

Bangaram, Thinnakara islands new tourism hotspots in Lakshadweep



Bangaram island

■ **By K Praveen Kumar**
BANGARAM/KAVARATTI
(Lakshadweep), Feb 10 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the Lakshadweep archipelago and his stay at Bangaram has turned the island, surrounded by turquoise blue waters, multi-coloured coral reefs and a variety of sea life, into a tourism hotspot.

Not just Bangaram, the nearby Thinnakara island is also benefiting from the attention generated following the PM's visit and the subsequent diplomatic row between India and Maldives over the derogatory comments made by some

Maldivian leaders on social media platforms against Modi and India.

The incident resulted in many calling for a boycott of Maldives as a tourism spot and pushing the island archipelago as a suitable alternative.

The controversy has worked in favour of Bangaram and Thinnakara islands which apart from their beautiful beaches, large lagoons with crystal clear water and tranquil surroundings, also have a story behind their names.

"The name Thinnakara came from 'Thinna Kara' (Malayalam word that means the land where someone ate food). The story is that a group of warriors



Thinnakara island

of the Chera Kingdom on a boat met with a wreck and took refuge in the island.

"There they found a lot of coconut trees and used the fruits to quench their thirst and hunger. Bangaram was derived from the word 'Banna Kara' (means a land to which people came). These warriors then travelled to Bangaram hoping to find an escape route to the mainland," Saifullah, a local resident of Agatti, who stays six months in Thinnakara island for tapping the coconut sap for making coconut jaggery, told PTI. Saifullah, however, doesn't know what happened to those warriors.

Apart from the lagoons and

the crystal clear waters inhabited by a variety of sealife, there are also remains of a shipwreck near Bangaram, which is now a snorkeling hotspot.

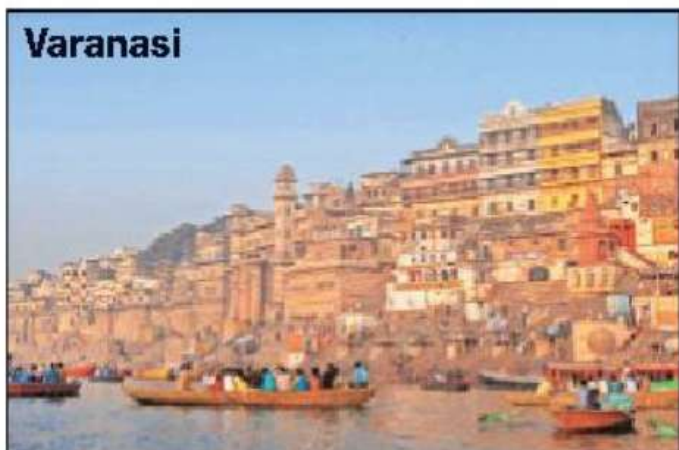
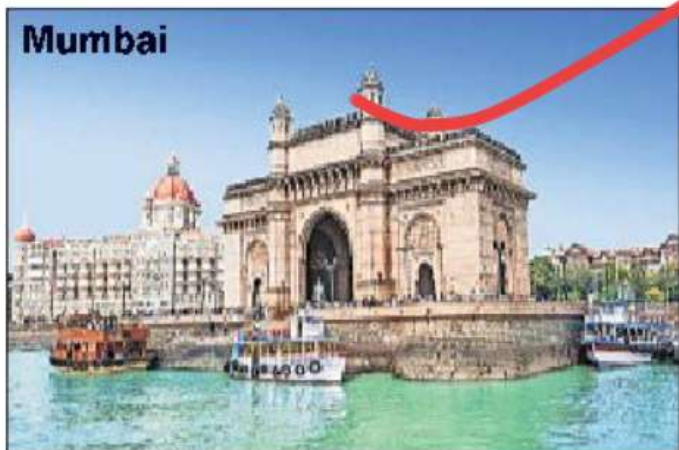
"This shipwreck is said to have happened more than 200 years ago," Saifullah said.

It could arguably be the only shipwreck ecosystem in the world where one can literally walk through the sea and see a plethora of sea life.

The water in this area, most times of the year, is only chest-deep and one can simply walk to the spot and see a variety of fish using a snorkeling glass.

