

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2601**  
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

**CONTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX**

2601. SHRI DIPSINH SHANKARSINH RATHOD:  
SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) contributed to preserving and showcasing India's diverse maritime traditions and cultural heritage and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the notable partnerships/collaborations the NMHC established has with international maritime institutions to promote cross-cultural exchange and knowledge sharing;
- (c) the details of significant historical discoveries or artifacts uncovered during underwater archaeological expeditions supported by the NMHC;
- (d) whether the NMHC leveraged technology and innovative exhibits to create an immersive and educational experience for visitors interested in India's maritime history; and
- (e) the future plans and expansion strategies for the National Maritime Heritage Complex to further promote maritime heritage awareness and tourism in India?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (c) In order to showcase India's rich and diverse maritime heritage, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has envisioned developing a National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal near Ahmedabad. NMHC will comprise of fourteen galleries including a naval gallery highlighting India's maritime heritage from the Harappan times to the present day. Coastal states pavilions displaying the diverse maritime heritage of India's states and union territories will also feature in the complex. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the country of Portugal for cultural collaboration on development of NMHC. Similar MoUs have also been proposed with many other countries with which India has a history of maritime contacts. Around 35% of the construction for Phase I A has been completed so far.

(d) to (e) At NMHC importance would be placed on using an educational and entertaining approach that utilises cutting-edge technology to raise awareness of India's maritime heritage. It will inspire visitors towards India's future maritime endeavours through immersive communication, revealing spaces and interactive technology. The complex is expected to boost tourism in the region and contribute to economic development.

\*\*\*\*\*