



HISTORY OF INDIAN RAILWAYS

The Indian Railways is a Government of India body which is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the entire rail network in India. As far as rail transport in India is concerned, it enjoys total monopoly. More than 17 million passengers avail the transport facilities offered by the Indian Railways.

History of Railway in India- Important Years

- 1832- Plans were proposed to introduce a rail network in India.
- 1844- Private entrepreneurs set up a private rail system in India.
- 1851- Trains became operational.
- 1853- Passenger trains were introduced.
- 1875- 95 million pounds were invested into Indian railways by British companies.
- 1895- Indian locomotives began to operate in the country.
- 1901- A Railway Board was established.
- 1907- The government obtained total control over most of the rail companies.
- 1908- First electric locomotive was introduced.
- 1947- 40% of the railway network came under Pakistan's possession.

History of Indian Railways- Important Years

After India obtained independence from the British, the rail network in the country was christened as the Indian Railways.

- 1951- Nationalization of the rail system in India took place.
- 1952- Six railway zones were introduced.
- 1995- Steam locomotives became obsolete. Only diesel and electric locomotives were operational.
- 1987-1995- The Indian Railways reservation system was computerised.

The Indian Railways now operates one of the world's largest rail networks. On an annual basis, more than 17 million passengers avail the transport services offered by the Indian Railways. The employment opportunities generated by the Indian Railways is

also quite remarkable. Over 1.6 million employees work under the payrolls of the Indian Railways.

World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways



World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways – an Introduction

World Heritage Sites are the sites that are included on the list maintained by International World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. These heritage sites have outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common heritage of humanity. Indian Railways also has a few sites that have been declared as World Heritage Sites by the UNESCO. Just even a few days back, there has been three **World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways**, which include (i) Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST), (ii) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, and (iii) Nilgiri Mountain Railway. But on 7th July, 2008, UNESCO included Kalka – Shimla Mountain Railway into the list of World Heritage Site to make the number of **World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways** to four.



Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) is a historic railway station in Mumbai. Formerly known as Victoria Terminus, or Bombay VT, it is one of the busiest railway stations in India and the headquarters of the Central Railways. One of the **World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways**, this historic station was designed by Frederick William Stevens in 1887-1888, and it took Rs. 16.14 lakh at that time to build it. This terminus took ten years to complete and was named after the reigning Queen Victoria.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is another **World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways**, nicknamed as the “Toy Train”. It is a narrow-gauge railway (610mm) that runs from Siliguri to Darjeeling in West Bengal. Built between 1879 and 1881, this 86 km long railway, powered by a steam engine, ascend from 100m at Siliguri to about 2,200m at Darjeeling. This railway has been listed in the World Heritage Site in 1999.

Nilgiri Mountain Railway

Nilgiri Mountain Railway is another **World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways** that runs between Mettupalayam and the hill station of Udagamandalam. The only rack railway in India, Nilgiri Mountain Railway runs on the Nilgiri Hill, in Tamil Nadu, South India. One of the oldest mountain railways in India, this railway was opened by the British in 1899. It was included in the World Heritage Site in July, 2005.

Kalka – Shimla Mountain Railway

Kalka – Shimla Mountain Railway is the latest entrants in the **World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways**. On 7th July, 2008, UNESCO enlisted it on the list of World Heritage Sites. Constructed in 1903, Kalka – Shimla Mountain Railway is one of the significant railways in India. This 96.6 km railway stretches from Kalka to Shimla in Himachal Pradesh.

For more information on **World Heritage Sites in Indian Railways**, please go through the site www.headlinesindia.com.

Indian Railways-World Heritage Sites

Indian Railways is one of the world’s largest railway networks comprising 115,000 km (71,000 mi) of track over a route of 65,436 km (40,660 mi) and 7,172 stations. In April 2015, Indian Railways has completed 162 years of connecting India.

Several UNESCO World Heritage Sites are part of the Indian Railways. UNESCO has recognized three hill railways in India as world heritage sites, grouping them as ‘Mountain Railways of India’. The other world heritage site that is part of the Indian Railways, is the Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Previously known as Victoria Terminus)

THE DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY



Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in 1895 | Source: Wikipedia

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway opened in 1881, and was the first hill passenger railway in India. Its design applies bold and ingenious engineering solutions to the problem of establishing an effective rail link across a mountainous terrain of great beauty. The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is intimately linked with the development of Darjeeling as the queen of hill stations and one of the main tea-growing areas in India, in the early 19th century.



A train at the Ghoom Station | Source: Wikipedia

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway consists of 88.48 kilometers of 2 feet (0.610 meter) gauge track that connects New Jalpaiguri with Darjeeling, passing through Ghoom, one of the highest railway stations in the world, at an altitude of 2258m



The Batasia Loop | Source: Wikipedia

The innovative design includes six zigzag reverses and three loops with a ruling gradient of 1:31.

