

Democracies meet Challenges : freebies not for Nigeria and India

India: from Kashmir to Kanyakumari or from Minsar to Indira Point

June 7, 2024

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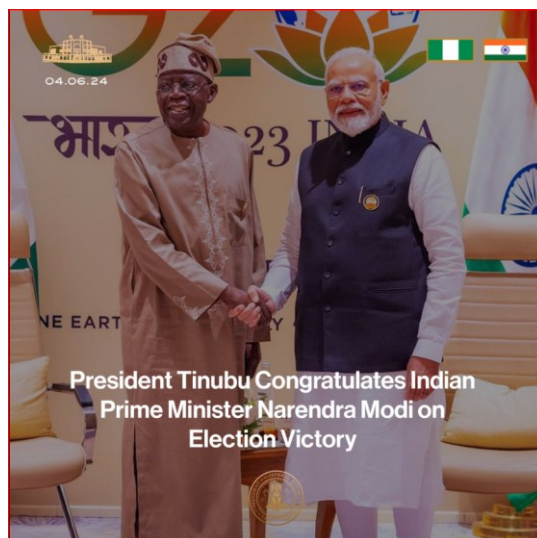
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---- NIGERIA and INDIA SHUN the VENEZUELAN PATH ----

June 7, 2024: **Abuja**, Nigeria: The General Strike, demanding an *extravagant increase in minimum wage* fizzled out. Probably, the intelligentsia was able to persuade the Nigerians not to follow the *Venezuelan path of self-destruction of economy*.



June 7, 2024: **Delhi**, India: A long queue of Muslim women stood at the office of Indian National Congress (INC) at **Prayag Raj** in the State of **Uttar Pradesh** (UP),

demanding payment of the monthly instalment, promised by Rahul Gandhi, during the election campaign, which concluded in the evening of May 30, 2024.

At 1,680 Km from **Prayag Raj** in UP, at Bengaluru in the State of Karnataka, in many Shopping Malls, businesses were refusing to honour 'pre-paid' credit cards of citizens. These cards had been given as a gift by a candidate of INC, during the recent election campaign.

Making *Venezuelan* promises, which are difficult to keep, will provide a correction to the Indian democracy, since Indians may refuse to follow the *Venezuelan path of self-destruction of their economy*.

---- WORLD'S LEADERS CONGRATULATE INDIA'S MODI on a 3rd TERM *as PM*----

June 6, 2024: **Delhi**, India: The Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** and Sri Lanka's President **Ranil Wickremesinghe** have confirmed their presence for the June 9 swearing-in event of **Narendra Modi**. Other foreign dignitaries reportedly invited include Nepal PM **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, Bhutan's King **Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**, Vice-President of Seychelles **Ahmed Afif**, and Mauritius PM **Pravind Jugnauth**.

About 8,000 guests are expected to be invited to the event on June 9, 2024.

www.DiGiNews360.com notes that even though *Narendra Modi* is respected as a person, all over the world, the reduced electoral support is visible in the buzz among the diplomats in *Delhi*.

June 6, 2024: **Delhi**, India: Narendra Modi received messages of Congratulations on his election to the 3rd term as the Prime Minister of India. President **Joe Biden** of USA and **Olaf Scholz**, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany said that each one of them would continue to work with Modi **to further enhance the strategic partnership** in many sectors **for the greater benefit of the two countries**. President Vladimir **Putin** of the Russian Federation said that the election proved the popularity of **Modi**.

Among G20 countries, Italian PM and the Presidents of Indonesia and South Korea have congratulated Modi on the electoral victory:

'Congratulations to @narendramodi on the new electoral victory and my warmest wishes for good work. Certain that we will continue to work together to strengthen the friendship that unites Italy and India and consolidate cooperation on the various issues that bind us,' **Italian PM Giorgia Meloni** said on X.

Immediately after Modi secured the backing of its political allies for a third term President **Jokowi Widodo** congratulated **Narendra Modi**, saying that **Indonesia** looks forward to deepening its ties with New Delhi.

Republic of Korea's President **Yoon Suk Yeol** said in a social media post that the result shows **India's unwavering trust in Mr. Modi's outstanding leadership**. He looked forward to working closely with Mr. Modi to deepen the Korea-India Special Strategic Partnership.

Thursday, June 6, 2024: **Beijing, India: Mao Ning**, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, responding to a question on the interaction between **Modi** and **Lai Ching-te** (President of Taiwan), said, "First of all, there is no such thing as 'president' of the Taiwan region."

"As for your question, China opposes all forms of official interactions between the Taiwan authorities and countries having diplomatic relations with China. There is but one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China," she said.

