

PUBLICATION NAME :	Financial Express
EDITION :	Ahmedabad
DATE :	06/07/2022
PAGE :	3

New govt in Maharashtra to help push bullet train project: Vaishnaw

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Ahmedabad, July 5

WITH THE NEW government having taken charge in Maharashtra, the bullet train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad is set to get a much needed boost, said Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union minister of railways, communications and electronics & information technology.

Talking to media-persons on the sidelines of a startup event at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI) near Gandhinagar, Vaishnaw said that the former Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra government was not interested the bullet train project, but “hopefully now there would be some momentum on the Maharashtra side, as the state is having the benefit of

double-engine government”, he said, adding that work for the bullet train is going on at rapid speed in Gujarat.

The minister said that pillars for the ambitious project have been put up on a 70-km route and foundation work is in advanced stages along over 160 km between Ahmedabad and Vapi.

Besides, the construction of bridges on eight rivers is progressing fast.

“We are confident of achieving the target of running India’s first bullet train between Surat and Bilimora stations in 2026,” said the minister. Talking about the ingeniously made Vande Bharat (VB) trains, Vaishnaw said that the success of these trains has been proven, and the railway ministry is all set to roll out another 250 VB trains in coming days.