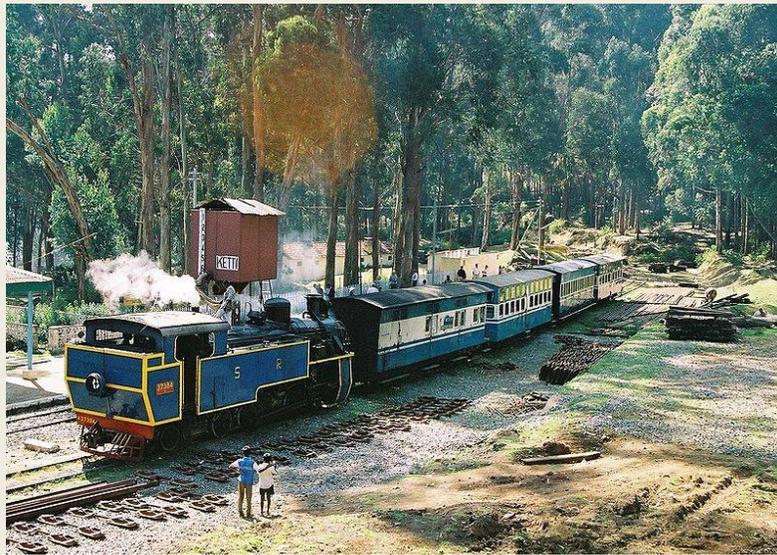


Darjeeling Himalayan Railway – A part of the daily life in Darjeeling

1999, and was the second railway in the world to have this honour bestowed upon it.

The Nilgiri Mountain Railway

The construction of the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, a 46-km long metre-gauge single-track railway was completed in 1908. This railway, scaling an elevation of 326 m to 2,203 m, represented the latest technology of the time.



The Nilgiri Mountain Railway at Ketti near Ooty (Udhagamandalam) In July 2005, UNESCO added the Nilgiri Mountain Railway as an extension to the World Heritage Site of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, the site then became known as “Mountain Railways of India.



The rack section of the line, from Kallar to Coonoor (elevation 1,712 m). There are 208 curves and 13 tunnels, and 27 viaducts. The Kallar Bridge over the River Bhawani, the Adderley Viaduct and the Burliar Bridge are examples of such composite bridges.

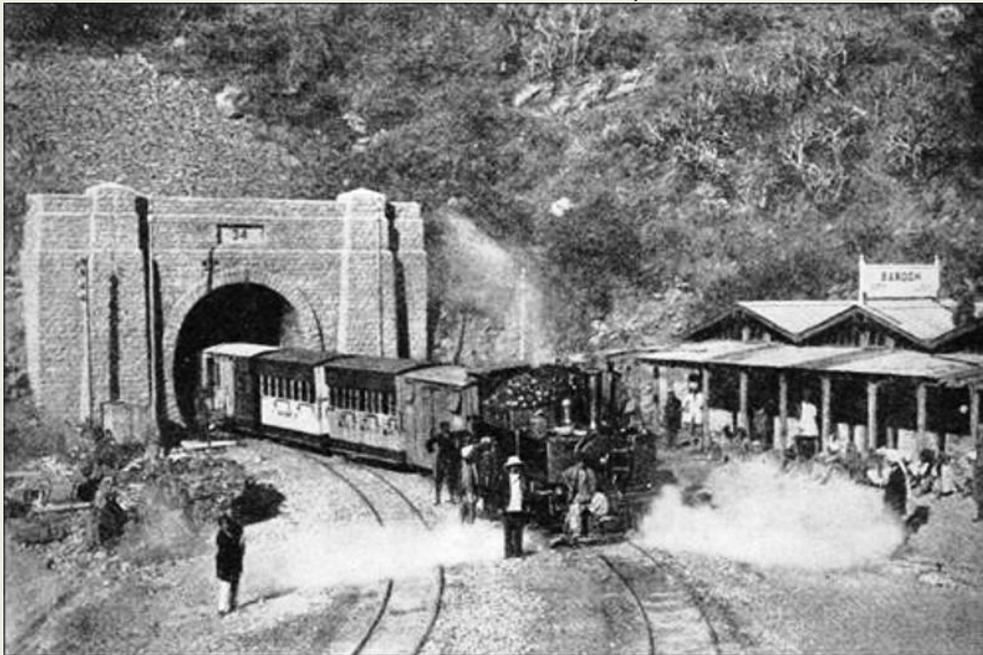


The Kalka Shimla Railway.

The Kalka Shimla Railway is a 96-km long, single track working rail link built in the mid-19th century, connecting Kalka in the foothills, to Shimla.



Kalka Shimla Railway



Old photograph of the Barog Station, beside the Barog tunnel

Originally 107 tunnels were built on Kalka Shimla Railway Track and 102 remain in use. The longest tunnel is at Barog.



Kalka Shimla Railway

In 2008, the Kalka–Shimla Railway became part of the World Heritage Site 'Mountain Railways of India'.

SOURCE:[UNESCO](#)

Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus – A UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) is an historic railway station in Mumbai which serves as the headquarters of the Central Railways.



The station was built in 1887 in the Bori Bunder area of Bombay to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The station's name was changed from Victoria Terminus to Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus in 1996 .



The Victoria Terminus, was the first terminus station in the subcontinent.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) is an outstanding example of late 19th century railway architecture in the British Commonwealth, characterized by Victorian Gothic Revival and traditional Indian Features, as well as its advanced structural and technical solutions.



National Railway Museum (NRM) [Know More...](#)



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