

Cal HC judge cites flydubai stabbing in airport mosque case

AAI: Detected Security Breaches, Including On Runway

Srishti Lakhotia & Subho Niyogi | TNN

Kolkata: A Calcutta high court judge cited on Thursday the stabbing of a flydubai pilot by his co-pilot while hearing a case on denial of "regulated access" to a mosque located near Kolkata airport's runway.

Justice Krishna Rao referred to the flydubai Flight FZ1073 attack after additional solicitor-general (ASG) Dhiraj Kumar Trivedi, representing the Centre, remarked that "logical expectations go beyond national security only in India".

Senior advocate SN Mookherjee, who appeared for Airports Authority of India (AAI), said several security breaches had been detected, including instances of unauthorised people being found on Kolkata runway.

Justice Rao then brought up Wednesday's flydubai attack. "Now, you cannot say only in India. Now it's all over the world. Nobody can imagine yesterday's incident. If that happens, then we don't know where there is security." The exchanges unfolded as lawyers argued over access to the Bankra Mosque, which predates the century-old Kolkata airport.

According to the mosque committee, "regulated access" to the 136-year-old mosque was abruptly stopped by AAI on July 11. No namaz has since been offered at the mosque, which the authorities want relocated on airport safety grounds.

Airport authorities claimed the mosque committee, which has chal-



SAFETY CHECK: Bankra Mosque predates the century-old Kolkata airport

lenged the denial of access, was "agreeable" to shifting it. "They are agreeable to shift the mosque elsewhere. I will show the documents," AAI's advocate Mookherjee said.

Senior advocate Kishore Datta, appearing for the mosque committee, emphasised primacy of due process. "Everything has a process. Maintain that," he said. Datta contended that if there had been a security breach, authorities should have acted against it.

Pointing out that there had been no security concern over the past 50 years, Datta argued that granting regulated access longer would not have created problems.

Worshippers were not entering freely but being escorted from the gate to the mosque and back after producing identity cards, Datta said.

When Datta sought an interim order allowing prayers at the mosque, ASG Trivedi opposed the plea and said that "prayers can be offered anywhere under the Holy Quran". Justice Rao stepped in, saying "provide one room in the airport itself".

अक्टूबर तक बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी जनवरी में अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें शुरू

नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के लिए गाजियाबाद, मेरठ, पलवल से सीधे ईस्टर्न पेरीफेरल एक्सप्रेसवे से खुल जाएगी सीधी कनेक्टिविटी, सीईओ ने कहा- पूरे साल के लिए लक्ष्य तय

ग्रेटर नोएडा। नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के लिए गाजियाबाद, मेरठ, पलवल से सीधे ईस्टर्न पेरीफेरल एक्सप्रेसवे से जहाँ सीधी कनेक्टिविटी खुल जाएगी। वहीं, जनवरी में अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को भी यहाँ से शुरू किया जाना है। यमुना प्राधिकरण और नाथल के सीईओ रंजित कुमार सिंह ने एक साल का सेवा विस्तार मिलने के बाद अब नोएडा यमुना सिटी और नोएडा एयरपोर्ट के लिए नए लक्ष्य तय किए हैं।

सीईओ का कहना है कि यमुना सिटी फेज-1 में अब विकास दिखने लगा है। अब जरूरी है कि यहाँ उद्योग क्रियाशील हों, निवेश आए और लोगों के लिए रोजगार सृजित हों। इसमें नोएडा एयरपोर्ट और इसके लिए सीधे कनेक्टिविटी का बहुत महत्व होगा। यही वजह है कि अक्टूबर महीने में ही यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे और ईस्टर्न पेरीफेरल एक्सप्रेसवे को जोड़ने के लिए जगनपुर अफजलपुर इंटरचेंज को शुरू कराना है। इसका काम पूरा करने के लिए 15 अक्टूबर का समय एनएचआई ने कार्यदायी संस्था को दिया हुआ। इसी तरह नोएडा एयरपोर्ट की टीम दिसंबर तक जरूरी एनओसी, अनुमति लेते हुए इंटरनेशनल टर्मिनल का काम पूरा करेगी। योजना यह है कि जनवरी में यहाँ से अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानें शुरू हो जाएं। इससे विदेशी निवेशकों को सीधे यमुना सिटी आना सुगम हो जाएगा।

सीईओ ने बताया कि यमुना सिटी को नई पहचान देने के लिए धनौरी वैटलैंड पर विकास कार्य शुरू कराए जाने हैं। बिना प्राकृतिक पर्यावास को प्रभावित किए ही इसे बायोडायवर्सिटी पार्क के रूप में विकसित किया जाना है। नोएडा



एजुकेशन हब बनाने के लिए 4 विवि आएंगे यमुना सिटी

यमुना सिटी में उच्च शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए जिन चार नामचीन संस्थानों को जमीन देने की तैयारी चल रही है, इनमें एमिटी विश्वविद्यालय, लॉयड विश्वविद्यालय, बाबू बनारसी दास विश्वविद्यालय, महात्मा गांधी विश्वविद्यालय को जमीन आवंटन की प्रक्रिया पूरी होनी है। जेवर एयरपोर्ट के नजदीक 500 से 700 एकड़ की "यूनिवर्सिटी टाउनशिप" में इनको भूखंड दिए जा सकते हैं। इसके अलावा सेक्टर-22ई में जेबीएम यूनिवर्सिटी और नरसी मोनजी इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट स्टडीज भी अपना कैंपस का निर्माण कर चुके हैं।

बेंगलुरु और कोलकाता के लिए भरी पहली उड़ान

यमुना सिटी। नोएडा इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से अकासा एयर ने कोलकाता व बेंगलुरु के लिए सीधी उड़ान शुरू कर दी है। कोलकाता के लिए अकासा एयर की फ्लाइट ने सुबह 10.30 बजे नोएडा एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरी और दोपहर 12.50 बजे कोलकाता के नेताजी सुभाषचंद्र बोस इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पहुंची, जबकि कोलकाता से दोपहर 1.30 बजे फ्लाइट उड़ान भरने के बाद दोपहर 3.50 बजे नोएडा एयरपोर्ट पहुंची। इसके अलावा अकासा की बेंगलुरु के लिए साढ़े चार बजे फ्लाइट रवाना हुई। वहीं, कुछ फ्लाइट ने देरी से प्रस्थान किया, इनमें करीब 20 से 25 मिनट की देरी होने की बात सामने आई है। बृहस्पतिवार को एयरपोर्ट से 15 फ्लाइट ने प्रस्थान किया, जबकि 15 ही फ्लाइट का आगमन भी रहा।

एयरपोर्ट से करीब 15 किमी की दूरी पर मौजूद इस वैटलैंड में जहाँ विदेशी पक्षी हर साल आते हैं। वहीं, राज्यपक्षी सारस का भी इसे घर माना जाता है। इसके साथ ही अलग-अलग सेक्टरों और औद्योगिक

पार्कों में अगले छह महीने में करीब 200 उद्योग भी क्रियाशील और हो जाएंगे। मेडिकल डिवाइस पार्क में भी उत्पादन बढ़ेगा, इसका भी औपचारिक लोकार्पण जल्दी होना है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

Vizag airport warns against fake recruitment offers

Our Bureau

Hyderabad

GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd (GVIAL) has cautioned job-seekers against fraudulent recruitment offers and communications falsely claiming to represent the airport or the GMR Group.

The advisory follows a recent instance of fraudulent recruitment communications being circulated in the name of the airport and its operator.

"Job seekers are strongly advised not to respond to, make any payment in connection with or share personal or financial information with anyone claiming to offer employment unless the authenticity of the communication has been independently verified through official GMR channels," the airport said in a release.

The GMR Group and Vizag airport do not charge candidates any fee at any stage of the recruitment process, it said.

"All genuine job vacancies are published only through the official GMR Group Careers website. All the recruitment-related communication is sent only through official GMR email addresses," it said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

RS DAINIK JAGRAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

देश के आठ हवाई अड्डों पर लगाए जाएंगे फुल बाडी स्कैनर

नई दिल्ली, प्रेस: हवाई अड्डों पर सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को और मजबूत करने के लिए देश के आठ सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डों पर यात्रियों की जाँच के लिए फुल बाडी स्कैनर लगाए जाएंगे। बेंगलुरु और कोचीन हवाई अड्डों पर इनका ट्रायल शुरू हो चुका है। इनसे मिलने वाले आंकड़ों और अनुभव के आधार पर बाकी हवाई अड्डों के लिए स्कैनर और उनमें इस्तेमाल होने वाले एल्गोरिदम को बेहतर बनाया जाएगा। हालाँकि, अंतिम आठ हवाई अड्डों की सूची अभी तय नहीं हुई है।

ब्यूरो आफ सिविल एविएशन सिक्योरिटी के महानिदेशक राजेश निर्वाण ने गुरुवार को बताया कि देश के व्यस्ततम आठ हवाई अड्डों पर फुल बाडी स्कैनर लगाना अनिवार्य किया गया है। बेंगलुरु और कोचीन में चल रहे परीक्षण के दौरान यह भी देखा जा रहा है कि स्कैनिंग के दौरान कितनी बार अलार्म बजता है और उसके क्या कारण होते हैं।

फुल बाडी स्कैनर को लेकर पहले यात्रियों की निजता की चिंता रही है। इसी

बेंगलुरु और कोचीन में ट्रायल, यात्रियों की निजता का रखा जाएगा ध्यान
यात्रियों को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामान निकालने की जरूरत भी होगी खत्म

हैंड बैगेज से सामान निकालने की जरूरत नहीं

बीसीएस कंप्यूटेड टोमोग्राफी एस-रे (सीटीएस) मशीनों के लिए तकनीकी मानकों पर भी काम कर रहा है। हवाई अड्डों पर इन मशीनों के इस्तेमाल के बाद यात्रियों की सुरक्षा जांच के दौरान लैपटॉप और अन्य इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामान हैंड बैगेज से निकालकर अलग ट्रे में रखने की जरूरत नहीं होगी।

बजह से कुछ साल पहले विचार आने के बावजूद इन्हें व्यापक स्तर पर लागू नहीं किया गया था। निर्वाण के अनुसार अब स्कैनर को 'इमेज एग्नोस्टिक' बनाया जा रहा है। इसमें यात्री के शरीर की वास्तविक तस्वीर के बजाय एक माडल दिखाई देगा।

FOLLOWING FLYDUBAI MID-AIR SCARE

India to Raise Aviation Security Bar

FOR EMPLOYEES Facial recognition to be mandated; full-body scanners at eight airports

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Airline and airport employees in India will have to mandatorily undergo facial recognition screening, while full-body scanners will be speedily installed at eight major airports, among measures aimed at further tightening aviation security, government officials said Thursday.

The steps follow Wednesday's incident during which a co-pilot in a Boeing 737 Max jetliner on a scheduled Dubai-to-Tel Aviv flight operated by Flydubai tried to seize control midair. He also stabbed the senior pilot, an Indian national named Smit Machchhar, in the struggle inside the cockpit.

Rajesh Nirwan, director general of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), said the portal for entry passes will be entirely digitally controlled.

"Integrating the airport entry passes with a facial recognition

system will reduce queues at a number of airports where staffers and passengers use the same gate for entry," said Nirwan.

Currently, airport entry passes are issued as physical cards by BCAS to a variety of airport and

airline staff across the country. The Central Indian Security Force (CISF) is tasked with checking IDs of such personnel during airport entry and exit. Almost 1.5 million such passes are granted every year.

Samir Sinha, civil aviation secretary, said full-body scanners will be introduced at eight airports for scanning flyers as the government is looking to strengthen aviation security. "Machines have been delivered to three airports," said Sinha. "The remaining five will get it soon."

Simultaneously, the ministry is collecting and analysing data from these devices.



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X Captain Smit Machchhar has shown the world the highest form of courage. Without fearing for his own life, he fought valiantly and prevented another 9/11 like attack from happening. 140 crore Indians salute Captain Smit and are praying for his well-being.

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Waiting for Probe Report

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Full-body scanners have already been deployed on a trial basis at airports in Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi. Pilot testing began earlier this year with BCAS pushing for a wider rollout by next year.

Unlike conventional metal detectors, full-body scanners, as the name suggests, are designed to detect objects concealed within a person's body. Even non-metallic items can be detected by such machines.

Meanwhile, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the cockpit altercation onboard the Flydubai flight had a terror angle, adding that the co-pilot tried to crash the aircraft after stabbing the captain.

Machchhar managed to click open the cockpit door, which allowed passengers to go inside and overpower the co-pilot. A second set of pilots travelling on the aircraft then helped secure the cockpit and land the plane in Saudi Arabia.

The aircraft was carrying 174 passengers, most of them Israelis. During the scuffle inside the cockpit, the aircraft went into a rapid descent, losing nearly 14,000 feet in less than 30 seconds, according to flight-tracking data.

Secretary Sinha said the incident is being investigated by various agencies.

"We will act as per the outcome of the probe," he said. "After the preliminary report from Flydubai, India will also act to further tighten the security aspect."



Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

1 OCTOBER 2026

Domestic carriers must shift out of T1 by Oct 25

MIAL is preparing for reconstruction of the terminal

FPJ News Service
MUMBAI

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport's (CSMIA) operator Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) has asked domestic carriers operating out of Terminal 1 (T1) to either shift their operations or temporarily suspend services from Oct 25. The operator has clarified that it will honour the airlines' historic slots once the terminal building is renovated.

The decision comes as the private operator prepares for the long-awaited demolition and full-scale reconstruction of the legacy terminal at Santacruz, scheduled to commence in Jan 2027. MIAL has given two primary alternatives as an ultimatum to manage the capacity crunch. It has asked the airlines to either shift operations to Terminal 2 (T2) or shift flights to the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) across the bay.

According to MIAL, the redevelopment plan aligns with the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) tariff order, which earmarked T1 for complete reconstruction during the ongoing control period. While initial plans projected the demolition to start in mid-2025, MIAL "voluntarily deferred due to the absence of an alternative operating facility for airlines".

The operator noted that the opening of NMIA funda-



UPGRADES TO THE AIRPORT

Entire T1 footprint – starting with the phased teardown of Terminal 1-B's northern structure – will be completely razed.

In its place, MIAL plans to construct an ultra-modern, integrated passenger terminal capable of handling over 20 mppa (million pax per annum).

The directive forces airlines – most notably budget carriers like IndiGo and Akasa Air, which handle significant domestic loads out of T1 – to re-evaluate their schedule stability in Mumbai.

mentally alters the operational picture for carriers operating in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region as an alternative option. The operator has stated that if the airlines do not wish to shift operations to T2 or NMIA, they can temporarily suspend the operations from October 25 until the new terminal building is commis-

Air France-KLM has rejected splitting ops between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai airports, citing efficiency and operational challenges. MIAL, which operates the international airport, wants airlines to shift around one-third of international traffic to the Navi Mumbai International Airport. The International Air Transport Association has opposed forced relocations, calling for voluntary transfers and protection of slot rights.

sioned in 2029-30.

CSMIA's Terminal 1, an iconic fixture in Indian aviation history that has served domestic passengers for decades, has long suffered from architectural bottlenecks and limited apron expansion room. Current infrastructure limits T1 to handling roughly 15 million passengers per annum (mppa).



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

सुरक्षा | परीक्षण के नतीजों के आधार पर अन्य हवाई अड्डों पर भी इसे लगाने पर फैसला लिया जाएगा, कपड़ों में छिपी धातु और विस्फोटक का आसानी से पता लगाने में मदद मिलेगी

दिल्ली समेत देश के आठ हवाई अड्डों पर फुल बॉडी स्कैनर लगेंगे

नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता। विमानन सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए दिल्ली समेत देश के आठ प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर फुल बॉडी स्कैनर लगाए जा रहे हैं। नागर विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (बीसीएस) बेंगलुरु और कोच्चि हवाई अड्डों पर इस प्रणाली का परीक्षण कर आंकड़े जुटा रहा है।

बीसीएस के महानिदेशक राजेश निरवान ने गुरुवार को प्रेस वार्ता में विमानन सुरक्षा सुधारों को लेकर जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि परीक्षण के दौरान यह जानकारी जुटाई जा रही है कि कितने अलार्म बजते हैं और कैसी समस्याएं सामने आती हैं।



कैसे काम करता है फुल बॉडी स्कैनर

- कोच्चि और बेंगलुरु में परीक्षण कर जुटा रहे आंकड़े
- सुरक्षा पुरुषा करने को एईपी व्यवस्था लागू करने की तैयारी

एयरोड्रम एंट्री परमिट ऑनलाइन मिलेंगे

निरवान ने बताया कि देशभर में हवाई अड्डों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था एवं निगरानी मजबूत करने के लिए एयरोड्रम एंट्री परमिट (एईपी) और संपर्क रहित व्यवस्था भी जल्द ही देशभर के सभी 169 हवाई अड्डों पर लागू होगी। इसके लिए ऑनलाइन परमिट कार्ड जारी होगा।

क्या है एईपी

एईपी एक आधिकारिक अनुमति है, जिसके आधार पर किसी व्यक्ति को हवाई अड्डे के निर्धारित सुरक्षित क्षेत्रों में प्रवेश मिलता है। यह पास सुरक्षा जांच और जरूरी सत्यापन के बाद जारी किया जाता है। इसमें व्यक्ति की पहचान, पास की वैधता, प्रवेश की अनुमति वाले क्षेत्र और संबंधित शर्तों का उल्लेख होता है। पासधारक को सुरक्षा नियमों का पालन करना और इसका इस्तेमाल केवल अधिकृत काम के लिए करना अनिवार्य होता है।

यह होगा फायदा

इसका सबसे बड़ा फायदा यह होगा कि कौन व्यक्ति किस समय हवाई अड्डा परिसर में आया और कितने समय तक रहा। अगर किसी व्यक्ति के पास आठ घंटे की अनुमति थी तो फिर वह इसे ज्यादा समय तक क्यों रुका रहा। साथ ही, भविष्य में यह भी निगरानी की जा सकेगी कि किस व्यक्ति को हवाई अड्डा परिसर में किस क्षेत्र तक जाने की अनुमति थी। अगर वह किसी दूसरे क्षेत्र में गया तो क्यों बचा? देश के सभी हवाई अड्डों पर हर साल करीब 15 लाख प्रवेश पास जारी किए जाते हैं। इसके लिए दफ्तर जाना होता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

Mumbai Metro expansion hits airport height hurdle

Issue concerns elevated portion of corridor near Airport Colony station

MPOST BUREAU

Mumbai, October 1

Construction on a section of Mumbai Metro Line 7A, the 3.4-km extension connecting Andheri East with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, has been held up over a height-clearance issue involving the Over-Head Electrification (OHE) system required to operate the line.

