



Potential of Lighthouses for Tourism: Sagarmala

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Why in News

The **Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** seeks to **develop 65 lighthouses** on public-private-partnership mode. **Odisha's five lighthouses** present huge potential for tourism.

The Ministry wants to develop lighthouses as hubs of tourism under the **Sagarmala project**.

Key Points

- **Five lighthouses of Odisha:**
 - **'False Point' island lighthouse:** It is situated off the Kendrapara coast. It is the British era lighthouse and its location close to massive **mangrove vegetation** infested with **crocodiles** makes it an adventurous tourist place on the eastern coast.
 - **Paradip lighthouse:** It also holds tourism potential because of its proximity to the port town and Cuttack and Bhubaneswar cities (100 km). It was commissioned in the 1980s.
 - **Gopalpur lighthouse:** It is located in Ganjam district. If it is developed as a place of tourist interest, the **Chilika Lake and the Gopalpur beach** will be added attractions.
 - **Chandrabhaga lighthouse:** It is 10 km from the world famous **Konark temple**. It had withstood the severity of cyclones such as the Super Cyclone (1999), Phailin (2013) and **Fani** (2019).
 - **Puri lighthouse:** It is 4 km from the 12th century **Shree Jagannath Temple**, which is also a tourist place.

- **Lighthouse Tourism in India:**

- **Number of Lighthouses:** India has as many as 189 lighthouses dotting its vast coastline including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea.
- **Objectives for Promoting Lighthouse based Tourism:**
 - To **enhance & develop the existing lighthouses & its surrounding areas** into a Tourism Destination, Maritime Landmark, and Heritage Precinct.
 - To **develop allied Maritime Infrastructure** like National Maritime Museums & National Lighthouse Museums.
 - To explore the possibilities of developing these projects under various modes including the possibilities of **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** by integrating commercially viable interventions at the feasible locations in order to make the project viable.
- **Advantages:**

The advantages behind creation of lighthouses into a tourism product are that it shall **help in attracting tourists** from across the world & locally and thereby create a source of revenue for the government, **employment opportunities for local people, increase in commerce** through purchase and sale of goods and services, etc.

Sagarmala Project

About:

- The Sagarmala Programme was **approved by the Union Cabinet in 2015** which aims at holistic port infrastructure development along the 7,516-km long coastline through modernisation, mechanisation and computerisation.
- The vision of the Sagarmala Programme is to **reduce logistics cost for EXIM** (Export-Import) and **domestic trade** with minimal infrastructure investment.
- Sagarmala **could boost India's merchandise exports** to USD 110 billion by 2025 and create an estimated 10 million new jobs (four million in direct employment).



Components of the Sagarmala Programme:

- **Port Modernization & New Port Development:** De-bottlenecking and capacity expansion of existing ports and development of new Greenfield ports.
- **Port Connectivity Enhancement:** Enhancing the connectivity of the ports to the hinterland, optimizing cost and time of cargo movement through multi-modal logistics solutions including domestic waterways (inland water transport and coastal shipping).
- **Port-linked Industrialization:** Developing port-proximate industrial clusters and Coastal Economic Zones to reduce logistics cost and time of EXIM and domestic cargo.
- **Coastal Community Development:** Promoting sustainable development of coastal communities through skill development & livelihood generation activities, fisheries development, coastal tourism etc.
- **Coastal Shipping & Inland Waterways Transport:** Impetus to move cargo through the sustainable and environment-friendly coastal and inland waterways mode.

Public-Private Partnerships

- Public-private partnerships involve **collaboration between a government agency and a private-sector company** that can be used to finance, build, and operate projects, such as public transportation networks, parks, and convention centers.
- Financing a project through a public-private partnership can **allow a project to be completed sooner or make it a possibility in the first place.**
- Public-private partnerships **often involve concessions of tax** or other operating revenue, protection from liability, or partial ownership rights over nominally public services and property **to private sector**, for-profit entities.
- It can create **complex principal-agent problems**, such as corrupt dealings, pay-offs to political cronies, etc.
- **Commonly adopted model of PPPs** include Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) ,Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Build-Operate-Lease-Transfer (BOLT), Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT), Lease-Develop-Operate (LDO), Operate-Maintain-Transfer (OMT), etc.

Source: TH