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## DGCA Urges Stronger Safety Measures After Airline Audit Reveals Lapses

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India’s aviation watchdog has flagged over 260 safety violations across major domestic carriers following a comprehensive audit. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) reported a total of 263 findings, with Air India accounting for 51 lapses, the highest among the eight audited airlines.

While the DGCA stated that such figures are typical for large-scale operations, it underscored the urgent need for corrective action to uphold air safety standards. “These findings are part of routine oversight and not linked to any specific incident,” an official clarified, distancing the results from the June 12 Boeing 787 crash.

The audit revealed several operational deficiencies, including inadequate pilot training, the use of unapproved flight simulators, and irregular crew rostering. The regulator indicated that strict enforcement measures, including financial penalties, may follow if operators fail to address the issues promptly.

India’s aviation sector, projected to become the world’s third-largest by the end of this decade, continues to expand rapidly. However, this growth has come with challenges. Industry observers point to fleet aging, maintenance delays, and pressure on training systems as potential weak points that require constant regulatory vigilance.

One encouraging trend, according to the DGCA, is the increasing number of self-reported safety concerns from airlines. This, it said, reflects a shift toward greater transparency and operational accountability.

Nonetheless, the regulator reaffirmed that compliance with safety norms is non-negotiable. “Any lapse that poses risk to passengers must be treated seriously,” the DGCA noted, adding that oversight alone is insufficient without proactive measures by airlines.

Aviation experts echo the call for stronger internal controls across the industry. They emphasize the importance of upgrading fleet infrastructure, refining maintenance protocols, and providing ongoing training for flight crews. Without these, public trust in the system could weaken, even as demand for air travel continues to rise.

The audit outcomes place the spotlight on the evolving role of regulatory bodies like the DGCA. Beyond detection, their responsibility now extends to ensuring compliance through timely enforcement, especially as operational pressure mounts with the sector’s expansion.

For Indian travellers, consistent adherence to safety standards remains a top priority. The DGCA’s latest review serves as a timely reminder that as aviation traffic increases, so too must the rigour of oversight and accountability within the industry.