



EST 1921

# THE KOLKATA DERBY

Asia's oldest derby that goes beyond football.

It's a rivalry that holds cultural, social and emotional significance for Bengali fans.



MORE THAN JUST FOOTBALL

## GHOTIS

Natives of West Bengal,  
historically wealthier  
and more established.



# HISTORIC LEGACY

**Founded in 1889**, one of  
Asia's oldest football clubs.

- 1911 - IFA Shield victory against East Yorkshire Regiment - a landmark moment in India's freedom movement.
- Became a symbol of Bengali pride and football dominance in Kolkata.
- Mohun Bagan represented the elites



# BANGALS

Immigrants from East Bengal (now Bangladesh), often seen as outsiders in Kolkata.



# BIRTH OF EAST BENGAL

**Founded in 1920**, after Jorabagan Club refused to field star player Sailesh Bose.

- **Suresh Chandra Chaudhuri** left Jorabagan, suspecting discrimination, and established East Bengal.
- Represented the Bangals, giving migrant communities a club of their own.
- East Bengal symbolized the resilience of immigrant



# ON-FIELD LEGACY

## HEAD-TO-HEAD

August 8, 1921 – First match played in the Cooch Behar Cup

**135**  
WINS



vs



**137**  
WINS

129 DRAWS

## TITLES COMPARISON

**30**



**40**

**16**



**9**

**17**



**16**

**3**



**3**

**2**



**0**

### MOHUN BAGAN'S DOMINANCE

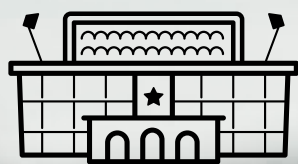
Won 8 consecutive ISL derbies (2020-2023)

### EAST BENGAL'S REBUILDING PHASE

Undergoing transformation with new ownership

# ON-FIELD LEGACY

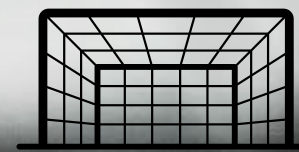
## HISTORIC RECORDS



### HIGHEST ATTENDANCE

**131,781**

1997 Federation Cup at Salt Lake Stadium



### BIGGEST VICTORY



**5-0**



1975 IFA Shield Final

## MEMORABLE DERBY MOMENTS

IFA Shield Final  
East Bengal's  
1-0 win intensified  
the rivalry

**1945**

Derby Riot  
Tragic event  
leading to  
16 fan deaths

**1980**

ISL Derby Debut  
Mohun Bagan won  
the first-ever ISL  
Kolkata Derby

**2020**

**1975**

IFA Shield Final  
East Bengal's  
historic 5-0 win

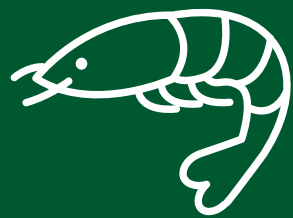
**1997**

Federation Cup  
Semi-Final  
Bhaichung Bhutia's  
hat-trick, in front of  
131,000+ fans



# THE FISH WAR PRAWN vs HILSA

The Kolkata Derby rivalry extends beyond football into Bengali cuisine.



**Ghotis**  
(Mohun Bagan fans)  
prefer Prawns  
(Chingri)



**Bangals**  
(East Bengal fans)  
favor Hilsa  
(Ilish)

On derby days, fish prices soar, with the winning team's preferred fish often selling out. An East Bengal win spikes Hilsa prices, while a Mohun Bagan victory does the same for Prawns.

**This tradition highlights how deeply rooted the rivalry is in Bengali culture**



The Kolkata Derby is not just a football match; it is a cultural spectacle that embodies the passion, pride, and history of Bengali football. From legendary victories to intense fan rivalries, it remains one of the most electrifying fixtures in Asian football history.

