

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Gujarat to set up body for island development

TNN | Jun 20, 2019, 08.55 AM IST



GANDHINAGAR: After a strong nudge from the PMO, the state government on Wednesday declared that it has decided to form a special Island Development Authority to develop 144 islands in and around Gujarat.

The state government will soon issue a notification to set up the Gujarat Island Development Authority (GIDA) with the twin purpose of ensuring the security of islands adjoining the state and promoting tourism there. Setting up of the statutory body was announced in the 2015-16 state budget, but little headway on the proposal had been made since.

The Niti Aayog has identified 144 islands adjoining Gujarat, of which 26 are rocks in mid-sea. A majority of these islands are uninhabited and the Niti Aayog has identified seven islands that can be developed for ensuring security and promoting tourism. These include Mamalia, Murga, Bet Shankhodar, Pirotan, Savaibet, Piram and Aliyabet. The state government will develop around ten islands on a priority basis. Following the announcement of setting up of GIDA in the 2015-16 budget, the Gujarat Industrial Development Board (GIDB) has spent a sum of around Rs 10 crore to prepare a feasibility report for developing islands from the tourism and security point of view. However, little progress was made after that.

“The PMO has directed to the state government to establish the Island Development Authority as soon as possible. The state government will shortly issue a notification in this regard. The CM will be the chairperson, officials of the home, tourism, ports and transport departments will be members in the body,” a senior state government official said.

GIDA will be entrusted with the task of formulating and implementing various projects for development of islands and ensuring conservation of the bio-diversity of these islands.