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Title: Need to extend Delhi-Ludhiana Shatabdi Express to Jammu via Jalandhar and Pathankot.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (GURDASPUR): The Delhi-Ludhiana Shatabdi Express runs between Delhi and Ludhiana via Rohtak, Haryana and Sangrur, Punjab. There is already another Shatabdi train that serves Ludhiana, the Swaran Shatabdi goes to Amritsar via Ludhiana. As Jammu is not having faster connectivity with Delhi, this Delhi-Ludhiana Shatabdi Express has immense potential to serve other areas.

This Delhi - Ludhiana Shatabdi should, therefore, be extended up to Jammu via Jalandhar and Pathankot. It would serve not only commercial purposes but also religious and tourist purposes as Pathankot is the gateway to Jammu, Ladakh and Lower Himachal Pradesh each being famous as religious and tourist sites. Being an economically backward border area of the nation, this extension will give a huge boost to the economic and social development of the area, boosting trade and tourism in my parliamentary constituency of Gurdaspur. With Pathankot being one of the largest military bases in the country, this train service will benefit the defence personnel and their families as well.

With the Shatabdi extended to Jammu, people and economics of Kathua, Samba and Udhampur of Jammu and Kashmir, Palampur, Narpur, Chamba, Kangra and Mandi Districts of Himachal Pradesh, Batala, Sri Hargobindpur, Quadian of Gurdaspur district as well as people of Dasua, Mukerian and Hoshiarpur in Punjab will be greatly benefitted.

The Shatabdi train may start in the morning from New Delhi, reach Ludhiana via Rohtak, Sangrur and continue onwards to Jammu Tawi Station via Jalandhar and Pathankot. Similarly another train should start from Jammu early morning and reach New Delhi passing through through these stations. This project may be given top priority because of the immense benefit that will be bestowed upon the people who have so far no quick and convenient means to reach New Delhi.