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## Noida & gzb

THE GENERATION OF SOLAR POWER IS ALSO AN ADVANTAGE WITH THE AQUA LINE, AND IS AN ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE.

\*PD UPADHYAY, executive director, NMRC

# Noida's long wait for Metro ends today

**CONNECTED** CM Adityanath will throw open the 29.707km Aqua Line with an expected daily footfall of over 1 lakh. With this, the Metro has penetrated deep into NCR

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**Noida:** With the Noida-Greater Noida Metro or Aqua Line, set to be inaugurated on Friday, commuters in the twin cities will get a major public transport boost.

This line is poised to be the longest Metro corridor in the country to be inaugurated one go. The total length of the corridor is 29.707km. Officially, it is claimed the Hyderabad Metro line, at 28km, was the longest to be inaugurated in one go before the Aqua Line.

"There are several other operations with this line. We are generating solar energy, have women drivers, and there are few water and toilet facilities for people," PD Upadhyay, executive director, NMRC, said.

It is also with many frills, and the work was started in May 2015 and was completed within a record time of three-and-a-half years, constructed at a cost of \$5.56 billion.

Mass public transport has been mostly unavailable in both cities, except for a handful of buses, and informal services like auto-rickshaws have also been few and far between, especially in Greater Noida. The services are expected to benefit a large number of commuters, and the NMRC expects a daily footfall of one lakh passengers.

Unlike the Delhi Metro, all stations have been decorated with artwork done for free by two private groups. Additionally, all stations will have free drinking water and toilet facilities. The Delhi Metro stations do not provide drinking water and a small amount to charge for use of the facilities.

"The generation of solar power is also an advantage with the line, and it is an eco-friendly initiative. We will produce a huge surplus of electricity that will be returned to the grid," Upadhyay said.

While the fares are comparable to the Delhi Metro, there are many challenges that make it different from the Delhi Metro network.

The initial payment for a new mobility card will be ₹2K against ₹500 for Delhi Metro. The Delhi Metro value and smart cards will not be valid on this line.

This new transport mode will reduce commute problems between Noida and Greater Noida, but connectivity to Delhi still a concern. Additionally, unlike the two- or three-minute frequency on busy Delhi Metro lines, the Aqua line will have a frequency of 15 minutes.

Real-estate experts say that in Noida, the impact of markets will include sectors 82, 85, 91, 92, 102, 104, 143, 147 and 149. In Greater Noida, the major areas to see a positive impact will include Okhla, Noida, Kundli/Parli, Anandpur, and Yamuna.

The smart connectivity has been a major concern in several localities across these two regions in NCR and is increasingly dampened the overall property connectivity in the region. The enhanced Metro connectivity will be a boon for people to attend to work in the transformation of various 'ghost homes' into livable abodes. Sandesh Kumar, vice chairman, ANSARCK Property Consultants, said.



## Commuting gets easier

Mass public transport has been an issue in Noida and Greater Noida. But the 29.707km Aqua Line, from Sector 51, Noida, to Depot Station, Greater Noida, should make commuters easier. However, there are troubles on the line, including the lack of a connection to the Delhi Metro, and the relatively low frequency of trains

### SALENT FEATURES OF AQUA LINE

- Will connect Noida and Greater Noida
- There are **15 stations** in Noida and **6 stations** in Greater Noida

**Total length of corridor: 29.707 km**

12 metro trains to operate at a frequency of **15 minutes** each

Each train will have **4 coaches**

**Terminal stations:** Sector 51 (Noida) and Depot Station (Greater Noida)

**Maximum speed of train: 80kmph**

**Capacity: 65,000** one way per day

Completed in a record time of **3.5 years**



PHOTO COURTESY OF NMRC. TRAINS STOPPED AT STATION

### IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BOARD THE NOIDA METRO

The line will be open to the public from January 26, 2019

On January 26 (Republic Day), the new line will be operational only between Noon and Sun

Normal running time every day (at 27 onward) from 10 to 10pm

There are no plastic tickets on this line unlike on the Delhi Metro. Instead QR code based paper tickets will be used.

For those using the common mobility card, it will be issued for ₹50 initially.

Once inside the paid area, the journey fee to be completed in 15 mins or generally will be imposed. The total running time between the first and last stations is 48 minutes.

### SPECIAL FEATURES OF AQUA LINE

- Lightweight cars made of aluminium steel
- Platforms screen doors at all stations
- Special arrangements for wheelchair at both ends of the train
- Each train has a passenger information system, public address system, emergency announcement system from operational control centre
- Adaptive parking at 16 stations
- LED lighting has been used in all trains and platforms
- The project holds the Limca Book of Records for 'fastest launch of 50-stations in a month'

### HICCUPS ON THE AQUA LINE

- While the line connects Noida and Greater Noida, there is no direct link to the Delhi Metro.
- The nearest Delhi Metro station is Noida City Centre, about 5 km from the Sector 51 Metro station on the Aqua Line.
- Frequency of trains on Aqua Line is 15 minutes, much longer than the Delhi Metro.
- There is no parking facility at 5 of the 21 stations.
- The parking at 5 stations will be started only a month later.
- First- and last-mile connectivity is a problem. The NMRC is in a rethink mode.

- service will take a month to start. Hundreds of just two feeder buses have been changed for more.
- Accessibility to some Metro stations along the Noida-Greater Noida expressway is a concern
- While the station is on one side of the expressway, the foot-overshadows have not been built across the expressway, limiting access for people from the other side.
- The common mobility card will be operational for other services only after a few months.
- NMRC smartcards/QRs will not be accepted on the Aqua Line.

NMRC FARES	FARE FOR 100 STATIONS	FARE FOR CODE TICKET	FARE FOR SMART CARD
1	₹10	₹9	₹9
2	₹15	₹13.5	₹13.5
3	₹20	₹18	₹18
4	₹25	₹22.5	₹22.5
10 to 16	₹40	₹36	₹36

### ABOUT THE SMART CARD

INITIAL PAYMENT: ₹500 (100-rupee bill) for the card, ₹200 worth travel top-up

**TOP-UP:** ₹100 or higher, in multiples of ₹100

**DOCUMENTS:** KYC will be done to issue a card for the first time. One photo ID card will be required.

**TO BE LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY**

### WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE AQUA LINE

With a length of 29.707km, it will be the longest corridor to be inaugurated in one go

The line has about 30% women drivers

All stations will have free drinking water and toilets

Sixteen seats in each coach are reserved, with separate colour

codes for women, senior citizens and people with disabilities

All stations have solar panels, which will produce about 10MW power every day. The NMRC will need just 5MW for operations, while the rest will be returned to the grid.

All stations will be spruced up with painting and air installations

