

THE HUES OF THE GREEN TRIBUNAL'S RESILENT JOURNEY ON PRESERVING ENVIRONMENT IN THE HILL REGIONS OF TOURISM SPOTS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT - Indian hill stations like Shimla, Kullu Manali, Nainital Ooty, Kodaikkanal and Himalayan mountains are the boon to our Indian nation, Tourism hill stations are not only attract larger tourists but also makes their life in a free and leasurable manner with enjoyable pleasant memorable experiences by making tips to the important nearby hill areas. Most of the tourism spots are the major source of the revenue earnings of the government but also leads to the developmental strategies in the lines of linkage effect of various sources. The National Green Tribunal an apex body of the Government of India is entrusted to clear the NOC and also issue guidelines and supervising the overall ongoing activities of the tourism Developments in the Hill regions Very recently hill Tourism is rapidly growing industry in India and its impact is extremely varied. On one hand, it is playing a significant and unquestionably certain function in the financial and political improvement in state and then again offering new work openings. In a word the travel industry gives occasion to get away from individuals from their typical dull lives. Tourism industry occupies an important place in the economy of hill tourism spots. The travel industry incorporates the advancement of different public utility administrations like streets, transport administrations air terminals, correspondence organization and common courtesies and so on in much better manner. The researcher tries to portray the role of NGT in regulating the hill tourism development spots with some evidential proofs in this paper.

KEYWORDS - National green tribunal—Hill Tourism—recent trend—tourism products –growth potentialities

INTRODUCTION

Hill Tourism, being one of the significant income workers for any area or nation when contrasted with different types of the travel industry. Travellers are pulled in to mountain locations for some, reasons, including the atmosphere, clean air, one of kind scenes and untamed life, beautiful excellence, neighbourhood culture, history and legacy, and the occasion to encounter day off partake in snow-based or nature-related exercises and sports. While present day types of transportation have made even far off mountain regions available to expanding quantities of guests, mountain the travel industry will in general be unevenly conveyed, with a little extent of areas having critical

the travel industry foundation. The Kumaon locale of Himalayan offers probably the most extraordinary 'the travel industry' results of nature with a wide biological reach and variety.

The lap of the Lower Himalayas, Ancestral life, ethnic culture, society conventions, old stories and the multitudinous strict sanctums and purified spots appear to have developed with the quality of nature as a natural entirety. Without arrangement ahead of time in a methodical way, steady convergence of travellers to such focuses has upset the interest and flexibly balance. This has given rise to acute problem of land use, environmental pollution and degradation, stress condition on infrastructure, transport and services, and creating conflicting conditions. The sum total of what these have been depicted as negative effects of the tourism industry.

Keeping considering the particular physical, financial and ecological setting inside which slope the travel industry as a mainstream mufti-faceted action should have the option to achieve practical improvement of its traveller objections through tourism planning policies and programmes both at macro and micro levels. Uttarakhand, regardless of being a little state, has certain key highlights that make it particular from different conditions of the nation and features its potential for advancement. Be that as it may, advancement has prevalently been in the fields, and the slope regions have been abandoned. All the hill areas have resource cultivating as their principle financial action. Because of resource occupation, movement and a settlement economy work in the slope locale. They are land-bolted with immense separations between the business sectors and assets. Due to these imperatives, conventional agribusiness can't be the lead area for advancement. In this manner the state faces the test of elevating vocations to limit relocation through nearby work and salary age, and to upgrade the personal satisfaction of individuals living in towns. The positive highlights of these hill locales are that they have tremendous potential for the travel industry, an appropriate atmosphere for high-esteem farming, and a lovely climate because of 60% woods spread. These must be tackled for an improvement system. The improvement methodology like Uttarakhand slopes ought to be founded on creating brand value under the name of Organic Green State and an Uttarakhand Brand Equity Fund ought to be set up. This can be accomplished by pursuing this shared objective through framework advancement, the travel industry advancement, horticulture expansion, poultry-and fleece based jobs, and SMEs dependent on the over that catch linkages with industry and the travel industry.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STATUS

India has already made a place in world's tourism map because of its great potential to attract tourists to the diversity of tourist sites spread all over the country. It is also known that India still lay behind other neighbouring countries like China, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand because of inadequate infrastructure

Advancing the travel industry an Uttarakhand Tourism Development Master Plan for 2007-22 has been built up that is composed by the Government of India, Government of Uttarakhand, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and World Tourism Organization. The point of this arrangement is to grow great manageable the travel industry foundation, offices and items in the prime the travel industry zones of Uttarakhandstate. Similarly the master plan prepared by the ITDC with the overall instructions and guidelines issued by NGT in Ooty of western Ghats is also an another familiar example for regulating the indiscriminate construction of mega billings and

