

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.740
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025

SPECIAL TRAINS FOR GANESH UTSAV IN KONKAN REGION

740 # SHRI DHAIRYASHIL MOHAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways proposes to run new special trains to facilitate the large number of passengers during the Ganesh Utsav festival in Konkan region of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether Government proposes to allow temporary halts at new stations in Konkan region during the Ganesh Utsav festival, if so, the list of such proposed stations; and
- (c) the details of Government's plans to curb black marketing in Tatkal reservations and the assessment of the success of existing mechanism?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) To supplement the availability of accommodation in regular train services and to cater to the extra rush of passengers during peak seasons, festivals, special events etc., Indian Railways (IR), subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc, operates special trains and also augments the loads of existing services.

To cater to the needs of passengers during Ganesh Utsav-2025, Indian Railways (IR) have decided to operate Special trains. The halts of Ganpati Special trains serving over Konkan Railway have been planned at Kolad, Indapur, Mangaon, Goregaon Road, Veer, Sape Warmne, Karanjadi, Vinhere, Diwankhavati, Kalambani Budruk, Khed, Anjani, Chiplun, Kamathe, Sawarda, Aravali Road, Sangameshwar Road, Ratnagiri, Adavali, Vilavade, Rajapur Road, Vaibhavwadi Road, Nandgaon Road, Kankavali, Sindhudurg, Kudal, Zarap, Sawantwadi Road, Madure, Thivim, Karmali, Madgaon Jn, Karwar, Gokama Road, Kumta, Murdeshwar, Mookambika Road, Kundapura, Udupi, Mulki and Surathkal.

With a view to have ease of access and transparency in Tatkal ticket booking and to curb the potential malpractices by unscrupulous elements the Tatkal ticket booking system has been modified as follows:-

1. With effect from 01-07-2025, tickets under Tatkal Scheme can be booked through the website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)/its app only by Aadhaar authenticated users.
2. Authorized Ticketing Agents of Indian Railways are not allowed to book opening day Tatkal tickets during the first thirty minutes for air-conditioned (AC) as well as non-AC Classes i.e. they shall not be allowed to book opening day Tatkal tickets from 10:00 hours to 10:30 hours for AC Classes and from 11:00 hours to 11:30 hours for non-AC Classes.

In order to curb black marketing Tatkal reservations following steps are taken by Railway Protection Force (RPF):

- (i) Regular drives are conducted by RPF against persons/agencies found involved in unauthorized carrying on of business of procuring and supplying of railway tickets. The offenders are booked under section 143 of the Railways Act. Cases having wider ramifications and involving ingredients of other offences are dealt in coordination with other law enforcement agencies like Police & CBI.
- (ii) Regular checks are conducted in mass contact areas such as Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centers, Booking Offices, Platforms, Trains etc. to prevent unauthorized ticketing activities including the use of scripting software. Such checks are also intensified during peak period like festivals, holidays etc.
- (iii) General public are also educated through Public Address System and media, not to buy tickets from unscrupulous elements and consequences of buying tickets from these sources.
