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Rahul Ram performs at a Sunday evening concert in Kolkata

## KOLKATA GROOVES TO FOLK FUSION

Indian Ocean and Fakira gave music lovers a memorable festive treat on Sunday at a concert in the city. Read on...



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# Indian Ocean, Fakira enthrall Kolkata with the magic of folk

Poorna Banerjee

Kolkata music lovers enjoyed an unforgettable double dose of folk fusion on Sunday evening, when the bands Indian Ocean and Fakira performed on the concluding day of the Kolkata Centre for Creativity's (KCC) AMI Arts Festival 2024.

Indian Ocean bassist Rahul Ram drew laughter from the crowd when he introduced the acronym, KKKBT (*Ki Kora Jaay Bolo Toht?*), in fluent Bangla, referring to the usual response to sticky situations.

The band went on to perform a couple of never-recorded songs followed by hits such as *Tu Hi, Tu Kisi Rail Si Guzarti Hai*, and the highly acclaimed *Kandisa*, which took the audience on a jour-



Rahul Ram performs at the concert



Timir Biswas

### Fakira favourites

- Paal Tuley De
- Hare Krishna
- Nizamuddin Auliya
- Moner Manush

### Rahul Ram sings in Bhill

During the concert, Rahul Ram elaborated on the simplicity of language used to raise a voice against corruption. Introducing a song in Bhill language, he explained, "The song is saying that the police officer is asking for a chicken as bribe, and the singer has decided to stop paying it. What simple language, but what a strong stance!"

Nikhil Rao

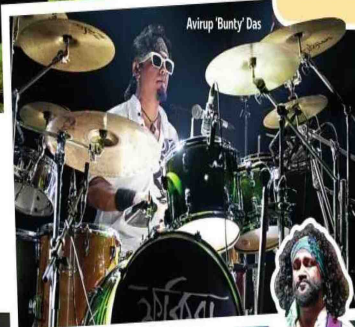
Those who haven't heard of Goutam Chattopadhyay should read about him, as without him, the Bengali rock scene would perhaps not exist the way it does

— Timir Biswas



Himanshu Joshi

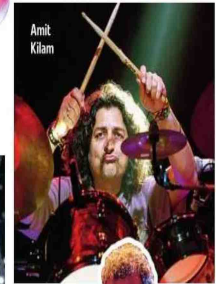
ney through the band's evolution over the years. Apart from Rahul, the Indian Ocean band members include Himanshu Joshi on vocals, Tuheen Chakravorty on tabla, Amit Kilam on drums, and Nikhil Rao on guitar.



Avirup 'Bunty' Das

### The Indian Ocean playlist

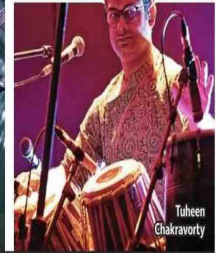
- *Tu Kisi Rail Si Guzarti Hai*
- *Kandisa*
- *Tu Hi*
- *Jaadu Maaya*



Amit Kilam



Chayan Chakravorty, Apurba Das, and Kunaal Biswas



Tuheen Chakravorty



### FAKIRA STRIKES A CHORD

Fakira played several crowd favourites while acknowledging the deep influence of both Bengali folk and rock music on their sound. Vocalist Timir Biswas belted out hits like *Prithibita Naki Chhoto Hotey Hotey*, Ratan Das Baul's *Boroloker Biti Lo* and more.

Apart from Timir on vocals, the band featured Chayan Chakravorty and Apurba Das on guitar, Kunaal Biswas on bass, and Avirup "Bunty" Das on drums and percussion.