skyscrapers, Kodaikkanal and Palani hills and even in Mundanthurai of Tamilnadu under kalakadu reserve forest region is also on the eyes of NGT. The arrangement endeavors to recognize, characterize and depict these zones and their novel assets. It likewise proposes how such assets can be used to make distinctive practical and feasible nature and culture-based results of different principles. The prevailing resources of the Garhwal and Kumaon regions need to be utilized along with trying to sort out the problems associated with the development of tourism in these regions. There is wide and enhanced interest for the travel industry in this state from both the homegrown and worldwide business sectors regarding substance and standard of offices and utilities. The state pulls in travellers for journeys, social the travel industry, nature the travel industry, experience the tourism industry, untamed life the travel industry, eco-the travel industry, and entertainment and recreation the travel industry. The approach to tourism development in uttarakhand has to be based on the strengths of this state. Since uttarakhand is wealthy in characteristic excellence with a novel mountain climate just as rich chronicled and social resources, assorted items must be intended for different classifications of individuals who travel to this state for various intentions. Alongside the advancement of the travel industry, the current climate resources must be preserved and the regions where disintegration has occurred ought to be redesigned and improved. The primary issue in the improvement of the state is legitimate foundation to help supportable the travel industry. Tourist zones must be associated by formal and casual connections as streets, trails, tracks, and topical circuits. The irregularity of various types of the travel industry and vacationers to be pulled in ought to be considered, to make work for all year the travel industry. The tourism plan needs to develop new tourist options that target different types of tourists as well as showcase the culture, handicrafts, and cuisine of that tourist option. Proper publicity and marketing are required along with the development of skills in tourism sub-sectors to provide world-class service.

Preparing foundations that confer aptitudes and organizations with the public area to build up the assets should be incorporated into this arrangement. Assets must be prepared for advertising and making framework. There are already some master plans by the government for both the Gharhwal and Kumaon regions that need to be implemented appropriately and in integration with upcoming government plans. 4.1 Status of Tourism Sector Trends of traveller appearances shows that in Uttarakhand both unfamiliar and homegrown vacationers have steadily expanded. The percent change in number of unfamiliar travellers over the earlier year was lower in Uttarakhand than in India until 2003-04, yet after that the state saw development in the quantity of unfamiliar sightseers .However, overall tourist arrivals in Uttarakhand are much lower than arrivals in India the total number of tourists who arrive in India only 3-4 per cent visit Uttarakhand. This circumstance has stayed unaltered since the state was made in 2001.Among tourists, the majority is domestic tourists and the foreign tourist share 38 is less than 1 per cent. This depicts a miserable image of state the travel industry improvement and furthermore shows that there is a ton of potential for building up this area.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The National Green Tribunal has been established after a long journey of debates, later developments and a dire need to improve the environmental condition in the light of industrial growth and increasing numbers of pollutants in India. The last part of 20th century saw growing concern of humanity to protect the deteriorating environment.

The National Green Tribunal isn't the consequence of one single exertion yet has a great deal of gigantic difficult work behind it, predictable endeavors, fights in court on natural issues, ceaseless failure of the Government of India to deal with the environment problems, judicial pronouncements, burden on courts to deal with the environmental cases apart from their main judicial functions, time to time perceptions made by various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India on natural issues, research work done by Law Commission of India on it, worldwide gatherings and India's commitment to them, and lastly the legislative efforts and Will are the some of the reasons which contributed significantly to bring a powerful and effective mechanism in one place wherefrom the problem of environment could be seen more transparently and dealt with effectively.

There are a number of incidents which first drew the attention of the world community towards the environmental problems and one of which was the Stockholm Conference of 1972 at International level. Thereafter, the journey of environment awareness got started in true sense. Later, in the late 1970s and early 1980s when the concept of Public Interest Litigation was evolved by the Supreme Court of India, the journey of environment issues through legal courts began and it worked consummately with a portion of the famous preservationist legal advisors and Non-Governmental Organizations which was assisted by the eminent earthy person idea of doing with the environmental issues through judicial platform Be it Bhopal Gas Leak Tragedy of 1984 or the Oleum Gas Leak case of 1986, the environment issues were dealt with sharply. Therefore, the need of a uniform system to deal with the environmental issues and problems was felt in the beginning of 1990s which resultantly paved way to the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 which shortly culminated into the National Environmental Appellate Authority Act, 1997 but being in the initial stage of its origin, these two mechanisms could not perform efficiently on account of limited jurisdictions over the environmental issues. However, these two Acts proved as dead letter and a nonstarter. These two tribunals were not efficient to handle sensitive matters of environment and economic development. Therefore, the closure of these tribunals created a judicial vacuum as there was no specific forum for new environmental cases and the pending cases were left in the lurch.

Therefore, the law commission of India, on the consistent wake up calls from the Supreme Court of India, gave emphasize on the creation of new mechanism which could deal with the environmental issues and problems technically.

