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Adani Ports & SEZ gets green nod, told to restore creeks

The Adani Group company has also been prevented from carrying out “any river course modification”.



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By: **Express News Service** | Ahmedabad | Published: July 17, 2014 2:23 am

The Union environment ministry on Wednesday granted environmental clearance and coastal regulation zone clearance to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ).

While giving the green nod for 8,481 hectares, the ministry directed APSEZ to restore the creeks in Mundra to the condition they were in 2005. The clearance comes as a huge relief to APSEZ that has been fighting string of court battles for developing a multi-product SEZ on 18,000 hectares at Mundra in Kutch district of Gujarat.

The ministry order said, “... ministry hereby accords necessary environmental clearance for proposed multi-product SEZ in an area of 6,641.27 hectares and CRZ clearance for desalination, seawater intake, outfall facility and pipeline for as per the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification-2006 and its subsequent amendments and Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011, subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions.”

APSEZ will have to bring the creeks to the “condition as was seen in the satellite map of 2005” and has to submit the latest satellite map once a year to verify compliance with the conditions of the ministry.

The Adani Group company has also been prevented from carrying out “any river course modification” and has been asked to conserve the mangroves in the area.

The Gujarat High Court in January held that APSEZ did not have a valid environmental clearance and ordered the industrial units in the SEZ to shutdown operations. The units approached the Supreme Court which granted them interim relief and allowed them to continue operations, but restricted them from further expansion.

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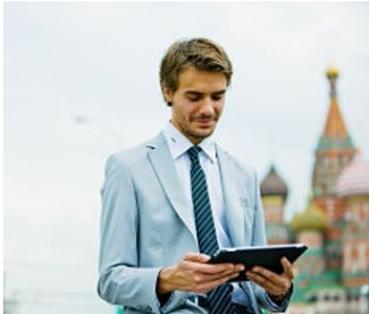
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