

A'bad-Dholera rail line to be linked to Bhavnagar

Project to use indigenous advanced Kavach safety system; to get connected to Bullet Train and Dedicated Freight corridors

Ankit Pandey
feedback@ahmedabadmirror.com

Posts @ahmedabadmirror

Ahmedabad's ambitious Rs 20,667 high-speed rail corridor to Dholera is now being planned for a future extension up to Bhavnagar, a move expected to significantly enhance connectivity across the Saurashtra region while strengthening Gujarat's industrial backbone.

Ahmedabad DRM Ved Prakash told *Mirror* that the railway corridor would be developed on a new alignment parallel to the expressway and most of the required land had already been secured. "About 80 per cent land acquisition has been done for the project," he said, adding that the remaining land would be acquired soon.

He further said this would be the world's first broad gauge semi high-speed rail corridor with trains operating at 220 kmph. Most semi high-speed rail systems globally currently run on standard gauge tracks. Advanced Kavach 5.0 technology will also be deployed for automatic train protection and enhanced passenger safety.



The corridor will connect Ahmedabad with the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), the upcoming Dholera International Airport and the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal. A total of 13 stations are planned along the route. Officials added that there are long-term plans to extend the corridor further up to Bhavnagar.

The project will also be integrated with Ahmedabad Metro at Sabarmati, Gandhigram and Vastrapur stations. Sabarmati station will additionally connect with the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train corridor, while Moriya near Sanand will link with the Dedicated Freight Corridor. Gujarat Chief Secretary Manoj

Kumar Das said the corridor would strengthen industrial and economic growth in the state by improving connectivity between Sabarmati, Dholera SIR, Dholera airport and Lothal.

The total track length will be around 293 km and the Railways has set a target of completing the project within four years.

Officials said around 284 villages and more than five lakh people are expected to benefit directly from the corridor. The project is also expected to add nearly 20 lakh tonnes of freight transport capacity annually, generate around 91 lakh human-days of employment during construction and significantly reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions.