



Railway Minister Inaugurates Shivilakha GCT, Dedicates Three Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals to the Nation and Lays Foundation Stone for Linch GCT

**New GCTs to Support Faster Cargo Movement, Reduce
Logistics Costs and Connect Regional Businesses with
National Markets**

**Union Minister also Flags Off Salt-Loaded Freight Train from
Shivilakha GCT to Mithapur**

**Lightweight Stainless Steel Salt Containers to Make Salt
Loading, Unloading and Transportation Easier**

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Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone for five Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs) in Gujarat, strengthening the State's freight handling capacity and improving connectivity between regional economic centres, ports and markets across the country.

Shri Vaishnaw also flagged off the salt-loaded freight train from Shivilakha GCT to Mithapur, marking an important step towards greater use of rail for movement of salt from Gujarat to its destination.



Among the five GCTs, the GCT at Shivilakha in Kachchh was inaugurated . The GCT at Bhimasar in Kachchh, the GCT at Devaliya in Morbi, and the GCT at Chandisar in Banaskantha were dedicated to the nation. The foundation stone was laid for the GCT at Linch in Mahesana.

माननीय रेल मंत्री श्री @AshwiniVaishnaw जी ने आज गुजरात में स्थित पांच गति शक्ति कार्गो टर्मिनल का शिलान्यास, उद्घाटन एवं राष्ट्र को समर्पण किया। #RailInfra4Gujarat#FreightFriendly
Railways pic.twitter.com/KmdpEpqi67

— Ministry of Railways (@RailMinIndia) September 15, 2026

These terminals will help expand rail capacity for freight movement, reduce congestion and bottlenecks at port locations and strengthen freight connectivity between the ports of Gujarat and the northern hinterland. By connecting local economic centres with wider national markets and ports, the GCTs will support growing industrial, trade and business activity in the region.



Highlighting the importance of salt transportation, Shri Vaishnav mentioned that salt is an essential commodity consumed by every household, including poor and middle-class families. He said Gujarat, particularly Kachchh, is a major salt-producing region and transporting salt to different parts of the country has traditionally posed several challenges.

Shri Vaishnav highlighted that when salt was transported in conventional railway wagons, a significant portion of the wagon's carrying capacity was taken up by the wagon itself. Further, salt tends to absorb moisture, resulting in the cargo becoming wet during transportation. This created difficulties during loading and unloading. He further explained that the new light weight stainless steel salt container has been designed specifically to address these challenges. The container allows loading from the top and unloading from the side. He said the new containers will make it easier to transport salt to different parts of the country, while making the loading and unloading process smoother and more efficient.

Shri Vaishnav said that 150 Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals have now been commissioned across the country, providing benefits to industries and improving freight connectivity.

Speaking about railway infrastructure in Kachchh, Shri Vaishnav said that railway projects worth around ₹5,600 crore are currently underway in the Kachchh region. He highlighted the capacity augmentation and doubling works on important sections connecting Samakhiali, Bhachau, Gandhidham, Adipur and Bhuj. He said the Bhuj-Naliya gauge conversion project has strengthened rail connectivity in the region. He added that the Naliya-Jakhau Port new broad-gauge line has also been sanctioned, which will further improve connectivity in the region.

Speaking about railway infrastructure in the Kandla-Gandhidham industrial region, Shri Vaishnaw said rail connectivity is being strengthened through capacity augmentation works. He said the Samakhiali-Bhachau section has already been made four-line. The Gandhidham-Adipur section has already been made four-line, while the Adipur-Bhuj single-line section is being doubled.

The Railway Minister added that the Bhuj-Naliya section has recently been converted from metre gauge to broad gauge. Shri Vaishnaw said the railway network from Naliya towards Jakhau Port, Vayor, Luna, Hajipur and Desalpar is also being developed further.

Shri Vaishnaw said the expanded railway network will provide significant benefits to the Kachchh region, particularly for the requirements of the defence sector and industry. It will also benefit residents living in this challenging terrain. Together, these initiatives strengthen both freight and passenger infrastructure in Gujarat, improve access to rail services and cargo facilities, and create greater opportunities for industries, businesses and local communities to benefit from efficient rail connectivity.

Referring to Dedicated Freight Corridors, Shri Vaishnaw mentioned the recently commissioned infrastructure would provide significant benefits for freight transportation by enabling faster and more efficient movement of goods. He added that work on expanding east-west freight connectivity is also being pursued.

On the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project, Shri Vaishnaw said construction on the Vapi-Surat section is targeted by December 2026. He added that testing and other associated works would follow. Shri Vaishnaw said the first coach of India's indigenous high-speed train has been prepared and is undergoing various tests. He added that the train is being developed as part of the country's efforts towards Atmanirbhar Bharat and greater indigenisation of high-speed rail technology.

The event was attended by Shri Trikambhai Chhanga, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of Gujarat; Shri Vinodbhai Chavda, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; Shri Haribhai Patel, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; Shri Rajubhai Shukla, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; Shri Chandubhai Shihora, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, along with other officials and dignitaries.

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

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