

# CONCEPT OF TOURISM

## 28.1 INTRODUCTION

The beauty of nature lies in its variety which indeed is endless. So is the limitless desire in the human beings to appreciate the nature from the bottom of their heart. This is why since ancient times explorers, discoverers and travellers undertook adventurous journeys in spite of all difficulties they came across. The underlying idea of visiting new places to appreciate their beauty, in course of time, has given birth to a modern industry called tourism. It is the job of tourism industry to spot such places of beauty and interest and bring people and places physically closer to one another by providing every facility and comfort. Thus tourism promotes mutual friendship and trade; sustains dying traditional skills of local people and contributors in a big way to reconstruct national economies. In fact the era of mass-tourism is not far. In this lesson, we will study the meaning of terms such as tourism, tourists and tourists' attractions, type of tourism and its growing contribution to Indian economy.

## 28.2 OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson you will be able to :

- explain the process of transformation of travel of yesteryears into tourism of today;
  - discuss various types and the related purposes of tourism;
  - explain the variety and value of tourist resources of India;
  - analyse the outcomes of the tourism in India;
  - elucidate the relevance of tourism in economic reconstruction of India.
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### 28.3 MEANING OF TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL TOURIST

Tourism in its modern form is not the same as travels of the early periods of human history. In the language of Jews, the word '*Torah*' means study or search and 'tour' seems to have been derived from it. In Latin the original word '*Tornos*' stands close to it. '*Tornos*' was a kind of round wheel-like tool hinting at the idea of a travel circuit or a package tour. In Sanskrit, '*Paryatan*' means leaving one's residence to travel for the sake of rest and for seeking knowledge.

'*Deshatan*' is another word which means travelling for economic benefits. '*Tirthatan*' is the third equivalent which means travelling for religious purposes. All the three words convey the meaning and concept of tourism much more appropriately, as well as comprehensively. Since 1970 India collects statistics in regard to tourist traffic on the basis of following definition given in United Nations Travel and Tourism paper : "A person who travels in India on foreign passport for a minimum period of 24 hours and the maximum period of 6 months is a tourist provided he or she does neither settle nor gets employed (or exiled) in this country." It applies to international tourists.

Tourism as a modern term is applicable to both international and domestic tourists. It is the temporary movement of people to destinations outside their normal place of work and residence. Such a pleasure-seeking tourists is a traveller moving from place to place or visiting the same place time and again. Tourism includes all economic activities which are organised to fulfil the needs of such travellers. Any travel for holidaying, business or professional trips becomes a part of tourism if it is temporary, is undertaken voluntarily and does not aim at earning any livelihood out of it. The word 'holiday' is derived from the term 'holy day'. The reason being that for long it was associated only with the days of religious observances. Gradually by the 19th century many other holidays were fixed keeping in view the secular activities of the State. The concept of annual holidays allowed or taken by a citizen and its association with that of tourism is a very recent phenomenon.

- \* The meaning of 'tourism' is found implied in the suggestive words used for it in Hebrew, Latin and Sanskrit Languages.
- \* Tourism refers to a temporary and voluntary movement of mainly holidaying or pleasure seeking people.

### 28.4 GROWTH FROM EARLY TRAVELS TO MODERN TOURISM

Travel as a wanderlust in some form or the other has attracted human beings from the earliest periods in history. The sages in our country travelled to the Himalaya, sea shores, rivers or lake sides and close to forests for meditation. People of all faiths have since been visiting shrines established in every nook and corner of India. We also come across examples of travelling to explore new places and looking for changes in the environment. Such travels were undertaken in the total

absence of facilities provided now by modern tourism. There were neither well defined routes, nor any kind of maps nor any safety measures along these paths. Yet the explorations contributed to the slow growth of human knowledge and civilisation in matters of knowing the homeland of Homo Sapiens.

You have read, how Ashoka, the Great Mauryan ruler, sent missionaries to spread the message of Buddha to Western and Central Asia. About 800 years later, the Buddhist pilgrim travellers visited India, attracted by the development of this sect and its monasteries in North India. An important Chinese pilgrim Huen Tsang undertook hardships by travelling all through Central Asia and Afghanistan for a period as long as two years. He stayed and travelled widely in India for 16 years from 629 AD to 645 AD during the reign of King Harsha Vardhan. He studied at the famous Buddhist University of Nalanda in Bihar and has left a rich account of the social, economic and religious life of those times. He described the decline of Patliputra(patna) and the rise of Kannauj. Another Chinese, I-tsing, travels both ways by Sea and visited Nalanda in 670 AD. He speaks in glowing terms of King Harsha who became a patron of Buddhism and the life of students living as monks at Nalanda. It was the devotion of Buddhism which promoted these travellers to visit our country as pilgrims.

Here is a interesting tale of adventurous travels of a few Indian explorers to Tibet and the adjoining areas in the mid-19th century. In those days the maps showed Tibet as one huge white blank as if it was covered by snow. The native rulers were suspicious and hostile, not permitting the foreigners to enter the remote region. On the other hand the British officers of the Survey of India had no knowledge of towns, mountains, rivers, roads and passes of the region, which was just 500 km to the north of Indian capital city of Calcutta in those days. The British government wanted the information to protect India's northern frontiers. Mohammad Hameed, a young clerk in the Survey of India, Nain Singh, Mani Singh and Kishan Singh, in their thirties followed by many others were selected to enter these areas. The Singh brothers were code-named as 'Pundits' to collect the valuable information secretly, posing as Buddhist pilgrims or traders. As they belonged to a place close to Indo-Tibet border they had the advantage of looking like Tibetans. The journey they undertook was not a travel for enjoying scenic beauty pleasure.

Mohammad Hameed went from Ladakh in 1863, reached and stayed in Yarkand for six months, recorded the much-needed information, under the constant risk to his life. He died of illness and exhaustion in the Karakoram mountains on his way back. His travel notes proved very valuable.

The two Pundits went out for Lhasa in 1865 carrying a rosary of 100 beads and small instruments under their clothes. They measured the distances by counting paces, letting one bead slip into a bag after every hundred paces, covering about eight km each day. It was a secret way of recording the distances after completion of each circuit of the rosary. They fixed the location of prominent objects by identifying the position of stars in the sky. They calculated the altitudes by noting down the boiling point of water with their thermometer at odd hours. The latitude of Lhasa was determined for the first time by taking angles with a sextant in their

sleeves showing it at  $29^{\circ}39'17''$  nearest to today's  $29^{\circ}41'$  and its altitude at 11,700 feet or about 3,566 metres. They could even manage to move in the Potala, taking tea with the Dalai Lama, without being detected as anybody other than Buddhist devotees. After full one year they had to run back for their life on seeing public hangings of a few Chinese travellers. They went the second time in 1867 as loyal workers, marking the sources of Indus and Brahmaputra rivers, Manasarovar and the Mt. Kailash and also the location of silver and gold mines in Northern Tibet.

One Hari Ram as one of the 'Pandits' and Kishan Singh, code named as 'A.K.', crossed and recrossed the region in 1870s, went round the Everest and reached the heart of Gobi desert upto Lake Lop Nor beyond the Himalaya covering 4,500 km. After over four years, this daring 'traveller tourists' could return via Darjeeling carrying this prized information with him.

