

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD**

**SUO-MOTO COGNIZANCE**

**Date : 19/01/2024**

**CORAM:HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MRS.  
JUSTICE SUNITA AGARWAL  
and  
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIRUDDHA P.  
MAYEE**

**In RE :** 12 Students and 2 Teachers drown in  
Harni Lake.

1. Mr. Brijesh Trivedi, President, Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association, has mentioned and brought to the notice of this Court news item reported in Ahmedabad Mirror and other leading newspapers published today, i.e. 19.1.2024, wherein it has been reported that 12 Students and 2 Teachers of New Sunrise School in Waghodiya area have drowned in Harni lake where 82 children had gone for picnic organized by the school. The said newspaper reports are taken on record. It is reported that the incident occurred at around 4:45 p.m. The boat was carrying 27 persons on board when it capsized. It is further reported that the boat has capacity to seat only 16 persons. It is also reported that there were several people; other teachers and students, who

have witnessed the said accident of the boat being capsized in the lake. The newspaper reports further indicate that the said boating is managed by one firm - Fun Time Arena under the contract given by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation under the PPP model. The newspaper reports are disturbing as it is reported that there was complete flouting of the safety norms as the children on the boat had not even been provided life-jackets.

2. This whole incident has shocked the conscious of the public in general. We call upon the Secretary, Home Department, State of Gujarat, to submit an action taken report in the matter along with affidavit of the Gazetted Officer from the Home Department, Government of Gujarat, by the next date fixed.

List the matter on 29.1.2024.

**(SUNITA AGARWAL, CJ )**

**(ANIRUDDHA P. MAYEE, J.)**