

Daily Current Affairs

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Indian Pilot Captain Smit Machchhar Saves 170 Lives

- Captain Smit Machchhar: The flydubai "Hero" Indian Pilot Who Saved 174 Lives
- Flydubai Flight News: Captain Machchhar has been working with flydubai for four years.
- Captain Smit Machchhar has over 13 years of commercial flying experience on the Boeing 737 fleet.
- The man who bravely fought off his co-pilot, who allegedly tried to sabotage the plane's systems, is Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian citizen working with the lower-cost sister carrier of Emirates Airlines, flydubai. The flight was carrying 174 passengers, including 27 children.
- Captain Machchhar has been working with flydubai for four years, according to his LinkedIn profile. Prior to this, he was working with SpiceJet for 10 years, a low-cost Indian airline. He has over 13 years of commercial flying experience on the Boeing 737 fleet. He served as a line training captain extensively and has over 9,750 flying hours.
- Captain Machchhar joined SpiceJet in 2011 and had served in several roles at the low-cost airline, including as a line training captain and a senior commander.
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DAD to Celebrate 279th Annual Day

- The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) will celebrate its 279th Annual Day on October 1, 2026, in New Delhi. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will grace the celebrations at Dr. D.S. Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan.
- The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) operates under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, and is responsible for providing financial advice, payments, accounting, and internal audit for the armed forces and allied organizations.
- Origin: Established in 1747, it is one of the oldest government departments in India.
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Leadership: Headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA).
- Cadre: Manages and controls the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)



ICG Interdicts Transnational Syndicate with Rs 3,000 Cr Narcotics Seizure

- ICG in coordination with the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), Gujarat, neutralized a major maritime narcotic smuggling attempt worth over Rs 3,000 crores in the Arabian Sea, west of Lakshadweep, on September 25, 2026.

- The joint operation led to the seizure of approximately 526 kg of high-grade narcotic substances, including heroin and methamphetamine, and the apprehension of five Pakistani nationals who were operating the vessel.
- Acting on intelligence, ICG assets undertook precise sea-air surveillance and persistent tracking of the suspected vessel before launching a coordinated hot pursuit. The operation culminated in the interception and boarding of a suspicious Iranian dhow in the high seas.
- The intercepted dhow, apprehended crew and seized contraband were subsequently escorted under armed security to Mumbai for joint interrogation and further investigation, followed by comprehensive multi-agency legal proceedings.
- The successful operation represents a significant contribution to the national vision of a 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' and underscores ICG's commitment to combating maritime narcotics trafficking and maintaining zero tolerance towards illicit activities in India's maritime zones.



ASEAN-INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE (AIME-2026)

- The Second Edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced at Subic Bay, Philippines, on 28 Sep 2026, with the participation of Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Kulish, along with maritime forces from ASEAN Member States.
- Conducted under the theme "Anchored in Trust, United at Sea", the exercise brings together maritime forces from India and ASEAN countries for

professional, operational and social engagements aimed at enhancing mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability.

- The exercise commenced with the Opening Ceremony, wherein His Excellency Shri Harsh Kumar Jain, Ambassador of India to the Philippines, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour and addressed the participating maritime forces.
- The Harbour Phase will comprise a series of professional, operational and social engagements, including Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, sporting and cultural activities, community engagement and Operational Synchronisation, followed by a Pre-Sail Brief prior to commencement of the Sea Phase.
- The exercise will thereafter transition to the Sea Phase, wherein the participating maritime forces will undertake coordinated maritime exercises and operational serials.
- The sea phase is aimed at enhancing professional understanding, operational coordination and interoperability through practical training and coordinated activities at sea.
- The participation of INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish in AIME-2026 underscores the Indian Navy's continued commitment to strengthening maritime partnerships and promoting practical cooperation with ASEAN maritime forces.
- The exercise is being conducted in furtherance of India's Act East Policy and the vision of **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)**.



