# Investigation into Air India Flight 171 crash intensifies as British victims named and death toll rises



Investigations continue into the tragic crash of Air India Flight 171, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner that went down shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad Airport, claiming the lives of 241 individuals on board and at least 24 on the ground. Air India has confirmed that of the 242 people, only one survivor was discovered—a UK national named Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, who reportedly exited the plane without understanding how. As the situation develops, authorities indicate that the death toll could further escalate, particularly concerning casualties from the medical college that the aircraft struck, as the crash debris was found embedded in the BJ Medical College building, leading to at least five medical students being among the deceased and approximately 50 others injured.

This accident marks one of the deadliest incidents involving British nationals, raising alarm over the loss of lives among expatriates. Among the victims were Britons Fiongal and Jamie Greenlaw-Meek, known for their work in a spiritual wellness centre. Former ITV editor Martin Frizell expressed his sorrow on social media, recalling Mr Greenlaw-Meek's vibrant personality. The Gloucester Muslim Community group extended condolences after Akeel Nanabawa and his family were also reported as victims, reflecting the ripple effect of this tragedy across various communities.

Aviation experts are exploring multiple potential causes for the crash, including the possibility of both engines failing— a scenario reminiscent of the so-called "Miracle on the Hudson" in 2009—or misconfiguration of wing flaps at take-off. Meanwhile, U.S. officials have indicated that there is no immediate safety rationale to ground the Boeing 787 fleet, emphasising that preliminary reviews of video evidence have yet to suggest significant safety concerns. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy noted that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are collaborating with Boeing and engine manufacturer GE Aerospace on the investigation, assuring a commitment to prioritising public safety.

Air India's parent company, Tata Group, has pledged 10 million rupees (approximately £86,000) to the families of those who died, alongside assurance to cover medical expenses for the injured individuals. UK officials are mobilising to assist with the investigation alongside the Indian authorities. Official responses have been swift; Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer confirmed continuous communication with Indian officials, while Buckingham Palace noted that King Charles III is "desperately shocked" by the news.

As the investigations unfold, more details will likely emerge, presenting further insight into this catastrophic event that has left entire communities grieving and questioning how such tragedies can be avoided in the future.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/air-india-crash-investigations-continue-as-british-victims-are-named-KIPMYUKW3FMTXJCQTS4TSWVXPE/), [[4]](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Presley-Thomas-Justice-for-IA-crash-victims-after-15-years/articleshow/41900476.cms)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/air-india-crash-investigations-continue-as-british-victims-are-named-KIPMYUKW3FMTXJCQTS4TSWVXPE/), [[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_India_Flight_171), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Ahmedabad_plane_crash)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/us-sees-no-immediate-reason-ground-boeing-787-after-air-india-crash-2025-06-12/), [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_787_Dreamliner)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/air-india-crash-investigations-continue-as-british-victims-are-named-KIPMYUKW3FMTXJCQTS4TSWVXPE/), [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/air-india-crash-investigations-continue-as-british-victims-are-named-KIPMYUKW3FMTXJCQTS4TSWVXPE/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/air-india-crash-investigations-continue-as-british-victims-are-named-KIPMYUKW3FMTXJCQTS4TSWVXPE/), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Ahmedabad_plane_crash)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/air-india-crash-investigations-continue-as-british-victims-are-named-KIPMYUKW3FMTXJCQTS4TSWVXPE/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/us-sees-no-immediate-reason-ground-boeing-787-after-air-india-crash-2025-06-12/> - Following the fatal crash of Air India Flight 171, which resulted in over 240 fatalities, U.S. officials have stated there is no immediate safety data necessitating the grounding of Boeing 787 flights. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and Acting FAA Administrator Chris Rocheleau emphasized that preliminary video footage is insufficient for making safety decisions. U.S. authorities, including the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), are collaborating with Boeing and engine manufacturer GE Aerospace to investigate the crash and are dispatching a team to India. Duffy reassured the public that safety remains the top priority and that any necessary safety recommendations will be acted upon. Rocheleau affirmed that if risk-related information emerges during the investigation, prompt mitigation measures will be taken. The FAA stands ready to allocate further resources to ensure aviation safety.
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_India_Flight_171> - Air India Flight 171 was a scheduled international passenger flight operated by Air India from Ahmedabad Airport, India, to London Gatwick Airport, UK. On 12 June 2025, the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed shortly after takeoff into the Meghani Nagar neighbourhood of Ahmedabad. The aircraft was carrying 230 passengers and 12 crew members. At least 265 people died, including 241 people on the flight and at least 24 people on the ground. A single passenger survived the crash. This accident is also the first fatal crash and hull loss involving the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The crash is under investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of India, with assistance from the UK's Air Accidents Investigation Branch and the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).
4. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Presley-Thomas-Justice-for-IA-crash-victims-after-15-years/articleshow/41900476.cms> - The article discusses the prolonged legal battle for compensation by the victims of a previous Indian Airlines crash. The families had been offered a settlement of Rs 2 lakh, which they refused, seeking justice instead. Despite 15 years of legal proceedings, they remain uncertain about the outcome. Advocate Mukund Choksi, who filed 23 suits in the case, highlighted issues such as foggy weather conditions and malfunctioning airport equipment at the time of the crash. The airline's defense argued that the accident was due to ordinary negligence and not recklessness. The Mathur Commission report indicated pilot error, suggesting that both the airline and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) should compensate the victims' families.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_787_Dreamliner> - The Boeing 787 Dreamliner is a wide-body, twin-engine, long-haul, mid-size, wide-body, twin-engine, jet airliner developed by Boeing's Commercial Airplanes division. The 787 is the first airliner to be constructed primarily of composite materials, including carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer. The aircraft is powered by two engines, either the Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 or the General Electric GEnx. The 787 is available in three variants: 787-8, 787-9, and 787-10. As of 2025, the Boeing 787 has been involved in eight accidents and incidents, including one fatal hull loss.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Ahmedabad_plane_crash> - The 2025 Ahmedabad plane crash refers to the crash of Air India Flight 171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad Airport on 12 June 2025. The aircraft was en route to London Gatwick Airport and crashed into the Meghani Nagar neighbourhood of Ahmedabad. The crash resulted in at least 265 fatalities, including 241 people on board and at least 24 people on the ground. A single passenger survived the crash. This incident marked the first fatal crash and hull loss involving the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The crash is under investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of India, with assistance from the UK's Air Accidents Investigation Branch and the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).
7. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/air-india-crash-investigations-continue-as-british-victims-are-named-KIPMYUKW3FMTXJCQTS4TSWVXPE/> - Investigations are continuing into the crash of a London-bound plane that killed 240 people, with the death toll likely to increase. Air India confirmed there was only one survivor – a UK national – out of the 242 people on board the Boeing 787 Dreamliner when it crashed into a medical college shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad Airport. It is one of the deadliest plane crashes in terms of the number of British nationals killed and the first involving a 787. There are fears the number of people killed on the ground could rise. Images taken after the incident showed debris from the plane embedded in the BJ Medical College building. At least five medical students were killed and about 50 injured. Briton Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, 40, is believed to be the only survivor of the crash. He was in seat 11A, next to one of the aircraft’s emergency exits. Speaking outside the family home in Leicester, his brother, Nayan Kumar Ramesh, 27, said: “We were just shocked as soon as we heard it. I last spoke to him yesterday morning. We’re devastated, just devastated. He said, ‘I have no idea how I exited the plane’.” British couple Fiongal and Jamie Greenlaw-Meek, who run a spiritual wellness centre, were said to be among the dead. Mr Greenlaw-Meek appeared on ITV’s This Morning earlier this year, and former editor of the show Martin Frizell praised his “vibrancy” and “enthusiasm”. “So so sad to hear that Fiongal Greenlaw-Meek and his partner are reported to be among the passengers and crew killed today on board the Air India flight bound for Gatwick,” he said in an Instagram post. “I remember his visit to the studio in January, he was passionate about auras and although I’m a sceptical sort his vibrancy and sheer enthusiasm won folk over.” The Gloucester Muslim Community group offered “sincere and deepest condolences” after Akeel Nanabawa, his wife Hannaa and their daughter Sara were reported to be among the victims. “During this moment of overwhelming sorrow, our hearts go out to all those left behind,” a statement said. “No words can truly ease the pain of such a profound loss, but we pray that the family may find solace in the tremendous outpouring of compassion and solidarity from communities across the world.” Sir Keir Starmer said the UK was in constant contact with Indian authorities. Aviation experts have speculated about a number of possible causes for the crash, from both engines failing – possibly due to a bird strike, as happened in the so-called Miracle on the Hudson in 2009 – to the flaps on the aircraft’s wings not being set to the correct position for take-off. Tata Group, the parent company of Air India, said it would provide 10 million rupees (around £86,000) to the families of each of those killed in the crash. The company said it would also cover the medical costs of the injured and provide support in the “building up” of the medical college. UK officials are being deployed to India to support the investigation, the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) said. The King said he was “desperately shocked” and Buckingham Palace said he was being kept updated. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said the UK was in constant contact with Indian authorities.