

PM launches India's 1st rapid rail, says will link Hry, Raj too

This Is A Glimpse Of India Of The Future: Modi

Abhijay Jha & Dipak Dash | TNN

Ghaziabad/New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off Namo Bharat, the country's first semi-high speed rail transit system, in Ghaziabad, calling it a "glimpse of India of the future" that is representative of the country's transformation.

The 17km section from Sahibabad to Duhai Depot that the PM inaugurated is part of the 82km Delhi-Meerut corridor, which is scheduled to be fully operational in 2025. Other than the UP corridor, the PM announced that many areas of Haryana and Rajasthan will get Namo Bharat connectivity in the first phase of the rapid regional connectivity



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath at the launch of Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System on Friday

plan. The two other routes in the pipeline are from Delhi to Alwar via Gurgaon and Delhi to Panipat. All three routes will converge at the main hub at Sarai Kale Khan.

The PM said similar transit systems will be built in other parts of the country as well. Namo Bharat trains can hit a peak operational speed of 160kmph, which is the same as the Vande Bharat trains.

Addressing a public meeting after flagging off the train, the PM signalled it's another building block in India's growth story, underlining the development plank of BJP in the run-up to the upcoming state elections in Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram, and next year's Lok Sabha polls.

►Scripting success, P 5

**'Modi hai to mumkin hai':
CM on infra push**

At the launch of India's first Namo Bharat Rapid Rail between Delhi and Meerut on Friday, chief minister Yogi Adityanath credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a New India which was witnessing massive infrastructure development. He said it was a matter of pride for Indians that in the year of Amrit Bharat, India has become the fifth largest economy in the world under Modi's leadership, adding "*Modi hai toh mumkin hai*" (If Modi is there, it is possible). Thanking the PM for the Rapid Rail project on behalf of UP's 25 crore people, Yogi said the project was a sign of the PM's benevolence. **P 5**