

Publication	Hindustan Times
Edition	Gurgaon, Noida, Lucknow
Language/Frequency	English/Daily
Page No	03
Date	08 th February 2019

UP govt gives ₹400cr for Delhi-Meerut RRTS line

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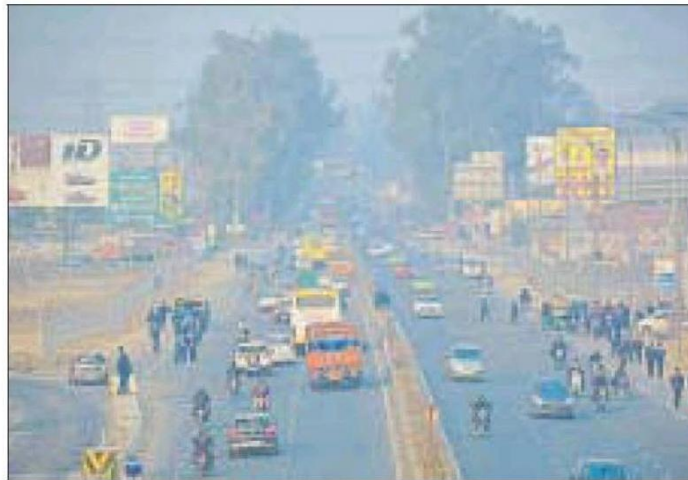
GHAZIABAD: In a major boost for the regional rapid transit system (RRTS), the Uttar Pradesh government, in its budget announced Thursday, approved ₹400 crore for the project being developed by the NCR Transport Corporation (NCRTC).

In its previous budget presented in February, 2018, the UP government had allocated ₹250 crore for the RRTS project.

The funds allocation by the state came after the Union government, in its interim budget announced on February 1, allocated ₹1000 crore for the RRTS project. The previous allocation by the Centre was ₹659 crore, as per the revised estimate for 2018-19. "The allocation of ₹400 crore by the UP government and ₹1000 crore by the Centre will provide much needed emphasis to the regional connectivity in the NCR region," said a spokesperson from NCRTC.

The project is awaiting approval from the Public Investment Board.

Under the project, the NCRTC has proposed movement of high speed trains, which will reduce the travelling distance between Delhi and Meerut to about 55 minutes. The air-conditioned trains under the RRTS project are designed to travel at a speed of



Official sources said the NCRTC has also planned a major loan to the tune of 60% of the project cost of ₹32,000 crore. HT ARCHIVES

180kmph and will be available at a frequency of 5-10 minutes.

Of the eight identified RRTS corridors, the Planning Commission-appointed task force has prioritised three corridors for implementation in the first phase. The three routes are Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Sonipat-Panipat and Delhi-Gurugram-Alwar.

Under the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut project, the NCRTC has planned development of Sahibaabad to Duhai stretch in Ghaziabad which will be taken up first for construction.

The 82 km long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut route will be the first RRTS corridor to be implemented in India. As per the detailed

project report, the corridor is likely to be made operational by 2024.

Official sources said the NCRTC has also planned a major loan to the tune of 60% of the project cost of ₹32,000 crore. The sources said the major portion of remaining 40% will be borne by the Centre and the UP government and some part of around ₹1,150 crore is the expected share of Delhi. "The procedure for procuring loan is underway," said an official.

The UP government has already sanctioned the project DPR and 'in-principle' approval has been provided by the government of NCT of Delhi.