

Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)

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In news- The Maldives government and Mumbai-based Afcons Infrastructure Limited recently signed a contract for the \$500-million Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).

More information-

- GMCP is Maldives' largest infrastructure project that is being funded by New Delhi.
- The **6.74-km bridge and causeway link will connect the capital of Malé with the islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.**
- The project includes three navigation bridges with a main span of 140 metres across the deep channel between each island, 3.73 km of marine viaduct, and 2.96 km of roads.
- It is being funded through a grant of \$100 million and a line of credit of \$400 million from India.
- It will boost connectivity between the four islands that account for almost half of the Maldivian population.



- It is conceived as an economic lifeline for the Maldives, connecting the capital with a new international port planned at Gulhifalhu, also under an Indian line of credit, and an industrial zone at

Thilafushi.

- The project will use **solar power for lighting**, and solar panels will be installed atop lamp posts and along the bridge parapets.
- When GMCP is completed, it will dwarf the largest Chinese-funded connectivity project, the 1.4-km Sinamale Bridge that connects Male and Hulhule and Hulhumale, and was completed in 2018.