

## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE HINDU

CHENNAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

# Airports Authority of India to make detailed plans for T5 Terminal at city airport

A review meeting was held between the State government and the AAI last week to discuss the construction of the T5 Terminal and the elevated corridor, and ways to boost airport's capacity

### PORT CALL

Sunitha Sekar  
CHENNAI

**A**irports Authority of India (AAI) will soon start chalking out plans to build the T5 Terminal at Chennai airport and the elevated corridor to provide access to passengers.

A review meeting was held recently between the Tamil Nadu government and the AAI last week to discuss the construction of the T5 Terminal and the corridor, and ways to enhance capacity of the airport.

As the State government has scrapped the Parandur airport project and wanted to pursue the expansion of the existing airport before a new site is identified for the second airport in city, this review meeting was held, sources said.

This is the second review meeting being held between the State government and the AAI to discuss the means to improve the airport and the expansion plans.

The T5 Terminal will be situated in the airside of the airport and hence to create an entry for passen-



**Expansive project:** A source said that it may take seven to eight years to build the T5 terminal and the elevated corridor that will come up as part of the project. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

**At present, only a basic framework for the Terminal and the access road is ready**

gers from the city side, an elevated corridor has been proposed from NH 32 (near Madha Engineering College). This is likely to be a six-lane corridor.

At present, only a skeletal framework for the T5 Terminal and the access road is ready and a detailed plan needs to be drafted.

"We are discussing the area which has to be ear-

marked for the terminal and how to establish the access for the terminal. This is in a nascent stage now. Full-fledged planning will begin shortly," an official said.

There were discussions about the number of aircraft movements handled per hour and why it has not increased.

AAI was asked to take a relook at how much the capacity – in terms of aircraft movement and passenger traffic – can increase if the expansion work is carried out.

"It may take nearly 7-8 years to finish the planning

and build this terminal and elevated corridor. The State may as well place its focus on the second airport instead of this expansion," another source said.

Airlines too have pushed the government to decrease the value added tax (VAT) in the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The State government, on the other hand, has asked the airlines to bring in more connectivity from Chennai airport. But it is to be noted that adding connectivity from an airport gets decided between an airline and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHENNAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

# T3 integrated terminal work in final stage

## AAI Aiming For Opening In April 2027

**Venkadesan.S**  
@timesofindia.com

**Chennai:** From steel skeleton to a near-ready terminal, Chennai airport's integrated T3 has rapidly taken shape in the past few months. With concrete work almost complete and glass facades, flooring, baggage systems and passenger facilities getting ready, the terminal may be ready by the beginning of next year, Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials said.

AAI is planning the opening of the terminal by April

### CLOSE TO TAKE-OFF

PIC: TOI

#### HOW SERVICES WILL IMPROVE

Present entry gates at T2 international terminal

8

#### DEPARTURE

Additional entry gates | 2 (one for international passengers and one for domestic)

Check-in kiosks | **Present - 18, Additional kiosks - 20** (10 for international and 10 for domestic)

Check-in desks | **120, To be added - 48** (24 for international and 24 for domestic)

#### ARRIVAL

Baggage reclaim belts | **Present - 6, To be added - 4** (2 for international and 2 for domestic)



2027, subject to statutory approvals. The concrete work is 98% complete and structural steel erection is 85% complete. Flooring, roof erection and electrical work are nearly complete, and glass panel installation for the facade is progressing at a brisk pace.

At least 55% of equipment installation, including

the air handling unit (AHU), baggage handling system (BHS), counters, and elevators is complete. Currently, partition work is underway. More than 1,500 people have been deployed to complete the work," said an AAI official.

T3 is being developed as an 86,135sqm integrated ter-

минаl to handle both domestic and international flights for ₹2,467 crore under the second phase of Chennai airport's modernization plan. The first phase was completed in 2023 and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The work on T3 faced delays due to the non-availability

of raw materials owing to the West Asia crisis, but AAI has been periodically reviewing the progress of the terminal since January this year.