Wednesday, June 5, 2024: **Delhi, India:** Over 50 world leaders have congratulated Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** as he is set to take oath this week for a third straight term at the top office following victory of the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** in the **Lok Sabha** ("*the Lower House of India's Parliament*") polls.

From India's neighbourhood, Presidents of Sri Lanka, the **Maldives, Iran, Seychelles** and Prime Ministers of **Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar** and **Mauritius** have sent congratulatory greetings to Modi.

Wednesday, June 5, 2024: **London, UK:** British Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** spoke to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to congratulate him on his election victory, which he said will see the bilateral relationship "thrive". Both leaders agreed to stay in touch in the coming days before they meet at the **G7 Summit in Italy**, where the Indian Prime Minister has been invited by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni for the

Outreach Sessions. **Sunak** is currently campaigning for the UK general election, to be held on July 4, and is hoping to win a 4th term for the Conservatives.

"We congratulate the ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Modi on their declaration of victory," **Yoshimasa Hayashi**, Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Japanese government, told reporters. "India is an important partner for the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and we will continue to strengthen the Japan-India relationship," he said.

Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** on Wednesday congratulated his Indian counterpart **Narendra Modi** and expressed hope that the Indian prime minister will exert his leadership in the future development of the South Asian nation.

Wednesday June 5, 2024: **Beijing**, China: "We noted the results of India's general election and extend congratulations on the victory of BJP led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and NDA," **Mao Ning**, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said. "A sound and stable India relationship is conducive to the interests of both the countries and conducive to the peace and development in the region and beyond," she told a media briefing here answering questions on the outcome of India's General Elections.

"China stands ready to work with India to act in the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples bearing in mind the overall interests of our ties and look to the future and advance the bilateral ties on a steady track," **Mao** said.

Wednesday June 5, 2024: **Taipei**, Taiwan: **Lai Ching-te**, who was elected **Republic of China** (ROC), **Taiwan's** President last month, in a post on X, said: "My sincere congratulations to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on his election victory. We look forward to enhancing the fast-growing Taiwan-India partnership, expanding our **collaboration on trade, technology & other sectors** to contribute to peace & prosperity in the IndoPacific."



Replying to the message, **Modi** said: "Thank you @ChingteLai for your warm message. I look forward to closer ties as we work towards **mutually beneficial economic and technological partnership.**"

June 6, 2024: The Indian Press Information Bureau report, Delhi, India: **Narendra Modi** received a congratulatory telephone call from **Sheikh Hasina** for the victory of **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)**, led by him, in the 18th Lok Sabha elections. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** declared the results late in the evening of June 4, 2024.



"The two leaders pledged to continue working together to further deepen the historic and close ties under the renewed mandate towards achieving under the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047** and **Smart Bangladesh 2041.**"

They looked forward to further enhancing the transformative relationship across all domains that include **economic and development partnership, energy security, connectivity including digital linkages and people-to-people contacts** among others.

June 6, 2024: The **QS World University Rankings, Delhi, India:** Today's Report says that the number of Indian Universities, listed by QS, has increased from 11 in 2015 to 46 today. During the last 10 years, India has the highest growth among the G20 nations.

June 6, 2024: **Delhi, India:** An hour back, the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** unit, deployed for the security of Parliament, caught three jihadis named **Qasim,**

Monis and **Shoaib**, who were trying to enter the Parliament building by showing fake Aadhar cards. Their interrogation is under progress.



India's **Parliament**: Left- Internal View; Right- External View

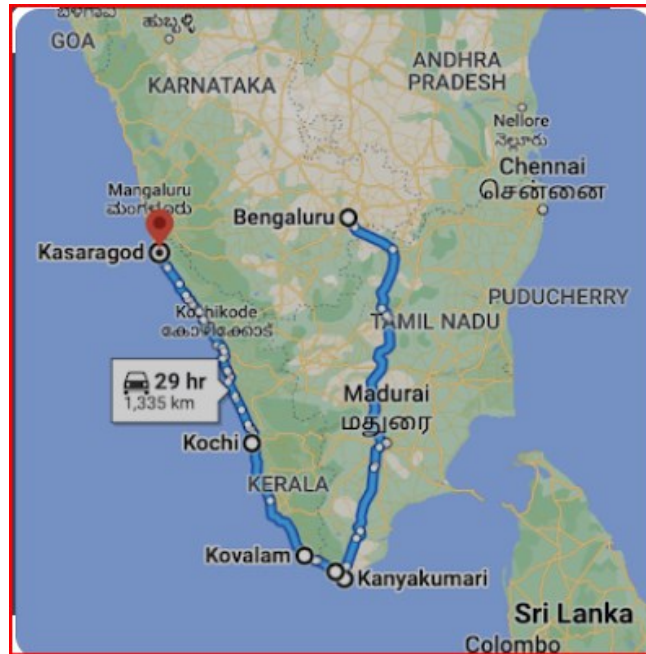
June 5, 2024: www.DiGiNews360.com said that India spanned from Minsar in Tibet to Indira Point, located at the Southernmost point of the last village in the Great Nicobar island.