The issue concerns the elevated portion of the corridor near the Airport Colony station in Vile Parle East. According to MMRDA

CLOSER LOOK

- » Additional height needed for OHE system is around 2.5 metres above permitted height under applicable aviation restrictions
- » MMRDA has said it will undertake a detailed technical review after receiving the report and determine the way forward

officials, the additional height required for the OHE system is around 2.5 metres above the height permitted under the applicable aviation restrictions. The discrepancy was flagged in 2025, after substantial civil work on the affected stretch had already been

completed. MMRDA has said the project's General Consultant, the SYSTRA-CEG-SMCIPL consortium, was responsible for coordinating the design and statutory requirements, including aviation-related restrictions. The authority has said the additional

height required for the OHE was not adequately factored into the design and planning at the appropriate stage. SYSTRA, however, has maintained that it was not responsible for the issue. The matter is now pending with the Airports Authority of India (AAI), whose final technical assessment on the permissible height is awaited.

MMRDA has said it will undertake a detailed technical review after receiving the report and determine the way forward. The potential consequences could be

significant. MMRDA data cited in reports showed that the elevated viaduct in the affected section had been completed & about 95 per cent of the elevated ramp had been constructed by February 2026. If the additional height is not cleared and no technical modification is possible, part of the elevated structure may have to be reconstructed. Line 7A is planned to connect with the underground Metro Line 3 at the airport, providing a direct metro link between the northern suburbs and the airport.



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

1 OCTOBER 2026

Kolkata airport to expand parking bays from 73 to 132

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, September 30

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) airport is set for a major airside expansion, with a Rs 337-crore project to add aircraft parking and operational space on the southern side of the terminal.

Officials said the apron project, scheduled for completion in three years, will increase aircraft parking

THE DETAILS

- » The expansion comes as passenger traffic has recovered to pre-pandemic levels
- » The airport handled around 1.1 crore passengers in the first half of 2025 and about 2.2 crore during the full year

bays from 73 to 132, providing more space for parking, servicing and ground-handling operations.

The expansion comes as passenger traffic has recovered to pre-pandemic levels. The airport handled

around 1.1 crore passengers in the first half of 2025 and about 2.2 crore during the full year.

Its annual passenger-handling capacity has recently been raised from 2.6 crore to 2.8 crore. A

larger redevelopment plan aims to take this to around 4.5 crore by 2032-33.

The plan includes replacing the old domestic terminal with a U-shaped international terminal featuring 21 aerobridges. Around 60,000 sq ft will also be added to the international section to accommodate immigration, customs and passenger facilities.

The airport's runway-

handling capacity has risen from 35 to 45 flights an hour following the addition of taxiways and rapid-exit corridors. The domestic departure area has also been expanded by 993 sqm, with another 300 sqm planned for the international departure section.

The expansion is aimed at strengthening the airport's airside capacity as passenger numbers continue to rise.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

Eight airports to get full-body scanners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is planning to introduce full-body scanners at eight Indian airports, MoCA Secretary Sameer Sinha said. "Machines have been delivered to three airports. The remaining five will get it soon," he added. Simultaneously, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is also collecting and analysing data from the devices.

BCAS Director General Rajesh Nirwan on Thursday said trials of the



Representative image

ISTOCK

scanners are being done at Bengaluru and Cochin airports, from where data and information such as how many alarms are generated are being collected. The gathered data will be

assessed, he said. Cochin is not among the eight airports where full body scanners have been mandated. Details about the eight airports could not be immediately ascertained.

Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said, "After the preliminary report from flydubai, India will also act to further tighten the security aspect." Based on the data collected by BCAS, algorithms for the scanners will be refined based on the outcome before deciding on introducing the scanners at the airports.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Eight airports to get full-body scanners

The idea of full body scanners was introduced a few years back, but due to various issues, including those related to passenger privacy, the technology is yet to be deployed at the airports.

In response to a query about the privacy concerns, Nirwan said that one issue was about the image that was coming out after scanning and now the scanners are being made 'image agnostic' as it will just be a model of a person. The technology will display on the screen if something suspicious is detected or where something is kept on the body and will show only that particular part.

Amid concerns that wearing certain ornaments and even mangal sutra could trigger alarms by full-body scanners, BCAS is working

on refining the algorithms used by these scanners in close coordination with the vendors and original equipment manufacturers.

"What we are getting today in India is based on algorithms that have been designed for foreign markets. There are certain typical things that are on the body of Indian citizens or people living in India. So, those algorithms are also being continuously refined," the BCAS DG said.

All such details will be available from data from the ongoing trials and accordingly, Nirwan said the algorithms will be refined. India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets and there are now 165 airports.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HYDERABAD

1 OCTOBER 2026

Smuggled cocaine worth ₹24 crore seized at RGIA

Contraband Was Packed Inside Chocolate Tubes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials seized 4.9 kg of cocaine worth around ₹24.5 crore from an Indian passenger at Rajiv Gandhi International (RGI) Airport on Tuesday. The passenger, who arrived from Doha, Qatar, was arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and sent to judicial remand.

Acting on specific intelligence that the passenger was carrying cocaine in his baggage, a team from the DRI's Hyderabad Zonal Unit (HZU) intercepted him at the airport. During a search of his cabin baggage, officials found seven tubes of Lindt Lindor Assorted Filled Dark Chocolate Selection. Each tube was marked as weighing 387 grams, but officials found them unusually heavy.

On opening the tubes, the DRI team discovered 207 oval-shaped transparent capsules containing a white powdery

ELABORATE FRAUD BUSTED

• Passenger arrived at RGIA from Doha, Qatar

• Acting on a tip-off, DRI sleuths intercepted him at airport and searched his baggage

• 207 oval-shaped transparent capsules found containing a white powdery substance, concealed among the chocolates



• Substance tested positive for cocaine; passenger remanded in judicial custody

substance, concealed among the chocolates. The substance tested positive for cocaine using a narcotic drug detection kit.

According to the DRI, 4.9 kg of cocaine valued at about ₹24.5 crore in the international market was seized. The passenger was subsequently arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

Investigators are examining the accused's travel history and phone records to trace the source and intended destination of the contraband. Further investigation is underway.

80gm meth seized from 3 peddlers

Hyderabad: RGIA police arrested three alleged drug peddlers and seized 80 gm of methamphetamine and four LSD blots at Shamshabad on Tuesday. The accused were identified as Syed Sayeed Hussain (38), a driver from Jahanuma, Md Imran (32), a car driver from Banjara Hills, and Lala (29), a delivery worker from Somajiguda. A case was booked under NDPS Act. The trio was remanded under judicial custody. **TNN**



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

सुविधा

छत्तीसगढ़ में विमान की हार्ड लैंडिंग के बाद सुरक्षा कारणों से रोकी थी सेवा

राहत, दिल्ली-शिमला के बीच उड़ानें बहाल

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

शिमला। दिल्ली-शिमला के बीच हवाई सेवा फिर बहाल हो गई है। सितंबर माह के पहले हफ्ते में छत्तीसगढ़ में विमान की हार्ड लैंडिंग की घटना के बाद सुरक्षा कारणों से इन रूटों पर उड़ानें रोक दी गई थीं। सेवा बहाल होने से हिमाचल आने-जाने वाले यात्रियों व पर्यटकों को बड़ी राहत मिली है।

छत्तीसगढ़ में विमान की हार्ड लैंडिंग के बाद एहतियात के तौर पर दिल्ली-शिमला और शिमला-धर्मशाला के बीच हवाई सेवा रोक दी गई थी। सुरक्षा से जुड़ी प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद अब दिल्ली-शिमला और शिमला-दिल्ली के बीच उड़ानें दोबारा शुरू कर दी गई हैं। जल्द ही शिमला-धर्मशाला के बीच भी सेवाएं बहाल होने वाली हैं। हवाई सेवा बहाल होने से हिमाचल आने वाले पर्यटकों को भी सुविधा मिलेगी। दिल्ली से सीधे शिमला पहुंचने के लिए हवाई संपर्क उपलब्ध होने से यात्रा का समय कम होगा। पर्यटन सीजन में शिमला और दिल्ली के बीच



बेहतर हवाई कनेक्टिविटी से यात्रियों को फायदा मिलने की उम्मीद है। उभर पर्यटकों की सुविधा को देखते हुए शिमला-अमृतसर के बीच भी उड़ान शुरू करने की योजना भी प्रस्तावित है।

शिमला एयरपोर्ट के निदेशक सतीश कुमार ने बताया कि दिल्ली-शिमला के बीच सेवाएं बहाल हो गई हैं। जल्द ही शिमला-धर्मशाला के बीच भी सेवाएं बहाल कर दी जाएंगी। टूरिस्ट सीजन के दौरान पर्यटकों को इन सेवाओं का लाभ मिलेगा।

कोहरा के कारण दिल्ली पंतनगर उड़ान हुई रद्द

पंतनगर। मानसून की हो चुकी विदाई और सितंबर समाप्ति के साथ ही गुलाबी ठंड ने भी सुबह-शाम दस्तक देनी शुरू कर दी है। बृहस्पतिवार को सुबह घना कोहरा छाया रहा। घने कोहरे ने अभी से उड़ानों में बाधा बनना शुरू कर दिया है। एयरपोर्ट प्रबंधन के अनुसार, बृहस्पतिवार सुबह रन-वे पर दृश्यता मात्र सौ मीटर थी जबकि सुरक्षित लैंडिंग के लिए न्यूनतम आठ सौ मीटर दृश्यता की जरूरत होती है। इस कारण इंडिगो एयरलाइंस की दिल्ली से पंतनगर आने वाली उड़ान संख्या ई-67324 को दिल्ली में ही रद्द कर दिया गया। दिल्ली से जहाज सुबह 7:10 बजे उड़ान भरकर 8:10 बजे पंतनगर और वापसी में पंतनगर से 8:30 बजे उड़ान भरकर 9:20 बजे दिल्ली पहुंचना था। निर्धारित उड़ान के रद्द होने से दिल्ली से पंतनगर आने वाले 74 और पंतनगर से दिल्ली का टिकट बुक कराए 52 यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ा। संवाद



Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

फ्लाइट का समय बदला, कंपनी लौटाएगी रकम मेक माय ट्रिप और लुफ्थांसा को उपभोक्ता आयोग ने सेवा में कमी का माना जिम्मेदार

फरीदाबाद। दिल्ली से कनाडा के हैलिफैक्स जाने वाली फ्लाइट का शेड्यूल बदलने के कारण यात्री को दोबारा टिकट खरीदनी पड़ी। इस पर खर्च हुए 1 लाख 99 हजार 575 रुपये अब मेक माय ट्रिप इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और लुफ्थांसा एयरलाइंस को वापस करने होंगे।

जिला उपभोक्ता विवाद निवारण आयोग ने दोनों कंपनियों की सेवा में कमी मानते हुए यह आदेश दिया है। आयोग ने मानसिक परेशानी और उत्पीड़न के लिए 3,300 रुपये तथा मुकदमे के खर्च के रूप में 2,200 रुपये देने के भी निर्देश दिए हैं। आदेश की पालना 30 दिन में करनी होगी। सेक्टर-15 निवासी संदीप



विरमानी ने 10 अप्रैल 2022 को मेक माय ट्रिप के माध्यम से दिल्ली से हैलिफैक्स की यात्रा के लिए टिकट बुक की थी। टिकट की कीमत 77,773 रुपये थी। यात्रा के दौरान फ्रैंकफर्ट में करीब आठ घंटे का ठहराव था। बाद में फ्रैंकफर्ट से हैलिफैक्स जाने वाली कनेक्टिंग

फ्लाइट का शेड्यूल बदल दिया गया, जिससे दोनों उड़ानों का समय आपस में मेल नहीं खा रहा था।

संदीप ने शेड्यूल में बदलाव के बाद मेक माय ट्रिप और लुफ्थांसा से कई बार संपर्क किया। शिकायत के अनुसार, इसके बावजूद समस्या का प्रभावी समाधान नहीं किया गया। यात्रा प्रभावित होने की आशंका के चलते उन्होंने 22 जुलाई 2022 को दिल्ली से हैलिफैक्स के लिए 1,99,575 रुपये में दूसरी टिकट खरीदी। बाद में मूल टिकट का रिफंड कर दिया गया, लेकिन नई टिकट पर खर्च हुई रकम वापस नहीं की गई। रकम की भरपाई नहीं होने पर संदीप ने जिला उपभोक्ता आयोग

मानसिक परेशानी के 3300 और मुकदमा खर्च के 2200 रुपये भी देने के आदेश

में शिकायत दाखिल की।

आयोग ने रिकॉर्ड और दोनों पक्षों की दलीलों की सुनवाई के बाद माना कि फ्लाइट के शेड्यूल में बदलाव के कारण पहले की टिकटों का उपयोग संभव नहीं रहा और यात्री को वैकल्पिक टिकट खरीदनी पड़ी। आयोग ने इसे सेवा में कमी मानते हुए 1,99,575 रुपये लौटाने, 3,300 रुपये मानसिक परेशानी और 2,200 रुपये मुकदमे के खर्च के रूप में देने के आदेश दिए।



Corporate Communications Directorate

BUSINESS LINE

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

PM Modi, Trump, Netanyahu hail Indian pilot's Tel Aviv flight heroics

BRAVE ACT. Despite being stabbed by co-pilot, Smit Machchhar saved 174 lives on the Dubai-bound flight

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Before Wednesday, Captain Smit Machchhar was like any other Indian commercial aviator operating for an international airline. But his swift response, an instinct natural to any seasoned pilot, backed by extraordinary grit and bravery, averted a mid-air disaster.

The flydubai Flight FZ1073, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, departed Dubai for Tel Aviv on Wednesday, with Captain Machchhar and his co-pilot from Oman in the cockpit along with 174 passengers, mostly Israelis, and crew on board.

As the plane gained height, inside the high-security enclosure of the flight deck, Captain Machchhar was fatally assaulted by his co-pilot, who tried to regain the control and dive the aircraft in a suspected hijack attempt.



EFFUSIVE PRAISE. Captain Smit Machchhar fought back his assailant with the help of passengers and helped safely land the flydubai Tel Aviv-Dubai flight in northwest Saudi Arabia. REUTERS

The Indian aviator resisted the knife attacks, taking the wounds over his body, and managed to open the door of the cockpit.

Seeing the Captain battling the co-pilot, Yaniv Hayun, an Israeli passenger on the flydubai flight, narrated to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he stormed into the cockpit and pulled up the aircraft's controls to stop the plane from a quick descent.

Captain Machchhar declared an emergency and ul-

timately diverted the aircraft for a safe landing at Tabuk airport in northwest Saudi Arabia, earning him praise from within the country and also across the globe.

GLOBAL PRAISE

The Maharashtra-reared aviator is recovering in a hospital after an emergency surgery in a Tabuk hospital.

The Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the consulate in Jeddah have been following up on the health condition of Machchhar.

The Indian Embassy said that it is also in touch with his family.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US president Donald Trump both hailed Captain Machchhar as a "hero". Netanyahu, too, joined them with no less effusive words to praise his "extraordinary" fight back.

Modi said he had thwarted a 9/11 type tragedy. "And like Israeli PM (Benjamin Netanyahu) today said that this Indian thwarted 9/11 (like attack). For every Indian, Smit's bravery fills our heart with pride," Modi said while addressing the centenary celebrations of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

REWARDS

Back home in Maharashtra and across the domestic aviation community, people have expressed immense pride in Machchhar's bravery.

The government of Gu-

jarat announced that Machchhar will be honoured with the 'Visisht Gujarat Garima Award'.

To become a pilot was not Machchhar's immediate childhood dream. He took admission in a textile engineering course to further the family's textile business.

When Machchhar turned 19, he decided to become a pilot, after being attracted towards it during an aviation seminar he attended.

He joined SpiceJet in 2011, where he rose to become a Senior Commander and Line Training Captain over a 11-year period. SpiceJet, too, offered its appreciation for a former employee. "Your heroism saved countless lives today," the private airline said.

Machchhar joined Dubai-based flydubai as a Direct Entry Captain on the Boeing 737 family in June 2022, as per his LinkedIn profile and has 9,750 flight hours experience.

'Like a rollercoaster': Passengers describe harrowing FlyDubai flight

Resourcefulness of many people saved the day, says one flier

RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA), AFP

As flight FZ 1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv approached the Jordanian border on Wednesday, passengers knew in an instant that something was wrong when the plane began plummeting from the sky in a rapid dive.

It was like "we were having very big turbulence, but there was no turbulence", passenger Almog Italie told AFP, describing the sensation of losing thousands of feet of altitude in seconds as similar to riding a "rollercoaster".

According to data from the Flightradar website, the aircraft suddenly dropped from nearly 34,000 feet at 0521 GMT to less than 17,000 feet a minute later. But there was no "hysteria" among passengers, Italie noted, even as fighting erupted near the cockpit for control of the aircraft.

"The other passengers from the front took over control," he told AFP via video call from Saudi Arabia's Tabuk, where the plane landed safely following what passengers described as a violent attempt by one pilot to kill the other.



A plane, carrying passengers who were on the FlyDubai aircraft bound for Israel from the UAE, which was diverted to Saudi Arabia following an emergency, parks at the Ben Gurion International Airport, near Tel Aviv on Wednesday. REUTERS



Passengers who were on the FlyDubai aircraft are greeted by their friends and families as they arrive at the Ben Gurion International Airport. REUTERS

Still, Italie said, "people kept calm".

In photos sent to AFP by one of the passengers, travellers — including children — are seen gathered in an airport lounge, with some sitting on the floor. One man is wearing a white T-shirt and jeans stained with blood.

Miryam Shira Ohayon, who

was also on board the flight, described the aircraft as being "pretty much out of control" as the fight ensued.

"The co-pilot tried to murder the pilot and basically carry out a suicide attack on the plane," she told reporters via speakerphone held up by her mother, who was waiting at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv.



A woman comforts her child at the Ben Gurion International Airport. REUTERS

"It was really on the way to crashing, and it was simply the resourcefulness of many people who took control of the co-pilot and neutralised him," she said. "There was also a doctor who gave first aid, and people who treated both of them. Other than the pilot, there were no injuries, but the bigger fear was really a crash, which

'Saudi Arabia turned down Israel's request to repatriate citizens'

LONDON, REUTERS: Saudi Arabia rejected a request by Israel to allow its planes to repatriate Israeli passengers from a FlyDubai flight that made an emergency landing in the kingdom, two security sources said on Wednesday.

The request was for Israeli military planes to bring back Israelis from Saudi Arabia, which has no diplomatic rela-

tions with Israel, the sources said. Saudi Arabia's government media office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Israeli air force was preparing to send Super Hercules planes to pick up Israeli passengers, one of the sources said.

The passengers were due to continue their journey on FlyDubai aircraft, the airline said.

Israel to ramp up pilot checks after FlyDubai scare

Israel is set to ramp up security checks on pilots flying into the country, a spokesperson for the prime minister's office said, after it said a co-pilot on a FlyDubai flight to Tel Aviv had stabbed the pilot and attempted to crash the plane, Reuters reports.

The incident has sharpened questions about how pilots flying in and out of Israel and around the conflict-hit West Asia are vetted and what sorts of security protocols they face, according to government officials and aviation analysts.

is exactly what he was trying to do." In a video from inside the plane that was reposted by Israeli social media users, one passenger — blood dripping from an open wound on his head — pleaded for assistance and said they were descending into Saudi Arabia, where Israel has no diplomatic relations.

