

SOME STATIONS GET AS FEW AS 10 RIDERS, NMRC PLANS OUT-OF-THE-BOX SOLUTIONS

Footfall low, NMRC plans coaching centres at 6 stns

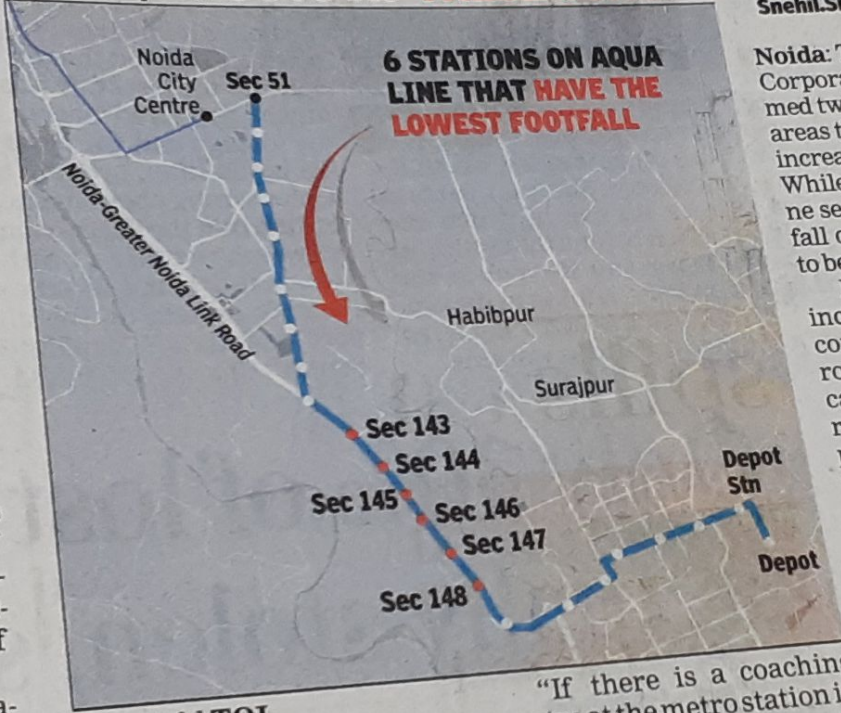
Snehil.Sinha@timesgroup.com

Noida: The Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) has identified six metro stations, from Sector 143 to Sector 148, that have the lowest footfall.

The officials said since these stations were already expected to see a low ridership, other non-farebox ideas are being explored to increase revenue. Noida Metro stations in sectors 143, 144, 145, 146, 147 and 148 rarely see many commuters and some even go as low as 10 passengers a day, said sources. The other 15 stations together see an average daily footfall of 17,000 commuters. The Noida Metro had initially expected a daily average footfall of 65,000, officials said.

"We knew that these stations will not see a high footfall for a few years. They have been built on the Transit Oriented development (TOD) model wherein transport infrastructure is created to lead development in the areas around it," NMRC general manager Manoj Vaj-

FAIRS, SHOOTS AT THESE STNS?



payee told **TOI**.
Meanwhile, officials said the NMRC may use these stations for coaching centres, exhibitions, events and fairs. They may also allow film shoots. Some proposals have already been made to NMRC, they said.

"If there is a coaching centre at the metro station itself, parents will just have to drop their kids at a station like Pari Chowk. From there, children can reach the centre and return without even having to leave the premises," said Vajpayee.

Focus on last-mile connectivity to help improve ridership

Snehil.Sinha@timesgroup.com

Noida: The Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) has formed two teams to identify the areas that can be improved to increase its metro ridership. While Noida Metro's Aqua Line sees an average daily footfall of 17,000, it was expected to be higher by now.

Due to several reasons, including lack of proper connectivity with Delhi Metro and a separate token and card system, the Noida Metro has still not seen the expected rise in footfall. The two teams will be holding meetings with residents' welfare associations (RWAs) and corporate groups to encourage metro usage and facilitate last mile options.

"There are some things like last mile connectivity, which is in our hands. However, we have now decided to reach out to people to figure out why they have not started using the system regularly," said Manoj Vajpayee, general manager, NMRC.

Two NMRC teams will hold meetings with RWAs and corporate groups to encourage metro usage and last mile options

One of the teams recently held an interaction with representatives of various companies that have their offices on the Noida Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) campus. The NSEZ station was expected to see an average daily footfall of about 10,000, but merely 1,000 people use the station daily, according to NMRC officials.

Some of the representatives of the companies suggested that there should be seamless connectivity between Sector 51 station of the Aqua Line and Sector 52 station of DMRC's Blue Line and last mile connectivity by deploying more e-rickshaws and feeder buses. They also brought out issues like higher fares.