

Ashwini Vaishnaw Confers 70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2025 to 100 Railway Officials, 26 Shields to Best-Performing Zones in Different Categories

Indian Railways Must Reach a New Level to Realise Viksit Bharat, Viksit Railways by 2047: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Minister Unveils Six-Point Resolution Roadmap: Systemic Reforms, Technology Adoption, Safety Focus, Advanced Training, Maintenance Excellence and Mindset Change to Power Next-Gen Railways

Dedicated Railway Workforce Is the Backbone of India's Transport Transformation: V. Somanna

Modernisation, Safety and Passenger Focus Define the New Indian Railways: Satish Kumar

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 09 JAN 2026 8:30PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** conferred **70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar** to 100 Railway officials and 26 Shields to best performing Zones in different categories today at the **India International Convention & Expo Centre (Yashobhoomi), Dwarka, New Delhi**. The ceremony was graced by the Minister of State for Railways & Jal Shakti, **Shri V. Somanna**, the Chairman & CEO of Railway Board, **Shri Satish Kumar**, along with Members of the Railway Board and General Managers of various Railway Zones and Production Units.

Addressing the gathering at the Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Indian Railways must move to an entirely new level to realise the vision of **Viksit Bharat, Viksit Railways by 2047**. Congratulating railway employees for their dedication, he said their collective efforts have enabled Railways to overcome long-standing challenges, expand capacity, improve efficiency, and deliver major infrastructure and operational milestones.

जितनी मेहनत आप सबने की है और जिस तरह कमिटमेंट के साथ काम किया है, उसका आज देशभर में बहुत अप्रिसिएशन और रिकग्निशन है कि रेलवे की पूरी फैमिली ने पूरी ताकत लगाकर कई ऐसी प्रॉब्लम्स, जो वर्षों से चली आ रही थीं, उन्हें पूरी तरह सॉल्व कर दिया है: रेल मंत्री श्री @AshwiniVaishnaw जी pic.twitter.com/dcYR0wN8R2

— Ministry of Railways (@RailMinIndia) January 9, 2026

Shri Vaishnaw added that extensive track construction has led to a significant increase in railway capacity. He noted that special trains were operated during all major rush seasons such as Diwali–Chhath, Christmas, and the summer period, ensuring smoother travel for passengers, and that a new benchmark was set in the previous year.

ट्रैक कंस्ट्रक्शन में 35,000 किमी ट्रैक का निर्माण किया गया और उसके कारण आज कैपेसिटी बढ़ी है। चाहे दिवाली–छठ हो, चाहे क्रिसमस हो, चाहे समर हो- हर एक मेजर रश सीजन में आपने स्पेशल ट्रेन्स चलाई और पिछले साल तो एक नया रिकॉर्ड ही बना डाला: रेल मंत्री श्री @AshwiniVaishnaw जी c.twitter.com/KrabMWKLLK

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The Union Minister said that Indian Railways has embarked on an ambitious reform roadmap for 2026 titled “**52 weeks, 52 reforms**”, under which one major reform will be implemented every week across key functional areas such as customer service, maintenance, production, quality management, health systems, and operations. He said a series of structured workshops are being conducted to redefine standards, identify bottlenecks, and set clear, time-bound action plans, with active participation from officers across departments.

He outlined six core resolutions that will guide Indian Railways in the coming phase:

First, a decisive push for **systemic reforms**, with time-bound changes across customer service, maintenance, production, quality, and health systems, driven by accountability and execution.

Second, deep and widespread **adoption of technology, innovation, and artificial intelligence**, including new-generation rolling stock, advanced track systems, modern signalling, and smarter maintenance practices to improve reliability and productivity.

Third, a fundamental upgrade of **maintenance standards**, acknowledging that moving away from outdated practices may cause short-term discomfort but is essential for long-term safety and performance.

Fourth, a sharp and **uncompromising focus on safety**, with the aim of dramatically reducing consequential accidents through better training, technology deployment, disciplined operations, and daily monitoring at all levels of leadership.

Fifth, **transforming training and talent development**, making continuous skill upgradation mandatory, linking training to career progression, and using modern tools such as simulators and digital platforms to build a highly competent workforce.

Sixth, the complete **eradication of the colonial mindset**, urging officials to embrace openness to new ideas, empower younger officers and field staff, promote Indian solutions, and take pride in Made-in-India achievements that are now being accepted globally.

He also highlighted the importance of engaging startups and innovators, encouraging railway employees to contribute reform ideas, and ensuring that successful innovations are scaled across the network. Drawing parallels with major national reforms, he said Indian Railways must show similar courage and confidence in change. He said that with a young workforce, transparent systems, and a reform-oriented mindset, Indian Railways is well positioned to become a global benchmark and a key pillar in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

On the occasion, a commemorative coin marking 100 years of electrification in Indian Railways was also launched.

Addressing the gathering, Shri V. Somanna congratulated railway employees and officers, describing Indian Railways as one of the world's largest service organisations and crediting the Rail Parivar for ensuring safe and comfortable travel for millions every day.

He noted that rail connectivity has expanded to regions such as Jammu & Kashmir and the North East, citing major engineering achievements that have strengthened national integration. He also referred to Amrit Bharat and Namo Bharat trains for improved connectivity, and said the upcoming Vande Bharat Sleeper will enhance long-distance travel.

Highlighting progress in railway electrification and environmental sustainability, he said Indian Railways is moving towards greener operations. Sharing his experience from field visits, he praised the dedication and commitment of railway staff at all levels, calling them the backbone of the organisation.

In his address, Shri Satish Kumar said that Indian Railways has undergone rapid transformation, emerging as a modern, safe, and passenger-centric organisation. Emphasising that safety remains the highest priority, he spoke about continuous improvements through modern signalling systems, electronic interlocking, elimination of unmanned level crossings, enhanced track monitoring, and related safety measures. On freight operations, he said Indian Railways is setting new benchmarks through door-to-door and multimodal logistics, contributing meaningfully to the nation's economic progress.

He also recalled the completion of a century of railway electrification, describing it as a proud milestone in the journey of Indian Railways, commemorated through special initiatives. Acknowledging railway employees as the "real heroes," he credited their discipline, dedication, and service as the backbone of this transformation.

Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2025



Indian Railways confers **Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar** to its employees every year. These awards are given into two categories, the individual awards, as well as Shields presented to the best-performing Railway Zones. Individual awards serve as a platform to acknowledge and celebrate the dedication, hard work, and exceptional contributions of Railway personnel towards making the Indian Railways a more efficient, safe, and passenger-friendly organization. Shield awards in various categories are presented recognizing their outstanding achievements and contributions to the overall performance of the Indian Railways.

List of Officials selected for 70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar (AVRSP)-2025

List of Shield Winners

Dharmendra Tewari/ Dr. Nayan Solanki/ Ritu Raj/ Manik Sharma

(रिलीज़ आईडी: 2213062) आगंतुक पटल : 948

इस विज्ञप्ति को इन भाषाओं में पढ़ें: Malayalam , Urdu , हिन्दी , Marathi , Gujarati , Odia , Telugu , Kannada