A Swedish explorer Sven Hedin, at the young age of 22 years crossed into the deserts of Central Asia and Tibet after travelling widely from West to East. He lost his way and was moving through the desert in the hot month of May, suffering from thirst and exhaustion. He has left us a brilliant account of how he and only one member of his expedition could survive ultimately. In the course of his journey, he covered a distance greater than that from Pole to Pole and mapped out 10,500 km, equivalent to one-fourth the circumference of the earth.

How different were the travels of these gallant explorers, a saga of endurance and of great risks. It was the culture of the persons committed to their great missions. Today it is the concern of businessmen, the pleasure seekers and the holders of Leave Travel Concession tickets.

## 28.5 TYPES OF TOURISM

Tourism is of many different types depending on length of stay, mode of transport used, distance covered, purpose of trip and the price paid by the tourists.

Here we will discuss about major four types of tourism. International and domestic tourism, long and short distance tourism are the most important types. An international tourist crosses the frontiers of many countries, uses different currencies and faces different languages. Larger countries are likely to have greater attractions for international tourism. It is simple to state that longer distances will have to be covered in this type of tourism. Yet for small size countries like Netherlands, Bangladesh, Nepal or Sri Lanka, crossing into a neighbouring country involves very short distances.

On the other hand, domestic tourism concerns travelling within the home country. It does not face the problem of seeking a passport and visa or the conversion of one currency into another. Scope for its expansion is generally more in a large size country like India with rising standards of living of its people. The distinction between the two types is getting reduced with the greater ease of movement between countries. A large number of countries in Europe are now included in the groups called the 'European Community'. So from January 1993, all travels of the citizens of its member states are classed as domestic. The lowering of barriers,

between friendly countries like the USA and Canada may also decrease this distance for practical purposes unlike the case of Pakistan and India. Yet travel between India and Nepal is free of such hindrances.

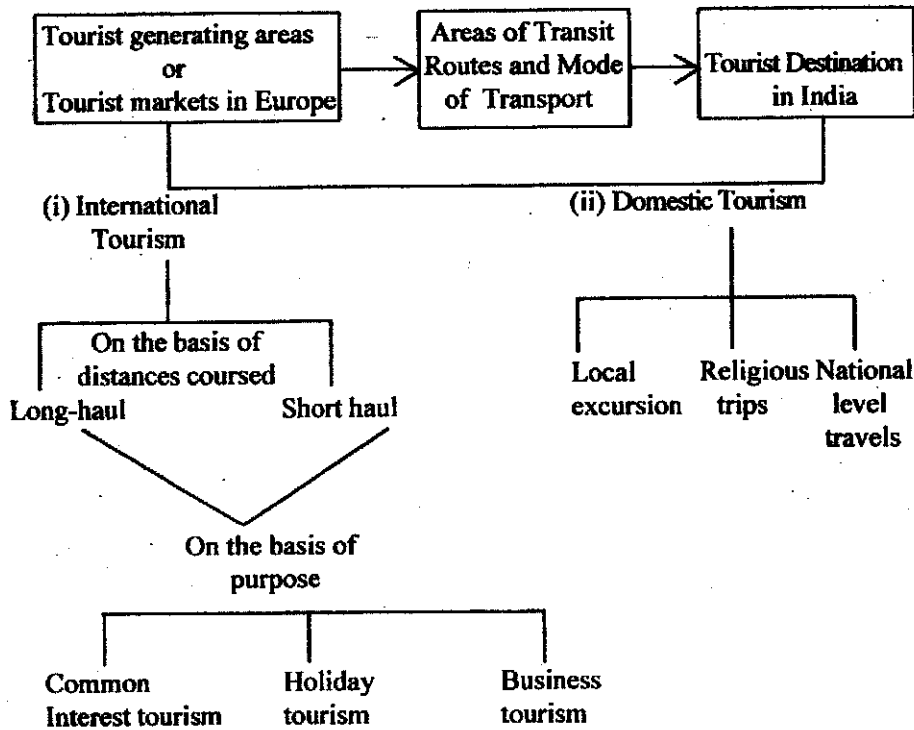


Fig. 28.1 Types of tourist areas and types of tourism

On the basis of distance, tourism can be divided into two types. (a) Long-haul or long-distance tourism is generally taken to be journeys of over 3,000 km (b) short-haul or short-distance tourism is below that limit. This consideration is important for managing aircraft operation and for providing the marketing facilities. Greater the level of details required to be observed, larger is the level or scale of tourism. From a geographical viewpoint, tourism is also considered ranging from the local levels of home locality to regional or national level of the country and the world level areas. The flow of tourists at home and local fields may take place in many directions. It may be between the cities or out of cities to the coast, a lake or the countryside and vice-versa as a sort of travel excursion. Availability of land, suitable sites and favourable environment for planning the development of tourism are important factors at this level.

At regional and national levels, the extent of area becomes larger and there is a greater variety in patterns of tourist flows. We have to keep finding new places for development of tourism to avoid the crowding of areas already developed.

At the world level, there may be one dominant direction of this flow depending on

the location of the areas of origin and destination of tourists. In Northern Hemisphere it is from north to south and in case of India from west to east, e.g. from developed countries of the Western world to our country.

If the nearby countries are economically well-developed, the short-haul from there brings a greater number of international tourists, unlike the long-haul from countries far away. The capacity of destination places, provision and improvement of accommodation and transport facilities for international tourists will need to be watched from period to period.

The tourist flow between places depends upon general attractiveness of one country for another and business or cultural connections. The countries of origin of international tourism are one type of areas and those of their destination are of another type. The former are called the tourists- generating areas and the latter are tourist-destination areas. The *tourist generating areas* of India are mostly in the countries of Western Europe and North America. These are our tourists markets. The *tourists destination areas* fall in our own country in this case. We have to provide amenities to the arriving tourists, for accommodating them in hotels, in tents or in the camping grounds. We have also to create attractions not generally found in their native countries.

The third type of areas cover the transit routes between the places of origin and of destination. The accessibility between the two, the efficiency and comforts of transport, influence the size and the direction of flow of tourists.

On the basis of purpose of tour or the motives of tourists, (a) common-interest-tourism, (b) holiday-tourism and (c) business-tourism are the three types. The purpose of visiting and the visited persons is common in the first case. Visiting friends or relatives in his type puts very low pressure on the provision of tourist facilities at the destination. Holiday-tourism is the most popular type. A fine weather favourable for sightseeing, touring, recreation and going round different cultural sites are sought after by the incoming tourists of this category. Business tourists travel to attend trade fairs and conferences pertaining to commerce or professions. Yet they combine it with recreations using the same facilities as provided for holiday tourists.

\* Tourism is classified into a number of types and sub-types on different bases. The criteria adopted are the length of stay, mode of transport used, distance covered, purpose of trip and even the price paid by the tourists.

### INTEXT QUESTIONS 28.1

1. Fill up the blanks in the following sentences, picking up one correct word from the brackets:
  - i. International tourist is a \_\_\_\_\_ migrant to another country (temporary/permanent).

