

Dwarka & Beyt Dwarka

Source: TH

The <u>Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)</u> has launched a scientific study to explore submerged archaeological remains at **Dwarka and Beyt Dwarka** in Gujarat.

- ASI findings since 1963 reveal submerged structures, stone jetties, anchors, and fortified walls, indicating a prosperous ancient port.
- Dwarka: Dwarka (where Lord Krishna settled after leaving Mathura), situated at the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch, is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites.
 - Religious Significance: As per legend, Krishna reclaimed land from the sea to establish Dwarka, making it the first capital of Gujarat.
 - The town houses the Dwarkadhish Temple (Jagat Mandir), a major Krishna Bhakti shrine rebuilt in the 16th century after destruction by Mahmud Begada, and the Sharada Peeth, the western matha established by Adi Shankaracharya.



- Beyt (Bet) Dwarka: Beyt Dwarka (Shankhodhar) island, located 30 km off the coast and accessible via Okha port, is identified as Antardvipa in the Mahabharata.
 - **Guru Vallabhacharya** is associated with a temple found on the island.
 - Excavations on the island trace habitation back to the **Harappan and Mauryan periods.**
 - In medieval times, the area was under the **Gaekwads of Baroda**, briefly **seized by the Vaghers in 1857.**
 - The <u>Sudarshan Setu</u>, India's longest cable-stayed bridge, was inaugurated in 2024, improving access.

Read More: Sudarshan Setu

