

A
PROPOSAL NOTE
FOR THE OPERATIONS OF



PRAVASI BHARTIYA EXPRESS
(On Self Financing Basis)

Submitted by:-



Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Enterprise - Miniratna)
Corporate Office - 4th Floor, Tower D,
World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar,
New Delhi 110029

Website – www.irctc.com , www.irctctourism.com



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PRAVASI BHARATIYA EXPRESS – A BRIEF

Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd., A Govt. of India Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Railways in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, conceptualized a Special Tourist Train Program titled "***Pravasi Bharatiya Express***" with an objective to introduce people of Indian origin to the culture & heritage both religious and historical and to development of India.

The maiden run of "**PRAVASI BHARTIYA EXPRESS**" was operated on 09.01.2025 with a group size of 150 participants from 27 Countries worldwide including Australia, Botswana, Spain, Myanmar, Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, Guyana, Hong Kong, Italy, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Thailand, USA, Tanzania, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Maldives & Peru.

This train was flagged off by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas.

This special Tourist Train covered 8500 Kms journey in a span of 15 days and has covered 6 Indian States. To provide comprehensive complete back end services in form of a Tour package for the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India has entrusted Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (A Govt. of India Enterprise).

A Memorandum of Understanding in this regard was signed between IRCTC & MEA on 24.10.2024. All the operations with regard to the "**PRAVASI BHARTIYA EXPRESS**" were handled by IRCTC.

Post completion of the tour various appreciation emails, video feedbacks have been received. The feedback forms collected by the on board Team after the completion of the tour were analyzed. On

analyzing the feedbacks the average rating of this project on a scale of 5 was 4.85.

SALIENT FEATURES OF PRAVASI BHARATIYA EXPRESS TOUR PACKAGE

A. AIRPORT PICK UP – DROP

Indian Missions share the flight tickets of the selected participants with IRCTC. Subsequently as per the flight timings, delegates are received at the Delhi International Airport, Arrival Lounge by IRCTC Staff., and are plied to the Hotel by AC Transport.

B. ACCOMMODATION

Based on the finalized Tour Program, accommodation in 4 Star Category Hotels as per the destinations of the Tour Itinerary is pre booked by IRCTC Ltd on Twin Sharing basis.

This accommodation is also extended for the delegates for PRE & POST Tour duration as per the flight timings (arrival / departure) on same rates

C. MEALS

Delegates are offered all meals as per the Meal Timings during the course of the Tour Program including Morning Tea, Breakfast, Lunch, Hi Tea & Dinner.

D. RAIL TRANSPORT

Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train with a coach composition of 14 Coaches is used. This train has a carrying capacity of 156 PAX.

E. ROAD TRANSPORT

Good Condition neat and Clean Tourist Vehicle i.e. AC 2x2 Deluxe Coach is used for the local sightseeing & transfers. It is ensured that the seats are adequately cushioned with clean covers; Vehicle possesses all necessary permits and licenses, First aid KIT, fire extinguisher.

F. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

Unarmed Private Security Guards are deployed onboard with the group to safeguard the delegates from the uncalled for threats if any and for their belongings.

G.WELCOME ARRANGEMENTS

It is ensured that the Delegation is welcomed at the Originating Railway Station with Tika, Garlanding and welcome drinks as a token to showcase Indian Culture & Tradition.

Similar Welcome arrangements are also ensured for the delegation at all the Hotel Units as per the Tour Itinerary.

H.WELCOME KIT

As a part of Goodwill Gesture a Co branded Welcome Kit having Logos' of Ministry of External Affairs & IRCTC Ltd is provided to each of the delegates with Program Booklet which contains Tour Itinerary, Participant Profile, and destination info.

This Welcome Kit also contains a Delegate Batch which is to be carried by all the participating delegates to carry throughout the tour.

I. ONBOARD HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES

Housekeeping Staff is also deployed during the course of journey for periodic sanitization and cleaning of the Coach Common Areas and Lavatories.

J. LOCAL TOURIST GUIDES

During the course of Sightseeing, particularly at the Monuments, Ministry of Tourism approved Local Tourist Guides (English Speaking) are appointed to accompany the delegation for giving factual and authentic travel experience.

