

# The Effects of Crime, Terrorism, Safety and Security on Tourism in India

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**Abstract**—Crime and terrorism activities are increasing all around the world. It has not only impacted lesser developed countries but developing and even developed countries too. With such an environment of safety and security concerns, one of the biggest impacts can be seen on tourism of that region. The current study analyzes the situation in India and presents a secondary analysis over relation between crime, terrorism and tourism. It was found that overall the tourism has increased in India but crime and tourists arrival are found to be inversely proportional to each other. Thus for states dependent on tourism, the crime rate must be brought down in order to revive this industry.

**Keywords:** Indian Tourism; Inbound Tourists; Terrorism; Crime Rate

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### (a) Rising Tourism in India

Tourism contributes 2.5 per cent to India's GDP. India stands 42 in the ranking of United Nations World Tourism Organization of tourist arrivals. India's Tourism market has a great future scope and growth prospects over the medium term (2015-2019). Domestic economic growth has been supporting outbound tourism while relaxation of visa requirements and increased international flight connections has been supporting inbound travel market. This increased tourism will result in increased tourism related expenditure as well as support growth of the industry and the nation. India has a ranking of 19 out of 23 in the BMI Risk/Reward Index for the Asia Pacific region and scores 44.04 out of 100. The outbound travel is expected to rise by 8.9% to reach 13.10 million while inbound travel is expected to increase by 5% to reach 7.61 million in 2015. Government is planning to invest USD30 billion in constructing 500 airports between 2004 and 2020 to provide tourists access to even the remote areas of India. The Indian rail network is fourth largest in the world with 64000km in length. The extensive rail network and airports makes it easy and inexpensive for tourists to travel in India. The international tourism receipts are expected to rise from USD21.1bn in 2015 to USD25.5bn in 2019 and number of hotels is also expected to increase by 11-12%. With such high growth prospects, the various aspects of Indian tourism need to be assessed.

### (b) Crime Rates, Terrorism and Safety of Tourists in India

According to the Risk/Reward ratings of BMI, India has various safety issues. Terrorist groups connected to al-Qaeda have been linked with terrorist attacks in which tourist suffer especially Westerners. Border and coastal regions and in India are much more prone to terrorist attacks such as Kashmir, North- east region and Mumbai. Security risk exists in the country due to rising crime against tourist like the recent high profile attacks on women; political demonstrations etc, and are the major concerns of the Indian government.

The crime rate has increased by 9.9% from year 2012 to 2013. A total of 6,640,378 crimes were reported in the year 2013. Crime against women has increased from 41.7 in 2012 to 52.2 in 2013. Kerala reported the highest criminal rate of 502.2 followed by Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Assam (National Crimes Records Bureau, 2013).

Terrorism in India has increased 70 per cent from 2012 to 2013 and the number of deaths increased from 238 to 404 (Global Terrorism Index, 2014). There were 55 more attacks in 2013 as compared to 2012. A total of 622 attacks were witnessed in India in 2013. In these attacks, 405 people were killed and 717 were wounded (US Department of State, 2013).

The issue of tourist safety, especially women, has been in news for quite some time. Tourists are required to be cautious while travelling in India. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India revealed that inbound tourism has dropped because of the rising crime cases and lack of safety of tourists especially women (Bly, 2013).

### (c) Impact of Crime and Terrorism on Tourism

While choosing a destination, most of the people are influenced by their perceptions or knowledge about that particular destination. Since travelling is a discretionary decision, people would not prefer to visit a destination they consider unsafe (Pizam & Mansfeld, 1996). Both regional and international media respond quickly to crime against tourists. Such response may have an immediate effect on the issuance and cancellation of travel advisories and also a long time impact on tourism can be witnessed (Lorde and Jackman, 2013).

#### (d) Need and Significance of the Study

Due to the increasing crime rate and unsafe environment, tourists are hesitating to visit the famous places in India. It has become imperative to see the impact of crime rate and terrorism on tourism so that tourism organizations can take necessary steps to curb crime and ensure a safe environment for tourists.

#### (e) Objectives of the Study

The current study has following objectives:

- To study the impact of crime on tourism in India
- To understand how terrorism makes the destination unsafe for the tourists.
- To review the safety and security of tourism in India.