When T3 is completed, number of aerobridges will increase from 14 to 23, allowing passengers to directly enter or exit flights and the terminal without buses ferrying them to and from remote bays. With completion of rapid exit ways, Chennai airport's flight handling capacity will increase from 35 flights an hour to 45.

K Pasupathy, a frequent flyer, said AAI can no longer come up with excuses to delay the project as the state govt is serious about appointing a new operator for Chennai. "The authorities should stick to the deadline and provide better experience to passengers," he said

## Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2026

# हवाई कनेक्टिविटी में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट की स्थिति मजबूत

**70 अंतरराष्ट्रीय और 90 घरेलू गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ानें, हर महीने 15 लाख बदलते हैं उड़ान**

नई दिल्ली। देश के अलग-अलग शहरों को दुनिया के प्रमुख गंतव्यों से जोड़ने वाले आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट की हवाई कनेक्टिविटी लगातार बढ़ रही है। बढ़ती कनेक्टिविटी का असर एयरपोर्ट की वैश्विक स्थिति पर भी पड़ा है। ओएजी (ऑफिशियल एयरलाइन गाइड) के मेगाहब्स इंडेक्स-2026 में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट 11 पायदान ऊपर चढ़कर 28वें स्थान पर पहुंच गया है। वर्ष 2025 में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट इस सूची में 39वें स्थान पर था। वैश्विक शीर्ष 30 में जगह बनाने वाला दिल्ली देश का एकमात्र एयरपोर्ट है।

डायल के अनुसार, अब आईजीआई से 70 अंतरराष्ट्रीय और 90 घरेलू समेत कुल 160 गंतव्यों के लिए हवाई संपर्क उपलब्ध है। यहां पर रोजाना करीब 50 हजार यात्री अपनी आगे की यात्रा के लिए उड़ान बदलते हैं। इस तरह हर महीने करीब 15 लाख यात्री दिल्ली को यात्रा के बीच पड़ाव और उड़ान बदलने के केंद्र के रूप में इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। कम लागत वाली विमानन कंपनियों के संपर्क के मामले में भी दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट को प्रमुख केंद्र के तौर पर आंका गया है। मेगाहब्स इंडेक्स-2026 के अनुसार, दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर 11,045 संभावित कनेक्शन उपलब्ध हैं। इसके आधार पर इसे दुनिया का प्रमुख कम लागत वाली विमान सेवाओं का मेगाहब बताया गया है।

दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट का हब मॉडल मुख्य रूप से देश के बड़े घरेलू विमानन नेटवर्क पर आधारित है। जयपुर, लखनऊ, पटना, रांची, इंदौर, भुवनेश्वर और गुवाहाटी जैसे शहरों से आने वाले यात्री दिल्ली के जरिये यूरोप, उत्तरी अमेरिका, दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया,



सांकेतिक

ऑस्ट्रेलिया, मध्य एशिया और मध्य-पूर्व के विभिन्न गंतव्यों तक पहुंच सकते हैं। इससे दिल्ली देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों से आने वाले यात्रियों के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का प्रमुख ट्रांजिट केंद्र बनता जा रहा है।

एयरपोर्ट पर बढ़ते कनेक्शन का लाभ केवल अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों को ही नहीं मिल रहा है, बल्कि घरेलू यात्रियों के लिए भी यात्रा विकल्प बढ़ रहे हैं। अलग-अलग एयरलाइनों की उड़ानों के बीच बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी होने से यात्रियों को एक ही एयरपोर्ट से आगे की यात्रा के लिए विकल्प मिल जाते हैं। इससे ट्रांजिट यात्रियों की संख्या बढ़ने के साथ एयरपोर्ट पर एयरलाइन संचालन और यात्री सेवाओं का दायरा भी बढ़ रहा है।

विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, किसी एयरपोर्ट की मेगाहब के रूप में स्थिति केवल उड़ानों की संख्या से तय नहीं होती, बल्कि अलग-अलग शहरों के बीच उपलब्ध संभावित कनेक्शन, उड़ानों के समय और यात्रियों के लिए ट्रांजिट सुविधा भी महत्वपूर्ण होती है। दिल्ली में घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय नेटवर्क का विस्तार इस लिहाज से महत्वपूर्ण माना जा रहा है। आने वाले समय में नई अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवाओं के जुड़ने से यात्रियों

को कई विदेशी गंतव्यों तक पहुंचने के लिए अतिरिक्त विकल्प मिल सकते हैं।

**मनीला और ताइपे के लिए भी बढ़ेगा संपर्क :** डायल के अनुसार, आने वाले महीनों में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट से अंतरराष्ट्रीय कनेक्टिविटी और बढ़ने की संभावना है। फिलीपीन एयरलाइंस के नवंबर में दिल्ली-मनीला सेवा शुरू करने की उम्मीद है। वहीं, ईवीए एयर एक दिसंबर से दिल्ली-ताइपे के बीच सेवा शुरू करने की तैयारी में है। एयरपोर्ट प्रशासन रूस, मंगोलिया और अफ्रीकी देशों के साथ भी सीधी हवाई कनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाने के लिए बातचीत कर रहा है।

नई अंतरराष्ट्रीय सेवाओं के शुरू होने से दिल्ली से सीधे जुड़ने वाले विदेशी शहरों की संख्या बढ़ेगी। इससे कारोबार, पर्यटन, शिक्षा और रोजगार के सिलसिले में विदेश जाने वाले यात्रियों को भी लाभ मिलने की उम्मीद है। साथ ही, भारत आने वाले विदेशी यात्रियों के लिए दिल्ली के रास्ते देश के दूसरे शहरों तक पहुंचना आसान होगा। एयरपोर्ट की बढ़ती कनेक्टिविटी दिल्ली की अंतरराष्ट्रीय विमानन भूमिका को मजबूत करने के साथ हवाई परिवहन नेटवर्क के विस्तार में अहम भूमिका निभा सकती है।



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2026

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## ...group lines up capacity buildup at its airports

AKBAR MERCHANT  
Mumbai, September 24

**ADANI AIRPORTS** IS accelerating plans to create additional capacity ahead of the expected surge in aircraft and passenger traffic. The airport operator has planned to invest around \$10 billion in capex over the next five years across its airports and city-side infrastructure.

Anun Bansal, CEO, Adani Airport told FE that capacity needs to be created well ahead of demand as new runways and terminals take several years to develop. "New airport or new terminal takes minimum four to five years. We need to start the capex now," Bansal said.

The next phase of Navi Mumbai International Airport is expected to be ready around 2030-31.

The expansion comes in focus as Indian carriers have placed large aircraft orders. IndiGo and Air India have collectively ordered around 1,680 aircraft, according to their publicly announced orderbooks.

## Corporate Communications Directorate

THE PIONEER

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2026

### GMR Hospitality to operate outlets at Delhi airport's T3



GMR Hospitality Ltd has been selected for setting up, operating and maintaining food and beverages outlets at the Terminal 3 of the Delhi airport.

The company has won the contract for an initial period up to May 2036 that can be extended by another 10 years, and has entered into a license agreement with Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), according to a regulatory filing. GMR Hospitality Ltd (GHL) and DIAL, which operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport in the national capital, are part of the GMR Group.

"The licence fee is based on the revenue share payment model to DIAL which would be ascertained based on the revenue from Food & Beverages Outlets on year on year basis with a minimum monthly guarantee payable by GHL to DIAL & advertisement fees.

"The estimated aggregate amount of licence fees for 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 shall be – ₹49 crores and – ₹109 crores, respectively," GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) said in the regulatory filing late evening on Wednesday.

