

Speedy start: Kanpur Metro trials beat Lucknow's by 69 days, claims UPMRC

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Lucknow: For Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, a key agenda to zip state economy on a growing track is direct and fast connectivity, which becomes evidently visible when the state's ambitious project of Metro connectivity is considered. According to Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation, trial run for Kanpur Metro priority corridor beat Lucknow's priority corridor trails by a margin of 69 days.

The unique record became the centre of attention also because the project was halted for four and a half months during the corona pandemic period.

The Corporation claimed that it took 795 days for the Lucknow Metro to start. The construction of Lucknow Metro started on September 28, 2014, and trial run was conducted on December 1, 2016. While in Kanpur Metro project, the construction started on November 15, 2019, and first official trial will begin on Wednesday post flag off by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. In total, it took only 726 days for Kanpur Metro to start trials.

Speaking on anonymity, a senior engineer of UPMRC said, "There are four prime reasons behind the unique record of Kanpur Metro. First, we used double T-girders to erect the station concourse. It was for the first time in India for the Metro project that girders were pre-casted at the factory floor and then brought to the construction site which were installed with the help of heavy lifter cranes. This method helped us to save time."

"Secondly, we utilized the corona pandemic lockdown as an opportunity by expediting the construction in those areas of the Metro corridor which were often heavily congested during normal days. In order to ensure that labour is available during the corona pandemic, we constructed a labour colony and provided a food canteen, shelter with attached toilets and drinking water facilities. In fact, the project was halted for four and a half months in the pandemic and we arranged transportation facilities for those labourers who wanted to visit their villages to meet their dear ones. Such steps built confidence and motivated them to return and work for the project," said the officer.

"Thirdly, we had crystal clear understanding with construction contractors. If they had any issues be it financial, material or anything else the contractors were asked to directly contact senior officials for immediate remedies. Lastly, we kept the uniform standard for the entire project — which means almost every girder or pillar is similar, which helped contractors to expedite the construction," said the corporation engineer.

Kanpur Metro priority corridor is 9-km-long and stretches between IIT-Kanpur and Motijheel with nine stations, while Lucknow Metro trial stretch had eight stations in 8.7- km-long stretch between Transport Nagar and Charbagh.

The Kanpur Metro project is funded by the European Investment Bank. Around 650 million euros (Rs 11,076 crore) is being pumped into the project to construct two corridors, including a 23.7-km-long stretch between IIT-Kanpur and Naubasta and 8.6-km stretch between Agriculture University and Barra - sector 8.