

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 08, 2025

^ TOP

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- [144 Vande Bharat Train Services Operational On Indian Railways' Broad Gauge Electrified Network: Centre](#)
- [Centre Preparing DPR For Six-Lane Tunnel Linking Shiv Murti In Mahipalpur To Nelson Mandela Marg To Ease Delhi Traffic](#)
- [No Plan To Privatised Indian Railways: Government Tells Parliament](#)
- [Delhi-Panipat-Karnal RRTS Corridor Not Sanctioned Yet, NCRTC Submits Proposal: Minister Informs Parliament](#)

144 Vande Bharat Train Services Operational On Indian Railways' Broad Gauge Electrified Network: Centre

Swarajya,
August 08, 2025

In a significant push towards modernising India's rail network, the Railways Ministry of Railways has said that 144 Vande Bharat train services are currently operational across the broad gauge electrified network as on Thursday (7 August).

"As on 7th August, 2025, 144 Vande Bharat train services are operational on the Broad Gauge (B.G.) electrified network of Indian Railways(IR)," Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

Vande Bharat services are semi-high speed trains developed by the Indian Railways to provide better travel experience and improved safety to the passengers

Key features of the trains include faster acceleration, Kavach train collision protection system, fully sealed gangways, automatic plug doors, improved ride comfort, mini pantries equipped with hot cases, bottle coolers, deep freezers, and hot water boilers.

Passengers also benefit from reclining ergonomic seats, revolving seats in executive class, mobile charging sockets at every seat, special lavatories for Divyangjan passengers, and CCTV surveillance.

These trains aim to decongest high-demand routes while providing better affordability and safety.

Further, the minister informed that over 3.9 crore passengers have traveled in the Vande Bharat trains in FY25 and FY26 till June.

"The total number of passengers who travelled by Vande Bharat Express trains in financial year 2024-25 and 2025-26 (upto June, 2025) is approximately 3 crore and 0.93 crore respectively," he said.

[^ TOP](#)

Centre Preparing DPR For Six-Lane Tunnel Linking Shiv Murti In Mahipalpur To Nelson Mandela Marg To Ease Delhi Traffic

PTI,

August 08, 2025

The Union government is working on a proposal to build a six-lane, 5-km underground tunnel linking Shiv Murti-Mahipalpur to Nelson Mandela Road in Vasant Kunj, aimed at easing traffic in Delhi and its surrounding areas, the Indian Express reported.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari confirmed in a written Lok Sabha reply on Thursday (7 August) that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project.

"For de-congestion of Delhi, especially the Dhaula Kuan–Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport–Gurugram section of NH-48, the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been taken up for the construction of tunnel connecting Shiv Murti (Mahipalpur) to Nelson Mandela Marg in Delhi. It would be connected with NH-48 and Dwarka Expressway through an interchange," he stated.

Gadkari added that decisions on investment and implementation will depend on the DPR findings, fulfilment of criteria, inter-se priority, and synergy with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

The minister was responding to BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, who sought clarity on the tunnel's objectives and whether it would be integrated with major expressways such as the Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road-II (UER-2) to boost multi-directional connectivity.

The planned tunnel will push Nelson Mandela Marg further out towards Gurgaon and Dwarka, creating a direct link between NH-8 and the Dwarka Expressway through a major interchange at Shiv Murti.

To ease the heavy load on NH-48 and clear up traffic on nearby arterial roads, it will offer an alternate route to the IGI Airport.

Cutting through New Delhi and South Delhi's busy parts, the tunnel is expected to make travel smoother.

It will connect key logistics hubs, steer commercial vehicles away from crowded city streets, and is also expected to significantly reduce travel time.

[^TOP](#)

No Plan To Privatisise Indian Railways: Government Tells Parliament

Swarajya,
August 08, 2025

The Government has categorically stated in the Parliament that there are no plans to privatise Indian Railways.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Friday (8 August), Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw, clarified the government's stance, emphasising that Indian Railways remains wholly owned and operated by the government.

The minister was responding to queries regarding the privatisation of railway operations, revenue from outsourcing stations, private companies involved, and the impact on job creation.

"Indian Railways is wholly owned by the Government of India. All zonal railways, production units, workshops, and assets like railway tracks, signaling systems, and rolling stock are under the ownership of Indian Railways only," Vaishnaw stated.

He further noted that train, station, and line operations are managed directly by Indian Railways, supported by an ecosystem of vendors and service providers.

"Train operations, station operations and line operations are all done by Railways. The ecosystem of vendors and service providers supports the operation and management of Railways," the minister stated.

"There is no plan to privatise the Indian Railways," he added.

In response to a separate question, Vaishnaw said that Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of the society and gave subsidy of Rs 60,466 crore on passenger tickets in 2023-24.

"This amounts to concession of 45 per cent on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. In other words, if the cost of providing

service is ₹100, then the price of ticket is ₹55 only. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers," the minister said.

"Further, concessions beyond this subsidy amount are continuing for many categories like 4 categories of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjans), 11 categories of patients and 8 categories of student," he added.

[^ TOP](#)

Delhi-Panipat-Karnal RRTS Corridor Not Sanctioned Yet, NCRTC Submits Proposal: Minister Informs Parliament

The Economic Times,
August 08, 2025

The Delhi-Panipat-Karnal Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor is currently not a sanctioned project of the Government of India, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu clarified in Parliament on Thursday (7 August), the Indian Express reported.

Responding to a question from Lok Sabha MP Satpal Brahmachari, Sahu said in a written reply, "The Delhi-Panipat-Karnal RRTS corridor is presently not a sanctioned project of the Government of India."

Brahmachari had asked the government whether it had reviewed the status of construction, either stalled or ongoing, along the proposed corridor through the Sonipat constituency.

He also wanted to know if the Delhi government had released its committed share of Rs 50 crore for the project, and whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) had been signed so far.

In his reply, the minister confirmed that the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) "has released an amount of Rs 50 crore for pre-construction activities of the Delhi-Panipat-Karnal Namoo Bharat RRTS corridor."

Sahu explained that for sanctioned RRTS corridors, a High-Powered Committee (HPC) is typically formed as part of a MoU signed between the central government, the respective state government, and the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

This committee is responsible for ensuring transparency in project execution and monitoring the progress of land acquisition and project timelines.

He also informed the House that the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), which serves as the implementing agency for all RRTS corridors in the National Capital Region, has already submitted a formal proposal for the Delhi-Karnal Namoo Bharat corridor.

Addressing the funding aspect, the minister noted that projects of this scale are highly cost-intensive. As a result, they undergo detailed scrutiny at various levels within the Central government.

He further said that only after a thorough evaluation, considering both the feasibility of the project and the availability of resources, does the government decide on extending financial assistance.

[^ TOP](#)