MOTIVATION OF THE RESEARCH

The researcher is very much interested to analyse the role of national green tribunal in regulating the activities of the hill tourism and having a strong intention to undertake the in-depth of the study on the particular angle. It has been over a year since the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Ministry of Urban Development, and corresponding authorities in States to look into a petition for assessment of the impact of tourism and related aspects on the ecology of Chikkamagaluru. The extent of the evaluation was extended past Chikkamagaluru. Yet, nothing concrete has come out till date. The request is up for another conference in the not so distant future, after another cutoff time set by the NGT's Principal Bench, New Delhi, has passed. Naming the issue "significant and of genuine nature", the NGT, in a development to its July 2018 request this March, said the MoEF&CC had looked for six additional months. The NGT, seeing that "meaningful work" had been done to set up a report as coordinated by the council, conceded three additional months.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Most the travel industry exercises happen at objections, thus the objective structures a column in any displaying of the travel industry framework. It has even been proposed that objections have developed as the essential unit of examination in tourism(WTO, 2002). Given the prominent place of destinations in the tourism system it is surprising there have been few texts to date that have focused on the operations of Destination Management for sustainable development.

Numerous individuals escape from the late spring heat in the fields to cool retreats in the Himalayan Mountains. Himalaya ranges pull in enormous number of vacationers. The stream is expanding step by step. They include: swarm making issues like water shortage, issue of waste disposal, unhygienic condition, land costs have rose, nearby network needs to address greater expense for their everyday needs, deforestation, soil disintegration, by and large ruin the environment and one and one more day that objective will turn into an infertile land. Thus there is need to identify the cause of these adverse effects and to have a proper planning to deal with them. Common assets and biodiversity are fundamental parts of the ecotourism experience, which incorporates numerous structures as experience the travel industry, social the travel industry, and provincial the travel industry. Negative effects regularly ascribed to the travel industry in the region are littering, deforestation, soil disintegration, water shortage, and crumbling in water quality, and informal removal of strong waste. To create ecotourism, network investment at all stages: conceptualization, arranging, advancement, advertising, and the board of the territory makes a difference. During the time spent participative administration, the partners will come to perceive the qualities of the territory and the benefit of keeping up it for both present and people in the future (Batta, 2006). Eco tourism has two broad dimensions Preservation and Promotion as sub-category of sustainable tourism 12 Panchayat is a Marathi word used for local village based government in Maharashtra

It is seen to have abundant progression of vacationer in ends of the week, summer and winter occasions. Panchgani is the slope station nearness to Mahabaleshwar. All propositions viewpoints make these slope stations

conspicuous among the vacationers. It gives chance of objections in the travel industry and inn industry in regards of venture, buying intensity of nearby network, salary and use, improvement and development of lodgings, practical development in inns, and effect on work. It shows the positive effect in financial development and advancement of objections. (J.S.Chaudhari, 1988) Tourism Review of Literature and Conceptual Background Shivaji University, Kolhapur 49 Panchgani, there was sizable increment of number of vacationer during 10 years, the travel industry advancement helped being developed of economy and also local people were benefited by tourism (Patil, 1991) Along with Mahabaleshwar and Panchagni hill stations, other surroundings of Satara district has spread of tourist destinations viz. fort, slopes, dams, windmills, greenery, lake, fowl safe-haven, Koyna untamed life Sanctuary and so forth Thus there is need to think seriously on these destination to promote as a tourist destination. Like Panchagani, Koyna too has potential to develop for International premium schools. Kas Plateau currently addressed for its rare Flora by UNESCO13 and plans to add the destination in World Heritage14 site list.

SIGNIFICANCE AND SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH

With its transcending tops, glorious scenes, rich biodiversity and social legacy, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) has since quite a while ago drawn guests and pioneers from the Indian sub-mainland and over the world. The IHR pulls in the individuals who look for vistas, experience, cooler atmospheres in the mid year, sport, otherworldly comfort, harmony, and the numerous social resources of mountains. These elements have moved the travel industry toward a key driver of financial turn of events. For nearby mountain individuals, the travel industry gives important financial and business openings and occupations, and for state governments and private business people it brings incomes and benefits. The eleventh Five-Year Plan of India's Planning Commission states, "The travel industry is the biggest assistance industry in the nation. Its significance lies in being an instrument for financial turn of events and business age, especially in distant and in reverse territories". Tourism and cordiality area legitimately contributes about US\$ 71.5 billion to the GDP. Additionally, the twelfth Five-Year Plan unmistakably perceives favorable to helpless the travel industry for comprehensive development. The IHR envelops a few delicate and delicate human-climate frameworks and biological conveying limits are a basic factor for the travel industry advancement. The travel industry advancement and advancement in the IHR ought to in this way be worked around the standards of maintainable the travel industry rather than mass the travel industry. The predominant model of the travel industry in the IHR is seen as a wellspring of natural harm and contamination, a danger to socio-social legacy, a hefty client of scant assets, and expected reason for negative externalities in the public arena. These inner the travel industry improvement elements, combined with the effects of environmental change, are significant drivers of progress influencing supportable the travel industry advancement in IHR. Explicit negative effects connected to the ebb and flow type of the travel industry in the IHR incorporate the substitution of conventional eco-accommodating and tasteful engineering with unseemly, unattractive and risky development, ineffectively planned streets and related foundation, lacking strong waste administration, air contamination, corruption of watersheds and water sources, and the loss of characteristic assets, biodiversity and environment administrations. Aggregately, these are influencing long haul the travel industry improvement possibilities in the IHR.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The choice by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) – India’s top ecological court – to boycott traveller camps along the 36-km stretch of River Ganga from Kaudiyala to Rishikesh in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand has ranked the travel industry while raising larger questions about India’s inability to balance tourism with environmental concerns.

