

## The final day grand celebration of the Science Express

The closing ceremony of the Science Express was organized, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008, at Delhi Safdar Jung Station. The sparkling white Science Express a prestigious Indo German state-of-the-art Science Exhibition on train had successfully traveled to all parts of the country, covering 15,000 km and 57 cities in 217 days.

The Government of India, German Embassy, Indian Railways, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Max Planck Society, BASF, Vikram A. Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC) and other corporate bodies, institutions and organizations had partnered this project.

Vikram A. Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC), a Gujarat based institution had managed and coordinated the Science Express Project for eight months.

The VASCSC's team of Science Communicators and Technicians had traveled with the Express, interpreted the exhibits and solved the queries of the visitors besides managing the logistics. The project aimed at spreading a wave of science across the nation in the minds of young.

The Science Express was closed by Shri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences. Ms. Julius G Luy, Charge d' Affairs of the German Embassy, Prof. Dr. Mehlhorn, Vice President, Max Planck Society, Dr. T Ramasami, Shri P M Balakrishnan, Resident Chief Executive, BASF, Shri Kartikeya V Sarabhai, Chairman, Standing Committee, VASCSC, Shri Anuj Sinha, Scientist G, Head, DST were present on this occasion. Several eminent members of the DST, BASF, Indian and German Embassy, Science Express team, VASCSC, government authorities, Indian Railways and other partners also graced the occasion.

All the honorable guests present on the occasion applauded the Science Express team on board for their exquisite work, dedication and contagious motivation. The honorable Minister Shri Sibal was all in praise for the Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad and its efforts. The honorable Minister said that after this triumph he was looking forward to the second phase of the Science Express and an even greater collaboration with the German Embassy in the field of scientific education.

Shri Kartikeya V Sarabhai congratulated the team and expressed his joy on the team's success. He said that Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre had been working exclusively to promote science among all and inspired the young, however this project helped it to further reinforce this and add another milestone to it.

Shri Dilip Surkar, VASCSC received special ovation from all the guests and members, to have successfully guided the young Science Express team. The Science Express had 2,255,588 visitors from all over the country; the BASF Kids' Lab had 15372 participants, a record in itself for any exhibition. A group photograph of the Science Express team members was organized.

Shri P M Balakrishnan extended his congratulation to the team. Julius G Luy, Prof. Mehlhorn also congratulated the team.

The ceremony ended with a vote of thanks by Shri Anuj Sinha to all the Organizations, Corporate bodies, Science Centres, Indian and German embassies, Indian Railways, Govt. of India who had played an important role in the successful completion of the project.

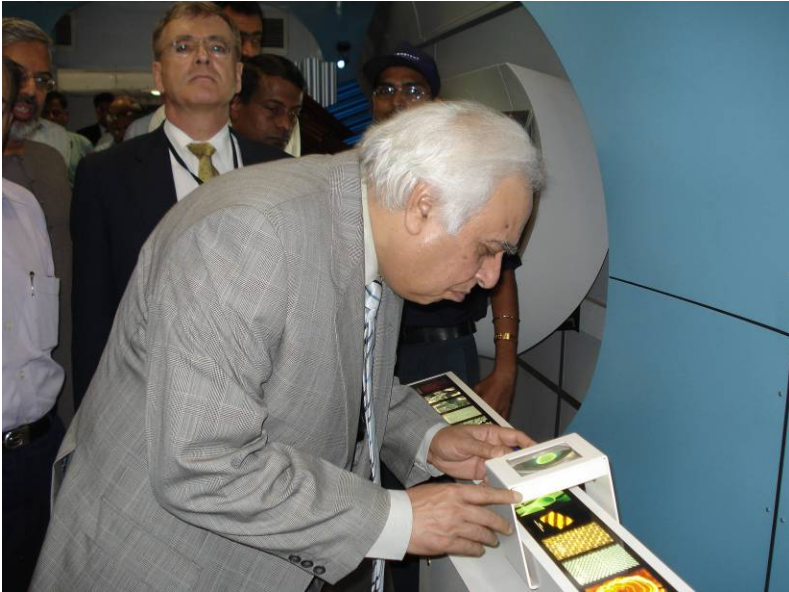
The Honorable Ministers and the guests visited the Science Express after the completion of the ceremony. Refreshment was arranged for all, after the ceremony got over.



*Glimpses of the closing ceremony*



*Shri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences exploring the exhibits*





*An interaction of the Honorable Minister with the Science Express team*



*The final walk at Safdar jung Railway Station-on the success of the Science Express*

On the grand success of the Science Express- a Science Exhibition on wheels, the BASF Group, India had hosted a dinner party on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at Hotel Samrat, New Delhi. Shri P M Balakrishnan, Shri Manohar Gupta, Shri K V Rao felicitated the Science Express team. On this occasion Ms Sunita Sule and other dignitaries from BASF were also present. Shri Anuj Sinha, Shri Chander Mohan, DST, Prof. Dr. Mehlhorn, Vice President, Max Planck Society, Dr. Andreas Trepte, Mr. Andreas Klauke, Max Planck Society, Shri Kartikeya V Sarabhai, Chairman, Standing Committee VASCSC, Shri Dilip Surkar, Executive Director, VASCSC were present on this occasion.

Besides eminent members from DST, BASF, German Embassy, Science Express team, VASCSC, government authorities and other dignitaries were also present.

*Congratulations to the Science Express team by*



*Shri Anuj Sinha, Scientist G, Head, DST*



*Shri Kartikeya V Sarabhai, Chairman, Standing Committee, VASCSC*



*Shri Dilip Surkar, Executive Director VASCSC being felicitated by Shri P M Balakrishnan, Resident Chief Executive, BASF*



*Shri Chander Mohan, Scientist F, DST being felicitated by Shri P M Balakrishnan, Resident Chief Executive, BASF*



*Science Express team member felicitated by Shri Anuj Sinha*



*The Science Express team*