"We are here during an

attack on the plane. We just subdued the terrorists and are preparing to land," the man said in Hebrew. "Anyone who can hear me, we need help. We are about to land in Tabuk, apparently in Saudi Arabia. An unknown area. All the passengers are safe and well, except for the pilot," the man added. "We need help."



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DELHI

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विमानों के लिए नया खतरा

दुबई से तेल अवीव जा रही फ्लाई दुबई एयरलाइंस की उड़ान के ओमानी सह पायलट ने भारतीय मुख्य पायलट स्मित मछार पर हमला कर जिस तरह विमान को गिराने की कोशिश की, उसने विमानन उद्योग के सामने कुछ वैसी ही गंभीर चिंताएं खड़ी कर दी हैं, जैसी 9/11 की आतंकी घटना ने खड़ी की थीं। 9/11 की घटना में आतंकीयों ने काकपिट में घुसने के बाद पायलटों को काबू कर विमानों को न्यूयार्क के वर्ल्ड ट्रेड टावर और वाशिंगटन स्थित पेंटागन से टकरा दिया था। फ्लाई दुबई विमान का तो सह पायलट ही आतंकी इरादों से लैस निकला। उसने केवल मुख्य पायलट को घायल ही नहीं किया, बल्कि विमान के इंजन से छेड़छाड़ में भी जुट गया। उसकी ये हरकतें उसके आतंकी होने की ही गवाही दे रही हैं। या तो वह विमान गिराना चाहता था या फिर उसे कब्जे में लेकर किसी इमारत से टकराना चाहता था। यदि भारतीय पायलट ने बेहद विकट परिस्थितियों में अदम्य साहस और सूझबूझ का परिचय देते हुए काकपिट का दरवाजा नहीं खोला होता तो ओमानी पायलट 9/11 जैसी घटना दोहराने में सफल हो सकता था। काकपिट का दरवाजा न खुल पाने की स्थिति में विमान में सवार इजरायली यात्री और पायलट भी कुछ नहीं कर पाते और एक भीषण घटना घट जाती।

यह स्वाभाविक है कि 170 से अधिक यात्रियों का जीवन बचाने वाले भारतीय पायलट स्मित पूरी दुनिया में नायक के रूप में सराहे जा रहे हैं। उन्होंने अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर अपने पेशे के साथ भारत का भी मान बढ़ाया है, लेकिन इस घटना के बाद विमानन उद्योग को विमानों की सुरक्षा के लिए कुछ नए उपाय करने के लिए भी विवश होना पड़ सकता है। इस अंदेश को निराधार नहीं कहा जा सकता कि भविष्य में किसी अन्य विमान का पायलट, सह पायलट या फिर चालक दल का कोई सदस्य अतिवादी या जिहादी सोच वाला हो सकता है। कम से कम अब पायलटों एवं उनके साथियों के सामाजिक व्यवहार और सोच-विचार की कहीं अधिक सघन पड़ताल करनी होगी। निजता के नाम पर इसमें किसी तरह की ढिलाई बरतना खतरे को निर्मंत्रण देना और हवाई यात्रा का जोखिम बढ़ाने वाला सिद्ध हो सकता है। इसलिए और भी, क्योंकि विमानों का संचालन कहीं अधिक सतर्कता की मांग करता है। इसमें किसी भी तरह की गलती या ढिलाई के लिए कोई गुंजाइश नहीं। अब सुरक्षा एवं सतर्कता का स्तर और अधिक बढ़ाने के अलावा अन्य कोई उपाय नहीं। इसकी अनदेखी न की जाए कि ओमानी सह पायलट ने आपात स्थिति में विमान के बचाव में काम आने वाले फ्रैश एक्स यानी एक किस्म की कुल्हाड़ी को हथियार के रूप में इस्तेमाल कर लिया और उससे ही भारतीय पायलट को लहलुहान कर दिया। बहुत संभव है कि इस उपकरण का विकल्प खोजना पड़े। जो भी हो, इस घटना का पूरा सच जितनी जल्द सामने आए, उतना ही अच्छा।

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कैप्टन रिमल मखर ने बहादुरी और सूझबूझ का परिचय दिया। देश को उन पर गर्व है। बेहद खतरनाक स्थिति में गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बावजूद, वे दूसरों की जान बचाने के लिए डटे रहे। -द्रौपदी मुर्मू, राष्ट्रपति



गंभीर खतरे के समय कैप्टन मखर की असाधारण हिम्मत व सूझ-बूझ बेहद सम्मान और तारीफ के काबिल है। भारत को इस हीरो पर गर्व है। गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बावजूद, उनके प्राणों के इरादे और सही समय पर लिए गए फैसले ने एक बड़ी त्रासदी को टालने और विमान में सवार लोगों की जान बचाने में मदद की। -सी. पी. राधाकृष्णन, उच्च न्यायाधीश

कैप्टन रिमल मखर आपकी बहादुरी, दृढ़ संकल्प और उन कामों के लिए दिल से शुक्रिया, जिनसे कई लोगों की जान बची। मैं आपके जल्द ठीक होने और अच्छी सेहत की कामना करता हूँ। इजरायल आपका बहुत-बहुत आभारी है। -इसाक हर्जोग, इजरायल के राष्ट्रपति



पूरा देश कैप्टन रिमल मखर के साथ खड़ा है और उनकी असाधारण हिम्मत पर हमें बहुत गर्व है। अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर उन्होंने कर्तव्य व सेवा की सर्वोच्च परंपराओं का पालन किया व जहाज पर मौजूद सभी लोगों की जान बचाने में मदद की। उनकी हिम्मत, संयम और कर्तव्य-भावना देश के लिए हमेशा प्रेरणा का स्रोत बनी रहेगी। -राजनाथ सिंह, रक्षा मंत्री

कैप्टन रिमल मखर ने भारी खतरे के बावजूद असाधारण हिम्मत और सूझ-बूझ दिखाई, जिससे सैकड़ों लोगों की जान बची और एक बड़ा हादसा टल गया। आइए, दुनिया भर के उन अनगिनत लोगों के साथ मिलकर उनकी बहादुरी को सलाम करें और उनके जल्द ठीक होने की प्रार्थना करें।



-एस. जयशंकर, विदेश मंत्री



चाकू लगने व गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बावजूद रिमल मखर ने अपनी जान की परवाह किए बिना दूसरों की सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता दी। उनके कामों से सैकड़ों लोगों की जान बचाने में मदद मिली। भारत को उनकी बहादुरी पर गर्व है और देश सेवा और जिम्मेदारी के प्रति उनके समर्पण को हमेशा गहरे सम्मान के साथ याद रखेंगे। -नितिन गडगिल, भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष

मैं भारतीय कैप्टन रिमल मखर, कू और उन सभी लोगों को सलाम करता हूँ, जिन्होंने हमले के दौरान असाधारण साहस और सूझबूझ दिखाई और कीमती जानें बचाने में मदद की। कैप्टन मखर के जल्द और पूरी तरह ठीक होने की कामना करता हूँ। -मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे, कांग्रेस के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष



कैप्टन रिमल मखर ने हर भारतीय का सिर गर्व से ऊंचा कर दिया है। काफ़ीट में उनके असाधारण साहस और सूझबूझ ने विमान में सवार सभी लोगों की जान बचाने में मदद की। हमारे देश से लेकर दुनियाभर के आकाश तक भारतीय पायलटों ने अपनी कुशलता, अनुशासन और सुरक्षा के प्रति अटूट प्रतिबद्धता के लिए सम्मान हासिल किया है। खुद से पहले सेवा की भारतीय भावना को बनाए रखने के लिए कैप्टन रिमल मखर को सलाम। -के. राममोहन नायक, नवगठित उड़्डयन मंत्री

जानलेवा खतरे के समय रिमल मखर का साहस एक भारतीय पायलट के बेहतरीन जज्बे को दर्शाता है। आज 140 करोड़ भारतीय गर्व से सिर ऊंचा किए हुए हैं। मैं उनके असाधारण साहस को सलाम करता हूँ और उनके जल्द ठीक होने की प्रार्थना करता हूँ। -वीरूष गोखले, कैबिनेट मंत्री



उन्होंने ड्यूटी से आगे बढ़कर काम किया और 170 से अधिक लोगों की जान बचाने में मदद की। वह असली हीरो हैं और पूरे देश को उनकी बहादुरी व समय पर की गई कार्रवाई के लिए उन पर गर्व है। -सुनील अंबेकर, प्रवक्ता भारतीय वायुसेना





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काकपिट में खतरे पर चिंता, पायलटों की मानसिक जांच के नियम होंगे सख्त

गौतम पुष्कर मिश्रा • जगरण

नई दिल्ली: दुवई से तेल अवीव जा रही फ्लाईदुवई की उड़ान (एफजेड1073) के काकपिट में ओमानी फर्स्ट आफिसर द्वारा पायलट कैप्टन स्मित मछार पर किए गए जानलेवा हमले और विमान हाइजेक कर फ्रेश करने की साजिश ने वैश्विक उड़डयन सुरक्षा को हिलाकर रख दिया है। इस अभूतपूर्व इनसाइडर ग्रेट (अंदरूनी खतरे) से सबक लेते हुए भारतीय नागरिक उड़डयन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो (वीसीएस), नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (डीजीसीए) और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने देश के हवाई बेड़े और काकपिट सुरक्षा प्रोटोकाल का गहन रिव्यू आडिट करने का फैसला किया है।

9/11 हमले के बाद बने सुरक्षा नियम मुख्य रूप से काकपिट से बाहर के खतरों और यात्रियों पर केंद्रित थे, लेकिन इस सनसनीखेज

वारदात ने काकपिट के भीतर पायलटों के आपसी तनाव और हिंसा की एक नई और बेहद खतरनाक चुनौती को उजागर कर दिया है।

इस आडिट के तहत भारतीय एजेंसियाँ मुख्य रूप से दो सुरक्षा पहलुओं पर काम करेंगी। पहला, पायलटों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य मूल्यांकन व साइकोमीट्रिक फिटनेस परीक्षण को और कड़ा व अनिवार्य बनाया जाएगा, ताकि उनके तनाव और मानसिक व्यवहार को समय रहते भाँपा जा सके। दूसरा, मध्य पूर्व और अन्य संवेदनशील अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई मार्गों पर तैनात किए जाने वाले स्कॉर्ड मार्शलस (विशेष कर्मांडो) की भूमिका और संख्या की नए सिरे से समीक्षा जरूरी होगी। ये कर्मांडो ऐसे विशेष हल्के और सटीक हथियारों से लैस होते हैं जो विमान के केबिन प्रेशर या बाड़ी को नुकसान पहुँचाए बिना हमलावर को बेअसर कर देते हैं।



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

International Flight Traffic Drops by 42%

Flights to and from Tehran's main international airport have fallen by nearly half, 42%, since a US ban on Iranian airlines, but some popular routes remain, tracking data up to Wednesday shows.

On average 53 daily international flights have operated to and from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport since Sep-

tember 23 compared to a daily average of 91 flights before the ban, according to data from tracker FlightRadar24.

Pre-ban September data shows that a typical week included services to 18 countries. Since the ban, flights have completely stopped to Georgia, Oman and Azerbaijan, which normally have regular service to Tehran. **AFP**



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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

Commercial LPG gets ₹62.50 costlier, ATF by ₹16 per litre



**AVIATION
TURBINE FUEL**
(ATF) prices were raised by a steep ₹16 per litre from Thursday, while commercial LPG became costlier by ₹62.50 per 19-kg cylinder, as state-owned oil marketing companies revised rates in line with firming international benchmarks and the rupee-dollar exchange rate. ATF prices for domestic airlines were increased to ₹137 per litre from ₹121 per litre, adding to cost pressures for carriers as jet fuel accounts for as much as 40% of airline operating costs.

Govt cuts windfall taxes on diesel, aviation fuel exports

THE GOVERNMENT HAS cut the windfall gains tax on the export of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), for the fortnight starting October 1. The duty on export of petrol remained unchanged at ₹0.5 per litre, according to a finance ministry notification. The windfall tax on diesel exports was cut to ₹16 per litre from ₹20 per litre in the previous fortnight. The duty on ATF comes down by ₹4.5 per litre to ₹10.5 per litre.

He prevented a 9/11, saved lives: PM leads praise for Indian pilot

● Modi speaks to Smit Machchhar's family and assures all assistance

DIVYAA
New Delhi, October 1

A DAY AFTER Indian pilot Smit Machchhar fought off a co-pilot who attacked him and allegedly attempted to crash a flydubai aircraft headed to Tel Aviv from Dubai, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the pilot Thursday and said he had prevented a "9/11", a reference to the 2001 terror attack in the US when al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked and crashed passenger aircraft. The government said Machchhar was gravely injured in the incident but was safe, and had been airlifted to the United Arab Emirates after receiving initial emergency treatment in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk where the plane landed on Wednesday. His family is in Dubai.

The Indian embassy in the UAE said Ambassador Deepak Mittal and Consul General Vishnu Vardhan Reddy met Machchhar's family members. "They briefed the family about Captain Machchhar's health and recovery, conveyed that the Embassy and Consulate are in touch with the UAE authorities, and assured the family of continued support," the embassy said.

In New Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi praised Machchhar for saving the lives of passengers.



Modi also spoke to the pilot's wife and parents, praising him for averting a major tragedy and assuring the family that the government and Indian missions would provide all necessary support.

Addressing an event to mark 100 years of the UPSC, Modi said, "Yesterday, an incident took place in which Indian Captain Smit displayed a remarkable presence of mind and courage, and as the Prime Minister of Israel said an Indian saved us from a 9/11. Smit's bravery fills every Indian with pride."

"Today, I also spoke to his father Bhupendra Bhai, his mother Geeta Behen, and his wife Sonal Behen. He is currently undergoing treatment. The entire world is proud of him today. I appeal to all citizens to pray for Smit's long life and good health, and to honour Smit, who has made India proud," he said.

In a post on X, President Droupadi Murmu noted Machchhar's "heroic courage and incredible presence of

mind". Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, among a host of political leaders, also hailed the Indian pilot and wished him swift and full recovery.

Reuven Azar, Israel's Ambassador to India, said, "Together with Israel, India and the UAE, I pray for the life of Captain Smit Machchhar, the experienced and gifted hero Indian pilot of flydubai flight FZ1073. His courage & the courage of other Israeli & Emirati passengers & crew members saved the lives of 180 souls."

The Ministry of External Affairs said that although Machchhar was gravely injured, he was safe. "We salute the bravery of Captain Smit Machchhar who, in spite of being gravely injured, showed remarkable courage that saved the lives of many. He is receiving medical attention and is safe. We wish and pray for his speedy recovery. The nation proudly stands with him and his family," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.



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India's domestic air passenger traffic fell 7.5% in Aug: IATA

India's domestic air passenger volume dropped 7.5% in August on an annual basis, recording the largest traffic decline among major domestic markets, according to global airlines grouping IATA.

In its air passenger market analysis report for August, the International Air Transport Association stated on Wednesday that industry-wide revenue passenger kilometres slipped back into contraction, falling 0.8% year-on-year after registering a marginal growth of 0.3% in July. Revenue passenger kilometres is an indicator of passenger



volumes. "Higher demand in China, Brazil and Australia contrasted with declines in Japan, the US and India. Despite growth across several major markets, overall domestic traffic remained slightly below its level a year earlier," the association stated.

Marie Owens Thomsen, senior vice president of sustainability and chief economist at IATA, stated that the coming

months will reveal whether travellers, whose purchasing power has been reduced by higher energy prices, are adjusting their travel budgets, and might be discouraged from travelling due to prevailing geopolitical instability.

"India recorded the largest traffic decline among major domestic markets. Domestic revenue passenger kilometres fell by 7.5% year-on-year, following a 5.2% decrease in July. Capacity contracted by 1.2%, substantially less than the fall in demand, resulting in a 5.4 percentage point reduction in the passenger load factor to 78.7%," she stated. **-PTI**

शौर्यगाथा : कॉकपिट में जानलेवा हमले के बावजूद नहीं टूटा हौसला, भारतीय पायलट स्मित मच्छर की सर्वत्र सराहना

तेल अवीव / दुबई / नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। दुबई से तेल अवीव जा रहे फ्लाईडुबई के विमान में बुधवार को भारतीय पायलट स्मित मच्छर ने जान की वाजी लगाकर अदम्य साहस की जो मिसाल पेश की, उसे पूरी दुनिया सलाम कर रही है। कॉकपिट के अंदर हुए जानलेवा हमले में बुरी तरह लहलुहान होने के बावजूद पायलट का हौसला नहीं टूटा। उन्होंने शरीर से बहते खून और असहनीय दर्द की परवाह किए बिना न सिर्फ कॉकपिट का दरवाजा खोला बल्कि इजरायली यात्रियों के साथ मिलकर 174 जिंदगियों को मौत के मुंह से बाहर निकाल लाए।

इजरायल के प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू ने एक साक्षात्कार में घटना के बारे में विस्तार से बताया। उन्होंने भारतीय पायलट के हौसले की तारीफ करते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने एक और 9/11 जैसी घटना को टालने में मदद की। वहीं, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप, संयुक्त राष्ट्र के महासचिव एंटीनियो गुतेर्रेस सहित कई देशों ने भी कैप्टन स्मित को सच्चा हीरो बताया।

हमला अचानक हुआ था : नेतन्याहू के अनुसार, यह घटना बुधवार को उस वक़्त हुई, जब विमान इजरायल के हवाई क्षेत्र के करीब पहुंच रहा था। तभी अचानक सड़क-पायलट ने अचानक मुख्य कैप्टन स्मित मच्छर पर कुल्हाड़ी जैसी धारदार चीज से हमला कर दिया। हमले में गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बाद भी कैप्टन मच्छर ने हिम्मत नहीं हारी। इस बीच विमान बेकाबू होकर

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी बोले- 9/11 जैसी साजिश नाकाम की



नई दिल्ली में गुरुवार को एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी।

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गुरुवार को भारतीय पायलट कैप्टन स्मित की बहादुरी की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने अपनी जान की परवाह किए बिना 9/11 जैसे हमले को नाकाम कर दिया।

कुछ ही सेकंड में हजारों फीट नीचे आ गया। इससे यात्रियों में हड़कंप मच गया और वे अपनी सीटों से उछलकर छत से जा टकराए। प्रधानमंत्री नेतन्याहू के मुताबिक, इस जानलेवा स्थिति के बीच कैप्टन मच्छर ने अदम्य साहस का

मोदी ने दिल्ली में एक कार्यक्रम में स्मित मच्छर के शैर्य, साहस और सूझ-बूझ की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि घायल होने के बाद भी उन्होंने हिम्मत नहीं हारी और यात्रियों की मदद से एक बड़ा विमान हादसा होने से बचा लिया।

