



ATM on Wheels

Why in News?

[Indian Railways](#) installed an [Automated Teller Machine \(ATM\)](#) onboard the **Manmad-CST Panchvati Express** as part of a pilot initiative in **Maharashtra**.

Key Points

- **About the Initiative:**
 - The initiative aligns with the Railway Board's push to boost **non-fare revenue** through innovative, out-of-the-box solutions.
 - It aims to provide **banking access to passengers**, especially in regions with limited financial infrastructure.
 - This setup could particularly **benefit commuters on long-distance routes** with fewer banking facilities en route.
- **Indian Railways' Modernisation Drive:**
 - The ATM initiative is a part of the [Viksit Bharat 2047 vision](#), focusing on passenger convenience and tech-led upgrades.
 - Indian Railways is already transforming travel with high-tech trains like [Vande Bharat](#), modern stations, and advanced safety systems.
- **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:**
 - Under the [Amrit Bharat Station Scheme](#), Indian Railways has selected 1,337 stations for redevelopment, aiming to enhance infrastructure and passenger experience.
 - The Scheme was **launched in February 2023** by the **Ministry of Railways**.

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.

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