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TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN INDIA BY 2020: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HOTEL INDUSTRY IN MAHARASHTRA

Introduction

Indian tourism infrastructure in India is always considered as inappropriate and lagging a way behind the competition worldwide. The question is how far is it lagging behind? In which sectors? And is it really the case? It is not a justifiable act to analyse all the infrastructural aspects at one go, hence in the current paper only the aspect of hotels in India as an important element in tourism industry is taken into account.

For the purpose of research the statistics is referred from the government website for the authentication of data. The numerical data used is secondary data and due credit for the same is given at the specific sightings. The question for which the answer is sought out is the interpretation of the government data and its relevance to the current infrastructure position in Maharashtra. If we stick to the data referred by the government then there is a huge gap of hotel rooms in comparison to the tourist arrivals. But is it really so? If not then what is the lacuna?

The topic is vast and considering the scope at national level in the best interest of objectivity of the research the data is restricted to government tourism data analysis. The other reason for this constraint is, whenever the policy decisions are taken by the government, it will always refer to its own statistical data than anything else. Infrastructure investment is considered as a major responsibility of the government for any industry. Public-private partnership may also exist in some cases and sometimes it can be only private investment with certain exemptions and incentives by government. But finally one thing is certain that the direction is always given by government.

In this light it would be interesting to gauge the current position of hotels in the light of tourist arrivals and its need to grow in the current future that is by 2020.

Objectives

1. To understand the current position of hotels in Maharashtra in context to tourism infrastructure.
2. To find out whether really there is really need to expand the hotel industry in near future that is by 2020 in Maharashtra.

Analysis of secondary data

FTA in India

2011	6309222	9.2
2012	6577745	4.3
2013	6967601	5.9

Source: Bureau of Immigration, India (table.1.1).

The above data regarding foreign tourist is compiled by embarkation cards filled by the foreign

tourists at all the entry points in India. The figures of last three years are taken as there is no overwhelming growth in the number of foreign tourist arrivals. Hence even if the accommodation industry has to meet the demand of rising number of tourists, it is within the range.

At the same time one has to consider the domestic tourism, as the number is surely not negligible.

Domestic Tourist Arrivals

STATE / U.T WISE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TOURIST VISITS, 2012 AND 2013.

Sr. No.	State / UT	2012		2013		Growth Rate	
		Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
1	Andaman & Nico. Islands	238699	17538	243703	14742	2.10	-15.94
2	Andhra Pradesh	207217952	292822	152102150	223518	-26.60	.23.67
3	Arunachal Pradesh	132243	5135	125461	10846	-5.13	111.22
4	Assam	4511407	17543	4684527	17638	3.84	0.54
5	Bihar	21447099	1096933	21588306	765835	0.66	-30.18
6	Chandigarh	924589	34130	936922	40124	1.33	17.56
7	Chhattisgarh	15036530	4172	22801031	3886	51.64	-6.86
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	469213	1234	481618	1582	2.64	28.20
9	Daman & Diu	803963	4607	819947	4814	1.99	4.49
10	Delhi	18495139	2345980	20215187	2301395	9.30	-1.90
11	Goa	2337499	450530	2629151	492322	12.48	9.28
12	Gujarat	24379023	174150	27412517	198773	12.44	14.14
13	Haryana	6799242	233002	7128027	228200	4.84	-2.06

14	Himachal Pradesh	15646048	500284	14715586	414249	-5.95	-17.20
15	Jammu & Kashmir	12427122	78802	13642402	60845	9.78	-22.79
16	Jharkhand	20421016	31909	20511160	45995	0.44	44.14
17	Karnataka	94052729	595359	9801014	036378	421	689
18	Kerala	10076854	793696	10857811	858143	7.75	812
19	Lakshadweep	4417	580	4784	371	831	-303
20	Madhya Pradesh	53197209	275930	63110709	280333	1864	1.60
21	Maharashtra	7481605	2651889	82700556	4156343	1054	56.73
22	Manipur	134541	749	140673	1908	456	154.74
23	Meghalaya	680254	5313	691269	6773	162	27.48
24	Mizoram	64249	744	63377	800	-1.36	753
25	Nagaland	35915	2489	35638	3304	-0.77	32.74
26	Odessa	9052871	64719	9800135	66675	825	302
27	Pondicherry	981714	52931	1000277	42624	189	-19.47
28	Punjab	19056143	143805	21340888	204074	11.99	41.91
29	Rajasthan	28611831	1451370	30298150	1437162	589	98
30	Sikkim	558538	26489	576749	31698	326	1966
31	Tamil Nadu	1841368	3561740	244232487	3990490	3264	1204
32	Tripura	361786	7840	359586	11853	61	51.19
33	Uttar Pradesh	168381276	1994495	226531091	2054420	3453	300
34	Uttarakhand	26827329	124555	1994128	97683	-2567	-2157
35	West Bengal	22730205	1219610	25547300	1245230	1239	210
	Total	1045047536	18263074	1145280443	1951026	9.59	9.24

