# Families of British Air India crash victims face delays and limited support amid investigation



Families of British victims of the recent Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner crash near Ahmedabad are enduring immense pain and frustration amid delays in identifying and repatriating their loved ones' remains. The tragic accident unfolded shortly after the aircraft took off, killing 241 of the 242 people on board, with the lone survivor being British national Vishwash Kumar Ramesh. Among those who perished, 52 were British citizens. The aircraft crashed into a residential medical college hostel, also fatally injuring at least 29 individuals on the ground, making this incident one of the deadliest air disasters in terms of British casualties. Relatives of victims such as Akeel Nanabawa and his family have publicly voiced feeling “utterly abandoned” by the UK Government, expressing concerns over the limited support and slow progress in India in handling identification and coordination efforts.

According to the Foreign Office minister speaking in the UK Parliament, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has set up a reception centre near the Ahmedabad airport rather than at the hospital where remains are being held. While this decision was meant to facilitate the reception of British nationals and avoid distressing scenes at the hospital, it has led to complaints that family members must travel to distant locations for limited consular assistance. The minister acknowledged the difficulty and acknowledged the pain families face in such crises, promising that lessons will be learned to improve the response in future incidents. Support measures include a British Red Cross psychological support officer on site, financial assistance offered by Air India for repatriation, and close coordination between UK and Indian officials to expedite processes despite the complexities inherent in the crash aftermath.

On the Indian side, authorities have launched an extensive investigation into the crash. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is analysing the recovered cockpit voice recorder and digital flight data recorder, with technical assistance from UK, US, and Boeing specialists. The wreckage being badly charred has complicated the analysis, and the investigation is expected to take several months. Meanwhile, a high-level committee led by the Indian home secretary has been formed to recommend guidelines for aviation incident management and to oversee the ongoing investigation. Experts have highlighted that such a committee risks duplicating efforts already underway but underscores the urgent need for robust aviation safety and emergency response protocols. The incident is marked as the first fatal crash involving the Boeing 787 Dreamliner in its 16 years of operation globally, triggering immediate comprehensive inspections of all Dreamliners in India's fleet.

This disaster poses a serious challenge for Air India, recently privatized under Tata Group control and undergoing a turnaround strategy aimed at improving operational standards and safety. The airline’s management, including Tata Chair N Chandrasekaran and CEO Campbell Wilson, has vowed to prioritise safety reforms and victim support. However, the crash has intensified scrutiny over Air India’s maintenance and safety record, potentially jeopardising the progress of its rehabilitation strategy. Authorities continue to investigate mechanical aspects, including potential anomalies with the wing flaps and landing gear, while also reviewing the aircraft’s and pilot’s operational histories.

