

# Assam: 2 dead, more than 20 missing as boat capsizes in Brahmaputra

Agency  
Guwahati Sept 6,

Two teenagers drowned while more than 20 people were missing as a single-engine boat carrying at least 36 people capsized in the Brahmaputra near north Guwahati on Wednesday, officials said. Eleven people have been rescued so far, they said, adding that the state government has initiated an inquiry into the accident. According to official sources, the privately-owned boat was one of the many ferrying passengers from Guwahati to north Guwahati and served as a means of day-to-day travel for hundreds. It was returning from a ghat in the Fancy Bazar area of the city to Madhyam Khanda area of north Guwahati when it reportedly developed a snag, hit an under-construction water supply project and overturned. "Bodies of two girls have been recovered so far. We have also rescued 11 people," Sanjib Saikia, Additional SP Kamrup told The Indian Express. Police have identified the two dead as Ankita Baruah and Dimpy Borah, both 17 and students of class XI of Cotton College. They have also



detained the two drivers of the boat Nooruddin Ali and Halim Ali late on Wednesday evening. The two drivers, the police said, had escaped by swimming when the boat began to sink. Meanwhile, some administrative sources claimed that the number of people rescued could be higher, even as some unofficial sources claimed that the number of passengers on board could have been more than 36. Director of Assam's Inland Water Transport (IWT), Bharat Bhushan Dev Choudhury told The Indian Express that the boat had

valid registration up to December this year. "The engine had stopped functioning before reaching its destination and hit an on-going water supply project construction (site), before it sank," Choudhury said. The water supply project is being constructed under the aegis of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Three people, on board the boat, were staffers of the IWT department and had helped to rescue several people after the accident, he said. Top police officers, coordinating rescue efforts, said that four to five teams

NDRF and SDRF were still at the site, and Indian Army personnel had also joined the search operation. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal ordered a high-level inquiry into the accident. "Additional Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah has been directed by the Chief Minister to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. The Additional Chief Secretary been directed to investigate into the reasons responsible for the boat capsizing and the factors triggering the accident and submit report at the earliest," an official press statement said.

# Historic Judgment: Netas React to SC Verdict on Section 377

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept. 6,

In a landmark decision, The Supreme Court on Thursday, 6 September, decriminalised homosexuality by declaring Section 377, the penal provision which criminalised gay sex, as "manifestly arbitrary". Delivering separate but concurring judgments, a five-judge bench of the apex court said it is the constitutional and not social morality which will prevail.

The verdict sparked celebrations amongst the LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, intersex and queer) community across India.

Chief Justice Dipak Misra, also speaking for Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, said a persons' attitude and mentality has to change to accept the others' identity and accept what they are and not what they should be. Reading out his own judgment first, CJI Dipak Misra observes, "No one can escape from their individualism. Society is now better for individualism." He reads, "Sustenance of identity is the pyramid of life."

Justice Rohinton Nariman, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Indu Malhotra delivered concurring judgments thereby making the verdict of the five-judge bench a unanimous one.

As the five-judge bench declared its judgment and the celebrations broke out across the country, microblogging website twitter was no different. As tweets poured in from all sections, our politicians were no different, with Shashi Tharoor, Randeep Singh Surjewala and others appreciating the judiciary's role in arriving at this landmark judgment. However, at the time of publishing this article, not many prominent BJP leaders had tweeted on the judgement. BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia, who had earlier advocated the decriminalisation of homosexuality, tweeted his support for the judgment.

# Kanpur City SP critical after suicide attempt

Agency  
Lucknow Sept 6,

Kanpur City (east) Superintendent of Police (SP) Surendra Kumar Das attempted suicide by consuming poison on Wednesday, said police. Das's condition is said to be critical and is admitted at a private hospital in Kanpur. Police sources said a suicide note has been recovered and it mentioned that "family issues" were responsible for the officer's suicide bid.

According to Kanpur Zone ADG Avinash Chandra, Das was found unconscious by his wife Raveena early morning. He was rushed to the government Ursala hospital from where he was later shifted to Fortune hospital and later to Regency hospital. Kanpur SSP Anant Deo said that the state government had flown in doctors and medical equipment to treat Das. He said that police had found sachet of sulphas, a poison, in Das's room and believe he may have consumed it. A native of UP's Ballia district, Das is a 2014-batch IPS officer and was



posted in Kanpur as SP (City) on August 3. He has been living in his official accommodation in Kanpur along with his wife, a PG student. A medical bulletin from the Regency Hospital released at 1.30 pm, signed by the hospital Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Rajesh Agarwal, stated, "Today at 6 am Surendra Das was brought to the hospital in serious condition. His treatment was started immediately, but that time his pulse and blood pressure was not recordable. After the tests, he was put on ventilator and is being treated at the hospital ICU. Based on the primary symptoms, it is suspected that Das consumed some poisonous

substance and based on that he is being treated by physician and cardiologist." The second medical bulletin at 4.30 pm stated, "The condition of Surendra Das is yet worrisome and there is no improvement in his condition since morning. The team of doctors is trying its best. Our doctors have contacted Dr Pranav Ojha in Mumbai and he suggested that we continue the medication we are giving. We have made arrangements and if we need, we can call Ojha to Kanpur by a chartered plane." Meanwhile, ADG Kanpur Zone, Avinash Chandra said, "We would go into the reasons [for the attempted suicide] later. For now we are concentrating on his treatment. We are also calling doctors and bringing a heart and lung support machine from Mumbai. As per the information so far, Das was living here with his wife and she was the one to first found that he had consumed something. Around 10.30 pm yesterday, he spoke to the local circle officer and everything seemed normal at the time."

