# Air India Boeing 787 crash near Ahmedabad leaves 241 dead and raises fresh safety concerns



On June 12, 2025, a tragic aviation disaster unfolded as an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad Airport, en route to London’s Gatwick Airport. The flight, designated AI171, carried 242 individuals—230 passengers, including 169 Indian citizens and 53 British nationals, along with 12 crew members. The aircraft lost contact just minutes into its ascent, resulting in the deaths of 241 people on board, making it one of the deadliest aviation incidents in recent memory. Among the casualties were at least five individuals on the ground, primarily students at the nearby BJ Medical College, where the plane impacted a residential hostel. Only one survivor has been confirmed: Ramesh Vishwashkumar, a 38-year-old British national, who is currently hospitalized.

Eyewitness accounts and images depict a harrowing scene, with flames engulfing the fuselage and a dense plume of smoke rising from the wreckage. The circumstances surrounding the crash have sparked significant concern and scrutiny regarding aviation safety standards in India—particularly as this incident marks the first fatal crash involving the Boeing 787 since its inception in 2009. Preliminary investigations suggest possible human error may have contributed, specifically around flap configuration settings, though definitive conclusions are yet to be drawn.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was promptly informed of the situation and activated a coordinated response, while UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has expressed his condolences and extended support to the affected families. As part of the response, Air India has initiated a helpline for relatives of those on board and is fully cooperating with investigations led by Indian authorities, with additional support from UK and US teams.

The widespread impact of the crash has reverberated beyond immediate local tragedy. The Indian government has launched an urgent investigation into the incident, while Boeing has faced increased scrutiny over its safety practices and the reliability of its aircraft. Following the crash, shares of Boeing dropped significantly, reflecting investor trepidation over the potential implications of the disaster.

