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## Transit Hostels for Home Guards in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 20 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

The **Home Guard department in Uttarakhand** is set to provide **residential facilities for its [Home Guards](#)** especially in Udham Singh Nagar and other key districts.

### Key Points

- Preparations to **construct hotels in 8 districts** are underway with a budget approval of Rs 13.50 crore received from the government.
- The identified districts span both the Garhwal and Kumaon division. With **Haridwar securing the most extensive plot—approximately 50 bighas of land.**
- The departmental sources revealed that the **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** has been prepared for the construction of hostels in different cities of eight districts, including **Udham Singh Nagar district headquarters, Rudrapur, Nainital, and Haridwar.**
  - As part of the next phase, DPRs for the remaining five districts will be prepared and submitted to the government, ensuring the extension of this initiative across the state.

### Home Guard

- On **6<sup>th</sup> December, 1946**, the first Home Guards Unit was conceived and raised in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency .
- During the turmoil period of civil disorders and communal riots, as a **civilian voluntary force** in aid of administration as an auxiliary to police, **under the stewardship of Morarji Desai**, former Prime Minister.
- It was **reorganised** in India in **1966 after the [Sino-Indian War](#).**

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## Upgradation of 108 Roads in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 20 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Centre has approved the upgradation of 108 roads in Uttarakhand under the **[Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana \(PMGSY\)](#)**.

### Key Points

- **108 roads** covering a **total length of 1,197.207 km** in Uttarakhand will be upgraded at

an **estimated cost of Rs 967.73 crore** under PMGSY -III.

- Out of the **total Rs 967.73 crore**, the **Centre will give Rs 803.85 crore** and the **remaining Rs 163.88 crore** will be borne **by the state government**.
- The approval is being given in acknowledgement of the fact that the hilly areas are hit by **natural disasters** every year and people in the hills have to face various hardships.

## **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**

- It was launched on 25th December, 2000 with an objective to provide connectivity, by way of an all-weather road to unconnected habitations.
- PMGSY - Phase III
  - Phase III was approved by the Cabinet during July **2019**.
  - It gives priorities to facilities like:
    - **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)**
      - GrAMs are retail agricultural markets in close proximity to the farm gate that promote and service a more efficient transaction of the farmers' produce.
    - **Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.**
    - Under the PMGSY-III Scheme, it is proposed to consolidate **1,25,000 Km** road length in the States. The duration of the scheme is **2019-20 to 2024-25**.

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