मोदी ने कहा कि कैप्टन मच्छर के साहसिक कृत्य से हर भारतीय का सीना गर्व से चौड़ा हो गया है। 140 करोड़ भारतीय उन्हें सलाम कर रहे हैं और उनके स्वस्थ होने की प्रार्थना कर रहे हैं। पूरी दुनिया को मच्छर पर गर्व है। भारत की गौरव बढ़ाने के लिए हम उनकी सराहना करते हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि उन्होंने घायल कैप्टन के पिता, मां और पत्नी से भी बात की है। उन्होंने कहा कि मैं सभी नागरिकों से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे स्मित मच्छर के दीर्घायु और उत्तम स्वास्थ्य के लिए प्रार्थना करें।

परिचय देते हुए कॉकपिट के सेफ्टी लॉक को अनलॉक कर दिया।

यात्रियों ने संभाला मोर्चा : इजरायली प्रधानमंत्री के अनुसार, जब विमान हवा में नीचे की तरफ जाने लगा, तो 16 नंबर की सीट पर बैठे इजरायली

09 हजार घंटे से अधिक का उड़ान अनुभव है कैप्टन स्मित के पास

मच्छर को इलाज के लिए आबूधाबी ले जाया गया

दुबई, एजेंसी। भारतीय पायलट स्मित मच्छर के स्वास्थ्य में तेजी से सुधार हो रहा है। संयुक्त अरब अमीरात स्थित भारतीय दूतावास ने गुरुवार को यह जानकारी दी। यूएई में भारत के राजदूत दीपक मित्तल ने अस्पताल पहुंचकर मच्छर से भेंट की। उन्हें तबूक शहर से एयरलिफ्ट कर आबूधाबी लाया गया था।

दुनियाभर ने पायलट की हिम्मत को सलाम किया

असाधारण बहादुरी दिखाने वाले भारतीय पायलट कैप्टन स्मित मच्छर को मेरा सलाम। मैं उनके स्वस्थ होने की कामना करता हूँ। वह सच्चे नायक हैं। -बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू, इजरायली प्रधानमंत्री



यात्री यानिब हायून कॉकपिट की ओर भागे। हायून ने देखा कि हमलावर पायलट विमान के उपकरणों को जाम करने की कोशिश कर रहा था। उन्होंने पीछे से हमलावर को दबोचा और सीट से हटाया, फिर विमान को संभाल

174 यात्री हमले के वक़्त विमान में सवार थे

हमलावर पायलट कट्टरपंथी विचारधारा का समर्थक

तेल अवीव, एजेंसी। इजरायल के प्रधानमंत्री नेतन्याहू ने दावा किया कैप्टन मच्छर पर हमला करने वाले सह-पायलट को कट्टरपंथी इस्लामी विचारधारा का प्रशिक्षण दिया गया था। उन्होंने खुलासा किया कि शुरुआती जांच से ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि सह-पायलट आत्मघाती मानसिकता का था।

भारतीय पायलट की हालत बहुत खराब थी, लेकिन उन्होंने सूझबूझ दिखाई और कॉकपिट का दरवाजा खोलकर मदद के लिए चिल्लाए, वह नायक हैं। -डोनाल्ड ट्रंप, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति



लिया। दो अन्य लोगों ने हमलावर को काबू करने में मदद की। फिर विमान को सड़की अरब के तबूक में सुरक्षित उतार लिया गया। इसके बाद मच्छर को अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया।

अदम्य साहस P08



सह-पायलट के हमले में घायल कैप्टन स्मित मच्छर। सड़की अरब के तबूक शहर में विमान की आपात लैंडिंग के बाद उन्हें अस्पताल ले जाया गया। • दीर्घायु है

विमान संभालने में 40 सेकंड की देरी होती तो तय थी तबाही

दुबई, एजेंसी। फ्लाईडुबई के बोइंग 737 मैक्स विमान को संभालने में अगर 40 सेकंड की और देरी होती तो वह दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो जाता। इजरायली वायुसेना के अनुभवी लड़ाकू पायलट ने गुरुवार को यह दावा किया। उन्होंने विमान के अचानक आसमान से नीचे आने को भयावह घटना करार दिया।

इजरायली वायुसेना में 28 साल तक सेवा दे चुके अलीन पेरंग ने मीडिया से बातचीत में कहा कि अगर विमान ने 40 सेकंड में अपनी आधी ऊंचाई छो दी, तो अगले 40 सेकंड में क्रेश हो जाता।

60 सेकंड में 17 हजार फीट नीचे आया : विमान उस समय खतरनाक स्थिति में पहुंच गया, जब वह 34 हजार फीट की ऊंचाई से 60 सेकंड में 17 हजार फीट नीचे आ गया। इस दौरान विमान की रफ्तार भी तेजी से बढ़ी और वह सुपरसोनिक गति के करीब पहुंच गया था। इसके बावजूद विमान का आगे का हिस्सा क्षतिग्रस्त नहीं हुआ।

टूट सकता था विमान : सुपरसोनिक की रफ्तार (1,235 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा) से नीचे आने पर

दिल्ली समेत आठ हवाईअड्डों पर फुल बॉडी स्कैनर लगेंगे

नई दिल्ली, वि.सं.। विमानन सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए दिल्ली समेत देश के आठ प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों पर फुल बॉडी स्कैनर लगाए जा रहे हैं। नागर विमानन सुरक्षा ब्यूरो बेंगलुरु, कोच्चि हवाईअड्डों पर इसका परीक्षण कर रहा है। नतीजों के आधार पर इस प्रणाली को लगाने का फैसला लिया जाएगा। P08

विमान के ऊपर बहुत ज्यादा दबाव पड़ता है। ऐसी स्थिति में विमान का ढांचा टूट सकता था। हालांकि, इस घटना में विमान के पीछे लगा रडर टूटकर अलग हो गया था। रडर विमान की दिशा को नियंत्रित करने में मदद करता है, लेकिन पायलट की सूझबूझ से बड़ा हादसा टल गया।

अमेरिकी पायलट बज पैटरसन ने कहा कि यह विमान अपनी तय अधिकतम गति से करीब 185 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा तेज उड़ रहा था, यह किसी चमत्कार से कम नहीं है।

विमान झुका, बत्ती बुझीं और कॉकपिट से आने लगीं चीखें

दुबई/तेलअवीव, एजेंसी। फ्लाईदुबई एयरलाइन के बोइंग 737 मैक्स 8 विमान ने स्थानीय समयानुसार बुधवार सुबह 8:35 बजे दुबई इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से उड़ान भरी। कॉकपिट के अंदर कैप्टन स्मित और एक को-पायलट मौजूद थे। कुछ समय बाद प्लेन 35,000 फीट की ऊंचाई पर था। टेक ऑफ के करीब ढाई घंटे बाद तक सब कुछ सामान्य था, लेकिन

प्लेन जैसे ही सऊदी अरब के आसमान पर पहुंचा, अचानक सब कुछ बदल गया। विमान ने तेजी से गोता लगाया। प्लेन की लाइट्स बुझ गईं। यात्रियों में से एक मिरियम शिरा ओहायोन की मां यास्मीन अबुकासिस ने मीडिया को बताया कि मिरियम ने कॉकपिट से चीखने-चिल्लाने की आवाजें सुनीं। जख्मी स्मित ने कॉकपिट के दरवाजे की चिटकनी खोल दी थी।

साहस: कैप्टन मच्छार के साथ चार इजरायली मुसाफिर भी बने 'देवदूत'

नई दिल्ली/तेल अवीव, एजेंसी। दुबई से तेल अवीव जा रही फ्लाईदुबई को फ्लाइट में भारतीय कैप्टन स्मित मच्छार की बहादुरी को देखकर इजरायल के राष्ट्रपति इसहाक हर्जोग ने तारीफ की है। उन्होंने कैप्टन का तहे दिल से आभार जताया है।

कॉकपिट में हमलावर को काबू करने वाले बाकी चार बहादुर यात्रियों की प्रशंसा करते हुए उन्हें नागरिक वीरता के लिए राष्ट्रपति पदक देने की सिफारिश की है। इन यात्रियों की मदद से विमान को हवा में निर्यात किया जा सका और बड़ा हादसा टालकर 174 यात्रियों की जान बचाने वाले देवदूत बनकर सामने आए।

बजह का खुलासा नहीं: हमला करने वाले ओमानी सह-पायलट के मकसद का गुरुवार तक पता नहीं चल सका। सऊदी अरब, इजरायल, यूएई, अमेरिका और ओमान के जांचकर्ता घटना की बजह का पता लगाने में जुटे हैं। आतंकवाद से लेकर मानसिक विकार तक सभी संभावित पहलुओं की जांच की जा रही है। यूएई ने कहा कि विमान में हुए अपराध पर उसका कानून लागू होगा। इजरायली विदेश मंत्रालय के अनुसार, विमान में इजरायल, भारत और यूएई के नागरिक सवार थे, जबकि चार यात्रियों के पास अमेरिकी नागरिकता थी। प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू ने घटना में ईरान की संलिप्तता पर टिप्पणी करते हुए कहा कि अभी कुछ कहना जल्दबाजी होगी। भारत में इजरायल के राजदूत रुवेन अब्जार ने बताया कि आपात संकेत मिलने पर लड़ाकू विमान भेजे गए थे, लेकिन कार्रवाई की जरूरत नहीं पड़ी।

यूएई ने जांच शुरू की: संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) ने फ्लाईदुबई की उड़ान की न्यायिक जांच शुरू कर दी है। गुरुवार को विदेश मंत्रालय ने बताया कि इसकी जांच आतंकी साजिश के तहत भी की जाएगी और एक टीम का भी गठन किया गया है।

प्लंबर ने संभाली सीट



यानिव हायून

पेशे से प्लंबर यानिव हायून सबसे पहले कॉकपिट में पहुंचने वाले में से एक थे। कॉकपिट में सह-पायलट नुकसान पहुंचाने की कोशिश कर रहा था। हायून ने उसे पीछे से दबोचा, उसका गला दबाकर बाहर खींचा और अन्य यात्रियों की मदद से उसे दबोच लिया। हायून ने बताया कि वे टीवी शो 'एयर क्रेश इन्वेस्टिगेशन' देखते हैं। इसलिए तुरंत कॉकपिट में विमान को संभाला।

कंपनी मालिक ने मदद की



असफ रेगुआन

थाईलैंड में छुट्टियां मनाकर लौट रहे इशयोरस एजेंसी के मालिक और टैनिस् प्रेमी असफ रेगुआन ने घटना के खौफनाक पलों को बचा लिया। असफ ने बताया कि वॉशरूम के पास से चीखें सुनाई दीं। विमान का संतुलन बिगड़ चुका था और वह 90 डिग्री के कोण पर नीचे गिर रहा था। कॉकपिट में हर तरफ खून बिखरा था। असफ तुरंत कॉकपिट की ओर भागे और साथी के साथ हमलावर को दबोचा।

सीईओ ने हमलावर को बांधा



जिजका मान्स

जिजका 'बैक लेउमी' की अंडरराइटिंग कंपनी के सीईओ हैं। चीख-पुकार सुनकर कॉकपिट पहुंचे मान्स ने बताया कि विमान हॉटर फिल्मों की तरह तेजी से नीचे की ओर गोता लगा रहा था। मान्स और अन्य यात्रियों ने उसे जबरन गिराया। जब हमलावर लगातार छूटने की कोशिश कर रहा था, तब यात्रियों ने हेडफोन के तारों का इस्तेमाल कर उसके हाथ-पैर मजबूती से बांध दिए।

इन लोगों का भी आभार जताया

इजरायली राष्ट्रपति हर्जोग ने इन चार नायकों के अलावा ताली मान्स (जिन्होंने सबसे पहले कॉकपिट से आ रही आवाजें सुनकर सबको अलर्ट किया) और यात्रियों के रूप में सफर कर रहे दो अन्य पायलटों की भी सराहना की, जिन्होंने बाद में कॉकपिट संभालकर सऊदी अरब के तबुक में सुरक्षित लैंडिंग कराई।

विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इस मामले में यूएई की न्यायिक एजेंसियों के पास पूरी कानूनी जिम्मेदारी है, क्योंकि विमान यूएई में पंजीकृत है और यहां के राष्ट्रीय चार्टर के तहत उड़ान भरता है। सऊदी जांच पूरी होने के बाद अग्रेजी जांच के लिए यूएई को सौंप दिया जाएगा। इजरायल की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद की पूर्व निदेशक हेलीट वेरल ने दूर-दूर तक की हमला बताया है।



सह-पायलट ने विमान में सुरक्षा के लिए रखी कुल्हाड़ी से कैप्टन स्मित मच्छार पर कई वार किए।



गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बावजूद कैप्टन मच्छार ने सूझबूझ दिखाते हुए कॉकपिट का दरवाजा खोल दिया।



इजरायली यात्री यानिव कू मैबर्स संग भीतर घुसे। यानिव ने हमलावर को दबोचकर यात्रियों की मदद से बांध दिया।

उड़ान भरी	इमरजेंसी कोड भेजा	हाईजैकिंग अलर्ट	को पायलट बंधक बनाया	निगरानी शुरू	आपात लैंडिंग
सुबह 8:35 बजे: दुबई अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से 174 लोगों के साथ उड़ान भरी। फ्लाइट तेल अवीव जा रही थी।	सुबह 11:01 बजे: इजरायल-जॉर्डन सीमा के पास विमान ने 'जमरल इमरजेंसी' (Squawk 7700) कोड भेजा।	सुबह 11:08 बजे: विमान से हाईजैकिंग अलर्ट (Squawk 7500) का सिग्नल जारी हुआ।	सुबह 11:15 बजे: कॉकपिट से चीखने की आवाजें आईं, यात्रियों और कू ने अंदर घुसकर सह-पायलट को बंधक बनाया।	दोपहर 12:15 बजे: इजरायली फाइटर जेट्स ने सुरक्षा घेरे में विमान की निगरानी शुरू की।	दोपहर 12:28 बजे: सऊदी अरब के तबुक एयरपोर्ट पर आपात कालीन लैंडिंग। घायल पायलट अस्पताल में भर्ती।



फ्लाईदुबई के विमान में सवार इजरायली यात्री यानिव हायून बुधवार को जब तेल अवीव पहुंचे तो उनकी टीशर्ट पर खून के धब्बे नजर आए। • एपी

174 यात्री विमान में सवार थे, जब सह पायलट ने कैप्टन पर हमला किया, इनमें अधिकतर इजरायली नागरिक थे	35000 फीट की ऊंचाई पर था विमान घटना के समय, 17000 फीट नीचे महज 17 सेकंड में आया	05 देश सऊदी अरब, इजरायल, यूएई, अमेरिका और ओमान के अधिकारी जांच में शामिल	03 बड़ी एयरलाइंस इजरायल की दुबई के लिए उड़ानें फिर शुरू करने की योजना बना रही हैं, एक एयर ने हर हफ्ते 10 उड़ानों का लक्ष्य रखा
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हीरो को सलाम

राष्ट्र को कैप्टन स्मित मच्छार पर गर्व है। उनके साहस और सूझबूझ ने हम सभी को प्रभावित किया है। उनके हीसले को सलाम और जल्दी ठीक होने की कामना।

—दौपदी मुर्मू, राष्ट्रपति

राष्ट्र कैप्टन स्मित मच्छार के साथ खड़ा है और उनके असाधारण साहस पर बेहद गर्व महसूस कर रहा है।

—राजनाथ सिंह, रक्षा मंत्री

भारतीय कैप्टन और अन्य ने हमले के दौरान अदम्य साहस व सूझबूझ दिखाते वाले सभी लोगों को सलाम करता हूँ, जिन्होंने कई जिंदगियां बचाने में मदद की।

—मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे, कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष

मच्छार की असाधारण हिम्मत से विमान में सवार सभी लोगों की जान बचाने में मदद मिली। खुद से पहले सेवा की भावना को बनाए रखने के लिए कैप्टन को सलाम।

—राममोहन नाथू, नागरिक उड़ान मंत्री

कैप्टन मच्छार के असाधारण साहस ने बड़ी त्रासदी को टाल दिया। उनके जल्द स्वस्थ होने की प्रार्थना में अनगिनत आवाजों के साथ जुड़िए।

—एस जयशंकर, विदेश मंत्री

हमला किए जाने और गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बावजूद मच्छार ने कर्तव्य को सर्वोपरि रखा। भारत को उनकी बहादुरी पर गर्व है और देश उन्हें हमेशा याद रखेगा।

—नितिन नवीन, भाजपा, अध्यक्ष

उड़ान के दौरान संकट में गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बावजूद कैप्टन मच्छार दृढ़ रहे और विमान में सवार लोगों की जान बचाने में मदद करने में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

—योगी आदित्यनाथ, मुख्यमंत्री, यूपी



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

पायलट की बहादुरी

एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय सवारी विमान में खून-खराबे की जितनी मजमूत की जाए, कम है। दुबई से तेल अवॉव (इजरायल) जा रहे विमान में सह-पायलट ने ही मुख्य पायलट पर धारदार हथियार से हमला कर दिया। पीठ में छुरा घोंपने जैसे इस हमले में बुरी तरह घायल मुख्य पायलट स्मित मच्छार ने बहुत बहादुरी का परिचय देते हुए किसी तरह कॉकपिट का दरवाजा खोल दिया। इससे लाभ यह हुआ कि विमान में सवार इजरायली यात्री बचाव के लिए पूरे साहस से भिड़ गए। हमलावर सह-पायलट को काबू में कर लिया। उसी विमान में यात्रा कर रहे दो पायलट ने मुख्य पायलट की मदद से विमान को सऊदी अरब में सुरक्षित उतार लिया। आशंका है, अगर हमलावर सह-पायलट विमान को अपने कब्जे में लेने में कामयाब हो जाता, तो दुनिया 9/11 जैसे एक और महाविनाश पर मातम मना रही होती। यह विमानन की दुनिया में एक बहुत ही त्रासद घटना है, जब एक सह-पायलट ने 174 यात्रियों से भरे विमान को खतरे में डाल दिया। अब डर और शक ने अनेक सवाल खड़े कर दिए हैं। पहले कॉकपिट पर बाहर से खतरा माना जाता था, लेकिन क्या अब खतरा कॉकपिट में घुसकर बैठने लगा है?

