

Role and Relevance of Tourism in Bihar

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ABSTRACT

Tourism Industry is the most vibrant tertiary sector activity, associated with hospitality and services. It is mainly a combination of 3 things-destination, accommodation and transportation and holds strategic importance in the Indian economy providing several socio-economic benefits like provision of employment, income, foreign exchange, development or expansion of other industry such as agriculture, construction, handicrafts etc. In addition, investment in infrastructure facilities such as transportation, accommodation and other tourism related services lead to an overall development of the economy. Globally India ranked 23rd in terms of Foreign Tourists Arrival (FTA) and share 3.6% of world FTA. An estimates of RBI (2019) shows that India holds 12th position in International Tourism Receipts.

According to the Economic Survey of India-2019, the Foreign Exchange Earning (FEE) from tourism were US\$ 30.6 billion as compared to US\$ 28.59 billion in 2018 registering a growth of 5.1% accounted for increase in the total number of Foreign Tourist Arrival (FTA) in 2019 to 10.93 million with an annual growth of 3.5%, the majority of them reached through air means following road transport and a very small percentage of tourist travelled through sea route recorded at 77.4%, 21.7% and 0.9% respectively. The top source market for FTA in India is Bangladesh followed by United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, China, Malaysia Sri Lanka etc. The most of them Preferred Delhi airport which recorded 28.1% share in the port of entry by foreign tourists followed by Mumbai airport, Haridaspur, Chennai airport, Bengaluru airport and so on. In case of domestic tourists visits in India during 2019 was 2321 million as compared to 1853 million in 2018, with a growth rate of 25.3%. On the other hand, Indian Nationals' Departures (IND) from India during 2019 was 26.91 million as compared to 26.29 million in 2018 registering a growth rate of 2.4%. The top source of IND in 2019 were UAE followed by Saudi Arabia, USA, Thailand, Singapore, Qatar, Kuwait Oman, UK and Malaysia.

Keywords: Foreign Exchange Earning, Economic Growth, Employment, Foreign Tourists

Introduction:

Bihar, one of the state of India located in the north-eastern part of country and bordering Nepal, is well known for its association with glorious history of Buddhism, Jainism and ancient empires and travelogue by Huen Tsang and Fa-Hien and other cultural heritage has attracted domestic as well as international tourists for thousands of years. Historical sites such as Vikramshila, Vaishali, Manersharif, Motihari, Sasaram, Rajgir, Nalanda, Pawapuri, Gaya, Bodhgaya, Patna (Meuseum, Patna sahib, Golghar, ..etc) are some of

the important tourist spot ,other than these , the wildlife , birds and santuries hold vast potential for eco - tourism. Rajgir and Buddhist centres have immense potential to attract global tourists. Earlier the government was negligent about the promotion of these cities as spiritual tourism destinations, as a result, Bihar was viewed mainly as a place of pilgrimage rather than a tourist destination ,but as the time passed the government realised that tourism has huge potential in employment generation, foreign exchange earning,

regional development and stimulation of investment in infrastructure in the state and overall contribution to GDP of the state. Many countries like Macau, Maldives Italy, Spain etc are heavily dependent on earning from this sector. In Bihar also , tourism has that calibre to change the economic condition of the flood prone poor state. Consequently tourism sector has been given the status of industry in the state and now is being diversified, which was initially associated with religious tourism only. To promote and develop this sector in the state, the Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC) was formed in 1981. Till 2011, BSTDC worked a lot in improving the existing condition of the tourism and in the last 10 years the tourism statistics has changed extraordinarily, resulted in the exponential growth of tourism. The overall Government initiatives, BSTDC, State Tourism Policy 2002 performed well to change and diversify the image of the state from pilgrimage to leisure destination, white- sand beach of the river Ganga, Nature Safari, Glass Bridge, surface water activities, Cruise development, Dolphin watch, historical sites, bird watching distinguished the state. The state government of Bihar has increased its budget allocation on tourism industry manifold times 65.5 crore in 2013-14 to 84.6 crore in 2018-19 and Rs. 275.0 crore in 2019-20 a remarkable increase of 225%.



Tourist Circuit In Bihar:

Buddhist Circuit:

The places where lord Buddha was born, where he taught, preached and attain enlightenment and nirvana are considered as holy and spiritual home of Buddhism and termed as Buddhist Circuit. In India the major buddhist circuit is in Bihar like Bodhgaya, Rajgir and Vaisali other than that in sarnath, Varanasi and kusinagar in UP.

District	Major Places
1. Gaya	Mahabodhi temple, Bodhgaya, stone railing Bodhgaya, The Jewels Walk Shrine, Bodhgaya, Vajrasana Bodhgaya, Muchalinda Tank, Bakraur etc
2. Nalanda	Ruins of Nalanda University, Nav Nalanda Mahavihara, Archeological museum, Griddhakoot Hill, Peace Pagoda Rajgir, Hot Water Spring Rajgir Jarasandh ki Baithak/ Pippala cave etc
3. Vaishali	Budha Stupa I&II, Viswa shanti stupa, similar to one built in Rajgir

Jain Circuit

Bihar is the birthplace (vaishali district) of last Tirthankara and propounder of Jainism , Lord Mahavira .

