

67th

ASHOK RUIA MEMORIAL WINTER NATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL ● 1ST - 11TH DECEMBER 2025



Venue Sponsored by Mr. H. M. Bangur, Executive Director and Chairperson, Shree Cement Ltd.

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Sayantan Kushari-Sagnik Roy win Mall of the Millennium Pairs with a commanding performance

Sayantan Kushari-Sagnik Roy lifted the Mall of the Millennium cup with a masterful performance in the finals. On Wednesday, they had topped the second elimination and earned a decent carryover score of 45.89, which was worth about two tops in a field of 26 Pairs with 24 as the top score for a board. Today, they won the final with a 61.17% stage score. No other pair crossed 60%. Thus, they would have won the finals even without the carry over. Their score in the final stage was 734 MPs, and their overall score was 779.89.



Sagnik Roy – Sayantan Kushari with Mall of the Millennium trophy

Joyrup Mullick – Pranab Roy claimed the **runner-up spot with a 57.42% (689 MP) stage performance (717.84 overall score)**, more than 70 MPs behind the leaders. Third place went to the experienced duo **Sandip Dutta – Gopinath Manna**, finishing with **673.60 (56.13%), 689.08 overall score**. Their consistency across the long 50-board final ensured they stayed securely in the podium bracket. **Bhaskar Sarkar – Sukanta Das** finished fourth with the overall score of **681.69 MPs**, and **Raju Tolani- K R Venkataraman** were fifth with **674.34 MPs**.

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ASHOK RUIA Senior IMP Pairs

The **Ashok Ruia Senior Pairs**, played in IMPs, concluded with **Marianne Karmarkar & R. Anbazhagan** winning the event on **101.60 IMPs**, narrowly ahead of **Rana Roy & Aloke Kumar Sadhu** with **100.50 IMPs**. **Paresh C & Elyas Kheyrolla** finished third on **54.00 IMPs**, followed by **Rajesh Jain & Sarveswar Bhattacharya** in fourth with **46.30 IMPs**, while **Priyotosh Sarkar & Asis Tosh** secured fifth place with **41.30 IMPs**. Forty-seven Pairs participated in the event.

MALL OF MILLENNIUM MATCHPOINT STRATA PAIRS

The Mall of Millennium Matchpoint Strata Pairs concluded with a close and competitive finish at the top. **Sumit Bhattacharjee – Bipul Kumar Roy** emerged as the winners with a thin margin, collecting a total of **507.68 match-points**. In second place, **Girish Kumar – Umesh Kumar Singh** put up a strong challenge and finished just behind the leaders with **504.48 match-points**. The third spot went to **Aloke Kumar Sardar – Sudeep Saha**, who maintained steady form throughout to end with **491.95 match-points**.

Prakash Gupta – Rajib Ray claimed fourth place, scoring **489.00 match-points**, while the pair of **Jesal Dabriwala – Shambhu Nath Ghosh** completed the top five with **485.63 match-points**.



Saganik Roy leans to check a finer point of their method with Sayantan Kushari

Mall of the Millennium Cup MP Pairs Final, running commentary

An overview of the field

The **Mall of the Millennium Cup**, formerly known as the **Holkar Trophy**, stands as the premier Match-Points event on the Bridge Federation of India's annual calendar. This year's final brings together **26 exceptionally strong pairs**, each with a distinct style and a formidable track record, making the battle for the title especially intense.

Sandeep Thakral–Subhash Gupta enter the final playing their crisp, Precision-inspired strong-club system, infused with **DEMICOMA** bidding concepts—an approach that rewards accurate judgment and disciplined structure.

Adding creative contrast, **Rajendra Gokhale–Sandeep N. Karmarkar** bring the **Camel System**, a coded structure developed by Gokhale himself. Recently legalized under BFI's New Systems Policy, the Camel System has deep logic and unconventional strengths according to its creator—making this pair one of the most intellectually distinctive in the draw.

Fresh from the high-pressure environment of top-tier team events, **Rajeshwar Tewari–Shubham Acharya** combine once again after representing *Formidables* in the **RUIA Gold** where they finished runners-up. Their dynamic, energetic style could produce big boards in match-point formats.

The much-respected duo of **Sumit Mukherjee–Debabrata Majumder**, long-time teammates on the **Indian Railways**, bring years of international experience and partnership maturity. Few pairs in the field can match their blend of experience and board-by-board resilience.

Also adding weight to the field are **Binod Shaw–Sanjit Dey**, part of India's Open Team at the **2024 World Championships**. And these are just a few of the heavyweights—many other strong, ambitious, and battle-tested players fill the roster. With such depth, there are **no easy rounds**, and every board has the potential to swing the leaderboard.

As play begins, the atmosphere carries a mix of anticipation and respect. This is a field where experience meets innovation, where systems collide, and where every overtrick counts. The stage is set for a gripping contest worthy of the event's rich legacy.

Position after 10 boards

After 10 Boards of the Mall of the Millennium Cup Final

With **10 of the 50 boards** completed in the Mall of the Millennium Cup Final, the leaderboard has begun to take shape, and early momentum is proving valuable.