The NGT’s boycott a week ago came after a NGO, Social Action for Forest and Environment (SAFE), documented a grievance against the “unregulated” activity of boating camps in the locale. The request communicated worries over “straightening of land” and “contamination brought about by the transitory campgrounds” as a result of “inappropriate sewage removal, absence of disinfection and an overall contamination brought about by drinking liquor, fireworks and so on” The presence of camps, the supplication included, adversely influenced the environment and natural life of the zone. In its request the NGT has permitted boating to proceed, which it feels isn’t hindering to the locale’s current circumstance, however it has clipped down on all outdoors movement taking into account its dirtying nature. All transitory or lasting camps in Rishikesh are subsequently to be destroyed with prompt impact.

The Kaudiyala-Rishikesh stretch of the Ganga – a colossally famous outdoors and wilderness boating site pulls in a huge number of experience sweethearts from India and abroad. It is peppered with white sandy sea shores, rough crevasses, rapids and sun-dappled woods overflowing with vegetation. A center point for the travel industry, the stretch has been facilitating camps, visitor houses, ashrams and inns reinforcing the nearby economy since the 1980s when the experience the travel industry blast started. Simultaneously the neighborhood specialists have not had the option to control the business. Licenses for boating are given by the Ministry of Tourism, and those for setting up sea shore camps are distributed either by the timberland division or income land office. New licenses for campgrounds are given each year. Anyway insiders’ state it is normal for visit administrators to oil palms and procures allows regardless of whether they abuse neighbourhood ecological laws.

Neighborhood occupants and natural entryways whine of heaps of junk being abandoned by revelers solo by visit administrators. “Void containers, jars of unconsumed food and waste including bones and foulness lies around the campground,” said a neighbourhood inhabitant and previous individual from the Uttaranchal State Tourism Board. “The business has neglected to manage itself.” Present researches emphasize on “THE HUES OF THE GREEN TRIBUNAL’S RESILENT JOURNEY ON PRESERVING ENVIRONMENT IN THE HILL REGIONS OF TOURISM SPOTS IN INDIA”.

OBJECTIVES

After taken into account on the development of Hill tourism spots in India and the role of NGT on ensuring environmental issues and other related matter the researcher intended to find out the following major aims and objectives .

- ❖ The role and responsibility of NGT in ensuring Environmental issues and Geophysical changes on the development of Hill stations and also simmering the differences between the two nodal agencies.
- ❖ The methods and means followed whether it is a statutory or mandatory policy in regulating the activities of Tourism Spots.
- ❖ Analyzing the various issues and challenges in implementing the NGT's tribunal's judiciary orders to control the inflow of tourist in the hill station.
- ❖ Maintaining the eco-balance and ensuring bio diversity issues in the reserve forest areas which are fully under the control of Ministry of Environment & Forest.
- ❖ NGT's long journey and shadow wars through judgment of Environmental court judgments in India.
- ❖ Suggesting suitable policy recommendation followed by the Stack-holders and other agencies.

HYPOTHESES

- The Role of NGT and development of the hill tourism Spots is inversely co-related.
- There is an alarming growth of unlawful activities of the tourist and inflow of refugees is perfectly associated.
- The earnings of the tourism sector and Environmental cost especially Protection cost is negatively associated.
- There is a significant association between the development of hill tourism centres and relaxation of rules and curbs imposed by NGT

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In this context the researcher raised some important research questions

- Whether NGT is a ban or boon to the development of tourism sector?
- What are the regulatory measures imposed by NGT on ensuring good bio diversity?
- How to overcome the draw backs and limitations in implementing NGT's rules?
- In what angle the role played by NGT and its Hues and shadow war between the other corporate bodies?
- What are the suggestive measures followed to ensure best practices of hill tourist operators now a days?

METHODOLOGY

Methods and Means followed by the researcher in any research is a determinant parameter to decide its usefulness and reliability and also focuses the thrust area of the Research Problem. This Research is carried out largely by the secondary data gathered from the reports of the concerned ministries and NGT's appellate courts and the orders of the proceedings hence data and information relevant to the research can also be obtained from tourist operators and the stackholders. Standing committee orders and taskforce reports of the, ministry of tourism and civil aviation and also the reports of the ministry of the environment and forest have been largely used.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a legal body that was set up in 2010 by the National Green Tribunal Act. It was set up to deal with cases and accelerate the cases identified with natural issues. The Tribunal has a command to discard applications and petitions inside a time of a half year. India is the third nation on the planet – after Australia and New Zealand – to set up such a body to manage ecological cases.

The chief seat of the NGT is situated in Delhi, with different seats sitting in Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai. Equity Swatanter Kumar has filled in as the Chairman of the Tribunal since December 2012.