विमान हादसा टल गया, लेकिन इसे भूलना या भुलाना नामुमकिन है। कॉकपिट में हुए हमले की वजह से विमान लगभग 16,000 फीट की ऊंचाई से गिर गया था और मात्र 29 सेकंड में 14,125 फीट तक

**भारतीय पायलट
अगर हमलावर सह-
पायलट से हार मान
जाता, तो मुमकिन है
कि दुनिया 9/11
जैसे एक और
महाविनाश पर मातम
मना रही होती।**

पहुंच गया था। मुख्य पायलट ने चतुराई से काम लिया, जमीन पर खतरे का संदेश भेजा और किसी तरह से कॉकपिट का दरवाजा खोलकर नीचे गिर गया। आश्चर्य नहीं, फ्लाईदुबई विमानन कंपनी के भारतीय पायलट की पूरी दुनिया में तारीफ हो रही है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से लेकर इजरायली प्रधानमंत्री नेतन्याहू तक ने पायलट को असली नायक बताया है। पायलट के साहस से जहां विमानन क्षेत्र में उत्साह है, वहीं सह-पायलट की धोखाधड़ी से सभी चिंतित हैं। यह सह-पायलट ओमान मूल का बताया जा रहा है

और यह सात महीने पहले ही फ्लाईदुबई में शामिल हुआ था। एक बार सोचकर देखना चाहिए कि अगर कॉकपिट का दरवाजा भारतीय पायलट ने न खोला होता, तो पूरी दुनिया में दहशतगर्दी की दूसरी ही दास्तान चल रही होती। अब न केवल हादसा टला है, विमानन सेवाओं पर भरोसा भी बढ़ा है। यह एक सबक भी है कि खतरे वाले नफरती इलाकों में अतिरिक्त पायलटों का यात्री के रूप में सवार रहना जरूरी है। दूसरी बात, अब पायलट नियुक्त करने वाले अधिकारियों को चयन करते समय बहुत ज्यादा चौकस रहना पड़ेगा। विमानन में विश्वास से रत्ती भर भी समझौता नहीं किया जा सकता।

इस पूरे मामले में दूध का दूध और पानी का पानी होना चाहिए। अगर यह आतंकी घटना है, तो विशेष रूप से इजरायल जा रहे विमानों को अपनी सुरक्षा का पूरा इंतजाम दुरुस्त करना होगा। पश्चिम एशिया में नफरत को जो आंधियां चलती रहती हैं और उनसे दुनिया में अविश्वास का अंधेरा छाता है। यह विमानन हमला इशारा है कि यहां सरकारों को अलग नीतियों के साथ काम करना होगा। दोराय नहीं, युद्ध से भी ज्यादा नुकसान छद्म युद्धों ने पहुंचाया है। इस घटना के पीछे जो भी अपराधी हैं, उन्हें इंसान कहलाने का हक नहीं है। इंसानियत के बाद ही कोई मजहब है और इंसानियत के बिना मजहब का कोई मतलब नहीं रह जाता है। इस घटना ने भी यही समझाया है कि ऐसे हादसों-हमलों को इंसानी जज्बात और जोश से ही टाला जा सकता है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

यह मजहब नहीं, कर्तव्य की परीक्षा

दुबई से तेल अवीव जा रही फ्लाईडुबई की उड़ान में जो कुछ हुआ, उसने विमानन सुरक्षा के साथ-साथ इंसानी जिम्मेदारी का भी एक बड़ा सवाल सामने रख दिया है। करीब 174 यात्रियों को लेकर उड़ रहे विमान के कॉकपिट में हिंसक घटना हुई और कुछ ही समय में विमान हजारों फीट नीचे आ गया। बताया गया है कि ओमान के सह-पायलट ने भारतीय कैप्टन स्मित मच्छार पर चाकू से हमला किया, लेकिन गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बावजूद कैप्टन ने कॉकपिट का दरवाजा खोलने में सफलता हासिल की, जिससे यात्रियों को हस्तक्षेप का अवसर मिला और हमलावर दबोचा जा सका। विमान में मौजूद अन्य प्रशिक्षित पायलटों ने तुरंत मोर्चा संभाला और विमान को सुरक्षित उतार लिया।

यहीं इस घटना की सबसे बड़ी सीख सामने आती है। किसी विमान का कॉकपिट धर्म, जाति या राष्ट्रीयता से नहीं,

पेशेवर जिम्मेदारी और प्रशिक्षण से सुरक्षित रहता है। संकट की उस घड़ी में कैप्टन मच्छार ने अपनी नहीं, यात्रियों की जिंदगी को प्राथमिकता दी। उनकी बहादुरी की सार्वजनिक रूप से सराहना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने भी की और कहा कि गंभीर रूप से घायल होने के बावजूद उन्होंने दूसरों की जान बचाने के लिए अदम्य साहस दिखाया। दुनिया के अन्य नेता भी मच्छार की बहादुरी की प्रशंसा कर रहे हैं। हालांकि, इस घटना का दूसरा पहलू कहीं अधिक गंभीर है। विमान में अधिकांश यात्री इजरायली नागरिक थे और घटना के बाद इजरायल में सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने इसे आतंकवादी हमले के नजरिये से जांचना शुरू कर दिया है। इसके निष्कर्ष तो बाद में आएंगे, लेकिन इस घटना ने विमानन सुरक्षा के सामने एक और सवाल खड़ा है कि क्या पायलटों की नियुक्ति में केवल तकनीकी योग्यता पर्याप्त है या सुरक्षा

जांच, पृष्ठभूमि सत्यापन और लगातार निगरानी को भी और मजबूत करने की जरूरत है? संकट की घड़ी में भारतीय कैप्टन, इजरायली यात्रियों और विमान में मौजूद अन्य लोगों ने मिलकर जो किया, वह इंसानी एकजुटता का उदाहरण है। हिंदू हो या मुस्लिम, भारतीय हो या इजरायली, जब हाथ में सैकड़ों जिंदगियों की जिम्मेदारी हो, तो असली पहचान केवल कर्तव्यनिष्ठ ईमान की होती है। स्मित मच्छार की कहानी इसी बात को रेखांकित करती है कि पेशा जब कर्तव्य बन जाता है, तब जाति और धर्म पीछे छूट जाते हैं और इंसानियत सबसे आगे खड़ी दिखाई देती है। इसलिए इस घटना में धर्म का नजरिया ढूँढ़ने वाले अपनी हरकतों से बाज आएँ। यह मजहब की नहीं, कॉकपिट में कर्तव्य की परीक्षा थी, जिसमें भारतीय कैप्टन सफल रहे।

सुभाष बुड़ावन वाला, टिप्पणीकार



अनुलोम-विलोम विमान सुरक्षा



कॉकपिट की सुरक्षा में सेंध कैसे लगी

विमान यात्रा दुनिया की सबसे सुरक्षित यात्रा मानी जाती है। इसमें यात्रियों का भरोसा इस विश्वास पर टिका होता है कि प्रशिक्षित पायलट, अत्याधुनिक तकनीक और कई स्तरों की सुरक्षा-व्यवस्था विमान-यात्रा के दौरान उनकी रक्षा कर रही है, लेकिन 30 सितंबर की घटना विमानन सुरक्षा के सामने एक ऐसा सवाल खड़ा कर रही है, जिसका जवाब केवल तकनीकी उपायों से नहीं दिया जा सकता।

कैप्टन मच्छार की बहादुरी पर किसी को संदेह नहीं हो सकता, लेकिन विमानन सुरक्षा का उद्देश्य यह नहीं होना चाहिए कि हर संकट में कोई पायलट अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर सैकड़ों यात्रियों को बचाए। असली उद्देश्य ऐसी परिस्थितियों को पैदा होने से रोकना होना चाहिए। इस घटना ने विमानन सुरक्षा के सामने एक असहज प्रश्न खड़ा है- अगर आतंकी या वाहरी व्यक्ति नहीं, बल्कि कॉकपिट में

मौजूद प्रशिक्षित पायलट ही विमान के लिए खतरा बन जाएं, तो हमारी सुरक्षा-व्यवस्था कितनी तैयार है? 9/11 के बाद दुनिया भर में विमान के कॉकपिट की सुरक्षा को लेकर अभूतपूर्व बदलाव किए गए थे। मजबूत दरवाजे, नियंत्रित प्रवेश, पहचान प्रणाली और कई सुरक्षा प्रोटोकॉल लागू हुए, लेकिन इन व्यवस्थाओं का मूल उद्देश्य बाहर से आने वाले खतरों को रोकना था। 30 सितंबर की घटना ने सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञों को यह सोचने पर मजबूर किया है कि अंदर मौजूद व्यक्ति से सुरक्षा का मॉडल कितना मजबूत है? इस घटना के बाद यह कहना आसान होगा कि अगर भारतीय पायलट नहीं होता, तो परिणाम भयावह होता, लेकिन विमानन सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से इससे भी बड़ा सबक यह है कि किसी पायलट की राष्ट्रीयता को सुरक्षा का आधार नहीं बनाया जा सकता।

पायलट भारतीय हो, ओमानी हो,

अमीराती हो या किसी अन्य देश का- हर पायलट के लिए कठोर और समान सुरक्षा मानक आवश्यक हैं। राष्ट्रीयता अपने आप में तो सुरक्षा की गारंटी है और न खतरों का संकेत, इसलिए विमानन कंपनियों के सामने चुनौती किसी एक देश के पायलटों को प्राथमिकता देना नहीं, बल्कि भर्ती और प्रशिक्षण की ऐसी अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था बनाना है, जिसमें हर पायलट की पेशेवर योग्यता के साथ सुरक्षा पृष्ठभूमि व व्यवहार संबंधी खतरों की भी निरंतर समीक्षा हो। अभी इस घटना का कारण पूरी तरह स्पष्ट नहीं है, क्योंकि जांच चल ही रही है, लेकिन विमानन सुरक्षा के लिए सबक स्पष्ट है। कैप्टन स्मित मच्छार का साहस भारत के लिए गर्व का विषय है, पर इस घटना को केवल भारतीय पायलट की बहादुरी की कहानी बनाकर छोड़ देना पर्याप्त नहीं होगा।

युगल किशोर राही, टिप्पणीकार

Panel backs law for DGCA facelift with safety in focus

Neha LM Tripathi

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NEW DELHI: India's aviation regulator should be converted into an independent authority, created by a new law and with its own money and its own hiring, according to a proposal submitted to the government. The regulator has nearly half its posts vacant, a parliamentary panel has faulted it for "systemic" safety failures, and critics have accused it of bending its own rules last year during the IndiGo operational meltdown.

The report, submitted to the ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) and seen by HT, recommends replacing the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) with a statutory Civil Aviation Authority of India (CAAI).

The new body would have a governing board, a dedicated aviation safety fund and control over recruitment, pay and spending. Part of the cost would fall on passengers, through a levy on every departure that a study cited in the report puts at ₹15, the proposal states.

The report is by a special committee headed by former economic advisor Lalit Kumar

What the panel proposes

A new regulator

- DGCA be converted into a statutory Civil Aviation Authority of India, created by an act of Parliament
- Board headed by DG (civil aviation): Whole-time members from the DGCA, part-time from the industry

Passenger grievances

An independent ombudsman for cancellations, delays and lost luggage

Funding

- An Aviation Safety Fund, also fed by fees and penalties, to pay for staff and oversight
- Audited every year by the CAG

A charge on flyers

A levy on every departing passenger; the report backs ₹15, from a ministry study, with the board setting the final rate

NEXT STEPS

Recommendations only; a law must be drafted and passed first

Stopgap measures for the DGCA until then

Chandel and with all joint directors general as the other members. It was constituted in August 2025; it submitted its report in November.

The committee wants it set up "as a statutory body with adequate administrative and financial autonomy through legislation". "Accordingly, a bill

for introduction in the Parliament to be prepared in consultation with the ministry of law & justice," the report said.

A person aware of the matter said the report is now with the ministry and some discussions have been held over it.

"The restructuring of the DGCA into an autonomous

authority will strengthen regulatory capacity, close safety gaps, and secure India's position as a global aviation leader. Immediate short-term reforms -- recruitment, digital upgrades, stakeholder engagement -- and longer-term legislative measures should be mapped and tracked with a clear implementation timeline. Periodic assessments based on international best practices and statutory review will ensure continued effectiveness and institutional growth," the official told HT, asking not to be named.

A second official said the report followed a direction from the ministry's top bureaucrat. "The report was made after the secretary (of MoCA) ordered to come up with a short / mid- and long-term restructuring plan considering the present and future development of aviation in the country," the official said.

The committee's diagnosis is blunt. As an attached office of MoCA, the report says, DGCA has limited operational independence, and its dependence on budgetary allocations can hold back recruitment of specialised talent and investment in technology.

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DGCA FACELIFT

in technology. The report lists gaps in technical expertise, manpower, enforcement and the timely resolution of safety findings. It singles out the shortage of technical staff as one of the most pressing.

The regulator has had a long history of misses and inadequate regulatory action. In March, the parliamentary standing committee on transport, tourism and culture said recent incidents, among them the June 2025 crash of Air India flight AI 171 that killed 260 people, pointed to "systemic rather than episodic failures" in India's aviation safety architecture. It found 787 of DGCA's 1,630 sanctioned posts vacant. A DGCA audit from January 2025 to February 2026 had found recurring technical defects in 377 of 754 aircraft, half of those it checked.

When IndiGo cancelled more than 2,500 flights in three days last December, the regulator gave the airline sweeping exemptions from crew-fatigue norms. Pilots had won those norms after 13 years of litigation that began with the 2010 Mangalore crash, which killed 158 people.

DGCA later sacked four inspectors who oversaw IndiGo and removed a key officer, and MoCA ordered an internal inquiry "to identify and implement systemic improvements within the DGCA".

The IndiGo episode was followed by lapses at smaller operators, which surfaced only after accidents. DGCA grounded four aircraft of charter operator VSR after the January crash at Bara-mati that killed then Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar. In July, the ministry pulled up the regulator over officials' undisclosed family links with airlines it oversees.

The overhaul recommendation comes ahead of a visit by a five-member team of the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to assess India's safety oversight from November 16 to 20, HT reported in September.

In August 2025, the parliamentary committee sought a time-bound plan to give the DGCA financial and administrative autonomy; the ministry replied that direct recruitment by the DGCA was not under consideration. This August, the Federation of Indian Pilots wrote to Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi seeking a Civil Aviation Authority in the DGCA's place.

A similar suggestion was tabled in 2011. In May that year, a Parliamentary Standing Committee report on DGCA recommended reviewing the authority structure to explore reforms that would render the DGCA more agile, granting it greater administrative and financial autonomy commensurate with its regulatory responsibilities.

Under the latest proposed law, a governing board headed by the director general (civil aviation) would run the authority. Its whole-time members would come from the DGCA cadre and its part-time members from the industry, with an advisory committee of industry experts alongside. The DG and whole-time members would be picked through a specialised search-and-selection process and serve five-year terms.

The authority would pay its way through service fees, certification charges, penalties and the passenger levy, all of which its board could revise. "This financial autonomy would shield it from the constraints of government budget cycles and enable it to invest in necessary infrastructure and staffing," the report said. The government could provide grants until the authority became self-sufficient, and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) would audit its books every year.

The report calls the ₹15 levy, drawn from a ministry study by Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA), a "modest charge" that would fund the authority's operations "but also allowing for the generation of surplus funds".

Passengers would also get an independent ombudsman. "An independent Ombudsman shall be established to act as a vital intermediary, addressing grievances related to flight cancellations, delays, lost luggage, and other service related issues, which would significantly enhance consumer protection," the report states.

Recognising that law-making takes time, the committee does not want the regulator left waiting. "Until an independent body is established through the enactment of appropriate legislation, it is crucial to implement incremental measures that directly address some of the

pressing issues currently confronting DGCA," it noted.

Some of these measures include hiring technical staff to address shortage and strengthening the regional and sub-regional offices.

Among the longer-term fixes, the report backs the parliamentary committee's call for an Indian Civil Aviation Service, a Group 'A' cadre that would give the regulator a steady supply of trained officers.

Queries sent to the DGCA and MoCA did not elicit a response.

'Averted a 9/11-style tragedy': Modi lauds Capt Machchhar

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NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: Smit Machchhar, the Indian captain allegedly stabbed by his co-pilot on a flydubai flight to Tel Aviv, was moved from Saudi Arabia to a hospital in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had averted a "9/11-style tragedy" and leaders in India and Israel praised his courage.

Machchhar, 40, who was seriously wounded in Wednesday's attack, is "in good health and recovering well", India's ambassador to the UAE, Deepak Mittal, said after visiting him and his family in hospital.

"Very reassured to meet Capt Smit. Thank the UAE govern-

Machchhar taken to Abu Dhabi

Capt Smit Machchhar airlifted to Abu Dhabi after initial treatment in Saudi

His condition is stable, according to India's ambassador to UAE who met the Indian national and his family

"He was talking, smiling and laughing, which was a huge relief for us..."

— DEEPAK MITTAL,
India's ambassador to UAE



ment for their support and medical care being extended," Mittal said in a post on X.

Despite his wounds, Machchhar unlocked the cockpit door of flight FZ-1073, allowing passengers and crew to overpower the attacker. A reserve

crew on board then flew the Boeing 737 MAX 8, carrying 174 people, to an emergency landing at Tabuk in north-western Saudi Arabia.

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PM LAUDS MACHCHHAR

Israeli officials said on Thursday that no motive had been established and that their initial assessment was that the co-pilot, an Omani national who has not been named, acted alone.

Addressing a function in New Delhi to mark the centenary of the Union Public Service Commission, Modi said Machchhar had shown "remarkable patience, presence of mind, and courage".

"Indeed, as the Prime Minister of Israel stated today, an Indian prevented a 9/11-style tragedy," Modi said. He was referring to the September 11, 2001, attacks, in which hijacked airliners were flown into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing nearly 3,000 people.

Hours earlier, Modi spoke to Machchhar's wife and parents, officials aware of the matter told HT, asking not to be named. He told them Indian missions were providing all possible help to the passengers and crew.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it "an amazing act of heroism — of his, of the Indian pilot, of the people who helped them. They stopped a disaster that could have been global." Netanyahu also praised an Israeli passenger who helped subdue the attacker.

President Droupadi Murmu said: "The nation is proud of Captain Smit Machchhar. His heroic courage and incredible presence of mind have deeply touched us all." Politicians across parties posted messages of praise and wishes for his recovery.

On Wednesday night, the Indian embassy in Riyadh said Machchhar had been admitted to a hospital in Tabuk and was in stable condition. He underwent surgery there, people aware of the matter said. He was moved to the UAE a day later. The

PAGE 1

Indian mission in the UAE said it remained in close coordination with local authorities on his care.

Two Israeli security officials said Israel's initial assessment was that the co-pilot was likely acting alone, though the investigation was continuing, Reuters reported.

Netanyahu said the attacker was being investigated in Saudi Arabia and that he believed he would be taken to the UAE.

Israel's envoy to the UAE, Yossi Shelley, told Reuters it was too early to draw conclusions. Another Israeli official said Israel was not receiving all the information it sought from the Saudis, and that its intelligence agencies, Mossad and Shin Bet, were also investigating. Saudi Arabia's government media office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Flight-tracking data from Flightradar24 and ADS-B Exchange, analysed by HT, show the jet was cruising at 34,000 feet over Saudi Arabia when it began to descend at 8.21am Saudi time (10.51am IST), about 235km north-east of Tabuk.

Between two readings 37 seconds apart, it fell from 33,225 feet to 18,925 feet, a rate of about 23,000 feet a minute. An airliner descending normally would take about seven minutes to lose that much height. The plane later transmitted the transponder code for a hijacking, and it crossed briefly into Jordan before turning back.