GHL has emerged as the selected bidder for designing, financing, developing, setting up, operating, managing and maintaining the food and beverages outlets at Terminal 3. The transaction is a related party transaction on arms' length basis and necessary approvals were duly obtained in accordance with Sebi Listing Regulations and Companies Act, 2013, the filing said.

GMR Hospitality – a joint venture between GMR Airports and Travel Food Services – operates food and beverages outlets at Goa and Hyderabad airports.

GMR Airports operates airports at Delhi, Hyderabad, Goa, Nagpur, Bidar as well as Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Medan, Indonesia.

(PTI)



# Corporate Communications Directorate

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BANGALORE

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

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## Work on biz park at KIA to start soon

**Bengaluru:** Civil work for a major part of the 2.2 million-sqft business park around Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is likely to kick off soon.

The project, consisting of four blocks, has so far seen the construction of only one. Bengaluru Airport City Ltd (BACL), a subsidiary of KIA operator Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) focusing on real estate business, floated an expression of interest

for civil and structural work for the three remaining blocks.

The business park will have a total built-up area of 17.7 acres. At present, construction is under way on 7.9 acres for the first block. Additionally, an urban forest corridor connecting all four parks is under construction. The urban forest will be an open green space likely to feature a locally themed design with focus on Karnataka's terracotta tradition. **TNN**

# Corporate Communications Directorate

AMAR UJALA

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2026

## कोलंबो जा रहे विमान का इंजन फेल, चेन्नई में आपात लैंडिंग



**चेन्नई।** कोलंबो जा रहे बियतजेट के एक विमान का इंजन फेल होने के बाद चेन्नई हवाई अड्डे पर उसकी आपात लैंडिंग कराई गई। विमान में सवार 142 यात्रियों और चालक दल के सदस्यों को सुरक्षित उतार लिया गया। बाद में एयरलाइन ने दूसरे विमान की व्यवस्था कर सभी यात्रियों को उनके गंतव्य के लिए रवाना किया। हवाई अड्डे के प्रवक्ता ने बुहस्पतिवार को बताया कि बियतजेट की यह उड़ान हो ची मिन्ह सिटी से कोलंबो जा रही थी। इंजन में खराबी की सूचना मिलने के बाद विमान को चेन्नई की ओर मोड़ दिया गया। इस दौरान 22 सितंबर की रात 9:55 बजे हवाई अड्डे पर पूर्ण आपात स्थिति घोषित की गई और आपातकालीन योजना के तहत सभी जरूरी कदम उठाए गए। एजेंसी



# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2026

## AI Pilot Removed from Zurich Flight over Alcohol Violation

**Arindam Majumder**

**New Delhi:** An Air India pilot was removed from an aircraft before take-off at Zurich airport after he was found to be under the influence of alcohol, intensifying scrutiny over the airline's safety culture amid a series of cases involving its crew. The incident, on September 6, forced rescheduling of the Delhi-bound flight and prompted the Swiss aviation regulator to alert its Indian counterpart. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has since asked Air India to strengthen safeguards, people familiar with the matter said.

"The responsibility for the further handling of this case lies with the DGCA as the competent authority of the state of the operator," a spokesperson of the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) told ET.

The latest incident where an Air India crew broke rules has increased the challenge for incoming Air

India CEO Tewolde Gebremariam who has set building a safety culture as his priority.

Early this month, the airline sacked a pilot who had tested positive for psychoactive substances after a Phuket-Delhi flight that he commanded momentarily lost altitude, injuring 24 passengers, in August.

In another incident in January, an Air India pilot was detained at Vancouver airport after he reportedly smelled of alcohol shortly before boarding an aircraft.

An Air India spokesperson said the airline maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards any violation of safety, regulatory protocols. "Any confirmed breach is dealt with firmly and action in accordance with regulatory requirements and company policy is enforced," he said. Senior Air India executives said the incident in Zurich was reported by its own staff, which showed that its safety monitoring system is effective.





