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Diego Indian

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Maradona's footballing (

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Diego Maradona in Kolkata (Source:PTI)

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Wednesday concluded on a note of mourning for sports lovers in India with the demise of **football's** demigod Diego Armando Maradona. The 60-year-old Argentine legend, one of the greatest footballers of all time, died of a heart attack, having undergone brain surgery earlier this month.



Team Bridge - Modified date: December 5, 2020

indebted to Diego for breeding a passion for football. His lift the 1986 FIFA World Cup stoked a frenzy in this country one of the bastions of Indian football, still has a massive fan air of which was pioneered by Maradona, passed on through and lanes here still deck up in the blue-and-white flag and r years.



Handball Federation of India (HFI)—governing body

Kolkata's craze for Maradona was addressed when the legend first stepped foot in the country in the 'City of Joy' in 2008. Maradona's communist political outlook was also revered by the then communist government of West Bengal, who brought him to inaugurate a private football academy in the city. An exhibition match was organised eventually at the Salt Lake Stadium, and hundreds and thousands of Maradona-lovers swarmed the stadium to document the experience of a lifetime. As journalist Subhankar Mondal wrote for **Goal.com** then: "There was emotion when at the

start of the r. some ball-bc couldn't resi

THE BRIDGE

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'El Diego' in his trip also met former CM of West Bengal Jyoti Basu, who was a friend of Fidel Castro and while seeing the pictures of both the communists together, he said that friend of Fidel Castro is a friend of mine, so Jyoti Basu is my friend too.

His second visit to Kolkata was in 2017 December. In the three-day trip, the footballer played a friendly match with the former Indian captain of the cricket team, Sourav Ganguly. The trip was originally scheduled for October in 2017 but was later postponed to December.

The major attraction of the trip was the 12-foot bronze statue of the legendary footballer which was unveiled at the charity event, the statue was supposed to feature a 25-year-old Maradona, sporting curly locks, and clutching the World Cup trophy he captained his country to in 1986.

After which, 'El Diego' handed out cheques to 11 cancer patients at the event, which was attended by around a thousand people, some of whom were standing on rooftops of the adjoining buildings.

Premier Handball League's inaugural edition kicks off on December 24



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ough an interpreter after the unveiling of the statue said, "I am to be here in Kolkata again."

ong the dwellers of Kolkata and they would miss their

ni to take up sports and initially jersey no. 10

The Indian handball is all set to witness a revolution as the Premier Handball League (PHL) gears up to roll out its inaugural edition at the Sawai Mansingh Indoor Stadium in Jaipur. PHL, under the aegis Handball Federation of India (HFI)—governing body for the handball...

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