Am I required to carry proof of identity during journey in Reserved Classes?

Any one of the passengers/ the passenger booked on the tickets issued from Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and internet (i.e., ticket), undertaking journey in reserved classes, have to carry anyone of the ten prescribed proof of identity (in original) during the journey and produce the same as and when required failing which all the passengers booked on that ticket will be treated as without ticket and charged accordingly.

The list of valid proofs of identity are as under:

i. Voter Photo Identity Card issued by Election Commission of India.
ii. Passport.
iii. PAN Card issued by Income Tax Department.
iv. Driving Licence issued by RTO.
v. Photo Identity Card having serial number issued by Central/ State Government.
vi. Student Identity Card with photograph issued by recognized School/ College for their Students.
viii. Credit Cards issued by Banks with laminated photograph, and
ix. Unique identification Card “Aadhar” eg. downloaded Aadhar (e-Aadhar & m-Aadhar).
x. Photo identity cards having serial number issued by Public-Sector Undertakings of State/Central Government, District Administrations, Municipal bodies and Panchayat Administrations.
xii. In case of reserved tickets booked through computerised Passen-ger Reservation System (PRS) counters, for undertaking journey in Sleeper(SL), 2nd and 3rd Class, applicants have to produce the photograph of Ration Card with photographs and Nationalized Bank Pass-book with photograph are also accepted.

Note: The above said provision is not applicable to Tatkal ticket which is governed by separate instructions.

Tatkal Scheme

With a view to provide reservation to those passengers who have to undertake journey at short notice and to save such passengers from the clutches of unscrupulous elements/touts, Tatkal Reservation Scheme was initially introduced in December, 1997. Initially this scheme was available only in around 110 trains and mainly in Sleeper Class. At that time an extra coach was to be attached for this purpose. This scheme was thoroughly revised in August 2004 and some modifications were made from time to time. The salient features of this scheme as on date are as under:

a. Tatkal booking for AC classes opens at 1000 hours on the previous day of journey excluding date of journey from the train originating station. For non-AC classes, Tatkal booking starts at 1100 hours on the previous day of journey excluding date of journey from the train originating station. For example, if train is to depart from the originating station on the second of the month, the Tatkal quota for that particular train shall open at 1000/1100 hours on the first of the month.

b. The reservation under this scheme is available only upto the time of preparation of charts. At the time of preparation of charts, the vacant Tatkal accommodation is released to the RAC/waitlisted passengers and no Tatkal charges are realised from such passengers.

c. The facility of change of name is not permitted on the bookings made under Tatkal scheme.

d. No duplicate Tatkal tickets are issued. Duplicate Tatkal tickets are issued only in exceptional cases on payment of full fare including Tatkal charges.

e. The reservation under this scheme can be sought by full fare paying passengers only and no passenger holding concessional ticket is allowed to avail reservation under this scheme.

f. In case of tickets booked under Tatkal scheme, during the journey, one of the passengers booked on that ticket is required to produce any one of the prescribed proof of identity mentioned below (in original), failing which all the passengers booked on that ticket are considered as travelling without ticket and charged accordingly:-

i. Voter Photo Identity Card issued by Election Commission of India.
ii. Passport
iii. PAN Card issued by Income Tax Department
iv. Driving Licence issued by RTO
v. Photo Identity Card issued by Central/State Government

vi. Student Identity Card with photograph issued by recognized School/College for their Students
vii. Nationalised Bank Passbook with photograph and
viii. Credit Cards issued by Banks with laminated photograph.
x. Unique identification Card “Aadhar” eg. downloaded Aadhar (e-Aadhar & m-Aadhar).
x. Photo identity cards having serial number issued by Public Sector Undertakings of State/Central Government, District Administrations, Municipal bodies and Panchayat Administrations.

g. Keeping in view the short Advance Reservation Period and with a view to make this scheme economically unviable for unscrupulous elements/touts, refund rules of the scheme have been made stringent in which no refund is granted on the confirmed Tatkal tickets. However, full refund of fare and Tatkal charges is granted on the tickets booked under Tatkal scheme under certain circumstances like non-attachment of coach, cancellation of train, as explained below:-

i. Full fare paying passenger, who has been allocated Tatkal ticket and the passenger found to be in possession of full fare ticket after the journey, will be charged a minimum of 100% of the basic fare and no Tatkal charges will be refunded.