Sl. No.	Beautiful Hill Stations in North India	Distance From Delhi
1	Manali	539.3 km
2	Gulmarg	859.4 km
3	Shimla	342.8 km
4	Nainital	301.1 km
5	Kasol	517.6 km
6	Srinagar	811.3 km
7	Mussoorie	292.2 km
8	Almora	364.0 km
9	Haldwani	288.4 km
10	Palampur	482.9 km

The summer heat and humidity in India is intolerable, but the hill stations in India come to your rescue welcoming you with incredible landscapes set against stunning backdrops and a cold climate all the way through. The hill stations in India, particularly the ones in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are certainly a treat to the senses. The hill stations in India are regarded to be the best places to visit in North India because of their scenic beauty and wonderful temperatures. These hill stations in North India are preferred mostly by the people who wish to escape the scorching temperatures all over the country during the summers. Here are some of the places that are sure to astound you!

PILGRIMS AND URBAN POLLUTION POSE BIGGER THREAT

Additional alarming is the way that notwithstanding these huge numbers during vacationer season, the campers and rafters are a little segment of the complete appearances in the district. Unmistakably more hindering to the wellbeing of the blessed stream is strict the travel industry. An investigation by the International Journal of

Humanities and Social Science Invention announced that the measure of sewage unloaded into the waterway tightens up during the Char DhamYatra season when almost 1.5 million explorers visit the state from May through October. “No one looks for a restriction on strict the travel industry,” contends Kanjilal, “so why quit outdoors?”

The center, include specialists, should be on dispensing with the greater scoundrels –, for example, unloading of dead bodies into the sacred waterway, development of dams, counteraction of waste materials and arrival of messy sewage water into the stream. In spite of these monstrous and very much perceived issues, most ventures in and around Rishikesh work without essential consent from the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board. Nearby lodgings as well, have been discovered to be deviant, shunning utilization of the obligatory sewage treatment plants. On May 23 this year the Radisson Blu Hotel in Haridwar had its utilities shut off for around 36 hours by the State Pollution Control Board after it was found unloading untreated water from its channels into the Ganga.

Chipping away at options is the way to maintainable the travel industry in the eco-delicate zone, includes Shekhar. “Empowering private-public association and sharpening all travel industry partners are the best approach.” As the WII report proposed, the best approach to advance ecotourism in the district is “by guaranteeing that the way toward arranging the travel industry ventures are participatory and receptive to nearby needs.”

Shockingly, the NGT’s choice risks doing the inverse. It rebuffs the littlest polluters, whose exercises could be controlled, and overlooks greatest polluters of the area, letting them move away without any penalty.

SOME IMPORTANT MILESTONES OF NGT

Chilling out in a popular Indian hill station is no more a hot proposition this summer. Shimla, the legendary summer capital of the Raj, once famous for its meandering boulevards, English fruit orchards and walks lined with trees and flowers is a slum. Except for the random Gothic villa, its great veranda-fronted bungalows, Tudor cottages and picturesque chalets have been razed by indiscriminate building spree in the 1990s. An imperial city, which thrived on high society invitations, teas, strolls, picnics, dinners, balls, fetes, races and amateur theatricals, is in the grip of a tourist invasion from the plains, escaping the scorching summer heat. The story is the same in Kasauli, Mussoorie, Ranikhet and other summer retreats. A reverse metamorphosis of sorts is happening to the hill stations: the beautiful butterfly has turned into an ugly caterpillar. Says author Ruskin Bond who has spent most of his adult life in Mussoorie, “These places survive on tourism. So tourists cannot be discouraged. I wish a little more attention is given to caring for the surroundings and encouraging sustainable tourism.

We need tourism, but we also need to preserve the beauty and sanctity of the mountains.”

Bond may be right but Indian hill stations are collapsing due to reasons well within our control.

- A water crisis of Himalayan proportions that could have been avoided.
- Burgeoning tourist traffic causing automobile pollution, interminable traffic jams clogging roads not built to accommodate such vehicle inflow, rampant littering of non-degradable material, waste generated by roadside restaurants and eateries.
- Rampant misuse of precious natural resources.
- Uncontrolled development as builders of large resorts and small hotels on hillsides flout building norms.

Judgement of the National Green Tribunal in the matter of Sher Singh Vs State of HP dated 06/02/2014 regarding tourism impacts on satellite spots of major tourist destination at Manali in the north-western Himalayas which are mostly spread in snow (environment) and include Rohtang Pass, Marhi, Kothi, SalangNala apart from other spots.

Heavy tourism, besides being a boon to the economy of Himachal Pradesh, is also the cause for adverse impacts on ecology and environment of the State. NGT order states that “The State Government has neither formulated nor issued any specific guidelines – statutory or otherwise – on prevention and control of environmental degradation and damage in relation to the glacier of Rohtang Pass valley”.

IMPORTANT HILL TOURISM SPOTS IN INDIA

Nainital a word that brings the cool air with its name is a secret hide out of the tourists each year. Situated at an altitude of 1,938 M, this dreamland town with its beauteous splendour is one of the most popular summer resorts of the country. The nucleus of Nainital's exquisite beauty is her lake which is a haven for water sports like Yachting, Kayaking, Canoeing and Boating. The lake in the middle of the city is the main attraction of Nainital. The lake at south end is called Tallital and at north end is called Mallital.

