

SIT salvages evidence from sunken LTTE ship. (1993, November 04) *Daily News*.

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MADRAS, Wednesday (PTI)

In an unprecedented operation, the Special Investigation team (SIT), probing the assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi, conducted a nine-day deep sea search operation off India's south-east coast, near here, and salvaged material evidence from a sunken ship "MV Ahat".

The ship, reportedly transporting a heavy cargo of arms and explosives, was set on fire by militants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) when challenged by the Indian navy in January this year.

Ten LTTE men, including one of its top leaders, Sadasivam Krishna Kumar alias 'Kittu', committed suicide on board, while nine others, who had jumped

from the burning ship, were rescued by the naval authorities and handed over to Viskahpatnam police, in Andhra Pradesh state.

The case was later entrusted to SIT and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

An official press release from SIT said here on Wednesday, that with assistance from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), Navy and paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), it successfully located the wreck, and undertook a thorough underwater survey and photography of the wreck. Material evidence was recovered, including remnants of arms and ammunition, which would form part of vital evidence to the case.