

## BLACK BOX SEARCH ENDS, HUNT FOR ANSWERS BEGINS

**PTI, AHMEDABAD:** Investigators on Friday recovered one of the two Black Boxes of the London-bound Air India plane from the rooftop of a medical college hostel here a day after it crashed and rammed into the building, as they scoured through the debris for clues to the cause of the worst air tragedy in the country in three decades.

In a major breakthrough, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), without giving details, said the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), commonly known as the Black Box, was recovered from the 'rooftop' at the crash site. The DFDR will help reconstruct the ill-fated flight's final moments and is crucial to determining how the disaster occurred.

As aviation experts discussed the possible causes of the crash, including loss of thrust in both engines of the 11-year-old aircraft, multiple bird strikes, or a potential flap issue, Aviation watchdog DGCA ordered enhanced safety inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet powered by GENx engines. There are 26 Boeing 787-8s and 7 Boeing 787-9s in the Air India fleet.

"The DFDR (Black box) has been recovered from the rooftop," an AAIB statement said, without giving details.

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People submit documents at a help desk set up after the tragedy to claim luggage and other belongings of their deceased relatives who died in the Air India plane crash at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad, on Friday

### DGCA ORDERS INSPECTION OF A-I'S B-787 FLEET

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Aviation watchdog DGCA on Friday ordered enhanced safety inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet powered by GENx engines, a day after 241 people onboard died in the plane crash in Ahmedabad. The enhanced DGCA inspection will include checks of various systems and a review of take-off parameters of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft of Air India, owned by Tata Group.

Air India's fleet includes 26 Boeing 787-8 aircraft and 7 Boeing 787-9 planes.

Meanwhile, US aircraft engine maker GE Aerospace, in a statement, said it continues to work closely with the appropriate regulatory and investigative agencies.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed Air India to carry out additional maintenance actions on its Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 planes equipped with Genx engines with immediate effect.

These actions will be carried out in coordination with the DGCA regional offices concerned.

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### CRASH SITE HITS 1,000 °C

**AGENCY, AHMEDABAD:**

An officer said he has dealt with crisis situations before but has never seen such a disaster, where inferno reached 1,000 degrees C. The temperature in and around the crashed Air India plane site increased to about 1,000 degree Celsius, which made the rescue operations extremely difficult, PTI reported on Thursday night, citing officials.

"As the (aircraft's fuel) tank exploded, it created an inferno where temperature rose to 1,000 degrees Celsius in no time. This left little chance for anyone to escape," a senior fire official was quoted as saying by the news agency.

An SDRF officer, who joined the force in 2017, stated that he has dealt with crisis situations before but has never encountered such a disaster.

"We came here with PPE kits. But the temperature was so high that it made operations difficult. There were debris everywhere. So we had to clear the debris that were already simmering," he said.

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## Crypto income on I-T radar

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Income Tax Department has sent a communication to thousands of individuals who have undertaken cryptocurrency transactions but failed to reflect this income in their returns, official sources said Friday.

These transactions per-

tain to assessment years 2023-24 and 2024-25, they said.

The department and its policy-making body, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), suspect tax evasion and money laundering by certain "high-risk" people who are potentially us-

ing "unaccounted" income to invest in virtual digital assets (VDAs), commonly known as cryptocurrency. Sources told PTI that the I-T Department has sent e-mails to thousands of defaulting people.

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## Ola, Uber not for Goa: CM

### Taxi drivers still unhappy, say no to any app

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday firmly stated that non-Goan cab aggregators like Ola and Uber will not be permitted to operate in Goa. Speaking to reporters at Mantralaya in Porvorim after meeting with MLAs Michael Lobo, Jit Arolkar and taxi operators, Sawant clarified, "People should not get confused. Because of the guidelines, aggregators like Ola or Uber will not come to Goa. A proper system will be in place, and the issue will be resolved after taking everybody into confidence."

Sawant emphasised that the resolution would involve consultations with all stakeholders, including taxi operators, hotel owners, and MLAs.

