



Mumbai- Ahmedabad Vande Bharat to Run with 20 Coaches Permanently From Tomorrow

More Passengers to Get Confirmed Seats on one of India's Busiest Inter-city Rail Corridors

With this, About 23.45 percent Vande Bharat Rakes Upgraded to 20 Coaches, 21 % with 16 Coaches & Rest with 8 Coaches

Comfortable Travel Experience & Improved Punctuality Leading to Rising Popularity of Vande Bharat Trains

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Indian Railways has made the augmentation of Train No. 22961/22962 Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express from 16 coaches to 20 coaches permanent, with effect from journeys commencing April 28, 2026. The augmented four coaches comprise three AC Chair Car coaches and one Executive Class coach, offering passengers significantly improved seating availability on one of India's busiest and most sought-after inter-city rail corridors.

The decision is a direct response to the sustained and overwhelming demand the service has witnessed since its introduction. What began as a temporary augmentation to address peak travel requirements has now been formalised into a permanent operational arrangement, a reflection of Indian Railways' commitment to matching its capacity with the confidence its passengers have placed in it.

Till now, 162 Vande Bharat services had been operationalised, reducing journey times by up to 45 percent on several corridors. Of these, 90 services are operating with 8-coach formations, 38 services with 20-coach formations and 34 services with 16 coaches. This indicates that approximately 23.45 per cent of Vande Bharat services have been upgraded to 20 coaches, while around 21 per cent operate with 16 coaches, with the remaining services continuing in the 8-coach configuration.



The 491-kilometre route, completing its journey in 5 hours 30 minutes and halting at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, and Vadodara, connects two of western India's most economically vibrant cities. It serves a diverse cross-section of passengers, including business travellers, students, daily commuters, and tourists, for whom speed, comfort, and reliability are no longer aspirations but expectations.

That expectation is well-founded. Nearly 4 crore passengers travelled on Vande Bharat services in FY 2025-26, registering a year-on-year growth of approximately 34 percent. Since its inception in 2019, the Vande Bharat Express has served over 9.1 crore passengers across 1 lakh trips. Network-wide occupancy has consistently exceeded 100 percent. These numbers speak not merely to demand, but to a deep and growing trust among the travelling public in the quality and reliability of the service.

The growing popularity of Vande Bharat trains is rooted in a combination of factors that are reshaping how India travels. A new generation of rail passengers that is younger, more mobile, and increasingly unwilling to compromise on comfort or punctuality has found in the Vande Bharat a service that meets them where their expectations are. Faster journey times, cleaner coaches, improved on-board experience, and significantly better punctuality compared to conventional services have made these trains the preferred choice on route after route.

Indian Railways has responded in kind, a reflection of how persistently demand has outpaced capacity on the network's most sought-after corridors. The Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad service joining this league permanently is not an isolated decision, but part of a wider, data-driven effort to ensure that the railway keeps pace with the aspirations of a changing India.

Other than the Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad service, the 20901/20902 Gandhinagar Capital-Mumbai Central Vande Bharat Express provides another key high-speed link between Gujarat and Maharashtra. Connecting Gandhinagar with Mumbai, this route also serves the larger Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar region, offering faster and more comfortable travel for business, administrative, and daily commuters, while strengthening economic ties between the two states.

Vande Bharat services, a fleet of semi-high-speed trains are designed to enhance passenger experience and safety. These trains are equipped with advanced safety systems such as KAVACH, along with features like faster acceleration and fully sealed gangways for improved stability and security. Passenger convenience is addressed through automatic plug doors, ergonomic reclining seats, and revolving seats in executive class. Onboard amenities include a mini pantry with hot case provision, bottle cooler, deep freezer, and hot water boiler. Each seat is fitted with mobile charging sockets, while CCTVs ensure surveillance and safety. Additionally, special lavatories for Divyangjan passengers have been provided in the Driving Trailer Car (DTC), ensuring inclusive and comfortable travel for all.

The permanent expansion of the Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad service to 20 coaches is part of this larger story of a railway system that is listening closely, scaling confidently, and ensuring that the millions of Indians who choose Vande Bharat every day are never left without a seat.

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