

Science Express - Shaping the Future

Introduction

'Science Express' is an innovative science exhibition mounted on a specially designed train. The 16 coach AC rake was especially fabricated for Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India by the Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala. Majority of the exhibits have been designed & developed by Max Planck Society (MPS), Germany, a Noble laureate powerhouse.

Objective

One of the major objectives of this unique classroom-on-wheels is to nurture curiosity amongst our youth and encourages them to pursue higher studies and careers in science. This flagship venture of National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), DST, also attempts to develop scientific temper amongst the masses them. Further, it strives to take modern research out of the lab and reveal just how relevant science is to everyday life. The visitors of this state-of-the-art exhibition can learn how science enables the society to face the global challenges of the 21st century.

Journey so far

The inaugural edition of the 'Science Express' was flagged off from New Delhi on 30 October 2007 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Chancellor of Germany. Since then, it has been showcased in about 160 cities across India in three phases, till April 2010. The exhibition, which has created several records, received overwhelming response at all the halts. Over 51 lakh people, mostly students, have enjoyed learning about cutting-edge research in science, explained through interesting audio-visual exhibits and interactive tools.

Science Express - Phase IV

Phase-IV of the 'Science Express' is being launched on 4 December 2010 from Gandhinagar Capital Railway Station. In the current phase, it will travel to 55 locations, mostly not covered earlier, traveling across the length & breadth of the country and covering about 18,000 kms in seven months of its journey. At each of the locations, it would halt generally for 3-4 days, during which students as well as general public would visit the exhibition. The itinerary (schedule) of Phase IV is attached.

The exhibition

This sparkling white, fully air conditioned train, showcases more than 300 large-format visual images, over 150 video clips and multimedia exhibits, which deals extensively with cutting-edge research in science and technology. In the 12 exhibition coaches, most of exhibits have been developed by Noble laureates from MPS, Germany while some indigenous exhibits too have been displayed besides brief sketches those great Indian scientists whose contribution is unparalleled. Through these, the visitors would explore a wide gamut of issues in science in a fascinating manner and delve into the mysteries of our world; groundbreaking discoveries, emerging issues, cutting-edge science and future-oriented technologies. The coaches have exhibits on the following:

- On the way to the Big Bang
- Nanocosmos
- Building blocks of life
- From 'gene to organism'
- Architecture of the mind
- The world of senses
- Technologies of future
- Climate Change
- Global challenges
- Spaceship earth
- Our home in the cosmos
- The universe
- Science and technology in India
- The Joy of Science



One coach showcases India's glorious legacy and achievements in IT, Biotech, Space, Nanotechnology, and so on and also future programmes in S&T, India's besides film shows on innovations, inventions, discoveries and topical issues.

Additional attractions of Phase IV

- A dedicated coach on 'Climate Change- Cause, Effect and Mitigation', sponsored by HSBC, under the 'Earth Sciences Forum', its joint initiative with DST, has been redesigned and updated. The Climate Change coach had been introduced in the last phase, along with several related platform based activities, has been quite popular amongst the visitors.
- Panels on Indian scientists and their contribution in various disciplines of science
- To celebrate the 'International Year of Chemistry - 2011; Science Express is showcasing details of the Periodic Table and elements on the window panes of the coaches. The visitors can learn many features of each element while waiting on the platform.
- Exhibition on 'Water' from Nestle and Swiss Embassy.
- Working models like 'Your age on other Planets' and 'Mouse movement motion sensor'.

Management of 'Science Express'

Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC), Ahmedabad has once again been entrusted by DST with the task of coordinating & managing the 'Science Express' across India. A well trained & highly motivated team of Science Communicators of VASCSC aboard the train explain & interprets the exhibits, answer queries and facilitates the visitors.

How to visit and participate

Though the exhibition is open to all, it primarily targets high school and college students. Students & youth are encouraged to visit this exhibition in large numbers and take advantage of this innovative endeavor. More information about the 'Science Express' is available on the website www.scienceexpress.in.

For visit to the exhibition or any queries, please send an email to scienceexpress@gmail.com or contact the Project Coordinator aboard the train (mobile: 08690444407).

