# 2016 Indian Air Force An-32 disappearance

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| **2016 Indian Air Force An-32 disappearance** | |
| [K2717 Antonov An.32 Indian Air Force (8414615752).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:K2717_Antonov_An.32_Indian_Air_Force_(8414615752).jpg)  An Indian Air Force [Antonov An-32](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonov_An-32" \o "Antonov An-32) similar to the missing aircraft | |
| **Disappearance** | |
| **Date** | 22 July 2016 |
| **Summary** | Missing, presumed crashed into the sea |
| **Site** | [Bay of Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Bengal), India |
| **Aircraft** | |
| **Aircraft type** | [Antonov An-32](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonov_An-32) |
| **Operator** | [Indian Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Air_Force) |
| [**Registration**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_registration) | K-2743 |
| **Flight origin** | [Tambaram Air Force Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tambaram_Air_Force_Station), [Chennai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chennai), India |
| **Destination** | [Port Blair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Blair), [Andaman Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andaman_Islands), India |
| **Occupants** | 29 |
| **Passengers** | 23 |
| **Crew** | 6 |
| **Fatalities** | 29 (presumed) |
| **Missing** | 29 |
| **Survivors** | 0 |

On 22 July 2016, an [Antonov An-32](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonov_An-32" \o "Antonov An-32) twin engine [turboprop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turboprop) transport aircraft of the [Indian Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Air_Force) disappeared while flying over the [Bay of Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Bengal). The aircraft was en route from [Tambaram Air Force Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tambaram_Air_Force_Station" \o "Tambaram Air Force Station) in the city of [Chennai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chennai) on the western coastline of the Bay of Bengal to [Port Blair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Blair) in the [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andaman_and_Nicobar_Islands). There were 29 people on board. Radar contact with the aircraft was lost at 9:12 am, 280 kilometres (170 mi) east of Chennai.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-ie1-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-BBC1-2) The search and rescue operation became India's largest search operation for a missing plane on the sea in history.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-3). There were similar incidents in [1986](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1986_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance) and [2019](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_crash).

## Passengers[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Passengers)]

There were 29 people on board the aircraft: six crew members; 11 [Indian Air Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Air_Force) personnel; two [Indian Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Army) soldiers; one each from the Indian Navy and [Indian Coast Guard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Coast_Guard); and eight defence civilians working with Naval Armament Depot (NAD).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-ndtv1-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-fp1-5) The civilians were from Visakhapatnam in [Andhra Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andhra_Pradesh).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-oi1-6)

## Disappearance and search[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Disappearance and search)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:India_location_map.svg)

Tambaram Air Force Station

Tambaram Air Force Station

Port Blair

Port Blair

Origin and destination airports

The Antonov An-32 took off from [Tambaram Air Force Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tambaram_Air_Force_Station" \o "Tambaram Air Force Station), [Chennai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chennai) at 08:30 local time on 22 July 2016. It was expected to land in Port Blair around 11:45 local time. The [Indian Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Navy) and the Indian Coast Guard launched a large search and rescue operation, using a submarine, 12 surface vessels and five aircraft.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-fp1-5)

On the third day after the disappearance, 16 ships, a submarine and six aircraft were deployed to search for the missing An-32 in the Bay of Bengal, about 150 nautical miles east of Chennai.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-8) On 1 August, it was confirmed that the aircraft had no [underwater locator beacon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Underwater_locator_beacon) (ULB).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-indianexpress.com-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-10) It did have two [emergency locator transmitters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_position-indicating_radiobeacon_station) (ELTs).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Indian_Air_Force_An-32_disappearance#cite_note-indianexpress.com-9)

On 15 September 2016, the search and rescue mission was called off; all 29 people on board were presumed dead and their families were notified.