

Indian HC awards grants for 5 eco-tourism zones in Addu

written by iasexam.com | 11/08/2020



The Indian High Commission in Maldives, on Monday, held a contract awarding ceremony for the development of five eco-tourism zones' in Addu Atoll.

During the ceremony held at the Addu City Council, the government of India facilitated the grant under its High-Impact Community Development project (HICDP) scheme, for the zones to be developed in the islands of Hithadoo, Maradhoo, Feydhoo, Hulhudhoo and Meedhoo.

Key Highlights

- In his remarks, High Commissioner Sunjay Sudhir noted that developing high-impact assets for the benefit of the local island community, building capacities within local councils that are entrusted with executing the projects and supporting the local island economy, as the three main objectives of a HICDP.
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- According to the Commission, a total of USD 5.5 million was awarded under the scheme. As the implementing agency, the Addu City Council is responsible for steering the entire project-

cycle including tendering, tender-evaluation, awarding contracts, monitoring and execution of the projects.

- In addition to the five tourism zones, four more projects were implemented as a HICDP in the country, from which three were granted to set up fish processing plants in Addu.
- The projects were awarded under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the High Commission of India, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Addu City Council in February 2020.
- Projects under the scheme are selected in areas of livelihood and income generation, including health, education, gender, child empowerment, sports and sustainable development.

SOURCE: *The Indian Express*