

What India Leaves Behind

A study of what passengers forget on Indian intercity buses - and what finds its way home



FLIXBUS INDIA | Lost & Found Analysis | 1 Jan – 30 June 2026

KEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

- 1. The charger, not the phone, is the most forgotten object in Indian intercity travel
 - 2. Passengers treat a long bus journey as a room, not a seat. Comfort goods outrank valuables
 - 3. Most lost property goes home- and recovery tracks how much the object mattered
 - 4. Ritual objects are the most regionally distinctive category in the log
- 8 times more Charger left behind vs phone
- More than 600+ lost-item queries addressed by FlixBus India's Lost & Found system
- Approximately 1 out of 5 items are comfort goods
- 2/5th of items left behind on temple-town routes are ritual objects



WHAT GETS LEFT BEHIND

EIGHT HOURS IS NOT A FLIGHT

The largest single category of forgotten property is not valuables. It is **comfort**.

Personal electronics & accessories
Comfort items
Bags & carriers
Clothing
Food & food containers
Documents & study material
Household & relocation goods
Eyewear & personal accessories
Ceremonial, religious & wedding items
Unclassified

MOST COMMON ITEMS LEFT BEHIND

Phone charger & cable
Water bottle
Earphones / earbuds
Neck pillow
Backpack
Jacket or sweater
Power bank
Spectacles / sunglasses
Umbrella
Steel tiffin or food container
...and 17 more everyday (and some not-so-everyday) items.

2. HOME TRAVELS WITH YOU

Forgotten food doesn't split evenly. It travels one way – back home.

SOUTH

Steel tiffin
Pickle jar
Murukku or mixture tin
Filter coffee flask
Sweet box

NORTH

Paratha parcel
Dry-fruit box
Achaar jar
Mithai box
Thermos

WEST

Multi-tier tiffin
Chakli tin

4. THE DEVOTIONAL CATEGORY

The most regionally distinctive category in the log.

SOUTH: Prasadam packets, laddu boxes, archanai plates, vibhuti & kumkum pouches, coconuts, tulsi & flower garlands, brass lamps, pattu vastram, temple-jewellery cases

NORTH: Ganga jal containers, rudraksha malas, puja thalis

Most forgetful city:

New Delhi, followed by Bengaluru

Peak Lost Time:

Most items are left behind on overnight journeys arriving between 4 am – 6 am.

3. NOBODY PACKS A MANNEQUIN FOR A HOLIDAY.. OR DO THEY?

Some of the most interesting things we've found:

One white wig
CCTV camera in box
Fish tank with oxygen pump
Mannequin head
Amazon Alexa
Play Station 5
Remote control drone
Birthday cake (with the candles)
Dog leash
And more!

5. ROADS MORE TRAVELED.. EH, MORE LOST ON!

Top routes where items were left behind:

Delhi → Rishikesh
Bengaluru → Chennai
Dehradun → Delhi
Bengaluru → Hyderabad
Delhi → Haridwar
Chennai → Madurai
Delhi → Chandigarh
Delhi → Shimla
Manali → Delhi
Chennai → Coimbatore



6. THE RECOVERY OPERATION

Behind every returned item is a coordinated effort across our ecosystem.

REPORT: Passengers report via Customer Support, lounges, or our self-service Lost & Found form.

LOGGED: Our bus partners & crew log found items on the Driver App with photos, colour, route & location.

MATCHED: Our Lost & Found team matches reports using journey details, descriptions, photos & other identifiers.

NOTIFIED: Passengers are notified with pick-up instructions from a lounge or designated collection point.

TRACKED: Passengers can track the status of their request on our website help section.

Bus crew, partner operators, lounges, Customer Support teams and our Lost & Found specialists – all working together to turn a forgotten item into a happy ending.



CLOSING NOTE

The things people leave on a bus are not random. They are the residue of a specific journey, taken for a specific reason, by someone with somewhere to be.

A bucket perhaps on its way to a hostel. A tiffin is a mother who got up at four. A biriyani packet is a promise kept across a long night. A charger is tomorrow morning, already going wrong.

We cannot tell you who any of them belonged to. But we can tell you that the FlixBus India team works very hard to ensure that some of them find their way home.