K. ENTRY FEES AT THE MONUMENTS

PTDY Tours includes Monument Entry Fees under "Foreign National" Category.

L. EXPERIENCED IRCTC TOUR MANAGER

All PTDY Tours are accompanied by an experienced IRCTC Tour Manager throughout the tour for smooth operations and logistical management. This Tour Manager continuously remains in touch with IRCTC Control Room and gives timely updates regarding the group movements.

M. MISCELLANEOUS ARRANGEMENTS

IRCTC arranges various auxiliary services for the comfort and ensuring proper brand management. In this regard following is provided to the delegates during the course of Onboard Journey:-

- Newspapers (English) & Coffee Table Books
- Wet Tissues
- Fruit Juices & Packaged drinking water bottles
- PA System inside the train for playing instrumental music and making program announcements.



BHARAT GAURAV DELUXE AC TOURIST TRAIN



The Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train has total 14 coaches with 4 first AC coaches, 2 second AC coaches, 2 AC 3 Tier Coaches, 2 Dining Cars , 1 Kitchen Car , 1 Staff Car and 2 Power Cars.

Entire Train Rake is Vinyl wrapped depicting monuments of India, Yoga postures, dance forms etc. with Incredible India Branding.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE TRAIN

- ✚ **WINDOW BLINDS** – Electronically operated Window blinds have been installed in Dining car for ease of the tourists to have a Panoramic View.
- ✚ **DIGITAL LOCKERS** – To keep the valuables on board in the train, availability of Digital Lockers have been ensured for each Individual Tourist.

- ✚ **SMOKE DETECTORS** –Smoke Detector Alarms are available in entire Train Rake to Prevent the Train from any Fire Related Mishaps.
- ✚ **CCTV CAMERAS** – Public Areas, Restaurants, and Sitting Areas etc are monitored 24 x 7 with CCTV Cameras.
- ✚ **BETTER SUSPENSION** - Equipped with Air suspension spring technology for better ride quality and comfort.
- ✚ **VESTIBULE** – Entire Train rake is Vestibuled to provide end to end connectivity.
- ✚ **SPEAKERS** – Train is equipped with multiple Speakers in all the Coaches for making announcements, playing Instrumental soothing music at leisure time.
- ✚ **GEYSER** - Under Slung geyser of 50 Ltr. capacities under each bathroom is available for the uninterrupted Hot Water Supply.
- ✚ **KITCHEN CAR** – With Ultra Modern equipments.
- ✚ **RESTAURANT CARS** – This train has -02 well equipped restaurant cars. Each of the restaurant car can accommodate 64 PAX at a time.



ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE ON BOARD

CABINS – Deluxe Cabins which can accommodate 16 Tourists in One Coach i.e. 4 Tourists per Cabin (4 Cabins x 4 PAX Each)



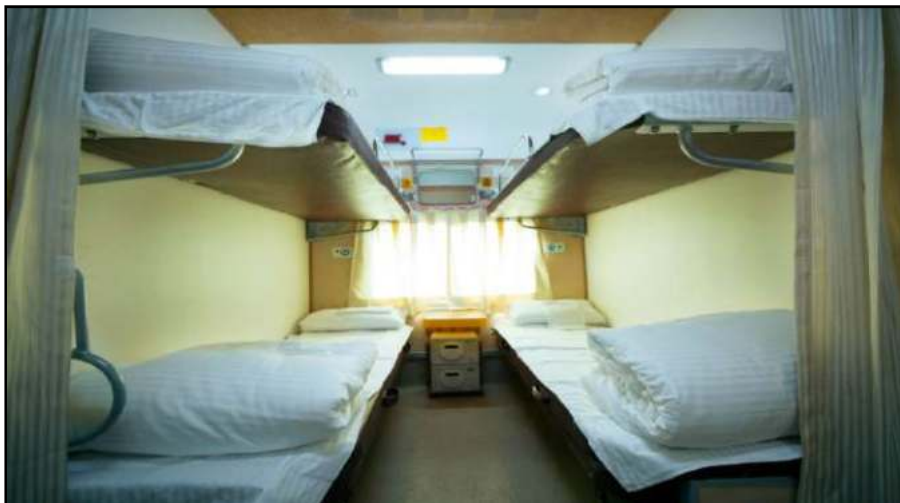
COUPE – Deluxe Coupe which can accommodate 8 Tourists in One Coach i.e. 2 Tourists per Coupe (4 Coupe x 2 PAX Each)



SITTING AREA – Modernized Sitting Area adjacent to Windows to give Panoramic View in AC II Tier Coaches..