As rescue and recovery efforts continue at the crash site, involving numerous emergency services, the situation remains fluid, with hopes fading for additional survivors. Investigators are also deploying DNA testing methods to identify those who perished, a grim necessity given the extent of the destruction. This tragic incident serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities and challenges that persist within the aviation industry, particularly in contexts marked by rapid growth and historic safety concerns.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2025/jun/13/air-india-171-plane-crash-ahmedabad-in-pictures), [[2]](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/un-avion-air-india-242-pasajeros-estrella-aeropuerto-ahmedabad-dirigia-reino-unidobr.html), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/0f1196c5-c656-4804-b84d-cc5225b4939f)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-06-12/un-avion-de-pasajeros-se-estrella-en-el-aeropuerto-de-ahmedabad-en-el-oeste-de-la-india.html), [[5]](https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/06/12/se-estrella-en-la-india-un-avion-con-242-personas-a-bordo-cadena-ser/), [[6]](https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/hallan-superviviente-accidenteereo-air-india.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/0f1196c5-c656-4804-b84d-cc5225b4939f), [[7]](https://apnews.com/article/084cd112faf70d9392bd84af31847aa3)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2025/jun/13/air-india-171-plane-crash-ahmedabad-in-pictures> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/un-avion-air-india-242-pasajeros-estrella-aeropuerto-ahmedabad-dirigia-reino-unidobr.html> - On June 12, 2025, an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner with 242 people on board crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad Airport, India, en route to London. The accident resulted in numerous fatalities, including at least five people on the ground when the aircraft struck a BJ Medical College student residence. Among the passengers, 169 were Indian citizens and 53 were British. Only one survivor has been confirmed: Ramesh Vishwakumar, a 38-year-old British national. The crew issued an emergency 'MAYDAY' call before losing contact. Rescue teams continue to work in the area, though hopes of finding more survivors are low. The Indian government has initiated an urgent investigation, and the United Kingdom has offered support to the affected families. Images of the accident depict a dense column of smoke and destruction in the impacted residential area. Air India is coordinating with authorities and has set up a helpline for family members. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was informed shortly after the accident and activated a coordinated response.
3. <https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-06-12/un-avion-de-pasajeros-se-estrella-en-el-aeropuerto-de-ahmedabad-en-el-oeste-de-la-india.html> - An Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 242 people on board (230 passengers and 12 crew members) crashed minutes after taking off from Ahmedabad Airport bound for London Gatwick. The disaster occurred in a densely populated residential area, causing at least 260 deaths, including 27 people on the ground. Only one passenger, British national Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, survived. The pilot issued a distress call shortly after takeoff, and contact was lost when the aircraft was about 190 meters in altitude. Images showed the fuselage in flames, and flights at the airport were temporarily suspended. Indian and British authorities are investigating the accident, with a possible cause being incorrect flap configuration, indicating potential human error. This is the first serious accident involving a Boeing 787, although the model has faced recent manufacturing issues. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer expressed their dismay. The accident reignites concerns about maintenance standards in Indian commercial aviation.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/0f1196c5-c656-4804-b84d-cc5225b4939f> - An Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner flight from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed shortly after takeoff on June 12, 2025, resulting in the deaths of 241 of the 242 people on board, making it the deadliest aviation disaster in over a decade. The lone survivor, a British citizen named Viswash Kumar Ramesh, was hospitalized. The crash also caused fatalities on the ground, notably at BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad, where the aircraft hit a student hostel. The aircraft, 12 years old, lost signal shortly after reaching 625 feet, and a mayday call was the last communication received. The crash has intensified scrutiny on Boeing, which has faced multiple safety controversies in recent years, despite the Dreamliner previously maintaining a strong safety record. Boeing's shares fell 4.8% following the incident. Air India, which was privatized in 2022 by Tata Group and had embarked on a major modernization push, expressed deep condolences and is cooperating with investigations led by Indian authorities with assistance from U.S. and UK teams. World leaders, including India's PM Narendra Modi and UK PM Keir Starmer, expressed their sorrow over the tragedy.
5. <https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/06/12/se-estrella-en-la-india-un-avion-con-242-personas-a-bordo-cadena-ser/> - An Air India aircraft bound for London suffered a tragic accident shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad, India, resulting in at least 290 deaths. On board were 242 people, including 169 Indian citizens, 53 Britons, seven Portuguese, and one Canadian. Only one person survived the disaster, while another 49 victims were in the residential building where the plane impacted. At least 25 people were injured. Flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, lost radar contact less than a minute after takeoff. The aircraft was carrying approximately 125,000 litres of fuel, leading to a high-intensity fire that hindered rescue efforts. Operations at Ahmedabad Airport were temporarily suspended. Local and international authorities, including India's Interior Minister and the UK Prime Minister, have expressed their condolences. Air India has set up a helpline for passengers' families, while an investigation into the causes of the accident is awaited.
6. <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/global/hallan-superviviente-accidenteereo-air-india.html> - On June 12, 2025, at least one survivor was found among the wreckage of Air India Flight 171, which crashed shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad Airport, India, en route to the United Kingdom. The accident occurred in a residential area of the city. The survivor has been transferred to a hospital where he is receiving treatment. Search operations continue as emergency services work in the crash area. The information was confirmed by a police source to the media present at the scene. The news is developing.
7. <https://apnews.com/article/084cd112faf70d9392bd84af31847aa3> - An Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad en route to London, killing 240 people on board and some on the ground. Only one passenger, British national Vishwashkumar Ramesh, survived and is recovering in hospital. The flight crashed into B.J. Medical College, killing five students and injuring around 50. The cause remains unclear, but video footage indicates the aircraft struggled to climb before crashing into a fireball. The crash is under investigation with assistance from the U.S., U.K., and Boeing, and DNA testing is being used to identify charred remains. It is the first fatal crash involving a Boeing 787 since its introduction in 2009. Leaders worldwide, including those from the U.S., U.K., Russia, and Pakistan, expressed condolences, while India's Prime Minister Modi called the incident 'heartbreaking.' Boeing shares fell significantly following the news, and safety concerns are being revisited given previous incidents involving Boeing aircraft. Air India, privatized in 2022 by Tata Sons, has faced past tragedies and operational challenges. The airline confirmed the nationalities of passengers included 169 Indians, 53 British, 7 Portuguese, and 1 Canadian among the deceased.