- ii. A German tourist can stay in India for a few \_\_\_\_\_ (months/years)
- iii. In early days man's travels aimed at \_\_\_\_\_ (devotion/pleasure)
- iv. Nain Singh was the first Indian traveller who found that Lhasa was situated at \_\_\_\_\_ north. (29°. 41'/29°. 39'. 17)"
- v. Only a tour undertaken \_\_\_\_\_ can be a recreation (obediently/voluntarily).
- vi. Modern tourism being a voluntary movement, a person from \_\_\_\_\_ class of people can have the freedom to travel. (rich/any).
- vii. Concept of a holiday has become secular because it is not just a \_\_\_\_\_ day. (holy/happy).
- viii. A tourist generating country is a \_\_\_\_\_ for tourism. (destination/market).
- ix. Travel of Europeans between a particular group of European countries is now considered as \_\_\_\_\_ tourism..(domestic/international).
- x. Dominant traffic flow of international tourists into India is from \_\_\_\_\_ countries (Western/ Eastern).

2. What are the five bases for classifying tourism into its different forms ?

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (iii) \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Match correctly the pairs given in two columns below :

A	B
i. Little or no distinction between domestic and international tourism.	a. Local tourism
ii. A characteristic shared by early travels and modern tourism.	b. Holiday
iii. A resident of Udaipur visiting its lakes.	c. Wanderlust
iv. Long-haul tourism.	d. Across Canada and the USA
v. Not just a holy day for religious ceremony.	e. 3000 km or more
vi. Huen Tsang	f. A Chinese traveller.

4. Write T against the statements that are true and F against the false ones :

- i. Taking the motives of tourists into account, holiday-tourism and business or professional tourism are two important types.

- ii. A modern tourist is forced out to seek refuge in another country.
  - iii. Tourism has nothing to do with constructing hotels and the camping grounds for developing it.
  - iv. 'Pundits' was a code name given by the Survey of India to Singh brothers for spying or exploring Tibet.
  - v. It was A.K. who Covered 4,500 km in Central Asia.
  - vi. A british doctor attending a medical conference at Delhi cannot be considered a tourist.
  - vii. International tourism is not always of long distances.
  - viii. Development of tourism at local level requires only some land near the cities.
  - ix. Larger the country greater is the scope for domestic tourism.
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## NATURE'S GIFTS FOR TOURISM

### 28.6 WEATHER AND CLIMATIC RESOURCES

India is a land of varied climates. Let us see how this extra-ordinary natural asset can be encashed to promote tourism in our country by attracting tourists from far and near.

The regional variations in the climate of India are may be ascribed to five factors. They are (i) the vast size of the country, (ii) the tapering shape of its peninsula, (iii) the latitudinal extent astride the Tropic of Cancer, (iv) the situation at the head of the Indian Ocean, and (v) The role played by the Himalayan mountain system as a climatic divide or barrier, protecting the subcontinent from the cold winds of central Asia.

The tropical climate of our country is modified by oceans and the peninsular character of land in the south. The climatic conditions in the continental north are different from those in the south. The climatic conditions of the coasts are different from the interior, even of west coast from the east coast. The climate of the great northern plain is different from the bleak, mighty and the snowy Himalaya. Even within these large natural divisions, great variations of climatic types and the related weather conditions change from district to district, state to state and from one region to another. The climatic types broadly range from tropical, sub-tropical to temperate. Even sub-polar conditions are found in the higher Himalaya. Seasonal weather changes are far greater; the cloudier, sunnier, colder, snowy, windy, calm or rainier weathers are experienced within short distances even at high altitudes for the same season. These major contrasts are of great advantage to engage tourists in a variety of activities during their stay. The overall strong influence of the monsoons along with their typical rhythm does provide an underlying unity to such a climatic diversity. Yet on the basis of percentage of precipitation received in the

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months of January and July, there are weak winter monsoon regions, strong summer monsoon regions of copious rainfall, non-monsoon regions of scanty and variable rainfall and other monsoon regions of moderate rainfall, denoted by equal proportions in both the months.

This diversity and the phenomena associated with it are strong enough to attract tourists. The incoming tourist can choose to stay in any type of climatic region and enjoy the changing states of weather while moving about from one place to another. Larger is this diversity, greater is the potential of climatic resources to develop tourism.

- \* India is a land of many climatic types ranging from tropical to sub-polar; monsoon and non-monsoon regions and changing weather conditions from one location to another.
- \* Changes in temperature and rainfall, the variety of climatic and weather conditions are the bases of climatic resource potential for tourism.

From tourist's point of view, it is more useful to state that the mean temperatures in India are nowhere below 20°C or over 33°C except in May and June or at high altitudes. It makes our country a prized tourist attraction because of a much longer time for outdoor activities during the year. It offers him an option to swiftly move from one area to another to taste different weathers. It is of further interest that in this country as a whole the mean maximum temperature of January is almost equal to the mean minimum temperature of the month of May. A tourist from a cooler country feels comfortable with the daytime mean maximum temperature of January. Yet he may equally feel the same way if he takes to travel during warm and mildly cool nights in the month of May.

Region-wise a tourist can look for the mildest winters in South India and in our two island groups (mean minimum temperatures being around 23°C) when in the North it is lower by 5° to 9°C pointing to the severity of winters. On the other hand, North India can be covered even in the first half of May (mean temperatures being generally 29°C or just starting to rise gradually) when in the South and in Central India, the trend of rapidly rising temperatures to 32-34°C prevails.

In January, the places like Shimla and Srinagar in the Himalaya become too cold with freezing night temperatures of -3 to -7°C. But it helps to keep the snow lying for four months offering an opportunity for winter sports like skiing. The sunny and calm spells of daytime weather make this game enjoyable. At very high altitudes as at Leh, a tourist would suffer from the symptoms of mountain sickness. It just needs time to acclimatize oneself to enjoy the great thrill of trekking for which the area is famous.

There is other set of hill stations outside the Himalayan region experiencing no snowfall and yet a bracing weather all the year round. In summer all these places become equally popular resorts for tourists wanting to escape to the tropical heat of

the plains. The summers are moderately warm to cool and pleasant reminding the European visitors of similar weather of their homelands. It is a season for walking, sightseeing and photographing. But the tourist season is usually short because of the onset of heavy summer monsoon rains at most of India's hill stations. The mountains and hills are also found attractive for their clear air, relief from high temperatures and for the snowscapes in Western Himalaya. The sparsely populated tracts of the Himalaya have now an added charm as they have been declared the National parks or sanctuaries.

The seaside places have uniformly moderate temperatures of 25°C in January and around 29°C in the month of May. The wet summer season all over the country, becomes too uncomfortable to attract the common tourist. This is particularly so in the eastern half of the country. However the lush green countryside in rainy season is a feast for the eyes in contrast to the barren land of hot-dry summers. At the same time options are not limited for a tourist to turn to the rainshadows in inner Himalaya, to dry Rajasthan, Gujarat, parts of Maharashtra Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, having fewer number of rainy days in these months. If one travels from Imphal to Ajmer situated on the same latitude, the number of rainy days would go on decreasing from 26 to 2 only. Dehra Dun and Mysore along the same longitude bring about a decrease in the number of rainy days from 19 days to just 2. The weather changes stand closer to the changing needs, the moods and tastes of the tourists. A suitable set of clothing is to be allowed to act as a barrier between the body and the environment. It should serve its purpose of enabling the tourist to face easily the fluctuations in temperature, humidity and wind conditions. Light cottons in summers or heavy woollens in winters may have to be kept ready to suit the season's weather in the tourist areas.

