

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! London-bound Al...

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.

Noting that the aircraft with a full fuel load for a long trip climbed just about 600-800 feet before plummeting to the ground almost immediately, Aviation experts said that going by the available visuals lack of thrust in both engines and a bird hit could be among the probable causes. TV footage showed the aircraft making a slow descent shortly after taking off, with its landing gear still extended.

"The aircraft departed from Ahmedabad at 1339 IST from Runway 23. It gave a MAYDAY Call to ATC, but thereafter no response was given by the aircraft to the calls made by ATC," according to a statement from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Visuals from the wreckage area showed bodies being pulled out and the injured, many with burns, wheeled into the city civil hospital close by.

Eyewitnesses in Ahmedabad said the blaze was so intense that it led to several multi-storey buildings being burnt, trees singed and cars damaged. One image showed the snout of the plane crashing through the top floor of a building that appeared to be a dining area of the hostel of nurses and doctors.

Elsewhere too, there were scenes of complete devastation with mangled metal of the wreckage, snarls of tangled wire and smoke rising from burning embers.

This is the first crash involving the Boeing Dreamliner, feted for its advanced features. It is also India's second biggest air disaster since 2020 when an Air India Express flight skidded off a wet runway while landing at Kozhikode in Kerala and split into two. Of the 190 people on board, 21, including two pilots, lost their lives.

Airport operations in Ahmedabad were temporarily suspended and resumed towards the evening.

The shock of the disaster echoed through political corridors in India and abroad with heads of states and others offering their condolences.

"The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X.

"In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," he added.

Britain's King Charles III said he and his wife, Queen Camilla, were "desperately shocked by the terrible events in Ahmedabad this morning".

"Our special prayers and deepest possible sympathy are with the families and friends of all those affected by this appallingly tragic incident across so many nations, as they await news of their loved ones," read his statement issued from Buckingham Palace.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the scenes emerging of a London-bound plane carrying many British nationals crashing in the Indian city of Ahmedabad are devastating.

The ill-fated flight was under the command of Capt Sumeet Sabharwal along with First Officer Clive Kunder. While Sabharwal has 8,200 hours of flying experience, Kunder 1,100 hours, the DGCA said in a statement.

Immediately after departure from Runway 23, the aircraft fell on the ground outside the airport perimeter, it said.

"On Jun 12, 2025, Air India B787 Aircraft VT-ANB while operating flight AI-171 from (Ahmedabad to Gatwick) has crashed immediately after takeoff from Ahmedabad," the statement said.

Several eyewitnesses on the busy, everyday afternoon described the horror of what they had seen.

"The plane was flying very low and it crashed into the residential quarters of doctors and nursing staff of civil hospital and BJ Medical college," Haresh Shah told PTT.

"There are several five floor buildings which are residential quarters of doctors and nursing staff. Many people in those apartments were injured as along with the plane the buildings also caught fire," he said.

Another said several cars and vehicles parked in the premises also caught fire.

Expressing his profound sorrow, Air India chairperson N Chandrasekaran said an emergency centre has been activated and support teams set up for families seeking information.

Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson also expressed "deep sorrow" at the crash saying this is a "difficult day" for all at the airline.

"The injured passengers have been taken by local authorities to the nearest hospitals. We are actively working with the authorities on all emergency response efforts," he said in a statement.

DNA tests will be carried out to ascertain the identities of those in the crash, a senior Gujarat health department official said even as he refused to give the death toll. There were reports that over 200 bodies were recovered from the wreckage. The bodies were reported to be charred beyond recognition.

Aircraft maker Boeing said in a statement that it is in contact with Air India and stands ready to offer any support to the Tata-owned airline.

Thursday's tragedy is the second major air disaster in Gujarat's principal city.

On October 19, 1988, an Indian Airlines plane crashed in its final approach to the Ahmedabad airport, killing 130 people.

Prez Murmu, Modi...

been quickly rushed to the crash site. Spoke with the Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Home Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, and Commissioner of Police Ahmedabad to assess the situation," Shah said in a post on X before embarking from Delhi.

BJP president and Union minister J P Nadra said the news of many people being killed in the plane crash is extremely sad.

He said he spoke to Gujarat BJP president and Union minister C R Patil and the state Health Minister Rushikesh Patel and took information about health facilities and relief work.

"I appeal to all BJP workers to engage in relief and rescue operations and provide all possible help to the affected families," Nadra said.