#### (f) Organization of the Study

The study consists of five sections. Section 1 talks about research topic and gives an introduction to the topic. Section 2 will discuss the existing literature pertaining to this topic. Section 3 will discuss the research methods that will be used in the study to analyze the data. Section 4 will discuss the data analysis conducted and Section 5 will comprise of discussions and implications that can be made from the analysis. Finally Section 6 will conclude the study and recommendations will be made.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### (a) Tourism and Crime Association

Tourism has economic, environmental and social impacts on a tourist destination. One such negative social impact of tourism is that of crime (Mathieson & Wall, 1982). Researchers have shown interest in the crime and tourism relationship to understand whether crime and safety problems influence the tourism demand (Pizam & Mansfeld, 1996; Prideaux & Dunn, 1995). Tourists experience crime in areas where crime rate is high and where residents are also the victims of criminal activities. Criminal activities occurring in a region have a negative impact on its tourism industry. The literature on tourism- crime association has been growing over the years and can be divided into seven themes. These are: (1) Tourism impacting crime levels, (2) tourism locations with high crime rates, (3) tourist crime victimization, (4) local's and tourists' perception of crime, (5) tourists as offenders of crime, (6) terrorism and tourism, and (7) tourism-crime prevention. It has been observed by the tourism researchers that tourism generates criminal activities. McPheters and Stronge (1974) revealed that tourist destinations such as Miami, Florida have higher crime rates. Jud (1975) uncovered that tourism in Mexico is associated with property related crimes. Tourists are more prone to crime in Central Scotland, Hawaii, USA, Malaga, Spain, Sydney, New South Wales and such destinations (Walker and Page, 2007). Some tourist destinations are more vulnerable to crime than others. Tourists

are more prone to be victims of crime than the local residents (Harper, 2001).

### (b) Tourism and Terrorism Association

Terrorism is an enigmatic issue that draws attention of many intellectual people. It is defined as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against civilians and unarmed military personnel by sub national groups ... usually intended to influence an audience" and international terrorism as "involving citizens or the territory of more than one country" (US Department of State, 1993).

Various researchers have studied the relationship between terrorism and tourism (Wahab 1995). Richter studied the relationship between countries and pointed it out to be diplomatic and discussed that travelers might be targeted to be the victims of terrorist attacks because they are perceived to be the ambassadors of their countries. When tourists are attacked the situation gets magnified and becomes an international issue. The country of origin of the tourists and other countries pressurize the government where the attack took place. Tourist attacks become useful for terrorists as they receive media attention and international attention (Richter, 1983). Since tourism has an impact over the economy of a state, a terrorist attack can hamper the economy of the tourist destination (Richter and Waugh, 1986). The literature confirms that the Fig. s of tourism, expenditure, terrorism in a region concludes that terrorism has a negative impact on the tourism and expenditure (Sandler and Parise, 1992; Mihalie, 1996; Pitts 1996). Gu and Martin (1992) and Mansfeld & Kliot (1996) disclosed that tourists' country of origin and the level of past experience has an influence on the terrorists' reactions (Cook and McCleary 1983; D'Amore and Anuza 1986; Hurley 1988).

### (c) Tourists' Perception of Safety

In the recent years various crime incidents have been reported where tourists were the victim of accidents, torture, terrorism, rape, hostage and even death. Criminal activities have been reported at various tourist destinations such as Egypt, Florida, Kenya, Spain, Lebanon and Yemen and are considered risky for the tourists. Perceptions of tourists about their safety became an important topic for research in the early 1990s (Pinhey & Iverson, 1994; Sonmez & Graefe, 1998). Sonmez & Graefe (1998) pointed out that safety is a prerequisite for a prosperous tourist destination. If a traveler is asked to choose between an inexpensive and a safe tourist destination, he would prefer visiting a safe place. Pearce (1988) determined that safety is a major concern while making a travel decision. If a tourist perceives a tourist destination to be unsafe or insecure, he/ she will have an overall negative perception of that holiday destination. A negative perception may result in following situations:

- Prospective tourists might not visit the place because of its high crime rate.