Although concept of comfort differs from person to person, it is largely the weather which supplies thermal comfort. For outdoors comfort, 30-32°C temperature under the clothes is bearable and 20-30°C is ideal for prolonging the duration of many outdoor activities of tourist interest. Sweating is initiated when the skin temperature starts rising rapidly above 30°C. In warm regions, increasing wind velocity raises the limit of our tolerance to temperature. In the cold regions, high wind velocity lowers this limit. If the temperature goes much below -10°C, think that a lower limit of skiing has also reached. Sunny and dry weather at a number of places in Western India all the year round is preferable to an overcast sky, light rain and long spells of drizzle as are more frequently observed at many stations in Eastern India.

A short-time sharp downpour followed by sunny and long dry periods as in parts of South India or at the hill stations are the tourist preferences.

- \* Prevalence of 20-33°C mean temperatures in larger parts of India during most of the year enhances the scope of outdoor activities of tourist interest.
- \* Mildest winter in South India, pleasant summer and cold freezing winters at hill stations, moderate and equable climate are different types of tourist recreation. Seaside places, individually offer scope for different types of tourist recreations.
- \* Changing weather at different locations needs changes in clothing, travel plans, moods and tastes of tourists.

A study of climographs is more useful to find out the level of human comfort with reference to the suitability of a place's weather for the tourist. They help to inform the tourists how to cash on the best attraction which a place offers during the spells of its near ideal weather.

The mean monthly values of temperature and rainfall are both plotted for three stations to compare the general characteristics of their climate.

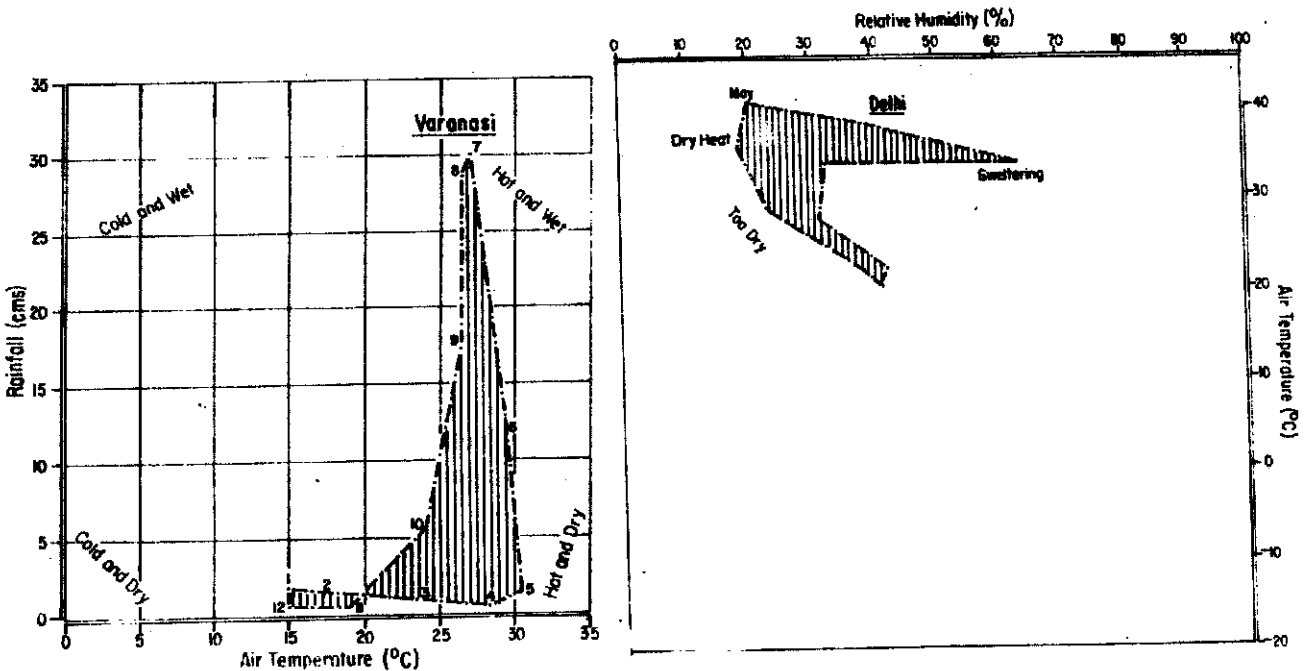


Fig 28.2 Climographs illustrating temperature-rainfall relationship

These climographs bring out differences between the maritime and continental climates ranging from hot to cold and from very wet to very dry spells. It further helps to relate them to a tourist's activity. Mark the plottings making close clusters with larger vertical extent in cases of Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram, both having a seaside location. The annual variations are lower and the least because of

their maritime character. Mumbai still has a far less equable climate because of its hot and more humid conditions during summer rains. It is as unsuitable for outdoor tourism in the rainy season as the other extreme of moderately hot and humid weather at Varanasi. The twelve point figure of Varanasi has the least vertical and a larger horizontal extent. It points out to its greater seasonal variations during the year.

The temperature and relative humidity combination shows the extent of suitability of climates for vital functioning of human life.

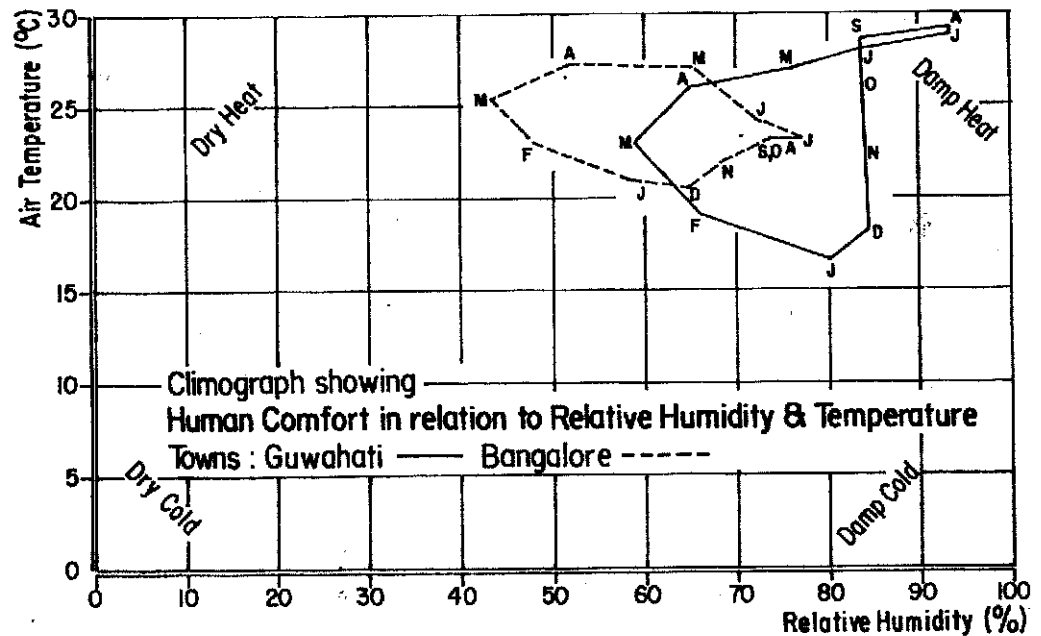


Fig 28.3 Climographs of temperature-relative humidity combination

Delhi is located between two extremes of hot-humid conditions eastwards and cold-dry westwards. Its weather has greater seasonal variations as compared to Bangalore and Guwahati. Climatic stress upon human body increases at Delhi in winter as well as in the summer season. It is for the tourist to see in which season this functioning is less exhausting in individual cases.

