Pandit : 2302 2800 Nitangle : 2282 7462 Peerless : 2462 2394 Priyam-bada 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 : 2644 5516 Bangur : 2473 3354 Balananda Brahmachari : 2478 7801 Sushrut : 2358 0201 Apollo Granigles : 2320 2122 Eye Care : 2287 2809 North City : 2321 1101 B P Poddar : 2445 8901 Barasat Cancer Research : 2552 2222 Escag Sanjiboni : 2554 1818 Mity Rehab : 2281 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 Ekkalpor : 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 Kashi-pore R K Mahasman : 2558 3484 Kashi Mitra : 2554 2967 Nimtala : 2269 1955