



ADB Loan to Upgrade Maharashtra Roads

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Why in News

Recently, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** have signed a \$177 million loan to upgrade state highways and major district roads in the state of Maharashtra.

Key Points

- **Coverage:** The project will upgrade 2 major district roads and 11 state highways, with a combined length of 450 km.
- **Road safety audit framework:** The project will strengthen road safety measures by developing a **road safety audit framework** that will protect vulnerable groups such as the elderly, women, and children, following the best **international practices**.
- **Update the road maintenance system:** The project will **update the road maintenance system** by encouraging 5-year performance-based maintenance obligations to contractors to sustain asset quality and service levels.
- **Training PWD staff:** The project will focus on training the **Maharashtra Public Works Department** project staff **to build their capacity in climate change adaptation and disaster resilient features in road design, road maintenance planning and road safety**.
- **Improve connectivity:** It will improve connectivity to national highways, interstate roads, seaports, airports, rail hubs, district headquarters, industrial areas, enterprise clusters and agricultural areas.
- **Benefits:**
 - Better connectivity will increase access to markets, employment opportunities and services.
 - Improved mobility will expand development and livelihood opportunities outside of the state's major urban centers to second-tier cities and towns thus reducing income disparities.

Asian Development Bank

- ADB is a **regional development bank** established on **19th December 1966**.
- ADB now has **68 members, 49 from within Asia**.
- **Japan holds the largest proportion** of shares in ADB followed by the USA.
- It aims to promote social and economic development in **Asia and the Pacific**.
- ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- ADB is **headquartered in Manila, Philippines**.

Source: PIB