



## 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 bead-making facilities.

4. **Global Comparisons:**

- Comparable to other ancient port towns like:



# PL RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

MAKING YOU SERVE THE NATION

- 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>

