

Waterlogging worry for new metro stns

Drains Near Entry And Exit Points Blocked During Station Construction

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Noida: Brace for waterlogging and chaos near the new metro stations in the city this monsoon, as drains near the entry and exit points have been blocked at the time of building the stations.

Although Noida Authority had asked Delhi Metro and Noida Metro in April to clear the drains, officials said, the situation cannot be changed now as construction of a new underpass will also begin near sectors 51 and 52 metro stations. In case of waterlogging this year, it will only be pumped out as a temporary fix, they said.

"We had written to both



Himanshu Singh

The walkway connecting sectors 51 and 52 stations built on one side of the road has led to covering of drains

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) in April

to remove the blockage around drains in sectors 51, 52, 71 and 72. These were filled with

concrete and the pipeline was blocked during construction work. Anyway, we are waiting for them to take action," SC Gupta, senior manager of Noida Authority, told TOI.

Officials, however, said that "little action is expected as construction of a new underpass will also begin soon at Sector 71 intersection near sectors 51 and 52 metro stations". Additionally, a commercial plot between both the metro stations will soon be auctioned. "And, if construction on the commercial plot also begins, it will have to work on the drainage system too. Therefore, we can only wait for the next few months and can't do much about waterlog-

ging this year," said Gupta. "But we will pump out water out using suction machines as a temporary fix in case roads get submerged," he added.

Meanwhile, residents said the Sector 71 intersection remains congested most of the time and waterlogging will intensify the problem. "This intersection already has a badly designed U-turn, autos standing haphazardly blocking half the road and people driving on the wrong side. If it is also inundated during monsoon, there will be more traffic jam," said Amit Gupta, a resident of Sector 77. "The authorities should have taken care of the problem during construction itself."