

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1557**  
**ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023**

**GAUTAM BUDDHA RAIL CIRCUIT CONNECTING NJP, GAYA, KUSHINAGAR  
AND SARNATH**

1557 SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is train services connecting New Jalpaiguri (NJP), Gaya, Kushinagar and Sarnath; and
- (b) if not, whether there is any plan to develop NJP to Gaya as a Gautama Buddha Circuit for all Buddhist pilgrims and to boost tourism in this circuit?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b) New Jalpaiguri station is presently connected to Gaya by 1 pair of Mail/Express train service and to Gorakhpur (primarily serving Kushinagar district) by 12 pairs of Mail/Express train services and to Varanasi (just 10 km from Sarnath) by 8 pairs of Mail/Express train services. Introduction of trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, resource availability, etc.

Indian Railways have issued the 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' policy in November' 2021, under which theme based tourist circuit trains are being run with the objective to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places. As per this policy, service providers have full flexibility to decide the themes/itineraries for operation of Bharat Gaurav tourist circuit trains which may include any theme-based tourist circuit including Buddhist Circuit covering New Jalpaiguri to Gaya based on market demand, commercial viability etc.

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