

Vande Bharat Express

January 23, 2021

In News

- It is India's first indigenously built engineless semi-high speed train. Earlier, it was known by the name Train 18 (because it was built in a short span of 18 months).

Vande Bharat Express

- It is India's first indigenously built engineless semi-high speed train. Earlier, it was known by the name Train 18.
- It runs between Delhi and Varanasi at a maximum speed of 160 kmph.
- It has been built by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, in a record time of 20 months.
- The train is a 100% 'Make in India' project and is claimed to be built at half the cost of a similar train set that is imported.
- It is energy-efficient as its coaches will be fitted with LED lights. Coaches will have automatic doors and retractable footsteps.
- It will be inter-connected with fully sealed gangways along with a GPS-based Passenger Information System. It is provided with Bio toilets.

Details

- Train 18 had propelled India into the exclusive club of about a half a dozen countries in the world that have the capability to turn out a brand new design of a high-speed/semi-high-speed train set in such a short time.
- The Prime Minister had flagged off the inaugural run of the Train 18 as 'Vande Bharat Express' in Varanasi.
- The train did provide trouble-free performance for six

months.

- Unfortunately, perhaps it was the outstanding success of the Train 18 project that proved to be its undoing.



Fast forward

The semi-high speed Train 18, which has been recently rechristened Vande Bharat Express, can run up to a maximum speed of 160 kmph. A look at Indian Railways' new showpiece train:

16 air-conditioned coaches, including two executive class

1,128 total passenger capacity

TRAVEL PLANNER

- The bookings have begun and it will run commercially from February 17 from Delhi to Varanasi five days a week. The train is expected to complete the journey in 8 hours.
- From Delhi to Varanasi, an air-conditioned

chair car ticket will cost ₹, 150, while the executive class fare will be ₹, 310. The fares are inclusive of catering charges.

MADE IN INDIA

Train 18 was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory, Chennai under the government's Make in India initiative.

MORE SUCH TRAINS

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said tendering process has started for 30 such trains and PM's nod has been sought to operate 100 of them.

KEY FACILITIES

- Automatic doors
- GPS-based audio-visual passenger information system
- On-board Wi-Fi hotspot
- Seats that can be rotated in executive class (see photos)
- Playty facility in each coach
- Bio-metric toilets
- Good mobile lighting, personalised for each seat.
- Regenerative braking system to save power.

I am grateful to designers and engineers behind Vande Bharat Express which will take its first trip from Delhi to Varanasi today. With our sincerity and hard work in the last 4.5 years we have tried to improve railways.

NAARENA
www.rr