Sidhi district gets rail link for the first time since Independence – Rewa–Churhat (65 km) and Satna–Devendranagar (53 km) sections opened

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News

On 24 Oct 2026, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Madhya Pradesh CM Dr Mohan Yadav, at events held at Churhat and Nagod stations, virtually opened two new sections – Rewa–Churhat (65 km) and Satna–Devendranagar (53 km), 118 km in all. With this, Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh got rail connectivity for the first time since Independence. The Rewa–Churhat section has a 3.33-km tunnel through the hills. A new Devendranagar–Churhat MEMU passenger service was also flagged off. Both are parts of the Lalitpur–Singrauli new line project.

Key facts

Opened	24 Oct 2026 – Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mohan Yadav; events at Churhat & Nagod
Sections	Rewa–Churhat 65 km + Satna–Devendranagar 53 km = 118 km
Feature	3.33-km tunnel; several bridges
Project	Lalitpur–Singrauli new line – Panna, Satna, Rewa, Sidhi, Singrauli (Vindhya region)

Zone	West Central Railway – HQ Jabalpur
State allocation	Railway outlay for MP in 2026–27: ₹15,188 crore

Background

- Geography: Sidhi lies in eastern Madhya Pradesh (Rewa division); the Son river flows through it. Sanjay National Park (Sanjay–Dubri Tiger Reserve) is in Sidhi district. Neighbouring Singrauli, rich in coal mines and thermal power plants, is called India's 'energy capital'.
- Lalitpur–Singrauli / Mahoba–Khajuraho new line project – 541 km in all; from Lalitpur (UP) through Bundelkhand and the Vindhya region to Singrauli. The Mahoba–Khajuraho part was completed in 2008.
- Economy–administration: on the Acworth Committee's (1920–21) advice, the Railway Budget was separated from the General Budget by the 1924 'Separation Convention'; after the Bibek Debroy committee's recommendation it was merged back from 2017–18. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (Oct 2021) – integrated planning of rail, road and other infrastructure.
- West Central Railway (WCR) – HQ Jabalpur; Jabalpur, Bhopal and Kota divisions. Rewa and Satna fall in the Jabalpur division.

Tamil Nadu link: the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Perambur, Chennai, began in 1955; India's first 'Vande Bharat' train (Train 18) was built here in 2018, and its first service ran New Delhi–Varanasi in Feb 2019. Southern Railway is headquartered in Chennai.

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