

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 771
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026

OCCUPANCY OF VANDE BHARAT SERVICES IN KERALA

771 SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the Vande Bharat trains which maintained high occupancy during the last year, train- wise;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the requirement for additional Vande Bharat and other high-speed train services in Kerala based on the occupancy of the existing services;
- (c) whether the Ministry has prescribed any occupancy benchmark or demand criteria for introducing additional Vande Bharat services and whether the existing Vande Bharat services in Kerala satisfy such criteria; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to introduce additional train services in Kerala in view of the consistently high occupancy of the existing services, if so, the details and timeline thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) 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 sub optimal utilization. Moreover, the occupancy of Vande Bharat Trains over Indian Railways during FY 2025-26 and 2026-27 (upto June, 2026) is around 100%.

As the Railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are introduced as per network requirements, across such boundaries. However, to cater to the needs of stations located in the State of Kerala, Indian Railways (IR), on originating/terminating basis, have introduced following 03 pairs of Vande Bharat trains:

SN	Train No. and 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 Vande Bharat Express

Furthermore, during 2025-26 and 2026-27(upto June, 2026), Indian Railways, on originating/terminating basis, have also introduced 22 train services to serve the needs of passengers of various stations located in the State of Keralam. These are listed below:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	26651 KSR Bengaluru - Ernakulam Jn. Vande Bharat Express
2	26652 Ernakulam Jn. - KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
3	16121 Tambaram - Thiruvananthapuram Central Amrit Bharat Express
4	16122 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express
5	17041 Charlapalli - Thiruvananthapuram North Amrit Bharat Express
6	17042 Thiruvananthapuram North - Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express
7	16313 Thiruvananthapuram North - Mangaluru Jn. Antyodaya Express
8	16314 Mangaluru Jn. - Thiruvananthapuram North Antyodaya Express
9	18501 Visakhapatnam - Kollam Express
10	18502 Kollam - Visakhapatnam Express
11	16363 Ernakulam - Velankanni Express
12	16364 Velankanni - Ernakulam Express
13	16611 Palakkad - Kannur Express
14	56115 Thrissur - Guruvayur Passenger
15	56116 Guruvayur - Thrissur Passenger
16	66325 Nilambur Road - Shoranur MEMU
17	66326 Shoranur - Nilambur Road MEMU
18	66623 Palakkad - Pollachi MEMU
19	66624 Pollachi - Palakkad MEMU
20	66327 Ernakulam - Kollam MEMU
21	66328 Kollam - Ernakulam MEMU
22	56632 Kannur - Kozhikode Passenger

Besides, introduction of new train services including Vande Bharat train services, 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.