The Ministry of Tourism in recent years has commissioned State Tourism Surveys in some States to ascertain the number of tourist visits to these states. The data obtained from the State Tourism Surveys and other administrative sources like Bureau of Immigration have also been appropriately used to estimate domestic and foreign tourist visits to the States, wherever required.

The data for total thirty-five union territories and states in India is available for the comparative study. But for the purpose of this study the state of Maharashtra is taken into consideration for the period of 2012-13. The purpose is understand that when one says there is need of infrastcture in a particular domain, is it the reality or it is a miscalculation based on the statistical information. As mentioned in the table above we can see that the state of Maharashtra had received total 7481605 domestic tourists in the year 2012 and 265889 foreign tourists in the same year. In the year 2013 the state had received 82700556 domestic tourists and 4156343 foreign tourists. Seeing the numbers one can certainly say that there is a huge demand in the number of rooms.

DISTRIBUTION OF CLASSIFIED HOTELS AND HOTEL ROOMS BY CATEGORIES IN MAHARASHTRA.

Sr.No.	States/UTs	5 Star Deluxe	5 Star	4 Star	3 Star	2 Star	1 Star	Apartment Hotels	Time Share Resorts	Heritage Hotels	Un-Classified	B & B Establishment	Guest House	Total
1	Maharashtra													
	No. of Hotels	20	11	13	59	21	26	1			4	24	4	183
	No. of Rooms	6576	1204	1613	3574	760	453	80	-	-	166	125	61	14612

Table 1.3) Ref: statistics of Government of India

So what is the position of the hotel rooms in the state for the same period? The survey in the same period says that there are altogether 183 approved hotels, guest houses, apartment hotels, heritage hotels in Maharashtra offering total 14612 rooms only. So the correlation between the tourists both domestic and foreign and the rooms looks inverse. Total 86856899 tourists are offered 14612 rooms.

Now the question is: what is included in the survey is all the hotel industry or only a part of it? For the purpose of the survey only the hotels approved by FHRAI are taken into consideration. It says that Maharashtra has only one Apartment hotel, no Heritage Hotel, only 21 two star hotels, 59 three star hotels, 13 four star hotels, and 11 five star hotels.

Whereas the survey of MTDC for the same period says that various tourism destinations in Maharashtra are having total 72132 accommodation units and in Pune MC alone there are 7049 accommodation units. It does not include company guest houses, guest houses run by trusts, dormitories, free dharamshalas, tourist bungalows and free accommodation units in the state. (Ref: E10 District wise Accommodation Units in State of Maharashtra. Page 28. MTDC survey for 2012-13).

Observations:

Looking at the gap from the surveys it is obvious that the surveys are providing a totally different picture of infrastructural need of the state. As hospitality professional one must be concerned about the facts and figures, as the government policies are based on such surveys. The wrong projection of figures can lead to wrong interpretation of the need. As one has to think is there really a need of new accommodation units in Maharashtra? And if yes in which part of it? What kind of accommodations are in demand or really required?

The survey at the national level states that Maharashtra has no heritage hotel whereas Fort Jadhavgarh is a heritage hotel near Pune. So there is a discrepancy in every figure as the word approved

by FHRAI is not recognising any other accommodation facility.

It looks very difficult to gauge the estimates of required accommodation units by 2020 in Maharashtra as the current state itself is unclear.

But if the Central Government implies this as a shortfall of hotels in Maharashtra in the current situation, then this might be a mistake.

It will also affect the employment opportunity for hospitality professionals. We being a part of this industry must understand the implications.

References:

Web sites:

Tourism.govt.in

www.maharashtra.govt.in