May 30-June 1, 2024: **Narendra Modi** meditated during 45 hours of Period of Silence, after the campaigning for the **last phase** of India's General Election-2024 was over. From the evening of May 30, 2024 to the evening of June 1, Modi isolated himself at the **Dhyan Mandapam** (means "*the place for meditation*") of the **Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial** (SWRM).

--- A Brief BACKGROUNDER on INDIA from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari ---

For thousands of years, many scholars have written about India, as a country, located between Kashmir to **Kanya Kumari** (means an "*Adolescent Girl*"). Many scholars have also written **Puranas** (means "*ancient History books*") about the

temple of Goddess **Kanya Kumari**, located at the Southeran tip of mainland India and shown in the map below:



INDIA: from **Kashmir** to **Kanya Kumari**

Waters from the Arabian Gulf, Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal mingle at Kanya Kumari

The location of the **Kanya Kumari** Temple, at the Southeran tip of India, is shown in the map above.

---- A Brief BACKGROUND on the BHAGAVATI KUMARI AMMAN TEMPLE ---

(Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devi_Kanya_Kumari)

The **Kanya Kumari** Temple is known as the **BHAGAVATI** (means “Goddess”) **KUMARI** (means “ummarried”) **AMMAN** (means “mother”; In Tamil Nadu, if one wants to address a woman with respect, one calls her as the Amman.) **TEMPLE**.

In the temple, people worship the Goddess **Kanya Kumari**’s feet, etched on a rock. It is called **Shri Pāda Pāra** (means “statute of the feet of the Goddess”).

In fact, there are **two rocks** in the sea, about 500 yards away from the Southern tip of the Indian mainland at **Kanya Kumari**, as shown in the photograph below. The person, in the photograph, is standing on the beach of the **Kanya Kumari** temple.

Sthal Puranas (“History of the Rocks”): During many years of prayers to **Lord Shiv**, the Goddess used the rocks, to stand on one foot, at one rock at a time, for prayers.

ENLIGHTENMENT of VIVEKANAND: On December 25-27, 1892, Swami Vivekanand, a Hindu monk reached the **Kanya Kumari** temple, after wandering around the

country for four years. He swam towards the larger of the two rocks, from the beach of the temple.

When he stood on the rock and looked towards the mainland of India, he was enthralled by seeing the temple and the land, till the horizon. He sat down on the rock in meditation and prayed for three days (and nights).

By December 27, 1892, *Swami Vivekanand* was blessed with enlightenment. He decided to dedicate his life as an **active Sanyasi** rather than the usual practice of being '**a passive preacher of spiritual sermons**'.

EIC IMPOVERISHED INDIA: *Vivekanand* remembered India was known as '**Sone ki Chidiya**' (*Golden Sparrow*) i.e. the richest country of the world till the 18th century. He recollected that EIC was able to colonize Bengal due to a traitor (**Mir Kasim, the Commander of the Army of the Nawab of Bengal**) and due to a radical Muslim Nawab of Bengal (**Siraj-ud-Daulah** (b. 1729—died July 2/3, 1757)). EIC had impoverished Bengal within 100 years.

EIC DESTROYED the INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM: When EIC established complete control in the areas in Bengal and Madras, a survey of the educational system showed that there was a School in nearly every village and there were a large number of Colleges in the towns and cities of the two regions. However, the traditional education system did not charge any fee from the students. Instead, the system was run by diverting a part of the taxes, payable to the 'King' to these institutions. EIC immediately stopped payments to these institutions and the entire traditional system of education collapsed, resulting in illiteracy among the children born after the first part of the 19th century.

The larger rock is the place, where **Swami Vivekananda** meditated on December 25-27, 1892. During meditation, Swami Vivekanand received enlightenment and discovered a new purpose for himself. He decided not to offer spiritual sermons to the starving Indians, most of whom were illiterate. Instead, he started **a campaign to inspire Indians to use and to develop modern technologies to unleash the productive potential of India** and to make India rich again, **for the benefit of the poor of the whole of the earth**.

In 1962, Eknath Ranade, a volunteer of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), decided to *celebrate 70 years of Swami Vivekanand's meditation for 3 days from*.