# Corporate Communications Directorate

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2026

## AI CLEARS ₹18-CR PAYOUT FOR OUTGOING CEO



AIR INDIA  
HAS  
approved  
cash  
incentives of  
around ₹18

crore for outgoing CEO Campbell Wilson (in picture), including a one-time reward of ₹2.5 crore for his performance in FY25, according to a resolution approved by the airline's shareholders. The payout includes around ₹15 crore in cash in lieu of shares that Wilson was entitled to receive under the airline's long-term incentive plan for FY23-FY25. Under the original terms of his remuneration, half of the long-term incentive was to be paid in shares. Wilson took charge as Air India CEO in July 2022 after the Tata Group took control of the airline. His initial three-year remuneration package was valued at around ₹21.5 crore annually.

## Corporate Communications Directorate

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

### **Domestic air traffic declines 6.34% in Aug**

India's domestic air passenger traffic declined 6.34% year-on-year to 121.26 lakh in August, according to DGCA data released on Wednesday. All Indian airlines together carried a total of 129.47 lakh passengers in August 2025.

Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-August 2026 were 1,105.30 lakh as against 1,107.26 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of -0.18% and monthly growth of -6.34%, the DGCA said. During the month under review, IndiGo's market share dropped sequentially by 2.4% to 65% from 67.4% in July, while SpiceJet's share declined to 1.2% from 1.6% in July this year, the data showed.

However, Air India Group's market share climbed to 26.7% in August, gaining 2.7% over July 2026.

**-PTI**

## Corporate Communications Directorate

HINDUSTAN TIMES

MUMBAI

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

# Domestic air passenger traffic falls 6.3% in August

**Neha LM Tripathi**

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**NEW DELHI:** Domestic air passenger traffic fell 6.34% in August this year compared to the same month in 2025, while IndiGo's market share declined and Air India Group's increased, according to the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) report.

Scheduled domestic airlines carried 12.13 million passengers in August, down from 12.95 million in the same month last year, the report said.

Passenger traffic from January to August was 110.53 million, marginally lower than the 110.73 million in the corresponding period last year, registering a year-on-year decline of

0.18%. This is the second consecutive decline in passenger numbers. DGCA's data showed domestic passenger traffic fell 4.80% to 12 million in July this year from 12.6 million in the same month in 2025.

IndiGo's market share declined to 65% in August from 67.4% in July. Air India Group's share increased to 26.7% from 24% during the same period. Akasa Air's market share was 5.5%, the same as in July. SpiceJet's share declined to 1.2% from 1.6%.

The report said the passenger load factor, or the percentage of an airline's available seating capacity filled with paying passengers, declined in August compared with July. IndiGo's load factor fell from 82.4% in July to 79.2% in August. Air



**The report said 1.39% of flights were delayed by more than two hours in August.**

MINT

India Group's load factor declined from 83.2% to 77%. Akasa Air's load factor fell from 91.9% to 87.6% during the period. The DGCA report said airlines received 2,132 passenger complaints during the

month, the highest being baggage-related issues accounting for 29.5%, followed by flight problems at 26.3% and refund-related complaints at 17.3%. It added that 2,123 of the total 2,132 complaints had been addressed.

The report said that among the major carriers, IndiGo recorded the highest timely flight operations at 91.5% across the 10 major airports, followed by Akasa Air (90.5%) and Air India Group (83.9%). Only 17.9% of SpiceJet's flights operated on time in the months. The On-Time Performance of regional carrier Alliance Air was 71.8%.

The report said 1.39% of flights were delayed by more than two hours in August. SpiceJet recorded the highest share

of such delays at 48.05%, followed by Fly91 at 3.46% and Alliance Air at 2.47%.