CABINS – These cabins can accommodate 30 PAX Each. Each cabin has personal lockers for tourists.



AIR CONDITIONED RESTAURANTS

Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train has two fine dining restaurants with 64 Covers each.



ON BOARD - BOOK SHELVE & FOOT MASSAGER



STATE OF ART KITCHEN CAR



WASHROOMS – ON BOARD

On board Washrooms on both sides of the Coaches in the entire Train Rake are available.



Shower Cubicles with Hot & Cold Running Water is available on board. Lavatories are equipped with Bio Toilets with Vacuum evacuation.



PROPOSED ITINERARY - PRAVASI BHARTIYA EXPRESS

State Covered: Delhi – Uttar Pradesh – Bihar – Tamilnadu – Kerala– Goa – Gujarat – Rajasthan

Places Covered: Delhi, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Patna, Gaya, Mahabalipuram, Rameshwaram, Madurai, Cochin, Goa, Kevadia (statue of unity), Ajmer & Agra.

Sightseeing Covered :

SN	Destination	Places Covered
1	Delhi	Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhawan, India Gate, Lotus Temple, Bangla Saheb Gurudwara
2	Ayodhya	Ram Mandir, Hanuman Garhi, Kanak Bhawan, Aarti at Saryu River
3	Patna	Buddha Smriti Park & Patna Saheb Gurudwara
4	Gaya	Vishnupad Temple, Mahabodhi Temple(UNESCO Site), 80 ft Buddha Statue
5	Varanasi	Sarnath, Kashi Viswanath Temple, Evening aarti at River Ganges
6	Mahabalipuram	Shore Temples (UNESCO Temples)
7	Rameshwaram	Dhanushkodi & Ramanathaswamy Temple
8	Madurai	Meenakshi Temple
9	Cochin	Old Churches in the fort Area, Chinese fishing Net, evening cruise ride on Cochin Harbor
10	Goa	North & South Goa Tour, The Basilica of Bom Jesus (UNESCO Site)
11	Ekta Nagar	Statue of Unity (World's tallest Statue of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel)
12	Ajmer	Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
13	Pushkar	Bramha Temple & Lake
14	Agra	Taj Mahal (UNESCO Site)

Itinerary:

Day	Places	Particulars
Day 01	Delhi	Arrival at Delhi International Airport. Meet & Greet by IRCTC staff and transfer to hotel. Day free for leisure. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 02	Delhi-Ayodhya	Breakfast at Hotel. Check out and proceed to Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station at 08:00 hrs. Board in special train and departure to Ayodhya at 1035 hrs. Lunch & Dinner onboard. Arrival Ayodhya Cantt Railway Station at 2200 hrs, transfers to Hotels and overnight stay at Ayodhya.
Day 03	Ayodhya-Varanasi	Breakfast at Hotel. Visit of Ram ki Padi & Saryu Ghat. Post Lunch check-out & visit Ram Janambhoomi Mandir, Hanuman garhi. & Saryu Aarti. Drop at Ayodhya Cantt Rly station to board Train. Dinner onboard. Departure for Varnasi.
Day 04	Varanasi- Patna	Arrival Varanasi Station in the early morning. De board the train and proceed to Hotel for Wash n Change & breakfast. Visit Sarnath. Lunch. Post Lunch visit Kashi Vishwanath Temple and evening witness Ganga Aarti. Drop at Varanasi Station for journey to Patna. Dinner onboard. Overnight train Journey
Day 05	Patna	Breakfast onboard. Arrival at Patna Railway Station. Proceed to Buddha Smriti Park. Transfer to Hotel. Check-In and Lunch at Hotel. Visit Patna Sahib Gurudwara. Dinner at Hotel. Overnight Stay at Patna.
Day 06	Patna-Gaya-Chennai	Breakfast at Hotel and proceed to Gaya. Visit Vishnupad Temple. Lunch. Post Lunch visit Mahabodhi Temple and 80 Ft. Buddha Statue at Bodhgaya. Drop at Gaya Station for journey to Chennai. Dinner onboard. Overnight train journey.
Day 07	Patna- Chennai	Day & night Train Journey. All meals will be on board.
Day 08	Chennai	Breakfast onboard. Arrival Chennai Station in the morning. Deboard the train and proceed to Hotel for wash n Change. Later proceed to visit Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram. Lunch at Hotel. Drop at Chengalpattu Jn. Railway Station. Dinner onboard. Departure to Rameshwaram. Overnight Train Journey.
Day 09	Rameshwaram	Breakfast onboard. Arrival Rameshwaram & Transfer to Hotel for check-In & Lunch. Visit Dhanushkodi. Dinner & overnight Stay at Rameshwaram.

