

Industrial Heritage Sites on the Coasts of Kutch, Gujarat

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The Gulf of Kutch is dotted with many sites that speak of the rich maritime trade history of the country and the region, spanning from the Harappan period to the current times. These sites range from the mediaeval period markers of trade and fishing industries at Jakhau and Bhadreshwar; four-hundred-year-old ship building yard in Mandvi, Lakhpat Fort that lost its relationship to the sea trade after the early 19th century earthquake, to the recent ports of Mundra and Kandla. This presentation is based on the author's journey through these coastal towns where evidence of industries from a rich past are still visible. These sites are taken as points in history to build a narrative on the industrial heritage of Kutch, Gujarat. A heritage that became a part of well-developed institutions of commerce and banking, knowledge of seas and blended cultural practices.