Another type of climographs takes up the monthly values of relative humidity in relation to those of wet bulb temperature. Different combinations of the two elements classify the weather into scorching (high wet bulb temp. low relative humidity), very hot and very dry; muggy (both values being high), greater sultry and damp conditions.

In keen weather (both value being low), the effect upon our body is sharp and piercing. In raw weather (Low WB and high RH), we face both chill and dampness.

Climograph showing  
Human Comfort in relation to  
Wet Bulb Temperature & Relative Humidity

towns: Chennai ———, Jodhpur - - - - , Srinagar - · - · - ·

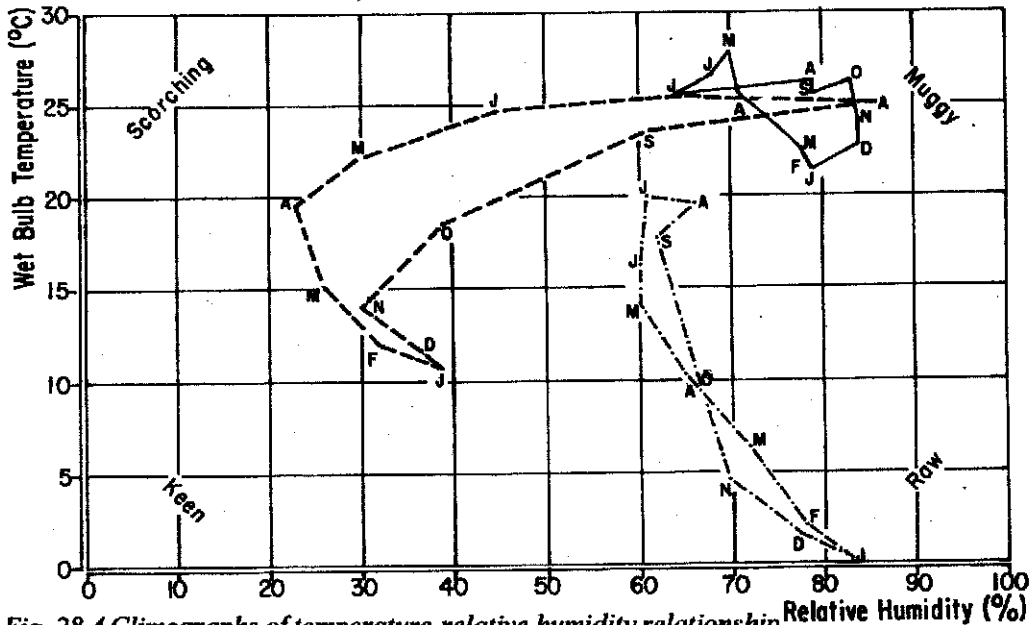


Fig. 28.4 Climographs of temperature-relative humidity relationship.

Jodhpur experiences scorching or keen weather for more than half the year indicating a harsh nature of its climate. It becomes slightly muggy only in July and August. It tends to have a raw of dry weather especially in December - January which is typical of the desert. Milder conditions are found only along Gujarat strip of coast. The spells of other weathers are very short. The weather becomes quite tiresome especially during summers. But desert trekking holds attraction for adventurous tourists during winters, and photography for others because of uninterrupted sunshine leading to greater visibility.

See how Srinagar experiences raw weather of eight to nine months, chilly, cold and damp. Yet it suits winter sports at higher altitudes in its neighbourhood and watching more of birds in wetlands of Srinagar. Its weather is somewhat muggy just for two to three months. Chilliness increases the level of discomfort. below zero temperature as well as very low wet bulb temperatures with high relative humidity are not suitable for games like tennis, golf or water-based tourism.

Chennai has spells of all the four types of weather, one alternating the other over short periods. It points out the tendency towards no persistence of extremes of weather for longer periods. Short-period prevalence of different weather conditions is generally tolerated by the tourists to make it a frequent base for visiting other parts of the region.

Nowadays the development of tourism looking more to the needs of tourists, has

given rise to the division of India into zones of human comfort and also into clothing zones. On this basis, fine and moderate weather, more reliable and stimulating, always enhances the scope for longer holidaying. Seasonal distribution of the intensity and duration of high or low temperatures, rainfall or snow, sleet or hail, amount of cloud cover in various seasons are important to note before investing for the promotion of tourism. An overall effect of all the elements of weather and climate is a more reliable measure rather than considering the amount of each separately. A general attractiveness of the climate gives an idea of its resource value to determine the nature and duration of particular tourist activities.

- \* Different types of climographs are a better device to relate the combined effect of two elements of weather temperature and humidity with the needs of tourists.
- \* Their study gives an idea of the comfort levels under different weather conditions influencing the provision of tourist activities.

## 28.7 LANDSCAPE RESOURCES

Geology and the landform are two other major bases of landscape resources. Both along with the climate determine the rocky peaks for climbing, cliffs or scarps for hang gliding, very steep snowy slopes for skiing and caves for exploiting them for a serious sightseeing. To a large extent, rock formation exposed in areas like Deccan plateau or Ladakh attract more for trekking. Quiet rural landscape appeals for experiencing a non-urban way of life for a period. High quality rural countryside is an attraction for cycling on branch or canal-side roads, horse riding or walking through its greenery. Water bodies or waterpoints are apart of the landscape. Riversides, gorges, waterfalls, springs including hot water and mineral springs provide spectacular views to the tourists. Luckily India has all these features within its territory. Sunbathing and adventurous rafting or rowing are associated with water tourism.

Himalayas as the world's highest mountains have salient features, powerful enough to attract the mountaineers and the trekkers. It is amusing that our erstwhile British rulers named the main hospital within Shimla town (over 2000 metres high) after Britain's highest Snowdon peak which is just 1085 metres high).

It may be of interest to know the preferences of tourists in regard to various relief features. A small study conducted in the U.K. revealed that the mountains were preferred by the most tourists and the lowlands by the least. Mountains and other high relief features afford short views comprising deep valleys, high peaks, sharp cliffs and escarpments. Lowlands and other low relief features provide long view of underlating plains and plateau surfaces : The following table very clearly indicates that the preferences are in a descending order from very high to very low relief features. This is based on a project Report of the Researcher A. Gilg of Exter University in U.K.

**Table No. 28.1 Tourist's Preference to Various Relief Features**

Relief	Tourists Preferences	Rank
Mountains	75	1
Bold hills	61	2
Hilly country	53	3
Plateau uplands	47	4
Low uplands	46	5
Low lands	37	6

Plateaus and plains are considered less scenic because of their flat terrain. But flat lands close to beaches and the sea are prized for construction of buildings for accommodating tourists. Inland water attracts many to lakes, reservoirs, rivers, canals or waterfalls and the use of flat lands along them is also valued.

Wild landscape in mountains and rocky areas of high relative relief becomes far more attractive. Forest landscape irrespective of topography is, however, found to be equally attractive. It is for this reason that the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has earmarked protected landscapes in National Parks, Biosphere Reserves etc. as not to be exploited in any form other than tourism. Seeing wildlife in its natural habitat than in a zoo or a safari park is termed as Nature Tourism these days. Vegetation in Wilderness and the animals that depend upon it constitute another important element of tourist landscape. Though forests are the major areas which preserve biological diversity, the grasslands, agricultural areas, wetlands, wastelands, deserts, fresh and salt water lakes also provide protection to it.

