

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Ayodhya Railway Station and Unveils New Train Services

(Ayodhya Railway Station revamped, Amrit Bharat and Vande Bharat Express trains introduced, fostering connectivity, economic growth, and technological advancements.)



(Source: NDTV)

In a significant development, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped Ayodhya Railway Station on Saturday, marking a momentous occasion amid the festive atmosphere in Ayodhya. The inauguration coincides with the upcoming consecration of the grand Ram Temple scheduled for January 22, 2024. The event saw the Prime Minister flagging off two Amrit Bharat Express trains and six Vande Bharat Express trains, signaling a major boost to the rail connectivity in the region.

### Ayodhya Dham Railway Station Redevelopment

#### 1. Cost and Features

The redeveloped Ayodhya Railway Station, known as Ayodhya Dham Junction Railway Station, is a colossal project undertaken at a cost of more than Rs 240 crore. The three-storey modern railway station building boasts state-of-the-art facilities, including lifts, escalators, food plazas, shops catering to puja needs, cloak rooms, and child care rooms. This redevelopment aligns with the vision of making the station 'accessible for all,' and it proudly holds the 'IGBC certified green station building' tag.

#### 2. Capacity Enhancement

Prime Minister Modi shared insights into the capacity enhancement brought about by the redevelopment, stating that the Ayodhya Dham Railway Station, which currently handles 10 thousand people, is expected to cater to 60 thousand people after the revamping is complete. This capacity augmentation aligns with the government's efforts to bolster infrastructure in pilgrimage destinations and places of cultural significance.

### Introduction of Amrit Bharat Express



(Source: Himalayan Express)

## 1. Features and Purpose

One of the highlights of the event was the introduction of the new category of superfast passenger trains named 'Amrit Bharat Express.' These trains, following the success of Vande Bharat and Namo Bharat series, aim to provide efficient and comfortable travel, especially for those with limited incomes who often travel long distances for work. The emphasis on modern facilities and dignified travel experiences for the economically disadvantaged is a commendable aspect of the Amrit Bharat Express trains.

## 2. Locomotive Technology and Amenities

The Amrit Bharat Express stands out for its use of LHB push-pull technology and non-air-conditioned coaches. The presence of locos at both ends ensures better acceleration. Passengers on these trains can enjoy a range of amenities, including beautifully designed seats, improved luggage racks, mobile charging points with suitable mobile holders, LED lights, CCTV surveillance, and a public information system.

## Expansion of Vande Bharat Express Network

### Key Routes and Connectivity

Prime Minister Modi flagged off six new Vande Bharat Express trains during the event, expanding the network of these high-speed trains to cover more key destinations across the country. The routes include Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra – New Delhi, Amritsar – Delhi Junction, Coimbatore – Bengaluru, Jalna – Mumbai (CSMT), Ayodhya – Anand Vihar Terminal Delhi, and Mangaluru – Madgaon Goa. The inclusion of Ayodhya in the Vande Bharat Express network is particularly significant, connecting it with other major centers of faith and cultural importance.

## Railway Infrastructure Development Projects

### Investment and Strategic Impact

In addition to the train inaugurations, Prime Minister Modi dedicated three railway projects worth Rs 2300 crore to strengthen the rail infrastructure in the region. These projects include the Rooma Chakeri-Chanderi third line project, various sections of the Jaunpur-Ayodhya-Barabanki doubling project, and



the doubling and electrification project of the Malhaur-Daliganj railway section. The strategic significance of these projects lies in enhancing connectivity, promoting economic development, and ensuring smoother rail operations in the region.

### Symbolic Significance of Ayodhya Dham Inauguration



(Source: OpIndia)

### Ahead of Ram Mandir Consecration

The timing of the Ayodhya Dham Railway Station inauguration holds symbolic significance as it precedes the consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir scheduled for January 22, 2024. The holy city of Ayodhya, adorned with decorations such as flowers, murals, and thematic ornamental columns, is preparing for the historic event. The railway station's redevelopment and the introduction of new train services contribute to the overall enhancement of infrastructure in Ayodhya, ensuring a seamless and secure environment for the upcoming festivities.

