

## Problems and Prospects of Uttarakhand Tourism and Covid Effects on Tourists

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### Abstract

Uttarakhand is rich in natural beauty and natural resources. Uttarakhand is known as “Dev bhoomi” (Abode of god) therefore almost employment and economy is fully based on various organized and unorganized pilgrimage. It is sight of temples and pilgrimage endowed with salubrious climate, exotic greenery, rich flora besides its rich culture moreover the beautiful lakes, mountain peaks, mesmerizing scenic landscape makes Uttarakhand an attractive tourists destination in India and abroad, with in the period of COVID. The hanker of every resident in cities and much rushi areas first preference was the solitary place, that was “DEV BHOOMI” the abode of God. This research paper is consisted with various problems as well as prospects in Uttarakhand tourism industries. This research paper is qualitative and based on secondary data available on various sources. WTO pointed out the vast development potential of tourism particularly with reference to the developing nation like India. There are so many problems faced by Uttarakhand tourism industries like unemployment, lack of power and other infrastructure like road constitute major electoral issues in the state of Uttarakhand. The ecologically fragile, flood and earthquake-prone state has frequently seen natural disasters,

**Keywords:** Prospects, Rich flora, Tourism, WTO, Electoral issue, Pilgrimage *etc.*

### Introduction

Tourism industries have become the most desirable activities and encouragement of all people in the world. The tourism sector is accepted is a growth driver for inclusive social economic progress through its forward and backward linkages and the ability to create employment in economy, Uttarakhand tourism considering the development of spiritual and religious theme based circuits. The draw of the Himalayas, The beauty and cool relief of hill stations and the wealth of Hindu religious pilgrimage sites are the part of attractions. Corbett tiger reserve and hill stations of Nainital, Mussoorie, Almora, Kanson, Bhimtal, and Ranikhet are most frequented destination of India. Various problems and natural disaster decreases the attractions of tourists every year but new tourist increases. As it is said “char dham” for Hindus in the world therefore pilgrimage are the main source of generating revenues in Uttarakhand, The land for agriculture is not so enough therefore the resident of Uttarakhand started to leave their houses to search for employment, lack of transport facilities, roads, reachability at every places is very difficult only some

places have been developed where transportation facilities are available. Tourism has become a major part of economics, social and physical development which include nature, universe, space and galaxy.

### Attractions For Tourists

The tourism of U.K. contribute 5% of total G.D.P. of the state the major type of tourism of Uttarakhand is “Adventure and water sports, pilgrimage, sightseeing, wildlife”

*Major type of destinations:-*

- 1- **Adventure and water sports** – Rishikesh, Auli, Trekking at Shri Hemkund Sahib, Dhanaulti
- 2- **Pilgrimage** – Hardwar, Gangotri, Yamotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Piran kaliyar, Nanda devi, Hemkund sahib
- 3- **Sightseeing** –Nainital, Mussoorie, Valley of flowers, kansari, Auli
- 4- **Wild life** - Jim Corbett National park, wild life sanctuary, Neel dhara, pakshi bihar, Govind wild life sanctuary, Rajaji National park, Nanda devi National park, Askot musk Deer sanctuary

**Others:**

The climate of the state is very cool due to presence of natural beauty, The holy River Ganga originated from "GOMUKH".

The main source of income of the people residing in this state is Tourism, large number of hotels and lodges are available for serving tourists. The Uttarakhand Tourism Industries are known as the spiritual tourism due to various Hindu Temples for Hindu religious and devotees, large number of devotees from India and outside India are attracted in the month of Sawan and Kharis from different part of India come to pray Neelkanth, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Haridwar, Rishikesh and other famous temple of shiva.

#### **Challenges faced by the tourism industry in Uttarakhand**

- There is lack of road and air connectivity in all over the state, some of the specific areas have connectivity but most of areas don't have proper roads, the tourist don't try to go these areas, therefore the development of those areas and ignored.
  - Tourism in Uttarakhand is seasonal because almost five to six months, people don't want to come here, on these days income does not take place due to icy cold, icy wind, ice falling
  - Migration is also the most important challenges for Uttarakhand due to lack of employability and resources of daily living people of Uttarakhand migrate from Uttarakhand to other states.
  - Infrastructure arrangement is also improper in the unique geographical structure surrounded by mountain, forest and rivers in front of the authorities to create long term sustainability in infrastructure.
  - There are maximum single roads in hilly areas the tourists coming from outside have to face high challenge for parking of vehicles.
  - Some areas are high risk prone or high risk zone in terms of natural calamity as kedarnath
  - Due to lack of trained guide the tourism destination more promising it require proper guidance and convincing skill, which is impossible without trained guide.
  - There is a lack of modern equipped accommodation with modern amenities to attract the foreign tourists.
  - Land slide, mountain falling, natural disaster, like cloud burst etc. are the challenges for authorities.
- Solid waste is also a major problem of management in hilly areas to dispose of.
  - Due to lack of public transport and public conveniences facility in hilly areas is one of the problems Government to address.
  - Drinking water, proper medical facility, AT, facility language problem etc.

