



THE CRICKET ASSOCIATION OF BENGAL

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



## A NEW DAWN

# EDEN GARDENS SET FOR A REVAMP



The iconic Eden Gardens is all set for a redevelopment. From the Eden Facade to Corporate Box, Premium Hospitality Areas, Eden Museum, Member's club, Sky Lounge, the iconic ground is gearing up for a new look in a few years' time. This will significantly enhance the match-day experience for fans and help the cricket lovers get a feel of the Eden Gardens like never before. This will give the stadium a more contemporary look while retaining the historic identity of the iconic ground.



## Sensational Shami

Two players from Bengal are among the top six wicket-takers in the Ranji Trophy (2025-26). Shahbaz Ahmed has taken 39 wickets in 8 matches, while Mohammed Shami has claimed 37 wickets in 7 matches. Against J&K, Shami took 8 wickets in the first innings. This stands as his career-best bowling figure in an innings in the first-class cricket. CAB President Sourav Ganguly recently said, "He (Shami) should be bowling at the other end of Bumrah, nowhere else. That's how good he is. He had a strong Ranji Trophy season for Bengal. I still remember that semifinal. Even though Bengal lost, he picked eight wickets. He was instrumental in taking the team that far. I'm very happy he wants to continue playing in the Ranji Trophy. It's tough for a fast bowler, but there's nothing better than watching Shami run in with the new ball. I still believe he should play for India. Hopefully, his time will come again because he's that good."

## Gharami's Standout Performance

Sudip Kumar Gharami achieved significant success among the Bengal batters in the Ranji Trophy (2025-26). He ranks fourth on the list of highest run-scorers, accumulating 797 runs in 14 innings across 9 matches. His performance includes three centuries and three half-centuries, maintaining an average of 56.92. Sudip also hit the highest number of boundaries in this tournament with 104 fours.

In the third quarter-final held in Kalyani, he played a massive innings of 299 runs off 596 balls against Andhra, featuring 31 fours and 6 sixes. In the first innings of the semi-final against Jammu and Kashmir, he scored 146 runs off 246 balls with the help of 21 fours and a six, although he returned empty-handed in the second innings.



## Bengal's Ranji Trophy Campaign Ended In Semifinals

Bengal's run in the Ranji Trophy came to a halt in the semifinals. After remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament to secure a spot in the final four, their dream of clinching the title remained unfulfilled once again. Bengal suffered a 6-wicket defeat at the hands of Jammu & Kashmir in the semifinal held at Kalyani. It is worth noting that Jammu & Kashmir went on to win the Ranji Trophy (2025-26) title.

Despite securing a crucial lead in the first innings, a batting collapse in the second innings—where Bengal were bowled out for just 99 runs—turned the tide against them.

## Ganguly's 'Team CAB' Places Special Emphasis On Taking Care Of Cricketers

Under the leadership of President Sourav Ganguly, Team CAB has placed special emphasis on being attentive to the welfare of cricketers. Arrangements for the treatment of injuries or illnesses are managed by the CAB, and insurance provisions are also in place for the players.

Former India Captain Jhulan Goswami is also taking special initiatives regarding the medical treatment of women cricketers. A prime example is Sandipta Patra, the former captain of the Bengal Girls' Under-15 team. Sandipta sustained a knee injury while playing. Although she initially underwent surgery in Kolkata, she wasn't seeing much progress during her rehabilitation.

Subsequently, the CAB contacted the NCA (National Cricket Academy). Her rehab began under the guidance of the NCA, and she also underwent surgery in Mumbai. To ensure she returns to full fitness, her rehabilitation is ongoing, and she is being sent to the NCA in Bengaluru at regular intervals.

The CAB is bearing all expenses, including her treatment, travel, and boarding, while insurance benefits have also been made available for Sandipta.



The cricket Centre of Excellence in Dumurjala, Howrah will be built by the Cricket Association of Bengal with state-of-the-art facilities on 8.93 acres of land. Sports science centre, indoor and outdoor net practice facilities, gym, residential facilities for players and various other facilities are expected to be set up.