The city of Nainital is developed around this lake. The lake offers yachting and cool boat rides in its waters. A unique feature of the lake is that it hosts the only Post Office on a lake bridge in whole world. An evening walk on the road, on the banks of the lake, gives an unforgettable experience, it is ideal case of ‘Unity in Diversity’ for which India is so generally known, then again various societies, religions and ways of life are mixed in total congruity. It is also known as the gateway to Kumaon because on seeing the beauty of this district alone, one can very well imagine what kumaon is waiting to offer. Udham Singh Nagar is full of Wildlife and Natural beauty. The Himalayan ranges that surround Udham Singh Nagar are perfect in beauty and serenity. Places of tourist Interest in this area are Atariya Temple, Nanak Matta, Chaiti Devi Temple, GiriSarovar, Pantnagar.

The problem was becoming acute with each passing year. “Most places are chock-a-block with tourists. ATMs run out of money by Friday night owing to the influx of people and we have no option in the case of an emergency. The bigger impact is ecological, with vast lands being converted into hotels and resorts,” he said. Close to 85 lakh tourists visit the district each year, going by the government estimates. “The population of Chikkamagaluru is around 10 lakh. We have been questioning the authorities over what is being done for resource and waste management and insisting on a district tourism policy,” added Mr. Girish Sanjay Mohan, PCCF (Wildlife)

and Chief Wildlife Warden, particularly in Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu during weekends and holidays. “In our parks and sanctuaries, we are ensuring that the number of visitors is not excessive,” he added.”After the massive landslips that occurred in Kodagu last year and in Chikkamagaluru and Hassan this year, environmental experts and experts from the Mines and Geology conducted a study and submitted a preliminary report recently, which said it was a result of felling of deep-rooted and widespread trees and excavation of hill-tops.

Kullu and Manali is one of the beautiful and important tourist destinations from tourism point of view Nainital, Mussori and some parts of Himalayan regions are the most attractive spots of the tourist where there is a long standing pending of approvals from NGT to undertake some tourism Developmental activities

India is a country where there is large number of mountains and hill spots which attracts larger tourists to enjoy pleasant manner.

Activities of NGT on tourism in recent times

With the National Green Tribunal (NGT) refusing to relax the ban on commercial activities at Rohtang Pass, Marhi and SolangNala, various organisations, NGOs and local politicians have come together to chalk out a way to help locals who are suffering heavily due to closure of tourism activities in the areas.”Under the alternative plan, eco-friendly shopping, picnic and parking spots will be raised at minimum six sites where the affected locals will be given shops on priority. Taxi owners who decide to convert their vehicles to CNG will be given government grants and all displaced will be given compensation for losses, new avenues of work and soft loan for restarting their business. The state government should ensure conclusive rehabilitation plan for the affected people, which must be based on scientific studies that address issues such as environment safeguards, sustainability and livelihood security of the community.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- ✓ The NGT has delivered a number of high-profile judgments. Most as of late, it made it unlawful for diesel vehicles more than 15 years of age from handling on the streets of Delhi, in an offer to handle weighty air contamination.
- ✓ The body has also issued the cancellation of clearance to coal blocks in the Hasdeo-Arand forests of Chhattisgarh. In November 2019, the Kolkata bench of NGT banned all solid waste and commotion contamination in Sunderbans so as to ensure the natural life. It had before restricted all development movement in the eco-delicate locale.
- ✓ While the problems are there, it seems that they are of regulation rather than permission. The use of a ban by the NGT is seen as a severe overreaction. Indian Association of Tour Operators portrayed it as “removing the head to manage a headache.” He said that nearby specialists should consider the visit administrators liable for sharpening the sightseers about do’s and don’ts of outdoors as the primary issue is the litter that individuals desert or dump into the stream.