# Kolkata bridge collapse: Toll rises to three, NDRF wraps up operations

Agency  
New Delhi Sept 6

One more body was recovered Thursday from the debris of the collapsed Majerhat Bridge in southern part of the city, taking the toll in the incident to three, a police official said. The body was identified as that of Goutam Mondal (45), a labourer hailing from Murshidabad district, who was missing along with another labourer Pranab Dey since the accident on Tuesday, he said. Mondal was working as a cook in the extension of the Metro rail project going on adjacent to the Majerhat Bridge, he said. The area near the site had been dug



up for the project and construction material is strewn all over the place. The other deceased, whose body was recovered Wednesday was identified

as Soumen Bag. Of the 24 injured, 11 were discharged Wednesday and 13 are currently under treatment in different hospitals, he said. After Mondal's body was found, NDRF personnel left the spot, while State Disaster Management Department personnel continued their rescue work at the accident site with cranes, earth movers and drilling machines. "We are closing our operations as it seems there is nobody stuck inside, an official of the NDRF said. The state government has constituted a committee under Chief Secretary Malay De to investigate the cause of the collapse. The bridge in Alipore area runs over the Majerhat Railway station and connects the city centre with the heavily populated Behala, vast areas of the south west suburbs and neighbouring South 24 Parganas district. With the Diamond Harbour Road being closed and less number of buses plying, thousands of

commuters were stuck in huge traffic jams since morning. "We have diverted vehicles to and from the city through various other roads," an officer of Kolkata Police traffic department said. The police lodged a suo motu case against unknown persons in connection with their involvement in the collapse. This is the third bridge collapse in the city since 2013. An under-construction flyover collapsed in the crowded Burrabazar area, the wholesale business hub of the city, on March 31, 2016, claiming 26 lives. On March 4, 2013, a road bridge collapsed in Ultadanga area in the northern part of the city. There was no casualty. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who rushed back to the city from Darjeeling Hills Wednesday, will hold an emergency meeting with the PWD and other departments and the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) in connection with collapse of the bridge.

# Former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt arrested in 22-year-old drug 'planting' case

Agency  
Gandhinagar Sept 6,

Former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt was arrested by Gujarat CID-Crime on Wednesday in connection with a 22-year-old case. Bhatt has been accused of framing a lawyer from Rajasthan in a false case by planting drugs at a Palanpur hotel room in Banaskantha in 1996 as part of a "well-planned conspiracy" to get a property vacated in of Rajasthan. Bhatt was SP of Banaskantha district then. The then inspector of Banaskantha Crime Branch, I B Vyas, has also been arrested. DGP (CID-Crime) Ashish Bhatia said all the seven people involved in the case, including Bhatt, have been detained, and two of them have been arrested. "During the investigation, it has come to light that as part of a well-planned conspiracy, Bhatt and his accomplices had lodged a false case of



narcotics against the lawyer to get a disputed property vacated. After careful investigation, Bhatt and Vyas have been arrested today," an official release from the CID-Crime said. The case with a long history and multiple litigations relates to the arrest of lawyer Sumersingh Rajpurohit, who was booked by Banaskantha police under the provisions of Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act on April 30, 1996. Rajpurohit had however claimed that he was

framed in the case by Bhatt at the behest of a former sitting judge of Gujarat High Court R R Jain over a rented property a shop at Vardhaman Market in Pali (Rajasthan) where he and one more person were tenants. Bhatt, a 1988 batch IPS officer was dismissed from service in 2015 after the release of sex video purportedly featuring him. He had several run-ins with the BJP government in the past over the issue of the 2002 post-Godhra riots.

## Certificate loss

I have LOST MY Certificate of HSLC bearing Roll no. 5394 issued by the BOSEM in the Year 2011 on the way between Thoubal to Imphal on 1st September 2018. Finder are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Sanasam Okendro Singh  
Thoubal Sabantongba Mayai Leikai.  
#8787626286.

## Obituary

My beloved husband, Shri Nongthombam Sanajaoba Singh of Oinam Mamang Leikai Uchekon, Ward No. 6, Tangleipung Maning, Bihunpur district left us all for heavenly abode on Friday the 31st September, 2018.

I, request all friends, relatives and friends of my husband whom I did not know to attend the Ashti Sanchei of my late husband on Wednesday the 5th September, 2018 and also at the Shardha on September 13th, 2018 to join us in offering to the almighty for the departed soul.

With regard  
Shrimati Nongthombam Pramodini Devi (Wife)  
Oinam Mamang Leikai Uchekon, Ward No. 6, Tangleipung Maning, Bihunpur district.