

14th June DSC

Current Affairs 14th June 2025.

AI Flight with 242 Onboard Crashes in Ahmedabad

Incident Summary

An Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner (Flight AI 171) bound for London crashed soon after departing from Ahmedabad.

Crash Location: The aircraft plunged into a medical college hostel in Meghani Nagar, about 5 km from the airport.

Crash Timing: The crash occurred 40 seconds post take-off at 1:38 p.m., as seen in CISF CCTV footage.

Casualties: All 242 people onboard (230 passengers and 12 crew members) are presumed dead. One British national, Viswashkumar Ramesh, has survived.

Ground Impact: At least 24 individuals, including students and locals, lost their lives at the site according to police reports.

Relevance: GS Paper 3 (Disaster Management)

Emergency Response & Communications

A 'Mayday' signal was sent out by the pilots moments after take-off, indicating an extreme emergency.

However, no communication followed this alert, suggesting a swift system failure or pilot incapacitation.

Passenger Composition

Out of the passengers:

- 169 were Indian nationals
 - 53 were British citizens
 - 7 were Portuguese
 - 1 was Canadian
- Among the deceased is former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani.

Aircraft Profile

The aircraft involved was a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, notable for its high-end safety technology. This marks the first crash ever involving a 787 variant, prompting serious concerns about Boeing's fleet safety.

Investigation and Rescue

Authorities are actively searching for the black box (Flight Data and Cockpit Voice Recorders) to pinpoint the cause.

Probable Factor: A suspected fuel explosion involving 1.25 lakh litres hindered rescue operations.

Official and Humanitarian Measures

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the lone survivor and assured a comprehensive investigation.

Air India and Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran declared:

- ₹1 crore ex gratia for each victim's family
- Special relief flights from Delhi and Mumbai for relatives of the deceased.

Wider Consequences

The crash raises critical concerns about aviation safety both in India and globally, especially regarding the Dreamliner fleet.

It may trigger a temporary grounding and technical scrutiny of Boeing 787 aircraft.

Also underlined is the necessity of enhancing emergency response systems and re-evaluating airport vicinity urban planning.

Retail Inflation Falls to 6-Year Low

Headline Development

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation declined to 2.8% in May 2025 — the lowest point in over six years, since February 2019.

This signals a strong deflationary trend. Average inflation for FY 2025–26 to date is 2.99%, the lowest for any April–May period since 2017–18.

Relevance: GS Paper 3 (Inflation)

Food Prices Drive Trend

The drop was largely due to easing food and beverage prices, which rose just 1.5% in May (compared to 2.1% in April).

This marks the seventh consecutive month of decelerating food inflation.

Categories witnessing price decline include:

- Vegetables
- Pulses
- Spices
- Meat

However, edible oils and fruits saw double-digit inflation, revealing inconsistency in food prices.

Implications for RBI Policy

Recent RBI rate reductions have helped boost economic activity.

But the current low inflation reduces the likelihood of further cuts, pointing toward a pause in the monetary easing cycle.

This provides the RBI more policy flexibility, though erratic food prices call for caution.

Economic Impact

Lower inflation benefits consumers by boosting purchasing power and demand. Businesses—especially in FMCG and food processing—gain from reduced input costs. It also creates room for the government to maintain growth-driven expenditure without triggering inflation.

Global Economic Context

India's inflation dip aligns with global disinflation, particularly in oil and raw material markets. This enhances macroeconomic stability and foreign investment prospects. It supports the inflation target band ($4\% \pm 2\%$) under the RBI's monetary framework.

Effectiveness Mandate for Central Schemes

Core Directive from Finance Ministry

Only schemes with demonstrable effectiveness based on evaluation reports will be permitted beyond FY 2025–26.

All 54 Central and 260 Centrally Sponsored Schemes expiring by March 31, 2026, will undergo reassessment.

Evaluation Authorities:

- Third-party agencies for Central Schemes
- NITI Aayog for Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Relevance: GS Paper 2 (Governance)

Mandatory Sunset Clauses

All schemes must carry sunset provisions, preventing their indefinite continuation. The goal is to promote fiscal responsibility and ensure outcome-oriented governance.

Funding Limits and New Norms

Future allocations will be capped at 5.5 times the average annual expenditure (2021–22 to 2024–25).

All financial outlays and disbursements during a Finance Commission period must remain within approved limits.

New proposals must either involve smaller budgets or trade-offs with existing schemes.

Impact on Schemes like MGNREGS

Even demand-driven flagship programs like MGNREGS will face financial ceilings.

Projected beneficiary figures will determine fund allocation.

Any request to exceed this must receive explicit approval from the government.

Affected Sectors

Schemes across the following sectors will be impacted:

- Health
- Education

- Women and Child Development
- Tribal Welfare
- Infrastructure (rural/urban, water, sanitation)
- Agriculture, environment, and research

Strategic Consequences

The move pushes for result-based budgeting and performance-linked financing. It promotes elimination of duplicative schemes and better resource utilization. However, it may provoke resistance if popular welfare schemes face stricter scrutiny or funding reductions.

IAEA Issues Rare Censure Against Iran

Significant Censure

For the first time since 2005, the IAEA has formally censured Iran over non-compliance with nuclear safeguard agreements.

The resolution was backed by 19 countries, including the U.S., France, Germany, and the U.K. Russia, China, and Burkina Faso opposed it, 11 countries abstained, and 2 didn't vote.

