



GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT



SUSTAINABILITY

First Exhibition from Coal Ministry Driving Way for Innovation and Sustainability in India's Energy Production

On October 17, 2024, the **Coal Ministry, Government of India** launched its first exhibition, **"Black Diamond: Unveiling the Depths"**, at the National Science Centre, New Delhi. This landmark exhibition is part of the ministry's initiatives to promote innovation and sustainability in coal and energy production, featuring an engaging, hands-on approach to educate the public about the coal industry.



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2065864®=3&lang=1>

Developed in partnership with Coal India Limited and the National Science Centre, the exhibition demonstrates the government's commitment to addressing environmental concerns while showcasing coal's continued relevance in India's energy landscape.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

An interactive virtual coal mining experience, allowing visitors to explore coal extraction and safety practices through simulation.

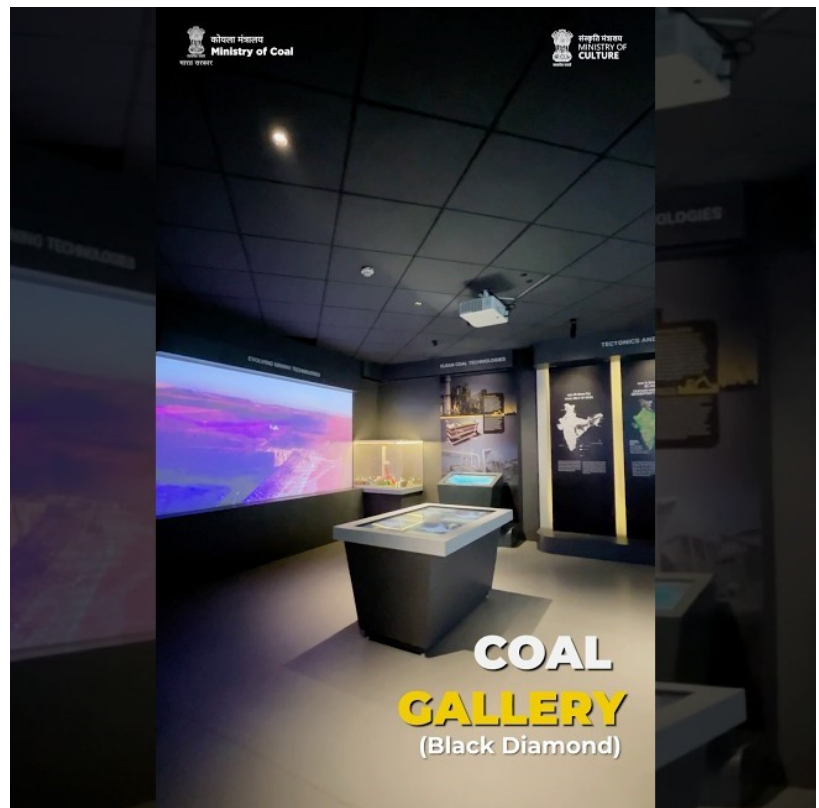
A dragline simulator lets participants experience the challenges of operating heavy mining machinery, offering hands-on insight into the complexities of coal mining.

The Kayakalp initiative focuses on transforming abandoned mining sites.

Exhibits on coal gasification and carbon capture technology.

Showcasing of the bravery involved in miner rescue operations through selection on the Ranigunj Mining Rescue Capsule.

The exhibition's theme centres on transitioning to a cleaner, more sustainable coal industry. Among the highlights is an interactive virtual coal mining experience, where visitors can descend into a simulated mine. This setup allows them to grasp the intricacies of mining operations while understanding the safety measures and technological advancements that have modernized coal extraction. They are introduced to machinery and tools used in actual mining, including a dragline simulator by which the challenges of operating large mining equipment safely and efficiently can be experienced.



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/KUbVB-kksN8?app=desktop>

A significant part of the exhibition is dedicated to **Kayakalp (meaning rejuvenation), a Coal India Limited initiative focussed on reclaiming abandoned mining sites by converting them into eco-parks and other green spaces.** This segment emphasizes India's steps toward balancing industrial activity with environmental stewardship, aiming to reshape mining's legacy from environmental harm to restoration and sustainability.



Source: <https://www.epcworld.in/p/post/coal-ministry-set-up-eight-eco-parks-to-promote-mine-tourism>

Furthermore, exhibits on coal gasification and carbon capture illustrate the ministry's focus on reducing emissions from coal-based energy production. **Coal gasification technology aligns with India's commitment to a Green Hydrogen economy and its ambitious 2070 Net-Zero emissions target.** Integrating Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies represents another strategy for making traditional energy sources more compatible with environmental goals.



