

NAMES OF TRAINS

Agniveena Express

2341/ 2342 Howrah – Asansol (ER Howrah division)

In Bangla it means “The Fiery Lute”. This is the name given to the collection of poems by the celebrated Bengali poet, musician, revolutionary and philosopher, Kazi Nazrul Islam. He was born in Burdwan district in 1899 and died in Dhaka in 1976. He is the national poet of Bangladesh, and also honoured in India.

Ahilyanagari Express

6325/ 6326 Indore – Thiruvananthapuram Central (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Rajmata Ahilyadevi Holkar (1725-1795, ruled 1767-1795) also known as the Philosopher Queen was a Holkar dynasty Queen of the Malwa kingdom. She took over reigns of the kingdom after the death of her husband and father-in-law. She moved the capital to Maheshwar south of Indore on the Narmada River. She also built temples and Dharamshalas (free lodging) at sacred sites outside her kingdom, at prominent religious places like Dwarka, Kashi Vishwanath in Varanasi, Ujjain, Nasik, Parli Vaijnath and Somnath. The city of Indore is sometimes called Ahilyanagari in her memory.

Ahimsa Express

1095/ 1096 Ahmadabad – Pune (CR Pune division)

The name is also sometimes given to 1087/ 1088 Veraval – Pune Express, 1089/ 1090 Jodhpur – Pune Express and 1091/ 1092 Bhuj – Pune Express, as all these trains are “derived” from 1095/ 1096.

Ahimsa is a Sanskrit term meaning “to do no harm” (literally, the avoidance of violence or himsa). Ahimsa was one of the main principles which Gandhiji followed in his life. Pune was the place where Gandhiji was imprisoned and where his wife passed away, and Ahmadabad was where he set up his Ashram. Therefore, it was but natural for a train linking these two cities should be named after this Gandhian principle.

Ajanta Express

7063/ 7064 Manmad – Secunderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

The Ajanta Caves are rock-cut cave monuments dating from the 2nd century BC, containing paintings and sculpture considered to be masterpieces of both Buddhist religious art and universal pictorial art. The caves are located just outside the village of Ajintha (Ajanta) in Aurangabad district in Maharashtra. Since 1983, the Ajanta Caves have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Akal Takht Express

2317/ 2318 Sealdah – Amritsar (ER Sealdah division)

The Akal Takht (Akal: Timeless One and Takht: Throne in Persian). Literally means “Seat (Throne) of the Timeless One (God)”. The Akal Takht was begun by the sixth Sikh Guru, Guru Har Gobind as a symbol for political sovereignty of Sikhs, and is one of the five seats of temporal physical religious authority of the Sikhs. It is located in the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) complex in Amritsar.

Ala Hazrat Express

4311/ 4312 Bareilly – Bhuj via Ahmadabad (NR Moradabad division)
4321/ 4322 Bareilly – Bhuj via Deesa (NR Moradabad division)

Imam Ahmad Raza Khan, popularly known as Ala Hazrat, was a prominent Muslim Alim from Bareilly during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Ahmad Raza was also a poet and writer, authoring nearly 1,000 books and monographs of varying lengths in Arabic, Persian and Urdu.

Amarkantak Express

2853/ 2854 Durg – Bhopal (SECR Raipur division)

Amarkantak is a pilgrim town in Anuppur district in Madhya Pradesh. It is the meeting point of the Vindhyas and the Satpuras with the Maikal Hills being the fulcrum. This is where the rivers Narmada, Sone and Johila emerge. Amarkantak is a Sanskrit word the literal meaning of which is immortal (amar) obstruction (kantak). The place was abode of Gods, but was disturbed by the hindrances of Rudraganas and hence called Amarkantak. Myth also has it that the dense forests of this region were full of mango (amra) trees. So Kalidas named it as Amrakoot, which later became Amarkantak.

Amarnath Express

2587/ 2588 Gorakhpur – Jammu Tawi (NER Lucknow division)
5097/ 5098 Barauni – Jammu Tawi (NER Lucknow division – RSA with 2587/ 2588 Amarnath Express)
5653/ 5654 Guwahati – Jammu Tawi (NFR Lumding division)

The Amarnath caves are one of the most famous shrines in Hinduism, dedicated to the god Shiva (Amarnath: “the Eternal Lord”), located 141 km from Srinagar. The shrine is claimed to be over 5,000 years old. Inside the main Amarnath cave lies an ice stalagmite resembling the Shiva Linga, which waxes during May to August and gradually wanes thereafter. This lingam is said to grow and shrink with the phases of the moon, reaching its height on Guru Purnima day, the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravan. According to Hindu mythology, this is the cave where Shiva explained the secret of life and eternity to his divine consort Parvati.

Amrapali Express

5707/ 5708 Katihar – Amritsar (NFR Katihar division)

Ambapali, also known as Ambapalika or Amrapali, was a nagarvadhu (royal courtesan) of the republic of Vaishali in present day Bihar around 500 BC. Following the Buddha's

teachings she became an Arahant. She was of unknown parentage, and received her name because at her birth she was found at the foot of a mango tree in one of the royal gardens in Vaishali. The name, Ambapali or Amrapali, is derived from a combination of two Sanskrit words: "amra", meaning mango, and "pallawa", meaning young leaves or sprouts.

Amravathi Express

7225/ 7226 Vijayawada – Hubli (SCR Vijayawada division)
8047/ 8048 Howrah – Vasco da Gama (SER Kharagpur division)

Amravathi is a small town situated on the banks of the river Krishna in Guntur district. It is famous for the Amareswara (“the Immortal God”) temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. It was also the site of a great Buddhist Stupa built in pre-Mauryan times. It was also the capital of Satavahanas, the first great Andhra kings who ruled from the 2nd century BC to the 3rd century AD, after the downfall of the Maurya Empire.

Amritha Express

6343/ 6344 Thiruvananthapuram Central – Palakkad Town (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Mata Amritanandamayee Devi, born Sudhamani in 1953 is a Hindu spiritual leader revered as a saint by her followers, who also know her as Amma, Ammachi or Mother. She is widely respected for her humanitarian activities and is known as "the hugging saint". She was in the small village of Parayakadavu (now partially known as Amritapuri, near Kollam.

Ananthapuri Express

6123/ 6124 Chennai Egmore – Thiruvananthapuram Central (SR Chennai division)

Thiruvananthapuram or Ananthapuri means “Abode of Lord Anantha” in Malayalam and Sanskrit. The name derives from the deity of the Hindu temple at the centre of the city. Anantha is the serpent Sesha on whom Padmanabhan or Vishnu reclines. The temple of Vishnu reclining on Anantha, the Sri Padmanabhaswamy temple remains the iconic landmark of the city.

Ananya Express

2315/ 2316 Sealdah – Udaipur City (ER Sealdah division)

Ananya means “one-of-a-kind, unique or matchless” in Sanskrit. In Bhakti yoga, Ananya means having no other object, undistracted, devoted to only one worshipable Lord and no one else. It is not clear why this particular train is so named.

Andaman Express

6031/ 6032 Chennai Central – Jammu Tawi (SR Chennai division)

Sometime back, it was decided by the Railway Ministry that each State or Union Territory should have a train named after it. Chennai is one of the jumping off points for the Andaman Islands, and therefore this train is named after the islands. One theory is that the name of the islands derives from Sanskrit, and refers to the deity, Hanuman.

Andhra Pradesh Express

2723/ 2734 Hyderabad – New Delhi (SCR Secunderabad division)

Andhra Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express

2707/ 2708 Tirupati – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SCR Guntakal division)

Both these trains are named after the state of Andhra Pradesh (“Province of Andhras”). Historically the region comprising the state was known as Andhraapatha, Andhradesa, Andhraavani, and Andhra vishaya. Andhra Pradesh was the first state formed on linguistic basis by merging all Telugu speaking areas of the country on November 1, 1956.

Aranjak Express

2885/ 2886 Shalimar – Adra (SER Kharagpur division)

In Bangla it means “Of the Forest”, and is a famous novel by the Bengali novelist and writer Bibhutibhushan Bandhopadhyay. He was born in 1894 in 24 Parganas district and died in 1950 in Ghatsila near Jamshedpur. His most well known book is the autobiographical novel, Pather Panchali (The Song of the Road); incorporated (along with Aparajito, the sequel) into the memorable Apu Trilogy films by Satyajit Ray.

Aravalli Express

9707/ 9708 Bandra Terminus – Jaipur (NWR Jaipur division)

The Aravalli Range literally meaning “line of peaks”, is a range of mountains running approximately 800 km from northeast to southwest across the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana.

Archana Express

2355/ 2356 Rajendranagar Terminus – Jammu Tawi (ECR Danapur division)

Archana, meaning “offering” is a Hindu worship rite. It is not clear why this train is so named.

Arunachal Express

5813/ 5814 Rangiya – Murkongselek (NFR Rangiya division)

Arunachal Pradesh means "land of the dawn lit mountains" in Sanskrit. It is also known as "land of the rising sun" in reference to its position as the easternmost state of India. The train skirts only the southern border of the state and does not enter its territory.

However, most towns served by the train are jumping off points for places in Arunachal Pradesh.

Ashram Express

2915/ 2916 Ahmadabad – Delhi (WR Ahmadabad division)

Sabarmati Ashram (“Religious hermitage”) is located in Ahmadabad on the banks of the River Sabarmati. This was one of the residences of Mahatma Gandhi. This ashram is now converted in to the national monument by the Government of India due to its significance in the Indian independence movement.

August Kranti Rajdhani Express

2953/ 2954 Mumbai Central – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WR Mumbai division)

Gowalia Tank Maidan (now also known as August Kranti Maidan) is a park in central Mumbai where Mahatma Gandhi issued the Quit India speech on 8th August 1942 decreeing that the British must leave India immediately or else mass agitations would take place. New Delhi is the capital (Rajdhani) of the Republic of India, and therefore it was decided to name this Rajdhani Express after the August Kranti Maidan.

Avadh Assam Express

5609/ 5610 Guwahati – Lalgarh (NFR Lumding division)

The train connects the state of Assam (the name is derived from the Ahom kingdom 1228-1826) via the region of Avadh (the name is probably derived from Ayodhya) to Delhi. Recently the train has been extended to Lalgarh near Bikaner, providing a BG connection between Delhi and Bikaner after MG services were stopped due to gauge conversion.

Avadh Express

9037/ 9038 Bandra Terminus – Gorakhpur (WR Mumbai division)

9039/ 9040 Bandra Terminus – Muzaffarpur (WR Mumbai division)

Avadh is a region in the centre of the modern Uttar Pradesh state, centered on its capital Lucknow. The name is probably derived from the holy city of Ayodhya. The train originally connected Lucknow with Gorakhpur, before a series of extensions in both directions gave it its present day destinations.

Avantika Express

2961/ 2962 Mumbai Central – Indore (WR Mumbai division)

The former Avanti kingdom was one among the many kingdoms ruled by the Yadava kings in central and western India with Ujjayani, also known as Avantikapuri (Ujjain) as its capital. The country of Avanti roughly corresponded to modern Malwa, Nimar and adjoining parts of Madhya Pradesh. Avanti was an important center of Buddhism.

Azad Hind Express

2129/ 2130 Pune – Howrah (CR Pune division)

Azad Hind, the Provisional Government of “Free India” was an Indian Government-in-exile established in Singapore in 1943. The government was inspired by the concepts of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose who was also the leader of the government and the Head of State of this Provisional Indian Government in Exile. Though born in Cuttack, Netaji’s early career and political life were in Kolkata.

Azimabad Express

2947/ 2948 Ahmadabad – Patna (WR Ahmadabad division)

Azimabad was an old name of Patna. Pataliputra was sacked by foreign invaders like Bakhtiyar Khilji, an event which is seen as a milestone in the decline of Buddhism in India. It was abandoned in the 7th century, but revived during the rule of Sher Shah Suri, who also moved his capital from Bihar Sharif to Pataliputra. Prince Azim-us-Shan, the grandson of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb came as the Governor of Pataliputra in 1703 and renamed it as Azimabad in 1704.

Bagh Express

3019/ 3020 Howrah – Kathgodam (ER Howrah division)

Bagh means either “Tiger” or “Garden”. Both the meanings could apply here, as Kathgodam is near to the Corbett National Park, the 1st tiger sanctuary in India, as well as to the picturesque hills of the Kumaon region.

Bagmati Express

2577/2578 Darbhanga – Bangalore City (ECR Samastipur division)

The Bagmati River originates at Bagdwaar (“Bag”: Tiger, “dwar”: gate) on the northern hills of Kathmandu valley about 15 km northeast of Kathmandu. It then flows past the Pashupatinath and Dakshinkali temples and enters India, where it flows through the districts of Sitamarhi, Sheohar and Muzaffarpur, before it joins the Kosi River. The Bagmati River is considered to purify the people spiritually.

Baidyanathdham Express

8449/ 8450 Puri – Patna (ECoR Khurda Road division)

Ravana the demon king meditated hard, in order to invoke Lord Shiva. Shiva gave him one of the twelve Jyotirlingams to take back with him to Lanka, with the condition that if it were placed on the ground it would take root immediately. Varuna the God of water, entered Ravana's belly, and caused him to feel the need to relieve himself. Vishnu then came down in the form of a lad and volunteered to hold the Jyotirlingam as he relieved himself. But before Ravana could return, the young lad placed the Jyotirlingam on the ground to which it became rooted. A disappointed Ravana offered severe penances to Shiva here, and cut off nine of his heads as a part of his repentance. Shiva revived him

and joined the heads to the body, like a Vaidya or a “physician”, and hence, this Jyotirlingam goes by the name Vaidyanath.

Barak Valley Express

5693/ 5694 Lumding – Silchar (NFR Lumding division)

Part of the Surma – Meghna river system, the Barak river rises in the Manipur Hills, enters Mizoram and then Assam, flowing past the town of Silchar. It then divides into the Surma river and Kushiya river and enters Bangladesh.

Basava Express

7307/7308 Yesvantpur – Bagalkot (SCR Hubli division)

Basava, also known as Basavanna or Basaveshwara was a philosopher and a social reformer. Basavanna was born in the year 1106 into a Shaivite family near Bagewadi in Bijapur district. He fought against practice of caste system and rituals in Hinduism. He advocated a new way of life wherein the divine experience was the centre of life giving equal opportunity to all aspirants regardless of the gender, caste, and social status. Basava's path later gave birth to a new religion called Lingayata.

Betwa Express

8203/ 8204 Durg – Kanpur Central (SECR Raipur division)

The Betwa, a tributary of the Yamuna, rises in the Vindhyas just north of Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh and flows northeast through Madhya Pradesh, and through Orchha to Uttar Pradesh. It joins the Yamuna near Hamirpur. In Sanskrit, Betwa is “Vetravati”, which means “containing reeds”.

Bhagirathi Express

3103/ 3104 Sealdah – Lalgola (ER Sealdah division)

The Hooghly River or the Bhagirathi-Hooghly is an approximately 260 km long tributary of the Ganga River in West Bengal. It splits from the Ganga as a canal at the Farakka Barrage. The town of Hugli-Chinsura, formerly Hooghly, is located on the river in the Hooghly district. In its upper reaches, the river is generally known as the Bhagirathi, until it reaches Hooghly. The word Bhagirathi literally means "caused by Bhagiratha", a mythical Sagar Dynasty prince who was instrumental in bringing the river Ganga from the heavens on to the earth, in order to release his 60,000 grand-uncles from a curse of the saint Kapila.

Bhagyanagar Express

7233/ 7234 Secunderabad – Balharshah (SCR Guntur division – RSA with 7201/ 7202 Golconda Express)

Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah shifted his capital from Golconda to a nearby site. He fell in love with and married a local Banjara girl known as Bhagmathi or Bhagyavathi, and

named his capital after her, Bhagyanagaram. Upon her conversion to Islam, she changed her name to Hyder Mahal and thus the city was named Hyderabad.

Bihar Sampark Kranti Express

2565/ 2566 Darbhanga – New Delhi (ECR Samastipur division)

The name Bihar is derived from the Sanskrit word “Vihara”, which means "abode". The region roughly encompassing the present state was dotted with Buddhist viharas, which were the abodes of Buddhist monks in the ancient and medieval period.

Black Diamond Express

3317/ 3318 Howrah – Dhanbad (ECR Dhanbad division)

Coal and Diamonds are the same element Carbon in different forms. The train is named after the abundant coal, which is mined in the Dhanbad area.

Brahmaputra Mail

4055/ 4056 Dibrugarh Town – Delhi (NR Delhi division)

The Brahmaputra River has different names in the different regions it flows through – in Tibet it is the Tsang Po or Zangbo, in Arunachal Pradesh it is the Dihang, in Assam it is the Brahmaputra and in Bangladesh it is the Jamuna. While most Indian and Bangladeshi rivers bear female names, this river has a rare male name, as it means "son of Brahma" in Sanskrit (putra means "son").

Brindavan Express

2639/ 2640 Chennai Central – Bangalore City (SR Chennai division)

The Brindavan Gardens are located near the city of Mysore, next to the Krishnarajasagar Dam across the river Kaveri. The work of laying out this garden was started in the year 1927 and completed in 1932. Though the train does not directly connect Chennai with Mysore, it used to be the fastest connection between the two cities, with a changeover in Bangalore, during MG days.

Budhpurnima Express

5109/ 5110 Rajgir – Varanasi (NER Varanasi division)

Celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Vaishakh (May), Buddha Purnima encompasses the birth, enlightenment (Nirvana), and passing away (Parinirvana) of Gautama Buddha. Sarnath near Varanasi is the deer park where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma.

Bundelkhand Express

1107/ 1108 Gwalior – Varanasi (NCR Jhansi division)

Bundelkhand is a geographic region straddling the border between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, and including such places like Jhansi, Orchha, Panna, Sagar and Khajuraho. The Chandela Rajputs, who built the temples of Khajuraho ruled over the place from the 10th to the 16th centuries. In the fourteenth century, Hurdeo Singh, a Rajput prince of the Gurjra tribe, was expelled from the Kshatriya caste for marrying a Bourdi slave-girl. He left the Rajputs to go and reside at the court of one of the smaller sovereigns of Central India. In the course of time through deceit and murder, Hurdeo gained possession of this throne, and formed a new clan known as the Bourdillas, or “Sons of the Slave”, thus giving the country its present name of Boundilacund or Bundelcund.

Cachar Express

5691/ 5692 Lumding – Silchar (NFR Lumding division)

Cachar is an administrative district in Assam, with district headquarters located at Silchar. Bangla has a status of Official Language in this district with majority of the people of the district speaking Bengali and Sylheti, a distinct Bengali-dialect. The name Cachar traces its origin to the Hindu Bengali Kachari kingdom. Cachar was a part of the greater Kachari kingdom which also included the adjoining Hailakandi and Karimganj districts.

Capital Express

3245/ 3246 New Jalpaiguri – Danapur (ECR Danapur division)

3247/ 3248 Kamakhya – Danapur (ECR Danapur division)

Originally the train used to run from Katihar to Danapur, thus connecting areas of northeastern Bihar state with the capital Patna, before it was extended to New Jalpaiguri and Kamakhya.

Chalukya Express

1017/ 1018 Dadar – Yesvantpur (CR Mumbai division)

The Chalukya dynasty ruled large parts of southern and central India between the 6th and the 12th centuries. There were three related, but individual dynasties. The earliest dynasty, known as the "Badami Chalukyas", ruled from their capital Vatapi (modern Badami) from the middle of the 6th century. The “Eastern Chalukyas” became an independent kingdom in the eastern Deccan. They ruled from their capital Vengi until about the 11th century. The “Western Chalukyas” rose in the late 10th century in the late 10th to the 12th century, and ruled from Kalyani (modern Basavakalyan).

Chambal Express

2175/ 2176 Howrah – Gwalior (NCR Jhansi division)

2177/ 2178 Howrah – Mathura (NCR Jhansi division – RSA with 2175/ 2176 Chambal Express)

The Chambal River is a tributary of the Yamuna River. The river flows north-northeast through Madhya Pradesh, running for a time through Rajasthan, then forming the boundary between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh before turning southeast to join the Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh. The Chambal ravines near the junction of the three states were once the home of dreaded dacoits.

Chamundi Express

6215/ 6216 Mysore – Bangalore City (SWR Mysore division)

The Goddess Durga, in the form of Chamunda or Chamundeshwari, killed the demons Chanda and Munda after the slaying of Mahishashura. The temple dedicated to her is built on top of a 1000 m high hill near Mysore.

Chandigarh Express

4887/ 4888 Kalka – Barmer (NWR Jodhpur division)

4887A/ 4888A Haridwar – Barmer (NWR Jodhpur division)

Chandigarh is a Union Territory of India, serving as the capital of two states, Haryana and Punjab. The name translates as "The Fort of Chandi", from an ancient temple called Chandi Mandir, devoted to the Hindu Goddess Chandi. It is the first planned city of India, being home to numerous architectural projects of Le Corbusier and others. At the time of partition of India and the Punjab province in 1947, the capital of Punjab, Lahore went to Pakistan. The Indian part of Punjab required a new capital, and after several existing cities were found to be infeasible for various reasons, the decision to construct a new and planned city at Chandigarh was undertaken. However, on 1st November 1966, the Indian Punjab state was divided into Haryana and Punjab. The city of Chandigarh was on the border, and was thus made into a Union Territory to serve as capital of both these states.

Charminar Express

2759/ 2760 Chennai Central – Hyderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

Charminar meaning "Mosque of the Four Minarets" and "Four Towers" is the most famous and important monument in the city of Hyderabad. Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah built Charminar in 1591 shortly after he had shifted his capital from Golconda to what now is known as Hyderabad, to commemorate the elimination of a plague epidemic from this city.

Chauri Chaura Express

5003/ 5004 Kanpur Anwarganj – Gorakhpur (NER Lucknow division)

Chauri Chaura is a town near Gorakhpur, famous for an event that took place on 4th February 1922 during British rule, when a police station was set on fire by a nationalist mob, killing 23 of the police occupants.

Chendur Express

6735/ 6736 Chennai Egmore – Tiruchendur (SR Madurai division)

Tiruchendur means “a sacred and prosperous town of victory”. It is famous for the Tiruchendur Temple, the celebrated seashore temple of Lord Subrahmanya. The temple is on the shore of the Gulf of Mannar. Kartikeya (Subrahmanya) desired to worship his father, Lord Shiva. As there was no Shiva shrine there, Maya, the celestial architect, constructed the temple of Shiva on the sea front and Subrahmanya worshipped there. This shrine of Tiruchendur is believed to be most liked by Subrahmanya and has been given the second place among his shrines in the Skanda Puranam, the first being Palani.

Cheran Express

2673/ 2674 Chennai Central – Coimbatore (SR Salem division)

The Chera Dynasty ruled in southern India from 300 BC until the 12th century AD. Their capital was Vanchi Muthur, the present-day Karur in Tamil Nadu. The word Chera means hill country, and they were most probably originally a hill tribe.

Chetak Express

2981/ 2982 Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Udaipur City (NWR Ajmer division)

Chetak was the horse of Rana Pratap of Mewar, whom he rode during the gruesome Battle of Haldighati against the Mughal armies on 21st June, 1576. During the course of this battle, Chetak received a fatal wound on one of his legs. This was the turning point of the battle. Rana Pratap found himself surrounded by enemy soldiers. Chetak was exhausted and seriously wounded, but laboured on, carrying his master. About 2 miles from the site of the battle he came across a small stream. It was here, while trying to leap across the stream that Chetak collapsed. Maharana erected a small and beautiful monument for his beloved companion at the place where Chetak fell. This cenotaph still exists near the village of Jharol in Rajsamand District. Chetak lives on in poetic traditions as the epitome of loyalty.

Chhattisgarh Express

8237/ 8238 Bilaspur – Amritsar (SECR Bilaspur division)

Chhattisgarh Sampark Kranti Express

2823/ 2824 Durg – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SECR Raipur division)

Chhattisgarh was formed when the sixteen Chhattisgarhi-speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh gained statehood on 1st November, 2000. It takes its name from 36 (Chattis is thirty-six in Hindi and Garh is Fort) princely states in this region from very old times, though the listing of these 36 forts has always remained a point of dispute.

Chitrakoot Express

5009/ 5010 Lucknow – Jabalpur (NER Lucknow division)

Chitrakuta (also spelt Chitrakoot) is a town in Satna district in the Madhya Pradesh. It was in these deep forests that Rama, Sita and Lakshmana spent eleven and half years of

their fourteen years of exile. Rama performed the Shraddha ceremony of his father here and then left for the Dandaka forest further south.

Circar Express

7643/ 7644 Chennai Egmore – Kakinada Port (SCR Hyderabad division – RSA with
7651/ 7652 Chennai Egmore – Kacheguda Express)

The Northern Circars was a former division of British India's Madras Presidency, which consisted of a narrow strip of territory lying along the western side of the Bay of Bengal in the present-day states of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The territory derived its name from Circar or Sarkar, a term applied to the component parts of a subah or province, each of which is administered by a deputy governor. These Northern Circars were five in number, Chicacole (Srikakulam), Rajahmundry, Ellore (Eluru), Kondapalli and Guntur. After changing hands frequently between the Bahamani Sultans, the Mughals, the Nizams of Hyderabad and the French, the British finally took over in 1768.

Coalfield Express

2339/ 2340 Howrah – Dhanbad (ER Howrah division)

The train is named after innumerable coalfields in the Dhanbad area.

Corbett Park Link Express

5013A/ 5014A Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Ramnagar (NER Lucknow division)

Jim Corbett National Park, named after the hunter turned conservationist, Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment, is the oldest national park in India, established in 1936. Situated in Nainital district of Uttaranchal, the park acts as a protected area for the critically endangered Bengal tiger of India.

Coromandel Express

2841/ 2842 Howrah – Chennai Central (SER Kharagpur division)

The land of the Chola dynasty was called Cholamandalam in Tamil, literally translated as “the realm of the Cholas”, from which Coromandel is derived. The Coromandel Coast is the name given to the southeastern coast of the Indian peninsula.

Dakshin Express

2721/ 2722 Hyderabad – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SCR Secunderabad division)

Dakshin (Southern) Express originally ran from the capital New Delhi to the southern metropolis Madras, before it was diverted to Hyderabad.

Darjeeling Mail

2343/ 2344 Sealdah – New Jalpaiguri (ER Sealdah division)

One of the legendary and prestigious trains of India, running since time immemorial. It connects the capital of West Bengal, Kolkata with New Jalpaiguri, the road head for the Hill station of Darjeeling. The name 'Darjeeling' comes from the Tibetan words, dorje meaning thunderbolt (originally the scepter of Indra) and ling a place or land, hence “the land of the thunderbolt”.

Dayodaya Express

2181/ 2182 Jabalpur – Jaipur (WCR Jabalpur division)

Dayodaya means Compassion, especially towards a person of a lower status or an animal. It is not clear why this train is so named.

Deccan Express

1007/ 1008 Mumbai C.S.T. – Pune (CR Pune division)

Deccan Queen Express

2123/ 2124 Mumbai C.S.T. – Pune (CR Mumbai division)

The Deccan Plateau, also known as the Peninsular Plateau is a large plateau, making up the majority of the southern part of the country, The name Deccan is an anglicized form of the Prakrit word Dakkhin, itself derived from the Sanskrit word Dakshina, meaning south.

Deekshabhoomi Express

2143/ 2144 Nagpur – Gaya (CR Nagpur division)

Deekshabhoomi is a sacred monument of Buddhism at the place where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was converted to Buddhism along with thousands of his followers on 14th October 1956. It is situated in Nagpur, a location regarded as a pilgrimage center of Buddhism in India. A great Stupa is built at that place. Deeksha literally means “acceptance of religion”. Bhoomi means land. So, literally Deekshabhoomi means the land where people get converted to Buddhism.

Devgiri Express

7057/ 7058 Mumbai C.S.T. – Secunderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

Daulatabad, meaning “City of Prosperity”, is a 14th century fort city, about 16 km northwest of Aurangabad. The place was once as known as Devgiri (the Hill of God). Starting 1327, it famously remained the capital of Muhammad bin Tughlak, Sultan of Delhi, who also changed its name, and forcibly moved the entire population of Delhi here for two years, before it was abandoned due to lack of water.

Dhauladhar Express

4035/ 4036 Delhi – Pathankot (NR Delhi division)

The Dhauladhar (White Mountain) range is a southern branch of the main Outer Himalayan chain of mountains. It rises spectacularly from the Indian plains to the north of Kangra and Dharamsala. Pathankot is the railhead for these Hill stations.

Dhaulti Express

2821/ 2822 Howrah – Bhubaneshwar (SER Kharagpur division)

Dhaulti (White) hill is located 8 km south of Bhubaneshwar. It has major Edicts of Ashoka engraved on a mass of rock. Dhaulti hill is presumed to be the area where Kalinga War was fought. Ashoka had a special weakness for Dhaulti and saw to it that the place became an important centre of Buddhist activities. On the top of the hill a dazzling white peace pagoda has been recently built by the Japan Buddha Sangha and the Kalinga Nippon Buddha Sangha in the 1970s.

Doon Express

3007/ 3008 Howrah – Dehra Dun (ER Howrah division)

Dera (or Dehra) is a camp, while Dun or Doon is a reference to a local term used for a river valley between a smaller range Shivaliks and the main Himalayas.

Duronto Express

2259/ 2260 Sealdah – New Delhi (ER Sealdah division)
2261/ 2262 Mumbai C.S.T. – Howrah (SER Kharagpur division)
2263/ 2264 Pune – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)
2265/ 2266 Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Jammu Tawi (NR Delhi division)
2267/ 2268 Mumbai Central – Ahmadabad (WR Mumbai division)
2269/ 2270 Chennai Central – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)
2271/ 2272 Lucknow – New Delhi (NR Lucknow division)
2273/ 2274 Howrah – New Delhi (ER Howrah division)
2275/ 2276 Allahabad – New Delhi (NCR Allahabad division)
2277/ 2278 Kolkata – Amritsar (ER Sealdah division)
2281/ 2282 Bhubaneshwar – New Delhi (ECoR Khurda Road division)
2283/ 2284 Ernakulam – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)
2285/ 2286 Secunderabad – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SCR Secunderabad division)
2289/ 2290 Mumbai C.S.T. – Nagpur (CR Mumbai division)

Duronto (Bangla: "quick") Express trains are a set of specialized rail services by Indian Railways. These are the non-stop point to point rail services introduced for the first time in the history of India. These services connect the metros and major state capitals. Introduced in the Indian Rail Budget 2009-10, these trains run non-stop from source and destinations with some technical and crew halts in the journey. The Duronto express trains are projected to be the fastest trains in India.

