

SPAIN CROWNED AS THE WORLD CHAMPIONS



By Samadrita Chatterjee
The 2026 FIFA World Cup, the 23rd edition of football's biggest international tournament, was held from 11 June to 19 July 2026 across 16 host cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. It was the first World Cup featuring 48 teams,

expanding from the 32-team format. The 5 week tournament gave thrilling matches, dramatic upsets and extravagant performances before culminating in a gripping final between Spain and defending champions Argentina. The expanded tournament brought diversity

and gave emerging footballing nations the opportunity to compete on the world's biggest stage. Spain emerged as world champions after defeating Argentina 1-0 in a fiercely contested final, claiming their second FIFA World Cup title. Played before millions of viewers worldwide, the final provided a fitting conclusion to a tournament showcasing high-quality football and intense competition. Spain dominated possession from the outset, patiently building attacks while Argentina gave counterattacks. The decisive moment came in the second half when a precise pass split the Argentine defence, allowing a Spanish forward to calmly score. Argentina responded with urgency, creating promising chances, but Spain's disciplined defence and composed goalkeeping preserved the narrow lead. At the final whistle, Spanish players celebrated a historic triumph built on discipline, teamwork and consistency. The final highlighted the contrasting footballing philosophies of the teams. Spain relied on controlled possession, precise passing and patient movement to dictate the rhythm, while Argentina attempted to exploit spaces through rapid transitions and direct attacks. The tactical battle remained intense until the final whistle, with both teams demonstrating why they had reached

the decisive stage. Spain's ability to remain composed under pressure ultimately prove decisive. Spain's campaign was impressive throughout the tournament. They progressed comfortably through the group stage, combining their trademark possession-based style with greater attacking efficiency. In the knockout rounds, they defeated Austria in the Round of 32, edged past Portugal in the Round of 16, overcame Belgium in the quarter-finals and produced an assured performance against France in the semi-finals. Their balanced approach gave them one of the tournament's strongest defensive records while maintaining a formidable attack. Their consistency across successive knockout matches established them as one of the competition's most complete sides. Argentina entered the tournament carrying the expectations of defending champions after their 2022 success. They impressed during the group stage before a difficult Round of 32 encounter and defeating Egypt in Round of 16. An attacking display against Switzerland secured a quarter-final victory, while a hard-fought win over England booked their place in a second consecutive World Cup final. Their campaign reflected resilience, fighting spirit and the ability to perform under pressure. Their journey also exhibited their

experience in handling high-stakes matches and overcoming difficult opponents. The final, however, was Spain's moment. Their midfield controlled possession, blocked Argentina's attacking opportunities and ensured the match was governed by them. Despite Argentina's relentless efforts, they were unable to find an equaliser. Spain's victory marked the culmination of years of rebuilding, blending youthful talent with experienced leadership to produce attractive and effective football. The win strengthened Spain's reputation as one of the leading forces in modern international football. Although Argentina fell short, reaching consecutive World Cup finals reaffirmed their place among international football's elite. The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be remembered for its expanded format, emerging stars and thrilling knockout fixtures. The presence of 48 teams created a broader tournament, while the three-nation hosting arrangement gave the event a continental character. From dramatic victories and unexpected results to tactical battles between established footballing powers, the tournament provided memorable moments for fans worldwide. In the end, Spain stood above the rest, defeating the reigning champions through a campaign of consistency.

Assam Floods Devastate State as Thousands continue to Struggle



Assam, is drowning, affecting lakhs

By Tiya Maity
Assam is once again battling a severe flood crisis due to heavy monsoon rains and the overflowing Brahmaputra River. By the end of July 2026, the floods claimed 66 lives affecting more than 6.5 lakh people, making it one of the worst disasters of the 2026 monsoon season. Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and other low-lying districts have suffered extensive damage, with homes, farm-

lands and infrastructure submerged. Transport, communication and essential services have been severely disrupted, while farmers have incurred heavy crop losses. Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), says 37,724 displaced people have been accommodated in official relief camps, while another 1,53,833 are receiving aid through 245 active relief distribution centres. Joint rescue operations by the Indian

Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have evacuated around 10,000 people using boats and helicopters. Relief supplies, including food, drinking water and medicines, are being distributed. Situations remain critical even after receding water levels. Waterborne diseases pose a growing threat due to contaminated drinking water, with health officials monitoring conditions in relief camps. Schools, businesses and transport networks are affected as well. Assam's recurring floods are driven by intense monsoon rainfall, the overflowing Brahmaputra, riverbank erosion, deforestation and climate change. The disaster emphasized the urgency of effective flood-control measures, early warning systems and sustainable river management.