On the larger rock, were built the **Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial (SWRM)** and the **Dhyan Mandapam** by a Private Trust, to celebrate 70 years of Swami Vivekanand's discovery of the purpose of his life after meditation for 3 days from December 25-27, 1892.

On the smaller rock was installed the **Thiruvalluvar Statute** by the Government of the State of Tamil Nadu in India.



*Left Rock (the larger Rock): The SWRM; Right Rock: The **Thiruvalluvar Statute***
132 years later, **Narendra Modi** spent 45 hours of **Period of Silence**, after the campaigning was over, for **the last phase** of the election campaign in India, in meditation at the **Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial (SWRM)** from the evening of Thursday on May 30, 2024 to the evening of Saturday on June 1, 2024.

The **Period of Silence** is a period of 48 hours, after campaigning for an election in India is over to the ending of the voting process at the polling booths. The Election Commission of India prohibits holding of public meetings or rallies, as a part of the election campaign. It also stops the media to publish Opinion Polls or Exit Polls about the elections during the Period of Silence.

Before going to SWRM, **Modi** prayed at the ancient temple of Goddess **Kanya Kumari**. The '**Puranas of the Kanya Kumari Temple**' were written more than 10,000 years back in Sanskrit language.



Narendra Modi praying at the **Kanya Kumari Temple**



Period of Silence (May 30, 2024- June 1-2024)
Narendra Modi praying at SWRM



May 30, 2024- June 1-2024
Narendra Modi at SWRM

December 25-27, 1892: **Vivekanand**, a Hindu monk, swam towards the larger of the two rocky islets, located about 500 m from the Kanyakumari's **Vanathurai beach**, the southern tip of mainland India. He was enthralled by looking at India from the rock, he prayed to **Bharat Mata** (embodiment of *Mother India* in his mind) all alone for three days and nights. In the prayer and meditation, the monk discovered the purpose of his life.

For a few years, the **monk** had wandered about the whole of the country and seen the debilitating poverty, in which most of the people lived. During the meditation, he realized that spiritual sermons could be given only after the people were able to

have a life with reasonable facilities for life. A starving family could not be served with a discussion on higher philosophy of life by a monk.

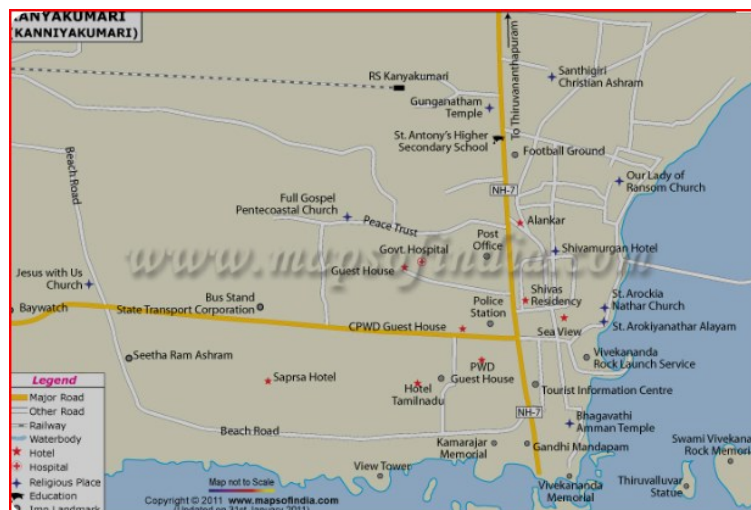
Swami **Vivekanand** recollected that during the 15th -17th centuries, India was known as **Sone ki Chidia** (*Golden Sparrow*) i. e. *the richest country of the world*. Colonization by EIC since 1757 had impoverished India. (Please see pages 19-20 on EIC's Colonization in the BACKGROUNDER on the Nawab & the Traitor, Mir Jafar.)

During the 12th and 13th centuries, Muslim invaders from Afghanistan had burnt down India's universities.

EIC closed down India's traditional Schools and Colleges during the early part of the 19th century and made a large number of its people illiterate.

Swami **Vivekanand** decided to work for rejuvenation of Indian economy, by using new technologies from all over the world.

In 1962, **Eknath Ranade**, a **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh** (RSS) volunteer took up the job of building the **Swami Vivekanand Rock Memorial** (SWRM) on the larger rock. Later the State Government of Tamil Nadu built a **Thiruvalluvar Statue** on the other rock. Both the statutes look towards the mainland of India.



Swami Vivekanand Rock Memorial (VKRM) is a private Trust, with no control of the Government. The **Thiruvalluvar Statue** was built by Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

---- A BACKGROUNDER on the THIRUVALLUVAR STATUTE ----

The **Thiruvalluvar Statue** is a Government of Tamil Nadu project. **Thirukkural** is an ancient book of wisdom, the **greatest classic of the Tamil language**, the **distillation of the essential genius of the Tamil Nadu**. Its author was **Valluvar**.

