

Govt okays elevated RRTS station at Sarai Kale Khan

IN-PRINCIPLE

NOD Move comes four months after the government first rejected the proposal

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi government has given in-principle approval to the National Capital Region Transport Corporation's (NCRTC) proposal to build an elevated station at Sarai Kale Khan for the upcoming high-speed Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).

The move comes four months after the government first rejected it, saying construction of the station would delay the redevelopment project of the Sarai Kale Khan interstate bus terminal (ISBT) by over two years.

However, the in-principle approval is unlikely to fast track progress on the 82km Delhi-Meerut RRTS as the Delhi's government's go-ahead comes with the same rider—that the Central government would have to bear the state's share of ₹1,138 crore of the ₹31,902-crore project. "The NCRTC has agreed to design the ISBT revamp plan and take necessary approvals from authorities concerned. The company will construct it simultaneously with the RRTS station so that completion timelines of the ISBT is not delayed," transport minister Kailash Gahlot said.

He added that the NCRTC has also agreed to construct the city bus terminal, pedestrian plaza, and common commuter and multimodal integration facilities at the ISBT. "We have also sought that the required underpasses and infrastructure at ISBT be funded from the Urban Development Fund (UDF) maintained by the ministry of housing and urban affairs," he said.

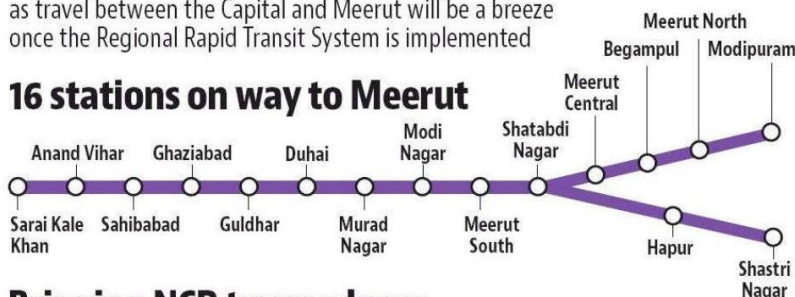
Gahlot's meeting with NCRTC and officials of the state transport department comes just two days ahead of a crucial meeting—to be conducted by the Supreme Court-mandated EPCA. The meeting comes in the backdrop of a case being heard in the apex court.

On January 18, the Supreme Court had rapped the Delhi government for delaying the project, which, it said, was "absolutely

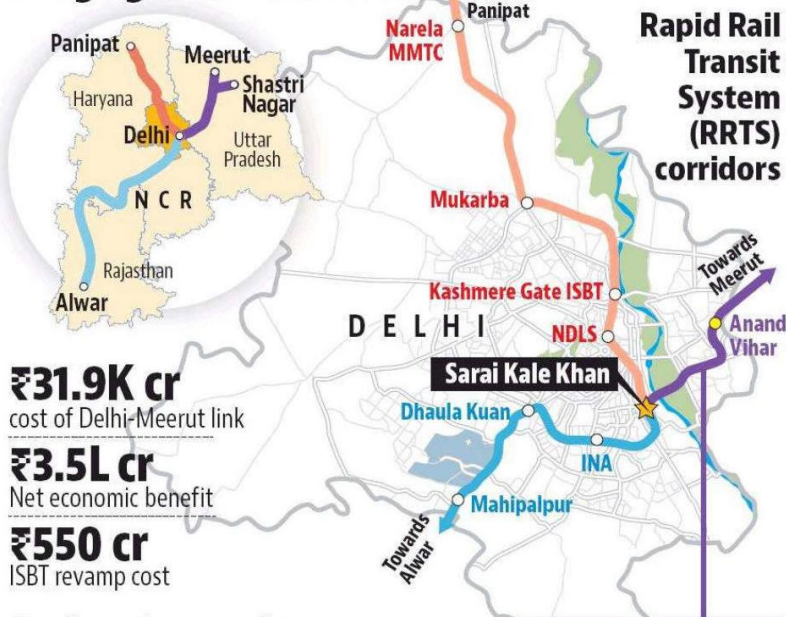
Delhi to Meerut in 1 hour

Forget the endless traffic jams and pollution-filled commute as travel between the Capital and Meerut will be a breeze once the Regional Rapid Transit System is implemented

16 stations on way to Meerut



Bringing NCR towns closer



₹31.9K cr
cost of Delhi-Meerut link

₹3.5L cr
Net economic benefit

₹550 cr
ISBT revamp cost

Saving time and money

Apart from the Delhi-Meerut corridor, two other links from the Capital – to Panipat in Haryana and Alwar and Rajasthan – will make commuting in National Capital Region a smooth affair

Parameters	Delhi-Meerut	Delhi-Panipat	Delhi-Alwar
Total length	82	103	164
Estimated travel time	55min	65min	117 min
Total stations	16	16	22
Daily ridership(2021)	7.4 lakh	5.47 lakh	9.1 lakh

Project in Delhi

Sarai Kale Khan and Anand Vihar are the two stations in Delhi

₹1,138cr
cost share of Delhi govt

97,000
footfall at Sarai Kale Khan

2024
Five-year target

necessary". The counsel appearing for Delhi government told the court they have "problem of funds" for the project. To this, the bench had said, "The project cannot depend on your (Delhi gov-

ernment's) mercy. It is essential for Delhi. You are bound to give it. You cannot act like this. These are your duties." "Budgetary allocation cannot come in the way of this project. This affects

right to life also," the bench told the Delhi government's lawyer.

At present, the Sarai Kale Khan ISBT witnesses a daily average footfall of 57,000 passengers.