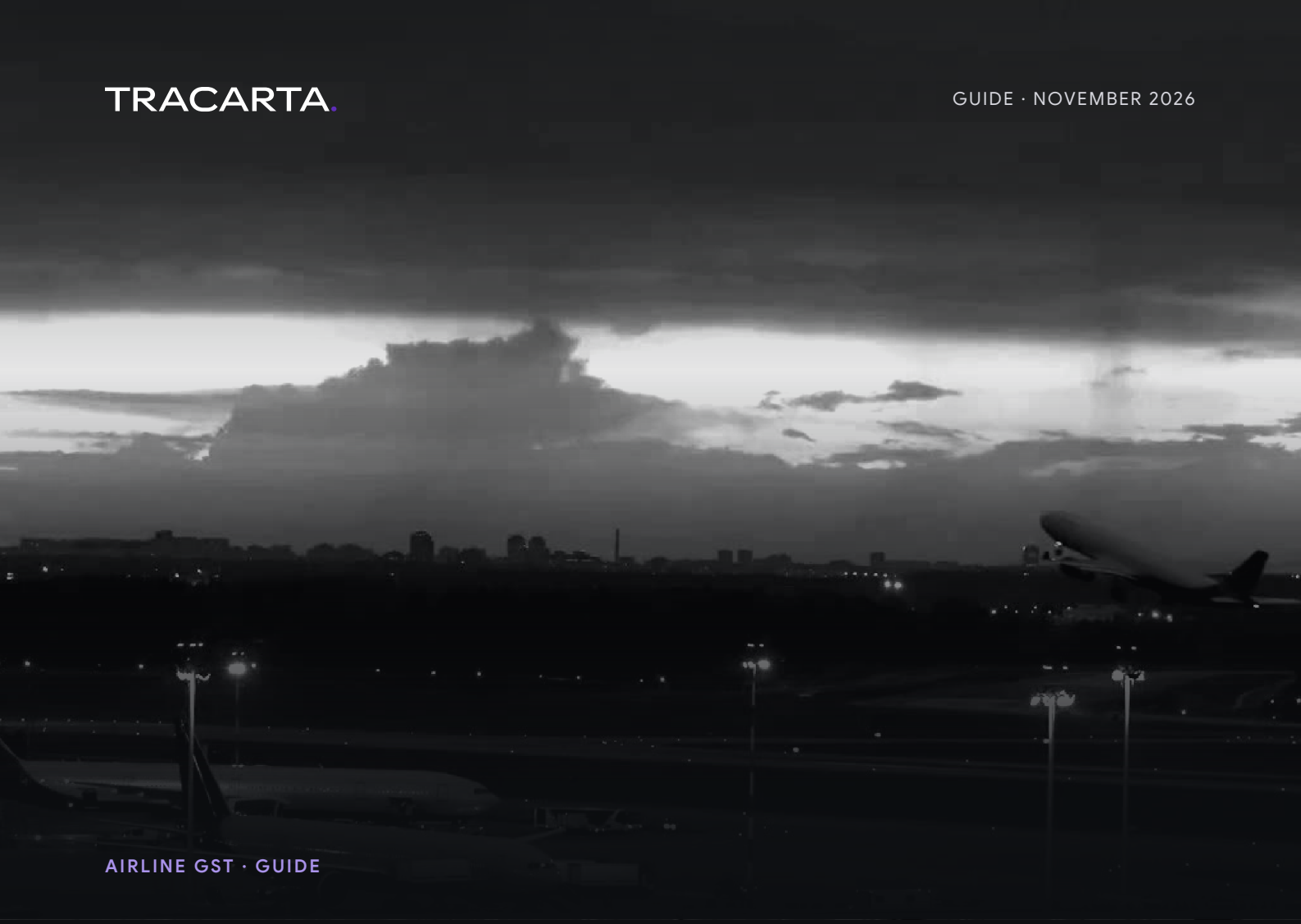
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GUIDE · NOVEMBER 2026



AIRLINE GST · GUIDE

The complete guide to airline GST credit

Everything a finance team needs to claim airline GST credit in full: what is claimable, the rates, the invoice chain, where credit leaks and the deadlines.

Chapters	Reading time	Updated
7	15 minutes	November 2026

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Everything a finance team needs to claim airline GST credit in full: what is claimable, the rates, the invoice chain, where credit leaks and the deadlines.

It is written for finance teams, tax teams and travel desks, in plain language. Each chapter stands on its own, and the last one is a checklist you can work through with your team.

General information only, not tax advice. Check the current law and your own facts before acting.

Chapter 1

What you can claim

GST charged by airlines on business travel is input tax credit for your company, subject to the usual conditions in sections 16 and 17 of the CGST Act: business purpose, a valid tax invoice addressed to your GSTIN, and the invoice appearing in GSTR-2B.

A travel agent's invoice covers only the agent's own fee. The GST on the fare sits on the airline's invoice, which is the only document that supports the claim.