Dwarka Express

5635/ 5636 Okha – Guwahati (NFR Lumding division)

Dwarka, near Okha, derives its name from word "dwar" meaning door or gate in Sanskrit. It is considered to be one of the holiest cities in Hinduism and one of the 4 main "dhams".

East Coast Express

8645/ 8646 Howrah – Hyderabad (SER Ranchi division – RSA with 8615/ 8616
Howrah – Hatia Express)

Originally ran from Howrah to Vijayawada, before it was extended to Hyderabad. The name is self explanatory, though it does not run along the entire stretch of the east coast.

Ekta Express

4795/ 4796 Bhiwani – Kalka (NWR Bikaner division)

Ekta means Unity, and this train connecting southern areas of Haryana with the capital Chandigarh, supposedly unifies the state.

Ernad Express

6605/ 6606 Mangalore Central – Kochuveli (SR Palakkad division)

Eranad was a small fiefdom which was one of the four states (Eranad, Kolathunadu, Perumpadapu and Venad) that made up the Chera Empire. The Saamoothiri rulers originally were Eradis (rulers of Eranad). In the 14th century, they captured most of this area, including Kozhikkode and renamed it Thrivikramapuram. They then assumed the title of Samudrathiri (meaning "one who has the sea for his border") and continued to rule from Kozhikkode. The title Samudrathiri was shortened to Saamoothiri over time, which the Europeans converted to Zamorin.

Falaknuma Express

2703/ 2704 Howrah – Secunderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

Falaknuma Palace is one of the finest palaces in Hyderabad. It is located in Falaknuma, 5 km from the Charminar, and was built by Nawab Vikar-ul-Umra in 1884 – 1889, the then Prime Minister of Hyderabad. Falaknuma literally means "Star of Heaven" in Urdu.

Farakka Express

3413/ 3414 Delhi – Malda Town via Sultanpur (ER Malda division)
3483/ 3484 Delhi – Malda Town via Faizabad (ER Malda division)

Completed in 1974-75, the Farakka Barrage is a dam on the Ganga River located in West Bengal, roughly 10 km from the border with Bangladesh. The dam was built to divert the Ganga water into the Hooghly River during the dry season in order to flush out the accumulating silt which was a problem at the major port of Kolkata. This is the longest barrage in the world.

Flying Ranee Express

2921/ 2922 Mumbai Central – Surat (WR Mumbai division)

The Flying Queen connecting Mumbai with south Gujarat was once one of the fastest connections between Mumbai and Surat.

Ganadevta Express

3017/ 3018 Howrah – Azimganj (ER Howrah division)

Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay, 1898 – 1971, was one of the leading Bengali novelists. He was born in Birbhum district. In 1966, he received the Jnanpith Award for his novel Ganadebata (Lord of the People) written in 1942.

Ganga Damodar Express

3329/ 3330 Dhanbad – Rajendranagar Terminus (ECR Dhanbad division)

The Damodar River (“Damu”: sacred, “da”: water) originates in Palamau district of Jharkhand on the Chhota Nagpur Plateau, and flows eastward for about 592 km through the states of Jharkhand and West Bengal to the estuary of the River Hooghly. Patna is on the south bank of the Ganga River, and this train connects it to Dhanbad, which is in the Damodar basin.

Ganga Gomti Express

4215/ 4216 Allahabad – Lucknow (NR Lucknow division)

The train connects Allahabad (on the Ganga river) with Lucknow (on the Gomti) river.

Ganga Kaveri Express

2669/ 2670 Chennai Central – Chhapra (SR Chennai division)

The train connects Varanasi and Chhapra (on the Ganga River) with Chennai. In the past, it used to go to Chennai Beach station, from where an MG Ganga Kaveri Express used to run to Rameswaram through the Kaveri river basin.

Ganga Sagar Express

3185/ 3186 Sealdah – Jaynagar (ER Sealdah division)

Sagar Island, also known as Gangasagar, lies where the Hooghly River (considered by many to be the main channel of the Ganga River) meets the Bay of Bengal, about 150 km south of Kolkata. This island is a famous Hindu pilgrim place where every year on the day of Makar Sankranti (mid January), thousands of Hindus gathered to take a holy dip in the confluence of Ganga, the second largest congregation of mankind in India after the holy Kumbha Mela.

Ganga Sutlej Express

3307/ 3308 Dhanbad – Firozpur Cantt. (ECR Dhanbad division)

The train originally used to run from Varanasi on the Ganga River with Ludhiana on the Sutlej River, before it was extended in both directions. The train is also known as Kisan (Farmer) Express in Uttar Pradesh, probably as it passes through the fertile plains of Northern India.

Garhwal Express

4043/ 4044 Kotdwara – Delhi (NR Delhi division)

Garhwal is a region and administrative division of Uttaranchal. It is believed that Garhwal was named so because it had 52 petty chieftainships, each chief with his own independent fortress (Garh). Nearly 500 years ago, one of these chiefs, Ajai Pal, reduced all the minor principalities under his own sway, and founded the Garhwal Kingdom. After a brief period of Gorkha rule, the British took over, handing over the princely state of Tehri Garhwal to its original rulers.

Garib Nawaz Express

6531/ 6532 Ajmer – Yesvantpur (SWR Bangalore division)

5715/ 5716 Kishanganj – Ajmer (NFR Katihar division)

8631/ 8632 Ranchi – Ajmer (SER Ranchi division)

Hazrat Shaikh Khwaja Syed Muhammad Moinuddin Chishti was born in 1141 and died in 1230. Also known as Gharib Nawaz or “Benefactor of the Poor”, he is the most famous Sufi saint of the Chishti Order. He was born in Persia, but turned towards India, reputedly after a dream in which Prophet Muhammad blessed him to do so, and settled down in Ajmer. There he attracted a substantial following, acquiring a great deal of respect amongst the residents of the city. Today, hundreds of thousands of people – Muslims, Hindus, Christians and others, from the Indian sub-continent, and from other parts of the world – assemble at his tomb on the occasion of his Urs (death anniversary).

Garib Rath Express

2113/ 2114 Pune – Nagpur (CR Pune division)

2187/ 2188 Jabalpur – Mumbai C.S.T. (WCR Jabalpur division)

2201/ 2202 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Kochuveli (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

2203/ 2204 Saharsa – Amritsar (NR Ferozpur division)

2207/ 2208 Kathgodam – Jammu Tawi (NR Ferozpur division)

2209/ 2210 Kanpur Central – Kathgodam (NR Ferozpur division – RSA with 2207/ 2208 Garib Rath Express)

2211/ 2212 Babu Dham Motihari – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)

2213/ 2214 Varanasi – Delhi (NR Lucknow division)

2215/ 2216 Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Bandra Terminus (NR Delhi division)

2255/ 2256 Yesvantpur – Puducherry (SWR Bangalore division)

2257/ 2258 Yesvantpur – Kochuveli (SWR Bangalore division)

2353/ 2354 Rajendranagar Terminus – Hazrat Nizamuddin (ECR Danapur division)

2359/ 2360 Kolkata – Patna (ER Sealdah division)

2517/ 2518 Kolkata – Guwahati (NFR Lumding division)

2535/ 2536	Lucknow Jn. – Raipur (NER Lucknow division)
2569/ 2570	Jaynagar – Hazrat Nizamuddin (ECR Samastipur division)
2611/ 2612	Chennai Central – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR Chennai division)
2735/ 2736	Secunderabad – Yesvantpur (SCR Secunderabad division)
2739/ 2740	Vishakhapatnam – Secunderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)
2831/ 2832	Hatia – Bhubaneswar (ECoR Khurda Road division)
2877/ 2878	Ranchi – New Delhi (SER Ranchi division)
2881/ 2882	Howrah – Puri (ECoR Khurda Road division)
2909/ 2910	Bandra Terminus – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WR Mumbai division)
2983/ 2984	Jaipur – Chandigarh (NWR Jaipur division)

This is a class of trains providing AC travel (3Tier AC, and often AC Chair car) at affordable prices. The name means “Chariot of the Poor”, and many people find the name distasteful.

Garudadri Express

6203/ 6204 Chennai Central – Tirupati (SWR Mysore division – RSA with 213/ 214 Mysore – Tirupati Passenger)

Tirumala Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple is a famous Hindu Temple of Lord Venkateswara located in the hill town Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh. The temple is built on the Venkatadri hill, one of the seven hills of Tirumala, and hence is also known as the Temple of Seven Hills (Saptagiri in Sanskrit). The Tirumala Hill is 3200 ft above sea level and comprises seven peaks, representing the seven hoods of Adisesha, thus earning the name, Seshachalam. The seven peaks are called Seshadri, Neeladri, Garudadri (the Hill of Garuda, the vehicle of Lord Vishnu), Anjanadri, Vrushabadri, Narayanadri and Venkatadri.

Gaur Express

3153/ 3154 Sealdah – Malda Town (ER Sealdah division)

Gaur, or Gour as it is spelt mostly in modern times, or Lakhnauti is a ruined city, in the Malda district of West Bengal. It is said to have been founded by Lakshmana, and its most ancient name was Lakshmanavati. The area known as Gauda (Gauka, of Gau/ Cow) at the time was under the rule of the Pala and Sena dynasties of Bengal. In 1198 it was conquered by the Muslims, who retained it as the chief seat of their power in Bengal for more than three centuries. Around the year 1350, the Sultans of Bengal established their independence, and transferred their seat of government to nearby Pandua, plundering Gaur of every monument that could be removed. Gaur was sacked by Sher Shah in 1539, and was occupied by Akbar's general in 1575. This occupation was followed by an outbreak of the plague, which completed the downfall of the city. Since then it has been little better than a heap of ruins, almost overgrown with jungle.

Gautami Express

2737/ 2738 Kakinada Port – Secunderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

Legend has it that Sage Gautama lived on the Brahmagiri Hills at Triambakeshwar and kept his stock of rice in a granary. Once, a cow entered his granary and ate up the rice. When the rishi tried to ward the cow away with Durbha grass, it fell dead. The rishi wanted to relieve himself of the sin of 'Gohatya' (cow slaughter). He worshipped Lord Shiva and requested him to bring Ganga to purify his hermitage. Lord Shiva pleased with the rishi appeared as Triambaka and brought along river Ganga. Since Ganga was brought down to Triambakeshwar by Sage Gautama, she is also known as Gautami. She is also known as Godavari because the river helped Sage Gautama to relieve his sins. Kakinada lies near the delta of the Godavari River (East Godavari district).

Gitanjali Express

2859/ 2860 Mumbai C.S.T. – Howrah (ECoR Khurda road division – RSA with 8409/ 8410 Sri Jagannath Express)

Gitanjali (Bangla Gitanjoli) is a collection of 103 English poems, largely translations, by the Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore. The word Gitanjoli is composed from "git", song, and "anjoli", offering, and thus means "An offering of songs", but the word for offering, anjoli, has a strong devotional connotation, so the title may also be interpreted as "prayer offering of song".

Goa Express

2779/ 2780 Vasco da Gama – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SWR Hubli division)

Goa Sampark Kranti Express

2449/ 2450 Madgaon – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)

These two trains connect the national capital with the state of Goa. The name Goa came to European languages from the Portuguese, but its precise origin is unclear. In ancient literature, Goa was known by many names such as Gomanta, Govapuri, Govem, and Gomantak. The Indian epic Mahabharata refers to the area now known as Goa, as Goparashtra or Govarashtra which means a nation of cowherds.

Godaan Express

1055/ 1056 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Gorakhpur (CR Mumbai division)

1059/ 1060 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Chhapra (CR Mumbai division)

Godaan (The Gift of a Cow) is a Hindi novel by Munshi Premchand. Themed around the socio economic deprivation as well as the exploitation of the village poor, the novel was the last complete novel of Premchand (1880 – 1936).

Godavari Express

2119/ 2120 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Manmad (CR Mumbai division)

2727/ 2728 Vishakhapatnam – Hyderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

These are two trains bearing the names of the same river, one near its source (Nasik), and one near its mouth (Rajahmundry). Legend has it that Sage Gautama lived on the

Brahmagiri Hills at Triambakeshwar and kept his stock of rice in a granary. Once, a cow entered his granary and ate up the rice. When the rishi tried to ward the cow away with Durbha grass, it fell dead. The rishi wanted to relieve himself of the sin of 'Gohatya'. He worshipped Lord Shiva and requested him to bring Ganga to purify his hermitage. Lord Shiva pleased with the rishi appeared as Triambaka and brought along river Ganga. Since then Ganga is also known as Godavari because the river helped Sage Gautama to relieve his sins.

Gokul Express

5315/ 5316 Mailani – Kasganj (NER Izzatnagar division)

It used to run from Gonda to Mathura before GC closed down much of its original route. Gokul is a town Mathura district located 15 km south-east of Mathura. According to Hindu mythology, Gokul was the place where Lord Krishna was brought up under the care of Nanda and Yashoda.

Golkonda Express

7201/7202 Guntur – Secunderabad (SCR Guntur division)

In the 16th century, Golkonda was the capital and fortress city of the Qutb Shahi kingdom, near Hyderabad. According to a legend, the fort derives its name from Golla Konda, which is a Telugu word for Shepherd's Hill. It is believed that a shepherd boy came across an idol on the hill. This led to the construction of a mud fort by the then Kakatiya dynasty ruler of the kingdom around the site. The Kakatiya dynasty was followed by the state of Warangal, which was later conquered by the Islamic Bahamani Sultanate. The fort became the capital of a major province in the Sultanate and after its collapse, the capital of the Qutb Shahi kings.

Golden Temple Mail

2903/ 2904 Mumbai Central – Amritsar (WR Mumbai division)

Harmandir Sahib, informally referred to as The Golden Temple or Temple of God, is culturally the most significant place of worship of the Sikhs and one of the oldest Sikh gurdwaras. It is located in the city of Amritsar, which was established by Guru Ram Das Ji, the fourth guru of the Sikhs, and is, also due to the shrine, known as Guru Di Nagri meaning city of the Guru.

Gomti Express

2419/ 2420 Lucknow – New Delhi (NR Lucknow division)

The Gomti, Gumti or Gomati River is a tributary of the Ganges River Ganga. According to Hindu mythology the river is the daughter of Sage Vashist, and bathing in the waters of the Gomati on Ekadashi (the eleventh day of the Hindu calendar) can wash away one's sins. The Gomti originates from Gomat Taal which formally known as Fulhaar jheel, near Madho Tanda, Pilibhit, Uttaranchal. The cities of Lucknow, Lakhimpur Kheri, Sultanpur and Jaunpur are located on the banks of the Gomti.

Gondwana Express

2405/ 2406 Bhusaval – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)
2409/ 2410 Bilaspur – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)
2411/2412 Jabalpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)

Gondwana is a region named after the Gondi people who live there (though they can also be found in other parts of India). The name of the ancient continent of Gondwanaland was derived from Gondwana, because some of the earliest rock formations of this continent were first investigated in part of the region, in modern Orissa. As Gonds are spread widely across central India, there is no unambiguous boundary to the region. However, the core region can be considered to be the eastern part of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, the parts of Madhya Pradesh immediately to the north of it, and parts of the west of Chhattisgarh. The wider region extends beyond these, also including parts of northern Andhra Pradesh, and western Orissa.

Gorakhdham Express

2555/ 2556 Gorakhpur – Bhiwani (NER Lucknow division)

The city and district of Gorakhpur are named after a renowned ascetic saint, Gorakshanath, the chief disciple of the yogi Matsyendranath. Together, Matsyendranath and Gorakshanath founded the Nath Sampradaya line of saints. Gorakhnath Temple is said to stand on the spot where Gorakshanath practiced Hatha Yoga to develop self control.

Grand Trunk Express

2615/ 2616 Chennai Central – New Delhi (SR Chennai division)

This train once connected the length and breadth of India by joining places as distant as Peshawar and Mangalore, was short terminated to Lahore and Mettupalaiyam and now finally runs from Chennai to Delhi.

Gujarat Mail

2901/ 2902 Mumbai Central – Ahmadabad (WR Ahmadabad division)

Gujarat Express

9011/ 9012 Mumbai Central – Ahmadabad (WR Mumbai division)

Gujarat Queen Express

9109/ 9110 Valsad – Ahmadabad (WR Ahmadabad division)

Gujarat Sampark Kranti Express

2917/ 2918 Ahmadabad – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WR Ahmadabad division)

All these trains are named after the state of Gujarat. Modern-day Gujarat is derived from Gujjar (Gujjar Rashtra or Gujjar nation). The Gujjar clan appeared in northern India

about the time of the Hun invasions. The name of the tribe was Sanskritized to "Gurjara", from which the word Gujarat is derived.

Gurudev Express

2659/ 2660 Nagercoil – Shalimar (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941), who was also known as Gurudev, was a Bengali poet, novelist, musician, and playwright, and Asia's first Nobel laureate by winning the 1913 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Gyan Ganga Express

1031/ 1032 Pune – Varanasi (CR Pune division)

The name means “River (Ganga) of Knowledge”. It could also signify the connection of Varanasi on the River Ganga with Pune, the city known for its educational institutions. Today, Pune is known for its educational facilities, having more than a hundred educational institutes and nine universities.

Hampi Express

6591/ 6592 Hubli – Bangalore City (SWR Bangalore division)

Hampi is a village in northern Karnataka, located within the ruins of Vijayanagar, the former capital of the Vijayanagar Empire. Predating the city of Vijayanagar, this village continues to be an important religious centre, housing the Virupaksha Temple. As the village is at the original centre of Vijayanagar, it is sometimes confused with this ruined city. The name is derived from Pampa, which is the old name of the Tungabhadra River on whose banks the city is built. The name "Hampi" is an anglicized version of the Kannada Hampe (derived from Pampa). Over the years, it has also been referred to as Vijayanagar and Virupakshapura (from Virupaksha, the patron deity of the Vijayanagar rulers).

Harihar Express

4523/ 4524 Muzaffarpur – Ambala Cantt. (NR Ambala division)

The Hariharnath temple, dedicated to the combined form of Lord Vishnu (Hari) and Lord Shiva (Har) is located at Sonpur in Saran district of Bihar. It is a place of pilgrimage for the devotees who come here especially on the occasion of the great Sonpur mela on Kartik Purnima day. This day of full moon is believed to be very auspicious and any prayer offered on this day to the Lord is always fulfilled. Sonpur Mela is the one of largest cattle fairs of the world. It is a historical and ancient event celebrated every year on bank of pious confluence of Gandak and the Ganges River, on the backdrop of Harihar Nath Temple.

Haripriya Express

7415/ 7416 Tirupati – Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Terminus Kolhapur (SCR Guntakal division)

Tirupati is the abode of Lord Vishnu (Balaji) and Kolhapur is the home of Mahalaxmi, Vishnu's consort. The name HariPRIYA means Beloved of Vishnu.

Haryana Express

4085/ 4086 Tilak Bridge – Sirsa (NR Delhi division)

The name of the state of Haryana has been derived from its ancient inhabitants Abhirayana, which got changed to Ahirayana over a period, and to present day Haryana. The name "Abhira" means fearless, the honour they earned after the Battle of the Mahabharata.

Hatey Bazare Express

3163/ 3164 Sealdah – Saharsa (ER Sealdah division)

Bonophul (literally meaning "The wild flower") was the pen-name of Bolai Chand Mukhopadhyay (1899 – 1979), a major literary figure in twentieth century Bengali literature. He was born in Purnea in Bihar and got his medical degree from Patna University. He wrote more than 40 novels, a huge number of short stories and several plays and poems. Written in 1961, Hatey Bazare (In and Around the Marketplace) tells the story of an idealistic doctor who decides to spend his retirement healing the poor in a small town in Bihar.

Hazarduari Express

3113/ 3114 Kolkata – Murshidabad (ER Sealdah division)

The Hazarduari Palace, or the palace with a thousand doors is the chief tourist attraction of Murshidabad. It has a thousand doors (among which only 900 are real) and 114 rooms and 8 galleries. It was built in 1837 by General Duncan McLeod for the Nawab Najim Humayun Jah. Now, the palace is a museum which has collections of armory, splendid paintings, exhaustive portraits of the Nawabs, various works of art including beautiful works of ivory (of the Murshidabad school), and many other valuables. Swords used by Siraj-ud-Daula and his grandfather, Nawab Alivardi Khan, can be seen here.

Hemkunt Express

4609/ 4610 Rishikesh – Jammu Tawi (NR Firozpur division)

Hemkund or Hemkunt Sahib, with a setting of a glacial lake surrounded by seven peaks, is a popular pilgrimage site for Sikhs. It is located at an elevation of over 15,200 ft (4,600 m) in the state of Uttaranchal and is accessible only by foot from Govindghat on the Rishikesh – Badrinath highway. It is most known for a gurudwara, known as Hemkunt Sahib, associated with the tenth Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh, and is one of the most sacred of Sikh shrines. The lake also has a Lakshmana temple built on its shores. Hemkund is a Sanskrit name derived from Hem – Snow & Kund – Bowl, so it means "Bowl of Snow".

Himachal Express

4553/ 4554 Delhi – Una Himachal (NR Ambala division)

The train is named after the state of Himachal Pradesh. The literal meaning of the word Himachal Pradesh is “Region of snowy mountains”.

Himalayan Queen Express

4095/ 4096 Hazrat Nizamuddin – Kalka (NR Delhi division)

The train is named after the Himalaya Range, or Himalayas for short, meaning "abode of snow”.

Himgiri Express

2331/ 2332 Howrah – Jammu Tawi (ER Howrah division)

Him : Snow, Giri : Mountain. So literally the word means “snow covered mountains”, a reference to the Himalayas.

Himsagar Express

6317/ 6318 Kanniyakumari – Jammu Tawi (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Him : Snow, Sagar : Ocean. The train connects the snow covered mountains in the north with the Indian Ocean in the south of the country.

Hirakhand Express

8447/ 8448 Bhubaneshwar – Koraput (ECoR Khurda Road division)

Hirakhand is a region in Orissa, famous for its gems and minerals. “Hira” means diamond. Another explanation for the name is Hira: Hirakud dam and Khand: Khandagiri caves, two important places in Orissa.

Hirakud Express

8507/ 8508 Vishakhapatnam – Amritsar (ECoR Waltair division)

Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi River, about 15 km from Sambalpur. Built in 1956, the dam is the world's largest earthen dam, about 16 miles (26 km) in length. It was the first major multipurpose river valley project started after India's independence. Initially the train used to run between Sambalpur and Nizamuddin in Delhi, before its run was extended in both directions.

Hool Express

3051/ 3052 Howrah – Siuri (ER Howrah division)

Before the advent of the British in India, the Santhals resided peacefully in the hilly districts along the Bihar – Bengal border. However the British operatives with their native counterparts cheated and turned them into slaves of the zamindars and the money

leaders. On 30th June 1855, two great Santhal rebel leaders, Sido Murmu and his brother Kanhu, mobilized ten thousand Santhals and declared a rebellion (Hool) against British colonists. The Santhals initially gained some success, but soon the British suppressed them brutally. The day is still celebrated among the Santhal community with great respect and spirit for the thousands of martyrs who sacrificed their lives along with their two celebrated leaders, to win freedom from the rule of the Zamindars and the British operatives.

Hussain Sagar Express

2701/ 2702 Mumbai C.S.T. – Hyderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

Hussain Sagar is a lake in Hyderabad, built by Hazrat Hussain Shah Wali in 1562, during the rule of Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah. It was a lake of 24 sq km built on a tributary of the River Musi to meet the water and irrigation needs of the city. There is a large monolithic statue of the Gautama Buddha in the middle of the lake which was erected in 1992.

Hutatma Express

2157/ 2158 Pune – Solapur (CR Pune division)

The Solapur Municipal Council was the first Municipal Council of India to host the national flag on the Municipal Council building (Now Municipal Corporation) Solapur in 1930. Taking the spirit of Dandi March from Mahatma Gandhi, the freedom fighters of Solapur decided to host the national flag on the Solapur Municipal Council. Accordingly, senior freedom fighter from Pune, Annasaheb Bhopatkar hoisted the National Flag on 6th April 1930 on the Municipal Council Building. The British rulers declared martial law and arrested many leaders and innocent citizens on false charges. The freedom fighters Mallappa Dhanshetti, Kurban Hussain, Jagannath Shinde and Kisan Sarada were arrested on charges of killing two policemen of Mangalwar police station. The lower court sentenced them to hanging till death. The High Court also confirmed the same decision and these four freedom fighters were hanged on 12th January 1931. As a mark of respect to these freedom fighters, the statues of these freedom fighters have been installed in the heart of the city and the location has been named as Hutatma (Martyrs') Chowk.

Indrayani Express

1021/ 1022 Mumbai C.S.T. – Pune (CR Mumbai division)

Indrayani River is a rain-fed river which originates near Lonavala. The river has great religious importance and the two sacred towns Alandi and Dehu are situated on its banks. Dehu is held sacred for the poet Saint Tukaram, a popular saint of Maharashtra and Alandi holds the samadhi of the poet Dnyaneshwar.

Ispat Express

2871/ 2872 Howrah – Sambalpur (ECoR Sambalpur division)

The train derives its name from Rourkela, the original terminus, which has a big steel plant of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). The word "Ispat" means steel.

Jallianwala Bagh Express

8103/ 8104 Tatanagar – Amritsar (SER Chakradharpur division)

Jallianwala Bagh is a public garden in Amritsar, and houses a memorial of national importance, established in 1951 to commemorate the murder of peaceful celebrators on the occasion of the Punjabi New Year, Baisakhi on 13th April, 1919 in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

Jan Nayak Express

5211/ 5212 Darbhanga – Amritsar (ECR Samastipur division)

Jan : People, Nayak : leader, so literally it means “Leader of the People”. It could be a reference to the late Chaudhary Devi Lal, who was once the Chief Minister of Haryana and also the Deputy Prime Minister of India.

Jan Sadharan Express

2387/ 2388 Rajendranagar Terminus – Delhi Sarai Rohilla (ECR Danapur division)

4603/ 4604 Saharsa – Amritsar (NR Firozpur division)

5101/ 5102 Chhapra – Mumbai C.S.T. (NER Varanasi division)

5267/ 5268 Raxaul – Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (ECR Samastipur division)

5269/ 5270 Muzaffarpur – Ahmadabad (ECR Samastipur division)

5271/ 5272 Howrah – Muzaffarpur (ECR Samastipur division)

Jan : people, Sadharan : Ordinary, so literally it means the “Ordinary People”. These are trains with no reserved coaches at all, mainly connecting cities in Bihar to other cities.

Jan Sewa Express

3419/ 3420 Bhagalpur – Muzaffarpur (ER Malda division)

5209/ 5210 Saharsa – Amritsar (ECR Samastipur division)

Jan : People, Sewa : Service. This is another group of trains with totally unreserved coaches serving the people of Bihar.

Jan Shatabdi Express

2021/ 2022 Howrah – Barbil (SER Kharagpur division)

2023/ 2024 Howrah – Patna (ECR Danapur division)

2051/ 2052 Dadar – Madgaon (CR Mumbai division)

2053/ 2054 Haridwar – Amritsar (NR Firozpur division)

2055/ 2056 New Delhi – Dehra Dun (NR Ambala division – RSA with 2057/ 2058 Jan Shatabdi Express)

2057/ 2058 New Delhi – Una Himachal (NR Ambala division)

2059/ 2060 Kota – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WCR Kota division)

2061/ 2062 Habibganj – Jabalpur (WCR Jabalpur division)

2067/ 2068 Guwahati – Jorhat Town (NFR Lumding division)

2069/ 2070 Raigarh – Gondia/ Durg (SECR Bilaspur division)

2071/ 2072	Dadar – Aurangabad (CR Mumbai division – RSA with 2051/ 2052)
2073/ 2074	Howrah – Bhubaneshwar (ECoR Khurda Road division)
2075/ 2076	Kozhikkode – Thiruvananthapuram Central (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)
2077/ 2078	Chennai Central – Vijayawada (SR Chennai division)
2079/ 2080	Hubli – Bangalore City (SWR Bangalore division)
2083/ 2084	Mayiladuthurai – Coimbatore (SR Salem division)
2365/ 2366	Patna – Ranchi (ECR Danapur division)

Shatabdi (Century) Expresses were introduced in 1989 to mark Jawaharlal Nehru’s birth centenary. However, these exclusive, fully air conditioned trains were found to be out of bounds for the common man, and therefore the Jan (people’s) Shatabdis were introduced, which included air conditioned, as well as non air conditioned coaches.

Janaki Express

5283/ 5284 Saharsa – Jaynagar (ECR Samastipur division)

Goddess Sita as a foundling was discovered in a furrow in a ploughed field, and adopted by Janaka, the king of Mithila (Janakpur – present day India Nepal border, near Jaynagar); hence she was also called Janaki.

Janata Express

3039/ 3040 Howrah – Delhi (ER Howrah division)
9023/ 9024 Mumbai Central – Firozpur Cantt. (WR Mumbai division)

Janata: People. These were the original classless trains, offering only 2nd class 3-Tier Sleeper accommodation. Very few remain today.

Janmabhoomi Express

2805/ 2806 Vishakhapatnam – Secunderabad (ECoR Waltair division)

Janmabhoomi (Land where one is born, Motherland) is a people centered development process launched in Andhra Pradesh in January 1997. It aims at establishing an ideal society, which embodies and cherishes the principles of people's participation, equality, transparency and accountability leading to sustained economic development and excellence in all walks of life.

