

Island development in Gujarat

- An Island Development Authority has been constituted in the State under the Chairmanship of Hon. CM shri Vijaybhai Rupani in August 2019, with members as Hon. Dy CM, the Hon. Tourism Minister, Hon Home Minister, and Hon. Minister (Ports) along with senior State bureaucrats for regulated development of the islands in Gujarat.
- The objective is to address the National security issues as well as promote economic activities in the islands in Gujarat in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Two meetings of the Authority has been held. The last meeting was held on November 7, 2019. A detailed discussion took place on islands having area more than 50 hectares and having potential for development.
- There are 13 islands identified by the district collectors for potential development. These islands are Pirotan, Kalubhar, Gandhiya Kado, Panero, Roji, Ajad, Bhaidar, Nora, Shiyal, Piram, Valvod, Aliya and Kadiya. A Drone survey has been carried out for these islands with the help of Marine Police and Coast guard.
- A detailed discussion took place in the meeting on selection of islands, accessibility, salient features and their condition during tide.
- The status of Pirotan island was deliberated in terms of access from New Bedi Port, Presence of vegetation like (Neem, Kathi, Ambla, Bavalo, species of mangroves like Rhizophora, avicennia and ceriops), Presence of a light house and mosque and presence of natural coral reefs which can help in tourism potential.
- The members also deliberated on and Shiyal bet - Savai bet island with access near to Pipavav port, having a Gram Panchayat, Piped water supply and electricity, Presence of a golden sandy beach, Presence of mosque on Savai bet and it was identified for potential development.
- It was decided to take up Pirotan and Shiyalbet islands for further detailed study and explore the potential for development.