



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates, lays foundation stone of multiple rail and road infrastructure projects worth more than ₹3,250 crore at Malda, West Bengal

Today, another big step has been taken towards the modernization of Indian Railways, Vande Bharat Sleeper trains are being introduced in India: PM

This is the country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train connecting the land of Mother Kali to the land of Mother Kamakhya; In the coming times, this modern train will expand across the entire country; I congratulate Bengal, Assam, and the entire country on this modern sleeper train: PM

Today, Bengal has received four more modern Amrit Bharat Express trains; New Jalpaiguri - Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express, New Jalpaiguri - Tiruchchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express, Alipurduar - Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express, Alipurduar - Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express; This will further strengthen the connectivity of Bengal, and especially North Bengal, with South and West India: PM

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 17 JAN 2026 3:23PM by PIB Delhi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple rail and road infrastructure projects worth ₹3,250 crore at Malda, West Bengal. It is aimed at strengthening connectivity and accelerating development in West Bengal and the North-Eastern region. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Shri Modi remarked that from Malda today, the campaign to accelerate the progress of West Bengal has gained further momentum. He highlighted that a number of projects related to the development of West Bengal have just been inaugurated and dedicated. The Prime Minister stated that new rail services have been introduced for West Bengal, noting that these projects will make travel easier for the people and also facilitate trade and commerce. He emphasized that the new train maintenance facilities established here will provide fresh opportunities for the youth of Bengal.

Underlining that from the sacred land of Bengal, another major step has been taken towards the modernization of Indian Railways, Shri Modi highlighted that from today, Vande Bharat sleeper trains are being introduced in India. He stated that this new Vande Bharat sleeper train will make long journeys for

citizens more comfortable and splendid. He emphasized that the vision of how trains in a developed India should be is clearly reflected in this Vande Bharat sleeper train. The Prime Minister mentioned that a short while ago he interacted with some passengers at Malda station, and everyone expressed that traveling in this train was an extraordinary experience. He recalled that earlier people used to look at pictures of foreign trains and wish such trains existed in India, and today that dream is being realized. Shri Modi added that in the recent days, foreign tourists are making videos of how the Indian Railways is being revolutionised. He underlined that this Vande Bharat train is Made in India, built with the hard work and dedication of Indians. Shri Modi noted that the country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train is connecting the land of Maa Kali with the land of Maa Kamakhya. He further stated that in the coming time, this modern train will expand across the nation and congratulated Bengal, Assam, and the entire country for this modern sleeper train.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi remarked that Indian Railways is undergoing a transformation, with electrification of railway lines and modernization of stations. He highlighted that today, including West Bengal, more than 150 Vande Bharat trains are running across the country. The Prime Minister stated that along with this, a complete network of modern and high-speed trains is being developed, which is greatly benefiting poor and middle-class families in Bengal. He announced that Bengal has received four more modern Amrit Bharat Express trains—New Jalpaiguri–Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express, New Jalpaiguri–Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express, Alipurduar–Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express, and Alipurduar–Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express. He emphasized that these trains will strengthen connectivity between Bengal, especially North Bengal, and South and Western India. The Prime Minister noted that these Amrit Bharat Express trains will make travel easier for pilgrims visiting Gangasagar, Dakshineswar, and Kalighat, as well as for those traveling to Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

“Indian Railways is becoming not only modern but also self-reliant”, emphasised Shri Modi highlighting that India's rail engines, coaches, and metro coaches are emerging as symbols of India's technology. The Prime Minister stated that today India manufactures more locomotives than America and Europe and exports passenger train and metro train coaches to many countries, which greatly benefits the nation's economy and provides employment opportunities for the youth. Shri Modi concluded by emphasizing that connecting India is a priority and reducing distances is a mission, which is clearly reflected in today's program.

Governor of West Bengal, Shri C V Ananda Bose, Union Ministers, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Shri Shantanu Thakur, Shri Sukanta Majumdar were present among other dignitaries at the event.

