



Captain Deepak Vasant Sathe, pilot of the AirIndia flight

Rescue operation in progress at the accident site (picture courtesy of CNN)

Plane fell off into the valley 35 feet below

- Most of the injured were front row passengers
- Crash impact broke the plane's fuselage into two

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The accident reportedly occurred when the pilots attempted a take-off when the aircraft skidded through the runway, losing traction, amid the downpour. Pilots, however, were unsuccessful in regaining control as the aircraft skidded further towards the tip of the runway and fell off the cliff into the valley, splitting it into two parts. The impact of the accident was so bad that the front door of the aircraft and cockpit were completely destroyed. Officials said it was a miracle that the aircraft didn't burst into flames. The flight was ferrying stranded Indian from Dubai following the coronavirus-induced lockdown. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said police and fire force personnel are at the scene and is taking all measures for rescue and relief operations.



Rescue workers at the accident site (Courtesy of Mathrubhumi)



An injured passenger being transported to a hospital (Courtesy of Mathrubhumi)

Local news channels quoting rescue workers said the injuries to most of the passengers were not serious.

Tried landing twice?

TDT | Kerala

The AirIndia express flight involved in the fatal accident in the South State of Kerala attempted to land twice on the Table-top runway in Calicut, says Global flight tracker website. According to the Swedish company's landing map, the Boeing-737 aircraft attempted to land twice at the airport and came back in a 'figure 8' track. Initial reports indicate that the pilots aborted their first attempt after approaching the runway and returned for another. Air India express guidelines say pilots are allowed to make



The map showing the flight path of Air India Express IX1344 one more attempt, in the event of failing to land the first time. However, it is left to the discretion of the captain, whether to try again or approach an alternate destination.



A three-dimensional image of the table-top runway in Calicut International Airport. The aircraft fell off this cliff to the valley 35 feet below, splitting it into two parts

When the flight was landing, the visibility on the runway was around 2,000 metres, which is alarmingly low for an inbound aircraft in such topography

In his response, Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar tweeted: "Deeply distressed to

hear about the Air India Express tragedy at Kozhikode. Prayers are with the bereaved families and those injured." Calicut International Airport, the eleventh busiest airport in India in terms of overall passenger traffic, is also the only airport in the state with a table-top runway. The accident also brought into memory the similar accident of Air India Express Flight 812

from Dubai to Mangalore, India. The accident, blamed on captain's unstabilized approach, resulted in the aircraft to overshoot the runway, falling down a hillside and bursting into flames. Of the 160 passengers and six crew members on board, 158 were killed (all crew members and 152 passengers) and only eight survived. This was the first fatal accident involving Air India Express.

Red Crescent launches "Bahrain assists Beirut"

- The Lebanese Red Cross has said that more than 5,000 people were being treated for injuries
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Upon directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Honorary President of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) and under the patronage of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Dr Mustafa Al Sayed delivered the shipment of urgent humanitarian aid to Lebanon. Shaikh Nasser praised HM the King's patronage of the RHF



Dr Al Sayed with Bahraini relief consignment

and his generous humanitarian gesture towards the people in Lebanon. "We are honoured to extend to His Majesty King Hamad our sincere thanks, appreciation and gratitude for his continuous humanitarian initiatives in helping the needy and the afflicted," Dr Al Sayed said. The Bahrain Red Crescent

Society earlier said it has donated \$50,000 to the Lebanese Red Cross through International Red Cross and Red crescent organisation. The Society also announced yesterday the launch of its "Bahrain assists Beirut" campaign aimed at collecting donations and providing relief, medical, health and psychological sup-

port to the Lebanese people. The society appealed to citizens, residents and institutions in the Kingdom to make donations to the Society to help the needy in Lebanon. The BRCS expressed optimism that the campaign will generate great interaction in Bahrain. Gulf states were among the first to respond to the crisis with emergency relief materials to ease pressure on Lebanon's medical system, already strained by the coronavirus pandemic. Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab has called on "friendly countries" to support a nation already reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades as well as the impact of the coronavirus. The Lebanese Red Cross has said that more than 5,000 people were being treated for injuries after the explosion.

Three more COVID-19 deaths

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Health Ministry yesterday announced three more deaths from Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak raising the virus death toll in the Kingdom to 159. An 84-year-old Bahraini woman, a 53-year-old expatriate man and an 82-year-old Bahraini man are the latest casualties. The ministry announced the deaths on its official twitter handle, separately. Officials tweeted condolences to the family members of the deceased. There are currently 79 coronavirus patients in the Kingdom, who are receiving treatment, of which 40 patients are admitted to critical care. The number of



active cases in the Kingdom now stands at 2,872, out of which 2,832 cases are health-wise stable. The minister further said it conducted 9,395 COVID-19 tests yesterday, increasing the number of people tested in the Kingdom to 886,095. Some 418 new cases were detected yesterday, which includes 190 expatriate workers, 225 contacts of active cases and three travel related cases. The minister also announced 331 new recoveries yesterday, raising the total number of people cured of their infection in the Kingdom to 40,276.