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2021 promise: Access to a train in city every 0.5km

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NEW DELHI: After completion of Phase II of construction by the end of this month, [Delhi Metro](#) network will cover an impressive 190km in the capital. But those who haven't been included in the Metro map needn't worry. With two more phases already in the pipeline, the [Metro masterplan](#) for 2021 envisages bringing the Metro within half a kilometre reach of every Delhiite.

The next phase of construction, Phase III, will add another 69.57km of Metro through six new corridors. The corridors include a 25.66-km line from Anand Vihar to Dhaulai Kuan of which 12.52km will run underground, a 12.40-km line from Mukundpur to Rajouri Garden of which 6.58km will be underground, a 9.64-km line from Ashok Park to [Delhi Gate](#) of which 5.28km will be underground, a fully underground section from Central Secretariat to Red Fort (6.8km) and an elevated extension of the existing Line 2 from Jehangirpuri to Badli (3.43km). A sixth section (11.64km) is proposed from the existing Metro station at Noida Sector 18 to Malviya Nagar via Kalindi Kunj. [Delhi](#) government has proposed changes in the alignments of all the six corridors but a final decision is awaited.

The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) prepared by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for the new sections, have been submitted to Delhi government for approval. The construction of the lines will start after the Delhi government's empowered committee headed by the cabinet secretary and group of ministers (GoM) gives its nod. The funding for the new phase is also going to be a problem for a cash-strapped government which has already exhausted all its funds on the [Commonwealth Games](#).

The government is reportedly approaching Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to pay in part for the Metro since it is being felt that several DDA colonies in the city have benefiting from the Metro. For the entire cost of the project, estimated around Rs 14,500 crore, DMRC has requested Delhi government to try for JICA funding.

"JICA regards Delhi Metro as one of the best projects that they have funded. So they will be willing to release the funds. We have conveyed this to Delhi government. But the shares might change as we are looking at 40% funding from JICA loan and the rest from equities," said an official. The corporation will also look at issuing bonds as an option for funding in case the other sources don't work out.

Before the actual construction of a line commences, there are several other formalities which need to be completed. Before the work starts, DMRC will have to seek approval from the government, identify land requirements and take permission for tree cutting and utility diversion from local bodies. Phase III has a 2015 deadline.

The Delhi Metro masterplan — which has a 2021 deadline — envisages an integrated transportation network spanning over 381.11km. Phase IV will add several semi-urban locales to the network through links from Sarai Kale Khan to Sonia Vihar and Reola Khanpur, Palam to Mukundpur, Dwarka to Barwala, Ghazipur to Noida sector 62, Dwarka sector 21 to Chhawla and Ajrona to Kheri Khurd, adding another 76.3km.

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