Jharkhand Sampark Kranti Express

2825/ 2826 Ranchi – New Delhi (SER Ranchi division)

Jharkhand Swarna Jayanti Express

2817/ 2818 Hatia – Delhi via Gaya (SER Ranchi division)
2873/ 2874 Hatia – Delhi via Daltonganj (SER Ranchi division)

The name Jharkhand comes from the Sanskrit word “Jharikhanda”, which is the ancient name of the region's dense forest.

Jhelum Express

1077/ 1078 Pune – Jammu Tawi (CR Pune division)

The Jhelum River is the largest and westernmost of the five rivers of the Punjab. It rises from a spring at Verinag situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal in the south-eastern part of the valley of Kashmir in India. It flows through Srinagar and the Wular Lake before entering Pakistan through a deep narrow gorge.

Jivachh Link Express

5609A/ 5610A Guwahati – Darbhanga (NFR Lumding division)

Coaches of this Link Express are carried by Passenger trains between Samastipur and Darbhanga. I could not find any reference to the meaning of the name, but it is a common name amongst men in Bihar.

Jnaneshwari Express

2101/ 2102 Lokmánya Tilak Terminus – Howrah (CR Mumbai division)

The Dnyaneshwari (or Jnaneshwari) is the commentary on Bhagavad Gita written by Marathi saint and poet Dnyaneshwar during the 13th century at age 16.

Kaifiat Express

2225/ 2226 Azamgarh – Delhi (NR Delhi division)

This is one of the few trains to be named after a person. Kaifi Azmi (1919 - 2002) was an Urdu and Hindi film lyricist, poet and songwriter. He was born into a family of landlords in the small village Mejwaan, in Azamgarh district. He was the recipient of Padma Shri, one of the Indian Government's highest civilian awards. Amongst others, he is also the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy Award, Special Award of Maharashtra Urdu Academy, Soviet Land Nehru Award and the President's Award for national integration. He is the father of actress Shabana Azmi.

Kalindi Express

4723/ 4724 Kanpur Central – Bhiwani (NWR Bikaner division)

The River Yamuna is also known as the Kalindi River. The Goddess Yamuna had excessive love for her twin brother, Yama (the God of Death), who in turn asks her to find a suitable match for herself, which she does in Krishna. As she descended down from the heavens to meet her beloved Krishna and to purify the world, she rushed down the Kalinda Mountain, and thus became the daughter of Kalinda, giving her another name, Kalindi.

Kaling Utkal Express

8477/ 8478 Puri – Haridwar (ECoR Khurda Road division)

Kalinga was an early kingdom in eastern India, which comprised most of the modern state of Orissa, as well as some northern areas of the bordering state of Andhra Pradesh. It was a rich and fertile land and was the scene of the bloody Kalinga War fought by the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka the Great of Magadha in 265 BC. Utkal is another name for Orissa, the area around the Ganjam plains and the Mahanadi delta.

Kamayani Express

1071/ 1072 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Varanasi (CR Mumbai division)

Jaishankar Prasad (1889 – 1937) of Varanasi was one of the most famous figures in modern Hindi literature, a dramatist, novelist, poet and a story-writer. His most famous work, the magnum opus, Kamayani, written in 1935, an allegorical epic poem, tells the story of the great flood. Its central characters are Manu (a male) and Shraddha (a female). Manu is representative of the human psyche and Shraddha represents love. Another female character is Ida, who represents rationality. Some critics surmise that the three lead characters of Kamayani symbolize a synthesis of knowledge, action and desires in human life.

Kamrup Express

5959/ 5960 Howrah – Dibrugarh Town (NFR Tinsukia division)

Kamrup is one of the older names of the state of Assam. Lord Shiva had withdrawn unto Himself after the death of his wife Sati, and was undergoing severe penance, which could have destroyed the world. The other Gods sent Kamadev (the God of Love) and his wife Rati, to distract Lord Shiva and save the world. But when Lord Shiva was disturbed, he was so angry at the intrusion, that he opened his Third Eye and burnt Kamadev to ashes. After a lot of requests by the Gods, Lord Shiva agreed to restore Kamadev to his original Rupa (form) again, and the land where this happened came to be called Kama – Rupa.

Kanchan Kanva Express

3149/ 3150 Sealdah – Alipurduar Jn. (ER Sealdah division)

Kanchanjanga Express

5657/ 5658 Sealdah – Guwahati (NFR Lumding division)

Kangchenjunga (Kanchanjanga) is the third highest mountain in the world (after Mount Everest and K2), with an elevation of 8,586 meters (28,169 ft). Kangchenjunga translated means "The Five Treasures of Snows", as it contains five peaks, four of them over 8,450 meters. The treasures represent the five repositories of God, which are gold, silver, gems, grain, and holy books. Although Kangchenjunga is the official spelling adopted by the Royal Geographical Society, that gives the best indication of the Tibetan pronunciation, there are a number of alternative spellings which include Kangchen Dzönga, Khangchendzonga, Kanchenjanga, Kachendzonga, Kanchenjunga or Kangchanfanga. The final word on the use of the name Kangchenjunga came from His Highness Sir Tashi Namgyal, the Chogyal of Sikkim, who stated that "although junga had

no meaning in Tibetan, it really ought to have been Zod-nga (treasure, five) Kang-chen (snow, big) to convey the meaning correctly.

Kandari Express

8001/ 8002 Howrah – Digha (SER Kharagpur division)

The name of the train is taken from a famous poem “Kandari hushiar” penned by Kazi Nazrul Islam. “Kandari” means the captain of the boat or ship and “hushiar” means be careful. Kazi Nazrul Islam was born in Burdwan district in 1899 and died in Dhaka in 1976. He is the national poet of Bangladesh, and also honoured in India.

Kapilavastu Express

5321/ 5322 Anand Nagar – Gonda (NER Izzatnagar division)

Kapilavastu is the name of a region of ancient Shakya kingdom that is considered a holy pilgrimage place for Buddhists, located close to Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha. The location of ancient Kapilavastu is still the subject of debate, although recognized by UNESCO to be in Nepal. Generally, most Indian guidebooks consider Piprahwa to be the real Kapilavastu, while other guidebooks consider Tilaurakot in Nepal to be the real Kapilavastu.

Karnataka Express

2627/ 2628 Bangalore City – New Delhi (SWR Bangalore division)

Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express via Hubli

2629/ 2630 Yesvantpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin via Hubli (SWR Bangalore division)

Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express via Kacheguda

2649/ 2650 Yesvantpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin via Kacheguda (SWR Bangalore division)

These trains are named for the state of Karnataka. Though several etymologies have been suggested for the name Karnataka, the generally accepted one is that Karnataka is derived from the Kannada words karu and nadu, meaning elevated land. Karu nadu may also be read as Karu (black) and nadu (region), as a reference to the black cotton soil found in the Bayaluseeme region of Karnataka. The British used the word Carnatic (sometimes Karnatak) to describe both sides of peninsular India, south of the Krishna River.

Karnavati Express

2933/ 2934 Mumbai Central – Ahmadabad (WR Ahmadabad division)

In the 11th century, Karandev I, the Solanki ruler of Anhilwara (modern Patan), waged a successful war against the Bhil king of Ashaval, and established a city called *Karnavati* located at the present time area of Maninagar close to the river Sabarmati. Solanki rule lasted until the 13th century, when Gujarat came under the control of the Vaghela dynasty of Dholka and Karnavati was conquered by the Sultanate of Delhi. In 1411, the

rule of the Muzaffarid dynasty was established in Gujarat. According to legend, Sultan Ahmad Shah, while camping on the banks of the River Sabarmati, saw a hare chasing a dog. Impressed by this act of bravery, the Sultan, who had been looking for a place to build his new capital, decided to locate the capital at this forest area close by to Karnavati right on the river bank and christened it Ahmadabad.

Kashi Express

5017/ 5018 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Gorakhpur (NER Lucknow division)

Kashi was an ancient kingdom with Varanasi as its capital on the banks of Ganga River. Varanasi is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. The train used to run from Dadar to Varanasi (the famous 27 Down, on which a film was also made), before it was extended to Gorakhpur.

Kashi Vishwanath Express

4257/ 4258 Varanasi – New Delhi (NR Lucknow division)

Kashi Vishwanath temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and is in the holy city of Varanasi (Kashi). The deity is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva deities. The main deity is known by the name Vishwanatha or Vishweshwara meaning the Ruler of the Universe.

Kaveri Express

6221/ 6222 Mysore – Chennai Central (SWR Mysore division)

The Kaveri River is one of the major rivers of India, which is considered sacred by Hindus. The origin of the river is traditionally placed at Talakaveri, Kodagu district in Karnataka, and it then flows generally south and east through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, emptying into the Bay of Bengal. The story behind the name is as follows: Both saint Agasthya and king Kavera were independently performing tapas with salvation (Moksha) as the goal. Pleased by their tapas, Brahma appears before them, and rules to Kavera that he shall beget a daughter who will lead him to Moksha; to Agasthya, Brahma says, he shall give him a divine wife who will help him to enrich the world before eventually attaining Moksha. Brahma then ordained Vishnumaya, His divine daughter to be, in due time, Lopamudra, the daughter of Kavera, then the wife of Agasthya, and eventually the sacred of the sacred, the river Kaveri.

Kerala Express

2625/ 2626 Thiruvananthapuram Central – New Delhi (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Kerala Sampark Kranti Express

2653/ 2654 Kochuveli – Chandigarh (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

These trains are named after the state of Kerala. The name Keralam may stem from imperfect Malayalam fusing “kera” (coconut tree) and “alam” (land or location). Kerala

may also represent the Classical Tamil “chera-alam” (declivity of a hill or a mountain slope) or “chera alam” (Land of the Cheras).

Kisan Express

4519/4520 Delhi – Bathinda (NR Ambala division)
3307/ 3308 Dhanbad – Firozpur Cantt. (ECR Dhanbad division)

These trains are known as Kisan (Farmer) Express, probably as they pass through the fertile plains of Northern India. 3307/ 3308 are officially named as Ganga Sutlej Express, but are known as Kisan Express in Uttar Pradesh.

Konark Express

1019/ 1020 Mumbai C.S.T. - Bhubaneshwar (CR Mumbai division)

Konark is a small town in Puri district of Orissa, 65 km from Bhubaneshwar. It is the site of the 13th-century Sun Temple (also known as the Black Pagoda), built in black granite by King Narasimhadeva I (1236-1264). The temple is a World Heritage Site. It takes the form of the chariot of Surya (Arka), the Sun God. The entire complex was designed in the form of a huge chariot drawn by seven spirited horses on twelve pairs of exquisitely decorated wheels. Konark beach is a popular tourist destination, though the waters are deceptively calm. Its main attraction lies in its views of the temple.

Kongu Express

2647/ 2648 Coimbatore – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR Salem division)

The name Kongu Nadu originated from the term Kongu, meaning nectar or honey in Tamil, referring to the honey or nectar like landscape and people living in the western regions of Tamil Nadu. Until the tenth century or so, Kongu Nadu was a heavily forested area, its small population living largely by hunting and herding rather than by direct cultivation of the soil. It remained an independent and largely autonomous self-governing region, and the native Kongu warrior clans took part in many of the various war campaigns and historical battles of the neighboring Chola and Chera empires to safeguard their homeland against any outside aggression. Kongu Nadu consists of the present districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Namakkal, Nilagiri, Karur, Dindigul, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri.

Konkan Kanya Express

0111/ 0112 Mumbai C.S.T. – Madgaon (KR Karwar division – maintenance by SWR)

The Konkan, also called the Konkan Coast or Karavali, is a rugged section of the western coastline of India from Raigad to Mangalore. Konkan Kanya literally means “Konkan's virgin”, deriving its name from the Konkan region.

Kosi Express

5281/ 5282 Saharsa – Patna (ECR Samastipur division)

The Kosi River, called Koshi in Nepal, as well as Sapta Koshi for its seven Himalayan tributaries, is a transboundary river between Nepal and India, one of the largest tributaries of the Ganges. Over the last 250 years, the Kosi River has shifted its course over 120 kilometers (75 miles) from east to west, and the unstable nature of the river is attributed to the heavy silt which it carries during the monsoon season. For that reason, it is known as the Sorrow of Bihar. The name “Kosi” is derived from Kaushiki, Kaushika being another name of the sage Vishwamitra, who was the descendant of the sage Kushika. Vishwamitra is said to have attained the status of Vedic Rishi on its banks.

Kovai Express

2675/ 2676 Chennai Central – Coimbatore (SR Chennai division)

Coimbatore, also commonly known as Kovai is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu. A Kongu king called Kovan ruled this region, and hence the name Kovanpudur which evolved and became as Koyambuthur, Koyamuthur and anglicized as Coimbatore. It is also believed that the City is named after the presiding deity of the town "Koniamman" - "Koniamman pudur" turned into Coimbatore.

Koyna Express

1029/ 1030 Mumbai C.S.T. – C. Shahu Maharaj Terminus Kolhapur (CR Pune division)

The Koyna River rises in Mahabaleshwar and is a tributary of the Krishna River in western Maharashtra. Unlike most of the other rivers in Maharashtra which flow in the East-West direction, the Koyna River flows in North-South direction. The Koyna River is famous for the Koyna Dam which is the largest hydroelectric project in Maharashtra. The river meets the Krishna River near Karad.

Krishak Express

5007/ 5008 Manduadih – Lucknow Jn NER (NER Lucknow division)

The word “krishak” means farmer. The train may be so named because of the predominantly agricultural nature of the region through which it runs.

Krishna Express

7405/ 7406 Tirupati – Adilabad (SCR Guntakal division)

The train is named after the River Krishna. Though the Sanskrit word “Krishna” means black, dark or dark-blue, some Hindu traditions often ascribe varying interpretations and powers to the names. The syllables of the name Krishna are assigned the power to destroy sin relating to material, self and divine causes, and therefore the river is venerated by the Hindus.

Kumaon Express

5311/5312 Kasganj – Lalkua (NER Izzatnagar division)

Kumaon is one of the two regions and administrative divisions of Uttaranchal, the other being Garhwal. It includes the districts of Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Nainital, Pithoragarh, and Udham Singh Nagar. Kumaon is believed to have been derived from "Kurmanchal", meaning land of the Kurmavata (the tortoise incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the preserver according to Hindu mythology). This MG train originally ran from Agra Fort to Kathgodam, but with progressive gauge conversion at both ends, its journey has been curtailed.

Kumbh Express

2369/ 2370 Howrah – Haridwar (ER Howrah division)

Kumbha is a Sanskrit word for Pitcher, sometimes referred to as the Kalasha, it is also a zodiac sign in Indian astrology for Aquarius, the sign under which the festival is celebrated, while Mela means 'a gathering' or 'a meet', or simply a fair. According to mythological legend, the Gods had lost their strength, and to regain it, they thought of churning the Ksheera Sagara (primordial ocean of milk) for amrit (the nectar of immortality), this required them to make a temporary agreement with their arch enemies, the demons or Asuras to work together, with a promise of sharing the nectar equally thereafter. However, when the Kumbha (urn) containing the amrita appeared, a fight ensued. For twelve days and twelve nights (equivalent to twelve human years) the gods and demons fought in the sky for the pot of amrita. It is believed that during the battle, the celestial bird, Garuda the vehicle of Vishnu, flew away with the Kumbha of elixir, and that is when drops of amrita fell at four places on earth: Prayag, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik, and that is where the Kumbh Mela is observed every twelve years

Kushinagar Express

1015/ 1016 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Gorakhpur (CR Mumbai division)

Kushinagar, Kusinagar or Kusinara is a town in Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh near Gorakhpur. It is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Gautama Buddha left His mortal body. It finds mention in the epic Ramayana as the city of Kush, the son of Rama, the famous king of Ayodhya. Later, it came to be known as Kushinara, one of the most important four holy sites for Buddhists. At this location, near the Hiranyavati River, Gautama Buddha attained Parinirvana (or 'Final Nirvana') after falling ill from eating a meal of a species of mushroom.

Kutch Express

9131/ 9132 Bandra Terminus – Bhuj (WR Ahmadabad division)

Kutch district (also spelled as Cutch or Kachchh) is the largest district of Gujarat and the second largest district of India after Ladakh. Bhuj is the capital city. Kachchh literally means something which intermittently becomes wet and dry; large part of this district known as Rann of Kachchh is shallow wet-land which submerges in water during the rainy season and becomes dry during other seasons. The same word is also used in the languages of Sanskrit origin for a tortoise, and garments to be worn while having a bath.

Lal Qila Express

3111/ 3112 Sealdah – Delhi (ER Sealdah division)

The Delhi Fort also known as Lal Qilah, or Lal Qila, meaning the Red Fort, is located in the walled city of Delhi. Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan started construction of the massive fort in 1638 and work was completed in 1648. The Red Fort was originally referred to as "Qila-i-Mubarak" (the blessed fort), because it was the residence of the royal family. It was the palace for Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's new capital, Shahjahanabad, the seventh great city in the Delhi region. On 15th August 1947, India became an independent nation and Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister, unveiled the National Flag on the ramparts of the fort. This practice of unfurling the national flag with a speech by the Prime Minister on Independence Day continues to this day.

Lalbagh Express

2607/ 2608 Chennai Central – Bangalore City (SWR Bangalore division)

The Lalbagh Botanical Garden, Bangalore is of royal origin and was started initially as a private garden in an area of 40 acres by Hyder Ali, one of the most famous rulers of old Mysore in 1760. Initially designed in Mughal style, on the model of an extensive garden at Sira in Tumkur near Bangalore, this garden was further developed by Hyder Ali's son Tipu Sultan and subsequently by the British and Indian doyens of horticulture by extension of area and addition of a number of plant species. Today, the garden is a lush green paradise with an area of 240 acres in the heart of Bangalore city.

Lashkar Express

2161/ 2162 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Agra Cantt. (CR Mumbai division)

When introduced, the train used to terminate at Gwalior. Lashkar, a locality in Gwalior, centered on Jayaji Square, is derived from the Persian language, meaning army, or camp, as it was originally the camp, and later the permanent capital, of the Scindia dynasty of Gwalior state.

Licchavi Express

4005/ 4006 Sitamarhi – New Delhi (NR Delhi division)

The Licchavis were the most famous clan amongst the ruling confederate clans of the Vajji mahajanapada (great countries) of ancient India. Vaishali, the capital of the Licchavis was the capital of the Vajji mahajanapada also. The date of the establishment of the Licchavi domination over the area consisting of present day north Bihar and terai region of Nepal is not known. By the time of Mahavira and Gautama Buddha this clan was already well settled in the area around their capital Vaishali.

Lohit Express

5651/ 5652 Guwahati – Jammu Tawi (NFR Lumding division)

The old Sanskrit name for the Brahmaputra River is Lauhitya, which was a Sanskritized version of the local Assamese name “Luit” (original 'Lao-ti' or 'Dilao'). The name could also refer to the Lohit River in Arunachal Pradesh, which is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River.

Lokshakti Express

9143/9144 Bandra Terminus – Ahmadabad (WR Ahmadabad division)

Lokshakti means “People’s Power”. This could be a reference to Gandhiji, who used People Power to topple the mighty British Empire.

Madhya Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express

2121/2122 Jabalpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WCR Jabalpur division)

Madhya Pradesh (Central Province) was created in 1950 from the former British Central Provinces and Berar and the princely states of Makrai and Chhattisgarh, with Nagpur as the capital of the state. The new states of Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, and Bhopal were formed out of the Central India Agency. On 1st November 1956, the states of Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, and Bhopal were merged into Madhya Pradesh, and the Marathi-speaking southern region Vidarbha, which included Nagpur, was ceded to Bombay state. Bhopal became the new capital of the state. Madhya Pradesh, in its present form, came into existence on 1st November 2000, following its bifurcation to create a new state of Chhattisgarh. Madhya Pradesh, because of its central location in India, has remained a crucible of historical currents from North, South, East and West.

Magadh Express

2401/2402 Islampur – New Delhi (NR Delhi division)

Magadha formed one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas (“Great Countries”) or regions in ancient India. The core of the kingdom was the area of Bihar south of the Ganges; its first capital was Rajagaha (modern Rajgir) then Pataliputra (modern Patna). Magadha expanded to include most of Bihar and Bengal, followed by much of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The ancient kingdom of Magadha is mentioned in the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and the Puranas. Two of India's major religions (Buddhism and Jainism) started from Magadha; two of India's greatest empires, the Maurya Empire and Gupta Empire, originated from Magadha. These empires saw advancements in ancient India's science, mathematics, astronomy, religion, and philosophy, and were considered the Indian "Golden Age".

Mahabodhi Express

2397/ 2398 Gaya – New Delhi (ECR Danapur division)

The Mahabodhi Temple (Literally: "Great Awakening Temple") is a Buddhist temple in Bodh Gaya, the location where Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, attained enlightenment under the holy Bodhi tree. Traditional accounts say that, around 530 BC, Siddhartha Gautama, a young Indian Prince who saw the suffering of the world and wanted to end it,

reached the sylvan banks of Falgu River, near the city of Gaya. There he sat in meditation under a peepul tree (*Ficus religiosa* or Sacred Fig), which later became known as the Bodhi tree. According to Buddhist scriptures, after three days and three nights, Siddhartha attained enlightenment and the answers that he had sought. The Mahabodhi Temple was built to mark that location.

Mahakoshal Express

2189/ 2190 Jabalpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WCR Jabalpur division)

Mahakoshal (also Mahakaushal) is a region of central India, lying in the upper or eastern reaches of the Narmada River valley in Madhya Pradesh. Jabalpur is the largest city in the region. Nimar region lies to the west. The Vindhya Range forms the northern boundary of the region; north of the Vindhya Ranges lie the regions of Malwa to the northwest, Bundelkhand to the north, and Bagelkhand to the northeast. Chhattisgarh state lies to the east, and the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state lies to the south across the Satpura Range.

Mahalaxmi Express

1011/ 1012 Mumbai C.S.T. – C. Shahu Maharaj Terminus Kolhapur (CR Pune division)

The Shri Mahalaxmi Temple of Kolhapur is one of the Shakti Peethas listed in various Puranas of Hinduism. A Shakti Peetha is a place associated with Shakti, the goddess of power. The Kolhapur Shakti Peetha is of special religious significance being one of the six places where it is believed that one can either obtain salvation from desires or have them fulfilled. The temple takes its name from Mahalaxmi, the consort of Vishnu, and it is believed that the divine couple resides in the area.

Mahanagari Express

1093/1094 Mumbai C.S.T. – Varanasi (CR Mumbai division)

The word “mahanagari” means great city, a reference to the megalopolis, Mumbai.

Maharashtra Express

1039/1040 C. Shahu Maharaj Terminus Kolhapur – Gondia (CR Pune division)

Maharashtra Sampark Kranti Express

2907/ 2908 Bandra Terminus – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WR Mumbai division)

These trains are named after the state of Maharashtra. In 246 BC, Maharashtra is mentioned as one of the places to which Mauryan emperor Ashoka sent an embassy, and Maharashtra (Great Country) is recorded in a Chalukyan inscription of 580 AD as including three provinces and 99,000 villages. The name Maharashtra also appeared in a 7th century inscription and in the account of a Chinese traveler, Hiuen-Tsang.

Maitree Express

3107/ 3108 Dhaka Cantt. – Kolkata (Bangladesh Railways)
3109/ 3110 Kolkata – Dhaka Cantt. (ER Sealdah division)

The Maitree Express (Moitri Express) or Kolkata – Dhaka Express is a train serving the Indian city of Kolkata and the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka. It is the only railway link for passengers between the cities of the two nations and has been revived after being closed for 43 years. The name Maitree Express means the “Friendship Express”, denoting the significance of the train service to the foreign relations between India and Bangladesh. The inauguration of the train service was held on the occasion of the Bengali New Year, April 14th 2008. The train runs with a Bangladeshi rake on Tuesdays from Dhaka, returning from Kolkata on Wednesdays. On Saturdays, it runs with an Indian rake from Kolkata, returning from Dhaka on Sundays.

Malabar Express

6629/ 6630 Thiruvananthapuram Central – Mangalore Central (SR Palakkad division)

Malabar is a region of southern India, lying between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. The name is thought to be derived from the Malayalam word Mala (Hill) and Persian word Bar (Kingdom) or Bar (port) from Arabic language. This part of India was a part of the British East India company controlled Madras Presidency, when it was designated as Malabar District . It included the northern half of the state of Kerala and some coastal regions of present day Karnataka. The name is sometimes extended to the entire southwestern coast of the peninsula, called the Malabar Coast.

Malani Express

4059A/ 4060 A Delhi – Barmer (NR Delhi division)

Guda Malani is a tehsil headquarters in Barmer district of Rajasthan.

Malwa Express

2919/ 2920 Indore – Jammu Tawi (WR Ratlam division)

Malwa is a region in west-central India occupying a plateau of volcanic origin in the western part of Madhya Pradesh. This region had been a separate political unit from the time of the Indian tribe of Malawas until 1947, when the British Malwa Agency was merged into Madhya Bharat, which later formed part of Madhya Pradesh. The region includes the Madhya Pradesh districts of Dewas, Dhar, Indore, Jhabua, Mandasaur, Neemuch, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Shajapur, Ujjain, and parts of Guna and Sehore, and the Rajasthan districts of Jhalawar and parts of Banswara and Chittaurgarh. The name Malwa is derived from the name of the ancient Aryan tribe of Malavas, about who very little is known apart from the fact that they created the Vikrama Samvat, a calendar dating from 57 BC that is widely used in India and is popularly associated with King Chandragupta Vikramaditya. The name Malava is derived from the Sanskrit term Malav, and means “part of the abode of Lakshmi.”

Mandore Express

2461/ 2462 Delhi – Jodhpur (NWR Jodhpur division)

Mandore is a town located 9 km north of Jodhpur city. It was the seat of the Mandorva branch of the Parihar (Pratihara) dynasty which ruled the region in the 6th century AD. In 1395 AD, a princess of the Parihar rulers of Mandore married Chundaji, scion of the Rathore clan of Rajputs, and Chundaji received Mandore in dowry. The town remained the seat of the Rathore clan until 1459 AD, when Rao Jodha, a Rathore chief who united the surrounding region under his rule, shifted his capital to the newly founded city of Jodhpur.

Mandovi Express

0103/ 0104 Mumbai C.S.T. – Madgaon (KR Karwar division – maintenance by SWR)

The Mandovi River is described as the lifeline of the state of Goa. The river has a length of 77 km and originates from a cluster of 30 springs at Bhimgad in the Western Ghats. The Dudhsagar Falls lie on the Mandovi. Panaji, the state capital and Old Goa, the former capital of Goa, are both situated on the left bank of the Mandovi.

Mangala Lakshadweep Express

2617/ 2618 Ernakulam – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Originally named Mangala Express, the train originated from Mangalore and ran via North Kerala – Coimbatore – Jolarpettai – Gudur – Vijayawada – Nagpur – Itarsi. Then it was diverted via the Konkan railway and Bhusaval, and so it was extended to Ernakulam to maintain the connectivity of North Kerala with Delhi. It was also renamed as the Mangala Lakshadweep Express at the same time to give the Union Territory of Lakshadweep a claim to a train. The Goddess Mangaladevi gives the city of Mangalore its name. She is the main deity of the Mangaladevi Temple at Bolar in Mangalore. The name Mangalore is the Anglicized version, since in Kannada it is called Mangalooru. It translates as Mangala-Ooru or Mangala's town. Lakshadweep, the smallest union territory of India, is a group of islands 200 to 300 km off the coast of Kerala in the Laccadive Sea. Lakshadweep comes from Lakshadweepa, which literally means one hundred thousand (laksha) islands (dweepa) in Sanskrit.

Marathwada Express

7687/ 7688 Manmad – Dharmabad (SCR Nanded division)

The name Marathwada identifies one of the five regions in Maharashtra, coinciding with the Aurangabad Division. Marathwada comprises the districts of Parbhani, Aurangabad, Beed, Hingoli, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, and Osmanabad. The term “Marathwada” has its origin in the word “Bara-hatti-vada (region of people with twelve elephants, i.e. wealthy people)”. The region was part of the Nizam’s domain, which later came to be known as the princely state of Hyderabad. On November 1st 1956, Marathwada was transferred from Hyderabad state to Bombay state. On May 1st 1960, Bombay state was divided into Maharashtra and Gujarat states, Marathwada becoming a part of the former.

Marudhar Express

4853/ 4854 Varanasi – Jodhpur via Faizabad (NWR Jodhpur division)
4863/ 4864 Varanasi – Jodhpur via Sultanpur (NWR Jodhpur division)
4865/ 4866 Varanasi – Jodhpur via Partapgarh (NWR Jodhpur division)

The word 'Marudhar' means 'desert.'

Maru Sagar Express

2977/ 2978 Ernakulam – Ajmer (NWR Ajmer division)

The word Maru Sagar means "Desert – Ocean". The word Maru refers to the Thar Desert in Rajasthan. The word Sagar refers to the ocean (Arabian Sea) lying on the West Coast.

Matsyagandha Express

2619/ 2620 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Mangalore Central (SR Palakkad division)

Matsyagandha literally means "Fragrance/Smell of Fish" - the name was given since the train runs along the fishing coast of Western India adjoining the Arabian Sea - Konkan railway route.

Maurva Express

5027/ 5028 Hatia – Gorakhpur (NER Lucknow division)

The Maurya Empire was a geographically extensive and powerful empire in ancient India, ruled by the Mauryan dynasty from 321 to 185 B.C. Originating from the kingdom of Magadha in modern Bihar, the empire had its capital city at Pataliputra (modern Patna). The Empire was founded in 322 BC by Chandragupta Maurya. At its greatest extent, the Empire stretched to the north along the natural boundaries of the Himalayas, and to the east stretching into what is now Assam. To the west, it reached beyond modern Pakistan, annexing Baluchistan and much of what is now Afghanistan. The Empire was expanded into India's central and southern regions by the emperors Chandragupta and Bindusara. Bindusara's son Ashoka was of course one of the greatest Emperors India has ever known.

Maveli Express

6603/ 6604 Mangalore Central – Thiruvananthapuram Central (SR Palakkad division)

Mahabali, also known as Maveli was a benevolent Asura King, and the grandson of Prahlada. According to the legend, Kerala witnessed its golden era during the reign of king Mahabali. Everybody in the state was happy and prosperous and king was highly regarded by his subjects. Apart from all his virtues, Mahabali had one shortcoming. He was egoistic. This weakness in Mahabali's character was utilized by Gods to bring an end to his reign as they felt challenged by Mahabali's growing popularity. However, for all the good deeds done by Mahabali, God granted him a boon that he could annually visit his people with whom he was so attached. It is this visit of Mahabali that is celebrated as Onam every year.

Mewar Express

2963/ 2964 Hazrat Nizamuddin – Udaipur City (NWR Ajmer division)

Mewar includes the districts of Bhilwara, Chittaurgarh, Rajsamand and Udaipur. The region was for centuries a Rajput kingdom that later became a princely state under the British. It was ruled by the Chattari Rajputs of Guhilot and Sisodia dynasties for over 1200 years. Known for its long history of bravery, Mewar has been home to such valiant souls like Bappa Rawal, Rani Padmini (who committed Jauhar rather than submit to conquest by Alauddin Khilji), Rana Kumbha, Rana Sangha and Maharana Pratap.

Millennium Express

2645/ 2646 Ernakulam – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

A millennium is a period of time equal to one thousand years (from Latin mille, thousand, and annum, year). Possibly the train was named to commemorate the beginning of a new millennium at the turn of the century. Many other trains were also called Millennium Express, but this one is stuck with the name.

Mithila Express

3021/ 3022 Howrah – Raxaul (ER Howrah division)

Mithilanchal Express

3155/ 3156 Kolkata – Darbhanga (ER Sealdah division)

Mithila was a city in ancient India, the capital of the Videha Kingdom. The name Mithila is also commonly used to refer to the Videha Kingdom itself, as well as to the modern-day territories that fall within the ancient boundaries of Videha. The city of Mithila has been identified as modern day Janakpur in Dhanusa district of Nepal.

Mour Dhvaj Express

2491/ 2492 Sonpur – Jammu Tawi (NR Firozpur division)

Mour : Peacock, Dhvaj : Flag. But I was not able to find any reference to any flag depicting a Peacock for the Princely states along the route of the train. The only Peacock Dynasties I could find were the ones in Tamluk (Tamralipta), Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar, all 3 far away on the Bengal – Orissa border.

Muri Express

8101/ 8102 Tatanagar – Jammu Tawi (SER Chakradharpur division)

8601/ 8602 Hatia – Jammu Tawi (SER Ranchi division)

Muri is a town, 62 km from Ranchi in Jharkhand. It is an important railway junction, where the two parts of the train, one from Tatanagar and the other from Hatia are joined, to continue its journey to Jammu via Delhi, Amritsar and Pathankot.

Mussoorie Express

4041/ 4042 Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Dehra Dun (NR Delhi division)

Mussoorie Link Express

4041A/ 4042A Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Dehra Dun (NR Delhi division)

Mussoorie is a town, about 34 km from Dehra Dun in Uttaranchal. This hill station, situated in the foothills of the Himalaya ranges, is also known as the Queen of the Hills. The name Mussoorie is often attributed to a derivation of 'mansoor', a shrub which is indigenous to the area. The town is in fact often referred to as 'Mansoori' by locals.

Nagavali Express

8309/ 8310 Sambalpur – Nizamabad (ECoR Sambalpur division)

The River Nagavali is one of the main rivers of Southern Orissa and North Eastern Andhra Pradesh, between the Mahanadi and Godavari basins. It rises in the eastern slopes of the Eastern Ghats near Lakhbahal in the Kalahandi district of Orissa and flows into the Bay of Bengal near Srikakulam. It drains parts of the Kalahandi, Rayagada and Koraput districts of Orissa and Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Vishakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh. Rayagada and Srikakulam are two important towns situated on its banks.

Nainital Express

5307/ 5308 Lalkua – Aishbagh (NER Izzatnagar division)

Nainital is a town in Uttaranchal and headquarters of Nainital district in the Kumaon foothills of the outer Himalayas. Situated at an altitude of 1,938 meters (6,358 feet) above sea level, Nainital is set in a valley containing a pear-shaped lake (Tal), and surrounded by mountains, of which the highest is Naina (2,615 m or 8,579 ft) to the north. It is believed that the Naini Lake is one of the 64 Shakti Peethas, or religious sites where parts of the charred body of Sati (Parvati) fell on earth while being carried by Lord Shiva. The spot where Sati's eyes (or Nain) fell, came to be called Nain-tal or lake of the eye. The goddess Shakti is worshipped at the Naina Devi Temple on the north shore of the present day lake.

Nandigram Express

1401/ 1402 Mumbai C.S.T. – Nagpur via Nanded (CR Nagpur division)

Nanded is widely believed to have originated from Nandi, the vehicle of Lord Shiva, who performed penance on the banks (Tat) of the River Godavari. Thus Nanditat became Nanded, also known as Nandigram (the village of Nandi).

Narayanadri Express

2733/ 2734 Tirupati – Secunderabad (SCR Guntakal division)

Tirumala Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple is a famous Hindu Temple of Lord Venkateswara located in the hill town Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh. The temple is built on the Venkatadri hill, one of the seven hills of Tirumala, and hence is also known as the Temple of Seven Hills (Saptagiri in Sanskrit). The Tirumala Hill is 3200 ft above sea level and comprises seven peaks, representing the seven hoods of Adisesha, thus earning the name, Seshachalam. The seven peaks are called Seshadri, Neeladri, Garudadri, Anjanadri, Vrushabadri, Narayanadri (the Hill of Narayana) and Venkatadri.

Narmada Express

8233/ 8234 Indore – Bilaspur (SECR Bilaspur division)

The Narmada is the fifth largest river in the Indian subcontinent. Narmada is a Sanskrit word meaning 'the Giver of Pleasure'. It forms the traditional boundary between North India and South India and flows westwards over a length of 1,312 km before draining through the Gulf of Khambat into the Arabian Sea, 30 km west of Bharuch. It is one of only three major rivers in peninsular India that runs from east to west (largest west flowing river) along with the Tapti River and the Mahi River. It flows through the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Narmada happens to be one of the most sacred of the five holy rivers of India; the other four being Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari and Kaveri. It is believed that a dip in any of these five rivers washes ones sins away. According to a legend, the river Ganga is polluted by millions of people bathing in it. To cleanse herself, Ganga acquires the form of a black cow and comes to the Narmada to bathe in its holy waters.

Nauchandi Express

4511/ 4512 Allahabad – Saharanpur (NR Ambala division)

Legend has it that Mandodari, the wife of Ravan (the demon king of Lanka in the epic Ramayana), was born in a devil's house in Meerut. She was, however, a great devotee of goddess Chandi and had a temple constructed in honor of the goddess. A religious festival was held to celebrate this occasion. Since then the Nauchandi mela is held on the second Sunday after Holi every year in Meerut. For a month, the city hums with activity as people from far and near coming to participate in the fair.

Navjeevan Express

2655/ 2656 Ahmadabad – Chennai Central (SR Salem division – RSA with 2673/ 2674 Cheran Express)

Named after a Gandhian principle, Navjeevan means “New Life”, a reference to the new life that Gandhiji wished for the people by following his principles of satya (truth), ahimsa (non violence), simplicity and religious tolerance.

Navyug Express

6687/ 6688 Mangalore Central – Jammu Tawi (SR Palakkad division)

Again, it is a reference to the “New Era” which Gandhiji wished for the people by following his principles of satya (truth), ahimsa (non violence), simplicity and religious tolerance.

Neelachal Express

2875/ 2876 Puri – New Delhi (ECoR Khurda Road division)

Neela : Blue, Achal : hill (something which cannot be moved). This is a reference to Krishna, the blue God, who is in residence in Puri as Jagannath. It is also an older name for the city of Puri.

Nellai Express

2631/ 2632 Chennai Egmore – Tirunelveli (SR Madurai division)

Nellai is the name given to Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts of Tamil Nadu. It was once ruled by the Pandyan Kings. Nellai Tamil is distinct from Madurai Tamil, Kongu Tamil and Chennai Tamil which are other Tamil dialects. It has been claimed that Nellai Tamil is the first and purest form of Tamil.

Netravati Express

6345/ 6346 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Thiruvananthapuram Central (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

The train ran from Mumbai to Mangalore before the opening of the Konkan Railway route, and was extended first to Ernakulam and then to Thiruvananthapuram. The Netravati River has its origins in Chikkamagaluru district of Karnataka. This river flows through the famous pilgrimage place Dharmasthala and considered as one of the Holy rivers of India. It is the main source of water to Bantwal and Mangalore.

Nilgiri Express

2671/ 2672 Chennai Central – Mettupalaiyam (SR Salem division)

The Nilgiri Express (also known as the Blue Mountain Express, or Nilgiri Express) is named after the Nilgiri (Tamil, English - Nil - Blue; Giri - Mountain) Hills. The train is primarily intended for travelers to these hills, especially to the towns of Ooty, Coonoor and Kotagiri. Mettupalaiyam is at the foot of these hills, and the Nilgiri Express links to the Nilgiri passenger train operated by the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) at Mettupalaiyam station, enabling passengers to complete the journey to Udhagamandalam (Ooty) by rail.

North East Express

2505/ 2506 Guwahati – New Delhi (NFR Lumding division)

Providing a fast and convenient connection between the national capital Delhi and the north eastern states through the gateway of Guwahati city, this train is also known by its Hindi name, Purvottar Express.

Orissa Sampark Kranti Express

2819/ 2820 Bhubaneshwar – New Delhi (ECoR Khurda Road division)

This train has been named for the state of Orissa. The name Oriya originated from Odra or Udra tribes that inhabited the central belt (Angul, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Baudh, and Balangir) of modern Orissa.

Padatik Express

2377/ 2378 Sealdah – New Jalpaiguri (ER Sealdah division)

Subhash Mukhopadhyay (1919 – 2003) was one of the foremost Bengali poets of the 20th century. He was born in Krishnanagar, a town in Nadia district. In 1940, while still a student, he published his first volume of poetry Padatik (The Foot-Soldier). Many critics regard this book as a milestone in the development of modern Bengali poetry. In his poetry, Subhash grappled with the massive upheavals of that era which ruptured Bengali society from top to bottom. The 1940s were marked by world war, famine, partition, communal riots and mass emigration in Bengal. Subhash's writings broke away from the traditional moorings of the establishment poets, and instead addressed the despair and disillusion felt by the common people.

Padmavat Express

4207/ 4208 Partapgarh – Delhi (NR Lucknow division)

Padmavat is an epic poem written in 1540 by Malik Muhammad Jayasi, who hailed from Jais, a city in Rae Bareilly district. Written in the Awadhi language, this poem is a fictionalized version of the historic siege of Chittor in 1303 by Alauddin Khilji, who attacks Chittor after hearing of the beauty of Queen Rani Padmini, the wife of King Rawal Ratan Singh.

Padmavati Express

2763/ 2764 Tirupati – Secunderabad (SCR Guntakal division)

Padmavati (Padmavathi or Padmavathy) is a Hindu Goddess, believed to be a form of Lakshmi, the Hindu Goddess of wealth and good fortune. She is the consort of Sri Venkateswara of Tirupati. The name Padmavati is Sanskrit for "she who emerged from a lotus".

Paharia Express

5721/ 5722 Digha – New Jalpaiguri (NFR Katihar division)

Connecting the coastal region of West Bengal to the foot of the mountains in northern Bengal, this train is supposed to act as a bridge between the ocean and the mountains, and boost tourism in the state.

Palamau Express

3347/ 3348 Barkakana – Patna (ECR Dhanbad division)

Palamau is one of the twenty-four districts of Jharkhand. The etymological derivation of the term Palamau is the land of the Palas and Mahua. Daltonganj named after Colonel Dalton, Commissioner of Chhota Nagpur in 1861, is the district headquarters. The district is home to the famous Palamau National Park (Betla National Park) known for its wild life. The Palamau National Park was brought under Project Tiger in the year 1973 and is among the original tiger reserves of India.

Pallavan Express

2605/ 2606 Chennai Egmore – Tiruchhirapalli (SR Madurai division – RSA with 2635/ 2636 Vaigai Express)

The Pallava dynasty ruled northern Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh with their capital at Kanchipuram. Originally, descendants of warriors from Northwest India, they settled in the Guntur region of Andhra Pradesh in the 6th century BC and dominated the Telugu and northern parts of the Tamil region until the end of the 9th century AD. The word Pallava means branch in Sanskrit, in contrast with Chola meaning new country, Pandya meaning old country and Chera meaning hill country in the Sangam Tamil lexicon. The Pallavas are considered to be later offshoot of the Cholas. Throughout their reign, they were in constant conflict with both the Chalukyas of Badami in the north, and the Tamil kingdoms of the Cholas and Pandyas in the south and were finally defeated by the Chola kings in the 9th century AD.

Palnad Express

2747/ 2748 Guntur – Vikarabad (SCR Guntur division)

Palnadu is the northern region of Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh. Also known as Pallava Nadu, it occupies an important place in Telugu history. After the decline of the Satavahana dynasty, the Pallavas became independent in the Krishna river valley. The region is known as Palnadu in memory of ancient Pallavas.

Panchavati Express

2109/ 2110 Mumbai C.S.T. – Manmad (CR Bhusaval division)

Panchavati is a famous religious and pilgrimage place in Nasik city. The name is derived from the Sanskrit pancha five, vata Banyan Tree. The area of five Banyan trees is situated on the banks of River Godavari, one of which is an Ashoka tree. Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita and brother Laxman, stayed in Panchavati during their Vanvasa period. There is also a cave here called Sita Gupha. The famous Laxman Rekha is located in Panchavati about a kilometer away from Sita Gupha. It was from here that Ravana abducted Goddess Sita. Today this area is a major pilgrimage and tourist attraction.

Pandyan Express

2637/ 2638 Chennai Egmore – Madurai (SR Madurai division)

The Pandyan Kingdom was an ancient Tamil state with their capital at Madurai. Pandyan was well known since the ancient period, with diplomatic contacts even reaching the Roman Empire. In the Sangam Tamil lexicon the word Pandya means old country in contrast with Chola meaning new country, Chera meaning hill country and Pallava meaning branch in Sanskrit.

Parasnath Express

2941/ 2942 Ahmadabad – Asansol (WR Ahmadabad division)

The word Parasnath comes from the 23rd Jain Tirthankara Shri Parshwanath Bhagwan. Parasnath hills are a range of small to medium size hills (highest peak 1,350 meters (4,400 ft)), located in Jharkhand. In Jainism, the Parasnath hills are referred to as Shri Sammet Shikhar Teerth. They are one of the two most prominent Jain pilgrimage centers, the other being Shetrunjaya, located in Gujarat. Twenty Jain Tirthankars, out of twenty-four attained salvation in the Parasnath hills.

Parasuram Express

6349/ 6350 Thiruvananthapuram Central – Mangalore Central (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Parasuram (also known as Bhrigupati, Bhargava, Bhargava Rama or Jamadagnya), a Brahmin, is considered the sixth avatar of Vishnu. Parashu means axe, hence his name literally means Rama-of-the-axe. He received an axe after undertaking a terrible penance to please Shiva, from whom he learned the methods of warfare and other skills. He fought the advancing ocean back thus saving the lands of Konkan and Malabar. The coastal area of Kerala state along with the Konkan region, i.e., coastal Maharashtra and Karnataka, is also sometimes called Parasuram Kshetra (Parasuram's area). Some say it extends all the way to Mumbai in Maharashtra.

Paschim Express

2925/ 2925 Bandra Terminus – Amritsar/ Kalka (WR Mumbai division)

This train connects the national capital Delhi to the great Western (Paschim) city of Mumbai. Originally called Air Conditioned Express or Deluxe Express, it now runs daily from Mumbai to Amritsar via Delhi, and even provides a link to Kalka (for Shimla).

Pataliputra Express

8621/ 8622 Patna – Hatia (SER Ranchi division)

Pataliputra, modern-day Patna, was originally built by Ajatashatru in 490 BC as a small fort near the River Ganges, and later became the capital of the ancient Mahajanapadas kingdom of Magadha. Lord Buddha visited it shortly before his death and prophesied it would be great, but would face destruction either by fire, water, or civil war. During the reign of Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BC, it was the world's largest city, with a population of 150,000-300,000. Pataliputra reached the pinnacle of prosperity when it was the capital of the great Mauryan Emperors, Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka the

Great. The city was largely in ruins when visited by Hiuen tsang, and suffered further damage at the hands of Muslim raiders in the 12th century. Afterwards Sher Shah Suri made Pataliputra his capital and changed the name to modern Patna. The etymology of Pataliputra is unclear. "Putra" means son, and "patali" is a species of rice or the plant *Bignonia suaveolens*. One traditional etymology holds that the city was named after the plant. Another tradition says that Pataliputra means the son of Patali, who was the daughter of Raja Sudarshan. As it was known as Patali-grama originally, some scholars believe that Pataliputra is a transformation of Patalipura, "Patali town".

Patalkot Express

1103/ 1104 Chhindwara – Jhansi (NCR Jhansi division)

Patalkot is a tourist site in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh. The Patalkot valley is located at a distance of 78 km from Chhindwara. The Doodhi River flows in the picturesque valley. This horse–shoe shaped valley is surrounded by giant hills and there are several pathways to reach the villages located inside the valley. There is a belief that after worshipping Lord Shiva, Prince Meghnath had gone to Patal-lok through this place only. Traditionally, the site is believed to be the entrance to Patal. This valley had long been cut off from the civilized culture outside and was discovered only few years back. Patalkot has been a home to a tribal (Gond) culture and custom since its origin.

Pearl City Express

2601/ 2602 Chennai Egmore – Tuticorin (SR Chennai division)

Thoothukudi also known as Tuticorin is a city in southern Tamil Nadu. Tuticorin is also known as "Pearl City" (Muthu Nagar in Tamil) as it is traditionally known for its pearl fishing industry.

Pinakini Express

2711/ 2712 Chennai Central – Vijayawada (SCR Vijayawada division)

The Pinakini is another name for the Penner River. It rises in the Nandi Hills in Chikballapur District of Karnataka, and runs 560 km (350 miles) north and east through Andhra Pradesh to empty into the Bay of Bengal 15 km east of Nellore. The name Pinakin is another name for Lord Shiva, and literally means "Wielder of the Bow", though I could not find the context behind the name of the river.

Podhigai Express

2661/ 2662 Chennai Egmore – Sengottai (SR Chennai division)

The Pothigai (Podhigai) Malai (hill), also known as the Agasthiyar Malai, is in the Ashambu hills, part of the Anaimalai Hills in the Western Ghats of Southern India. Legend says that Sage Agasthya (also written as Agasthiyar) created the Tamil language here. According to the Mahabharata, Lord Shiva sent the two saints (or sages) Vyasa and Agasthya to create the divine languages Sanskrit and Tamil. Agasthiyar came to Pothigai

and established the Tamil culture. The Tamil spoken in the Tirunelveli district is considered to be very pure.

Poorbiya Express

5279/ 5280 Saharsa – Adarshnagar Delhi (ECR Samastipur division)

Poorab (Purab) means East. This train connects Eastern part of the country (Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh) with the national capital Delhi.

Poorna Express

1097/ 1098 Pune – Ernakulam (CR Pune division)

Poorna (Complete) is another name for the Periyar River in Kerala. The Periyar River is the longest river in the state of Kerala, with a length of 244 km. The Periyar is known as the lifeline of Kerala; it is one of the few perennial rivers in the region and provides drinking water for several major towns.

Poorva Express

2303/ 2304 Howrah – New Delhi via Patna (ER Howrah division)

2381/ 2382 Howrah – New Delhi via Gaya (ER Howrah division)

This train connects the national capital Delhi to the great Eastern (Poorva) city of Kolkata. Originally called Air Conditioned Express or Deluxe Express, it now runs daily from Kolkata to Delhi, some days via Patna and other days via Gaya.

Pragati Express

2125/ 2126 Mumbai C.S.T. – Pune (CR Pune division)

The word pragati means progress in Marathi. Mumbai and Pune regions are one of the most progressive regions in the state of Maharashtra.

Pratham Swatantrata Sangram Express

1105/ 1106 Kolkata – Jhansi (NCR Jhansi division)

The train, which has been named after the First War of Indian Independence, has also stirred up a lot of controversies over its name. Initially it was to be named Gadar Express (meaning Revolt or Revolution), but members of the Rajya Sabha objected to the name as it had negative connotations. So it was named the Pratham Swatantrata Sangram Express. Recent developments saw it extended to Kolkata and being renamed as Sipahi Express (meaning Soldier). Again objections were raised, as to how a name which was passed in Parliament could be changed arbitrarily, as this amounts to dishonoring the martyrs who laid down their lives for the war of independence. So the original name has stuck. Jhansi was the home of Rani Laxmibai, who was in the forefront of the First War of Indian Independence. In 1857, Barrackpore was the scene of an incident that some credit with starting the uprising against the British; an Indian soldier, Mangal Pandey, attacked his British commander, and was subsequently court-martialled. His regiment was disbanded,

an action which offended a number of sepoys and is considered to have contributed to the anger that fueled the rebellion.

Prashanti Express

8463/ 8464 Bhubaneswar – Bangalore City (ECoR Khurda Road division)

Prasanthi Nilayam is the name of the main ashram of Sathya Sai Baba. The township of Prasanthi Nilayam is located in the village of Puttaparthi, the hamlet where Sri Sathya Sai Baba was born. This area is part of the Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh "Prasanthi Nilayam" means literally "Abode of the Highest Peace".

Prayagraj Express

2417/ 2418 Allahabad – New Delhi (NCR Allahabad division)

In ancient times, Allahabad city was known as Prayag (place of the confluences). It was considered to be the place where Brahma offered his first sacrifice after creating the world.

Prerana Express

1453/ 1454 Ahmadabad – Nagpur (CR Nagpur division)

The word Prerana means Inspiration, though the connection between the word and the train name is not clear.

Punjab Mail

2137/ 2138 Mumbai C.S.T. – Firozpur Cantt. (CR Mumbai division)

3005/ 3006 Howrah – Amritsar (ER Howrah division)

The trains originally connected the two big ports of Bombay and Calcutta to the capital of the Punjab, Lahore. After partition, the trains were terminated at Firozpur and Amritsar respectively. Though only the Bombay train officially bears the name, the Howrah train is still unofficially called the Punjab Mail, especially in Bengal and Bihar. The name Punjab itself is derived from the Persian language – Panj: Five, Ab: Water or rivers, commemorating the five tributaries of the Indus river.

Purushottam Express

2801/ 2802 Puri – New Delhi (ECoR Khurda Road division)

Purushottama (Purush + Uttam = Purushottam) means "Supreme Purusha", "Supreme Being." Purushottama is also one of the names of Vishnu. The word "Puri" in Sanskrit means 'town', or 'city', but in this case, the city's name is believed to be derived from Purushottama one of the 108 Shakti Peethas.

Purvanchal Express

5047/ 5048 Kolkata – Gorakhpur via Siwan (NER Lucknow division)

5049/ 5050 Kolkata – Gorakhpur via Mau (NER Lucknow division)

5051/ 5052 Kolkata – Gorakhpur via Narkatiaganj (NER Lucknow division)

The eastern region of Uttar Pradesh and adjoining areas of Bihar are called ‘Purvanchal,’ meaning ‘eastern lands.’

Purvottar Sampark Kranti Express

2501/ 2502 Guwahati – New Delhi (NFR Lumding division)

This train connects the North Eastern region (Purvottar) with the national capital Delhi through the gateway of Guwahati.

Pushpak Express

2533/ 2534 Lucknow Jn. – Mumbai C.S.T. (NER Lucknow division)

Pushpak is the flying chariot of Ravana in Hindu mythology. This was the fastest train connection between Lucknow and Mumbai when introduced.

Rajasthan Sampark Kranti Express

2463/ 2464 Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Jodhpur (NWR Jodhpur division)

2463A/ 2464A Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Bikaner (NWR Bikaner division)

Literally meaning the “Land of Kings”, Rajasthan was formed on 30th March 1949, when all erstwhile princely states ruled by Rajputs, known as Rajputana, together with the British territory of Ajmer merged into the Dominion of India.

Rajdhani Express

2235/ 2236 Guwahati – New Delhi via Muzaffarpur (NR Delhi division)

2301/ 2302 Howrah – New Delhi via Gaya (ER Howrah division)

2305/ 2306 Howrah – New Delhi via Patna (ER Howrah division)

2309/ 2310 Rajendranagar Terminus – New Delhi (ECR Danapur division)

2313/ 2314 Sealdah – New Delhi (ER Sealdah division)

2421/ 2422 Bhubaneshwar – New Delhi via Adra (NR Delhi division)

2423/ 2424 Dibrugarh Town/ Guwahati – New Delhi via Allahabad (NR Delhi division)

2425/ 2426 New Delhi – Jammu Tawi (NR Delhi division)

2429/ 2430 Bangalore City – Hazrat Nizamuddin via Raichur (NR Delhi division)

2431/ 2432 Thiruvananthapuram – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)

2433/ 2434 Chennai Central – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)

2435/ 2436 Dibrugarh Town/ Guwahati – New Delhi via Lucknow (NR Delhi division)

2437/ 2438 Secunderabad – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)

2439/ 2440 Ranchi – New Delhi via Gaya (NR Delhi division)

2441/ 2442 Howrah – New Delhi via Bilaspur (NR Delhi division)

2443/ 2444 Bhubaneshwar – New Delhi via Tatanagar (NR Delhi division)

2453/ 2454 Ranchi – New Delhi via Daltonganj (NR Delhi division)

2493/ 2494 Bangalore City – Hazrat Nizamuddin via Kurnool Town (NR Delhi division)

division)

- 2951/ 2952 Mumbai Central – New Delhi (WR Mumbai division)
2953/ 2954 Mumbai Central – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WR Mumbai division)
2957/ 2958 Ahmadabad – New Delhi (WR Ahmadabad division)

The pride of Indian Railways, these are fully air conditioned trains connecting state capitals with the national capital (Rajdhani), Delhi.

Rana Pratap Express

2495/ 2496 Bikaner – Kolkata (NWR Bikaner division)

After the conquest of Chittaurgarh by Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1568, Rana Udai Singh II of Chittaurgarh moved his family to a place in the Aravalli Hills, which came to be known as Udaipur. His son Rana Pratap Singh succeeded him as Rana. Maharana Pratap never accepted Akbar as ruler of India, and fought Akbar all his life. Akbar first tried diplomacy to win over Maharana Pratap but nothing worked. Pratap maintained that he had no intention to fight with Akbar but he could not bow down to Akbar and accept him as the ruler. Chittaurgarh (Chittaur fort), Pratap's ancestral home, was under Mughal occupation. Living a life on the run, the dream of reconquering Chittaur (and thus reclaiming the glory of Mewar) was greatly cherished by Pratap, and his future efforts were bent towards this goal. In 1576 the Mughal and Rajput armies clashed at the Battle of Haldighati, where the Rajputs were defeated. However, Rana Pratap escaped due to his valiant horse Chetak. He then lived life as an exile in the hills, often waging guerilla war on the Mughal armies. He ultimately died in 1597.

Ranakpur Express

4707/ 4708 Bikaner – Bandra Terminus (NWR Bikaner division)

Ranakpur is a village located near Sadri town in Pali district of Rajasthan. It is located between Jodhpur and Udaipur, in a valley on the western side of the Aravalli Range. It is widely known for its marble Jain temple, dedicated to Adinath, and also a much older Sun Temple.

Rani Chennamma Express

6589/ 6590 Bangalore City – C. Shahu Maharaj Terminus Kolhapur (SWR Bangalore division)

Kitturu Rani Chennamma (1778 - 1829) was the queen of the princely state of Kittur in Karnataka. In 1824, 33 years before the 1857 war of independence, she led an armed rebellion against the British in response to the Doctrine of lapse. The resistance ended in her martyrdom and she is remembered today as one of the earliest Indian rulers to have fought for independence. The train in its MG days was named Kittur Express.

Ranikhet Express

5013/ 5014 Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Kathgodam (NER Lucknow division)

Ranikhet is a hill station and cantonment town in Almora district in the Uttaranchal. Ranikhet, which means Queen's meadow in Hindi, gets its name from a local legend, which states that it was here, that Raja Sudhardev won the heart of his queen, Rani Padmini, who subsequently chose the area for her residence, giving it the name, Ranikhet.

Ranthambhore Express

2465/ 2466 Indore – Jodhpur (NWR Jodhpur division)

Ranthambhore National Park is one of the largest and most famous national parks in India. It is situated in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan, 11 km from the nearest town and railway station, Sawai Madhopur. Ranthambhore was established as the Sawai Madhopur Game Sanctuary in 1955 by the Government of India, and was declared one of the Project Tiger reserves in 1973. It became a national park in 1980. In 1984, the adjacent forests were declared the Sawai Man Singh Sanctuary and Keladevi Sanctuary, and in 1991 the tiger reserve was enlarged to include both these sanctuaries. Ranthambhore wildlife sanctuary is famous for its tigers and is one of the best places in India to see these majestic predators in the jungle. Ranthambhore National Park gets its name from the fort that stands in the middle of the park. The fort is called Ranthambhore and it gets its name from two hills - Thanbhor which is the hill on which the fort is located, and Ran, which is a hill situated close by.

Rapti Sagar Express

2511/ 2512 Gorakhpur – Thiruvananthapuram Central (NER Lucknow division)

2521/ 2522 Barauni – Ernakulam (ECR Sonpur division)

Gorakhpur is located on the bank of river Rapti, a Ganges tributary originating in Nepal that sometimes causes severe floods. The word “Sagar” means Ocean, and is a reference to the Arabian Sea, on the coast of which both Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi (Ernakulam) are situated.

Ratnachal Express

2717/ 2718 Vishakhapatnam – Vijayawada (SCR Vijayawada division)

The name means “Mountain of Gems”, but I was not able to find any reference to any such mountain in the region served by the train.

