



MANY DEAD IN PLANE CRASH

LONDON-BOUND AI PLANE CARRYING 242 PEOPLE CRASHES INTO MEDICAL COLLEGE CAMPUS IN AHMEDABAD

169 INDIANS, 53 BRITISH, 7 PORTUGUESE, 1 CANADIAN, 2 PILOTS, 10 CREW MEMBERS ON BOARD

ONE PASSENGER SEATED ON 11A OF ILL-FATED BOEING 787 DREAMLINER SURVIVES MIRACULOUSLY



Rescue operation underway after the Air India plane crashed near the Ahmedabad airport on Thursday. According to reports, almost all on board were possibly killed in one of the country's worst air disasters. — Photo:PTI (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)



The London-bound Air India plane is seen losing altitude soon after take-off and crashing into a medical college complex, in Ahmedabad on Thursday. — Photo:PTI

PTI
AHMEDABAD

A London-bound Air India plane carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed into a medical college complex here and burst into a ball of fire on Thursday moments after take-off, possibly killing almost everyone on board in one of the country's worst air disasters.

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was among the dead, according to BJP leader CR Patil. There were also reports of one passenger identified as Vishwash Kumar Ramesh and seated on 11A of the ill-fated Boeing 787 Dreamliner (AI71) having survived miraculously.

There was no official count of those killed even hours after the twin-engine wide bodied aircraft crashed in the city civil hospital and BJ Medical College outside the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport perimeter. As rescuers struggled to find survivors in

the charred wreckage and pull out the injured, many of them with grievous burns, officials tried to assess the human magnitude of the disaster. Unofficial reports said up to 25 people in the medical complex could also have died.

According to Air India, of the 230 passengers, 169 were Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and one Canadian. The other 12 people on board were two pilots and 10 crew members. The pilot issued a 'Mayday' distress call, denoting a full emergency, soon after takeoff at 1.39 pm, the Air Traffic Control at Ahmedabad said. The search was also on for the aircraft's black box — the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder — for clues to understand what happened in the last crucial moments of the doomed flight to London's Gatwick airport.

The 11-year-old aircraft could be seen from miles away, losing altitude and combusting in a fiery blaze that sent plumes of thick black smoke spiralling

up in the air. Noting that the aircraft with a full fuel load for a long trip climbed just about 600-800 feet before plummeting to the ground almost immediately, aviation experts said going by the available visuals, lack of thrust in both engines and a bird hit could be among the probable causes. TV footage showed the aircraft making a slow descent shortly after taking off, with its landing gear still extended.

"The aircraft departed from Ahmedabad at 1339 IST (0809 UTC) from Runway 23. It gave a MAYDAY Call to ATC, but thereafter no response was given by the aircraft to the calls made by ATC," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said. Visuals from the wreckage area showed bodies being pulled out and the injured, many with burns, wheeled into the city civil hospital. Eyewitnesses said the blaze was so intense that it led to several multi-storey buildings being burnt, trees singed and cars damaged. (SEE PAGE 2)

MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE AFFECTED PEOPLE. THE NATION STANDS WITH THEM IN THIS HOUR OF INDESCRIBABLE GRIEF
— DROUPADI MURMU
PRESIDENT

THE TRAGEDY IN AHMEDABAD HAS STUNNED AND SADDENED US. IT IS HEARTBREAKING BEYOND WORDS. HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MINISTERS AND AUTHORITIES
— NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER



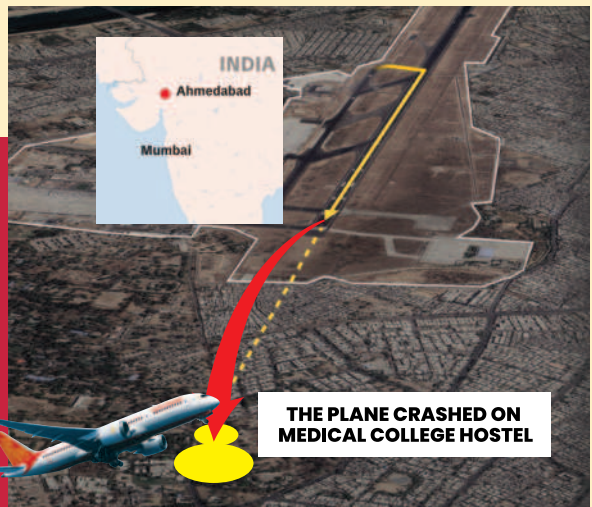
EX-GUJ CM RUPANI DEAD
AHMEDABAD: Senior BJP leader and former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani died in the Air India flight crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday, authorities said. He was 68. Rupani was reportedly seated in business class seat 2D. He steered Gujarat through a critical phase of industrial growth and post-Covid recovery. IANS

