

# 40 Sikh pilgrims from city take Kartarpur Corridor to visit Sahib gurdwara in Pak

Josephine Justin and Antara Upadhyay

**Kolkata:** The first organised batch of devotees from Kolkata visited the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan through the newly inaugurated Kartarpur Corridor last week.

Led by Satnam Singh Ahluwalia, the chairman of IHA Foundation, a group of 40 Sikh devotees from Kolkata reached Amritsar by the first direct flight connecting the two cities and visited Kartarpur through the corridor, which was inaugurated last week. They had a daylong journey on December 4 and are scheduled to come back to the city on Tuesday.

"Ever since the Partition



The Kartarpur Corridor was thrown open last week

of 1947, Sikhs on both sides of the border have prayed for a Corridor of Peace in the Kartarpur region, the resting place of Guru Nanak. Our pray-

ers were finally answered last month with the inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor. The entire journey was an emotional moment for all of

us," said Ahluwalia.

Dashmeshbir Singh Sodhi of Kokata said, "It was as if we were returning home. Pakistanis were most enthusiastic in their expressions of Punjabi brotherhood and said that their Punjab is the same as our Punjab. Excited smiles at the sight of turbans and chants of "Tuhaadi pagan tuhadian shaan hai" were all around."

The pilgrims said Pakistan police have formed a separate team, Punjab Tourist Police, to handle tourists from India.

"We started our journey at 6am and came back on the Indian side by 5.30pm. The entire journey was seamless. It was a memorable trip," said Ahluwalia.

# 'Revenge, rage driving forces behind gruesome murders within family'

Antara Upadhyay  
& Josephine Justin

**Kolkata:** The city is no stranger to gruesome murders committed within the family, often by the closest of blood relations and trusted ones who didn't have a criminal background. Twenty-six years ago, in 1993, the city was shocked by 16-year-old Sajal Barui, who killed his parents and step-brother. There have been numerous instances ever since — of husbands murdering wives and children, women committing suicide after killing their children and youngsters taking the lives of parents. In a majority of these cases, including the murder of Urmila Jund in Garcha on Thursday, revenge and rage have been the driving forces, say psychiatrists.

This case is a shocking example of an "emotionally driven crime", said psychiatrist J Ram. "The ferocity of the murder points towards a strong personal motive. The extent of brutality sets it apart from a

## PAST CASES

**Jan 2016** | A 43-year-old woman and her teenage twin sons were killed by her husband

**Aug 2019** | A Chinese-origin resident of Tangra battered his wife and father to death

**Oct 2019** | A man stabbed his wife to death at his in-laws' residence on his son's birthday

**Nov 2019** | A man killed his wife and committed suicide while their daughter was away

random act of killing for robbery and the like. Even without knowing the exact motive of the accused, we can clearly say it was a rage-driven act. Often, people cannot reason at the moment and get carried away with no foresight of the consequences of their act, regretting it later," said Ram.

Tension among members is a common thread in murders committed within the family, pointed out psychiatrist Siladitya Ray. "The barbaric

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J Ram | PSYCHIATRIST

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Siladitya Ray | PSYCHIATRIST

nature of this particular incident reflects the kind of anger or angst that must have built up in the accused. Such a ruthless murder is definitely abnormal and shows signs of a criminal mindset," said Ray. Proper investigation and thorough analysis of the mental states of the accused is required, he said.

Eminent sociologist Prasanta Ray described the incident as a heinous crime. He said, "This act was definitely not

impulsive and was a result of a long-drawn affair. An accumulation of numerous issues could have possibly resulted in the cold-blooded murder. A long story of hatred and animosity must have led to this. Intense anger, hate or any other such negative feeling is often the driving force behind most such acts."

The 24 stab wounds, decapitation, and slashing of the body are consistent with an emotion of rage wanting to eradicate a person's existence altogether, felt Ray.

Urmila's death is the seventh murder of a senior citizen in the city this year — one of the highest in the last few years — and the 10th in the immediate extended Kolkata neighbourhood.

