

Centre Allocates Rs.11,000 Crore for Chhattisgarh Roads

Why in News?

Recently, the <u>Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways</u>, approved **Rs.11,000 crore** for the development of road infrastructure in Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- Project Details:
 - The funding supports the construction and development of **four major** national highways.
 - The total length of the approved projects is 236.1 km.
 - Major Projects Cleared:
 - Urga-Katghora bypass (NH-149B)
 - Basna to Sarangarh feeder route
 - Sarangarh to Raigarh feeder route
 - Raipur-Lakhanadon economic corridor
- Additional Approvals:
 - Eight projects worth Rs. 908 crore sanctioned under the Central Road Fund (CRF).
 - Approval for the four-lane widening of Keshkal Ghat and Dhamtari-Jagdalpur road.

Vision

 Instructions were given to ensure the completion of Raipur-Visakhapatnam road and Bilaspur-Urga-Pathalgaon road under the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) within a set timeframe.

Central Road Fund

- The Central Road Fund (CRF) is a non-lapsable fund created under Central Road Fund Act, 2000.
- It is procured out of cess/tax imposed by the Union Government on the consumption of Petrol and Diesel.
- CRF should be used to develop and maintain National Highways, State roads (that have economic importance with inter-state connectivity), rural roads, railway under/over bridges etc, and national waterways (waterways from 2017 onwards only).
- The CRF was replaced with a <u>Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)</u> through amendments introduced in the Union Budget for 2018-19.

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