

Municipal Chairman pitches for Toy Train or a metro project for Vrindavan

The Indian Railways has renovated the Vrindavan Railway station and laid new rail tracks replacing the old ones. The renewed interest of the railway department has given hope for a major facelift of the rail transport between Mathura and Vrindavan.

The Vrindavan Municipal chairman, Shri Mukesh Gautam wrote a letter to the Union Minister for Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu to improve the rail transport in Vrindavan. He urged the minister to grant either a toy train or metro rail project to be operated between Vrindavan and Mathura. He said that the toy train or the metro train will boost the tourism.

The department of railways replied to the chairman's communication, in which it assured that a multi level survey has

already been initiated to learn the feasibility of such project. If the feasibility report based on profit and loss accounts favors such project, the railway department will consider bringing such project.

The railway department has also said that the state government has to get the twelve kilometer railways stretch that has been encroached in many places cleared from before the railway could consider about bringing this projects to Mathura.

According to the residents, the toy train or a metro rail is a great idea as there have not been any proper bus services between Mathura and Vrindavan. Any such project will connect Vrindavan with rest of the country through the railways via Mathura.



The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railways: the Toy Train that holds World Heritage Site status.

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, also known as the "Toy Train", is a 2 ft (610 mm) narrow gauge railway that runs between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling in the Indian state of West Bengal, India.

Built between 1879 and 1881, the railway is about 78 kilometres long. Its elevation level varies from about 100 metres (328 ft) at New Jalpaiguri to about 2,200 metres (7,218 ft) at Darjeeling. Four modern diesel locomotives handle most of the scheduled services; however the daily Kurseong-Darjeeling return service and the daily tourist trains from Darjeeling to Ghum (India's highest railway station) are handled by the vintage British-built B Class steam locomotives.

This 78 km long section connecting Darjeeling with the railhead at Siliguri is of great importance and has been bestowed World Heritage Site status.



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Mr. Ravindra Chamaria
CMD, Infinity Group
by Smt. Hema Malini
for kind patronage during
the successful celebration of
Mathura Mahotsav.



Owner speak:

Mr. Rakesh Prakash Sharma
Deputy Manager - Indian Oil Corporation Limited
Mrs. Malti Sharma
Housewife
Agra, uttar Pradesh

"Though we visit Vrindavan often, we have never had our own place here. We now look forward to our own address in Krishna Bhumi".

Green court restrains garbage burning in Vrindavan

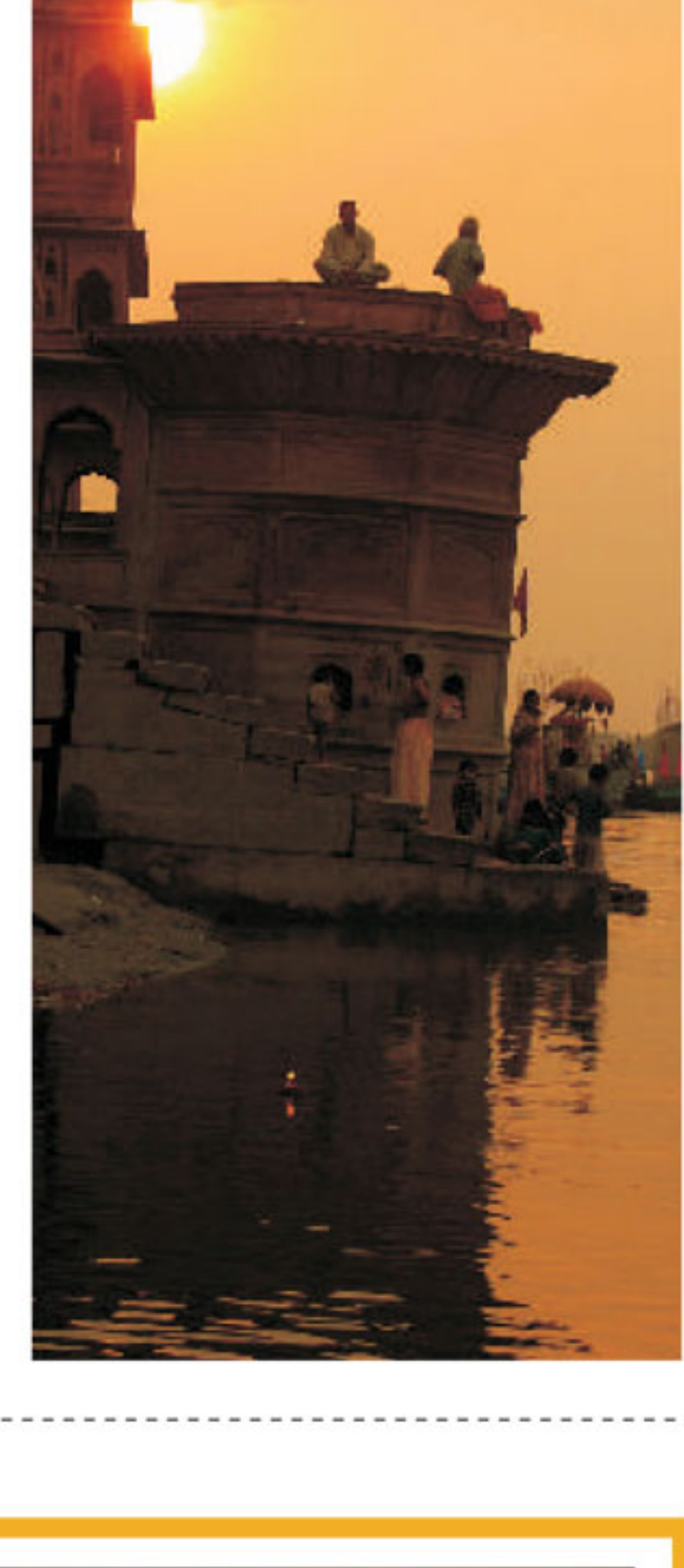
Vrindavan will get relief from the obnoxious smell of garbage burning soon as the National Green Tribunal has passed an order for not burning the garbage in the open. It has restrained the Vrindavan Municipality and the other civic bodies from burning garbage in the holy town of Vrindavan.

The court has also restrained to dump any sort of garbage on the Yamuna flood plain which includes debris, rubble and municipal solid waste. The court has passed this interim order before the vacation begins in the June. The proper hearing of this case will be done in July. Braj - Vrindavan Heritage Alliance had approached the green court through its convener Madhumangal Shukla to pass an order to reclaim the landfill site of Vrindavan which was transferred to the Mandi Samiti to make a whole sale market. The petitioner pleaded that Vrindavan doesn't have any appropriate landfill site due to which the garbage is being dumped on the Yamuna bank and on the main streets of Vrindavan. He also requested the court to pass an order to stop the

garbage burning, which was choking the environment of Vrindavan.

The constant garbage dumping on the Yamuna flood plain has pushed the river 100 meters from the ghats, which have heritage value. The activists have long been complaining to the district administration about the dumping of garbage and debris on the flood plain areas of Yamuna. The dumping of the debris had become so intense that the Parikrama Marg was extended up to the pillars of the unfinished flyover built near Keshi Ghat.

When some municipal workers engaged in cleaning were contacted they said that they didn't have any option other than dumping the garbage on the bank of Yamuna or burning it, as no alternative was provided to them as the landfill site. The petitioner Madhumangal Shukla said, "We shall send the court's order to the authorities and will ensure that they strictly follow it. We shall meet the authorities to get the debris cleared from the Yamuna bank which was dumped in huge quantity recently."



CLICK OF THE MONTH



Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh, in a clip from the 60 sec commercial video promoting Akshaya Patra. This campaign is targeted to generate awareness and raise donations.

