

Impact on Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Sector After Article 370 & 35 (A)

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ABSTRACT

Today tourism has become one of the largest and fastest developed sectors into the world forum. Because this sector is giving a huge revenue. Also tourism is most important factor in the economy of nation. J & K is the most attractive tourist place in the world. After 370 & 35A, there is a huge scope for investment in tourism sector.

Keyword: Tourists, Income, Development, Article, Employment, Revenue.

INTRODUCTION

It is found that apart from agriculture sector, tourism area is the most popular source of income and employment generation for the J&K state economy. After Article 370 & 35 (A) revocation, the valley can become a big tourist destination around the world and the government is doling out reforms to that end. Day by day we see great potential in J & K and Ladakh's tourism business, industry stakeholders have shown apprehensions. Tourism is the most significant mechanized of Kashmir's economy and about 60% of the population is occupied directly or ultimately in the tourism and subsidiary activities. The industry contributes 15% of the state GDP.

Some of the major tourist spots are : Surya, Vernag Spring & Mughal Garden, Martand Sun Temple, Vaishno Devi, Patnitop, Baderwah, Poonch, Sanasar, Sonmarg, Lolab Valley, Yusmarg, Aru, Betaab Valley, Pahalgam, Shalimar Gardens, Nishant Gardens and Chashme Shahi, Mantalai and Shivkhori, Bhimgarh Fort, amnagar Fort, Mansar Lake, Gurez, Bangus Valley, Dal Lake and Pari Mahal etc. These tourist points provide revenue in Jammu & Kashmir region.

BASE OF TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Base of Tourism and Economic Development is to create strategies and plan to encourage to tourism sector in J & K areas. Tourism sector has played major role in the GDP of the State. Also it will generate revenue and create new opportunities for job and employments. For example; to make an investment in restaurants, transportation, infrastructure, water supply and catering. Santek Consultants in 2014 in their study bring into being that 147.34 lakhs tourists came into the Jammu and Kashmir. In 2017, 2019 and 2020 the number of tourists is 182.78, 211.2 and 227.08 lakhs respectively. The following table can be referred.

Sr. No	Year	Tourists (In lakhs)
1	2014	147.34
2	2017	182.78
3	2019	211.2
4	2020	227.08

Source: Santek Consultants Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.

TOURISM AND EMPLOYMENT

Tourism has played an major role in the employment. According to "World Travel and Tourism Council" (WTTC) estimates, an investment of 10 lakhs in travel & tourism sector provide 90 jobs which is much higher than its competing sectors like Agriculture and Manufacturing which generate 45 & 13 jobs per 10 lakh respectively.

Santek Consultants since 2014 to 2020 in their study found that tourism provided employment chances to the local people. J&K possesses lot of vacationer attractions in the form of Leisure, Heritage, Pilgrimage and Eco-tourism with huge scope to revise the whole economy as a tourist determined economy by given that jobs through trickling down achieved. Organism of labour intensive industry, its scope in employment generation is vast and the level of investment mandatory. It is seen growth here as compared to the other sectors of the economy. Santek Consultants in 2014 in their study observed that 22.101 lakhs Employment came into the Jammu and Kashmir. In 2017, 2019 and 2020 the number of Employments is 23.743, 31.68 and 34.062 lakhs respectively. The following table can be referred.

Sr. No	Year	Employment (In lakhs)
1	2014	22.101
2	2017	23.743
3	2019	31.68
4	2020	34.062

Source: Santek Consultants Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.

Tourism in J&K provides different types of jobs like hotel managers, guides, tour operators, chefs etc which further changes the J&K economy by uprising income and standard of living of the people. The table above depicts the projected affecting of tourist inflow on job creation of J&K.

CONDITION OF TOURISM SECTOR AFTER ARTICLE 370 AND 35 (A)

Regardless of all these well-known natural spots the condition of J & K remains same following the abolition of article 370 also. Some stakeholders see a gloomy future. The removal of 370 & 35(a) will help in disturb the state tourism's real potential. We can see a massive future earlier for all the people of the state as the doors to development have been enterable and it will bring in more investment in all sectors, and will fructify as more jobs and more revenue. Jammu and Kashmir is under huge restraint after 370 & 35(a) eradicate. The tourism season in the state has already borne the brunt of terrorist attack and the condition of tourism sector is quite unstable. Such as vacant hotels and resorts and empty houseboats present a depressing picture of J & K tourism industry which is going through bad phase owe to the prevailing state after the Centre scrapped requirements of Article 370 & 35(a) of the Constitution and reconstructed the state into 2 Union territories.

Article 370 and 35(a) were accountable for Jammu & Kashmir's backwardness while only favorable a select few like the separatists and their companion. Because there were limitations on transfer of land, it will be raising employment and private investments in tourism.

It means land rates which had remained dormant in the state increases like in other sector of the country. There may be film shootings, religious and adventure tourism that will advantage the rural economy. But now private investment would deliver quality health care to the state which will produce jobs, increase revenue and make J&K a medical tourism hub.

According to Tourist Department 20,000-25,000 visitors were present in the J&K Valley, which was in its highest tourist season. Still the resort looks deserted with most of the shops, restaurants and hotels are closed for business. Near 1.74 lakh tourists visited Kashmir Valley in June, followed by 1.52 lakh, 3,403 numbers of foreigners present in July. There are eleven thousand booked pony wallas that provide services in Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam. We have 5,000 shikara wallas, 2,100 sledge wallas, and over 1300 tourist guides, they are not having job now. With tourist landing severely hit but the business is zero. The difficulty has been accentuated by the non-availability of internet in the valley. No one cannot communicate. It is difficult to know the status of bookings confirmed before all this happened.

CONCLUSION

After the abolition of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the period of restrictions, it worst affected on tourism sector. Because of the critical situation, the tourists were diverted towards other states instead of Jammu and Kashmir. The current condition will not last for a long period of time for tourist sectors. In future, after 35A there will be chance for investment to multinational companies, private industries and open for any person to invest in this area.

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