Day 10	Rameshwaram - Madurai - Cochin	Early morning visit Ramanatha Swamy temple. After breakfast check Out and board the train. Departure to Madurai at 11.00 hrs. Lunch onboard. Arrival Madurai station and visit Meenakshi Temple by walk. Return to Station. Dinner onboard. Departure to Cochin (Ernakulum station). Overnight Train Journey.
Day 11	Cochin- Goa	Breakfast onboard. Arrive Ernakulum station. Transfer to Hotel for Wash N Change. Visit Old churches in fort area, Chinese Fishing nets. Post lunch Boat Cruise on Cochin Harbor. Return to Ernakulum Station for Overnight Train journey to Goa. Dinner onboard.
Day 12	Goa	Breakfast onboard. Arrive Madgaon station & Transfer to Hotel. Check-In and Lunch. Post Lunch half day South Goa city Tour. Evening cruise on River Mandovi. Dinner & Overnight stay at Goa.
Day 13	Goa- Ekta Nagar	Breakfast at Hotel. Post breakfast, Check Out and proceed for Half day North Goa Tour. Drop at Madgaon Station. Lunch onboard. Train departs for Ekta Nagar (Kevadiya). Dinner onboard & Overnight Train Journey.
Day 14	Ekta Nagar- Ajmer	Breakfast onboard. Arrival Ekta Nagar station & transfer to hotel for Wash n Change. Check Out and visit Statue of Unity (Tallest Statue of the World). Enroute Lunch. Evening drop at Ekta Nagar Station for onward journey to Ajmer. Dinner onboard. Overnight Train Journey
Day 15	Ajmer-Delhi	Breakfast and wash n change onboard. Arrival Ajmer and proceed to Visit Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. Lunch. Post Lunch proceed to visit Pushkar Lake and Brahma Temple at Pushkar. Evening return to Ajmer station. Board the train and dinner onboard. Departure to Agra at 22:00 hrs. Overnight Journey
Day 16	Agra- Delhi	Breakfast and wash n change onboard. Arrival at Agra Cantt station. Proceed to visit Taj mahal. Drop back to the Railway Station. Lunch on board. Train departs for Delhi. Arrival Delhi in the late evening. Transfer to Hotel. Dinner & Overnight Stay at Delhi.
Day 17	Departure	Checkout & Drop at the IGI T 3 Airport for Catching return flight for respective countries. Tour Ends.

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS OF PRAVASI BHARATIYA EXPRESS TOUR:

- ✚ Airport Pick up & Drop from IGI T3 Airport (Pre Tour & Post Tour)
- ✚ Rail transport by Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train
- ✚ Accommodation in 4 star Category Hotels as per the itinerary.
- ✚ Meals – All on board and off board meals as per the itinerary
- ✚ Road transport by air conditioned 2 x 2 Deluxe Coaches
- ✚ On board security arrangements
- ✚ Onboard Housekeeping services
- ✚ Licensed tourists guides at the Monuments.
- ✚ Entry fees at the Monuments
- ✚ Services of IRCTC Tour Manager throughout the tour.

