



# Darjeeling Himalayan Railways

## Why in News

Recently, **concerns were raised against the Centre's proposed monetisation of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways (DHR).**



## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- DHR was **built in the British era between 1879 and 1881.**
- It is **located in the foothills of the Himalayas in West Bengal.**
- It is the **most outstanding example of a hill passenger railway.** Opened in 1881, its design applies bold and ingenious engineering solutions to the problem of establishing an effective rail link across a mountainous terrain of great beauty.
- It was **declared a [UNESCO \(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization\) World Heritage Site](#)** in 1999.

### ▪ Other Mountain Railways Declared as World Heritage Sites:

- **[Nilgiri Mountain Railways](#)** located in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu (South India) (2005)
- **[Kalka Shimla Railway](#)** located in the Himalayan foothills of Himachal Pradesh (Northwest India) (2008)

## UNESCO's World Heritage Sites

- A World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical significance.

- The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme', administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.
- **India has 40 world heritage sites**, 32 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed.
  - In 2021, **Dholavira** (Gujarat) and **Ramappa Temple** (Telangana) have been declared as world heritage sites.

**Source: TH**

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