

Jharkhand Gets Third Vande Bharat Express

Why in News?

Recently, the PM inaugurated the third **Vande Bharat Express train**, which will operate between Jharkhand's capital Ranchi and Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi.

Key Points

- The semi-high-speed train was flagged off by the PM virtually from Ahmedabad along with the unveiling of several other railway projects in and across the country.
- According to the governor Rs 350 crore projects are underway in the state for the beautification and setting up of different facilities at the Ranchi station.
 - The state's first Vande Bharat Express started on the Ranchi-Patna route, which was flagged off on June 27, 2023.
 - The second Vande Bharat Express between Ranchi and Howrah was flagged off on September 24 2023.
- The PM also inaugurated the Ranchi-Bondamunda railway line and stalls under the <u>'One Station</u> <u>One Product' scheme</u> at Ranchi, Hatia, Govindpur Road, Itki, Muri, Piska, Silli, Tangarbasuli, Tatisilwai stations, Barkakana, Ranchi Road and Pradhan Khanta stations.

One Station One Product Scheme

- It is an initiative by the Indian Railways, under the Ministry of Railways.
- It was launched with a vision to promote 'Vocal for Local' on March 25, 2022.
- It provides uniquely designed sale outlets for locals to sell indigenous products nationwide.
- This scheme is designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.
- It aims to build each railway station as a promotional hub and showcasing local and indigenous manufacturing products.

Vande Bharat Trains

- It is an indigenously designed and manufactured semi high speed, self-propelled train that is touted as the next major leap for the Indian Railways in terms of speed and passenger convenience since the introduction of Rajdhani trains.
- The first Vande Bharat was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai as part of the 'Make in India' programme, at a cost of about Rs. 100 crore.
- The Vande Bharat was India's first attempt at adaptation of the train set technology compared with conventional systems of passenger coaches hauled by separate locomotives.
- The train set configuration, though complex, is faster, easier to maintain, consumes less energy, and has greater flexibility in train operation.