- **VAISHALI**- 4 km from Vaisali, Kundalpur the Birthplace of Lord Mahavira, also famous for 3 ancient Dighamber Jain Temple and the glorious history of Lichchhvi dynasty.
- **PAWAPURI**- at a distance of 80 km (east) of Patna, is a great Pilgrimage centre for Jain where the propounder of Jainism, Mahavira Teerthankar has delivered his last sermon, took Mahaprinervana and was cremated here also famous for Two beautiful temples—Jalmandir and Samosharan

Ramayan Circuit

Bihar is also famous for Hindu as the land where the mythological king “Raja Janak, Of Videha, Ramayan famed Maharshi Valmiki, and Ram-Sita. Some of the famous spots are:

Valmikinagar? Sitamarahi? Pretshila hill? Ahilya Asthan? Singheshwar? Sitakund? Chankigarh ? Tar? Buxer? Kako.

Sufi /Islamic Circuit

The state is also featured with Muslim emperors during medieval period, sacred tombs and shrines. This spiritualistic aura attracted many Sufi Saints whose thoughts and preaches made a region hub of pilgrimage of devotee of all religion

Islamic Circuit

Manersharif’! Phulwarisharif’! Darga Sharif’! Biharsharif’! Hajrat Jandaha’! Hajipur’! Saran Khas’! Hasanpura’! Kako’! Pir Pahar’! Siris etc.

Gandhi Circuit

East Champaran Motihari

West Champaran Betia, Bhitharwa, Brindaban Patna Sadaquat Ashram

Nature And Wild Life Circuit

Rajgir Santuary ’!Vikramshila Santuary ’!Udaipur Santuary’! Bhimbandh Santuary ’!Nakti Dam Santuary ’!Gogabill Santuary ’! Valmiki National Park & Santuary ’! Kanwar Jheel Santuary

Cultural Attraction Of Bihar

- Mithila paintings
- Fair & Festivals—Chhath puja, Pind-daan, Marriage Mart, Rajgir Mahotsav
- Dance-Chhau dance, Jat-Jatin

Impact Of Tourism In Bihar

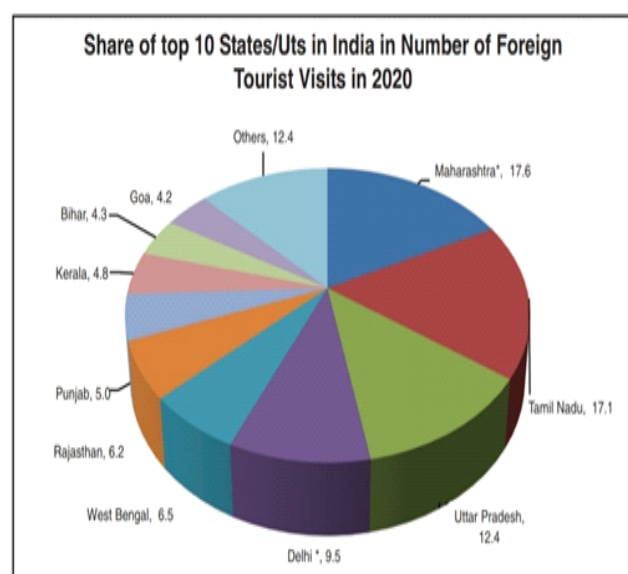
No. Of Domestic And Foreign Tourists Arrival In Bihar (In Lakh)

Year	No. Of Domestic Tourist	No. Of Foreign Tourists	Total
2011	183.9	9.7	193.7
2012	214.5	10.9	225.4
2013	215.9	7.7	223.5
2014	225.4	8.3	233.7
2015	280.3	9.2	289.5
2016	285.2	10.1	295.3
2017	324.1	10.8	335.0
2018	336.2	10.9	347.1
2019	339.9	10.9	350.8
2020	56.4	3.0	59.4

Source: Department of Tourism, GOB.

Revenue To The Government

According to India Tourism Statistics, Bihar tourism always holds a significant position in terms of domestic and foreign tourist arrival and is also known for its sound contribution to overall India’s tourism. In year 2019, Bihar ranked 14th in terms of domestic tourists arrival while hold rank 9th in terms of Foreign tourist arrival among all the states . While in year 2020 it was at 8th rank among all the states and UTs and recived 4.3% of total FTA in year 2020. Government from all level of tourist activities get revenue either in the form of ticket , entry fees and pass, airport entry and exit tax or income taxes on hotels, restaurants employees or corporate tax from businessmen .This continuous increase in total number of tourists arrival indicates that tourism sector is contributing a good sum revenue to the Bihar Government.



