

Dear Professional Colleagues and Readers,

Recently I had a chance to read about India's achievements in the field of Railways. I am referring to our recently added fleet of Train 18, popularly known as Vande Bharat Trains.

The Vande Bharat trains can be traced back to the Indian government's "Make in India" initiative, which was launched by the Modi government in the year 2014. As part of the "Make in India" initiative, the Indian Railways decided to develop a semihigh-speed train that would be designed and manufactured in India. The project was undertaken by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, which is one of the largest coach factories in the world.

The coach factory started working on the project in the year 2015, and the design of the train was finalized in 2016. The train was named Train 18, as it was expected to be launched in 2018, which marked the 75th year of India's independence. The launch was delayed due to technical issues and safety concerns.

The train is the first of its kind of high-speed train, designed and manufactured entirely in India. The train was designed to replace the Shatabdi trains, which were not equipped with the latest technology and amenities.

Several key components of the train such as the propulsion system, the brakes, and the electrical equipment are manufactured by Indian companies.

The first Vande Bharat train started between New Delhi and Varanasi. The train is an eco-friendly train and is powered by selfpropelled electric multiple units (EMU) with a top speed of 180 km/h. The train has a seating capacity of 1,128 passengers and is equipped with features such as air conditioning, adjustable seats, and onboard Wi-Fi etc. Safety features such as automatic fire detection and suppression systems, onboard CCTV cameras, and emergency brakes are mounted in the train.

The technology seems a face lift for Indian technology, and with this India may turn from an importer to a key exporter of High-Speed Train technology. To the best of my understanding, more than 5 nations have already expressed their interest to import our technology.

Further, I would like to take this as an opportunity to announce certain upcoming events:

Association has announced it's mega event "Ramat ji Ramjat" which will be mega games and cultural program. This is an interzone competition and some games are dedicated for spouse and kids. I request everyone to please register for the same.

Sathi Haath Badhana:

As you all may be aware, the association has launched an unique program for members to encourage them to charity. Charity is the key foundation for stronger and more cohesive communities. When people come together to support a common cause or help those in need, it fosters a sense of unity and solidarity that can help to strengthen social bonds and promote a sense of belonging.

As on date, more than 60 members have given their charity commitment and have agreed to contribute more than 550 lacs towards charity. I am sure our association members will continue such good work.

Thank you all..... Always in Gratitude

CA Amit Chheda

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