

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2331
ANSWERED ON 08.08.2025

VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAINS OPERATING IN TAMIL NADU

2331 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Vande Bharat Express trains currently operating in Tamil Nadu, along with their routes and frequency;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to introduce new Vande Bharat routes connecting major cities or pilgrimage/tourist destinations within or from Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether there are any plan to introduce semi-high-speed corridors or upgrade tracks in Tamil Nadu for faster Vande Bharat services;
- (d) whether Ministry will consider running Vande Bharat trains to underserved regions like Southern or Western Tamil Nadu (e.g., Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, or Thanjavur); and
- (e) steps being taken to ensure affordable fares and local catering options on these trains?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) As the railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are introduced across such boundaries as per network requirement. However, the following 16 Vande Bharat services, on originating/terminating basis, are catering to the needs of various stations (including Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, etc.) located in the State of Tamil Nadu:

Sl.	Train No. & Name
1.	20607/20608 MGR Chennai Central - Mysuru Vande Bharat Express (6 days a week)
2.	20643/20644 MGR Chennai Central - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express (6 days a week)
3.	20665/20666 Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express(6 days a week)
4.	20677/20678 MGR Chennai Central - Vijayawada Vande Bharat Express (6 days a week)
5.	20641/20642 Bengaluru Cantt. - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express (6 days a week)
6.	20663/20664 Mysuru - MGR Chennai Central Vande Bharat Express (6 days a week)
7.	20627/20628 Chennai Egmore - Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express (6 days a week)
8.	20671/20672 Madurai - Bengaluru Cantt. Vande Bharat Express (6 days a week)

Besides, introduction of Vande Bharat train services is an on-going process on Indian Railways, subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc.

Railways are running different types of train services like Suburban locals/ordinary, Non-suburban locals/ordinary, Mail/Express, superfast trains, Garib Rath, Gatimaan, Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto, Humsafar, Tejas, Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, Namo Bharat Rapid Rail etc.

Accordingly, differential fare structures are there for different categories of train services to provide affordable rail transportation services to all sections of society.

Local cuisines:

The local cuisines which have been introduced in the Tamil Nadu bound Vande Bharat trains include:

- (i) Tomato Paruppu Kootu
- (ii) Vathal
- (iii) Paruppu Urundai Kozhambu
- (iv) Vazhakkai Varuval, and
- (v) Beetroot/Koththavarai Kai Poriyal, etc.

Upgrading tracks:

Upgradation and improvement of railway tracks on Indian Railways to increase the speed potential have been carried out in a big way during last 10 years. The measures for track upgradation include use of 60 kg rails, wider base concrete sleepers, thick web switches, longer rail panels, H Beam sleepers, modern track renewal and maintenance machines etc.

As a result of above measures, there has been significant increase in speed potential of the tracks.

Table 1: Speed potential of tracks:

Sectional Speed (kmph)	2014		2025	
	Track Km	%	Track Km	%
<110	47,897	60.4	22,862	21.6
110-130	26,409	33.3	59,800	56.6
130 & above	5,036	6.3	23,010	21.8
Total	79,342	100	1,05,672	100

The above includes speed upgradation of following sections situated in Tamil Nadu to 110/130 kmph.

- (i) Chennai- Madurai
- (ii) Chennai-Coimbatore
- (iii) Tiruchchirappalli-Rameswaram