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Finally, Metro heads for Gurgaon

Times News Network

New Delhi/Gurgaon: After Noida, Delhi Metro will now reach Gurgaon before the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Finally, Haryana government has given the green signal to the Metro project and has decided to bear 80% of the project cost.

After dilly-dallying for a year and a half, Haryana cabinet on Friday cleared the decks for Metro to cross the border into Gurgaon. The cabinet gave its nod to a 6.5-km extension of Metro till the City Centre in Sector 29. The project is estimated to cost Rs 688 crore, of which the Centre would bear Rs 114 crore and the Haryana government Rs 456 crore.

Haryana chief secretary Prem Prashant said: "The cabinet today decided to accept the alignment given by Delhi Metro. We want the work to start as early as possible. We will be working out a funding pattern."

The rolling stock for the line, to cost Rs 118 crore, will be paid for by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The state would provide land for the project, which will integrate with the Delhi Metro network.

Gurgaon will have stations at Garden Estate, Sikandarpur, DT City Centre, IFFCO Chowk and Sushant Lok Phase 1.

Alignment of the Gurgaon line on Delhi's side of the border had run into problems after conservationists raised doubts over proximity of the Metro tracks to Qutub Minar. Earlier, DMRC had aligned its Central Secretariat-Gurgaon line along Aurobindo Marg touching Green Park, Hauz Khas, IIT and then moving towards the monument. Now, the Metro will travel half a kilometre extra to steer clear of the monument.

Revised route to cost DMRC Rs 450 cr extra

New Delhi: En route to Gurgaon, Delhi Metro will go through Hauz Khas market, Laxman Public School, Sarvapriya Vihar, Shivalik, Press Enclave, Saket and Garden of Five Senses before reaching Andheria More.

After Andheria More, there will be stations at Ambedkar Colony, Chhattarpur, Sultanpur, Ghitorni, Sarvodaya School and Arjangarh before the line enters Haryana. The new alignment has been approved by DMRC's board of directors and will now await the nod from the Group of Ministers (GoM).

This course change to avoid Qutub will cost DMRC about Rs 450 crore extra. DMRC chief public relations officer Anuj Dayal said: "This would not make any difference to the cost borne by Haryana government. This will just cost Delhi some extra money." The earlier alignment from Qutub Minar to IFFCO Chowk covered a distance of 16.07 km. Now it will be 16.57 km.

There is, however, another small hurdle before work can start. After Andheria More, the 20-km line till Sushant Lok will go through an area which will have very low ridership. According to DMRC, areas like Ghitorni and Sultanpur are not going to give enough numbers to make the line profitable. Seeing this, Delhi government had commissioned a study to examine what kind of numbers the extension will generate.

Delhi government is not willing to pay for an unprofitable stretch just to take the Metro to Gurgaon. Dayal said: "We are also awaiting approval from Delhi government on the stretch beyond Andheria More."



Green light: Haryana to bear 80% of cost