

265 DEAD IN AIR INDIA DISASTER

DREAMLINER NIGHTMARE: Ahmedabad-London flight had 53 Britishers, 7 Portuguese, 1 Canadian; search on for final body count; Goa gov't declares state mourning today

PTI, AHMEDABAD: At least 265 people were killed on Thursday when 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 less than a minute after takeoff, an official said. The dead in the country's worst air disaster in recent times included several people on the ground.

While one passenger identified as Vishwash Kumar Ramesh survived the crash near the airport involving the Boeing 787 Dreamliner (AI 171), BJP leader C R Paatil said former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was among the dead.

"265 bodies have reached the city civil hospital as per the message we received," Deputy Commissioner of Police Kanan Desai told reporters late in the night several hours after the twin-engine wide-body aircraft crashed in the city civil hospital and BJ Medical College outside the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport perimeter. Several bodies were reported to be charred beyond recognition.

Four MBBS students and a doctor's wife were among those killed, a senior official said. Several students were impacted after parts of the plane smashed into a dining hall at lunch time



Fire and Emergency Services personnel at work at the crash site in Ahmedabad



The tail section of the plane that crashed into a building at Ahmedabad

in the multi-storey hostel building.

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.

Union minister Amit Shah told reporters that the temperature in the ill-fated plane was so high due to burning fuel that there was no chance to save anyone. "There was 1.25 lakh litres of fuel inside the plane and it caught heat so it was impossible to save anyone," Shah said.

"The number of those

FLIGHT DETAILS

- ✦ Aircraft: Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner
- ✦ Flight AI171: Ahmedabad to London Gatwick
- ✦ Total on board: 242 (230 passengers + 12 crew)

GROUND REPORT

- ✦ 265 bodies brought to Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, police confirmed
- ✦ Bodies charred beyond recognition; DNA tests underway for identification
- ✦ At least 5 MBBS students, 1 PG resident

doctor, and the wife of a super-specialist doctor from B J Medical College were killed

- ✦ Over 60 medical students injured
- ✦ Plane crashed into the boys' hostel building during lunch hour, leading to high casualties

RESCUE & SEARCH

- ✦ Search operations ongoing at the crash site; many feared buried in debris
- ✦ Black box recovery efforts continue for flight data and cockpit voice recorders
- ✦ Rescuers facing difficulty due to extensive fire damage and structural collapse

killed will be officially released by the authorities after DNA test and identification of the victims."

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.

The pilot of the plane issued a 'Mayday' distress call, denoting a full emer-

gency, 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 rapidly and combusting in a fiery blaze that sent plumes of thick black smoke spiralling up in the air.

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FORMER GUJARAT CM VIJAY RUPANI DIES IN CRASH

PTI, AHMEDABAD: BJP leader and former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani



is among the victims of the Ahmedabad Air India crash, Union minister C R Paatil confirmed on Thursday. Rupani, 68, was CM for two terms from August 7, 2016 to September 11, 2021.

PASSENGER SURVIVES

PTI, AHMEDABAD: A passenger on board the London-bound Air India flight that



crashed near the Ahmedabad airport survived the horrific incident. Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, who was seated in 11A, largely remained unscathed after the miraculous escape. He was seen in TV footage walking around after the crash.

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ONLINE GAMBLING

Teenager dies by suicide in Querim after huge losses

Team Herald

PONDA: A 19-year-old from Querim, Ponda, tragically ended his life on Wednesday night after reportedly suffering significant financial losses in online gambling.

According to Mardol Police, the incident came to light when staff from the 108 ambulance service reported that Rohit Gaude, 19, had died by suicide by hanging at his residence, using a saree as the ligature.

Police visited the scene and conducted inquiries with the deceased's family. They learned that Rohit had been deeply engaged in online gaming and gambling, borrowing money from relatives and friends to fund his activities. The heavy losses he incurred reportedly led to depression, culminating in his decision to take his own life.

The police conducted an Unnatural Death (UD) scene investigation and an inquest. The body was sent for a post-mortem examination, where the Police Surgeon determined the cause of death as "asphyxia due to hanging."

After the examination, the body was released to the family for final rites. The investigation is ongoing, led by PSI Vibhina Shirodkar of Mardol Police Station.

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