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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

BANKING

Date: 18.09.2024

SCHEME

Union Cabinet Approves ₹70,125 Crore for PMGSY - IV Road Scheme

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV** from **2024 - 25** to **2028 - 29**.
- ❖ The central share is **Rs. 49,087.50 crore** and the state share is **Rs. 21,037.50 crore**.
- ❖ All - weather roads measuring **62,500 km** will be provided to unconnected habitations, Construction and upgrading of bridges on the new roads.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- ❖ It started as a **100 % centrally sponsored scheme** launched in the year **2000** to provide **all - weather rural road connectivity** to eligible **rural habitations**.
- ❖ Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development.
- ❖ The funding pattern was revised to a **60:40** ratio between **Centre** and **State** in 2015 - 16 and a **90:10** ratio for **Northeastern States** and **Himalayan States**.
 - **PMGSY - I (2000)**
 - **PMGSY - II (2013)**
 - **PMGSY - III (2019)**

CABINET DECISION 11 -09- 2024

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA-IV

- ❖ Cabinet approves implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV (PMGSY-IV) during FY 2024-25 to 2028-29
- ❖ Financial assistance to be provided for construction of 62,500 Kms road for providing new connectivity to eligible 25,000 unconnected habitations and construction/upgradation of bridges on new connectivity roads
- ❖ Total outlay of scheme will be Rs. 70,125 crore
- ❖ All-weather roads to play the role of catalysts for the required socio-economic development and transformation of the remote rural areas
- ❖ PMGSY -IV will incorporate international benchmarks and best practices under road constructions
- ❖ PMGSY -IV road alignment planning will be undertaken through the PM Gati Shakti portal



Cabinet approves ₹5 lakh health insurance for senior citizens above 70 years irrespective of income

HEALTH COVERAGE TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS OVER THE AGE 70 YRS

- ❖ Cabinet approves health coverage for all senior citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income
- ❖ Coverage aims to benefit 4.5 Crore families with 6 crore senior citizens with 5 Lakh rupees free health insurance cover on a family basis
- ❖ Eligible senior citizens would be issued a new distinct card under AB PM-JAY
- ❖ Senior citizens of the age 70 years and above belonging to families already covered under AB PM-JAY to get an additional top-up cover up to ₹5 lakh per annum for themselves



- ❖ Under the flagship scheme, **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM - JAY)**. The eligible senior citizens would be issued a new distinct card under the AB PM-JAY.
- ❖ The **senior citizens of the age 70 and above** belonging to families already covered under the AB PM-JAY will get an additional top - up cover up to **₹5 lakh per year** for themselves (which they do not have to share with the other members of the family who are below the age of 70).

- ❖ Senior citizens of the age 70 and above **who are already availing benefits** of other public health insurance schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.
- ❖ It has been clarified that senior citizens of 70 years and above who are under **private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme** will be eligible to avail benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

Cabinet approves ₹10,900 crore for EV push

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a new scheme called PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) for the promotion of **electric vehicles (EV)** in India.
- ❖ The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) will implement the new scheme with a total outlay of **Rs. 10,900 crore** over a period of **two years**.
- ❖ The **PM E - DRIVE** will replace Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II).
- ❖ The new scheme offers subsidies/demand incentives to incentivise adoption of electric two -wheelers, electric three wheelers, e - ambulances, e - trucks and other emerging EVs.
- ❖ The primary objective of the PM E-DRIVE scheme is to **expedite the adoption of EVs by providing upfront incentives** for their purchase, as well as by facilitating the establishment of essential charging infrastructure for EVs.

Cabinet Decision: 11th September, 2024

PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)

Cabinet approves PM E-DRIVE Scheme' for promotion of electric mobility in the country with outlay of Rs 10,900 crore for 2 years

Components of the scheme:

- Subsidies/Demand incentives worth Rs.3,679 crore to incentivize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging EVs
- E-vouchers for EV buyers to avail demand incentives under the scheme
- Allocation of Rs.500 crore for the deployment of e-ambulances
- Provision of Rs.4.391 crore for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by STUs/public transport agencies



DEFENCE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated IDAX - 24 in Jodhpur

- ❖ The **Indian Air Force** is conducting one of its largest multinational air exercises, **Tarang Shakti - 24**, in Jodhpur.
- ❖ On the sidelines of the event, the IAF also hosted the India Defence Aviation Exposition (**IDAX-24**) which was inaugurated by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Scheduled from September 12 - 14.
- ❖ The event will provide an opportunity for the **Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs)** and Indian audience to witness, experience and interact with participants from the Indian aviation industry, including **DPSUs, DRDO**, private industries (**Tier - I, II, III**) & top notch startups.

India- Oman Joint Military Exercise Al Najah V

- ❖ The **Indian Army contingent** departed for the **5th edition** of **India - Oman Joint Military Exercise AL NAJAH** to be conducted from **13th to 26th September 2024** at **Rabkoot Training Area** in **Salalah, Oman**.
- ❖ Exercise **AL NAJAH** has been held biennially **since 2015**, alternating between India - Oman.
- ❖ It will undertake **counter terrorism operations** under **Chapter VII** of the **United Nations Charter**. The exercise will focus on operations in the **Desert environment**.

CALAMITY



New Wetland Virus

- ❖ A new virus is discovered in **China**, is reportedly called **Wetland Virus (WELV)**.
- ❖ A member of the **orthonairo virus** genus of viruses. The name is very specific as it is related to **tick - borne viruses**.
- ❖ It is spreading to **humans through tick bites** and it has high potential to cause problems in the brain.

SPORTS

Asian Cricket Council Launches Women's U - 19 T20 Asia Cup

- ❖ This tournament will take place biennially, serving as a precursor to each edition of the **ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup**.
- ❖ The **Men's U-19 Asia Cup** had its first edition back in 1989. **India** remains the **most successful nation** in this tournament, with **eight titles**.



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