

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (station code: **CSTM** (mainline)^[3]/ST (suburban)), also known by its former name **Victoria Terminus** (station code: **BBVT/VT**^[4]), is a historic terminal train station and UNESCO World Heritage Site in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

The terminus was designed by British born architectural engineer Frederick William Stevens, in an exuberant Italian Gothic style. Its construction began in 1878, in a location south of the old Bori Bunder railway station,^[5] and was completed in 1887, the year marking 50 years of Queen Victoria's rule, the building being named, Victoria Terminus.

The station's name was changed to Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (station code CST) in March 1996 to honour Shivaji, the 17th-century founder of the Maratha Empire, whose name is often preceded by Chhatrapati, a royal title. In 2017, the station was again renamed Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (code CSTM), where Maharaj is also a royal title. However, both the former initials "VT" and the current, "CST", are commonly used.^[6]

The terminus is the headquarters of India's Central Railway. It is one of the busiest railway stations in India,^[7] serving as a terminal for both long-distance- and suburban trains.

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History

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus

Victoria Terminus



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus lit in Indian tri-colour on the eve of republic day in 2016



Former names	Victoria Terminus <div>Bori Bunder Railway Station</div>
General information	
Architectural style	Indo-Saracenic Victorian Gothic Revival
Address	Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra, 400001
Town or city	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Country	India
Coordinates	18.9398°N 72.8354°E﻿ / ﻿
Completed	May 1888 ^[1]
Cost	₹1,614,000 (US\$23,000)(at the time) <div>now ₹2,013 million (US\$28 million)</div>
Client	Great Indian Peninsula

Victoria Terminus

This famous landmark which has become a symbol of the city, was built as the headquarters of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway.



The railway station was built to replace the Bori Bunder railway station, in the Bori Bunder area of Bombay, a prominent port and warehouse area known for its imports and exports. Since Bombay became a major port city at the time, a bigger station was built to meet its demands, and was named Victoria Terminus, after the then reigning Empress of India, Queen Victoria. The station was designed by Frederick William Stevens, a British born engineer architect, attached to the Bombay office of the Indian colonial Public Works Department. Work began in 1878. He received ₹1,614,000 (US\$23,000) as the payment for his services.^[1] Stevens earned the commission to construct the station after a masterpiece watercolour sketch by draughtsman Axel Haig.^[1] The design has been compared to George Gilbert Scott's 1873 St Pancras railway station in London, also in an exuberant Italian Gothic style, but it is far closer to^{[1][8]} Scott's second prize winning entry for Berlin's parliament building, exhibited in London in 1875, which featured numerous towers and turrets, and a large central ribbed dome.^[9] The style of the station is also similar to other public buildings of the 1870s in Bombay, such as the Elphinstone College but especially the buildings of Bombay University, also designed by G G Scott.

The station took ten years to complete,^[8] the longest for any building of that era in Bombay.

Missing statue

Railway	
Design and construction	
Architect	Frederick William Stevens, Axel Haig
Engineer	Wilson Bell
Website	
<div>https://cr.indianrailways.gov.in/</div>	
UNESCO World Heritage Site	
Criteria	Cultural: ii, iv
Reference	945 (http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/945)
Inscription	2004 (28th session)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus

Victoria Terminus	
Indian Railways Terminus	
	
Location	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Area, Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400001 India
Coordinates	18.9398°N 72.8355°E﻿ / ﻿
Owned by	Indian Railways
Operated by	Central Railway zone
Line(s)	Howrah-Nagpur-Mumbai line Mumbai-Chennai line
Platforms	18
Tracks	Multiple
Connections	
Construction	
Structure	At-grade

type	
Platform levels	01
Parking	Yes
Other information	
Station code	CSTM BBVT (<i>former</i>)
Zone(s)	Central Railway zone
Division(s)	Mumbai CR
Website	https://cr.indianrailways.gov.in/
History	
Opened	May 1853 ^[1]
Rebuilt	May 1888 ^[1]
Electrified	25 kV AC 50 Hz
Previous names	Victoria Terminus Railway Station Bori Bunder railway station
Location	
 <p>A map of India with state boundaries. A red dot is placed on the western coast of India, near the city of Mumbai. The text 'Mumbai CST' is written next to the dot.</p>	
Location within India	



Mumbai CST (Mumbai)



CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ TERMINUS

VICTORIA TERMINUS

Mumbai Suburban Railway station



Location Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
Area, Fort, Mumbai,
Maharashtra 400001
India

Coordinates 18.9398°N 72.8355°E

Owned by Indian Railways


Line(s) Central Line, Harbour Line

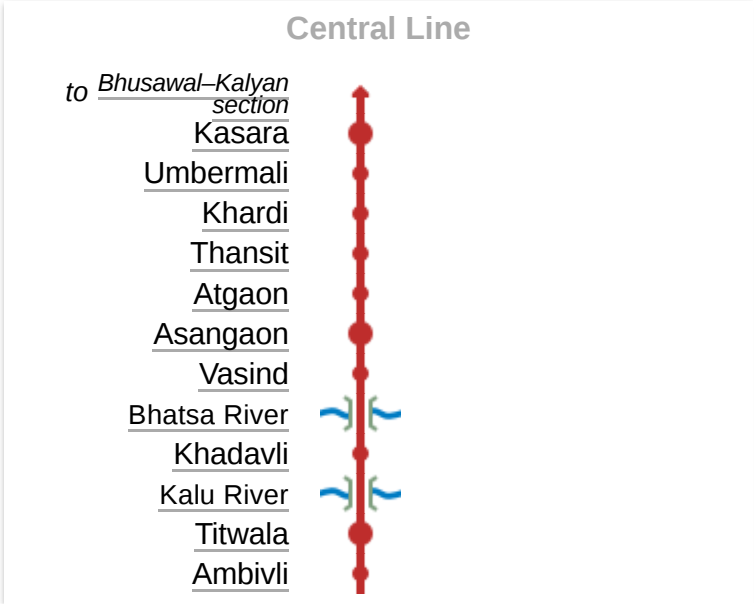
Platforms 18

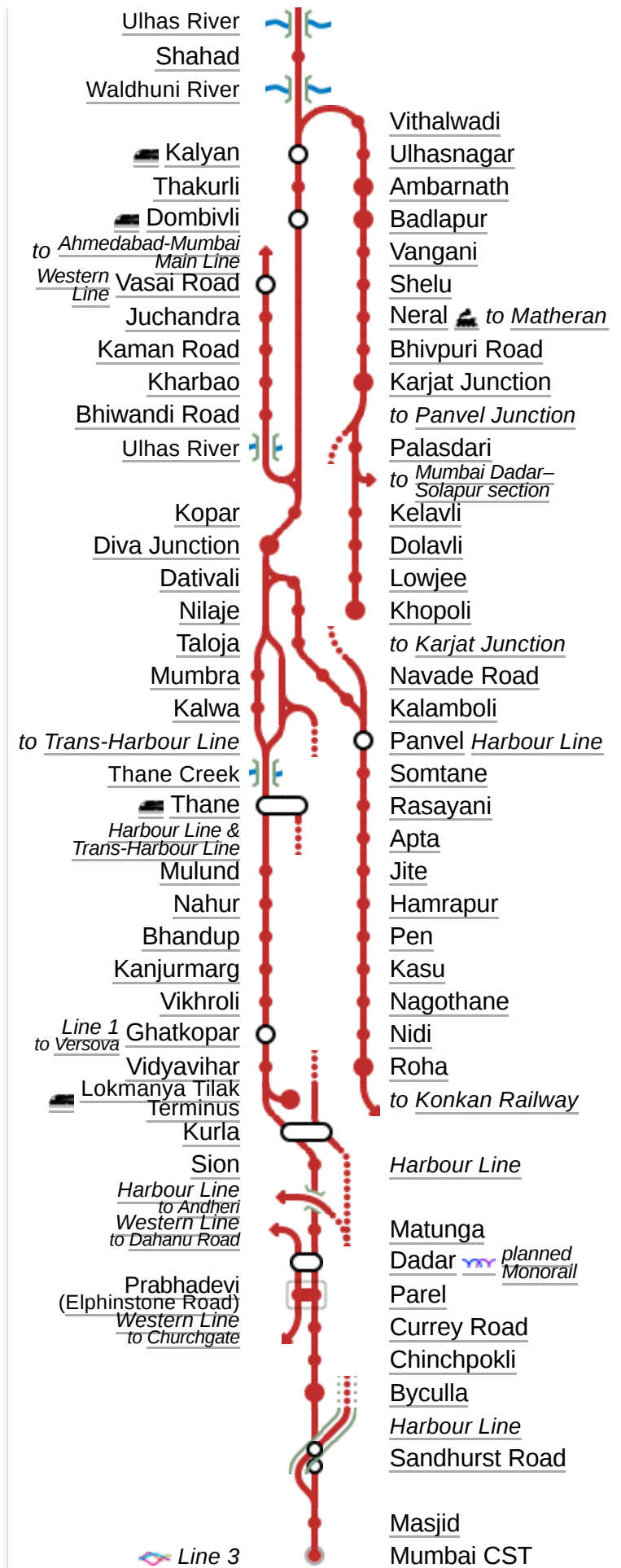
Tracks Multiple

Connections  Mumbai Metro

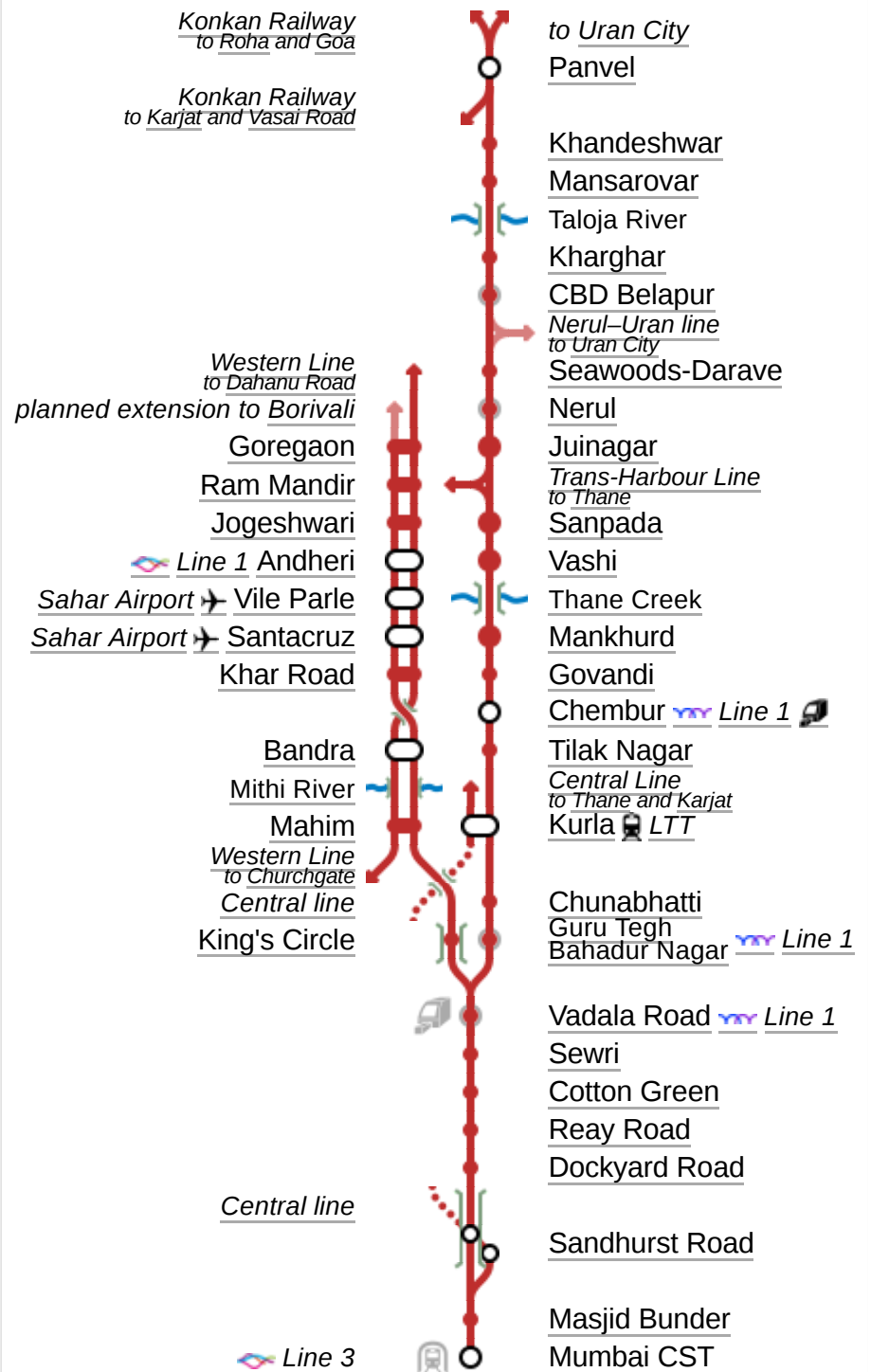
Construction

Structure type	At-grade	
Platform levels	01	
Parking	Yes	
Other information		
Station code	ST VT <i>(former)</i>	
Zone(s)	Central Railway zone	
Division(s)	Mumbai CR	
Fare zone	Central Railway zone	
History		
Opened	1853 ^[1]	
Rebuilt	1887 ^[1]	
Electrified	25 kV 50 Hz AC	
Previous names	Victoria Terminus railway station Bori Bunder railway station	
Services		
Preceding station	<div><div></div><div>MSR</div></div>	Following station
<i>Terminus</i>	<div><div></div><div>Central Line Main Line</div><div></div></div>	Masjid <i>toward Kalyan</i>
