



Jammu Directly Linked with Kashmir via Passenger Train for the First Time

With One Interchange at Jammu, You Can Now Access Kashmir Valley from Anywhere in India

Direct Rail Connectivity to Kashmir Ensures All-Weather Access, Enriching Travel Experience

Jammu Tawi-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express to Unlock Seamless Connectivity and Boost Tourism Prospects in the Region

Popularity of Vande Bharat, Since Inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Last June, Leads to Expansion from 8 to 20 Coaches: Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw

2 Crore Kg of Apples Transported from Kashmir Valley to the Rest of the Country: Railway Minister

Inward Cement Supplies Help Reduce Prices in the Kashmir Valley by ₹50 per Bag

Foodgrains, Fertilizers, Salt and Milk Also Being Transported to the Region, Strengthening Essential Supply Chains

Railways Enhancing Line Capacity in Kashmir Valley to Boost Local Economy and Tourism

Ambala-Jammu Multitracking Underway; New Rail Line to Poonch and Rajouri in Planning to Improve Regional Connectivity

Railway Minister Inspects Anji Khad and Chenab Bridges on USBRL

Posted On: 30 APR 2026 6:50PM by PIB Delhi

For decades, the idea of stepping onto a train in Jammu and arriving directly in Srinagar belonged to the realm of ambition rather than reality. That ambition became history today. Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the extended Srinagar–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express service up to Jammu Tawi Railway Station, directly linking Jammu and Kashmir by passenger train for the very first time. A single seamless rail corridor now connects two of the region's most iconic destinations, promising not just faster journeys but a transformation in how people, commerce, and tourism flow across this breathtaking landscape.

Seamless connectivity strengthening Jammu & Kashmir's growth journey! IN

Flagged off the newly extended 20-coach Vande Bharat Express from Jammu to Srinagar, along with Chief Minister of J&K @OmarAbdullah Ji and Union Minister @DrJitendraSingh Ji. pic.twitter.com/bnTRaDwlaY

— Ashwini Vaishnaw (@AshwiniVaishnaw) April 30, 2026

Jammu Tawi Emerges as Key Rail Gateway

Jammu Tawi stands as one of the most important railway stations in northern India, serving as a crucial gateway that connects the Union Territory with the rest of the country. With extensive rail links to major destinations such as Kanyakumari, Howrah, Mumbai and other metropolitan hubs, the station plays a vital role in ensuring seamless mobility across regions.

Highlighting the significance of the development, Shri Vaishnaw during his address at the flagging-off event said that a major milestone has been achieved with the expansion of rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir.



With the train now reaching Jammu Tawi, travel to key pilgrimage destinations such as Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Shri Amarnath will become more convenient and accessible for passengers across the country.

High Demand and Enhanced Travel Experience

The Railway Minister highlighted that the Vande Bharat service has witnessed full occupancy since its launch, reflecting its growing popularity among passengers, underlining its importance as a lifeline for Jammu and Kashmir as well as for the rest of the country. He added that today, the 20-coach Vande Bharat Express service between Jammu and Srinagar has been launched, marking a significant enhancement in passenger capacity on this vital route.

Extended. Expanded. Elevated 🚆 ✨

The Srinagar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra #VandeBharatExpress is now extended to Jammu Tawi, with capacity augmented from 8 to 20 coaches. [pic.twitter.com/tW4bbbNynS](https://twitter.com/tW4bbbNynS)

— Ministry of Railways (@RailMinIndia) April 30, 2026

The Union Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that this development comes less than a year after the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Jammu–Srinagar rail link on 6th June last year, which laid the foundation for seamless rail connectivity in the region. The

introduction of the expanded Vande Bharat service further strengthens this historic corridor, improving travel comfort, meeting rising passenger demand, and reinforcing all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar. He emphasized that the train has been designed specifically for operations in the region's challenging climatic conditions, including sub-zero temperatures, with specialized systems ensuring uninterrupted functionality of onboard equipment.

आज 20 कोच की #VandeBharat सर्विस जम्मू से श्रीनगर तक शुरू हुई है। एक साल पहले माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी ने जम्मू-श्रीनगर रेल लिंक का उद्घाटन किया था: माननीय रेल मंत्री @AshwiniVaishnaw जी pic.twitter.com/ljyzfjQKqK

— Ministry of Railways (@RailMinIndia) April 30, 2026

Shri Vaishnaw further highlighted that the train incorporates advanced electronics and high-end semiconductor-based systems, making it a highly modern and technologically sophisticated mode of transport. He also pointed out that efforts have been made to integrate regional culture into the passenger experience by introducing Dogri cuisine onboard. Shri Vaishnaw said that passengers travelling on this route will get exposure to the culture of Jammu & Kashmir, including its landscapes, language, music and culinary traditions, making the journey more immersive.

Jammu and Kashmir: Paradise on Earth

Jammu and Kashmir, often described as the “Paradise on Earth,” is renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty, snow-capped mountains, lush valleys and serene lakes. The region is home to warm and resilient communities whose rich cultural heritage adds to its unique identity. Improved rail connectivity is expected to further boost tourism, enabling more people from across the country to experience the region's scenic charm and cultural vibrancy.

The Union Minister observed that enhanced rail infrastructure is also facilitating economic growth by enabling smoother transportation of local produce. Jammu and Kashmir is known for its premium dry fruits, exquisite Pashmina shawls, apples and traditional handwoven carpets (kaleen), which are in demand across India. With better rail connectivity, the movement of these goods to markets nationwide is becoming faster and more efficient, thereby supporting local livelihoods and expanding trade opportunities.

