Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Government Policies and interventions*

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister stated that the country's railway infrastructure has entered a new era of modernisation.

- **Aim –** Development and upgradation of stations over the Indian Railways network.
- **Launched in –** 2022.
- **Nodal Ministry -** Ministry of Railways.
- It is to make railway stations cleaner, more comfortable and future-ready.
- **Phased Implementation** - Detailed plans are made for each station and the work is done in phases, based on the needs of each station.
- Some stations are explored under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- **Key Features**
- **Modern Passenger Amenities -** The railway stations are supposed to have better circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lifts, escalators, free Wi-Fi, executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping, etc.
- Some stations will have executive lounges and special areas for business meetings.
- **One Station One Product Scheme** - Local products will be sold at kiosks under the 'One Station One Product' scheme, and efforts will be made to make stations look greener and more attractive.

> '***One Station One Product***' *aims to encourage indigenous and specialised products and crafts of India through providing display and sale outlets on railway stations across the country.*

- **Seamless Multimodal Connectivity -** It envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration.
- Special care is being taken to make stations friendly for persons with disabilities.
- **Aesthetically Designed Stations-** Incorporating local cultural elements and architectural themes in station designs.
    - **Example -** The Ahmedabad station draws inspiration from the Modhera Sun Temple, while Dwarka station is inspired by the Dwarkadheesh Temple.
- **Significance** - The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme marks a major step towards transforming India's railway infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing and modern nation.

References

1. The Indian Express| Amrit Bharat Station Scheme
2. Indian Railways | Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

