

## MILESTONE MARKED WITH CELEBRATORY DINNER WITH MINISTER IN ATTENDANCE

# Final deck slab cast, Barapullah III project closer to completion after multiple delays over a decade

Will enable commute from East Delhi to AIIMS in 15 minutes

Express News Service  
New Delhi, June 22

INCHING CLOSER to a decade-long dream, the final deck slab of the much-awaited Barapullah Phase III corridor was cast on Saturday, connecting both ends of the structure across the Yamuna river. Come July, the commute is set to get easier for people travelling between Noida and East Delhi to South Delhi with the project completion.

After the casting, Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh celebrated the milestone by having dinner with the workers, staff and contractors who had spent years working on the project. "Today is not just about concrete and steel. Today is about completing a promise that Delhi had been waiting for over a decade. This final slab represents the determination of hundreds of workers and engineers who refused to let this project remain unfinished," the Minister said.



Work underway at the site (top); PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh with the workers on Monday. EXPRESS

Singh said that after the BJP formed the government in Delhi last year, Barapullah Phase-III was identified as a priority pro-

ject and monitored continuously at the highest level.

He had earlier announced that the project would be ready by June 30. "For years, Delhiites saw deadlines come and go. After our government came to power, we decided that this project could not be allowed to remain stuck any longer. I have personally visited the site multiple times, reviewed progress regularly and worked with officials to remove bottlenecks. Today's milestone is the result of that collective effort," he added.

For more than a decade, the Barapullah Phase-III project

had become synonymous with delays, missed deadlines and unanswered questions. Originally expected to be completed in 2017, it remained unfinished year after year owing to land acquisition disputes, environmental clearances, technical challenges and prolonged administrative hurdles. The project, which began in 2015, saw repeated delays and significant cost escalation, with the revised cost now standing at approximately Rs 1,635 crore.

The final slab involved casting approximately 175 cubic metres of concrete. With this, the project has crossed the landmark figure of nearly 4.5 lakh cubic metres of concrete in total, a remarkable engineering achievement that reflects the scale of the elevated corridor, officials said. The slab physically connects the two sides of the Yamuna through the corridor's structure, a moment many had feared would be delayed indefinitely.

The project's journey has been far from easy. Approved in

2014 and initiated in 2015, it was originally targeted for completion in 2017. Instead, it became one of Delhi's most delayed infrastructure projects, with setbacks ranging from a seven-year land acquisition dispute and environmental approvals to technical challenges associated with constructing a major bridge across the Yamuna floodplain.

The 3.5-km, three-lane flyover will provide eight loops, four each at Sarai Kale Khan and Mayur Vihar.

The corridor, expected to decongest traffic along National Highway 24, the DND Flyway and Ring Road, will allow commuters to travel from East Delhi to AIIMS in 15 minutes, a journey that currently takes 35 to 40 minutes.

The project is also set to become a landmark in urban infrastructure. Besides being a first-of-its-kind elevated corridor with a dedicated cycle track, a key engineering highlight is the special bridge structure over the Yamuna floodplain.