

# The System of Train Numbers

## Q. Is there a system behind the numbering of trains? Or, what do the 5 digits in a train number mean?

IR switched from its previous four-digit numbering system for passenger trains to a five-digit system from December 20, 2010.

The first digit of the train number indicates the type of train:

- **0:** for special trains (e.g., summer specials, holiday specials, etc.)
- **1:** for all long-distance trains, including the Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Jan Sadharan, Sampark Kranti, Garib Rath, Duronto, and other classes
- **2:** also for long-distance trains; it is to be used when train numbers starting with 1 are exhausted in any series
- **3:** for Kolkata suburban EMUs
- **4:** for suburban EMUs in Chennai, New Delhi, Secunderabad, and other metropolitan areas
- **5:** for passenger trains with conventional coaches
- **6:** for MEMU trains
- **7:** for DMU (DEMU) and railcar services
- **8:** for Suvidha trains
- **9:** for Mumbai area EMUs

The significance of the second and later digits depends on what the first digit is. The different number series are explained as follows, based on the first digit.

### If the first digit is 0, 1, 2

In the case of special trains and long-distance express trains (trains starting with digits '0', '1', or '2', the remaining 4 digits signify the railway zone and division as in the pre-2011 4-digit scheme. Most 5-digit numbers for long-distance trains were created by prefixing '1' to the former 4-digit codes. The zonal codes (second digit) are as follows:

- **0:** for Konkan Railway
- **1:** for CR (Central Railway), WCR (West Central Railway) and NCR (North Central Railway)
- **2:** for Superfasts, Shatabdi, Jan Shatabdi, and some other classes of trains regardless of zones. For these, the next digit is usually the zone code
- **3:** for ER (Eastern Railway) and ECR (East Central Railway)
- **4:** for NR (Northern Railway), NCR (North Central Railway) and NWR (North Western Railway)
- **5:** for NER (North Eastern Railway) and NFR (Northeast Frontier Railway)
- **6:** for SR (Southern Railway) and SWR (South Western Railway)
- **7:** for SCR (South Central Railway) and SWR (South Western Railway)
- **8:** for SER (South Eastern Railway) and ECoR (East Coast Railway)
- **9:** for WR (Western Railway), NWR (North Western Railway) and WCR (West Central Railway)

For other classes of trains, the remaining digits are used differently.

### If the first digit is 3

For Kolkata suburban trains starting with digit '3', there are two sets of numbers, depending on the zone that operates the services.

30xxx through 37xxx : trains run by ER  
38xxx through 39xxx : trains run by SER

## If the first digit is 4

For suburban trains other than in Mumbai and Kolkata, the following conventions apply.

40xxx through 44xxx : Chennai area EMU trains

45xxx through 46xxx: Delhi area suburban trains though NR does not seem to be following this scheme. See below (07/2020)

47xxx : Secunderabad EMUs

48xxx through 49xxx : reserved

## If the first digit is 5, 6, 7

For trains starting with '5', '6', and '7', i.e., passenger trains, the second digit determines the zone as for long-distance trains and the third digit determines the division. Please see above for zones, or see below for a more detailed list with zonal and division codes.

## If the first digit is 8

So far (07/2020), the second digit has always been 2, signifying that all Suvidha class of trains are superfast.

## If the first digit is 9

Mumbai suburban trains use the following system. Up and down directions are generally reflected in the use of odd and even numbers, respectively.

- 90xxx: WR locals originating from Virar
- 91xxx: WR locals originating from Vasai Road/Bhayander
- 92xxx: WR locals originating from Borivali
- 93xxx: WR locals originating from Malad/Goregaon
- 94xxx: WR locals originating from Andheri/Bandra/Mumbai Central
- 95xxx: CR fast locals
- 96xxx: CR locals going north of Kalyan
- 97xxx: CR locals on the Harbour line
- 98xxx: CR locals to the trans-Harbour line
- 99xxx: CR Slow trains not travelling beyond Kalyan