Relevance: GS Paper 2 (International Relations)

Iran's Retaliation

Iran responded by:

- Announcing a new, more secure uranium enrichment site
 - Indicating possible further actions against the "politically motivated" resolution
- Iran's Atomic Energy Organization and Foreign Ministry jointly condemned the move as coercive.

Growing Regional Strain

The U.S. and Israel have long threatened strikes if Iran's nuclear activities intensify. Security concerns led to movement restrictions for U.S. embassy staff in Jerusalem. Additionally, U.S. personnel and families in the Middle East are reportedly being relocated preemptively.

Diplomatic Fractures

The resolution reveals a widening geopolitical split:

- Western nations pressuring Iran for transparency
 - Russia and China backing Iran or resisting Western tactics
- This may lay the groundwork for reimposing UN sanctions later in 2025.

Impact on U.S.-Iran Talks

The timing of the censure, just before planned U.S.-Iran talks in Oman, could harden Iran's stance and hinder nuclear deal negotiations.

Strategic Stakes

The situation could escalate into a UN Security Council confrontation over sanctions. With crises already brewing in Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon, nuclear diplomacy in West Asia faces significant obstacles.

Scientific Rationale Behind Setting AC Temperatures

Policy Proposal

The Union Ministry of Power is weighing a mandate to restrict air conditioner temperature settings between 20°C and 28°C for households, hotels, and vehicles. This comes after previous efforts in 2018 and 2021 to fix the default setting at 24°C through public awareness campaigns.

Relevance: GS Paper 3 (Science & Tech), GS Paper 2 (Governance)

Energy Efficiency Gains

As per the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

- Every 1°C increase in temperature setting reduces power use by 6%.
- Standardizing at 24°C can save India around 20 billion electricity units annually.
- By 2030, India's AC load is expected to touch 200 GW. ACs function on a vapor-compression cycle, where the compressor consumes the most energy. Energy efficiency is highest when refrigerants operate within optimal temperature ranges.

Health Hazards of Low Settings

Operating ACs below 18°C may:

- Elevate blood pressure by 6–8 mm Hg
 - Heighten risk of asthma, respiratory illness, and hypertension
- WHO (2018) advises a minimum temperature of 18°C for safe indoor environments in temperate regions.

Vulnerable Groups at Risk

Children, the elderly, and infants have reduced ability to regulate body temperature.

- Studies in the UK, Japan, and New Zealand confirm children sleep and breathe better at temperatures above 18°C.
- Elderly individuals exposed to colder settings face higher BP, vitamin D deficiency, and impaired lung function. A 2013 study found children's lung health declined with each 1°C drop below 14–16°C.

Scientific & Global Standards

Comfort is defined as thermal neutrality, where neither sweating nor shivering occurs.

Global guidelines:

- **ASHRAE-55 and ISO 7730** recommend adapting comfort ranges to local climate, attire, and culture.
- Human heat loss at rest (~100 W) is balanced at 20–24°C via convection and radiation.

Mental Health Considerations

A UK 2022 report found that people living in cold indoor environments were twice as likely to suffer from depression or anxiety — even when income and prior mental illness were accounted for.

Global Demand Trends

As of 2022, over 2 billion AC units were in use globally, with 1.5 billion in homes—triple the number from 2000.

Asia-Pacific still faces a major “cooling access gap,” with 43% of the population lacking adequate cooling.

Conclusion: Rationale for Temperature Regulation

A standard AC temperature range will:

- Safeguard public health
- Conserve energy
- Reduce future grid loads

This reflects India’s broader effort toward climate-sensitive and health-supportive cooling practices.

14th June 2025: Static MCQS

1. 1. With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements:

- I. An ordinance can amend any central act.
- II. An ordinance can abridge a fundamental right.
- III. An ordinance can come into effect from a back date.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. I and II only
- b. II and III only
- c. I and III only
- d. I, II and III

Correct Option: (c)

2. Consider the following pairs:

State	Description
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- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Arunachal Pradesh | : The capital is named after a fort, and the State has two national parks |
| 2. Nagaland | : The state came into existence on the basis of a constitutional amendment act |
| 3. Tripura | : Initially a part 'C' State, it became a centrally administered territory with the reorganization of states in 1956 and later attained the status of a full-fledged state |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All the three
- d. None

Correct Option: (c)

3. With reference to India consider the following:

- 1. The inter-state council
- 2. The national security council
- 3. Zonal councils

How many of the above were established as per the provisions of the constitution of India?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All the three
- d. None

Correct Option: (a)

4. Consider the following statements:

- I. The constitution of India explicitly mentions that in certain spheres the governor of a state acts in his/her own discretion.
- II. The president of India can, of his/her own, reserve a bill passed by a state legislature for his/her consideration without it being forwarded by the governor of the state concerned.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



- a. I only
- b. II only
- c. Both I and II
- d. Neither I nor II

Correct Option: (c)

5. Consider the following pairs:

Provision in the Constitution of India : Stated under

- I. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive in the public services of the State : The Directive Principles of the State Policy**
- II. Valuing and preserving of the rich heritage of our composite culture : The Fundamental Duties**
- III. Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories : The Fundamental Rights**

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All the three
- d. None

Correct Option: (c)

TAKSHASHILA

ESTD 2022

CREATING LEADERS OF TOMORROW