Daily Current Affairs



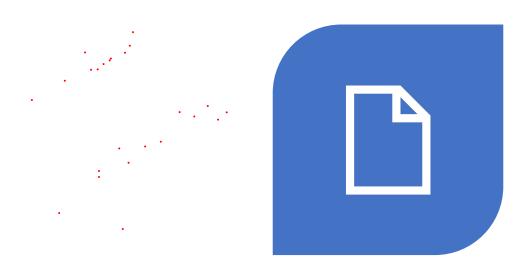








Download class24





PDF

10 MCQ QUIZ

• Success doesn't arrive at your door — it follows those who keep moving, even when no one is watching."

www.thehindu.com

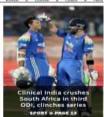


Study finds that those in districts facing extreme heat are badly affected

MEWSO PAGE S







National seminar over Ambedkar's legacy organised

NEW DELIN

NEW INITIAL The National Commission for Scheduled Castes on Saturday habd a national seminar to mark the death anniversary of malia's first Less Minister, Dr. 6.8. Ambudirar, where Secial Justice Minister Virendra Kumar palif obstance to the tender is PAGE 3

Zubeen death: chargesheet to be filed on Friday

UUWAHATI

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) proling the unnatural riests of Assamese cultural roon Zubeen Garg will submit the phagestest of a beal scent the phagestest in a beal scent on December 12. Special Birector-General of Police (EID) Murner Praind Guptic said. Mr. Garg died while swimming in the sea off a Singapore Island on Sept. 10. is PASE 9

Vatican panel says 'no' to women as Catholic deacons

VATICAN CITY
A high-level Vatican
commission voted against
allowing Catholic women to
serve as deacons, maintaining
the global Church's previou at
all-male dangs, economics to a
report given to Pope Lass XIV
and referend on Thursday. The
commission economics of the
commission economics of the
commission or economics of the Bether study of the issue

As crisis continues, govt. sets cap on airfares

IndiGo, which cancelled two out of every three services on Friday, flew 1,500 flights on Saturday

The airline will likely return to full capacity of 2,200 flights by December 15, says CEO Elbers

Caps for domestic economy fares are in the range of ₹7,500 to ₹18,000, depending on the distance

day. Mormaloy is expected

he Union govern-ment imposed caps on airfares, set a ti-meline for refusile, and un-nouncest special trains to selp stranded passengers in hazarday, as indice, the ountry's largest domestic triine, began a slow return

to normalicy.

The atrline has experienced a near-total bresk. down of operations in re-cent days, and bad cancelled two out of every three of its scheduled

dights on Friday flights on Friday.
Inditio, which operates
2,200 flights daily and accounts for als out of every
10 passengers who travel
by air, said it faed operated
1,800 flights on Saturday. repared with 700 on Fre-

day. Normaley is expected between December 10 and 15, according to Inditio chief executive officer Pie-ur Elbers.

"Over 1976 of network connectivity has already been re-established as we

are able to operate to 135 out of the existing 138 des-tinations," the atrline said in a statement. 'Fair fares' Meanwhile, Minister for Ci-

vil Aviation K. Rammohan Natdu said in a post on X-"The Ministry has invoked its regulatory powers to ensure fair and reasonable fares across all affected

The Ministry has noti-The Ministry has noti-fied limits on economy-class air faces for domestic flights starting with a cap-of \$7,500 for a distance of



soc km, ct2,000 for up to 1,000 km, ct3,000 for up to 1,500 km and ct8,000 for longer flights. These caps exclude the user development for payable to airports, the

passenger security fee col-lected by the Central Industrial Security Force, Refunds by Sunday

rected Indicio to ensure that refunds for all can-celled and diarupted flights are completed by 8 p.m. on Sanday. It has also instructed the

show-cause notice

on IndiGo CEO

NEW DELINE

The OGCA on Statuslay served is show-cause notice on IndiGo-CEU Protor Ethers seeking an explanation within 34 hours on why anforcement action should not be initiated against him har the lorge-scale flight sitespitants that have seen familiarity and the state over the past week, is PAGE 4.

the to cancellations or de-lays and deliver them to their residences or desig-nated addresses within 48

Special trains

eparated from passengers ing multiple cities across

hatest autresses within an hours.
Indicin has also announced a full waiver of carcellation and reached lating fees for travel her ween December 8 and 18, allowing passengers to cancel or modify their bookings.

This is in addition to refunds owed to all the other passengers whose flights were cancelled by the air-line over the past few

To belp those passengers stranded by the flight can-cellations, Indian Kallways has introduced more than

ing multiple cities across the country, East Coast Railway, for instance, will run six trains to cornect passengers bet-ween destinations in Od-isha, including Bhubanesh-war, Sambalpur, Pati, and Delhi, Mumbal, and Visha-lassations.

the Bhubaneshwar-New Delhi Tejas Rajdhatti and the Puri-Staltmar Garib

Western Railway will also run seven special trains on special fares on the following routes: Mumbai Central-New Delhi, Mum-bai Central-Bhiwani, Mumbai Central-Shawan, Muni-bai Central-Shakur Basti, Bandra Terminus-Durgap-ura, Valsad Bilgupur, Ka-barmati-Delhi, and Sabar-

Winter pastimes



Four civilians and a soldier killed in Afghan-Pak. clash

Agence France-Press

An overnight exchange of gunfire and shelling at a major Pakistan-Afghanissugor Pakistan-Alghania-tan burder crossing Milled faure vivillains and one sid-deer, Afghan officials and fare-up of fighting bet-flare-up of fighting bet-ilespite a ceaseftre since deadly clashes in October. Five other civilians were wounded, an Afghan go-vernment spokesperson; Handudlah Pitas, said in a tal at the Pakistani border town of Channa said three



peries thering the fighting.

Rach side accused the other of launching "unprevoked" attacks at the crossting between Chaman and
Spin Boldak, in youthern
Althanten.

tan have been locked in an increasingly bitter dispute since the Taliban authorities retook control in Kabul in 2021. Kabul accused bla-mahad last month of air strikes in a border area that killed 10 people, nine of them children. Pakistan denied the claim.

Pakistan's Foreign Mi-nistry warned on Novem-ber 26 that in light of "terrorist attacks" on its soil, "the seasefire is not holding". Pakistan said earlier this

Supreme Court warns of penalties for abuse of disabled persons in prisons

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELIII

The Supreme Court has held that prison authori-ties who abuse disabled prisoners will be penalised under the Right to Persons with Disabilities (RPWD)

under the flight to berostes
A Bonch of Justices VidLand State and Sanders
A Bonch of Justices VidLand State and Lindirected all States and Undirected all States and Unton Ferritories to change
new modalities to cruste
that situating parametes
recorded assistive devices
to aid modelity, specialised
modela core and contractices of the control of the contractices and the contractices of the control
tractices and the contractices of the control
tractices of the contractices of the con
The conwith Disabilities (ICPWI)
Alt.
Alt. Abords of Justices Vikrain Nath and Sandeep
Mehlus, in a 15-page order,
directed all Staton and Union Territories to change
their prisor rules, draw up
their

DM amonto

The order was based on a plea over the inhumane conditions faced by G. Saibaba and Stan Swamy

creation of facilities in pri-

ers under the statutory protection and framework of the 2016 Act.

The judicial interven-tion afforded prisoners with benchmark disabili-

sippur cup in prison.

with benchmark disabili-tias the same rights as a free disabilist person. Pri-marks and the second of the must be able to "enery out their daily activities with dignity without compre-ty", the court ordered. The order was based on a perition filed by Sathyan activation Radieswetten Raj and Thulast Raj, highlight-ing the maintails and inha-ting the maintails and inhamane prison conditions auffered by Professor G. Saibuba and the elderly Stan Swamy.
The dentise of Salbaba, a scholar and human rights

400000

was directly attributable to was directly attributable to his deteriorating health, exacertrated by prolonged incarveration and the inhu-mane conditions of his de-tention. Swamy, who suf-ferred from Parkinson's syndrome, was denied a

take forward talks on the first tranche, dealing with tariffs, of a bilateral trade agreement butween the squeeze butween the two committees. Our control to the Ministry of Commerce and findustry, the U.S. dole-gation is especied to be led presentative Nick Switzer, while the Initian side will will be supported to the con-trol to the control to the juin, joint Secretary in Mi-nistry. The table are not ex-perience of the control to the presentative Nick Switzer, while the Initian side will juin, joint Secretary in Mi-nistry. The table are not ex-cell round of negotiations, the last of which took place in the U.S. in October Ho-werer, the two subs-

Two aspects
Prisoners with disabilities
are punished on two aspects, namely the crime
aconvicted, and the "crime"
of tesing handicupped, the
plea said.
The court ordered to
make the recessary change
es in the prison manuals see
prisoners were entitled to prisoners were entitled to "enhanced visitation rights".

U.S. team to visit India next week to discuss tariffs for bilateral trade deal

E.C.A. Sharad Baghayan NEW DECISI Engaging again

A team of negotiators from the U.S. will visit India from December 10 to 12 to

India and the U.S. we contain to finalise the first transfer of a proposed triateral trade agreement.



Deliction Demonstrates (In 13)

• Vise reliction teams until the land vay sowint the printing baryging large and the land way sowint the printing baryging large and the land times and the land times of the land

4 5 4 delication

looking forward to making 'strong progress' towards addressing the issue of

tariffs. The U.S. has imposed a total of SO's tariffa on im-tary in October, said that for these community rect-proceal earlie, and another 25% being imposed as a pe-nalty for holds' import of in the process of the process of the process of the pro-late of the process of the process of the pro-late of the process of the process of the pro-late of the process of the pro-late of the process of the pro-late of the process of the pro-page of the process of the pro-page of the pro-tar pro-tar

Rajesh Agrawal, who was India's elser negotiator on the U.S. deat until he took

'Final concessions'

According to officials close-ty tracking the deal nego-tations, India has present-ed the U.S. with a revised version of what it consist-on the wider issues of man-let. access and esectoral benefits.

"The officials and nego-they can me that front," a second official said, "Now it really to up to the lead-ers, and that hos, one more than the consistency of the con-traction of t

40000

As crisis continues, govt. sets cap on airfares

- IndiGo, which cancelled two out of every three services on Friday, flew 1,500 flights on Saturday
- The airline will likely return to full capacity of 2,200 flights by December 15, says CEO Elbers
- Caps for domestic economy fares are in the range of ₹7,500 to ₹18,000, depending on the distance

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

he Union government imposed caps on airfares, set a timeline for refunds, and announced special trains to help stranded passengers on Saturday, as IndiGo, the country's largest domestic airline, began a slow return to normalcy.

The airline has experienced a near-total breakdown of operations in recent days, and had cancelled two out of every three of its scheduled flights on Friday.

IndiGo, which operates 2,200 flights daily and accounts for six out of every 10 passengers who travel by air, said it had operated 1,500 flights on Saturday compared with 700 on Friday. Normalcy is expected between December 10 and 15, according to IndiGo chief executive officer Pieter Elbers.

"Over 95% of network connectivity has already been re-established as we are able to operate to 135 out of the existing 138 destinations," the airline said in a statement.

'Fair fares'

Meanwhile, Minister for Civil Aviation K. Rammohan Naidu said in a post on X: "The Ministry has invoked its regulatory powers to ensure fair and reasonable fares across all affected routes."

The Ministry has notified limits on economy class air fares for domestic flights starting with a cap of ₹7,500 for a distance of



Long haul: Passengers waiting at the Chennai airport on Saturday amid continued cancellations. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

500 km, ₹12,000 for up to 1,000 km, ₹15,000 for up to 1,500 km and ₹18,000 for longer flights.

These caps exclude the user development fee payable to airports, the passenger security fee collected by the Central Industrial Security Force, and taxes.

Refunds by Sunday

The government has di-

DGCA serves show-cause notice on IndiGo CEO

NEW DELHI

The DGCA on Saturday served a show-cause notice on IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers seeking an explanation within 24 hours on why enforcement action should not be initiated against him for the large-scale flight disruptions that have seen hundreds of flight cancellations over the past week. >> PAGE 4

rected IndiGo to ensure that refunds for all cancelled and disrupted flights are completed by 8 p.m. on Sunday.

It has also instructed the airline to trace all baggage

separated from passengers due to cancellations or delays and deliver them to their residences or designated addresses within 48 hours.

IndiGo has also announced a full waiver of cancellation and rescheduling fees for travel between December 5 and 15, allowing passengers to cancel or modify their bookings.

This is in addition to refunds owed to all the other passengers whose flights were cancelled by the airline over the past few weeks.

Special trains

To help those passengers stranded by the flight cancellations, Indian Railways has introduced more than 75 special trains connecting multiple cities across the country.

East Coast Railway, for instance, will run six trains to connect passengers between destinations in Odisha, including Bhubaneshwar, Sambalpur, Puri, and Delhi, Mumbai, and Vishakapatnam.

It will also add coaches to four trains, including the Bhubaneshwar-New Delhi Tejas Rajdhani and the Puri-Shalimar Garib Rath.

Western Railway will also run seven special trains on special fares on the following routes: Mumbai Central-New Delhi, Mumbai Central-Bhiwani, Mumbai Central-Shakur Basti, Bandra Terminus-Durgapura, Valsad-Bilaspur, Sabarmati-Delhi, and Sabarmati-Sarai Rohilla.

1. Aviation Crisis: What Happened?

- IndiGo, India's largest airline, faced a near-total break-down in operations.
- It cancelled two out of every three flights on Friday, causing massive passenger disruption.
- · Reason:
 - Large-scale operational dislocation
 - · Crew shortage due to cascading delays
 - Technical + logistical bottlenecks

2. Govt Steps In — Caps on Airfares

To protect passengers, the Union Government imposed fare caps on domestic economy flights:

Fare Cap Structure (Based on Flight Distance):

- Up to 500 km → ₹7,500
- Up to 1,000 km → ₹12,000
- Up to 1,500 km → ₹15,000
- Above 1,500 km → ₹18,000

Notes:

- Caps do not include airport user development fees, security charges, or taxes.
- · Ministry invoked regulatory powers to ensure "fair and reasonable fares".

3. Restoration of Airline Operations

- IndiGo operated 1,500 flights on Saturday, compared to 700 on Friday.
- Expected return to full capacity (2,200 flights/day) by December 15.
- 95% of network operational → 135 out of 138 destinations restored.

4. Passenger Relief Measures

a) Refunds

· Govt directed IndiGo to complete all refunds for cancelled flights by 8 PM, Sunday.

b) Baggage Tracking

· Airlines must trace and deliver all baggage within 48 hours to passenger homes.

c) Free Cancellations

IndiGo offered free cancellation/rescheduling for travel between Dec 5–15.

5. Special Trains Introduced

To help stranded passengers:

- Indian Railways introduced 75 special trains.
- · Routes include:
 - Bhubaneshwar-Delhi, Mumbai-Delhi, Valsad-Delhi, Sambalpur-Bhubaneshwar, Shalimar-Puri, etc.
- Western Railway added seven more special services.
- · Coaches added to Tejas Rajdhani and other premium trains.

6. DGCA Regulatory Action

- DGCA issued a show-cause notice to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers.
- Asking explanation within 24 hours as to why enforcement shouldn't begin for:
 - Large-scale disruptions
 - Poor passenger handling
 - Violations of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)

7. Key Policy Takeaways

- Govt is willing to impose temporary fare caps to prevent price gouging.
- Regulatory focus shifting to passenger rights, refund timelines, and service accountability.
- Crisis highlights fragility of India's aviation sector despite high growth.

Exam	Year	Actual Question	Correct Answer	Verification Link
UPSC Prelims	2021	"With reference to Indian aviation, what is DGCA?"	A statutory body under Ministry of Civil Aviation (regulator)	UPSC Key 2021
SSC CGL	2023	"Which airline has the highest domestic market share in India?"	IndiGo	SSC Official Key → https://ssc.nic.in
RPSC RAS Prelims	2023	"UDAN scheme is implemented by which ministry?"	Ministry of Civil Aviation	RPSC Answer Key 2023
IB ACIO	2023	"Which authority regulates civil aviation safety in India?"	DGCA	Memory-based but validated across coaching keys

- Consider the following statements regarding the recent aviation measures taken by the Government of India:
- The government imposed temporary caps on domestic airfares to prevent excessive price hikes.
- DGCA issued a show-cause notice to IndiGo for large-scale flight disruptions.
- The fare caps include airport development fees and security charges.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3



U.S. official begins five-day visit to India NEWS > PAGE 4





NATGRID gets 45,000 requests per month

Blaze at Goa nightclub kills 25; four detained

The evolution of pension reforms It is shifting from social assistance to more participatory inclusion HION II PAGE B



Norris is the new Fi drivers' champion SPORT & PAGE 16

ENSERVED



Verdict in rape case against actor expected today

almost eight years, a trial court in Kochi will pronounce its pulgment in the sensational actor rape case on Monday. The Emakutary Principal Sessions Judge, is expected to prohounce the judgment mond 11 a.m. = PAGE 0

Hamas ready to give up arms 'If accumpation ends'

New Islands
Flatman said on Saharday A wasmady to hand over its weaponin
in the Caza Strip to the
Flatman Authority
governing the territory on the
condition that hand end its occupation, a PAGE 34

Drone attacks leave dozens dead in Sudan

PORT RUBAN
A scient paramilitary drone
attack on an Army-held town
in Sudan's Seath Kordefan
oute the a lendergarter and a
buspital, billing sheems of
sedians, including children,
a total official and on Sunday to PAGE 34.

