

Several dead after Air India plane crashes in Kerala

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 08 August, 2020



Dhaka: An Air India Express jet carrying over 190 passengers and crew crashed and broke into two today at Kozhikode International Airport in the southern state of Kerala, India. The police said at least 14 people were killed and 15 others critically injured when the passenger jet from Dubai skidded off the runway after landing in heavy rain.

"I can confirm at least 14 deaths overall. Another 15 passengers have critical injuries. It is still a developing situation," said senior local policeman Abdul Karim, according to reports.

"We have at least 89 people, many of them with serious injuries, admitted at different Kozhikode hospitals. The ambulances are still coming in," said Sujith Das, another senior police official.

"We have been told that all those who have survived the crash also have some form of injuries," he added.

The plane's fuselage split into two as it fell into a valley 30 feet below, authorities said.

"As per the initial reports rescue operations are on and passengers are being taken to hospital for medical care," the civil aviation ministry said in the statement. There was no fire on board, it noted.

Rajiv Jain, a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Ministry, said there were 174 adult passengers, 10 infants, two pilots and five cabin crew on board the aircraft.

The runway is said to be on a hilltop with deep gorges on either side, making it difficult to land.

It was a repatriation flight operated by the government to bring Indians home from Dubai to Kerala during international travel restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic.