

NARROW GAUGE RAIL MUSEUM, NAINPUR

Nagpur Division of South East Central Railway once had the unique distinction of maintaining the largest Narrow Gauge Railway system in Indian Railways with a network of more than 1005 km known as Satpura Railway. After closure of major sections in Oct'15 and Dec'15, only 100 kms.

In order to preserve the history of Narrow Gauge Railway system, then Hon'ble GM Shri Satyendra Kumar advised to set up a Narrow Gauge Rail Museum at Nainpur after closure of NG sections for gauge conversion work. Nainpur was the ideal choice for the museum as it was divisional HQ of Satpura Railway once.

The museum area is spread over an area of about 10.52 Acre (4.26 Hectare).

Narrow Gauge Rail Museum has following main attraction for visitors.

- Two heritage buildings and one new building have various thematic galleries based on working of different department of Railways in Narrow Gauge system.
- Running Train (Satpura Express) with one diesel loco and 2 coaches having facility to accommodate 20 persons in each coach in cushioned push back chair.
- AC restaurant Coach with seating capacity for 14 persons.
- Air cooled Auditorium with seating capacity for 50 persons to show short films about Narrow Gauge Railway system and public awareness related information.
- Display of 09 heritage rolling stock including one steam engine.
- Play items for amusement of children like swings, slides, and see-saw have been provided. An Amphitheatre has also been provided for cultural activities.

1. Entrance

The main entrance gate of the museum is located on western side. The magnificent arc type granite tiled structure with LED glow sign gives the museum a beautiful look. A ZE class steam locomotive near the entrance attracts the attention of the visitors. A cabin for security guard and spacious parking lot for vehicles has also been provided.



2. Steam Loco 8ZE

This ZE class steam locomotive was built in 1954 by M/s Krauss-Maffei in Munich , Germany. It has wheel configuration of 2-8-2 and total weight including tender is 64.37 tons. This locomotive was based primarily at Nainpur steam loco shed and used mostly in passenger train services in Howbagh-Nainpur- Gondia- Nainpur- Chhindwara- Mandla section. It was in service till 1990.



3. New Building

The new two storied building of the museum is located on the eastern side of the museum was constructed for accommodating more exhibits. The Ground floor displays the history of 'Satpura lines' in the form of posters, canvas paintings of five steam loco sheds, steam loco models, steam loco cab model, working models of Walschaert valve gear and CC class steam locomotive, different types of old machines, signaling model, heritage drawings, old documents and manuals, steam loco shed and belt driven machines. A beautiful mural of steam loco and a scale model of Nainpur settlement area is the highlight among the exhibits.



4. Nainpur Station & Railway Settlement Model

1. The Nainpur station and railway settlement scale model is kept in the centre of ground floor of new building. Nainpur railway station with its complete infra structure, Rest house, Steam loco shed with turn-table, Railway Institute, Railway school, Old museum building, railway quarters and Offices, Water filter house etc. have been depicted.



Working model of Signal with Level Crossing gate operation.



6. Canvas Paintings of Steam Loco Sheds

Steam Loco Sheds of Nagpur division are depicted in the form of beautiful Canvas paintings.





Motibagh Steam Loco Shed

It was 'B' Class Loco shed where 33 Steam Locomotives of ZP, DS, DC & ZE Class were maintained for goods & passenger services. BS, BC & ZP Class of locos were used in Gondia train only in Nagpur section and in Passenger service in Saoner-Khapa section & in mixed trains in Nagpur-Bamakhola-Chhindwara section. BS & BC Class Locomotives were used for shunting services at Motibagh and Hooper Yard. All Schedule repairs from I to V were carried out in this loco shed. 'A' class Accident Relief Train and 1 Steam Crane of 10 Tons Capacity was also based here.



Gondia Steam Loco Shed

It was 'C' Class steam loco shed where 16 Steam Locomotives of ZE, BS & BC class were maintained. ZE class were used for passenger train service whereas BS & BC class were used mostly in goods service. Initially this Loco shed attended schedule I & II repairs only. Later on after closure of Motibagh Loco shed, schedule III & IV were also attended here. 'B' Class Accident Relief Train was also based here. There was a turn-table with mixed gauge for BG & BG locos.



