

Railway Heritage of India - Old Delhi

Railway Station



The Old Delhi Railway Station, also known as Delhi railway station, located near the famous Chandni Chowk was the first railway station of Delhi. The station is also located close to the Red Fort, Chawri Bazaar, Jama Masjid, etc. It was established in 1864 when trains from Howrah, Calcutta started operating till Delhi.

The Station

The present building was constructed during the British period in the style of nearby Red Fort and opened in 1903. It had only 2 platforms in the beginning and catered to around 1000 passengers. The Delhi -Howrah line was broad gauge. A metre gauge track from Delhi to Rewari was laid and further to Ajmer was laid in 1873 by Rajputana Railways. In 1904 the Agra-Delhi line was opened. New additions to the station were made in 1934-35, with new platforms being built and power signals introduced. A new entrance from Kashmere Gate side was made in 1990s and more platforms were added.



Old Delhi Railway Station was built in red stone in resemblance to the historic Red Fort. The station building had six clock towers.

The Old Delhi Railway Station served as the main station of Delhi until the opening of New Delhi Railway Station in 1926.

Restoration

From de-cluttering its surroundings to concentrating on restoring the building to its old glory, the Northern Railways is hoping to take the Old Delhi station into flashback mode. Decongestion of Old Delhi railway station is part of the Chandni Chowk redevelopment plan which has been delayed by several years. The entrance to the station is also being renovated.

The Old Yamuna Bridge

The old Yamuna Bridge or “Bridge No. 249” was constructed in 1866 by the East India Railway. It was built with a total length of 2,640 feet and consisted of 12 spans of 202.5 feet each. With the completion of this bridge Delhi was connected to the other side of the river by the Railways which lead till Kolkata. In 1913, this was converted into a double line by adding down line girders of 12 spans of 202 feet each and 2 end spans of 42 feet to the bridge. For the movement of road traffic, two road bridges were provided below the lines.



ACTIVITY

1. Find old photographs of Old Delhi Railway Station. Compare those pictures with the pictures of today and point out the differences.
2. Find out how much did it cost to make the old Yamuna Bridge in Delhi? It is similar to which other bridge in India?
3. When was the station built and of what material was it built?

References

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