2019 Assam alcohol poisonings

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| **2019 Assam alcohol poisonings** | |
| **Date** | February 2019 |
| **Location** | Golaghat and Jorhat districts in Assam |
| **Cause** | Toxic Bootleg Alcohol |
| **Deaths** | 156 |

In February 2019, at least 168 people died after drinking toxic bootleg alcohol in [Golaghat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golaghat_district" \o "Golaghat district) and [Jorhat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jorhat_district" \o "Jorhat district) districts in [Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) state of [Assam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assam). The incident occurred two weeks after 100 people died by drinking toxic alcohol in the northern states of [Uttar Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uttar_Pradesh) and [Uttarakhand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uttarakhand" \o "Uttarakhand).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-1)

Incident[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Incident)]

The poisonings first came to attention on 21 February 2019, when 42 people died shortly after drinking the illegal alcohol.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-3) Over the following days, more people died from the poisoning and many more were admitted to local hospitals.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-IndiaToday133-4) On 24 February 2019, it was reported that a total of 144 people had died and more than 300 were admitted in hospitals making it one of the deadliest alcohol poisonings in the country.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-5)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-7) The next day, the death toll had risen to 156.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-8)

The incident occurred at tea plantations in the districts. Most of the victims were labourers in these plantations. They might have bought the liquor to drink after a day's work in the plantation.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-9)

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| **“** | I had bought half a liter of wine and drank it before eating. Initially, everything was normal, but after some time my head started hurting. The headache grew so much that I could not eat or sleep. | **”** |
| *— One hospitalised worker told*[*BBC*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC) | | |

Aftermath[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings&action=edit&section=2)]

Ten people have been detained for the incident.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-:0-10)

Assam Government has announced ex-gratia of ₹ 200,000 for the dead and ₹ 50,000 to those undergoing treatment.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Assam_alcohol_poisonings#cite_note-:0-10) The Government is also planning to ban and seize all illicit liquor in the state. Chief Minister [Sarbananda Sonowal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarbananda_Sonowal" \o "Sarbananda Sonowal) has ordered probe over the incident.