



**Date - 29 September 2022**

## **Prospects of Tourism Industry in India**

**News:** Government prepared 'The Dharamshala Declaration' on occasion of World Tourism Day(27th September) in wake of dip in foreign tourists' arrival in 2021.

### **Key findings from India Tourism Statistics 2022:**

- Dip in foreign tourist arrivals in India by 44.5% in 2021 due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2021, arrival of NRIs increased by 52.6% compared to 2020.
- In 2021, the top 15 countries including the U.S, the U.K., Bangladesh, Canada, Nepal, Afghanistan and Australia accounted for approximately 81% of foreign tourist arrivals in India.
- A 7.3% increase in departure of Indian nationals from the country compared to 2020.
- Top destination for Indians in 2021 was UAE followed by the U.S., Qatar, Oman and the U.K.
- Minor revival in domestic tourism in India i.e. an increase of 11.05% in 2021 compared to 2020.

### **Importance of tourism: Driver of economic growth and income generation**

- **Helps in earning foreign exchange for the country.** In 2021, foreign exchange earnings from tourism witnessed growth of 26.4% compared to 2020.

- **Pave way for sustainable infrastructure:** Development of the tourism sector helps in creation of sustainable and world-class infrastructure development.
- Tourism provides an opportunity to showcase the diverse culture of a country.
- **Promotion of civilisational ethos** such as living harmoniously with nature and within our means through tourism.

#### **Government initiative to promote tourism:**

- **Modi government is using the 'Whole of Government' approach to promote tourism.** This approach helps in breaking down silos and encourages synergies across various government departments.
- **Conception of 'The Dharamshala Declaration' on World Tourism Day** to recognise India's role in contributing towards recovery of global tourism and promoting domestic tourism.
- **Building country-specific strategies to attract foreign tourists:** Tourism ministry is working with the Ministry of External Affairs to identify 20 Indian missions abroad with the highest tourist footfalls to India.
- **The Government of India has enhanced the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme** to help hospitality and related sectors.
- **Formation of National Green Tourism Mission** to promote sustainable, responsible and inclusive tourism.

#### **Way forward: All-round development of the tourism sector**

- **Leverage immense potential of medical tourism:** As there is growing global interest in ancient healing practices such as ayurveda and yoga.
- **Finalize National Tourism policy** keeping in mind tradition as well as modernization.
- **Public-private-partnerships (PPP)** for transformation of the tourism industry and for bringing in private investments.
- **Skilling of workforce in tourism and hospitality industry through Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Mission.**

- **Introduction of National Digital Tourism Mission** in National Tourism policy for digitalisation, innovation and technology of the tourism industry.
- India should make use of the presidency of the G20 to position itself as a major tourism destination in accordance with the age-old tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.

**Article:** Arrival of foreign tourists took a big hit in 2021, data shows; Pitching India as a signature destination (G. Kishan Reddy)

**Sharad**

## **Editorial: Rediscovering the Bay of Bengal**

**News:** Launch of Center for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBS) at Nalanda University by Narendra Modi.

### **Importance of Bay of Bengal:**

- Major commercial hub as it connects east and west in terms of trade and culture.
- Bay is key for economic and energy security in the Indo-Pacific region due to sea lanes of communication present in this region.
- It offers an opportunity for regional co-operation for the ecological exploration of marine and energy resources.
- Diverse geographical characteristics of Bay due to partially enclosed seas, some of the world's largest river flows into the bay.
- Assist ecology and the fishing sector as it supports many rare and endangered marine species and mangroves leading to a biodiverse marine environment.

### **Reasons responsible for strain in Bay's environment:**

- **Geopolitical unrest:** Due to expansion of political and economic rivalry of major powers in the region.

- **Deterioration of the Bay due to environmental exploitation through** operational discharge from feeder ships, shipping collisions, oil spills, industrial waste, pollution, and non-biodegradable plastic litter in the bay resulting in formation of dead zones and excessive threat to mangrove trees.

#### **Initiative taken by Government:**

- **Opening of Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBS) at Nalanda University** for collaborations in diverse areas such as eo-economics and geopolitics, ecology, trade and connectivity, maritime security, maritime law, cultural heritage, and blue economy to generate opportunities for the Bay region.

#### **Way forward:**

- **New partnership and cooperation needed** between nautical neighbours as maritime issues are transnational and cross-jurisdictional in character.
- **Engagement of diverse governments and organizations and enterprises** to address interrelated and interdependent maritime challenges.
- **Expanding regional cooperation** for maritime safety and security, maritime connectivity for ease of maritime transit.
- **Encouraging private investments** to boost the maritime connectivity sector.
- **Standardising and harmonization of data** to address non-traditional threats and reduce illicit, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
- Littoral governments should mobilise incentives and investments to support and promote skill-building, research, and training in the region for proper management of ocean affairs.

**Article:** Rediscovering the Bay of Bengal(Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy)

**Sharad**