Wetlands are no longer considered as wastelands. Although these are transitional zones between dry land and open water on their own yet they cover a large variety of habitats. They range from rivers, floodplains and rainfed lakes to mangrove swamps estuaries, fresh and salt water marshes. A common factor is that they have plenty of water for at least a part of the year. The majestic Royal Bengal Tiger has its habitat in the wetlands of Sunderbans mangrove forest. The Manipur deer lives in the swamps around Loktak Lake of the valley. Besides mammals, a rich variety of waterfowl is also found in almost all wetlands, Bharatpur's Ghana bird sanctuary being an important example. Our country has 58.2 million hectares of wetlands excluding rivers but including paddy fields and the mangroves.

If saved from depletion, Asia's largest fresh water lake of Kolleru can be as much a source of attraction for the tourists as for the fishermen. Located between deltas of Krishna and Godavari and 32 km from the sea. It is also a bird's sanctuary.

While the natural waterbodies cover only 36% of the total area under wetlands, the balance is entirely man-made. Thus if man fails, the wetlands will fail and their attraction as tourist resources will disappear.

Biological diversity or biodiversity in simple terms refers to wildlife defined as the native uncultivated flora and fauna of any region. The estimated number of the known species in India is significant though needs to be conserved for adding to sources of sightseeing for the tourists. According to Wild Life Institute of India, India's biological diversity is divided into five groups.

**Table No. 28.2 India's Biological Diversity**

Group	No. of Known Species	% of World's Total
Mammals	372	10
Reptiles &	480	06
Amphibians and Fishes	1693	09
Birds	1175	13
Flowering/higher Plants	1500	07

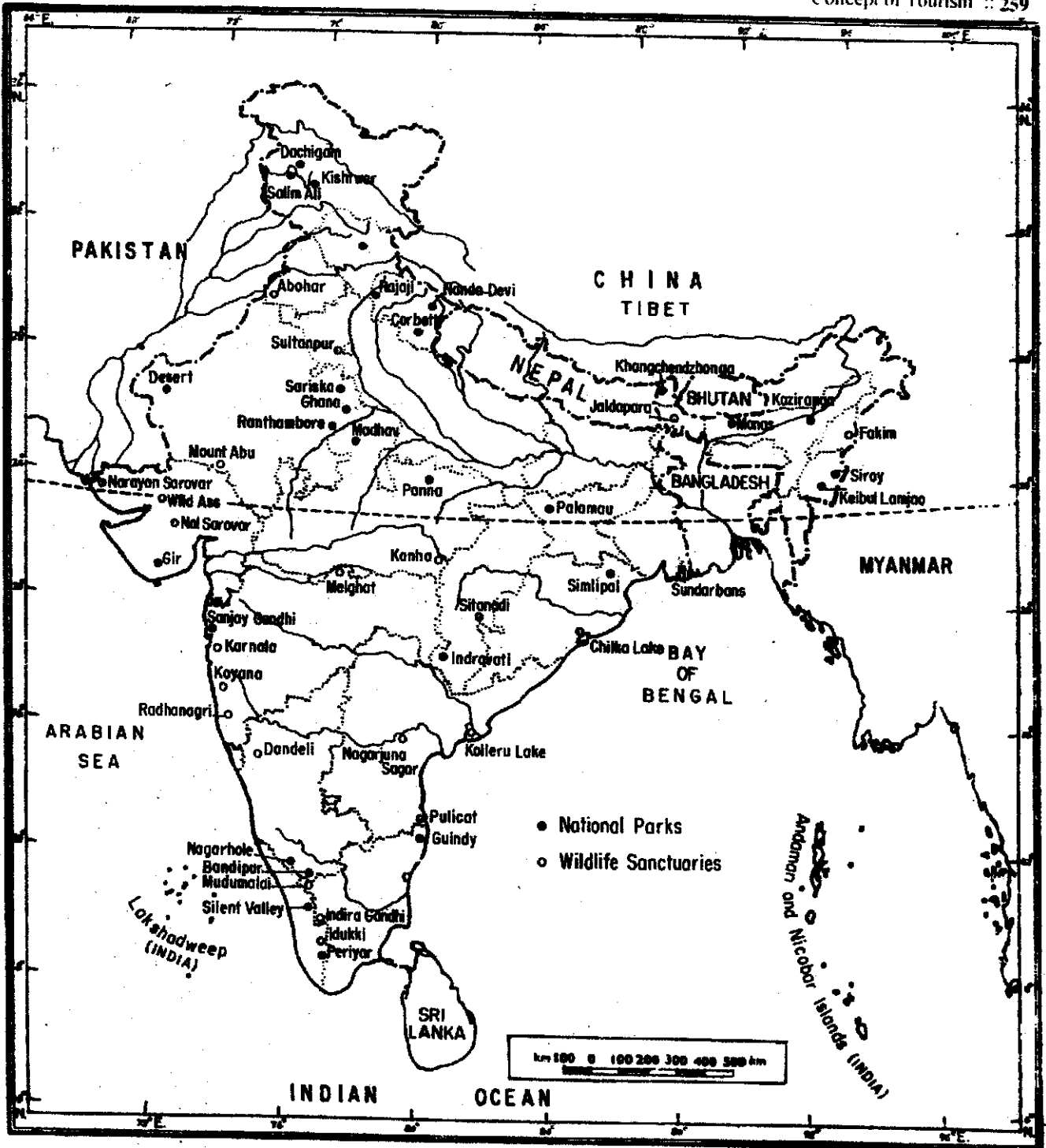
Today 66 National parks and 421 wild life and bird sanctuaries hardly cover 4% of India's total geographic area. It has been now agreed to raise this protected network of wilderness to cover 5.6% of country's total area, the number of National parks to 147, and that of sanctuaries to 519. This planning for future considers the patterns of geographic distribution of plant and animal communities, in relation with the unique wealth of our land and water features. It adds to the potential of India's landscape resources for the tourists.

Besides the landforms and natural vegetation, the presence of humans and human efforts in a tourist area are of no less importance. Terraced hillsides including terraced gardens like the lakeside Shalimar and Nishat at Srinagar in Kashmir, Vrindavan garden close to the Kaveri river's barage near Mysore, the large botanical garden in Calcutta, the grasslands with fields and hedges around them are a few examples of the creations of man. The natural landscape exploited by humans in these forms are nowadays termed as landuse landscapes.

\* India has a variety of major and minor landforms and a rich biological diversity forming the bases for development of tourist resources.

## 28.8 SEASCAPE TOURIST RESOURCES

Coastal waters of our mainland and of the groups of islands are another source of tourist attraction. Sandy beaches, coves, spits and lagoons, reefs and seaside cliffs are tourists' hot spots. These are visited for sunbaths, swimming, boating and surfing. These recreations are possible where the waves are gentle and tidal currents are not dangerous.



Based upon Survey of India outline map printed in 1973.

The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

The boundary of Meghalaya shown on this map is as delineated from the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1951, but has yet to be verified.

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\* Reg. No. 7348 HD/79-2000.

\* Printed at the 101 (M.L.O.) Printing Group of Survey of India.

\* Price: Twenty-five Paise

\* There may be errors when printing a map based on this outline map.

