

## VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

### *A Make in India Success Story*

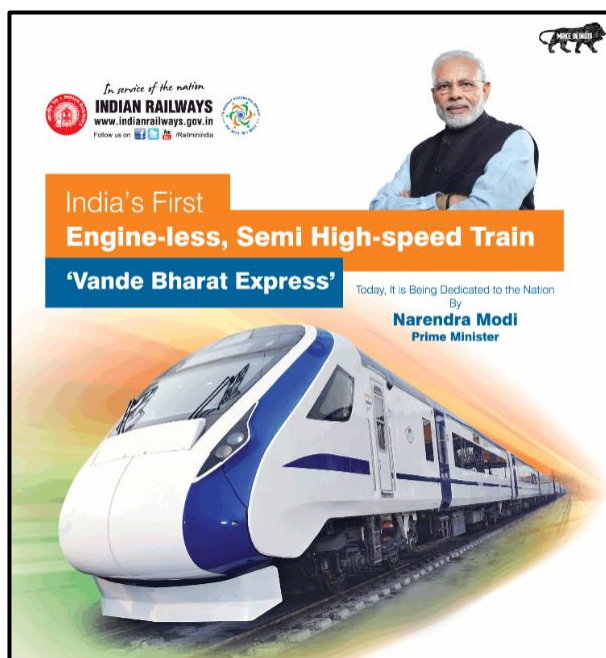
**400 Vande Bharat Trains to be introduced in next 3 years: Union Budget 2022**

(Ministry of Railways)

*15 February, 2022*

### Introduction

The Indian Government has dedicated significant efforts towards strengthening the ‘Make in India’ campaign. As an excellent example of the ‘Make in India’ success story, the Indian Railways launched India’s **first indigenous Semi High Speed train**, Vande Bharat Express. The first Vande Bharat Express train was **flagged off on 15 February, 2019** on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>2</sup>The Vande Bharat Express can run up to a maximum speed of **160 kmph** and has travel classes like Shatabdi Train but with better facilities. It aims to provide a totally new travel experience to passengers.

**Speed, Safety and Service** are the hallmarks of this train. **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**, a Railways Production unit, has been the force behind a completely in-house design and manufacture, computer modelling and working with a large number of suppliers for system integration in just 18 months.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1564577>

<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/indiagovin/status/1096266735232024576?lang=gu>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1564577>

## Objectives behind Vande Bharat Express

This train has been introduced to upgrade maintenance technologies and methodologies and achieve improvement in productivity and performance of all Railway assets and manpower in which inter-alia would cover reliability, availability, utilization and efficiency.<sup>4</sup>

## Culmination of 'Make in India' effort of Indian Railways

In keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of "Make in India", the major systems of the train have been designed and built in India. Impact of this train, matching global standards of performance, safety and passenger comfort and yet costing less than half of global prices, has the potential to be a game changer in the global rail business.<sup>5</sup>

## Vision for a New India

Vande Bharat Express is the next major leap for Indian Railways in terms of speed and

convenience. In his address to the nation on 15 August 2021 from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that during the 75 weeks of the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, **75 Vande Bharat trains will connect every corner of the country.**<sup>6</sup>

This train is India's first semi high-speed train equipped with world class passenger amenities. It can achieve high speeds due to faster acceleration & deceleration and will reduce journey time by 25% to

**Budget 2022-23**

**HIGHER INVESTMENT For Railways**

- 400 new-generation Vande Bharat trains will be developed and manufactured in next 3 years
- 'One station-One Product' concept will be popularised to help local businesses & supply chains
- 2,000 km of rail network will be brought under the indigenous world-class technology KAVACH
- 100 PM Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals will be developed in next 3 years
- Railways will develop new products and efficient logistics services for small farmers and SMEs

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<sup>4</sup> [VANDE BHARAT Volume 1\(1\).pdf \(indianrailways.gov.in\)](https://www.indianrailways.gov.in)

<sup>5</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1564577>

<sup>6</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746062>

45%. Scheduled commute between New Delhi & Varanasi will take approximately eight hours making it 40-50% faster than the fastest train currently connecting these two cities.<sup>7</sup>