- ✓ “The licenses of operators who don’t comply should be revoked.”The impact of the NGT’s ban will be a huge blow for the local economy.
- ✓ The Indian Association of Rafting Outfitters (IARO) said that, “During peak season, we get around 40,000 tourists every week especially during weekends from neighbouring places like Delhi, Punjab and Haryana.
- ✓ Every season, around one lakh tourists are added to its resident population of 1.72 lakh, wrecking civic infrastructure.
- ✓ The largest catastrophe to strike Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is the mammoth water crisis in its hill towns. Shimla’s water supply comes from the five major sources Gumma, Giri, AshiwiniKhad, Churat and Seog. Its water storage capacity is 65 million litres daily (MLD); while it gets only around 35 MLD, the demand is around 45 MLD.
- ✓ Its ecosystem is under severe stress, with low rainfall in winter and inadequate rain in summer bringing down natural reserves by half. Even when it rains in Nainital, Mussoorie and Ranikhet, no water conservation measures exist to check the run-offs. Last year, the Shimla residents took out a protest march to the chief minister’s house.
- ✓ The annual International Shimla Summer Festival was postponed. Periodic confrontations between the state Irrigation Department and the Public Health Department in Shimla over the maintenance and supply of potable water have led to stagnation and contamination.
- ✓ The city’s water network was designed in the 1870s and has not been upgraded till today. Water tankers have become the norm in the city where Englishmen once fished in sparkling streams, as residents line up with buckets in summer.
- ✓ There is a troubling side to Tamil Nadu topping tourist footfalls thrice in a row. Kodaikanal in the Palani Hills had 5,000 residents two decades ago which exceeds 40,000 now. But over a million tourists visit each year. A citizen body called the Palani Hills Conservation Council is working to stop ecological degradation from the tourist backlash.
- ✓ Climate change has caused bizarre variations in weather. In winter, snow falls in Umrikhaal, a few km below Lansdowne in Uttarakhand, while in summer temperatures go up to 29 degrees.
- ✓ A local home stay has installed air conditioners and a high-powered generator in case a fallen tree brings down power lines. The absence of water harvesting has serious consequences. Many places depend on water taken through pipes from village water bodies, which deplete them in summer.
- ✓ Encroachment on roadsides and more buses for Yamunotri and Gangotri have added to the administration’s woes. In the Northeast where the British built hill stations like Shillong for strategic reasons, traffic snarls are an everyday affair.
- ✓ “Shillong is still unspoilt and green unlike many other hill stations, but traffic sometimes takes hours to clear in mornings and evenings.” Intrusive markets and a construction epidemic add to the crisis, sullyng its pure mountain air with sulphur dioxide fumes.

- ✓ Perhaps the most shocking image this summer was the one that went viral on Twitter: a traffic jam on Mt Everest. The image and a corresponding video show a snaking queue of mountaineers almost glued to each other while they make their way to the summit, one inch at a time.
- ✓ If hill station roads are choked by traffic, the sidewalks are clogged by tourists. Twitter and Instagram were flooded last weekend with images of people sleeping in the open as hotels in Nainital and Mussoorie ran out of rooms. Almost 95 per cent hotels in Shimla and 90 per cent in Manali were full.
- ✓ Many tourists were forced to shelter at bus stands and when those ran out of space, slept on pavements. Even travellers with confirmed bookings did not have it easy.
- ✓ Kilometres-long traffic snarls lasting over five hours stopped many from reaching their destination—entire families slept in cars as they waited only to give up and drive back to city life, which suddenly seemed more inviting.
- ✓ Even less populated places such as Kanatal in Uttarakhand, Manikaran and Kasol are losing their charm. Tourists searching for ‘off-beat’ destinations end up overcrowding such places, which used to be virgin land not very long ago. Hill stations like Matheran in Maharashtra have woken up to bottlenecks and pollution.
- ✓ In the Nilgiris too, Ooty is chockablock with new hotels and markets, forcing hotel chains to seek space on the outskirts, thus eating into the green reserve of the mountains. Compared to last year, tourist flow has increased in the mountain ranges.
- ✓ Our tourism economy is based on numbers, and internet price wars boost traffic volumes the infrastructure cannot handle. There is no regulatory body controlling the number of hotel rooms per destination. Hence hotels have mushroomed all over the hills. And we are poor at self-regulation.”
- ✓ An official study in Tamil Nadu found that around 50 percent of hotels discharge their grey (non-toilet) waste teeming with bacteria and chemicals directly into the vegetation around or open pits, thus polluting both the ground and ground water. Since the infected ground water is later used for drinking, cooking and gardening, humans and animals are at risk of disease.
- ✓ “The Nilgiris is not a tourist place. It is a biodiversity hot spot. We need to urgently preserve the town and the forests since the plains below get their water from the Western Ghats.” The Nilgiris was the first hill range in the country to implement the plastic ban. However, empty plastic bags, food wrappers and plastic bottles are choking the earth near water bodies and forests.
- ✓ Our wealth creation is totally based on destruction of nature and increasing pollution level, and loss of forest cover, but there are no policies in place. The Indian traveller is hardly ever conscious about his surroundings. They definitely need to learn and cultivate sustainable travelling.”

The River Beas, which gave Alexander the Great sleepless nights, is a plastic dump now. A recent report notes that Manali produces about 10 tonnes of garbage daily; the quantity shoots up to 50 tonnes during peak season. The Kullu Municipal Council, Bhuntar Nagar Panchayat and the Manali Municipal Council dump tourist-generated trash near the Beas. Despite directions from the Himachal Pradesh High Court and the National Green Tribunal, no alternative spot has been allotted to dump the waste. The Kullu civic body installed a biomedical waste incinerator

which ironically had to be shut down because residents complained about the odour. The off-beat Nag Tibba and the Pirpanjal range are littered with empty beer bottles, cans, disposable plastic plates and cups, food wrappers, empty juice tetra-packs. Trekkers discard junk in the forests, endangering the fragile ecosystem.

SUGGESTIONS AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The State Planning Commissions must ensure and oversee convergence within the tourism departments and between different sectors to assess and guide a plethora of sustainable tourism aspects and related information viz. capacity building, marketing and promotion including product development, standards, certification and guidelines, data management and research, and integrated destination and infrastructure planning and implementation.

