

# 'Criticism of SEZ land price unfortunate'

*We are getting support from all governments, Adani group chairman Gautam Adani tells TOI.*

**The perception is that among all corporate barons, you are the one closest to Modi.**

We are one of the largest infrastructure groups in the country. Presently, we are developing various infrastructure projects in states, be it Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, or Himachal Pradesh. Infrastructure projects are always dependent on government policies and regulations. In fact, government is one of the biggest stakeholders. We are proud to say that we get full support from all the state governments we are working with.

**Why has market cap of your companies increased by 80% after Mo-**



**di was declared BJP's PM candidate in September last year?**

The country is expecting a stable government in coming elections. Financial institutions are also backing the capital market on these sentiments. That is why we are seeing the market reaction in a very positive manner and surely infrastructure sector is one of the

major beneficiary of the same.

**Why then is Kejriwal dragging your name and Mukesh Ambani's as billionaires who have been doled out benefits by Modi?**

We respect all political parties with different ideologies.

**That Modi uses your planes to travel around is also being raked up by AAP.**

We have our aviation company. The company gives planes on charter on commercial basis to whoever requires them.

**How do you feel when comparisons are made between Dhirubhai Ambani and you?**

I have always admired Dhirubhai as a visionary and the doyen of Corporate India. He has inspired genera-

tions of entrepreneurs in India. There is no comparison.

**Critics say Modi government handed over land at throw-away rates in Kutch.**

We have acquired land from the Gujarat government starting from 1993. Every government has allotted land as per the project requirement and after following all the necessary procedures. After the announcement of SEZ policy by Government of India in 2005 Gujarat government allotted 5,000 hectares land to us as per SEZ requirement. This entire land was a waste land. We have invested Rs 50,000 crore to carry out reclamation and have created world class infrastructure at a very high cost. It is unfortunate that comparison is being made between the price today and the land before development.