Magists carrying 72-crore bounts surrender in M.P.

Ten Maoleta, carrying more than 42-crore bounty on their least, surrendered on Sunday in the presente of Mailting. Pradesh Chef Minister Mohan Yaday in Relaghat district. The stevelopment comes a month after a woman Maoist surren-

Five tourists and 20 staffers killed; club was operating without licence and emergency exit doors, says FIR: 100 people were in the dance area on first floor when fire erupted. say police; three officials suspended as Chief Minister orders investigation; ₹5 lakh will be paid to the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 will be given to the injured by the State tishikesh Bahadur Desai

massive fire srupted at a nightclub in north Gon Jost hefore midnight on Saturday, leaving 25 people dead and six mured. The millal police investigation found that the blaze was caused by a fire show with "electric finre show with "electric h-recrackers", organised without precautions or permits at the firch by Re-mee Lane nightchdt in Ar-pora, 25 km from Panaji.

poin, 28 km from Panaji.
The absence of emer-gency exit doors in the suppression resulted in the space turning into a death trap. The nighticule was op-erating without licences and permissions, accord-ing to the first internation opin were in the dance area on the first floor when the first entreed, and some the first entreed, and some the fire erupted, and some ran downstairs to the kitch-en, where they were trapped with the staff. Most of the deaths were caused by outlocation.

The awners, managers, and event managers have been charged with culpa-ble homicide and causing death due to negligence, among other charges, but questions have also been raised about the failure of the State and local admi-nistration to enforce the rules, allowing the night-club to operate illegally. Four people have been arrested so far, but the club's owners are yet to be nabbed.

CM orders probe

Chur Minister Pramod Sa-Chur Minister Pramod Sa-want directed the State's Chief Secretary and Direc-tor-General of Police to identify and act against the government officials who government officials who allowed the club to oper-ate, though it violated ade-ty rules. A committee com-prising the South Goa Collector, Deputy Director of Fire and Emergency Ser-vices, and Director of Fer-rence Laboratory, will rensic Laboratory will probe the incident and submit its report within a

week.

Late on Sunday hight, three government officials responsible for allowing the nightclub to begin operations in 2023 were suspended — Siddhi Tushar Harlankar, then Director of Panchavats: Shamila Montetro, then Member Secre-tary of the Gos State Pollu-



chayat Arpora Nagou.

Of those killed, 20 were staff of the nightchb, all migrant workers, including four from Nepal. Pive of the dead workers haited from Uttarakhand, three each from Ibarkhand and hanner. Maharashtra and Uttar Pra desh, and one from West Bengal, according to a list released by the State go-vernment on Sunday

right.
Five tourists also died in the inferno, including three from one family in Delhi, along with another

Minister said, adding that arrangements will be made to take the mortal remains of the victims in their na tive places. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among others, expressed grief over the

tourist from Delhi and annihue from Karmataka. An exgratia of 15 labh will be paid to the kin of each of the deceased and 70,000 will be given to the injured from the State 750,000 of the injured.

initial investigation by the police led to the plainible conclusion that sparks from pyre gums and erack-era ignited inflammable materials like palm leaves, plastic, fibra, and foam packaging on the ceiling and the decor towers on the damer area of the first apot, who spoke on condi-tion of anonymity, said that the organisers held a fire show, without taking precautions and without obtaining due permissions from competent authorities.

On Sunday morning, Gos DGP Alok Kumar had Goa DGP Alok Kumar had and that inventigators were suspecting a gas cylinder blast, but it was later con-firmed that the cylinder ex-pleded on the ground flour kitchen only after the blaze

ittichen only after the blaze spread from the first floor. The club dies on the backwaters of the flaga riv-er, and is connected to the main road by a nearow lare. It is cut off by a small water body on mie alde and the river flags on the for the first offer engines to reach the front gair in the early hours of Sunday.

early hours of Sanday.
The police had to shift
the survivers away from
the main road and clear
the road by moving other
vesticles below the first fire engine could even enter the main gate.

No safety precautions The FIR said that "the owners, partners, manager, event organiser and other

Romeo Lane, Arpora... without taking proper care and caution, without pro-viding fire askety equip-ment and other safety gudgets, organized a fire show at their restaurant/club which resulted in a serious fire due to which 28 inno-

cent people succumbed to death and also caused inju-ries to tourists and staff, inries to tourists and staff, in-spite of having full know-ledge that organising such a show may lead to serious fire accidents..."

Several violations of fire safety norms are also listed.

Four people have been arrested, including the chief general manager of the club. However, the the chairman of Romeo Lane, which has restau-Lane, which has restau-rants in 10 cities, including Delhi, Gurugram, Luck-now, and Bhopal.

A local police officer said that most of the deaths were due to the lack

New U.S. security strategy aligns with our vision. says the Kremlin

Agence France Presse

Russia has welcomed changes in the U.S. National Security Strategy, saying the adjustments that marked a radical depar-ture from Washington's previous policy were "lar-gely consistent" with Mos-cow's vision.

COW VISION.