### Socio-Economic Impact of Rail Infrastructure

#### 1. Employment Generation and Economic Boost

The investment of Rs 2300 crore in railway infrastructure projects not only signifies a commitment to connectivity but also holds the potential for significant socio-economic impact. The execution of these projects is expected to generate employment opportunities, directly impacting the livelihoods of the local population. Moreover, the enhanced rail connectivity facilitates the movement of goods and people, fostering economic activities in the region. This multi-faceted approach aligns with the government's vision of holistic development.

#### 2. Tourism Boost and Cultural Exchange

The introduction of Amrit Bharat Express and the expansion of Vande Bharat Express routes have the potential to boost tourism in the region. Pilgrims and tourists, drawn to Ayodhya for its cultural and religious significance, will now have access to efficient and comfortable rail travel. This not only benefits the local economy through increased tourism but also promotes cultural exchange as people from diverse regions connect through these railway networks.

### Technological Advancements in Rail Travel

## 1. Smart Features and Digital Integration

The emphasis on modern facilities within the Amrit Bharat Express and Vande Bharat Express trains reflects a broader trend towards technological advancements in rail travel. The incorporation of features such as mobile charging points, LED lights, and CCTV surveillance aligns with the government's Digital India initiative. These smart features not only enhance the passenger experience but also contribute to the overall modernization of the Indian Railways.

## 2. Sustainable Practices and Green Certification

The Ayodhya Dham Junction Railway Station being 'IGBC certified green station building' underscores a commitment to sustainable practices. The certification indicates adherence to environmental standards and energy-efficient infrastructure. This move towards green certification aligns with global efforts towards sustainability and showcases India's commitment to eco-friendly infrastructure development.

### Strategic Significance of Railway Projects

#### 1. Connectivity as a Catalyst for Development

Railway projects like the Rooma Chakeri-Chanderi third line and the Jaunpur-Tulsi Nagar, Akbarpur-Ayodhya, Sohawal-Patanga, and Safdarganj-Rasauli sections doubling project play a crucial role in improving connectivity. The doubling and electrification project of the Malhaur-Daliganj railway section further contributes to the efficiency of rail operations. Improved connectivity acts as a catalyst for overall development by facilitating the seamless movement of goods, services, and people.

#### 2. Regional Integration and Trade Facilitation

These railway projects not only benefit the specific regions they traverse but also contribute to broader regional integration. Efficient rail networks make the movement of goods more cost-effective, promoting trade and commerce. The strategic placement of these projects reflects a comprehensive approach to regional development, ensuring that connectivity reaches areas that are crucial for economic growth.

### Inaugural Run of Jalna-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express

#### 1. Operational Details and Schedule

The virtual flagging off of the Jalna-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express adds another dimension to the event. The 8-coach service, set to depart from Jalna at 11 am and reach Mumbai at 6:45 pm, signifies not just an inaugural run but a commitment to regular service. The detailed schedule, with specific departure and arrival times, ensures that the train becomes an integral part of the daily routine for commuters. This further cements the operational feasibility and sustainability of the introduced services.

#### 2. Strategic Stops and Connectivity

The chosen stops along the route, including Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Manmad Junction, Nasik Road, Kalyan Junction, Thane, and Dadar before reaching Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai, are strategically planned. These stops not only cater to the transportation needs of diverse populations but also enhance the connectivity of these regions with major urban centers.

### A Holistic Approach to Nation-Building

In conclusion, the Ayodhya Dham Railway Station inauguration and the introduction of Amrit Bharat Express and Vande Bharat Express trains are not mere infrastructural developments; they represent a





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holistic approach to nation-building. The socio-economic impact, technological advancements, and strategic significance of the railway projects demonstrate a commitment to inclusive growth and connectivity. As the nation eagerly anticipates the consecration of the Ram Mandir, these infrastructural initiatives add a layer of progress, prosperity, and cultural integration, reinforcing the idea that development can be deeply intertwined with the cultural and spiritual fabric of a nation. The government's vision of a modern and well-connected India takes another step forward with these transformative railway projects.

