

## CHAPTER 26

### TOURISM

**Tourism** is traveling for predominantly recreational or leisure purposes, and also refers to the provision of services in support of this act. According to the World Tourism Organization, **tourists** are people who "travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited".

Ministry of Tourism has adopted the following definition as per recommendation of "U.N. Conference of International Tourism, Rome, 1963".

**International Visitor:** An international visitor is any person visiting the country on a foreign passport and the main purpose of visit is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the country or establishments of residence in the country. This definition covers two segments of visitors: Tourists' and "Same Day Visitors".

A "**foreign tourist**" is a person visiting India on a foreign passport, staying at least twenty four hours in the country, the purpose of whose journey can be classified under one of the following headings:

- (i) Leisure (recreation, holiday, health, study, religion and sport);
- (ii) Business, family, mission, meeting.

The following are not regarded as "foreign tourists";

- Persons arriving, with or without a contract, to take up an occupation or engage in activities remunerated from within the country;
- Persons coming to establish residence in the country;
- "Same Day Visitors" i.e. temporary visitors staying less than twenty four hours in the country (including travelers on cruises).

The following categories of travelers are not included in the data series on foreign tourism:

- (a) Nationals of Nepal entering India through land routes along Indo-Nepal border;
- (b) All foreigners entering India from Bhutan by land;

Data on Foreign Tourists in India is available with Ministry of Tourism.

#### Highlights:

- India's performance in tourism sector has been quite impressive. During the period 2002 to 2008, India witnessed an increase in the Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) from 2.38 million to 5.28 million.
- Around 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of foreign tourists are from Western Europe, 20% of total tourists are from South East Asia, 20% are from North America. Rests of the Foreign Tourists are from other regions namely Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Africa, West Asia, South Asia, East Asia and Australia.
- The composition is almost similar over the period except for South Asia and North America. Percentage of foreign tourists from South Asia is showing a declining trend, whereas the percentage of North America is showing an increasing contribution. Foreign Tourists from South Asia has come down from 26% in 2001 % to 20% in 2008. Foreign Tourists from North America has increased from 16.5 % in 2000 to 20% in 2008.

- Among all Countries, maximum number of tourists is from USA, followed by U.K. and then France and Germany.
- With in North America, the number of tourists from USA is four times the number of tourists from Canada. With in Central and South America, maximum number of foreign tourists is from Brazil and then Maxico. The trend remains same over the period.
- For other regions, maximum number of tourists are from USSR within Eastern Europe Region, similarly maximum tourist arrivals was from South Africa within Africa, from U.A.E. within West Asia, from Bangladesh with in South Asia , from Malayasia within South East Asia, from Japan within East Asia from Australia within Australasia.
- Tourism continues to play an important role as a foreign exchange earner for the country and an increasing trend in the foreign exchange earning could be noticed from 2001 to 2009. In 2009, foreign exchange earnings (FEE) from tourism were 54960 crores as compared to 50730 crores in 2008 registering a growth of 8.3 % during the period.
- Over the years, it has been observed that maximum foreign exchange earnings (more than 40 %) are in month of November to March.

**This chapter contains the following tables:**

**Table-26.1-** Number of foreign tourists to India

**Table-26.2-** Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India from Top 15 Source Countries

**Table-26.3-** Foreign Exchange Earning From Tourism