	<div><div></div><div>Harbour Line</div><div></div></div>	Masjid <i>toward Goregaon or Panvel</i>



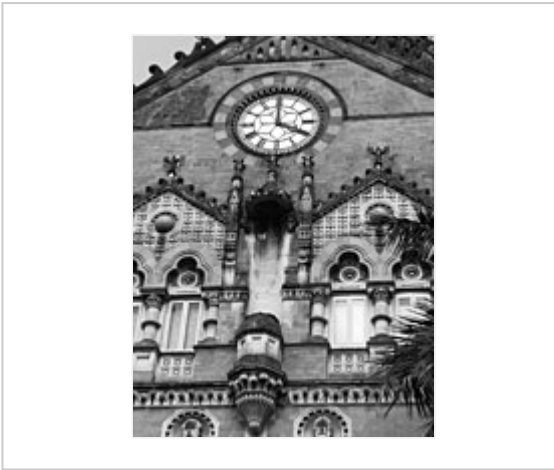


Harbour line





A photo of Victoria Terminus from 1910. Note the seated statue in the canopy under the clock



A 1983 photo of the empty canopy, in which the statue was once seated

During its construction, a marble statue of Queen Victoria was installed in the main façade of the building, in a canopy under the clock. In the 1950s, authorities had begun to remove statues of the British figures from government buildings and public spaces based on a directive from the Government of India.^[10] Most of the statues, including that of Queen Victoria, were sent to Victoria Gardens (later renamed *Rani Baug*) where they were left lying on the grass in the open until at least the 1980s. A Right to Information report was filed, but had no records of the missing statue being exported out of India. Historians now believe that the statue was smuggled out, sold by politicians, or destroyed^[11]. The symbol of *Progress*, another statue, featured on the top of the dome, is often mistaken for that of Queen Victoria.

Renaming



Victoria Terminus, before being renamed to *Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus* in 1995

The station has been renamed several times. It was built to replace Bori Bunder, the terminus of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from 1853 to 1888, and was named *Victoria Terminus* to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In 1996, the station was renamed to *Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus*^{[12][13]}

in honour of Emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji, founder of the Maratha Empire.

In December 2016, the Modi Ministry passed a resolution to change the name to *Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus* in the Maharashtra Assembly and in May 2017, the home ministry officially sent a letter to the state government denoting the name change, following which the station was yet again renamed as the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. However, both the former name "VT" and the current name "CST" are popularly used.^{[14][15]}