PACKAGE PRICE:

Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. will be charging an amount of Rs.1,92,345/- Per Person + 5 % GST for the 17 days tour duration. As compared to the previous tour which was operated in the month of January 2025 there is an escalation of 5 % on the package price due to scheduled escalation of Train Fare under Bharat Gaurav Policy issued by Ministry of Railways, Govt. of India.

Per Person Price on twin share

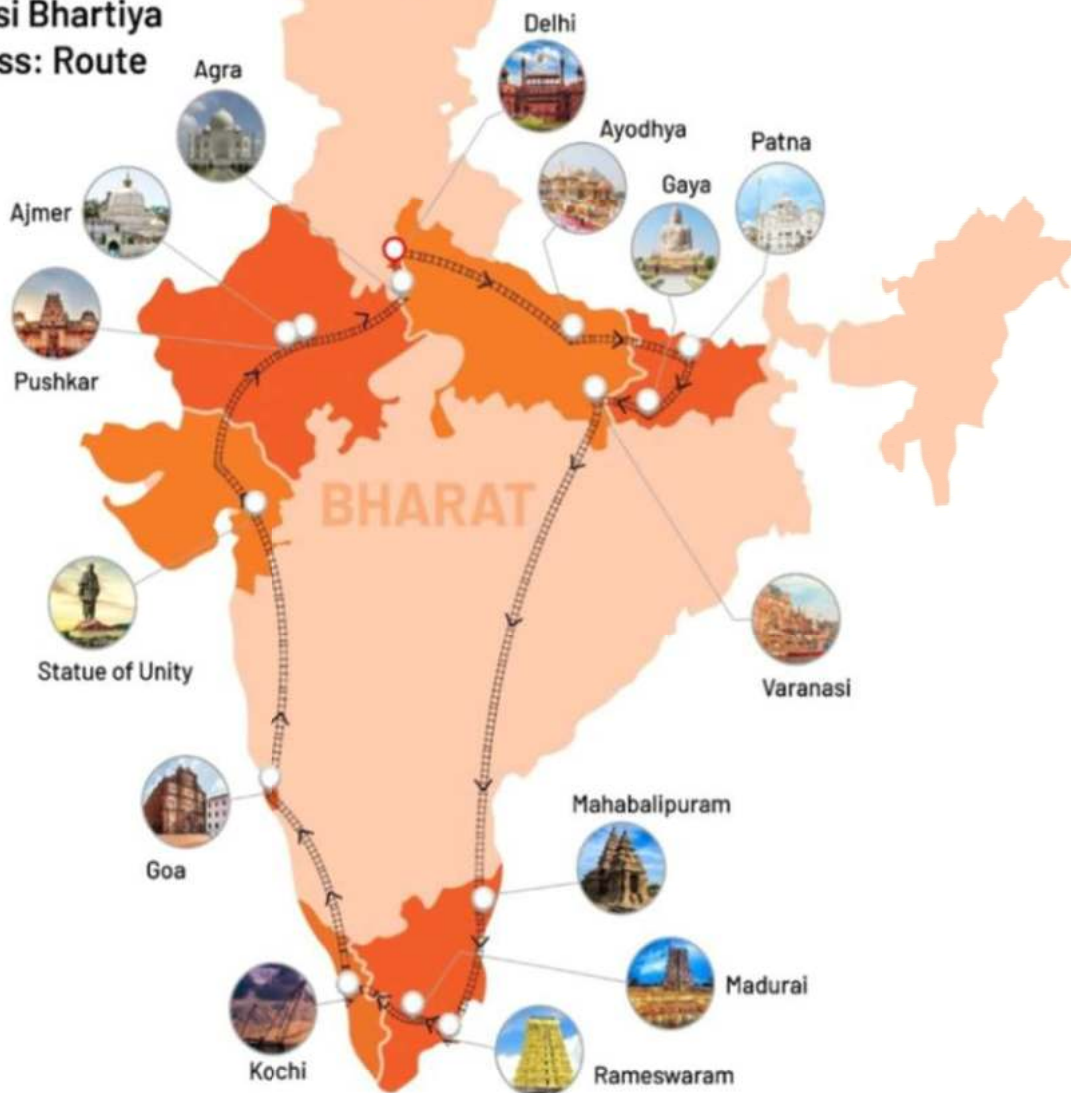
Rs 1,92,345/- + GST(5%)



