

# Greater Noida plans Aqua Line branch with direct link to DMRC

Sharmila.Bhowmick  
@timesgroup.com

**Noida:** An extension of the Aqua Line that connects seamlessly with Delhi Metro could be proposed by the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) at its next board meeting.

The suggestion comes on the back of poor ridership figures of the Noida Metro line, which began passenger operations this January, and realisation that the numbers will not improve if there is no interchange with Delhi Metro.

The GNIDA is looking at three stations to build the possible interchange — Botanical Garden and Sector 18 (Blue Line) and Okhla Bird Sanctuary (Magenta Line). GNIDA officials believe that the link is necessary to build the ecosystem where people live in Greater Noida, where flats and rents are cheaper, and work in other parts of Delhi-NCR.

A source in the GNIDA said a study will be undertaken to determine the route and the best interchange option as the Aqua Line has so far failed to help bridge the gap between Delhi and Greater Noida.

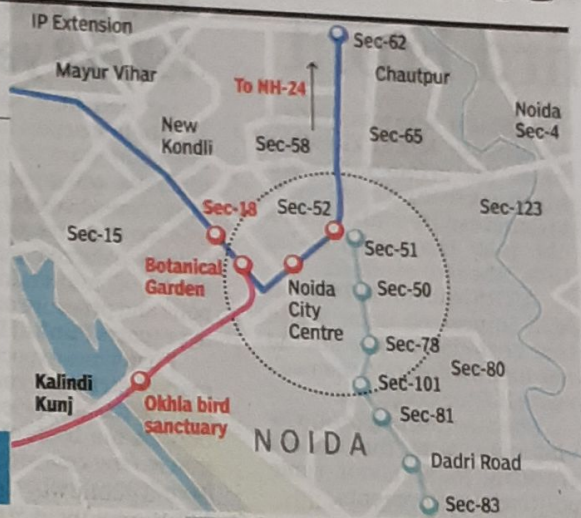
"We have received some suggestions about viable points at which a suitable interchange can be worked out with the help of a connecting line between the Delhi route and the Noida-Greater Noida route," a GNIDA official said.

## HOW IT WILL HELP COMMUTERS

- ▶ Delhi-Greater Noida connectivity could lead to effective mass transportation. People could get access to affordable accommodation in Greater Noida
- ▶ Stations that are being considered for a possible inter-change:

**BOTANICAL GARDEN, SECTOR 18, OKHLA BIRD SANCTUARY**

Plan to be presented at upcoming GNIDA board meeting



id. "Greater Noida has a lot to offer in terms of affordable rents and pollution-free living. The city is an educational hub as well. But people still find it difficult to reach Greater Noida. So we need a viable interchange."

Constructed at a cost of Rs 5,503 crore, the 29.7km

corridor has 15 stations in Noida and six in Greater Noida. But there's no interchange with Delhi Metro (passengers can walk between the Sector 52 stations of the Blue and Aqua Lines, but they have to take the road since there's no connected walkway like, say, the one at

Hauz Khas).

"A mass-transit system has to cater to large numbers to be effective. So far, the Aqua Line has not been able to support Greater Noida-based users much. A possible interchange will be proposed in the upcoming board meeting," a GNIDA official said.