

An Analysis of Indian Tourism in Context of Covid-19

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[The major causal agent behind the coronavirus disease is the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus. This virus affected all the sectors of Indian industry but the focus of this study is the tourism sector which continues to reel under the after-effects of this virus. The authors have taken up two parameters to analyze the Indian tourism sector namely, Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA's) and Indian Nationals Departures (IND's). The data has been collected for the years ranging from 2017 to 2020. The findings suggest that there has been an increase in both the parameters from 2017 to 2018 to 2019 but from 2019 to 2020 there has been a steep decline owing to the onset of coronavirus in India.]

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) defines tourism as “The activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes.”

Tourism is mainly of three types, namely Domestic tourism (activities that a visitor engages in both inside and outside of their native country. E.g., an Indian visiting other parts of India), Inbound tourism (the actions of a visitor from outside their own nation. E.g., a foreigner visiting India) and Outbound Tourism (a resident visitor's travels outside of their home nation. E.g., an Indian visiting overseas countries).

Tourism is one of the most important and rapidly expanding businesses, which is significantly impacted by both internal and external environmental changes due to its nature (Kumar, 2021). As the tourism industry creates chances for employment, education, and community welfare while also advancing the socioeconomic growth of the location (Kumar et.al., 2015), the tourism industry is also vulnerable to a number of shocks, including acts of terrorism (Pizam & Fleischer, 2002), financial crises (Larsen, et.al., 2002), and disease outbreaks (Romao et.al, 2016). The coronavirus disease is such an event that it shook the tourism industry to its core. Critical curriculum flaws have been exposed by the epidemic, and many training approaches, methodologies, pedagogies, and subject areas may change during crises to better prepare for response and recovery policies, strategies, and research (Suneeth et. al, 2021)

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is a deadly virus that originated in China, causing the coronavirus disease. This disease became known to the world on December 31st, 2019 and is primarily transferred when an infected individual sneezes or coughs, resulting in nasal discharge or saliva

droplets (Chandel et. al., 2021). As of 2021, the Indian government has made three vaccines available to the public, namely, Covishield, Covaxin, and Sputnik-V. This virus slowly started spreading throughout the entire world, and as such, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared coronavirus as a worldwide pandemic. According to the estimate from (WTTC, 2020), 62 million individuals worldwide lost their jobs. The reason for this is that tourism is a highly labour-intensive industry that generates job opportunities in a variety of sectors, including transportation, attractions, entertainment, and lodging (Pinki, 2021). The negative effects of the corona virus may be seen in many industries and subindustries, which is why there has been a significant drop in global GDP as a result of government efforts to stop the virus. In contrast to the total economy's shift of -3.7% in 2020, travel and tourism's contribution to GDP fell by 49.1% (or USD 4498 billion). Additionally, there has been a 74% global reduction in international tourist arrivals.

With coronavirus being declared as a worldwide pandemic, India imposed travel bans beginning from March 11 2020 and suspended all existing visas until April 15, 2020. As the virus was spreading at an unprecedented rate, India declared its first lockdown for a period of 21 days on March 25, 2020, with approximately 500 coronavirus cases. With the travel curbs announced and the lockdown imposed, all the industries started getting affected at different rates. Since the tourism industry thrives on the travel of people to and from a destination, this was the most affected sector in the Indian economy. As published by the Indian government, in 2020, there were 2.74 million fewer foreign tourists arriving in India than there were in 2019, a fall of 10.93 million, representing a negative growth of 74.9%. As a source of revenue for the nation's foreign exchange reserves, tourism continues to be crucial. The foreign exchange earnings (FEE) from tourism in India decreased by 76.9% from \$30.06 billion in 2019 to \$6.958 billion in 2020, representing a negative growth. In 2020, there were 610.22 million domestic tourist visits to India, down from 2321 million in 2019,

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