Source: <https://www.thequint.com/explainers/real-story-of-jaswant-singh-gill-who-inspired-akshay-kumar-mission-raniganj>

Educational sections also emphasize safety, with features like the **Raniganj Mining Rescue Operation Capsule display**, which tells the story of miners' bravery and technological advances that have improved safety protocols over time. Through this exhibit, the Coal Ministry aims to bridge the gap between traditional energy production and contemporary sustainability goals, underscoring coal's evolving role in India's diversified energy portfolio.

CARBON EMISSION

India Presents Strategic Course to Decarbonize its Maritime Sector to Achieve Net Zero Emission by 2070

As part of its commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, India has undertaken an ambitious decarbonization roadmap for its maritime sector, emphasizing sustainability in shipping and port operations. Recognizing that **maritime activities are significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions**, the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW)** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** conducted the **Conference on Maritime Decarbonization** in New Delhi on 3 October 2024.



Source: <https://indiaseatradenews.com/india-charts-course-towards-maritime-decarbonization-at-high-level-conference/>

Various initiatives aligned with global climate goals to drastically reduce emissions over the coming decades were introduced. **India's strategy focuses on developing green ports and cleaner shipping practices.** MoPSW's **Green Ports Initiative**, for example, involves transitioning to **renewable energy sources, electrifying port equipment, and installing energy-efficient infrastructure.**



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2061576#:~:text=The%20conference%20underscored%20India's%20commitment,the%20Maritime%20India%20Vision%202030.>

The ministry aims to replace conventional fossil fuel-driven port equipment with electric and hydrogen-powered alternatives, reducing dependency on diesel and other carbon-heavy fuels. Major ports, including those in Chennai, Mumbai, and Paradeep, are slated to become fully carbon-neutral by 2030.

MAJOR STEPS TAKEN TO ACHIEVE DECARBONIZATION

Prioritizing Sustainable Shipping and Port Operations

Green Port Initiative to Achieve Carbon-neutral Status

Global Collaborations

Alternative Fuel Shift

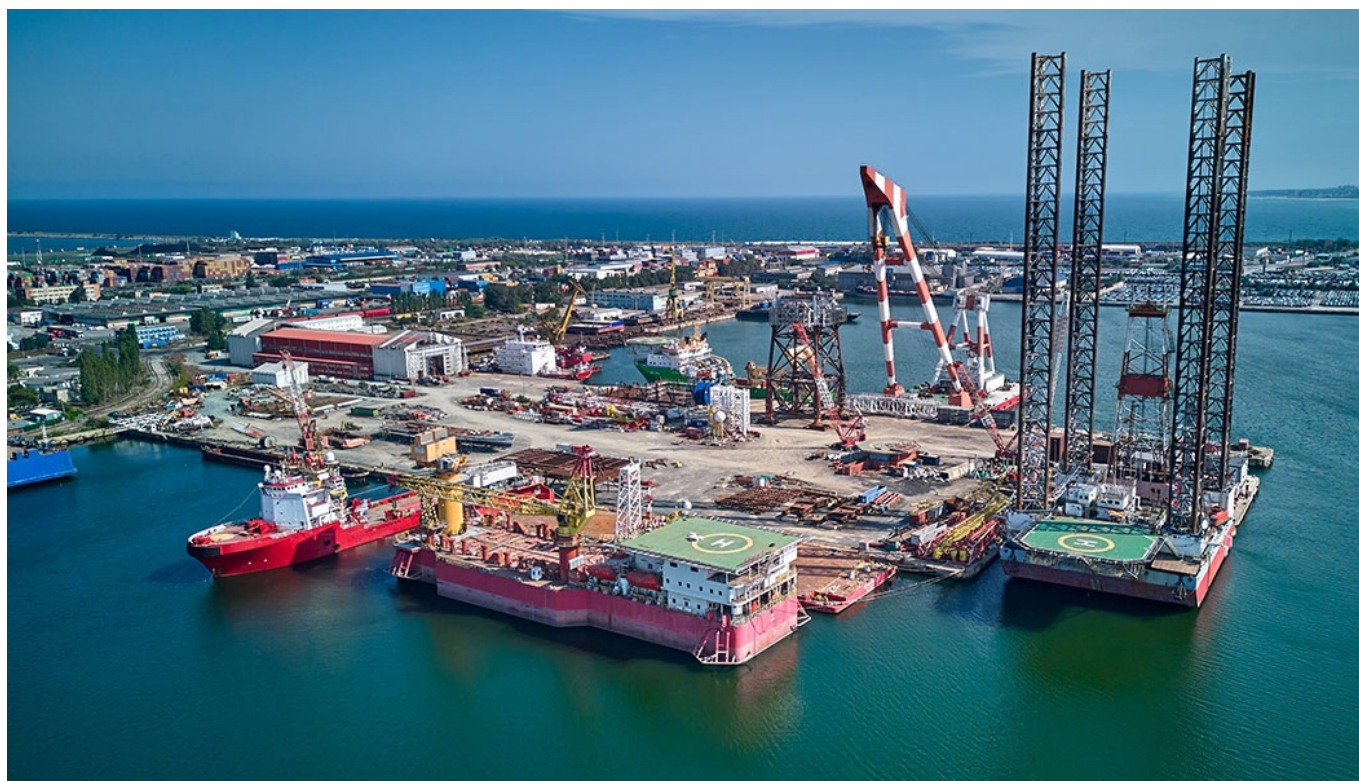
Development of Sustainable 'Maritime Clusters'

