



MIRACULOUS SURVIVAL. This handout photo issued by the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs shows Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah meeting British plane crash survivor Viswashkumar Ramesh, 40, at a hospital in Ahmedabad, after Air India confirmed Mr. Ramesh was the sole survivor of the 242 people on board the London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner when it crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad airport. (Ministry of Home Affairs India via AP)

Sole survivor of Air India crash describes failed takeoff and disbelief at being alive

By **Rajesh Roy**
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The lone passenger who survived an Air India crash couldn’t believe he was alive when he opened his eyes and was surrounded by flames, debris, and charred bodies.

Viswashkumar Ramesh, a British national of Indian origin, was on the flight headed to London that crashed minutes after taking off from India’s northwestern city of Ahmedabad. The accident killed 241 people on board and at least 29 on the ground.

It was one of India’s worst aviation disasters and the first crash for a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner since the widebody, twin-engine planes went into service in 2009, according to the Aviation Safety Network database.

Ramesh narrated his ordeal to India’s national broadcaster from a local government hospital, saying the aircraft felt like it became stuck in midair within a few seconds of takeoff. Green and white lights flashed and the aircraft accelerated but seemed unable to gain height before the plane struck a medical college hostel in a residential area.

He saw several passengers and crew members lose their lives. His brother was one of those who perished on board.

Seated in 11A, Ramesh said his side of the plane landed on the ground floor of a building. He unfastened his seat belt and forced himself out through an open door.

“When I opened my eyes, I realized I was alive,” said Ramesh, who recalled parts of the plane strewn around the crash site.

Ramesh sustained burn injuries on his left hand and walked some distance in shock before he was assisted by local residents and taken by ambulance to a hospital.

Another brother told Sky News that Ramesh called his father moments after the crash to say he had survived but wasn’t aware of what happened to his brother who was on the flight with him.

“He video called my dad as he crashed and said, ‘Oh the plane’s crashed. I don’t know where my brother is. I don’t see any other passengers. I don’t know how I’m alive, how I exited the plane,’” Nayan Kumar Ramesh said.

Ramesh’s cousin, Ajay Valgi, told the BBC that Ramesh called relatives in Leicester, England, after the crash.

“He only said that he’s fine, nothing else,” said Valgi, adding that Ramesh has a wife and a “little boy” at home. The family is “happy that he’s OK, but we’re still upset about the other brother.”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who went to the crash site, also visited the lone survivor in the hospital.

“I told Modi what all I had witnessed. He also enquired about my health,” Ramesh said from his bed.

Dr. Dhaval Gameti said Ramesh, who kept his boarding pass with him in the hospital, was disoriented with multiple injuries over his body but seemed to be out of danger as the medical staff continued to monitor him.

“He is doing very well and will be ready to be discharged anytime soon,” Gameti said, days after the crash.

Investigators begin analyzing data from black boxes of Air India flight that crashed

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an Indian Air Force aircraft amid tight security. The investigation could take weeks or months.

India set up a state-of-the-art laboratory in New Delhi in April to help AAIB repair damaged black boxes and retrieve data to enhance the accuracy of investigations.

A multidisciplinary team led by AAIB Chief GVG Yugandhar is probing the Air India crash with assistance from aviation and air traffic control specialists and experts from the National Transport Safety Board.

The Indian government has also set up a separate, high-level committee to examine the causes leading to the crash and formulate procedures to prevent and handle aircraft emergencies in the future. The committee is expected to file a preliminary report within three months.

Following the June 12 crash, Indian authorities had ordered deeper checks of Air India’s entire fleet of Boeing 787 Dreamliners to prevent future incidents.

Air India has 33 Dreamliners in its fleet. Inspection has been completed for at least 26 while four were undergoing long-term maintenance. The rest are expected to finish the safety checks soon.

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Hungry wild elephant raids grocery store in Thailand for snacks

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familiar with the elephant, said Plai Biang Lek, who is about 30 years old, is a familiar sight in the area and has been known to enter people’s houses in search of food. This was the first time he had seen him going into a grocery store.

“After he left the shop, he went on to open a bedroom window of another house,” he told The Associated Press.

Danai said wild elephants in the Khao Yai National Park area have been coming out of the woods to ransack people’s kitchens for many years, but this year he has started seeing them going into more random places to find food.

There were an estimated 4,000 wild elephants in Thailand in 2024, according to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation. As farmers push into forests for agriculture, elephants have been forced to venture out of their shrinking habitats in search of food, leading to confrontations that can turn deadly.

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Cambodia bans Thai movies and TV shows in latest border feud tit-for-tat

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“all telecommunications operators in Cambodia have now disconnected all cross-border internet links with Thailand,” and that the move would deprive Thailand of as much as hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue, a claim that could not be immediately checked.

The reported move to use circuits bypassing Thailand temporarily disrupted internet connectivity for users of at least one Cambodian service provider.

Thai officials said any plans to cut services to Cambodia were unrelated to the territorial conflict and would actually be targeting the infamous online scam centers in the Cambodian border town of Poipet that have been a problem for several years.

Cambodia’s Ministry of Fine Arts meanwhile informed all film distributors and cinemas owners the import and screening of all Thai films must be immediately suspended.

Som Chhaya, deputy director general of a popular Cambodian TV channel, People Nation Network, told The Associated Press that his company will comply with another government order to drop Thai-produced shows, and in their place broadcast Chinese, Korean, or Cambodian dramas.

Thai films and TV shows have a large audience in Cambodia.

The actions in Cambodia were taken one day ahead of a planned meeting in the capital of Phnom Penh of the two countries’ Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary to help resolve the conflicting territorial claims that led to the recent deadly confrontation.

There is a long history to their territorial disputes, Thailand is still rankled by a 1962 ruling by the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands that awarded to Cambodia the disputed territory where the historic Preah Vihear temple stands. There were sporadic though serious clashes there in 2011, and the ruling was reaffirmed in 2023.

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FIERY FOUNTAIN. This image from webcam footage provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) shows lava fountains shooting up high in the latest episode of an ongoing eruption of Kilauea volcano inside Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park on June 11, 2025. (United States Geological Survey via AP)

Hawai’i’s Kilauea Volcano erupts for the 25th time since December. Lava reaches over 330 feet.

HILO, Hawai’i — One of the world’s most active volcanoes, Kilauea on Hawai’i’s Big Island, began spewing lava from the north vent in mid-June, a recent event in an ongoing eruption that began almost six months ago.

Lava fountains reached heights of more than 330 feet and fed multiple lava streams. Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey’s Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said the fountains could likely to go higher.

The latest event was preceded by gas-pistoning, in which gas accumulates at a lava column’s top within a vent.

The observatory said this process causes the lava surface to rise or piston. “Eventually, gas escapes as splatter/lava is erupted, and lava drains back into the vent,” the observatory wrote on its Facebook page.

These were occurring up to 10 times an hour, but increased in intensity until a small, sustained dome fountain began to feed flows to the crater floor a day later.

It is the 25th eruptive episode since the volcano on the southeastern part of the island began erupting December 23. It has been pausing and resuming since.

Most of the eruptive episodes have spewed lava for about a day or less, with pauses between them generally lasting a few days.



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