

Tata Group Establishes ₹500 Crore Trust for Air India Crash Victims



In a significant humanitarian gesture, the Tata Group announced on Friday, July 18, 2025, the establishment of "The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust," a public charitable trust with a corpus of ₹500 crore (approximately 60 million USD). This trust is dedicated to providing comprehensive support to the families affected by the tragic Air India Flight AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad on June 12, which claimed 260 lives, including 19 on the ground.

The newly registered trust, jointly backed by Tata Sons and Tata Trusts, with each committing ₹250 crore, aims to offer both immediate and long-term assistance. Its philanthropic objectives include an ex gratia payment of ₹1 crore (approximately 120,000 USD) to the families of each deceased individual. Beyond monetary compensation, the trust will facilitate full medical treatment for those who sustained serious injuries and will contribute to the rebuilding of the B.J. Medical College Hostel infrastructure, which suffered damage when the aircraft impacted the building.

The horrific incident involved an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner en route from Ahmedabad to London that crashed shortly after takeoff. Initial findings from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) indicate that the aircraft lost power after both fuel control switches were inadvertently moved to the "CUTOFF" position.

S. Padmanabhan, a former Tata veteran, and Sidharth Sharma, General Counsel at Tata Sons, have been appointed as the initial trustees to the five-member board that will manage and administer the trust. Additional trustees are expected to be appointed in due course. Tata Sons emphasized that the trust will extend its aid to alleviate any trauma or distress experienced by

first responders, medical and disaster relief professionals, social workers, and government staff who provided crucial support in the aftermath of the accident.

This initiative by the Tata Group exceeds statutory obligations under international aviation conventions, such as the Montreal Convention, which mandates interim payouts and establishes liability thresholds for airlines. The establishment of "The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust" underscores a commitment to the well-being of all those impacted by this profound tragedy, signaling a long-term approach to support recovery and rehabilitation. The trust is set to commence its full operations once all necessary registrations with tax authorities and other operational formalities are completed.