### **Union Budget 2022: 400 Vande Bharat Trains in three years**

In the **Union Budget 2022-23**, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced that **four hundred new-generation Vande Bharat Trains** with better energy efficiency and passenger riding experience will be developed and manufactured during the **next three years**.<sup>8</sup>

These trains would be in addition to the two existing Vande Bharat Express Trains. The Howrah – Ranchi Vande Bharat Express is now being planned by Indian Railways, and the Railway Board has approved this rail route. This will be the third Vande Bharat Train in the country, which will connect Howrah (Kolkata) with the Capital of Jharkhand, Ranchi.<sup>9</sup>



### **Features and Amenities in Vande Bharat Express<sup>10</sup>**

- The Vande Bharat Express train has an **intelligent braking system** which enables better acceleration and deceleration.
- All coaches are equipped with automatic doors; GPS based audio-visual passenger information system, on-board hotspot Wi-Fi for entertainment purposes, and very comfortable seating. The executive class also has rotating chairs.

<sup>7</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1561592>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/budget\\_speech.pdf](https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/budget_speech.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [NIS English FEB 1-15 2022.pdf \(pib.gov.in\)](https://pib.gov.in/NIS_English_FEB_1-15_2022.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1564577>

- All **toilets are bio-vacuum** type. The **lighting is dual mode**, viz. diffused for general illumination and personal for every seat.
- Every coach has a **pantry** with facilities to serve hot meals, hot and cold beverages. The insulation is meant to keep heat and noise to very low levels for additional passenger comfort.
- The Vande Bharat Express has **16 air-conditioned coaches** of which two are executive class coaches. The total seating capacity is 1,128 passengers. It is much more than the conventional Shatabdi rake of equal number of coaches, thanks to shifting of all electric equipment below the coaches and seats in the driving coach also.
- It also has provision for **Divyang-friendly facilities**.
- Adding up the green footprints, the train has a regenerative braking system in the Vande Bharat Express coaches which **can save up to 30% of electrical energy**.
- The Vande Bharat Express train has fully sealed gangways and censored interconnecting doors for a dust free environment.
- A fire survival cable indoor circuit will also be available on the train. There will also be an improved air conditioning system.<sup>11</sup>

### Routes

The nation's first semi high speed train is currently running on two routes New Delhi- Shri Vaishno Devi Mata, Katra and New Delhi - Varanasi. Soon, these trains will run across the nation.<sup>12</sup>

### Fare Structure of Vande Bharat Trains

**Basic Fare:** Basic fare of AC chair car of Vande Bharat Express is 1.4 times of the basic fare of AC chair car class of Shatabdi train and for Executive class 1.3 times of the basic fare of executive class of Shatabdi trains.

**Other Charges** like reservation fee, superfast surcharge, catering charge and Goods and service tax etc., as applicable are levied separately.

**Tatkal Quota** is 5% of the total accommodation for the respective classes. Tatkal fare includes base fare for the respective classes plus applicable class wise tatkal charges and other

<sup>11</sup> <https://newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/flipbook/2022/Feb/1st/English/index.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://twitter.com/RailMinIndia/status/1463471526095720449?s=20&t=xxfW3laphjP4YHwTXd529w>

supplementary charges, GST etc., as applicable from time to time. CCMs of zonal Railways may further increase the tatkal quota maximum up to 30 per cent of the total accommodation based on the demand pattern.<sup>13</sup>

#### **References:**

- <https://twitter.com/indiagovin/status/1096266735232024576?lang=gu>
- [VANDE BHARAT Volume 1\(1\).pdf \(indianrailways.gov.in\)](#)
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- [Fare structure of Train 18 \(Vande Bharat Express\) – IRCTCPORTAL](#)
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- [General Instructions & Safety Precaution \(indianrailways.gov.in\)](#)
- [\(13\) Ministry of Railways \(@RailMinIndia\) / Twitter](#)
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1794123>

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<sup>13</sup> [Fare structure of Train 18 \(Vande Bharat Express\) – IRCTCPORTAL](#)