



Indian Railways Expands Passenger Connectivity and Freight Capacity in August 2026; Freight Loading Grows by 5.4% Over August 2025

14 Services of Amrit Bharat regularised to Strengthen Affordable Rail Connectivity; Services Link Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Other Key Regions in August 2026

5 New Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals Commissioned, Taking Total to 149; Faster Freight Movement to Support Industry and Regional Economic Activity

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August 2026 witnessed significant expansion in railway connectivity and services across the country, with Indian Railways recording growth in both passenger movement and freight loading. During the month, 14 Amrit Bharat services were regularised, providing more affordable and comfortable travel options to passengers across several important routes, while 5 new Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs) were commissioned to improve last-mile freight connectivity for industries.

Indian Railways also recorded 5.4 per cent growth in freight loading, reflecting continued demand from key sectors of the economy. Passenger traffic increased as well, with additional special train services being operated to meet the surge in demand during the festival season.

More Freight Movement, Supporting Industry and the Economy

Indian Railways loaded 137.9 million tonnes of freight during August 2026, compared to 130.9 million tonnes in August 2025, registering a 5.4 per cent year-on-year growth.

The increase in freight movement reflects growing demand from key sectors such as coal, iron ore, steel, fertilizers and other commodities. Higher rail freight movement also helps industries access reliable transportation while supporting the movement of essential commodities across regions.

Freight revenue during August 2026 increased by 6.27 per cent compared to August 2025, indicating continued strengthening of the freight business of Indian Railways.

Higher Movement of Key Commodities Supports Industry and Essential Supply Chains

Several important commodity groups recorded healthy growth during August 2026. Iron Ore loading increased by 12.1 per cent, Clinker by 10.4 per cent, Domestic Container by 9.2 per cent and Coal by 6 per cent. Finished Steel loading increased by 4.9 per cent, Mineral Oil by 3.1 per cent, Fertilizers by 1.6 per cent and Balance Other Goods by 8.2 per cent.

The growth in these segments strengthens the rail-based supply chain for industries and supports the movement of essential inputs and finished goods across the country. Increased container movement, in particular, supports more efficient transportation of diverse goods through the rail network.

5 New Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals to Improve Freight Connectivity

In August 2026, 5 new Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals were commissioned, taking the cumulative number of commissioned GCTs to 149 as on 31 August 2026.

The newly commissioned terminals are at -

- Shivlakhya, Gujarat
- Nalli, Tamil Nadu
- Shaktinagar, Uttar Pradesh
- Deoragram, Madhya Pradesh
- Brajrajnagar, Odisha

The expansion of the Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal network brings freight-handling facilities closer to production and consumption centres. By enabling more direct and efficient handling of goods, these terminals can reduce avoidable movement, improve logistics efficiency and facilitate faster evacuation of freight from industrial and commercial locations.

The growing GCT network is also helping strengthen the integration of railways with India's wider logistics infrastructure, giving industries greater access to rail-based freight transportation.

14 Services of Amrit Bharat were regularised to Expand Affordable Rail Connectivity

August 2026 marked a significant expansion of passenger connectivity, with 14 Amrit Bharat services were regularised from special train to regular train during the month, taking the total number of Amrit Bharat services to 86.

The services connect several major cities and regions, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and other important parts of the country.

The services include:

- Subedarganj - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus
- Gorakhpur - Bandra Terminus
- Gorakhpur - Delhi Jn
- Ahmedabad - Bhagalpur
- Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Prayagraj Jn
- Prayagraj Jn - Udhna Jn
- Dhanbad - Coimbatore, among others.

These new services are expected to provide passengers with more travel options, improved connectivity between major urban centres & regional destinations and affordable long-distance rail travel.

For Purvanchal and eastern Uttar Pradesh, services from Gorakhpur to Bandra Terminus and Delhi provide additional connectivity to two major metropolitan regions, benefiting passengers travelling for employment, education, business and family purposes.

Similarly, the Ahmedabad-Bhagalpur connectivity strengthens the rail link between Gujarat and Bihar, providing passengers from both regions with another direct travel option. The Dhanbad-Coimbatore service improves long-distance connectivity between eastern India and southern India, particularly benefiting passengers travelling between industrial and employment centres.

Connectivity between Prayagraj and Udhna and between Prayagraj and Mumbai further expands travel options for passengers from Uttar Pradesh travelling towards western India.

The expansion of Amrit Bharat services is part of Indian Railways' continued efforts to provide comfortable, affordable and accessible long-distance rail travel, particularly for passengers travelling between major cities and emerging regional centres.

Passenger Traffic Continues to Grow

Indian Railways carried 67.27 crore passengers during August 2026, compared to 64.43 crore passengers during August 2025.

Suburban passenger traffic recorded particularly strong growth, increasing by 9.02 per cent. A total of 38.01 crore suburban passengers travelled during August 2026, compared to 34.89 crore in August 2025.

The increase reflects the continued importance of the railway network in providing affordable daily mobility to millions of passengers, particularly in densely populated urban and suburban regions.

Additional Special Trains Help Passengers During Festival Rush

With increased passenger demand during the festival season, Indian Railways operated 144 trips of Rakshabandhan Special trains between 25 and 31 August 2026, compared to 48 trips operated between 8 and 14 August 2025.

The substantial increase in special train services helped provide additional travel capacity during the peak festival period, giving passengers more options to travel during a period of exceptionally high demand.

Such additional services are particularly important for passengers travelling to their hometowns and families during festivals, helping ease pressure on regular services and improving travel availability during peak periods.

Expanding Rail Connectivity, Strengthening Everyday Mobility

The developments during August 2026 reflect Indian Railways' continued focus on expanding passenger connectivity, improving travel options, strengthening freight infrastructure and responding to changing demand.

The introduction of new Amrit Bharat services is expanding affordable long-distance connectivity between major cities and regional centres, while additional festival services are helping passengers manage seasonal travel demand. At the same time, the expansion of Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals is strengthening the logistics network and improving rail access for industries.

Through continued capacity augmentation, improved operational efficiency and expansion of passenger and freight infrastructure, Indian Railways remains focused on making rail travel more accessible and strengthening the railway network as an important driver of economic activity and regional connectivity across the country.

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