

Bharat Gaurav trains

November 25, 2021

In news– The Union Minister of Railways, announced the introduction of theme-based tourist circuit trains – Bharat Gaurav Trains recently.

About Bharat Gaurav Trains-

- These trains will **showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places** to the people of India and the world.
- These trains will be **operated by both private players and IRCTC on theme-based circuits**. Even tour operators can apply for and lease trains and operate.
- **Stakeholders can modify and run the train and Railways will help in maintenance**, parking and other facilities.
- The Ministry has **allocated around 190 trains for these theme-based circuits, described as the third segment in services offered** by the railways **after the freight and passenger segments**.
- **Service Provider to offer an all-inclusive package to tourists** including rail travel, hotel accommodation, sightseeing arrangement, visit historical/heritage sites, tour guides etc.
- **Branding and advertisement are permitted** both inside and outside of the train.
- Train composition will be of **14 to 20 coaches** including 2 SLRs(Guard Vans).
- **Full flexibility to decide package** cost based on level of services being offered.
- Registration fee for these trains for operators is Rs 1 (One) Lakh only.
- Priority to be based on the **Rake Security Deposit Time and Date** (Rake Security Deposit of Rs 1 (one) Crore per rake).
- **Individual, Partnership Firm, Company, Society, trust,**

JV/Consortium (**Unincorporated/Incorporated**) are **eligible.**

- **The annual 'Right of Use' charges** calculated on the basis of the type of coach taken and the duration.
- **The first year's Right of Use charges have to be paid upfront** and the second year's have to be paid 15 days before the completion of the preceding year.
- It is to be noted that the **IRCTC is already running the Ramayana train circuit and plans are underway to start the gurdwara train circuit** connecting prominent gurdwaras across the country and these trains will be called Gurukripa.
- **The Bharat Gaurav operator will also have to propose a similar business model** wherein it takes care of local transport, sightseeing, food, local stays, etc. along with operating the trains.