Weathington's new National Security Strategy, published on Friday, took aim at allies in Europe, calling them over-requisted, lucking in "self-confidence" and fasing 'evillational grasure" due to immigration

inningation.
It stated that the U.S. would prevent other powers from dominating but added: "This does not mean warring blood and treasure to curtail the in-fluence of all the world's great and middle powers." Commenting on the de-

velopment, the Kremlin's

said the current U.S. administration was "fundamen-tally different from the pre-

Arport Directors from major holds. Delth, Muni anglo holds. Delth, Muni anglo holds are dipolerabed. Ahmedabad aimooth terrininal operations of the proported at checkshi, security set baseling points; set of domestic points at positions of domestic points at positions.



tions. And this gives him

updated security strategy came as officials from Kylv held talks in Florida with

Three days of talks profluced no apparent breakthrough. President Volodymyr

Zelensky committed to further negotiations to ward "real peace" as Rus strikes at Ukrain

strikes at Utraine.
Zedensiky is thee to meet with European leaders.— French President Europa-med Macron, British Prime Minister Koir Starmer and German Chancellor Frie-citch Mers.—In Learndon on Monday to take stock of the negatial control.



Ballot days



Hursel in Buinghat is trade 4

onto fighters' Agence-France:Presss.

Japan protests

after Chinese

aircraft lock

military aircraft lecked radar myte Japanese lighter jets southeast of Oktnowe's main island, Ja pan's Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

china's Navy said To-kyo's claim was "complete-ly inconsistent with the facts" and told Japan to "immediately stop slander ing and smearing".

Special support cells have been deployed to ac-celerate refund resolution and assist travellers requir-

IndiGo stabilising flight operations, refunds ₹610 crore

Baurabh Trivedi

After six days of nation-wide disruption, IndiGo on Sunday reported signifi-cent progress in stabilising its flight operations, even as the Civil Aviation Ministry (MoCA) confirmed that the autine has processed \$610 crors in refunds and delivered 3,000 pieces of delayed baggage to affect-

ed passengers. The crisis, which began The crisis, which began on Tuesday, bad triggered more than 2,000 cancella-tions and widespread de-lays, leaving thousands stranded in airports across india. On Sunday, the airline

estic and international flights, while 650 re-matised cancelled. Flight disruptions persisted across major airports, though on a reduced scale. with 115 cancellations in Hyderabad, 112 in Mumbal, 109 in Delhi, 42 in Chen-109 in Defin, 42 in Chen-nal, and II in Ameliaar. In-ditio said it now expects in network to trabilise fully by December 10, advanc-ing its earlier timeline of December 10.18.

The Directorate Contents
of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
has granted a one-time 24house extension to Indicochief executive officer Pieter (fiber and incommable
officer and incommable
manager bader Proqueras,
to submit their exprone to
the slawscutter (fiber fiber) The Directorate General seed on December 6 over the flight disraptions and regulatory non-com-pliance. The Ministry said that even as IndiGo recled un-der severe operational strain, all other domestic arilines were functioning

at the New Delly amport on Sunday. Aftr

smoothly and it full capacity. Indicate recovery tra-jectory, it noted, reflected a charp climb from 706 dights on December 5 to dights on December 6, with further improvements on Sunday.
The aidine has mitiated separately and at full capa-

Special support cells

exploiting the temporary surge in demand following Indicio's cancellations, the Ministry imposed immeing rebooking. In parallel, the Civil Aviation Ministry directed Inditio to trace and deliver all misplaced or separated baggage within 48 hours. With this push, the airline diate fare caps on affected routes. This regulatory in-tervention helped restore has already delivered 3,000 pieces of baggage across the country. Airport Directors from airfares to reasonable le

ehind the cancellations

said a senior airline official. To prevent airlines from

Special support cells. The Ministry also ordered institute to complete all pending refunds for can-celled or severely delayed flights by 8 p.m. on Sunday. It prohibited the airline from levying any resche-duling fees for passengers

Explainer

What were the pilot duty rules that led to flight disruptions?

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has certain guidelines called the flight duty time limitation (FDTL) norms to ensure adequate rest timings for pilots and flight attendants and prevent fatigue-related safety issues. The DGCA had asked domestic airlines to comply with a new set of FDTL norms in a phased manner from July 1, 2025 to November 1, 2025. It increased weekly rest periods from 36 hours to 48 hours for flight crew from July 1. The new regulations also took into consideration different types of operations across time zones from July 1. The definition of night duty was changed to cover the period from midnight to 6 am as opposed to midnight to 5 am previously. This enhancement of one hourwas made to align the night duty period to encompass the window of circadian low from 2 am to 6 am, when the human body is at its lowest in terms of alertness.

Then from November 1, the maximum flight time and maximum flight duty period for flight operations encroaching night were restricted to eight hours flight time and 10 hours flight duty period, respectively. The number of landings was limited to only two as compared to six during night operations previously.

However, since December 1 IndiGo has faced flight disruptions, which resulted in the cancellation of over 2,700 flights, mostly due to a lack of proper arrangements by the airline to meet the updated FDTL requirements.



The pilot fatigue norms that left IndiGo gasping

The government has granted a one-time relaxation for some of the flight duty time limitation (FDTL) norms that triggered massive disruption of IndiGo flights last week. Though this gives the airline more time to adapt to the new rules, it will not be easy to build pilot bench strength that quickly, explains **Yaruqhullah Khan**

Mitigation measures taken by the govt

TO HELP RESOLVE the chaos at IndiGo, the DGCA has given a temporary reprieve till February 10, 2026, to the airline's A320 fleet, from the norms that had come into effect on November 1. Twelve new Flight Operations Instructions have been issued with updated ratings for both flight and simulator duties. Caps have been set on

airfares to control the surge in ticket prices following the flight disruptions. The government also directed IndiGo to clear all pending passenger refunds without delay by December 7,8 pm.Airlines have been told not to levy any rescheduling charges for passengers whose travel plans were affected by cancellations. INDIGO HAS
ADMITTED THAT IT
MISJUDGED THE
OPERATIONAL
IMPACT OF THE NEW
FDTL NORMS

Feb 10, 2026

NEW DEADLINE FOR INDIGO'S A320 FLEETTO ADOPT THE NORMS THAT CAME INTO EFFECT ON NOV 1

Why IndiGo was unable to adhere to the new norms

INDIGO HAS ADMITTED to the DGCA that it had "misjudged" the operational impact of the new FDTL norms. According to a statement issued by the DGCA, the airline said planning gaps contributed to its ongoing disruptions. At the heart of IndiGo's crisis lies the issue of the airline underhiring pilots. IndiGo currently operates around 410 aircraft with 5,700 pilots, translating to roughly 14 pilots per aircraft. This skeletal staffing model is insufficient as new rest rules require more pilots to operate the same flight schedule. IndiGo's ultra-high utilisation strategy also relies disproportionately on midnight-to-early-morning turnarounds-the window most constrained by the new FDTL rules.

