LOTHAL: HISTORY

NEWS: Lothal to become global hub for maritime heritage with National Maritime Heritage Complex, says Shipping Minister

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is being developed at Lothal, Gujarat, as a world-class facility under the **Sagarmala Programme** to showcase India's rich maritime history and legacy.

National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

- Location:
 - Situated in Lothal, Gujarat, one of the most significant sites of the Indus Valley Civilization.
 - Known for its ancient port and dockyard.
- Objective:
 - Highlight India's maritime legacy from the Harappan era to modern times.
 - Blend education and entertainment using advanced technology and immersive experiences.
- Key Features:
- 1. Recreation of Harappan Architecture and Lifestyle:
 - Advanced immersive technology recreates the ancient Harappan civilization's urban planning and lifestyle.
- 2. World's Tallest Lighthouse Museum:
 - A landmark structure celebrating maritime navigation history.
- 3. Four Theme Parks:
 - Focus on maritime trade, shipbuilding, navigation, and underwater archaeology.
- 4. **14 Galleries**:
 - Depict maritime heritage from ancient to modern times.
- 5. **INS Nishank Display**:
 - A retired naval vessel open for public viewing.

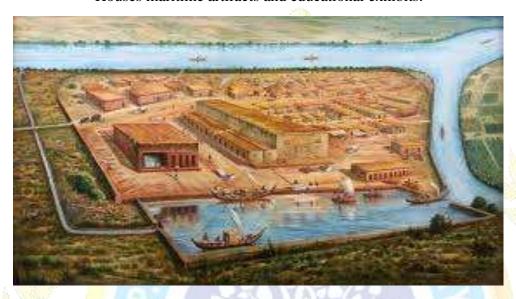


6. **Lothal Jetty Walkway**:

Designed to replicate the ancient Lothal dockyard.

7. **Museum Block**:

Houses maritime artifacts and educational exhibits.



Lothal's Historical Significance

1. Ancient Port City:

- Built around **2,200 BCE**, it was a thriving trade hub.
- Specialized in bead-making, gem trading, and exporting ornaments to West Asia and Africa.

2. Dockyard:

- Lothal's dockyard is considered the world's earliest known dock.
- Connected the city to the ancient course of the Sabarmati River.

3. Discovery and Archaeological Importance:

- Discovered after Indian independence by **SR Rao** and his team.
- The site reflects advanced urban planning with a dockyard, granaries, and beadmaking facilities.

4. Global Comparisons:

• Comparable to other ancient port towns like:



- Xel Ha (Peru)
- Ostia (Rome)
- Ur (Mesopotamia)
- Within India, parallels can be drawn to **Balakot** (**Pakistan**) and **Kuntasi** (**Gujarat**).

5. **UNESCO Recognition**:

• Nominated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2014, but the application is still pending.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lothal-to-become-global-hub-for-maritime-heritage-with-national-maritime-heritage-complex-says-shipping-minister/article69037374.ece