Ravi Express

4633/ 4634 Amritsar – Pathankot (NR Firozpur division)

The Ravi (pronounced Raavi) is a river flowing through India and Pakistan and is one of the five rivers which gives the Punjab its name. It originates in the Himalayas in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh and enters the Punjab plain near Madhopur near Pathankot. It then flows along the Indo-Pak border for some distance before entering Pakistan and joining the Chenab River. Within Pakistan, the city of Lahore is situated on its eastern bank.

Rayalseema Express

7429/ 7430 Hyderabad – Tirupati (SCR Guntakal division)

Rayalseema is a geographic region in Andhra Pradesh and includes the districts of Kurnool, Kadapa (formerly known as Cuddapah), Anantapur, Chittoor, parts of Prakasam and Nellore districts. Bellary district of the present day Karnataka was part of Rayalseema till the states were reorganized. The word "Rayalseema" means the land ruled by Sri Krishnadevaraya. Rayalseema was the original home of Eastern Chalukyas.

Rewanchal Express

2185/2186 Habibganj – Bhopal (WCR Bhopal division)

The name Rewanchal (anchal: area, achal: mountain) is taken from the plateau on which the city of Rewa is situated.

Rock Fort Express

6177/ 6178 Chennai Egmore – Tiruchhirapalli/ Kumbakonam

Tiruchhirapalli Rock Fort is an historic fort and temple complex built on an ancient rock situated in the town of Tiruchhirapalli in Tamil Nadu. The 83 meter rock fort situated in the center of town is a major landmark in the town of Tiruchhirapalli; it is visible from a long distance. This is also a major tourist spot among which the most famous being the Pallava era Ganesha temple and the Nayaka era fort. The fort complex has witnessed fierce battles and has also played an important part during the Carnatic wars, helping lay the foundations of the British Empire in India.

Rohilkhand Express

5309/ 5310 Aishbagh – Kasganj (NER Izzatnagar division)

Rohilkhand is a region of northwestern Uttar Pradesh on the upper Ganges alluvial plain. The area was made famous by the previous settlement of Rohillas, who were Pathan highlanders of the Yusufzai tribe, who were awarded the region by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir to suppress Rajput uprisings. Later it gained fame as Rohilkhand due to large settlements of Rohilla Pathans. Roh means mountains and in Pashto Rohilla means mountaineer. They used to speak Pashto among each other but gradually lost their language.

Rupasi Bangla Express

2883/ 2884 Howrah – Purulia (SER Kharagpur division)

Jibananda Das (1899 – 1954) is probably the most popular Bengali poet after Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. He is considered one of the precursors who introduced modernist poetry to Bengali Literature, at a period when it was influenced by Rabindranath Tagore's romantic poetry. The poem Rupasi Bangla (Bengal, the Beautiful), was written in 1934, but published posthumously in 1957.

Sabari Express

7229/ 7230 Kochuveli – Hyderabad (SCR Vijayawada division – RSA with 7255/
7256 Narasapur – Hyderabad Express)

Sabarimala or Mount Sabari - the holy abode of Lord Ayappa is situated in Kerala. Sri Ayappa is considered the third son of Lord Shiva, and the brother of Ganesha and Murugan or Kartikeya. According to the ancient scriptures or Puranas and folk songs of Kerala, Lord Ayappa was born out of Vishnu and Shiva. As the legend goes, Lord Shiva was enamored by the charms of Mohini, in which form Vishnu appeared at the time of churning the mythical Ocean of Milk in order to allure the asuras. Lord Shiva succumbed to the beauty of Mohini and Hariharaputra - son of Vishnu (Hari) and Shiva (Hara) - was born out of the union. He later came to be called Sastha or Ayappa.

Sabarmati Express

9165/ 9166 Ahmadabad – Varanasi (WR Ahmadabad division)
9167/ 9168 Ahmadabad – Darbhanga (WR Ahmadabad division)

Sabarmati Ashram, also known as Gandhi Ashram, Harijan Ashram, or Satyagraha Ashram) is located in the Ahmadabad suburb of Sabarmati, on the banks of the River Sabarmati, 4 miles away from the city Town Hall. This was one of the residences of Mahatma Gandhi. This ashram is now converted in to the national monument by the Government of India due to its significance in Indian independence movement in the form of Dandi March in 1930. The River Sabarmati originates in the Aravalli Range of Udaipur District of Rajasthan and empties in the Gulf of Khambat.

Sachkhand Express

2715/ 2716 Hazur Sahib Nanded – Amritsar (SCR Nanded division)

Sach Khand ("The Realm of Truth") is the Sikh concept of joining with God. It is achieved by the Guru's Grace. The term is also used for the room in a Gurudwara where the Guru Granth Sahib rests at night. Takht Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib is a three hundred year old historical Sikh shrine at Nanded. The Tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh reached Nanded at the end of August 1708. There he was attacked by assassins. He was mortally wounded in the attack, and breathed his last on 7th October 1708. But before his demise he proclaimed the Holy Book, Granth Sahib as the Eternal Guru of Sikhs. The place is then known as Sachkhand Gaman or Parlok Gaman, the last journey of the preacher of truth. The place will always be revered as the final resting place of the Tenth Guru and the birth place of the eternal Guru of Sikhs, Guru Granth Sahib.

Sadbhavna Express

4007/ 4008 Muzaffarpur – Delhi via Sultanpur (NR Delhi division)
4013/ 4014 Sultanpur – Delhi (NR Delhi division)
4015/ 4016 Raxaul – Delhi via Sultanpur (NR Delhi division)
4017/ 4018 Muzaffarpur – Delhi via Faizabad (NR Delhi division)

The Indian word 'Sadbhavna' means 'goodwill.' There is no explanation as to why this particular group of trains is so named.

Sahyadri Express

1023/ 1024 Mumbai C.S.T. – C. Shahu Maharaj Terminus Kolhapur (CR Pune division)

The Western Ghats is a mountain range along the western side of India. It runs north to south along the western edge of the Deccan Plateau, and separates the plateau from a narrow coastal plain along the Arabian Sea. The range starts near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra, and runs approximately 1600 km through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala ending at Kanyakumari, at the southern tip of India. The range is called Sahyadri (the benevolent mountains) in Maharashtra.

Saket Express

1067/ 1068 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Faizabad/ Rae Bareli (CR Mumbai division)

In Sanskrit, Saket means a place said to be very close to Heaven, thus a place where God resides. Saket was the ancient name of the city of Ayodhya, an important Hindu religious place, said to be the place of residence for Lord Rama. Saket was also the name of the famous epic Hindi poetic work of Maithili Sharan Gupt, an account of the Ramayana through the eyes of Urmila, a lesser known character.

Samarasata Express

2151/ 2152 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Howrah via Purulia (CR Mumbai division)

Samarasata means Social harmony, and may be a reference to Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, who fought against inequality. Dr. Ambedkar was based in Nagpur, and the train originally ran from Mumbai to Nagpur, before it was extended to Howrah.

Samata Express

2807/ 2808 Vishakhapatnam – Hazrat Nizamuddin (ECoR Waltair division)

Samata (meaning equality) is a non-governmental organization that focuses on advocacy and development issues among tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh. Samata helps tribal groups address problems of land alienation, displacement, and political disempowerment. Its mission is to uphold the traditional, constitutional, and human rights of the tribal or Adivasi people. Samata focuses primarily on projects in the tribal villages of East Godavari and Vishakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Samjhauta Express

4001/ 4002 Delhi – Atari and Wagah – Lahore (Pakistan) (NR Delhi division)

The Samjhauta Express, commonly called the Friendship Express, is a twice-weekly train – Tuesdays and Fridays – that runs between Delhi and Atari in India and Wagah and Lahore in Pakistan. The word Samjhauta means "accord" and "compromise" in both

Hindi and Urdu. Until the reopening of the Thar Express, this was the only rail connection between the two countries. The train was started on July 22nd 1976 following the Shimla Agreement, and ran between Amritsar and Lahore, a distance of about 42 km. Following disturbances in Punjab in the late eighties, due to security reasons Indian Railways decided to terminate the service at Atari, where customs and immigration clearances take place. It was a daily train when the service started, and changed to a bi-weekly schedule in 1994. Earlier the rakes were returned to the home country the same day but later in 2000 the rake remained overnight at that location. Its termini are Lahore in Pakistan and Delhi in India. The border crossing takes place between Wagah in Pakistan and Atari in India. Originally, this was a through service with the same rake going all the way between the termini; later the Pakistani rake stopped at Atari at which point passengers had to change trains. The train service was set up with an agreement between Indian Railways (IR) and Pakistan Railways (PR) to alternately use an Indian and a Pakistani rake and locomotive for the train, six months at a time. The train's first break of service was when it was discontinued on January 1, 2002 in the wake of the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament on December 13th 2001. Service resumed on January 15th 2004. Service was also suspended following the 27th December, 2007, assassination of Benazir Bhutto as a preventive measure to deny militants a “high-value target” that was of great symbolic importance to both India and Pakistan.

Sampark Kranti Express

2121/ 2122	Jabalpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WCR Jabalpur division)
2217/ 2218	Kochuveli – Chandigarh (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)
2329/ 2330	Sealdah – New Delhi (ER Sealdah division)
2445/ 2446	New Delhi – Udhampur (NR Delhi division)
2447/ 2448	Manikpur/ Khajuraho – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)
2449/ 2450	Madgaon – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)
2463/ 2464	Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Jodhpur (NWR Jodhpur division)
2463A/ 2464A	Delhi Sarai Rohilla – Bikaner (NWR Bikaner division)
2501/ 2502	Guwahati – New Delhi (NFR Lumding division)
2565/ 2566	Darbhanga – New Delhi (ECR Samastipur division)
2629/ 2630	Yesvantpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin via Hubli (SWR Bangalore division)
2649/ 2650	Yesvantpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin via Kacheguda (SWR Bangalore division)
2651/ 2652	Madurai – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR Madurai division)
2707/ 2708	Tirupati – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SCR Guntakal division)
2819/ 2820	Bhubaneshwar – New Delhi (ECoR Khurda Road division)
2823/ 2834	Durg – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SECR Raipur division)
2825/ 2826	Ranchi – New Delhi (SER Ranchi division)
2907/ 2918	Bandra Terminus – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WR Mumbai division)
2917/ 2918	Ahmadabad – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WR Ahmadabad division)
5035/ 5036	Delhi – Kathgodam/ Ramnagar (NER Lucknow division)

Sampark Kranti (a revolution in connectivity) Express trains are a series of trains operated by the Indian Railways. These trains provide quick connectivity from a particular state to the national capital, New Delhi. The special features of these trains are:

non-stop run beyond the state, dedicated staff throughout the run, public address system, and 15% lower tariff than the Rajdhani Express to the areas served. The non stop runs beyond the state served did not last for too long, as due to poor patronage it was decided to give commercial stops to Sampark Kranti trains outside their respective states. Also, the Kerala Sampark Kranti Exp. was extended beyond New Delhi to Chandigarh.

Sampoorna Kranti Express

2393/ 2394 Rajendranagar Terminus – New Delhi (ECR Danapur division)

Jayprakash Narayan (1902 – 1979), was an Indian independence activist and political leader, remembered especially for leading the opposition to Indira Gandhi in the 1970s. In 1974, he led the student's movement in the state of Bihar which gradually developed into a popular people's movement known as the Bihar movement. It was during this movement that JP gave a call for peaceful Sampoorna Kranti (Total Revolution).

Sanctuary Express

5319/ 5320 Paliakalan – Aishbagh (NER Izzatnagar division)

Paliakalan is a city in Kheri district Uttar Pradesh. Dudhwa National Park, India's second largest sanctuary and home to Rhinos, Tigers, countless animal species, birds, insects, reptiles etc is adjacent to the town.

Sangam Express

4163/ 4164 Allahabad – Meerut City (NCR Allahabad division)

Sangama is the Sanskrit word for confluence. The Triveni Sangam in Allahabad is a confluence of 3 rivers, the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati. Of these three, the river Saraswati is invisible and is said to flow underground and join the other two rivers from below. The point of confluence is a sacred place for Hindus. A bath here is said to wash away all of one's sins and free one from the cycle of rebirth.

Sanghamitra Express

2295/ 2296 Bangalore City – Patna (SWR Bangalore division)

Sanghamitta or Sanghamitra in Sanskrit (whose name means "friend of the Sangha") was the daughter of Emperor Ashoka, the Mauryan ruler whose capital was at Patna, and his Buddhist queen Devi. Together with Venerable Mahinda, her twin brother, she entered an order of Buddhist monks. The two siblings later went to Sri Lanka to spread the teachings of Buddha.

Sapt Kranti Express

2557/ 2558 Muzaffarpur – New Delhi (ECR Sonpur division)

On 26 June 1962, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, freedom fighter and socialist, expounded the Sapt Kranti (Seven revolutions) theory in Nainital. He said the 20th century has two characteristics: first, it is the most ruthless era of the world; and second, the extent no era

has fought against injustice as this era did. The Seven Revolutions are 1) Bridging the divide between the rich and poor 2) National equality in terms of wages 3) Stopping the injustice by the upper castes on the lower castes 4) Equality between men and women 5) Ending of apartheid 6) The campaign against nuclear weapons 7) Personal matters relating to lifestyle and marriages in which political parties and government have no role to play.

Sapthagiri Express

6057/ 6058 Chennai Central – Tirupati (SR Chennai division)

Tirumala Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple is a famous Hindu Temple of Lord Venkateswara located in the hill town Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh. The temple is built on the Venkatadri hill, one of the seven hills of Tirumala, and hence is also known as the Temple of Seven Hills (Saptagiri in Sanskrit). The Tirumala Hill is 3200 ft above sea level and comprises seven peaks, representing the seven hoods of Adishesha, thus earning the name, Seshachalam. The seven peaks are called Seshadri, Neeladri, Garudadri, Anjanadri, Vrushabadri, Narayanadri and Venkatadri.

Saraighat Express

2345/2346 Howrah – Guwahati (ER Howrah division)

Saraighat is a place near Guwahati in Assam, on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra. Sarai was a small village where the old abandoned N.F. Railway station of Amingaon was located. The famous Battle of Saraighat was fought in 1671 between the Mughal Empire and the Ahom Kingdom near this place on the river. There is a road-cum-rail bridge over the river Brahmaputra joining the north & the south banks at Saraighat. This bridge is the first bridge on the River Brahmaputra in Assam.

Sarnath Express

5159/ 5160 Durg – Chhapra (NER Varanasi division)

Sarnath (also called Mrigadava, Rishipattana, Isipatana) is the deer park where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma, and where the Buddhist Sangha came into existence. Sarnath is located 13 km north-east of Varanasi. Mrigadava means "deer-park". The Deer Park was the forest gifted by the king of Benares, where the deer might wander unmolested. Sarnath, from Saranganath, means "Lord of the Deer" and relates to another old Buddhist story in which the Bodhisattva is a deer and offers his life to a king instead of the doe the latter is planning to kill. The king is so moved that he creates the park as a sanctuary for deer. The park is still there today. The train used to originate from Varanasi initially, before it was extended to Chhapra.

Sarvodaya Express

2473/ 2474 Ahmadabad – Jammu Tawi (NR Firozpur division)

Ahmadabad is closely related to Mahatma Gandhi and his principles. Sarvodaya is a term meaning 'universal uplift' or 'progress of all'. The term was first coined by Gandhiji as the

title of his 1908 translation of John Ruskin's tract on political economy, *Unto This Last*, and Gandhi came to use the term for the ideal of his own political philosophy.

Saryu Express

4125/ 4126 Allahabad – Faizabad (NCR Allahabad division)

The Saryu is a river flowing through Uttar Pradesh, and which is of ancient significance, finding mention in the Vedas and Ramayana. The Rivers Karnali and Mahakali join in Bahraich District and are known as the Saryu River. Lord Rama's capital city of Ayodhya is on the banks of the Saryu. On Ram Navami, the festival that celebrates the birthday of Lord Rama, thousands of people take a dip in the sacred river. The name is the feminine derivative of the Sanskrit root sar "to flow"; as a masculine stem, sarayu- means "air, wind", i.e. "that which is streaming".

Saryu Yamuna Express

4649/ 4650 Darbhanga – Amritsar (NR Firozpur division)

The train used to originally run between Delhi and Varanasi via Faizabad. Thus it was named for the two rivers that pass through Delhi and Faizabad (Ayodhya) – the Yamuna and the Saryu. The Yamuna is named for the goddess Yami, the sister of Yama, god of death, and the daughter of Surya, the Sun god. The name Saryu is the feminine derivative of the Sanskrit root sar "to flow"; as a masculine stem, sarayu- means "air, wind", i.e. "that which is streaming".

Satpura Express

0001/ 0002 Balaghat – Jabalpur (SECR Nagpur division)

The Satpura Range is a range of hills in central India. Rising in eastern Gujarat and running east through Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh, the range parallels the Vindhya Range to the north, and these two east-west ranges divide the Indo-Gangetic plain of northern India from the Deccan Plateau to the south. At its eastern end, the Satpura range meets the hills of the Chhota Nagpur Plateau. The range, the name of which means "Seven Folds," forms the watershed between the Narmada (north) and Tapti (south) rivers.

Satavahana Express

2713/ 2714 Vijayawada – Secunderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

The Satavahana Empire also known as Andhras were a dynasty which ruled from Junnar (Pune), Prathisthan (Paithan) in Maharashtra and Kotilingala (Karimnagar) in Andhra Pradesh over Southern and Central India from around 230 BC onward. The dynasty lasted about 450 years, until around 220 AD. The Satavahanas are credited for establishing peace in the country, resisting the onslaught of foreigners after the decline of Mauryan empire. Satavahanas or Satkarnis, is Sanskritised as Shatvahana, Shalivahana and Shatakarni. The proper Sanskritization of Sata is Sapti (Horse), Saptikarna would

indicate a split-totem, horse-ear, the terminations Karna and vahana can both indicate 'descent from'.

Satyagraha Express

5273/ 5274 Raxaul – Delhi (ECR Samastipur division)

Satyagraha is a philosophy and practice of nonviolent resistance developed by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji deployed satyagraha in campaigns for Indian independence and also during his earlier struggles in South Africa. The first Satyagraha revolutions occurred in Champaran district of Bihar between the years of 1918 and 1919. Satyagraha is a synthesis of the Sanskrit words Satya (truth) and Agraha (holding firmly to).

Saurashtra Mail

9005/ 9006 Mumbai Central – Okha/ Veraval (WR Mumbai division)

Saurashtra Janata Express

9017/ 9018 Bandra Terminus – Jamnagar (WR Mumbai division)

Saurashtra Express

9215/ 9216 Mumbai Central – Porbandar (WR Bhavnagar division)

Saurashtra (meaning Hundred states) is a region of western India, located on the Arabian Sea coast of Gujarat. It is a peninsula, also called Kathiawar after the Kathi Darbar rulers who ruled part of the region once. After India's independence in 1947, 217 princely states of Kathiawar and Saurashtra (sometimes called Sorath), including the former kingdom of Junagadh, were grouped together to form the state of Saurashtra in 1948. The capital of Saurashtra was Rajkot. On 1st November 1956, Saurashtra was merged into Bombay state. In 1960 Bombay state was divided along linguistic lines into the new states of Gujarat and Maharashtra. The territory of Saurashtra, including that of the former kingdom of Sorath or Junagadh is now part of the state of Gujarat.

Sayajinagari Express

9115/ 9116 Bandra Terminus – Bhuj (WR Ahmadabad division)

Sayajirao Gaekwad III (1863 – 1939), was the Maharaja of Baroda from 1875 to 1939, and is notably remembered for reforming much of his state during his rule. Some of his major reforms included education of his subjects, uplifting of the downtrodden, and judicial, agricultural and social reforms. He played a key role in the development of Baroda's textile industry, and his educational and social reforms included among others, a ban on child marriage, legislation of divorce, removal of untouchability, spread of education, development of Sanskrit, ideological studies and religious education as well as the encouragement of the fine arts. His economic development initiatives included the establishment of a railroad (Narrow gauge system centered on Dabhoi) and the founding in 1908 of the Bank of Baroda. The city of Vadodara (Baroda) is often called Sayajinagari meaning 'city of Sayaji' after him. The train used to initially run from

Vadodara to Mumbai when introduced, before it was amalgamated with Vadodara – Gandhidham Express, and then later on extended to Bhuj.

Seemanchal Express

2487/ 2488 Jogbani – Delhi (NR Delhi division)

“Seema” means border (limit), and Jogbani is on the India – Nepal border, and almost contiguous with the Nepalese town of Biratnagar, gateway to Eastern Nepal.

Seshadri Express

7209/ 7210 Bangalore City – Kakinada Town (SCR Vijayawada division)

Tirumala Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple is a famous Hindu Temple of Lord Venkateswara located in the hill town Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh. The temple is built on the Venkatadri hill, one of the seven hills of Tirumala, and hence is also known as the Temple of Seven Hills (Saptagiri in Sanskrit). The Tirumala Hill is 3200 ft above sea level and comprises seven peaks, representing the seven hoods of Adisesha, thus earning the name, Seshachalam. The seven peaks are called Seshadri (the Hill of Sesha, the Eternal Serpent on whom Lord Vishnu reposes), Neeladri, Garudadri, Anjanadri, Vrushabadri, Narayanadri and Venkatadri.

Sewagram Express

2139/ 2140 Mumbai C.S.T. – Nagpur (CR Mumbai division)

Sewagram is Hindi for "A village for service" and is the name of a village 8 km from Wardha in Maharashtra. This was the place of Gandhiji's ashram. Previously it was named as Shegaon; it was Mahatma Gandhi who renamed it to Sewagram. The small homes which were built in the ashram for Gandhi and Kasturba, and his followers were similar to the typical village homes. The ashram employed some harijans in the common kitchen to break the caste barrier. Sewagram is home to the first rural medical college in India, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and an engineering college.

Shaheed Express

4673/ 4674 Jaynagar – Amritsar (NR Firozpur division)

Shaheed means martyr, but there is no clarity on why this train is so named.

Shaktipunj Express

1447/ 1448 Jabalpur – Howrah (WCR Jabalpur division)

Shaktipunj means “Full of Energy”. Initially the train used to run from Howrah to Singrauli. Singrauli is fast emerging as an energy hub of India, especially for electric power and coal, and therefore locally it is also called Urjanchal (a Hindi word which means land of energy). The total installed capacity of all power plants at Singrauli is around ten percent of total installed capacity of India.

Shalimar Express

4645/ 4646 Delhi – Jammu Tawi (NR Firozpur division)

The Shalimar Garden is a fine Mughal garden built by the Emperor Jahangir, in the lake city of Srinagar. It was built specially for his beloved and talented wife, Mehrunissa, titled Noor Jahan. Upon completion of the gardens, the emperor is said to have recited the famous Persian expression in praise of Kashmir's beauty: If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this.

Shane Bhopal Express

2155/ 2156 Habibganj – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WCR Bhopal division)

The “Glory of Bhopal”, the country's first ISO train, has added another feather to its cap - that of becoming the first disabled-friendly train in the country. The train already had an exclusive coach for the physically-challenged. It has now added tags specifying seat and berth numbers in Braille in all the coaches. These tags are fitted along the aisle so visually-challenged persons can feel their way to their seats without disturbing other passengers. Bhopal is said to have been founded by the Parmara King Bhoj (1000–1055), who had his capital at Dhar. The city was originally known as Bhojpal named after Bhoj and the dam ('pal') that he is said to have constructed to form the lakes surrounding Bhopal.

Shane Punjab Express

2497/ 2498 Hazrat Nizamuddin – Amritsar (NR Delhi division)

The “Glory of Punjab”, connecting the main cities of Punjab, Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana with the national capital Delhi.

Shanti Express

9309/ 9310 Gandhinagar Capital – Indore (WR Ratlam division)

Shanti means Peace. The train is named after one more of Gandhiji's principles.

Shantiniketan Express

2337/ 2338 Howrah – Bolpur (ER Howrah division)

Shantiniketan is a small town near Bolpur in Birbhum district of West Bengal, made famous by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, whose vision became what is now a university town (Vishwa-Bharati University) that attracts thousands of visitors each year. Shantiniketan is also a tourist attraction because Rabindranath wrote many of his literary classics here, and his house is a place of historical importance. Shantiniketan was previously called Bhubandanga (named after Bhuban Dakat, a local dacoit), and owned by the Tagore family. Rabindranath's father, Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, found it very peaceful and renamed it Shantiniketan, which means abode (niketan) of peace (shanti).

Sharavati Express

1035/ 1036 Dadar – Mysore (CR Mumbai division)

The Sharavati River originates and flows entirely within the state of Karnataka. It is one of the few westward flowing rivers of India. The famous Jog Falls are formed by this river. The river Sharavati originates at a place called Ambutheertha in the Thirthahalli taluka of Shimoga district, and it joins the Arabian Sea at Honnavar in Uttar Kannada district.

Shatabdi Express

2001/ 2002 Bhopal – New Delhi (NR Delhi division)
2001A/ 2002ABhopal – New Delhi (NR Delhi division)
2003/ 2004 Lucknow – New Delhi (NR Delhi division)
2005/ 2006 New Delhi – Kalka (NR Delhi division)
2007/ 2008 Chennai Central – Mysore (SR Chennai division)
2009/ 2010 Mumbai Central – Ahmadabad (WR Mumbai division)
2011/ 2012 New Delhi – Kalka (NR Delhi division)
2013/ 2014 New Delhi – Amritsar (NR Firozpur division)
2015/ 2016 New Delhi – Ajmer (NR Delhi division)
2017/ 2018 New Delhi – Dehra Dun (NR Delhi division)
2019/ 2020 Howrah – Ranchi (ER Howrah division)
2027/ 2028 Chennai Central – Bangalore City (SWR Bangalore division)
2029/ 2030 New Delhi – Amritsar (NR Delhi division)
2031/ 2032 New Delhi – Amritsar (NR Delhi division)
2033/ 2034 Kanpur Central – New Delhi (NCR Allahabad division)

Shatabdi Express trains are a series of fully air conditioned, fully reserved superfast express trains operated by Indian Railways to connect Metro cities with other cities important for tourism, pilgrimage or business. Shatabdi Expresses are day-trains and they return to the station of origin the same day. The Shatabdis are among the fastest trains in India and the Indian Railways considers them as prestigious. They have a regular speed of 100-130 km/h. The 2001 Bhopal Shatabdi Express, however, runs at a peak speed of 150 km/h, which makes it the fastest train in India. The word "Shatabdi" means centenary in Sanskrit, Hindi and several Indian languages. The first Shatabdi train was started in 1988 to commemorate the centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Birthday (the First Prime Minister of India). It operated from New Delhi to Gwalior, later extended to Jhansi, then finally to Bhopal.

Shipra Express

9305/ 9306 Howrah – Indore (WR Ratlam division)

The Shipra, more correctly the Kshipra, is a river in Madhya Pradesh. The river rises in the Vindhya Ranges, north of Dhar, and flows south across the Malwa Plateau to join the Chambal River. It is one of the sacred rivers in Hinduism. The holy city of Ujjain is situated on its right bank. Every 12 years, the Kumbha Mela takes place on the city's

elaborate riverside Ghats. The word Shipra is used as a symbol of "purity" (of soul, emotions, body, etc.) or "chastity" or "clarity".

Shirdi Express

1405/ 1406 Manmad – Kakinada Town (CR Bhusaval division)

Sai Baba of Shirdi (Unknown – October 15th 1918), also known as Shirdi Sai Baba, was a guru and yogi, regarded by his followers as an incarnation of God. There are many stories and eyewitness accounts of miracles he performed. Baba reportedly arrived at the village of Shirdi in the Ahmadnagar district of Maharashtra, when he was about 16 years old. It is generally accepted that Baba stayed in Shirdi for three years and then disappeared for a year. In 1858 Sai Baba returned to Shirdi with Chand Patil's wedding procession. After alighting near the Khandoba temple he was greeted with the words "Ya Sai" (Marathi: welcome saint) by the temple priest Mhalsapati. The name Sai stuck to him and some time later he started being known as Sai Baba.

Shiv Ganga Express

2559/ 2560 Varanasi – New Delhi (NER Varanasi division)

Varanasi is situated on the Ganga River, and is also known for the Kashi Vishwanath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. When Lord Brahma ordered the Goddess Ganga to go down to Earth and then on to the nether regions so that the souls of Bhagiratha's ancestors would be able to go to heaven, Ganga felt that this was insulting and decided to sweep the whole earth away as she fell from the heavens. Alarmed, Bhagiratha prayed to Shiva that He break up Ganga's descent. Ganga arrogantly fell on Shiva's head. But Shiva calmly trapped her in his hair and let her out in small streams. The touch of Shiva further sanctified Ganga.

Shivalik Express

241/ 242 Kalka – Shimla (NR Ambala division)

The Shivalik Hills or Range, sometimes called the Outer Himalaya, are the southernmost and geologically youngest east-west mountain chain of the Himalayan System. The Shivaliks crest at 600 to 1,200 meters and have many sub-ranges. They extend 1,600 km from the Teesta River in Sikkim, westward through Nepal and Uttaranchal, continuing into Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir and Northern Pakistan. The Shivalik Deluxe Express is a connecting service to Howrah-Kalka Mail for Shimla. It accommodates 120 passengers and reaches its destination in 4.45 hrs. The coaches are equipped with wall-to-wall carpeting, wide glass windows and reversible cushioned chairs. Improved lighting and a music system creates a pleasant atmosphere. The fare for the Shivalik Deluxe Express is Rs. 340/- with a complimentary meal at the picturesque railway station of Barog.

Shram Shakti Express

2451/ 2452 Kanpur Central – New Delhi (NCR Allahabad division)

This is the only truly non stop end – to – end run on Indian Railways (the yet to be introduced Kanpur Reverse Shatabdi will be another one). The name of the train means “power of labor”, and may refer to the labor class working in the factories of Kanpur.

Shramik Express

9051/ 9052 Valsad – Sonpur (WR Mumbai division)

Shramik means Laborer. This train is mostly used by laborers who migrate from Bihar in search of jobs to richer provinces like Gujarat.