The students can conduct hands-on experiments in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths in the 'Joy of Science Lab' of VASCSC in the Coach No.13. High school students can participate in the 'Joy of Science (JOS) Lab' in small batches of up to 20 students, by prior registration. For participating in the JOS Lab, please send an email to vascsc.jos@gmail.com or contact the Lab in-charge (mobile: 09428405408).

Team Science Express solicits cooperation from all the concerned departments, media, institutions and individuals in giving wider publicity to this prestigious exhibition on wheels, so that a large number of visitors are benefited and make the programme a grand success.

Please Note:

- The exhibition is primarily for students of Standard IX and above.
- There is no entry fee for the exhibition.
- Not allowed on the Science Express - Items like mobiles, cameras, bags, match-boxes, cigarettes, beedis, tobacco, water bottles, any liquid, and any sharp pointed objects.
- Venue: Railway station of the respective city
- Timing: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm



Science Express Schedule (4 December 2010 - 16 June 2011)

Sr. No.	Station	Exhibition Dates	Sr. No.	Station	Exhibition Dates
1	Gandhinagar	04 - 07 Dec 10	29	Rayagada	14 - 17 Mar 11
2	Marwar	08 - 10 Dec 10	30	Sambalpur	18 - 21 Mar 11
3	Barmer	11 - 14 Dec 10	31	Titlagarh	22 - 25 Mar 11
4	Nagaur	15 - 17 Dec 10	32	Durg	26 - 29 Mar 11
5	Delhi (Pragati Maidan)	19 - 22 Dec 10	33	Bilaspur	30 - 31 Mar 11
6	Meerut Cantt.	23 - 26 Dec 10	34	Sagar (Saugor)	02 - 05 Apr 11
7	Haridwar	27 - 29 Dec 10	35	Guna	06 - 09 Apr 11
8	Ambala City	30 Dec 10 - 02 Jan 11	36	Wardha	11 - 14 Apr 11
9	Hanumangarh	03 - 05 Jan 11	37	Ramagundam	15 - 17 Apr 11
10	Firozpur Cantt.	06 - 09 Jan 11	38	Secunderabad	18 - 21 Apr 11
11	Pathankot	10 - 13 Jan 11	39	Guntakal	22 - 25 Apr 11
12	Udhampur	14 - 17 Jan 11	41	Dharmavaram	26 - 28 Apr 11
13	Mathura	19 - 22 Jan 11	41	Jolarpettai	29 Apr – 02 May 11
14	Hardoi	23 - 26 Jan 11	42	Thanjavur	03 May 11
15	Sitapur Cantt.	27 - 30 Jan 1	43	Tuticorin	04 - 07 May 11
16	Gonda Kacheri	31 Jan - 03 Feb 11	44	Kollam	08 - 10 May 11
17	Sonpur	04 - 06 Feb 11	45	Kannur	12 May 11
18	Siliguri	08 - 10 Feb 11	46	Karwar	13 - 16 May 11
19	Alipurduar	11 - 13 Feb 11	47	Hubli	17 - 20 May 11
20	Lumding	14 - 15 Feb 11	48	Miraj	21 - 24 May 11
21	Mariani	16 - 18 Feb 11	49	Mumbai (CST)	26 - 29 May 11
22	Dibrugarh Town	19 - 21 Feb 11	50	Nadiad	30 May - 02 Jun 11
23	Kamakhya	23 - 25 Feb 11	51	Mehsana	03 Jun 11
24	Sabour	27 Feb – 01 Mar 11	52	Abu Road	04 Jun 11
25	Asansol	02 - 05 Mar 11	53	Bhuj	05 - 08 Jun 11
26	Kolkata	06 - 07 Mar 11	54	Rajkot (Bhaktinagar)	09 - 11 Jun 11
27	Sealdah	08 - 09 Mar 11	55	Porbandar	12 - 14 Jun 11
28	Mancheshwar	10 - 13 Mar 11	56	Gandhinagar	15 - 16 Jun 11

