

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2351
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2026

ALLOCATION OF VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER TRAINS FOR KERALA

2351 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has finalised the allocation of Vande Bharat sleeper train services;
- (b) the criteria adopted for selection of routes and allocation of train sets;
- (c) whether Kerala has been identified for any such service;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including the proposed routes, frequency and expected date of commencement;
- (e) whether Government has received requests for introducing Vande Bharat sleeper services on the Thiruvananthapuram–Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram–Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram–Mangaluru, Kozhikode–Chennai and other long-distance overnight routes; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) Indian Railways, with a view to improve travel experience of the passengers, have introduced indigenously designed and manufactured Vande Bharat trains (Chair Car and Sleeper) with modern coaches, advanced safety features and passenger amenities.

Vande Bharat Services (Sleeper Trains):

For long distance travel the Sleeper variant of Vande Bharat Express has been indigenously designed and developed. These are aimed to improve travel experience of the passengers and set new benchmarks in terms of safe and comfortable journey. Two such trains have already been manufactured. After extensive trials, these trains have been introduced on Indian Railways. The First Vande Bharat Sleeper service viz. 27575/27576 Howrah - Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express has commenced regular operation w.e.f. 22.01.2026.

These train sets have been provided with modern coaches having advanced safety features and passenger amenities like:

- Jerk-Free Semi permanent couplers and Anti Climbers.
- Fitted with KAVACH.
- Higher acceleration with design/operating speed of 180/160 KMPH.
- Crashworthy Design of Car body complying with EN standards.

- Fire barrier doors at the end of each coach for compliance of Fire Safety standards.
- Aerosol based fire detection and suppression system in electrical cabinets and lavatories.
- Regenerative braking system for energy efficiency.
- Air conditioning units provided with indigenously developed UV-C lamp based disinfection system for deactivating 99% harmful bacteria from conditioned air to improve the hygiene standards inside the passenger area.
- Centrally controlled Automatic Plug Doors and Fully Sealed wider gangways.
- CCTVs in all coaches.
- Emergency talk-back unit for communication between Passenger and Train Manager/Loco Pilot in case of emergency.
- For Divyangjan passengers special lavatory in the driving coaches on each end.
- Centralized Coach Monitoring System for better condition monitoring of passenger amenities such as Air conditioning, Saloon Lighting etc.
- Ergonomically designed ladder for ease of climbing on to upper berths.

As on 03.08.2026, the following 01 pair of Vande Bharat train services (Sleeper Car) are being operated on the Indian Railways network:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	27575/27576 Howrah - Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express

Vande Bharat services (Chair Car):

Indian Railways, with a view to improve travel experience of the passengers, have introduced indigenously designed and manufactured Vande Bharat trains with modern coaches, advanced safety features and passenger amenities. Vande Bharat Chair Car services have the following features:

- Jerk Free Semi-Permanent couplers.
- Fitted with KAVACH.
- Centrally controlled Automatic Plug Doors and Fully Sealed wider gangways.
- Emergency Alarm Push buttons and Talk Back Units on all Coaches.
- Improved fire safety - Aerosol based fire detection and suppression system in electrical cabinets and lavatories.
- Higher acceleration with design/operating speed of 180/160 KMPH.
- Driver-Guard communication with voice recording facility & Crash hardened memory.
- Air conditioning units provided with indigenously developed UV-C lamp based disinfection system for deactivating 99% harmful bacteria from conditioned air to improve the hygiene standards inside the passenger area.
- Better Ride Comfort.

- CCTVs in all Coaches.
- For Divyangjan passengers special lavatory in the driving coaches on each end.
- Coach condition monitoring System (CCMS) display with remote monitoring

As on 03.08.2026, 81 pairs of Vande Bharat train services (Chair Car) are being operated on the Indian Railways network, as listed below:-

SN	Train No. and Name
1	22435/22436 Varanasi - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express
2	22439/22440 New Delhi - Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express
3	20901/20902 Mumbai Central - Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express
4	22447/22448 New Delhi - Amb Andura Vande Bharat Express
5	20607/20608 MGR Chennai Central - Mysuru Vande Bharat Express
6	20825/20826 Bilaspur - Nagpur Vande Bharat Express
7	22301/22302 Howrah - New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express
8	20833/20834 Visakhapatnam - Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express
9	22223/22224 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Sainagar Shirdi Vande Bharat Express
10	22225/22226 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Solapur Vande Bharat Express
11	20171/20172 Rani Kamalapati - Nizamuddin Vande Bharat Express
12	20701/20702 Secunderabad - Tirupati Vande Bharat Express
13	20643/20644 Chennai - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
14	20977/20978 Ajmer - Chandigarh Vande Bharat Express
15	20633/20634 Kasargod - Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express
16	22895/22896 Howrah - Puri Vande Bharat Express
17	22457/22458 Anand Vihar - Dehradun Vande Bharat Express
18	22227/22228 New Jalpaiguri - Guwahati Vande Bharat Express
19	20911/20912 Indore - Nagpur Vande Bharat Express
20	22229/22230 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Madgaon Vande Bharat Express

