

New norms for rural, coastal tourism infra

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New Delhi: The Centre has approved new norms to regulate development activities in coastal zones along India's over 7,500 km of coastline, decentralising Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance procedures, de-freezing 'floor area ratio' for construction projects and allowing temporary tourism infrastructure for basic amenities in beaches and in rural coastal areas.

Besides, a 'No Development Zone' (NDZ) of 20 metres from High Tide Line is earmarked for all islands close to the main land coast and for all backwater islands in the main land under the new norms — the CRZ Notification, 2018 — which got Cabinet's approval on Thursday.

Under new norms, coastal zones along rural areas will be bifurcated, based on population density, to regulate development activities. These changes will promote

eco-tourism activities in identified stretches subject to permissions, and address livelihood concerns in the rural coastal zones.