



## Sharp Rise in Domestic Air Passenger Traffic: DGCA



While the major Indian sectors were busy declining as a result of Demonetisation, the aviation sector of the country remained unabated.

According to the latest data from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in December domestic airlines flew 23.91 per cent more passengers than a year earlier.

According to DGCA data released on Tuesday (17<sup>th</sup> January 2017) all national scheduled carriers flew their planes with more than 80 per cent of their seats full in December, which

is traditionally a peak travel month. The list was led by SpiceJet that recorded load factor of 93.7 per cent. It was the 21<sup>st</sup> month in a row that SpiceJet flew its planes with over 90 per cent seats full.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced delegalisation of about 86 per cent currency in circulation, aviation sector had recorded 22.45 per cent passenger growth. The government did allow using old notes for purchasing air tickets till 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016.

IndiGo which is known to be the largest carrier in the domestic market flew 40.3 per cent of total passengers in the sector in December, has 91.45 per cent of seats in its aircraft full during the month. It was followed by GoAir with 90.7 per cent load factor.

SpiceJet also topped the list of airlines that flew the highest number of its flights on time. The data shows that SpiceJet flew 70 per cent of its flights on time at four airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.



Jet Airways per cent and Jet Lite, which together accounted for 17.9 per cent of total passengers flown in the country to emerge the second largest carrier, came second in on-time performance (OTP) by flying 64.3 per cent of its flights on time, followed by Vistara that flew 64.2 per cent of its flights on time. Air India was last in the list by flying 59 per cent of its flights on time.

IndiGo, which was ranked fifth among six major carriers by operating 61.6 per cent of its flights in time in December, has complained to DGCA about the procedure being followed to collate OTP data at Mumbai airport.

Even the share market looks favourable for the aviation stocks. [Jet Airways share price](#) and [IndiGo share price](#)- both are seen quoting in the green zone, though [Nifty share price](#) falls below its previous day close.

So, to sum it up, the demonetization move of the government which was seen to negatively impact the demand in several sectors did not have any impact on air travel in the country.



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