



## LIGHT HOUSE TOURISM: ART&CULTURE

**NEWS:** *A Beacon of Maritime Heritage and Economic Growth*

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The Indian government is promoting lighthouse tourism by transforming lighthouses into tourist destinations, aiming to preserve maritime heritage and boost local economies. Despite challenges, the initiative has led to significant growth in visitor numbers and job creation.

### Lighthouse Tourism in India

#### Introduction

India, with its vast coastline of over 7,500 kilometers, is home to 204 lighthouses, which have long served as navigational aids for seafarers. In recent years, these lighthouses have been reimagined as potential tourism destinations, aligning with the government's vision to boost economic growth and preserve cultural heritage.

#### What is Lighthouse Tourism?

Lighthouse tourism involves transforming lighthouses and their surrounding areas into popular tourist attractions. These structures, often located in scenic coastal or island regions, offer unique combinations of maritime history, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities. The initiative aims to enhance India's tourism offerings, generate employment, and foster local economic development.

#### The Potential of Lighthouse Tourism in India

Lighthouses in India have great potential as tourist destinations due to:

- **Strategic Locations:** Many lighthouses are situated in breathtaking coastal locations or on remote islands, providing spectacular sea views.
- **Cultural and Historical Importance:** Some of the lighthouses are located near UNESCO World Heritage Sites and are centuries old, making them significant for cultural tourism.
- **Adventure and Leisure:** Lighthouses provide opportunities for various recreational activities like trekking, boating, and water sports, attracting adventure tourists.
- **Economic Impact:** Developing lighthouse tourism can boost local economies through hospitality, transportation, and handicrafts, creating new jobs and income sources.

#### Government Initiatives and Achievements

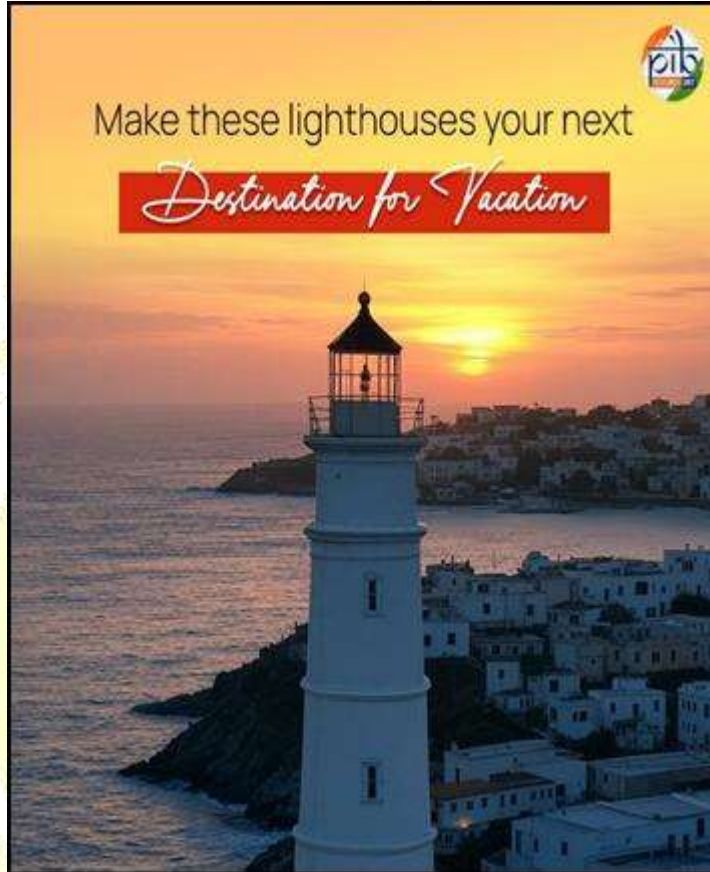
The Government of India has made significant strides in promoting lighthouse tourism, particularly through the following:

1. **Investment and Development:** In February 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated 75 lighthouses with enhanced tourist facilities across 10 states and Union Territories. An investment of ₹60 crore has been allocated to modernize these sites, with amenities like museums, amphitheaters, and children's parks.
2. **Visitor Growth:** The revitalized lighthouses have witnessed a significant rise in footfall, attracting over 16 lakh visitors in 2023-24, a more than 400% increase from 2014. The



number of visitors continued to rise in 2024, indicating the growing popularity of lighthouse tourism.

3. **Job Creation:** The developments have generated direct and indirect employment opportunities, benefiting local communities through hospitality, transportation, and tourism-related services.



## Key Government Actions to Boost Lighthouse Tourism

1. **Indian Lighthouse Festival Series:** The government launched the "Bharatiya Prakash Stambh Utsav" (Indian Lighthouse Festival) in September 2023 to promote lighthouse tourism. This annual event aims to celebrate the country's maritime heritage and encourage tourism.
2. **Stakeholders Meetings:** In 2024, meetings were held in states like Kerala to strategize on promoting lighthouse tourism and empower coastal communities.

## The Way Forward

To unlock the full potential of lighthouse tourism, the government has outlined key strategies:

- **Sustainable Development:** Focus on eco-friendly practices to preserve fragile coastal ecosystems while promoting responsible tourism.



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- **Integration with Coastal Circuits:** Lighthouses will be included in broader coastal tourism itineraries to enhance their appeal.
- **Skill Development:** Training programs will be implemented to equip local communities with skills required for tourism-related employment.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Digital platforms and campaigns will be used to raise awareness about lighthouse destinations both domestically and internationally.

## Conclusion

Lighthouse tourism offers a unique opportunity to preserve India's maritime heritage while boosting local economies through tourism. The government's focus on infrastructure development, job creation, and sustainable tourism practices is set to transform lighthouses into thriving tourist destinations. With continued efforts, lighthouse tourism can play a key role in promoting India's coastal regions and contributing to the country's tourism growth.

## Source:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2088359#:~:text=In%20the%20fiscal%20year%202023,more%20than%2010%20lakh%20visitors.>