The fish even nibble on biscuits or bread from the hands of the people.

NITI Aayog plans economic transformation of 4 cities



NEW DELHI, Feb 10 (PTI)

THE NITI Aayog has prepared a plan for economic transformation of Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi and Vizag and help India become a developed economy by 2047, its CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said on Saturday.

He also said the Aayog plans to prepare economic planning of 20-25 more cities, as they are the centre of economic activities.

A vision document is being prepared by NITI Aayog for India to become a developed economy of USD 30 trillion by 2047, and it will be released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We used to only prepare urban planning of cities, not economic planning. NITI Aayog has prepared economic planning of Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi and Vizag, for economic transforma-

tion of these cities," he said at an event here.

Last year, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had held a meeting with NITI Aayog officials during which steps needed to take the GDP of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) to USD 300 billion by 2030 were discussed.

Subrahmanyam said the Centre had sought views of the country's youth on December 11, to drive its vision for making India a developed nation by 2047. "So far, we have received more than 10 lakh detailed suggestions from youth of India, and we processing them using artificial intelligence (AI)," he added.

This exercise was conducted through universities and other educational institutions. In 2023, NITI Aayog was entrusted with the task of consolidating the 10 sectoral thematic visions into a combined one for Viksit Bharat @2047.

Diversity, representation crucial for rectifying historical injustices: CJI

NEW DELHI, Feb 10 (PTI)

CHIEF Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said diversity and representation are crucial not only for rectifying historical injustices but also for enriching the decision-making capacity of courts.

Speaking on the occasion of the second annual lecture series to mark the first sitting of the Supreme Court on January 28, 1950, CJI Chandrachud welcomed International Court of Justice Judge Hilary Charlesworth as a chief guest of the programme.

“It is important to emphasise that diversity and representation is crucial not only for rectifying historical injustices but also for enriching the decision-making capacity of courts. The evolving representation of nation-states before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has notably challenged its historically monocultural and Eurocentric outlook,” he said. “Likewise, integrating gender diversity within the courts



Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice D Y Chandrachud with International Court of Justice judge Hilary Charlesworth and Supreme Court Judge Justice Surya Kant during the Foundation Day lecture, in New Delhi on Saturday. (PTI)

would substantially broaden the spectrum of perspectives, leading to more comprehensive and equitable decisions,” he said.

Emphasising that the apex court has made strides in making its provisions gender inclusive, CJI Chandrachud said, “The Supreme Court released a sensitisation module for the judiciary on the LGBTQIA+ community, which seeks to sensitise members of the judiciary on concepts of gender and sexual diver-

sity, on the usage of appropriate terminologies and makes recommendations on the protocol to be followed by courts while interacting with the members of the queer community.”

He added that similarly, the top court has last year released a ‘handbook to combat gender stereotypes’, in an attempt to ensure that judges use inclusive language and consciously avoid the use of stereotypes in decision-making.

CAA rules before LS polls, citizenship to beneficiaries soon after: Amit Shah



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Saturday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Feb 10 (PTI)

THE rules for implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be issued before the coming Lok Sabha polls and the process to grant Indian nationality to the beneficiaries will start soon after, Union Home Minister

Amit Shah said here on Saturday.

Under the CAA, the Modi Government wants to grant Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants - Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians - from

(Contd on page 3)

Pakistan elections

Amid rigging rumours, Imran's PTI claims victory on 170 seats



Gohar Khan (C) chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) speaks during a press meet in Islamabad, Pakistan, Saturday. (AP/PTI)

ISLAMABAD, Feb 10 (ANI)

IN A major political development, Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaaf (PTI) has claimed that it has won 170 out of 265 National Assembly seats and is set to form an alliance with

Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM), Pakistan-based 'The Nation' reported on Saturday.

This comes even though the counting for the polls is underway and the independent candidates mostly backed by the PTI, have clinched victory on

1 0 0 seats.

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P T I leader Barrister Gohar

Khan alleged that there was an attempt to "shape" the seats won by PTI into defeat.

He also called on the party workers to protest outside the offices of Returning Officers (RO) tomorrow, where results got 'delayed', 'Dawn' reported.

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