Ken-Betwa Protest Intensifies Over Relief and Resettlement

By Srijoni Dutta
India's first major river interlinking initiative, the Ken-Betwa River Link Project, has again sparked controversy as displaced families and activists raise concerns over rehabilitation, compensation and environmental protection. The ₹44,600-crore project aims to transfer water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the water deficit Betwa River through the proposed Daudhan Dam, a 221-km canal and related infrastructure. It is expected to irrigate over 10 lakh hectares, provide drinking water to 13 districts across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and generate hydropower. However, affected villagers argue that development should not come at the cost of their rights. A 15-day protest led by social activist and former AAP leader Amit Bhatnagar ended after police cleared the agitation site in Chhatarpur on July 19. Protesters allege inadequate compensation, faulty rehabilitation surveys, exclusion of eligible families, irregularities in Gram Sabha proceedings, and possible irregularities involving nearly ₹400 crore in compensation. The Madhya Pradesh government has denied corruption

allegations, stating that rehabilitation and compensation have been approved for all eligible families. The state says 1,321 families in Panna and 3,718 in Chhatarpur have been sanctioned rehabilitation benefits. According to The New Indian Express, fresh surveys in Chhatarpur identified another 638 eligible families. The project has also intensified environmental concerns. The Daudhan Dam is expected to submerge part of the Panna Tiger Reserve, threatening forests and habitats of tigers, vultures and gharials. Critics also question whether the Ken River will continue to have surplus water amid changing rainfall patterns and climate uncertainty. While the government sees the project as a solution for irrigation, drinking water and economic growth in drought-prone Bundelkhand, affected communities and environmentalists argue that development must not compromise people's rights or fragile ecosystems. The Ken-Betwa project has become a key test of how India balances development, environmental conservation and justice for all of the displaced communities at the region.

YOUTH AND ASPIRATIONS

A meaningful life is not just a long one. It must be a life with some purpose; the people must be healthy, be able to develop their talents, participate in society and be free to achieve their goals.” This is what the higher secondary NCERT books define as an ideal life; this is the idea that is fed to the youth of the country by the Central Board of Secondary Education of India. However,it is an unfortunate situation that the theories and the realities are miles apart. There is a systematic information vacuum created to curb the aspirational potential of the youth. The societal norms of channelizing young adults into traditional STEM careers and criticizing their attempts in the social sciences and humanities are being continuously imposed and re-imposed on them. Additionally, commercialization of education in the private sectors promises the students and, more so, their parents high ranks and excellent futures. Results? Exorbitant financial debts that burden the children. Their aims and aspirations get trampled by responsibilities of early financial stability. Furthermore, rising unemployment, decreasing rupee value, competition with AI and world wars are robbing the youth off their aspirations to lead a fulfilling life. Government education, unfortunately, is not adequate to achieve national or international opportunities. Naturally, privately owned schools become advantageous and charge lakhs for basic education, solely because these schools are not just educational institutions but are lifestyle markers which dictate the social bracket of children. In a more generalized scenario, such obstructions extend the economic, education and information gaps. Fortunately enough, today’s youth have been able to overcome such adversities through effective usage of new media. New media is their medium to form intra-national and international connections, to enlarge their ideologies, to educate each other without cost, and to provide overall support to each other. They are becoming increasingly aware of their rights and, more importantly, are stepping up to protect them. Their approach to use humour and intellect to navigate through organized adversities is quite miraculous. The youth are refusing to part with their aspirations and hence have taken matters into their own vicinity. Nonetheless, today’s India is challenging the leading powers to practice the words of achieving democratic greatness in actuality rather than continuing hollow preaching. In such scenarios, we must not fail to note that the youth of today still continues to nurture their flame of aspirations.

WHERE IS INDIAN MEDIA’S NERVOUS SYSTEM?

