Lighthouses of India - Fascinating Relics of a Time Gone By...

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In the words of the famous Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw, there is no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse; they were built only to serve.

Since times immemorial, lighthouses, standing tall in all their glory, have stoked the curiosity of men. In the olden days, lighthouses were the signs of hope for travellers who were on long voyages around the world. Even in today's modern world of satellite navigation, lighthouses continue to be magnificent towers of immortality offering enthralling views of the sea and the shores.

History tells us that Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, became the first European to reach India by sea way back in 1498. Following the Portuguese, the Dutch, the British and the French arrived in India and established their trading outposts. During these colonial times, many lighthouses were built to guide and monitor the movement of travelling ships. As a tribute to these lighthouses, India Post has released many materials of philatelic interest, which are a treasure to my collection.
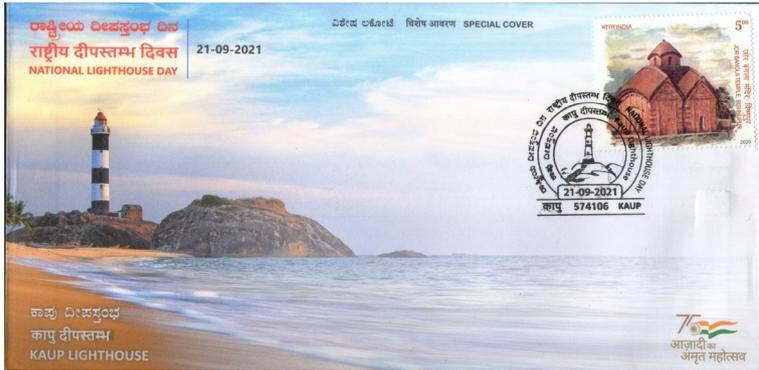
A special cover on Kaup Lighthouse, a century old tower overlooking the Arabian Sea in the Indian state of Karnataka.
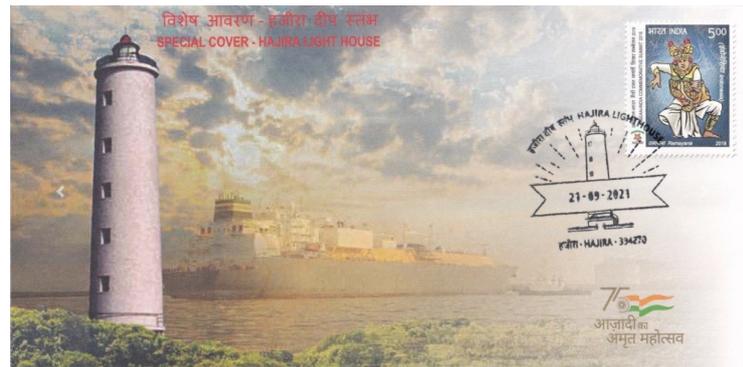
A special cover on Hajira Lighthouse, a British-constructed lighthouse overlooking the Arabian Sea in the Indian state of Gujarat.


A first of its kind special cover designed with augmented reality technology that depicts the lighthouse of Visakhapatnam, which overlooks the Bay of Bengal in the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh.
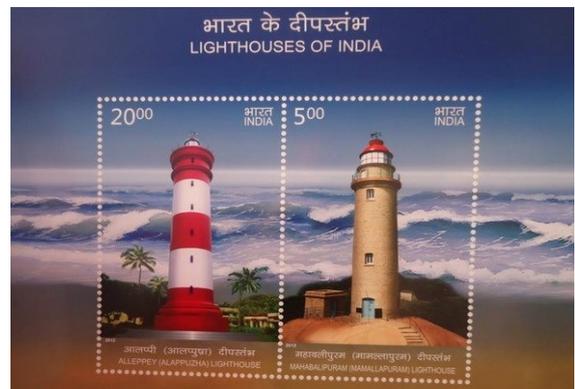
A miniature sheet depicting two lighthouses - Alleppey Lighthouse on the shores of the Arabian Sea in Kerala and Mahabalipuram Lighthouse on the shores of Bay of Bengal in Tamil Nadu.

A beautiful stamp depicting the Minicoy Island Lighthouse, a British built lighthouse overlooking the Arabian Sea in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
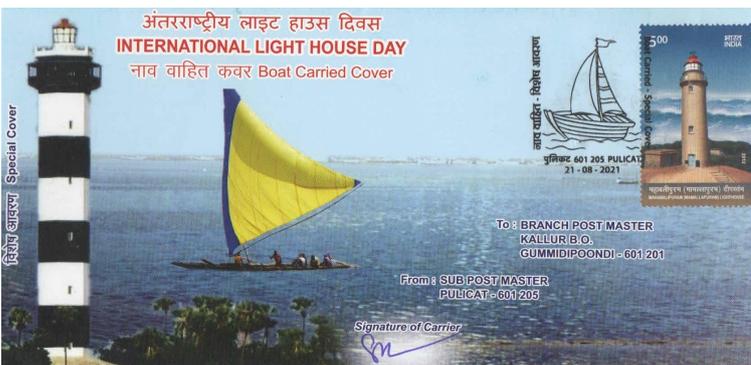
A special boat-carried cover depicting the Pulicat Lighthouse, overlooking the Bay of Bengal in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu.

A permanent pictorial cancellation depicting the Aguada Lighthouse, a Portuguese built tower in the Indian state of Goa and one of the oldest lighthouses in Asia.