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How two major expressways will unlock exciting road trips from Delhi to west and east

Expressways for faster and more seamless road trips

- Delhi-Dehradun Expressway set to open after Holi festival
- Travel from East and South Delhi to UP border in 15 minutes
- Delhi-Mumbai Expressway to cut travel time to 12-13 hours

In a significant boost to regional connectivity that promises to transform the festive travel experience, two major expressway projects linking the national capital are on the verge of completion. For the millions who journey home to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the days of jostling for space on overcrowded trains may soon be a thing of the past, replaced by faster and more seamless road trips.

Leading the charge is the ambitious 212-km Delhi-Dehradun Expressway, a greenfield, access-controlled corridor being developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Official sources have confirmed that the project is nearly finished, with a trial run already successfully conducted. The expressway is expected to be opened for the public immediately after the Holi festival this year, providing a timely gift for travellers.

The alignment of the new expressway has been strategically planned to decongest existing routes. Beginning at Akshardham in Delhi, it will pass through Khekra, Shamli and Saharanpur before culminating in Dehradun. This route is poised to be a game-changer not just for those heading to Uttarakhand, but also for a vast swath of western Uttar Pradesh. Crucially, residents of eastern and southern Delhi are set to benefit immensely from the improved access.

Once operational, the expressway will slash travel times to the Uttar Pradesh border. Commuters from East Delhi, South Delhi and Noida are projected to reach the border in approximately 15 minutes.

A seamless travel corridor is envisaged for motorists from South Delhi, who can take the Nizamuddin route onto the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, connect to Akshardham, and then seamlessly transition onto the new Delhi-Dehradun Expressway via Geeta Colony to enter Uttar Pradesh.

Simultaneously, work is progressing at a rapid pace on the country's largest infrastructure project, the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. The nearly 1,350-km, 8-lane corridor is in its final

stages, although officials indicate that certain construction packages in Gujarat, specifically between Vadodara and Virar, are experiencing delays.

Once fully commissioned, the expressway is projected to reduce the travel time between the two metropolises to a remarkable 12-13 hours, promising to decongest existing routes and spur significant economic activity along its length.

In a move to create a unified network, the DND-Manesar Expressway (NH-148NA) is being developed to serve as a vital link. Originating from the DND Flyway, this corridor will offer uninterrupted connectivity for commuters from Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad and Meerut, funnelling them directly onto the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway network.