The Indian press often forgets that it, too, is made up of citizens of this country. The truth it suppresses is also the truth of its own voice. Under an increasingly authoritarian political climate, the media's sensory organs appear to have been overtaken by capitalist interests, resulting in the failure of its very nervous system. As journalistic objectivity continues to erode, political privilege is reinforced while citizens are left voiceless. According to the 2026 World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), India ranks 157th out of 180 countries, reflecting concerns over political pressure, concentrated media ownership, legal restrictions, economic influence, and the safety of journalists. This raises an unsettling question: our walls may still have ears, but does Indian media? Although India remains a democracy, where journalism is regarded as the fourth pillar of governance, access to unbiased news has increasingly become a privilege. From the misrepresentation of facts and persuasive photojournalism to leading media houses overlooking critical issues, Indian journalism appears to have taken a back seat. But how did it reach this point? The answer lies in the gradual erosion of the core principles of citizen and investigative journalism. Journalism is meant to question, investigate, and hold power accountable. Yet accountability becomes difficult when those expected to question power are influenced by it. With several leading media houses backed by powerful corporate interests, concerns surrounding editorial independence become grave. When economic power shapes public opinion, journalistic neutrality comes into question. The consequences of this shrinking space for independent journalism are evident both in news coverage and in the risks journalists face. Reporting on events such as the farmers' protests attracted criticism for selective framing and the portrayal of protesters, raising concerns about whether the media was informing the public or shaping narratives. At the same time, the murders of journalists such as Gauri Lankesh and Shujaat Bukhari remain stark reminders of the dangers faced by those who challenge powerful interests. These incidents are not isolated; together, they reflect the deeper issues behind India's declining position in global press freedom. Ultimately, one question remains: if journalism students are discouraged from expressing politicalopinions in examination papers, how much freedom do experienced journalists truly possess?

THE MYTH OF DEMOCRACY



Caricature by Rahul Aora

By Piyasha Das

On 3rd May 2026, over 2.27 million aspirants gave an exam to seek admission to undergraduate, medical and dental courses. This exam was later cancelled on 12th May 2026 over a significant overlaps between a pre-calculated guess paper and the actual question paper, resulting in a nation-wide outrage among the youth of the country. This raging fire was further fuelled when the Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant made a remark comparing the unemployed youth of India with “cockroaches” from the highest constitutional bench in the country while staring at a petition filled by hundreds and thousands of desperate citizens who are looking for answers. While the courtroom fell silent , the youth or as they like to call themselves, cockroaches didn’t.Within 24 hours, a 30-year-old PR graduate from Boston University did something nobody dreamt about. Abhijeet Dipke didn’t start a petition. He didn’t go on a rampage on social media. He started a movement. He announced a mock political party. “If the system calls us cockroaches,” he wrote, “then cockroaches we will proudly

become. Resilient. Unkillable.Everywhere. Presenting -the Cockroach Janata Party.” What initially started as a single tweet became the fastest-growing satirical movement in Indian internet history. What started off as a satirical party born from a Supreme Court judge’s remark grew into the movement that ended Dharmendra Pradhan’s five-year run as Education Minister.Dipke returned to India on June 6 and led the CJP’s first physical rally at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar, demanding Pradhan’s resignation over the paper leak. Sonam Wangchuk, Ladakh based activist and scientist joined the protest and went on a hunger strike for 26 days . Wangchuk said in a post on X that he ended his fast after appeals from dozens of members of Parliament and following “a long negotiation on various conditions and in view of possible violence in the country.” Conceding that not all his demands were met, he said two federal lawmakers were present when he finished. Despite the end of the hunger strike, Dipke announced the protest will continue until the

resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan. Inspite of the peaceful nature of the protest, tragedy struck. On 20th July 2026 Delhi police attacked the students using lathi charges, pellet guns, expired tear gas as they were marching towards the parliament . Video footage showed police officers brutally slapping and abusing students. A male RAF officer was filmed sexually harassing women by inappropriately hitting women. Several other women came forward and claimed to be touched inappropriately and called derogatory words by the officers. Following the incident and its aftermath PM Narendra Modi, posted a late night video finally addressing the protest and assuring investigation. On July 25, 2026 Dharmendra Pradhan stepped down from his position as the Education Minister marking the nation’s first step towards democracy after a long time. While all of this was happening the, Indian media, the so called 4th pillar of democracy was busy calling the protesters “anti-national” and“terrorists”. They went further by claiming the protest was funded by enemy countries, a claim that was denied by the MEA themselves. Although the protest was a win for the citizens of India, the students of India and lastly the students who lost their lives due to the system that failed them , the question still stands. Where is the democracy that India claims to have ? Why did the government wait to hear the students out or meet their demands until hundreds of students got severely injured and hospitalised ? why was there a lack of actoin during the leak? And lastly why was the system properly secured in the first place eliminating any chance of paper leak? How can we call this country a democracy when all 3 pillars of democracy failed its own children ? How can we cal India a democracy when the citizens who speak up are labelled anti-national ? How can we call India independent when rapists are roaming free and comedians are getting FIRs against them?

