

# 47 victims identified via DNA tests; 24 bodies handed over to kin

Among the bodies identified was that of Ex-CM Rupani, for whom there will be State mourning in Gujarat today

**PTI, AHMEDABAD:** Three days after the tragic crash of Air India flight AI-171 in Ahmedabad, which has so far claimed 270 lives, hospital authorities confirmed on Sunday the identification of 47 victims through DNA matching, including that of former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

Authorities have handed over 24 bodies to the victims' families, officials said on Sunday. Rupani was among the 242 passengers and crew members on board the London-bound Air India flight AI-171 that crashed on Thursday.

The Gujarat government has announced a state mourning for Rupani on Monday. A funeral procession will be held in Rajkot in the evening.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed into a medical college complex moments after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 1:39 PM on Thursday. So far 29 people are reported to have died in the disaster on the ground



Bereaved family members of Shagun Modi and Shubh Modi, victims of the Air India plane crash, perform their last rites at Thalteji Crematorium, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

which includes five MBBS students. Only one person from the aircraft miraculously survived.

Due to the severe condition of many bodies—burnt or disfigured—authorities are relying on DNA matching for identification.

"A total of 47 plane crash victims have been identified so far through DNA matching. Of these, the bodies of 24 victims have been handed over to their respective families. These

deceased were from Rajasthan and different parts of Gujarat," Additional Civil Superintendent Dr. Rajnish Patel told reporters.

He added that 14 of the identified victims were from Udaipur, Vadodara, Kheda, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, and Botad districts.

Of the 51 people injured in the incident, 38 have been discharged, while 13 are still undergoing treatment, said Dr. Patel, a professor of surgery at the govern-

## TEEN WHO FILMED AHMEDABAD PLANE CRASH STRUGGLES WITH TRAUMA

**PTI, AHMEDABAD:** What began as a simple curiosity to see an aeroplane up close turned into a trauma for 17-year-old Aryan Asari, whose mobile phone video of the ill-fated Air India flight AI-171 became a viral sensation. Shaken and deeply disturbed, Aryan spoke to reporters before returning to his home village in Gujarat's Aravalli district, 130 km from Ahmedabad, and expressed hope that he would escape the images of the crash he accidentally recorded. After reaching his father's rented house in Meghanagar around 12:30 pm on Thursday, located between the airport and the crash site, he learned that aircraft often flew low overhead. Intrigued, he headed to the terrace, eager for a never-before-seen perspective. Aryan, a Class 12 student from Shamlaji taluka, arrived in Ahmedabad on June 12 to buy textbooks for the upcoming school year.

ment-run B J Medical College. According to Dr. Dhaval Gameti, president of the B J Medical College Junior Doctors' Association, around 270 bodies were brought to Ahmedabad Civil Hospital from the crash site.

State Relief Commissioner Alok Kumar Pandey told reporters that families of all 230 passengers who perished on the flight have

been contacted. "Members of only three deceased passengers are yet to give their DNA samples as they live abroad. They are expected to arrive tomorrow evening. Along with the mortal remains, we are also handing over death certificates to the kin so that they don't face any issues afterwards," said Pandey.

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## British fighter jet makes emergency landing in Thiruvananthapuram

**PTI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** A British F-35 fighter jet made an emergency landing at the International Airport here on Saturday night after running low on fuel, sources said here.

The jet, which is believed to have taken off from an aircraft carrier, landed safely at around 9.30 pm, they said on Sunday.

Airport authorities de-

**The jet, which is believed to have taken off from an aircraft carrier, landed safely at around 9.30 pm, they said on Sunday. Airport authorities declared an emergency to ensure a smooth and safe landing, said a source.**

"The pilot reported low fuel and asked for permission to land. Everything was handled quickly and professionally," the source said.

The aircraft is currently parked at the airport.

Refuelling will take place once approval is received from the relevant authorities in the Central government, sources said.

## Heavy rains lash Kerala: Trees uprooted, rivers swell, schools shut

**PTI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** Heavy rains continued to pound various parts of Kerala on Sunday, leading to widespread disruptions including uprooted trees, rising river levels, and the opening of shutters at multiple dams.

Mudslides in highranges, inundation of low-lying areas and intense sea erosion in the coastal belts were reported across the state.

In light of heavy rains, authorities declared a holiday for educational institutions in Malappuram, Kanur, Kasaragod, Wayanad and Thiruvananthapuram districts for Monday.

Though no major casualties were reported anywhere, sporadic incidents of damage to houses and vehicles were recorded in various places across the state. In Malappuram's Kottakkal, a house located on a hilly terrain was damaged in a mudslide on Saturday evening. However, the family inside escaped unharmed.

Huge trees were uprooted, temporarily disrupting traffic in Sultan Bathery in Wayanad and at Chungam in southern Kottayam dis-



A woman and a child wade through water of the swollen Aluva Periyar River after heavy rainfall, in Kochi, Kerala

## 8 KILLED AS HEAVY RAINS LASH MAHA; COASTAL DISTRICTS ON ALERT

**PTI, MUMBAI:** At least eight persons were killed, mostly due to lightning strikes, as heavy rains pummelled parts of Maharashtra, officials said on Sunday. The weather department has issued a red alert for the coastal districts of Ratnagiri and Raigad and an orange alert for Palghar, Thane, and Sindhudurg, and ghat areas of Pune, Satara and Kolhapur, they said. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have been stationed for rescue operations. As per the state disaster management report, Ratnagiri recorded the highest rainfall at 88.1 mm, followed by Raigad with 65.3 mm, Sindhudurg with 43.8 mm, Thane with 29.6 mm, and Yavatmal with 27.5 mm, in 24 hours ending at 11 am.

