

AiIB to fund Metro, ring road project

₹10,000 Crore Aid Includes Funding For Grand Anicut

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Chennai: The state government will use a ₹10,000-crore loan from the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to fund portions of corridors four and five of Chennai Metro's phase two and a stretch of the peripheral ring road in the north of the city. The first tranche of ₹2,298.75 crore was cleared last week for extension, renovation and modernisation of the Grand Anicut Canal System in the Cauvery delta.

With Union government giving in-principle approval to seek funds from AIIB, a team of the bank led by vice-president D J Pandian held discussions with chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and senior bureaucrats on Wednesday to speed up the process. "A screening committee of the department of economic affairs sanctioned the proposals. The next mission is to finalize and sign the formal agreements," said a senior official.

AT A GLANCE

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank loan assistance to TN

➤ The department of economic affairs sanctioned clearance to obtain loans from AIIB

➤ PWD to avail loan for extension, renovation and modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal

System in Cauvery delta districts, which was cleared by a joint committee of DEA and

AIIB recently

➤ CMRL will avail loan for certain portions of corridors four and five of Phase II

➤ The state highways department to use loan for Phase II and III of

Chennai peripheral ring road project between Thatchur to Sriperumbudur



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has funded certain components of metro rail and peripheral ring road.

Of the 118.9km long phase II of Metro Rail, JICA extends funding for parts of corridors three and five running for about 52.1km from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur and Madhavaram to CMBT.

The AIIB will fund 16 kilometres of corridor four between Light House and Meenakshi College, and the remaining portions of corridor five. Asian Development Bank will also be funding the project. "We will float tenders for AIIB projects by June," said an official source. Tenders have been floated for JICA projects.

The AIIB will offer a \$78 million loan for phase II and III of the long-awaited peripheral ring road project for which the Centre gave sanction in Sep-

tember last year. While phase I is done by JICA, the AIIB will take care of 57km between Thatchur in North Chennai and Sriperumbudur, linking Kolkata, Tirupati, and Bengaluru national highways. The ring road will reduce burden on city roads, and travel time to the other national highways and Ennore and Kattupalli ports in north Chennai.

Many of the tanks in Grand Anicut system are in collapsed state. "Evolved by the officials of IAMWARM (Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management) and Trichy region, the project will restore the system, strengthen the embankments, rectify structural damage in the 80-year-old system," said an official. It feeds 694 tanks through 2,332 regulators and 160km of canals in the region before ending in the Bay of Bengal.