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Tourism and Sustainable Development: An Indian Perspective

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Development has been an important factor in establishing the strength of the nations. It is this parameter that makes an assessment of the nations and divides them into a pool of developed, developing or underdeveloped countries. Over the years the meaning and scope of the term development has changed so much that it has given rise to a number of other related terms. The present paper explains the meaning and scope of the term 'Sustainable Tourism Development' and suggests measures that can help in achieving it successfully.

With the advancement in technology there has been a revolution in the terminology arena. Terms are being coined frequently with emphasis on developmental process that compromises on the degeneration part and as such has no future cannot be called development, as the process cannot sustain for long. Similarly development cannot take place without the participation of people. Likewise measures that have more ill effects than the good

> There is an immediate need to overcome the loopholes in India's tourism sector and such contradictions. Conflicts between various agencies involved are to be minimised. The establishment of a National Tourism Board can only overcome this lacuna.

Tourism when taken in its true sense has following characteristics: (a) Resource based industry and consumes resources (b) Creates waste and (c) has specific infrastructure needs.

All the above characters are linked to the social fabric of the host community. It has social, cultural and environmental impacts with a possibility of over consumption.

The Challenges are: i) To Ensure that there is no over consumption and as such tourism assets are not permitted to become degraded, ii) To Counter all negative impacts of social, cultural, and environmental nature and iii) To involve local communities.