

National Maritime Heritage Complex



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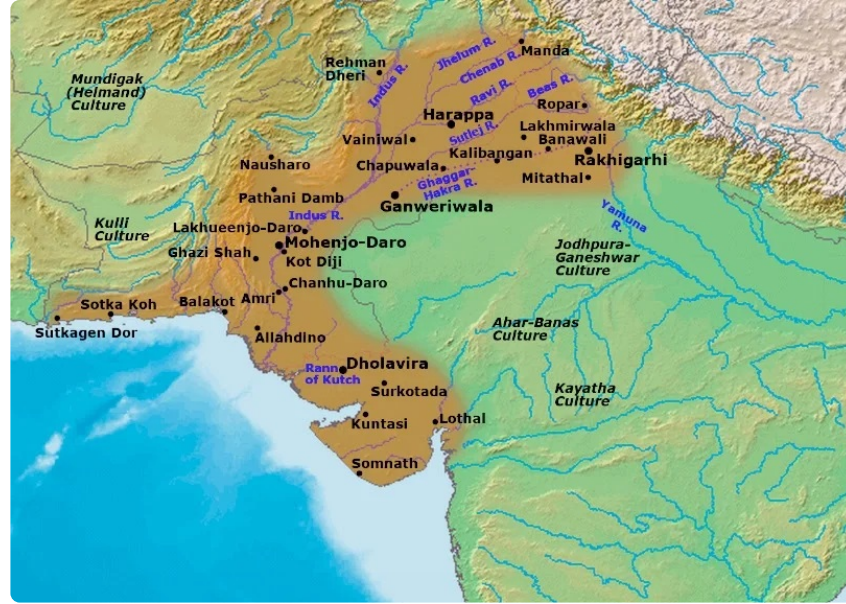
The **Chief of the Naval Staff** visited the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at **Lothal, Gujarat** .

National Maritime Heritage Complex

- **About:** It is an ambitious **cultural and tourism project** in **Lothal** , Gujarat that aims to **highlight India's rich and diverse 4,500-year-old maritime heritage** and establish the **largest maritime heritage complex in the world** .
 - Key projects include a **world-class Lighthouse Museum**, coastal state pavilions, and a maritime-themed eco-resort.
- **Development and Funding:** Under India's **Sagarmala Programme** , the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)** is developing the **NMHC** , with its **Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL)** funding the **world's tallest Lighthouse Museum** .

Lothal

- **About:** It is one of the **southernmost sites of the Harappan civilization** , located in the **Bhal region of Gujarat** , between the **Bhogavo and Sabarmati rivers** near the **Gulf of Khambhat** .
 - The name **Lothal** in Gujarati means **"mound of the dead"** , similar to **Mohenjo-daro** in Sindhi.
 - The site was **discovered in 1954** by **S.R. Rao** was nominated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **April 2014** .
- **Significance:** It is famous for having the **world's earliest known dock** , which connected the city to an ancient course of the **Sabarmati river** .
 - It was also famous for **bead workshops** , and **maritime trade links with Mesopotamia and Egypt** dating back nearly **4,000 years**.



Did you Know?

- The earliest man-made dockyard was discovered during excavations at Lothal, Gujarat in 1957.
- Corroborating archaeological evidences have proved that the Harappans had maritime trade and cultural links far and beyond the Indian coastline.
- Links as far as Mesopotamia and Egypt in the West to Japan in Far East have been found.
- In a nutshell, India has a maritime history spanning over 4500 years.

Read More: Lothal: World's Earliest Known Dock