

INCREASED CONNECTIVITY

Dwarka-Iffco Chowk Metro line gets Haryana govt nod

INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH Alignment route approved, clarity on cost, time frame awaited

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GURGAON: After a delay of four years, the Haryana government approved the extension of the Delhi Metro from Sector 21, Dwarka to Iffco Chowk in Gurgaon on Monday.

Prior to this decision, three project reports on the Dwarka-Iffco Chowk link were junked by successive governments as there was no clarity on alignment of the route. The high cost of constructing the Metro line proved an impediment for the project.

On Monday, however, a review meeting of the Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation chaired by chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar cleared the proposal to build the 12.6-km Metro route which will connect Dwarka to Gurgaon.

The proposed alignment will start from Dwarka Sector 21, pass through Sector 111 in Gurgaon, move across the Dwarka Expressway, and pass through Palam Vihar, Sector 23, 22, Sector 18 Udyog Vihar and finally reach Iffco Chowk.

The cost of the project and the time frame for its completion weren't, however, clarified.

"The chief minister has



accorded approval for the extension of Delhi Metro from Sector 21 in Dwarka to Iffco Chowk in Gurgaon. The Haryana government has also authorised the Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation (HMRTC) to review the agreements made in the past with Delhi Metro Rail

Corporation," said a statement issued by the state government.

Sources said that two alignments were considered by the government one which passed through Kapashera and reached Udyog Vihar and was around 14-km long. The second, which has been approved, is 12.6-

km long and passes through Bijwasan and reaches Iffco Chowk via heavily populated areas of Old Gurgaon.

Gurgaon MLA Umesh Agarwal, who has been pushing for greater Metro connectivity said the Dwarka-Gurgaon link will help commuters and reduce congestion on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway. "This project will greatly help the people of Delhi and Gurgaon," he said.

Meanwhile, the Haryana government hinted it might build the 3.4 kilometre stretch in Delhi itself, and prefer to amend the revenue sharing agreement with Delhi government.

The government, taking note of poor connectivity, said HMRTC could work on plans to improve the network.

"The Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation could explore possibilities for increasing connectivity in Gurgaon," said the official statement.

Earlier in March this year, the Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation (HMRTC) had asked the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to draft a fresh feasibility report for the Gurgaon-Dwarka Metro link.

WITH INPUTS FROM ABHISHEK BEHL