RAIL ROUTE



Pravasi Bhartiya Express: Route



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MODALITIES OF OPERATIONS

A. An Exclusive Program :

Pravasi Bhartiya Express will be an exclusive Train which will be used for operating Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana Package for the Delegation of Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, and thus no general public will be allowed to book and travel on board.

B. Minimum No. of Guaranteed tourist Count :

For the Operations of Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana by Pravasi Bhartiya Express , IRCTC Ltd proposes to operate this train with a Count of 120 Tourists in one tour maximum upto 156 Tourists which is the carrying capacity of the Train.

However in case, if the tourist count doesn't meets the minimum guarantee Count i.e. 120 Tourists, the short figures will be charged 50 % of the composite package cost to meet out the haulage of the train payable to Railways. The same has been derived based out of the Operational Feasibility of an exclusive Deluxe Train.

C. Advance Payment :

In case if the tour is operated on self financing basis, 100 % advance payment from all the participants will be required.

D. Tour Operations Month :

It is suggested that the schedule of Pravasi Bhartiya Express may be planned for operations preferably during September to April. The dates may be decided well in advance and advised to IRCTC for timely earmarking the Deluxe Tourist Train for proposed tours.

E. Role of Ministry Of External Affairs :

IRCTC seeks the involvement and intervention of Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India at all times for coordination purpose with various Missions worldwide. Following activities to be done at MEA level :

- a. Publicity of the Tourist Train program worldwide through Missions.
- b. Selection of participants.
- c. Collection of 100% tour amount from the participants.
- d. Collection of undertaking of Medical Fitness of each of the participant
- e. Issuance of Travel Insurance (To be borne by the participant directly)
- f. Collection of Undertaking towards participation in the tour.
- g. Transfer of tour package amount to IRCTC account.
- h. Providing operational informations (Name, Contact Number, Email ID, Arrival – Departure Details, VISA, Passport, Passport Size Photograph and other travel documents) to IRCTC.

F. Seat Allocation :

IRCTC will be allocating the seats in the train based on the gender, country wise count. This allocation may be in AC I Cabin / Coupe based on couples if any or in AC II Tier.

G. Even number count in selection :

As the given cost is per operson and on double occupy basis, the males & female participants selection has to be mandatorily be in even number to help the IRCTC Team for allocation of rooms to the same gender. In case of Couples being allowed, the total number of count excluding couples has to be in even number. In case of odd number, the occupancy vise rate supplement shall be applicable.

H. Disbursement of Funds :

As the tour is to be operated by IRCTC for the Indian diaspora on self financing basis, it is proposed that the entire amount of Tour expenditure as quoted by IRCTC (Package Price) may be collected by MEA through its Missions and transferred in full to IRCTC account in advance prior to the tour commencement date.

The payment of short bookings from minimum guarantee (if any) as mentioned in this proposal note may be disbursed to IRCTC by MEA post completion of the tour.

Also, any payments towards the services which are not included in the package such as Pre / Post Tour services due to early arrival / later departure and any additional Meals , Medical expenditure etc. extended by IRCTC to the participants needs to be reimbursed to IRCTC by MEA.

SUMMARY

IRCTC is open to provide its qualitative and comprehensive services to the delegates willing to join the upcoming tours of Pravasi Bharatiya Express in coming months on self financing basis.

It is also proposed that, this train which is highly acclaimed and appreciated by the Indian Diaspora may be promoted and operated more frequently to facilitate larger number of willing Indian Diaspora worldwide. This train will act as a platform to showcase the Indian Culture, Heritage and Pilgrimage resources of India and will act as a tool of promotion of Inbound Tourism in India amongst the PIOs / NRIs etc..

