



Foreign Tourist Arrivals To India Before And After Pandemic

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Abstract:

Tourism industry is growing as one of India's largest service sector. It is one of the major sectors of Indian economy which contribute a major proportion of the National income and provides huge direct and indirect employment opportunities. India is having rich cultural and historical heritage. It has visitor friendly traditions which attract millions of tourists, wildlife lovers, beach lovers, adventure seekers, festival lovers across the globe each year. Tourism industry fetches foreign exchange to India. The main objective of this paper is to study number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India, major source countries for FTAs in India, their purpose for visits, visits to states or union territories by foreign tourists and foreign exchange earnings from tourism in India and effect of pandemic on number of FTAs and Foreign Exchange Earnings. For this paper secondary data regarding foreign tourist arrivals is collected from India Tourism Statistics 2022. This paper makes an attempt to provide an in-depth analysis about foreign tourist arrivals in India.

Keywords: Tourism Industry, Service Sector, Foreign Tourist Arrivals, Foreign Exchange

Introduction:

Tourism is one of the largest and fast growing service sectors in India and India is large market for travel and tourism. It plays an important role in the growth and development of Indian economy. In 2021, the travel and tourism sector in India contributed around 5.8 percent to the total GDP of the country this amounted to over 13 billion Indian rupees.

There are variety of forms of tourism in India which includes eco tourism, beach tourism, wildlife tourism, cultural tourism, adventure tourism, religious tourism, sports tourism, business tourism etc. Tourism industry boosts

Indian economy through earning foreign exchange and creating employment opportunities to the people. This sector provides direct and indirect employment opportunities to large population in the country. The travel and tourism sector in India provided employment to nearly 80 million people in 2020.

India ranked 54th according to the Travel and Tourism Development Index, 2021. This ranking was allotted considering the industry's environment, policies, infrastructure, demand drivers and sustainability.

COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the trend of Foreign Tourist

Arrivals to India for 2020 and 2021. Though there were some restrictions in tourism sector to contain the spread of virus during this pandemic, India had 7.00 million International Tourist Arrivals in 2021.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study purpose of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India.
2. To know major source countries for FTAs in India.
3. To know about Foreign Tourist Visits to different states and union territories in India.
4. To study effect of pandemic on foreign tourists arrival in India.

Limitations of the Study:

The study considers only foreign tourist arrivals in India. Domestic Tourists are not considered for the study.

Methodology of the Study:

The present study deals with study of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India. Present study is based on secondary data compiled from various books, references and official websites of Government of India.

The data regarding number of FTAs, NRIs and ITAs was collected. The data related to purpose of FTAs was

compiled. The figures related to Foreign Exchange Earnings by India were collected. The data related to top states and Union Territories to which foreign tourist were visited is collected for the year 2021. The data regarding Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism in India was also collected.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Tourism is one of largest service sector in India. Along with tourism other industries such as agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, construction, hospitality, hotel also grow. India is one of the large market for foreign tourists. Group of Monumnet, Mamallapuram, Taj Mahal, Tiger headed Rock cut temple, Sluvankuppam, Agra Fort, Gingee Fort, Vattakottai Fort, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Fort Museum, Thirumayam, Rock Cut Jain Temple, Sittanasal etc are the popular centrally protected monuments which attracts Foreign tourists. Secondary data regarding Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India, Non-resident Indians and International Tourist Arrivals in India, Purpose-wise Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India, Top 10 Source Countries for FTAs in India, Foreign Tourist Visits to different states and union territories and Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism in India is presented in following tables

Table 1: Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India

Sr. No.	year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India (in million)	Percentage change over previous year
1.	1981	1.28	--
2.	1991	1.68	--
3.	2001	2.54	--
4.	2011	6.31	--
5.	2012	6.58	4.3
6.	2013	6.97	5.9
7.	2014	7.68	10.2
8.	2015	8.03	4.5
9.	2016	8.80	9.7
10.	2017	10.04	14.0
11.	2018	10.56	5.2
12.	2019	10.93	3.5
13.	2020	2.74	-74.9
14.	2021	1.52	-44.5

Source: Bureau of Immigration, Government of India

From the above table 1 it is clear that there is continuous increase in Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India from 1981 to 2019. But in 2020 due to pandemic across the world and the lockdown in India Foreign Tourist Arrivals has shown a

negative growth of 74.9% and 44.5% in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Since 2014, Government of India has started to collect data of arrivals of Non Returning Indians and International tourist arrivals.

