# 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 |
|---|---|
| **2025 Investigation at South of Gomati Creek (eastern side of Dwarka)** | • **Aims** - Inspecting earlier explored areas and examine their present condition.<br>• To identify probable areas for further investigations and study. |
| **2005-07 Investigation** | • It included both offshore and onshore exploration.<br>• **Findings** – It revealed *clusters of submerged remains*.<br>• It includes ancient *sculptures, stone anchors*, and other objects of historical importance. |
| **2007 Excavation near Dwarkadhish Temple** | • **Findings** – A deposit of about 10 metres having 26 layers was excavated.<br>• Antiquities recovered includes iron objects, beads, copper objects, rings, etc.<br>• Besides, *potteries* recovered during the excavation were also examined and studied thoroughly. |

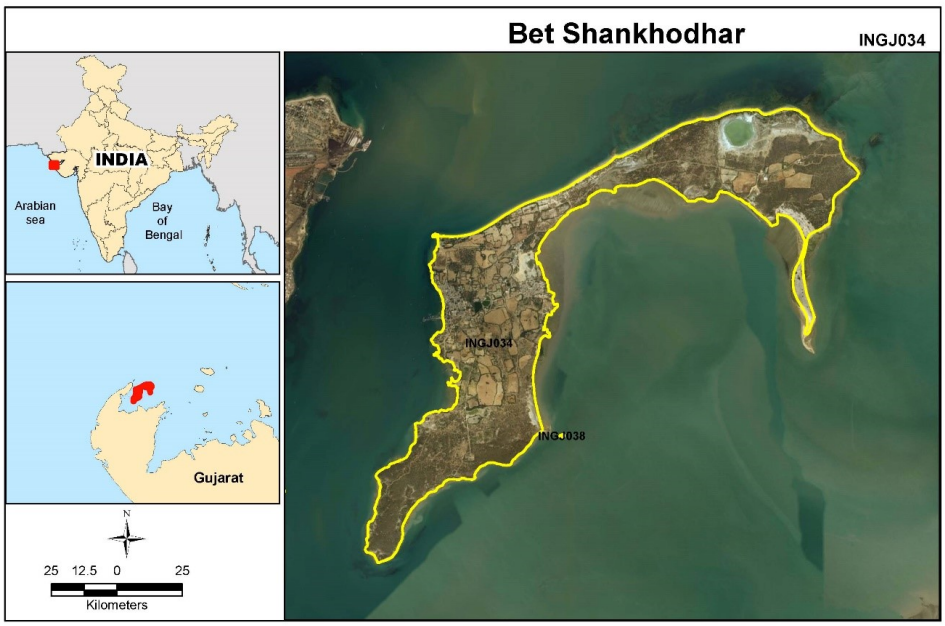
## Quick Facts

- **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$^{th}$ 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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