FEATURES of the THIRUVALLUVAR MANDAPAM: The combined **height** of the statue and pedestal is **133 feet** (41 m), denoting the **133 chapters of the Thirukkural**. This includes 95 feet (29 m) sculpture of Valluvar standing upon a **38 feet** (12 m) **pedestal** that **represents the 38 chapters of Virtue**, the **first of the three books of the Kural text**. The statue itself represents the **second and third books of the Kural text, namely, Wealth and Love**. The whole design signifies that **wealth and love be earned and enjoyed on the foundation of solid virtue**. The right hand of the statue with **three fingers pointing skywards signifies the three cantos of the Kural text**, namely, **Aram, Porul, and Inbam (Virtue, Wealth, and Love, respectively)**, combined. The head of the statue stands at a height of 61 m (200 ft) above the sea level.

The statue, with its slight bend around the waist is reminiscent of a dancing pose of the Hindu deities like Nataraja. The statue weighs 7,000 tonnes.

PERIOD of THIRUKKURAL and its AUTHOR: The Thirukkural has been dated variously between 300 BCE and the 5th century CE. The Tamil Nadu government has ratified **31 BCE as the year of Valluvar's birth**.

On 1 January 2000, the statue was unveiled by the then **Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi** to mark the millennium.

Indian sculptor **V. Ganapati Sthapati** sculpted this magnificent tribute to Valluvar. The foundation stone for the **Thiruvalluvar Statue** was laid by the then Prime Minister **Morarji Desai** on 15 April 1979. This momentous event took place in the presence of the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **M. G. Ramachandran**.

---- The BHAGAVATI KUMARI AMMAN TEMPLE in KANYAKUMARI ---

(Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devi_Kanya_Kumari)

For thousands of years, India has been described as the country between Kashmir and Kanya Kumari. **Kanya Kumari is a goddess**, whom every Indian knows, worships and adores, as **defining the idea of India**.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION of INDIA: The Northernmost point of India's mainland is **Indira Col** (*a village in the Ladakh region*).

(The Northernmost point of India's mainland is the village of **Minsar**.)

For centuries, the inhabitants of **Minsar**, although surrounded by Tibetan territories, paid their taxes to the kingdom of Ladakh. During in the 19th century, when Ladakh was

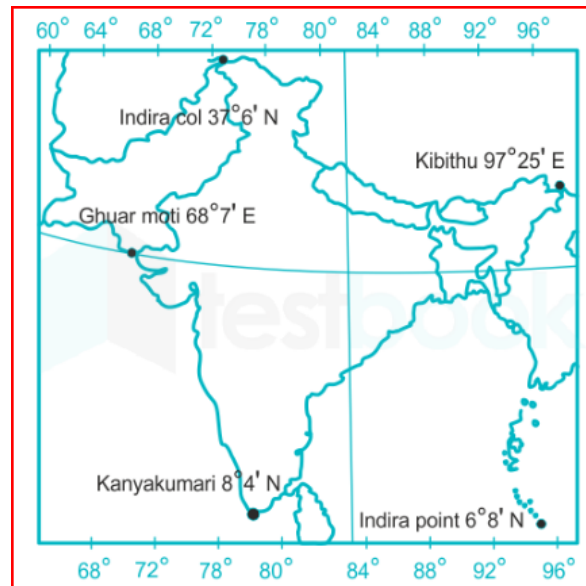
incorporated into Maharaja Gulab Singh's State, Minsar de facto became a part of the Jammu & Kashmir State. In October 1947, when J&K acceded to India, Minsar became a part of India.

Minsar was on the way from Ladakh to Lake Mansarovar and Kailash. Pilgrims from India, used to get facilities for a night's stay. However, **Minsar is in China's illegal possession**, after China took over the autonomous region of Tibet).

The Southernmost Point of India's mainland is **Kanya Kumari**. It is *located in Tamil Nadu*. At **Kanya Kumari**, waters of the **Arabian Gulf**, the **Bay of Bengal** and the **Indian ocean** mingle.

The Easternmost Point of India is **Kibithu** (*located in Arunachal Pradesh*).

India measures 3,214 Km from north to south and 2,933 Km from east to west.



Southernmost part - **Indira point** (earlier called the “*Pygmalion Point*”) in the **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** island (earlier called the “*Ross Island in Nicobar Islands*”) The Andaman and Nicobar islands is a union territory of India.

The islands occupy a total land area of approximately 8,249 Km² with a population of 380,581 (*2011 census*).