21	22349/22350 Patna - Ranchi Vande Bharat Express
22	20661/20662 Bengaluru - Dharwar Vande Bharat Express
23	20173/20174 Rani Kamlapati - Rewa Vande Bharat Express
24	22549/22550 Gorakhpur - Prayagraj Vande Bharat Express
25	12461/12462 Jodhpur - Sabarmati Vande Bharat Express
26	22925/22926 Ahmedabad - Okha Vande Bharat Express
27	20665/20666 Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express
28	20677/20678 Chennai - Narsapur Vande Bharat Express
29	20703/20704 Kacheguda - Yesvantpur Vande Bharat Express
30	20631/20632 Mangaluru - Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express
31	26963/26964 Udaipur - Asarva Vande Bharat Express
32	22347/22348 Howrah - Patna Vande Bharat Express
33	20835/20836 Rourkela - Puri Vande Bharat Express
34	20897/20898 Howrah - Ranchi Vande Bharat Express
35	22415/22416 Varanasi - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express
36	20641/20642 Bengaluru Cantt. - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
37	20645/20646 Madgaon - Mangaluru Vande Bharat Express
38	20705/20706 Nanded - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) Vande Bharat Express
39	22477/22478 New Delhi - Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express
40	22425/22426 Ayodhya Cantt. - Anand Vihar Vande Bharat Express
41	22487/22488 Delhi - Amritsar Vande Bharat Express
42	22961/22962 Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express
43	20707/20708 Secunderabad - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express

44	20663/20664 Mysuru - Chennai Vande Bharat Express
45	22233/22234 New Jalpaiguri - Patna Vande Bharat Express
46	22469/22470 Khajuraho - Nizamuddin Vande Bharat Express
47	22231/22232 Kalaburagi - Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
48	20841/20842 Bhubaneswar - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
49	22345/22346 Patna - Gomti Nagar Vande Bharat Express
50	20887/20888 Ranchi - Varanasi Vande Bharat Express
51	22545/22546 Lucknow - Dehradun Vande Bharat Express
52	22489/22490 Varanasi - Meerut City Vande Bharat Express
53	20627/20628 Chennai Egmore - Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express
54	20671/20672 Madurai - Bengaluru Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
55	22499/22500 Deoghar - Varanasi Vande Bharat Express
56	22309/22310 Howrah - Jamalpur Vande Bharat Express
57	20871/20872 Howrah - Rourkela Vande Bharat Express
58	20893/20894 Tatanagar - Patna Vande Bharat Express
59	20891/20892 Tatanagar - Brahmapur Vande Bharat Express
60	22303/22304 Howrah - Gaya Vande Bharat Express
61	20669/20670 Hubballi - Pune Vande Bharat Express
62	20673/20674 Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj (T) Kolhapur - Pune Vande Bharat Express
63	20101/20102 Secunderabad - Nagpur Vande Bharat Express
64	20829/20830 Durg - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
65	21893/21894 Tatanagar - Patna Vande Bharat Express
66	21895/21896 Tatanagar - Patna Vande Bharat Express

67	20175/20176 Banaras - Agra Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
68	26901/26902 Sabarmati - Veraval Vande Bharat Express
69	26401/26402 Jammu Tawi - Srinagar Vande Bharat Express
70	26403/26404 Jammu Tawi - Srinagar Vande Bharat Express
71	26501/26502 Patliputra - Gorakhpur Vande Bharat Express
72	26751/26752 Belagavi - KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
73	26405/26406 Amritsar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express
74	26101/26102 Pune - Ajni Vande Bharat Express
75	26301/26302 Jogbani - Danapur Vande Bharat Express
76	26481/26482 Jodhpur - Delhi Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
77	26471/26472 Bikaner - Delhi Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
78	26461/26462 Delhi - Firozpur Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
79	26651/26652 KSR Bengaluru - Ernakulam Vande Bharat Express
80	26505/26506 Khajuraho - Banaras Vande Bharat Express
81	26503/26504 Saharanpur - Gomtinagar Vande Bharat Express

Of the aforementioned 81 pairs of Vande Bharat train services (Chair Car) being operated on the Indian Railways network, following 03 pairs of Vande Bharat services (Chair Car) are catering to the needs of stations located in the State of Kerala:-

SN	Train No. & Name
1	20631/20632 Mangaluru Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express
2	20633/20634 Kasaragod - Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express
3	26651/26652 KSR Bengaluru - Ernakulam Jn. Vande Bharat Express

Further, proposals/requests/suggestions/representations, both formal and informal *inter alia* for introduction of train services including Vande Bharat train services and its variant are received from Members of Parliament, elected representatives, organizations/rail users etc. at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Divisional Office etc. The receipt of such proposals/requests/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process. These are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time, which is an on-going process.

