



FEDERATION OF INDIAN PILOTS

FIP/PMO/2026-21

02 Oct 2026

To,

Hon'ble Prime Minister,
PMO Office, Seva Teerth,
South Block,
New Delhi – 110011

**RECOMMENDATION FOR CONFERMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE
NATIONAL BRAVERY AWARD UPON CAPT. SMIT, COMMANDER
OF FLYDUBAI FLIGHT FZ1073, FOR EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE AND
EXEMPLARY PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN SAVING 182 LIVES**

Respected Hon'ble Prime Minister,

The **Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP)** respectfully submits this representation seeking the consideration of **Capt. Smit, Pilot-in-Command of Flydubai Flight FZ1073**, for an appropriate **National Bravery Award** in recognition of his extraordinary courage, exceptional leadership and exemplary devotion to duty during a grave and unprecedented in-flight emergency on **30 September 2026**.

As reported, Fly Dubai Flight FZ-1073 was operating from **Dubai to Tel Aviv** when an extremely serious incident occurred on board. During the flight, Capt. Smit was reportedly attacked by the First Officer with a crash axe and sustained serious injuries.

Despite being badly injured and confronted with an extraordinarily dangerous situation within the flight deck, Capt. Smit continued to discharge his responsibilities as Pilot-in-Command. He maintained control of the aircraft, exercised command and judgement under extreme circumstances, and ultimately diverted the aircraft safely to **Tabuk, Saudi Arabia**.

Most significantly, **174 passengers and 8 crew members entrusted their lives to the flight crew**, and Capt. Smit's actions under circumstances of extreme personal danger contributed to bringing the aircraft safely to an alternate airport.



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EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Hon'ble Prime Minister, the circumstances in which Capt. Smit performed his **duties merit special recognition.**

A Pilot-in-Command is trained to deal with aircraft emergencies, adverse weather, technical failures, medical emergencies and other operational threats. However, an attack upon the Pilot-in-Command within the flight deck presents an entirely different and exceptionally grave challenge.

Capt. Smit was reportedly himself seriously injured during the incident. Nevertheless, instead of allowing his personal injuries and the unprecedented threat to compromise his responsibilities, he continued to focus on the safety of the aircraft and the people on board.

The ability to remain sufficiently composed, exercise command and make critical decisions while injured and under threat demonstrates extraordinary **courage, resilience, situational awareness, leadership and devotion to duty.**

PROTECTION OF 182 LIVES

The significance of Capt. Smit's actions must also be viewed in the context of the lives entrusted to him. The passengers and crew on board had no control over the extraordinary circumstances unfolding in the cockpit. At that critical moment, their safety depended upon the ability of the flight crew to retain control of the aircraft and manage the emergency.

Capt. Smit's continued performance of his duties and the subsequent safe diversion to Tabuk represent an exceptional act of professional courage and responsibility. For the aviation fraternity, this incident demonstrates the highest meaning of the responsibility accepted by a Pilot-in-Command: **to place the safety of passengers and crew above personal safety when confronted with an extreme emergency.**

A MEMBER OF THE INDIAN PILOT FRATERNITY

FIP would also like to place on record that **Capt. Smit was a member of the Federation of Indian Pilots until 2022.** Although he is no longer a member, FIP continues to regard him as part of the wider fraternity of professional pilots. It is therefore with particular pride that the Federation



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places his extraordinary conduct before the Government of India for consideration for national recognition.

REQUEST FOR NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Federation of Indian Pilots respectfully submits that acts of exceptional courage such as this deserve recognition at the highest appropriate level. We therefore request the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Office to kindly consider **Capt. Smit for an appropriate National Bravery Award / national civilian recognition**, in accordance with the applicable Government of India provisions and after due verification of the facts by the competent authorities.

Such recognition would not only honour Capt. Smit personally but would also send a powerful message to the international aviation community regarding the value India places upon **courage, professional responsibility, leadership and the protection of human life**.

The Federation would be honoured if the Government of India were to recognise this exceptional act of courage and devotion to duty. We respectfully request that the appropriate authorities may kindly examine the circumstances of the incident, obtain the relevant operational and medical records, and consider Capt. Smit's conduct for the highest appropriate form of recognition.

Capt. Smit's actions demonstrate that, even when confronted with grave personal danger and serious injury, the responsibility of a true professional pilot remains firmly centred on the safety of those entrusted to his care.

The Federation of Indian Pilots respectfully places this recommendation before the Hon'ble Prime Minister for favourable consideration.

With highest regards,

Yours faithfully,

Capt. C. S. Randhawa

President

Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP)

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