

Emergency Flight Landing, Meaning, Purpose, Recent Incidents

August 12, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Emergency Flight Landing is an early landing made when an aircraft faces a safety threat or urgent passenger or crew need. It may require diversion to the nearest suitable airport or airbase. If no airfield is reachable, an off airport landing or ditching may be necessary. After an emergency declaration, Air Traffic Control gives the aircraft priority over other operations to support safe landing.

Why is Emergency Flight Landing in News?

Emergency Flight Landing was in news after Chennai Airport declared a Full Emergency for IndiGo flight 6E-723 from Kolkata to Chennai after its left engine became inoperative. The aircraft landed safely with 224 persons onboard. The emergency was withdrawn later and airport operations returned to normal.

Emergency Flight Landing

Emergency Flight Landing procedures depend on the aircraft condition, emergency type and available landing site. Its main forms include forced landing, precautionary landing and ditching.

- **Types:** The major types and procedures of Emergency Flight Landing are:
 - **Forced landing:** It becomes necessary after serious failures involving engines, hydraulics or landing gear. The pilot attempts to land quickly while reducing risks to people onboard.
 - **Precautionary landing:** It may follow aircraft problems, medical emergencies, police situations, weather changes or uncertain landing conditions that could increase flight safety risks.
 - **Ditching:** It is a forced landing on water when a suitable runway cannot be reached. The aircraft may sink after water contact depending on its design and damage.
 - **Belly landing:** It occurs when landing gear remains retracted or jammed, causing the aircraft to land on its underside.
 - **Crash landing:** It involves severe impact that may cause major structural damage.
- **Emergency response:** Pilots declare an emergency and seek priority clearance from Air Traffic Control. Fire tenders, medical teams and other emergency units may be deployed before landing.
- **Purpose:** Emergency landing is usually done to protect passengers and crew when continuing the flight becomes unsafe due to technical failures, medical emergencies, severe weather, smoke alerts or other immediate risks.
- **Recent Incidents:** An IndiGo Dubai-Mumbai flight diverted to Rajkot after a lower cargo hold smoke alert. In another incident, Air India flight AI2379 lost altitude above 36,000 feet. The DGCA secured its Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder for investigation.
- **Government initiative:** The Prime Minister inaugurated Northeast India's first Emergency Landing Facility in Dibrugarh, Assam, in February 2026. It supports civil and defence aircraft during floods, **earthquakes** and other emergencies.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/emergency-flight-landing/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.