Additionally, India is collaborating with international bodies like the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to ensure compliance with emissions regulations and to adopt best practices from across the globe. Indian ports are implementing measures to reduce vessel turnaround time and improve logistics efficiency, significantly reducing emissions by reducing idling times for ships and vehicles within port premises.



Source: https://paradiport.gov.in/News_details.aspx

The development of cleaner fuels is also crucial in India's decarbonization journey. Efforts are underway to transition towards alternative fuels like LNG, biofuels, and green hydrogen. **India's commitment to building "Maritime Clusters" in select coastal areas fosters sustainable shipbuilding and manufacturing ecosystems.** These clusters are designed to create low-carbon maritime equipment and vessels while boosting local economies and generating green jobs.



Source: https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/centre-moots-mega-shipbuilding-park-in-india-with-coastal-states-124091301393_1.html

With these initiatives, India is on track to modernize its maritime sector sustainably, contributing to global climate action. By 2070, India's maritime sector could serve as a model for decarbonization, aligning economic growth with environmental responsibility. India aims to create a resilient, low-emission maritime industry through strategic planning, international cooperation, and green technology adoption.

HOW AG GROUP CAN HELP YOU

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AGRICULTURE

National Mission on Edible Oils- Oilseeds Received Cabinet Approval to Limit Import Dependency

The Government of India recently approved the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds), an initiative aimed at reducing India's dependency on edible oil imports and enhancing domestic production.



Source: <https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/cabinet-endorses-national-mission-to-enhance-oilseed-production/>

This mission focuses on expanding the cultivation of oilseeds, specifically palm oil, through research and sustainable practices to make India self-sufficient in edible oil.

The NMEO-Oilseeds targets a boost in oilseed productivity through financial support, modern infrastructure, and state-of-the-art technology for farmers. This mission will work towards improving yields, supporting genetic research for climate-resilient crops, and introducing incentives for private-sector investments.



CABINET DECISION 03-10-2024

NATIONAL MISSION ON EDIBLE OILS – OILSEEDS (NMEO-OILSEEDS)

- Mission will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31
- Total financial outlay of ₹ 10,103 crore
- It aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31
- It will introduce **SATHI Portal** enabling States to coordinate with stakeholders for timely availability of quality seeds
- It seeks to expand oilseed cultivation by an additional 40 lakh hectares



EXPECTED OUTCOME OF NMEO-OILSEEDS MISSION

Self-sufficiency in Edible Oils and Palm Oil Production

Targeted Financial Support throughout Production Cycle

Emphasis on Northeast and Andman & Nicobar Islands to Leverage Region's Suitable Climate for Palm Oil Production