How Vrindavan celebrates Adhik maas or Mal maas

"Diwali will be celebrated on 21st June and Holi on 28th June"

The preparations of the 'adhik maas' has begun in the holy town of Vrindavan. This month is also called the Purushottam month or the mal maas. All the major festivals of the year are celebrated in this month alone. This year it is beginning from 17th June and will last till 16th July. This month is considered as very sacred. People do extra rounds of their daily chanting (japa), parikrama, pilgrimages, scriptural readings and parayanas.

The concept of the Adhik Maas is unique to the traditional Hindu lunar calendars based on the cycles of the moon. A lunar year consists of 354 solar days and solar year consists of 365 days. So, as years pass by each lunar month starts earlier to the corresponding solar month. There is a difference between the two calendars becomes a full month or around 29 days. To compensate and get the two calendars similar an extra month is added.

The deities of the various temples will give darshan to the devotees in different costumes. Special recitation of Ramayan and Bhagvatam will be performed in the different temples and ashrams. Though the temple town of Vrindavan celebrate the festivals round the year, but the adhik maas has special significance, as all the festivals of the year is celebrated in just one month. This holy month comes once in a year, and the festivals are celebrated according to the tithis.

One can easily see the confluence of faith, devotion and surrender among the devotees in this month. They take bath in the Yamuna, do the panchakosi parikrama and visit the temples of

Vrindavan. During the period of Purushottam Maas devotees perform various types of religious rituals, such as fasting, recitation of the religious scriptures, mantras, prayers, performing various types of pujas and havans. Fasting with various timings is carried out as per the tolerance capacities of the individuals.

Persons performing pious deeds in this month are believed to conquer their senses and they totally come out of the rebirth cycle. Performing penances knowingly or unknowingly in this month in any form attains peace and bring relief from the astrological ill effects. These religious rituals are capable of washing away all the sins of people accumulated during this life and past life.

The Radha Ballabh Temple will celebrate the Jhulanotsava, Nauka Vihar, Diwali, Holi, Anna Koot, Chhappan Bhog, Vasant and Sharad Purnima. According to Radhesh Lal Goswami Diwali will be celebrated on 21st June and Holi on 28th June.



Did you know ?

2011 Kumbh Mela in Allahabad saw the biggest gathering in the world. This gathering of around 75 million people were visible from space



Satellite image of Kumbh Mela

Kumbh Mela is organized every three years on a rotation basis in Allahabad, Nashik, Haridwar and Ujjain.

It is a mass Hindu pilgrimage in which Hindus gather at the Sangam, meeting place, of the rivers Ganges, Yamuna and Sarasvati, and on the banks of Godavari, Ganga and Kshipra, where bathing for purification from sin is considered especially auspicious.

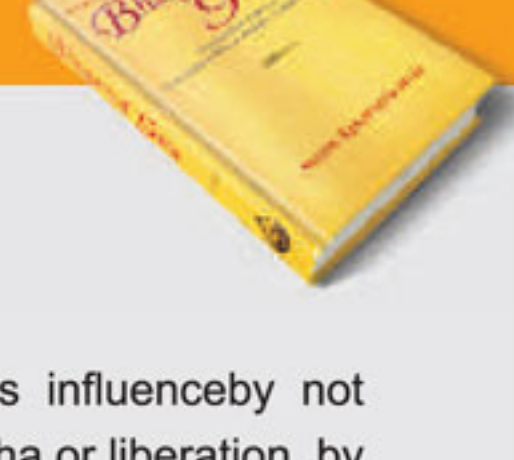
First written evidence of the Kumbha Mela can be found in the accounts of Chinese traveller, Hiuen Tsang or Xuanzang (602 - 664 A.D.) who visited India in 629 -645 CE, during the reign of King Harshavardhana.

