

# DMRC takeover of Rapid Metro ops official

## Staff To Be Retained For Now, Their Performance To Be Reviewed After Three Months

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**Gurgaon:** Resolving a long-standing tussle on who will run the ailing Rapid Metro, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday evening announced that it will take over the operations and maintenance of the 11.6-km corridor. The managing directors of Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation (HMRTC), DMRC and Rapid Metro will ride a train on the line from Sikanderpur station at 3 pm on Wednesday before the formal takeover, said sources.

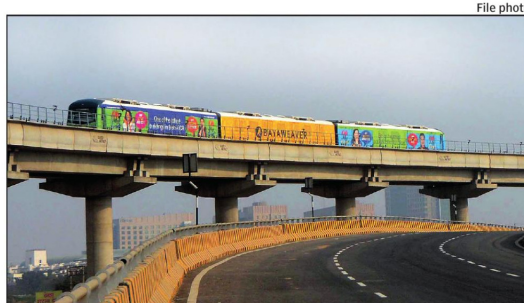
DMRC has already deployed adequate staff to maintain the station and train operations, signalling and

telecom, electric supply, traction, safety and security to ensure smooth service, which will continue as per the normal timetable without any changes.

“We are taking over the operations and maintenance of the services from 10.30 pm on Tuesday and DMRC will run the trains from 6 am Wednesday morning. Other issues are still being worked out,” said D Suresh, managing director, HMRTC.

In July this year, Rapid Metro served a notice to the Haryana government that it would stall train operations by September 9, if the Haryana government fails to infuse the much-needed funds.

Following the missive,



File photo

**FRESH START:** The operations and management of the corridor will be handed over to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation on Wednesday

Haryana government signed an agreement with DMRC and asked it to take over the operations and maintenance. The matter reached the Pun-

jab and Haryana high court, which asked both parties to resolve the issue amicably.

With DMRC taking over the Rapid Metro operations,

around Rs 1,800 crore of the debt of IL&FS will be reduced. However, the 210-odd employees of Rapid Metro are apprehensive.

“Ever since talks about the takeover began, some from the top management have already quit. We have been told that we will be absorbed by DMRC initially but there is no guarantee that we will be retained after a couple of months. We are worried about our future,” said a Rapid Metro employee.

State government officials have tried to allay their fear. “According to terms and conditions discussed, if the employees accept to work with us, they will be hired for three months and after this

period, there will be an assessment done by DMRC. If their performance is found to be good, they will be asked to continue. Or else, their services will no longer be required,” said a senior Haryana government official.

The train services on the corridor start at 6 am from Sector 55-56 station and Sikanderpur station with a frequency of 4.30 minutes during morning peak hours and 5.15 minutes during evening peak hours. The last train departs at 10 PM from Sector 55-56 station. With the takeover of operations of Rapid Metro, the total length covered by the metro network in Delhi and NCR becomes 389 km with 285 stations.