

# Augmented Reality brings bullet train experience to Global Trade Show

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AS A red-coloured train arrives, the microphone crackles, "The train will leave from Ahmedabad station to Mumbai... *aasha karte hain ki aapki yatra sukhad rahe...* We wish you a pleasant journey".

As the doors close and the train starts chugging, the heads at the windows of the coach blur slowly and appear like a thick moving patch. Soon, the "bullet" train gathers speed and disappears.

The augmented reality (AR) experience at the pavilion of National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)—the Special Purpose Vehicle executing the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project — are among the major attractions at the Global Trade Show in Gandhinagar held alongside the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS).

Visitors queue up at a simulated cabin of the bullet train driver as the pavilion also showcases a working model of the German tunnel boring machine that was used to build the 21-km-long undersea tunnel in Maharashtra. Also on display is a film on the viaduct built in the Gujarat section along the route.



**A model of the bullet train on display at NHSRCL pavilion at the Global Trade Show in Gandhinagar.** *Express*

Spread over 1.5 lakhsqmetres, the tradeshow, inaugurated on January 9 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, features pavilions set up by nearly 20 countries, many of whose industries either already have a presence in Gujarat or are pitching for it. Split into a dozen sections themed on the key focus areas of the Central and Gujarat governments, it also offers AR and VR experiences in the stalls.

The Singapore pavilion, for instance, features the Meinhardt Group that set up its first office in Gujarat in 2017 and was contracted for the Statue of Unity

project — a poster of which is the centrepiece of the stall that says the "world's tallest statue".

Mozambique, a Vibrant Gujarat partner, brought with it samples of semi-precious stones such as quartz and amethyst which it "mines for jewellery", says the manager at the stall. Laid out on a table in another section are macadamia nuts, packets of banana and moringa snacks, candied fruit slices, and bowls containing samples of legumes like soya and rajma. "We will probably put them for sale tomorrow," the woman at the desk says.

Mozambique President Filipe

Nyusi was among the state heads participating in VGGS.

With a handshake or an arm around the shoulder, visitors queue up for selfies with those manning the stall at the Rwanda pavilion. On the table are laid out samples of the coffees and teas grown there, apart from several tourism brochures.

The Bangladesh stall showcases baskets and mats of jute from a handicraft exporter, apart from denims, a lightweight puffer jacket, a jumpsuit for kids, and other cotton clothing samples. The stall has standees promoting Nagad — the digital financial service of Bangladesh Post office inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2019.

The Vietnam pavilion saw a huge crowd as deputy prime minister Tran Luu Quang arrived, and sampled the products on display and interacted with the staff.

A colourful display of melamine products was the highlight at the Thailand pavilion where product manager Charumon Boonsukchote explained how these were "pure melamine" that could withstand the microwave "for heating, not cooking". Srithai Superware Manufacturing Private Ltd that had set up the stall has a plant in Sanand. The trade show is open to the public till January 13.

# First section of bullet train to be ready by 2026: Vaishnaw

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The first section of the bullet train between Surat and Bilimora will be completed by 2026, said Union minister for railways Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Vaishnaw, who was in the city as part of VGGS, said that the plan always was to complete the Surat-Bilimora section by 2026. "The terminal will be set up there so it was decided to complete this section first."

Vaishnaw said, "Station redevelopment work has taken 14 to 15 years in countries like Germany, but we have plans to complete it in about three years in Gujarat and India."

The minister said that work on the viaduct, placement of decks, tracks and overhead equipment are progressing at a rapid pace. "On an average, about 14km of work is being done per month. Till now, over 270km of viaduct have been laid. The construction of stations is also advancing



fast. The Sabarmati depot project is progressing well. All I can say is that the bullet train dream is turning into reality."

He said that the bullet train project is not a mere transportation project, but a larger regional growth and developmental plan. It will help to converge economies of all the major cities enroute such as Mumbai, Thane, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara and Ahmedabad and enable easy and faster transportation between these cities, thereby enhancing productivity.

## The thrill of the bullet train



## બુલેટ ટ્રેનનો રોમાંચ

ગુજરાતના પાટનગર ગાંધીનગરમાં યોજાઈ રહેલા વાઈબ્રન્ટ ગુજરાત ગ્લોબલ સમિટ અંતર્ગત યોજાયેલા ટ્રેડ શોમાં ભારતના રેલવેપ્રધાન અશ્વિની વૈષ્ણવે ગઈ કાલે બુલેટ ટ્રેનનો રોમાંચ માણ્યો હતો. ટ્રેડ શોમાં બુલેટ ટ્રેનના સ્ટોલની અશ્વિની વૈષ્ણવે મુલાકાત લીધી હતી. તેઓએ બુલેટ ટ્રેનના સિમ્યુલેટરમાં બેસીને આ ટ્રેનની ઓપરેટિંગ સિસ્ટમ વિશે જાણકારી મેળવી હતી અને બુલેટ ટ્રેન ચલાવવાનો અનુભવ કર્યો હતો. તેઓએ બુલેટ ટ્રેનના મોડલ સહિતનાં પ્રદર્શનમાં મુકાયેલાં જુદાં-જુદાં મોડલ નિહાળ્યાં હતાં અને મુંબઈ-અમદાવાદ હાઈસ્પીડ રેલવેના ઓફિસરો પાસેથી એની જાણકારી મેળવી હતી.