- In case the tourists do not feel safe at their holiday destination, they might not take part in any of the activities and stay in their accommodation.
- Tourists who felt unsafe might not revisit the destination and would not recommend the place to others.

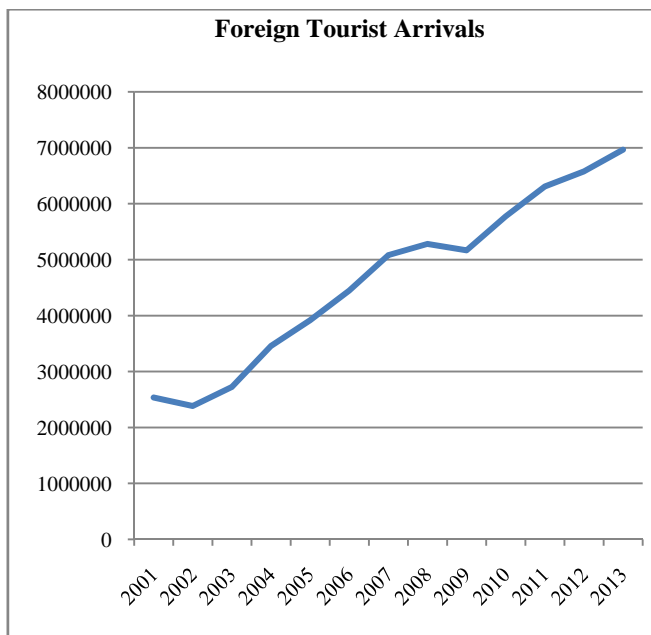
Thus, all this leads us to think and consider about the impact of crime on tourism and should be well prepared after careful assessment.

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study follows a quantitative approach for data analysis. Secondary data analysis would be done to show the impact of crime and terrorism on inbound tourism. The study is exploratory (Hartwig & Dearing, 1979) in nature and tries to define the relationship between the variables-crime, terrorism and tourism. Data has been collected from secondary sources (National Crimes Records Bureau, 2013 and India Tourism Statistics, 2013) and will be visually represented through graphs. Trend analysis will be done showing the relationship between crime, terrorism and tourism in India. The variables under study are as follows:

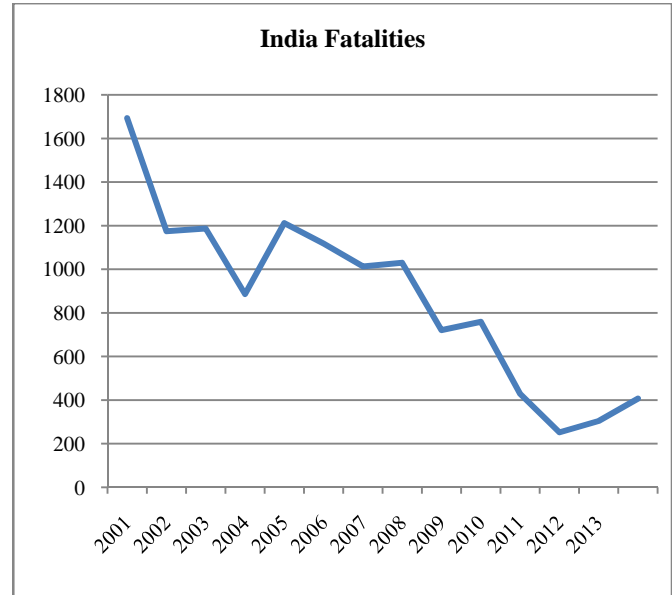
- Crime - The total cognizable crime under Indian Penal Code (IPC) from year 2001 to 2012 will be represented through graph
- Terrorism - Terrorism has been shown through civilian fatalities in India from the year 2001 to 2012.
- Tourism - The number of tourist arrivals, that is, inbound tourism will be depicting tourism in India.

### 4. DATA ANALYSIS



**Fig. 1: Number of Tourist Arrivals in India (2001-2012)**  
(Source: India Tourism Statistics, 2013)

The number of tourist arrivals in India has been rising over the years. It declined minutely in 2002 and 2009 but overall it has been showing a positive trend.



