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News: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV)

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV) for the period 2024-25 to 2028-29, aiming to enhance rural connectivity by constructing 62,500 km of new all-weather roads.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV)

- Recently, Union Budget has announced that **Phase IV of PMGSY will be launched to provide all –weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.**
- **Coverage:** The **initiative will connect 25,000 unconnected habitations with populations of over 500 in plains, over 250 in Northeast and hill states, and over 100 in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected districts.**
- The **new roads are expected to catalyse socio-economic development in remote rural areas and improve access to educational, health, market, and growth centres. The scheme is designed to create 40 crore human-days of work employment.**

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was a 100% centrally sponsored scheme launched by Ministry of Rural Development intended to consolidate state roads, but later converted to Central sector scheme since 2015 – 16 financial year.
- The funds now, would be shared in 60:40 ratios between Centre and States, except 8 North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (here it would be 90:10).
- It was launched as a one-time special intervention to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all- weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States and Himalayan Union Territories as per 2001 census).
- In the critical Left Wing Extremism affected blocks (as identified by Ministry of Home Affairs), additional relaxation has been given to connect habitations with population 100 persons and above as per 2001 census.
- Under the 3rd phase of PM Gram Sadak Yojana, 1, 25,000km of roads are expected to consolidate.
- The first two phases saw a consolidation of 5, 99,090km of roads.

- The new guidelines for PMGSY encourage locally available materials and the use of green technologies for the construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- State governments are required to propose a minimum 15% of total length of annual proposals under new technologies such as Cement stabilization, Lime stabilization, Cold Mix, Waste Plastics, Fly ash etc.
- Out of this, 5% of roads are to be constructed using Indian Road Congress (IRC) accredited technology. The IRC has now accredited coir Geotextiles for the construction of rural roads. Thus, a 5% length of the rural roads under PMGSY-III will be constructed using coir geotextiles.
- Recently, the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) (a non-statutory agency under Ministry of Rural Development) has announced that coir geotextiles will be used for the construction of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III).