

Milestone moment: PM Modi to flag off RapidX train today

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Ghaziabad: PM Narendra Modi will flag off India's first semi-high-speed train from Sahibabad station of the Delhi-Meerut RapidX corridor, whose first section — 17km from Sahibabad to Duhai — is ready for commercial operations.

The PM is expected to reach the station via Hindon air base. He is also likely to take a ride on the first train to Duhai and address a gathering at Vasundhara around noon.

"He will land at Hindon IAF station around 10.30am and reach Sahibabad RapidX station around 11.30am. He will address a public rally from a ground in Vasundhara's Sector 8," an NCRTC official said. The PM will also inaugurate Bengaluru's Metro East corridor from the venue.

The foundation stone for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor was laid by the PM on March 8, 2019. The 17-km priority section will be opened for passengers on October 21. In view of the PM's visit, the police have announced traffic diversions for Friday. Movement of all heavy, medium and light commercial vehicles will remain banned from the Hindon air base roundabout to Sahibabad via Mohan Nagar and from the Link Road police station and traffic signal towards Sahibabad from 7am



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till the programme ends. Only personal vehicle owners, including those attending the event, from Noida, Hapur and Bulandshahr can take the CISF road in Indirapuram to reach Sahibabad, and those from Loni and Bhopura can travel via Rajendra Nagar.

Additional DCP (traffic) Ramanand Kushwaha told **TOI** that over 1,000 traffic police officers will coordinate with local police to ease congestion on roads. "Traffic police will also keep an eye on the social media platforms to resolve the traffic problems that residents raise there. We will take action against offenders," he said. Close to 5,000 cops will also be deployed for the event while SPG has taken over the venue.

BJP's Mahanagar president Sanjeev Sharma said around 50,000 people are expected to attend the rally. "MLAs, councillors, and party functionaries have been asked to ensure crowd presence for the event," he said.