There are agents too to help your rail reservation

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Indian railways, which is the fourth largest railways in the world, operating 65000 km routes and catering 7500 rail stations. It transports over 30 million passengers and 2.8 million tons of freight every day, with a work force around 1.36 million.

Indian rail reservation for passenger travel is handled both by Railways department and through one of its BPOs called Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC)

Travelling public obtain their rail reservations through railway station ticket counters , however, most of the affluent society members choose to do online reservation of tickets . IRCTC, which helps the rail reservation, charges a fee for online booking, scheduled according to the class of travel and charged per ticket booked.

Railway reservation and issue of rail tickets are also done by Rail Travel Service Agents (RTSA) who are authorized by the Ministry of Railways. IRCTC also authorizes RTSA and similar travel agents, such as IATA members, to do rail reservation on line after entering into an agreement with them.

The agents who wish to transact through IRCTC require signing an agreement with IRCTC, on a Rs 100 stamp paper, depositing Rs 10000, and also obtaining a digital signature certificate of Class 3 level.

These agents are permitted to book railway reservations on line through IRCTC after obtaining written requests from the passengers with necessary details and producing identification records

Anyone can register with IRCTC for doing rail reservations in personal capacity, but they are expected to buy tickets only for their personal requirement. They are also restricted to do only 10 reservations per calendar month. But, IRCTC authorized agents can book any number of tickets, subject to certain ethical and legal conditions. They can also charge a small fee of Rs 10 for lower class ticket reservations and Rs 20 for upper class tickets.

Rail reservation is done always for a specific person to travel and a rail ticket reserved for one is not transferable and the ticket examiner verifies the identity of the person during travel. However, there is a provision for transferring the ticket to the names of close relatives by making genuine applications.

Indian rail reservation can be done three months ahead of travel in all sections and can be cancelled at any point of time till the commencement of the journey. However, the fare refund is reduced according to the time of cancellation.

It is needless to say that advance booking of your tickets through Indian rail reservation is the best way to travel in comfort and without hassle, although certain coaches are assigned for unreserved travel in most of the trains.

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