There are unplanned developments in disaster prone zones. This creates the environment very poor and polluted waste management, health and safety, urban design, congestion with no concern for natural environment.

#### **Kerala**

Kerala was the first state to execute planned ecotourism in India and host to some of the wealthiest biodiversity places in the world. Some of the most beautiful places include hill stations and backwaters.

#### **Karnataka**

Karnataka in South India is endowed with eco-trails and rainforests of the Western Ghats. The state is also gifted with biological and ecological diversity. Some of the lodges are built right in the heart of the jungle. Some incredible lodges are built right in the heart of the jungle here. Some of the best locations for nature lovers include Nagarhole, Kabini, Hassan, and Chikmagalur.

#### **Orissa**

"Development of Eco-tourism" was approved by the Government for a period of five years from the financial year 2016-17 to 2020-21 to realize sustainable development. Currently, the scheme is being operated by the Wildlife Wing of the State. The extraordinary spots outside the protected areas, in several Districts such as Anjar in Keonjhar, Sidhamula in Nayagarh, to name a few have been developed and facilities were provided for nominal camp out, trekking and nature exploration to charm nature buffs. Moreover, employment opportunities are generated by engaging local communities living in the vicinity for preserving services like nature trails, watch towers, interpretation centers.

#### **Responsible tourism and scale:**

R.T.S.O.I. (Responsible Society of India) is a nonprofit organization set up by the government of India to promote and ensure environmentally responsible and sustainable practices in the tourism industry. Design of scale and categories for attitude towards "Responsible tourism based on the "On guidelines launched by the Responsible Tourism Society of India and supported by the Ministry of

Tourism, Government of India. All the items were measured on a 1-5 scale. 1."Not at all important" 2. "Slightly Important," 3. "Important," 4. "Fairly Important and 5."Very Important,"

### Travel

1. Selecting a mode of travel which offsets carbon footprint.

### At the Destination

1. Carrying refillable or biodegradable toiletries or materials
2. Disposing waste responsibly
3. Eat local food to appreciate local culture
4. Avoid single use plastic and carry steel-based bottles
5. Conserve water and electricity
6. Shop local to support local community
7. Don't disturb or harm animals
8. Respect culture and appreciate culture
9. Take permission for photographs
10. Explore destiny and beyond to appreciate culture, food, places and people
11. Follow guidelines during safari
12. Use established trails for hiking
13. For camping a minimum distance of 100 ft should be maintained from water resources
14. Avoid campfires
15. Abide by local laws
16. Support local community (education, health, and conservation).

These can further be categorized into local community, concern for environment, laws, and local laws. The scale can be administered to tourists (potential and current who are interested in ecotourism). Based on several clusters or segments of tourism can be developed with an aim to design strategy to attract them. Interestingly, some of the points can be carried to mainstream tourism (environmental). Several supporting activities and promotions are needed to be carried out to implementation of the above guidelines. Areas need to be identified by respective tourism department of the state governments.

### Strategy and Conclusion:

Luxury ecotourism can also be explored. We recommend each state government encourage small group activity among postgraduate colleges, high schools, technical colleges, professional colleges, and the corporate sector. An app may be developed that

educates ecotourism in respective states and acts as a booking and guiding aspect. It requires a vital role of state government, Village panchayat, local bodies, and communities. Although ecotourism is a fringe aspect, the broader aim of sustainable tourism needs to be achieved. Policy, infrastructure, and education are essential to achieve the objectives of ecotourism. Digital media and apps are necessary to promote ecotourism, the effect of ecotourism, and its potential in different states. Luxury ecotourism may further be explored as an area for future research. Sustainable tourism aimed at striving for balance between the three dimensions namely environmental, socio cultural and economic features of tourism development.

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ECO-TOURISM GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
([ecotourodisha.com](http://ecotourodisha.com))

Odisha State Forest Department ([odishaforest.in](http://odishaforest.in))

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