"August is traditionally a softer travel month. With schools and colleges reopened, monsoons impacting leisure travel and families generally waiting for the festive season, demand tends to moderate. Inbound tourism also remains subdued during this period. \*This year, geopolitical uncertainties, higher operating costs and some rationalisation of airline capacity have added to the softness. I would therefore view the decline in perspective, with festive and VFR travel expected to bring back momentum," said Jay R. Bhatia, director of Tulsidas Khimji Holidays and member of Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI).

# Corporate Communications Directorate

MINT

DELHI

25 SEPTEMBER 2026

## SpiceJet's delays surge, market share falls to five-year low

Abhishek Law

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NEW DELHI

**N**early every second SpiceJet flight was late by more than two hours in August, even as the country's fourth-largest carrier saw its market share drop to 1.2%, its lowest in five years. The deteriorating operating performance comes even as the Ajay Singh-promoted airline has yet to file its earnings for the year ended March 2026.

The airline's performance

has deteriorated sharply this year. In January, one in 15 SpiceJet flights was delayed by more than two hours. By May, the number rose to one in six, and in two months, by July, it further climbed to roughly one out of three.

In August, the situation worsened further, with 48.05% of SpiceJet flights delayed by more than two hours, compared with just 1.39% for scheduled domestic airlines, according to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data reviewed by *Mint*. The contrast with larger rivals is stark. Delays stood at 1.29% for the Air India group, 0.44% for IndiGo and 0.45% for Akasa Air.

The airline has also been grappling with a cash crunch, delayed salaries, grounded aircraft and a battle with lessors seeking to repossess planes over unpaid rentals and other dues. It also faced requests from lessors to deregister some of its aircraft.

A SpiceJet spokesperson said the airline's capacity has been affected by a combination of



In August, SpiceJet's 48% flights were late by over two hours.

fleet availability, aircraft grounded for maintenance and the time required to return them to service. "August was a challenging month from an operational standpoint, primarily because of constraints on available capacity and the consequent pressure on the network. With a smaller active fleet, any disruption has a disproportionate impact on the schedule, resulting in cascading delays and cancellations," the spokesperson said.

**Aircraft availability, maintenance, working capital and operational reliability are the constraints**

Its cancellation rate was also the highest in August, at 20.92%, against 1.04% for the industry. Simply put, one in every five SpiceJet flights was cancelled or did not operate, according to the DGCA data.

In July, one in 11 flights was cancelled, compared with fewer than one in 69 in January, underlining the sharp deterioration in the airline's operating performance.

Experts say operational reliability remains a key challenge for the airline.

For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](https://livemint.com).

## YEAR-ON-YEAR

# DGCA data: Domestic air passenger traffic falls 6.34% in August

**MPOST BUREAU**

*Mumbai, September 23*

India's domestic air passenger traffic declined 6.34 per cent year-on-year to 121.26 lakh in August, according to DGCA data released on Wednesday.

All Indian airlines together carried a total of 129.47 lakh passengers in August 2025.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-August 2026 were 1,105.30 lakh as against 1,107.26 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of -0.18 per cent and monthly (August 2026 vs August 2025) growth of -6.34 per cent," Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

During the month under review, IndiGo's market share dropped sequentially by 2.4 per cent to 65 per cent from 67.4 per cent in July, while crisis-ridden SpiceJet's share declined to 1.2 per cent from 1.6 per cent in July this year, according to DGCA data.

However, Air India Group's market share climbed to 26.7 per cent in August, gaining 2.7 per cent over July 2026.

Akasa Air's market share remained unchanged at 5.5



## INSIGHT

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per cent during the month under review vis-a-vis July, DGCA data showed.

In terms of On Time Performance (OTP) at the 10 major airports in August 2026, IndiGo topped the list at 91.5 per cent, followed by Akasa Air and Air India Group at 90.5 per cent and 83.9 per cent, respectively.

The overall cancellation rate of scheduled domestic airlines stood at 1.39 per cent in the previous month.