

A Bullet Train Every 60 Mins From Delhi-Agra By 2029-30?

Nov 23, 2021, 04:14 AM IST

New Delhi: The Delhi-Varanasi High Speed Rail (HSR) or bullet train project would be 958 km long, including a 123km spur connecting Lucknow with Ayodhya, according to the detailed project report (DPR). And if all goes as per the government plan, there would be one bullet train running at top speed of 300 kmph every hour from Delhi to Agra and Agra to Delhi by 2029-30. The entire corridor will be a mix of elevated stretches and tunnels considering the corridor safety requirement. It would have 12 stations and would link all major religious places including Mathura, Ayodhya, Prayagraj and Varanasi. There would be an underground station at Jewar airport as well. The total project cost is estimated at Rs 2.28 lakh crore and getting finance would be crucial for execution of the mammoth project.

According to the DPR prepared by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHRCL), which is implementing the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project, the bullet trains would make 63 trips in a day between Delhi and Agra; 43 trips per day between Delhi and Lucknow; 18 trips daily between Delhi and Varanasi. In the case of Ayodhya, the DPR has estimated 11 trips per day.

Currently, it takes around 11-12 hours to reach Varanasi from Delhi by train. The proposed bullet train would reduce this journey time to barely three hours. The high speed rail connectivity to Varanasi, the heart of eastern Uttar Pradesh, is crucial considering that the current regime has is focusing on changing the profile of Purvanchal by creating world class infrastructure.

This move also gains importance as the government makes efforts to place Ayodhya on the world tourism map and high speed connectivity will be a catalyst to bring tourists to the holy city.

TOI on January 16 had reported that the one-way fare to Ayodhya from Delhi by the proposed high speed (bullet) train would cost less than travel by air.