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Delhi-Meerut rapid rail to link with other modes

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Meerut: India's first high-speed 82-km rapid rail network (RRTS) between Delhi and Meerut will have multi-modal integrations at its stations with bus terminals, railway stations and metro stations. This integration will be provided wherever possible through walkways, lifts, escalators and underpasses, says National Capital Region Transport Corporation's (NCRTC) group general manager (strategic planning), Sudhi Kumar Sharma.

"In view of the problem of road congestion and pollution faced by the public, we are creating an infrastructure which will ensure seamless integration within the public transport modes," Sharma said. For instance, the RRTS would provide seamless integration with Delhi Metro's Hazrat Nizamuddin station along with Sarai Kale Khan ISBT and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Sta-

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tion. Similarly, Anand Vihar RRTS station would have seamless connectivity with Anand Vihar Metro station along with Anand Vihar ISBT and UPSRTC bus depot (Kaushambi), he told TOI.

New Ashok Nagar and Ghaziabad RRTS station would also have connectivity with New Ashok Nagar Metro and Ghaziabad New Bus Ad-da Metro respectively. The Sahibabad RRTS station would be connected to either Delhi Metro's Line 3 or 4. From Meerut South till Modipuram, the Meerut Metro will share the same infrastructure as RRTS. Bus depots will also be seamlessly connected with RRTS

stations at Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Modinagar North, Bha-isali and Begumpul.

Total project cost of Delhi-Meerut RRTS is Rs 30,274 crore. NCRTC is mandated to design, construct, finance, operate and maintain RRTS in NCR. It works under the administrative control of Union ministry of housing and urban affairs.

"Recently, we organised community interaction programme at Guldhar, Ghaziabad and briefed the local stakeholders about RRTS project, its ongoing construction progress and upcoming challenges. These stakeholders included local residents, shopowners, restaurant owners and local educational institutions", Sharma said.

Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is first of the three prioritised corridors planned for implementation in Phase-1. The other two are Delhi-Gurgaon-Alwar and Delhi-Panipat corridors.