Chapter 2

Rates by cabin

Cabin	Before 22 Sep 2025	From 22 Sep 2025
Economy	5%	5%
Premium economy	12%	18%
Business and first	12%	18%

The 5% condition limits the airline's own credit, not yours. Your company can claim the GST on an economy invoice.

Chapter 3

The invoice chain

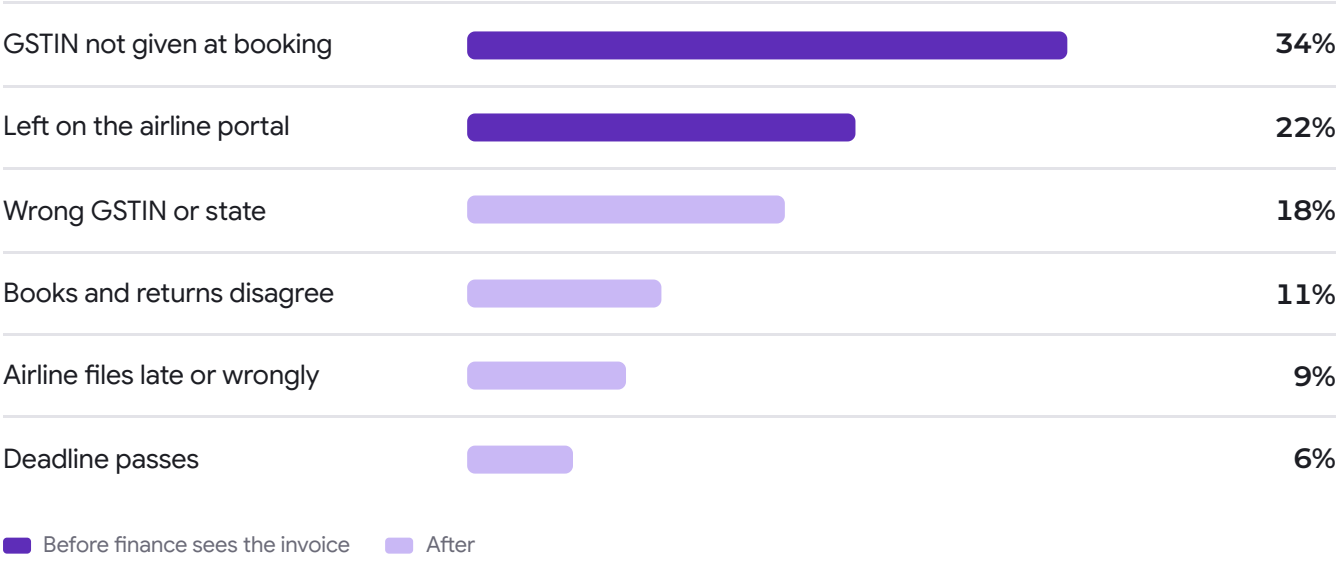
Credit only reaches you if every link holds. Break one, and the credit never appears.

1	2	3	4	5
Booking	**Airline invoice**	**GSTR-1**	**GSTR-2B**	**GSTR-3B**
With your GSTIN for the right state	A tax invoice, on the airline's portal	The airline reports it by the 11th	It appears on the 14th, after IMS	You claim it by the 20th

Chapter 4

Where credit leaks

Typical share of unclaimed airline credit, by cause. The two largest happen before finance ever sees the invoice.



Typical share of unclaimed airline credit, by cause. Source: TraCarta analysis.

Chapter 5

Credit notes and IMS

Every cancellation or change creates a credit note that reduces the credit on the original ticket. Each one needs tracing back to its ticket, and since October 2025 credit notes also need action in IMS.

Invoices left unactioned in IMS are deemed accepted when GSTR-2B is generated on the 14th. Rejected invoices yield no credit until the airline corrects them.

Chapter 6

Time limits

Credit for a financial year must be claimed by 30 November of the following year, or the date you file the annual return if that is earlier. Filing GSTR-9 early closes the window early.

Questions on credit already claimed can come years later, so the file behind each claim has to last as long as the year stays open.

Chapter 7

Checklist

- [ ] Every booking channel captures the company GSTIN for the traveller's state.
- [ ] Invoices are pulled from airline portals, not taken from agency reports.
- [ ] Every invoice is matched to GSTR-2B and your books, monthly.
- [ ] IMS is reviewed before GSTR-2B is generated.
- [ ] Every credit note is traced to its original ticket.
- [ ] Gaps are chased with airlines while corrections are still possible.
- [ ] Credit is claimed in the month it arises.
- [ ] GSTR-9 is held until every claim for the year is made.

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ABOUT TRACARTA

Every ticket. Every invoice. Every rupee.

TraCarta is a travel GST reconciliation firm based in Gurugram. Since 2018 we have helped Indian companies claim the GST credit on their business travel, airline and hotel, by collecting every invoice, matching it to GSTR-2B and following up with suppliers until the credit is in the books.

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