By capping night landings at two per duty period and extending night duty definitions, the FDTL rules directly attacked the operational window upon which IndiGo's entire model depends.

Action taken against the airline

THE DGCA HAS issued show-cause notices to IndiGo's Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers, and the airline's accountable manager, COO Isidre Porqueras. It held the CEO responsible, saying he "failed in his duty" to ensure reliable operations and to provide the facilities passengers are entitled to. The DGCA has also constituted a four-member committee to review the factors behind the flight disruptions, which will assess gaps in crew planning, operational preparedness and compliance with revised FDTL norms.

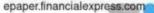
Meanwhile, the Airline Pilots'
Association of India (ALPA India) has
warned the temporary reprieve creates
an unsafe flying environment. It stated
that operators had been given almost
two years to meet the new FDTL
standards in two phases. However, it was
reported that operational disruptions
occurred just 35 days after the
implementation of Phase II, coinciding
with the winter 2025 roster increase
that was approved by the DGCA.

• Can IndiGo hire that many pilots?

INDIGO PLANSTO add 158 pilots by February 10, and another 742 by December 2026. It is in the market to hire 300 captains and 600 junior first officers over the next 12 months, the airline's management said in its detailed action plan submitted to the DGCA. It admitted that, for its Airbus fleet, it needed 2,422 captains and 2,290 first officers to operate its scheduled flights under the new FDTL norms, but had an availability of 2,357 captains and 2,194 first officers, respectively.

Aviation experts, including former

AirAsia CFO Vijay Gopalan, highlighted that increasing the number of captains is a complex task, as they undergo months of in-flight and on-ground training before being allowed to fly. Gopalan, in a post on Twitter said that the airline will not find it easy to hire pilots. 'One is a notice period. The second is, if you want to bring in fresh pilots,... they need to go through the training. They need to finish the minimum number of flying hours. I don't think Indian infrastructure supports any of those things. It's a long process. It's not going to be easy," he said.



1. What were the new pilot duty rules (FDTL norms) that triggered disruptions?

New DGCA FDTL norms implemented in phases (July 1, 2025 → Nov 1, 2025):

FDTL = Flight Duty Time Limitations, designed to prevent pilot fatigue.

A. Weekly Rest Period Enhanced

- Rest for flight crew increased from:
 - 36 hours → 48 hours (starting July 1).
- Aim: Improve circadian recovery & reduce fatigue risk.

B. "Night Duty" definition changed

Earlier: Midnight to 5 AM

Now: Midnight to 6 AM

Why important?

- Human alertness lowest between 2–6 AM → highest fatigue risk.
- · Extending night window = fewer early-morning duty extensions allowed.

C. From Nov 1, 2025 — strictest rules implemented

- . Maximum flight time + maximum duty time for flights crossing night hours became restricted.
- Maximum number of landings in a day reduced to two, compared to earlier six.
- Result: Airlines need more pilots to maintain same schedule.

2. Why IndiGo struggled to comply with new norms?

A. Misjudged staffing requirements

- IndiGo admitted to DGCA that it underestimated the impact of new norms.
- IndiGo operates:
 - · 410 aircraft
 - 5,700 pilots → roughly 14 pilots per aircraft
- Model requires 18–20 pilots per aircraft to meet new norms.

B. Over-reliance on night & early-morning flights

IndiGo's "utilisation-heavy" strategy depends on:

- · High frequency of midnight-to-dawn operations
- · Fast aircraft turnaround times

The new **night duty restrictions** broke this model.

C. Complex scheduling under new rules

- Duty period calculations became stricter.
- Pilot fatigue alerts triggered more often.
- Simulation data IndiGo relied on also failed to predict actual disruptions.

3. Action taken by DGCA against IndiGo

A. Show-cause notice issued

To IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers + Accountable Manager CIO Isidre Porqueras.

Charges:

- · Failure to ensure reliable operations
- · Poor passenger facilities
- · Not preparing operations for new norms

B. Four-member committee formed

To examine:

- · Crew planning
- · Operational preparedness
- · Compliance failures

5. Can IndiGo hire enough pilots?

IndiGo Plans:

- Hire 158 pilots by Feb 2026
- Hire 742 more by Dec 2026
- Currently in market for 300 captains & 1500 first officers

Pilot Hiring Gap:

- Needs:
 - 2,422 captains
 - 2,290 first officers
- Has:
 - 1,460 captains
 - 2,194 first officers

Large skill gap remains → training pipeline slow.

Industry Insight

- Airlines face difficulty hiring because:
 - · Captain training months-long
 - Limited simulator availability
 - Fresh pilots need years to reach captain rank

IIA celebrated 10 years of AstroSat's UltraViolet Imaging Telescope

1. IIA celebrates 10 years of AstroSat's UVIT

- Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) marked a decade of operations of the UltraViolet Imaging
 Telescope (UVIT).
- A workshop in Bengaluru highlighted:
 - UVIT's contribution to UV astronomy,
 - · Key scientific discoveries,
 - Role in shaping future Indian space telescopes.

2. AstroSat — India's First Dedicated Space Observatory

- Launched: 2015 (by ISRO).
- India's first multiwavelength space observatory.
- Observes across:
 - Ultraviolet,
 - Optical,
 - Soft and hard X-ray bands.

Why AstroSat is important?