**Fig. 2: India Fatalities (2001-2012)**  
(Source: South Asia Terrorism Portal, 2015)

The annual fatalities in violence by terrorists have declined over the years. The graph depicts the civilian fatalities in India due to terrorist attacks. It is visible through the graph that fatalities due to terrorism have been declining except in the year 2005. In 2002-03, 2007-08 and 2009-10 the number remained constant but it has decreased overall.

**Table 1: Relationship between crime rate and tourist arrival in states/UTs of India (Source: National Crimes Records Bureau, 2013 and India Tourism Statistics, 2013)**

States/ UTs	% decrease in crime rate	Growth rate of foreign tourists
Tripura	0.1	51.19
Tamil Nadu	0.3	12.04
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.0	828.20
Mizoram	1.1	7.53
West Bengal	1.1	72.10
Kerala	2.5	8.12
Assam	11.9	0.54
Manipur	12.6	154.74

**Table 2: Relationship between crime rate and tourist arrival in states/UTs of India (Source: National Crimes Records Bureau, 2013 and India Tourism Statistics, 2013)**

States/UTs	% increase in crime rate	Growth rate of foreign tourists
Andhra Pradesh	0.4	-23.67
Jammu and Kashmir	2.6	-22.79
Himachal Pradesh	3.7	-17.20

Rajasthan	4.7	-0.98
Haryana	5.9	-2.06
Uttarakhand	7.0	-21.57
Delhi	19.7	-1.9

Table 1 and Table 2 show the inverse relation of crime rate/terrorism and the tourism in various states of India. In some areas tourism increased and subsequently their crime level decreased and vice versa for other states.

## 5. DISCUSSION & IMPLICATIONS

The crime rate in some states/UTs of India has decreased such as Assam, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, West Bengal, Tripura, and Tamil Nadu. The foreign tourist arrival in these states/UTs has increased in the year 2012-2013. On the other hand states like Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand have experienced an increase in crime rate and the foreign tourist arrival in these states has seen a downfall. It can be seen that an increase in crime rate leads to decrease in the growth rate of foreign tourists. So, there is a negative relationship between crime rate and foreign tourist arrivals. The tourist arrival in India has been increasing over the years and is expected to rise for the next four years (BMI, 2015). The inbound tourism has been rising from the year 2001 to 2012. On the other hand, the annual fatalities in violence by terrorists have shown a decreasing trend from the year 2001 to 2012 except in 2005-06 when it increased. The number of civilian deaths due to terrorism has declined over the years.

This shows that as the number of civilian deaths due to terrorism has declined, number of tourist arrival has increased. Therefore, there is a negative relationship between terrorism and tourism in India. This implies that tourists visit the places where they are not at the risk of terrorist attacks. Terrorism in India posits a negative impact on the tourist visit in India. It can be implied from these results that in order to increase the inbound tourism in the country, the state and central government must keep a check over the crime rate and must take preventive measures to mitigate terrorist activities. There are various recommendations that can be made for the trend seen in these regions. For a safe visit to India, there are few keynotes for the tourists that must be considered. Proper research must be conducted about the places, traditions, crime rate and safety of the places the tourist intend to visit. The tourist must adjust his/her expectations about the safety of the country and must prepare to face any kind of circumstances. Tourism organizations must plan about the safety of the tourists against terrorist attacks and must develop communication and contingency plans to deal with terrorist activities (Paraskevas & Arendell, 2007). The government must take preventive measures to mitigate the weaknesses or vulnerability of the destination against terrorist attacks (Paraskevas & Arendell, 2007). Female travelers are advised to travel in groups and must ensure that their travel organizations have made proper arrangements for their stay

and travel to avoid being a victim of crimes persisting in the country.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Tourism in India is witnessing a growing trend and government is making efforts to facilitate this growth by improving the infrastructure, constructing airports, rail facilities and taking measures to improve the safety in the country. The inbound tourism is lesser than the outbound tourism. One of the reasons for this is the safety issues persisting in the country. Crime rate is high in many of the states and Union Territories and terrorism activities also have increased by 70 per cent from 2012 to 2013. Crime and terrorism have an impact on the tourists' perceptions and an increase in these factors (crime and terrorism) will have a negative consequence on inbound tourism. There must be proper measures taken against the combating terrorism and crime in the country in order to boost tourism.

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