

DHOLAVIRA IN GUJARAT ON UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

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Building blocks: An aerial view of the Dholavira archaeological site in Kutch district. PTI/twitter-

The Harappan city of Dholavira, in present-day Gujarat, was on Tuesday named the 40th Indian site on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

UNESCO's announcement came just days after another site, Ramappa Temple in Telangana, was admitted to the list on Sunday.

"The ancient city of Dholavira is one of the most remarkable and well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE (Before Common Era). Discovered in 1968, the site is set apart by its unique characteristics, such as its water management system, multi-layered defensive mechanisms, extensive use of stone in construction and special burial structures," UNESCO said.

A range of artefacts of copper, shell, stone, jewellery, terracotta and ivory had been found at the site. "The two newly inscribed World Heritage Sites offer great insight into the knowledge and ways of life of earlier societies, customs, and communities," UNESCO said.

Located in the Kutch district, Dholavira is the larger of the two most remarkable excavations of the Indus Valley Civilisation dating back to about 4,500 years ago. The site had been on UNESCO's tentative list since 2014 and India had submitted its dossier in January 2020, a Culture Ministry statement said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a series of tweets that he was delighted by the development.

"Dholavira was an important urban centre and is one of our most important linkages with our past. It is a must visit, especially for those interested in history, culture and archaeology. I first visited Dholavira during my student days and was mesmerised by the place," Mr. Modi said.

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