



CONFEDERATION OF ALL INDIA TRADERS

(An Apex Body of Trade Federations, Associations & Small Scale Sector of India)



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Press Release

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Captain Smit Machhar should be conferred the “Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak”: CAIT* Special appeal to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji

Shri Praveen Khandelwal, Member of Parliament from Chandni Chowk and Secretary General of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), has urged the Government of India to confer the prestigious “Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak” upon Indian pilot Captain Smit Machhar, whose extraordinary courage, presence of mind, professional excellence, and unwavering commitment to duty helped avert a major aviation tragedy in the recent Flydubai aircraft accident.

In the incident, Captain Machhar displayed exceptional bravery and composure under extremely adverse circumstances. Despite sustaining serious injuries himself, he continued to perform his duties with remarkable determination, helping safeguard the lives of all 174 passengers and crew members on board. His swift decision-making, leadership, and dedication under immense pressure stand as a shining example of courage, professionalism, and service to humanity.

What is the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak?

The Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak is the highest honour in India’s Jeevan Raksha Padak series, awarded by the Government of India to individuals who display conspicuous courage and self-sacrifice in saving human lives. As per the guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the award recognizes acts of exceptional bravery performed in circumstances involving grave risk to one’s own life while rescuing others.

Shri Khandelwal stated that Captain Machhar’s actions fully embody the spirit and criteria of this distinguished honour. By protecting the lives of hundreds of people while facing grave personal danger, he has not only upheld the highest traditions of the aviation profession but has also showcased Indian courage, competence, and humanitarian values before the world.

He further said that India is a land of heroes, and Captain Machhar has once again demonstrated this truth through his exemplary conduct. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has consistently advocated the spirit of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”—the world is one family—and Captain Machhar’s actions reflected this principle in its truest sense by placing the safety of every life above his own.

Shri Khandelwal noted that Prime Minister Modi’s appreciation of Captain Machhar’s bravery has already become a matter of national pride. He said it would be a fitting tribute if the nation formally recognizes this act of heroism by conferring upon him the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, India’s highest civilian life-saving honour.

He also conveyed that CAIT and the entire trading community across the country are praying for Captain Machhar’s speedy recovery. Crores of traders salute his courage, dedication, and selfless service, and wish him a full and swift return to good health.

CAIT to organise Civic Felicitation

Shri Khandelwal further announced that whenever Captain Smit Machhar visits India, CAIT will organize a grand civic felicitation ceremony in his honour. Representatives of trader associations from across the country will participate in the event to pay tribute to this brave son of India and express the nation’s gratitude for his exemplary service.

He said Captain Machhar has proved that Indians do not merely perform their duties—they rise above them in moments of crisis and are willing to risk their own lives to protect others. His courage, leadership, and sense of responsibility will remain a source of inspiration for generations to come.

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