Sandip Dutta – Gopinath Manna have surged into the lead with an impressive **174 match-points**, delivering a strong, consistent start. Close behind, the experienced duo **Vijay Phatarphekar – R. Sridharan** hold second place on **159**, staying firmly in contention.

Not far back are **Jayrup Mullick – Pranab Roy**, who sit third with **154**, while the sharp and structured pairing of **Sandeep Thakral – Subhash Gupta** occupy fourth on **149**, well within striking distance.

The next cluster is tightly packed:

- **Sourav Mukherjee – Partha Pratim Pal** at **146**,
- **Sumit Mukherjee – Debabrata Majumder** at **142**,
- **Arun M. Bapat – Ajay P. Khare** at **138**, and
- **Rajeshwar Tewari – Shubham Acharya** at **136**.

With only 20% of the boards played, these early numbers are merely indicators—but the tone is set. The field is strong, the margins are slim, and every overtrick will matter as the remaining 40 boards unfold.

Sandip Dutta – Gopinath Manna score a clean top on Board two by bidding and making 3Nt. Most other North-South players allowed East-West to win the auction in a Heart part-score.

2	♠K632
	♥1063
NS / E	♦K87
	♣QJ10
♠QJ987	♠A
♥K9872	♥A54
♦4	♦10963
♣95	♣K7632
	♠1054
	♥QJ
	♦AQJ52
	♣A84

3Nt is cold. The ♥Ten contributes a lot to the percentage of success and the Club King is well placed. Still, in a Pairs game, the adage ‘nothing risked, nothing gained’ holds firmly true.

Mid-Final Standings After 26 Boards

At the halfway mark of the **Mall of the Millennium Cup final**, the leaderboard is still in flux. With 24 boards still to come, the field remains tightly bunched and very much alive.

Joyrup Mullick – Pranab Roy have taken over the lead with a composed and steady performance, standing at **410.26**.

In second place, the youthful and energetic pair **Sayantan Kushari – Sagnik Roy** continue to impress, currently on **397.72**, bolstered by a strong carryover that keeps them well within striking distance.

Just a whisker behind are the veterans from Mumbai - **Arun M. Bapat – Ajay P. Khare**, sitting third at **395.92**, maintaining remarkable steadiness across the boards and keeping the leaders firmly in sight.

A cluster of seasoned contenders follow:

- **Sumit Mukherjee – Debabrata Majumder** at **393.33**,
- **Vijay Phatarrphekhar – R. Sridharan** at **373.27**,
- **Sourav Mukherjee – Partha Pratim Pal** at **359.43**,
- **Rajeshwar Tewari – Shubham Acharya** at **358.86**,
- **Sandip Dutta – Gopinath Manna** at **358.48**.

The margins from sixth to 8th are razor-thin—a single strong round can move a pair up several places.

With a little less than half the boards still to be played, experience, stamina, and partnership rhythm will now begin to matter even more. The leaders are under pressure, the chasers are well within range, and the final stretch promises to be fiercely contested.

Position after 38 Boards

With just twelve boards left in the Mall of the Millennium Cup final, **Sayantan Kushari – Sagnik Roy** have surged into the lead, standing at **587.22**, powered by a strong carryover and a superb Stage score of **541.33**. Their consistency across the middle phase of the final has made them the pair to catch.

Former leaders **Joyrup Mullick – Pranab Roy** are still firmly in the hunt at **549.17**. Their rhythm dipped slightly in this segment, but they remain a major threat in the final sprint. In third place, the experienced duo **Sumit Mukherjee – Debabrata Majumder** have climbed steadily to **541.13**, staying well within striking distance. Their progress over the last two rounds suggests they may yet mount a late challenge. **Arun M. Bapat – Ajay P. Khare** sit fourth at **523.37**, maintaining the solid form that has kept them near the top throughout the day.

Rounding out the top five are **Binod Kumar Shaw – Sanjit Dey** on **512.12**, the Indian Open team pair beginning to show their trademark pressure play as the boards get sharper.

The chasing pack is tightly clustered:

- **Samir Basak – Sabyasachi Sadhukhan** at **511.35**,
- **Vijay Phatarrphekhar – R. Sridharan** at **507.42**,

- **Sandip Dutta – Gopinath Manna at 507.33,**
- **Kamal Mukherjee – Mrinal Mukherjee at 501.69,**
- **Rajeshwar Tewari – Shubham Acharya at 499.49.**

With less than a top separating 6th through 10th, the fight for the podium—and even the title—remains completely open. The final dozen boards promise fireworks.

Sayantan Kushari-Sagnik Roy won the Mall of the Millennium trophy maintaining their healthy lead right till the end.

[Click here for the detailed results.](#)



Debashis Ray (BFI Secretary), **MBV Subrahmanyam** (Chief Tournament Director), **Srinivasan Iyengar** (Chief Scorer)

In a slightly relaxed mood on the day the RUIA GOLD Teams final was played.