



Unauthorized Railway E-ticket Declared Illegal

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In the **Mathew K Cherian Case, 2025**, the [Supreme Court](#) held that **unauthorised** business of **procuring and supplying railway e-tickets** is a **social crime** which must be stopped.

- **Section 143 of the [Railways Act, 1989](#)** addresses **penalties** for the unauthorized sale and procurement of railway tickets, **both online and offline**.
- The case referenced the **English case of Comdel Commodities Ltd. v. Siporex Trade SA Case, 1990** to argue that legal provisions can **extend** to **unforeseen technological advancements**.
 - The **Kerala [High Court](#)** had previously ruled that the provision **applied only to offline ticket sales** but was corrected by the Supreme Court.
- **Mathew**, the accused, created hundreds of **unauthorized user IDs** to circumvent ticketing limits set by [IRCTC](#) (**12-24 ticket reservations per month**), violating **Section 143 of the Act**.
- The Indian Railways is a keystone of India's [infrastructure](#) that carries around **673 crore passengers annually**.

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