Photographs of the aircraft at Tabuk appear to show the rudder torn from its tail, damage that can occur when control surfaces are moved too hard at high speed. HT could not independently verify the photographs.

In Mumbai, residents of Swastik Heights, the housing society in Tilak Nagar, Chembur, where Machchhar's parents live, gathered in the compound on Thursday afternoon to cheer the pilot

and call for a civilian honour for him.

"We are so proud that Smit saved so many lives," said his uncle, Kishor Machchhar. Vipul Mehta, a family friend, promised a "grand felicitation" when the pilot returns to Mumbai.

His parents, Upendra and Gita, left for Dubai on Thursday morning to join his wife, Sonal, and the couple's two children.

Some American media outlets called him the "Indian Sully", after Chesley Sullenberger, the US Airways captain who glided his crippled jet onto the Hudson River in New York in 2009 after birds knocked out both engines.

Machchhar's family is originally from Rajkot in Gujarat. He grew up in Ghatkopar East, a largely Gujarati middle-class neighbourhood where the family runs a printing press, and studied at the MD Bhatia and Gurukul schools before studying management at the Welingkar Institute. He trained as a pilot in New Zealand.

ISRAELI SECURITY
OFFICIALS SAID
ISRAEL'S INITIAL
ASSESSMENT WAS
THAT THE CO-
PILOT WAS LIKELY
ACTING ALONE,
THOUGH PROBE
WAS CONTINUING

Co-pilot stabbed on flight to Tel Aviv is ex-SpiceJet staffer

Neha LM Tripathi and
agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/JERUSALEM: The pilot stabbed during Wednesday's incident on flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv is Smit Machchhar, an Indian national, people aware of the matter said. The Boeing 737 MAX 8 was diverted to Tabuk in north-western Saudi Arabia, where Machchhar and his co-pilot were taken to hospital. His condition was not immediately known.

Machchhar has been a captain on flydubai's Boeing 737 fleet since June 2022, according to his LinkedIn profile. Before that he spent 11 years at SpiceJet in Mumbai, where he was a senior commander and, from November 2020, a line training captain who trained and checked other pilots. The profile lists 9,750 flying hours on the 737-800 and the 737 MAX 8 and 9.

Tabuk Airport said it received a distress call from the flight at 8.44am local time, and the aircraft touched down about an hour later. Flight-tracking data



The flight from Dubai was diverted to Saudi Arabia after transmitting emergency signals.

REUTERS

show that the aircraft fell about 14,300 feet in 37 seconds and later transmitted the transponder code for unlawful interference. Flydubai has described the event only as "an incident while en route", and authorities have not said what happened on board.

Quoting three Israeli officials, Reuters reported that the cabin crew entered the cockpit and took control of flydubai flight

FZ1073 from the United Arab Emirates to Israel, which diverted to Saudi Arabia as it flew over Jordanian airspace. One of the officials identified the attacker as an Omani national.

An Israeli official had earlier told Reuters the plane transmitted emergency signals after the pilots got into a physical altercation with each other.

The aircraft's data appeared to show that it had suddenly and

rapidly descended by nearly 14,000 feet in less than 30 seconds before a first emergency signal was sent, according to flight-tracking website Flightradar24.

Around the time the plane landed in Saudi Arabia, Doron Spielman, a spokesperson for the Israeli prime minister's office, told Reuters the incident was not believed to have been a hijacking, describing it as a "different incident". He did not immediately respond to a further request for comment on whether Israel was treating it as a "terror incident".

The Israeli officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity to brief reporters, said Israel's current assessment is that the incident was an attempted "terror attack" and not related to any kind of mental health issue with either of the pilots.

In a video purportedly of an Israeli passenger on board the flydubai flight and carried widely by Israeli media, the passenger said one of pilots was seriously injured and the other was slightly injured, after one of the pilots was stabbed.

President, PM hail pilot for his role in averting flight crisis

Modi says Smit Machchhar fought valiantly and prevented another 9/11-like attack from happening; Murmu lauds his 'incredible presence of mind'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Phime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday hailed Captain Smit Machchhar, a flydubai pilot, for his role in averting a disaster involving a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight on Wednesday.

An Indian national, Captain Machchhar was stabbed by his co-pilot in an alleged attempt to crash the plane but managed to activate the release to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers to enter and overpower the co-pilot. Two flydubai pilots who were passengers on the aircraft helped the aircraft make a safe landing in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Modi said that Captain Machchhar had shown the world the highest form of courage. Without fearing for his own life, Captain Machchhar fought valiant-



Smit Machchhar

ly and prevented another 9/11-like attack from happening, he said.

Mr. Modi said that 140 crore Indians saluted Captain Machchhar, who is now recovering at a hospital, and were praying for his well-being. He made the remarks while addressing the centenary celebrations of the Union Public Service Commission.

President Droupadi Murmu also lauded Captain Machchhar's bravery.

"The nation is proud of Captain Smit Machchhar. His heroic courage and incredible presence of mind

have deeply touched us all. Even after being seriously injured in a moment of grave peril, he remained determined to protect the lives of others. His bravery and quick response helped prevent a major tragedy and saved many precious lives. I salute his indomitable spirit. I pray for his speedy recovery and good health," she posted on X.

While addressing the UPSC event, Mr. Modi cautioned that future civil servants would have to navigate entirely new battlegrounds such as information warfare, deepfakes, algorithmic bias, and climate justice. He instructed recruitment agencies to adapt to these global shifts by prioritising candidates' foresight and complex problem-solving abilities. "In such a scenario, in the selection process, we will also have to give priority to testing complex problem-solving and foresight," he said.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

• AVIATION

What saved flydubai plane: Smit Machchhar, fliers' actions — and sheer luck

Sukalp Sharma & Anil Sasi
New Delhi, October 1

CAPTAIN SMIT Machchhar, the pilot of flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv, is being hailed globally for heroic actions that saved the aircraft from disaster, after his co-pilot allegedly stabbed him in an alleged bid to crash the aircraft.

Machchhar's most critical actions involved fighting back against the attacking co-pilot and, despite multiple stab wounds, unlocking the sealed cockpit door while raising an alarm. The courage and presence of mind displayed by a few passengers, and a stroke of sheer luck — presence of relief pilots on board — followed Machchhar's heroics in landing the aircraft safely at the Tabuk airport in Saudi Arabia.

The other pilot is an Omani person whose identity has not been revealed.

Captain Machchhar's actions

Perhaps the first and the most consequential action taken by Machchhar was to

fight back. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Indian pilot "fought back, resisted, opened the cockpit door, and enabled passengers and crew to overpower the attacker", and credited him with preventing a "catastrophic mid-air disaster". "He saved the lives of 174 people, including Israeli citizens and other nationals..." Netanyahu posted on X.

Then, while lying injured and bleeding on the cockpit floor, Machchhar managed to click open the release on the locked door of the cockpit. These doors are heavily reinforced and locked from the inside to prevent unauthorised entry into the cockpit, something that became a norm after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the US. Without this action, no one on board the aircraft could have come to its rescue.

The underlying assumption of reinforcing the cockpit door and keeping it locked during flight is that the flight deck is occupied by trained pilots, and they need to be kept out of harm's way in order to maintain control over the aircraft even if there is an



Passengers disembark from the flydubai plane at the Tel Aviv Airport. AP

attacker or a hijacker in the cabin. In this case though, the threat was not outside the cockpit, but inside it.

The aircraft also transmitted the international emergency transponder code

7700 and later the code 7500, which communicates unlawful interference or hijacking. These signals were important because communication with the cockpit was reportedly disrupted during the incident,

and these signals indicated to air traffic controllers and authorities about a problem on board. It is likely that Machchhar transmitted the codes while being attacked.

Heroic passengers and crew

A few passengers then did something out of the ordinary, even as the aircraft plummeted around 14,000 feet in a matter of seconds. Possibly being alerted by the commotion, they moved towards the flight deck to try and intervene. As Machchhar opened the door, they stormed the cockpit and helped overpower the attacking co-pilot.

The co-pilot was restrained by some passengers and crew, who tied his hands with whatever they could access, including head-phone cables. Meanwhile, one of the passengers, a dentist, tended to a badly injured Machchhar. One passenger, Yaniv Hayoun, a plumber, claimed he briefly took hold of the aircraft's controls while its nose was pointed down. Hayoun had never flown a plane before but had watched a popular TV series on air crash investigations. He

claimed to have done two things — yank the copilot out of the cockpit and pull up the yoke (the steering wheel-like device) at a time when the plane was nosediving. By some accounts, he levelled the plane until a set of relief pilots on board intervened.

Presence of trained pilots

It was a stroke of sheer luck that two flydubai pilots were on board the aircraft as off-duty or relief flight crew — pilots who travel as passengers because they are scheduled to operate a subsequent flight. "The aircraft was successfully secured by on-duty Flydubai crew travelling on the flight, who diverted and landed the aircraft safely at Tabuk Airport (TUU). All passengers and crew are safe and accounted for," the airline said in a statement on Wednesday.

Once the cockpit crisis was brought under control, this other set of pilots took over the aircraft, landing it in Saudi Arabia's diverting Tabuk. Had another set of pilots not been on board the aircraft, the result would likely have been catastrophic.

व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर और विमान ईंधन हुआ महंगा

गैस की कीमतें 62.59 रुपए बढ़ी, एटीएफ के दामों में 16 रुपए इजाफा

जनसत्ता व्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 1 अक्टूबर।

त्योहारों की शुरुआत से पहले अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कीमतों में हुई बढ़ोतरी के मुताबिक व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर (19 किलोग्राम) और विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमतों में गुरुवार से बढ़ोतरी कर दी गई है। व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत में 62.59 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर (19 किलोग्राम) जबकि विमान ईंधन की कीमत में प्रति लीटर 16 रुपए का इजाफा किया गया है। व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत में वृद्धि का सर्वाधिक असर छोटे रेस्तरां और मिठाई विक्रेताओं पर पड़ेगा, जिससे ग्राहकों की जेब पर प्रभावित हो सकती है।

सरकारी तेल कंपनियों के अनुसार, व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर (19 किलोग्राम) की कीमत में 62.59 रुपए की वृद्धि की गई है। सितंबर में व्यावसायिक एलपीजी की कीमत में 19 किलोग्राम वाले सिलेंडर पर 9.50 रुपए की बढ़ोतरी हुई थी। इससे पहले जुलाई और अगस्त में लगातार दो महीनों के दौरान व्यावसायिक सिलेंडर की कीमतों में 183.50 और 192 रुपए कम की गई थी। ये कटीथी जून में कीमतों के रिकार्ड स्तर पर पहुंचने के बाद की गई थी। उस चक्रांत वैश्विक ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में बाधा और अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में ऊर्जा कीमतों के कारण व्यावसायिक एलपीजी महंगा हो गई थी। फरवरी से जून के बीच 19



किलोग्राम वाले व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत 1,373 रुपए बढ़कर 1,740.50 रुपए से 3,113.50 रुपए हो गई थी। इसके बाद जुलाई और अगस्त में इसमें कमी की गई।

सरकारी तेल कंपनियों के मुताबिक, घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों के लिए एटीएफ की कीमत में 16 रुपए के इजाफे के बाद 137 रुपए प्रति लीटर हो गई है। इससे पहले सितंबर में एटीएफ की कीमत में 6.28 रुपए प्रति लीटर यानी 5.46 फीसद की बढ़ोतरी की गई थी। अगस्त में भी इसमें पांच रुपए प्रति लीटर की बढ़ोतरी हुई थी। विमानन कंपनियों की कुल परिचालन लागत में विमान ईंधन की हिसाबदारी करीब 40 फीसद तक होती है। ऐसे में ईंधन की कीमतें विमानन कंपनियों की परिचालन लागत को प्रभावित करने वाला एक प्रमुख कारक हैं। विमान ईंधन की कीमत में हुई इस बढ़ोतरी के बाद हवाई यात्रियों को भी किराए में बढ़ोतरी की चिंता सताने लगी है।

छोटे रेस्तरां, दुकानदारों पर ज्यादा असर पड़ेगा

नई दिल्ली, 1 अक्टूबर (व्यूरो)।

त्योहारों से पहले व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत में 62.59 रुपए प्रति सिलेंडर की हुई बढ़ोतरी पर रेस्तरां मालिकों का कहना है कि एलपीजी की कीमत में बढ़ोतरी का असर फ्रिजहाल छोटे रेस्तरां और मिठाई विक्रेताओं पर पड़ सकता है। मिठाइयों के अग्रणी विक्रेता भरत अग्रवाल ने बताया कि छह महीनों के दौरान न केवल एलपीजी बल्कि मिठाइयां बनाने में इस्तेमाल होने वाली चीनी सहित कच्चे माल की कीमत में बढ़ोतरी से परेशानियां लगातार बढ़ रही हैं। बढ़ोतरी का सिलसिला जारी रहा तो कीमत बढ़ाने की मजबूरी होगी। रेस्तरां संचालक विजय शर्मा, नेशनल रेस्तरां एसोसिएशन आफ इंडिया के कोषाध्यक्ष और रेस्तरां मालिक मनप्रीत सिंह और रेस्तरां मालिक सुनील मल्होत्रा ने कहा कि एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत में हुई बढ़ोतरी से रेस्तरां और होटल मालिकों पर वित्तीय बोझ और बढ़ जाएगा।

विमान ईंधन की कीमत 137 रुपए लीटर हुई, वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी भी महंगी

- वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर के दाम में 62.59 रुपए की बढ़ोतरी

नई दिल्ली, लोकसत्या। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी के अनुरूप सरकारी तेल कंपनियों ने बृहस्पतिवार से विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की कीमत में 16 रुपये प्रति लीटर और 19 किलोग्राम वाले वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर के दाम में 62.59 रुपए की वृद्धि की है। सरकारी तेल कंपनियों ने यह जानकारी दी। तेल कंपनियों के अनुसार, घरेलू विमानन कंपनियों के लिए एटीएफ की कीमत 121 रुपये से बढ़कर 137 रुपये प्रति लीटर हो गई है। इससे पहले सितंबर में एटीएफ की कीमत 6.28 रुपये प्रति लीटर यानी

पहले भी बढ़ी हैं कीमतें

विमान ईंधन की कीमत में बढ़ोतरी के साथ ही वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी की कीमत 19 किलोग्राम वाले सिलेंडर पर 62.59 रुपये बढ़ाई गई है। सितंबर में वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी की कीमत में 19 किलोग्राम वाले सिलेंडर पर 9.50 रुपये की बढ़ोतरी हुई थी। जुलाई और अगस्त में लगातार दो महीनों में इसकी कीमत क्रमशः 183.50 रुपये और 192 रुपये घटाई गई थी।



5.46 प्रतिशत बढ़ाई गई थी। अगस्त में भी इसमें पांच रुपये प्रति लीटर की बढ़ोतरी हुई थी। विमानन कंपनियों की कुल परिचालन लागत में एटीएफ की हिस्सेदारी 40 प्रतिशत तक होती है। ऐसे में ईंधन की कीमतें विमानन कंपनियों की लागत को प्रभावित करने वाला एक प्रमुख कारक हैं। फरवरी से जून के बीच 19 किलोग्राम वाले वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी

सिलेंडर की कीमत 1,373 रुपये बढ़कर 1,740.50 रुपये से 3,113.50 रुपये हो गई थी। इसके बाद जुलाई और अगस्त में इसमें कमी की गई। ताजा बदलाव अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में मानक कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव और रुपये-डॉलर विनिमय दर के आधार पर किए गए हैं। घरेलू एलपीजी की कीमत में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है।



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026



Tewolde Gebremariam is the second foreign CEO and MD to head the loss-making airline.

Gebremariam takes charge at Air India

Tewolde Gebremariam formally assumed charge as chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD) of Air India on Thursday.

Gebremariam, whose appointment was announced on 5 August, received security clearance this week.

An Ethiopian, Gebremariam is taking over at a time when the airline is working on its ambitious expansion plans amid multiple external headwinds. He is the second foreign CEO and MD to head loss-making Air India.

During a town hall with the staff on Monday, Gebremariam said cost discipline must become part of Air India's culture and identified sustainable profitability, safety and operational reliability as key priorities for the airline. He also plans to introduce programmes that reward employees for ideas that deliver measurable cost savings and improve operational efficiency. **PTI**



Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

ATF, commercial LPG prices raised

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were raised by a steep ₹16 per litre to ₹137 from Thursday, while the price of commercial LPG was increased by ₹62.50 per 19-kg cylinder in step with firming international benchmarks, according to state-owned oil companies.

The revision comes after ATF prices were raised by ₹6.28 per litre in September, following a ₹5 per litre increase in August. ATF accounts for up to 40% of operating costs for airlines.

Commercial LPG prices were raised by ₹9.50 per 19-kg cylinder in September, following two consecutive monthly reductions of ₹192 in August and ₹183.50 in July. The cuts came after commercial LPG prices had surged to a record high in June amid disruptions to global energy supplies and elevated international prices.

The latest changes are based on movements in international benchmark prices and the rupee-dollar exchange rate.

PTI



Corporate Communications Directorate

MILLENNIUM POST

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

ATF prices hiked by ₹16, commercial LPG by ₹62.59

NEW DELHI: Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices rose by Rs 16 per litre from Thursday, while commercial LPG became costlier by Rs 62.59 per 19-kg cylinder as state-owned oil companies adjusted rates in line with international benchmarks.

ATF for domestic airlines now costs Rs 137 per litre, up from Rs 121. The increase follows a Rs 6.28 per litre, or 5.46 per cent, rise in September and a Rs 5 increase in August.

CONTINUED ON P4

ATF prices

Jet fuel can account for up to 40 per cent of an airline's operating expenses, making the latest move significant for carriers.

Commercial LPG rates were also raised after a Rs 9.50 increase last month. Prices had fallen by Rs 192 in August and Rs 183.50 in July after reaching Rs 3,113.50 per cylinder in June. Between February and June, rates had risen by Rs 1,373.

The monthly revisions reflect international prices and rupee-dollar movements, with state taxes causing variations. Household LPG prices remained unchanged at Rs 942 per

14.2-kg cylinder. Petrol and diesel prices also remained unchanged after their Rs 7.50 per litre increase in May.

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MILLENNIUM POST

KOLKATA

1 OCTOBER 2026

India's domestic air passenger traffic fell 7.5% in August: IATA

India recorded largest traffic decline among major domestic markets

MPOST BUREAU

New Delhi, September 30

India's domestic air passenger volume dropped 7.5 per cent in August on an annual basis, recording the largest traffic decline among the major domestic markets, according to global airlines' grouping IATA.

In its air passenger market analysis report for August, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on Wednesday said industry-wide RPK slipped back into contraction, falling 0.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) after registering a marginal growth of 0.3 per cent in July.

Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPK) is an indicator of passenger volumes.

"Higher demand in China, Brazil and Australia contrasted with declines in Japan, the US and India. Despite growth across several major markets, overall domestic traffic remained slightly below its level a year earlier," IATA said.

