

File No.: 8-02/2026-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: As per e-sign

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Gujarat,
Gandhinagar.

Subject:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 188.00 ha. forest land for development of port back up facility & railway connectivity development with allied infrastructure at Hazira of Village-Hazira & Suvali of Taluka-Choryasi, District- Surat in Gujarat State (Online Proposal No: FP/GJ/IND/5883/2014).

Sir,

Please refer to Government of Gujarat letter No. FED/FLP/e-file/6/2026/0047/F dated 24.02.2026 on the above mentioned subject. In this context, the proposal has been examined by the Ministry. The observation of the Ministry on the above proposal are as follows:-

(i) As per para 1.13 (i) of Chapter-1 of Consolidated Guidelines and clarification issued under Van (sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, Utilization of forest area for establishing industries, construction of residential colonies, institutes, rehabilitation of displaced persons, etc. are non-site-specific activities and cannot be considered on forest land as a rule. For that matter, no non-site specific proposal can be entertained for considering approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Accordingly, the State Government justify the site specificity of the proposal submitted under *Industry Category*.

(ii) The State Government shall offer its comments whether the instant proposal can be executed on non-forest land instead of forest land.

(iii) The component wise details along with map/ KML file showing the proposed utilization of 188 ha forest land involved in the proposal has not been submitted in Part-I of the proposal. The same shall be submitted.

(iv) As per the records available on the PARIVESH, the user agency has applied for

diversion of 210.1594 Ha and 90.8605 Ha Forest land for the purpose of development of Port backup facilities and those proposals were got approval vide Ministry letter No 8-36/2015-FC dated 28.09.2022 and Ministry's letter No 8-35/2015-FC dated 22.09.2022. Hence, it needs clarification whether the instant proposal is for extension/ expansion of previously approved forest diversion proposal or otherwise. The KML files of previously approved forest land (90.8605 ha and 210.1594 ha) shall also be submitted. Further, the State Govt. shall submit the justification for submitting the proposal in piecemeal manner.

(v) The State Govt. shall also submit compliance of conditions of final approval for earlier approval approval for diversion of 210.1594 Ha and 90.8605 Ha Forest land for the purpose of development of Port backup facilities through RO, Gandhinagar .

(vi)The CF, Surat Circle in their recommendation has mentioned that there is a 66kv overhead transmission line passing through the said demanded forest area in approx.. 7 ha of Forest land. This line was installed before the notification of the said land to forest land. Further, GETCO has issued conditional NOC to Adani Hazira Port Pvt Ltd. However, the copy of said conditional NoC has not been submitted/ uploaded. The State Government shall provide a copy of conditional NoC issued by GETCO.

(vii) The State Govt. recommended the proposal with the conditions such as;

- a. **A part of the area falls in the High Tide line and no activity may be allowed and An area also forms part of the sandy deposition and will be excluded from any construction etc.:** Hence, exact details of the forest area which has been disallowed by the State Govt. for non-forestry activity needs submission. Further, the reason for inclusion of forest area for diversion under High tide zone and forms part of the sandy deposition in the instant proposal needs justification.
- b. **On the sea ward side no permanent fencing or boundary wall will be constructed.** An undertaking from the user agency in this regard needs submission.
- c. **Money will be deposited by the user agency for Development of Banni Grassland in area equivalent to diversion area (188 ha.) in Consultation with Nodal officer (FCA):** - it needs clarification whether this condition is over and above the stipulated CA in the in the instant proposal or otherwise.

viii. The DCF, Surat in their SIR has mentioned the legal status of proposed forest land as Un-class forest whereas the Nodal officer and the CF, Surat circle reported the legal status of proposed forest land as Reserve Forest. The variation in the facts needs justification.

ix.As per the DSS analysis, total 51 survey No/ plots comprising an area of 250.676 ha has been proposed for CA whereas CA has been proposed on 188.00 ha Non-Forest area. Hence, correct KML file of proposed CA land along with CA suitability certificate needs submission by the State Government.

x.As per DSS analysis, the proposed CA sites are falling in the Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary. The State Govt. shall submit its comments in the regard and the location details of the proposed CA sites needs to be confirmed by the State.

xi.The DCF, Surat in Part-II of the proposal mentioned the canopy density of the proposed forest land as 80 which does not appears realistic. The necessary correction in Part-II of the proposal on PARIVESH indicating the correct canopy density as per actual ground condition shall be updated.

xii. The most of the documents uploaded in Part-1 and Part-II of the proposal are in Gujarati language. The state Govt. shall upload the certified English translated copy of above documents.

In view of the above, it is requested to submit the above information/documents at the earliest for further processing the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(Prashant Rajagopal)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

- i. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
- ii. The IGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Gandhinagar
- iii. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
- iv. The User Agency
- v. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division for uploading on Parivesh Portal