



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets supporters during the inauguration of Phase-I of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway in New Delhi on Sunday. SOMU MERTHA/HT PHOTO

1st phase of Delhi-Meerut Expressway inaugurated

NIZAMUDDIN TO UP BORDER PM holds road show, travels in an open jeep for 6km along the e-way

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the first phase of the ₹7,500-crore Delhi-Meerut Expressway on Sunday. Once completed, the expressway is expected to reduce the travel time from Delhi to Meerut to around 45 minutes from existing two hours.

The first phase of the 14-lane Delhi-Meerut Expressway, being built by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), spans between the Nizamuddin Bridge and UP Border in Ghaziabad. This stretch was built at a cost of ₹842 crore, officials said. The total cost of the project on completion is estimated to be ₹7,500 crore.

Modi held a road show at inauguration ceremony and travelled in an open jeep for around 6km along the stretch.

The road show commenced from the Nizamuddin Bridge — the starting point of the newly constructed highway.

The newly opened stretch will facilitate residents of east Delhi colonies, NCR neighbourhoods like Indrapuram, Vashi and Kaushambi in Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida (west) as it is expected to significantly reduce travelling time across Delhi-NCR.

A resident of Noida Extension, Asif Khan, a businessman who has an office in Laxmi Nagar, said it will save commuting time people travelling to east Delhi areas.

"Through this new expressway, it will only take 10 minutes to reach Gajipur Mandi from Nizamuddin Bridge. It would serve greater purpose for the residents of Noida Extension, Ghaziabad once the entire stretch till Dasna is complete. At present we

Delhi-Meerut Expressway

First phase — from Nizamuddin Bridge to UP Gate — completed in record time of 18 months against the expected construction period of 30 months



Once the entire project is complete, it will take just 45 minutes to travel from Delhi to Meerut

82km
Complete Delhi-Meerut Expressway project

₹7,500 crore
The estimated cost for the entire expressway

PHASE I FEATURES

- Stretch of 8.7km, comprising 6-lane expressway and 4+4 service lanes
- Cost: ₹841.50 crore
- Construction time: 30 months
- This is the first National Highway in country with 14 lanes
- This stretch will facilitate residents of east Delhi colonies, NCR neighbourhoods like Indrapuram, Vashi, Kaushambi, Noida and Greater Noida

The design

- 2.5-metre-wide cycle track on either side of the highway
- Vertical garden on Yamuna Bridge
- Solar lighting system
- Watering of plants through drip irrigation
- Four-lane flyover from Sarai Kale Khan side to Yamuna Bridge and ITD to make start point signal free

THE REMAINING PROJECT

- Phase II:** UP Gate to Dasna for 19.3km
- Phase III:** Dasna to Hapur for 22.3km
- Phase IV:** Greenfield alignment from Dasna to Meerut for 31.8km

have to face heavy traffic beyond the UP border if coming from Nizamuddin," he said.

He said that it takes him around an hour to travel from Noida Extension to Laxmi Nagar, but once the remaining section of the NH-24 is expanded (as part of the expressway), the time travel would be reduced by half an hour.

The expressway will remove 31 traffic signals on the Delhi-Meerut stretch, which is among the busiest highways in the region. The expressway will have dedicated bicycle tracks on the around 28-km stretch between

Delhi and Dasna. Alok Kaushik, another commuter who is a banker and regularly uses the stretch, said that driving on a beautiful, smooth and property lit road, was a great experience.

"Earlier, I used to commute via Noida Link Road to reach my office in Model Town, but now I use the expressway and save around 15 to 20 minutes. Entry and exit points on the newly built expressway have been restricted which help in segregating and regulating the smooth traffic flow," Kaushik, who lives in

Noida said. Commuters also praised the beautification work on the stretch and said it was a positive change from the usual road infrastructure. Replicas of Qutub Minar and Ashok Stambh (Ashoka Pillar), fountains, vertical gardens, solar panels and murals have been made at Nizamuddin Bridge alongside NH-24.

However, secretary general, Confederation of NCR RWAs (CONRWA) — an apex body of all RWAs of NCR region — Chetan Sharma said the expressway

lacks of proper signage and lighting.

"There is signage on the expressway, but it lacks smaller ones which are usually placed a few hundred metres before the exit or entry points," he said.

The Delhi-Meerut Expressway project has been divided in five phases — Nizamuddin Bridge to UP border (around 8.7km), Ghaziabad to Dasna, Dasna to Meerut, Dasna to Hapur and a connector from Hapur to Meerut.

Under Phase One of the project, a total of five flyovers have come up, officials said.