IATA's Senior Vice President Sustainability and Chief Economist Marie Owens Thomsen said the coming months will reveal



whether travellers, whose purchasing power has been reduced by higher energy prices, are adjusting their travel budgets, and might be discouraged from travelling due to the prevailing geopolitical instability.

"India recorded the largest traffic decline among the major domestic markets. Domestic RPK fell by 7.5 per cent YoY, following a 5.2 per cent decrease in July. Capacity contracted by 1.2 per cent, substantially less than the fall in demand, resulting in a 5.4 percentage point reduction in the PLF to 78.7 per cent," IATA said.

The grouping, which represents over 370 airlines globally including Indian carriers, said India's was the lowest PLF and the largest drop in the load factor among the six markets.

PLF refers to the Passenger Load Factor. Asia Pacific airlines recorded a

0.1 per cent year-on-year decrease in demand in August.

"Capacity decreased 0.9 per cent year-on-year and the load factor was 85.6 per cent (+0.7 ppt compared to August 2025). Traffic on routes within Asia fell 2.0 per cent and capacity declined for the fourth month in a row. By contrast, traffic on the Asia-North America corridor grew by 2.5 per cent," IATA said.

Thomsen said the recovery trajectory for carriers in the Middle East was interrupted and the region's carriers reported that in August demand was 14.6 per cent lower year-on-year, reversing an improving trend.

"Excluding the Middle East carriers, demand for air travel grew by 0.6 per cent year-on-year in August, half the pace seen in July. With some important exceptions such as domestic China, global connectivity was generally weaker in August," she said.

She also noted that forward schedules for October are showing cautious optimism with 2 per cent growth in available seats.

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

Hero pilot Smit airlifted to UAE

Indian Ambassador meets him, says his condition is stable; UAE begins probe into terror angle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

CAPTAIN Smit Machchhar, who was stabbed and seriously injured by his co-pilot aboard a Flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv on Wednesday, has been airlifted from Saudi Arabia to Abu Dhabi for continued treatment, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday.

"After receiving initial medical treatment in a hospital in Tabuk, he has now been shifted to Abu Dhabi for continued medical attention and recovery. Our Ambassador in UAE met Captain Machchhar in hospital and enquired about his well being. Earlier, he also met his family and assured all possible support for the Captain's health and well-being," the MEA said.

Machchhar is in good health and recovering well, the Indian Embassy in the UAE said after Ambassador Deepak Mittal met the pilot and his family.

Mittal said he found the pilot's morale to be high. "He was speaking openly, smiling and laughing, which was a great re-



Israeli passenger Yaniv Hayoun, who pulled the lever to regain control of the flight, is welcomed at Tel Aviv airport | AP/PTI

Co-pilot underwent Islamist radical indoctrination: Bibi

As the UAE is probing a possible terror link in the Flydubai incident, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu alleged the co-pilot who stabbed the captain had undergone "Islamist radical indoctrination" | P9

lief for us and for his family."

The UAE has ordered a probe into the incident, including whether the attack by the co-pilot was linked to "any terrorist activity or purpose" or involved prior planning or direction.

Flydubai said the underlying

reasons and motives remain unknown and are subject to a formal investigation.

Machchhar's actions have drawn praise from Indian and world leaders. "Captain Smit Machchhar is a HERO. In the face of the gravest danger and

despite being seriously injured, he showed immense courage and an unwavering resolve to protect the lives of others. His valour helped save hundreds of lives and avert a great tragedy. India is proud of Captain Machchhar. Praying for his speedy recovery, renewed strength and good health," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In an interview with CBS News, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Machchhar had been seriously injured during the cockpit confrontation but managed to unlock the cockpit door while the aircraft was descending rapidly.

With his family roots in Gujarat's Surendranagar district, Machchhar had his sights set on the family's textile business and flying was not on his radar. After completing school, he enrolled in textile engineering before pursuing management studies at a Mumbai institute. However, the aviation bug bit when he attended a seminar, which introduced him to professional flying that pushed him to abandon his original career plan. P7

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE MORNING STANDARD

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

Coming from a textile business family, Capt Machchhar decided to become a pilot when he was 19 years old • Highest state honour for the braveheart

Boy from Gujarat who prefers to fly high

Civil aviation secy says mulling advisory for all airlines to tighten security

'Mechanism for behaviour analysis needed'

A senior airline pilot, with over 16,000 hours of flying experience, has called for a new mechanism to decipher "behaviour and leanings" of pilots. The airlines do have stringent selection process for the pilots, but it is very difficult to understand the ideological leaning of individuals," Wing Commander Prashant Karde (Retd) said.

People pray outside pilot's residence

Hundreds of Tricolour-waving citizens assembled outside the residence of Captain Smit Machchhar in Tilaknagar in the eastern part of Mumbai on Thursday to honour his bravery. Holding his photographs, those assembled outside Swastik Heights residential complex prayed for Machchhar's quick recovery after being stabbed.

'A very nice person,' says fellow pilot

Former GoAir pilot Prakhar Gupta on Thursday recalled meeting Captain Smit Machchhar, in the SpiceJet office in Mumbai just before the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. "I was there to appear for an interview for a pilot's post. That was where I first met Smit, who came across as a very nice person," Gupta said.

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA

@ Ahmedabad

THE Gujarat government was quick to respond to the bravery of Flydubai captain Smit Machchhar, as Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced Vishishtha Gujarat Garima Award for him on Thursday. Patel celebrated Machchhar's "humanitarian act" and said he brought pride to Gujarat and India.

Patel said that the captain continued to display "indomitable courage" despite being injured in the alleged cockpit attack and helped save the lives of 174 passengers. "The entire world is saluting the bravery of Captain Smit Machchhar. ... This is truly inspiring and commendable," Patel said.

The international praise for Machchhar, which includes appreciation from US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has brought his Gujarat connection into focus. Machchhar, who is now in his



Sand artist Sudarsan Pattanaik creates sand art of Capt Smit Machchhar at Puri | PTI



Smit is a very calm and composed person. He was the most 'sorted out' kind of kid in our housing society —Prateek Gandhi, childhood friend of Captain Smit Machchhar

mid-30s, hails from Wadhwan in Surendranagar district, while his in-laws reside in Savarkundla in Amreli district. His family is now settled in Ghatkopar in Mumbai.

His brother-in-law Hiren Jogi said that the family was relieved after receiving updates about Machchhar's condition and expressed pride in the captain's actions during the emergency. "The courage Smit dis-

played while saving the lives of 174 passengers during the incident is truly commendable. He is currently undergoing treatment. We have spoken with his father-in-law, who is my uncle, to get updates about the incident," Jogi said.

Interestingly, Machchhar did not have plans to become a pilot. After completing school, he enrolled in textile engineering, with plans to join and manage his

family's textile business. However, he shifted to aviation after attending a seminar on the subject at 19. Recalling the turning point in a 2025 interview, Machchhar said that aviation "was not a childhood dream" and came into his life much later. The seminar introduced him to professional flying and sparked an interest that eventually pushed him to abandon his earlier career plan.

The decision worried his mother, who was concerned about the risks associated with aviation. His father, however, supported his ambition, researched pilot-training options and helped him pursue the new career path. Machchhar subsequently travelled to New Zealand for training to be a pilot.

After completing the training, he returned to India and joined SpiceJet in 2011. During the over-11-year stay at the airline, he progressed through the ranks to become a senior commander and line-training captain, taking on responsibilities

that included training and mentoring other pilots. His professional advancement eventually took him to Flydubai, which he joined in June 2022 as a direct-entry captain. His brother is also a pilot in the same airline.

His professional profile records nearly 9,750 hours of flying experience, including over 6,400 hours as pilot-in-command, largely on Boeing 737 aircraft, including the 737 MAX. That experience was put to a critical test aboard Flydubai flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv with 174 passengers. During the flight, Machchhar was attacked and stabbed by his co-pilot. Despite serious injuries, he managed to activate the cockpit door mechanism, allowing passengers and crew to enter and overpower the attacker. "Smit is a very calm and composed person. He was the most 'sorted out' kind of kid in our housing society," his childhood friend Prateek Gandhi told a news agency.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Civil Aviation Ministry is deliberating on issuing a security advisory to all airlines in light of the cockpit incident that took place on the Flydubai plane on September 30, said a senior official.

Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha said that internal deliberations are on about issuing a security advisory. "In case any advisory is to be issued, we will put it up with our higher authorities for taking a decision on the matter," he said.

Referring to the Flydubai incident, Sinha added, "This is an unfortunate incident. The nation is very proud of the fact that Captain Smit, an Indian, was able to save so many lives. We would not like to delve much into it, as it pertains to some other country."

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has also announced security measures for airports. It said that from this month, the aerodrome entry permits for the roughly 15 lakh applicants annually would go

fully digital and will be backed by a facial biometric system. This is an official permit that authorises an eligible person to enter designated areas of an aerodrome.

Director general of BCAS, Rajesh Nirwan, said that the agency was nearing the rollout of its ambitious aerodrome entry project. "The entry permits are now touching 15 lakh every year across all airports, making

it difficult to process and monitor these applications in a manual format," he said. It would be contactless and paperless and eliminate the need for an individual to visit the BCAS office.

"It will be rolled out simultaneously across all the 169 airports in the country," he added.

An end-to-end digital process was being proposed for entry into the airport. "This will increase transparency, as each applicant will know the status of their application. It will enable centralised monitoring and show why an application is kept pending for a long time. It will improve control and compliance," he explained.



को-पायलट ने हमला किया था, तबीयत में सुधार

भारतीय पायलट स्मित को पूरी दुनिया ने किया सलाम

■ पीटीआई/एपी, दुबई/यरूशलम

दुबई से तेल अवैव (इस्राइल) जा रही फ्लाई दुबई की उड़ान के कॉकपिट में को-पायलट के हमले में गंभीर रूप से घायल भारतीय पायलट स्मित मछार की हालत ठीक है। उनकी तबीयत में सुधार हो रहा है। दुनियाभर ने स्मित की बहादुरी को सराहा। गुजरात सरकार ने राज्य पुरस्कार देने की घोषणा की।

मछार को सऊदी अरब से UAE की राजधानी अबु धाबी लाया गया है। UAE में भारतीय राजदूत ने अस्पताल में कैप्टन मछार और उनके परिवार से मुलाकात की। UAE में भारतीय मिशन ने कहा, 'एबेसी उनके इलाज और देखभाल के लिए स्थानीय अधिकारियों के साथ संपर्क में है।'

इस्राइली पीएम बेंज्यामिन नेतन्याहू ने एक इंटरव्यू में कहा कि संदिग्ध ने हमले में कुल्हाड़ी का इस्तेमाल किया हो सकता है। उन्होंने मछार को हीरो बताया। रिपोर्टों के मुताबिक, पायलट को लगी चोटों से संकेत मिलता है कि हमले में इस्तेमाल किया गया हथियार मामूली चाकू नहीं था। अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डॉनल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा कि ऐसा लगता है कि को-पायलट शायद आतंकी का मानसिक रूप से अस्थिर व्यक्ति था। वाइट हाउस में पत्रकारों से बात करते हुए ट्रंप ने कहा, को-पायलट के ईरान से संबंध हो सकते हैं। जांच जारी है, ऐसा हुआ तो ईरान पर जोरदार हमला होगा। ▶▶ शेष पेज 13 पर



स्मित मछार

क्या कुल्हाड़ी से हुआ हमला...

- UAE में भारतीय राजदूत ने पायलट स्मित मछार और उनके परिवार से मुलाकात की
- इस्राइल के पीएम का अंदेशा, कुल्हाड़ी से पायलट पर हमला
- सऊदी अरब के अधिकारी हमले का मकसद पता लगाने की कोशिश में
- UAE, अमेरिका और ओमान भी विमान मामले की जांच में हैं शामिल

हथियार चाकू नहीं! रिपोर्टों के मुताबिक, भारतीय पायलट स्मित मछार को लगी चोटों से संकेत मिलता है कि हमले में इस्तेमाल किया गया हथियार मामूली चाकू नहीं था। आरोपी ओमानी को-पायलट से पूछताछ हो रही है।

क्या यह आतंकी हमला था?

पायलट पर हमला करने वाले ओमानी को-पायलट के मकसद का पता नहीं चल पाया है। सऊदी अरब के अधिकारी इस्राइल समेत कई देशों के साथ मिलकर हमले का मकसद पता लगाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। UAE, अमेरिका और ओमान भी जांच में शामिल हैं। UAE ने कहा कि उसकी जांच टीम यह पता लगाने की कोशिश कर रही है कि क्या इसका कोई आतंकी मकसद था। सरकार ने कहा कि विमान में अपराधों पर UAE का कानून लागू होता है।

घरवालों से PM ने बात की

पीएम नरेन्द्र मोदी ने कैप्टन स्मित मछार की पत्नी और माता-पिता से फोन पर बात की। पीएम ने उनकी बहादुरी की सराहना की, जिसकी वजह से सैकड़ों लोगों की जान बची। मोदी ने यह भी कहा कि भारतीय मिशन घायल पायलट को मदद मुहैया करा रहे हैं। इससे पहले, मोदी ने पायलट को नायक बताया था और कहा था कि उनकी बहादुरी पर गर्व है।





Corporate Communications Directorate

NAVBHARAT TIMES

DELHI

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कॉकपिट सुरक्षा पर सरकार अलर्ट, नए नियम भी संभव

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■ नई दिल्ली: अब भारत सरकार भी मामले को लेकर अलर्ट हो गई है। देश के तमाम एयरपोर्ट का सिक््योरिटी रिव्यू किया जा रहा है। इसमें जरूरत के मुताबिक सुरक्षा बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया जाएगा। खासतौर से हवाई जहाजों की कॉकपिट सिक््योरिटी को लेकर गंभीर चिंतन शुरू हो गया है। मामले में केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय भी नजरें बनाए हुए है।

सूत्रों का कहना है कि इसके लिए नागर विमानन मंत्रालय, बीसीएएस, डीजीसीए और सीआईएसएफ के साथ आईबी और अन्य एजेंसियों ने मिलकर काम

करना शुरू कर दिया है। अगर सुरक्षा में कहीं कोई कमी लगती है तो उसे और मजबूत किया जाए। फिलहाल फ्लाईडुबई वाली घटना की चल रही जांच को सरकार ऑब्जर्व कर रही है। मंत्रालय और संबंधित एजेंसियों तमाम भारतीय एयरलाइंस और एयरपोर्ट ऑपरेटर के संपर्क में हैं, ताकि किसी भी तरह का खतरा उत्पन्न ना होने पाए।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि घटना के बाद एक बड़ी चुनौती कॉकपिट के अंदर से ही सामने आई है। मुमकिन है कि आने वाले समय में कॉकपिट की सुरक्षा के लिए एक नई एसओपी जारी हो। फिलहाल, भारत से इम्बाइल के लिए भारतीय एयरलाइंस में केवल एयर इंडिया की फ्लाइट ही जाती है अन्य किसी एयरलाइंस की नहीं। वह भी मिडिल-इस्ट क्राइसिस की वजह से काफी समय से सस्पेंड चल रही है। जिसके अब संभवतः एक दिसंबर से फिर से शुरू होने की उम्मीद लग रही है। यह दिल्ली से तेल अवॉय रूट पर ऑपरेट होता है। ऐसे में इस फ्लाइट की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इसमें एयर मार्शल को तैनात किया जा सकता है।

पायलट-कू की दोबारा जांच पर विचार

विचार किया जा रहा है कि क्या कुछ दिनों के लिए हवाई जहाज में बैठने से पहले यात्रियों और खासतौर से पायलटों और एयर होस्टेस की एक बार और चेकिंग शुरू कर दी जाए। साथ ही कॉकपिट से लेकर पूरे हवाई जहाज की गहन जांच भी की जाए कि कहीं उसमें किसी ने पहले से कोई चाकू जैसा शार्प ऑब्जेक्ट या फिर कोई बंदूक अन्य कोई हथियार तो नहीं छिपा दिया है। जो उड़ते हवाई जहाज के लिए प्लेन हाईजैक होने जैसा कोई खतरा ना पैदा कर दे। पायलटों और कू का साइको टेस्ट भी कराने पर विचार किया जा रहा है। पायलटों की ड्यूटी में ऐसे पायलटों को एक-दूसरे के साथ नहीं लगाने पर भी विचार किया जा सकता है जिनकी आपस में किसी ना किसी बात पर तनातनी चलती रहती है।

सुरक्षा को लेकर क्या होंगे उपाय

फ्लाईडुबई मामले ने कॉकपिट के भीतर से पैदा होने वाले खतरों की ओर पूरी दुनिया का ध्यान गया है। भारत भी इस घटना के बाद सतर्क

हुआ है। सरकार इस बारे में सोच रही है कि अगर कोई कू मेबर विमान को नुकसान पहुंचाने की कोशिश करे तो आखिरी सुरक्षा घेरा क्या होगा। इसी वजह से पायलट-कू की अतिरिक्त जांच, मनोवैज्ञानिक टेस्ट, कॉकपिट की तलाशी जैसे उपाय किए जा सकते हैं।

फ्लाईडुबई घटना के बाद एयरपोर्ट सुरक्षा का रिव्यू शुरू



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026



Passengers embark on a flydubai aircraft at Ben Gurion International Airport, near Tel Aviv, Israel

AP

UAE forms special team to probe flydubai incident

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has ordered an investigation into an incident on a flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv that was diverted to Saudi Arabia, authorities said on Thursday.

The UAE foreign ministry said it was "closely following" the incident. On Wednesday, Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar allegedly fought off his co-pilot after the latter attempted to crash the aircraft. Machchhar was stabbed and was injured during the confrontation in the cockpit.

The flight was carrying 174 passengers, including 27 children, when it was forced to make an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia.

UAE Attorney-General Counsellor Hamad Al Shamsi has ordered the formation of a specialised team comprising members of the Public Prosecution to investigate the circumstances and causes of the incident, authorities said.

Meanwhile, Indian Ambassador to the UAE Deepak Mittal met Machchhar's family in Dubai on Thursday.

UAE forms special team to probe flydubai incident

"Ambassador of India to the UAE met Captain Smit Machchhar's family in Dubai and conveyed the Government of India's full support and assistance for his welfare and wellbeing," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

Mittal was accompanied by Indian Consul General to Dubai Emmadi Vishnu Vardhan Reddy during the meeting.

"We are proud of Capt Smit for his bravery to save so many lives and avert a tragedy," Mittal said in a post on X after meeting the family.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also praised Machchhar following the incident, calling him a "true hero".

In a statement on Wednesday, Netanyahu said that despite being stabbed and seriously injured, Machchhar fought back, opened the cockpit door and helped enable passengers and crew members to overpower the attacker.

The incident was thus brought under control before the aircraft made its emergency landing in Tabuk.

The circumstances surrounding the cockpit altercation and the alleged attempt to take control of the aircraft are now the subject of an official investigation by UAE authorities.