- It is among very few global UV astronomy facilities, alongside NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.
- · Helps bypass Earth's atmospheric absorption which blocks most UV radiation.

3. UVIT — Flagship Instrument of AstroSat

Activated in Nov 2015.

Key Features

- Two co-aligned telescopes:
 - Near-UV
 - Far-UV
- Very high-resolution imaging (~1 arcsecond).
- Capable of long-duration stable observations.

Scientific Achievements

- Study of:
 - Star formation histories
 - · Evolution of star clusters
 - Hot stellar populations
 - UV mapping of galaxies
- Helped India join the elite global UV astronomy community.

4. Importance of UV Astronomy

- UV radiation cannot be observed from Earth due to atmospheric absorption → requires space telescopes.
- UVIT's longevity has boosted:
 - Stellar evolution research
 - Galactic evolution studies
 - Measurement of cosmic star formation rates

5. Future Scope

- India preparing new missions that may build on UVIT's:
 - Optics
 - Detectors
 - UV calibration expertise
- UVIT's success lays foundation for India's next-generation UV space missions.

AstroSat Facts

- Launcher: PSLV-C30
- Weight: ~1500 kg
- · Instruments include:
 - UVIT
 - Soft X-ray Telescope (SXT)
 - Large Area Xenon Proportional Counters (LAXPC)
 - Cadmium Zinc Telluride Imager (CZTI)
 - · Scanning Sky Monitor (SSM)

UVIT Specs

- · Wavelength coverage:
 - FUV: 130–180 nm
 - NUV: 200–300 nm
- Resolution: 1 arcsecond one of the best globally in UV band.

Global UV Missions

- Hubble Space Telescope (NASA/ESA)
- GALEX (NASA, retired)

India's Astronomy Centres

- IIA (Bengaluru)
- IUCAA (Pune)
- · ARIES (Nainital)

Exam	Year	Actual Question	Correct Answer	Verification Link
UPSC Prelims	2023	"With reference to AstroSat, consider the following statements" (asked about multiwavelength capability)	It observes UV + X-ray + visible	https://upsc.gov.in — Official Answer Key
UPSC Prelims	2021	"Which of the following missions deals with X-ray astronomy?"	AstroSat	UPSC Key 2021
SSC CGL	2023	"Which is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory?"	AstroSat	https://ssc.nic.in
RPSC RAS	2023	"UVIT is associated with which Indian satellite?"	AstroSat	RPSC Answer Key
UPPSC	2023	"Hubble Telescope observes which part of spectrum?"	Visible, UV, Near IR	UPPSC Official Key

• With reference to the UltraViolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT), consider the following statements:

- UVIT operates on board India's AstroSat mission.
- UVIT provides high-resolution ultraviolet imaging not possible from Earth due to atmospheric absorption.
- UVIT is India's first space telescope capable of far-UV observations.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

The 11th India International Science Festival (IISF)

1. The 11th India International Science Festival (IISF)

- Held from 6–9 December 2025
- Location: Panchkula, Haryana
- IISF was launched in 2015 as a national platform to promote:
 - Scientific temper
 - Public engagement in science
 - Innovation and research
 - Collaboration among scientists, students, entrepreneurs & policymakers

2. Theme of IISF 2025

"Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Aatmanirbhar Bharat"

This theme highlights:

- Science-led growth for a self-reliant India
- Use of innovation-driven research for economy
- Integration of traditional knowledge systems with modern science
- Contribution of science to national development

Vision of IISF 2025

- Strengthen India's innovation ecosystem
- Promote scientific awareness among youth
- Encourage community science, grassroots innovation & indigenous knowledge
- Support SDGs through science & technology
- Showcase India's achievements in S&T to global audience

•

4. Major Focus Areas & Programme Structure (5 Broad Themes)

A. Ecology and Science of North-West India & the Himalayan Region

- Climate change impact
- Biodiversity & environmental resilience
- Disaster preparedness

B. Science for Society & Education

- STEM education reforms
- Science communication
- · Citizen science initiatives

C. Self-reliance through S&T

- · Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives
- Indigenous manufacturing
- Make in India + Startups + Deep-Tech

D. Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS)

- Ayurveda, Yoga, Natural farming
- Tribal knowledge integration

E. Innovation, Technology & Youth Empowerment

- Research exhibitions
- · Student innovation showcases
- Women in STEM

1. IISF is organised by:

- Ministry of Science & Technology
- Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
- CSIR & other national labs

2. In India, 'Scientific Temper' promotion is mandated under:

Article 51A(h) – Fundamental Duties

3. First IISF was held in:

New Delhi, 2015

4. Haryana (host state) key S&T institutions:

- National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar
- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) regional centers

5. Panchkula is emerging as a biotech & innovation hub.

Exam	Year	Actual Question	Correct Answer	Verification Link
UPSC Prelims	2022	"INSPIRE, MANAK & SERB programmes relate to which sector?"	Science & Technology Research Promotion	UPSC Key 2022
UPSC Prelims	2021	"Which institution coordinates India's science communication efforts?"	Department of Science & Technology (DST)	UPSC Key
SSC CGL	2023	"What is the main aim of India International Science Festival?"	Promoting scientific temper and innovation	SSC Key → https://ssc.nic.in
RPSC RAS	2023	"Which Article promotes scientific temper?"	Article 51A(h)	RPSC Official Key

- With reference to the 11th India International Science Festival (IISF), consider the following statements:
- The theme of IISF 2025 focuses on science-led growth for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- The festival integrates traditional knowledge systems with modern science.
- The first IISF was held in Hyderabad in 2015.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

India-Malaysia Joint Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025



• Samudra Laksamana (bilateral maritime exercise), and Udara Shakti (bilateral air force exercise).

1. What is Harimau Shakti 2025?

- 5th edition of the bilateral military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Malaysian Army.
- Conducted from 5–18 December 2025.
- Venue: Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan (India).