Senior citizens are an easy target because of their vulnerability and general frail nature, said Ram. "The aged are often unable to raise an alarm easily or immediately when necessary. Most of them also live on their own, making them more susceptible to attacks,"

# 78-yr-old retd engineer dies while swimming in Rabindra Sarobar

## Might Have Suffered A Heart Attack, Say Cops

Josephine Justin & Antara Upadhyay

**Kolkata:** Satyabrata Sen, a 78-year-old retired engineer, died while swimming in the Rabindra Sarobar on Tuesday morning. Preliminary reports suggest that he might have suffered a heart attack. A regular to a Lake swimming club, Sen had reportedly been swimming alone on Tuesday. He was found dead at a part of the Lake that is under Anderson House (Indian Life Saving Society), said police.

A resident of Dover Terrace in Ballygunge and a regular at Anderson House, Sen had reached the club around 9.20am on Tuesday. Amit Bose, senior vice-president of the club, said, "Sen-da started swimming around 10.15am. About an hour later, when he did not return, we checked the register and the dressing room and found his clothes lying there. His body was found after a search."

Police arrived around noon and took help from disaster management group divers to recover the body, which was sent to SSKM Hospital for post-mortem around 3.30pm. "No foul play has been

### NO FOUL PLAY DETECTED: COPS

**9.20am** | Satyabrata Sen reaches Anderson House

**10.15am** | He starts swimming in the lake

**11.15am** | Other members notice his absence, find his clothes in dressing room

**11.30am** | Search operation launched

**Noon** | His body found in the water

**3.30pm** | Body sent to SSKM for autopsy



Satyabrata Sen and his house at (L) Dover Terrace in Ballygunge

### SAFETY MEASURES AT THE CLUB

- Has life-savers and trainers. Watchers posted near water
- Medical unit during peak season but not in winter
- Since December is off-season, there are two trainers in the morning and three in the evening



The spot at Anderson House from where watchers keep an eye on swimmers

detected and no complaint has been made at the Rabindra Sarobar police station. His son has contacted us and we told him that we will carry out inquest proceedings," said DC (southeast) Ajoy Prasad.

Sen was diabetic and suffered from high blood pressure, his family members have informed cops. He even had a

history of cardiac arrest.

A part of the Lake that belongs to the club is open to its members. "Even though there is a physical boundary dividing this part from the rest of the lake, members often go beyond it. However, he was found close to the steps leading to the water," said Bose. Veteran journalist and an Anderson regular Nirmalya Baner-

Pics: Subhojyoti Kanjilal

jee recalled seeing Sen at the club every day. "He usually swam at one of the two pools. But the pool water had been drained out on December 1. So he chose to swim at the lake. He was not a fast swimmer given his advanced age but he loved staying in the water for long," said Banerjee. Some of the other regulars though wandered why his absence was not noticed earlier. They also wondered if the register was updated. The club has over 7,000 registered members.

On being asked about the safety measures taken by the club, Bose said: "We are called the 'Life-Saving Club', so we do have life-savers, along with trainers and watchers who keep an eye on the pools and the lake at all times. This being an off-season, we have fewer people coming to swim here, and he was the only person swimming at that time. There is a medical unit always present during the peak season, but not in winters."

There are no CCTV cameras placed facing the Lake as there are many women swimmers. "Novice swimmers are always sent with a watcher who guides them but we had no need for that with Sen," said Bose. A trainer present at the club said, "There are about 15 to 20 trainers during the peak season, but now there are two in the morning and three in the evening." Family members of Sen refused to comment.

(With inputs from Anuwab Deb Sinha and Sampurna Majumder)