Background

Prime Minister visited Malda Town Railway Station, where he flagged off India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Howrah and Guwahati (Kamakhya). He also virtually flagged off the Guwahati (Kamakhya)–Howrah Vande Bharat Sleeper Train. Developed to meet the growing transportation needs of modern India, the fully air-conditioned Vande Bharat Sleeper train is set to offer passengers an airline-like travel experience at economical fares. It will make long-distance journeys faster, safer, and more convenient. By significantly reducing travel time by around 2.5 hours on the Howrah–Guwahati (Kamakhya) route, the train will also give a major boost to religious travel and tourism.

Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of four major railway projects in West Bengal, including the new rail line between Balurghat and Hili, next-generation freight maintenance facilities at New Jalpaiguri, upgradation of the Siliguri Loco Shed, and modernization of Vande Bharat train maintenance facilities in Jalpaiguri district. These projects will strengthen passenger and freight operations, improve logistics efficiency in North Bengal, and generate employment opportunities in the region.

Prime Minister dedicated to the Nation the electrification of rail lines between New Coochbehar–Bamanhat and New Coochbehar–Boxirhat, enabling faster, cleaner and more energy-efficient train operations.

Prime Minister further virtually flagged off 4 New Amrit Bharat Express trains - New Jalpaiguri-Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express; New Jalpaiguri- Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express; Alipurduar – SMVT Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express; Alipurduar – Mumbai (Panvel) Amrit Bharat Express. This will enhance affordable and reliable long-distance rail connectivity. These services will support the mobility needs of common citizens, students, migrant workers and traders, while strengthening inter-state economic and social linkages.

Prime Minister also flagged off two new train services equipped with LHB coaches - Radhikapur – SMVT Bengaluru Express; Balurghat – SMVT Bengaluru Express. These trains will provide the region's youth, students, and IT professionals with direct, safe, and comfortable travel connectivity to major IT and employment hubs such as Bengaluru.

Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the rehabilitation and four-laning of the Dhupguri–Falakata section of National Highway-31D, a key road project that will improve regional road connectivity and facilitate smoother movement of passengers and goods in North Bengal.

These projects will play a vital role in building modern infrastructure creation and improved connectivity, strengthening the Eastern and North-Eastern regions as key growth engines of the Nation.

Delighted to flag off India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train from Malda. Several Amrit Bharat train services are also being introduced to boost connectivity.

<https://t.co/rh7OaleTvR>

— Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) January 17, 2026

आज भारतीय रेल के आधुनिकीकरण की तरफ एक और बड़ा कदम उठाया गया है।

आज से भारत में वंदे भारत स्लीपर ट्रेनों की शुरुआत हो रही है: PM @narendramodi

— PMO India (@PMOIndia) January 17, 2026

देश की ये पहली वंदे भारत स्लीपर ट्रेन... मां काली की धरती को मां कामाख्या की भूमि को जोड़ रही है।

आने वाले समय में पूरे देश में, इस आधुनिक ट्रेन का विस्तार होगा।

मैं बंगाल को, असम को, पूरे देश को इस आधुनिक स्लीपर ट्रेन के लिए बधाई देता हूँ: PM @narendra modi

— PMO India (@PMOIndia) January 17, 2026

आज बंगाल को चार और आधुनिक, अमृत भारत एक्सप्रेस ट्रेनें मिली हैं।

न्यू जलपाईगुड़ी- नागरकोइल अमृत भारत एक्सप्रेस...

न्यू जलपाईगुड़ी - तिरुच्चिरापल्ली अमृत भारत एक्सप्रेस...

अलीपुर द्वार - बेंगलुरु अमृत भारत एक्सप्रेस...

अलीपुर द्वार - मुंबई अमृत भारत एक्सप्रेस...

इससे बंगाल और...

— PMO India (@PMOIndia) January 17, 2026

LIVE: PM Modi lays foundation stone, dedicates multiple r...



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(रिलीज़ आईडी: 2215594) आगंतुक पटल : 866

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