The taxi operators have been protesting since the state government released draft transport aggregator guidelines on May 20, 2025. They have also demanded inclusion in the

**The Chief Minister assured us not to bring in any cab aggregator in Goa. But we still oppose apps. We will not join any app. It is not feasible in Goa**

– Taxi operator from Mandrem

**People should not get confused. Because of the guidelines, aggregators like Ola or Uber will not come to Goa. A proper system will be in place, and the issue will be resolved after taking everybody into confidence**

– Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister

**It is in the interest of all our locals and tourism in the state. So the chief minister said he will hold a meeting with all the MLAs representing the coastal belt and other stakeholders. He only wants a proper system of rates**

– Michael Lobo, Calangute MLA

**The Chief Minister clearly said that any aggregator like Ola or Uber will not come to Goa. He only said that there has to be an equal rate. He has also held meetings with transport department officials on taxi issues**

– Jit Arolkar, Mandrem MLA

decision-making process before any guidelines are finalised.

Calangute MLA Michael Lobo said, "It is in the interest of all our locals and tourism in the state. So the chief

minister said he will hold a meeting with all the MLAs representing the coastal belt and other stakeholders. He only wants a proper system of rates."

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## Israel strikes Iran's nuke sites

**AP, DUBAI:** Israel launched a blistering attack on the heart of Iran's nuclear and military structure Friday, deploying warplanes and drones smuggled into the country to target key facilities and kill top generals and scientists – a barrage it said was necessary before its adversary got any closer to building an atomic weapon.

The operation raised the potential for all-out war between the countries and propelled the region, already on edge, into even greater upheaval.

Iran quickly retaliated, sending a swarm of drones at Israel as Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned of "severe punishment".

Iran had been censured by the UN's atomic watchdog a day earlier for not complying with obligations meant to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon.

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## Microplastic menace threatens rivers Sal and Terekhol

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Microplastic pollution is posing a growing threat to Goa's Terekhol and Sal estuaries, with human activities like fishing, raw sewage discharge and plastic waste disposal turning these coastal waterways into contaminated zones that pose ecological and human health risks, according to a study by Goa University (GU).

The research, titled 'Comparative Assessment of Microplastic Pollution in Terekhol & Sal Estuaries, Goa, India' and conducted by researchers Niyati Kalangutkar, Shritesh

### CONTAMINATION ALERT FOR TWO GOA RIVERS

● A Goa University study shows microplastic pollution in Terekhol and Sal estuaries



● Human activities like fishing, raw sewage discharge and plastic waste disposal are the major triggers for this pollution

● Terekhol estuary shows concentrations ranging from 0.01 to 0.85 particles per litre (average 0.25), while Sal estuary

ranged from 0.01 to 0.59 particles per litre (average 0.30)

● Both estuaries showed predominance of microplastics in the 5–1 mm size range

● Polymer analysis identified polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyamide in samples from both sites

Mhapsekar, and Parvathy Rajagopal, reveals concerning contamination levels in both estuaries, with Sal estuary more severely affected.

Microplastic pollution was found at all studied locations, with Terekhol estuary showing concentrations ranging from 0.01 to 0.85 particles per litre

(average 0.25), while Sal estuary ranged from 0.01 to 0.59 particles per litre (average 0.30).

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## WE FOR VIJAI'S 55TH BIRTHDAY

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## JUNE 14TH 2025

Venue  
  
WE FOR FATORDA GROUND

### PROGRAMME

8AM - Dambab Ling, Fatorda  
8.30AM to 1PM - Goemkar Ghor, Fatorda  
4PM Onwards - Public Celebration at We for Fatorda Ground, followed by dinner

### PARKING SLOTS

- Next To Sharda Classic, Fatorda
- Nr. PWD Water Supply, Murda
- Opposite Nehru Stadium Gate no. 5
- Nehru Stadium Gate no. 1 & 2
- Don Bosco Engineering College