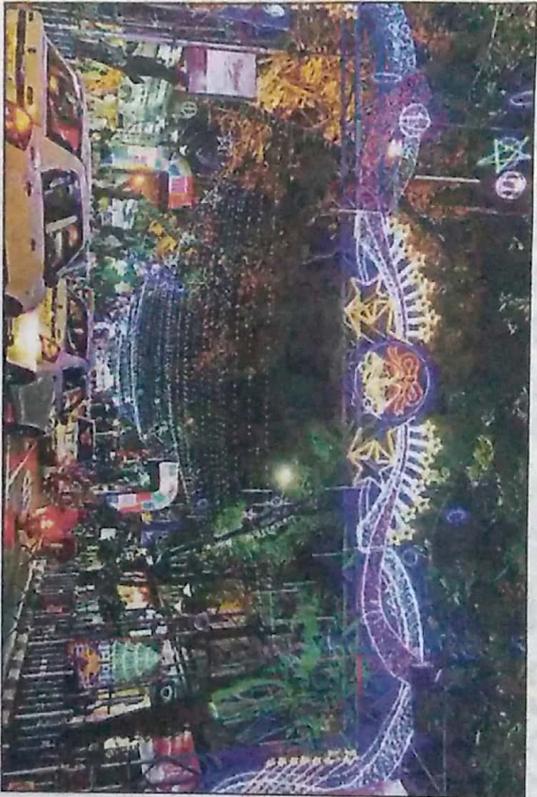
# Park Street decks up in Christmas colours

Josephine Justin  
& Antara Upadhyay

**Kolkata:** The season of lit-up streets, delicious cakes and exciting gifts is here again. This year's Christmas celebrations started early with the ninth edition of Kolkata Christmas Festival, organised by the tourism department in association with members of the Christian community getting off to a rollicking start at Allen Park.

For the two-week-long festival, 25 stalls selling goodies, cakes, chocolates and other delicacies, along with Christmas decorations and accessories, have been lined up along Park Street. One such stall — Tamil Christian Delicacy & Bev — is selling home-made South Indian food like idlis and vadas. Stall keeper Sakir Mir said: "Our stall is by Saffron Cup, and we also sell a variety of flavoured tea along with the food items."

Nigel Patrick Smith and his daughter Natasha, residents of Picnic Garden, have been attending the festival since 2011. Munching on a fish chop at one of the stalls, Nigel said: "This



Colourful lights and stalls selling goodies have become the USP of the Kolkata Christmas Festival at Park Street

carnival is one of the best things about Christmas in the city. We wait for the entire year for these stalls to come up. The spirit of Christmas comes from the soul and preparing for



this season is all the more fun with all these festivities."

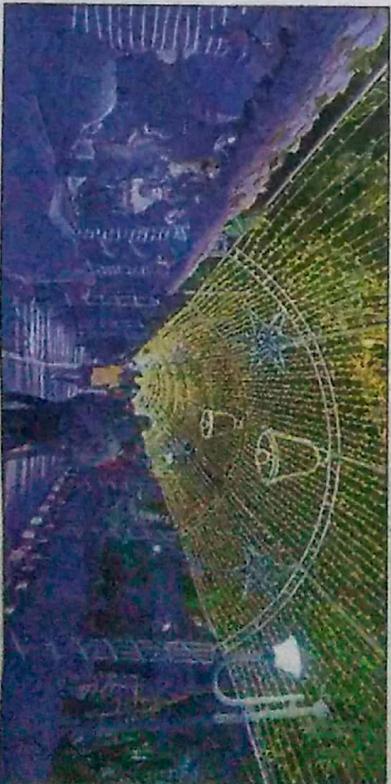
The colourful and glittery things Sunil Mahato is selling have made his stall a hit among

kids. "I prepare my stall 20 days prior to Christmas and I always get a good number of customers streaming in till the end of the year," he said.

Dignitaries like MP Derek O'Brien, IAS officer Nandini Chakraborty and police commissioner Anuj Sharma had attended the opening ceremony on Monday. Usha Uthup and Shayne Hyrapiet performed at the inaugural event. Numerous programmes — cultural performances, quizzes, carol singing, live music by school and



Pics: Subhojyoti Kanjilal



college students — have been lined up for the next few days.

Debosmita Bhattacharyay, a regular at the carnival, was ecstatic with the arrangements. "This year seems bigger and brighter than the last few years and I'm very excited to be

here again. "The festival is a boost for business at Park Street ahead of Christmas, said Pratik Daryamani, owner of Oasis. "The lights are fantastic and the food stalls are bringing the crowd in. It couldn't have been better," said Daryamani.