

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No. 2024/EnHM/26/01/Limited Linen

Dt. 16.01.2024

**The General Managers,
All Zonal Railways**

Sub: Provision of limited linen in Aastha special Trains.

Ref: Railway Board's letter No. TC-II/2910/2023/Special train-Socio- cultural dt. 27.12.23 & 05.01.2024 (copies enclosed).

In terms of Railway Board's letter under reference dt. 27.12.2023 & 05.01.2024, it has been advised to all Zonal Railways to run Aastha special trains from various parts of county to destinations of socio cultural importance.

To enhance passenger experience and to ensure quality cleanliness and hygiene in coaches of these trains, following has been decided to be followed by Zonal Railways:-

1. To provide 01 Bedsheet, 01 Blanket and 01 Pillow (with cover) to the bonafide passengers in Aashta special trains. Necessary arrangement for linen procurement, distribution etc may be done accordingly.
2. One linen distribution attendant per 02 coaches needs to be ensured for timely distribution of linen.
3. For OBHS services, one person per coach will be provided in these special trains.
4. To maintain cleanliness in coaches, timely disposal of garbage is essential. OBHS to collect garbage (including the catering garbage) in standard garbage bags. The garbage bags should be properly tied and be handed over at en-route garbage collection points/CTS/ Watering points.
5. Special attention and close monitoring should be given to proper cleaning of toilets, passenger area, vestibules etc during the journey.
6. Railways should ensure en-route cleaning of train at CTS points and full watering at watering points en-route.
7. No outside washing to be done at the other end.
8. At the primary end a medical kit, in addition to first aid kit, needs to be provided in each train in consultation with medical department.
9. Berth nos. 65-70 (06 berths), have been blocked in alternate sleeper coaches for facilitation of linen storage and distribution including berth for linen distribution/electrical and C&W escorting staff. Berths for OBHS staff may be provided as per provision of the contract agreement.
10. It may be ensured that all linen distribution/electrical/OBHS/C&W escorting staff carry proper identification card (ID) while on duty.

This has the approval of MTRS, MoBD, MF and CRB & CEO.



(Shailendra Singh)

Principal Exe. Director/ME (EnHM & PRoj.)
Railway Board

Copy to: EDPM, ED/Health & ED/ME(Chg)/Railway Board.

Commercial Circular no. 32 of 2023

No.TC-II/2910/2023/Special train-Socio-cultural

New Delhi, dated 27.12.2023

The Principal Chief Commercial Managers
Principal Chief Operation Managers
All Zonal Railways.

Sub. Operation of Aastha special trains.

Ministry of Railways has decided to run Aastha special trains with round trip ticketing facility from different parts of country to destinations of socio cultural importance and return on the following terms and conditions:

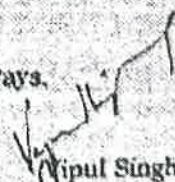
- (i). Single ticket shall be issued for both onward and return journey. Basic fare shall be calculated based on total round trip distance (for both onward and return journey) with telescopic benefits applicable for Mail/Express trains.
- (ii). Onboard catering shall also be provided by IRCTC in such special trains.
- (iii). Other charges like reservation charge, superfast charges, catering charges and service charges of IRCTC, GST, etc. as applicable shall be levied separately.
- (iv). Rounding off of fare shall be made as per existing principle. Normal child fare rules shall apply.
- (v). Coaching Directorate will issue notification of Aastha special trains on round trip basis with a single number. Booking of tickets in such trains shall be done only by IRCTC. Passenger manifest containing Name, age, gender, mobile number and special need if any will be provided to IRCTC by the concerned organization/entity.
- (vi). IRCTC to issue regional colour coded travel authority.

(vii). Refund rules: Normal cancellation of tickets and refund of fare rules shall apply.

2. The above shall be implemented on an experimental basis for a period of one year.

3. Necessary instruction may be issued to all concerned.

This issues in concurrence with Finance Directorate of Ministry of Railways.


Vipul Singh
Director Passenger Marketing
Railway Board

No.TC-II/2910/2023/Special train Socio-cultural

New Delhi, dated 27.12.2023

Copy to:-

1. Dy. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Railways), Room no. 224, Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. PFAs, All Zonal Railways
3. Director General of Audit, All Zonal Railways


for Member Finance, Railway Board.

-2/-

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(भारत सरकार) **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
(रेल मंत्रालय) **MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**
(रेलवे बोर्ड) **(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No.TC-II/2910/2023/Special train-Socio-cultural

New Delhi, dated 05.01.2024

The Principal Chief Commercial Managers
The Principal Chief Operation Managers
All Zonal Railways

Sub: Directions regarding running of Aastha Special Trains.

Ref: 1.Commercial Circular no. 32 of 2023 dated 27.12.2023.

2.IRCTC letter no. IRCTC/CO/TRSM(AST)/3/2024/Tourism/CO (C No. 34561) dated 05.01.2024.

In continuation to the above referred Railway Board Commercial Circular, the following instructions are issued for the operation of Aastha Special Trains:

1. The tickets for Aastha special trains would be issued through the IRCTC Tourism Portal. Thus the train profile should not be generated in the PRS database.
2. The tickets would be issued by IRCTC directly, accordingly a manifest containing the passenger's name, age, gender (all as given in the Aadhar card) Aadhar card number, journey date, boarding/deboarding station, mobile number of the passenger, address, and emergency contact number of any relative of the passenger etc should be shared by IRCTC with originating railway in hard copy as well as in electronic format for easy access.
3. IRCTC will pay Railway fare (telescopic rate for the round trip) for the actual accommodation based on the manifest provided by the organizers including the superfast charges, reservation charges etc as per CC no. 32 of 2023 dated 27.12.2023 as applicable. IRCTC will pay this as Cheque/DD to Railways at nominated stations of zonal railways. The nominated stations would be those stations which are nominated for the purpose of making payment for the Full Tariff Trains (FTR) in the Zonal Railway corresponding to the originating station of the trains.
4. IRCTC will be making the payment to Railways before 2 days of departure. However, since name changes of passengers are permitted up to 2 days before the journey day, any difference of fare on account of increase in number of passengers should be made by IRCTC at the nominated station only before the departure of the train from originating station.

2/-

Vijay K. S.

5. One bay of 6 berths for every 3 coaches is to be earmarked for facilitating the carriage and distribution of catering services in the train without payment of any charges.

6. Railways would be providing service staff such as escorting parties for security, OBHS staff, etc for whom the passenger portion in the SLR/s would be earmarked.

7. Facilitation of passengers for the onboard seating arrangements as per the tickets generated by IRCTC would be done by the onboard tour manager of IRCTC. The contact details of the tour manager would be shared by IRCTC with originating Zonal Railway of the train. Originating Zonal Railways would monitor the trains originating from their Railways and furnish due assistance to the tour manager as required.

This issues with concurrence of Finance Directorate of Ministry of Railways

Vipul Singh
05/11/2024
(Vipul Singhal)

Director Passenger Marketing
Railway Board

DA : As Above

Copy to: -

Chief Managing Director, IRCTC, Barakhambha Road, New Delhi.

Chief Managing Director, CRIS, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.