

DME repairs may hit traffic on key roads for 3 mnths

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NEW DELHI: Traffic on several key roads, connecting central and south Delhi with eastern parts of the city, Ghaziabad and Noida, will remain disrupted for the next three months due to the ongoing road repair and re-carpeting work on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway (DME), Delhi traffic police said on Tuesday.

Traffic police said the work, which started last week, and snarls are visible across the stretch, especially during evening peak hours.

Currently, the road repair and re-carpeting work is being carried out by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on the DME carriageway towards Ghaziabad from Sarai Kale Khan. Although one portion of the carriageway is still open for vehicles, the maintenance work is leading to jams on the adjacent NH-9 and NH-24, the Ring Road between Ashram Chowk and IP flyover, Vikas Marg DND flyway, and Barapullah flyway.

Commuters said tailbacks on the DME and NH-9 extend for nearly 2-3km on the Ring Road, as motorists coming from India Gate, IP flyover, Sarai Kale Khan, Ashram, and Barapullah flyway

are stuck for extended periods.

"It usually takes 20 to 25 minutes to reach Indrapuram from Sarai Kale Khan via the DME in the evening. Now, the travel time has almost doubled because half of the carriageway remains barricaded for re-carpeting near Akshardham temple," said Lakshya Saini, 36, an accountant.

Swastik Sharma, 28, said, "The impact of the maintenance work is already seen on the NH-9 and the NH-24," he added.

The Delhi traffic police on Sunday issued an advisory on social media, informing the public about the DME's maintenance work and the possibility of congestion caused by it.

"Traffic likely to remain affected on DME due to ongoing road maintenance work, especially during evening peak hours (5 pm-11 pm). Commuters are advised to avoid the stretch towards Ghaziabad/Meerut, use NH-9 as an alternative route and plan their journey in advance," the traffic police posted on X.

The traffic police said the maintenance work is likely to continue till June 30. "Traffic may be slow due to lane restrictions. Vehicles may be regulated as per requirement. Commuters are requested to anticipate delays and cooperate with us," said a traffic police officer.