US Completes Iraq Troop Withdrawal

- The United States is set to complete the withdrawal of its remaining troops from Iraq on 30 September, bringing to an end a 12-year military deployment that began in 2014 as part of the campaign against the Islamic State (ISIS).
- This marks the second full withdrawal of American forces from Iraq and concludes the military component of Operation Inherent Resolve.
- The departure follows an agreement negotiated between Baghdad and Washington in 2024 under the Biden administration. The Trump administration subsequently continued implementation of the plan, maintaining the agreed deadline of 30 September 2026.
- American troops had previously left Iraq in 2011 after an eight-year deployment that followed the 2003 invasion. However, they returned in 2014 after ISIS captured vast areas of Iraq and Syria, threatening Baghdad and exposing major weaknesses in Iraqi security forces.
- The US-led coalition played a central role in helping Iraqi and Kurdish forces roll back ISIS. While the militant group lost its territorial caliphate and was militarily defeated by 2019, coalition forces remained to provide training, intelligence and operational support aimed at preventing a resurgence of extremist networks.
- Over recent months, US forces steadily consolidated their positions in northern Iraq, particularly around Erbil, reducing their footprint ahead of the final departure. By the final days of the mission, only a small contingent remained in the Kurdish region.
- Roughly 1,500 US and coalition personnel remained in Iraq shortly before the final withdrawal, a sharp reduction from the approximately 2,500 American troops stationed in the country in recent years and far below the levels seen during the height of earlier military operations.
- For Washington, the end of the Iraq mission represents the closing of a major chapter in a military engagement that began with the 2003 invasion, resumed in 2014 to combat ISIS, and ultimately evolved into a long-term security partnership.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Captain Smit Machchhar is associated with which airline?

- A) Air India
- B) IndiGo
- C) flydubai
- D) SpiceJet

Answer: C) flydubai

2. Approximately how many passengers were on the flydubai flight involving Captain Smit Machchhar?

- A) 154
- B) 164
- C) 174
- D) 184

Answer: C) 174

3. The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) was established in which year?

- A) 1747
- B) 1774
- C) 1857
- D) 1947

Answer: A) 1747

4. The Defence Accounts Department functions under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs

- C) Ministry of Defence
- D) Ministry of External Affairs

Answer: C) Ministry of Defence

5. Approximately how much narcotics were seized by the Indian Coast Guard and Gujarat ATS during the September 2026 operation?

- A) 326 kg
- B) 426 kg
- C) 526 kg
- D) 626 kg

Answer: C) 526 kg

6. What is the theme of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026)?

- A) Together for Maritime Security
- B) Anchored in Trust, United at Sea
- C) Secure Seas, Strong Nations
- D) United for a Free Indo-Pacific

Answer: B) Anchored in Trust, United at Sea

7. Which two Indian naval ships are participating in AIME-2026?

- A) INS Vikrant and INS Chennai
- B) INS Kolkata and INS Shivalik
- C) INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish
- D) INS Vikramaditya and INS Kolkata

Answer: C) INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish

8. Operation Inherent Resolve was primarily associated with the campaign against which organisation?

- A) Al-Qaeda
- B) ISIS
- C) Taliban
- D) Boko Haram

Answer: B) ISIS

9. Motto Of CBI Is

- A. Victory Everywhere
- B. Always Alert
- C. Industry, Impartiality, Integrity
- D. None

ANSWER: C

10. First Made In India Passenger Aircraft Is ____

- A. Dornier 228
- B. Chetak
- C. Cheetah
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. The Cheetah Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: A

12. INS Sindhukesari Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank

ANSWER: C

13. "Billions & Billions" Book Is Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Carl Sagan
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: B

14. WNC Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai
- D. Panaji

ANSWER: A

15. QRFV Stands For

- A. Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle Medium
- B. Quick Reaction Fighting Vast Medium

- C. Quick Reaction Fight Vehicle Medium
- D. None

ANSWER: A

16. Aeronautical Development Agency Is In

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Noida
- C. New Delhi
- D. Gurugram

ANSWER: A

17. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UAE Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Zayed Talwar

ANSWER: D

18. Indian Army Artillery School Devlali Comes Under

- A. Northern Command
- B. Eastern Command
- C. Western Command
- D. Southern Command

ANSWER: D

19. Strength's Origin is in Science Is The Motto Of

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. NASA
- D. Indian Army

ANSWER: B

20. INS Airavat Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Amphibious warfare

ANSWER: D