Cabinet approves continuation of Estates Management Scheme for Department of Posts with an outlay of Rs. 1,491 crore

Posted On: 25 NOV 2026 3:43PM by PIB Delhi

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Department of Posts for the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme, the Estates Management Scheme, during the 16th Finance Commission Cycle from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31. The scheme carries a total financial outlay of Rs.1,491 crores over a five-year period.

Strategic Objective:

The scheme aims to comprehensively transform and modernize the estates infrastructure of the Department of Posts. It focuses heavily on the construction, re-construction, renovation, uniform branding of post offices and residential colonies, along with the preservation of India's heritage postal buildings. This modernization strategy directly supports first-mile delivery, fosters financial inclusion and enhances citizen centric service delivery nationwide, aligning with the broader visions of Digital India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat.

As one of the world's largest postal networks with 1.65 lakh post offices (including 1,49,385 in rural areas), India Post remains a critical vehicle for mails, banking (POSB/IPPB), insurance (PLI), Aadhaar services, Post Office Passport Seva Kendras and rural artisan support via Dakghar Niryat Kendras (DNKs).

Implementation Timeline:

The scheme is scheduled for phased implementation over a five-year horizon, starting from FY 2026-27 through FY 2030-31.

Key Components of the Approved Scheme:

- New Construction (Rs. 280 Crore): Building 190 departmental postal buildings on vacant departmental plots to replace currently rented spaces and eliminate rental liabilities.
- Re-construction (Rs. 108 Crore): Demolishing and rebuilding 50 dilapidated departmental postal structures to ensure long-term structural safety.
- Renovation & Branding (Rs. 318 Crore): Upgrading and establishing uniform branding across 2,550 departmental SubPost Offices as per SPA guidelines.

- Rented Post Office Upgrades (Rs. 37.50 Crore): Upgrading and uniformly branding 2,500 post offices operating out of rented premises.
- Heritage Preservation (Rs. 180 Crore): Restoring and preserving 20 landmark heritage postal buildings to safeguard the historical legacy of the department.
- Colony Renovation (Rs. 357.50 Crore): Revamping 150 high demand postal residential colonies to elevate employee welfare and satisfaction.
- Allied & Inclusive Activities (Rs. 100 Crore): Implementing sustainable features (Solar power, Rainwater Harvesting) and universal accessibility infrastructure (ramps, Braille signage) under the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, alongwith gender-focused additions like ladies toilets and feeding rooms.
- Integrated Technology Center (Rs. 100 Crore): Setting up a permanent physical infrastructure for the Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology (CEPT) in Bengaluru to drive Advanced Postal Technology (APT) services and support the indigenous Opensource Tech Stack.

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