Aim of the Exercise

- Strengthen operational cooperation through structured joint training.
- Enhance capability for sub-conventional warfare under Chapter VII of the UN mandate.
- Improve coordinated responses in counter-terrorist scenarios.

2. Participating Contingents

Indian Side

Troops from the Dogra Regiment.

Malaysian Side

Personnel from the 25th Battalion of the Royal Malaysian Army.

1. India's Key Bilateral Military Exercises

- India-Malaysia → Harimau Shakti
- India–Indonesia → Garuda Shakti
- India-Singapore → Agni Warrior, Bold Kurukshetra
- India-Thailand → Maitree
- India-Vietnam → VINBAX
- India–Myanmar → IMBAX

2. UN Charter Chapter VII

- Deals with actions related to peace, security, and counter-terrorism, including:
 - Authorizing military actions
 - Peace enforcement
 - Sanctions

3. Mahajan Field Firing Range

- One of India's largest training areas for:
 - Live-fire exercises
 - Armoured warfare drills
 - International joint training

Exam	Year	Actual Question	Correct Answer	Verification Link
UPSC Prelims	2022	"Exercise VINBAX is conducted between India and which country?"	Vietnam	UPSC Key
SSC CGL	2023	"Exercise Garuda Shakti is a military drill between India and which nation?"	Indonesia	SSC Official Key
RPSC RAS	2023	"Bold Kurukshetra is conducted between India and?"	Singapore	RPSC Answer Key
CDS Exam	2023	"Harimau Shakti is a bilateral exercise between India and which country?"	Malaysia	UPSC CDS Admit + coaching verified Q

- Consider the following statements about Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025:
- It is a bilateral exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Malaysian Air Force.
- The 2025 edition was held at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- The exercise focuses on sub-conventional operations under the UN Chapter VII mandate.
- Which of the statements are correct?
- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Trump Receives First FIFA Peace Prize

1. What Happened?

- US President Donald Trump received the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize.
- Award presented during the 2026 FIFA World Cup draw in Washington DC.
- Venue: Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
- This marks a rare merging of sports diplomacy and international political recognition.

2. Why Was Trump Given the Prize?

- FIFA President Gianni Infantino awarded Trump for:
 - His role in facilitating peace efforts across regions facing prolonged tensions.
 - His political contributions toward improving intercountry diplomacy.
 - His involvement in arrangements related to the 2026 World Cup, jointly hosted by:
 - USA
 - Canada
 - Mexico

3. FIFA Introduces the Global Peace Award

Purpose of the Award:

- Introduced in November 2025 by FIFA.
- Recognises individuals whose actions have:
 - Advanced peace,
 - · Strengthened unity,
 - Created positive global influence.

Selection Criteria (Not Fully Disclosed):

- Exceptional contribution to peace efforts.
- Global impact of actions.

4. Importance of This Development

- Matches global trend where sports bodies increasingly support:
 - · Peace building,
 - International cooperation,
 - Sports diplomacy.
- Adds a soft power layer to FIFA's global presence.

1. FIFA Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland

2. 2026 FIFA World Cup Hosts:

- USA
- Canada
- Mexico
 (First 48-team World Cup)

3. Sports Diplomacy Examples:

- · Cricket diplomacy: India-Pakistan
- Ping-pong diplomacy: USA-China 1970s
- Olympics used for peace initiatives
- 4. First FIFA Peace Prize → 2025 (Awarded before 2026 Cup)
- 5. Lionel Messi won record 8 Ballon d'Or (Current affairs relevance)

- With reference to the FIFA Peace Prize, consider the following statements:
- The inaugural FIFA Peace Prize was awarded during the draw ceremony of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- The award aims to honour individuals who have significantly advanced peace and global unity.
- The first award ceremony was held in Zurich, Switzerland.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025

- A private member's bill(PMB) titled the Right to Disconnect Bill 2025, was introduced in the Lok Sabha, it seeks to legally protect employees from after-hour work demands and reinforce healthy work-life boundaries.
- **Key Provisions:** The Bill proposes an **Employees' Welfare Authority** to enforce the right to disconnect, conduct baseline studies, and negotiate terms on after-hour engagement for companies with over 10 workers.
 - Employees refusing after-hours communication cannot face disciplinary action, and employers must pay overtime wages if work is assigned beyond fixed hours.
 - The Bill calls for **counselling services** and the creation of **digital detox centres** to address mental-health impacts like telepressure, stress, and "**info-obesity**."

Global Parallel: Nations like **France, Portugal, and Australia** have already enacted similar rights, indicating international recognition of employee wellbeing.

Private Member's Bill: PMB is a proposed law introduced in the legislature by a Member of Parliament (MP) who is not a Minister.

- In the Indian parliamentary system, any **MP**, whether from the ruling party or the opposition, is considered a "Private Member" if they do not hold a ministerial portfolio.
- Private Members' Bills, which are taken up on **Fridays when Parliament is in session**, seldom make it to passage.
- Since Independence, only 14 PMBs have been passed by both Houses and received Presidential assent. No PMB has passed both Houses since 1970.

Goldilocks Economy

• RBI trims repo rate to 5.25% as the governor highlights a rare Goldilocks moment for India's economy.

What is Goldilocks Economy Phase?

- A Goldilocks economy describes an ideal economic state that is "just right", neither overheating with high inflation nor cooling into recession, but featuring steady growth, low inflation, and low unemployment.
- Why does the RBI call it a Goldilocks phase?
- Retail inflation has dropped well below the 4% target and is hovering near the lower end of the 2–6% band.
- At the same time, real GDP growth has stayed robust at about 8%, even amid weak global conditions and external headwinds such as higher tariffs and currency pressures.

Word of the day

Regnant:

exercising power or authority

Synonyms: reigning, ruling

Usage: A sense of unease was the regnant emotion in the room.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/regnantpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɹɛgnənt/

