



## INFRASTRUCTURE THE NEW SILVER BULLET?

**Roop Narayan Sunkar,**  
Member (Infrastructure), Railway Board

## LEARNING FROM THE BEST

**Japan's assistance in India's bullet train project is a fillip for India's high-speed rail ambitions**

The Centre plans to commence trials for India's bullet train project in June 2026, says **Roop Narayan Sunkar**, Member (Infrastructure), Railway Board. Upon the completion of the trials, India may be in a position to run the train in a selected stretch in the same year.

### A JOINT COLLABORATION

There were hiccups initially. For land acquisition, there were a large number of issues. There were issues related to ownership, environment, forest clearances, other strategic clearances, and so on. But now, land acquisition issues are over. Almost 99 per cent of the land is available with us now.

For civil engineering works, we have awarded the contract for an entire stretch of 508 km. Of this, 352 km is in Gujarat, for which work is progressing at a faster pace as the contracts were awarded much earlier. And the progress made so far is so good that the foundation work for almost 300 km is done.

Japanese systems are very stringent too. They don't relax any standards, and it is good for us. It is basically a learning for us, we are changing our mindset. ■