Mayday... Mayday

AS RESCUERS STRUGGLE TO FIND SURVIVORS IN THE CHARRED WRECKAGE OF THE BOEING 787 DREAMLINER (AI71), OFFICIALS TRY TO ASSESS THE HUMAN MAGNITUDE OF THE DISASTER

- Pilot issues 'MAYDAY' distress call, denoting full emergency, soon after takeoff at 1.39 pm
- Tata Group to give Rs 1 cr to families of each person who died in AI plane crash
- Black box recovered, will be crucial in determining cause of crash
- First crash involving Boeing Dreamliner, feted for its advanced features
- DNA tests to be carried out to identify plane crash victims
- Army, NDRF, BSF join relief and rescue work at crash site
- Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau to probe Air India plane crash
- US agency to lead team to India to assist plane crash investigation

CONTROL ROOMS SET UP
New Delhi: 011-24610843, 9650391859
Ahmedabad: 9978405304/ 079-23251900
Ahmedabad airport helpline: 9974111327
Air India passenger hotline: 1800 5691 444



THE PLANE CRASHED ON MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSTEL

In a nutshell

Exploring path to reset ties: MEA

NEW DELHI: Describing Indian and Canada as "vibrant democracies", the External Affairs Ministry on Thursday said New Delhi believes the forthcoming meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the G7 Summit will offer an important opportunity to exchange views and explore pathways to reset ties. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said this during his media briefing. PTI

Tagore home: India asks B'desh to act

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday strongly condemned the vandalisation of the ancestral home of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Bangladesh by a mob and termed the violent attack a "disgrace" to the memory and inclusive philosophy espoused by the poet. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal urged the interim government in Bangladesh to rein in these elements and take "strict action". PTI

Six killed in lightning strike

ADILABAD: In three different incidents, five tribal women and a man were struck dead by lightning, while seven others sustained injuries due to lightning in the district on Thursday. In the first instance, Sidam Rambai (35), Pendor Mahadrao (42), Pendor Sanjana (19), and Mangam Bheembai (35) — all from Pippiri village — were killed on the spot when lightning struck them while they were having lunch in a hut, following heavy rain in the afternoon. Seven farm labourers sustained injuries in the incident. They were shifted to RIMS-Adilabad. (SEE PAGE 2)

Actress booked for abusing pub staff

HYDERABAD: A case has been registered against actress Kalpika Ganesh at the Gachibowli police station for allegedly creating nuisance at Prism Pub last month end. The actress, along with a friend, had gone to the pub to celebrate her birthday when an argument broke out between the staff and the actress. The police arrived at the spot and, in their presence, the actress allegedly abused the staff. On a complaint, the police sought permission from the court to file a case, after which a case was registered under various sections of the BNS Act.

Pregnant women in remote TG villages face monsoon risks

SANTOSH PADALA
Kumram Bheem Asifabad

Pregnant women living in remote areas of the district are expected to face difficult days ahead during the monsoon. Health officials have identified 151 villages likely to be cut off by overflowing streams and rivulets. These villages are home to 128 pregnant women expected to deliver between June and August.

Officials warned that these women may face difficulties accessing nearby primary health centres or sub-centres



Two pregnant women being shifted to a safer place in Bejjur in 2024.

if heavy rains flood the streams. For instance, Gundi village in Asifabad mandal has four pregnant women with expected delivery dates

in August. If the local stream floods, they would have to travel 25 km to reach the district headquarters hospital. (SEE PAGE 2)

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