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Mathura may become part of NCR

JANUARY 27, 2015 BY VT STAFF

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Mathura, 2015.01.26 ([TOI](#)): In a move that can give a big boost to the Brajbhoomi area, Mathura, located almost 150 km away from Delhi, may soon become a part of the National Capital Region (NCR).

The inclusion, according to sources, may happen by next year ahead of the UP assembly polls. Disclosing that discussions on this were afoot, Nagendra Pratap Singh, vice-chairman of the Mathura-Vrindavan Development Authority, said that the matter was taken on priority at a meeting held in New Delhi recently.

“A strong case for Mathura’s inclusion was presented at the meeting. Since the city is just one and a half hour’s drive away from Delhi and is at a strategic location between the Capital and Agra, it has the perfect credentials for being part of NCR.”

Mathura’s inclusion is expected to provide maximum benefit to the temple town’s tourism infrastructure. Millions of devotees visit the twin cities of Mathura-Vrindavan, known for their

Krishna connection, every year.

“Once part of the NCR, the district would benefit in many ways, with better and more coordinated urban development and infusion of funds,” said Singh. Incidentally, the NDA has included Mathura in the list of heritage cities which would receive more assistance from the Centre for Infrastructural Development.

On a recent visit to the city, BJP national secretary Sri Kant Sharma had told media persons that Metro rail services may be extended beyond Palwal once the decision on Mathura’s incorporation in the NCR was firmed up. He added that Prime Minister Modi was particularly keen on Mathura’s development and cleaning up the Yamuna.

Accordingly, a number of plans are in the pipeline to give a major face-lift to the region. The Union government has already released funds for the district’s infrastructural development under its heritage plan. The Mathura-Vrindavan Development Authority is also firming up a proposal for setting up of a Mathura Haat to promote sale of local goods. A World Bank plan to integrate grass-roots productive activities by local craftsmen and artisans with marketing outlets will be given final touches when a team visits Mathura-Vrindavan in a couple of days.

Also, the state government is likely to shortly announce a combined municipal corporation which will merge the civic bodies of Mathura and [Vrindavan](#) along with 50-odd villages of Goverdhan. According to district magistrate Rajesh Kumar, the proposal will soon be forwarded to the divisional commissioner who would be forwarding it to the urban development ministry for action.

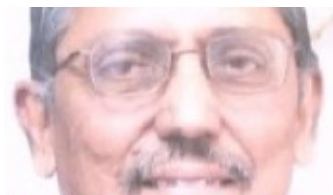
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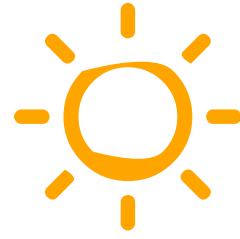
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