

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1711
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

PROPOSAL FOR VANDE BHARAT TRAIN CONNECTING BELAGAVI WITH MAJOR CITIES

1711 SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the occupancy rate of the Bengaluru-Dharwad-Belagavi Vande Bharat Express;
- (b) the details of the demand for extending the service to Pune or Mumbai;
- (c) the status of the proposal to introduce new Vande Bharat trains connecting Belagavi with other major cities;
- (d) the measures taken to improve the speed potential of the track in the section; and
- (e) Government's plan to introduce Vande Metro services for inter-city travel?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) On Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of trains is not uniform throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. During peak rush periods, the occupancy of the trains especially on popular routes remains full whereas during lean period and on less popular routes, there is suboptimal utilization. During 2025-26 (upto January, 26) the overall occupancy of regular Vande Bharat Express trains is around 100%.

At present, Belagavi-Pune and Belagavi-Mumbai sectors are being served by 17 pairs and 11 pairs of train services which are as under:

Train on Belagavi-Pune sector:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	20669/20670 Hubballi-Pune Vande Bharat Express
2	11005/11006 Dadar-Puducherry Express
3	11021/11022 Dadar-Tirunelveli Express
4	11035/11036 Dadar-Mysuru Sharavathi Express

5	11097/11098 Pune–Ernakulam Poorna Express
6	12629/12630 Yesvantpur–Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Express
7	12779/12780 Vasco-da-Gama–Hazrat Nizamuddin Goa Express
8	12781/12782 Mysuru–Hazrat Nizamuddin Swarna Jayanti Express
9	16209/16210 Mysuru–Ajmer Express
10	16505/16506 KSR Bengaluru–Gandhidham Express
11	16507/16508 KSR Bengaluru–Jodhpur Express
12	16531/16532 KSR Bengaluru–Ajmer Garib Nawaz Express
13	16533/16534 KSR Bengaluru–Jodhpur Express
14	17317/17318 Hubballi–Dadar Express
15	19667/19668 Udaipur City–Mysuru Humsafar Express
16	22497/22498 Shri Ganganagar–Tiruchchirappalli Humsafar Express
17	22685/22686 Yesvantpur–Chandigarh Express

Trains on Belagavi-Mumbai sector:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	11005/11006 Dadar–Puducherry Express
2	11021/11022 Dadar–Tirunelveli Express
3	11035/11036 Dadar–Mysuru Sharavathi Express
4	16209/16210 Mysuru–Ajmer Express
5	16505/16506 KSR Bengaluru–Gandhidham Express
6	16507/16508 KSR Bengaluru–Jodhpur Express
7	16531/16532 KSR Bengaluru–Ajmer Garib Nawaz Express
8	16533/16534 KSR Bengaluru–Jodhpur Express
9	17317/17318 Hubballi–Dadar Express
10	19667/19668 Udaipur City–Mysuru Humsafar Express
11	22497/22498 Shri Ganganagar–Tiruchchirappalli Humsafar Express

Further, Belagavi is presently being served by 58 train services including 04 Vande Bharat Express services viz. 20669/20670 Hubballi–Pune Vande Bharat Express and 26751/26752 Belagavi–KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express. The list of trains serving Belagavi are as under:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	20669/20670 Hubballi–Pune Vande Bharat Express
2	26751/26752 Belagavi–KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
3	11005/11006 Dadar–Puducherry Express
4	11021/11022 Dadar–Tirunelveli Express
5	11035/11036 Dadar–Mysuru Sharavathi Express
6	11097/11098 Pune–Ernakulam Poorna Express
7	12629/12630 Yesvantpur–Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Express
8	12779/12780 Vasco-da-Gama–Hazrat Nizamuddin Goa Express
9	12781/12782 Mysuru–Hazrat Nizamuddin Swarna Jayanti Express
10	16209/16210 Ajmer–Mysuru Express
11	16505/16506 Gandhidham–KSR Bengaluru Express
12	16507/16508 Jodhpur–KSR Bengaluru Express
13	16531/16532 Ajmer–KSR Bengaluru Garib Nawaz Express
14	16533/16534 Jodhpur–KSR Bengaluru Express
15	16541/16542 Yesvantpur–Pandharpur Express
16	16589/16590 KSR Bengaluru–Sangli Rani Channamma Express
17	17301/17302 Mysuru–Belagavi Express
18	17317/17318 Hubballi–Dadar Express
19	17325/17326 Belagavi–Mysuru Vishwamanav Express
20	17331/17332 Miraj–Hubballi Express
21	17333/17334 Miraj–Castle Rock Express
22	17415/17416 Tirupati– SCSM(T) Kolhapur Haripriya Express
23	19667/19668 Udaipur City–Mysuru Humsafar Express
24	20653/20654 KSR Bengaluru–Belagavi Express

