

Samples to help identify bodies in Nepal

DNA drive for missing trekkers

MONALISA CHAUDHURI
AND SAMARPITA
BANERJEE

Calcutta: The Bengal government will take the family members of those who went on the Mansarovar trek and remain missing to their local government hospitals on Thursday to provide DNA samples, police sources said.

A senior Bengal police officer, who is part of the coordinating team, said on Wednesday that local police station officers would contact the families and assist them in reaching the nearest government hospital for the process.

Once collected, the samples will be sent to the state forensic laboratory for DNA profiling. The reports will then be sent to the Nepal government to help match the DNA with unidentified bodies recovered from the site of the flash flood.

"Hundreds of bodies are still lying unidentified in Nepal. It has been decided that we will assist the family members of missing persons in providing DNA samples and sending them to the forensic laboratory for profiling. The Bengal government will then send the reports to the Nepal government for matching with the unidentified bodies," said a senior police officer.

Meanwhile, at least four families have already travelled to Nepal in search of their relatives, who remained missing till Wednesday evening.

The families who reached Nepal searched several hospitals but could not locate their missing relatives.

Rajorshi Roy Chowdhury, whose parents — Debabrata



An Indian Air Force aircraft carrying an 11-member specialised rescue team and 5.5 tonnes of essential medicines and tunnel-rescue equipment arrives at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on Wednesday to support disaster-relief operations following devastating flash floods in Nepal. (@MEAIndia/X via PTI picture)

Roy Chowdhury and Lekha Roy Chowdhury — had travelled with Chalo Jaai Travel Club, said in a video posted by the travel agency on social media on Wednesday that his relatives had provided DNA samples at the Nepal Police Hospital.

"We gave our DNA blood samples at the Nepal Police Hospital on Wednesday. They

took our phone numbers but could not assure us when they would provide an update on the DNA samples," he said.

Roy Chowdhury said the family had searched most of the hospitals in Kathmandu where the injured and bodies of those killed in the disaster had been taken, but could not locate his parents.