India and the Climate Test: Time to Act, Not Debate

By Piyasha Das

Climate change is no longer a distant warning for India. It is here, in our fields, cities, and coastlines. Heatwaves that now cross 45°C for weeks, erratic monsoons that flood one state while drought hits another, and cyclones growing stronger in the Bay of Bengal are telling the same story: the weather has turned unstable.India faces a unique challenge. With 1.4 billion people, we must grow to lift millions out of poverty, yet we are also among the most

vulnerable to climate shocks. Farmers in Maharashtra lose crops to unseasonal rain. Coastal communities in Odisha and West Bengal watch the sea creep closer. Delhi chokes every winter as heat and pollution compound.The good news is India has started moving. We are the third largest producer of renewable energy. Solar parks in Rajasthan and Gujarat, and the push for electric mobility show intent. Our pledge to reach net-zero by 2070 is ambitious, but ambition needs

execution.What we need now is climate adaptation at scale: heat action plans in every city, water conservation in every village, climate-resilient crops, and insurance for farmers. Industries must decarbonize, and citizens must rethink waste and consumption and more imor-tantly,overconsumption. Climate change will never wait for the perfect environmental policy to emerge For India, the choice is clear which is to either build resilience now, or pay an excruciatingly higher price later.

THE CLOUDS BURSTED AT SHIKSHAYATAN!



Cloudburst, the first in the eastern India, graced by Principal Dr. Tania Chakraverty(top extreme left) and Mr. Bernard Lynch(Bottom extreme right), the Australian Consul-General in Kolkata

By Anwesha Chakraborty

On 25 July, Shri Shikshayatan College hosted the first edition of its Monsoon Fest – Cloudburst 2026, a first-of-its-kind celebration in Eastern India. The theme for Cloudburst 2026 was Songkran, the traditional Thai New Year, celebrated for its vibrant water festivities and spirit of renewal. Inspired by the festival, the campus reflected a lively atmosphere that set the tone for a day of cultural celebration and artistic expression. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Mr. Bernard Lynch, the Australian Consul-General in Kolkata, as

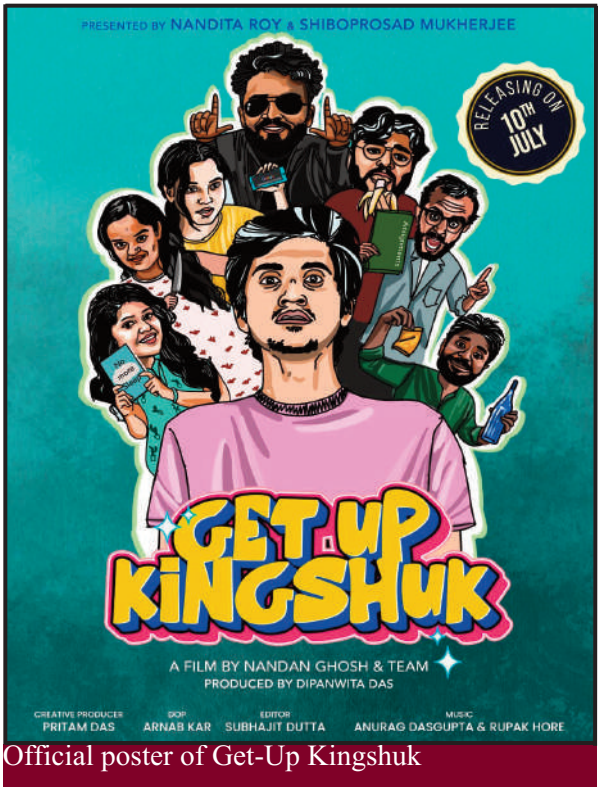
the Chief Guest. The event commenced with a captivating performance by Nriya Chandam, the official dance society of Shri Shikshayatan College, in collaboration with Gunjan, the official music society. Their performance combined graceful choreography with soulful music, setting an energetic tone for the celebrations. This was followed by a musical segment by Gunjan and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, marking the formal inauguration of the fest. Cloudburst 2026 featured six inter-college competitions that witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various institutions.

