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Mathura wants 'Gatimaan' train to stop in holy city

TNN | Oct 14, 2014, 09:41PM IST

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MATHURA: The announcement that the semi-high speed train which will cover the 200km Delhi-Agra stretch in 105 minutes will be launched in November has set off demands for halts on the way. Residents of Mathura and Vrindavan now want that the train halts at Mathura station for five minutes.

The new semi-high speed train, which is expected to be named Gatimaan Express, will be open to public from next month after having undergone two pilot runs in July and September.

RK Chaturvedi, president of a voluntary social group Jan Sanskratik Manch, told TOI that the marquee train "must stop" at Mathura to help pilgrims planning to come to the twin holy cities "save time" and "travel in comfort". He further said a stoppage at the city is logical due to the huge number of devotees that throng Lord Krishna's land every year. Plus, he added, "all important trains have stops in the city".

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Former chairman of Mathura municipality Veerendra Kumar Agarwal concurred with Chaturvedi's opinion. He said he would ask MP Hema Malini to speak to the railway minister Sadananda Gowda regarding the matter.

Author and cultural activist Ashok Bansal was vocal in his opinion. Speaking to TOI, he said, "A five-minute delay will not bring the heavens down. It makes no difference if the semi-high speed train reaches in 115 minutes and not 110. But denying Mathura its right is not acceptable to us. The new train should be a success. The influx of religious tourists to the twin cities has increased manifold in recent years, and most are affluent class pilgrims."

A halt in Mathura will also help reduce air pollution in the area, which is an eco-sensitive zone due to the presence of the Indian Oil Corporation-owned Mathura refinery. The refinery has been under the scanner of several environmentalists, especially after reports emerged that its toxic releases were causing the white marbles of the Taj Mahal to turn yellow.

"If a fast train becomes available, hundreds of vehicles polluting the area will become redundant. People would rather travel by the new train and not cars. This would, therefore, reduce air pollution levels in the city," Vrindavan activist Jagan Nath Poddar said.

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himmat222 ()
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I do not have good memory of these two cities. Experience was exactly opposite of some temples in South India. These two places had bad roads. Temples were not clean and those Poojaris were looters, only after money. Why should train halt there?

Indian (India) replies to himmat222
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