25	22497/22498 Shri Ganganagar–Tiruchchirappalli Humsafar Express
26	22685/22686 Yesvantpur–Chandigarh Express
27	56931/56932 Miraj–Londa Passenger
28	56937/56938 Belagavi–Miraj Passenger
29	56939/56940 Belagavi–Miraj Passenger

As on 09-02-2026, 04 Namo Bharat Rapid Rail services are in operation on the Indian Railways network which are as under:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	94801/94802 Ahmedabad - Bhuj Namo Bharat Rapid Rail
2	94803/94804 Jaynagar - Patna Namo Bharat Rapid Rail

Proposals/ requests/ suggestions/ representations, both formal and informal *inter alia* for extension/introduction of trains are received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament, elected representatives, organizations/rail users etc. at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Divisional Office etc. As receipt of such proposals/ requests/ suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized data of such requests is not maintained. However, these are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time, which is an on-going process.

Besides, introduction of new train services/extension of existing services including Vande Bharat Express services/Namo Bharat Rapid Rail on any route/section, which are on-going processes, depends on various factors which include:

- Capacity of that section
- Availability of path
- Availability of required rolling stock
- Availability of matching infrastructure for rolling stock
- Maintenance requirement of railway tracks and other asset

In addition to this, the following measures are being taken by Indian Railways to upgrade railway tracks:

- i. Modern track structure consisting of 60kg, 90 Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, Wider and heavier Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers (PSC) with elastic fastening, fan-shaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers and H-beam Sleepers on girder bridges are being used while carrying out primary track renewals.
- ii. The Thick Web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossings are being used in turnout renewal works.

- iii. Supply of 260m long rail panels have been increased to avoid welding of joints, thereby improving safety.
- iv. Thick Web Switch Expansion Joints are being used in place of earlier Conventional/Improved SEJs.
- v. Adoption of better welding technology for rails i.e. Flash Butt Welding.
- vi. Adoption of mechanized system for track maintenance using high output plain tampers and points & crossing tampers for improved maintainability & reliability of track.
- vii. Deployment of state-of-the-art modern machines including Rail Grinding Machines to further improve asset reliability.
- viii. Mechanisation of track laying activities through use of track machines like PQRS, TRT, T-28 etc.
- ix. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates for enhancing safety at LC gates.
- x. Use of advanced Phased Array technology of testing of rail and welds.
- xi. Deployment of Integrated Track Monitoring Systems (ITMS) and Oscillation Monitoring System (OMS) for comprehensive health assessment to ascertain optimal maintenance requirements.
- xii. Adoption of portable Track Measuring Trolley for continuous recording of track parameters in yards.
- xiii. Using web enabled Track Management System (TMS) for integration and data analytics of the track inspection records received through various sources to enable precise maintenance inputs.

As a result of above measures, there has been significant increase in speed potential of the tracks. The details of speed potential of railway tracks during 2013-14 vis-a-vis 2025-26 are as under:

Sectional Speed (kmph)	2013-14		2025-26 (up to Jan'26)	
	Track Km	%	Track Km	%
130 & above	5,036	6.3	23,477	22.2
110 - 130	26,409	33.3	61,711	58.4
< 110	47,897	60.4	20,484	19.4
Total	79,342	100	1,05,672	100

Moreover, strengthening, upgradation, modernisation and improvement of track infrastructure is a continuous and ongoing process over Indian Railways.
