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## UP finalises 72km RRTS route from Gzb to Noida int'l airport

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**GREATER NOIDA:** The Uttar Pradesh government has approved 72km long Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor between Ghaziabad's 17km priority section and the upcoming greenfield Noida international airport in Jewar, officials in the know of the matter said on Tuesday.

Uttar Pradesh chief secretary DS Mishra on Monday chaired a meeting that approved the ₹1,600 crore project that will connect Noida airport with National Capital Region (NCR) towns of Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut and Delhi. The meeting was also attended by Uttar Pradesh civil aviation department officials, officials of the Greater Noida authority, Noida authority and the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, among others.

"After approving the RRTS route, the Uttar Pradesh government has asked the National Capital Region Transport Corporation to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) of this corridor in the next two months. Once the DPR is finalised and approved, the project will witness further progress," said a state government official, asking not to be named.

In October this year, the state government and Yeida had asked NCRTC to explore a Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) route from Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan via DND Flyway, Noida Expressway and Yamuna Expressway to the greenfield airport, and another through Greater Noida West and Greater Noida city to the airport.

In the meeting on Tuesday, Mishra asked NCRTC to work on Ghaziabad to Jewar route, via Greater Noida West.

"The Sarai Kale Khan route and the Greater Noida routes

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have been rejected and the route from Ghaziabad to Jewar via Greater Noida West has been approved paving way for the further work on the project. This project is expected to become operational by 2030 if all goes as planned," said an official who attended the meeting, asking not to be named.

The Uttar Pradesh government will fund 50% of the project, while 20% will come from the Centre and the remaining 30 will be borne by Yeida and the Greater Noida authority, said officials.

Trains on the 17km priority section of the RRTS in India started running in October this year after the Prime Minister inaugurated this corridor. This 17km section has five stations, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai and Duhai Depot.

This 17km section is a part of an 82km corridor that will connect Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut, and is slated to open in 2025. "The 72 km route will branch out from Ghaziabad station and end at Noida airport in Jewar. This route will pass through Greater Noida West, Surajpur, Ecotech Pari Chowk before end at Jewar," said the official quoted above.

Apart from this, the UP government has also directed the NCRTC to start feeder bus services from Jewar airport to Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad with 31 electric buses by end of 2024, when the airport will become functional, said officials.



The route finalised by the state will branch out from the Ghaziabad station of the RRTS and pass through Greater Noida West, Surajpur, and Ecotech Pari Chowk, before ending in Jewar. SAKIB ALI/HT

## Trials to start soon on 25km Gzb-Meerut RRTS section

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**GAZIABAD:** After the successful launch of the 17km priority section of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor in Ghaziabad, project implementing agency National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) said trial runs on the next phase -- a 25km section connecting Ghaziabad's Duhai Depot to Meerut (south) -- is likely to start within the next couple of weeks.

The 82km long RRTS project is aimed at linking the three cities of Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut. Its priority section, a 17km section in Ghaziabad from Sahibabad to Duhai Depot, commenced passenger operations on October 21, a day after it was

inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The NCRTC sources said trials will include that of trains and other infrastructure and are expected to commence this month itself.

The 25km section from Duhai Depot to Meerut (south) has four major stations -- Muradnagar, Modinagar (north), Modinagar (south) and Meerut (south).

The 25km section goes through the major towns of Muradnagar, Modinagar and parts of Meerut, said NCRTC officials.

NCRTC spokesperson Puneet Vats said, "The work is progressing fast on the 25km section and all efforts are on to get the infrastructure completed by end of March 2024. We are trying our best to stick to deadlines."

According to NCRTC figures, the viaduct for the 25km section is already complete while track laying over 24.5km has also been completed.

"With the completion of track laying, work will start on installing overhead equipment and signalling. The RRTS stations in Muradnagar, Modinagar (north) and Modinagar (south) are in the advanced stages of completion, while the work on Meerut (south) station, which is a big station, is ongoing," said Vats.

According to officials, the 17km priority section has a daily ridership of about 5,000-10,000 passengers.

Once the second section gets functional, passengers will be able to use a total of 42km of RRTS from Sahibabad in Ghaziabad to Meerut (south).