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MUMBAI

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T1 redevpt: Airlines told to move to NMIA or halt flights by Oct 25

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Mumbai: Airlines operating from Mumbai airport's terminal 1 can shift their operations to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) or temporarily suspend services from Oct 25 until the new terminal 1 (T1) is commissioned in 2029-30, Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) said on Wednesday.

Mumbai airport's T1 handles 15 million or about 27% of Mumbai airport's passenger traffic, which is a total of about 41,000 departure and arrival passengers per day. After the redevelopment, T1's passenger handling capacity will go up to 20 million per annum.

"While the demolition work was originally planned to commence in mid-2025, MIAL voluntarily deferred it due to the absence of an alternative operating facility for airlines.

With NMIA becoming operational, airlines now have an alternative option within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region," said MIAL.

"Stakeholders including airlines have been informed that terminal 1 redevelopment will commence in Jan

2027, hence they may choose to relocate operations to NMIA or temporarily suspend operations effective Oct 25 until the new terminal 1 at MIAL is commissioned in 2029-30," it said, adding that this was a temporary transition, and MIAL will honour airlines' historic slot rights once the new terminal becomes operational.

Meanwhile, on Sept 9, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in a letter to the ministry of civil aviation said the airport operator was forcing around one-third of every airline's international passenger and cargo operations from Mumbai airport to Navi Mumbai from Oct 1.

Mumbai airport T1 handles only domestic passengers. The airline winter schedule begins on Oct 25 this year and, as usual, will run up to March end, with the remaining months from April to Oct end comprising the summer schedule.

While Mumbai airport's T1 will be demolished only in Jan, airlines that opt not to move to Navi Mumbai would have to temporarily suspend operations at the end of the summer schedule.

Who Pilots The Pilot?

Two pilots who shepherded the Indian Airlines aircraft during the terrifying IC814 hijack, write that flydubai's flight FZ1073 has changed aviation security forever. What new protocols will help identify the threat inside the cockpit, is a question with no easy answers

Devi Sharan & SPS Suri



Every generation of aviation security is, in a way, a response to the previous generation's nightmare. What the attempted hijack-crash

of the flydubai flight FZ1073 to Tel Aviv has done, is rearrange the threat landscape globally. The new vulnerabilities that have been exposed will need new defences. Of course, this cycle isn't unique to aviation. Because a terrorist need only find one exploitable weakness, while the defender has to protect against a changing range of dangers.

As the investigation into Wednesday's bloody attack is still in its early stages, neither its motivations nor other details are as yet clear. What is known is that a pilot stabbed the other pilot, and the plane plunged 17,000 ft in seconds. The rate at which it descended meant G forces exceeding the manufacturer's limitation severalfold. The rudder, used for directional control, disintegrated.

But thanks to different people's extraordinary presence of mind and bravery, the plane was able to make an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia, with all 174 passengers completely safe.

The first among the heroes is Captain Smit Machchhar. As Netanyahu wrote on X, "Despite being stabbed and seriously injured, he fought back, resisted, opened the cockpit door, and enabled passengers and crew to overpower the attacker – preventing a catastrophic mid-air disaster."

The central thing is that every hijacking and attempted hijacking is different. In 1999, the two of us experienced the Indian Airlines IC814 crisis first hand. Captain Sharan piloted the flight as terrorists forcibly diverted it from Kathmandu to Kandahar. When the passengers and crew members were flown back to Delhi on another aircraft, Captain Suri (along with Captain JRD Rao and two engineers) flew back the original plane, without clearance from Kandahar ATC or permission to overfly Pakistan.

It was such a different time. Today's hardened cockpit-security regime was in the future, as was real-time flight tracking. Standard protocols of the time were not even able to prevent the hijackers bringing revolvers, hand grenades, and knives on

board. What has remained the same is how much still depends on how crew members react under extreme, unanticipated, situations.

In 1999, we went by the book to ensure the safety of everyone on board, which meant not arguing with the hijackers. The worry wasn't just the four guns held by the five hijackers, but also the five hand grenades that could have just blown the plane up. The only thing on the crew's mind, in such a crisis, is how they can save the lives of everyone on board.



On Wednesday, everything hinged on Machchhar, despite his serious injuries, somehow managing to open the cockpit door. This allowed two reserve pilots, who were to fly the plane back from Tel Aviv to Dubai, to take control. Of course, not every flight could possibly carry two extra pilots, as that would wreck the aviation business model.

Heroism saved the day. But in the days to come, the difficulty will be how to address the new weaponisation of the cockpit.

Unlike in 1999, tight security today pretty much rules out anybody sneaking in a weapon or an explosive in

their cabin or check-in baggage. Attempts to forcibly enter the cockpit from the cabin side have also been pre-empted, by strengthening the cockpit door, especially after 9/11. "Dead bolt" ensures that no one, not even crew who have the lock code for punching into the keypad outside, are granted entry until authorised by the pilot.

FZ1073 has inverted the logic of all these safeguards. Until today, the threat has always been from external agents. This time, the threat did not come from hijackers attempting to take control of the cockpit, but from the trusted person sitting inside. One pilot attacking the other with hostile intent has happened for the first time. Beginning now, many pilots will view their colleagues with suspicion.

Israel will be ramping up security checks on pilots flying into the country. It already requires airlines to submit the identities of all flight crew members. Knowing the identity, however, is different from vetting it. What's become conceivable now is that Israel will, in the future, deny airspace entry or landing clearance if a foreign airline assigns flight crew who fail its background checks.

Pilots do go through extensive background checks already. They are required to clear continuous medical and psychological assessments. But different countries regulate all this differently. And there is a catch: a psychometric test is not a crystal ball. Someone can perform normally during assessment, and subsequently show terribly changed behaviour. Conversely, a particular personality characteristic is not evidence that someone will become violent.

The main post-FZ1073 question is clear: Can we identify dangerous pilots before they fly? The answers are unclear. Yes, airlines need better systems to continually assess pilots' mental health. But how that's to be done, and with what privacy safeguards, is now the big aviation security challenge.

ICAO already promotes trained staff reporting unusual or suspicious behaviour as one insider-threat tool. Maybe airlines will now have to put greater emphasis on confidential reporting by fellow pilots, cabin crew, and managers. Maybe the future will see sensors, cameras, or even AI systems capable of detecting a physical struggle or incapacitation inside the cockpit.

How do we keep a hijacker out of the cockpit, now seems to be the problem of a simpler time. It's much more difficult to root out a potential hijacker already sitting inside.

As told to Saurabh Sinha

Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA DELHI 2 OCTOBER 2026

A Steady Hand, In & Out Of The Cockpit

As Capt Smit Machchhar recovers in hospital, those who know him recall the pilot, teacher and neighbour behind the headlines, writes Manju V

Long before he was the captain who held a cockpit together despite stab wounds, Capt Smit Machchhar was the pilot who interacted with loaders, engineers, ground staff, catering people, all with equal respect.

"Smit is the most calm, composed and down-to-earth person you could ever meet," said Capt Dhanraj Gosalia, a friend since his flying school days.

On Wednesday, that steadiness was tested as altitude, flydubai flight FZ1073 was carrying 174 people from Dubai to Tel Aviv when, according to Israeli officials, Machchhar's co-pilot stabbed him and tried to crash the aircraft. The jet reportedly dropped nearly 14,000 feet in under 30 seconds. Seriously wounded, Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, leaving passengers and crew overpowered the attacker. The plane landed in Saudi Arabia.

Those who know Machchhar, 39, are not surprised by how he behaved. What shocks them is that it was ever required. "He is one of the calmest and most fun guys possible," said a friend, a flydubai pilot who requested anonymity. "Maybe it is his upbringing. He is always in fun mode, but he is family-oriented too."

Machchhar earned his commercial pilot licence at Matinland Aviation College in New Zealand in the late 2000s, where he became the classmates' go-to person for hard subjects. "Anyone with a problem in air navigation, aircraft technical or any subject went to him," the pilot said. "Becoming a line trainer at flydubai was the best thing that could have happened to him."

The instinct to help was visible earlier, too. At M D Bharati School, where he passed Class 10 in 2003, school friend Bhavin Jethva remembers him as "straightforward, kind, and... He didn't like to lie." Jethva said, "He was never fake and he couldn't pretend." Amit Smit, a childhood friend who played cricket with him, called him cheerful and lively.

At Swastik Heights in Mumbai's Tilak Nagar, where Machchhar lived until about 2022, neighbour Laxmikant Joshi remembers practical kindnesses. After returning from Kenya, Joshi realised he had brought too little coffee to share with friends. Machchhar arranged for a pilot colleague to



Captain Smit Machchhar with his wife Sonal



Smit is the most calm, composed and down-to-earth person you could ever meet — Capt Dhanraj Gosalia

bring back more. Joshi also remembers Machchhar going straight to the hospital after landing in India when his father underwent bypass surgery about six months ago. He stayed through the treatment. Then there were the Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations. He recalls Capt Machchhar taught them to tie the rope into a knot just right. "One pull and the flag unfurled," recalled Joshi.

Akshay Joshi, his immediate neighbour, recalls tense moments at his place when his parents learned about the attack. Late in the evening, though, Machchhar's parents informed the society's WhatsApp group that their son was recovering.

Capt Machchhar moved to Dubai around 2022 after leaving SpiceJet, and flies the Boeing 737 as a captain and line trainer at flydubai. He and his

wife, Sonal, have two children: Krishay, 2, and Ziva, 9.

Friends and colleagues tried to reconstruct the sequence. A flydubai commander said the co-pilot would most likely have used the "crash axe", which is carried on the flight deck for use during emergencies, such as cutting through panels and debris, or the cockpit window to exit the aircraft after an accident. "At the Dubai airport, even shoes and belts are removed as security," he said. "There's no way the co-pilot could have got onboard with a pocket knife."

Another colleague said the co-pilot "apparently stood up and hit Machchhar on the side of the head". This colleague added that the captain was also struck in the chest, before he regained control after the dive. A third pilot said Machchhar appeared to have squawked "7500", the hijack transponder code. A flydubai commander also pointed to a gap: "We have SOPs for a hijack scenario, but not for a cockpit where the aggressor is inside." He noted that Capt Machchhar's bravery boils down to two acts: first, he managed to get the aircraft straight and level after that precarious dive, despite being attacked; second, though he had lost a lot of blood, he managed to open the cockpit door before he passed out.

At M D Bharati School, former classmates have been posting prayers for his recovery on their WhatsApp group. "We are proud of him," Jethva said.

remains binding even if an Indian airline fails to pay on time, and informal arrangements with large Indian carriers against recruiting their pilots.

Some pilots resign before securing another job so they can begin serving notice, a senior official of an Indian airline said. If they find no job abroad, they withdraw the resignation.

Pilots have challenged the notice rule in court; the case is pending. The rule was intended to protect flight schedules from sudden mass resignations, but it has "outlived its utility", one pilot said. He argued that it now chiefly protects airlines struggling to pay their crews.

WORLD APPLAUDS

"Smit, bleeding on the cockpit floor, managed to hit the door release. In a way, he was a hero to open the door. You know those doors are solid steel. You can't get them open from outside. He was able to fall back and get the door open and scream."

—Donald Trump, US president (on social media and TV)

PM Narendra Modi, on X:

"Captain Smit Machchhar is a HERO. In the face of the gravest danger and despite being seriously injured, he showed immense courage and an unwavering resolve to protect the lives of others. India is proud of Captain Machchhar. Praying for his speedy recovery, renewed strength and good health."

"I want to tell him (Captain Smit Machchhar), thank you. If we could not have entered the cockpit, all the passengers, including my family, would have died."

—Yaniv Hayun, a passenger on the flydubai flight

Yaniv Hayun (right) with Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu

Benjamin Netanyahu, ISRAEL PM

"My salute to the Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar for his extraordinary bravery. Despite being stabbed and seriously injured, he fought back, resisted, opened the cockpit door... preventing a catastrophic mid-air disaster. He saved the lives of 174 people, including Israeli citizens and other nationals."

Isaac Herzog, ISRAEL PRESIDENT

"To Captain Smit Machchhar - thank you from the bottom of my heart for the bravery, determination, and actions that saved many lives... The State of Israel extends immense gratitude to you."

Devendra Fadnis, MAHARASHTRA CM

"Super proud of our Mumbai's son Captain Smit Machchhar, a true HERO who saved hundreds of lives, in such an exceptional and extraordinary manner!"

Despite being ghastly injured, the presence of mind and courage showed by Smit is exemplary... You are an inspiration. Maharashtra & India is proud of you!

Airlines wake up to 'insider threat' after flydubai attack

Saurabh Sinha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The unprecedented incident aboard flydubai's Dubai-Tel Aviv flight has added a "new dimension" to aviation security prompting calls for airlines to conduct regular psychometric evaluations of pilots amid concerns about an "insider threat". Airlines with a significant proportion of expatriate crew, particularly in the Gulf, may also need to be more careful when rostering pilots of different nationalities on specific routes.

Israel vows crew of all flights landing in the country. Going by that, there was talk that the flydubai co-pilot — an Omani national, according to Israel foreign minister Gideon Sa'ar — ought not to have been rostered on this flight. Sa'ar has termed the incident a "jihadist terror attack", adding that though there's no evidence yet, the main motive was to derail Israel-UAE ties.

"Airlines conduct psychometric evaluation at induction and then mostly at the time of command upgrade (when a co-pilot becomes a captain) and other promotions, such as that to be a trainer," said a senior official of an Indian airline. "In big airlines with a large number of crew members, frequent pairing of the same set of personnel does not happen. So, even if someone's conduct is amiss, no one is likely to notice, and this leads to poor peer-to-peer reporting. There has to be greater surveillance for this issue now. Unlike weapons and explosives hidden in baggage that can be detected, it is difficult to fathom what is going on in a person's mind."

Union aviation secretary Samir Sinha called the flydubai incident "unfathomable", adding, "But we are very proud of Captain Smit. We would not like to delve into it as it pertains to some other country. The matter is under examination, and an internal deliberation is on to decide whether any security advisory is needed to be issued."

Airlines in nearby regions — particularly the Gulf, but also Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka — employ many Indian pilots who are not rostered on flights to Pakistan. A senior Indian pilot working for a foreign airline recalled flying to Karachi about two decades ago, when his aircraft developed a snag. "I was the only one who did not get a crew visa to leave the airport and had to sleep in the aircraft. The next morning, I was sent on a flight to Dubai by my airline," he said.

Israel conducts background checks on foreign crew members scheduled to operate flights to the country before allowing them entry. Another Indian pilot, who works for the general aviation arm of a large foreign airline, said: "As a rule, Indian passport-holders are not assigned charters to Pakistan. When the Russia-Ukraine war erupted, European pilots were not sent to Russia flights. Aircraft were not allowed to fly direct from Venezuela to the US and we used to travel via some third country. That changed when Venezuela's then president Nicolas Maduro was captured this Jan."

WHEN PILOT GOES ROGUE

There have been several cases where investigators concluded that a deliberate act by the pilot caused a plane to crash:

Oct 2023 | Off-duty pilot Joseph Emerson tried to shut down both engines from jump seat on an Alaska/Alaska flight. Crew restrained him, flight was diverted

March 2015 | Co-pilot Andreas Lubitz locked captain out and flew a Germanwings flight into French Alps, leaving 150 on board dead

Feb 2014 | Co-pilot of an Ethiopian Airlines flight hijacked the aircraft and threatened to crash it if the captain tried to re-enter. Flight landed in Geneva; no casualties reported

Nov 2013 | LAM Mozambique flight captain locked out co-pilot and programmed aircraft into a descent. Crash left 33 on board dead

Oct 1999 | EgyptAir Boeing 767 crash, which killed 217 flyers, attributed to relief first officer's flight-control inputs, though Egypt disputed the sabotage theory

Oct 1999 | Air Botswana ATR-42 flight was stolen by grounded pilot Chris Phatswe, who died after deliberately crashing it into parked aircraft at Gaborone airport

April 1994 | Crew of a FedEx aircraft attacked by off-duty pilot Auburn Calloway, who allegedly planned to crash it for insurance fraud. Calloway was subdued by crew

Aug 1994 | Royal Air Maroc flight's captain Youssef Khyati deliberately disconnected automatic systems and crashed ATR-42, leaving 44 dead. Pilots' union disputed suicide theory

Feb 1983 | Japan Air Lines flight captain Seiji Katagiri put DC-8 into fatal descent on approach to Tokyo airport, leaving 24 dead

fly direct from Venezuela to the US and we used to travel via some third country. That changed when Venezuela's then president Nicolas Maduro was captured this Jan."

Geopolitical tensions have worsened since Covid, with the Russia-Ukraine and India-Pakistan conflicts and the US-Iran war turning the region's skies into a virtual minefield. Western airlines do not overfly Russia. When an Air India flight between India and North America divers to Russia, US passport-holders breathe easier once they board an alternative aircraft to their destination. Diversions to Pakistan also cause unease among passengers on flights to or from India.

"The global situation may cool down fast, as it is deepening the fault lines of the region," said an official.

Why Indian pilots struggle to take jobs abroad

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New Delhi: The flydubai cockpit attack has renewed attention to pilots' wellbeing. Indian pilots say long notice periods at domestic airlines add to their stress and make it harder to take jobs abroad.

Co-pilots must serve six months' notice and captains a year's. Foreign airlines, however, often want recruits to join within three months. Indian pilots hope carriers hiring from here will take that mismatch into account.

"We usually don't hire direct from India and prefer if a pilot has worked in a second country before onboarding them," a senior official of



A sand sculpture for Captain Smit Machchhar by artist Sudarshan Patilnani in Puri, Odisha

a leading West Asian airline recently told TOI. The official cited two obstacles: the notice requirement, which



Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TRIBUNE

DELHI

2 OCTOBER 2026

Direct Delhi-Kullu flights suspended after Oct 24

ABHINAV VASHISHT

KULLU, OCTOBER 1

Alliance Air, the sole operator at Bhuntar's Kullu-Manali airport, has suspended its direct flight operations between Delhi and Kullu after October 24, leaving the region's tourism and travel industry alarmed. The airline had been operating the route five days a week.

Aviation experts say this is the first time direct flights have been withheld, particularly ahead of the Kullu Dasehra and the winter tourism season. Under the schedule released until March 27, 2027, flights from Kullu will operate to Jaipur and Dehradun after October 27. Passengers travelling between Delhi and Kullu will now have to take connecting flights.

Jaipur-Kullu flights will operate on Thursdays and Saturdays, while Dehradun-Kullu flights will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both routes are priced at around Rs 4,000.

A Delhi-Kullu journey via Dehradun will cost about Rs



5,000, while the return journey via Dehradun will cost around Rs 7,000. Delhi-Kullu via Jaipur will cost around Rs 7,500, while Kullu-Delhi via Jaipur will be about Rs 9,000. The fares are considerably lower than the earlier direct flight fares of over Rs 20,000.

While the lower fares may offer some relief to passengers, the reduction in operations from five days a week to only three days a week, with no direct Delhi connectivity, has emerged as a major setback for the tourism industry.

Tourism stakeholders fear the change will discourage a large segment of potential visitors. The situation has been compounded by the suspension of the once-a-week Amritsar flight since May.