

## इंडियन रेलवे केटरिंग एण्ड टूरिज्म कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (भारत सरकार का उद्यम–मिनी रत्न)

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**Press Release** 

## **IRCTC to procure 5 dedicated Tourist Trains for additional Tour Packages**

**New Delhi, March 8, 2019**: Here is a good news for domestic tourists who wish to travel by Indian Railways. The professional tourist arm of the Indian Railways namely IRCTC, which operates special tourist trains, is going for augmentation of its fleet of trains (rakes) in a big way with a view to plan more tourism packages in future.

Under this augmentation exercise, IRCTC has decided to procure 05 dedicated rakes (full trains) for exclusive running of special tourist trains. The rakes refurbished with enhanced facilities will be procured from Coach Rehabilitation Work Shop, Bhopal- a unit of Indian Railways.

Each of these rakes will comprise of 19 coaches comprising of 14 Sleeper Class coaches, 1 AC 3-Tier coaches, 2 Pantry Cars and 2 Seating cum Luggage Rake.

In order to make these rakes more passenger friendly for long duration journeys, IRCTC plans to upgrade the facilities in the coaches and provided additional passenger amenities for the comfort of the travelling passengers.

The procurement of rakes will be done in a phased manner in the next three years.

The need for further augmentation of its fleet has arisen as the major rail tourism products of IRCTC namely the Bharat Darshan Tourist Trains, Aastha Special Tourist Trains and State Pilgrim Special Trains have been doing very well in the market and have been patronised by around 15 lakh tourists from the different parts of the country.

Recognising the potential of the tourist trains as key drivers of domestic tourism in the Country and their popularity, IRCTC has been regularly introducing affordable varied tourism packages catering to the needs of different group of people.

Some of the popular tourism packages conducted by IRCTC includes - Ramayana Yatra, Sufi Circuit , Panj Takht, Ram Sethu Express, Unity express, Samanta express etc.

With these initiatives, Indian Railways has emerged not only as the largest transport carrier, but also as one of the largest domestic tour operators of the Country. IRCTC has also been awarded as best domestic tour operator at SATTE (South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange) Awards 2019.

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