The islands are sandwiched between the Bay of Bengal to the west and the Andaman Sea to the east with the northern-most point located 901 Km from the mouth of Hooghly river.

Indira Point is at the southern tip of Great Nicobar is the southernmost point of India.

The Union Territory consists of **836 islands** (of which **only 31 are inhabited**) grouped into two island groups: the *northern Andaman Islands* and the *southern Nicobar Islands*, separated by a 150 Km wide channel. **Port Blair is the capital and largest city of the territory**, located about 1,190 Km from Chennai and 1,255 Km from Kolkata in mainland India.

The territory is divided into three **districts**: 1. **North & Middle Andaman** (capital: **Mayabunder**), 2. **South Andaman** (capital: **Port Blair**), and 3. **Nicobar** (capital: **Car Nicobar**).

INTERNATIONAL BORDERS: The Union Territory of **Andaman** and **Nicobar** shares maritime borders with **Indonesia** located about 165 Km to the south, **Myanmar** located 280 Km to the North-east and **Thailand** located 650 Km to the south-east.

ABOUT BHAGAVATI KUMARI AMMAN: **Devi** (*"Goddess"*) **Kanya Kumari** is a manifestation of the Hindu goddess Mahadevi in the form of **Parvati** or **Lakshmi**. She is also worshipped as an incarnation of the goddess **Bhadrakali** by **Shaktas**, and is known by several names such as **Shrī Bāla Bhadra**, **Shrī Bāla**, **Kanya Devi** (*adolescent girl*) and **Devi Kumari**. **Devi Kanya Kumari** is the goddess of **virginity and penance**.

ABOUT Shaktas or **Shakti-worshippers** (*"Worshippers of Goddess"*): The Hindu monk **Swami Vivekananda**: "Do you know who is the real **Shakti-worshipper**? It is he who knows that God is the omnipresent force in the universe and sees in women the manifestation of that Force."

Shakta-universalist Sri Ramakrishna: All Hindu goddesses are manifestations of the same mother goddess. The 18th-century **Shakta bhakti** (*"worship"*) poems and songs were composed by two Bengal poets, **Bharatchandra Ray** and **Ramprasad Sen**, and, the Tamil collection *Abhirami Anthadhi* was composed by **Abhirami Bhattar**.

Bharatchandra Ray Gunakor (b.1712–d.1760) was a **Sakta** poet and song composer in Bengali and Sanskrit languages. His most famous poetic work is **Annadamangal** or **Annapurnamangal**. **Maharaja Krishnachandra of Nadia** conferred him with the title *Gunakor*.

Rāmprasād Sen (b. 1723 or b. 1718 – d. 1775) was a **Shakta** poet and saint. His **bhakti** poems, known as **Ramprasadi**, are usually addressed to the Goddess **Kali** and written in **Bengali** language.

Abhirami Pattar, born as **Subramaniya Iyer**, was a Hindu saint from the State of Tamil Nadu of the early part of the 18th century. (**Abhirami Pattar** in Tamil means the “*Priest of Goddess Abhirami*”.) He is famed as the author of a collection of hymns called *Abhirami Anthadhi* which is widely regarded as **one of the foremost works of modern Tamil literature**.

LEGEND of DEVI KANYA KUMARI: **Banasura**, a demon by birth, was the ruler of the land of Kanya Kumari. He practiced **tapasya** (“*tough practice of worship*”) and obtained a boon from **God Brahma** that his death could only be caused by an adolescent girl. With this powerful boon, he became fearless and wreaked havoc on the entire world.

Goddess Parvati manifested herself in the southern tip of India as Kanya Kumari. As an adolescent girl, she had immense devotion towards **God Shiv**. Legends also say that it was on this rock that Goddess Kanyakumari prayed to **Shiv**, where Swami Vivekanand meditated on December 25-27, 1892.

Shiv decided to marry her. All arrangements were made for the wedding. **Shiv** started the journey from Shuchindram. The wedding **muhurtam** (means “*auspicious time*”) was during the **Brahma-muhurtam** (means “*early in the morning*”).

The sage, *Narada*, used *his* power to look into the future and observed that only a virgin goddess would be able to slay **Banasura**. So, *Narada* caused a rooster to crow, indicating, *falsely*, that the auspicious time for the wedding had passed. Kanya Kumari waited for Shiva, and finally, she assumed that she had been snubbed. With unbearable insult, pain, grief, and anger, she destroyed everything she saw. She threw away all the food and broke her bangles. The food particles she scattered around are said to be the source of the colourful sands of Kanyakumari.