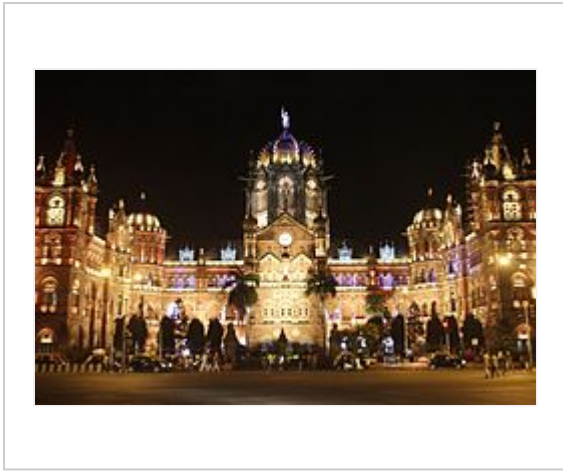
2008 Mumbai attacks

On 26 November 2008, two terrorists entered the passenger hall of the CST, opened fire and threw grenades at people. The terrorists were armed with AK-47 rifles. One of the terrorists, Ajmal Kasab, was later caught alive by the police and identified by eyewitnesses. The others did not survive. The attacks began around 21:30 when the two men entered the passenger hall and opened fire,^{[16][17]} The attackers killed 58 people and injured 104 others,^[17] their assault ending at about 22:45 after they exited the station via the North FOB towards the west to Cama hospital back entrance. The CCTV evidence was used to identify and indict Kasab.^[16] In 2010, Kasab was sentenced to death for his role in the attack, and in 2012 he was hanged.^[18]



Memorial of 2008 Mumbai Attacks victims killed at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

Structure



An evening view of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus



A 1903 photo of the Victoria Terminus, Bombay which was completed in 1888

The station building is designed in the High Victorian Gothic style of architecture. The building exhibits a fusion of influences from Victorian Italianate Gothic Revival architecture and classical Indian architecture. The skyline, turrets, pointed arches, and eccentric ground plan are close to classical Indian palace architecture. Externally, the wood carving, tiles, ornamental iron and brass railings, grills for the ticket offices, the balustrades for the grand staircases and other ornaments were the work of students at the Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy School of Art. The station stands as an example of 19th-century railway architectural marvels for its advanced structural and technical solutions. The CST was constructed using a high level of engineering both in terms of railway and civil engineering. It is one of the first and finest products of the use of industrial technology, merged with the Gothic Revival style in India. The centrally domed office structure has a 330-foot-long platform connected to a 1,200-foot-long train shed, and its outline provides the skeleton plan for the building. CST's dome of dovetailed ribs, built without centering, was considered as a novel achievement of the era.^[19]

The interior of the building was conceived as a series of large rooms with high ceilings. It is a utilitarian building and has had various changes required by the users, not always sympathetic. It has a C-shaped plan which is symmetrical on an east–west axis. All the sides of the building are given equal value in the design. It is crowned by a high central dome, which acts as the focal point. The dome is an octagonal ribbed structure with a colossal female figure symbolizing Progress, holding a torch pointing upwards in her right hand and a spoked wheel in her left hand. The side wings enclose the courtyard, which opens on to the street. The wings are anchored by monumental turrets at each of their four corners, which balance and frame the central dome. The façades present the appearance of well-proportioned rows of windows and arches. The ornamentation in the form of statuary, bas-reliefs, and friezes is exuberant yet well controlled. The columns of the entrance gates are crowned by figures of a lion (representing Great Britain) and a tiger (representing India). The main structure is built from a blend of India sandstone and limestone, while high-quality Italian marble was used for the key decorative elements. The main interiors are also decorated: the ground floor of the North Wing, known as the Star Chamber, which is still used as the booking office, is embellished with Italian marble and polished Indian blue stone. The stone arches are covered with carved foliage and grotesques.^[20] Internally, the ceiling of the booking hall was originally painted blue, gold and strong red on a ground of rich blue with gold stars. Its walls were lined with glazed tiles made by Maw & Co of Britain.^[11] Outside, there are statues representing Commerce, Agriculture, Engineering and Science, with a statue representing Progress on the central dome of the station.^[11]

Platforms

CST has a total of 18 platforms—seven platforms are for suburban EMU trains and eleven platforms (Platform 8 to Platform 18) are for long-distance trains. Rajdhani, Duronto, Garib Rath and Tejas Express leave from Platform No. 18.^[21] Air-conditioned dormitories were inaugurated at CST on 16 April 2013. The facility has 58 beds for men and 20 for women.^[22]

In popular culture

The station has been the location of filming the "Jai Ho" song in *Slumdog Millionaire*,^[23] and the 2011 Indian film *Ra.One*.^[24]

See also

- Bori Bunder railway station
- Timeline of Mumbai history

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External links

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (https://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=31&id_site=945) on the UNESCO website
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai (<http://www.mumbai.org.uk/victoria-terminal.html>)
- Google Satellite Map of Mumbai CST (<http://indiarailinfo.com/station/map/1620>)

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