



Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme

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Why in News?

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for the Redevelopment of 508 railway stations across India as a part of **Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme**, spreading across **27 states and union territories**.

- The extensive redevelopment project, estimated to cost more than RS 24,470 crores, aims to transform railway **stations into modern, well-equipped hubs**.

What is the Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme?

▪ About:

- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme aims to redevelop 1309 stations nationwide.
- The redevelopment will provide **modern passenger amenities** along with ensuring well-designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration, and signage for the guidance of passengers.
- The Scheme was launched in February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways.

▪ Station-wise Plans:

- The station buildings' designs will be inspired by **local culture, heritage, and architecture**.
 - For instance, the Jaipur Railway Station will feature elements resembling the **Hawa Mahal and Amer Fort from Rajasthan**.

▪ Integrated Approach to Urban Development:

- The redevelopment is planned with a **holistic approach to urban development**, treating the stations as "**City Centres**."
- This approach aims to integrate **both sides of the city and create well-designed traffic circulation**, inter-modal connectivity, and clear signage for passengers' guidance.

▪ Benefits:

- **Passenger Amenities:** The redeveloped stations will feature **modern passenger amenities**, including upgraded waiting rooms, improved seating on platforms, and free Wi-Fi connectivity.
- **Local Involvement:** The redevelopment plans also incorporate the local community's input, aiming to represent the essence of the region in the station's design and amenities.
- **Green Energy and Emission Reduction:** LED lights will be installed in around 70,000 coaches and the substantial increase in the number of bio-toilets in trains, **contributing to environmental sustainability**.
- **Net Zero Emissions Goal:** There is an ambitious goal for India's railway network, **aiming for [Net-Zero Emissions by 2030](#)**. The emphasis on green **building standards and energy-efficient practices** aligns with the broader vision of environmental sustainability.

What are a Few Key Facts About Indian Railways?

▪ 169 Years of Heritage:

- The Indian Railways was established on **16th April 1853**. The inaugural passenger train

covered a **34-kilometer route between Mumbai's Bori Bandar and Thane.**

▪ **Unique Mascot:**

- The Indian Railways boasts its own mascot, a 'Shubhankar **named 'Bholu,'** created by the **National Institute of Design in 2002.** Bholu is an **elephant dressed** as a railway guard, introduced on the **railways' 150th anniversary.**

▪ **World's 4th Largest Rail Network:**

- The Indian Railways ranks as the **world's fourth-largest railway network,** encompassing a track **length of 67,368 km.** Only the US, China, and Russia have larger networks. **It's also the world's second-largest network** managed under a single administration, spanning 115,000 km.

▪ **UNESCO World Heritage Sites:**

- The Indian Railways takes pride in owning four **UNESCO-recognized world heritage sites.**
 - Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai, Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and Kalka Shimla Railway.

▪ **Longest Platform:**

- Hubli Junction's Platform number 1, also known as **Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubballi Junction in Karnataka,** holds the record for the **world's longest railway platform at 1,505 meters.**

▪ **Longest and Shortest Train Rides:**

- The longest train ride in India is the **Vivek Express,** traveling from Kanyakumari to Dibrugarh, covering a distance of 4,189 kilometers with 56 stops in 82 hours and 30 minutes.
- The shortest train ride is just 3 kilometers, running between **Nagpur and Ajni.**

▪ **World's Highest Rail Bridge:**

- India is home to the **Chenab Rail Bridge,** the world's highest railway bridge, located in Dharot, Jammu, and Kashmir.

▪ **Nagpur's Diamond Crossing:**

- Nagpur, Maharashtra, **hosts the famous Diamond Crossing,** where two railway tracks form a square-like diamond shape, with two lines going North-South and two lines going East-West.