



AIR INDIA-171

BOEING 787 DREAMLINER

12th June 2025

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REPORT

KEY INSIGHTS

1. Fuel switches moved to “CUTOFF” seconds after take-off Both engine fuel control switches were positioned to “CUTOFF” nearly simultaneously (~1 second apart), causing immediate engine fuel starvation
2. Cockpit confusion was recorded The CVR captured one pilot asking, “Why did you cut off?” with the other denying responsibility
3. Swift activation of backup power (RAT) The Ram Air Turbine deployed shortly after takeoff—indicating a total systems power loss
4. Engine restart unsuccessful Pilots reset the switches to “RUN” and initiated engine relight, but altitude and speed were too low for recovery—the aircraft crashed ~30 seconds into flight

Confirmed & Ruled-Out Factors

CONFIRMED

NO WEATHER
ISSUES, BIRD
STRIKE, FUEL
CONTAMINATION

PILOTS WELL-
RESTED, FIT FOR
DUTY

XX - RULED OUT

FUNDAMENTAL
MECHANICAL
FAILURES
UNRELATED TO
FUEL SWITCH

ENVIRONMENTAL
OR TECHNICAL
ANOMALIES
OUTSIDE SWITCH
MOVEMENT



? Outstanding Questions

Was the switch movement intentional or accidental?

These spring-loaded switches require deliberate activation. The exact cause—human vs. mechanical vs. system malfunction—is still unknown?

What about the 2018 FAA advisory on switch lock issues?

A bulletin warned of possible lock disengagement on 787 fuel switches, but no mandatory inspections were issued—and Air India reportedly did not act on it?

Any procedural breaches or cockpit communication failures?

There's emphasis on cockpit callouts, but a full procedural audit—checklists, switch positioning, actions—requires the final report ?



What Experts & Stakeholders Say

Unusual switch behavior:

Aviation experts state the dual shutoff is “absolutely bizarre” for this phase of flight

Pilot error vs mechanical fault debate: Voices on both sides call for deeper analysis—some argue sabotage or mechanical failure (e.g., software-induced valve closure) must be ruled out

Family backlash and demand for transparency: Victims’ relatives demand full disclosure, lamenting the preliminary report’s lack of concrete explanations





Next Steps

- Further forensic and voice profiling to determine who moved the switches—and why.
- Technical inspection of the switch locks across Boeing 787 fleet, especially considering past FAA caution.
- Comprehensive final report expected in several months—will explore pilot actions, cockpit protocols, mechanical integrity, and potential design vulnerabilities.



We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Air India Flight 171. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of those who lost their lives, and to all who have been affected by this devastating event.

We stand in solidarity with the victims' loved ones and the brave responders working tirelessly on the ground. In this time of grief, may we find strength in unity and compassion.

Thank You!

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