The tragedy has resonated deeply in the UK and Commonwealth. At London’s Trooping the Colour parade, King Charles III and the royal family paid tribute to the victims by wearing black armbands and observing a moment of silence, with the King expressing condolences to affected families and communities. British Foreign Minister David Lammy also conveyed his deep sorrow, confirming that the UK government has activated crisis response teams in both New Delhi and London to coordinate aid and work closely with Indian officials during this challenging time. International cooperation continues as recovery and identification efforts proceed, though families await swifter resolution and answers amid their ongoing grief.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/air-india-plane-crash-victims-british-government-b2771361.html), [[7]](https://apnews.com/article/4bb6243d0240956538ddcd253d92f5ce), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/uk-foreign-minister-lammy-deeply-saddened-by-india-plane-crash-2025-06-12/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/air-india-plane-crash-victims-british-government-b2771361.html), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/uk-foreign-minister-lammy-deeply-saddened-by-india-plane-crash-2025-06-12/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/cc344f02b4abfef9b29789f3d02dd4f0), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/e1dab79e-2344-4027-9f97-e231c560d76c), [[7]](https://apnews.com/article/4bb6243d0240956538ddcd253d92f5ce)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/6c4584d1-3554-4863-871b-27dc1edc831e), [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/cc344f02b4abfef9b29789f3d02dd4f0)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/8073f3051f93819f17865211c64ffb49), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/uk-foreign-minister-lammy-deeply-saddened-by-india-plane-crash-2025-06-12/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/air-india-plane-crash-victims-british-government-b2771361.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/e1dab79e-2344-4027-9f97-e231c560d76c> - In response to the recent tragic Ahmedabad air crash, the Indian government has established a high-level committee to recommend comprehensive guidelines for aviation incident management. Led by the home secretary and including experts from the air force and other sectors, the committee supplements the ongoing investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau and will have access to vital data like the black box recorder. However, the necessity and efficacy of such a committee are questioned, as it duplicates existing institutional efforts. The crash, the deadliest since 1997, highlights the urgent need for a robust and regularly audited emergency response system that prioritizes human life. Meanwhile, DNA identification efforts for fatalities are underway, with Air India extending compensation to both onboard and ground victims’ families. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/e1dab79e-2344-4027-9f97-e231c560d76c?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/cc344f02b4abfef9b29789f3d02dd4f0> - Investigators in India are analyzing the black boxes recovered from the wreckage of an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner that crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad, killing at least 270 people, including 241 passengers and 29 individuals on the ground. The flight was en route to London and made a mayday call before crashing into a medical college hostel, leaving only one survivor. The cockpit voice recorder and digital flight data recorder—both critical for understanding the sequence of events—are being examined by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau with assistance from U.K., U.S. authorities, and Boeing. Experts emphasize the importance of black box data in determining engine and control settings, pilot communications, and any alarms or distress signals. Additional measures include reviewing CCTV footage, witness accounts, and the aircraft and pilot’s operational history. The investigation may take considerable time due to the aircraft being badly charred, potentially affecting the black boxes. The Indian government has launched a high-level committee to investigate the crash and improve future flight safety protocols, with a preliminary report expected in three months. Meanwhile, inspections of Air India’s fleet of 33 Dreamliners have commenced to prevent future incidents. This tragedy marks the first fatal crash of a Dreamliner in 16 years of global operation. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/cc344f02b4abfef9b29789f3d02dd4f0?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/6c4584d1-3554-4863-871b-27dc1edc831e> - Air India, recently privatized and under a five-year turnaround plan led by CEO Campbell Wilson, is facing a major crisis following a fatal crash in Ahmedabad that killed over 290 people on a London-bound flight. The incident has called into question the airline's safety standards and management, putting its owner, Tata Group, under significant pressure. Investigations led by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, with support from U.S. and U.K. agencies, are ongoing, focusing on mechanical anomalies like wing flaps and landing gear. Tata, which reacquired Air India in 2022, had committed to transforming the struggling carrier by upgrading IT systems, hiring new staff, and placing massive aircraft orders. Despite financial improvements, complaints about service quality, outdated aircraft, and regulatory penalties have persisted. The crash is considered the worst in India in nearly 30 years and threatens to derail Tata’s efforts to rehabilitate Air India’s reputation. Tata Chair N Chandrasekaran and Wilson have vowed to prioritize safety and victim support, but public and expert scrutiny remains intense. The outcome of the investigation and the airline’s response will be pivotal in determining its future. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/6c4584d1-3554-4863-871b-27dc1edc831e?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://apnews.com/article/8073f3051f93819f17865211c64ffb49> - During the annual Trooping the Colour parade in London, King Charles III and the royal family honoured the victims of a tragic Air India plane crash by wearing black armbands and observing a moment of silence. The crash, which occurred shortly after the aircraft departed from Ahmedabad en route to London, claimed the lives of 241 people on board and at least 29 on the ground, with only one survivor. The passengers included individuals from India, Britain, Portugal, and Canada. As head of the Commonwealth, King Charles expressed his sympathies to the bereaved families and affected communities. The solemn tribute took place amidst the traditional pageantry of Trooping the Colour, a ceremonial review of the troops involving 1,338 soldiers and a military flyover. The parade, featuring the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows aerobatic display using sustainable aviation fuel, concluded with a royal balcony appearance at Buckingham Palace. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/8073f3051f93819f17865211c64ffb49?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/uk-foreign-minister-lammy-deeply-saddened-by-india-plane-crash-2025-06-12/> - British Foreign Minister David Lammy expressed his deep sorrow over a devastating plane crash in Ahmedabad, India. He conveyed his condolences to those affected by the tragedy via a post on platform X and emphasised that the UK is coordinating closely with Indian authorities to determine the details and offer assistance. In an address to Parliament, Lammy confirmed that Britain had activated a crisis response team in both New Delhi and London to manage the situation and facilitate support efforts. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/uk-foreign-minister-lammy-deeply-saddened-by-india-plane-crash-2025-06-12/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://apnews.com/article/4bb6243d0240956538ddcd253d92f5ce> - A tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad, India, resulted in the deaths of at least 270 people after an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed into a residential area shortly after takeoff. The accident claimed the lives of 241 people on board and at least 29 on the ground, with only one passenger surviving. Recovery teams continue to retrieve bodies, many of which are badly charred or mutilated, leading to delays in identification through DNA. Grieving families expressed frustration over the pace of the identification process. Authorities have launched a high-level investigation into the cause of the crash and initiated urgent inspections of all Boeing 787 aircraft in India. The aircraft's flight data recorder has been recovered and is expected to offer critical information regarding the flight's final moments. Experts are looking into possible mechanical or procedural issues, including the configuration of wing flaps and data accuracy. This marks the first fatal crash involving a 787 Dreamliner since its introduction 16 years ago. The Indian government has pledged to take all necessary actions following the results of the investigation. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/4bb6243d0240956538ddcd253d92f5ce?utm_source=openai))