Expressing shock and grief, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said it is heart-wrenching to see the horrific visuals of the crash.

He also expressed condolences to families of those who died in the crash and urged party workers to provide all support to the victims and their loved ones.

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, in a statement, said, "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. My thoughts are with the families of the passengers and the crew. The visuals are most heart-wrenching."

"The entire country is overtaken by grief and is praying," she added.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said the crash is heartbreaking. "The pain and anxiety the families of the passengers and crew must be feeling is unimaginable. My thoughts are with each one of them in this incredibly difficult moment.

"Urgent rescue and relief efforts by the administration are critical - every life matters, every second counts. Congress workers must do everything they can to help on the ground," he said in a post on X.

AICC general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the Congress is shocked by the devastating tragedy.

"Our prayers continue for the passengers and the crew. It is a moment of utmost grief," he added.

Another Congress leader KC Venugopal said the tragedy has shocked the nation and no words are enough to describe the pain.

"All PCs and affiliated organisations are instructed to cancel all organisation-related events tomorrow as a mark of respect to the victims of this tragedy," he said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed "profound shock" over the crash.

"Stunned and profoundly shocked to know of the most tragic Air India plane crash at Ahmedabad today," Banerjee said in a post on X.

"It is the most sad news for all of us, even while we anxiously wait for survivors' details and pray for the survival of all..." she said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said he was deeply shocked by the horrifying crash. "My thoughts are with everyone affected and the families of those on board. Hoping every possible effort is underway for rescue and relief."

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said he was in deep sorrow over the crash.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said it is very saddening that the Air India plane crashed as he sent prayers for all passengers. He also demanded authorities give immediate clarification into the plane crash in which several casualties are feared dead.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini called the plane crash in Ahmedabad "sad and painful".

CPI general secretary D Raja said he was deeply shocked by the tragic crash in Ahmedabad and sent his heartfelt condolences to those who lost their loved ones.

National conference president Farooq Abdullah Thursday expressed his grief at the Ahmedabad plane crash and demanded a thorough investigation into the incident.

Farooq told reporters, "I think this is the first time in many, many years that such a tragedy has taken place in our country. I heard there was a power failure when the plane was gaining height. It struck a building, and God knows how many people inside the building survived. This is very unfortunate."

The NC chief called for a thorough investigation and urged the authorities to ensure such incidents do not happen again.

"There should be a thorough investigation. I think these are new planes, and they should see what really happened. I have not heard that these planes have faced any such difficulties," he said.

Chronology of air...

procedures at smaller urban airports.

* Charkhi Dadri mid-air collision (1996): On November 12, 1996, 349 people were killed in what became India's most devastating aviation disaster. The tragedy occurred when Sandia Flight 763, a Boeing 747, and Kazakhstan Airlines Flight 1907, an Ilyushin Il-76, collided mid-air near Charkhi Dadri in Haryana. The accident was the result of a communication failure and the Kazakh crew descending below their assigned altitude. Following the incident, India introduced significant aviation safety measures, including mandating the installation of Traffic Collision Avoidance Systems (TCAS) on all commercial aircraft.

* Indian Airlines Flight 605 (1990): On February 14, 1990, Indian Airlines Flight 605 crashed while approaching Bengaluru's HAL Airport, killing 92 of the 146 people on board. The Airbus A320, a relatively new aircraft in India at the time, descended too low and hit the ground short of the runway, skidding onto a golf course. The investigation revealed that pilot error and unfamiliarity with the advanced digital cockpit of the A320 contributed to the tragic accident.

* Indian Airlines Flight 113 (1988): Amid poor visibility on October 19, 1988, Indian Airlines Flight 113, a Boeing 737-200, crashed on its approach to Ahmedabad Airport. The flight, arriving from Mumbai, struck trees and crashed short of the runway, killing 133 of the 135 people on board. Investigators pointed to pilot error, inadequate weather information, and procedural lapses by air traffic control.

* Air India Flight 855 (1978): On January 1, 1978, Dubai-bound Air India Flight 855, a Boeing 747, plunged into the Arabian Sea shortly after taking off from Mumbai, killing all 213 people on board. The disaster occurred only 101 seconds into the flight when a faulty Attitude Director Indicator led the captain to misinterpret the aircraft's orientation. The crash took place in nighttime conditions over the sea, contributing to the crew's spatial disorientation.

