

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4076
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026**

**OCCUPANCY RATES OF VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAINS IN WEST
BENGAL**

4076. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the average occupancy rates of the following Vande Bharat Express trains operating in and through West Bengal during the last six months:**
- (i) Howrah–New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat**
 - (ii) Howrah–Puri Vande Bharat**
 - (iii) Howrah–Ranchi Vande Bharat**
 - (iv) Howrah–Patna Vande Bharat**
 - (v) New Jalpaiguri–Guwahati Vande Bharat**
 - (vi) Howrah–Rourkela Vande Bharat**
 - (vii) Howrah–Bhagalpur Vande Bharat**
 - (viii) New Jalpaiguri–Patna Vande Bharat**
 - (ix) Howrah–Gaya Vande Bharat Express**
 - (x) Howrah–Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express**
- (b) whether any of said trains have experienced occupancy rates below eighty percent (80%) during the last six months and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a second Vande Bharat Express on the Howrah–New Jalpaiguri route and Howrah–Puri route to cater to the high passenger demand and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b): On Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of trains varies depending upon the season/period. Moreover, the overall occupancy of these Vande

Bharat Trains during the period 01.01.2026 to 30.06.2026 is more than 100%. Further, occupancy of none of the Vande Bharat Express trains operating in and through West Bengal is less than 80%.

(c): 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 (Chair Car)

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 05.08.2026, the 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

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 05.08.2026, the following 01 pairs of Vande Bharat train services (Sleeper Car) are being operated on the Indian Railways network:

SN	Train No. and Name
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1	27575/27576 Howrah - Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express
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Trains on Howrah-New Jalpaiguri sector:

At present, Howrah-New Jalpaiguri sector is served by 20 pairs of trains including 22301/22302 Howrah - New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express & 27575/27576 Howrah-Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express. These are listed below: -

SN	Train No. & Name
1	22301/22302 Howrah - New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express
2	27575/27576 Howrah - Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express
3	12041/12042 Howrah - New Jalpaiguri Shatabdi Express
4	12343/12344 Sealdah - Haldibari Express
5	12345/12346 Howrah - Guwahati Express
6	12363/12364 Kolkata - Haldibari Express
7	12377/12378 Sealdah - New Alipurduar Express
8	12501/12502 Kolkata - Agartala Garib Rath Express
9	12517/12518 Kolkata - Guwahati Garib Rath Express
10	13115/13116 Sealdah - Jalpaiguri Road Express
11	13125/13126 Kolkata - Sairang Express
12	13141/13142 Sealdah - New Alipurduar Express
13	13147/13148 Sealdah - Bamanhat Express

14	13173/13174 Sealdah - Sabroom Express
15	13175/13176 Sealdah - Silchar Express
16	13181/13182 Kolkata - Sighat Town Express
17	15643/15644 Puri - Kamakhya Express
18	15721/15722 Digha - New Jalpaiguri Express
19	15959/15960 Howrah - Dibrugarh Express
20	15961/15962 Howrah - Dibrugarh Express

Trains on Howrah-Puri sector

Similarly, Howrah-Puri sector is served by 12 pairs of trains including 22895/22896 Howrah-Puri Vande Bharat Express. These are listed below: -

SN	Train No. & Name
1	22895/22896 Howrah - Puri Vande Bharat Express
2	12277/12278 Howrah - Puri Shatabdi Express
3	12821/12822 Howrah - Puri Express
4	12837/12838 Howrah - Puri Express
5	12881/12882 Shalimar - Puri Garib Rath Express
6	12887/12888 Shalimar - Puri Express
7	12895/12896 Shalimar - Puri Express
8	15643/15644 Kamakhya - Puri Express
9	18039/18040 Shalimar - Puri Express
10	18409/18410 Shalimar - Puri Express

11	22201/22202 Sealdah - Puri Durgam Express
12	22835/22836 Shalimar - Puri Express

Besides, introduction of train services, including Vande Bharat (Chair Car & Sleeper) services, 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**