From the Bhagwad Gita

न कर्मणामनारम्भान्नैष्कर्म्यं पुरुषोऽश्नुते।
न च सन्न्यसनादेव सिद्धिं समधिगच्छति॥

"A person does not attains freedom from action and its influence by not undertaking actions, nor does he attain perfection i.e. moksha or liberation, by renunciation alone".

Bhagavadgītā (Bhagavad Gita): Chapter III (Karmayoga) Stanza 4



Watch out!

- 29th June : Padmini Ekadashi
- 15th June : Mithuna Sanskranti
- 2nd July : Purnima
- 5th July : Sanskashthi Chaturthi
- 12th July : Parama Ekadashi
- 13th July : Pradosh Vrat

A Krishna heritage circuit to come up around Mathura-Vrindavan

It's a land steeped in Indian folklore, a land where Lord Krishna and his 'gopis' are believed to have once romped in gay abandon. Now, the tourism ministry is set to spend over Rs.120 crore (\$20 million) on the infrastructural development of the Mathura-Vrindavan pilgrimage circuit, a move that will transform the profile of a land visited by millions round the year.

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced a Braj Heritage Planning Board to suggest ideas and monitor implementation of projects in the Braj area. The union government has already declared Mathura a heritage city.

Union Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma at a function held last week told mediapersons that a new international airport would be sited along the Yamuna Expressway that links Mathura to Agra on one end and to Greater Noida on the national capital's outskirts on the other.

Stating that a new circuit centred around the cult of Lord Krishna, part of the Hindu Trinity and one of his most beloved personal gods, is being developed from Akshardham in Delhi to Mathura, the minister said Rs. 120 crore would be spent on developing the "Braj Chaurasi Kos" that includes Vrindavan, Goverdhan, Gokul, Barsana, Nandgaon, Kokila Van, Sher Garh and Mahavan areas.

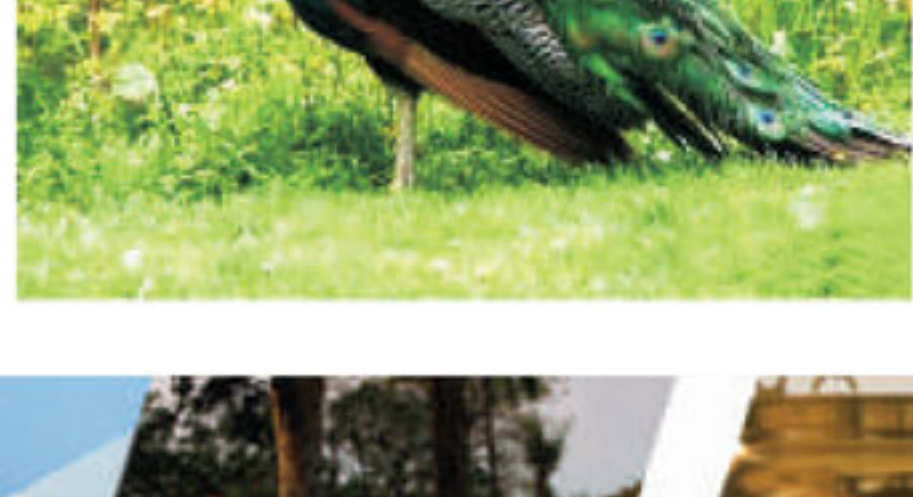
Mathura's Member of Parliament and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Hema Malini wants the airport to come up at Mahavan in

Mathura district on the Expressway. Both the Uttar Pradesh and central governments appear keen to speed up development of the Braj area which draws tourists and Krishna devotees from across the world.

"With so much money pouring in, the profile of the Sri Krishna land is set to change in the coming years," told Braj Mandala Heritage Conservation Society president Surendra Sharma.

Peacock conservation centre to be set up in Vrindavan

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri Akhilesh Yadav has here announced to establish a conservation centre for our National bird Peacock, in Vrindavan. Official spokesperson here said a Mayur Conservation Centre will be set up on the land of Forest Department in Vrindavan.



In the news



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