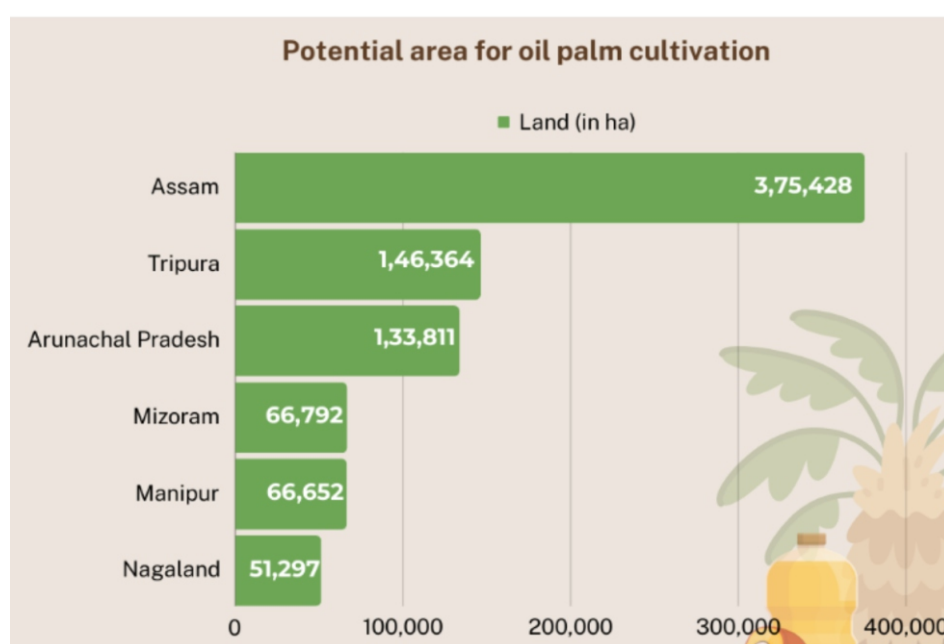
Promotion of Sustainable and Climate-resilient Practices

Support Genetic Research

Improvement in Farmer's Economic and Social Status

Increasing General Local Employment Opportunities

Financially, the government has committed substantial funding to cover cultivation, harvesting, and post-harvest activities. Additionally, special emphasis is being placed on the Northeast region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to their conducive climate for palm oil production, a key component of the mission.



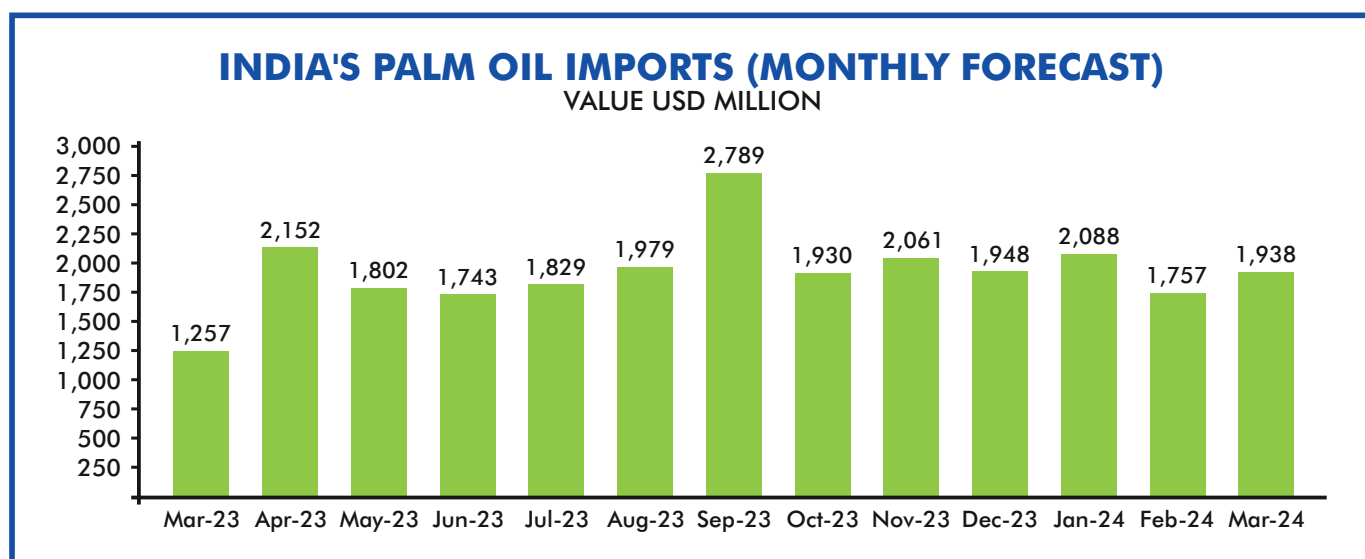
Source: <https://www.shankariasparliament.com/current-affairs/oil-palm-cultivation-in-north-east-india>

With this initiative, India aims to reduce the growing edible oil import bill, which currently accounts for a significant portion of the country's agricultural imports. **Approximately 60% of edible oil in India is imported, with the major sources being Indonesia and Malaysia.**

By supporting farmers and promoting domestic oilseed production, **NMEO-Oilseeds** envisions increasing India's output of edible oils while ensuring fair remuneration to cultivators. One of the mission's pillars is sustainable and climate-conscious agricultural practices, aligning with the broader environmental goals India has set for itself, including reduced carbon emissions and sustainable agriculture practices.