- ❖ Updated capacity building packages and follow-up systems promoting sustainable tourism and its packages (homestays, rural tourism, heritage management) need to be blended within the curriculum and delivery design of trainings/education institutions vocational centres, universities, schools serving a host of actors and public/private sectors.
- ❖ IHR specific awareness and sensitization package are important for different actors and sectors, including all key service providers and producers. There is a need to unleash this information through a proactive media campaign and existing travel related websites.
- ❖ Impacts made on progressing practical the movement business Sustainable Tourism in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) presentation of a “greenness” in view of eco-accreditation and as installments from administration buyers/state ought to add to expanded duty incomes and evenhanded sharing of that income.
- ❖ Payments for environmental services (PES) such as charging entrance fees might also offer a valuable long term solution within the tourism industry, as tourism relies heavily on the existence of sound natural environments.
- ❖ Multi-year destination strategy and associated business plans (e.g. land use plans with landscape zoning concepts, carrying capacity assessments and environmental auditing of tourism service providers) must be made mandatory and should include a focus on sustainability and feasible the travel industry that comprises of natural, financial, social, social, quality, wellbeing, and security issues.
- ❖ This is extremely important as tourist destinations in the IHR are also increasingly known for very disturbing trends such as drug abuse among youth, prostitution, exploitation of labour and uncontrolled land sales, despite states having put in stringent norms for outsiders.
- ❖ The implementation strategy should be IHR state specific and must be based on business plans that clearly relate to eco-labelling parameters, investment planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- ❖ The integrated implementation of above business plans and the performance on composite sustainability indicators could then be used to assess the performance of IHR states and incentivize them accordingly.
- ❖ These business plans must also serve as the basis for out scaling and up scaling the learning harnessed from best practices.

- ❖ Punishing water crisis, endless traffic jams, toxic vehicular pollution, mounds of litter, unchecked development and ad hoc construction are turning India's summer retreats into unwelcome and unsustainable hot spots. The Raj, which invented the hill station as a pleasant seat of governance, and the Kiplingesque social centerpiece had an official hierarchy for its summer retreats.
- ❖ In the first category came Shimla, Darjeeling, Nainital and Ooty, names that have been taken from the pages of history and planted in vulgar tourist brochures. From imperial stations, these towns and their lesser cousins are plagued by the maladies of cities in the plains.
- ❖ Shimla's ecosystem is under severe stress, with low rainfall in winter and inadequate rain in summer bringing down natural reserves by half. Even in Nainital, Mussoorie and Ranikhet, no water conservation measures exist.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

It is very pity to note that there are some instances about the NGT's ban on regulating hotels and tourism centres in India with regard to ensuring good environment and nurturing ecological issues without disturbing the natural order of the society in its own way.

The government and the stock holders are always interested in earning more revenue earnings from the tourism industry but at the same time NGT is worried about implementing the standing orders and the proceedings of the court judgments in maintaining good eco balance and automatically many differences are simmering

One more point to be considered is NGT's role and responsibilities is praise worthy from many quarters from all walks of life and also opposed and vehemently criticized from the slight quarter of bureaucrats The NGT order on banning number of vehicles' to Rohtang pass on has affected an estimated 4,000 families residing in nine villages of the area. For the past four years these locals were engaged – legally or illegally – in providing snow scooter, ATV, horse riding and paragliding services besides running 'dhabas' (makeshift roadside eateries) to tourists at various places like Solang, Marhi, Vashishth and the Rohtang Pass. An average number of 5,000 tourists visited the mighty Rohtang Pass during peak tourist season. But the tourist arrivals declined after the NGT ban, leaving the stakeholders, including hotel owners, dhabas, taxi operators, and those engaged in tourism activities high and dry. BeasKund near Rohtang Pass had directed the Himachal Pradesh government to submit a plan for the rehabilitation of families whose livelihood was affected by the ban. The tribunal had also asked the government to hold consultations with stakeholders before compiling its report. Besides the ban, the NGT bench had directed the government to issue computerised permits to vehicle owners intending to visit the Rohtang Pass. NGT had made it mandatory to maintain a record of visitors, including photo identity, and those found indulging in malpractices would be debarred from plying vehicles on the Manali-Rohtang Pass. It also directed to allow each vehicle only one trip to the Rohtang Pass per day. After NGT restrictions, local natives lost their source of livelihood and are still waiting for the execution of the rehabilitation plan. Earlier, over 4,000 taxis were allowed to ply towards Rohtang pass, which was the source of livelihood for taxi operators in Kullu-Manali. Similarly, around 4,000 families of Manali and its nearby villages like Palchan, Burua, Shnag and a few others were engaged in providing tourists

activities like snow scooter, local dresses, skiing, ATV, horse riding, paragliding and others at the Rohtang Pass to earn their livelihood. These issues will haunt the BJP and the Congress, which will be a decisive factor for a candidate's. As the Govt. fails to find legal remedy to get some relaxation to resume tourist activities at Rohtang pass.

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