

# Air India Flight AI171 Crash Report: Ahmedabad, June 2025

June 17, 2025

## 1 Introduction

On June 12, 2025, Air India Flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner en route from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, crashed shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The aircraft, carrying 242 passengers and crew, collided with the BJ Medical College hostel in Ahmedabad's Meghani area, resulting in one of the deadliest aviation disasters of the 21st century. This report summarizes key details, investigation progress, and response measures.

## 2 Accident Details

- **Date and Time:** June 12, 2025, 13:38 IST (08:08 UTC).
- **Flight:** Air India AI171, Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner (VT-ANB, serial number 36279).
- **Route:** Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India to London Gatwick, UK.
- **Crash Site:** Meghani area, near BJ Medical College hostel, Ahmedabad.
- **Passenger and Crew:** 242 (230 passengers, including 11 children and 2 infants; 12 crew, including 2 pilots).
- **Nationalities:** 169 Indian, 53 British, 7 Portuguese, 1 Canadian.

Figure 1: Wreckage of Air India Flight AI171 in Meghani area, showing the tail section with registration VT-ANB lodged in the BJ Medical College hostel. Black smoke and debris are visible.

### 3 Casualties and Survivors

The crash resulted in 269–279 fatalities (sources vary), including 241 passengers/crew and 29–38 ground victims, primarily medical students in the hostel dining hall. Notable victims included former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, identified via dental records, and Dr. Prateek Joshi with his family. Only one confirmed survivor, Vishwash Kumar Ramesh (seat 11A), is recovering in hospital. DNA testing is ongoing to identify charred remains, with 47 victims identified and 24 bodies released to families by June 15, 2025.

Figure 2: Forensic teams conducting DNA testing at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital to identify victims of the AI171 crash.

### 4 Investigation

- **Black Box:** Flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder recovered from a rooftop at the crash site. The pilot's last message was, "Mayday, Mayday, thrust not achieved, falling."
- **Suspected Causes:** Initial reports suggest dual engine failure or insufficient thrust. Unverified claims on X mention fuel contamination, but no evidence supports this. Weather was clear (visibility 6 km, light winds 3–6 knots), ruling out meteorological factors.
- **Investigating Bodies:** Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) India, DGCA, US NTSB, FAA, UK AAIB, and a high-level committee led by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan. Final report expected by June 2026.

Figure 3: Recovered black box of Flight AI171, critical for determining the cause of the crash.

### 5 Emergency Response

Emergency services mobilized rapidly:

- **Deployment:** 6 NDRF teams (90 personnel), 300+ firefighters, 60 fire vehicles, 20 water bowsers, and 20 ambulances. Indian Army, BSF, CRPF, and Western Railways assisted.
- **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation:** Deployed 150+ vehicles (earthmovers, excavators) to clear debris. Municipal hospitals were on emergency standby.
- **Airport Operations:** Suspended temporarily, resumed in limited capacity on June 12, 2025.

## 6 Aftermath and Compensation

- **Compensation:** Tata Group (Air India's parent) announced ₹1 crore (116,000) *per deceased* *Air India retired AI171 and AI172, replacing them with AI159 and AI160. Air India Express retired I*
- **Impact on Boeing:** Boeing shares fell over 7% in pre-market trade on June 12, 2025, due to the first fatal Boeing 787 crash.

Figure 4: Emergency response teams, including NDRF and firefighters, at the crash site in Ahmedabad, June 12, 2025.

## 7 Conclusion

The Air India Flight AI171 crash is India's deadliest aviation disaster since 1996 and the first fatal incident involving a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The ongoing investigation, supported by the black box, aims to uncover the cause, with engine failure as a leading hypothesis. The tragedy has prompted global condolences from leaders like PM Narendra Modi, UK PM Keir Starmer, and US President Donald Trump.

## References

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