Visitors To Centrally Protected Ticketed Monuments

S.no.	Name of Monuments	2018-19		2019-20		% Growth 2019/20	
		Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
117	Ancient Ruins Vaishali	168155	23649	89631	12962	-46.70	-45.19
118	Ancient Site of Vikramshila at Nalanda	62323	134	65573	436	5.21	225.37
119	Excavated Site Remains	567218	87982	437506	26903	-22.87	-69.42
120	Sher Shah's Tomb	131202	193	208177	153	58.67	-20.73
121	Site of Mauryan Palace	123547	1209	109962	207	-11.00	-82.88
	Total	1052445	113167	910849	40661	-13.45	-64.07

Source: India Tourism Statistic, 2020.

Source: Department of Tourism, GOB.

Sources Of Foreign Exchange Earning:

Tourism is considered among the world's largest export industry, which is a good source of Foreign currencies. These foreign exchange are obtained from the selling of goods and services or by exchanging currencies in global market. The increasing trend in number of foreign tourists (above table) indicates a regular increase in volume of foreign currencies that have a favourable impact on balance of payment. In year 2019, Tourism was the 3rd largest foreign exchange earner for the India, amounted nearly 30.06 billion US dollar

Employment Generation:

According to survey, Tourism sector has huge potential of income and employment generation through Accommodation—star hotels, Non-star hotels, private guest houses, govt. hotels/circuit houses, dharamshala/monastery. In eating outlets—conventional restaurants, cafeteria dhaba, bars, mobile food kiosk etc, travel Agencies and Tour operation, Souvenir and handicrafts, Tourist guide and so on.

The Ministry of Tourism, India has adopted a system of approving and classifying the hotels on the basis of the facilities and services provided by them. Kerala has maximum number (17904) of hotels rooms followed by Maharashtra and Delhi.

No. of Hotels & Hotels Rooms in Bihar as on 31st Dec 2019

Category	5 Star Deluxe	5 Star	4 Star	3 star
No. of Hotels	2	2	1	0
No. of Rooms	186	162	114	0

Source : India Tourism Statistic, 2019

Regional Development:

Tourism also contributes to the transformation of remote and undiscovered villages characterized by high

scenic beauty and cultural attraction. It expands the local market, which induce the private sectors to establish hotels, restaurant, clubs etc. It further induces the public sectors for further infrastructural development of transportation system, communication system, health services, sports centres etc. in that area.

Infrastructure Development:

The central as well as the state government is making large expenditure for the augmentation and development of quality tourism infrastructure at various tourists destination and circuits in the states and UTs. In this regard the state govt of Bihar has substantially increased the allocation of funds to the tourism department over the recent years.

Expenditure Of Department Of Tourism (2013-14 To 2020-21)

Year	Approved Budget (Rs. Crores)	Expenditure (Rs. Crores)	Expenditure Percentage As Of Budget
2013-14	65.5	59.4	90.7
2014-15	118.1	87.4	74.0
2015-16	66.0	65.4	99.0
2016-17	94.5	86.4	91.5
2017-18	91.0	76.7	84.3
2018-19	84.6	47.2	55.8
2019-20	275.0	82.8	30.1
2020-21	357.9	70.20	19.6

Source: Budget, GoB

Major Projects Of State Government

The state government is highly focused on renovation and re-establishment of existing tourists destination and development of new ones. In this series, many important projects has been initiated by the state government.

Year	Project	Amount Sanctioned
2019-20	Construction of community hall in malsalami patna city	Rs. 88.44 Crore
	Rejuvenate Abhishek Pushkarani Lake near Vishwa Shanti Stupa in vaisali district	Rs. 08.94 Crore
	To procure furniture in khanquah Munemia, Patna city	Rs. 2.96 crore
2020-21	State Guest House @Bodhgaya	Rs. 136.15 Crore
	Landscaping for tourism at seven places in Purnia district	Rs. 9.11 crore
2021-22	Development of Jain Circuit	Rs.5238.00 lakh
	Development of Kanwaria circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme	Rs.5235.00 lakh
	Mandar hills and ang Pradesh	Rs.4752.88 lakh
	Development of Gandhian Circuit	Rs.4465.02 lakh

Sources: Economic Survey Of Bihar 2020-21 & 2021-22

Current status of these project: operational and work is in progress.

Conclusion

Tourism is a multi-dimensional and service oriented industry and have vast potential for income & employment generation, foreign exchange earnings, regional development etc. Since Year 2001, India's Tourism Industry witnessed a continuous increase in total numbers of Foreign Tourist Arrival and recorded 10.93 million in 2019, but in year 2020 it was severely hited by COVID- 19 and faced a decline of -74.9% and could receive only 2.74 million of Foreign Tourist. The estimated Foreign exchange earning in 2020 was US\$ 6.958 Billion which is equal to Rs. 50136 crore a decline of 76%. This adverse impact of COVID-19 was easily visible on tourism sector of Bihar as well, especially at Bodhgaya and Nalanda where Tourists from china, Hong-kong, Vietnam and Thailand visits in large number, cancelled their bookings. This resulted in crash of employment opportunities associated with

tourism industry, many businesses stopped their operation and many of them couldn't survive during this crisis, many went bankrupt. Same situation prevailed with almost all the dependent sector like transport, handicrafts and retail shops, souvenirs, travel agency and tourist guide.

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