

# Green Highway Policy

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**Source:** *Ministry of Road Transport & Highways*

Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy 2015 was launched by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

## **Aim of the Policy**

To promote greening of Highway corridors with the participation of the community, farmers, private sector, NGOs, and government institutions.

## **Objective**

To reduce the impact of air pollution and dust by planting trees and shrubs along the National Highways. They will act as a natural sink for air pollutants and arrest soil erosion at the embankment slopes.

## **Key features**

- Under the policy, the **entire Highways network is to be divided into two categories based on the legal status of the existing road-side plantations.**
- Promote greening and development eco-friendly National Highway corridors across the country with participation of farmers, private sector and government institutions including Forest Department.
- It will address the issues that lie in the road of development and pave the way towards sustainable development.
- **Stakeholders:** Contracts for greening highways will be given to NGOs, agencies, private companies and government organisations. These stakeholders will be responsible for the survival and health of trees.

- The plantation scheme has been broadly **classified into two categories** which are as follows:
  1. Tree planting along the Highways Turfing with grasses and shrub/ herb.
  2. Planting on medians/special landscapes/embankment slopes.
- Planting of trees in any particular area will depend on the soil suitability and climatic conditions.
- **Monitoring Agency:** It will be responsible for monitoring the plantation status on a continuous basis by carrying out the site visit for field verification to check survival, growth and size of plantation and maintenance of the same.
- A performance audit of executing agencies will be regularly conducted by the agency on an annual basis. New contracts will be awarded to the agencies based on their past performance audit.

### **Implications**

The policy will strike a balance between highways development and environmental protection. It will also help in providing employment to 5 lakh people of the rural areas.