

ADB, India Sign US\$300 Million Loan to Expand Rural Connectivity in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a US\$300 million loan as additional financing to scale up the improvement of rural connectivity to help boost rural economy in the state of Maharashtra.

The additional financing for the ongoing Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project will help improve an additional 1,100 rural roads and 230 bridges for a total length of 2,900 kilometers (km) in 34 districts. The ongoing project with \$200 million financing, approved in August 2019, is already enhancing and maintaining the condition and safety of 2,100 km of rural roads across Maharashtra.

With the additional financing, the overall project will improve the condition and safety of 5,000 km of rural roads and over 200 bridges connecting rural communities with productive agricultural areas and socioeconomic centers in Maharashtra.

The new project is expected to generate about 3.1 million person-days of employment for local communities, of which at least 25% will be for women, over the construction and maintenance periods. A gender action plan has been prepared to focus on capacity development of women workers so that they can benefit from the semiskilled and unskilled labor opportunities.

This additional financing will rebuild and rehabilitate roads and bridges in Maharashtra destroyed by the devastating floods in August 2019. The design incorporates flood and climate resilience measures, pilot testing the use of environment-friendly materials on selected road segments, use of mobile mapping technology to monitor the project roads, and use of new technologies such as fiber-reinforced concrete and precast concrete arch bridge.

Please contact for any query related to this mail to Ms Shivani Mehrotra, Research Associate at shivani.mehrotra@phdcci.in, with a cc to Dr S P Sharma, Chief Economist | DSG at spsharma@phdcci.in, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Warm Regards,
Dr S P Sharma
Chief Economist | DSG
PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry



PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 49545454 Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: spsharma@phdcci.in Website: www.phdcci.in

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PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Deihi - 110 016 (India) • Tel. : +91-11-2686 3801-04, 49545454, 49545400 Fax : +91-11-2685 5450, 49545451 • E-mail : phdcci@phdcci.in • Website : www.phdcci.in, CIN: U74899DL1951GAP001947