Shramjeevi Express

2391/ 2392 Rajgir – New Delhi (ECR Danapur division)

Shramjeevi means “Living by labor”, again a reference to the laborers who migrate from Bihar in search of jobs in the national capital. Sometimes, the train is known as Shramjeevi Nalanda Express, especially after its extension from Patna to Rajgir. Nalanda is the name of an ancient university in Bihar, 55 miles south east of Patna and close to the town of Rajgir. It was a Buddhist center of learning from 427 to 1197 AD, and has been called “one of the first great universities in recorded history”. The name is a Tamil word that means giver of Wellness, (clearly from nalam, wellness, and da, to give)

Siddhaganga Express

2725/ 2726 Bangalore City – Dharwad (SWR Hubli division)

Siddhaganga is a famous pilgrim center in Tumkur District. It has a hilltop temple dedicated to Sri Siddhalingeswara Swamy, a great revered Veerashaiva Saint who is considered as an incarnation of Lord Shiva. He is regarded as one of the greatest Saints of the Veerashaiva Sect in the Hindu religion. The Veerashaiva Mutt, an important educational and pilgrim center, lies in this place. Siddhaganga is about 70 km from Bangalore and the nearest railhead is Tumkur.

Siddheshwar Express

2115/ 2116 Mumbai C.S.T. – Solapur (CR Pune division – RSA with 1011/ 1012 Mahalaxmi Express)

Shri Siddharameshwar was a historical figure of the 12th century, whose "Karmayoga" in his own native land-Solapur, turned him into a God-figure over the course of time. He preached the teachings of Shri Basaveshwara. A young girl, inspired by the teachings of this saint, wished to marry him. Siddaram being a brahmachari denied to marry her and gave permission for her to marry his Yogadanda. The same marriage function is celebrated every year on the Makar Sankranti around 14th January every year, in the Siddheshwar temple in the middle of the lake in the heart of Solapur city.

Sikkim Mahananda Express

4083/ 4084 Alipurduar Jn. – Delhi (NR Delhi division)

Initially the train was only the Mahananda Express, but the name Sikkim was joined to it when it was decided to “give” each state or union territory a train named after it. The Mahananda River is a river that originates in the district of Darjeeling in West Bengal. It flows through West Bengal and Bihar in India and Bangladesh to join the Ganga near the town of Chapai Nawabganj. Mahananda in Sanskrit and several other languages means "great happiness" or someone who has achieved such a state. The most widely accepted origin of the name Sikkim is that it is a combination of two words Su, which means "new", and Khyim, which means "palace" or house, in reference to the palace built by the state's first ruler, Phuntsog Namgyal.

Simhadri Express

7239/ 7240 Guntur – Vishakhapatnam (SCR Guntur division)

7241/ 7241 Narasapur – Vishakhapatnam (SCR Vijayawada division)

Simhadri or Simhachalam temple is a Hindu temple located in Vishakhapatnam, dedicated to the incarnation (avatar) of Vishnu known as Narasimha (the man-lion). Simha: Lion; Adri or Achala: Hill (one which cannot be moved, viz. hill). Atop the hill is a famous temple said to be the abode of Varaha Narasimha Swami, and hence the hill itself is called (nara) Simhachalam.

Simhapuri Express

2709/ 2710 Gudur – Secunderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

Simhapuri is the old name of present day Nellore. Some times Nellore is referred to as Vikrama Simhapuram, as it was founded by Raja Vikrama Simha of the Chola Dynasty.

Sindhu Express

2477/ 2478 Jamnagar – Jammu Tawi (NR Firozpur division)

The name of the River Indus is a Latinization of the word Hindu, in turn the Iranian variant of Sindhu, the name of the Indus in the Rig-Veda. The Sanskrit Sindhu generically means river, stream, ocean, probably from a root sidh meaning to keep off. Though why the train is so named is not clear, because it goes nowhere near the River Indus or the ocean. One explanation is that the Jamnagar area was once part of the Indus Valley Civilization and many archaeological sites related to that era have been discovered here.

Sinhagad Express

1009/ 1010 Mumbai C.S.T. – Pune (CR Pune division)

Sinhagad, The Lion's Fort, is a fortress located roughly 30 km southwest of Pune city. Previously called Kondhana (after the sage Kaundinya), the fort has been the site of many important battles, most notably the battle of Sinhagad in 1670. Tanaji Malusare, a general of Shivaji was entrusted of recapturing the fort from the Mughals in March 1670. A steep cliff leading to the fort was scaled with the help of a ghorpad, or a monitor lizard. Thereafter, there ensued fierce battles between Tanaji and his men, and the Mughals.

Tanaji lost his life, but his brother Suryaji took over and captured Kondana. Upon hearing of Tanaji's death, Shivaji expressed his remorse with the words: "Gad aala, pan sinha gela" - "We gained the fort, but lost the lion". In honor of Tanaji's death, the fort was renamed as Sinhadad. A bust of Tanaji has been established on the fort in memory of his contribution to the battle.

Somnath Express

9221/ 9222 Ahmadabad – Veraval (WR Bhavnagar division)

The Somnath Temple located in the Prabhas Kshetra near Veraval on the western coast of Gujarat, is the most sacred of the twelve Jyotirlingas (lingams of light) of the God Shiva. Somnath means "The Protector of Moon God". Hindu mythology states that the Moon God Chandra, being arrogant about his beauty, was cursed by his father-in-law Daksha to wane. The Moon then prayed to Lord Shiva at the Prabhas tirth (a Hindu pilgrimage site) who then removed the curse partially, thus causing the periodic waning of moon. The Somnath Temple is known as 'the Shrine Eternal', as although the temple has been destroyed six times, it has been rebuilt every single time, on the last occasion in November 1947.

South Bihar Express

3287/ 3288 Durg – Danapur (ECR Danapur division)

Initially it used to run between the capital of Bihar, Patna and the largest city in South Bihar, Jamshedpur (Tatanagar). However, the name has lost its significance today, as it was extended to Durg, and also Jamshedpur is no longer in Bihar, but in Jharkhand.

Sri Jagannath Express

8409/ 8410 Howrah – Puri (ECoR Khurda Road division)

Jagannath is a Hindu deity, a form of Vishnu. The oldest and most famous Jagannath deity is in the city of Puri (the city is known to many as Jagannath Puri after the Jagannath Temple) where each year the famous Rath Yatra festival takes place. The Jagannath Temple in Puri is regarded as one of the four most sacred Hindu pilgrimage places in India. Jagannath is derived from Jagannatha a Sanskrit name used to describe a form of Krishna. The term means 'master, lord' (natha) of the 'World, Universe' (jagat).

Steel Express

2813/ 2814 Howrah – Tatanagar (SER Kharagpur division)

The train derives its name from Jamshedpur, the Steel City. Jamshedpur is home to the first private Iron and Steel company of India (sixth largest in the world), Tata Steel.

Suryanagari Express

2479/ 2480 Jodhpur – Bandra Terminus (NWR Jodhpur division)

Jodhpur is the second largest city in Rajasthan, set in the stark landscape of the Thar Desert. The city is known as the Sun City for the bright, sunny weather it enjoys all year. The name could also be a reference to the legendary solar origin of the former rulers of Jodhpur.

Sutlej Express

4629/ 4630 Ludhiana – Firozpur Cantt. (NR Firozpur division)

Both Ludhiana and Firozpur are situated on the banks of the Sutlej, the longest of the five rivers that flow through the Punjab. The Sutlej is the easternmost tributary of the Indus. Its source is in Tibet near Mount Kailash, and it flows generally west and southwest entering India through the Shipki La pass in Himachal Pradesh. It joins with the Beas near Amritsar, and continues southwest into Pakistan to unite with the Chenab, forming the Panjnad River south of ancient Multan. The Panjnad joins the Indus at Mithankot.

Suvarnarekha Express

3301/ 3302 Dhanbad – Tatanagar (ECR Dhanbad division)

The Subarnarekha River flows through the Indian states of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa. It originates in the Chhota Nagpur Plateau in Jharkhand, and passing through West Bengal, finally, empties into the Bay of Bengal Balasore District of Orissa. The river derives its name from two Sanskrit/Bengali words: subarna meaning "gold" and rekha meaning "line" or "streak". Their combination has given the river its name Subarnarekha or "golden line" or "streak of gold". The Hindi name of the river is Swarnarekha, which is synonymous with Subarnarekha. According to legend, traces of gold were found in the river's bed at the source of the river near Piska, a small village not too far from Ranchi. Important cities lying along the river include Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, and the steel city of Jamshedpur.

Swaraj Express

2471/ 2472 Bandra Terminus – Jammu Tawi (NR Firozpur division)

Swaraj can mean generally self-governance or "home-rule" (swa- "self", raj- "rule") but the word usually refers to Mahatma Gandhi's concept for Indian independence from foreign domination. Lokmanya Tilak was one of the first and strongest advocates of Swaraj in Indian consciousness. His famous quote, "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it" is well-remembered in India even today.

Swarna Jayanti Express

2643/ 2644 Thiruvananthapuram Central – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR
Thiruvananthapuram division)

2781/ 2782 Mysore – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SWR Hubli division – RSA with 7301/
7302 Mysore – Dharwad Express)

2803/ 2804 Vishakhapatnam – Hazrat Nizamuddin (ECoR Waltair division)

2817/ 2818 Hatia – Delhi via Gaya (SER Ranchi division)

2873/ 2874 Hatia – Delhi via Daltonganj (SER Ranchi division)

2957/ 2958 Ahmadabad – New Delhi (WR Ahmadabad division)

Swarna Jayanti means Golden Jubilee. These trains were introduced or named for the Golden Jubilee year of Indian independence in 1997.

Swarna Shatabdi Express

2029/ 2030 New Delhi – Amritsar (NR Delhi division)

Running 6 days a week with LHB coaches, (and one day with ICF coaches as 2031/2032), the Swarna Shatabdi has been provided with modern communication facilities including cellular telephones and fax on board. The Railways claim that it not only runs at a higher speed than the ordinary Shatabdi but also offers better riding experience with fewer jerks. Moreover, it is supposed to be more comfortable, have superior catering, original paintings by eminent artists and also two rail hostesses (comparable to air hostesses) for the Executive Class.

Swatantrata Sainani Express

2561/ 2562 Darbhanga – New Delhi (ECR Samastipur division)

The train has been named to commemorate the sacrifices made by the unknown freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

Taj Express

2279/ 2280 Jhansi – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NCR Jhansi division)

Once one of Indian Railway's prestigious trains running between Delhi and Agra, the city of the Taj, it has lost much of its glamour after being upstaged by the Shatabdi Express, and extended to first Gwalior and then Jhansi.

Tamil Nadu Express

2621/ 2622 Chennai Central – New Delhi (SR Chennai division)

Tamil Nadu Sampark Kranti Express

2651/ 2652 Madurai – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR Madurai division)

Land (Nadu) of the Tamil people is the literal meaning of the name of the state. By the third century BC, the ethnic identity of Tamils has been formed as a distinct group. Tamilar is etymologically related to Tamil, the language spoken by Tamil people. The name comes from tam-miz 'self-speak', or 'one's own speech'.

Tamralipta Express

2857/ 2858 Howrah – Digha (SER Kharagpur division)

Tamralipta is the name of an ancient city on the Bay of Bengal corresponding with Tamruk. Tamralipta may have been one of the most important urban centers of trade and commerce of early historic India, trading with China, the Middle East, Europe, Bali, Java

and other areas of the Far East. Tamruk derives its name from the Sanskrit word Tamra Lipta meaning "Full of Copper". It had been an important waterway for more than 3000 years and gets its name from the copper which was mined, as it is even now, in Jharkhand and Orissa, areas which are not far from the city. Copper had been eclipsed by iron around 100 B.C., so the name must have originated during the Copper Age, when Tamralipta exported the ore and metal. The original name of the port was in use till the third century B.C., when Ashoka's daughter and son sailed from it for Sri Lanka. According to local folklore the name Tamralipta came from the King Tamradhwaja (which means The King with Copper Flag/symbol) of the Mayura-Dhwaja (Peacock) dynasty. If you go according to Mahabharat's description the ruling period of the King Tamradhwaja is nearer to the end of the Copper Age. Probably this ancient king had a huge base of copper, and the metal brought prosperity to the region in his time. Thus both the names, Tamralipta and Raja Tamradhwaja, might have been originated from it.

Tapaswini Express

8451/ 8452 Hatia – Puri (ECoR Khurda Road division)

Gangadhar Meher (1862 – 1924) was born at Barpali, Bargarh District (undivided Sambalpur District) in a weaver family. Though he was educated up to 5th Class, he has given a new meaning and glory to Oriya Language and Literature. He has written his poetry in such a manner that it attracts and gladdens the hearts of all literature-loving people. His poetic creations include 'Tapaswini', a masterpiece which has been translated into English, Hindi and Sanskrit. Tapaswini means "Ascetic".

Tapovan Express

7617/ 7618 Mumbai C.S.T. – Nanded (SCR Nanded division)

Tapovan (Sanskrit) comes from the two root words Tapasya - meaning specifically austerity, and more generally spiritual practice, and Vana, meaning forest, or wilderness. Tapovan then translates as forest of spiritual practice, wild place for practicing austerities, etc. Traditionally in India, any place where someone has engaged in serious spiritual retreat may become known as Tapovan. Within the city of Nasik, once a part of the holy Dandakaranya forest, Tapovan is a pictorial spot and has a close association with the epic Ramayana. Though the train goes from Mumbai to Nanded, it is quite popular as a day Inter City Express between Mumbai and Nasik.

Tapti Ganga Express

2945/ 2946 Surat – Varanasi (WR Mumbai division)

This train connects Surat on the Tapti River to Varanasi on the Ganga River. The Tapti River originates in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh near a place called Multai. The Sanskrit name of Multai is Multapi, meaning origin of Tapi Mata or the Tapti River. Tapti is the daughter of Surya, the Sun God.

Tea Garden Express

6865/ 6866 Tiruchhirapalli – Ernakulam (SR Tiruchhirapalli division)

Originally the train ran from Cochin H.T. to Mettupalaiyam, at the foot of the Nilgiri mountains. Nilgiri tea is grown in the hills of the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, though there are numerous other tea districts in South India as well, including Munnar and Central Travancore, further south in Kerala. It is generally described as being a dark, intensely aromatic, fragrant and flavorful tea.

Tebhaga Express

3161/ 3162 Sealdah – Balurghat (ER Sealdah division)

Tebhaga literally means three shares of harvests. Traditionally, sharecroppers used to hold their tenancy on fifty-fifty share of the produce. In 1946, sharecroppers of some north and northeastern districts of Bengal and their supporters demanded that the half-sharing system was unjust. Since all the labor and other investment were made by the tenants, and since the landowner had least participation in the production process in terms of capital input, labor and infrastructure, the latter should get one-third of the crops, not the traditional one half. Tebhaga movement was organized mainly by the communist cadres of the Bengal Provincial Krishak Sabha. The movement was most intensely felt in the districts of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Jalpaiguri, Khulna, Mymensingh, Jessore and the 24-Parganas. In some places the Tebhaga movement made such headway that the peasants declared their zone as Tebhaga elaka or liberated area, and Tebhaga committees were set up for the governance of the area locally, e.g. in Jessore, Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri. All these developments led the government to initiate a bill in the Legislative Assembly in early 1947. The Tebhaga struggle was successful in so far as it has been estimated that about 40% of the sharecropping peasants got Tebhaga right granted willingly by the landholders.

Teesta Torsha Express

3141/ 3142 Sealdah – Haldibari/ New Alipurduar (ER Sealdah division)

The River Teesta or Tista is said to be the lifeline of Sikkim, flowing for almost the entire length of the state. It then forms the border between Sikkim and West Bengal before joining the Brahmaputra as a tributary in Bangladesh. Torsa River (also spelt Torsha) rises from the Chumbi Valley in Tibet, China. It flows into Bhutan, before entering the northern part of West Bengal. It then flows into Bangladesh by the name of Kaljani and meets with Brahmaputra (Jamuna) there.

Telangana Express

7035/ 7036 Secunderabad – Balharshah (SCR Secunderabad division)

Telangana is a region in Andhra Pradesh. It literally means "land of the Telugus" and the Telugu language originated here. It more or less corresponds to that portion of the state which was previously part of the princely state of Hyderabad and includes the districts of Warangal, Adilabad, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda, Rangareddy, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Medak, and the state capital, Hyderabad. There is a long standing demand of statehood for this region.

Thar Express

4889/ 4890 Bhagat ki Kothi – Munabao (NWR Jodhpur division)

Thar Express is an international train that connects Karachi, Pakistan to Jodhpur, India. Six km apart, Munabao and Khokhropar are the two last railway stations of the India – Pakistan border, with Zero Point being the actual border crossing point. The link was destroyed during the Indo – Pakistani War of 1965, but, on 18th February, 2006, it was revived after a period of 41 years. The Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, is a large, arid region in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. It is world's 7th largest desert and also Asia's 3rd largest desert. It lies mostly in Rajasthan, and extends into the southern portions of Haryana and Punjab, and into northern Gujarat. In Pakistan, the desert covers eastern Sindh province and the southeastern portion of Pakistan's Punjab province. Thar means 'desert'.

Thirukkural Express

2641/ 2642 Kanniyakumari – Hazrat Nizamuddin (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Thirukkural is a classic of couplets or Kurals (1330 rhyming Tamil couplets) in the Tamil language. It was authored by Thiruvalluvar (around 200 BC), and is considered to be the first work to focus on ethics in India. Thirukkural expounds various aspects of life and is one of the most important works in Tamil. There is a 133 feet tall statue of Saint Thiruvalluvar erected at the southern tip of Indian subcontinent (Kanyakumari) where the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean confluence. The 133 ft denotes Thirukkural's 133 Chapters or athikarams and the show of three fingers, to denote the three themes Aram, Porul, and Inbam i.e. the sections on Morals, Wealth and Rejoice.

Tirumala Express

7487/ 7488 Tirupati – Vishakhapatnam (SCR Guntakal division)

Tirumala Venkateswara Temple is a famous Hindu Temple of Lord Venkateswara located in the hill town Tirumala (Tiru: sacred, mala: hill) in Andhra Pradesh. The temple is built on the Venkatadri hill, one of the seven hills of Tirumala, and hence is also known as the Temple of Seven Hills (Saptagiri in Sanskrit). The presiding deity of the temple, Lord Venkateswara is also known by other names - Balaji or Srinivasa or Perumal. The temple is the richest and the most visited place of worship in the world. The temple is visited by about 50,000 to 100,000 pilgrims daily, while on special occasions and festivals, the number of pilgrims shoots up to 500,000, making it one of the most visited holy places in the world.

Tippu Express

2613/ 2614 Mysore – Bangalore City (SWR Mysore division)

Sultan Fateh Ali Tipu (1750 – 1799), also known as the Tiger of Mysore, was the de facto ruler of the Islamic Kingdom of Mysore from 1782 (the time of his father's death) until his own demise in 1799. He was the first son of Hyder Ali by his second wife,

Fatima, and his full name is Sultan Fateh Ali Khan Shahab or Tipu Saheb Tipu Sultan. In addition to his role as ruler, he was a scholar, soldier, and poet. He was a devout Muslim but the majority of his subjects were Hindus. He allied with the French in their struggle against the British. He helped his father Hyder Ali defeat the British in the Second Mysore War, but was defeated in the Third and Fourth Anglo-Mysore Wars by the combined forces of the British East India Company, the Nizam of Hyderabad and Travancore. Tipu Sultan died defending his capital Srirangapattana, on 4th May 1799.

Tirhut Express

3157/ 3158 Kolkata – Muzaffarpur (ER Sealdah division)

Historically Tirhut refers to the Indo-Gangetic plains lying north of the Ganga River, in Bihar, corresponding to the ancient region of Mithila. Tirhut, a densely populated area of India, has alluvial plains with several rivers passing through them. In ancient time, the area was part of the kingdom of Vaishali. During the initial period of the British Raj, Tirhut district was formed in 1873, as part of Patna division. Tirhut district was thereafter reorganized into two districts, namely, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. In 1908, Tirhut was carved out of Patna division to form a new division named Tirhut division, a name which still continues, but the boundaries have changed several times due to reorganization of districts and creating smaller districts over decades. Originally, Tirhut division consisted of five districts: Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saran, East and West Champaran. Mahatma Gandhi started his Satyagraha movement in Champaran from areas around Motihari.

Trishatabdi Express

2913/ 2914 Indore – Nagpur via Ujjain (WR Ratlam division)

Recent history ascribes the founding of Nagpur to Bakht Buland, a prince of the Gond kingdom of Deogarh in the Chhindwara district in 1702. The train was introduced in 2002 to mark the Tercentenary (Tri Shatabdi) celebrations of the founding of the city.

Triveni Express

4369/ 4370 Singrauli – Bareilly (NR Moradabad division)

4369A/ 4370A Shaktinagar – Bareilly (NR Moradabad division)

4369B/ 4370B Barwadih – Bareilly (NR Moradabad division)

Triveni Sangam is the confluence of three rivers (Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati) near Allahabad. It is the site for the historic Kumbha Mela held every 12 years. Sangama is the Sanskrit word for confluence. Of these three, the river Saraswati is invisible and is said to flow underground and join the other two rivers from below. The Triveni Sangam is believed to be the same place where drops of Nectar fell from the pitcher from the hands of the Gods. So it is believed that a bath in the Sangam will wash away all one's sins, free one from the cycle of rebirth and will clear the way to heaven. The train ran between Allahabad and Lucknow before it was extended in both directions.

Tulsi Express

1069/ 1070 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Allahabad via Jhansi, Banda (CR Mumbai

division)

Tulsidas (1532-1623) was a great Awadhi bhakta (devotee), philosopher, composer, and the author of Ramacharitamanasa, an epic poem and scripture devoted to Lord Rama. Tulsidas was born in present day Gonda district. The name comes from two words: Tulasi, which is an Indian variety of the basil plant, and Dasa, which means "servant" or, by extension, "devotee". Ramacharitamanasa, an epic devoted to Rama, was the Awadhi version of Ramayana of Valmiki. Apart from "Awadhi"- three other languages are also seen in the epic Ramacharitamanasa- they are Bhojpuri, Brijbhasa and the local language of the people of Chitrakoot region.

Tungabhadra Express

7607/7608 Secunderabad – Kurnool Town (SCR Hyderabad division)

The Tungabhadra is a sacred river in southern India that flows through the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and it is the chief tributary of the Krishna River. The Tungabhadra is formed by the confluence of two rivers, the Tunga River and the Bhadra River, which flow down the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats in Karnataka. The combined river then takes a northeasterly direction and flows by the towns of Shimoga, Harihar, Hospet, Manthralayam and Kurnool, after which it joins the Krishna River.

Udyogkarmi Express

2943/ 2944 Valsad – Kanpur Central (WR Mumbai division)

Udyog: Industry and Karmi: Doer. The train is so named because it connects the two industrial areas of Kanpur and Valsad in South Gujarat.

Udyognagari Express

2173/ 2174 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Kanpur Central (CR Mumbai division)

Udyog: Industry and Nagari: City. The train is so named because it connects the two industrial cities of Mumbai and Kanpur.

Udyan Express

6529/ 6530 Mumbai C.S.T. – Bangalore City (SWR Bangalore division)

Bangalore is called the “Garden (Udyan) city” of India due to its over 700 parks (the most famous of which are Lalbagh gardens and Cubbon Park) and 187 lakes (examples are Ulsoor Lake and Sankey Tank).

Udyan Abha Toofan Express

3007/ 3008 Howrah – Sri Ganganagar (ER Howrah division)

This is a train formed by the combination of two trains : Udyan Abha Express from New Delhi to Sri Ganganagar and Toofan Express from Howrah to New Delhi. Udyan : Garden, Abha : Splendor. Sri Ganganagar is one of the well planned modern cities of

India. It is said to be influenced by the town planning of Paris. It is divided into residential blocks and commercial areas. Residential Blocks have large parks for each Block. Sri Ganganagar is a testimony of the vision and efforts of Great Maharaja Ganga Singh Ji. Desert land was converted to a lush green town, credited to the Maharaja who brought the Gang canal which carries the excess waters of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to the region. Toofan: Typhoon/ Storm. In pre- independence days, this was one of the fastest connections between Howrah and Delhi and used to run via the Grand Chord. Later on it was diverted via 1) Patna and 2) Agra, and the name “Toofan”, indicating speed, has lost its significance.

Ujjavani Express

4309/ 4310 Ujjain – Dehra Dun (NR Moradabad division)

Ujjain (also known as Ujjayani, Avanti, Avantikapuri), is an ancient city of Malwa region, on the eastern bank of the Kshipra River in Madhya Pradesh. As mentioned in the Mahabharata epic, Ujjayani was the capital of the Avanti Kingdom, and has been the first meridian of longitude for Hindu geographers since the 4th century BC. Ujjain is one of the seven sacred cities of the Hindus, and the Kumbha Mela is held there every 12 years. It is also home to Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga, one of the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines to the god Shiva and is also the place where Lord Krishna got his education, along with Balarama and Sudama from Maharshi Sandipani.

Unchahar Express

4517/ 4518 Allahabad – Chandigarh (NR Ambala division)

Taking the railway route along the north bank of the River Ganga from Allahabad to Kanpur, this train passes through Unchahar town (Rae Bareli district, famous for a thermal power plant) along the way, and was therefore named so, to set it apart from other trains which run on the mainline south of the river.

Upasana Express

2327/ 2328 Howrah – Dehra Dun (ER Howrah division)

Upasana in Sanskrit literally means "Sitting near" but normally the term is used in Hinduism to denote a prescribed method for approaching a Deity or God, or for getting close to a deity/deities. Maybe the train was so named because it passes through the holy cities of Varanasi and Haridwar.

Utsarg Express

8191/ 8192 Chhapra – Kanpur Anwarganj (SER Chakradharpur division – RSA with 8181/ 8182)

Utsarg means “giving as a gift, liberation, flowing into abundance”. Why the train is so named is not clear.

Uttar Banga Express

3147/ 3148 Sealdah – New Coochbehar (ER Sealdah division)

In Bangla, it means North Bengal, and the name is self – explanatory.

Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express

2447/ 2448 Manikpur/ Khajuraho – Hazrat Nizamuddin (NR Delhi division)

Uttar Pradesh (Northern Province) is the new name of the province that was known during British times as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. It is India's most populous state, and covers a large part of the highly fertile and densely populated upper Gangetic plain. When introduced, it was thought it would be better if it connected those parts of the state which did not have

Uttar Sampark Kranti Express

2445/ 2446 New Delhi – Udhampur (NR Delhi division)

Sampark Kranti trains were introduced as fast trains connecting state capitals with Delhi, having no stops outside their state of origin. This one is meant for passengers of all the northern (Uttar) states – Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Uttaranchal Express

9265/ 9255 Okha – Dehra Dun (WR Bhavnagar division)

Uttaranchal Sampark Kranti Express

5035/ 5036 Kathgodam/ Ramnagar – Delhi (NER Izzatnagar division)

Uttaranchal was carved out of the Himalayan and adjoining districts of Uttar Pradesh on 9th November 2000, becoming the 27th state of the Republic of India. The region is traditionally referred to as Uttarakhanda in Hindu scriptures and old literature, a term which derives from Sanskrit utara meaning north, and khanda meaning country or part of a country.

Vaigai Express

2635/ 2636 Chennai Egmore – Madurai (SR Madurai division)

The Vaigai is a river in Tamil Nadu, originating in the Periyar Plateau of the Western Ghats range, and flowing northeast through the Kambam Valley and then running through the region of Pandya Nadu. Madurai, the largest city in the Pandya Nadu region and its ancient capital, lies on the Vaigai. The river empties into the Palk Strait in Ramanathapuram District. The Vaigai gets its major feed from the Periyar Dam in Kumili, Kerala. Water from the Periyar River in Kerala is diverted into the Vaigai River in Tamil Nadu via a tunnel through the Western Ghats.

Vaishali Express

2553/ 2554 Barauni – New Delhi (ECR Sonpur division)

Vaishali, near the present day city of Muzaffarpur, was the capital city of the Licchavis, one of world's first democratic republics, in the Vajji mahajanapada, around the 6th century BC. It was here that Gautama Buddha preached his last sermon before his death in 483 BC, and then in 383 BC, the Second Buddhist council was convened here by King Kalasoka. Also in 599 BC, the 24th Jain Tirthankara, Mahavira was born and brought up in Vaishali republic, making it an important place in both religions. At the time of the Buddha, Vaishali, which he visited on many occasions, was a very large city, rich and prosperous, crowded with people and with abundant food. There were seven thousand, seven hundred and seven pleasure grounds, and an equal number of lotus ponds. Its courtesan, Ambapali or Amrapali, was famous for her beauty, and helped in large measure in making the city prosperous. Vaishali derives its name from King Vishal of the Mahabharata.

Vananchal Express

3403/ 3404 Ranchi – Bhagalpur (ER Malda division)

The demand for a separate greater Jharkhand state to be carved out of the Adivasi (tribal) areas of Bihar along with the tribal districts of adjoining states like Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, had gained popularity during British times as well, but commission after commission had rejected the demand as it would not be viable. Finally in 1998, it was decided to carve a Jharkhand state out of Bihar itself, which was to be initially called Vananchal (the land of Forests), but the name Jharkhand prevailed when the state finally came into existence on 15th November 2000.

Vanchinad Express

6303/ 6304 Ernakulam – Thiruvananthapuram Central (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

The word Vanchinad means "A land in the shape of a boat". The old state of Travancore had this shape and was the official nickname for it. The train is often known locally as Executive Express due to the large number of executives commuting by it daily.

Varuna Express

4227/ 4228 Varanasi – Lucknow (NR Lucknow division)

The Varuna River is a minor tributary of the River Ganga. It is named after the god Varuna. It joins the Ganga just downstream of Varanasi. The name Varanasi itself is interpreted to be derived from the name of the river. In Vedic religion, Varuna is a god of the sky, of waters and of the celestial ocean, as well as a god of law and of the underworld.

