

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3045  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026**

**VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER TRAINS BETWEEN KOLKATA AND GUWAHATI**

**3045. THIRU THANGA TAMILSELVAN:  
DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is true that India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Kolkata and Guwahati has been flagged off recently and the fares of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Howrah in West Bengal and Guwahati in Assam will be substantially lower than air travel and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to ply/introduce such a Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Delhi and Chennai in coming days and if so, the details along with the timeline thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) and (b) For long distance travel the Sleeper variant of Vande Bharat Express has been indigenously designed and developed. 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.**

**The process of development of new rolling stocks like Vande Sleeper necessitates a holistic approach, combining technological innovation, strategic planning and manufacturing to ensure a safe, reliable and**

**comfortable travel. This involves development of prototype, extensive testing and trials followed by series production.**

**To improve travel experience of the passengers and set new benchmarks in terms of safe and comfortable journey, 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.**
- **Improved fire safety - 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.**

**Presently, Delhi-Chennai sector is served by 10 pairs of train services as listed below:**

<b>SN</b>	<b>Train number and name</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>12641/12642 Kanniyakumari -Hazrat Nizamuddin Thirukkural Express</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>12651/12652 Madurai -Hazrat Nizamuddin Tamil Nadu Sampark Kranti Express</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>16031/16032 MGR Chennai Central - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Andaman Express</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>20493/20494 Madurai - Chandigarh Express</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>12433/12434 MGR Chennai Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>12611/12612 MGR Chennai Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Garib Rath Express</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>12269/12270 MGR Chennai Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Durgam Express</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>12615/12616 MGR Chennai Central -New Delhi Grand Trunk Express</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>12621/12622 MGR Chennai Central -New Delhi Tamil Nadu Express</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>22403/22404 Puducherry - New Delhi Express</b>

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

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