## ALLAN BORDER REVISITS EDEN MEMORIES

*"I have great memories of playing here at the Eden Gardens. In 1987, winning the World Cup trophy here was absolutely a special one. We were like the home team here, playing against England in the final. It was a great thrill to play the final here in front of a big crowd. It's been 39 years since I last visited Eden Gardens. It's really good to be back here and I would love to come back again with my wife"*

Australia cricket legend Mr. Allan Border also rang the customary Eden bell at the Eden Gardens to start the IPL 2026 match between KKR and RR. The 1987 ICC Cricket World Cup winning-captain was also felicitated by CAB Office Bearers with a special souvenir.



## CAB TOURNAMENTS

### N.C. Chatterjee T20 Tournament

Aurora Athletic Association defeated West Bengal Police Sports Club by 20 runs to emerge champions of N.C. Chatterjee T20 Tournament.

### Second Division (Junior) One Day Tournament

International Club outclassed WB Police Sports Club by 3 wickets in the final to emerge champions of Second Division (Junior) One Day Tournament.

### CAB Junior U-15 Cricket Tournament

A brilliant all-round performance sealed a memorable 35-run victory for Pallishree Madhyamgram against Mainland Sambaran Cricket Academy in the CAB Junior U-15 Cricket Tournament Final.

### CAB Women's Club Cricket Tournament 2025-26

After the grand success of the first two editions, the third edition of the CAB Women's Club Cricket Tournament 2025-26 began with the qualifying stage in T20 format.

The inaugural season in 2024 began with 10 clubs, with the number of teams being doubled to 20 the following year in 2025. To unearth more talent for cricket in Bengal and create more opportunity among the girls, CAB launched the third edition with **40 clubs**.

The tournament began with the qualifying round (T20 format) consisting of 26 teams, from which 2 top clubs, Cossipore Club and Gymkhana, qualified for the main phase.

# A WORLD CUP TO REMEMBER



## India vs West Indies

For the first time ever, Eden Gardens hosted as many as seven matches in a single edition of a World Cup. The ICC T20 World Cup 2026 saw the iconic ground staging five group stage matches followed by a Super 8 match and the first semifinal. The India-West Indies clash at Eden Gardens was an extremely memorable match in Suryakumar Yadav and his team's quest to retain the T20 World Cup. This Super 8 match had become a do-or-die situation for India. Chasing a target of 196 runs, India won the match by 5 wickets with 4 balls to spare and confirmed their place in the semifinals. Sanju Samson became the Player of the Match, remaining unbeaten on 97 runs off 50 balls.

There were 65,354 spectators present at Eden Gardens for this match. It was a star-studded gathering at Eden. Present were ICC Chair Jay Shah, BCCI President Mithun Manhas, BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla, BCCI Secretary Debajit Saikia, BCCI Joint Secretary Prabhtej Bhatia, BCCI Treasurer A. Raghuram Bhat, IPL Governing Council Member Khairul Jamal Majumdar and others.

## T20 World Cup Semifinal - New Zealand vs South Africa

The iconic Eden Gardens witnessed a memorable evening as 40,000 fans enjoyed the thrilling ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 semifinal match between New Zealand and South Africa. New Zealand outclassed South Africa by nine wickets, thanks to a brilliant unbeaten ton by Finn Allen.

International Cricket Council Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Sanjog Gupta was in attendance at the iconic Eden Gardens as New Zealand and South Africa faced off in the all-important semifinal. CAB President Mr. Sourav Ganguly exchanged greetings with Mr. Gupta and had a lengthy interaction. The ICC CEO, besides enjoying the thrilling match, also praised the iconic stadium and its facilities for the mega event.

## IPL 2026 Begins At Eden Gardens In Style

The 19th edition of the Indian Premier League season began at the iconic Eden Gardens with Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) beating Kolkata Knight Riders convincingly. The match might be a one-sided encounter but the post-match presentation ceremony was a star-studded one. Former BCCI President and current CAB President Mr. Sourav Ganguly was present along with former BCCI Treasurer and current IPL chairman Mr. Arun Singh Dhumal marking a glamorous start to the IPL 2026 season at the iconic ground.