Boost to Trade and Cultural Linkages

Shri Vaishnaw stated that this is India's first experience with railway operations at such high altitudes, and the learnings gained will guide future infrastructure developments. He added that the railway line has significantly improved cargo movement in the region, reducing transportation costs and ensuring smoother logistics for essential goods such as fertilizers and dairy products like milk. Agricultural produce, including cherries, is also being transported through parcel services, enhancing market access for local farmers.

He further noted that the rail network has simplified logistics and contributed to economic activity in the region. Looking ahead, the focus will be on strengthening maintenance systems and deploying advanced technologies for bridges and tunnels to ensure safety and reliability in the Himalayan terrain.

Rail Freight Integration & Economic Linkages in Kashmir Valley

The completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) has seamlessly connected the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India's rail network. It has not only benefited passengers but also boosted the region's business and economic activity. The commissioning of engineering landmarks such as the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and the Anji Khad Bridge has enabled uninterrupted, all-weather rail connectivity to the region. This transformative infrastructure has paved the way for regular freight movement, significantly reducing transit time, improving reliability, and integrating the Valley more closely with national supply chains.

The Railway Minister boarded the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express from Jammu and travelled up to Katra. Speaking to mediapersons onboard the train, he highlighted that nearly 2 crore kilograms of apples have already been transported from Srinagar to the rest of the country through the railway network.

Shri Vaishnaw later conducted an inspection of the Anji Khad Bridge and the Chenab Rail Bridge.

इस रेल लाइन (उधमपुर-श्रीनगर-बारामूला) के बनने से कार्गो में बहुत बड़ा बदलाव आया है। सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि श्रीनगर से अब तक करीब 2 करोड़ किलो सेब ट्रेन से ट्रांसपोर्ट किए जा चुके हैं : माननीय रेल मंत्री @AshwiniVaishnaw जी pic.twitter.com/maTeCtHo1R

— Ministry of Railways (@RailMinIndia) April 30, 2026

The Minister highlighted that strengthened rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir has significantly improved freight operations and helped reduce the cost of essential commodities. He noted that improved logistics efficiency has contributed to making goods more affordable, including cement, which is now being transported at lower costs, with prices falling below ₹50 per bag, reflecting the positive impact of rail-based supply chain improvements in the region.

Earlier this month, the Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway dispatched its first cargo rake carrying dairy products to Jammu and Kashmir, marking a new chapter in long-distance freight connectivity. Also, e-commerce major Amazon commenced operations in the Valley, establishing daily cargo movement between Adarsh Nagar and Budgam, enabling two-way logistics in under 30 hours. Further strengthening supply chains, the Jammu Division facilitated the arrival of the first wagon of vermicompost fertilizer from Ambala to Anantnag.

Earlier, in January this year, the first full rake of 42 wagons carrying 2,768 metric tonnes of rice reached Anantnag. In December last year, the first Food Corporation of India freight train carrying approximately 1,384 tonnes of foodgrains arrived at the Anantnag Goods Terminal. Additionally, in October last year, the first rail consignment of 1,350 tonnes of industrial salt from Kharaghoda in Gujarat reached Anantnag, highlighting the expanding freight footprint in the region.

Future Expansion and Infrastructure Development

Shri Vaishnaw stated that the redevelopment of Jammu Tawi station is progressing rapidly, with expansion of platforms, additional entry points and improved passenger amenities to handle increasing traffic. He added that broader infrastructure initiatives, including line doubling and capacity enhancement on key routes, will further strengthen connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country.

Shri Vaishnaw said that doubling work on the Jalandhar–Jammu section has been completed, while the Delhi–Ambala section is being upgraded to four lines, which has recently been approved by the Cabinet. He further stated that work is underway for doubling of the railway line between Qazigund and Baramulla to enhance capacity. He informed that projects such as the Poonch–Rajouri rail link and the Uri–Baramulla extension are under planning and Detailed Project Report stages.

The Qazigund-Baramulla line doubling will increase freight and passenger capacity through the Kashmir Valley, easing congestion, cutting travel times, and enabling smoother movement of goods and tourists. The Poonch-Rajouri rail link will integrate two historically underserved districts into the national rail network for the first time, catalysing local industries and improving access to healthcare and education. The Uri–Baramulla extension will push rail access deeper toward the border, opening remote areas to tourism and trade while strengthening civilian resilience.

Together, these projects will reduce the region's heavy dependence on road transport, which remains highly susceptible to seasonal disruptions from landslides, snowfall, and harsh winters, while stimulating investment, generating employment, and fostering a stronger sense of social and economic inclusion for communities across the region.

Rail connectivity drives economic transformation in Kashmir

DD India

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The extension of the Srinagar–Katra Vande Bharat Express to Jammu Tawi marks another step towards integrating the region more closely with the national rail network, boosting tourism, facilitating trade and enhancing overall connectivity. With a convenient interchange at Jammu, passengers from across the country can now seamlessly access the Kashmir Valley, as Jammu is well connected with all major centres of India in every direction. This development is paving the way for greater people-to-people connect and deeper economic integration of Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Dharmendra Tewari/ Dr. Nayan Solanki/ Ritu Raj/ Manik Sharma

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