

CHAPTER 16

TOURISM SECTOR

The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with its exotic greenery and flora has immense scope for promotion of tourism in these Islands. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration had the vision to develop A& N Islands as an up market Island destination for eco-tourists through environmentally sustainable development of infrastructure without disturbing the natural eco-system with the objective of generating reverse, creating more employment opportunities and synergies socio-economic development of the Islands. The Andaman tropical evergreen rain forests, beautiful silver sandy beaches, serpentine mangrove-lined creeks, marine life abounding in rare species of plants, animals corals etc. provide an immemorial experience to the tourists. The environment lover finds absolute peace and tranquility in the lap of Mother Nature. There is tremendous scope for enjoying nature in the beach resorts, water sports and adventure water sports, adventure tourism like trekking, island camping, nature trail, scuba diving etc. With this vision the Administration has framed a policy guideline of GOI to form the basis for promoting tourism in A & N Islands. The Administration is focusing on the following issues.

1. Promotion of high value low volume eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable tourism.
2. Undertaking tourism activities, which are not harmful to the eco-system.
3. To implement the master plan proposed by UNDP/WTO report for sustainable development of tourism in Andaman.
4. Playing the role of facilitator and encouraging private sector investment in development of tourism infrastructure.
5. Gradual privatization of management of exiting tourism infrastructure.
6. Development of new tourism activities/products.
7. Marketing A & N Islands as tourist destination at national and international level.

Tourist Accommodation

- There are altogether 31 Guest Houses/Tourist Complexes in the Govt. sectors spread all over the Islands.
- In addition, in the private sector, there are about 90 hotels/guest houses in the islands.
- Almost all the accommodation available is restricted to areas in and around Port Blair itself and a limited accommodation only is available at places other than Port Blair and these are budget-type hotels.

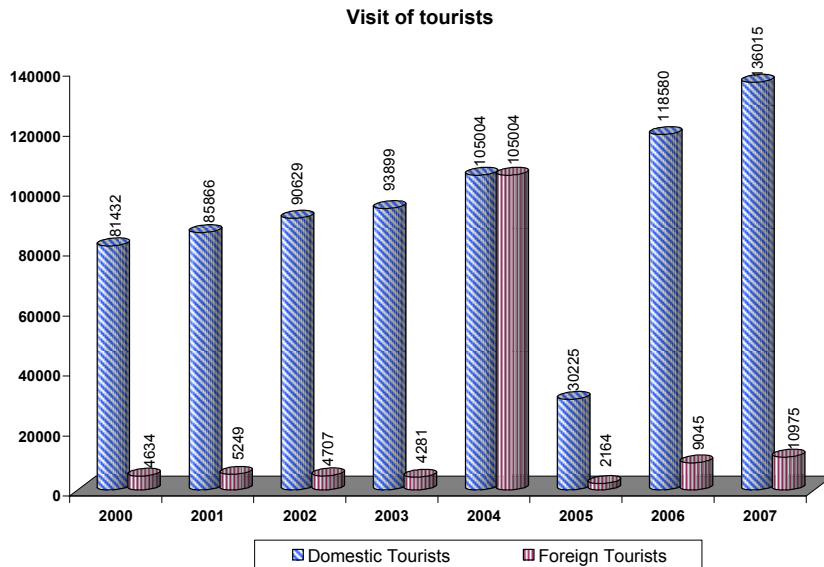
Tourist Traffic

The tourist traffic to this Island has grown from a mere 9500 in 1980 to 86066 in 2000 and again gone upto 109582 in 2004. Tourist arrival in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands may be seen in the following statement.

Statement 16.1

| Year | Tourist Arrival | | (No) |
|------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Domestic Tourists | Foreign Tourists | Total Tourists |
| 2000 | 81432 | 4634 | 86066 |
| 2001 | 85866 | 5249 | 91115 |
| 2002 | 90629 | 4707 | 95336 |
| 2003 | 93899 | 4281 | 98180 |
| 2004 | 105004 | 4578 | 109582 |
| 2005 | 30225 | 2164 | 32389 |
| 2006 | 118580 | 9045 | 127625 |
| 2007 | 136015 | 10975 | 146990 |

Chart 16.1



The number of domestic tourist was 81432 in the year 2000 which gone up 105004 during 2004 around 4 to 5 thousand foreign tourists visited these Islands during 2000-2004. The tourists (both domestic and foreign) who are visited this Islands are principally leisure seekers. Due to the earth quake and tsunami waves that hit the Island on 26th December 2004 only 32389 tourists visited during 2005, but during 2006 and 2007 the tourists were again attracted to visit these island to experience the joy of virgin beaches, exclusivity snorkeling, Scuba diving, Lime stone caves, Coral etc, other attraction is light and sound programme at cellular jail. 95% of tourist to Andaman and Nicobar Islands are domestic and largely from the leave travel concession (LTC) segment i.e. family tourist. Their average length of stay on the Island is between four to five days. Due to shorter duration of their tour the domestic tourists are often concentrated in the Port Blair area and do not spread out to other Island like the International tourist. Foreign tourists are largely from the back-packer category and both these groups contribute very little to the island revenue.

The domestic tourist inflow peaks in December and April that coincide with the holiday months in educational institution where as the international tourists

are more thinly spread throughout the year but a longer proportion prefers the survey and mild winter month. On an average an international tourists stays on this Islands for between 15 to 20 days.

Statement 16.2

Revenue Earned By The Administration From Tourism Sector

| S.No. | Year | Revenue Receipts (in Rs. lakhs) | % of Variation over previous year |
|-------|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2000-01 | 79.36 | |
| 2 | 2001-02 | 111.38 | + 40.35 |
| 3 | 2002.03 | 132.73 | + 19.17 |
| 4 | 2003.04 | 137.91 | + 3.90 |
| 5 | 2004-05 | 102.35 | - 25.78 |
| 6 | 2005-06 | 66.87 | - 34.66 |
| 7 | 2006-07 | 182.45 | + 172.84 |
| 8 | 2007-08 | 189.04 | + 3.61 |

Chart 16.2

Revenue earned from Tourism Sector