At present, Thiruvananthapuram - Bengaluru sector and Thiruvananthapuram - Chennai sector are served by 7 pairs of train services and 12 pairs of train services (including 16121/16122 Tambaram - Thiruvananthapuram Central Amrit Bharat Express introduced w.e.f. 23.01.2026) respectively.

Train serving Thiruvananthapuram - Bengaluru sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	12257/12258 Yesvantpur - Thiruvananthapuram North Garib Rath Express
2	12777/12778 Hubballi - Thiruvananthapuram North Express
3	16315/16316 Mysuru - Thiruvananthapuram North Express
4	16319/16320 Thiruvananthapuram North - SMVT Bengaluru Express
5	16331/16332 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
6	16525/16526 Kanniyakumari - KSR Bengaluru Express
7	16561/16562 Yesvantpur - Thiruvananthapuram North Express

Train serving Thiruvananthapuram - Chennai sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	16121/16122 Tambaram - Thiruvananthapuram Central Amrit Bharat Express
2	12511/12512 Gorakhpur - Thiruvananthapuram North Express
3	12623/12624 MGR Chennai Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
4	12695/12696 MGR Chennai Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
5	12697/12698 MGR Chennai Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
6	15607/15608 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Silchar Express
7	16127/16128 Chennai Egmore - Guruvayur Express
8	20635/20636 Chennai Egmore - Kollam Express
9	22207/22208 MGR Chennai Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
10	22641/22642 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Shalimar Express
11	22645/22646 Indore - Thiruvananthapuram North Express
12	22647/22648 Korba - Thiruvananthapuram North Express

Similarly, at present, Thiruvananthapuram - Mangaluru sector and Kozhikode - Chennai sector are served by 26 pairs of train services (including 16329/16330 Nagercoil - Mangalore Junction Amrit Bharat

Express, introduced w.e.f. 23.01.2026) and 04 pairs of train services respectively. These are as listed below:

Train serving Thiruvananthapuram - Mangaluru sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	20631/20632 Mangalore Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express
2	16329/16330 Nagercoil - Mangalore Junction Amrit Bharat Express
3	12201/12202 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Thiruvananthapuram North Garib Rath Express
4	12217/12218 Thiruvananthapuram North - Chandigarh Express
5	12431/12432 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express
6	12483/12484 Thiruvananthapuram North - Amritsar Express
7	16311/16312 Shri Ganganagar - Thiruvananthapuram North Express
8	16313/16314 Thiruvananthapuram North - Mangalore Junction Express
9	16333/16334 Veraval - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
10	16335/16336 Gandhidham - Nagercoil Express
11	16345/16346 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
12	16347/16348 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Mangalore Central Express
13	16355/16356 Thiruvananthapuram North - Mangalore Junction Express
14	16603/16604 Mangalore Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
15	16605/16606 Mangalore Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
16	16629/16630 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Mangalore Central Express
17	16649/16650 Mangalore Central - Kanniyakumari Express
18	19259/19260 Thiruvananthapuram North - Bhavnagar (T) Express
19	19577/19578 Tirunelveli - Jamnagar Express
20	20909/20910 Thiruvananthapuram North - Porbandar Express
21	20923/20924 Tirunelveli - Gandhidham Express
22	20931/20932 Thiruvananthapuram North - Indore Express
23	22113/22114 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Thiruvananthapuram North Express
24	22633/22634 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Express
25	22653/22654 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Express

26	22659/22660 Thiruvananthapuram North - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Express
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Train serving Kozhikode - Chennai sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	12601/12602 MGR Chennai Central - Mangalore Central Express
2	12685/12686 MGR Chennai Central - Mangalore Central Express
3	16159/16160 Chennai Egmore - Mangalore Central Express
4	22637/22638 MGR Chennai Central - Mangalore Central Express

Besides, introduction of train services including Vande Bharat train services and its variants, on any route/section, which is an on-going process, 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 assets
- Occupancy and the traffic requirement of the section