* Indian Airlines Flight 440 (1973): On May 31, 1973, Indian Airlines Flight 440 crashed during its approach to Delhi's Palam Airport. The Boeing 737-200 encountered severe weather and struck high-tension wires just short of the runway. Of the 65 people on board, 48 died. Among the dead was prominent Indian politician Mohan Kumaramangalam. The crash underscored the need for improved weather radar at Indian airports.

Death count can...

the victims," Shah said. "The good news is that one person survived the crash and I am coming here after meeting him," he said. "The process of collecting DNA samples from bodies of those killed in the plane crash is over. Forensic Science Laboratory and National Forensic Sciences University in Gujarat will conduct DNA tests of the victims," he said.

Govt to revive...

the suspension of the IWT with Pakistan following April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

"Before, whenever we had to undertake some work, we had to discuss that with them (Pakistan) and could not do anything without their consent.

"There was a project (Tulbul) under Wular Lake which was conceived in 1981. But, they did not give their consent and it was shelved. Now, when there is no need (for consent), we will restart the project and a DPR will be prepared soon," Khattar said here. He was addressing a press conference on the completion of 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

Asked if the government would start working on new hydro-electric projects following the suspension of the IWT, the Union minister said, "Yes, definitely."

"Whatever they have to do, let them do that. We have given them a response and if they do anything again, they will get a response on the same pattern," he said when asked about Pakistan warning of building any projects.

The Tulbul project, which envisaged constructing a 439-ft-long and 40-ft-wide barrage with a storage capacity of 0.30 million-acre-feet (MAF) below the Wular Lake near Ningli in north Kashmir's Bandipora district to stabilise Jhelum's water level, was abandoned midway in 1987 after strong objections from Pakistan.

India foiled 2...

said these attacks can take place from any corner of the world. "It is known worldwide that those against us will do things like these, but ... We have stopped such attacks. Our system is capable and in the future also, we will foil all such attacks," he said.

"When someone fails for the first time, and second time, he will ultimately get discouraged and stop," he added.

GoC reviews security...

Nowshera sector and hinterland bases in Bhaderwah", PRO defence said. They also visited the Corps Battle School, where the GOC commended troops for their professionalism, rigorous training, and high standards in counterterrorism operations.

CB arrests 3...

Accountant and in the audit so conducted, startling revelations including the unique modus-operandi adopted by accused persons came to the fore. The accused used to divert the NEFT transactions to unrelated parties and for cash transactions, they did under-billing and embezzled huge amounts. The accused created fake parties and sold goods to multiple retailers under fake names. Even book debts from various parties to whom the goods had been supplied by Jammu Flour Mills had been recovered and misappropriated by the accused persons. The audit further uncovered that payments of Jammu Flour Mills were transferred by accused to bank accounts of their family members, relatives and friends."

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh confirmed that three main accused allegedly involved in multi-crore embezzlement case FIR No. 06/2025 have been arrested after allegations were substantiated and proved against them and interrogation is underway.

CAT grants relief...

directed the official respondents to conduct a separate written test and viva voce for him. The court also stated that if Bakshi qualified, he should be appointed as part of the 1998 batch and assigned seniority based on his performance.

Pursuant to the court's directive, Bakshi appeared for the test again and scored a total of 76 marks out of 100 - 69 in the written examination and 7 in the viva voce. He was appointed as a Prosecuting Officer vide order dated 25th November 2000, which explicitly stated that he was appointed against the 1998 batch and that his seniority would be fixed as per merit.

Despite this, when the final seniority list of Prosecuting Officers was issued on 6th December 2003, Bakshi's name was placed at Serial No. 34, below numerous other officers who had secured lower marks than him in the original 1998 examination. Aggrieved, he approached the High Court again, filing SWP No. 1749/2011, which after the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, was transferred to the CAT Jammu Bench and renumbered as TA 6398/2021.

Represented by senior Advocate Abhinav Sharma and Advocate Abhimanyu Sharma, the applicant argued that his seniority should have been determined based on Rule 24 of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, which provides for seniority to be based on merit obtained in the competitive examination.

They further submitted that as per an RTI reply, Bakshi had secured the highest marks among all candidates appointed against the 1998 batch.

The applicant also highlighted that he had excelled in the Basic Induction Training Course held at the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy, Udhampur, securing 579 out of 1000 marks, further demonstrating his capability and commitment.