Source: <https://upsccolorfullnotes.com/palm-oil/>



Source: <https://www.exportgenius.in/blog/india-palm-oil-imports-in-february-2023-drops-due-to-weak-demand-693.php>

The mission also aligns with the government's broader goals towards Viksit Bharat, as it seeks to modernize agricultural infrastructure in rural areas, boosting local employment and sustainable growth in oilseed-producing regions. **Experts have noted that while NMEO-Oilseeds represents a significant policy push, its success hinges on effective implementation, investment in high-quality seeds, and farmer training.** Drawing from international examples, like Indonesia's palm oil self-sufficiency drive, India is on the way to developing a more sustainable model. With timely execution and cross-sectoral collaboration, the mission has the potential to make India self-reliant in edible oil production while strengthening rural economies.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The National Electricity Plan (Transmission) has been Launched to Utilize India's Increased Renewable Energy Capacity

India recently launched its National Electricity Plan (Transmission), significantly focussing on harnessing the nation's growing renewable energy capacity. The plan is designed to bolster the national grid, facilitating the integration and distribution of renewable power sources to achieve India's ambitious climate and energy targets.



Source: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/cea-power-distribution-renewable-energy-transmission-manohar-lal-power-ministry-11728888777389.html>

The Plan (NEP) aims to address the transmission infrastructure gaps by laying out a blueprint to support renewable energy projects across the country. According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), which drafted the plan, a primary goal is to integrate the anticipated 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030 and over 600 GW by 2032.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PLAN

Targeted Renewable Capacity

Aim is to integrate 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030 and over 600 GW by 2032.

Inter-State Transmission Infrastructure

Emphasis on creating robust inter-state transmission systems.

High-Capacity Corridors and Green Energy Zone

Development of dedicated corridors and zones to streamline the flow of solar and wind energy, reducing transmission losses and improving cost efficiency.

Private and International Investment

Strategic partnerships with private and international investors to finance the extensive infrastructure upgrades.

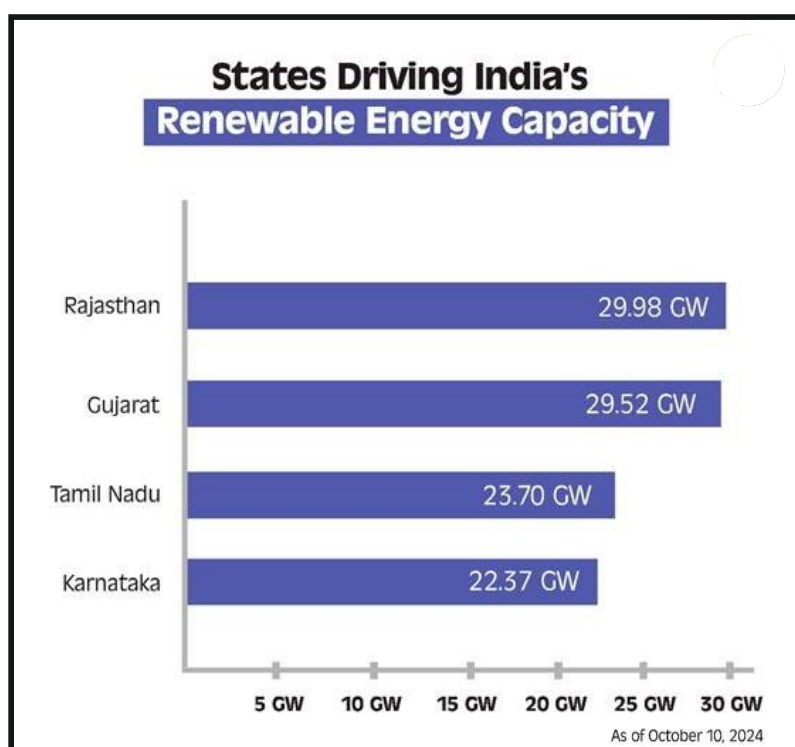
Smart Grid and Storage Technologies

Adoption of new technologies to ensure grid stability and reliability to address challenges posed by variable renewable energy sources.