Venad Express

6301/ 6301 Shoranur – Thiruvananthapuram Central (SR Thiruvananthapuram division)

Venad was one of the eighteen kingdoms of the ancient Chera Empire. Later, it was periodically under the suzerainty of the Madurai Pandyan kingdom. Venad included most of modern day Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts of Kerala and the Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. Trivandrum was established as its capital by Nedumchadaya Pandyan, when he consecrated the Sri Padmanabha Swami Idol in 785 AD. Venad was the forerunner to the modern Kingdom of Travancore, established by King Marthanda Varma. The name Venad is believed to derive from Ay vel (Ay=Shepherd, Vel=King), referring to the ancient rulers of the land known as Vel Nad. Another theory regarding the origination of the name is that, in ancient Tamil, Vezham meant "elephant", so Vezha Nadu meant "Elephant country".

Venkatadri Express

2797/ 2798 Kacheguda – Chittoor (SCR Hyderabad division)

Tirumala Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple is a famous Hindu Temple of Lord Venkateswara located in the hill town Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh. The temple is built on the Venkatadri hill, one of the seven hills of Tirumala, and hence is also known as the Temple of Seven Hills (Saptagiri in Sanskrit). The Tirumala Hill is 3200 ft above sea level and comprises seven peaks, representing the seven hoods of Adishesha, thus earning the name, Seshachalam. The seven peaks are called Seshadri, Neeladri, Garudadri, Anjanadri, Vrushabadri, Narayanadri and Venkatadri (the Hill of Venkata).

Vibhuti Express

2333/2334 Howrah- Allahabad City (ER Howrah division)

Vibhuti is the sacred ash used in religious worship in Hinduism. Milk and ghee along with cowdung are burned in a sacred fire (Homa) to obtain Vibhuti, which is placed on the forehead as it is considered sacred and holy. Many devotees add an amount to the tongue to receive the blessings of the deity. It is usually associated with the worship of Lord Shiva, who abides in the Kashi Vishwanath temple at Varanasi. An alternate explanation of the name is a reminder of the rule that no train would be named after a living or dead person. Bibhutibhushan Bandhopadhyay (1894 – 1950) was a Bengali novelist and writer, whose most well known book is the autobiographical novel, Pather Panchali (The Song of the Road), incorporated (along with Aparajito, the sequel) into the memorable Apu Trilogy films by Satyajit Ray.

Vidarbha Express

2105/ 2106 Mumbai C.S.T. – Gondia (CR Mumbai division)

Vidarbha is the eastern region of Maharashtra made up of Nagpur Division and Amravati Division. Situated in central India, Vidarbha has its own rich cultural and historical background distinct from the rest of Maharashtra. The largest city in Vidarbha is Nagpur, followed by Amravati. The region is famous for growing oranges and cotton, though it is less economically prosperous compared to the rest of Maharashtra. In recent times, there have been calls for a separate state of Vidarbha, due to the supposed negligence from the state government of Maharashtra towards this region.

Vikramshila Express

2367/ 2368 Bhagalpur – New Delhi (ER Malda division)

Vikramshila University was one of the two most important centers of Buddhist learning in India during the Pala dynasty, along with Nalanda University. Vikramshila was established by King Dharmapala (783 to 820) in response to a supposed decline in the quality of scholarship at Nalanda. Subjects like theology, philosophy, grammar, metaphysics, Indian logic etc. were taught here, but the most important branch of learning was tantrism. Vikramshila is located about 50 km east of Bhagalpur and about 13 km north-east of Kahalgaon, a railway station on Bhagalpur - Sahibganj section of Eastern Railway.

Vindhyachal Express

1271/ 1272 Itarsi – Bhopal via Jabalpur (WCR Bhopal division)

The Vindhya Range (Achal – Mountain) is a range of older rounded mountains and hills which geographically separates the Indian subcontinent into northern India (the Indo-Gangetic plain) and Southern India. The western end of the range is in the state of Gujarat and reaching the sub-continent proper, the range runs east and north nearly to the Ganga River at Mirzapur. Hindu legends say that the Vindhya Mountains once showed a tendency to grow so high, so as to obstruct the usual trajectory of the sun. This was accompanied by increasing vanity on the part of that mountain range, which demanded that Surya, should circum-ambulate the Vindhyas in the same way as he does Mount Meru. The need arose to subdue, by guile, the Vindhyas, and Agasthya was chosen to do that. Agasthya journeyed from north to south, and on the way encountered the now impassible Vindhya Mountains. He asked the mountain range to facilitate his passage across to the south. In reverence for Agasthya, the Vindhya Mountains bent low enough to enable the sage and his family to cross over and enter south India. The Vindhya Range also promised not to increase in height until Agasthya and his family returned to the north. Agasthya settled permanently in the south, and the Vindhya Range, true to its word, never grew further.

Vishakha Express

7015/ 7016 Bhubaneshwar – Secunderabad (SCR Secunderabad division)

The train used to terminate at Vishakhapatnam before it was extended to Bhubaneshwar. The city is said to have derived its name Vishakhapatnam from the king who ruled this part with name 'Vishakha Varma' (the former King of present Vishakhapatnam/ Vizag). 'Patnam' is the Telugu word for city. Vishakhapatnam or the place of Vishakha is named after the deity of valor, the second son of Lord Shiva. The other story is that the beauty of the place was compared to the beauty of Sakhi Vishakha. The legend is that Radha and Vishakha were born on the same day and equally beautiful. The city people believe that an Andhra king, impressed by the beauty, built a temple to pay obeisance to his family deity, Vishakha.

Wainganga Express

2251/ 2252 Yesvantpur – Korba (SWR Bangalore division)

The Wainganga is a river, which originates about 12 km from Mundara village of Seoni district in the southern slopes of the Satpura Range in Madhya Pradesh, and flows south through Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in a very winding course. After joining the Wardha River, the united stream, known as the Pranahita, ultimately merges into the River Godavari.

West Bengal Sampark Kranti Express

2329/ 2330 Sealdah – Delhi (ER Sealdah division)

Bengal is a historical and geographical region in the northeast region of the Indian Subcontinent. Today it is mainly divided between the sovereign state of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (previously East Bengal / East Pakistan) and West Bengal in India. The exact origin of the word Bangla or Bengal is unknown, though it is believed to be derived from the Dravidian-speaking tribe Bang that settled in the area around the year 1000 BC. Other accounts speculate that the name is derived from Vanga, which came from the word "Bonga" meaning the Sun-god.

West Coast Express

6627/ 6628 Chennai Central – Mangalore (SR Palakkad division)

The train connected the port city and capital of Madras Presidency (British times), Madras on the east coast with another port city Mangalore on the west coast of India.

Yelagiri Express

6089/ 6090 Chennai Central – Tirupattur (SR Chennai division)

Yelagiri is a hill-station on the Vaniyambadi – Tirupattur Road, midway between Chennai and Bangalore. Located at an altitude of 1,050 meters (3,500 ft), the Yelagiri village (also spelt Elagiri at times) is surrounded by orchards, rose-gardens, and green valleys. Yelagiri is located around 14 km from Jolarpettai Jn.

Yercaud Express

6669/ 6670 Chennai Central – Erode (SR Salem division)

Yercaud is a hill station in Tamil Nadu in the Servarayan range of hills (anglicized as Shevaroy). It is at an altitude of 1515 meters (4969 feet) above mean sea level. The town gets its name from the lake located at its center - in Tamil, Yeri means lake and Kaadu means forest. Yercaud is known for coffee plantations and orange groves. Yercaud is situated in Salem district, Tamil Nadu, 38 km from Salem Jn.

Yuva Express

2247/ 2248 Bandra Terminus – Hazrat Nizamuddin (WR Mumbai division)

2249/ 2250 Howrah – New Delhi (ER Howrah division)

With youth (Yuva) being the flavor of the season, Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee in her Budget speech announced the introduction of low-cost, air-conditioned 'Yuva Trains' dedicated to the generation next. The trains, with only sitting accommodation, will also benefit low-income groups.

Ziyarat Express

2395/ 2396 Rajendranagar Terminus – Ajmer (ECR Danapur division)

Ziyarah (Arabic), commonly referred to as "Ziyarat" meaning "Visit") is a pilgrimage to sites associated with Muhammad, his family members and descendants (including the Shia Imams), his companions, or other venerated figures in Islam, such as the Prophets, Sufi saints and Islamic scholars. Sites of pilgrimage include mosques, graves, battlefields, mountains, and caves. "Ziyarat" comes from the Arabic word "zur" meaning "to visit". The word is actually pronounced "ziyarah" with an 'h' at the end, but as Arabic is not the first language of most Muslims, the word is commonly pronounced "ziyarat" rather than "ziyarah". In India, amongst many other shrines, the term is also used for a visit to Sultan-ul-Hind Gharib Nawaz Moinuddin Chishti Dargah in Ajmer.

TRAINS WHICH ARE NO LONGER RUNNING AND NAMES OF TRAINS WHICH ARE NO LONGER IN USE

Assam Mail

New Delhi – Barauni (BG) and Barauni – Dibrugarh Town (MG)

The name Assam is derived from the Ahom kingdom 1228-1826, which ruled in the state.

Avadh Tirhut Mail

Guwahati – Lucknow Jn. (MG)

Avadh is a region in the centre of the modern Uttar Pradesh state, centered on its capital Lucknow. The name is probably derived from the holy city of Ayodhya. Tirhut refers to the Indo-Gangetic plains lying north of the Ganga River, in Bihar, corresponding to the ancient region of Mithila. In ancient time, the area was part of the kingdom of Vaishali. Today, Tirhut division consists of five districts: Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saran, East and West Champaran.

Azad Express

Shalimar – Haldia (BG)

Azad means “Free”. It is probably a reference to the Azad Hind Fauj of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Bamdev Passenger

Burdwan – Rampur Hat (BG)

Tarapith is a small town 6 km from Rampur Hat in Birbhum district of West Bengal. It features a Hindu temple dedicated to Maa Tara. The great saint Bamakhepa (Bamdev) sat in mediation in the Tarapith burning ground (situated near the temple), and on enlightenment, he saw Maa Tara. He was known as the mad saint of Tarapith, and he became famous for his yogic powers. People from far away came to see him. Some sought nothing but his blessings while others asked to be healed or helped in distress.

Bhagirathi Express

Chhapra – Allahabad City (MG)

The word Bhagirathi (Sanskrit, literally, "caused by Bhagiratha") refers to a Sagar Dynasty prince who, to gain the release his 60,000 great-uncles from the curse of saint Kapila, brought the goddess Ganga in the form of the river Ganges, from the heavens to the earth. The Ganga is also called the Bhagirathi River.

Bidhan Express

Howrah – Asansol (BG)

The train has been renamed as Agniveena Express. Initially it was known as Bidhan Express after Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, MRCP, FRCS (July 1st 1882 – July 1st 1962), who was the second Chief Minister of West Bengal. He remained in his post for 14 years as a Congress Party candidate. He was a respected physician and a renowned freedom fighter. He was an alumnus of the Medical College Calcutta. In India, the National Doctor's Day is celebrated on the date of his birth (and death) July 1st every year.

Blue Mountain Express

Madras Central – Mettupalaiyam

This is the Anglicized name for Nilgiri Express, by which name it was known in British days.

Boat Mail

Madras Egmore – Tuticorin/ Dhanushkodi (MG)

The Boat Mail was a train and steamer ferry service between India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). In the late 19th century, the railway route in India was from Madras to Tuticorin. At Tuticorin, passengers embarked on the boat mail steamer to Colombo in Ceylon. The train took 21 hours and 50 minutes for the journey from Madras to Tuticorin. The boat mail was one of the early trains to be given vestibuled carriages, in 1898. After the Pamban Bridge was built, the train's route changed and it went from Madras to Dhanushkodi. A much shorter ferry service then took the passengers to Talaimannar in Ceylon, from where another train went to Colombo. In 1964 the Boat mail was washed into the sea by huge waves during a cyclone, and the tracks to Dhanushkodi were also destroyed.

Cholan Express

Madras Egmore – Tiruchhirapalli via Chidambaram, Kumbakonam (MG)

The Chola dynasty was one of the oldest and longest that ruled over parts of southern India. The heartland of the Cholas was the fertile valley of the Kaveri River, but they ruled a significantly larger area at the height of their power. Under Rajaraja Chola I and his son Rajendra Chola I, the dynasty became a military, economic and cultural power in South Asia and South-east Asia. The Chola dynasty went into decline at the beginning of the thirteenth century with the rise of the Pandyas, who ultimately caused their downfall. The Cholas left a lasting legacy. Their patronage of Tamil literature and their zeal in building temples have resulted in some great works of Tamil literature and architecture. The train is soon to be introduced in its BG avatar.

Day Express

Cochin H.T. – Shoranur (BG)

This was the link to the Jayanti Janata Express with through coaches to Hazrat Nizamuddin, transferring at Shoranur.

Ellora Express

Nizamabad – Manmad (MG)

Ellora is an archaeological site, 30 km from Aurangabad, built by the Rashtrakuta rulers. Well-known for its monumental caves, Ellora is a World Heritage Site as it represents the epitome of Indian rock-cut architecture. The 34 "caves" – actually structures excavated out of the vertical face of the Charanandri hills – being Buddhist, Hindu and Jain rock cut temples and monasteries, were built between the 5th century and 10th century. Cave 16, named the Kailasa or Kailasanatha Temple, is the unrivaled centerpiece of Ellora. This is designed to recall Mount Kailash, the abode of Lord Shiva – looks like a freestanding, multi-storeyed temple complex, but it was carved out of one single rock.

Flying Mail

Delhi – Amritsar (BG)

It used to be a fast inter – city connection between Delhi and Amritsar (maybe Lahore in British days), before it was merged with the Shaheed/ Saryu Yamuna Expresses to provide a link between Darbhanga and Amritsar.

Frontier Mail

Bombay Central – Amritsar (BG)

Prior to 1947, the train used to run from Bombay to Peshawar, the capital of the North West Frontier Province. However, after partition, the run was terminated at Amritsar, but the name was retained, as Amritsar was the last major city on the India's frontier. In the last decade, the name was changed to Golden Temple Mail or Swarna Mandir Mail.

Ganga Yamuna Express

Varanasi – Delhi/ Mathura (BG)

The train used to run from Varanasi on the river Ganga, to Delhi on the river Yamuna, with some slip coaches going to Agra and Mathura from Tundla. However, due to a series of extensions, it now runs as the Farakka Express.

Ganga Kaveri Express

Madras Beach – Rameswaram (MG)

This provided a link to the BG Ganga Kaveri Express, which ran between Madras Beach and Varanasi, thus providing connectivity between the two holy cities of Rameswaram and Varanasi.

Garib Nawaz Express

Delhi – Udaipur City (MG)

Some coaches of the Delhi – Jaipur Pink City Express used to run up to Udaipur on 6 days of the week with the name Garib Nawaz Express. With the coming of gauge conversion, the two trains no longer run, and the name Garib Nawaz Express passed onto a set of trains all terminating/ originating in Ajmer. Hazrat Shaikh Khwaja Syed Muhammad Moinuddin Chishti was born in 1141 and died in 1230. Also known as Gharib Nawaz or 'Benefactor of the Poor', he is the most famous Sufi saint of the Chishti Order. He was born in Persia, but turned towards India, reputedly after a dream in which Prophet Muhammad blessed him to do so, and settled down in Ajmer. There he attracted a substantial following, acquiring a great deal of respect amongst the residents of the city. Today, hundreds of thousands of people – Muslims, Hindus, Christians and others, from the Indian sub-continent, and from other parts of the world – assemble at his tomb on the occasion of his Urs (death anniversary).

Girnar Express

Veraval/ Bhavnagar Terminus – Ahmadabad (MG)

Girnar is a collection of mountains in Junagadh District of Gujarat. The tallest of these rises to 945 meters, the highest peak in Gujarat. The first peak of Girnar has a collection of Digambar and Shwetamber Jain temples. In the Hindu religion, the legend is that climbing Girnar barefooted earns one a place in Heaven. The nearby Gir Forest serves as sanctuary for the last remaining Asiatic Lions.

Golgumbaz Express

Sholapur – Bangalore City via Bijapur (MG)

Gol Gumbaz (the round mausoleum) is the mausoleum of Mohammed Adil Shah (1627-57) of the Adil Shahi dynasty who ruled the Sultanate of Bijapur from 1490 to 1686. The tomb, located in the city of Bijapur, or Vijapur in Karnataka, was built in 1659 by the famous architect, Yaqut of Dabul. The structure consists of a massive square chamber measuring nearly 50 m (160 ft) on each side and covered by a huge dome 37.9 m (124 ft)

in diameter making it among one of the largest dome structures in world. The Dome is the second largest one in the world which is unsupported by any pillars. The acoustics of the enclosed place make it a whispering gallery where even the smallest sound is heard across the other side of the Gumbaz. The train is soon to be introduced in the BG version.

Gomantak Express

Vasco da Gama – Miraj (MG)

The name Goa came to European languages from the Portuguese, but its precise origin is unclear. In ancient literature, Goa was known by many names such as Gomanta, Govapuri, Govem, and Gomantak. The Indian epic Mahabharata refers to the area now known as Goa, as Goparashtra or Govarashtra which means a nation of cowherds.

Hemavati Express

Mysore – Mangalore (MG)

The Hemavati River is a very important tributary of the Kaveri River. It originates in the Western Ghats in Chikkamagaluru District of Karnataka, and also flows through Hassan and Mysore districts before joining the Kaveri near Krishnarajasagar.

High Court Express

Manmad – Dharmabad (BG)

The official name of the train is Marathwada Express. People from Nanded and Parbhani districts use the train to attend sessions of the Mumbai High Court bench situated at Aurangabad, hence the nickname.

Ibadat Express

Rajendranagar Terminus – Ajmer (BG)

Very often cited as a train having different names in opposite directions, the name Ibadat Express has become synonymous with the Ziyarat Express, even though no timetable has ever mentioned the name Ibadat. The Arabic word ‘ibadat, which literally means to enslave oneself (to God), when it is used as a religious term, refers to the ordinances of divine worship.

Ichhamati Passenger

Sealdah – Hasnabad (BG)

Today the name is no longer used, as the passenger service is replaced by an EMU. Ichhamati River is a trans – boundary river which flows through India and Bangladesh, and also forms the boundary between the two countries. Ichhamati River flows from the Mathabhanga River, a distributary of the Padma, and after flowing for 208 km joins the Kalindi River near Hasnabad in North 24 Parganas.

Imperial Indian Mail

Bombay V.T. – Howrah via Allahabad (BG)

The 'Imperial Indian Mail', a prestigious train that ran between Bombay and Calcutta, was introduced by the East Indian Railway and the Great Indian Peninsular Railway in 1926. The train's schedule was such that the departures from Bombay made for convenient connections for passengers arriving by ship from England. The train was known for a high level of luxurious accommodation. It carried only 32 passengers, and their staff. This train was the forerunner of the Calcutta Mail trains of later years.

India Pakistan Express

Amritsar – Lahore (BG)

This train, the result of the Shimla Agreement, was the first attempt at normalization of relations between the two countries. It saw a lot of changes, including interchanging of Indian and Pakistani rakes, change of originating stations (from Amritsar – Lahore to Atari – Wagah, to Delhi – Atari and Wagah – Lahore), and a change of name to Samjhauta Express.

Indo Ceylon Express

Madras Egmore – Tuticorin/ Dhanushkodi (MG)

The Indo – Ceylon Express or Boat Mail was a train and steamer ferry service between India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). In the late 19th century, the railway route in India was from Madras to Tuticorin. At Tuticorin, passengers embarked on the boat mail steamer to Colombo in Ceylon. The train took 21 hours and 50 minutes for the journey from Madras to Tuticorin. The boat mail was one of the early trains to be given vestibuled carriages, in 1898. After the Pamban Bridge was built, the train's route changed and it went from Madras to Dhanushkodi. A much shorter ferry service then took the passengers to Talaimannar in Ceylon, from where another train went to Colombo. In 1964 the Boat mail was washed into the sea by huge waves during a cyclone, and the tracks to Dhanushkodi were also destroyed.

Island Express

Kanniyakumari – Bangalore City (BG)

The Island Express runs between Bangalore and Kanniyakumari. No part of the train's route is on an island; the name was given because the predecessor of this train used to start its journey from the Cochin Harbor Terminus station on Willingdon Island, Kochi (Cochin) till the late 1970s. Later this train became Nagercoil Express after the gauge conversion between Cochin and Nagercoil via Thiruvananthapuram. Later it was extended to Kanniyakumari. The Island Express also experienced a horrible railway accident when a large number of its coaches fell into the lake Ashtamudi Kayal while crossing the railway bridge in July 1988, when hundreds lost their lives.

Jayanti Janata Express

Hazrat Nizamuddin – Mangalore/ Cochin H.T. (BG)

New Delhi – Muzaffarpur (BG)
Bombay V.T. – Trivandrum Central/ Kanniyakumari (BG)
Delhi – Ahmadabad (MG)

Introduced in 1972 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee (Jayanti) of Indian independence, these trains were meant to provide classless (Janata) accommodation. Today, they are still around, but with different names – Mangala Lakshadweep Express, Vaishali Express, Mumbai Kanniyakumari Express and Aravalli Express (partially).

Kalinga Express

Puri – Hazrat Nizamuddin (BG)

At one time, there were two trains running between Puri and Nizamuddin. Kalinga Express was the slower train, and Utkal Express was the faster version. Later the two trains were amalgamated to form the Kalinga Utkal Express, which was recently extended to Haridwar. Kalinga was an early kingdom in eastern India, which comprised most of the modern state of Orissa, as well as some northern areas of the bordering state of Andhra Pradesh. It was a rich and fertile land and was the scene of the bloody Kalinga War fought by the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka the Great of Magadha in 265 BC. Utkal is another name for Orissa, the area around the Ganjam plains and the Mahanadi delta.

Kamala Gandak Express

Jaynagar – Gorakhpur (MG)

The Kamala River originates in the mountains near Sindhuli Garhi in Nepal, and takes a southern direction. It enters India near Jaynagar and then flows through the plains of Darbhanga District. One of its branch leads to the Bagmati River whereas another leads to Kosi River. The Gandak River is also known as the Kali Gandaki. It rises in Tibet near the Nepal border and overlooks the Dhualagiri peak. Flowing through Nepal, it then enters India. The river flows across the Gangetic plain of Bihar through the districts of Champaran, Saran and Muzaffarpur and eventually merges with the Ganga near at Hajipur and Patna. It is said that the Gandak River has changed and shifted its track about 80 km to the east due to slanting in the last 5000 years.

Kamban Express

Chennai Egmore – Nagore (MG)

Kamban was a great Tamil poet of the Chola age. He was born in the 9th century in Therazhundur, a village in the culturally rich Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. He composed the famous 'Kamba Ramayana', which is regarded as the greatest epic in Tamil Literature. The family deity of this poet is Lord Narasimha, who was an avatar of Lord Vishnu. Lord Narasimha emerged from a Kamba (pillar) to save the child devotee Prahlada from his father's attack. So, the devoted parents of Kamban named him after the name of 'Kamba'. Kamban was also well versed in Sanskrit along with his mother language Tamil. The contemporary Chola king is believed to have granted to him a fief called Kamba Nadu and also the famous title 'Kavi Chakravarti' or 'the emperor among

poets` the tide by which he is reverentially referred to even today. The BG version of the train will start running after gauge conversion is complete.

Kangra Queen Express

Pathankot – Palampur Himachal (NG)

Kangra Valley Express

Pathankot – Jogindernagar (NG)

Kangra Valley is situated in Himachal Pradesh. It is a popular tourist destination, with the peak season around March and April. Dharamsala, the headquarters of Kangra district, lies on the southern spur of Dhauladhar Ranges. Important tourist destinations in the valley are the towns of Kangra, Dharamsala, McLeod Ganj, Palampur and Baijnath.

Kanno Kuwari Express

Gwalior – Sheopur Kalan (NG)

The Kuwari (Kunwari) River, which means Virgin, is a river flowing in Morena and, Bhind districts of Madhya Pradesh. It is a tributary of the Sindh River and joins it in Etawah District of Uttar Pradesh. The Sindh River in turn immediately joins the Yamuna River. This NG express is now replaced by a Passenger Mixed train.

Kanyakubj Express

Kanpur Central – Kasganj (MG)

Kanyakubj Brahmins means Brahmins of the Kannauj region in Uttar Pradesh, centered on Kasganj. Kanyakubj Brahmins are well respected high kula Brahmins. Famous personalities in this community include Atal Bihari Vajpayee (former Prime Minister), the late Ravishankar Shukla (the first Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh) and Shyamacharan Shukla (three times Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh). The name is probably derived from the valiant Prithviraj Chauhan's feat in eloping with the princess of Kannauj, Samyukta, from right under her father's nose during her Swayamvar, for which he was not invited. (Kanya : girl, Kubz : capture).

Kashmir Mail

Delhi – Pathankot/ Jammu Tawi (BG)

The Puranas describes the Kashmir Valley's origin from the waters. Ka means "water" and Shimir means "to desiccate". Hence, Kashmir stands for "a land desiccated from water." There is also a theory which takes Kashmir to be a contraction of Kashyap-mira or Kashyapmir or Kashyapmeru, the "sea or mountain of Kashyapa", the sage who is credited with having drained the waters of the primordial lake Satisar that Kashmir was before it was reclaimed. The Kashmiris, however, call it Kashir, which has been derived phonetically from Kashmir. The train used to terminate at Pathankot, which was the railhead for the state of Jammu and Kashmir before the railways entered it in the early 1970s. Today, the train exists as the Delhi – Udhampur Mail.

Kaziranga Express

Guwahati – Jorhat Town (MG)

Kaziranga National Park is a national park in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam. A World Heritage Site, the park hosts the Great One-horned Rhinoceroses, tigers, elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer. It is a vast expanse of tall elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests, crisscrossed by four major rivers, including the Brahmaputra. According to one legend, a girl named Ranga, from a nearby village, and a youth named Kazi, from Karbi Anglong, fell in love. This match was not acceptable to their families and the couple disappeared into the forest, never to be seen again, and the forest was named after them. According to another legend, Srimanta Sankardeva, the sixteenth century Vaishnav saint-scholar, once blessed a childless couple, Kazi and Rangai, and asked them to dig a big pond in the region so that their name would live on. Kaziranga also could mean the "Land of red goats (Deer)", as the word Kazi in the Karbi language means "goat", and Rangai means "red". Some historians believe, however, that the name, Kaziranga, was derived from the Karbi word Kajir-arang, which means "the village of Kajir" (kajiror gaon). Among the Karbis, Kajir is a common name for a girl child, and it was believed that a woman named, Kajir, once ruled over the area.

Kerala Karnataka Express

New Delhi – Trivandrum Central/ Bangalore City

When in the 70s, four superfast trains were introduced to connect the 4 southern state capitals with Delhi, the train to Trivandrum and Bangalore (the capitals of Kerala and Karnataka respectively) used to run as a combined train till Jolarpettai, where they separated ways. It was only later that the two trains gained their own separate identities.

Kerala Mangala Express

Hazrat Nizamuddin – Trivandrum Central/ Mangalore

The Jayanti Janata Express serving both Trivandrum and Mangalore was renamed as the Kerala Mangala Express. Later the name Kerala was dropped and it was known only as the Mangala Express running to Mangalore. When it was diverted via the Konkan Railway, it was extended to Ernakulam to maintain connectivity of North Kerala with Delhi. It was also renamed as the Mangala Lakshadweep Express, ostensibly to provide the Union Territory of Lakshadweep with a train named after it.

Kittur Express

Bangalore City – Miraj (MG)

Kitturu Rani Chennamma (1778 - 1829) was the queen of the princely state of Kittur in Karnataka. In 1824, 33 years before the 1857 war of independence, she led an armed rebellion against the British in response to the Doctrine of lapse. The resistance ended in her martyrdom and she is remembered today as one of the earliest Indian rulers to have

fought for independence. The train in its BG form is renamed as Rani Chennamma Express.

Kudal Express

Chennai Egmore – Madurai (MG)

Madurai is the oldest inhabited city in the Indian peninsula and the third largest city in Tamil Nadu. It is situated on the banks of the River Vaigai in Madurai district. The city is widely known as the Temple city, and is often also referred to as Koodal Maanagar, Cultural Capital of Tamil Nadu. The Chennai – Guruvayur Express somewhat follows the timings of the MG Express, and therefore is often referred to as the BG Kudal Express.

Lahori Passenger

Dehra Dun – Lahore/ Amritsar (BG)

The Dehra Dun – Lahore Passenger was terminated at Amritsar after partition, but retained its unofficial name for some years. Today it exists as the Dehra Dun – Amritsar Express.

Lake City Express

Jaipur – Udaipur City (BG)

When the BG link was to Udaipur was established, this train was introduced between Jaipur and Udaipur (the city of lakes). However, after its merger with the Gwalior – Jaipur Inter City Express, it seems to have lost its name.

Magadh Vikramshila Express

New Delhi – Patna/ Bhagalpur (BG)

For some time, this train ran with some coaches terminating at Patna (Magadh Express) and some going on to Bhagalpur (Vikramshila Express). The two trains are now separate.

Mahal Express

Chennai Egmore – Madurai (MG)

Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal palace complex in Madurai was constructed in the Indo-Saracen style by Thirumalai Nayakar in 1636. It is a national monument and is now under the care of the Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department. Thirumalai Nayak ruled Madurai between 1623 to 1659 CE. He was the most notable of the thirteen Madurai Nayak rulers in the 17th century.

Mahalaxmi Express

Miraj – Bangalore City (MG)

Miraj – Mangalore (MG)

This train was the MG link to the BG Mahalaxmi Express at Miraj, providing first connectivity between Bombay and Bangalore, and then when it was diverted, to Mangalore.

Mahanadi Express

Bilaspur – Bhopal via Nagpur (BG)

This was the counterpart of the Amarkantak Express, which ran via Katni – Jabalpur. A few years ago, it was cancelled and the Amarkantak ran daily. The Mahanadi (lit.: Great River) arises in the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh and flows into Orissa, to enter the Bay of Bengal through a vast delta.