In Attapadi, a massive boulder rolled down onto a high-range road, blocking traffic for some time, locals said.

## 3 killed as building collapses in UP

**PTI, MATHURA:** Three people, including two minor sisters, were killed when a multi-storey building collapsed on Sunday in the congested Kachchi Sadak area here, officials said.

One person was pulled out from the debris, they said. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh said the building was located on a mound. Rescue operations are underway to ascertain that no one else is buried under the rubble.

He said Totaram (38) and two sisters Yashoda (6) and Kavya (3) were killed in the incident.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shlok Kumar said one person was earlier rescued from the rubble and taken to hospital. The person is currently under observation and is stable.

"Rescue operations are underway. Teams from the fire services, municipal corporation, civil defence and police are currently on the site. Additionally, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams have been called in to assist with the rescue efforts," said the SSP.

## Farmland dispute sparks tension in Manipur's Leitanpokpi area



BSF personnel and others stand at a farmland amid fresh tensions after Kuki and Meitei villagers targeted each other with stones and slingshots over cultivating a piece of land, at a border area of Imphal East district, Manipur

**PTI, IMPHAL:** Tensions flared up in the border areas of Manipur's Imphal East and Kangpokpi districts on Sunday morning after Kuki and Meitei villagers targeted each other with stones and slingshots over cultivating a piece of land, officials said.

According to officials, at least three persons sustained minor injuries in the incident which took place at Leitanpokpi in Imphal East district. Police said trouble start-

ed around 10 am, when Meitei farmers from Leitanpokpi went with a tractor to plough a paddy field at Sadu Lampak village near a Kuki settlement.

Seeing the farmers, Kuki villagers came down from the nearby hills in Kangpokpi district and allegedly objected to any move to cultivate land.

Nandeibam Mobi, a Meitei farmer who went to plough the field, told reporters, "The field at Sadu Lampak was not attended

during the last two years due to the conflict, but with the situation improving, Meitei farmers went to plough the land. We had taken permission from security forces. Today,

when we started working, a large number of Kuki villagers came down from a nearby hill village and objected to our presence on our own land, claiming it as theirs."

## SC: Plain clothes cops firing at civilian not official duty

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The conduct of police personnel surrounding a civilian vehicle in plain clothes and jointly firing upon its occupant cannot be considered under duties of public order or effecting lawful arrest, the Supreme Court has said, dismissing a plea of nine Punjab cops to quash murder charges against them in an alleged fake encounter case.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta also restored the destruction of evidence charge levelled on Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Parampal Singh for directing the removal of the number plate of the car after the firing incident in 2015 in which a driver was killed.

It has been held that the cloak of official duty cannot be extended to acts intended to thwart justice, the court observed noting that prior sanction was not required to prosecute the DCP and other police personnel for their alleged actions.

The bench in its April 29 order uploaded recently dismissed the appeals of nine police personnel challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court's order of May 20, 2019, where it refused to quash the case against them.

The apex court said having gone through the material placed on record, the court is of the view that no case is made out for interference with the impugned order of the high court.

The bench rejected the submission of eight police personnel that cognisance of complaint against them cannot be taken as it was barred under Section 197 of CrPC under which prior permission was needed to prosecute public servants.

"Equally untenable is the submission that cognisance was barred for want of sanction under Section 197 CrPC. The petitioners stand accused of surrounding a civilian vehicle in plain clothes and jointly firing upon its occupant.

## Five dead in UP as ambulance hits pick-up vehicle

**PTI, AMETHI (UP):** An ambulance transporting a body and family members of the deceased rammied into a pick-up vehicle on the Purvanchal Expressway here on Sunday, killing five persons, a police official said.

The accident took place when the ambulance was transporting the body from Haryana to Bihar.

Five people travelling in the ambulance died in the collision, while one person was seriously injured. The injured has been admitted to the district hospital, SHO



Wreckage of an ambulance after its collision with a mini truck on Purvanchal Expressway, in Amethi district, Uttar Pradesh

of Bazar Shukul police station Abhinesh Kumar said.

The injured has been identified as Shambhu Rai of Samastipur district of Bihar.

According to the police, the deceased have been identified as Rajkumar Sharma alias Satish Sharma, Ravi Sharma and Phoolo Sharma, residents of Samastipur district of Bihar, besides Sarfaraz and Abid (both drivers), who are residents of Haryana.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shailendra Kumar Singh

said the ambulance was going from Haryana to Samastipur with the body of Ashok Sharma, a resident of Rambhadrapur of Samastipur. There were two drivers and four family members in the ambulance.

The Additional SP said the ambulance hit the pick-up from behind.

The bodies of the deceased have been sent for postmortem.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives.

## UP NEET aspirant dies by suicide over low scores in exam

**PTI, MAHARAJGANJ (UP):** A 22-year-old student allegedly committed suicide in this district after scoring lower than expected marks in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) examination, an official on Sunday said.

### EXAM PRESSURE

The deceased student, identified as Shakib Saif, hanged himself in his room using a rope tied to the ceil-

ing hook on Saturday night, police said.

Saif, who hailed from Gorakhpur district, lived in Maharajganj along with his family for some years to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor, they said.

When the NEET exam results for admission to the medical colleges were announced on Saturday, Saif got an All India Rank (AIR) 9,561 due to which he became very disappointed, said police and added that he killed himself after be-

ing upset over lower than expected marks.

This was his third attempt.

Satyendra Kumar Rai, the SHO of Maharajganj Police Station, said that suicide had taken place possibly due to low number in the NEET exam.

The cause of death will be clear once the post-mortem report comes, police said.

Further investigation is on in connection with the matter, they said.

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