



Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan to Himachal Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, the [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#) and the Government of India signed a USD 96.3-million loan agreement **to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services** in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

What are the Key Highlights of the Project?

- **About:**
 - The project is aligned with the objectives of the Government of India's [Jal Jeevan Mission which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024](#).
 - It will upgrade water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services.
- **Features:**
 - **Water Supply Infrastructure Revamping:**
 - Although **more than 90% of the state's rural population has access to drinking water**, the water supply infrastructure needs revamping, for efficient and improved service quality.
 - **Fecal Management Programme:**
 - A **pilot fecal sludge** management and sanitation programme will also be **implemented in Sirmaur District, benefiting 250,000 residents**.
 - **Strengthen Jal Shakti Vibhag:**
 - The project will strengthen the capacity of the **Jal Shakti Vibhag** of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and [gram panchayat \(local government\) village water and sanitation committees](#).
 - It will support the **state government's water tariff policy reforms** and introduce an asset management system at the **state-level and district asset management plans**.
 - Key project stakeholders and **community-based organisations will be trained on water management**, including livelihood skills training for **women's self-help groups**.

What is Asian Development Bank?

- ADB, established in **1966** is owned by 68 members-49 from the region.
- It is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- Further, it assists members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.
- As of 31st December 2019, **ADB's five largest shareholders** are **Japan and the United States** (each with **15.6% of total shares**), the **People's Republic of China (6.4%)**, **India (6.3%)**, and **Australia (5.8%)**.
- It is headquartered in **Manila, Philippines**.

Source: PIB

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