

The Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020

March 9, 2021

In News: According to the Prime Minister's vision for augmenting people's participation and transparency in the governance, the Ministry of Shipping has issued the draft of Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020 for suggestions from the stakeholders and general public.

Background

- The draft bill is proposed to replace the almost nine decades old Lighthouse Act, 1927, to incorporate the global best practices, technological developments and India's International obligations in the field of Aids to Marine Navigation.
- This initiative is part of the proactive approach adopted by the Ministry of Shipping by repealing archaic colonial laws and replacing it with modern and contemporary needs of the maritime industry.
- Bill aims to regulate state-of-the-art technologies of marine navigation which was earlier used to tangle in statutory provisions of Lighthouse Act, 1927.

The Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020

- The draft bill provides for empowering Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) with additional power and functions such as Vessel Traffic Service, Wreck flagging, training and certification, implementation of other obligations under International Conventions, where India is a signatory. It also provides for identification and development of heritage lighthouses.
- The draft bill comprises a new schedule of offences, along with commensurate penalties for obstructing and

damaging the aids to navigation, and non-compliance with directives issued by the Central Government and other bodies under the draft bill.

- With the advent of modern technologically improved aids to maritime navigation, the role of authorities regulating and operating maritime navigation has changed drastically.
- Therefore the new law encompasses a major shift from lighthouses to modern aids of navigation.

Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships

- Subordinate office under the Ministry of Shipping to provide general aids to marine navigation along the Indian coast.

Mission: To help the mariners and local fisherman to navigate safely in the Indian waters.

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh