

Integrated Industry Capacity, Skills, and Technology Adoption Key to Railway Infrastructure Expansion: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Addresses Budget Webinar on Sustaining and Strengthening Economic Growth in Infrastructure, Logistics and Freight

Synchronized Capacity Expansion, Stronger Quality Standards and Contractual Reforms are The Three Key Focus Areas to Reduce Disputes and Ensure Timely Delivery

Highlighting Multi-Dimensional Complexity of Railway Projects, Union Minister Calls for Domain Expertise and Sector-Specific Experience in Execution

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Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw addressed the second installment of the Budget Webinar series today, focusing on the theme of "Sustaining and Strengthening Economic Growth: Infrastructure, Logistics & Freight".

During the webinar, the Union Minister highlighted **three key focus areas** for the sector: scaling up capacity in a synchronized manner, strengthening quality and qualification standards, and reforming documentation and contractual frameworks to reduce disputes and ensure timely delivery of projects.

Synchronized Expansion of Railway Infrastructure

Shri Vaishnaw underlined the unprecedented growth of India's railway network over the past decade. Approximately 35,000 km of new tracks have been added, surpassing the total railway network of Germany. Further, nearly 99% of the network has been electrified.

The Union Minister emphasized that such rapid scaling poses a major challenge: enhancing industry capacity and resources in tandem with government expansion. He stressed that railway development is fundamentally a partnership between industry and government. Sudden increases or decreases in project scale can adversely affect industry preparedness. Therefore, skilling, supervision, quality standards, and technology adoption must grow in sync with infrastructure expansion. Inputs from industry stakeholders will help shape future reforms.

Government and Industry must ramp up capacity, skilling and use of technology together to ensure steady progress: Hon'ble MR Shri @AshwiniVaishnaw pic.twitter.com/V5i1lcqr1w

— Ministry of Railways (@RailMinIndia) March 3, 2026

High-Speed Rail Vision and Transformative Projects

Addressing high-speed rail development, Shri Vaishnaw highlighted the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor as a steep learning curve. He noted that train operations beyond 160 km per hour increase design and operational complexity exponentially.

Progress on the first high-speed corridor from Mumbai to Ahmedabad has seen a significantly steep learning curve: Hon'ble MR Shri @AshwiniVaishnaw pic.twitter.com/V84afQyLn8

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Through collaboration with IITs, industry partners, and railway engineers, India successfully navigated these challenges.

Building on this success, the Union Minister announced that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has approved seven new high-speed passenger corridors spanning 4,000 km.

सात नए हाई स्पीड रेल कॉरिडर विकास के ग्रोथ कनेक्टर बनने वाले हैं: माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी pic.twitter.com/lhD090AQEQ

— Ministry of Railways (@RailMinIndia) March 3, 2026

Shri Vaishnaw emphasized that achieving infrastructural targets will require coordinated efforts across railways, industry, supply chains, equipment manufacturers, service providers, operations and maintenance teams, signalling experts, rolling stock manufacturers, and producers of specialized electrical conductors. He invited major construction and design firms to focused workshops to deliberate on these challenges.

Strengthening Quality, Qualification and Tender Norms

Shri Vaishnaw underscored the urgent need to tighten qualification criteria and reduce excessive subcontracting. Public projects, he said, must adhere to even stricter quality and accountability standards, ensuring that government funds are used efficiently and disputes are minimized.

Industry Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

Shri Vaishnaw thanked industry professionals, participants from various ministries, executing agencies, and stakeholders who contributed insights during the post-Budget webinar. He said the suggestions will serve as a foundation for reforms across the sector.

The Union Minister also extended gratitude to Union Ministers Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, and Shri K. Ram Mohan Naidu, along with the Secretaries of Ports, Shipping & Waterways; Power; and Civil Aviation. He described the webinar as an effective platform to deliberate on key issues and develop innovative solutions aligned with the Union Budget announcements.

Dharmendra Tewari/ Ritu Raj/ Manik Sharma

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