7. Steam Loco Cab Model

This is a full scale Driver cab model of CC Class steam locomotive. The cab model depicts main components and control valves used by the driver while driving the loco. Visitors get a feel of real loco cab when they hear steam loco whistle by pulling the whistle wire and see the mock flames of fire inside the firebox. They can also put fake coal pieces in the firebox with a shovel which get collected in a hidden tray at the bottom.



8. Heritage Machine Gallery

The heritage machine gallery is located on ground floor of new building. It has six different types of old machines such as Lathe machine, Grinding machine, Circular Saw machine, Hand Drilling machine, Saw Shaping machine & Belt driven Drilling machine which were used in the machine shop of Sr. Section Engineer(Bridge), Nainpur. All these machines were built in between 1880 to 1905.



9. Old Drawings

Old and rare drawings of steam locomotives, wagons and their components collected from Motibagh Workshop are well preserved.



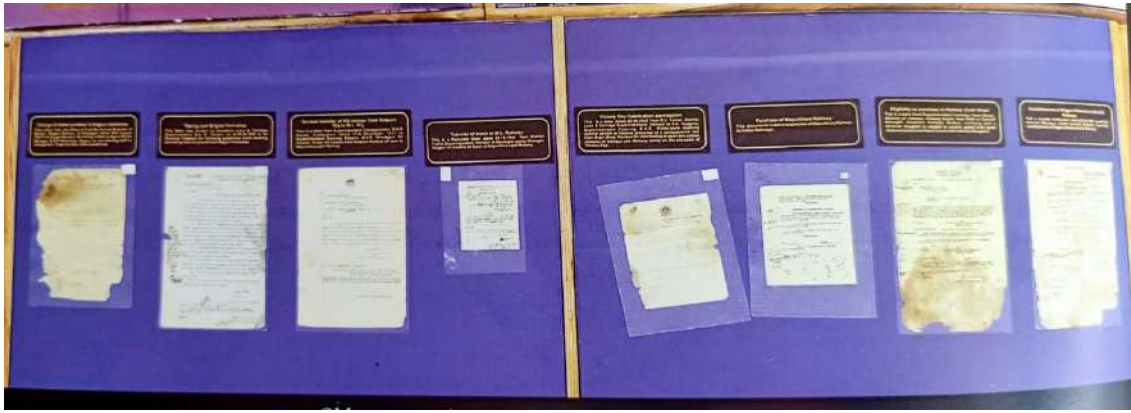
10. Steam Loco Models

A scale model of each class viz. BS, BC, CC & ZE Class of steam locomotive which were used in Nagpur Division bring back the memories of steam era.



11. Old Letters

Old and rare correspondence letters of workshop and headquarters at Garden Reach, Kolkata, challans, and appointment letters of pre-independence era are preserved.



12. Auditorium

The air-conditioned auditorium is located on the ground floor of new building. Documentaries related to railways are shown to the visitors. It can seat up to 50 persons in comfortable cushioned chairs. It is also ideal for conducting seminars, meeting for a small gathering.



13. First Floor New Building

The first floor of new building has scale model layouts of Motibagh workshop, Diesel Shed Motibagh and Carriage & Wagon Depot, Motibagh. These layouts display the entire set up of these establishments. Different sections, shops and activities carried in these units are exhibited in miniature form. The photographs related to the activities are also displayed in background. These help the visitor in gaining lots of information about working of different departments of railways.

A view of Mechanical Gallery



Diesel Loco Shed Motibagh LayoutModel



Carriage & Wagon Depot Layout model



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Motibagh Work Shop layout Model



14. Bungalow No. 53

This building built in 1920 was once a residential bungalow. This building has Steam loco gallery, Signal gallery, Telecom gallery, Diesel Loco gallery and Electrical gallery. The working of these departments have been explained in the forms of tools, gauges, equipments, models and photographs.



15. Steam Loco Gallery

The steam loco gallery in Bungalow no. 53 has steam loco model, components of steam loco, maintenance tools and spanners. Different activities carried out in steam loco sheds are displayed through photographs.



16. Signal & Telecom Gallery

The Signal and Telecom gallery in Bungalow no. 53 has different Semaphore type signaling systems, signal levers. Old telephone instruments and communication equipment are also displayed.





17. Engineering Gallery

The Engineering gallery in Bungalow no. 53 has tools and equipment such as shovel, pick axe, signal lamps used by engineering staff are put on display. A push trolley for carrying heavy material, rails, fish plates, rail fastenings of different types are available.



18. Carriage & Wagon Gallery (B. No. 53)

The carriage and wagon gallery has on display tools such as hammers, chisel, axe and parts of coach and wagons such as axle box housing, pins of sizes, laminated springs, coil springs, coupling and buffing gears etc. The maintenance activities of staff like under gear repairs in pit line and sick line, watering, gauging lifting etc. have been displayed in the form of photographs. Heritage photographs of old and rare rolling stocks, special and unique trains provide interesting information.



19. Diesel Loco Gallery (B. No. 53)

Different components of Diesel Power pack, Transmission and loco cab gauges are displayed. A working cut model of diesel engine shows its working.







20. Electrical Gallery (B. No. 53)

Old and new type of coach illumination parts such as bulbs, tube rods are kept along with fans of different types. Electricity generating parts such dynamo, rectifiers and pulleys are displayed. Evolution in coach lighting is explained through photographs.





21. Bungalow No. 73

This building built in 1920 was once a residential bungalow. The history of narrow gauge railways in India and the world have been displayed in form of posters. A collection of postage stamps on railways from India and other countries provides interesting piece of information about locomotives and coaches. The heritage items such as bath tub of Sr. DMO's bungalow, distill water plant, dressing table of first class waiting hall of Nainpur station The sectional beauty, bridges and important establishment buildings and offices of narrow gauge section are displayed in the form of photographs. It also has Museum Managers office and VIP visitors lounge.



22 Heritage Gallery B. No. 73

This gallery has exhibits which are related to Nainpur and adjoining section. Postage stamp on railways are showcased. Heritage items such as bath tub of Sr. DMO's bungalow, billiards stand of railway institute, distill water plant, dressing table of first class waiting hall of Nainpur station, Photographs of important buildings like Steam Loco Shed, C&W Office, Railway Station, Water Filter House etc. of Nainpur are displayed.





23. Wheel Lathe

This huge Wheel Lathe machine was built in 1954 by M/s Craven Brothers, Manchester, England. It measures 8.5 meters in length, 2.9 meters in width, 2.8 meters in height and weighs about 35 tons. It was located in machine shop of Nainpur steam loco shed. It was driven by an overhead flat belt drive for profiling of wheels of locomotives, coaches and wagons.



24. Inspection Carriage RB2

This wooden bodied saloon, built in 1963 by M/s K.T. Steel Industries, Ambernath was based at Nainpur. It had an Inspection room, Drawing Room, Attendant room with kitchen. Four berths have been provided in drawing room. It was used by the officers for sectional inspection and was in service till Oct'15.



25. Tourist Train

The Tourist train consists of actual narrow gauge diesel loco and coaches. The train takes the visitors on ride inside the museum premises on track length of about 540 metres. The train has been painted with a beautiful dark brown and cream livery and has been named as 'Satpura Express'. The coaches have been refurbished and provided with luxurious push-back type chairs for the passengers. Each coach can seat up to a maximum of 20 passengers.



26. Restaurant Car

One narrow gauge sleeper coach has been tastefully refurbished and converted in to an air conditioned Restaurant car. It has three big and one small wooden framed glass top tables with antique look wooden chairs to seat up to 14 persons. One counter for the manager has also been provided. The interior walls have been beautifully decorated with wooden carved design patterns. Decorative lamps with a vintage look and vitrified floor tiles gives one a feeling of enjoying food in luxury train.



27. Rolling Stock

The different types of coaches and wagons which were used in narrow gauge are kept for display. Coaches such as Guard cum second class cum luggage (GSLR), Inspection Carriage (RB-2), Sleeper Coach (GSCW) and wagons such as Tank wagon (BTP), Timber wagon (BFT), Covered wagon (BC), Guard Goods Brake Van (PRS), 4 Wheeler open wagon (KC) are mounted on pedestal. Information with drawings of these rolling stocks have also been displayed alongside.



13. Play Items for Children

The outside area of building has beautifully landscaped lush green garden. The children have a great time in amusement area with items such as swings, slides, see-saw etc. which keep them busy.

