

# Faster airport travel? DND-Sohna link set to be ready in 20 days

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**New Delhi:** The first leg of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway from DND Flyway to Jaitpur in National Capital will be ready in next 20 days, and PM Narendra Modi will be requested to inaugurate it, road transport minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday. He carried out inspection of the DND-Faridabad-Sohna access-controlled part of the Expressway with Delhi CM Rekha Gupta and ministers from Centre, Delhi and Haryana.

Once this stretch is opened for traffic, people traveling from Noida, east and south Delhi can bypass congested city roads to reach Sohna and head towards Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. An under-construction 31.5-km link from this access-controlled stretch to Noida International Airport will reduce travel time from South Delhi to the airport to only 45 minutes.

Addressing mediapersons after the inspection, Gadkari said the link from DND to Sohna is part of Centre's Delhi-NCR decongestion plan aimed at ease of living and seamless movement across the region. He added that Centre is working to make Delhi's transport network modern and future-ready by constructing new expressways, ring roads, tunnels and elevated corridors while announcing plan for projects worth Rs 34,000 crore for Delhi-NCR. These include a six-lane link from UER-II to Delhi-Dehradun Expressway and another six-la-

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ne connectivity from Delhi-Dehradun Expressway to Noida and Faridabad.

Gupta, in her address, said that Centre has invested Rs 1.3 lakh crore for highway development in capital and its surrounding areas. "Delhi's traffic situation would have been unimaginable today had Centre not gone ahead with construction of expressways, elevated corridors, tunnels and signal-free road networks," she said.

In response to a question on congestion at Delhi's borders due to collection of Environment Compensation Cess (ECC) from goods vehicles and municipal toll, Gadkari said he has talked to Delhi CM on the issue and a solution will be found soon.

The Delhi stretch of Mumbai expressway begins at Maharani Bagh near DND Flyway in Delhi and passes Kalindi Kunj, Jaitpur-Mithapur road and Faridabad Bypass before linking to Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway near Khalilpur in Haryana's Nuh.