Table 2: Non-resident Indians and International Tourist Arrivals in India

Sr. No.	year	Non- resident Indians Arrivals in India (in million)	Percentage change over previous year	International Tourist Arrivals in India (in million)	Percentage change over previous year
1.	2014	5.43	--	13.11	--
2.	2015	5.74	5.7	13.76	5.0
3.	2016	6.22	8.4	15.03	9.2
4.	2017	6.77	8.8	16.81	11.8
5.	2018	6.87	1.5	17.42	3.6
6.	2019	6.98	1.6	17.91	2.8
7.	2020	3.59	-48.6	6.33	-64.7
8.	2021	5.48	52.6	7.00	10.6

Source: Source: Bureau of Immigration, Government of India

From the above table 2 it is clear that there was continuous increase in NRIs arrivals in India from 2014 to 2021. After pandemic again NRI arrivals have registered 52.6% growth in 2021 over 2020.

In the case of Foreign Tourist Arrivals also there was continuous increase from 2014 to 2020. But in 2020, due to CIVID-19 FTAs arrivals have registered negative growth in 2020 over 2019.

Table 3: Purpose-wise Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India (2021)

Sr. No.	Purpose	2019		2020		2021	
		FTAs	Percentage	FTAs	Percentage	FTAs	Percentage
1.	Business and Professional	1605737	14.7	320582	11.7	189626	12.4
2.	Leisure Holiday and Recreation	6236398	57.1	1597753	58.2	124126	8.1
3.	Medical	697453	6.4	182945	06.7	303526	19.9
4.	Indian Diaspora	1384636	12.7	381460	13.9	575142	37.7
5.	Others	1006131	9.2	262026	9.5	334694	21.9
	Total	10930355	100.0	2744766	100.0	1527114	100.0

Source: compiled from India Tourism Statistics at a Glance, 2022,2021,2020

From the table no. 3 it is evident that in 2019 majority (57.1%) of FTAs were for leisure holiday and recreation, followed by business and professional purpose (14.7%), Indian Diaspora (12.7%), other purposes (9.2%) and only 6.4% FTAs were visited to India for medical purpose.

In 2020 also, majority (57.1%) of FTAs were visited India for leisure holiday and recreation purpose, followed by Indian Diaspora (13.9%), business and

professional purpose (11.7%), other purposes (9.5%) and only 6.7% FTAs were visited to India for medical purpose.

In the case of 2021, majority of FTAs were arrived in India for Indian Diaspora purpose, followed by other purpose (21.9%), the percentage of FTAs arriving to India for medical purpose was increased to 19.9 in 2021.

It shows that the preference to purpose of FTAs in India changes year to year.

Table 4: Top 10 Source Countries for FTAs in India (2021)

Sr. No.	Name of the Country	FTAs in India	Percentage
1.	United States of America	429860	28.1
2.	Bangladesh	240554	15.8
3.	United Kingdom	164143	10.7
4.	Canada	80437	5.3
5.	Nepal	52544	3.4
6.	Afghanistan	36451	2.4
7.	Australia	33864	2.2
8.	Germany	33772	2.2
9.	Portugal	32064	2.1
10.	France	30374	2.0
11.	Total	1134063	74.2
12.	Other Countries	393051	25.8
13.	Grand Total	1527114	100.0

Source: India Tourism Statistics at a Glance, 2022

Table no. 4 shows the majority (28.1%) of the FTAs were from USA, followed by Bangladesh (15.8%), UK (10.7%), Canada (5.3%), Nepal (3.4%),

Afghanistan (2.4%), Australia (2.2%), Germany (2.2%), Portugal (2.1 %) and France (2.0%). The share of FTAs from top 10 countries was 74.2% during 2021.