The respondents, represented by Hunar Gupta, Deputy Advocate General (DAG), argued that the examination Bakshi appeared for in 2000 was different from the original 1998 examination.

They claimed that Bakshi could not be considered part of the original batch since he did not qualify in the original selection process. According to them, his place in the seniority list was correctly determined based on the timing of his actual appointment in 2000.

They also contested Bakshi's claim of being significantly delayed during the 1998 examination, stating that the identity verification process was completed before the start of the test, and he had sufficient time to complete it. His failure to qualify, they argued, was due to his lack of preparation rather than administrative error.

After carefully considering the arguments of both sides and reviewing the documentary evidence, the CAT held that the respondents had violated the directions of

the High Court and the rules governing seniority by placing Bakshi below lesser-scoring candidates.

The Tribunal emphasized that the order of appointment dated November 25, 2000 clearly mentioned that Bakshi was selected for the 1998 batch, and therefore, there was no justification for treating him as a 2000 appointee. It also found no basis for the respondents' claim that the examinations of 1998 and 2000 were fundamentally different, especially since Bakshi's re-examination was conducted solely due to the error in his admit card during the original process.

In its judgment, the Tribunal stated, "The applicant is required to be treated as a selectee of the 1998 batch and deemed to have been appointed on December 24, 1998. Consequently, the applicant is entitled to seniority among the Prosecuting Officers of 1998 batch on the basis of his merit in the selection process."

Accordingly, the Tribunal, quashed the final seniority list dated December 6, 2003 and directed the respondents to re-fix Bakshi's seniority in the 1998 batch based on the 76 marks he secured in the selection process.

The Tribunal also ordered that he be deemed appointed on December 24, 1998, the same date as the other candidates of the 1998 batch and instructed the authorities to release all consequential benefits, including promotion and arrears, as applicable besides set a deadline of three months for compliance from the date of receipt of the order.

CM stresses on...

of resourcees to deliver public services efficiently and meet people's aspirations. At the outset, ACS Estates informed the meeting that the Department reported a 94.93% expenditure (Rs 2452.34 lacs) for CAPEX 2024-25 against funds released (Rs 2583.19 lacs). Out of 217 total works, 182 have been completed.

For 2025-26, the department has a CAPEX budget ceiling of Rs 10000 lacs. This budget includes Rs 3304.69 lacs for ongoing works, Rs 863.00 lacs for water/electricity for Sempora flats, Rs 2541.00 lacs for shifting REVEX to CAPEX, and Rs 3291.31 lacs for new works and budget announcements.

Major ongoing projects like the 400 Flats at Pampore and flats in Sarwal, Ahata Amar Singh, and Lower Muthi in Jammu are progressing, with some expected to be completed by October 2025. The meeting was informed about key budget announcements for 2025-26 which include construction of 300 new 2-BHK/3-BHK units, twin towers at Canal Road, Jammu and additional blocks at Civil Secretariats in Jammu and Srinagar. Other new works proposed for 2025-26 include road macadamization, new flats in Jawahar Nagar, CCTV installation, and power supply upgrades in various government complexes. Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajiv Ranjan gave a detailed presentation outlining the department's CAPEX progress and plans for 2025-26. Out of the approved Rs 79 crore, Rs 69 crore has already been uploaded on the BEAMS portal. The department has proposed 133 new projects, including 18 SDM offices with an outlay of Rs 4.5 crore, 21 Tehsil offices with Rs 6.3 crore outlay, 50 Niabats with Rs 3 crore, and 40 additional rooms with lavatories worth Rs 2 crore. The department continues to push forward in its landmark digitization efforts, having completed 100% scanning of revenue records.

He informed that over 94.36% of cadastral maps have been digitized (quality checks are ongoing), and 89.97% of villages have been geo-referenced. Additionally, 99.9% of Record of Rights (RoR) have been digitized with spatial and non-spatial data integrated under the Land Records Information System (LRIS).

The Chief Minister was apprised of key digital initiatives, including the "Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani" platform launched in October 2021, which has enabled real-time access to land records while saving Rs 19.83 crore through in-house digitization. The meeting was informed that the second phase of the LRIS involves translocation of Urdu land records into 22 Indian languages. Digitized land passbooks are now available in Urdu, Hindi, and English. Other major initiatives include the J&K Revenue Court Case Monitoring System (JKRCCMS), issuance of SVAMITVA property cards, computerized registrations, creation of dynamic RoRs, digitized crop surveys, and establishment of modern record rooms. He informed that the department aims to implement real-time RoR updates, integrate Jamabandis with the NGDRS and mutation systems, and introduce map-based dynamic RoRs to enhance transparency and accountability in land governance.