The events included cultural competitions such as Dance Face-Off and Solo Singing, the management event Startup Showdown, and creative contests like the Fashion Show, Reel Making, and Photography. Participants displayed exceptional talent across disciplines, while winners were awarded cash prizes and certificates in recognition of their performances. The celebrations continued with a vibrant flash mob by the members of Nriya Chandam, whose energetic performance captivated the audience and added to the festive atmosphere. The evening featured a special performance

by Australian artist Nish Pawa and his team, followed by the much-awaited concert by MTV Roadies fame Ashish Bhatia. He performed his popular track Kashish along with several other songs, drawing an enthusiastic response from the ever energetic young audience. One of the defining highlights of the evening was the use of water cannons before and during the concert to recreate the spirit of the monsoon through artificial rain. This unique addition complemented the Songkran-inspired theme, creating an immersive experience that elevated the celebrations and became a memorable attraction for the

excited attendees. The successful execution of Cloudburst 2026 was made possible with the support of sponsors including Senco Gold, iDestiny, and Sparks Entertainment. Combined with the efforts of the organising committee, faculty members, volunteers, and student societies, the festival concluded on a high note. With its unique concept, diverse competitions, memorable performances, and overwhelming participation, Cloudburst 2026 established itself as a landmark cultural event, leaving the participants and the audience an unforgettable celebration of creativity and youthful vibrant and remarkable enthusiasm.

Hearty Notes-Dreamy Dotes, An Ode to Bengali Cinema



Official poster of Get-Up Kingshuk

By Koushani Dey

An aspiring Bengali boy, a bunch of honest and supportive friends, a dream and well, a sleeping disorder- Nandan Ghosh's debut directorial “Get Up Kingshuk”, produced by Dipanwita Das, is exactly what one would watch for hearty and comforting entertainment. Running for over 4 weeks a Nandan Theatre with multiple housefulls, Get Up Kingshuk is yet another instance of a well thought-out low budget, independent film making. The film essentially defies the stereotypes of intellectual and metaphorically complex narrative structures which Bengali films predominantly harbor. The original script along with absolutely precise direction makes the production absolutely relatable to general audience. The camera movements complimented with the

editing and overall colouring of the film are done without any forms of extravaganza. All of these aspects are apt in capturing the middle-class essence of young minds who often leave their comfort to chase sleepless dreams. The simple shot sequence of the film, however, might get monotonous at times as the storytelling becomes too predictable to the audience and hence might not hook the attention of the audience throughout the length of the film. The film mainly consists of 2 songs, one of which, quite amusingly, is an absolutely disoriented off-scale Bengali rap song, sung by Kingshuk's demanding boss. One might note that these are the moments which prove the subtle mix in augmented reality and actuality. This perhaps, is exactly what was aimed by the director to portray through his work, that human lives mostly become a tapestry of

cinema magic and grounding reality, a mix of despondency, anxiety and relief, altogether. One of the noteworthy aspects would be the experimentation with animation sequences within the film. Though not extravagant, this is a detail which is not commonly witnessed in low budget cinema. Grounded representation of emotions and dialogues provide a long awaited relief to the audience. The film in its truest sense replicates leisurely summer afternoons when the city loosens its pace and becomes a tapestry of perfections and imperfections much like the human life. Overall, GetUp Kingshuk is an ode to the ever beautiful Bengali cinema which has created and harbored flavours unthinkable by other industries, therefore making the independent film, Get Up Kingshuk, a must watch for all.

England Clinch ODI Series, but ‘Ro-Ko’ Steal the Show at Lord’s



Historic ‘Ro-Ko’ milestone ensured moments to enjoy

By Bhoomika Nag
England signed off from a memorable white-ball summer with a 2-1 ODI series victory over India after a 27-run win in the final match at Lord’s. The hosts, who had earlier swept the T20I

series 4-0, celebrated another series triumph, but India’s fight under captain Shubman Gill and the historic ‘Ro-Ko’ milestone ensured the visitors left with plenty of moments to enjoy and cherish Chasing 388, India fought until the very end under

the leadership of captain Shubman Gill. While Gill marshalled the chase with confidence, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli lit up Lord’s with a memorable partnership that became the biggest talking point of the contest. England celebrated the series win, but India’s resilience and the enduring ‘Ro-Ko’ magic ensured the decider will be remembered for more than just the result. The third ODI at Lord’s witnessed a historic milestone, with Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli becoming the first Indian duo to feature in 400 international matches together, highlighting one of the most iconic partnerships in cricket history. Rohit led from the front with a sensational 138 off 110 deliveries, laced with 17 fours and five sixes. His innings not only kept India’s hopes alive in the mammoth chase but also has skillfully etched his name in the cricket record books as the first Indian batter to score an ODI century at Lord’s. At the other end, Virat Kohli anchored the innings with a fluent 74 off 60 deliveries, joining Rohit Sharma in a commanding partnership that briefly tilted the contest in