Manas Passenger

Guwahati – New Bongaigaon (MG)

Manas National Park or Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is a Wildlife Sanctuary, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger Reserve, an Elephant Reserve and a Biosphere Reserve in Assam. The park area falls in six districts: Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup and Darrang in Assam. The name of the park is derived from the Manas River, which is named after the serpent goddess Manasa. The Manas River is a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, which passes through the heart of the national park.

Mandovi Express

Vasco da Gama – Miraj (MG)

The Mandovi River is described as the lifeline of the state of Goa. The river has a length of 77 km and originates from a cluster of 30 springs at Bhimgad in the Western Ghats. The Dudhsagar Falls lie on the Mandovi. Panaji, the state capital and Old Goa, the former capital of Goa, are both situated on the left bank of the Mandovi.

Meenakshi Express

Kacheguda – Ajmer, later Jaipur – Purna (MG)

Madurai – Tirupati (MG)

Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple or Meenakshi Amman Temple is a historic Hindu temple located in the holy city of Madurai. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva (in the form of Sundareswarar or Beautiful Lord) and his consort, Goddess Parvati (in the form of Meenakshi). According to Hindu legend, Shiva came down to earth in the form of Sundareswarar to marry Meenakshi, an incarnation of Parvati. Parvati had earlier descended to earth in the form of a small child in response to the great penance of Malayadwaja Pandyan, the ruler of Madurai. After growing up to adulthood, she began ruling the city. The Lord appeared on earth and proposed to her. The marriage was supposed to be the biggest event on earth, with the whole earth gathering near Madurai. Why the Jaipur – Purna Express (or its predecessor the Kacheguda – Ajmer Express) was called the Meenakshi is not clear.

Nagarjuna Express

Tenali – Secunderabad (BG)

Acharya Nagarjuna (c. 150 – 250 AD) was an Indian philosopher who founded the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhism. He was born near the town of Nagarjuna Konda in present day Nagarjuna Sagar in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh. He was born into a Brahmin family, but later converted to Buddhism. This may be the reason he was one of the earliest significant Buddhist thinkers to write in classical Sanskrit rather than Pali. The train was merged with the Janmabhoomi Express running between Vishakhapatnam and Tenali, to form a direct day time Inter City train connecting Secunderabad with Vishakhapatnam.

Nandi Express

Mysore – Bangalore City (MG)

Nandi is the bull which Shiva rides, and who is the gate keeper of Shiva and Parvati's abode in Hindu mythology. Temples venerating Shiva and Parvati display stone images of a seated Nandi, generally facing the main shrine. There are also a number of temples dedicated solely to Nandi. The Chamundi Hills are located close to the palace city of Mysore. There is a long stairway leading to the top of the hill and en route to the top, the steps pass the large monolithic statue of Nandi the Bull. This is the 3rd largest statue of Nandi in India, the two larger ones being at Lepakshi in Andhra Pradesh and Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.

North Bank Express

Manihari Ghat – Siliguri (MG)

After the main route from Calcutta to Siliguri and Darjeeling was cut off due to the effects of partition of Bengal, the BG North Bengal Express used to run from Sealdah to Sakrigali Ghat near Sahibganj. From here, a ferry used to transport passengers and goods across the River Ganga to Manihari Ghat on the north bank, from where the MG North Bank Express used to carry on to Siliguri. This route was superseded by the Khejuria Ghat – Chamagram route towards Malda, and later on when the Farakka Barrage was built, trains could again run directly from Sealdah to New Jalpaiguri.

North Bengal Express

Sealdah – Sakrigali Ghat (BG)

After the main route from Calcutta to Siliguri and Darjeeling was cut off due to the effects of partition of Bengal, the BG North Bengal Express used to run from Sealdah to Sakrigali Ghat near Sahibganj. From here, a ferry used to transport passengers and goods across the River Ganga to Manihari Ghat on the north bank, from where the MG North Bank Express used to carry on to Siliguri. This route was superseded by the Khejuria Ghat – Chamagram route towards Malda, and later on when the Farakka Barrage was built, trains could again run directly from Sealdah to New Jalpaiguri.

North Bihar Express

Howrah – Barauni/ Muzaffarpur (BG)

The train used to connect Howrah to the northern part of Bihar – the cities of Barauni, Samastipur and Muzaffarpur. It was renamed as the Mithila Express.

Pawan Express

Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Muzaffarpur/ Darbhanga (BG)

Kanpur Central – Kasganj (MG)

Pawan means the Wind. Both these trains are totally opposite to what their names may imply. Luckily the BG train (which initially ran from Bombay to Varanasi) now no longer bears the name, and the MG train does not run anymore due to gauge conversion.

Pink City Express

Delhi – Jaipur (MG)

One of the crack superfast trains of the MG era, sadly this train no longer runs after gauge conversion. Jaipur, also popularly known as the Pink City, is the capital of Rajasthan and was once the former capital of the princely state of Jaipur. Founded on 18th November 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the ruler of Amber, Jaipur is the first well planned city of India, built in sandstone. For the time, architecture of the town was very advanced and certainly the best in the Indian subcontinent. In 1853, when the Prince of Wales visited Jaipur, the whole city was painted pink to welcome him during the regime of Sawai Ram Singh. Today, avenues remain painted in pink, providing a distinctive appearance to the city.

Pooja Express

Delhi – Jaipur/ Ajmer (BG)

Pooja (Puja) (Sanskrit: reverence, honour, adoration or worship) is a ceremony of gratitude or a religious ritual performed as an offering to various deities, distinguished persons, or special guests. It is done on a variety of occasions and settings, from daily puja done in the home, to temple ceremonies and large festivals, or to begin a new venture. The train was merged with the Delhi – Jammu Tawi Express and now runs from Jammu Tawi to Ajmer, but the name is no longer official.

Qutb Express

Agra Cantt. – New Delhi (BG)

The train was a sort of reverse Taj Express which was introduced in the 1980s. It was later extended to Jabalpur and renamed the Qutb Narmada Express, which today is the Mahakoshal Express. The Qutab Minar (also spelled Qutb or Qutub), a tower in Delhi, is at 72.5 meters, the world's tallest brick minaret. It is situated in the Qutb complex, amidst the ruins of ancient Hindu temples which were destroyed and their stones used to build

the Qutb complex and minar. Construction commenced in 1193 under the orders of India's first Muslim ruler Qutb-ud-din Aibak, and the topmost storey of the minaret was completed in 1386 by Firoz Shah Tughlak. The Qutb complex is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Delhi.

Qutb Narmada Express

Jabalpur – Hazrat Nizamuddin (BG)

Originally started as the Qutb Express between Agra and New Delhi, the train was extended to Jabalpur and renamed the Qutb Narmada Express. The Qutab Minar (also spelled Qutb or Qutub), a tower in Delhi, is at 72.5 meters, the world's tallest brick minaret. It is situated in the Qutb complex, amidst the ruins of ancient Hindu temples which were destroyed and their stones used to build the Qutb complex and minar. Construction commenced in 1193 under the orders of India's first Muslim ruler Qutb-ud-din Aibak, and the topmost storey of the minaret was completed in 1386 by Firoz Shah Tughlak. The Qutb complex is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Delhi. The Narmada is the fifth largest river in the Indian subcontinent. Narmada is a Sanskrit word meaning 'the Giver of Pleasure'. It forms the traditional boundary between North India and South India and flows westwards over a length of 1,312 km before draining through the Gulf of Khambat into the Arabian Sea, 30 km west of Bharuch. It is one of only three major rivers in peninsular India that runs from east to west (largest west flowing river) along with the Tapti River and the Mahi River. It flows through the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Narmada happens to be one of the most sacred of the five holy rivers of India; the other four being Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari and Kaveri. It is believed that a dip in any of these five rivers washes ones sins away. According to a legend, the river Ganga is polluted by millions of people bathing in it. To cleanse herself, Ganga acquires the form of a black cow and comes to the Narmada to bathe in its holy waters.

Ratnagiri Express

Lokmanya Tilak Terminus – Varanasi (BG)

Ratnagiri: Gem mountain. Why this train was so named is not clear. However, after the Konkan Railway route opened in 1998, there was confusion amongst passengers, as this train went nowhere near the town of Ratnagiri in southern Konkan region. Therefore, the name Ratnagiri Express was dropped, and it remains the LTT – Varanasi Express.

Sainik Express

Delhi – Sikar via Rewari – Loharu – Jhunjhunu (MG)

Shekhawati is an historical region located in the northeast part of Rajasthan. It encompasses the administrative districts of Jhunjhunu and Sikar. Some parts of Churu and Nagaur districts are also considered in the Shekhawati region. The inhabitants of Shekhawati are considered brave, sacrificing and hard working people. The region provides the highest number of persons to the Indian Army. The region of Shekhawati is

also known as Scotland of India because of its brave, sacrificing and painstaking Rajput people. This explains the name of the train, which means “Soldier”.

Sethu Express

Chennai Egmore – Rameswaram (MG)

Adam's Bridge, also known as Rama's Bridge or Ram Sethu, is a chain of limestone shoals, between the islands of Rameswaram, off the southeastern coast of Tamil Nadu, India, and Mannar, near northwestern Sri Lanka. Geological evidence indicates that this bridge is a former land connection between India and Sri Lanka. The bridge is 48 km long and separates the Gulf of Mannar (southwest) from the Palk Strait (northeast). Some of the sandbanks are dry and the sea in the area is very shallow, being only 3 ft to 30 ft (1 m to 10 m) deep in places. It was reportedly passable on foot up to the 15th century until storms deepened the channel. The name Rama's Bridge or Rama Sethu (Sanskrit: sethu: bridge) was given to this bridge of shoals, as Hindu legend identifies it with the bridge built by the Vanara (monkey-men) army of Rama , which he used to reach Lanka and rescue his wife Sita from the Rakshasa king, Ravana. The sea separating India and Sri Lanka is called Sethusamudram, Sea of the Bridge.

Shane Avadh Express

Lucknow Jn. – Gorakhpur (MG)

The “Glory of Avadh” used to connect the capital Lucknow with Gorakhpur. Avadh is a region in the centre of the modern Uttar Pradesh state, centered on its capital Lucknow. The name is probably derived from the holy city of Ayodhya. The train originally connected Lucknow with Gorakhpur, before a series of extensions in both directions gave it its present day destinations.

Shekhawati Express

Delhi – Jaipur via Rewari – Loharu – Jhunjhunu – Sikar (MG)

Shekhawati is a semi-arid historical region located in the northeast part of Rajasthan. It encompasses the administrative districts of Jhunjhunu and Sikar. Some parts of Churu and Nagaur districts are also considered in the Shekhawati region. The inhabitants of Shekhawati are considered brave, sacrificing and hard working people. The region provides the highest number of persons to the Indian Army. The region of Shekhawati is also known as Scotland of India because of its brave, sacrificing and painstaking Rajput people. Shekhawati derives its name from the Rajput Kachhwaha chieftain Rao Shekha Ji. Amongst the descendants of Rao Shekha Ji, the ruling clan is called Shekhawat. The story of Shekha's birth is interesting to understand the origin of Shekhawati. Mokal Ji and his wife were troubled as they had no son for several years. They heard about the miraculous powers of the Sheikh Burhan, a Muslim saint and decided to visit him. After they received the Sheikh's blessing a son was born to the couple. In honour of the mendicant, the couple named their son Shekha. Shekhawati means Garden of Shekha or Land of Shekhawat Rulers.

Shetrunji Express

Bhavnagar Terminus – Ahmadabad (MG)

High up, on Shetrunjaya Hill, above the town of Palitana near Bhavnagar, is the abode of the 24 Jain Tirthankars. A cluster of 863 shrines, the architecture of the temples reflects centuries and generations of grandeur, wealth, religious leanings and aesthetic values. The main temple on top of the hill is dedicated to the 1st Tirthankara Lord Adinath (Rishabdeva). It is an arduous climb, anywhere between 3500 – 4000 steps. Standing atop at the summit, it is possible to view the Shetrunjaya River below. Devout Jains refrain from eating during their uphill climb, which may begin at dawn, as well as when they are descending just before dusk; they may sip on some boiled water. The temple city has been built as an abode for the Gods; hence, no one is allowed to stay overnight, including the priests.

Simla Mail

Kalka – Lahore/ Amritsar (BG)

Shimla, earlier called Simla, is the capital city of Himachal Pradesh. In 1864, Shimla was declared the summer capital of the British Raj in India. A popular tourist destination, Shimla is often referred to as the "Queen of Hills" (a term coined by the British). Shimla is connected to the city of Kalka by one of the longest narrow gauge railway routes still operating in India, the Kalka-Shimla Railway.

Sitamahal Express

Narkatiaganj – Jaynagar (MG)

Sitamarhi, the town after which the train was named, is the place where the Goddess Sita was born. The town is situated along the border of Nepal. Its history goes back to Treta Yug. Sita, the wife of Lord Rama sprang to life out of an earthen pot, when Raja Janaka was ploughing the field somewhere near Sitamarhi to impress upon Lord Indra for rain. It is said that Raja Janaka excavated a tank at the place where Sita emerged and after her marriage set up the stone figures of Rama, Sita and Lakshmana to mark the site. This tank is known as Janaki – Kund.

Somnath Mail

Veraval – Ahmadabad (MG)

The Somnath Temple located in the Prabhas Kshetra near Veraval on the western coast of Gujarat, is the most sacred of the twelve Jyotirlingas (lingams of light) of the God Shiva. Somnath means "The Protector of Moon God". Hindu mythology states that the Moon God Chandra, being arrogant about his beauty, was cursed by his father-in-law Daksha to wane. The Moon then prayed to Lord Shiva at the Prabhas tirth (a Hindu pilgrimage site) who then removed the curse partially, thus causing the periodic waning of moon. The Somnath Temple is known as 'the Shrine Eternal', as although the temple has been destroyed six times, it has been rebuilt every single time, on the last occasion in November 1947.

Sonbhadra Express

New Delhi – Patna (BG)

This was the predecessor of the Magadh Express. Sonbhadra or Sonebhadra is the largest district of Uttar Pradesh, and lies in the extreme southeast of the state. The district headquarters is in the town of Robertsganj. The Son River flows through the area from east to west and the district is named after it. The area has now been transformed due to the Industrial Revolution with three cement factories, one of the biggest aluminum plants, a carbon plant, a chemical factory and three coal based thermal power plants, which generate 11000 MW of power.

Southern Express

New Delhi – Madras Central (BG)

The train used to connect Delhi with the southern metropolis of Madras. It appears to have either been replaced by the Grand Trunk Express or the Dakshin Express.

Srinagar Express

New Delhi – Pathankot/ Jammu Tawi (BG)

Etymologically Srinagar is composed of two Sanskrit words, namely, *Sri* (meaning abundance and wealth) and *Nagar*, which means a city. Thus, the word Srinagar signifies a place of wealth and abundance. Sri is also the name of the Goddess Lakshmi. The train is the predecessor of the Jhelum Express, as it was renamed after its extension to Pune.

Sundarban Passenger

Sealdah – Hasnabad (BG)

This was another passenger, like the Ichhamati Passenger, which was converted into an EMU service. The Sundarbans is the largest single block of tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world. The name Sundarban can be literally translated as "beautiful jungle" or "beautiful forest" (Sundar, "beautiful" and ban, "forest" or "jungle"). The name may have been derived from the Sundari trees that are found in Sundarbans in large numbers. The forest lies at the feet of the Ganga and is spread across areas of Bangladesh and West Bengal, forming the seaward fringe of the Delta. The seasonally-flooded Sundarbans freshwater swamp forests lie inland from the mangrove forests. The area is known for the Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), as well as numerous species of birds, spotted deer, crocodiles and snakes.

Tripura Passenger

Lumding – Manu (MG)

Before the extension of the railway line to the capital Agartala, Tripura was served by this train which terminated at the railheads Dharmanagar, and then Manu. The origin of the word Tripura is attributed to the legendary tyrant king of Tripura, Tripur. He was so

powerful that he ordered his subjects to worship him as the sole God. People fled to escape his tyranny to the nearby state of Hiramba (Cachar). The word Tripura may also have originated from Tripura Sundari, the presiding deity of the land which is famous as one of the 51 Shakti Peethas, pilgrimage centers of Shakti worshippers. According to another school of thought the name Tripura was probably given to the state in honour of the temple at Udaipur, Tripureshwari, the wife of lord Shiva.

Upper India Express

Sealdah – Delhi via Bhagalpur (BG)

One of the legendary trains of the past, sadly its run is now curtailed, and it is one of the slowest trains running between Sealdah and Varanasi via Bhagalpur. The significance of the name is unclear, because there never was a corresponding Lower India Express.

Utkal Express

Puri – Hazrat Nizamuddin (BG)

At one time, there were two trains running between Puri and Nizamuddin. Kalinga Express was the slower train, and Utkal Express was the faster version. Later the two trains were amalgamated to form the Kalinga Utkal Express, which was recently extended to Haridwar. Kalinga was an early kingdom in eastern India, which comprised most of the modern state of Orissa, as well as some northern areas of the bordering state of Andhra Pradesh. It was a rich and fertile land and was the scene of the bloody Kalinga War fought by the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka the Great of Magadha in 265 BC. Utkal is another name for Orissa, the area around the Ganjam plains and the Mahanadi delta.

Vaishali Express

Siliguri – Agra Fort (MG)

Vaishali, near the present day city of Muzaffarpur, was the capital city of the Licchavis, one of world's first democratic republics, in the Vajji mahajanapada, around the 6th century BC. It was here that Gautama Buddha preached his last sermon before his death in 483 BC, and then in 383 BC, the Second Buddhist council was convened here by King Kalasoka. Also in 599 BC, the 24th Jain Tirthankara, Mahavira was born and brought up in Vaishali republic, making it an important place in both religions. At the time of the Buddha, Vaishali, which he visited on many occasions, was a very large city, rich and prosperous, crowded with people and with abundant food. There were seven thousand, seven hundred and seven pleasure grounds, and an equal number of lotus ponds. Its courtesan, Ambapali or Amrapali, was famous for her beauty, and helped in large measure in making the city prosperous. Vaishali derives its name from King Vishal of the Mahabharata.

Vijayanagar Express

Hubli – Guntakal (MG)

The Vijayanagara Empire was a South Indian empire based in the Deccan Plateau. Established in 1336 by Harihara I and his brother Bukka Raya I, it lasted until 1646 although its power declined after a major military defeat in 1565 by the Deccan sultanates. The empire is named after its capital city of Vijayanagara (the City of Victory), whose impressive ruins surround modern Hampi, now a World Heritage Site in Karnataka. The reign of Krishnadevaraya (1509 – 1529) is considered the Golden Age of South India that transcended regionalism by promoting Hinduism as a unifying factor. Today the BG version of the train is known as the Hampi Express.

NAMES OF PASSENGER TRAINS

Bagha Jatin Passenger

467/ 468 Howrah – Bhadrak

Bagha Jatin (Tiger Jatin), born Jatindranath Mukherjee (1879 – 1915) was a Bengali revolutionary philosopher against British rule. He was the principal leader of the Yugantar party that was the central association of revolutionaries in Bengal. He was killed near Balasore in Orissa after an encounter with the British.

Delta Fast Passenger

319/ 320 Repalle – Secunderabad

It connects the thickly populated, fertile lands of the Delta of the River Krishna in Andhra Pradesh with the state capital.

Haldighati Fast Passenger

1771/ 1772 Neemuch – Agra Fort

Haldighati is a mountain pass in the Aravalli Range of Rajasthan. It connects Rajsamand and Pali districts, 40 km from Udaipur. The name is believed to have come from the turmeric – colored yellow soil (Turmeric is haldi in Hindi). The mountain pass is historically significant as the location of the historic Battle of Haldighati, which took place in 1576 between Rana Pratap Singh of Mewar and Raja Man Singh of Amber, general of the Mughal emperor Akbar.

Kakatiya Fast Passenger

325/ 326 Secunderabad – Dornakal

Initially it used to run as an express between Secunderabad and Warangal, before it was extended to Dornakal. It is due to be extended to Bhadrachalam Road in the near future. The Kakatiya dynasty ruled most parts of what is now Andhra Pradesh from 1083 to 1323. Shaivite Hindu in nature, it was one of the great Telugu kingdoms that lasted for centuries. The Kakatiya's ascent to power can be traced to the reign of the Western Chalukyas. Kakartya Gundyana, a subordinate of the Eastern Chalukyan monarch, Amma II (945-970), established the Kakatiya dynasty. The dynasty's name comes either from its association with a town known as Kakatipura (since the kings bore the title

“Kakatipuravallabha”) or from their worship of a goddess called Kakati. A temple dedicated to goddess Kakatamma exists in Warangal; so Kakatipura could be another name for Warangal itself.

Kamla Ganga Fast Passenger

541/ 542 Darbhanga – Patna

This passenger train may have run as an express train in the past. It connects Darbhanga on the Kamla River with Patna on the Ganga River. The Kamala River originates in the mountains near Sindhuli Garhi in Nepal, and takes a southern direction. It enters India near Jaynagar and then flows through the plains of Darbhanga District. One of its branch leads to the Bagmati River whereas another leads to Kosi River

Kolongpar Passenger

803/ 804 Guwahati – Haibargaon

The Kolong River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River, which diverges out from it in Nagaon district, Assam, and meets the same again at Kolongpar near Guwahati. The tributary is approx. 250 km in length, and flows through the districts of Nagaon, Morigaon and Kamrup. The river flows through the heart of the Nagaon urban area dividing the town into Nagaon and Haibargaon.

Kopili Passenger

805/ 806 Guwahati – Haibargaon

The Kopili River arises in the North Cachar Hills District of Assam and flows north and then westwards past the towns of Chaparmukh and Jagi Road on the Guwahati – Lumding line, to join the Brahmaputra River a few km upstream from Guwahati. The word "Kopli" or "Kupli" means a speedy river. The word "Kopili" originates from these two words. According to some Sanskrit scholars this relates to Sage Kapil hence the name "Kopili". They further connected the Hermitage of Sage Kapil on the bank of this river.

Mayurakshi Fast Passenger

217/ 218 Howrah – Rampur Hat via Andal – Siuri

Mayurakshi River (also called Mor River) is a major river in West Bengal, with a long history of devastating floods. It has its source on Trikut hill, about 16 km from Deoghar in Jharkhand. It flows through Jharkhand and then through the districts of Birbhum and Murshidabad in West Bengal before flowing into the Hooghly River. Mayurakshi literally means the eye of a peacock (mayur/ mor = peacock, akshi = eye). Mayurakshi though named after its crystal clear water of the dry seasons, floods its valley during the monsoons.

Mewar Fast Passenger

431/ 432 Udaipur City – Ahmadabad

Mewar includes the districts of Bhilwara, Chittaurgarh, Rajsamand and Udaipur. The region was for centuries a Rajput kingdom that later became a princely state under the British. It was ruled by the Chattari Rajputs of Guhilot and Sisodia dynasties for over 1200 years. Known for its long history of bravery, Mewar has been home to such valiant souls like Bappa Rawal, Rani Padmini (who committed Jauhar rather than submit to conquest by Alauddin Khilji), Rana Kumbha, Rana Sangha and Maharana Pratap.

Nilgiri Passenger

661/ 662 Udhagamandalam – Mettupalaiyam

The Nilgiri Express (also known as the Blue Mountain Express, or Nilagiri Express) is named after the Nilgiri (Tamil, English - Nil - Blue; Giri - Mountain) Hills. The train is primarily intended for travelers to these hills, especially to the towns of Ooty, Coonoor and Kotagiri. Mettupalaiyam is at the foot of these hills, and the Nilgiri Express links to the Nilagiri passenger train operated by the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) at Mettupalaiyam station, enabling passengers to complete the journey to Udhagamandalam (Ooty) by rail.

Pench Valley Passenger

285/ 286 Indore – Chhindwara

The Pench National Park is located in Chhindwara and Seoni districts of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining areas of northwestern Maharashtra. The vegetation here is typical of the southern tropical deciduous forest. It is home to various animals like gaur, sambar, blue bulls, macaque, langur, wild boar, bears, wild dogs, deer and leopards. A few tigers and civets can also be spotted sometimes. The nearest rail-head is at Ramtek. The Park is named after the River Pench which flows through this area. This is the 19th project tiger reserve in India.

Saranda Passenger

309/ 310 Chakradharpur – Rourkela

Saranda forest is a dense forest in the hilly region of West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand. Saranda literally means seven hundred hills. The heart of the forest, Thalkobad is about 46 km from Manoharpur, and about 160 km from Jamshedpur.

Shakuntala Express

Murtajapur – Yavatmal (NG)

Murtajapur – Achalpur (NG)

Shakuntala Express (actually passenger trains) plying between Murtajapur and Yavatmal, and Murtajapur and Achalpur in Maharashtra is over 90 years old, and is the only train connecting at least two dozen villages in remote cotton-growing areas that don't even have road links. Killick, Nixon and Company, set up in 1857, created the Central Provinces Railway Company (CPRC) to act as its agents. The company built this narrow

gauge line in 1903 to carry cotton from Yavatmal to the main line to Mumbai (Bombay), from where it was shipped to Manchester in England. The Indian Railways has a contract to operate the line on a 60:40 profit-sharing agreement. Despite the train's popularity, Indian Railways are not too keen on renewing the contract, since the Shakuntala Express is running into heavy losses. But politicians in the region say they will fight for the train. This is one of only a few operational railway lines in India that remains with private owners, and perhaps the only one that belongs to a British firm. Its closure could mean an end to what's possibly one of the last remnants of the Raj in India.

Shifung Passenger

703/ 704 Alipurduar Jn. – Guwahati

Shifung is the traditional Bodo flute. A long instrument made of bamboo, it has seven holes rather than six as the north Indian Bansuri would have and is also much longer than it, producing a much lower tone. Bodoland, the territory predominantly occupied by the tribal Bodos, is an area located on the north bank of Brahmaputra River in Assam, by the foothills of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. Its territory overlaps with the districts of Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang and Udalguri, with Kokrajhar serving as the capital

Shirdi Fast Passenger

1333/ 1334 Mumbai C.S.T. – Sainagar Shirdi

Before the railway line was extended from Puntamba to Sainagar Shirdi, this passenger train used to stop at Kopargaon, and terminate at Manmad, both convenient railheads for Shirdi. Sai Baba of Shirdi (Unknown – October 15th 1918), also known as Shirdi Sai Baba, was a guru and yogi, regarded by his followers as an incarnation of God. There are many stories and eyewitness accounts of miracles he performed. Baba reportedly arrived at the village of Shirdi in the Ahmadnagar district of Maharashtra, when he was about 16 years old. It is generally accepted that Baba stayed in Shirdi for three years and then disappeared for a year. In 1858 Sai Baba returned to Shirdi with Chand Patil's wedding procession. After alighting near the Khandoba temple he was greeted with the words "Ya Sai" (Marathi: welcome saint) by the temple priest Mhalsapati. The name Sai stuck to him and some time later he started being known as Sai Baba.

Shiromani Fast Passenger

463/ 464 Howrah – Adra

Diwan Ajit Singh of Midnapore (Midnapur/ Medinipur) died in 1753 without leaving a male heir, and his two wives Rani Bhawani and Rani Shiromani succeeded him. The Chuars under Gobardhan Sardar took possession of Midnapur, the two Ranis fled to nearby Narajol where their relative Trilochan Singh ruled. Trilochan Singh restored Midnapur to the Ranis by entering into a settlement with the Chuars. Rani Bhawani died in 1760, and Rani Shiromani took over, but due to her inability to pay the Government revenue, the Midnapur Raj was finally transferred to the Narajol zamindars.

Suvarna Fast Passenger

523/ 524 Marikuppam – Bangalore City

Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) near the town of Marikuppam, was one of the major gold mines in India and is located in the Kolar district in Karnataka. It was closed in 2003 due to reducing deposits and increasing costs. The mine is considered the world's second deepest gold mine. Gold was first mined in the area prior to the 2nd and 3rd century AD (golden objects found in Harappa and Moenjo-daro have been traced to KGF through analysis of impurities, the impurities include 11% silver concentration, found only in KGF ore). During the Chola period in the 9th and 10th centuries, the scale of the operation grew, but large-scale mining only came in the 1850s under the British with more manpower and sophisticated machinery.

Utkal Sammilani M1903/ S1923 Passenger

DMU 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ 6 Cuttack – Khurda Road – Balugan – Palasa

After many years of conquest by first Mughal and then British rulers, the land of Orissa was divided under three different regions – Bengal Presidency, Madras Presidency and Central Provinces. With the growth of socio – political awareness amongst Oriya speaking people, many organizations came into existence, whose aim was i) unification of scattered Oriya speaking people, ii) economic progress of Orissa through development of industries, and iii) social progress through general, technical and female education. Madhusudan Das was the leader of the Utkal Sammilani movement (Utkal Union Conference), which was established in Cuttack in December 1903. In the following years, Sambalpur and surrounding states were transferred from Central Provinces, along with transfer of Ganjam and surrounding tracts from the Madras Presidency to the Orissa Division of Bengal Presidency. In 1912, the province of Bihar and Orissa was separated from the Bengal Presidency. Madhusudan Das was also a member of the administrative council of Orissa, Bihar and Bengal for around thirty years from 1896. He had served the office of the minister for self-administration and health for Bihar and Orissa from 1921 to 1923, the post which he eventually resigned owing to differences with the British. Finally his dream of a separate province of Orissa was fulfilled on 1st April 1936.

Vishwabharati Fast Passenger

215/ 216 Howrah – Rampur Hat via Bolpur

Vishwa Bharati University, Shantiniketan is a Central University for research and teaching in India, located in the twin towns of Shantiniketan and Sriniketan in West Bengal. It was founded by Rabindranath Tagore who called it Vishwa Bharati, which means the communion of the world with India. Until independence it was a college. Soon after independence, in 1951 the institution was given the status of a university, and was renamed Vishwa Bharati University.

NOTE : Contents & Interpretation of the author only, not official