Similarly, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal presented a comprehensive overview of the department's CAPEX implementation and future plans. The department is coordinating its initiatives across various agencies which include directorates of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, JKTDC, SKIOC, JKCCC, 21 tourism development authorities, and several golf courses. As part of its 2024-25 CAPEX Plan, Rs 388.20 crore was approved, with Rs 247.66 crore (66.08%) already spent. Out of 1,551 total works, 871 have been completed so far, marking a 56% completion rate. For 2025-26, the department has planned 1,071 total works with a financial outlay of Rs 191.87 crore, including funds for Shri Amarnathji Yatra. The meeting was also informed that a total of 312 new projects worth Rs 75.5 crore have been reviewed, while another 109 projects valued at Rs 18.07 crore are pending finalization. The Chief Minister was informed that an amount of Rs 10 crore has been reserved for high-priority or technically viable works proposed by elected representatives. Action has already been initiated on several budget announcements, including Rs 10 crore for the preparation of tourism master plans, Rs 27 crore earmarked for sewerage and solid waste management projects in Gulmarg, Rs 6 crore for developing water sports infrastructure at major lakes, Rs 15 crore for winter sports facilities, and Rs 20 crore for exploring new tourism destinations.

Delhi HC denies...

of the country," the bench said. The high court, therefore, dismissed Shah's appeal against the trial court's July 7, 2023 order refusing bail. Shah was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on June 4, 2019. The high court also rejected Shah's alternate prayer seeking "house arrest" given the serious nature of charges. In 2017, the NIA registered a case against 12 persons for allegations of conspiracy for raising and collecting funds for causing disruption by way of pelting stones, damaging public property and conspiring to wage war against the government of India.

DGP reviews arrangements for paramilitary forces to be deployed for Amarnath Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the administrative and logistical preparations for the incoming companies of paramilitary forces to be deployed for the Amarnath Yatra.

The meeting, held at the Police Control Room here, was attended by senior officers from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF, ITBP, Telecommunication, SDRF, BSF, SSB, and other allied agencies, a police spokesperson said.

At the outset, the Zonal IGP's briefed the DGP on the status of CAPF induction of both the zones, he said.

The officers also briefed the chair regarding the administrative and logistical arrangements made for the incoming CAPF companies, he said.

The coordinating officers of the CAPF shared their feedback on the administrative arrangements at various camping sites and transit locations. The senior officers of CAPF also expressed their satisfaction with the administrative and transportation arrangements for the inducted companies, the spokesperson said.

He said the DGP issued directives for the smooth induction of CAPF companies and emphasised that district heads should ensure proper arrangements for incoming units and their efficient ground deployment.

Prabhat stressed the need for a high level of coordination among all forces and instructed that an effective inter-agency coordination mechanism be established.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to ensure the safe and successful conduct of the yatra, which begins on July 3, the spokesperson added.

Gangyal Firing Case: Police intensifies manhunt; hue and cry notices & LOCs issued against absconding accused

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation of the ongoing investigation into the Gangyal firing incident registered under FIR No. 68/2025 u/s 109, 111, 191(3) BNS and 3/25 Arna Act at Police Station Gangyal, Jammu Police, South Zone has intensified efforts to apprehend the remaining accused who continue to evade arrest.

Despite the arrest of four key accused, two accused Harneet Singh @ Honey S/O Amrik Singh and Ramandeep Singh S/O Amrik Singh, both residents of House No. 414, Digiana Ashram, Jammu-remain absconding and are actively evading police pursuit. To facilitate their apprehension and alert the public and relevant agencies, Hue and Cry Notices have been issued against both absconders. In addition, Look Out Circulars (LOCs) have been generated and shared with all concerned agencies to prevent their escape from the country and ensure their immediate detention if located.

The investigation team of Police Station Gangyal, led by Prob. DySP Sh. Immad Uddin-JKPS under the supervision of SSP Jammu Sh. Joginder Singh-JKPS, SP City South Sh. Ajay Sharma-JKPS, and SDPO South Sh. Sunil Singh Jasrotia, is rigorously working to dismantle the broader network behind this criminal conspiracy.