

## Lighthouse Tourism

### Why in News?

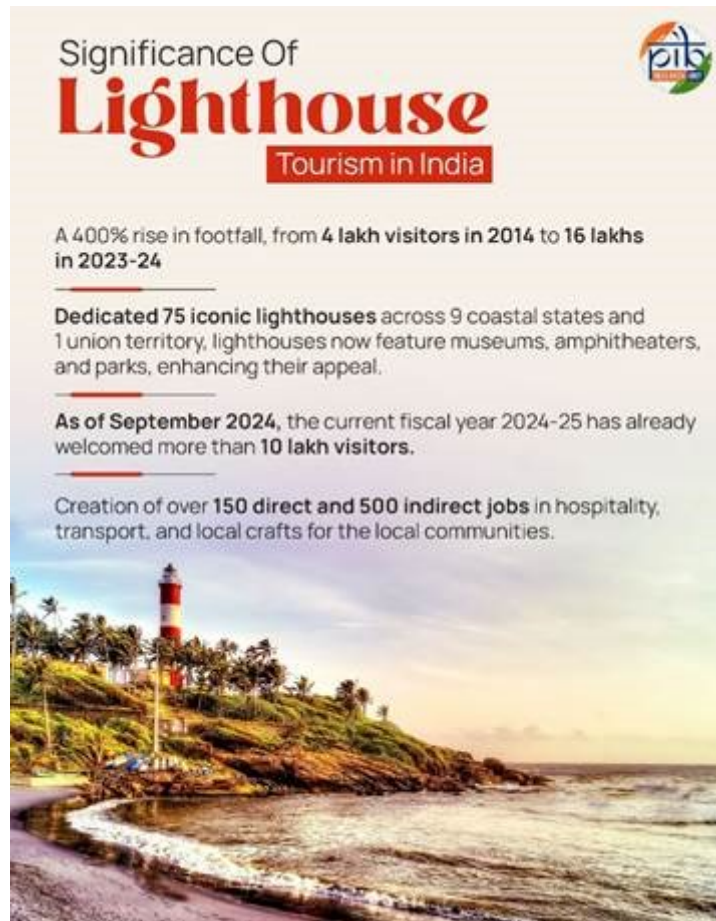
GOI is fostering lighthouse tourism as part of its Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 and Amrit Kaal vision 2047.

### What is light house tourism?

- **Lighthouse tourism** - It involves transforming lighthouses and their surrounding areas into vibrant tourist attractions.
- **Light houses** - These structures, often located in scenic coastal or island settings, offer visitors a unique combination of natural beauty, maritime history, and recreational opportunities.
- Lighthouse tourism exemplifies the harmonious blend of heritage conservation and modern tourism development.
- **Aim** - To preserve the historical and architectural significance of lighthouses and unlock their potential for economic growth and community empowerment.
- **Benefit** - By developing these sites, the government seeks to enhance India's tourism offerings while creating employment opportunities and fostering local economic growth.
- **Lighthouse tourism potential of India :**
- **Geographical extension** - India has an extensive coastline of over 7,500 km and is home to 204 lighthouses that preserve its maritime legacy.
- **Cultural importance** - Some lighthouses date back centuries and are near UNESCO World Heritage Sites like Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu or other prominent cultural landmarks.

*Lighthouse at Mahabalipuram was built around 640 CE by the Pallava king Mahendravarman I.*

- **Adventure and leisure** - These sites can host activities such as trekking, boating, and water sports, appealing to adventure seekers.
- **Economic impact** - Developing lighthouse tourism can generate hospitality, transportation, and handicraft employment while boosting local economies.
- Recognising this potential, the government has identified lighthouse tourism as a priority area for development.



## What are the steps taken to boost lighthouse tourism?

- **Present status** - In February 2024, PM Narendra Modi dedicated 75 Lighthouses with tourist facilities in 10 states & UTs.
- **Promotion** - The Central Government is actively promoting lighthouse tourism as a part of its broader [Maritime India Vision](#) (MIV) 2030 and Amrit Kaal vision 2047.

MIV 2030 aims to position India as a leader in the Global Maritime Sector and includes more than 150 initiatives within 10 themes to address national maritime goals.

- **Indian Lighthouse Festival Series** - It has been held annually since then, serving as a key platform to celebrate and promote lighthouse tourism.

The 2nd Indian Lighthouse Festival was held in Odisha in 2024.

- **Stakeholders Meet** - Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways chaired a Stakeholders Meeting to boost Lighthouse Tourism in Kerala in July 2024.
- **Sagarmala programme** - It focuses on fostering partnerships with private stakeholders and integrated development to drive India's maritime and economic progress.
- **Standardization** - Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) actively

collaborates with private players to ensure these projects meet international standards.

- **National framework** - The government plans to establish a national framework to empower the coastal communities and ensure sustainable development around lighthouses.
- **Integration with Coastal Circuits** - Lighthouses are incorporated into broader coastal tourism itineraries to enhance their appeal.
- **Awareness Campaigns** - Digital initiatives are being launched to showcase lighthouse destinations to domestic and international audiences.
- **Skill Development** - Training programs are being introduced to equip local communities with skills required for employment in hospitality and tourism-related sectors.

*Over 9 lakh tourists visited lighthouses in the first half of the current fiscal.*

### **What lies ahead?**

- Emphasis on eco-friendly practices to protect fragile coastal ecosystems while promoting responsible tourism.
- Increase the accessibility to light houses through better transport connectivity.
- Increase the safety features in and around light houses to ensure safe light house tourism.

### **Reference**

[PIB | Light House Tourism in India](#)

