National Maritime Heritage Complex

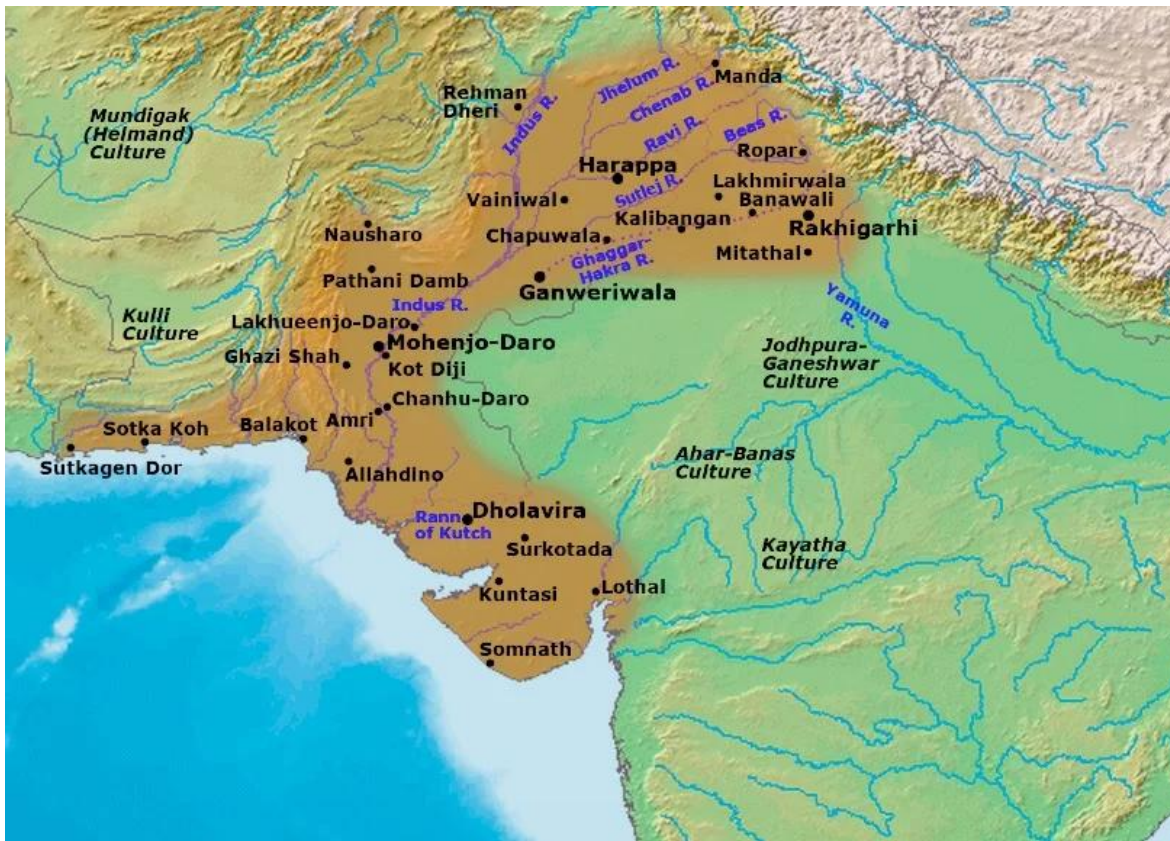The **Chief of the Naval Staff** visited the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at **Lothal, Gujarat**.

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