

Bengal govt nod to Adani's Tajpur port development

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The West Bengal cabinet on Monday approved a proposal for issuing a letter of intent to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone for development of a greenfield deep sea port at Tajpur, paving the way for an estimated investment of ₹25,000 crore, a senior minister said.

The West Bengal Maritime Board will issue the LoI to the Adani group,

who was the highest bidder for the mega project, state Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim told reporters after the cabinet meet in the assembly.

"Following the technical and financial evaluation and completion of all formalities, the cabinet today accorded approval for issuance of letter of intent by West Bengal Maritime Board for development of the Tajpur port to the successful bidder, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (SEZ)," an offi-

cial statement said.

Hakim said the project will create direct employment opportunities for 25,000 people.

"The port would entail an investment of ₹15,000 crore. The port-related infrastructure development and government investment would involve another ₹10,000 crore. Overall, ₹25,000 crore would be invested," he said, adding that it would create more than one lakh jobs indirectly.

Hakim also stated that the deep sea port would usher in a new era of development in West Bengal.

According to the statement, the greenfield port will provide quick access to international markets for Bengal-based industries.

All the eastern states and the north-east region of the country will benefit from the port's connectivity through highways and integrated inland waterways, it said.