

# India-Afghanistan Development Cooperation



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In this latest, post-2001 phase of Afghanistan's reconstruction, India with an investment of over US\$ 2 billion is globally one of the top development partners of Afghanistan, and by far the largest at the regional level. During 2001-2016, development cooperation projects of India were implemented across Afghanistan, covering areas as diverse as education, health, water & energy, infrastructure & power, agriculture, training & capacity-building, etc. Some of the major projects that have been successfully implemented in this phase are as follows:

**Afghan India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam):** Government of India constructed Salma Dam project on Hari Rud River, located near Chiste Sharif in Herat province with a reservoir capacity of 640 million cubic metres (MCM) and 42 MW of electricity production capability along with the potential of irrigating 80,000 hectares of land. This project marks an important milestone in India-Afghanistan bilateral relations. The project was constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 1800 crore. Two Indian companies WAPCOS and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited experts continue to engage in helping Afghan experts in the operation and maintenance of the Dam.

- **Afghan Parliament:** The Afghan Parliament Building in Kabul is the most visible face of India-Afghanistan friendship. The Afghan Parliament Building was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India along with Afghan President, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on 25 December 2015. The quality of workmanship and the facilities created in the new complex are world class. The building has been handed over almost completely to the Afghan side. It has been constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 970 crore.
- **Chimtala Substation:** Given India's strong commitment towards the development of Afghanistan, Government of India constructed

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202 km long 220 KV DC transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Chimtala with the financial assistance of USD 100 million. The construction began in 2005 and was completed in 2009. The project was inaugurated jointly by the then President Hamid Karzai and the then External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 18 May 2009.

- **Doshi Charikar:** Two 220/20 KV substations at Doshi and Charikar were constructed by Indian technical and financial support of INR 186.71 crore. Charikar substation was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on 31 Decemeber 2015.
- **Restoration of Stor Palace:** The Stor Palace, located within the premises of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is one of the historic palaces in Kabul, and has been renovated with the financial assistance of US\$ 5.7 million of the Government of India. The project was completed and inaugurated in August 2016 jointly by Hon'ble Prime Minister Of India and H.E. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan, through video conferencing.
- **Delaram-Zaranj Highway:** This 218-km long strategic highway built at an approximate cost of INR 600 crore was handed over to the Afghan side in January 2009. The highway was designed and constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) of India. The project tested India's commitment to the cause of Afghanistan's development with a total of six Indians, including a BRO driver and four ITBP soldiers being killed in attacks by Taliban, who were opposing the project. The highway

opened a shorter alternative route, connecting Kabul to Iran.

In mid-2006, in addition to its several ongoing large projects, India launched a series of Small Development Projects (SDPs) across the length and breadth of Afghanistan. About 450 such projects were approved. These were high impact projects, each costing US\$ 1 million or less.

### Small Development Projects

- **SDP-I & SDP-II (US\$20 million):** Under the scheme, 132 small Development Projects were approved in two Phases, the first in July 2006 and the second in June 2008; 99 projects have been completed so far.
- **SDP-III (US\$100 million):** Third phase of SDP was initiated in 2012. A total of 304 projects have been approved already under the scheme at a cost of US\$ 77.8 million; 133 projects have been completed while the rest are at different stages..

In late 2016, India committed an additional sum of US\$ 1 billion towards Afghanistan reconstruction and development. During the 2 India-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Council Meeting held in New Delhi on 11 September 2017, both countries decided to launch a *New Development Partnership* with the objective of taking their robust development cooperation to higher levels. Some of the major projects that are going to be implemented under the *New Development Partnership* are as follows:

- **Water Storage Project (Shahtoot Dam):** Government of India has, in principle, approved construction of Shahtoot Dam Project near Kabul in partnership with the World Bank. The estimated cost of this project is US\$ 301.3 million.

- **Kanakay Qasamabad Housing Project:** A project for construction of 4,000 houses for Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan is to be implemented in coordination with the Afghan Ministry of Urban Development & Housing and the UN-HABITAT in Behsud District of Nangarhar Province. Its estimated cost is US\$ 27.36 million.
  - **Asphalting of a 16.9 km dirt road to Band-e-Amir:** Government of India has approved Grant-in-Aid support of US\$ 7.81 million to Afghanistan for rehabilitation of 16.9 km road from Band-e-Amir to Bamyán-Yakawlang Highway in Bamyán Province. The project will give a boost to Bamyán's tourism industry.
  - **Water supply network for Charikar City:** Government of India has approved construction of a water supply network through 32 km long pipeline from Salang Pass to Charikar city in Parwan Province; benefitting 110,400 people of the province. The estimated cost of the project is US\$ 8.5 million.
  - **Establishment of Gypsum Crashing Plant:** Government of India will provide financial support for establishing a gypsum crushing plant and gypsum board manufacturing plant in Kabul for Housing Construction Enterprises, MUDH. The estimated cost of this project is US\$ 2.4 million.
  - **Construction of Polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif:** Government of India has approved grant-in-aid support of US\$ 389,101 to Afghanistan for construction of a polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of the northern province of Balkh.
  - **Construction of Mazar-e-Sharif airport road:** Government of India has approved construction of a 2.38 km asphalted road connecting Mazar-e-Sharif airport to the highway. Estimated cost of the project is US\$ 3 million.
  - **Supply of spare parts for M/s Millie Bus Enterprise, GoA for repair of 350 TATA/Ashok Leyland Buses:** Government of India has sanctioned US\$ 2.88 million for supply of spare parts to the Ministry of Transport for refurbishment of 350 buses of TATA Motors and Ashok Leyland in Kabul.
- In their latest phase, the SDPs have been rechristened as the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs).
- **High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs):** Government of India has announced 116 HICDPs. All of them have been sanctioned by the Government of India, and on 6 February 2018, MoUs have been signed with 14 Afghan nodal Ministries/Departments/Agencies for these projects.
  - **Landscaping of the area around Afghan Monumental Flag:** On the occasion of the joint inauguration of the monumental Afghan Flag at Wazir Akbar Khan Hill, Kabul, by External Affairs Ministry, the then President Hamid Karzai, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister had announced a financial support of US\$ 1 million for development/landscaping of the area around the monumental flag.
  - **Supply of Indian wheat to Afghanistan:** Government of India, in 2002, had committed supply of 170,000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan through Food Corporation of India. The wheat was supplied to nine provinces.