

Dr. K.K. Paul (IPS),  
The Commissioner of Police,  
Police Head Quarters,  
ITO, New Delhi-110002

Dated: 03.05.06

**Subject: Request for investigation into the death of my son Satyajit Bhattacharya, aged 22 years, on 5th April under mysterious circumstances**

Dear Dr. K.K. Paul,

I am approaching you with the request on behalf of a grief stricken and anguished family to very kindly investigate into the death of my son Satyajit Bhattacharya, who was a final year student of Delhi College of Engineering (DCE), New Delhi. Given below is a summary of points related to the tragedy as is known to us:

1. On receiving several phone calls from his college mate and friend Tapan mittal, on 05/04/06 at about 1100 hrs my son left home ( Sushant Lok-I, Gurgaon) to meet him, with a sense of compulsive urgency. This, in spite of the fact that they were scheduled to meet anyway at a gathering of friends the same evening, in Gurgaon.
2. At 1715 hrs we received a call from another friend of his, by name Vivek, who informed that Satyajit had drowned in the Western Yamuna canal running about 20 meters beyond the boundary of DCE, asking us to come immediately.
3. Shocked and stunned we immediately connected with Satyajit's mobile number 9891623151. The call was received by one of his friends who identified himself as Bhagwati. We asked for Tapan but the line got disconnected abruptly.
4. Tapan called back and confirmed that Satyajit had drowned and efforts were being made to get divers for the search operation.
5. We reached the site at about 2045 hrs to find no sign of any divers or police. There were just Tapan and some college friends around.
6. Tapan informed us that he along with Satyajit and another friend Akshat were splashing in the water on the bank of the canal when my son suddenly slipped and drowned.
7. My son's clothes, shoes and mobile phone, which were kept in Akshat's car, were handed over to us by Tapan.
8. Thereafter we proceeded to the police post Shahabad dairy where we were informed that they had received the report of drowning of my son and entered in their diary as DD No. 15 dt 5-4-06.
9. Tapan and Akshat were both separately questioned. We got the distinct impression that there could be anomalies in their statements.
10. Police demanded that Satyajit's personal belongings be handed over to them. The same were handed over. The personal belongings were not inspected in our presence and no receipt was issued for them.
11. On 06/04/06 we filed a missing report for my son at the Police Post with a formal request for search and recovery.
12. Failing to trace or recover the body till 10/04/06, Naval divers were requisitioned. For two days 11/04/06 and 12/04/06 reportedly Naval divers combed the entire downstream area from the site of reported drowning without any success.
13. On 13/04/06 missing person posters were made by us in consultation with the Police Chowki which supposedly put up the posters along the banks of the canal on 14/04/06 and 15/04/06.
14. On 15/04/06 failing to get any information on my son's body I approached the police chowki to forward the missisng report to the Missing Squad under the DCP Crime branch. The case was forwarded to the Missing Squad on the same day and entered in their diary as DD No. 9M/S dt 15-4-06.

15. On 16/04/06 the police post Shahabad dairy informed us at about 0800 hrs that a body has been recovered from the canal close to the reported site of the drowning and same was being sent to B.J.R.M Hospital where we could go for identification.

16. We reached the spot and identified him. Post-mortem was done on his body and the body was handed over to us for cremation.

### **Our Conjectures and Confusions**

1. What sequence of events really resulted in the death of my son? There are conflicting versions of a *singular* incident that needs to be unravelled.

2. My son didn't know swimming and was mortally afraid of water. How come he chose to enter water at all?

3. What was the great urgency for him to meet his friend Tapan in the scorching heat of the afternoon when they were scheduled to meet the same day in the evening?

4. It is curious that he felt compelled to meet the same friend in Bangalore in the month of January and travelled all the way to meet him in spite of being advised otherwise.

5. There is a need to know whether the death of my son was due to a simple accident or there has been some foul play somewhere.

I shall be most grateful if this matter is given your most serious and urgent attention. Only you can help to get to know the true story behind this bizarre accident.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. C.G. Bhattacharya,  
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