ii. If the train is delayed by more than 3 hours at the time of departure or the train is not running on the scheduled route or the train has been cancelled or the train is to be operated under specific route or the train is not able to depart from the station on time, the Tatkal charges will be refunded as per the rules of the scheme.

iii. Tatkal charge is granted on the confirmed Tatkal tickets. However, full refund of fare and Tatkal charges is granted on the tickets booked under Tatkal scheme under certain circumstances like non-attachment of coach, cancellation of train, as explained below:

1. In case the total run of the train is less than the distance restriction, end fare i.e. from originating to destination station shall be charged.
2. There will be no such restriction for Tatkal scheme in passenger trains.
3. Tatkal tickets are issued subject to the applicable distance restrictions.
4. All authorised ticketing agents of Indian Railways/IRCTC have been restricted from booking Tatkal tickets between 1000 hours and 1030 hours for tickets in AC classes and between 1100 hours and 1130 hours for non-AC classes on the opening day of reservation.
5. It is possible to book a maximum of only four passengers per PNR for Tatkal tickets.
6. The web services agents of IRCTC have been permitted to book only one Tatkal ticket per train per day on the internet.
7. Powers for earmarking of Tatkal accommodation in different classes have been delegated to Zonal Railways who take a decision in this regard keeping in view the utilization pattern in that class during the previous financial year as well as availability of accommodation. The accommodation so earmarked, however, in no case exceed up to maximum of 30% of capacity of coach depending on the utilization of this quota during the last 6 month period.
8. Out of the total berth potential of around 14.65 lakhs berths/seats per day on an average, around 3.02 lakh seats/berths are available for booking under Tatkal / Premium Tatkal every day i.e. approximately 20.63% of the total accommodation.
9. Instructions have also been issued to zonal Railways to introduce Tatkal scheme in the passenger trains in that train/class in which average utilisation during the previous financial year has been more than 60%. The minimum Tatkal charges prescribed for different

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Travel</th>
<th>Minimum Tatkal Charges (in ₹)</th>
<th>Maximum Tatkal Charges (in ₹)</th>
<th>Minimum Distance for charge (in Km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserved Second Sitting (2S)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeper</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC Chair Car</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC-3 tier</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>AC-2 tier</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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9. Instructions have also been issued to zonal Railways to introduce Tatkal scheme in the passenger trains in that train/class in which average utilisation during the previous financial year has been more than 60%. The minimum Tatkal charges prescribed for different
classes will be applicable as flat Tatkal charges. All other conditions applicable to normal Tatkal scheme will be applicable in case of identified passenger trains.

The Up-gradation Scheme

- With a view to optimise the utilisation of available accommodation in train, a scheme to upgrade full-fare paying passengers to the higher class without any extra charge against the available vacant accommodation is available in almost Mail/Express trains.
- The passengers are required to give the option for being considered for upgradation. If no option is given at the time of filling up of requisition form, the same is treated as “yes” and passenger(s) can be considered for upgradation.
- The passengers for upgradation are selected automatically (except in cases where the passenger has shown his unwillingness to be upgraded) on random basis by the System at the time of preparation of reservation charts.
- All the passengers on a ticket are upgraded together.
- It is not done for block booking transactions.
- If a passenger, who has been upgraded, cancels his ticket, cancellation charges of the original class only are payable. It is advisable to avail the facility (by exercising the option in the affirmative) and always to check the status (coach/ berth numbers) before boarding the train.

SALIENT FEATURES OF ALTERNATE TRAIN ACCOMMODATION SCHEME - “VIKALP”

- The Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) was launched under the name “VIKALP” on pilot basis only for the tickets booked through internet on two sectors i.e. Delhi-Jammu and Delhi-Lucknow sectors (November, 2015).
- The scheme is applicable to all passengers getting the status of waiting list at the time of booking irrespective of booking quota and concession.
- This scheme has been expanded to cover all type of trains on all sectors from 01.04.2017.
- The passengers can exercise the option for getting shifted to a train upto 72 hours of scheduled departure of original train in which waitlisted ticket was booked.
- All the passengers booked under the scheme are given an option for getting alternate accommodation irrespective of the fact whether the boarding/ destination station of the passenger are originating/ terminating/roadside station.
- No extra charges are taken from passenger or any refund is provided for difference of fare.
- VIKALP opted passengers who remain fully Waitlisted after charting will only be considered for allotment in the alternate train.
- Either all passengers of a PNR or none will be transferred to alternate train in same class. The passenger can be considered for shifting to a train leaving from any station amongst the cluster of stations defined by Railways based on the convenience of the passengers to a station serving the destination station on the same analogy.
- Waitlisted passengers of original train shall not be allowed to board the original train if allotted alternate accommodation.
- Passengers once provided alternate accommodation in alternate train will be treated as normal passengers in alternate train and will be eligible for upgradation.
- When a VIKALP opted passenger opts to cancel, after he/she has been given an alternate accommodation, he/she will be treated as a CONFIRMED passenger and the cancellation rules will apply accordingly.
- No refund for difference of fare between the original train and the alternate train, including Tatkal charges, if any, will be given to re-allocated passengers or realised from them.
- Once a VIKALP passenger has been allotted alternate accommodation, journey modification will not be permitted.
- When a passenger who has been allotted alternate accommodation has not performed his journey in the alternate train, he can claim for refunds by filing a TDR request.

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vii. The demand is registered for all types of trains. The status on the vi. Foreign tourists are allowed to register their demand up to 365 v. The passenger who has reserved the ticket under this category iv. The fare is uniformly charged at 1.5 times the base fare by Indian ii. All tickets are booked on applicable fare and no concession is c. Eight berths per 2A coach d. Ten seats per EC coach viii. On the last day of opening of reservation as per ARP, the number of coaches of that class varies, the number of berths/passengers allowed to be registered does not change. x. The last request being registered is honoured even if the limit above has to be extended, however, beyond that no request is registered e.g. if the last request received is for 6 passengers and there is a scope for registering request for only 3 passengers, the above said limit is extended by 3 berths/seats to accommodate the last request. However, thereafter, no more transactions is allowed in that class beyond ARP. xi. In case of cancellation of the tickets booked under this facility by the passenger flat 50% of the fare is deducted in addition to the cancellation charges applicable while refunding the amount. The time limit for granting 50% refund is as per extant Refund rules i.e. upto 4 hours before scheduled departure of train for confirmed PNRS. Part confirmed/part waitlist will be given refund as per rule upto 30 minutes. This rule is applicable for e-tickets as well as counter tickets. xii. No change of name is permissible on such tickets under any condition. xiii. Authorised ticketing agents are not allowed to book accommodation under Foreign Tourist Quota. xiv. On the day of opening of reservation as per ARP, the accommodation will be released for general booking after accommodating of such request is registered. Foreign tourist quota within ARP a. This quota is defined by zonal railways based on demand pattern. b. Booking against this quota starts from the day of opening of reservation in the train as per ARP. c. Accommodation against this quota can be booked within ARP on payment of 1.5 times the base fare. d. For booking across the counter through FT Quota within ARP, payment is accepted through any type of mode i.e. Indian Currency/National/International Credit/Debit cards. Foreign nationals booking berths under general quota can book ticket on normal fare. e. The accommodation under this quota is allowed, to be booked up to the limit of foreign tourist quota defined by the Railways subject to the condition that the last party is accommodated in general quota if partial accommodation is available under foreign tourist quota. The fare for the entire party in such case is 1.5 times the base fare. f. If foreign tourist quota is exhausted, system will not automatically book in GN quota, the passenger has to explicitly book in General quota on payment of normal fare. g. No waiting list tickets are issued except in case the last request for foreign tourist quota is more than the quota and there is no accommodation available in general quota at the time of booking. h. The unutilised accommodation under foreign tourist quota is released to RAC/waiting list passengers at the time of preparation of first reservation chart. Assistance Cells: Major Reservation Centres have special Cells to help foreign tourists plan their itinerary, reserve their tickets and render any assistance required. The International Tourist Bureau situated on the first floor of New Delhi Railway Station provides personalised service and assistance to foreign tourists and NRIs regarding reservations, itinerary planning and other enquiries. This Bureau is manned by trained staff and tourist guides, fluent in foreign languages. For any assistance, please contact: The Manager, International Tourist Bureau, I Floor, New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi-110 001. Tel: 011-23405156, 23346804. Fax: 011-23343050.