Table 5: Foreign Tourist Visits to different states and union territories

Sr. No.	year	Foreign Tourist visits in India	Annual Growth Rate
1.	1991	3146652	-
2.	2001	5436261	-7.76
3.	2011	19497126	8.86
4.	2012	28263074	6.33
5.	2013	19951026	9.24
6.	2014	22334031	11.94
7.	2015	23326163	4.44
8.	2016	24714503	5.95
9.	2017	26886684	8.79
10.	2018	28851130	7.31
11.	2019	31408666	8.86
12.	2020	7171769	-77.17
13.	2021	1054642	-85.29

Source: India Tourism Statistics at a Glance, 2022

From the above table 5 it is evident that there has been continuous increase in foreign tourist visits, though there was decrease in the years 2001, 2020 and 2021. In 2001 there was terrorist attack in America. This event has affected the

tourism sector across the world along with India. The reason for decline in the foreign tourist visits in the years 2020 and 2021 was the pandemic situation and continuous lockdown in India.

Table 6: Top 10 states and union territories of Foreign Tourist Visits (2021)

Sr. No.	Name of the state and union territory	No. of FT visits	Percentage
1.	Punjab	308135	29.22
2.	Maharashtra	185643	17.60
3.	Delhi	100178	9.50
4.	Karnataka	72487	6.87
5.	Kerala	60487	5.74
6.	Tamil Nadu	57622	5.46
7.	Uttar Pradesh	44737	4.24
8.	Madhya Pradesh	41601	3.94
9.	West Bengal	34828	3.30
10.	Rajasthan	34806	3.30

Source: India Tourism Statistics at a Glance, 2022

Table no. 6 depicts that in the year 2021 Punjab was the favorite state for the foreign tourists. Other states in foreign tourist visits in 2021 were Maharashtra (17.60%) followed by Delhi (9.50%), Karnataka (6.87%), Kerala bags 5th

position with 5.74% followed by Tamil Nadu (5.46%), Uttar Pradesh (4.24%), Madhya Pradesh (3.94%), West Bengal (3.30%), Rajasthan (3.30%). These top ten states and UTs accounted for about 89.17 of the total foreign tourist visits.

Table 7: Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism in India

Sr. No.	Year	FEE in (Rs. in crores)	Percentage change over previous year
1.	1991	4318	-
2.	2001	15083	-3.5
3.	2011	83036	25.5
4.	2012	95607	15.1
5.	2013	107563	12.5
6.	2014	120367	11.9
7.	2015	134844	12.0
8.	2016	154146	14.3
9.	2017	177874	15.4
10.	2018	194881	9.6
11.	2019	211661	8.6
12.	2020	50136	-76.3
13.	2021	65070	29.8

Source: Tourism Statistics 2022

There is ups and downs in the foreign exchange earnings from 2011 to 2021. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism in India in 2021 is Rs. 65070 crores as compared to Rs. 50136 crore in 2020 which shows a growth of 29.8% in 2021 over 2020.

Findings:

1. There is continuous increase in FTAs in India from 1981 to 2019. But due to COVID-19 FTAs showed negative growth rate of 74.9% and 44.5% in the year 2020 and 2021 respectively.
2. In 2021, majority of FTAs were arrived in India for Indian Diaspora purpose.
3. United States of America has been the largest among the tourist generating markets for India in 2021.
4. There has been continuous increase in foreign tourist visits in India, except the years 2001, 2020 and 2021.
5. Punjab was the favorite state for the foreign tourists in 2021.
6. There are ups and downs in the foreign exchange earnings from 2011 to 2021. COVID-19 pandemic led to loss of foreign exchange earnings. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism in India shown negative growth rate of 76.3% 2020 over 2019.

Conclusion:

Tourism is one of the fastest growing service sectors in India. It works as growth engine of Indian economy by contributing handsome towards GDP and

by providing direct and indirect employment opportunities to number of people. Due to foreign and domestic visitors there is growth of hotel industry, hospitals, aviation and shipping sector, travel agents, restaurants, shops in the country. There is remarkable growth in International Tourist Arrivals in India except in pandemic period. Continuous efforts made by the Ministry of Tourism are one of the important reasons behind the increase in FTAs in India. In future, Indian Travel and Tourism industry will be distinguished by exciting growth, innovation and technological transformation.

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