

## Archaeological Excavation in Dwaraka

**Prelims** - History of India and Current events of national importance.

**Mains (GS I)** - Indian Heritage and Culture.

### Why in news?

The Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) Underwater Archaeology Wing has launched a new research expedition examining both onshore and offshore sites at Dwarka and Beyt Dwarka in Gujarat.

- **Present study** - It is being conducted by a 9-member team of the Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) of the ASI.
- **Coverage** - It includes both onshore and offshore expedition at **Dwarka and Beyt Dwarka in Gujarat**
- It is planned to cover an expanded area in Okhamandal city in Gujarat.
- **Focus areas**
  - Archaeological explorations
  - Identification of potential sites and places
  - Scientific study involving diving operations
  - Search and collection of archaeological remains, their proper documentation and study

Previous Studies of Dwaraka	Research & its Findings
<b>2025 Investigation at South of Gomati Creek (eastern side of Dwarka)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aims</b> - Inspecting earlier explored areas and examine their present condition.</li> <li>• To identify probable areas for further investigations and study.</li> </ul>
<b>2005-07 Investigation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It included both offshore and onshore exploration.</li> <li>• <b>Findings</b> - It revealed <u>clusters of submerged remains</u>.</li> <li>• It includes ancient <u>sculptures, stone anchors</u>, and other objects of historical importance.</li> </ul>
<b>2007 Excavation near Dwarkadhish Temple</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Findings</b> - A deposit of about 10 metres having 26 layers was excavated.</li> <li>• Antiquities recovered includes <u>iron objects, beads, copper objects, rings</u>, etc.</li> <li>• Besides, <u>potteries</u> recovered during the excavation were also examined and studied thoroughly.</li> </ul>

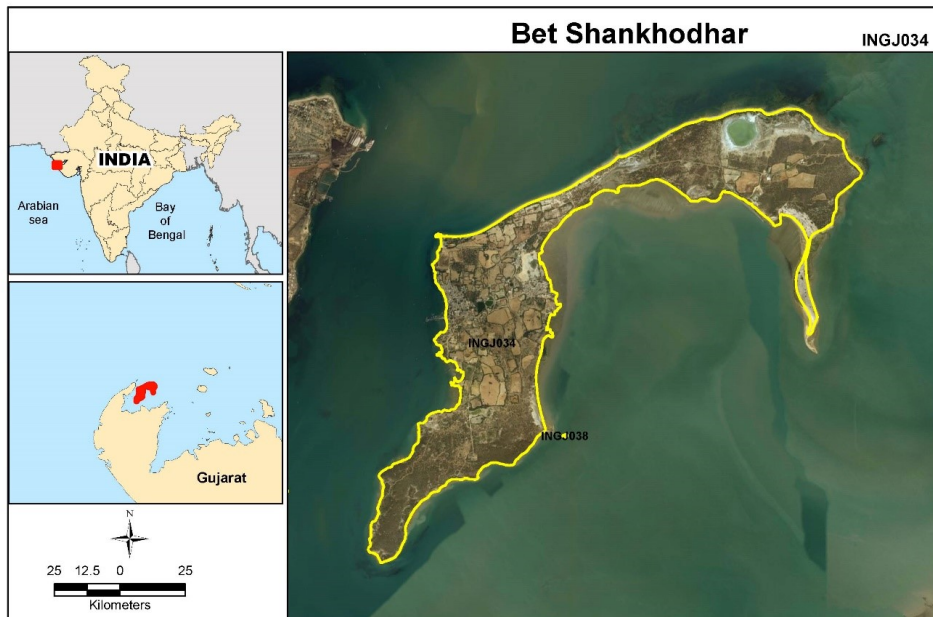
### Quick Facts

- **Dwaraka** - It is located on the western tip of the Kathiawar Peninsula and is one of the

4 Char Dhams, India's holiest sites.

**Char Dhams** are considered the most important Hindu pilgrimage sites in India they are Rameswaram, Puri, Dwarka, and Badrinath.

- **Beyt Dwarka** - It is an *island off Gujarat's coast*, believed to be Lord Krishna's ancient home.
- It is also known as Bet Shankhodhar due to its resemblance of Shankh shape.



- **Dwarkadhish temple (Jagat Mandir)**- It is located in Dwarka and is believed to have been established over 2500 years ago by Lord Krishna's great-grandson, Vajranabh.
- It is situated at the *junction of the Gomti River and the Arabian Sea*.
- It was honored by Adi Shankaracharya, the 8<sup>th</sup> century Hindu theologian and philosopher.
- The original structure was destroyed by Mahmud Begada in 1472 and rebuilt in the 15th-16th century.

*In 2024 Prime Minister inaugurated Sudarshan Setu bridge which is the country's longest cable-stayed bridge of 2.32 km, on the Arabian sea connecting Beyt Dwarka island to mainland Okha in Dwarka district.*

## Reference

[The Hindu| Dwarka Underwater Expeditions](#)



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