A wide and a fairly fit beach is the first rate ideal site for holiday makers. This form of tourism becomes popular wherever the sea and the tourist facilities are not out of reach from the beach. There is a great loss if buildings are constructed closely alongside a narrower beach. It is likely to become a victim of attack by sea erosion or of the danger of getting washed away. If one has to walk a long distance along its sloping platform just to reach the shore at lowest tide or the shallow waters, it does not favour to develop it as a tourist beach. Both the high and a fast tidal range are dangerous. It is observed along the mouth of Narmada river in contrast to that of the Ganga trough. Yet such tidal waves are beneficial because they carry away the dirt and beautifully re sort the sand along the beach.

As a matter of fact, the modification and improvement of beaches can alone keep them attractive for the tourists. For an example, if strong off-shore currents are not controlled by some means, these are likely to sweep away the swimmer as well as the small inflatable boats out to the sea. Tourists generally select those beaches which not only provide shelter from the high tides and the winds but also the privacy for the users. For anglers and the divers, clean and unpolluted water abounding in marine life is the primary need.

The materials, i.e. sand, mud or shingle forming the beach, the nature and the size of waves, tides and currents, shape and the stability of the beach and the coast are all equally important. Even the character of land above high water mark is taken into account before investing for beach tourism. A shingle beach is dominant in high latitudes and more of muddy ones are found near the equatorial waters. These two are far less attractive for tourism. On the other hand the coral beaches in warm and clear shallow waters, as along the tropical Lakshadweep Sea and most of our own sandy beaches are rated high. India has a few well-developed such beaches which are popular among the tourists.

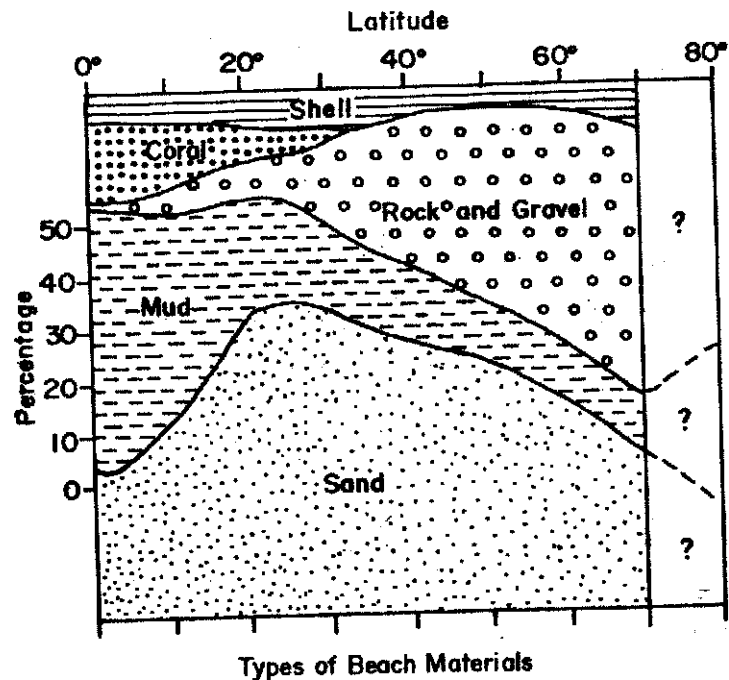


Fig. 28.6 Types of Beach materials

Development of both the landscape and seascape resources for tourism is generally favored along the peripheries of large population centres. For all these reasons the planners agree to concentrate this development in such tracts in the mountains, along the coasts or in desert areas.

\* Platforms of sandy and coral beaches close to the sea, sheltered from high waves and tidal currents, help to develop beach tourism.

## 28.9 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The wealth of these resources is found in artificially created landscapes. This component of India's tourist resources is widespread almost in every part of the country. There are a large number of such places created by our people now or in the past. These are associated with some historical, religious or a cultural event. During the course of a very long history of India, different people and different religions have left a mark in the concrete forms. They comprise statues, shrines, tombs, minarets, forts, palaces, ancient monuments or recent buildings. These are known for their architecture or the plans of cities lying in ruins. Many sites may not be

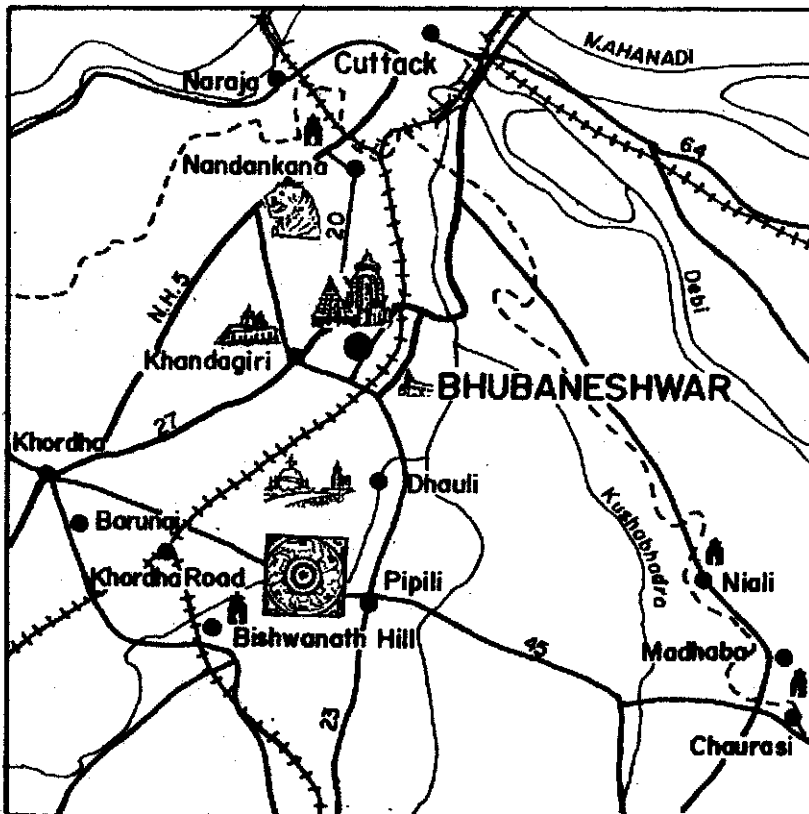


Fig. 28.7 Tourist Resources of Tamil Nadu and Bhubaneswar - Neighbourhood

having any visual appeal today. But these are also significant for some historical or religious events or because of their association with the life history of a great person. There are evidences of changing settlement like seven Delhis constructed in the same area over a period of 455 years in 12th to 17th centuries. Two of these last cities are yet intact. Some such old sites are now of no economic use except tourism.

Above all the performing arts (music, drama and dance), traditions and customs, costumes, cuisine, languages, social habits, religious rites and festivals are expression of culture. The industrial and planned cities, scientific installations, river dams and other modern structures created in Independent India, are the added attractions. Greater the variety of tourist resources, easy accessibility and well-connected transport network, more are the chances of the development of tourism resource potential.

### **28.10 PRESENT POSITION AND RELEVANCE OF TOURISM**

Nature has endowed India with plenty of attraction for tourists of different interests and different preferences. Our rich heritage and newly conceived cultural zones are no less tempting. The very situation of India on Asian cross routes favours tourists traffic flow both from the West and the East. Organized tourism has been planned since 1950s to sell these attractions to the coming tourists. The revenue earned and the employment created for the people out of the great pool of tourist attractions have made tourism of much relevance today. The number of foreign tourists arriving in India touched the figure of 2.12 million in 1995 and 2.3 million in 1996. It has provided direct or indirect jobs to millions of people. An equal increase in home or domestic tourism within the country by the travels of our own people is encouraging. It indicates people's awareness for India's attractions and rising levels of their economic well-being. It provides investment for using it to promote foreign tourism for earning the foreign exchange. This is achieved largely through the invisible trade that takes place when tourists buy several handicrafts. The current era of economic reforms is bringing a number of business tourists mostly to our metropolises. Their arrivals are taken as another indicator of the growth of country's economy.