India’s favour. Their stand once again highlighted the class, consistency and understanding that have made them one of the finest batting duos in international cricket. However, England’s disciplined bowling attack held its nerve in the closing stages, restricting India’s charge to secure a 27-run victory and clinch the three-match ODI series 2-1. Although the result favoured the hosts, the tour will be remembered as much for the brilliance of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as for Their record-breaking milestone of 400 international matches

together, coupled with Rohit’s landmark ODI century at the Home of Cricket, added another memorable chapter to Indian cricket history. England may have lifted the trophy, but the timeless magic of ‘Ro-Ko’ once again proved that some partnerships transcend victories and defeats, leaving behind unforgettable moments that cricket fans will cherish for years to come. Their enduring camaraderie, consistency, and remarkable understanding on the field continue to inspire generations of cricket lovers across the whole wide world and humanity



England seal ODI series win over India, under Gill’s captaincy

Walking on Barbados Air

By Eqra Fatema
Some legends are remembered for the records they leave behind. Others are remembered for transforming the very essence of a sport. Sir Garfield Sobers belongs firmly in the latter category. To cricket lovers across generations, he was never merely an outstanding batsman or an exceptional bowler; he was the complete cricketer. His remarkable versatility redefined what an all-rounder could be, making him one of the greatest figures the game has ever known. Born in Bridgetown, Barbados, on 28 July 1936, Sobers displayed remarkable athletic ability from an early age. At just 16, he made his first-class debut for Barbados, and a year later he was representing the West Indies. Initially selected as a bowler, Sobers quickly proved he was far more than that. He possessed the rare ability to bowl left-arm fast-medium pace, orthodox spin, and wrist spin with equal mastery—an unprecedented skill that left opponents guessing and inspiring generations of aspiring cricketers across the world. Yet it was with the bat that he etched his name into cricketing folklore.

In 1958, against Pakistan in Kingston, the 21-year-old produced an unbeaten 365, then the highest individual score in

achieving the extraordinary under any circumstances, while reinforcing his status as one of the most fearless and innovative

appear routine. It was this complete mastery that prompted Sir Donald Bradman to describe him as a "five-in-one

growing self-belief of Caribbean cricket. He became more than a sporting icon, symbolising Black excellence, regional pride, and the aspirations of a people finding their place on the global stage. His presence on the field represented a Caribbean identity that was increasingly confident, independent, and unwilling to be defined by colonial expectations. Knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1975 and later honoured as a National Hero of Barbados, Sobers received accolades befitting his extraordinary achievements. His influence extended beyond the boundary ropes, shaping how generations viewed sporting excellence and proving that a player from a small Caribbean island could command the attention of the entire cricketing world. Sir Garfield Sobers extremely unfortunately passed away in July 2026 at the age of 89, but his legacy endures. More than a cricketing great, he still and will always remain a timeless reminder that true greatness is measured not only by records but also by the generations one inspires and the courage to dream beyond limits across the globe of humanity.



Sir Garfield Sobers Passed away at 89 on July 2026, while his legacy continues to inspire masses

Test cricket. The record stood for 36 years. A decade later, playing county cricket for Nottinghamshire, Sobers became the first player in professional cricket to strike six sixes in a single over, with Malcolm Nash on the receiving end. These remarkable feats cemented his reputation as a player capable of

cricketers the sport has ever produced. Statistics alone, however, fail to capture Sobers' greatness. Across an international career from 1954 to 1974, he amassed 8,032 Test runs at an average of 57.78 and claimed 235 wickets. He also fielded brilliantly, making seemingly impossible catches

cricketer"—one of cricket's highest compliments. Few players before or since have combined technical brilliance, adaptability, and consistency with such effortless grace. As captain of the West Indies from 1965 to 1972, Sobers led with confidence, flair, and an attacking spirit that reflected the