Thus, he was able to interrupt Shiva's marriage to

When she finally gained her composure, she undertook continuous penance. **Banasura** tried to lure and approach Kumari, without realising who she was. The infuriated Kumari slaughtered **Banasura** at once. Moments before his death, **Banasura** realized that the one before him was **Adi Parashakti**, the **Goddess** herself. He prayed her to absolve him of his sins.

Sthanumalayan Temple

After killing **Banasura**, Kanya Kumari assumed her original form of **Parvati**, and reunited with her husband, **Shiva**.

According to public belief, the Goddess **Kanya Kumari** continues her divine presence in the **Bhagavati Kumari Amman Temple**.

108 **Abhimana Kshethram** TEMPLES and 108 **Divya Desam** TEMPLES: **Abhimana Kshethram** or **Abhimana Sthalam** are a list of 108 sacred **Vishnu** temples. These are mentioned in **Puranas** and 'Ithihasas such as **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**'. These temples have **Sthala Puranas** ("books for each such temple") based on the Ithihasas and Puranas. Out of these 108 temples, **Rajagopalaswamy Temple at Mannargudi** is considered as the 1st out of the 108 **Abhimana Kshethras**, as **Thirumangai Alvar** is believed to have visited the temple and is believed to have built the tall **flag post** outside the temple. (An **Alvar** is a composer and singer of devotional songs of Lord Vishnu.)



Sri Vidhya Rajagopalaswamy (Krishna) temple (Estd: 10th century), **Mannargudi, Tamil Nadu**.

Both the **Rajagopalaswamy** temple and the **Guruvayoor** temple are called **Dakshina Dvaraka** (means "Southern Dvaraka").

A **Divya Desam** is one of the 108 **Vishnu and Lakshmi temples** that is mentioned in the **Naalayira Divya Prabandham** (the "authentic Compilation of Poems" by the **Alvars** (the "poet-saints of the Sri Vaishnava tradition".)

Of the 108 temples, 105 are in India, one is in Nepal, and the last two are believed to be outside the earth, in **Tirupparkatal** or the **Kshira Sagara** and **Vaikuntham** or the **Heaven**.

The **Kshira Sagara** (*"Ocean of Milk"*) is the place where **God Vishnu**, accompanied by his consort, **Lakshmi**, reclines over his serpent-mount **Shesha**.

---- A BACKGROUNDER on the **Sthanumalayan** TEMPLE ----



The **Thanumalayan Temple**, also called **Sthanumalayan Temple** is located in **Suchindram** in the Kanya Kumari district of the State of **Tamil Nadu**, India (means ". The name **Stanumalaya** denotes the **Trimurti** (means "Three-Statuted"): "**Stanu**" (means **God Shiv**; "**Mal**" means **God Vishnu** and the "**Ayan**" means **God Brahm**"; **Trimurti** shows the three facets of God's work - of **Creation** (Lord **Brahm**), of **Sustenance** (Lord **Vishnu**) and of **Death** (Lord **Shiv**).

The temple is counted among the **Abhimana Kshetrams** in **Vaishnavite** (i.e. those Hindus who choose to pay to the **Vigrah** (*"the consecrated statute"*) of **Lord Vishnu**. It is one of the **108 Vishnu Temples** revered by the Kerala Hindu culture, though this temple is now in Tamil Nadu, after Kanyakumari District was merged into **Tamil Nadu** from the Kingdom of **Travancore** in 1947.

The temple complex covers around two acres and has two **gateway towers** (called "*gopurams*"). The tallest is the eastern *gopuram* with 11 stories and a height of 44 m. The temple has numerous shrines, with those of **Sthanumalayan** and that of **Hanuman** being the most prominent. The temple has six daily rituals at various times from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and many yearly festivals on its calendar, with the festival during **Margazhi** (Tamil word for the

month of “*Mārgaṣīrṣa*”, in the Vikrami Calendar) being the most prominent. The present masonry structure was built during the **Chola** dynasty in the 9th century, while later expansions are attributed to **Thirumalai Nayak** and the Kings of **Travancore**. The temple is maintained and administered by the **Dharmapuram Aadhenam** (“*Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu*”).

---- A BACKGROUNDER on the 4 VEDAs and the **Gayatri Mantra** ----

A mantra can be defined as a hymn, a prayer, a sacred song, a religious poem or a set of programmed syllables, which can help one meditate, if chanted in the prescribed way.

The **Gayatri Mantra** proclaims the *fundamental doctrine* of **Vedas** that a *person can get realization of God in her life with her own efforts without intervention of any prophet or avtar.:*

(Vedas are 4 books, - Rig, Yajur, Saam and Atharva - which form the scriptures of Hindus. These are the oldest books, available in the world today.)