- \* Almost every part of India has ancient monuments or recent buildings of varied architectural designs. It is famous for a variety of its performing arts and life styles of people. This heritage provides for our cultural resources of tourism.
- \* The increasing number of foreign tourist arrivals, foreign exchange earnings and jobs for the local people have also made tourism relevant, at local as well as national levels.

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## INTEXT QUESTIONS 28.2

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1. Cancel out one wrong word from each pair of words given in the following statements :
    - i. Mountain peaks are suitable for trekking/climbing.
    - ii. Rafting/sunbathing is the adventurous activity depending on the exploitation of water resources.
    - iii. Wild life habitat in areas on high relative relief is least/most attractive.
    - iv. Lowest/highest number of tourists prefer to visit flat plains Night
    - v. Temperatures in May are as comfortable to travel as are the day-time/night/ time temperatures in January.
    - vi. Snowscapes along steep slopes are used for skiing if snow melts/keeps lying for at least four months.
    - vii. Relative relief in the high Himalaya is zero/high which makes it more appealing to the tourists.
    - viii. Udhagamandalam and Shimla are at the same height yet only the former/latter experiences snowfall.
  2. Fill up the blanks with appropriate words given in the bracket below:  
(Landuse, business, strong, beach)
    - i. Flat sandy platforms along quiet sea waters promote \_\_\_\_\_ tourism.
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_ offshore waves and tidal currents do not favour surfing or swimming.
    - iii. Terraced gardens created by man are called \_\_\_\_\_ landscape.
    - iv. Promotion of India's tourism is now more relevant because it is bringing many \_\_\_\_\_ tourists in the current era of economic reforms.
  3. State four major types each of India's weather and climate which form bases for development of tourism.
  4. Name four regional types of monsoonal phenomenon about which tourists must get a prior information.
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## WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

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You have studied the meaning of today's organised tourism, by contrasting it with examples of old time travels. Tourism is further divided into a number of types on different bases. Recreation or entertainment and holidaying has now become a part and parcel of any type of tourism. The great wealth for development of tourism is termed as resources for tourism. Our resource potential for promoting tourism is indeed very rich. These resources are found in the diversities of our climate and weather, wilderness of areas away from clusters of population. Protected plants,

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wild animals and the birds reflect the rich biodiversity of India. Next are the scenic landscapes of mountains, sea coasts, waterbodies or the water points. Mountain peaks, their snowy slopes, hills, scarps, cliffs, rock formations, caves and beaches are associated with different types of tourist activities. The terraced hillsides, terraced gardens, enclosed fields, and open grasslands in quieter rural countryside are other attraction, many of them created by man. Our rich cultural heritage extending over centuries of history is present in innumerable ways. A great variety of performing arts and festivals carries an immense appeal for the incoming tourists in this "ancient-modern" land.

The increasing number of tourist arrivals have brought jobs to millions of local people directly or indirectly and through the invisible trade that takes place. It has made modern tourism of great relevance today particularly in the current era of economic reforms.

### TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Define thermal comfort.
2. Distinguish between the following :
  - i. Tourist and the tourism.
  - ii. International and domestic tourism.
  - iii. Tourist-generating and tourist-destination areas.
  - iv. Common-interest-tourism and Business tourism.
3. Cite six important reasons making mountains attractive for tourists during summers.
4. In what ways the following will bring about changes in the needs and the moods of tourists? Give reasons.
  - i. On reaching Shillong from Srinagar in January.
  - ii. On arriving at Srinagar from Thiruvananthapuram in January.
5. Study the vertical and horizontal extents of the 12 point figures of the climographs for Guwahati, Varanasi and Bangalore. Find out to what extent their weather is suitable for the tourists.
6. Jodhpur and Srinagar experience different weathers for a longer part of the year. State their characteristics briefly in the columns below:

NAME OF STATION	DOMINANT WEATHER	WET BULB TEMP/R.H.	TYPE OF WEATHER
i) Jodhpur			
ii) Srinagar			

7. State the type of activities possible for tourists under the following temperature conditions:

- (i) Below 0° to - 10°C (ii) 20° to 30°C
- (iii) Above 30°C

8. What type of beaches are rated high in their value for tourism?

9. Match the following correctly:

i. Flat rural countryside	a. Skiing
ii. Steep snow-covered slopes.	b. cycling
iii. Mangrove wetlands.	c. Delhi
iv. Largest climatic stress in both seasons-	d. Royal Sunderbans tiger
v. Manipur's deer	e. Loktak swamps.

10. Choose one correct item in each of the following groups:

i. Out of world's total species, India has mammals and birds

\* 23%, 95%, 10%, 25%

ii. India's big tourist attraction is in its National Parks numbering

\* 100, 147, 519, 66

iii. An entirely man-made area under wetlands in India is

\* 64% of total, 36%, 55%, 24%

iv. India's National Parks are recommended only for tourism because they form

\* a wasteland, rocky terrain, open grassland, protected landscape.

11. Which items are included in the historical and cultural tourist resources of India?

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## CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

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### INTEXT QUESTIONS

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#### 28.1

1. i. temporary ii. months iii. devotion iv. 29°39'.17" v. voluntarily vi. any vii. holy viii. market ix. domestic x. western.
2. Length of stay, (ii) mode of transport used, (iii) distance covered, (iv) purpose of trip and (v) price paid by tourists.
3. i. With d; ii with c; iii with a; iv, with e; v with b; vi with f.
4. i. T ii. F iii. F iv. T v. T vi. T vii. T viii. F ix. T.

#### 28.2

1. i. trekking; ii. sunbathing; iii. least; iv. highest; v. nighttime vi. melts; vii. zero; viii former.
2. i. Beach ii. strong iii. landuse iv. business
3. any four of the weather types out of sunnier, calm, cloudier, rainy, windy, colder, snowy. The climatic types are.....tropical, sub-tropical, temperate, sub-polar.
4. Weak winter monsoon regions of moderate rainfall in January, Strong summer monsoon regions of moderate rainfall in January, Strong summer monsoon regions of copious rainfall in July, non-monsoon regions of scanty and variable rainfall in July and other monsoon regions of moderate rainfall in equal proportions in January and July.

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### TERMINAL QUESTIONS

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1. Refer to para on Thermal comfort under 28.6
  2. Refer to 28.3 and 28.5 above.
  3. Refer to para 6 under 32.6 .
  4. Refer to figures on climographs and the last para under 28.6
  5. Refer to paras on climographs under 28.6 above.
  6. Jodhpur; scorching, very hot and very dry; high/low; keen weather. Srinagar; Chill and dampness; low/high; raw weather.
  7. (i) skiing (ii) ideal for outdoor activities of all types. (iii) sweating starts, gradually less bearable for outdoor movement.
  8. Refer to 28.8 above.
  9. (i) with b; (ii) with a; (iii) with d; (iv) with c; (v) with e.
  10. (i) 23% ; (ii) 147 ; (iii) 64% ; (iv) protected landscape.
  11. Refer to 28.9 above.
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