

Robbers injure Russian woman tourist in Agra

A Russian tourist was attacked by three unidentified men on a motorcycle here late Wednesday night, the police said. The would-be robbers tried to snatch her bag and threw some acid-like substance on her, leading to burns on her face.

Catrina, a 35-year-old Russian tourist, was attacked near the Archaeological Survey of India office on Mall Road.

According to an official of the Sadar police station, Katrina was walking back to her hotel from a restaurant with a friend and her guide when a gang of motorcycle riders tried to snatch her bag. She fought back and didn't let it go. The attackers fired a shot and threw some acid-like substance on her.

She was taken to a local nursing home. Doctors there said the victim - who was in a state of shock - should stay at the nursing home for a couple of days.

The police are on the lookout for a black Pulsar motorcycle that the would-be robbers used, but have drawn a blank so far.

According to eyewitnesses, Katrina caught hold of one of the three attackers and fought back along with her two escorts. To secure release of their accomplice, the other two threw some chemical from a bottle and fled from the site.

In recent weeks there have been several attacks on foreign tourists here.

In September, Director General of Police Vikram Singh, while inaugurating the first tourist police station in the city, had outlined a series of measures to streamline the law and order system in the tourist complex -- the Mall Road and Taj Ganj areas.

Surendra Sharma, founder president of the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Agra, said: 'It's a very serious situation and if not controlled would tarnish the city's name and adversely affect tourism. Already after the terrorist acts in three UP cities, there have been so many cancellations of reservations.'

'Tourists are apprehensive about coming to Agra and most of them avoid staying for the night. If the system fails to make Agra tourist-friendly, all our talk of promotional schemes and grandiose plans, will come to nought.'

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