The Gayatri Mantra:

ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः
तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यम्
भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि
धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात् ।

Translation of the **Mantra** by **Swami Vivekananda**: "We meditate on the glory of that Being who has produced this universe; may She enlighten our minds."

Brahmarshi Vishvamitra spread the **Gayatri Mantra** and revealed the benefits of chanting the **Gayatri Mantra**. The **Gayatri Mantra** first appeared in the **Rig Veda**. It is also found in the **Upanishads** and the **Bhagavad Gita**, two important Hindu scriptures.

The **Vedas** consist of **mantras**, which use different *meters* to chant.

Examples: **1.** The **Trishtubh meter** divides a **mantra** into three sections by placing one break at the caesura (at the beginning part) and another break at four syllables before the end.

Other scholars divide 44 syllables of a **mantra** into four parts of 11 syllables each. 40% of Rig Veda is chanted using the **Trishtubh meter**.

Example 2. The **Gayatri meter**: It divides a **mantra** into three sections by placing one break at the caesura (at the beginning part of 8 syllables) and another break at eight syllables before the end.

25% of Rig Veda is chanted using the **Gayatri meter**. (Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vedic_metre)

---- A BACKGROUNDER on the NAWAB of BENGAL and the TRAITOR of 1757 ----

The **Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah** had permitted the British East Indian Company (EIC) to open their Trading Outpost in Kolkata. It was usual for a Trader to recruit some mercenary soldiers for security of its trade. The Nawab was a radical Muslim, who wanted to convert all non-Muslims.

EIC started building Fort Williams in Kolkata.

The Nawab ordered EIC to stop building the fortification and moved his forces for attacking EIC's mercenaries. In 1757, during the Battle of **Palashi** (also known as *Plassey*), EIC, led by **Robert Clive**, achieved a decisive victory over the Nawab and his French allies, since **Mir Jafar**, the Commander-in-Chief of the Nawab's army proved to be a traitor.

Palashi was on the banks of the Hooghly River, north of now Kolkata and south of Murshidabad in West Bengal.



Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Plassey

Siraj-ud-Daulah's forces were defeated due to the defection of **Mir Jafar**, the Commander-in-Chief of the Nawab's army, who was bribed by Clive.

*Upon ascending the throne, **Mir Syed Jafar Ali Khan Bahadur** (b. 1691 – d. 5 February 1765), with the help of EIC, Mir Jafar wanted to increase his revenue.*

However, the British wanted a monopoly. When EIC captured the **French Trading Outpost** at **Chandernagore** in 1757, Mir Jafar surreptitiously signed a treaty with the **Dutch East India Company** at **Chinsurah** through his agent Khoja Wajid. **Dutch** ships started moving on the River Hooghly. This eventually led to the Battle of Chinsurah on November 25, 1759. At Chinsurah, the **Dutch** ships were destroyed and **Mir Jafar** was defeated. EIC appointed *Mir Qasim*, **Jafar's** son-in-law, as the Deputy to **Mir Jafar**. However, the clumsy arrangement did not work out. In October 1760, the British EIC forced **Mir Jafar** to abdicate in favor of *Qasim*. In 1763, EIC overthrew *Qasim* as well due to disputes over trade policies. **Jafar** was restored back as the Nawab. **Jafar** ruled until his death on 5 February 1765.

Mir Qasim, however, refused to accept **Mir Jafar** as the Nawab of Bengal and went to war against the company. *Qasim* shifted his capital from Murshidabad to Munger in present-day Bihar where he raised an army, financing his new troops by streamlining tax collection. When EIC tried to obtain Mughal license (*a dastak*), to save 40% of their revenue as tax, *Qasim* opposed it. *Mir Qasim* invaded the EIC offices in Patna in 1763, killing several Europeans including the Resident. *Mir Qasim* allied with **Shuja-ud-Daula**, the Nawab of **Avadh** and **Shah Alam II**, the incumbent **Mughal Emperor**, against the British. However, their combined forces were defeated in the Battle of Buxar in 1764. EIC's victory at Buxar established the East India Company as a powerful force in Bengal. By 1793 EIC abolished the **Nizamat** (*the Mughal suzerainty*) and became full rulers of the former Mughal province.

Note: Please read "Challenges before Democracies: UK, INDIA and NIGERIA: Days of Festivals or Days for Reflection" dated June 4, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/uk-india-and-nigeria-days-of-festivals-or-days-for-reflection/>. www.DiGiNews360.com brings to its Readers from all over the world a brief BACKGROUNDER on GEO-POLITICAL EFFORTS by many RICH and POWERFUL COUNTRIES to DEFEAT NARENDRA MODI on pages 2-3.