This target aligns with India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, as pledged in the Paris Agreement and reaffirmed at COP26 held in the United Kingdom in 2021. Further, it aims to position India as a global leader in clean energy by 2047.



One of the notable aspects of this plan is the emphasis on creating robust inter-state transmission systems to ensure efficient power transfer from renewable energy-rich states to demand centres across the nation. **The plan outlines the need for high-capacity corridors and green energy zones that will streamline the flow of solar and wind energy, primarily generated in states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.** This infrastructure will be crucial in minimizing power losses during transmission, thereby improving efficiency and reducing costs.



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelD=153279&ModuleId=3®=3&lang=1>

The government has also emphasized strategic collaboration with private and international investors to attract financing for this massive infrastructure overhaul. **The Ministry of Power and the CEA are also considering new technological solutions, including grid storage and smart grid technologies, to enhance the grid's stability and reliability amid fluctuating renewable energy inputs.**

SMART GRID TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE FUTURE



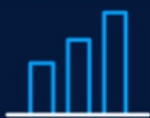
Energy Management
Systems



Advanced Metering
Infrastructure



IoT Projects



Demand
Response



Electric
Vehicles



Big Data

Source: <https://www.valuer.ai/blog/innovative-smart-grid-technologies-for-the-future>

This comprehensive approach underscores India's strategic commitment to a clean energy future. By strengthening the transmission network to accommodate renewables, the NEP (Transmission) marks a pivotal move toward energy sustainability, setting India on a path to becoming a global leader in renewable energy adoption.

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TOURISM

2nd National Lighthouse Festival Started with Highlighting opportunities present in Heritage and Preservation

The 2nd National Lighthouse Festival, inaugurated on October 19-20, 2024, in Odisha, was organized by the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) under India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

The festival brought together experts, historians, and cultural enthusiasts to celebrate India's rich maritime heritage and spotlight the preservation of its iconic lighthouses. It represents a broader vision to safeguard and leverage these historic structures, bridging the gap between heritage and sustainable tourism.



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2066322>

INITIATIVES TAKEN UNDER THE 2ND NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL

- ***Celebrating Maritime Heritage***
- ***Promotion of Heritage Tourism***
- ***Developing Coastal Heritage***
- ***Focus on Restoration and Adaptive Reuse***
- ***Engaging Local Communities***

The festival, held at several historical sites, including iconic coastal lighthouses, seeks to raise awareness of the cultural and architectural value of these structures. Lighthouses, once pivotal in guiding seafarers and ensuring maritime safety, now stand as a legacy of architectural beauty, maritime history, and colonial-era engineering. By preserving these structures, India aims to transform them into tourist destinations, generating employment and reviving local economies while maintaining their historical essence.

At the festival, experts shared ideas on the potential of lighthouses in cultural tourism. With the government's commitment to the development of coastal tourism, the festival reflects a growing recognition of lighthouses as symbols of India's maritime history. **Some of these coastal lighthouses include Mahabalipuram Lighthouse (Tamil Nadu), Alappuzha Lighthouse (Kerala), Minicoy Lighthouse (Lakshadweep), False Point Lighthouse (Odisha), Sunk Rock Lighthouse (Mumbai), and Rameswaram Lighthouse (Tamil Nadu).**



Source: <https://orissadiary.com/indian-lighthouse-festival-set-to-illuminate-puri-on-october-19-20/>



One of the focal points discussed was the restoration and adaptive reuse of architectural sites. The restoration initiatives aim to prioritize the architectural integrity of the lighthouses while incorporating modern amenities for tourists. Such efforts underscore India's commitment to preserving its cultural assets while promoting sustainable tourism.

The festival also introduced several initiatives to bolster local craftsmanship, providing opportunities for artisans to showcase their traditional skills through exhibitions and workshops. **These initiatives promote tourism and engage local communities, ensuring they benefit from the influx of visitors.** As India shifts toward a more heritage-focused tourism model, the National Lighthouse Festival powerfully reminds the country of its dedication to safeguarding its maritime legacy, creating sustainable economic opportunities, and fostering cultural pride in its coastal communities.



Source: <https://www.orissapost.com/second-national-lighthouse-festival-begins-in-puri/>

RESOURCES

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