

Science Express - Biodiversity Special

Brief Note

Science Express is an innovative mobile exhibition mounted on a specially designed 16 coach AC train, traveling across India since October 2007. After the successful tour across India in four phases, this iconic train is running since 2012 on the Indian Rail Network as 'Science Express - Biodiversity Special (SEBS)'.

With United Nations declaration of the current decade (2011-2020) as Decade on Biodiversity and India holding Chair of the Conference of Parties (COP11) to Convention of Biological Diversity during 2012, Science Express was redesigned on the theme 'Biodiversity' and since 2012 it has been running as Science Express Biodiversity Special (SEBS). It is a unique collaborative initiative of Department of Science & Technology and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India.

The SEBS Phase III was flagged-off from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station on 28 July 2014 by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda, the then Minister of Railways, Govt. of India, and Dr. Jitendra Singh, former Minister, Science and Technology, Govt. of India. In the current phase from 28 July 2014 to 06 February 2015, SEBS Phase III will travel to 56 locations across India. At each location, it is scheduled to halt for 3-4 days, during which the exhibition will remain open for visitors.

Since its launch in October 2007, the Science Express exhibition train has travelled over 1, 21,623 km across the country. It has received over 1.31 crore (13 million) visitors at its 390 halts in 1,383 exhibition days till date. Science Express has thus become the largest, the longest running and the most visited mobile science exhibition in India and has created several other records in the wake.

The state-of-the-art exhibition aboard the SEBS aims to create awareness on biodiversity of India, climate change and similar issues among various sections of the society, especially the students. The exhibition, thus, targets a wide range of audience including school and college students as well as teachers.

Of the 16 coaches of the SEBS, MoEF&CC has put up exhibition in eight coaches that are solely dedicated to showcasing the myriad biodiversity spread across the bio-geographical zones of India like Trans-Himalaya & Himalaya, the Gangetic Plain, North-East India, the Western Ghats, the Indian Deserts, the Semi-Arid Zone, the Deccan Peninsula and the Coasts and the Islands. The exhibition also covers various other facets like marine, coastal, forest, microbial and agro biodiversity and their linkage with livelihoods along with the challenges of their conservation.

In rest of the rake, DST has put up exhibition on themes like Climate Change, Biodiversity and Water, Sustainable Environment and Energy Conservation. In one coach, a Kids Zone has been created for kids, to indulge in fun-filled activities, games and puzzles in science, mathematics and environment. Further, the popular VASCSC Joy of Science (JOS) Hands-on Lab is put up in another dedicated coach. In this mobile lab, students can perform various experiments and activities to understand concepts in environment, science and mathematics in an interesting manner. A Discussion centre-cum-training facility is provided in a coach for orientation of teachers.

At each halt of SEBS, activities are planned in advance to engage visitors across different ages to reinforce the message of SEBS and these include the exciting and much sought-after Outreach Programme conducted in local schools / institutions along with interesting activities on the railway platforms. Institutions and local schools associated with the MoEF's National Environment Awareness Programme (NEAC) and National Green Corps (NGC) also help in reaching out. In addition, informative take-away material is made available for wider distribution amongst schools and visitors.

The exhibition reflects the wisdom and the hard-work of the knowledge partners who have contributed to bring forth this exhibition. MoEF&CC has partnered with the DST and Indian Railways for putting up the exhibition on biodiversity. Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad along with the knowledge partners and Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC), Ahmedabad have developed and put up this unique exhibition-on-wheels.

VASCSC has been entrusted by DST with the task of coordinating the SEBS across India. VASCSC's team of qualified, trained and highly motivated Science Communicators travelling with the train explain and interpret the exhibition, answers queries, facilitate the visitors and conduct complementary activities.

The exhibition is open to all but primarily targets students and teachers. More information 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 team aboard the train on 09428405407. 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 on 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 to make the programme a grand success.

Please Note

- The exhibition is open to all.
- 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
- Refer schedule for the dates at respective halts.

Science Express Biodiversity Special –Phase III

Schedule

(28 July 2014 – 06 Feb 2015)

Sr. No.	Station	Exhibition Dates	Sr. No.	Station	Exhibition Dates
1	Delhi Safdarjung (Flag Off)	28 July 2014	29	Guntur	31 Oct – 05 Nov 2014
2	Kuruksheetra	29 Jul- 1 Aug 2014	30	Dharmavaram	06 – 09 Nov 2014
3	Ludhiana	02 – 05 Aug 2014	31	Whitefield (Bengaluru)	10 – 13 Nov 2014
4	Udhampur	06 – 08 Aug 2014	32	Jolarpettai	14 – 16 Nov 2014
5	Bajalta	09– 11 Aug 2014	33	Salem Town	17 Nov 2014
6	Tarn Taran	12 – 14 Aug 2014	34	Thanjavur	18 – 19 Nov 2014
7	Roorkee	16 – 18 Aug 2014	35	Erode	20 – 23 Nov 2014
8	Meerut Cant	19 – 22 Aug 2014	36	Thrissur	24 – 26 Nov 2014
9	Najibabad	23 – 25 Aug 2014	37	Kollam	27 – 30 Nov 2014
10	Lalkuan	26 – 29 Aug 2014	38	Shoranur	01 – 03 Dec 2014
11	Shahjahanpur	30 Aug – 01 Sep 2014	39	Kasaragod	04 – 07 Dec 2014
12	Unnao	02 - 04 Sep 2014	40	Dharwad	09 – 12 Dec 2014
13	Basti	05 - 07 Sep 2014	41	Karad	13 – 16 Dec 2014
14	Ghazipur City	08 - 11 Sep 2014	42	Khadki (Pune)	17 – 20 Dec 2014
15	Sonpur	12 - 14 Sep 2014	43	Nasik Road	21 – 24 Dec 2014
16	Thakurganj	15 - 16 Sep 2014	44	Ratlam	26 – 28 Dec 2014
17	Fakiragram	17 Sep 2014	45	Chittorgarh	29 Dec – 01 Jan 2015
18	Lumding	18 – 20 Sep 2014	46	Sawai Madhopur	02 – 05 Jan 2015
19	New Mal Jn	22 Sep 2014	47	Hisar	06 – 09 Jan 2015
20	Eklakhi	23 - 24 Sep 2014	48	Ratangarh	10 – 12 Jan 2015
21	Barasat (Kolkata)	25 - 28 Sep 2014	49	Lalgarh (Bikaner)	13 – 15 Jan 2015
22	Chakradharpur	29 Sep - 01 Oct 2014	50	Degana	16 – 19 Jan 2015
23	Bilaspur	03 – 06 Oct 2014	51	Samdari	20 – 22 Jan 2015
24	KatniMurwara	07 – 09 Oct 2014	52	Gandhidham	23 – 25 Jan 2015
25	Saugor	10 – 13 Oct 2014	53	Wankaner	27 – 29 Jan 2015
26	Amaravati	15 – 18 Oct 2014	54	Dhrangadhra	30 – 31 Jan 2015
27	Kumhari (Raipur)	19 – 22 Oct 2014	55	Viramgam	01 – 03 Feb 2015
28	Titlagarh	24 – 29 Oct 2014	56	Gandhinagar Capital	04 – 06 Feb 2015