

Trial runs kick off on Delhi-Faridabad link of Mumbai expressway

Karn Pratap Singh

karn.singh@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A carriageway of the recently constructed Delhi section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway has opened for trials, allowing commuters to enter the corridor through the Ring Road and DND Flyway at Sarai Kale Khan-Maharani Bagh and move towards Faridabad in Haryana via Jaitpur and Meethapur in south Delhi, three traffic police officers said on Saturday.

The trial run started on Friday and is likely to continue for a month to test operational readiness before it is formally inaugurated. Additional commissioner of police (Traffic) Dinesh Kumar Gupta said, "As of now, the trials are only on the carriageway going towards Faridabad via Jaitpur. Once operational, the corridor is expected to give commuters travelling towards Faridabad and Jaipur from Delhi and Noida a smooth and traffic-free drive."

Officers said this will lighten the load on Mathura Road, overburdened by traffic moving from Uttar Pradesh to Haryana, giving respite to residents of south Delhi's New Friends Colony, Sukhdev Vihar, Sarita Vihar, and Kalindi Kunj. The corridor will also give respite to commuters travelling from Noida and Ghaziabad, as they can avoid the perennially congested Kalindi Kunj.

Although the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has not officially announced the trial run, an official from the agency said, "The road is ready for public use on a trial basis. The date of formal inauguration cannot be commented upon."

A traffic police officer cited above said the expressway's section in Delhi is nearly nine kilometres long, with about 7.5km elevated and the rest at ground level, including a 140-metre-long structure over the Agra Canal.

The corridor has two entry and exit points in Delhi -- at Jaitpur and at Meethapur.